

THE

Beacher™

Weekly Newspaper

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Michigan City, IN 46360



Volume 30, Number 10 Thursday, March 13, 2014

Happy St. Patrick's Day



Armand Pozos, decked out as a leprechaun, appears in the 2013 St. Patrick's Day Parade.
Photo by Oleg Semkoff

THE
Beacher

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Promising Season

New Exhibits Debut at Lubeznik Center, SSAA Gallery

by Barbara Stodola

A new flurry of art exhibits that opened March 7 points the way to a promising season of activity in Michigan City's Uptown Arts District – and hopefully the end of this everlasting winter.

At the Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 E. Second St., the upstairs galleries have a 22-piece series, "Embroidered Archetypes," of intricate and imaginative works by Michigan City artist Laurel Izard. Basing her imagery on the tarot (playing cards first used in the 15th century), Izard has reinterpreted medieval archetypes such as the Emperor and Empress, Devil and Fool.



Dana Dabagia's "Girl With the Velvet Heart" is included in the Southern Shore Art Association Gallery exhibit



"The Devil," reinterpreted by Laurel Izard as a clownish figure, is drawn from tarot imagery.

Izard focused on the 22 Major Arcana — the trump cards in the deck — and while they are invested with symbolic meanings, she encourages open-ended interpretations "according to your own journey through life," and incorporates references to current events and artistic styles.

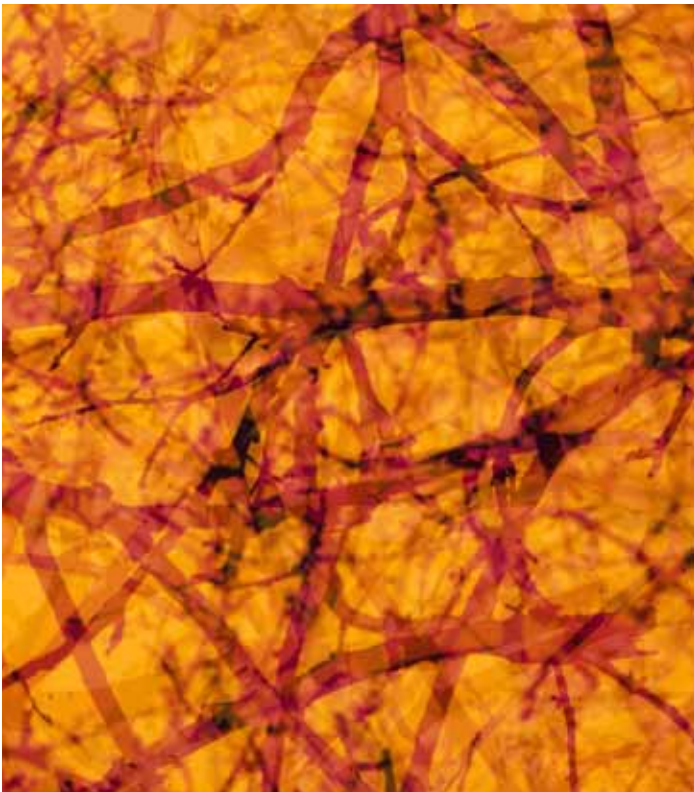
"The Tower," with flames shooting from its upper floors, evokes memories of 9/11. "The Moon" has a decidedly post-Picasso face. "The Devil," with his silly grin, clownish suit and pointed-arrow-tail, owes more to comic books than medieval manuscripts.

Downstairs, in the main gallery, it is fast forward to present day: "What Is Left Unspoken," an enigmatic title for a conceptualist exhibit.

Well into the 21st century, we are familiar with artists' choices of peculiar materials, whether it be wrecked cars, coat hangers, bubble gum, rubber tires, egg shells or dryer lint. So, it comes as little surprise that the Lubeznik Center's Jerome C. Hyn-dman Gallery is heaped with shredded junk mail.

But its peculiarity is not the point. In conceptual art (which has been around for almost 50 years), what matters is not what you see, but the idea behind it, and Barbara Hashimoto's idea apparently is that we all get too much junk mail – and we mostly agree. She enriches our opinion with "mind-bog-gling statistics: 100 million trees are cut down to produce junk mail annually; 44 percent of junk mail received goes unopened into landfill.

CarolAnn Brown, Lubeznik Center's curator, does her best to bring us the wide variety of art being practiced today. For this show, she decided upon "the unlikely pairing" of Hashimoto, an environmentally driven performance artist with Tokyo and New York City roots, and Chicago-based photographer Doug Fogelson, who has ties to Columbia College and The Art Institute of Chicago.



Doug Fogelson's photograph, "Reazione Nera," shows the abstract pattern of branches, with additional texture obtained by crumpling the original print.

Continued on Page 4



Kaleidoscope Preschool / St. Mary of the Lake School

704 W. Merchant St. New Buffalo MI 49117

The Kaleidoscope Preschool and Child Care Center will accept registrations for the 2014-15 school year on Monday, March 24 and Tuesday, March 25 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at St. Mary of the Lake School in New Buffalo. Please bring proof of your child's immunizations and a copy of his/her original birth certificate. There will be a \$50.00 registration fee per family.

The Kaleidoscope is a state licensed preschool and childcare center that has been serving Harbor Country for 41 years.

For more information and/or questions regarding the Kaleidoscope Preschool and Child Care Center please contact Amy Fidler at 469-1515.



St. Mary of the Lake School will have Kindergarten Roundup for the 2014-15 school year on Monday, March 24 and Tuesday, March 25 from 6:00 p.m. until

8:00 p.m. at St. Mary of the Lake School in New Buffalo. Please bring proof of your child's immunizations and a copy of his/her original birth certificate.

For more information and/or question regarding Kindergarten Roundup please contact Kate VanPelt at 469-1515.

The Berrien County Health Department will be providing FREE Hearing and Vision Screenings at St. Mary of the Lake School on Friday, May 9, 2014 from 1:00 p.m. -3:30 p.m. The state of Michigan requires that all children entering kindergarten have a hearing/vision screening within six months prior to first day of school.

Promising Season Continued from Page 3

Fogelson's photographs emerge from the musings of nature, we are told. "My materials here are the familiar forms of branches," he says. "Pieces of trees, bushes and shrubs...manipulated to the point of abstraction or to amplify something inherent about them."

What Fogelson does next is to crumple the prints and photograph them again, reflecting on the "human relationship with nature" and "themes of transience in an age of unprecedented ecological disruption," themes that coincide with Hashimoto's shredded-paper installation.

At the Southern Shore Art Association gallery, 722 Franklin St., the theme of eternal woman has brought forth a predictable variety of interpretations, ranging from Dana Dabagia's pretty blonde "Girl With the Velvet Heart" to Edwin Levitin's humorous takeoff on the female anatomy.

The space is dominated by Richard Kiebdaj's large nude sculptures. Kiebdaj, a Beverly Shores

artist who works in wood and steel, also is represented at the Uptown Arts District entrance (Ninth and Franklin streets) by his polychrome sculpture of larger-than-life dancing figures.

In celebration of March as National Women's History Month, guest curator Susan Block has once again welcomed entries on the theme "She: The Female in



Edwin Levitin's abstracted female form is playfully titled "It's a Match."

Image and Form."

Altogether, there are 26 participants in the SSAA exhibit, and a significant number of their entries are non-traditional depictions of nude and/or scantily clad figures.

Jimmy Duke Johnston, Gerri Govert and James Hajicek all are showing skillfully drawn studies of nude females. Chicagoan Jeffrey Kratowicz submitted a small, shiny female torso. Sylvia Gray incorporated nudes into abstract designs on her hand-painted silk scarves. Philip Falcone's "Bathers" are reminiscent of South Pacific islanders. Photographs of women in various stages of undress were entered by Carol Estes (La Porte), Ron Suver (Mishawaka) Mary Schultz and Brenda Toby. Suzanne Watson has done mixed-media drawings of a reclining woman, and Leanor Papai's drawings depict a ballerina in tutu.



Rhonda Mullen has entered three photographic studies of best friends, viewed from different aspects.



Barbara Hashimoto, a conceptualist/performance artist, is pictured in a previous exhibit amid shredded junk mail.

Other participants in the show are Linda Weigel, Julia Holmaas, Rhonda Mullen, Pamela Thompson, Janice Boldenow, Karen Webber, Suzanna Watson, Robert Williams, Lenore Senovic, Robert Hudson and Paul Pavot. Mary Rapier-LaLuna's renderings of trees are accompanied by her poetry.

More about the Exhibits

"Embroidered Archetypes" and "What Is Left Unspoken" run through May 10 at the Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. "She: The Female in Image and Form" runs through March at the SSAA gallery, 722 Franklin St.



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Renaissance Academy Chess Teams Qualify for State Event



Renaissance Academy, 4093 E. U.S. 20, La Porte, took first place in the third grade and younger division at the Northwest Indiana Regional Team Chess Tournament in Hammond. Also, the school's eighth and under team won fourth place, while its sixth and under team took sixth place. The tournament is the largest of its kind in the area and had about 400 first- through eighth-grade students playing for 89 teams from schools throughout the region. Top-placing teams in each division qualify for the upcoming Indiana State Chess Tournament in Terre Haute. Overall, Renaissance Academy had six teams qualify for the state competition.



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Encountering History

Editor's note — The Lincoln Funeral Train committee is presenting stories once a month about the 2015 event. This article was written by Larry Swiger.

A young lady from Michigan City had suffered a personal loss that sent her on a journey to Washington, D.C., in the spring of 1865.

Harriet Sherman (later Van Pelt) lost her mother in a tragic accident in the summer of 1864. Her father thought she and her sister should get away, so he sent them to visit family in Washington. There, Harriet witnessed the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln as she and her sister were in the audience of Ford's Theatre when the 16th president was felled by an assassin's bullet on April 14, 1865, almost 150 years ago.

When Harriet arrived in Washington, it was stirring with excitement, celebrating the end of the Civil War. Lincoln had just been re-elected, and everyone was in a joyful mood. That day, Harriet, along with her family, attended a reception at the White House. That evening, they went to Ford's Theatre to see the play "Our American Cousin." She was seated in what was said to be the best seats in the theater located in the balcony.

No one noticed John Wilkes Booth as he walked around the balcony to the rear of the president's box. Suddenly, a shot rang out and no one in the theater, not even Mrs. Lincoln, was aware of what took place until the president slumped over onto her shoulder. According to some witnesses, Booth then jumped onto the stage below and cried out, "*Sic Semper Tyrannis*," meaning, "Thus always with tyrants," the motto of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and made his escape from the stage to the rear door of the theater despite breaking his leg in the jump.

Seventy one years later, when she was an 89-year-old widow living at the Sheridan Beach Hotel in Michigan City, Harriet (now Mrs. Harriet Van Pelt), still had a clear memory of that night in Ford's Theater. Her eyes were on the box when Booth made his way there.

"I thought it was some theater attendant," she said. "The box was about 25 or 30 feet away, to the right of our seats. A moment later, a shot was heard. I recall nothing of Maj. Rathbone's grappling with Booth and being stabbed by the assassin, nor

of Booth leaping to the stage from the front railing of the box, although these things happened. I remember only the president's head on the shoulder of Mrs. Lincoln, and hearing someone say quietly, 'Mr. Lincoln has been shot.'

"The curtain was rung down, which left the house in darkness for a moment. Everyone was confused. A sort of paralysis gripped the house. I saw the president being carried out of the box. After he had been removed from the theater and taken across the street to a boarding house, the throngs made their way out of the theater, stunned. We took a carriage home and the next day returned to school."

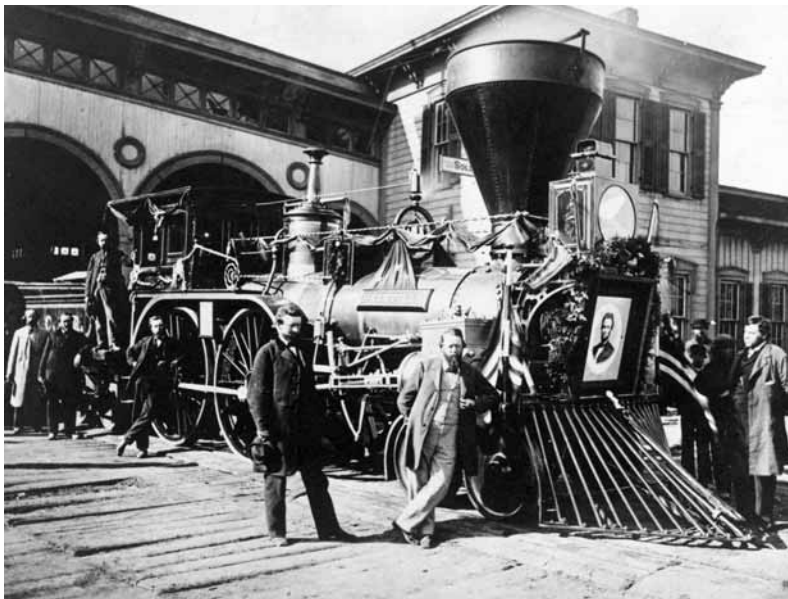
Word came early the next morning that Lincoln died without regaining consciousness.

On May 1, 1865, Lincoln's funeral train stopped in Michigan City. Many grieving citizens paid their respects. Among them was Harriet Sherman. She was one of an official escort party that stayed aboard the train when it left Michigan City for Chicago and its final stop:

Springfield, Ill. A group of women from Michigan City served breakfast to those on the train before it left on its journey to Springfield.

There is a picture of Mrs. Van Pelt in a display case in the Lincoln Room at the Old Lighthouse Museum in Michigan City, along with a short detail of her story. A small portion of the original flag is on display, which Booth tripped on and was torn while he was making his escape.

Information for this article was found in the archives of the Old Lighthouse Museum and Michigan City Public Library. The picture was taken on May 1, 1865: President Lincoln's funeral train.



The Lincoln Funeral Train will be in Michigan City from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, May 1, on the back of a flatbed truck at the Lighthouse Place-Premium Outlets north parking lot (U.S. 12 and Wabash Street) for people to view, also affording time for the committee to raise money for the 2015 event.



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Women in Leadership Scholarship

Women in Leadership La Porte County is offering a \$500 scholarship to a graduating senior girl pursuing an education at any two- or four-year college or vocational school.

Applications are available at the La Porte High School Guidance Office. The requirements are:

- Female applicants only.
- A minimum of a 2.8 grade-point average.
- Demonstrated leadership roles and related responsibilities in school and community activities, but not something in which the applicant receives compensation.
- Proof of enrollment at the time of fund disbursement.

Applicants must mail their application and a 500-word essay on:

- How do you see your leadership skills benefiting your post high-school educational experience?
- How will those leadership skills complement your final career goal?
- How do you see yourself using these skills in your future community and career?

Mail the essay and application postmarked no later than March 21 to: Women in Leadership La Porte County, Attention: Nancy Taylor, Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 601, La Porte, IN 46352-0601.

Symphony, PNC Hosting Ensemble

La Porte County Symphony Orchestra and the Purdue University-North Central Odyssey Arts and Cultural Events Series will host performances by the International Contemporary Ensemble.

A recital is at 5 p.m. Thursday, March 20, in the PNC Library-Student-Faculty Building, Room 144. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. Parking for people with handicapped permits is available in Lot 1. Coffee Central, located adjacent to Room 144, and the nearby cafeteria will remain open until 6 p.m.

ICE was founded 10 years ago as a Chicago-New York organization performing new music, primarily in the "classical" tradition and seeking out new audiences and venues. It was named Musical America Ensemble of the Year for 2014 and received various major grants, while individual musicians have received numerous awards. ICE executive director and flutist Claire Chase recently received a MacArthur "Genius" fellowship.



International Contemporary Ensemble musician Rebekah Heller.

The ensemble has been in residence at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago and the Mostly Mozart Festival at Lincoln Center in New York.

Four musicians — Nick Masterson on oboe, Campbell MacDonald on clarinet, Rebekah Heller on bassoon and David Byrd-Marrow on horn — will perform a piece involving PNC students by noted black composer, author and jazz trombonist George Lewis. ICE musi-

cians will work with PNC students to learn the "rules" of Lewis' piece, "Artificial Life," exploring the structure and ideas behind it and culminating with the collaborative performance.

Email recital@pnc.edu or call Liz Bernel, PNC coordinator of special events and marketing, at (219) 785-5719 to make a reservation.

At 3 p.m. Sunday, March 23, at Michigan City's Elston Performing Arts Center, the LCSO, directed by Philip Bauman, will present the IU Health La Porte Hospital Classic Concert, "Amadeus Mozart Un-Caged." The symphony will be joined by ICE. The cost is \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors and free for students with a valid I.D.

Visit www.LCSO.net, email info@LCSO.net or call (219) 362-9020 for more information.

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Montessori Exhibit at CAC

The Chesterton Montessori School will host the "Indiana" art exhibit on March 15-28 at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.

An opening reception is from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 15.

About 45 students in grades one through six will participate in the exhibit. Artwork throughout the year has centered on the "Indiana" theme, where each project led to another in a type of stream-of-consciousness style.



A student works on her project.

Students began by studying Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore posters, learning about graphic design while appreciating the mix of advertising, design and fine art. They moved on to the Pop Art movement, with students creating a variety of 3-D sculptures. From there, the classes shifted to Andy Warhol and a study of his soup-can imagery.

Children discussed how artists can use their passion to help their communities, which led to a school-wide canned food drive that produced nearly 100 cans donated to a local pantry.

Also included in their year-long studies was a segment about Marie Goth, an Indiana artist known for her portraits and still lifes. Students created floral still-life drawings in her honor. Finally, they created a large community peace-themed painting that included peace signs reflecting each child's individual interpretation.

Art classes will finish out the school year by working on a collagraphy printmaking project inspired by the individual/community relationship, and a recycled multi-media piece based on the "Indiana" theme.

Art Hop Glass Sampler

The "Art Hop Glass Sampler" highlights four introductory ways of working in glass from 6 to 8 p.m. EDT Friday, March 14, at Water Street Glassworks, 140 Water St., Benton Harbor, Mich.

All materials are provided, and no previous experience is required.

In the "Hot Shop," participants 15 and older can pull molten glass into the shape of a colorful spring flower (\$40 cost) or build colorful layers of glass into an optical paperweight (\$60 cost).

In the "Flameworking" studio, guests 12 and older can heat colorful glass rods over a torch to create wearable art beads (\$15 cost).

In the "Kiln-Fired Glass" studio, students 12 and older learn how to design, cut and assemble sheet glass into a small display panel to be fused in a kiln (\$15 cost).

Individuals and small groups are welcome. Each experience takes about 30 minutes, and participants can do more than one offering. Pre-registration is suggested by calling the Glassworks office at (269) 925-5555. All artwork will be available for pickup at a later date. The event precede a glassblowing demonstration by Seattle Visiting Artist Kait Rhoads at 8 p.m. EDT.

All Glasswork events are in conjunction with the New Territory Art Association's March 14 Spring Art Hop, held from 6 to 9 p.m. EDT throughout the Benton Harbor Arts District.

Visit www.waterstreetglassworks.org for more information.

"Economic Crisis and Ideas in Greece"

Purdue University-North Central will present a free Social Sciences Colloquium with Jonathan Swarts, "A Margaret Thatcher in Athens? Economic Crisis and Ideas in Greece," from 10 to 11 a.m. Wednesday, March 19, in the Library-Student-Faculty Building Assembly Hall, Room 02.



Swarts

Swarts, associate professor of political science, spent a year living in Greece and observing the reform process.

"The ongoing debt crisis in Greece ranks as perhaps the most significant economic crisis to hit the European Union since its inception," Swartz said in a

press release.

"However, much of the attention of both policy-makers and economic pundits has focused on austerity measures that aim to manage and overcome the current crisis. Much less attention has been paid to the underlying philosophical and 'ideational' factors at work in the Greek economy and society."

Refreshments will be served at the program.

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**The March 31st deadline is
approaching—don't miss out!**



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“Collage Concert and Exhibit”

ArtsBridge will present a “Collage Concert and Exhibit” at 4 p.m. EDT Sunday, March 16, at First Presbyterian Church, 475 Green Ave. on Morton Hill in Benton Harbor, Mich.

The program's first half features church talent, including vocalists David Brady and Loren Michaels, pianist/vocalist Susan Burkholz, pianist Nancy Thompson and trumpeter Evan Ziebart.

Then, guest vocalist Kareemah El-Amin will perform selections from her debut Christian CD “I Have No Tears for Me,” which will be sold during the program.

Also planned is a 2-D/3-D art exhibit by local artists Brittany and Joshua Mason, with art available for purchase.

A reception follows the program in Goff Hall. Free-will donations will be accepted. Call (269) 925-7075 or visit the church on facebook (First Presbyterian Church in Benton Harbor) for more information.

Free Screening of “Black Fish”

Through its Winter Film Series, Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St., will show the documentary “Black Fish” at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 16.

The free showing is in conjunction with Purdue University-North Central's Odyssey Arts and Cultural Events Series.

Rated PG-13 for disturbing and violent images, the film tells the story of Tilikum, a 12,000-pound orca implicated in the deaths of three people. It studies Tilikum's existence and the lives of marine animals captured for exhibit at theme parks and attractions. It also opens discussion on the treatment of the species and disrupting a life spent living in thousands of miles of ocean for one confined to a theme park.

Call Robin Kohn at (219) 873-3049 for more information.

“Growing Stronger” Fitness Program

The eight-week “Growing Stronger” program is coming to Michigan City Senior Center, with required orientation at 11 a.m. Wednesday, March 19.

The cost is \$10. The 40- to 60-minute class meets at 11 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays from April 22 to June 12.

The program is fueled by research on how strength training and proper nutrition can improve health. The benefits may include increased strength and flexibility, improved balance and reduced falls, improved weight and glucose control and improved sleep and mood. Each week will involve a series of strength-training exercises using just one- to five-pound weights, which are provided.

Call Purdue Extension at (219) 324-9407 or email mwolff@purdue.edu for information or to register.

MCHS Awarded in Japanese Olympiad

Michigan City High School participated in the annual Japanese Olympiad of Indiana on Feb. 22 at Indiana University-Bloomington, with 13 schools and at least 150 students present.

The event features competitions for Level 2, 3 and 4 students, depending on how many years of Japanese they've taken. There's also a playoff against other schools at the same level, with only the top three scoring teams advancing to the final.

The competition is judged by Japanese professors and native speakers from IU, Ball State, DePauw and Earlham College.



At Level 4, the teams of Kieri Everett/Geoffrey Bethay and Vincent Kolasa/Cori Bracken tied each other for sixth in the state. (Bethay competed at Level 4, even though he is still Level 3).

The Level 3 team of Sam Cooney, Allen Murray and Preston Mahaffey took seventh in a field of 17, with the team of Becca LaFollette, Will Alexander and Steven Siegmund not far behind.

At Level 2, where members made their competition debut, the team of Joanna Warnke and Zach Weis placed in the top half of the field, while the team of Jennifer Banda and Sara Lynch placed fourth in the state. That team missed making the final by a single question and already is working on next year's competition.

MCHS Japanese Instructor Michael Tsugawa leads the teams.

ICS "Eyes of March" Special

Independent Cat Society, 4061 S. County Line Road, Westville, will celebrate the "Eyes of March" this month by highlighting cats with green eyes for adoption.

The cats can be adopted for \$40, with a companion cat with green or other color eyes costing \$25.

At the same time, the shelter will continue its special where any cat older than 5 that is adopted will have the fee waived.

Also, the shelter will have its annual Pussycat Pizza Party from 5 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, March 18, at Aurelio's, 2330 N. Indiana 35, La Porte.

Tickets for pizza and soda cost \$15 at the door. Homemade desserts also will be available. All proceeds benefit the ICS.

Contact the ICS (219) 785-4936 or shelter@catsociety.org for more information.

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Michigan City Public Library

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

• **Knitting Club for All Ages at 5:30 p.m. Wednesdays, March 12, 19 and 26.**

Take size 9 straight knitting needles, worsted yarn and tape measure. Contact Joanne Hale at joeyAB1971@yahoo.com or (219) 814-4398 for more information.

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

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

• **Drop-in Craft at 3 p.m. Thursday, March 13.**

Make a St. Patrick's Day craft. All materials are provided. The program is designed for children 12 and younger accompanied by an adult.

• **"Family Health: A Chemical-Free Home" at 1 p.m. Friday, March 14.**

Jennifer Hernandez will discuss the benefits of using natural, chemical-free products to clean a home. Take an empty spray bottle and Hernandez will send attendees home with a natural cleaning solution.

• **"Understanding Your Dreams" at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 15.**

Experienced dream therapist Terese Fabbri will share techniques on how to remember and understand dreams.

Call Robin Kohn at (219) 873-3049 for more information.

Museum's Spring Break Hours

Spring break hours for Valparaiso University's Brauer Museum of Art are noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday through March 16.

Call (219) 464-5761 or email Gregg.Hertzlieb@valpo.edu for more information.

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Indiana Dunes State Park

The following events are planned through Indiana Dunes State Park:

Saturday, March 15

• 9 a.m. — 14th Annual Running with the Irish 5K.

The competitive run and non-competitive walk heads throughout the park. Visit www.stpatsparish.org to register. Park roads will be congested before and during the event.

• 2 p.m. — Leopold Bench Workshop.

Join other nature enthusiasts for a look at ecologist Aldo Leopold. Participants can construct a Leopold bench to take home and will receive a copy of his book, "A Sand County Almanac."

Registration, which is limited, costs \$50 and can be made by calling (219) 926-1390.

Sunday, March 16

• 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. — Leprechaun Hunt!

Help a naturalist use his GPS unit to find leprechauns and their gold. Meet in front of the Nature Center for the 45-minute hunt that includes prizes.

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:

• "Stewardship Days" from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 15, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.

Activities may include removing invasive species, planting native flowers or other work depending on the weather. Wear comfortable clothes. Work gloves and equipment will be provided.

• "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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Northwest Indiana Green Drinks

Northwest Indiana Green Drinks in Michigan City will meet at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 20, at Shoreline Brewery, 208 Wabash St.

Kim Ferraro, Hoosier Environmental Council staff attorney, will present "A Look Back at the 2014 Legislative Session: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly." The particular focus is how to increase efforts to advance progressive food policies.

Northwest Indiana Green Drinks, sponsored by 219 GreenConnect.com and Save the Dunes, meets the third Thursday of each month at Shoreline Brewery. The suggested donation is \$5, or \$2 for students. Call (219) 874-6809 for more information.

Dunes Summer Theatre Benefit

Dunes Summer Theatre will host a cocktail party benefit to support its 2014 season and youth programs from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Saturday, March 15, at Shady Creek Winery, 2030 Tryon Road.

The evening will feature musical performances by Dunes regulars, including 2013 Hoosier Star winner Jeremiah Souza. Wine and appetizers will be served. Additional wine for purchase and wine tastings are planned.

Tickets are \$20 at the door or in advance at www.dunessummertheatre.com

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La Porte County Library

The following programs are through La Porte County Library:

• **“Mad Scientist: Big Balloon Outer Space Show!” at 6 p.m. Monday, March 17, at the main library, 904 Indiana Ave.**

Elementary age children learn how the U.S. space program began, as well as the three animals that first traveled into space. The stage show features magic, comedy and balloon props.

• **“Tech Help” from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. Monday, March 17, at the main library.**

Stop by the computer lab to ask any question, from how to open an email attachment to uploading images to social media.

• **“Music of the ’50s: from Crooners to Rock ‘n’ Roll” at 1 p.m. Thursday, March 20, at the Coolspring branch, 7089 W. County Road 400 North.**

The program features music and trivia.

Recycling Household Waste Program

A program on recycling household waste is at 10 a.m. EDT Saturday, March 15, at the New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road.

Sponsored by the Friends of New Troy and Weesaw Township, the program features a panel that will share its knowledge and answer questions, which can be emailed ahead of time or asked at the session.

Donations will be accepted. Reservations are not required, but would be appreciated so organizers can prepare for the program. Make reservations, or submit questions, to Janna at (773) 275-1514 or janna@jannariley.com

La Porte County Historical Society

La Porte County Historical Society Inc. will meet Tuesday, March 18, at the La Porte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., La Porte.

The business meeting is at 7 p.m. For the program, Bruce Johnson, a Historical Society member and former South Central School teacher, will discuss “Hoosiers in Sports,” including Marshall “Major” Taylor, Fuzzy Zoeller, “Three-Finger” Brown and Oscar Robertson.

Memberships are available. Visit www.laportecountyhistory.org for more information.

Program on Endangered Species Act

Barbara Hosler, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service endangered species coordinator, will discuss the Endangered Species Act at 3 p.m. EDT Saturday, March 15, at Sarett Nature Center, 2300 Benton Center Road, Benton Harbor, Mich.

Call (269) 927-4832 for more information.



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Westchester Public Library

The following programs are offered through Westchester Public Library:

- "Mad About Mysteries" featuring local writer Linda McHugh Fox at 2 p.m. Wednesday and Saturday, March 12 and 15, at Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

McHugh will discuss her book, "A Silent Keep," as well as her writing process and experiences.

- "The American Civil War: A Series on the Major Battles" from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 15, in the Thomas Library Bertha Wood meeting room, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

History buff and Civil War enthusiast Thomas Murphy will discuss "The Battle of the Wilderness." Future programs will cover the battles at Gettysburg, Manassas, Antietam and Chickamauga.

- Free movie showing, "Catching Fire," at 5 p.m. Saturday, March 15, in the Thomas Library Bertha Wood meeting room.

The movie is rated PG-13. Popcorn will be made in the new popcorn machine.

- The Bits and Bytes program, Excel I, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, March 27, at the Thomas Library Bertha Wood meeting room.

All attendees must be computer literate and familiar with using a mouse.

The class is free, but registration is required because computer stations are limited. Visit or call the serials department at (219) 926-7696, Ext. 25, or register online at <http://www.wpl.lib.in.us/>

Click on the Bits and Bytes link.

Sons of Norway Carry-In Dinner

Scandiana Lodge, Sons of Norway, will have a carry-in dinner at 6 p.m. Saturday, March 15, at Westchester Public Library, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

Members should take table service and a dish to share. Coffee and punch will be provided. The program will focus on a coastline journey of Norway.

Anyone interested in the history and heritage of Scandinavian countries is welcome. Call (219) 221-6641 or (219) 324-2327 for more information.

NAC's Spring Session of Tennis Groups begins March 17th and runs through May 4th

Registration is now open and all levels of play for ages 4 through 18 are being offered.

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Parking Stickers Available April 1

The Michigan City Park Department will begin issuing the annual Washington Park parking stickers Tuesday, April 1.

Stickers will be distributed in the Clerk's Office in City Hall, 100 E. Michigan Blvd. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday except holidays.

The department will distribute stickers in conjunction with Michigan City Senior Center's annual Trash n' Treasure sale from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 29. Stickers also will be distributed from 9 a.m. to noon Saturdays at the Michigan City Port Authority in Washington Park.

Take a current vehicle registration. A certificate of registration will not be accepted. It must be a valid original registration card. Anyone who owns property in the civil city, but lives outside of the civil city limits must take a utility bill or tax bill (the name on the bill must match the name on the vehicle registration) for the city property.

The fees are:

- Free — Civil City residents.
- \$25 — La Porte County residents.
- \$40 — Indiana residents.
- \$100 — Out-of-state residents.
- \$23 — Senior Center members, who must show a current membership card.

Call the Michigan City Parks & Recreation Department at (219) 873-1506 for more information.

Chicago Flower and Garden Show

Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich., is planning a trip to the Chicago Flower and Garden Show from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. EDT Wednesday, March 19.

Held at Navy Pier, the annual event features display gardens ranging from practical to exotic, as well as a garden market and how-to programming.

The cost is \$75, or \$60 for members, and includes transportation and admission. Participants buy their lunch at Navy Pier.

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

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Registry Honors Wiegand

Remington Registry has honored Michigan City's Elizabeth Wiegand with its World Peace and Lifetime Achievement awards in its 2013 Honors and Awards Edition of "Inspiring Youth of America."



This picture of Elizabeth Wiegand is included in the honors and awards edition.

The registry, located out of Bohemia, N.Y., is sent to schools and universities to inspire students. One copy will be sent to the Texas Women's University Repository for Renowned Women Composers. It calls Wiegand an "outstanding profes-

sional musician, music director, caregiver and humanitarian hero," as well as "highly motivated by her love of music and writing, people, animals, sewing and never giving up."

The book will be archived in the Library of Congress and include three pictures.

Wiegand is the music director and organist at St. Peter Church, La Porte. Her accomplishments range from directing the Michigan City Interfaith Choir for 15 years to countless hours volunteering at Franciscan Health St. Anthony Hospital.

"Gardening for the Future"

Learn about the future of gardens and gardening during "Spring Garden Symposium: Gardening for the Future" from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. EDT Saturday, March 22, at Fernwood Botanical Garden & Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich.

Speakers include Amanda Thomsen, Kelly Norris, Thomas Smarr and Ken Druse.

Thomsen is from Chicago whose blog, "Kiss My Aster" (based on her book of the same name), takes a warped look at gardening and landscaping with an educational twist.

Norris is an award-winning author and plantsman from Iowa and the first horticulture manager at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden.

Smarr is director of horticulture with the Friends of the High Line in New York City. The High Line is a public park built on a historic freight rail line elevated above the streets on Manhattan's West Side.

Druse is an award-winning garden writer and photographer. *The New York Times* called him "the guru of natural gardening." He is best known for his 18 books, which Anne Raver called "bibles for serious gardeners." He also has a podcast and public radio show, "Ken Druse Real Dirt."

Those who register before March 16 receive the early bird cost of \$80, or \$64 for members. The cost includes lunch.

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

House Session

The Michigan City Area Chamber of Commerce and Greater La Porte Chamber of Commerce will present an Indiana Third House Session from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Friday, March 21, at the Purdue University-North Central LSF Building Room 002.

Legislators will discuss topics affecting the region and community.

Reservations are due by Tuesday, March 18, to the Michigan City chamber at (219) 874-6221 or info@mcachamber.com or the La Porte chamber at (219) 362-3178 or info@lpchamber.com

New Site in Works for Swanson Center

Swanson Center is moving from Marquette Mall to a 20,000 square-foot building fewer than three miles away in the former America's Christian Credit Union on County Road 400N.

Swanson Center provides mental-health and substance-abuse treatment services.

While the new site will house administration and outpatient offices, Swanson Center will continue its outpatient services on Indiana 2 in La Porte. Visit www.SwansonCenter.org for more information.

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Rotary Scholarships

The Rotary Club of Michigan City is offering two scholarships this year to students who attend a Michigan City area high school.

The scholarships are funded by the Rotary Club of Michigan City Foundation in honor of J.M. Ruby, Robert Schwartz and A.K. Smith. The first scholarship provides \$2,000 for each of two years (a total of \$4,000). The second scholarship provides a one-time award of \$2,000.


To be eligible, a student must:

- Have demonstrated "Service Above Self" in his/her community.
- Have a minimum of a "C" average in high school. Class rank will not be considered in awarding the scholarships.
- Graduate from any accredited high school by June 30, 2014.
- Be a resident in the geographical area served by Michigan City Area Schools.
- Be continuing post-secondary education beginning fall 2014.

Scholarship funds will be paid directly to the post-secondary educational institution.

Applications are available from guidance counselors at La Lumiere School, Marquette Catholic High School and Michigan City High School, as well as from Michigan City Public Library. They also are available at <http://www.mccrotary.org> (see section called "Downloads" and select "Scholarship Application") or email laramore@comcast.net

All applications and support letters must be post-marked no later than April 1.



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Great Lakes Employee wins R.O.S.E.

Mary Carr has been a familiar, friendly face to Michigan City service clubs for years, happily serving lunches on behalf of Great Lakes Catering.

Now, the longtime Great Lakes employee was rewarded for her exceptional service with Visit Michigan City La Porte's monthly Recognition of Service Excellence award.

"It's important to me to win this, because it means the people we help appreciate the good service we provide," she said.

"But this award isn't for me. It's for everybody that works here. We're not out front like most of the people who win the R.O.S.E. Award. It's nice to know that people realize there are other service-oriented people who aren't always on the frontline."

Carr was nominated by the Michigan City Lions Club for the friendliness she's provided in all the years she's served the club lunch.



Mary Carr appears with her framed R.O.S.E. certificate.

"For the last several years, she has served our club week after week with a charm and helpfulness that makes us feel like one of her family," the nomination stated. "She goes out of her way to present us and our guests with an appealing and appetizing spread of food for our noon luncheons. I have often heard from our guests, many of whom are from out of town, just how enjoyable the food, service

and presentation are at our meetings.

"As a club committed to helping our city through service, one of the ways we can help is by showing ourselves and our city in the most impressive way to our visitors and guests. Our club feels that the efforts of her and her company are a key factor in that success. I feel that this is true not only for our club, but I know that she also works for the other service clubs in Michigan City and provides additional service at special corporate and other events throughout our area, giving her a lot of contact with the public. I am sure my sentiments are widely shared by all of the others who have had the pleasure of having her provide service for them."

Ed Kis, who owns Great Lakes Catering and Top Dog Restaurant in Michigan City, said Carr is "invaluable" to the operation.

"She's great," he said. "She's been great forever."

For winning the R.O.S.E. award, Carr received a rose corsage with a \$100 bill folded inside, along with a framed certificate. She's invited to the annual R.O.S.E. luncheon at Blue Chip Casino Hotel and Spa, and is nominated for the Hoosier Hospitality Award.



American Red Cross

The following American Red Cross blood drives are scheduled:

- Monday, March 17, 1 to 6 p.m., St. John Kanty Hall, 7012 N. County Road 600 East, Rolling Prairie.
- Wednesday, March 19, 1 to 5 p.m., La Lumiere School Fine Arts Building, 6801 N. Wilhelm Road, La Porte.
- Friday, March 21, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., IU Health La Porte Hospital, 1007 W. Lincolnway, La Porte. Donate and receive a \$3 lunch coupon from IU Health La Porte Hospital.
- Monday, March 24, 1:30 to 6:30 p.m., St. Paul Lutheran Church & School Parish Hall, 818 Franklin Square, Michigan City. This is a Pint Size Heroes drive.
- Monday, March 24, 3 to 7 p.m., Evergreen Baptist Church, 2005 E. Coolspring Ave., Michigan City.
- Tuesday, March 25, 1 to 6 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 907 Michigan Ave., La Porte.
- Thursday, March 27, 2 to 6 p.m., Edgewood Elementary School gymnasium, 502 Boyd Circle, in Michigan City. This is a Pint Size Heroes blood drive.
- Monday, March 31, 2:30 to 6:30 p.m., Springfield Elementary School gymnasium, 3054 W. County Road 800 North, Michigan City. This is a Pint Size Heroes blood drive.

Call (800) 733-2767 or visit redcrossblood.org for more information. Individuals who are 17 (16 with parental permission in some states), meet weight and height requirements (110 pounds or more, depending on their height) and are in generally good health may be eligible. Take a Red Cross blood donor card or other form of positive ID when donating.

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Lilly Scholarship Finalists Announced

Unity Foundation of La Porte County has announced 10 local high school seniors as finalists for the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship.

Two students will be named 2014 Lilly Endowment Community Scholars to receive full tuition at an Indiana college or university and an annual \$900 book stipend.

The 2014 scholarship finalists and their respective schools are:

- Indiana Academy for Science, Mathematics and Humanities: LeeAnn Sager and Laura Sosinski.
- La Lumiere School: Daniel Mockaitis.
- La Porte High School: Johnna Belkiewicz; Jessica-Lena Bohlin; Hannah Jasicki; Jacob Lindsey and Mariah Micallef.

- Marquette High School: Taylor Bowen.
- Michigan City High School: Monica Zaknoun.

Unity Foundation received 62 applications for the scholarship from La Porte County students. They were judged on academic achievement, service to others, extracurricular activities and, to a lesser extent, financial need. A committee comprised of La Porte County residents reviewed the applications, not knowing the names until after the finalists were selected. The 10 hopefuls were interviewed, and nominee and alternate names were submitted to Independent Colleges of Indiana Inc. for the final decision, which will be shared by March 28.

Visit www.uflc.net or call (219) 879-0327 for more information.



Belkiewicz



Bohlin



Bowen



Jasicki



Lindsey



Micallef



Mockaitis



Sager



L. Sosinski



Zaknoun



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.

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1. Wine-ettes	21	11
2. Incredi-Bowls	19.5	12.5

HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES

	SCORE
1. Sue Luegers	160
1. Nancy Kubath	160
1. Barb Macduzinski	160
2. Carrie Alexander	157
3. Margie Midkiff	155
4. Tammy Vouri	152
4. MaryLou McFadden	152

SPLITS

1. Tina Sonderby	1-6-10
2. Paulette Harnach	1-3-5-10

Footlight Theatre Craft Fair

Footlight Players will have a spring craft fair from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, March 16, at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St.

The event includes jewelry, knit and woven items, art and photography, handmade dolls and stuffed animals, handbags and headbands, soy wax candles, fudge and a bake sale. Vendors include: Gypsoul Creations; Jethro & Henrietta: Eco-friendly Stationary; Luna Jewelry; Jewelry by Sherrie; Laura Meyer Crafts; William Wild Photography; Wonderland By Alice; Soapwood Crafts; and Christine's Candles.

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**THIS
WEEK
IN
HISTORY**



On March 13, 1852, a drawing by Frank Bellew, which appeared in the *New York Lantern*, was the first cartoon that depicted Uncle Sam as the symbol of the United States.

On March 13, 1868, the Senate began impeachment proceedings against President Andrew Johnson, charging him with "high crimes and misdemeanors." He was acquitted by one vote.

On March 13, 1877, Chester Greenwood, of Farmington, ME, received a patent for "ear mufflers," which later became known as "ear muffs."

On March 13, 1884, Standard Time was adopted across the U.S.

On March 13, 1884, the Chicago Live Stock Exchange received its charter.

On March 13, 1925, Tennessee passed a law prohibiting the teaching of evolution in the state's public schools.

On March 14, 1794, Eli Whitney was granted a patent for the cotton gin, an invention that was to revolutionize the cotton textile industry throughout the world.

On March 14, 1943, Aaron Copland's "Fanfare for the Common Man" premiered in New York.

On March 14, 1945, the American flag was raised on the Pacific island of Iwo Jima in World War II.

On March 14, 1964, a Dallas jury found Jack Ruby guilty of the murder of Lee Harvey Oswald, who had assassinated President Kennedy the previous November.

On March 15, 44 B.C., Julius Caesar, Roman general, statesman, and one of the great men of history, was assassinated by a group of Roman aristocrats, led by Marcus Junius Brutus, and Gaius Cassius.

On March 15, 1493, Christopher Columbus, following his first trip to the New World, arrived back in Spain.

On March 15, 1603, French explorer Samuel de Champlain, the first man to explore and map the St. Lawrence River, sailed for the new world.

On March 15, 1892, New York became the first state to authorize the use of voting machines.

On March 15, 1919, the American Legion, now the largest veterans' organization in the United States, was founded in Paris by a group of about 20 officers who served in France as part of the World War I American Expeditionary Forces.

On March 15, 1974, President Richard Nixon announced that he would not resign, and would not be

a party to the destruction of the presidency of the United States.

On March 16, 1792, Sweden's King Gustav III was shot and mortally wounded during a masquerade party. The assassination inspired the Giuseppe Verdi opera "The Masked Ball."

On March 16, 1802, the United States Military Academy was founded at West Point, NY.

On March 16, 1850, Nathaniel Hawthorne's famous novel, *The Scarlet Letter*, was published in New York City.

On March 16, 1942, General Douglas MacArthur arrived in Australia to assume the title of "Supreme Commander of Allied Forces in the Southwest Pacific."

On March 16, 1994, figure skater Tonya Harding pleaded guilty in Portland, OR, to conspiracy to hinder prosecution for covering up the attack on rival Nancy Kerrigan, avoiding jail but drawing a \$100,000 fine.

On March 17, 461, so tradition tells us, St. Patrick, patron saint of Ireland, died in the town of Saul. Legend says that he drove all of the snakes and venomous creatures from Ireland by beating on a drum. He did it so well that, even to this day, we are told that death occurs instantly to any such creature which dares touch Irish soil.

On March 17, 1843, St. Patrick's Day was celebrated in Chicago for the first time.

On March 17, 1991, Chicago's entrepreneurial Sherwood Noble, the nation's first owner and operator of a "Dairy Queen" store, died two days before his 83rd birthday.

On March 17, 1999, a panel of medical experts concluded that marijuana has medical benefits for people with cancer and AIDS.

On March 18, 1931, Schick Razor Company began marketing the nation's first electric razor.

On March 18, 1975, the Supreme Court ruled that the 1st Amendment protection extends to live stage shows, the same as to books and films.

On March 18, 1995, Michael Jordan, in a two-word news release saying simply, "I'm back," announced his return to the Chicago Bulls after an 893-day retirement.

On March 19, 1925, the 1-1/2-cent Warren G. Harding stamp went on sale in Washington, D.C.

On March 19, 1953, the Oscar ceremonies in Los Angeles were televised for the first time.

On March 19, 1987, television evangelist Jim Bakker resigned as chairman of the PTL ministry.

On March 19, 2001, California officials declared a power alert, ordering the first of two days of rolling blackouts.

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March 13 — Free educational program on scams/ crimes targeting seniors, 2 p.m., Rittenhouse Senior Living, 4300 Cleveland Ave. Info: (219) 872-6800.

March 13 — Duneland Stamp Club, 6 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

March 14 — "Family Health: A Chemical-Free Home," 1 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

March 14-16 — "Over the River and Through the Woods," La Porte Little Theatre Club, 218 A St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$12. Info/reservations: (219) 362-5113/www.laportelittletheatreclub.com

March 14-17 — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. *Now showing:* "The Past," an Oscar nominee for Best Foreign Language Film. In French with English subtitles. Rated PG-13. Times: 6 p.m. Fri.-Mon. *Also:* "The Great Beauty," the Oscar winner for Best Foreign Language Film. In Italian with English subtitles. Not rated. Times: 9 p.m. Fri., 2:30 and 9 p.m. Sat.-Sun. All times Eastern. Info: vickerstheatre.com

March 15 — "Understanding Your Dreams," 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

March 15 — "Stewardship Days," 9 a.m.-noon, Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

March 15 — Cocktail party benefit for Dunes Summer Theatre, 6:30-9:30 p.m., Shady Creek Winery, 2030 Tryon Road. Tickets: \$20. Reservations: <http://www.dunessummertheatre.com>

March 15 — 14th Annual Running with the Irish 5K, Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East (the north end of Indiana 49). Registration: www.stpatsparish.org

March 15 — Scandiana Lodge, Sons of Norway, carry-in dinner, 6 p.m., Westchester Public Library, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton. Info: (219) 221-6641/(219) 324-2327.

March 15 — "The American Civil War: A Series on the Major Battles," 10 a.m.-noon, Westchester Public Library Bertha Wood meeting room, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

March 15 — Free movie showing, "Catching Fire," 5 p.m. Westchester Public Library Bertha Wood meeting room, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

March 15 — Opening reception, Chesterton Montessori School "Indiana" art exhibit, 2-4 p.m., Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.

March 15 — "Mad About Mysteries," 2 p.m., Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

March 15 — "Creating Health Workshop," 1:30-4:30 p.m. EDT, Dancing Feet Yoga Studio, 19135 U.S. 12, New Buffalo, Mich. Cost: \$45 in advance/\$50



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March 15-16 — "Once Upon a Mattress," Marquette Catholic High School Rudy Hart Theatre, 306 W. 10th St. Times: 7 p.m. Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$10/adults, \$8/students and seniors, \$5/children 12 and younger.

March 16 — Winter Film Series, "Black Fish," 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

March 17 — ST. PATRICK'S DAY.

March 18 — La Porte County Historical Society Inc. meeting, "Hoosiers in Sports," 7 p.m., La Porte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., La Porte. Info: www.laportecountyhistory.org

March 18 — Independent Cat Society Pussycat Pizza Party, 5-9 p.m., Aurelio's, 2330 N. Indiana 35, La Porte. Tickets: \$15 at door. Info: ICS (219) 785-4936, shelter@catsociety.org.

March 19 — "A Margaret Thatcher in Athens? Economic Crisis and Ideas in Greece," 10-11 a.m. PNC Library-Student-Faculty Building Assembly Hall, Room 02. Free.

March 20 — FIRST DAY OF SPRING.

March 20 — "Music of the '50s: from Crooners to Rock 'n' Roll," 1 p.m., La Porte County Library Cool-spring branch, 7089 W. County Road 400 North.

March 20 — Northwest Indiana Green Drinks in Michigan City, 6:30 p.m., Shoreline Brewery, 208 Wabash St. Suggested donation: \$5/\$2 students. Info: (219) 874-6809.

March 20 — International Contemporary Ensemble recital, 5 p.m., PNC Library-Student-Faculty Building, Room 144. Doors open 4:30 p.m. Reservations: recital@pnc.edu, (219) 785-5719.

Wednesdays — Al-Anon meetings, 7-8 p.m., Long Beach Old School Community Center, 2501 Oriole Trail. Info: (219) 716-2690.

Farther Afield:

March 14 — "Art Hop Glass Sampler," 6-8 p.m. Water Street Glassworks, 140 Water St., Benton Harbor, Mich. Info/pre-registration: (269) 925-5555, www.waterstreetglassworks.org

March 15 — Recycling household waste program, 10 a.m. EDT, New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road. Info: (773) 275-1514, janna@jannariley.com

March 15 — Concert: Halfway to Galway with Marnie Heyn, 7:30 p.m. EDT, The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Tickets: \$10/general admission, \$8/students and seniors, free/children 12 and younger. Info: (269) 983-3688. Advance tickets: www.boxfactoryforthearts.org/calendar/#heyn

March 15 — Program on Endangered Species Act, 3 p.m. EDT, Sarett Nature Center, 2300 Benton Center Road, Benton Harbor, Mich. Info: (269) 927-4832.

March 16 — Collage Concert and Exhibit, 4 p.m. EDT, First Presbyterian Church, 475 Green Ave. on Morton Hill, Benton Harbor, Mich. Free. Info: (269) 925-7075.

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The Good Things Sale, resale it's best, is just around the corner and we are accepting the following items on consignment for this next sale: furniture, housewares, decorative items, art, lamps, linens, pillows, dishes, baskets, small appliances and electronics, tools, sporting equipment, patio furniture, toys, etc. To participate email Susan Vissing at whatsnexta@comcast.net or phone (219) 861-6188 to make an appointment to drop off up to 25 items for resale. Leave a message with your name, phone number, a few alternate dates and times you are available and you will receive a call or email with a scheduled appointment. Appointments are scheduled every hour Monday- Friday from 10 a.m.- 5 p.m., with a few evening and weekend appointments through March 18. There is a \$10 fee to participate, and you will receive 50% of the price of your sold items. Space is limited, so please book your appointment now! Shopping dates: March 22 10-2 p.m., shop first for the best selection, March 23, 12-4 p.m., take it away day, up to 50% discounts and considering offers. The Long Beach Community Center, Studio 11, 2501 Oriole Trail, Long Beach, IN. Home of the Girlfriend Sale.

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LONG BEACH COZY 3/BR HOUSE AT STOP 15 (Across from Beach) Summer Rental. Fireplace and Large Deck. No pets. Call **708/370-1745.**

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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

15.8 acres one mile from lake, Eastwood Road just south of Long Beach. \$170K. (219) 210-0544.

For Sale: 109 Felton St., Michigan City, IN. Move in furnished weekender home with updated features near Lake Michigan (fewer than 2/10 of a mile from historic Washington Park and Zoo). 3 BR/1BA, kitchen, dining room, loft overlooking living room with wood-planked cathedral ceiling, fenced-in landscaped yard with raised patio and a garage built recently. About an hour's drive from DT Chicago, Chicago train service nearby. Price: \$159,499. **Enquire at (708) 798-4096 after 6 p.m.**

Michiana Clowns Attending Convention

Michiana Clowns will be among similar groups from around the world attending classes to update their performance skills for the World Clown Association Convention at Crowne Plaza Northbrook.

Clown groups from throughout the U.S., as well as Canada, Sweden, Japan, Hong Kong, England, Malaysia and India, will be present. Afterward, Michiana Clowns attendees will share what they've learned with fellow members.

The group also has planned introductory "Art of Clowning" classes starting April 1 and continuing the next 10 Tuesdays. Sessions include professional makeup application, animated skit performance, creating a clown personality, producing a professional costume and developing skill sets, such as comedy magic, balloon sculpture and face painting.

The course ends with an on-stage clown-class graduation performance. Call **(219) 879-3898** or **(219) 363-4402** to register or for more information.



Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

The Museum of Extraordinary Things by Alice Hoffman (hardcover, \$27.99 retail in bookstores and online)

This story is so amazing, I don't know where to start. Combining history and fiction is a slippery slope that often doesn't work. In the capable hands of a master storyteller, however, it can leave you speechless as this week's recommendation does.

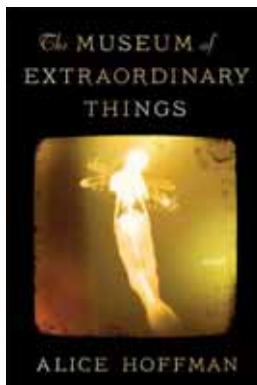
By turns lyrical, magical, sad and scary, this story encompasses a New York City that doesn't exist anymore, but does embrace people who did and still do exist: nice, mean, sympathetic to just plain evil.

The story revolves around 1911, told through the voices of a man and woman who probably should not have met, given their circumstances.

First, we hear from Coralie Sardie, daughter of Professor Sardie of the Museum of Extraordinary Things. The museum is attached to their house on Coney Island and attracts people who love to be surprised and shocked by the oddities he has collected there: The Butterfly Girl, the Wolfman, Siamese twins and animals like the 100-year-old tortoise he bought off a sailor. You see, the professor is a master of illusions, constantly searching for interesting acts, but also bits and pieces of people and animals that he can fashion into something the gullible public will accept as real and pay to see. Lately, though, admission fees are down as the boardwalk is expanding and the new Dreamland hosts more acts and entertainment than the professor can afford. This turn of affairs is not making him easier to get along with.

The professor is master of his house, and only Maureen, the housekeeper, teaches Coralie about the real world, that there is love in it as well as manipulation and deceit. Coralie was born with a deformity: webbing between her fingers for which she constantly wears gloves. She also has learned to be an excellent swimmer because in the museum, she is the Mermaid Girl. Her nightly swims in the Hudson River have made her impervious to the cold water and given her the ability to hold her breath for long periods of time.

Coming back from one night's swim, Coralie spots



a man taking photographs along the river's edge. She is taken with him, but how could they ever meet?

The other voice in this story belongs to Eddie Cohen, an immigrant who fled Russia with his father after his mother was killed and their village burned. He finds no solace in his Orthodox upbringing or his job alongside his father as a tailor. He sets out on his own and soon hooks up with Moses Levy, a photographer, as his apprentice. Moses tells Eddie he needs to get more humanity into his picture taking,

to find the beauty in a scene or person. When the old man dies, Eddie gets all his equipment and begins making money taking photographs for the newspapers. His first understanding of Levy's advice comes with the horrible fire at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory in March 1911. The horror of seeing young women and men trapped on the eighth and ninth floors of a building when the fire hoses could only reach the sixth floor gave him a new perspective on his picture taking, and a request from an old man that changed his life.

Not long after the fire, an old man finds Eddie and asks him to find his daughter, Hannah, who was supposed to be at work the day the factory burned, but her body was never identified. This request will be the start of a search that leads him to Coralie.

Things heat up — literally — as Coralie finds out the truth about her parentage and her father just as the famous fire — it actually happened — occurs at Dreamland on the night of its seasonal opening.

Hoffman knows how to create a stunning climax to a story already filled with interesting characters and lyrical prose. Coralie's final letter to Maureen had me misty-eyed. It's a lovely ending to a satisfying read you won't soon forget.

Hoffman is the author of 28 works of fiction, including the recent bestseller *The Dovekeepers*. She lives in Boston, Mass.

Best-selling author Gregory Maguire said: "Readers often talk about being immersed in novels; this is a satisfying swim in tidal waters. Take the plunge."

Till next time, happy reading!



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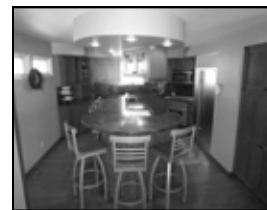


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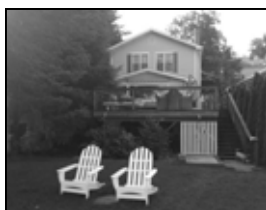
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222 El Portal Drive

Nature, sandy beach and woodlands are all part of the surroundings of this well built home on a corner lot. This is the perfect getaway with total privacy, includes 4 bedrooms, 4 baths and an open concept floor plan. Beautifully designed wood floors throughout the entire home. Exterior walls are built of concrete for superior insulation

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