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No Place Like Home

Art Festival Gets New Name, Location

by Andrew Tallackson

Last summer, Erika Hanner attended her first Lakefront Art Festival. As the new executive director at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, she wanted to take in the full effect — the sights and sounds — of the event, one of the center's major fundraisers held for years in Washington Park.

Her first impressions were favorable. August's snug temperatures, waves lapping against Lake Michigan's shores — the setting, Hanner said, was "lovely." The artists were happy, with attendance hovering between 3,500 and 3,800. Volunteers manned stations throughout the festivities. It was, she said, a "well-oiled machine."

But Hanner also observed what she called a "literal disconnect" in terms of fairgoers



Continued on Page 2 Amy Hilber talks to festivalgoers at the Felted Farmers Market. Photo by Bob Wellinski



The grounds outside Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., will house the Lakefront Art and Artisan Festival.

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associating the Washington Park event with the nearby Lubeznik Center, 101 W. Second St. Hanner shared her impressions with board member Bunny Fisher, who staffs the art center's membership booth. Time and time again, Fisher said, she'd ask visitors if they would like to become members. Many of the ensuing responses were the same: People were unaware of the center's ties to the festival.

"That's when I started asking, 'How do we bring this home?,' Hanner said. "It's a real gem, to have our own festival, and I always wanted to see if we could make use of it in even better ways.

"Now, we have the luxury of having this on our own property."

And so, in conjunction with its 35th anniversary, the festival will be held on the Lubeznik Center grounds Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 20-21. Operating under a new name, Lubeznik Art and Artisan Festival, some impressive changes are in the works, including a Friday night preview event in Millen-

nium Plaza, complete with live entertainment, on Aug. 19.

The changes, Hanner stressed, have nothing to do with how the festival was run in the past.

"This move helps with our identity, our branding, our face in the community," she said.

Helping lead the charge are co-chairs Fisher, Sheryl Edwards and Sheila Stein, with plans cultivated by a more than 20-member committee.

"We've had no resistance from the board," Fisher said. "I was enthusiastic, and we all realized, people come (to the festival) and they don't know we're right around the corner. So, we viewed this as a real positive thing."

One thing Hanner noticed last year was that, with staff manning the festival, the art center, itself, stood relatively empty. At the time, it had three major exhibits: "Andrea Peterson: Rooted" in the Brincka-Cross and Northview galleries; "Lora Fosberg: Everything Looks Perfect From Far Away" in the Hyndman Gallery; and Area Artists Association's "Color, Energy & Movement" in the NIPSCO Large Art Education Studios. The exhibits drew



Working behind the scenes to plan Lakefront Art and Artisan Festival are (from left) Lubeznik Center Marketing Director Amy Davis Navardauskas, Board Member Sheryl Edwards, Executive Director Erika Hanner and Board Members Bunny Fisher and Sheila Stein.

high praise, including from *The Beacher's* own Barbara Stodola, who wrote, "*The beauty of the Fosberg and Peterson exhibits arouses deeper reflection and appreciation of the region we inhabit.*" By having the festival at the center, Hanner said, the added benefit is even greater exposure for new exhibits. The festival, in turn, becomes a more expansive "roaming event," Lubeznik Center Marketing Director Amy Davis Navardauskas said. Guests can wander through the many booths outside and the latest exhibits on display inside.

One of the most significant changes is that the festival no longer will be an open application/juried process. Instead, it will be by invitation, with the LCA working with galleries in Chicago, Northwest Indiana, Southwest Michigan, Ann Arbor, Detroit and beyond. The intention, organizers say, is to bring the best in emerging and contemporary artists to Michigan City. They'll be joined by regional artisans, which means everything from functional art and fine crafts to gourmet food and artisan goods.



Festivalgoers have fun sewing in the Whatever Lab.
Photo by Bob Wellinski

"This is in no way an attempt to disparage how the old one was done," Hanner said. "This is a way to be more inclusive, an opportunity to reach out to more people to have a broader appeal, to embrace the entire community."

And that is precisely what LCA staff and festival committee members have done as plans progress. They've met with Michigan City Mayor Ron Meer, Hanner said, adding he's been very supportive. Organizers also will make sure all the proper permits are secured and requisite paperwork filed.

Committee members also will reach out to neighboring businesses, artists and Uptown Artist District establishments. Many food trucks, for example, exist within the area, so incorporating them into the event will be a plus, with Fisher adding, "Food trucks are all the rage these days, and we want to highlight the best in the area."

Continued on Page 4

From Peak to Bottom To Recovery

Year	Units	Med Price	Aver Price	\$Vol	Curve \$000
05	123	\$389k	\$452k	\$55.6 M	\$300-\$599
06	105	\$389k	\$358k	\$48.1 M	\$180-\$449
07	98	\$370k	\$436k	\$42.8 M	\$200-\$549
08	72	\$380k	\$502k	\$36.1 M	\$200-\$499
09	71	\$350k	\$378k	\$24.7 M	\$200-\$499
10	77	\$326k	\$396k	\$30.5 M	\$180-\$549
11	87	\$290k	\$370k	\$32.2 M	\$180-\$549
12	99	\$320k	\$405k	\$40.2 M	\$160-\$449
13	115	\$347k	\$427k	\$49.2 M	\$180-\$449
14	127	\$310k	\$423k	\$53.7 M	\$200-\$499
15	138	\$336k	\$392k	\$54.1 M	\$160-\$546

Each one of these columns tells a story. And the interactions of the columns enhance the narrative. I am just going to tease out a few insights. Let me know what you see.

Obviously, 2008 and 2009 were the lowest years in number of sales. But 2008 had a pretty good \$Volume. Units sold in 2010 started a recovery, but 2010 was not as high as 2008 in \$Volume.

2013 got the number of units sold close to 2005 and showed solid gains in \$Volume. 2014 shows shallower gains in number of sales and \$Volume. 2015 continues the climb in Units sold, but flattens in the \$Volume. More sales at the bottom as you can see from the Curve data.

If you look at the interaction of the median, average, \$volume and curve, you can tell what part of the marketplace was selling best each year. E.G. 2015 had an increase in lower-end sales that did not push up the \$Volume hardly at all but the median went up a bit. Means the middle-range sales improved slightly. Curve supports this conclusion.

Notes: This data from GNIARMLS for the mapped area between U.S. 12 and the Lake from the steel mill to the state line. Years equal calendar 12 months. Units equals units sold, including any residential sales—condos as well as single family. Median is the mid price; half sold for more; half sold for less. Average is total \$Volume divided by units sold. \$Volume is the total dollar volume of all sales. Curve is the price range in which at least 50% of the sale occurred.

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Beefing up the entertainment lineup is another goal. "Play, create, repeat," Fisher says, is the mission, including a headliner for the preview night, as well as possible music by local and regional bands, dancing and performance art during the actual festival. For the preview night, Hanner said, organizers have tossed around the idea of having a flotilla pass by in Trail Creek, to make the event an "artistic spectacle." Davis Navardauskas says she checked, and the last time the festival included opening-night entertainment was in 2006, so everyone is excited by the prospects of what's in the works. Also, shuttle service will be available from Millennium Plaza to the Lubeznik Center.

Family activities, of course, will continue. Anyone who has visited the festival is accustomed to seeing youngsters at easels, having a blast creating their own masterworks. Expect more of that as well this year.



Volunteers will remain a crucial aspect of the event as well. In addition to LCA's own helpers, Rotary Club of Michigan City volunteers its services. Kris Pate, United Way of La Porte County executive director, has told the LCA she and other volunteers are eager to help, Hanner said.

And while the event's emphasis, of course, is contributing to the community's overall quality of life, LCA staff reiterate that the Lubeznik Art and Artisan Festival will remain one of its most significant fundraisers, along with the annual ArtBash. The center uses the funds to support its exhibits, programs and educational outreach across the region.

"This is the largest thing we do, and we're proud of that," Hanner said. "In a way, it's our philanthropy to the community.

"Again," she continued, "we are not disparaging the old festival with these changes. It's simply time to refresh it. It's time to bring it home."

(Call the Lubeznik Center at (219) 874-4900 or visit www.lubeznikcenter.org for more information.)



The festival in its early days (left) and in 2015.

New Exhibits to Debut

Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., will unveil two new exhibits, "Abstruse Daydreaming" with Meredith Setser and Jay Zerbe" and "Interactive Works" by Jonah Ortiz, during an opening reception from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 5.

"Abstruse Daydreaming," located in the Hyndman Gallery, features fiberscapes by Setser and



A piece by Meredith Setser.

contemporary abstract paintings by Zerbe. Both run through April 9.

Setser's installations use printed motifs that reference patterns found in urban infrastructure, agricultural and eco systems. Applied to handmade felt, these substrates then are cut, sewn, layered and folded into a sculptural installation. The process of felt making, which employs heat, moisture and aggressive friction, mirrors

Jay Zerbe's
"Paper Cuts."





Jonah Ortiz.

tain references.

Zerbe is a contemporary abstract painter originally from Chicago, but now living in Northwest Indiana.

"Placebo," located in the Brincka/Cross and Susan Block galleries, features interactive sculptures by Ortiz that explore how people relate to objects and become desensitized by convenience, experience and time. His lowbrow sense of humor is prevalent in his work, but the underlying theme is what he calls, "creative experiment in humanity." The sculptures are designed to spark intrigue and create dialogue among his audience.

the geological phenomenon of the creation of the earth strata.

Setser is a printmaker and textile artist employed as an assistant professor of printmaking at the Herron School of Art and Design in Indianapolis.

Zerbe's abstract paintings are informed by the landscape and strike a balance between order and chaos. The core of the work juxtaposes these diverse structures and their uncertain

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Celebrating the Legacy of Dionne Warwick

by Kim Ward

Editor's note — Art+Times is written by the staff at iRock Jazz, highlighting how art and culture intersect today.

Dionne Warwick is a first in every sense of the word.

Singing since she was 6, Warwick has carved out a path that resulted in nearly 60 hits since “Don’t Make Me Over” began its chart climb in December 1962. Her musical career, which spans more than 50 years, started during a time when America was experiencing racial unrest and the Feminist movement was gaining momentum.

One can only imagine the thoughts that went through her mind as she began her artistic journey, but one thing is certain. She was armed with vocal prowess and a healthy dose of determination.

As a result, Warwick captivated loyal fans on every continent, secured a place as a pioneer with several “firsts” and amassed a slew of awards, including her first Grammy in 1968 for the classic “Do You Know the Way to San Jose?” She thus became the first

solo black female artist of her generation to win the prestigious Best Contemporary Female Vocal Performance, an honor then only awarded to one other female black legend: Ella Fitzgerald.

Today, Warwick continues to make things happen. Art+Times recently spoke with the singer about her career and the music industry today.

Despite her many accolades, Warwick still struggles with fame and her “legendary” status.

“To be continually called a legend is quite flattering,” she said, “but I feel as if I still have a lot to do in order to meet the requirements of becoming a legend.

“If you look at people like Lena Horne, Ella Fitzgerald and Sarah Vaughan, those to me are legends. And I certainly have a long way to go before I can be put in the same breath as they are.”

Despite her humility, the name “Dionne Warwick” has earned its place in conversations about great singers. She sits comfortably on Billboard Magazine’s “Hot 100 Artists” list of the greatest musicians of all time. Her songs have been covered or sampled in recordings by other artists more than 300 times — a testament to her

influence within the music industry. The fact that she continues to sell out performances all over the world more than six decades after her first song hit the charts conveys her popularity with music fans.

Warwick says her recent recordings and performances are acts of gratitude.

“It’s my way of saying thank you to those who have been supportive of this 50-year career. I had a wonderful time recording, and I certainly hope,

those (who) are so inclined to put (one of my albums) in their repertoire of recording would enjoy it as much as I did.”

“Wow” is Dionne Warwick’s choice of word to describe her 50 years in the industry.

“To be in this particular industry more than 10 years is successful,” she said. “Fifty is definitely a ‘wow’.”

Of her world tour, Warwick says “It’s wonderful to be able to revisit places that I have been touring for

the past 50 years,” she said. “We have covered three (continents) already and we have three more to go.”

She chuckles, adding she plans on taking some time off “between songs.”

The groundbreaker shared her views on how the scope of music has changed over the years.

“It’s quite different and geared for the audience that it’s being presented to, and that’s our youth,” she said. “It’s suitable for them, and that’s what I think of it.

“Since recording artists are known as messengers, we should be sending some positive and possible solutions to what is going on in the world today.”

This musical legend and staunch philanthropist, the first such artist to score a dozen consecutive Top 100 hit singles from 1963 to 1966, continues to blaze trails. Known as the artist who “bridged the gap,” Warwick’s soulful blend of pop, gospel and R&B music continues to transcend race, culture and musical boundaries.

Her legendary, iconic musical and humanitarian status is forever etched in stone, as illustrated with her own star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.



Dionne Warwick's career has spanned 50 years in the music industry.

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Footlight Players to Present "The Glass Menagerie"

"The Glass Menagerie," Tennessee Williams' powerful classic, opens Friday, Feb. 5, at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St.

The beautiful lyricism of "The Glass Menagerie" and its eloquent dialogue represent some of the best writing created for the theater, Director Donald Beck says.

"It is ideally suited for a production at an intimate theater like Footlight," he continued. "Fortunately, I was able to find wonderful local actors who are as passionate about the play as I am."

The piece is a memory play as told by Tom Wingfield (Kevin Mellen), a merchant marine looking back on the Depression years he spent with his overbearing Southern mother, Amanda (Kali Rasala), and his physically disabled, cripplingly shy sister, Laura (Lindsey McDermott).

Tom, pressured by his mother to help find Laura a suitable husband, invites his co-worker, Jim (Jeremiah Souza), to the apartment, which pushes Amanda deeper into her obsessions and makes Laura even more vulnerable to shattering.

"I have loved this show ever since I read it in high school," said Beck, who went on to teach theater across the country, always including "The Glass Menagerie" in his curriculum.

"Growing up in a small southern town, I felt an affinity for Williams and for these characters. Like Tom, I was 'pursued by something,' and spent many years moving around trying to find an elusive cure for my restlessness."

All four cast members have much experience on



Kevin Mellen (top, left) and Jeremiah Souza, and Lindsey McDermott (bottom, left) and Kali Rasala appear in "The Glass Menagerie."

the stage. This is the third Footlight production for Mellen and Souza, last seen together in the August production of "The Odd Couple." It is the first time at Footlight for Rasala and McDermott, but both women have appeared in several shows across the region. Rasala also performs "An Evening With Julia Marlowe," a one-woman production about Shakespearean actress Julia Marlowe and writ-

ten by Purdue University-North Central Professor Jerry Holt.

Rasala said she has been working hard to prepare for the role of Amanda, portrayed on film by the likes of Katharine Hepburn and Joanne Woodward.

"I have been reading up on Tennessee Williams and learning more about his mother, whom this character is based upon, and his times spent in St. Louis as a young man," she said. "It's always been one of those dream roles."

Performances are Feb. 5-7 and 11-14. Curtain is 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. Doors open 45 minutes prior to curtain. Tickets are \$12 for adults, or two for \$20 with a coupon that can be printed off of www.footlightplayers.org. Tickets for children 12 and younger, and Thursday shows, are \$10.

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

"Little Women" Auditions

Director Leslie Evans will have open auditions for Footlight's April production, the musical "Little Women," from 7 to 9 p.m. Sunday and Monday, Feb. 7 and 8, at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St.

Evans needs at least six women and four men ages 15 and older. No on-stage experience is necessary. Actors will be asked to read cuttings

from the script with others on stage. Also, take 16 bars of any song to sing, preferably accompanied by sheet music for the accompanist to play. A background track on CD also is acceptable.

There is some dancing in the show, but choreography is not part of the audition. Call (219) 874-4035 or email cqjflores@gmail.com for more information.



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Southern Shore Art Association to Present Native American Art

For the second year, Southern Shore Art Association will host an exhibit of arts and crafts produced by Indiana State Prison's Native American Circle.

An opening reception is at 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 5, at the SSAA gallery, 724 Franklin St.



An Indian beaded hanging object.

Forty two Native American inmates, with many different tribal affiliations, meet weekly to study Native American thoughts, philosophy and spirituality, and how it relates to the intellectual, physical, emotional and spiritual. Learning to help others is part of their teachings, so the inmates give back through their paintings, jewelry, dream catchers

and other works expressive of Native American culture.

Most of the proceeds from artwork sales benefit "Camp New Happenings" in Indiana, which provides a week-long experience for boys and girls 8-11 with an incarcerated parent or parents. The youth enjoying swimming, arts and crafts, sports and

evenings around the campfire. The camp often provides the only experience of this type they will have.

During the opening reception, pre-eminent Native American flute instructor John Saranto will perform. Saranto has facilitated contemporary Native American



An Indian painting



An Indian hanging object.

flute workshops for more than 20 years. A free lecture about the history and culture of the area's Potawatomi Indians is from 1 to 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 13.

The exhibit runs through Feb. 28. Gallery hours are noon to 4 p.m. Friday through Sunday. Visit www.SouthernShoreArtAssociation.com for more information.

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Barker Romance Ball

When John and Katherine Barker married on Valentine's Day in 1893, they hardly could have imagined people would still be celebrating 123 years later.

Thanks to a partnership between Barker Mansion and Barker Hall at Trinity Episcopal Church, partygoers can celebrate Valentine's Day 2016 in the style of a bygone era during the Barker Romance Ball on Saturday, Feb. 13.



The event kicks off with a 4 to 6 p.m. champagne reception at Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St., followed by a 7 p.m. prime rib dinner-dance event

at Barker Hall, 600 Franklin Square. Dress is business formal. Gilded age period costumes are encouraged. Calumet Ridge Jazz Ensemble will perform. The nine-piece group includes keyboard, horns, standup bass and drums, its musicians playing music from the 1940s to the present.

The mansion of wealthy industrialist John Barker was inspired by the English Victorian manor house. It is one of the best preserved historic households showcasing the lifestyle of the super rich of the 1800s, fully furnished with original pieces, including the silverware. Partygoers can sample champagne punch and hors d'oeuvres selected from Katherine Barker's handwritten notes for her 1890s dinner parties. They also can view statuary and artworks collected during the couple's European tours.

The party continues at Barker Hall at Trinity Episcopal Church. The grand romantic gothic style building was a 1929 gift to the city from Barker's daughter, Catherine. The prime rib banquet followed by an



evening of dancing will be held in the 3,600 square-foot ballroom known as the Great Hall. The room is appointed with oak-paneled walls, beamed ceiling, 20-foot-tall leaded glass windows and lit by tiered chandeliers. Dinner will be served on the Barker Hall monogrammed china. A cash bar will feature Catherine Barker Chocolate Martinis, or John Barker's favorite scotch on the rocks.

Tickets are \$85 per person or \$160 per couple, or \$700 for a reserved table for eight guests. They are available through www.eventbrite.com. Reservations paid in advance by check may be made by calling the church at (219) 874-4355.

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"Broadway Valentine" Concert

Broadway star Doug LaBrecque returns to Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra to headline the concert "A Broadway Valentine" at 7:30 p.m. EST Saturday, Feb. 6, at Lake Michigan College's Grand Upton Hall.

LaBrecque has appeared as the Phantom and Raoul in Harold Prince's production of "The Phantom of the Opera," starred on Broadway as Ravenal in Prince's revival of "Showboat" and been a soloist with symphony orchestras across the globe.

The SMSO program will include classics such as "Begin the Beguine," "The Song is You," "Bring Him Home" and "What a Night." A dance floor for patrons will be set up in front of the stage.

A pre-concert conversation with Music Director Robin Fountain and the guest artist is one hour before the concert.

Individual tickets cost:

- Zone A: adults, \$37; seniors, \$32; students, \$5.
- Zone B: adults, \$20; seniors, \$20; students, \$5.

Family and other discounts also are available.

The Grand Upton Hall is located on the Lake Michigan College Napier Avenue Campus, 2755 E. Napier Ave., Benton Harbor, Mich. Contact the SMSO office at (269) 982-4030 or visit www.smso.org for tickets or more information.



Michigan City Public Library

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

• **Free Gentle Flow Yoga at 12:15 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 6.**

Certified yoga instructor Lauralee Sikorski emphasizes deep breathing and releasing stress. Wear comfortable attire, and come on an empty stomach. Take a mat because extras are limited.

• **Understanding Your Dreams at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 6.**

Experienced dream therapist Terese Fabbri leads the workshop for people interested in dreams and their significance.

• **Cocoa & Coloring at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 7.**

Coloring can help adults de-stress, generate wellness and quietness and stimulate brain areas related to motor skills, the senses and creativity. During the adults-only program, light refreshments will be served. Coloring sheets and colored pencils will be provided.

• **Great Decisions at 6:30 p.m. Mondays, Feb. 8 and 22.**

The foreign-policy discussion program returns for its 18th season. Talks this month center on Middle East alliances and Islamic state. Reading material is available at the circulation desk.

• **Story Time at 10 a.m. Wednesdays, Feb. 10, 17 and 24.**

Children birth to age 5 and adults will enjoy stories, songs and crafts. Arrive a few minutes early to receive a name tag.

• **Knitting Club for All Ages at 6 p.m. Wednesdays, Feb. 10, 17 and 24.**

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

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

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Chesterton Art Center

The following exhibits and classes are offered through Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.

- **Local painter George Millet is the subject of a one-man show in February, with an opening reception at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 7.**



George Millet appears with one of his dunescapes.

A self-taught painter and retired heavy machine operator/engineer, Millet has participated in indoor and outdoor shows throughout the Midwest, starting as early as 2009. Growing up in the area, his watercolor paintings reflect the local landscapes and Northwest Indiana nature. At the February show, guests will view original paintings and prints, some of which have been award winners at other shows.

- **Life Drawing Open Studio from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Mondays.**

A fully clothed model will serve as the subject. Each artist must take his/her own supplies and clean up afterwards. No formal instruction is included. The cost of each session is \$10, plus a tip for the model.

- **Open studio with Suzie Rosso from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursdays.**

Participants can take any 2-D project in progress: pencil, charcoal, watercolor, acrylic, oil, pastel. Rosso will serve in an advisory role, not as part of a formal teaching setting, but as an opportunity to develop personal artistic style and improve skills. The cost is \$65 per month (four sessions), with members receiving a \$5 discount.

- **“Color Between the Wines” adult-coloring club from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 10.**

The club will provide all materials (coloring pages and crayons), as well as free adult beverages. Participants can take books, pencils and pens. This is not a structured class, but a social opportunity to decompress while using a creative outlet. The cost is \$5 per session.

- **George Kassal will offer an Introduction to Digital Photography workshop from 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesdays, Feb. 17 and 24.**

The class is designed for people new to digital and primarily use point-and-shoot cameras. Kassal will cover basic operation and the use of features such as scene modes, exposure compensation, white balance and use of flash. Special topics include moving images from the camera to the computer, uploading to online photo sharing sites, sending images by email and hints for basic shooting conditions. Students should take their camera and instruction manual to class. The cost is \$45, with members receiving a \$5 discount.

- **Dick Church will offer a six-week Beginning/Intermediate Watercolor Class starting from 10 a.m. to noon Friday, Feb. 19.**

Church lead students through a variety of watercolor techniques, ideal either for first-time painters or the mildly experienced. The cost is \$70, with members receiving a \$5 discount. There also is a \$10 board and pattern fee. Other supplies are not included. Church will discuss supplies with all beginners to start the class.

Call the center at (219) 926-4711 to register. Visit www.chestertonart.com for more information.

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Historical Society Museum

It's that time of year when La Porte County Historical Society Museum displays its vast collection of vintage Valentines.

The pieces are on display in period rooms through the end of February. Paper lace cutouts with romantic sayings, three-dimensional stand-up cards and colorful, nostalgic images grace these long-ago works of art.



Part of the Valentine collection on display in the Victorian Dining Room.

In the museum gift shop, Valentine reproductions are for sale. Some of the images came from the Historical Society archives.

The Historical Society for the past several years also has been collecting stories of "The Great Loves of La Porte County." Anyone who would like to share

his/her love story can stop by the museum and fill out a form.

Another effort is the Bicentennial Legacy Project. Indiana is 200 years old this year. After many months of planning, the Bicentennial Display, "Prominent People of La Porte County," is up and ready to be viewed.

The exhibit, sanctioned by the State Bicentennial Commission, revolves around the many accomplished and talented people who, at one time or another, called La Porte County "home."



Don Larsen's baseball card.

The committee consists of Historical Society Board members Greg Fruth and Joanne Gorecki, County Historian Fern Eddy Schultz, Historical Society President Bruce Johnson and Curator Susie Richter. Together, they have been researching, writing and finding photos of more than 40 citizens past and present. Bobbi Laughlin of Reprographic Arts in Michigan City provided the professional printing of all bios and photos. Some of the people highlighted include foot-specialist Dr. Scholl, first space administrator Roy Johnson, The Maple City Four, artist Isamu Noguchi, World Series no-hitter pitcher Don Larsen, actress Ashley Hinshaw and Siri inventor Dag Kittlaus.

The exhibit will remain on display throughout the year. A reception where the public can meet some of the people featured is from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 16.

The museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., La Porte, is open from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Call (219) 324-6767 or visit www.laportecountyhistory.org for more information.

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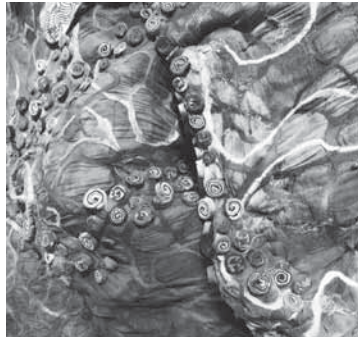
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Sylvester Stallone — Still the Underdog

by Andrew Tallackson

Nearly 40 years after “Rocky” blindsided “Network,” invading its Oscar turf by nabbing trophies for Best Picture, Director and Editing, Sylvester Stallone again finds himself positioned as the Academy Award underdog.

The actor, who turns 70 in July, is an unusual Hollywood success story. And when he’s not playing Rocky or Rambo, his film choices are wildly uneven. For every memorable one (“Nighthawks,” “Cliffhanger,” “Demolition Man”), there is a smorgasbord of crap (“Rhinestone,” “Over the Top,” “Lock Up,” “Stop! Or My Mom Will Shoot”).

Even when he’s making trash, though, he’s smart enough to *realize* he’s making trash. How else, for example, do you explain the success of “The Expendables” series? Joined by a whole host of past-their-prime buddies, Stallone generated millions at the box office with material that, in his heyday, would have been readily dismissed, but today finds favor as testosterone-fueled nostalgia. It’s Stallone having the last laugh.

With his Golden Globe win and Best Supporting Actor nod for “Creed,” however, no one’s laughing. In fact, of all the Oscar nominations this year, more so than Leonardo DiCaprio’s all-but-assured win for “The Revenant,” this is the performance audiences and — here’s the kicker — critics want to see rewarded.

Why so?

To answer that question, I revisited the “Rocky” series by binge-watching the six films before “Creed” with my 9-year-old son, Will. Regardless if each entry in the series steadily falls from grace, one fact remains: Stallone’s Rocky Balboa is one of American cinema’s most indelible creations.

With the original picture (1976), Stallone wasn’t reinventing the wheel, but simply plunking Horatio Alger’s working-class underdog into a modern world. Rocky Balboa, inspired not only by Stallone’s past, but that of other boxers, is considered a bum, a former prize fighter in an Italian neighborhood of Philadelphia making quick bucks doing the local loan shark’s dirty work. What strikes you about the character is that he’s not as dumb as he looks and sounds. He has a lot of heart. He’s a good guy floundering in a gritty, unforgiving world.

Stallone surrounds Rocky with classic archetypes. Talia Shire’s Adrian is the requisite love interest, but the actress embodies her with such fragile, brittle shyness, her evolution in the film is equally as moving as Rocky’s. Adrian and Rocky are sleepwalking through life, awakened by their love for each other.

There’s also the grizzled mentor (Burgess Meredith, chewing his cigars as vigorously as he does the scenery) and the jeering antagonist, Apollo Creed, played by Carl Weathers in a performance that over the course of the series strikes me as equally as groundbreaking

ing as the work Sidney Portier was doing at the time. Now, before you ask if I’ve taken a leave of my senses, consider this. By the mid-1970s, most actors of color were trapped in black exploitation pictures like “Shaft” or “Foxy Brown,” unable to crack the barrier shielding them from mainstream pictures. Yet here was Weathers, charging through scenes like an alpha male on steroids. His Apollo Creed was the antithesis of Rocky: polished, educated, wealthy, a domineering presence fueled by insatiable ego. Technically, he was the villain...but we understood him, even admired him. And, as we learned in the ensuing movies, so did Rocky.

Throw these wildly varied individuals into the same stew, and audiences gobbled it up. The movie only cost \$1.1 million. To date, it has grossed \$225 million worldwide. Its climactic “Yo, Adrian” ending became immediate fodder for parodies, but revisit the movie today. You still choke up at the end. Rocky may not win the match, but he’s restored his dignity. The crowd’s going nuts, the press wants its juicy quotes, and all Rocky wants is the love of his life...by his side.

Now, Hollywood pundits use the term “franchise fatigue” to describe the key moment when box-office returns remain solid, but audience interest begins to waver. Marvel is experiencing it now with slightly diminished returns for movies like “Avengers: Age of Ultron” and “Ant-Man.”

Franchise fatigue set in almost immediately with “Rocky II” (1979). Stallone didn’t so much as follow up his Oscar-winning picture as remake it. It’s the same movie, except this time, Rocky wins. But, again, the movie works because of Stallone. Rocky is still a sweet, likable guy. His evolving relationship with Adrian as they marry and give birth to



Rocky

what will be their only child is the emotional core of the picture. And when Adrian, from her hospital bed after suffering complications amid childbirth, awakens from a coma, stares into her husband’s face and says, “*There’s one thing I want you to do for me. Win,*” chills race down your spine. When Rocky claws his way up the ropes to victory, Bill Conti’s score takes off and, again, there’s a huge lump in your throat.

With “Rocky III” (1982) and “Rocky IV” (1985), it was clear the franchise was on autopilot.

These films could write and direct themselves. The formula was simple: Spend the first hour dabbling in down time, specifically domestic life for the Balboas, then introduce the villain, cue the training montage, then victory in the face of impossible odds.

What “Rocky III” has going for it is Stallone’s willingness to poke fun at the Rocky legacy (the boxer’s spar with wrestler Hulk Hogan is welcome comic relief), as well as the ingenious move to pair Apollo Creed and Rocky Balboa as trainer and trainee, respectively, against Clubber Lang, played of course by Mr. T in his hilarious, trash-talking movie debut. No such luck, though, with “Rocky IV.” After Apollo Creed’s uproariously vulgar theatricality — all set to James Brown’s “Living in America” — before his fatal match against Russian boxing Goliath Ivan Drago (Dolph Lungren), all the fun drains out of the movie. Lungren’s blank-faced monster isn’t a suitable villain. He’s the terminator, but without Schwarzenegger’s snappy dialogue. And Stallone, feeding off the political climate at the time between America and the Soviet Union, uses the climactic match to issue a juvenile plea for unity among squabbling nations.

Nonetheless, audiences couldn’t get enough. With a worldwide box-office take of \$300.4 million,

“Rocky IV” remains the highest-grossing entry in the saga. Stallone was unstoppable...until 1990 when he released “Rocky V” and the series took a brutal fan beating. Watch it today, and it’s not *that* bad. Scenes between Rocky, Adrian and Rocky Jr. (played by Stallone’s real-life son, Sage) are sincere and effective, reaffirming why we care about these characters. But by reducing the climax to a street fight between Rocky Balboa and a protege turned greedy punk, the movie ultimately feels depressingly useless. Stallone has since apologized, admitting he made “Rocky V” out of greed, trying to atone for that sin 16 years later with the mildly agreeable, but admittedly pointless “Rocky Balboa” (2006).



Creed

That’s why Ryan Coogler’s “Creed” (2015) is an impressive feat. It walks a fine line — “Rocky VII” or fresh-faced reboot — and succeeds as both. It continues the Rocky saga from a fresh perspective, yet remains true to the essence of the series.

That is no easy feat, but Coogler, whose last picture, “Fruitvale Station,” was in my opinion the best picture of 2013, and co-writer Aaron Covington, a Michigan City native, know this franchise well. They respect it, nourish it and spin it in directions that feel new and familiar.

The premise is that Adonis “Donnie” Johnson (Coogler’s “Fruitvale” star, Michael B. Jordan), the illegitimate son of the late Apollo Creed, has endured a life fraught with disappointment. Taken in by Creed’s widow, he seeks closure by heading to Philadelphia, hoping his father’s formal boxing pal will take him under his wing.

The franchise has come full circle. Rocky is now the equivalent of Burgess Meredith’s Mickey and Adonis in the same emotional state as Rocky: raw, uncertain of his own future. But this time around, Stallone’s Rocky Balboa is a ghost of his former self: alone (Adrian died years earlier from non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma), his face weathered by age, the fire in his eyes long gone.

It is through the young Creed that Rocky



Rocky II



Rocky III



Rocky IV



Rocky V

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Sylvester Stallone

Continued from Page 21



Apollo Creed

finds meaning and purpose. A light crackles in his eyes again, a smile spreading across his face.

The film's most powerful scene arrives when Rocky learns he has non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Stallone does something devastating here. We expect

stone-faced bravado from a former heavyweight champ. But as the diagnosis spills from the doctor's lips, Rocky ever so slightly shudders. Tears emerge, but Rocky reins them in, barely uttering above a whisper, *"That's what my wife died from."* Broken and vulnerable, it is a defining moment in Stallone's career, the best piece of acting he has committed to film. Ever.

We also realize something else with this scene. We've been with this character for 40 years. We've taken the same journey, all the highs and lows, and still, Rocky Balboa works his way into your heart.

Without question, Stallone deserves the Oscar nomination for "Creed." Jordan — fierce in every way at conveying anger, resentment and, ultimately, redemption — deserved one as well, but that is a column for another day. Will Stallone win? He's the sentimental favorite, but sentimental favorites don't always triumph. (Gloria Stewart, anyone?)



Rocky Balboa

But if the "Rocky" saga has taught us anything, it's this: Underdogs, by their very nature, know how to beat the odds.

And Stallone, my friends, is still the underdog.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com



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Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The following programs are available:

• **Monthly Stargazing Program at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 6, at the Kemil Beach parking area in Beverly Shores.**

Chicago Astronomical Society members will take telescopes so visitors can get a closer look at the night sky. In February, the brightest stars of the year are overhead: Sirius, Procyon, Rigel, Betelgeuse, Aldebaran, Castor, Pollux and Capella, as well as the great nebula of Orion. Guests can take binoculars, and should dress appropriately for the weather. Those individuals should contact Wendy Smith with the Great Lakes Research and Education Center at wendy_w_smith@nps.gov or (219) 395-1987.

• **Find Your Park Film Series on Saturdays and Sundays.**

Explore a different National Park Service site through films shown at 2 p.m. Saturdays at the Paul H. Douglas Center and 2 p.m. Sundays at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center. Call the park's information line at (219) 395-1882 for this week's film.

• **Open House at the Douglas Center from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays at the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.**

Family friendly activities include the chance to borrow cross country skis if there is enough snow. Visitors also can feed the center's resident turtles and fish, or just explore the center's exhibits.

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

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

The Visitor Center is at 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. The Paul H. Douglas Center is on Lake Street in Gary. Call (219) 395-1882 for more information.

MQT 130th Anniversary Event

Marquette Catholic High School will celebrate its 130th anniversary with a special event from 6 to 10 p.m. Friday, Feb. 12, in The Richard & Louise Scholl Student Center, 333 W. 10th St.

Tickets are \$50. A cash bar is planned. Dress is casual. Call (219) 873-1325 or visit www.marquette-hs.org for tickets.



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PNC Softball Team Benefits Daniel's Cause

Purdue University-North Central student-athletes have a long-standing commitment to volunteering on campus and in the community.

Women's softball team members have established a tradition of supporting Daniel's Cause – a gift-giving resource created by Daniel Alexander, Westville. His endeavor began a few years ago to brighten the holidays for deserving children.

Alexander is 14, but in 2010, he was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor. He made many trips to the University of Chicago Comer Children's Hospital. Its Child Life Services provided toys to Daniel and other hospitalized children to play with and keep, at no cost to the child's family. It was a service Daniel and his family appreciated.

Today, Daniel is home and doing well. He decided he wanted to repay the good will he experienced and took on the project of gathering toys to donate to hospitalized children spending the holidays away from home. He said the hospital generally has about 150 young patients in its care on Christmas day, with the average age of 7.

Knowing that, Daniel decided to make sure the youngsters could enjoy their holiday.

PNC softball team members have enthusiastically supported Daniel's Cause, donating hundreds of toys for the past few years. A PNC connection ex-



Appearing with Daniel Alexander (center) are team members Madyson Walter (from left), Audrey Headley, Brianna Jodzis, Alexandra Jodzis, Caroline Brown, Molly Marsh, Jenna Leach and Assistant Coach Jennifer Cassell.

isted as former PNC player and PNC Athletic Hall of Fame player Jessica Brannagan is Daniel's aunt, who has supported Daniel's Cause in the past.

Team members thought it would be great to contribute \$5 per player to pay for the toys, pitcher Audrey Headley said. She said many contributed more and sought donations from friends and family.

It also is a PNC tradition for the softball coach to match the money raised by the team. Coach Denny King was happy to chip in, so the total reached \$500.

Team members took their donations to shop at the Westville Dollar General.

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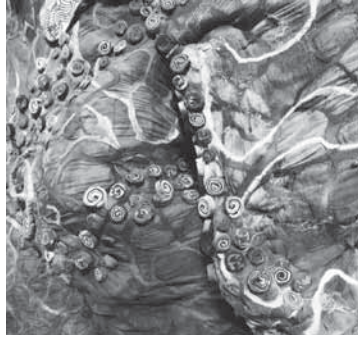
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Westchester Public Library

The following programs are available:

• **Bits & Bytes series, Internet Security, from 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 4, in the Serials/Automation Department at Thomas Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

Registration is required by visiting or calling the IT Department at (219) 926-7696, or registering at www.wpl.lib.in.us. Click on the Bits & Bytes link.

• **Teen Library Council from 4 to 5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 4, in the Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

Teens in grades 6-12 can recommend library programs, books and other programs for Teen Services. Community service hours are available.

• **Chesterton Writing Group from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 4, in the Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

The group is open to adult writers – fiction or nonfiction — of all levels, whether published or unpublished. Attendees share their work and learn about publishing.

• **Chesterton Chess Club from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 4, at Thomas Library.**

Meet at the tables by the reference desk. All ages and skill levels are welcome. The library provides chess boards and game pieces.



• **Children's Movie: "Minions" at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 5, at the Thomas Library Children's Department.**

The movie, rated PG, runs 1 hour, 31 minutes.

Free popcorn is available. All ages are welcome; however, children 8 and younger must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

• **Knitting Together from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 7, at Westchester Township History Museum.**

Area knitters, and those who crochet or do needlework, are invited.

• **Sunday Matinee: "Bridge of Spies" at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 7, at the Library Service Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

Free popcorn will be served. The movie, rated PG-13, has a running time of 2 hours and 21 minutes.

• **Intro to Crochet from 6 to 7 p.m. Mondays, Feb. 8, 22 and 29, at Thomas Library's Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

Registration is required at the Thomas Reference Desk or by calling (219) 926-7696.

• **Valentine Storytime & Craft from 6 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 10, in the Thomas Library Children's Department.**

Teen volunteers (grades 6-12) will read their favorite childhood stories and help children ages 4-8 with a Valentine's Day craft. Children should register at the Thomas Children's Department.

• **Pokemon League from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays through May 24 at Thomas Library.**

The program is aimed at children in first grade and older. Attendees learn to make decks of 60 cards. They don't need to take anything unless wanting to take a starter pack of cards.

• **Children's Crochet Club from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays through June 29 in the Children's Department at Thomas Library.**

Attendees learn beginning crochet from instructor Sadie Steciuch. Children should take a size G crochet hook and skein of medium weight yarn. Register by calling (219) 926-7696.

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Annual Valentine's Bazaar

Rittenhouse Senior Living, 4300 Cleveland Ave., Michigan City, will host its 7th Annual Valentine's Bazaar from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 6.



Baked goods are among the items available at vendor tables during the annual Valentine's Bazaar.

Last year, Rittenhouse had 26 vendors presenting goods such as crocheted items, silk flower arrangements, jewelry, arts and crafts, baked goods, Tupperware and candles.

Breakfast is served from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., with tickets sold at the door for \$6.

The bazaar supports the non-profit Alzheimer's & Dementia Services of Northern Indiana.

Call (219) 872-6800 for more information.

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December R.O.S.E. Winner



Beverly DeWitt holds her framed R.O.S.E. certificate.

Beverly DeWitt is Visit Michigan City La Porte's December Recognition of Service Excellence winner.

A La Porte native, she has worked at La Porte's Round the Clock restaurant for four years.

"I was very excited and surprised to receive this award, and I want to thank the person who nominated me," she said. "I always try to give my customers the very best service. I love this community and, in fact, when visitors ask

me about the area, I always tell them about La Porte's antique shopping and Washington Park in Michigan City."

This is what the nominator wrote about the service people receive from DeWitt: *"She is always pleasant and has a smile on her face. She knows her menu, what the specials and soups are. It is truly a pleasure to be served by her. She makes a good meal a truly delightful experience. She is a true asset to the restaurant and to the community. Because of her, we will return."*

DeWitt received a framed certificate, rose corsage and \$100 bill. She will be invited to the annual R.O.S.E. luncheon May 5 at La Porte Civic Auditorium and be nominated for the Hoosier Hospitality Award.

Nominations can be made at <http://bit.ly/RoseNomination>

Youth Orchestra Auditions

Lake Michigan Youth Orchestra will have new member auditions for its spring term, which begins Feb. 22.

The program offers three ability-based groups for middle- and high-school string players and high school-level woodwind, brass and percussion players. Auditions for new members of Concert Strings, Encore Strings or Youth Symphony are Monday, Feb. 8, at Upton Middle School, 800 Maiden Lane, St Joseph, Mich. Call the symphony office at (269) 982-4030 to schedule an audition. Returning members don't have to re-audition unless wanting to advance into a higher level group.

Registration can be done at www.smso.org. Click on the EDUCATION link/LMYO, then click the link for online registration. A downloaded paper form also is available at www.smso.org. It can be mailed to SMSO, 513 Ship St., St. Joseph, Mich. Email forms to joelle@smso.org by Feb. 15. Payment is due at the first rehearsal. The cost is \$100 for the first child and \$55 per additional family member. There also is a \$10 optional LMYO T-shirt.

Under the direction of Burke Lokey, Joe Oprea and Beth Oeseburg, the Youth Orchestra, Encore Strings and Concert Strings rehearse Monday evenings during the fall and spring of each school year. The orchestra performs four public concerts each year: a fall concert, holiday concert, spring concert and "Side by Side" concert with the SMSO.

The program includes scholarships to summer music camps, sectional rehearsals with SMSO members and free tickets to SMSO concerts.

Call (269) 982-4030 for more information.

AAUW Meeting

The Michigan City Branch of the American Association of University Women will meet at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 6, at Station 101, 801 Franklin St.

Diane Harper will speak on "The Quality of Our Water."

AAUW has been advocating equity for women and girls since 1881 through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. The Michigan City Branch offers varied programs at monthly meetings September through May.

Call Julie Kreighbaum at (219) 872-3730 for additional information.

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Monday Musicale

Monday Musicale members met Jan. 25 at First Presbyterian Church.

Continuing the current year's theme, "Music in Motion," Felicia Thomas hosted a program of music related to "Flight."

Soprano Sheila Pollock opened the program with "Up Where We Belong" and "Carol of the Birds," accompanying herself on piano. Guest performer Joe Stewart sang "They Call the Wind Maria" from the Lerner and Loewe musical "Paint Your Wagon."

Pianist Lee Meyer played Edvard Grieg's "La Papillon" (The Butterfly) and "The White Peacock" by Charles T. Griffes. Carol Garrett performed two contemporary pieces on the church's pipe organ: "Toccata Viva" by Lani Smith and "Suite for Organ" by Gerald Near. Pollock presented a vocalise rendition of "Beauty and the Beast."

Thomas played "Los Pájaros," a trumpet medley composed of "Yellow Bird" and "La Paloma" (The Dove) and accompanied by Meyer. Contralto Sue Cassler shared the Hoagy Carmichael/Johnny Mercer pop standard "Skylark."

Soprano Krystal Levi was joined by her daughter, guest violinist Lena Levi, for the Mozart aria "L'amerò, sarò costante" (Faithful Heart Enraptured) from the opera "Il rè pastore."

Cassler, Levi, Stewart and Thomas united for vocal trio and quartet arrangements, including "Poor Butterfly" (Golden/Hubbell), "When They Call My Name" (Lister), "Never, Never Land" from the musical production "Peter Pan" and the program finale, "Wind Beneath My Wings." Listeners then adjourned to the Edith Boyd Lounge for refreshments served by Laura Meyer's hosting committee.

An affiliate of the National Federation of Music Clubs, Monday Musicale has been in existence for 106 years. Contact Ange Benz at (219) 874-3754 or Sue Cassler at (219) 362-1421 for more information.

ArtsBridge Annual Poetry Reading

ArtsBridge will present its seventh annual Poetry Reading at 2 p.m. EST Sunday, Feb. 7, at First Presbyterian Church in Benton Harbor, Mich.

Poet lovers are invited to read his/her original poem. Topics can include nature, feelings, love, personal philosophy, diversity and spirituality. Event organizer Isabel Jackson said participation is encouraged, although guests may sit and listen.

Past participants include George Barfield, Pearl Blaylock, Bill Brady, David Brady, Penn Campbell, Debra Davis, Sue Goens, Darlene Hawkins, Marnie Heyn, Jeanette Holton, Isabel Jackson, the Rev. Laurie Hartzell, Julie Kortidis, Eileen (Bean) Klusendorf, Linda Lobik, Gary McCormick, Maggie Mendus, the Rev. Emeritus Doug Petersen and students from St. Joseph High School and Lake Michigan College.

The church is located at 475 Green Ave. on Morton Hill. Admission is free; however, donations are accepted. A reception follows the program. Call (269) 925-7075, visit FirstPresBH.org or First Presbyterian of Benton Harbor on facebook for additional information.



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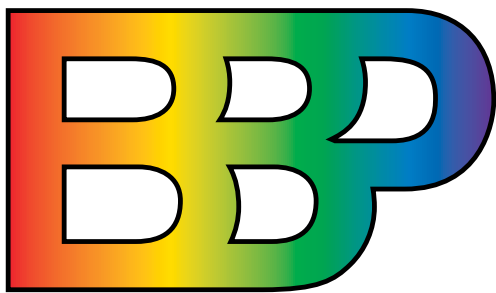
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American Red Cross

The American Red Cross La Porte County Chapter will sponsor the following bloodmobiles:

- La Porte High School, 602 F St., La Porte, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, Jan. 29. Each student who recruits one presenting donor receives a carry all case while supplies last.
- St. John's United Church of Christ, 101 St. John Road, Michigan City, noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 2.

Donors must be in good general health and feeling well, at least 17 (16 with parental consent) and weigh at least 110 pounds. Call (800) 733-2767 or visit redcrossblood.org for more information.

Craft Show Vendors Sought

Vendors are sought for the third annual Swanson Activity Center for Older Adults Arts & Crafts Show, which is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 28, at the Activity Center, 910 State St., La Porte.

Last year, the event included 42 vendors from Indiana, Illinois and Michigan. Spaces are open for crafters who specialize in making quality, hand-crafted items. Only outside space is available. Booths are 10x10 and cost \$35. The application deadline is March 1.

Call or email Dee at (219) 393-4093 or ddev48@hotmail.com for more information or to receive an application.

Free Artist Lecture

Internationally known painter Jeanette Pasin Sloan will discuss her celebrated career during a free lecture at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 10, in Duesenberg Recital Hall at Valparaiso University's Center for the Arts.

Sloan's archives are included in the Brauer Museum of Art's collection.

The lecture is sponsored by the Valparaiso University Art Department. Call (219) 464-5365 or email gregg.hertztlieb@valpo.edu for more information.

Artspace Meeting/Open House

Artspace Uptown Artist Lofts will host a Residential Leasing Information Session from 8 to 9 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 4, in the NECA Building, 301 E. Eighth St.

Those attending can learn more about Artspace, living in the lofts and how to apply.

A community open house and building tour is from 5 to 7 p.m. that day at the lofts, 717 Franklin St. Visit tinyurl.com/o7coqbm for more information.

MCAS Students Selected for Choir

Lake Hills Elementary School students Kalea Collins, Athena Chambers and Madison Gresham were selected for the 2016 Indiana Elementary Honor Choir.



Kalea Collins (from left), Athena Chambers and Madison Gresham.

The three students performed in Fort Wayne on Jan. 15 at the Embassy Theater, entertaining music teachers from across the state at the Indiana Music Educators Association annual conference. They were among only 146 elementary vocalists in the state to be chosen for the choir.

This is the second year in a row that Collins, a sixth-grader, had been selected.

The girls were chosen based on auditions they recorded, which included a performance of a prepared piece that showcased their ability to sing in harmony and match various pitches. More than 700 elementary students in Indiana auditioned.

Next, the three will perform in the "Circle the State with Song" Festival at Hebron High School on March 5. They'll be joined by 35 other MCAS elementary students, including 18 more vocalists from Lake Hills and students from Joy, Marsh, Pine and Coolspring. Thirty-two MCAS middle-school students from Barker and Krueger also will participate in the festival. Lake Hills music teacher Steve Chambers serves as Area 1 regional coordinator for the annual event.

Sarett Nature Center

The following programs are available at Sarett Nature Center, 2300 Benton Center Road, Benton Harbor, Mich.:

• **A Snowshoe Hike and Hot Dog Roast at 3 p.m. EST Saturday, Feb. 6.**

The fee is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. Snowshoe rentals are available.

• **Experience Belize through a PowerPoint presentation at 3 p.m. EST Sunday, Feb. 7.**

Admission is \$3 for adults.

Call (269) 927-4832 to register for either program or for more information.

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www.NewBuffaloLions.org
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La Porte County Parks



All registrations/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. Monday, Feb. 8 and 22, March 7 and 14, and April 4 and 18 at Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West. Call at least one week in advance to register.

Parent & Child Discovery Days

The program includes arts and crafts, games and snacks. All activities are related to the topic. Programs are appropriate for children 3 to 8, with an adult required to participate. Times are from 6 to 7:15 p.m. at Luhr County Park. The cost is \$5 per child/per program. Pre-registration and payment are required at least one week in advance or until full, whichever comes first. The schedule is:

- Feb. 10 — Hooting Good Time.
- Feb. 24 — A Salamander's Life.
- March 9 — Hello Down There.
- April 6 — Flower Power.

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 Luhr County Park Nature Center. Call at least one week in advance to register. The schedule is:

- March 2 — "Arthritis and Our Joints," Dr. Sarah Bancroft; also, free bone density testing.
- April 6 — "Birds and How to Attract Them to Your Home," Potawatomi Audubon Society.

Shake Off the Winter Blues

Stop by Luhr County Park Nature Center for a hands-on encounter with the natural world, along with free coffee or hot tea, from 10 to 11 a.m. Feb. 10 and March 9.

Guests can view displays and native live animals, and watch birds and squirrels play in the wildlife viewing area.

Shelter and Hall Reservations

Call (219) 325-8315 to make reservations for one of many picnic shelters at any of the four county parks, or Pat Smith Hall at Red Mill County Park for a family function.

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Generous Grant



ALCOA Foundation representatives presented a \$39,500 grant to Michigan City High School during the Michigan City Area Schools board meeting Jan. 26. The funding will help expand the Project Lead the Way engineering program at MCHS next fall, adding a new dual-credit course in Computer Integrated Manufacturing. The course will teach students skills in high demand by ALCOA and other employers in La Porte County. Pictured are representatives from ALCOA, MCHS Principal Wendel McCollum, Superintendent Barbara Eason-Watkins, MCAS Curriculum Director Jan Radford, La Porte County CTE Director Audra Peterson and MCHS Engineering teacher Ralph Gee.

Basic Handgun Class

Michigan City Rifle Club, 4801 E. U.S. 20, will host an eight-hour NRA Basic Handgun Shooting Course at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 20.

The course introduces students to the knowledge, skills and attitude to safely own and use a handgun. Fees range from \$125 to \$175, depending on if participants take a handgun and ammunition or use club equipment. The fee includes light refreshments and lunch. Class size is limited, and preregistration with deposit is required.

Email jotto32@gmail.com or call (219) 369-3577 for more information.

Speed Networking Event

Greater La Porte Chamber of Commerce will host a speed networking event at 5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 11, at Open Door Coworking, 1705 State St.

Participants speak one-on-one with each other, switching spots after a set amount of time. Once the speed part is over, there will be time later for people to reconnect. Take business cards.

A \$5 donation is suggested, with proceeds aiding La Porte Jaycees. Register at tinyurl.com/he7p6gw

Art Market Vendors Sought

Michigan City Mainstreet Association is seeking outdoor art vendors for an open air art market at its First Friday Art Walk.

Vendors will be required to have 10x10 tents and charged \$40. Dates include: April 1; May 6; June 3; July 1; Aug. 5; Sept. 2; Oct. 7; and Nov. 4.

Anyone interested in showing their work in the market can contact Sarah at weaversa@indiana.edu



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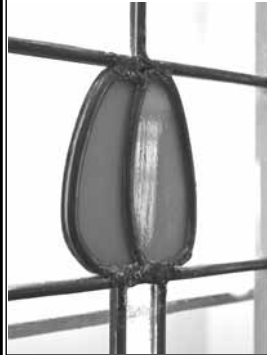
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Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail.)

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

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

Activities to Explore

In the Local Area:

Feb. 4 — Artspace Uptown Artist Lofts community open house/building tour, 5 to 7 p.m., Artspace, 717 Franklin St. Info: tinyurl.com/o7coqbm

Feb. 5 — Opening reception, "Abstruse Daydreaming" with Meredith Setser and Jay Zerbe" & "Interactive Works" by Jonah Ortiz, 5-8 p.m., Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: (219) 874-4900, www.lubeznikcenter.org

Feb. 5 — Opening reception, Indiana State Prison's Native American Circle, 5 p.m., Southern Shore Art Association gallery, 724 Franklin St. Info: www.SouthernShoreArtAssociation.com

Feb. 5 — Children's Movie: "Minions," 6:30 p.m., Westchester Public Library Children's Department, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

Feb. 5 — Live music, 7 p.m., Walnut Ink Projects, 607 N. Franklin St. Cover: \$6. Info: (219) 393-0796.

Feb. 5-7, 11-14 — "The Glass Menagerie," Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Curtain: 7:30 p.m. Thurs.-Sat./2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$12/adults, 2 for \$20 with coupon from www.footlightplayers.org, \$10/children 12 & younger, Thursday shows. Info: (219) 874-4035.

Feb. 6 — 7th Annual Valentine's Bazaar, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Rittenhouse Senior Living, 4300 Cleveland Ave., Michigan City. Breakfast: 8:30-9:30 a.m., \$6. Info: (219) 872-6800.

Feb. 6 — La Porte Service League play, "Little Red Riding Hood and the Magic Dragon," 9:30 a.m., La Porte High School auditorium. Donation: \$1/adults, 50 cents/children. Info: (219) 362-2693.

Feb. 6 — Free Gentle Flow Yoga, 12:15 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Feb. 6 — Understanding Your Dreams, 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Feb. 6 — Monthly Stargazing Program, 5:30 p.m., Kemil Beach parking area, Beverly Shores. Info: wendy_w_smith@nps.gov, (219) 395-1987.

Feb. 6 — Open Mic Night with Host Seth Creekmore, 8 p.m. EST, The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.acorntheater.com, (269) 756-3879.

Feb. 7 — Cocoa & Coloring, 1:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Feb. 7 — Sunday Matinee: "Bridge of Spies," 1:30 p.m., Westchester Public Library Service Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

Feb. 7 — Opening reception, local painter George Millet, 2 p.m., Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. Info: (219) 926-4711.

Feb. 7-8 — Auditions, "Little Women," 7-9 p.m., Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Info: (219) 874-4035, www.footlightplayers.org

Feb. 8 — Great Decisions, 6:30 p.m., Michigan

City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Feb. 10 — Shake Off the Winter Blues, 10-11 a.m., Luhr County Park Nature Center, 3178 S. County Road 150 West. Info: (219) 325-8315.

Feb. 10 — "Color Between the Wines," 7-8:30 p.m., Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. Info: (219) 926-4711.

Feb. 10 — Free artist lecture, painter Jeanette Pasin Sloan, 7 p.m., Duesenberg Recital Hall @ Valparaiso University's Center for the Arts. Info: (219) 464-5365.

Through February — "Vintage Valentines," La Porte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., La Porte. Museum hours: 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Tue.-Sat. Info: www.laportecountyhistory.org, (219) 324-6767.

Mondays — Codependents Anonymous (CoDA), 6 p.m., Franciscan Alliance-St. Anthony Health. Info: (219) 879-3817.

Wednesdays — Al-Anon meetings, 6-7 p.m., Franciscan Alliance-St. Anthony Health. Info: (708) 927-5287.

Farther Afield:

Feb. 6 — Snowshoe Hike and Hot Dog Roast, 3 p.m. EST, Sarett Nature Center, 2300 Benton Center Road, Benton Harbor, Mich. Cost: \$5/adults, \$3/children. Info: (269) 927-4832.

Feb. 6 — Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra concert, "A Broadway Valentine," 7:30 p.m. EST, Lake Michigan College's Grand Upton Hall, Benton Harbor, Mich. Info/tickets: (269) 982-4030, www.smso.org

Feb. 7 — ArtsBridge seventh annual Poetry Reading, 2 p.m. EST, First Presbyterian Church, 475 Green Ave. on Morton Hill, Benton Harbor, Mich. Free, donations accepted. Info: (269) 925-7075.

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| 157 |
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Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

The Children Act by Ian McEwan (paperback, \$15 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook)

Never have I read a book that covers so much territory in so slim a volume. At only 221 pages, it delves into, among other things, legal cases that include religion, divorce, child custody and medical dissent. The story also explores the matter of a childless marriage on the rocks and...well, there's also music.

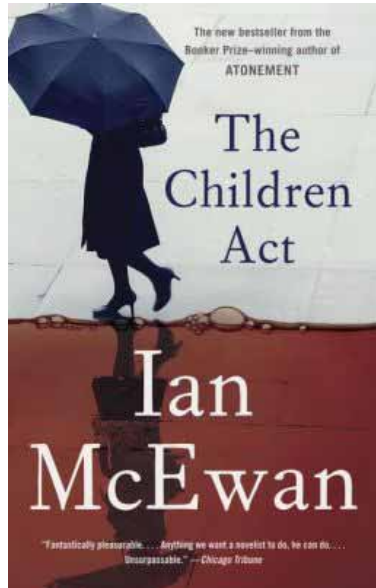
If you ever thought a judge had a cushy job, this story will surely change your mind.

Fiona Maye is a British High Court judge who presides over cases in family court. A highly respected judge, in fact. She is perceived as intelligent and diligent—her decisions are regularly published—and she is especially sensitive to the cases involving children.

At 59, she has made the law her life's work. Her 30-year marriage to Jack Maye has produced no children and now is teetering on the brink of disaster. Jack approaches her one night and says: *"Before I drop dead, I want one big passionate affair."* The kicker in this proclamation is that Jack does not want a divorce. Oh no, he just wants permission to have one last sexual fling! He argues they have become like brother and sister, and their love life has become nonexistent. She quietly asks him to pack up and leave...but can she just turn her back on 30 years of her life?

Let's leave that sordid part of Fiona's life for a moment and go back to her duties as judge. She brings home reams of paper to go through before her cases come to court. Some are sad, some difficult, some plain nasty...like the divorcing Heredi Jewish couple with two young daughters. The mother wants them to go to public schools and university to have a full life. The father wants them to attend the all-Jewish girls school, grow up to be some Torah student's husband and stay home to raise children in the ultra-Orthodox community. How can a court come between parents and their religion? Other cases come and go before Fiona, but you can't help but wonder: Can there be one case that even one so self-assured, educated and wise as Fiona just might be more than she can handle?

One day, she is handed the case of Adam Henry. He's the 15-year-old son of Jehovah Witnesses. He is a cancer patient who needs blood transfusions, but his family's faith prohibits it. There's a deadline here, as soon it will be too late for the blood transfusions and the boy will surely die. However, the par-



ents perceive the church as having saved their lives, and to be thrown out of the congregation if they OK the transfusions would be devastating. Now, it's up to the court to make a decision: Let the wishes of the family prevail, or force the blood transfusions to allow the boy to live.

Fiona heads to the hospital and see the boy for herself since he is so near the age of consent. She wants to judge his intelligence, and how much he understands what is happening to him. Adam proves to be bright, someone who loves to write poetry and is teaching himself to play the violin. The two of them have a lively discussion, Fiona even singing a song as Adam plays the violin. Does her visit

go too far? She goes home to ponder the case. She must decide based on law and the facts in the case, not on her emotions.

Both sides in the matter meet the next day in court to present their case. Both sides give reasonable testimony, and soon it's left to Fiona to render her decision about what is best for Adam. Not an easy thing to do in this case, as the boy has an almost martyr-like view of his death. He is ready to die for his religion, but is he really seeing the consequences of his actions? Fiona makes her decision and moves on to the next case.

No one, least of all Fiona, can predict the repercussions her decision will bring...and that's the crux of this story. It isn't until weeks later that the first blue envelope comes in the mail...

I was intrigued by how the emotional, as well as the intellectual, elements of this story are explored from Fiona's viewpoint. A reference to *The Children Act* of 1989 in one part emphasizes that *"the child's welfare shall be the court's paramount consideration."* Does Fiona do right by Adam Henry? You be the judge.

From Meg Wolitzer of NPR: "Masterful...Begins with the briskness of a legal brief written by a brilliant mind, and concludes with a gracefulness found in the work of few other writers."

From *The Huffington Post*: "A finely written, engaging read...Poignant, challenging and lyrical."

Ian McEwan is the author of 15 books, including *Atonement*, winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award and the W.H. Smith Literary Award, and *Amsterdam*, winner of the Booker Prize. He lives in Gloucestershire, England, and his website is www.ianmcewan.com

Till next time, happy reading!



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3008 Northmoor Trail, Long Beach

This bright and airy 3 bed, 4 bath wonderful home is just steps to Stop 31 Beach! Cozy up to the fireplaces in both the living room and family room during this winter season.

\$495,000



1586 W Karma Drive, LaPorte 6 Bedrooms, 3 Baths

This beautiful 4,300 sq ft tri-level. Has 6 bedrooms, 3 full bathrooms and 3 car garage. It is located at Briar Leaf Golf Course and Crichfield school district. The main floor features 3 bedrooms, including Master with master bath and walk in closet, an open concept living room with gas fireplace, dining room and newer kitchen with granite countertop, and stainless steel appliances. Sliding doors off the kitchen open to a nice deck and open yard.

Lower level features three bedrooms, full bath, laundry room, play room and huge family room. 23.5' x 16' office with sliding doors opening to the back yard. This wonderful house is connected to city water and sewer plus, has a well to water the garden.

\$330,000



2959 Lakeshore Drive, Long Beach

Call for your personal viewing of this classic Long Beach home! Home boasts 3 bedrooms, 2-1/2 baths, 2 large open living areas, wonderful deck and ample parking!

\$829,000



Doug Waters*
GRI
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