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The Struggle to Save the Dunes

National Lakeshore Celebrates 50th Anniversary

by William Halliar



This undated photo shows Ill. Sen. Paul H. Douglas (center, seated in the jeep) amid efforts to "Save the Dunes."

Of the many gifts parents leave to children and grandchildren on behalf of children everywhere, one of the most enduring is one of unspoiled natural beauty. A legacy of peace and solitude, of wonder and joy through the preservation of flora, fauna and the land itself.

This year, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore celebrate 50 years of struggle and, more importantly, cooperation between forces competing for the land along Lake Michigan's southern shores. The dunes

represent our legacy to future generations, a faith in our children, as we bequeath so great a treasure to them.

This year, millions of visitors from around the world are expected to visit our lakeshore in this, the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service, the 50th anniversary of the National Lakeshore and Indiana's 200th anniversary as a state. People will commute by train or automobile to hike or bike the

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The Struggle

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many trails, study unique species of plants and animals or soak in the sun on one of the many beaches. They will experience the wonders we sometimes take for granted in our own backyard, their spirits awakened and souls refreshed.

as the Great Lakes of North America are today, it was a great salt sea evidenced by the huge salt deposits that still exist under lakes Michigan and Superior. So great was this sea, and so long did the era of tropical environment last, that the salt deposits left behind are some of the greatest in the world.

The shallow salt sea gave way to a time when



Stephen Mather (far left), the National Park Service's first director, leads a tour of park advocates through the dunes in 1916.

An early dunes champion, Illinois Sen. Paul H. Douglas, said, *"In the Indiana Dunes, I touched the earth and became stronger thereby."* Virtually millions will have that opportunity this year to gather the same strength because of the foresight and tenacity of those whose fight to protect the dunes became a reality.

That story is a saga of struggle at times between forces of titanic proportions. Consider that at one time, our part of the northern hemisphere was covered by a warm and shallow sea filled with a myriad of exotic plants and animals.

Rather than being a great freshwater reservoir,

massive sheets of ice held sway over the landscape of Northwest Indiana and, indeed, the world's northern hemisphere. The glaciers advanced southward and receded, then advanced again many times over millions of years. As each glacier pushed over the landscape, the earth was scraped, scoured and shaped until finally the last of the great glaciers, dubbed the Wisconsin Glacier because of the marks it left on the landscape in that area, receded perhaps just 12,000 years ago as estimated by today's students of the rocks. Thus was formed the landscape we are familiar with today.

A great dam of sand and rock was built up at the

southernmost edge of the glacier as it advanced. The Wisconsin Glacier pushed before it, under tons of ice, heaps of sand and rock. This debris was left, as evidence of the furthest advancement of the ice, as the glacier receded. This dam of debris became the end, or terminal, moraine of the Wisconsin Glacier and still exists today. It is known by geologists as the Valparaiso Moraine. Between this great dam and the receding glacier, a great freshwater lake was formed from the melting ice. The lake was dubbed by geologists "Lake Chicago."

The southern shore of Lake Chicago backed up to, and was dammed by, the Valparaiso Moraine. As the Wisconsin Glacier melted, the shore of Lake Chicago was perhaps 10 miles south of where the beaches of Lake Michigan are today. Over the ensuing millennia, through the erosive action of waves and storms on the waters of Lake Chicago, a breach was formed in the dam at a place near present-day Palos Park, Ill. Water from the lake flowed through the breach, south towards the Mississippi and lowered the lake to a new level. When the breach became stabilized, a new and lower beach was formed.

This breaching and stabilization occurred four times over the next 10,000 years, each occurrence creating its own unique beach. These successive beaches have been named by geologists: first the Glenwood Beach level, then Calumet Beach level, the Toleston Beach level and finally the present day beach.



Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore this year is celebrating its 50th anniversary

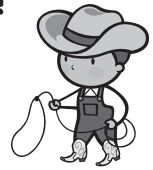
Each of the beach levels left evidence of its existence. The Calumet Beach level can be observed today as one drives Ridge Road through present-day Munster and Gary. As the water receded and the land stabilized, at each level, the land was left with a series of dunes, each featuring its own set of swamps, bogs and lakes. Such unique land features became the basis of what we know today as the In-

Continued on page 4

Kindergarten (and Pre-K) Roundup Time!

*If your child will be 5 (or 3)
by August 1st, it's time to enroll!*

**Thursday, February 25
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
at all elementary schools!**



Coolspring – 9121 W. 300 North – 873-2073
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Joy – 1600 E Coolspring Avenue – 873-2090
Knapp – 321 Bolka Avenue – 873-2096
Lake Hills – 201 Ferguson Road – 873-2105
Marsh – 401 E Homer Street – 873-2102
Pine – 1660 County Line Road – 873-2114
Springfield – 3054 West 800 North – 873-2117



PreK programs offered by Imagination Station and the La Porte County YMCA also enrolling for fall! For information visit: www.EducateMC.net/preK

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Deadline: April 15th

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diana Dunes: a magical landscape and home to a great variety of plants and animals and, yes, even people.

The present beach level was formed perhaps just 2,000 years ago, emphasizing and illustrating the changing nature of the natural world around us. People began to populate the dunes region, beginning with the Native Americans who are called thus because they were the first to arrive, and then, much later, the European settlers.

The dunes area was early recognized as beautiful and valuable territory. For almost 2,000 years, the landscape of the dunes was changed only by the forces of nature: wind, rain, fire and snow. Then, at the end of the 19th century, according to man's calendar, civilized man and his modern ideas "discovered the Dunes."



Henry Chandler Cowles, considered the father of ecology in North America.

In the 1987 tract "From Sand and Steel," a publication of the Calumet Regional Archives of Indiana University Northwest, the author writes, "In the late 1800s Henry Chandler Cowles, the father of ecology in North America, used the Dunes as an outdoor botanical laboratory. Then as the turn of the century approached, groups of middle-class professionals, predominately from Chicago (such as the Prairie Club), took

excursions to the Dunes for recreation and for respite from the stresses of urban life. With enthusiasm, conviction and reverence they treasured their experience with nature. Recognizing the value of the ancient, unspoiled natural beauty of the Dunes, these groups formed the nucleus of a movement to create a national park in Dunes Country."

The struggle to create Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore culminated in 1966. By the time the 89th congress adjourned that year, a bill had been passed that would preserve 8,330 acres of land and water, and create a national park for the Midwest.

Through the years, the Save the Dunes Council, National Park Service and other organizations have pushed to extend the boundaries of the park. Today, more than 15,000 acres are preserved as a testament to their dedication and hard work.

Although hundreds have worked over the decades to preserve our Indiana Dunes, legislation making official the lakeshore's formation was brought about

chiefly by three people: Cowles, a botanist teaching at the University of Chicago, Douglas (later dubbed by some "Indiana's Third Senator") and Dorothy R. Buell, an Ogden Dunes English teacher and activist. Each in their own way recognized the importance of the dunes and worked tirelessly to preserve the land in its natural state.



Dorothy R. Buell was an Ogden Dunes English teacher and the first Save the Dunes Council president.

The struggle between conservationists and industry began in 1899 after the publication of Cowles' article, "Ecological Relations of the Vegetation on Sand Dunes of Lake Michigan," resulting in international awareness to the region.

By 1916, industry was taking over Northwest Indiana: Steel mills, refineries and power plants dotted the landscape. A group of Indiana businessmen began to push the idea of building a Port of Indiana in the heart of dunes country.

The Prairie Club of Chicago, founded in 1908, was the first group to propose a portion of the dunes be set aside and protected by growing industrial interests. As a result, the National Dunes Park Association was formed, its motto being, "A National Park for the Middle West, and all the Middle West for a National Park."

The battle to save the Indiana Dunes was monetarily crippled and temporarily postponed by the United States' entry into World War I and, afterward, the Great Depression. During the war, the slogan "First Save the Country, Then Save the Dunes" became a familiar rallying cry.



A dunes marker honors Paul H. Douglas' efforts to help create Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

When the Great Depression finally loosened its grip on the world and, later, World War II ended, the push to save the dunes was renewed. The Save the Dunes Council was formed in 1952. Buell, the president, along with other council members began a nationwide drive and pressed forward with their dream of forming a park.



This undated photo shows Paul H. Douglas and Dorothy Buell together.

Douglas was familiar with the Indiana Dunes from frequent family outings. He worked tirelessly in Congress to ensure the Port of Indiana or Burns Waterway Harbor only could be approved in conjunction with authorization of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy took a stand in the creation of a National Lakeshore. He linked the nation's economic strength to the conservation of the natural environment, thus leading to the official formation of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Nov. 5, 1966.

This year of anniversaries is an opportune time to be thankful for the work of so many over the years who struggled and sacrificed to preserve our natural parks. It is a year that begs celebration, to rediscover our state and national parks.

This year will be packed with events aimed at lovers of parks of all ages. There will be hikes, pageants, musical performances and plenty of opportunities just to enjoy the peace of nature.

Paul Labovitz, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore superintendent, wrote in a recent edition of the Singing Sands published by Save the Dunes, *"The Indiana Dunes is a place where people learn to play outside. It is a place to reconnect with the soul of the earth and the essence of what it means to be alive in a world of natural wonders."*

Labovitz stresses our own national park is not just a place for summer play on the beaches, but also a year-round destination with many winter activities available. One of the most enjoyable winter offerings is cross-country skiing through spectacular snow-covered landscapes.

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The Struggle

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Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Superintendent Paul Labovitz.

"You don't have to drive all the way to Yellowstone to enjoy a National Park," Labovitz says.

The best place to begin your exploration of the National Lakeshore would be one of the two visitor centers. The Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education is located at 100 N. Lake St. in Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. The second is Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49 in Porter. Park rangers and guides at each facility are happy to share information on the events planned, and offer maps and tours.

The National Park Service invites everyone to "kick off a second century of America's national parks and engaging communities through recreation, conservation and historic preservation."



In the winter months, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore is a popular location for cross-country skiing.

For More Information

The Beacher lists weekly events at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and Indiana Dunes State Park. Contact information is:

- National Lakeshore: (219) 395-1882.
- State Park: (219) 926-1390.



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7th Annual Valentine's Bazaar

The community packed Rittenhouse Senior Living, 4300 Cleveland Ave., on Feb. 6 to attend its 7th Annual Valentine's Bazaar, which supports Alzheimer's & Dementia Services of Northern Indiana. The event included breakfast, as well as more than 25 vendors.



Photos by Andrew Tallackson



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Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The following programs are available:

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

The group preserves folk songs in the traditional way, using guitar, autoharp, dulcimer, banjo, harmonica, bagpipe, penny whistle, hurdy gurdy and other obscure instruments.

• **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.

Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs are offered:
Saturday, Feb. 20

• **10 a.m. — Snowshoe Shuffle.**

Meet a park interpreter at the Nature Center for an introduction to the mode of winter transportation. Then, try on a pair and take a short walk through the winter woods. A short hike is planned if there isn't enough snow.

• **2 p.m. — Behind the Scenes of the Dunes NC.**

Meet a naturalist at the Nature Center Auditorium for a look at the mystique behind the center, including hidden displays and a behind-the-scenes tour.

Sunday, Feb. 21

• **10 a.m. — Feed the Birds.**

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

• **2 p.m. — Just a Few Furs.**

Explore how mammals survive in the cold winter. Meet in the Nature Center Auditorium.

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.

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ASL Club to Host Comedian

Purdue University-North Central American Sign Language Club will host World Deaf Stage Presents: Deaf Comedy Live with John Smith from England at 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 20, in the PNC Library-Student-Faculty Building Assembly Hall, Room 02.



John Smith

Smith is one of the best-known signing deaf comedians in the United Kingdom. He started out in 2005 and performs to audiences across the world. He uses visual humor and slapstick, exaggerated storytelling and signing to entertain. His humor often touches on the similarities and differences between deaf and hearing people. His comedy will appeal to all audience members.

Advance tickets, which are \$15, may be purchased by contacting Jason Maloney at jmaloney@pnc.edu. Tickets also will be available at the door for \$20. Additional information may be obtained by contacting Karen Donah, PNC continuing lecturer and American Sign Language coordinator, at (219) 785-5432 or kdonah@pnc.edu



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"Learning to Drive"

Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St., as part of its winter film series, will host a free showing of "Learning to Drive" at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 21.

The screening is part of a collaboration with Purdue University-North Central's Odyssey Arts and Cultural Events Series. The film is rated R.



Ben Kingsley and Patricia Clarkson star in "Learning to Drive."

An adaptation of an essay by feminist author Katha Pollitt that appeared in The New Yorker, the story centers on the relationship between a literary agent, played by Patricia Clarkson, and her Indian-American driving instructor, played by Ben Kingsley. The two are brought together when Clarkson's character must learn to drive after her divorce. Her teacher is a Sikh Indian and part-time cab driver who was a university professor in his native India and imprisoned for his religious beliefs. He won political asylum in the United States, but faces an arranged marriage with a woman from India he has never met. The movie touches on many subjects: divorce, rage, financial warfare, conflicting philosophies of marriage and parent-child strife.

A complete schedule of Odyssey events is available at www.pnc.edu. Contact Judy Jacobi, PNC assistant vice chancellor of marketing and campus relations, at (219) 785-5593 for more information.

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. 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. 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. Wednesday, March 9.

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

Spa Day at the Park

A variety of booths will have sample services and/or products to share and sell from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 12, at Red Mill County Park's Pat Smith Hall.

The first 50 present receive a goodie bag. No pre-registration is required.

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PNC Offers Students Financial Aid Help on FAFSA Weekend

Purdue University-North Central will have a FAFSA Weekend to help students and parents complete their Free Application for Federal Student Aid paperwork Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 20-21, in the Technology Building, Room 265.

FAFSA Weekend is free and open to potential Indiana college students of all ages. Students are not required to attend, or plan to attend, PNC to participate.

On Saturday, Feb. 20, assistance will be available from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. From 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 21, PNC will participate in the state-wide College Goal Sunday activities. The campus will be one of 42 College Goal Sunday sites in Indiana offering students and their families FAFSA help.

Students who attend a College Goal Sunday site and submit a completed evaluation form will automatically be entered into a drawing for a \$1,000 scholarship. The winners will be notified in March. Prizes will be sent directly to the higher education institution selected by the winning students.

The FAFSA is required for students to be considered for federal and state grants, loans and scholarships at most colleges, universities and vocational/technical schools nationwide. It must be filed by March 10 to be eligible for state aid. During the FAFSA Weekend at PNC, financial-aid staff will help students and their families file the form online. Any college-bound student and their families may stop in to seek assistance or ask questions.

Those who intend to complete the FAFSA must have an electronic Federal Student Aid ID. An FSA ID can be obtained prior to filing at www.fsaaid.gov, or it can be obtained online at the FAFSA Weekend. Both the parent and student will need an ID to sign and complete the FAFSA.

Those who intend to complete the FAFSA at PNC should take:

- A copy of student's and parents' completed 2015 Federal taxes: 1040, 1040A, 1040EZ and 2015 W-2 forms.
- If the tax forms have not been completed, numbers can be estimated for the FAFSA using the W-2, if necessary.
- Students 24 or older may attend alone and take their own completed 2015 IRS 1040 tax return, W-2 Form or other 2014 income and benefits information.
- Statements showing the value of investments such as stocks and bonds.
- Statements of the student's and parents' balances of checking and savings.
- Any other untaxed income.
- Both the student's and parents' birth dates and Social Security numbers.

Students and parents are encouraged to apply for their U.S. Department of Education FSA. More information about financial aid or the FAFSA Weekend may be obtained by contacting the Financial Aid office at (219) 785-5493 or finaid@pnc.edu.



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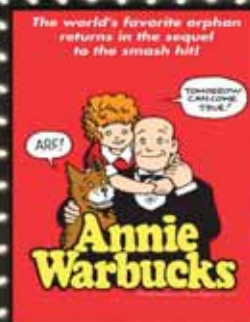
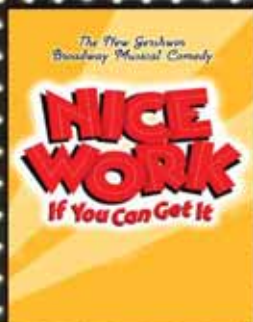
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If someone told me six years ago a period piece about upper-crust Brits and their domestic help would captivate me like no other series, I might have deemed them mad.

As someone still mourning the absence of “Battlestar Galactica” from SyFy’s lineup, PBS was not in this nerd’s vocabulary. Nor early 20th century character study. Nor historical soap opera.

But with just two episodes, “Downton Abbey” worked its way into my heart, and clearly everyone else’s. By the third season, it was one of the most watched TV shows on the planet. Its global success was attributed to many factors. Lady Mary herself, Michelle Dockery, once told reporters the show is “sleaze dressed up in posh clothing.” There may be truth to that assertion. With a Turkish prince dropping dead in Lady Mary’s bed early in Season One, the show swiftly declared itself the Mozart to “All My Children’s” Salieri. Ensuing seasons upped the ante with death by war, death by disease and death by car crash, along with miscarriage, homosexuality, interracial affairs, anti-Semitism, illegitimate births, rape, jail and everyone’s favorite, class warfare. Indeed, no soap opera stone was left unturned.



Cora and Edith take on positions of considerable authority as Season 6 progresses.

As eye candy, the show’s production values spared nothing with lavish costumes, richly detailed sets and acid-tongued zingers courtesy of the great Maggie Smith as the Dowager Countess of Grantham.

The key to the success of “Downton Abbey,” however, rests with creator and writer Jullian Fellowes. For the unfamiliar, he won an Oscar for covering similar turf, one with an equally dense palette of characters, for 2001’s “Gosford Park,” Robert Altman’s buried treasure that scored the scene-stealing Smith a Best Supporting Actress nomination.

What Fellowes achieves with “Downton Abbey,” now in its final season, is a remarkable feat. He finds the humanity in each and every member of his sprawling cast. No character feels short-changed. Each has their “moment” per episode: a scene, an exchange or bit of dialogue that defines who they are, what drives them and, most importantly, why we care about them.

Saying Farewell to “DOWNTON ABBEY”

by Andrew Tallackson

Fairly quickly into “Downtown Abbey’s” run, my wife, Alice, and I settled into a routine. Order the entire season off Amazon. Watch the first four episodes as they aired each Sunday night until the blu-ray copy arrived by mail — typically after the first four episodes — then binge watch what remains. One episode of “Downton” is never enough in one sitting. It’s like, for the lack of a sophisticated analogy, opening a bag of potato chips. You can’t stop with one chip.

With that in mind, Alice and I on Sunday, Feb. 7, brought our rabid binge watching to a close, sadly so, by viewing the final, last ever episode. What I will attempt to do is walk an iffy fine line by not revealing any spoilers, but encapsulating why this sixth and farewell season is the most satisfying of all.

From the start, Fellowes has said with “Downton Abbey,” he wanted to paint a picture of a world on borrowed time, a way of life rooted in history and tradition and about to receive a shock to the system. Using the 1970s British TV series “Upstairs, Downstairs” as his template, Fellowes contrasted the lives of his “upstairs” characters (a handful of wealthy families) with the “downstairs” ones (the servants who catered to their every whims.)

Starting with the sinking of Titanic in 1912, Fellowes used



Dowager Countess of Grantham (left), seen here with close friend Isobel Crawley, continues to offer the show’s best zingers.

Next Week

Editor Andrew Tallackson reveals his picks for *The Beacher’s* first Beat the Editor Contest. Don’t forget: Ballots are due by noon Friday, Feb. 19.



A wedding early in Season 6 brought “upstairs” and “downstairs” together.

key world events — World War I, the Spanish influenza pandemic, the formation of the Irish Free State, the United Kingdom general election of 1923 — as catalysts for rattling his characters to willingly, and in many cases begrudgingly, embrace change. Those changes have been subtle. With each passing season, “modern” inventions such as electricity, phones and radios, have worked their ways into the Downton estate. La-

dies fashions became less formal, more trendy.

With the final season, change is equally subdued. You might even miss it, in fact. Yet, what unfolds in Season Six emerges as the defining theme of “Downton Abbey.” The unyielding dividing line that separates “upstairs” from “downstairs” in Season One officially has been blurred and, in many cases, disregarded.

Think about it. In the earlier seasons, had Cora been planning an eventful meal, she’d have asked Mrs. Patmore to meet with her in the drawing room. In Season Six, she charts out the servings on Mrs. Patmore’s turf: the kitchen. When Cora spots Anna and others in her room, trying on an outfit, back in Season Two, they would have been reprimanded and dismissed, maybe even fired. But in Season Six, Cora visits their rooms, apologizing for her behavior. Lat-

er, when the health of the staff comes into play, the Granthams rise to the occasion. Every time.

True, Fellowes can’t resist applying a bit of soap to his opera. Lady Edith, described once in the press as a post-Edwardian Carrie Bradshaw evermore denied her Mr. Big, is still on shaky ground when it comes to love. But in the final three episodes, Fellowes dispatches with much of the histrionics. With laser-like focus, character becomes of the utmost urgency. We’ve followed these people for six seasons, and every single one comes full circle.

And with Edith, Mary and Cora taking on positions of authority, Fellowes gives the closing episodes of “Downton” more than just a feminist air. He conveys the belief that by embracing, and supporting, women as key decision makers, the road to change will be infinitely less bumpy.



The relationship between Mary and Edith comes full circle during the final episodes.

Sentiment, indeed, is present in these closing episodes, but not schmaltz. Fellowes does not want you crying buckets, but instead savoring an indisputable truth. “Upstairs” or “downstairs,” cataclysmic events have transformed everyone at Downton into a family. The ties that bind are indestructible, as is our affection for Lord Grantham, Branson, Anna, Bates — all of them.

We adore these people. They will be missed.

Dearly.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com



Closing episodes deal with Mary’s romance with Henry Talbot.

Michigan City Public Library

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

• **Bookmarks at 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 19.**

Ronnie Early from Westchester Public Library will review Isabel Allende's "The Japanese Lover."

• **Big Movie Extravaganza! at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 20.**

In advance of the Academy Awards, the library will show films nominated for animation. Light refreshments will be served. Ratings and running times vary. The program is appropriate for families.

• **Films on DVD Series: "Learning to Drive" at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 21.**

The movie is Rated R.

• **"Dream Big...and Engineer On!" from 2 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23.**

Children ages 2-8 can explore engineering and take home a project. Contact Michelle Basta at shellibasta@yahoo.com for more information.

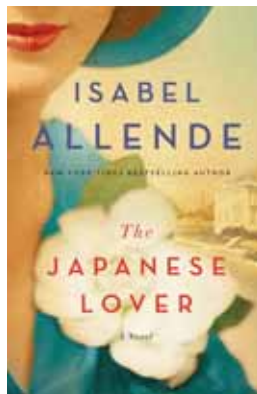
• **Story Time at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 24.**

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. Wednesday, Feb. 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.



"Adventure Play" Screening

Dunes Learning Center will host a screening of "The Land: An Adventure Play Documentary," followed by a panel discussion, from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 25, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter.

Recently spotlighted by The National Geographic Short Film Showcase, "The Land" features a Welsh adventure playground where child-directed play is welcomed. Staffed by adult supervisors, the play-space is rooted in the belief that kids are empowered and understand their own capabilities when learning how to manage risk on their own.

A panel that includes Melissa Moran, The Nature Conservancy, Kim Swift, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore education programs manager, Walter Lenkos, Porter County Parks superintendent, and Krueger Middle School Principal Vera Jones will share their thoughts and experiences after the screening.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. The film contains adult language not suitable for young or more sensitive viewers. Tickets are \$5. Space is limited, and advance purchase is required.

Visit tinyurl.com/hfpxdx to make reservations.

Comic Book Convention

The South Bend Comic Book Convention is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. EST Saturday, Feb. 20, at Comfort Suites, 52933 U.S. 933, South Bend.

Admission is free. Dealers will have comics from the golden age to the present, along with collectible items. They also will buy comics.

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Spring Garden Symposium

Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve will host its 2016 Spring Garden Symposium, exploring ways to enhance and evoke garden settings.



The symposium is from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. EST Saturday, March 19. The lineup of garden experts includes Richard Hartlage, CEO of Land Morphology, Seattle, who designed the Chihuly Garden and Glass. Hartlage will share how he blends art with sustainable garden design to create a sophisticated landscape.

Thomas Rainer, author of "Planting in the Post-Wild World," will discuss the future of the American garden, with a focus on creating lush gardens.



Scott Stewart, director and head horticulturist at Chicago's Lurie Garden in Millennium Park, will reveal how ecology, as a scientific field, offers much to the landscape manager as a source of inspiration and guidance.

Beth White of The 606 Park and Trail System and Chicago director of The Trust for Public Land, will discuss developing The 606, and the challenges of turning the former elevated Bloomington railway line into a shared recreational garden space for the Near Northside Chicago neighborhoods of Humboldt Park, Bucktown and Wicker Park.

Early registration at www.fernwoodbotanical.org through March 1 is \$100, or \$80 for members. From March 2-18, registration is \$125, or \$100 for members. VIP tickets are \$145, or \$116 for members. VIP tickets include reserved front-row seating and a private lunch with symposium speakers.

The symposium is presented in partnership with Chicagoland Gardening Magazine, Garden Design Magazine, Stonehouse Nursery and Vite Greenhouses. Fernwood is located at 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich. Call (269) 695-6491 or visit www.fernwoodbotanical.org for more information.



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Chesterton Art Center

The following programs are offered through Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.:

- **Fred Holly's colored pencil class**, featuring an owl as the subject on a black background, from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 21.

Holly specializes in working with Prismacolor colored pencils, which are waxier than a typical pencil. The cost is \$50, with members receiving a \$5 discount. All supplies are included.



Fred Holly's owl subject.

- **Marsha Browne's children's art class "Matisse has Rhythm"** from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 27.

Children 5-12 will create works of art while studying Henri Matisse, the famous French painter and sculptor known for his expressive use of color. The cost is \$25, with members receiving a \$5 discount. All supplies are included.

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

Westchester Public Library

The following programs are available:

- **Knit Wits and Pearls of Wisdom at 9 a.m. Thursdays, Feb. 18 and 25**, at Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.

The weekly meeting is open to the skilled and novices, with no registration required.

- **Bookmarks at the Museum at 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 18**, at Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

Ronnie Earley will discuss Isabel Allende's "The Japanese Lover."

- **Chesterton Chess Club from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 18**, at Thomas Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

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

- **Books That Make You Think Discussion Group from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 18**, at Thomas Library's Bertha Wood Meeting Room.

The first selection is Kurt Vonnegut's "Slaughterhouse-Five." Register at the reference desk, at the upstairs computer classroom or by calling (219) 926-7696. Copies of the book are available for checkout.

- **Battles of the American Civil War from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 20**, at Thomas Library's Bertha Wood Meeting Room.

History buff and Civil War enthusiast Thomas Murphy will discuss the Battle of Shiloh.

- **Eating Well for Healthy Living Series from 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23**, at Thomas Library's Bertha Wood Meeting Room.

Registered Dietetic Technician Gia DeMartinis will discuss "Heart Healthy Eating." Registration is required by calling the Reference Department at (219) 926-7696.

- **Trivia Night In Review at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23**, at Westchester Township History Museum.

After 12 months of Trivia Night topics and questions, this month will test players' memory of previous trivia topics and questions. Teams of 1-4 people can vie for the prize. Refreshments will be served.

- **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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Brown Bag Lunch Gardening Series

Master Gardener Nancy Jahnel-Barnes will discuss water features and fish ponds during the next Brown Bag Gardening Series from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 17, at Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St.

Jahnel-Barnes will shed light on how water features focus on sight, sound and beauty.

Upcoming sessions are:

- Wednesday, March 9, Backyard Chicken Basics, Purdue Extension-La Porte County office, 2857 W. Indiana 2, La Porte.
- Wednesday, April 20, Wildlife Backyard Habitat, Michigan City Public Library.

Guests can take lunch. The \$5 fee includes informational handouts. No preregistration is required. Call Purdue Extension at (219) 324-9407 for more information, or download a flyer at www.extension.purdue.edu/laporte. Click on the "Garden" heading at the top of the page. Another option is on facebook at Master Gardeners of LaPorte County Indiana.

"Prominent People" Program

County Historian Fern Eddy Schultz will present a program in conjunction with the bicentennial display, "Prominent People of La Porte County," at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 20, at La Porte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., La Porte.

The program is titled "The Rest of the Story." La Porte County has had, and continues to have, people who have contributed or are contributing not only locally, but also nationally and globally. Many have not been adequately recognized.

Information about 45 individuals is included in the current exhibit, and Schultz will introduce a few of the many others whose feats are not generally known, including: Dr. Alan G. Birtch, Brigadier Gen. James Allen, Dr. Ella Lonn, Dr. Jack Alan Roth and Benjamin J. Atkinson.

Regular museum admission apply. Visit www.laportecountyhistory.org for more information.

Indoor Flea Markets

New Troy's Indoor Flea Market is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. EST Saturdays, Feb. 20 and 27, at New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road.

The market includes antiques, tools, crafts, books, memorabilia, housewares and furniture. Lunch will be available.

Vendor spaces may be reserved for \$13. That cost includes a table and chair. Call or text Janna at (773) 275-1514 for more information.

The market runs the last two Saturdays of each month October to March. Admission is free. Proceeds from space rentals benefit the center, an all-volunteer facility run by the non-profit Friends of New Troy.

Kickoff Brunch



The Black History Month Committee held its kickoff brunch Saturday, Feb. 6, at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, with Arthur Payne, Commission for the Social Status of African-American Males president, serving as the speaker. Photo by provided by the Lubeznik Center



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Chamber Membership Breakfast

The Greater La Porte Chamber of Commerce will host a Chamber Membership Breakfast on Tuesday, Feb. 23, at La Porte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave., La Porte.

Fonda Owens, La Porte County Public Library director, will present information on the library as an educational institution.

The cost is \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members. Registration begins at 7:15 a.m., with breakfast and the presentation at 7:30 a.m. Pre-registration is encouraged at www.lpchamber.com or by calling (219) 362-3178.

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Land Trust Capital Campaign

Shirley Heinze Land Trust has successfully concluded its first Capital Campaign.

In 2013, the organization embarked on a project to raise \$3.5 million to permanently protect an additional 500 acres of environmentally significant land, provide enhanced restoration, maintenance and management of new and existing preserves, and educate and promote conservation awareness by providing increased access to natural areas.

Campaign Co-Chair Nancy Johnson reported the campaign raised more than \$4.6 million in total contributions, nearly half of which were land donations. Trust officials anticipate acquiring an additional 400 acres of permanently protected land before the end of 2016, and work has begun to restore another 250 acres.



Meadowbrook Nature Preserve.

Other accomplishments include:

- The number of children receiving on-the-ground environmental education through the Northwest Indiana Mighty Acorns Partnership increased from 1,500 to 3,500.
- Increased public access at many sites.
- Creating an illustrated Guidebook to the Nature Preserves of Shirley Heinze Land Trust.
- Launching northern Indiana's largest reforestation project.
- The acquisition of Meadowbrook Nature Preserve and Conservation Center.

Visit www.heinzetrust.org or www.facebook.com/heinzetrust, or call (219) 242-8558 for more information.

Indiana Bicentennial Committee

The La Porte County Committee of the Indiana Bicentennial will meet at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 24, in the conference room at La Porte County Convention & Visitors Bureau in Marquette Mall, 4073 Franklin St.

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ASL Club Coffeehouse, Fun Night

The Purdue University-North Central American Sign Language Club will host an ASL Coffeehouse from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 19, at Uptown Café, 1400 E. Lincolnway, Valparaiso.

The event is open to ASL students and community members. Children can attend with a parent or adult. Participants are asked to use ASL for conversation, affording the opportunity to practice it to better communicate with friends, co-workers or family members. Coffee, food and drink may be ordered throughout the evening.

Coffeehouses may feature a guest speaker, who will start at about 6 p.m. If there is no presenter, guests may take decks of cards and games to play.

Also, a free ASL Fun Night is from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 22, in Library-Student-Faculty Building Assembly Hall, Room 02.

Participants can take a favorite board game, card games or deck of playing cards. Hearing and deaf children are invited to attend with an adult. The casual atmosphere features ASL humor, storytelling and games to enjoy through participation or as an observer. Guests with all ASL abilities are welcome.

Information about the club may be found at www.aslclub.info. Information about other events in the community is posted at www.nwideaf.org/deaf-events.htm. The PNC ASL Club and Northwest Indiana Deaf Community are on Facebook.

Additional information about the coffeehouses may be obtained by contacting Karen Donah, PNC continuing lecturer and American Sign Language coordinator, at kdonah@pnc.edu

10th Annual Chili Walk

Registration is under way through Monday, Feb. 29, for the 2016 Buchanan Chili Walk.

The event, sponsored by Buchanan (Mich.) Area Chamber of Commerce and Buchanan Meadows Meridian Senior Living, is from 4 to 7 p.m. EST Wednesday, March 9, in a progressive fashion, with the Buchanan District Library being the start and finish. Last year's walk had more than 30 entries.

The public is encouraged to participate in the sampling, and each attendee may cast a vote for his/her favorite chili and best named chili. The cost is a \$2 per spoon charge. Each contestant will be paired with a local business to showcase the chili and place of business.

A portion of the proceeds assists Toys for Tots of Wesners Automotive of Buchanan. Prizes will be awarded for the Judges' Choice, People's Choice and Best Named chilies.

Teams interested in signing up should contact the Buchanan Area Chamber at (269) 695-3291 or bacc@buchanan.mi.us for an application. The entry fee is \$20.

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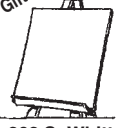
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Duneland Historical Society

Duneland Historical Society meets at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 18, at Westchester Public Library Service Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

Historical Society members and Westchester Township History Museum staff will present Augsburg Cemetery Tour information from the October 2015 event. Local families and individuals represented in the tour include the Boo family, Chellberg family, Margaret Larson and John "Fish" Johnson.

All monthly programs are free and open to the public. Memberships are available. Call (219) 983-9715 for more information.

Craft Show/Garage Sale

A craft show and indoor garage sale is from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 20, at Queen of All Saints gym and cafeteria.

Admission is free; however, there is a \$2 early bird entrance fee at 9 a.m. Call Kim McCoy at (219) 326-0110 or Nancy Drewes at (219) 879-6650.

Public Art Committee

The Michigan City Public Art Committee meets at 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 18, in the City Hall Mayor's Conference Room.



Long Beach Women's Bowling

Feb. 9, 2016

TEAM STANDING

1. Gutter Golfers
2. Queen Pins
3. Alley Katz

WON LOST

- | | |
|----|---|
| 16 | 4 |
| 15 | 5 |
| 13 | 7 |

HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES

1. Tammy Vouri
1. Dottie Brinkman
2. Ann Bogart
3. Barb Macudzinski
4. Debra Smith
5. Lenore Hadaway (series)
6. Tammy Nelmar (series)

SCORE

- | |
|-----|
| 164 |
| 164 |
| 162 |
| 157 |
| 151 |
| 414 |
| 413 |

SPLITS

- Mary Lou McFadden
Nancy Klausner

- 1-3-7-9
9-10

THREE IN A ROW

- Dottie Brinkman



**American
Red Cross**

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

- South Central Junior-Senior High School, 9808 S. County Road 600 West, Union Mills, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 19. Each student who recruits one presenting donor receives a slapwatch while supplies last.
- Franciscan St. Anthony Health-Michigan City, 301 W. Homer St., Michigan City, 8 a.m. to noon Friday, Feb. 19.
- A.K. Smith Career Center, 817 Lafayette St., Michigan City, 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23.

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.

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THURSDAY <i>Prime Rib Night</i>	

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High School Ensembles Qualify for State Contest



Members of the Treble Chorale.

Instrumental and vocal music students from four Michigan City schools took part in Indiana State School Music Association district-level contests Jan. 30 and Feb. 6, earning gold and silver ratings.

Two vocal ensembles from Michigan City High School earned gold medals at the district ISSMA contests on music of the highest difficulty level (Group I), qualifying for state competition Feb. 20 in Indianapolis at Perry Meridian High School.

Members of the MCHS Treble Chorale who qualified for state are: Brittney Adams, Hannah Baltzell, McKenna Bluhm, Sydney Carter, Kayla Cushway, Diovion Davis, Jenna Dawson, Jessica Delgado, Brensley Gambill, Auja'Nae Green, Kinsey Krachinski, Bailee Laux, Tayah Lowe, Rachel McLaughlin, Neva Panayi, Amanda Sparks, Myshalya Thomp-



Members of the Mixed Ensemble.

son, Jasmine Williams, Adnie Wilson, Autumn Wilson and Alexis Zimmerle.

Members of the Mixed Ensemble who qualified for state are: Braxton Hervey, Marcus Lester, Victoria Myhand, Elizabeth Werner and Lauren Werner.

Students from Pine Elementary, MCAS' Magnet School for the Visual and Performing Arts, performed at the district-level ISSMA contests for the second year in a row. They are the only elementary school in the region with students participating in ISSMA, which is typically attended by students of middle-school age or above.

In addition to MCHS and Pine, students from Barker and Krueger middle schools competed. Barker students took home gold and silver medals and Krueger students gold medals.

Photo of the Week Contest

Help Us Capture Life Along the Beach!

Snap a high-resolution photo of a friend or family member, place, event...even the beautiful scenery. Include the day, time and location of the photo.

Submit the photo to The Beacher by 5 p.m. each Wednesday. We'll contact you by 5 p.m. Thursday if the photo is chosen to appear in an upcoming edition.





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Habitat Accepting Family Applications

La Porte County Habitat for Humanity is accepting applications for a partner family for its 2016 build in La Porte.

Habitat houses are sold to qualified partner families at no profit, financed with affordable, no-interest loans. The homeowner's monthly mortgage payments go into a fund that enables Habitat to "pay it forward" by building more homes.

Families are chosen based on their ability to meet qualification requirements. Applications are assessed by the Family Selection Committee, which reviews the family's need for a home, ability to pay and willingness to partner.

If selected, the family is required to contribute 500 hours of "sweat equity" to build their own home and to assist with other Habitat projects.

Applications are available from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesdays through Fridays and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays at the administrative office, 225 E. Garfield St. Applications also are available at www.la-portehabitat.org/HomeOwnership/. They should be returned no later than Feb. 29 to La Porte Habitat for Humanity, P.O. Box 8874, Michigan City, IN 46361-8874.

This year's La Porte Habitat Home will be built on Park Street in La Porte.

Photography Exhibit

Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St., will host the photography exhibit "Black, White and Shades of Great" in March, with amateur photographers encouraged to submit black-and-white works.

Each artist can take two framed pieces, not exceeding 24x30, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 27, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Feb. 29, or 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, March 1. The cost to apply is \$30 for either one or two submissions.

All photographs must be matted, framed and have a wire for hanging. No sawtooth hangers are allowed. Mats must be neutral: white, black, cream or gray. The unmatted portion cannot be less than 8x10. Frames must be black, white or silver. Gallery-wrapped canvas will be allowed. No sepia-toned work will be accepted. Photographs can be developed in a dark room or digitally, and must have been taken after January 2010. Participants may not enter work that has been in a previous show at the center.

George Kassal, Long Beach, will judge the exhibit. A variety of cash awards will be handed out at the opening reception from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, March 6. The exhibit will hang March 6-30.

Visit www.chestertonart.com to see the full exhibit prospectus.

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Krasl Art Fair Jury Announced

A highly qualified panel of jurors has been chosen to score the more than 1,000 artists applying for the 2016 Krasl Art Fair on the Bluff.

They are: Susan Miller, Krasl Art Center board member; Rebecca Hungerford, award-winning pewter smith and owner of The Pewter Shop in The Box Factory; Kevin Buist, Grand Rapid's ArtPrize exhibitions director; Hoon Lee, ceramics program coordinator and Grand Valley State University associate professor; and Melanie Parker Grinney, freelance photographer, writer and editor.

The jury will select 200 artists from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. EST Friday, Feb. 19, in the Mendel Center north training room at Lake Michigan College. The public is welcome to attend.

This year's fair, which marks the 55th anniversary, is July 9-10 in St. Joseph, Mich. Attendance hovers at more than 50,000. Call (269) 983-0271 or visit www.krasl.org for more information.

Northwest Indiana Green Drinks

"What the HEC Is Happening at the Statehouse?" is the topic of the next Northwest Indiana Green Drinks in Michigan City meeting at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 18, at Shoreline Brewery, 208 Wabash St.

Kim Ferraro, Hoosier Environmental Council senior staff attorney, will provide a comprehensive update on 2016 legislative issues and priorities, followed by a discussion on how to get involved, and make a difference in, the legislative process.

Northwest Indiana Green Drinks in Michigan City events are sponsored by Save the Dunes and supported by 219 GreenConnect. The suggested donation is \$5, or \$2 for students.

Contact Amanda Shepherd, HEC's senior program associate, at AShepherd@hecweb.org or call Dennis at (219) 874-4076 for more information.

Tiny Tunes Trivia Night

La Porte County Children's Chorus will host its annual fundraiser, Tiny Tunes Trivia, on Friday, Feb. 26, at Silver Palace, 1719 State St., La Porte.

Hosted by Children's Chorus Director Matthew Nelson, the evening aimed at adults 21 and older includes prizes donated by local businesses, as well as a cash bar.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m., with trivia starting at 7 p.m. Team registration is under way. The cost for a team of eight players is \$100, while individual players cost \$25. Participants should take snacks.

Register at www.lcso.net or call (219) 362-9020. All proceeds support the chorus, whose next free concert, "Bloomin' Melodies," is at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 20, at Bethany Lutheran Church, 102 G. St., La Porte.

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

Feb. 18 — Books That Make You Think Discussion Group, Kurt Vonnegut's "Slaughterhouse-Five," 6-7:30 p.m., Westchester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

Feb. 18 — Duneland Historical Society, 7 p.m., Westchester Public Library Service Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton. Info: (219) 983-9715.

Feb. 18 — Thursday Night Noir film series, "Dead Reckoning" (1947), 7 p.m., Valparaiso University's Brauer Museum of Art, 1709 Chapel Drive. Info: gregg.hertzlieb@valpo.edu, (219) 464-5365.

Feb. 19 — Bookmarks, Isabel Allende's "The Japanese Lover," 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Feb. 19 — Purdue University-North Central American Sign Language Club ASL Coffeehouse, 5-7:30 p.m., Uptown Café, 1400 E. Lincolnway, Valparaiso. Info: www.aslclub.info

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

Feb. 20 — Craft show/indoor garage sale, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Queen of All Saints gym and cafeteria. Free; \$2 early bird entrance fee @ 9 a.m. Info: (219) 326-0110, (219) 879-6650.

Feb. 20 — Snowshoe Shuffle, 10 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Feb. 20 — Big Movie Extravaganza!, 1 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Feb. 20 — Behind the Scenes of the Dunes Nature Center, 2 p.m., 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Feb. 20 — Halo Moon Band, 7 p.m., The Nest, 803 Franklin St. Tickets: \$10/2-for-1 with student ID. Info: (219) 262-5200.

Feb. 20 — Purdue University-North Central American Sign Language Club, World Deaf Stage Presents: Deaf Comedy Live with John Smith, 7 p.m., Library-Student-Faculty Building Assembly Hall, Room 02. Advance tickets: \$15. Reservations: jmaloney@pnc.edu. Tickets also @ door: \$20.

Feb. 20 — Open Mic Night with Host After Ours, 8 p.m. EST, The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. No cover. Info: www.acorntheater.com, (269) 756-3879.

Feb. 21 — Films on DVD Series: "Learning to Drive," 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Feb. 21 — Cabin Fever Concert, 3 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 30401 N. Valparaiso St., Valparaiso. Cost: Donation to aid men's/women's home-

less shelter. Info: (219) 464-4985.

Feb. 22 — Purdue University-North Central ASL Fun Night, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Library-Student-Faculty Building Assembly Hall, Room 02. Info: kdonah@pnc.edu

Feb. 23 — Trivia Night In Review, 7 p.m., Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

Feb. 25 — Dunes Learning Center screening, "The Land: An Adventure Play Documentary," 6-8 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Tickets: \$5. Reservations: tinyurl.com/hfpxdxf

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. 18-March 20 — "The 39 Steps," The Center for Visual and Performing Arts, 1040 Ridge Road, Munster. Times: 2 p.m. Wed. & Thur, 7:30 p.m. Fri. & Sat., 2:30 p.m. Sun., select Thursday and Sunday nights and Saturday matinees. Tickets: \$40-\$44. Tickets: (219) 836-3255, Tickets.com

Feb. 19-21 — 36th Annual Home, Garden & Leisure Show, Lake Michigan College Mendel Center, St. Joseph, Mich. Hours (Eastern): 5-8 p.m. Feb. 19, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Feb. 20, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Feb. 21. Cost: \$5, free/children 16 & younger. Info: www.SWMHomeShow.com

Feb. 20 — South Bend Comic Book Convention, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. EST, Comfort Suites, 52933 U.S. 933, South Bend. Free. Info: www.epguides.com/comics, (309) 657-1599.

Feb. 20-27 — Indoor Flea Market, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. EST, New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road. Info: (773) 275-1514.

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Looking forward to seeing you there!

Long Beach Community Center, Courtyard Room
2501 Oriole Trail, Long Beach, IN
Susan's phone (219) 861-6188

And what's next...

The Good Things Sale

A fabulous collection of furniture, housewares, art, lamps, linens, chairs, dishes, tools, electronics, toys, gardening items, etc. It's time to gather all your Good Things to participate in this great sale

Shopping Dates:

March 19, 10-2 p.m.

Shop first for the best selection

March 20, Noon-4 p.m.

Take it away day, up to 50% discounts and considering offers

Participation drop-off appointments scheduled March 1-14, on the hour, Mon.-Fri. from 10-4 p.m. with a few evening and weekend appointments upon request.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Now Hiring Caregivers

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Call (219)662-2999 or visit www.seniorhelpers.com/michigancity-in

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Beachwalk Property Owners Association is seeking a seasonal "Snack and Refreshment Bar" operator for the 2016 season. Mid-May through Mid-September. Beer and Wine license necessary...will discuss menu. Inquire with Janice Lozano at RMC Management at 219-939-4000. Applicants considered immediately. jlozano@rmc4rent.com

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ART SUPPLY GIFT SETS FOR BUDDING ARTISTS – FIRME'S
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WANTED: I buy all types of antiques and collectibles, including toys, advertising, military items and more. **Call Matt at (219) 794-6500.**

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Please call (219) 871-9064.

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WATERFRONT APTS for rent in MC. Furnished-utilities, WiFi/TV incl. 1BR \$775/mo., 2BR \$975/mo. Sec. dep. Call Pete at (219) 871-9187.

Looking for a cabin in the woods?

Home for rent in Beverly Shores. 3BR/2BA Private, secluded, 10-minute walk to best beaches. \$1,475/month plus utilities.

Call Bruce @ 219-406-5231

Summer rental. Stop 37. 4BR/3BA, AC, WiFi/cable. 300 ft to beach access. Contact nmarkey11@hotmail.com

RENTALS MICHIGAN

Heart of New Buffalo

Available now! Two bedroom, one bath condo with a large private deck and one private parking spot located in a residential area in the heart of New Buffalo. The unit is a 3-minute walk to shops and a 10-minute walk to the lake. The building is well lit and the surrounding area quiet and safe. Rent is \$550 per month and does not include utilities. Please contact Milt for more information. (708) 334-9955.

Apply for this property at www.terrafirmainvestments.org.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

For sale: Grand Beach summer cottage, 2 BR/1BA, living room, family room, ½ block from private beach. Fully furnished. \$279,000. Unlimited summer rental income potential. Call Mark at (630) 918-7373.

Waterfront home for sale by owner on Lake Clare.

3 BR, 2 full BA, hardwood floors, 2.5 car garage, gas fireplace, radiant floor heat, central A/C, 400 sq. ft. Patio with screened 10x10 gazebo.
\$349,900. **219-898-5433. 141 Shorewood Dr.**

CALL THE BEACHER WITH YOUR NEWS!

Friday at Noon is the deadline for the following week's issue. (219) 879-0088



Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

The All-Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion by Fannie Flagg (paperback, \$15 in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook)

"Remember Sookie, nothing says more about a family than good silver and real pearls. The rest is just fluff."

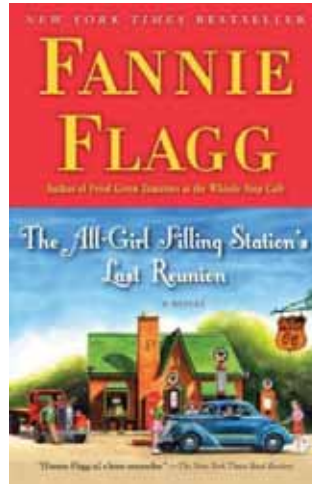
Partway into reading this book, I was determined to not like nor finish it. I changed my mind. That's a woman's prerogative, right?

What with Fannie Flagg being the immensely popular writer she is, I suppose I speak treason when saying the beginning of the story did not impress me. Sookie, the main character, is a 59-year-old lady of the South—Point Clear, Ala., to be precise. She's married to a dentist, has three daughters and a son and is a respectable member of society. Her mother, Lenore Simmons Krackenberry, has reminded her since childhood of her obligation to take her place in society and carry on the Simmons' tradition of chairing committees and being civic-minded. Of course, she doesn't mention the two members of the Simmons family who are bat crazy and living in a "home." In fact, Lenore, herself, has been known to do some mighty strange things in public. Still, Lenore is respected and very civic-minded, even at 80-some-years old.

The beginning of the story has Sookie trying to relax after marrying off the last of her three daughters. A phone call from Texas informs her she is to receive a registered letter soon. She panics, assuming the worst, and only her husband gets her to accept the letter, which turns out to be from the Director of Public Health Services. The envelope, addressed to her mother, says they are enclosing the original birth certificate of her daughter, per her request. Oh yes, and the baby's adoption papers and medical records. Sookie goes into a tailspin. She's adopted?! How can this be? She has the "*Simmons foot and Daddy's nose*." And the baby's name was Ginger—who names a girl Ginger? She had a dog named Ginger!

When she reads her mother was Polish and lived in Wisconsin, she really loses it. Is she Catholic? Does this mean a hoard of Polish relatives will descend on her when they find out? And who's her father—no one is named on the birth certificate. And, horror of horrors, she's a year older than she thought!

I have to admit, Sookie really annoyed me big time by this point. I found the histrionics of a 60-year-old woman to this news to be way over the top. It appeared the story was deteriorating into something



too silly.

Well, I was mistaken.

With her husband's encouragement, Sookie decides to find out if her birth mother is still alive.

Reading on, succeeding chapters go back to 1909 in Pulaski, Wis., and the family — Sookie's biological family — history. That's when I became thoroughly engaged in the story.

Linka and Stanislaw Jurdabralinski had four daughters — Fritzzi, Gertrude, Tula and Sophie — and a son — Wencent (Wink). Dad opened a Phillips 66 gas station in 1928 when gas stations were still few and far between. It proved

to be a successful venture. Fritz, the free-spirited one, met Billy Bevins, a pilot and member of a flying circus. She became a "wing walker" for him, learning to be a pilot. Billy even gave flying lessons to her siblings.

When World War II hit and all the young men were sent off to war, the Jurdabralinski girls decided to help out and run the gas station themselves. It was a hit! What driver didn't want to see cute young women running a gas station? But then came rationing and the station wasn't doing as well.

Then came the part of the story that grabbed my interest...and my heart.

Fritzzi learned the government was looking for women pilots to deliver planes from the factory to air fields to free up male pilots for combat flying. And — true story — they were called WASPs — the Women Airforce Service Pilots. When the war was winding down, the government disbanded the group and little was written or remembered about this brave band of women.

Does Sookie ever meet her mother? Yes, and no. But along the way, she discovers a lot about how family can be a tricky situation *and* a satisfying one. She ends up a lot smarter and likable than she does in the beginning.

The All-Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion confirms you can't judge a book by its cover, and that you shouldn't judge a story by the first few pages. Give it a chance and see if there's more to it than a so-so beginning.

Flagg was an actress who also wrote and produced TV specials, including "Candid Camera." The screenplay she co-wrote for the big-screen adaptation of her book "Fried Green Tomatoes" was nominated for an Academy Award. The author of eight other books, she divides her time between California and Alabama.

Till next time, happy reading!



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Alison Jansen & Jamie Follmer, your above & beyond service allows us to set ourselves apart.

Lastly, thank you Mom! The best way to be successful is to learn from successful people. Thank you for teaching me this business, the right way. I learn something new from you each & every day. I am blessed to learn from the best.

Success & Happiness in 2016! Cheers." - Jordan Gallas



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Listing Price \$499,000



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