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Begin Again

Acting Troupe Finds New Life as Metamorphis Traveling Theatre

by Andrew Tallackson

The situation was not ideal. In fact, it was potentially disastrous.

Metamorphis Traveling Theatre was scheduled to perform amid a dinner-theater atmosphere at MoonTree Studios, located at Ancilla College near Plymouth, Ind. When the actors arrived, they learned the facility lost power during a storm.

Nonetheless, the troupe embraced an adage as old as entertainment itself: The show *must* go on. MoonTree staff located a room with emergency power, where all the dining tables were moved. Everyone squeezed into the tinier space.

That's when things *really* became interesting.

The emergency power went out. In addition to no light, that meant no keyboard accompaniment. So, with candles placed on dining room tables, the actors performed the entire two-part show a capella...and to enthusiastic applause.

On the way home, the troupe pondered if that warm embrace was more for surviving the unusual circumstances than for the performance itself.

The answer arrived when MoonTree staff called, requesting Metamorphis Traveling Theatre return for another performance.



Doug Moon engages the audience.

That was two years ago. What the experience reiterated is that everyone involved in Metamorphis Traveling Theatre had, indeed, transformed themselves, sculpting what for years was known as Acting Theatre of Michigan City into a new entity ripe with potential.

"It really forces us to know what we're doing," says Doug Moon, who has been with the acting troupe since 1988. "There is no faking it, and that is a courageous thing."

Whereas Acting Theatre was dangerously close to folding, Metamorphis Traveling Theatre boasts a repertoire of more than 15 productions, a cast and crew of about 15 and upwards of 30 performances a year.

None of it would exist had it not been for professional dancer Ken Brelsfoard, who in 1982 founded Danspace Productions Inc. with Norm Berman and local businesswoman Frances Piest. Their mission was to present work that was original, adapted and/or eclectic. Five years later, the board had grown in size, as had the troupe of actors and dancers. Brelsfoard became the artistic director and the name changed to Acting Theatre of Michigan City. The

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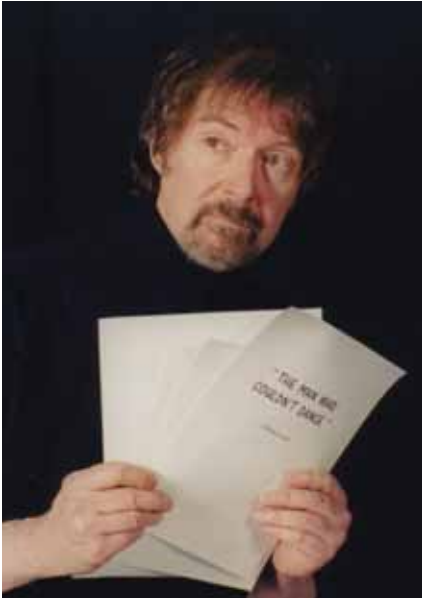
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In Case Of Emergency, Dial

911

Begin Again

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Ken Brelsfoard

home base was a house converted into theater space at 215 W. 10th St. A typical Acting Theatre season ranged from four to five shows. Local theatergoers could expect everything from cabaret shows and adaptations of classics such as "The Taming of the Shrew" and "The Nutcracker" to original productions with offbeat titles like "The Revenge of the Gypsy Brain Surgeon" and "A Gorey Story." Another component was Theatre-in-a-Suitcase that, much like Metamorphosis Traveling Theatre, left behind the comforts of "home" to present shows at Michiana-area elementary schools.

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Acting Theatre would become an annual presence at events ranging from Michigan City Municipal Band concerts to the Miss Indiana pageant. Judy Joseph, another key member of Acting Theatre, introduced her "Ballet Lady" program, which conveyed to local youngsters, through an interactive format, the talent, creativity and skill required of dance.

In 2012, Brelsfoard retired. The actors met in June of that year to mull their fate. The outlook seemed dire.

"Attendance was waning," Moon said. "Theater groups were doing every little trick to try to get people in the doors, and we were no different.

"We were confronted with the reality that we have all this talent, all these props and costumes, what do we do?"

That's when Hershal Miller spoke up. Miller, of Sawyer, Mich., had only been acting a few years, but he nonetheless offered sage advice: "Acting Theatre of Michigan City cannot be resurrected, but we can re-invent it."

From there, Metamorphosis Traveling Theatre was birthed (the name intentionally misspelled), very much in the spirit of Theatre-in-a-Suitcase, but the scope broadened to encompass adults and families, the target area expanded to include Southwest Michigan and Northwest Indiana.



Metamorphosis Traveling Theatre performs "Cards From The Christmas Revels" in December at La Porte's Oakwood Manor. All photos from that performance taken by Bob Wellinski



Jeanoma Babcock interacts with an Oakwood Manor resident.

The house on 10th Street remained the troupe's headquarters, but the philosophy, longtime member Jeanoma Babcock says, now was "You've come to see us. Now, can we come to you?"

For Dana Chartier, another longtime performer whose daughter, Madison, was an Acting Theatre regular, the journey from there was intimidating.

"Scary, actually, the suddenness of all of it," she says. "This was a major departure from traditional theater. Suddenly, we are mobile and going to our audience. That's a huge thing, to be a traveling theater."

Babcock, now sharing directing duties with Moon and Joseph, took on the role of managing public relations. Essentially, she's the one to "sell" a show to interested parties, whether it be at International Friendship Gardens, Barker Hall, senior centers, libraries, YMCAs or, in the case of MoonTree Studios, on a college campus.

When it's time to rehearse, Joseph says, the approach is simple: "We throw everything we need into the middle of the floor to see what we need. A little

Continued on Page 4



Dana Chartier (left) and Helen Williams perform a scene from "The Revels."

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makeup here, maybe a costume there.” Moon adds, “We try to use the least amount that we have to.”

Babcock or Joseph pay a visit to the actual performance site to size up the space, then approximate those dimensions during rehearsals back in Michigan City so the “blocking,” or staging, is as close to the end result as possible.

“So when we arrive,” Chartier says, “we see that space and we go. We have to be comfortable right then. It’s show time.”



Judy Joseph interacts with an Oakwood Manor resident, with Jeanoma Babcock looking on.

Adds Helen Williams, another Acting Theatre veteran, “I walk in and I get a feel for it. You have to be flexible, too,” as last-minute adjustments sometimes are necessary. The floor may be flat, wood, maybe even carpeted.

But for Joseph, the excitement of it all reminds her why she loves theater in the first place.

“It’s fabulous,” she says. “I feel like Sally Montgomery had me by the hand and guiding me through it all.”



The actors perform at International Friendship Gardens in 2013.

(Montgomery, former editor/co-owner of *The Beacher*, was Joseph’s original ballet teacher in the 1950s and offered constant support over the years of Joseph’s many endeavors.)

Joseph also realized that for Metamorphosis Traveling Theatre to succeed, she needed to step back, to delegate responsibilities. Now, actors take on key roles, from costumes to makeup.

“No one gets a function-specific activity,” she said. “Everybody gets really good at a whole lot of things.”

Williams found she now enjoyed the chance to expand her understanding of the theater experience.

“I like to be challenged,” she says, “and it’s more challenging to me, and that’s exciting. I’ve gone from being terrified to loving it.”

The audience, in turn, finds itself enthralled, and in some cases moved, by the intimacy of the experience. During a library performance of the ballet “Swan Lake,” for instance, young children ran up to those playing the princesses, their eyes huge with awe, Moon said.

During a performance of music by Rodgers & Hammerstein, a woman using a walker arrived late,



Home base for Metamorphosis Traveling Theatre is at 215 W. 10th St.



Acting Theatre members perform during a summer Michigan City Municipal Band concert.

upset she missed the show. So, the troupe gathered around the woman to sing "It's a Grand Night for Singing" from "State Fair" just for her. Everyone present was touched by the gesture.

There is something to be said, Babcock admits, about an audience requesting a performance, adding, "It's a nice feeling to go where we know we are wanted."

And over the course of the past three years, as Metamorphis Traveling Theatre has hit its stride,

something unexpected has emerged. The bond between the actors has deepened. Acting, more so than ever, has become a shared experience.

"This has become personal to all of us," Moon says. "I didn't have full ownership in this like I do now. We own this together. We are as invested in this as we can be."

(Visit metamorphis.info or call (219) 872-4813 for more information, a complete repertoire list or viewing availability.)

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New Events Join Returning Ones During WinterFest

The annual WinterFest, organized by the La Porte Park & Recreation Department, returns this month with many returning events and a couple of new twists.

Joined by La Porte County Parks, La Porte City Parks will offer a WinterFest Photo Scavenger Hunt on Jan. 18-30. Clues are available at tinyurl.com/hacb4rk. Post three photos on either the county park's or city park's facebook pages starting Jan. 30.

The event officially kicks off with ice sculpture demonstrations on city sidewalks, presented by Downtown La Porte, local businesses and organizations, starting at 4 p.m. Friday, Jan. 22.

Opening night continues with a Zumba event from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at La Porte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St. Free physical activities will be highlighted by a Zumba fundraiser for cervical cancer, with walking offered as a low-impact exercise option. Participants are asked to wear workout clothes, including clean gym shoes.

Family ceramics runs from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 23, on the Civic's lower level. Participants can paint seasonal gifts, such as snowmen, Valentine's Day boxes and figurines, or think ahead with spring items such as Easter eggs. The \$5 cost includes paints and brushes, but not the bisque item for decorating. All children must have a parent or guardian present. Pre-registration is required by Thursday, Jan. 21, at the Park Office, 250 Pine Lake Ave., or by phone at (219) 326-9600.

Design and build a person-powered, corrugated cardboard sled capable of withstanding the descent down the Kesling Park Sledding Hill during the free WinterFest Cardboard Sled Race from 1 to 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 23. The registration form can be downloaded at tinyurl.com/hfgrj43

A family cupcake decorating class is from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 23, at Lil Q's Coffee Shop and Bakery, 810 Lincolnway. Pre-registration is required by contacting Jamie at (574) 386-8839. The cost is \$20 per family and includes six cupcakes to deco-



Horse-drawn wagon rides again are part of WinterFest.

rate (additional are available for \$1 each). Unlimited coffee for grownups, and cocoa or milk for each child, are included.

Free horse-drawn carriage rides are from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 24, in Soldiers Memorial Park. After a trot through the park, hot chocolate will be available by the fireplace at Cummings Lodge. For ages 5-12, a Children's Coloring Contest is planned inside Cummings Lodge. Winners will be announced Jan. 29 and featured

in the Park and Recreation Department's 2015 annual report.

Breakfast with the Birds, sponsored by the La Porte County Parks, is from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 30, at Luhr County Park Nature Center, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, La Porte. Enjoy breakfast treats while watching birds at the feeding station. No pre-registration is required. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

For "Chili Masters," take a minimum of three gallons of a favorite chili, a crockpot and ladle to the first WinterFest Chili Cookoff from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 30, on the Civic's lower level. Chefs must pre-register by submitting the cook-off application along with a \$25 entry fee to the Park and Recreation Department by Monday, Jan. 25. A registration form can be downloaded at tinyurl.com/h6m5e5w. The public can attend starting at 12:30 p.m. and paying a \$5 entry for adults. Children 10 and younger are free.

Also new this year is the WinterFest Dodgeball Tournament at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 30, in the Civic's gymnasium. Teams that win the best of three matches move on to the next round. The deadline for team entry (includes roster/waiver) and the \$40 fee is 4 p.m. Friday, Jan. 22, at the Park and Recreation Department. Teams are limited to eight players (six players and two sideline officials). Each team must have at least one male and one female.

Follow the La Porte Park and Recreation Department facebook page or call (219) 326-9600 for additional information.

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Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The following programs are available:

- **A snowshoe hike from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 23, at the Bailly/Chellberg parking lot.**

Meet for a quick lesson, then take a hike to learn about the adaptations Duneland creatures make to survive the season. A hike will be offered if there is fewer than two inches of snow. A limited amount of equipment is available. The parking lot is on Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 20 and 12 in Porter.

- **A free winter bus tour with a ranger from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 24**

After a brief introduction, participants board one of the park's new 16-passenger buses. Meet at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center. Reservations are required by calling (219) 395-1882.

- **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.

- **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, Jan. 23

- **10 a.m. — Snowshoe Shuffle.**

Meet at the Nature Center for an introduction, then use snowshoes for a short walk through the woods. A hike will be offered if there isn't enough snow.

- **2 p.m. — Dunes Through Four Seasons.**

Meet at the Nature Center auditorium for the 45-minute photo tour.

Sunday, Jan. 24

- **10 a.m. — Bird Banding Demonstrations.**

Explore the science of bird banding at the Nature Center, including the use of banding nets.

- **2 p.m. — 100 Years of Indiana State Parks.**

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

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

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Applications are available online for the Unity Foundation of La Porte County 2016 cycle for scholarships and awards.

The submission deadline is April 1. To make the application process easier for students and school officials, all applicants can log into www.uflc.net. The common application was designed to allow students to apply for several different scholarships through one application. It evaluates the responses provided and matches applicants with scholarships for which they may be eligible. Students are encouraged to begin the process early because transcripts must be downloaded before the application is submitted.

Two specialty awards also can be found at www.uflc.net. Some require nominations of deserving students or adults:

- **Diane K. Bamberth Memorial Award:** April 1 is the deadline. It goes to current graduating La Porte High School seniors pursuing an undergraduate bachelor degree from an accredited, tax-exempt college or university. Applicants must demonstrate community service, leadership, humility, courage, tenacity, strength through diversity and a strong moral fiber. Recipients must enroll as full-time students. Nominators may be: colleague, clergy, community member, family member or professor/teacher.

- **Jan Nona Environmental Stewardship Award:** April 1 is the deadline. Residents of La Porte or Porter counties must demonstrate success in moving beyond ordinary citizenship to be an activist in the area of environmental protection. People can nominate themselves, or nominators may be: community member, family member or professor/teacher.

Additional printable scholarship application forms are available on Unity Foundation's website:

- **New Day Foundation's Connie Yagelski-Marhanka Music Scholarship:** The postmark deadline is April 8. These scholarships will be awarded to graduating high school seniors from La Porte County who are including music in their studies toward a degree or career. Applicants must download the scholarship application and mail the printed application, essay and transcript to: New Day Foundation, Scholarship Committee, 8101 W. Country Lane, Michigan City, IN 46360.

- **Susan Hay Hemminger Scholarship Foundation Application:** The postmark deadline is April 15. There are four criteria: financial need, academic achievement, community service/leadership, and ability and commitment. Applicants must be legal residents of La Porte County, graduates of a high school district that includes La Porte County in its boundaries and accepted/enrolled in a two- or four-year undergraduate program at an accredited institution. Applications must be downloaded and mailed to: Susan Hay Hemminger Scholarship, P.O. Box 9242, Michigan City, IN 46361.

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Official Visitors Guide for La Porte County



-- submitted by the
LaPorte County
Convention and
Visitors Bureau

Visit Michigan City La Porte's 2016 Official Visitors Guide for La Porte County has arrived, along with the Spring 2016 Calendar of Events.

I am excited to share with you the efforts we put into our new guide, the first stages of distribution for which have begun to our partners. It features a picture of one of our major events on the cover. It has a magazine-style look, with vibrant, rich colors and all the information you need to know about what is in La Porte County, and how you can create an itinerary to discover your desired destination. In the past, we printed a pullout map; however, this year, we have placed the full color, comprehensive maps in the back of the magazine. You will find a complete map of La Porte, Michigan City and La Porte County.

The magazine contents have been laid out a little differently, with the first section highlighting arts and events. Also, you will find interesting and compelling stories about a major event, history of La

Porte County, a reinvented restaurant, important attractions and the services you can expect from your visitors center.

Visit at any time during the year, and you'll find many people moving in and out of places such as Lighthouse Place Premium Outlets, Blue Chip Casino Hotel & Spa, Washington Park, Hesston Steam Museum, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and the historic downtowns of Michigan City and La Porte.

Visit Michigan City La Porte is about more than high-profile events and attractions. We also serve local residents looking for a prime spot to host everything from trade shows to annual conferences. There are many options for your meeting or convention. Why not choose a destination that will increase attendance, inspire participants and make work easier? Visit Michigan City La Porte offers meeting planners to help you with your event.

You don't have to travel hours away to experience a good time this winter and early spring. Visit Michigan City La Porte invites you to experience events and festivals right in your own backyard, including WinterFest, First Friday Art Walk, Shelf

Ice Brewfest, Bride Blu, Circus, St. Patrick's Day Parade, Uptown Fashion Affair and a plethora of fun public events in and around the county.

The Spring 2016 Calendar of Events covers January through April and is now available for free. The brightly colored calendar of events brochure offers dates, times, places, websites and phone numbers of many events and festivals in La Porte County.

To get your copies, visit our office in Marquette Mall at 4073 Franklin St. in Michigan City, call (800) 634-2650 or download them at www.visitmichigancitylaporte.com.



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The Fitness Rebellion

tle more alarming is that 77 percent keep these resolutions "continuously for one week." One week!

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Totally kidding. That is a guaranteed way to lose friends.

But on a serious note, why are so many of us setting resolutions that are "so important," but fail so quickly? Could it be the phrase "our eyes are bigger than our stomach?" Do we set goals that are perfect in our mind and on paper, but not even close to achievable?

The main reason these numbers are poor is because New Year's resolutions start between the ears. Whatever your resolution is, whether it's getting healthier, losing weight, quitting smoking, seeing your kids more, seeing your parents more, studying more, eating better, working less, working more, reading more or being a better listener, it won't happen if your mind is anything less than 100 percent.

With fitness goals, whether it is Jan. 1 or Aug. 27, the same applies. If you aren't committed, you won't achieve your goals. Furthermore, if you try to tackle too much at once, just like the New Year's resolutions, you will fall in the percentage of those who give up early.

Far too often, people try to commit to be fit by cutting out fast food, soda, working out five days a

Make Your Resolution a Reality

by Kevin Scott

It's January! The time when Christmas decorations are put away, the Fahrenheit plummets and millions set out on a journey to put the past behind them and start the new year as a new person.

According to a University of Scranton study, however, only about 8 percent stick to their commitments. A lit-

week and following a nutrition plan they typically find on a random blog. They are setting themselves up for failure by the simple fact that their body is literally going to scream, "WHAT IS GOING ON!?" You are throwing your body into a total shock by changing your lifestyle in a week. It is no wonder resolutions don't stick.

So what's the fix? Two things. No. 1 is setting realistic goals. No. 2 is getting your mind 100 percent

set on these goals. If you are 99 percent, it won't work. You will go for the cupcakes a co-worker brought instead of the salad you packed for lunch. And why? For the simple fact that it is there and you weren't really at 100 percent. That 1 percent got you.

Be realistic in your goal setting and get your mind 100 percent in your corner. You don't need the change of the calendar to change your lifestyle. You don't need a Monday to change a week. Just get up and do it. Write your goals down so you see them every day. Tell friends and family about your goals so you have your mind as well as your loved ones in your corner. And set small goals. Small victories win the war. Set a goal you can achieve by February or March. Once you crush it, set another one for April or May. Keep it up all year, and you will see what you wrote down Jan. 1 come true.

Best-selling author and management expert Kenneth Blanchard said, "There's a difference between interest and commitment. When you are interested in doing something, you do it only when it's convenient. When you're committed to something, you accept no excuses; only results."

So kick 2016 in the face by promising to set small, realistic goals, crushing them and moving on.

Oh, one last thing. I know this article will come out mid/late January, furthering my point. You don't need the turn of a calendar to Jan. 1 or the change of Sunday to Monday to make a change.

Just get up and go.





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Recycled Art Show

The Recycling & Waste Reduction District of Porter County is seeking entries into its second Re-Think Art Competition and Exhibition.

The contest challenges artists to submit works made from 100 percent recycled materials for juried and popular awards.



Tyler Hill's "Buck Shot," one of the 2015 winners.

The submission deadline is Feb. 29 for committee review. Works will be displayed at the Northwest Indiana Earth Day Celebration on April 16 for a popular vote. Categories include: young adult; adult; group project youth; group project young adult; and group project adult. Accepted materials include anything reclaimed, reused, recovered, second-hand or salvaged.

Details are available at www.ItMeansTheWorld.org or by calling Therese Davis at (219) 465-3815.

Leadership Award Applications

Nominations are being sought through Feb. 29 for the fifth annual Ned E. Kalb Community Leadership Award.

Kalb, who passed away Nov. 19, 2011, was a key founder of Leadership La Porte County, spending several years in the early 1980s guiding and facilitating the non-profit training group. An educator, he spent 15 years as the extension director in La Porte County, where he served on many boards, both public and private.

The award, jointly sponsored by Purdue Extension Office of La Porte County and Leadership La Porte County, goes to someone who is a quiet, behind-the-scenes leader in La Porte County. John Coulter, James Dworkin, George and Dory Morley and Diana Werner are past recipients.

Nominees can be individuals or organizations. Forms are available from the Leadership or Extension offices. Call Leadership at (219) 325-8223 or Purdue Extension at (219) 324-9407 or (219) 874-5611. Those interested also can request a form by email to honagel@purdue.edu, kulman@purdue.edu or info@leadershiplaportecounty.com. A panel of local leaders will select the winner, who will be announced and honored at the March 30 Extension annual meeting.

Centennial Fitness Challenge

Indiana State Parks is celebrating its centennial year in 2016, and one way it is doing so is through the Centennial Fitness Challenge.

The challenge encourages visitors to walk, run, bike, paddle or swim at least 25 miles, or ride on horseback 100 miles, by Nov. 31. Those who do will be entered into a drawing for prizes. As a bonus, anyone who completes 100 miles, or 200 miles on horseback, by Nov. 31 will receive a free Indiana State Parks commemorative centennial coin.

Participants must download and keep a Fitness Challenge log that documents their visits to state parks and get a signature from park staff each time they visit. The log, and additional information on the challenge, is at dnr.IN.gov/healthy

Visit INStateParks100.com to see other ways to celebrate Indiana State Parks' centennial year.

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James L. Brooks' "Broadcast News" remains a trenchant bit of moviemaking: wise in its grasp of the news-gathering process, witty through its career-driven characters who use work as an excuse to avoid personal attachments.

Who could have guessed, though, that Brooks had his hands on the pulse of the profession. Eerie, almost, how he predicted what was to come, that of journalism as entertainment. Soon after the film's release, it was no longer sufficient to be informed by the news. The public wanted to be entertained, even titillated, by it. And they wanted it fast: quick, down and dirty. Hence, the arrival of tabloid shows like "Hard Copy" and "Inside Edition," and that little invention called the world wide web.



Albert Brooks (from left), Holly Hunter, William Hurt and Joan Cusack star in James L. Brooks' "Broadcast News."

The Internet, of course, eviscerated the industry. Why pick up a newspaper in this frenzied day and age when you could get the nuts and bolts of a story online? And with the emergence of blogs, now, anyone could publish just about anything.

Two movies over the past few months have been heavily campaigning for Oscar's attention, each set in the world of journalism. One depicts a triumphant high, the other a devastating low. Both examine the hurdles reporters face in a world that craves the presentation of information as prophesized by "Broadcast News" in 1987.



Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman appear in "All the President's Men."

When Hollywood Puts the Media Under Its "Spotlight"

by Andrew Tallackson



Appearing as the investigating team featured in "Spotlight" are Rachel McAdams (from left) as Sacha Pfeiffer, Mark Ruffalo as Michael Rezendes and Brian d'Arcy James as Matt Carroll.

Of the two, "Spotlight" has reached the largest audience. Last week, it scored Academy Award nominations for Best Picture, Best Director (Tom McCarthy), Best Supporting Actor (Mark Ruffalo), Best Supporting Actress (Rachel McAdams), Editing and Original Screenplay.

McCarthy's fact-based docudrama, about *The Boston Globe's* investigation into the Catholic Church cover-up of Boston's sex-abuse cases, has invited comparisons to "All the President's Men," and rightly so. The movie is a blazing reminder that journalism, at its core, is the best crusader for the public's right to know.

Indeed, by the turn of the 21st century, when the media woke up to the fact that it could no longer turn a deaf ear to the Internet, it was too late. Many news institutions folded. The survivors scaled down workforces to bare-bones crews, their approaches to news the equivalent of begging for scraps instead of preparing veritable feasts for readers.

The Boston Globe, however, maintained its "Spotlight" team: three writers and an editor who spent upwards of a year or more working on stories before publishing them. Journalism at its fundamental core, these writers earned the trusts of their sources, stood their grounds and dug deep. They were willing to do the grunt work — the scene of the writers pouring through church directories harkens back to Woodward and Bernstein in "All the President's Men" — not back down from a fight and, most importantly, wait to publish anything until they had their proverbial ducks in a row. The result was the

Like "Spotlight," "Truth" dangles over a precipice, one where all real-life parties depicted were ready to pounce. Back in 2004, CBS walked away from the incident with enough egg on its face to feed starving populations. The country, wounded by 9/11, was divided on its stance regarding its commander in chief. Had "Truth" been as levelheaded as "Spotlight," it might have received an enthusiastic embrace. But writer-director James Vanderbilt, who wrote a far-superior newspaper film, David Fincher's "Zodiac" (2007), knows he's dealing with scorching hot material, so every time the drama intensifies, so does Brian Tyler's score, or a character restates the obvious, as if we, the audience, are not swift enough to grasp that THIS. WAS. SCANDALOUS. That's why "Truth" has been dismissed as a muckraking misfire.



Robert Redford plays news anchor Dan Rather in "Truth."

For what it lacks in subtlety, "Truth" is smart enough to scatter the blame. Mapes was not faultless. Having been abused as a child by her father, her scarred past appears to have dictated her steamroller-like veneer in the present. But Mapes and her team were very much a victim of the world Brooks

envisioned with "Broadcast News." The movers and shakers of "60 Minutes Wednesday" are depicted as hungry for ratings, willing to compete with juggernauts like "Survivor" and "Dr. Phil" by forcing Mapes to run with a story that even she doubted. And when it imploded, the network needed a scapegoat. Mapes was easy prey. The independent panel that grills her behaves like chomping-at-the-bit McCarthy-era investigators. Redford and Blanchett are exceptionally moving during these scenes: flawed, clinging to the tattered remains of their exhausted dignity.

Both "Spotlight" and "Truth" leave you feeling disillusioned, "Spotlight" for depicting a community that looked the other way for far too long, and "Truth" for how investigative journalism hurled itself into the abyss. "Spotlight," however, is the easier of the two to champion because a greater good emerged. In "Truth," the system failed. Miserably.

"Truth" arrives on DVD and Blu-ray on Feb. 2. "Spotlight" is still in theaters. In an era where fast-food journalism and mindless entertainment are the norm, both strive for enlightenment. And in both cases, they achieve it.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

2003 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service.

"Spotlight," itself, is efficient cinematic journalism, bereft of sentiment and judgment. We are not privy to the personal lives of the reporters, although it takes to task the newspaper's decision five years earlier to ignore key evidence. And when it comes to the Catholic Church, well, what does it say about a movie when Vatican Radio offers its praise, saying the film should inspire much-needed healing.

The movie "Truth," by comparison, knows it's approaching sensational waters and giddily splashes through them. That may be why it was so readily dismissed; however, there are moments when it holds its own with "Spotlight." And without question, it is the heir apparent to "Broadcast News" in confirming that Brooks' fears became reality.

Released in theaters one week before "Spotlight," "Truth" explores what many remember as the downfall of anchor Dan Rather, played in the film by Robert Redford. Shortly before the 2004 presidential election, "60 Minutes" aired a piece that suggested strings were pulled to allow George W. Bush to enter the Texas Air National Guard despite less than exemplary credentials and behavior. Mary Mapes (Cate Blanchett), producer of "60 Minutes Wednesday," and her team began the fact-checking process, encountered doubt from fact checkers over the authenticity of leaked memos, yet saw the piece aired regardless. Almost immediately, it blew up in their faces. The memos came under question, the piece later viewed as an inaccurate, 11th hour campaign smear. Mapes and her team were fired. Rather resigned amid the disgrace, his storied career finished.

Northwest Indiana Green Drinks

To kick off its fourth year, Northwest Indiana Green Drinks in Michigan City will present a program by Save the Dunes Executive Director Nicole Barker at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 21, at Shoreline Brewery, 208 Wabash St.



Cathy Martin and Nicole Barker of Save the Dunes celebrate the Hobart Prairie Grove acquisition with Gia Wagner of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

Barker will discuss Save the Dunes projects, including: restoring the newly acquired 100-acre Hobart Prairie Grove parcel within Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore; cycling in Indiana Dunes through a partnership with Bikes on the South Shore; remembering the 1917 Great Dunes Pageant at Blow Out to celebrate IDNL's 50th anniversary; and protecting equal beach access at the Indiana Supreme Court beside Long Beach Community Alliance.

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

Westchester Public Library

The following programs are available:

• **Bookmarks at the Museum at 2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 21, at Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.**

Serena Sutliff will review J.D. Robb's "In Death" book series.

• **Chesterton Chess Club from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 21, 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.

• **Rainbow Loom from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 22, at Thomas Library Children's Department.**

Children in grades 3-6 create rainbow loom bracelets. Looms and rubber bands are supplied, but participants can take their own. Supplies are limited. Registration is required in person or by calling (219) 926-7696.

• **Duplo Club from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 23, at Thomas Library's Children's Department.**

Geared towards preschoolers ages 2-5, registration is required by calling (219) 926-7696.

• **"Star Wars" Trivia Night at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 26, at Westchester Twp. History Museum.**

The family-friendly trivia game will focus on the seven "Star Wars" franchise movies and their place in pop culture history. Teams of one to four people can vie for a prize. Refreshments will be served.

• **Eating Well for Healthy Living Series from 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 26, in the Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

Registered Dietetic Technician Gia DeMartinis will discuss "How to Read Nutrition Facts Labels." Registration can be done in person or by calling (219) 926-7696.

• **Bits & Bytes series, "3-D Designs for Your Valentine," from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 26, and 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 28, in the Serials/Automation Department at Thomas Library.**

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

• **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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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, Jan. 25, 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:

- Jan. 27 — Deep Freeze.
- Feb. 10 — Hooting Good Time.
- Feb. 24 — A Salamander's Life.
- March 9 — Hello Down There.
- April 6 — Flower Power.
- April 13 — 1 Bird, 2 Birds, 3 Birds.

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.
- May 4 — Gardening with Sacha Burns of Sunk-issed Organics.

Breakfast with the Birds

Learn about birds and enjoy breakfast treats while watching birds at the feeding station from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 30, at Luhr County Park Nature Center.

The program is free. Registration is not required. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

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Michigan City Public Library

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

• **Story Time at 10 a.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 20 and 27.**

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, Jan. 20 and 27.**

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.

• **Bookmarks: J.D. Robb's "In Death" Series at 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 22.**

Serena Sutliff is the reviewer. The 40th and 41st books in the series have been released, and a new one debuts this year.



• **Family Movie: "Frozen" Sing-along at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 23.**

Sing along to the Oscar-winning film. Light refreshments will be served. Children 18 and younger are eligible to win a sing-a-long DVD version of the movie.

• **Mightiest of Mighty Mic Returns at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 24.**

Blues guitarist Keith Scott will host a Mighty Mic Redux. Several years ago, the library hosted musicians, poets, dancers and other community members through the open-mic forum. New and former participants are welcome, as well as an audience.

• **Art à la Carte at 3:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 25.**

Make a winter craft, with plenty of materials available. Children ages 4-10, accompanied by an adult, must be present to receive craft supplies.

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

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Beach Resident New Agency Chief

Long Beach resident Kim Olesker is the new CEO/president of United Way of Porter County.

Olesker, who was serving as regional director of Early Childhood Initiative, succeeds 14 1/2 year CEO Sharon Kish, who retired at the end of 2015.

United Way underwent a several month-long national candidate search and interview process.

Olesker has an undergraduate degree in journalism from the University of Nebraska, and will complete her master's degree in Nonprofit Leadership and Management in May. Throughout her career, she has compiled a portfolio that includes roles as United for Children regional director, the VP of marketing for a production company specializing in pro-social children's content, community representative of the American Cancer Society in La Porte, St. Joseph, Porter and Lake counties and the Alpha Xi Delta director of housing.



Indoor Flea Markets

New Troy's Indoor Flea Market is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. EST Saturdays, Jan. 23 and 30, 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.

Thursday Night Noir

Valparaiso University's Brauer Museum of Art again will host its Thursday Night Noir film series.

All showings are free and start at 7 p.m. Leading the discussions is Peter Aglinskas, Indiana University-Northwest Fine and Performing Arts faculty member. The schedule is:

- "Phantom Lady" (1944) on Jan. 21.
- "Dead Reckoning" (1947) on Feb. 18.
- "Kiss Me Deadly" (1955) on March 17.
- "Touch of Evil" (1958) on April 21.

The museum is located at 1709 Chapel Drive, Valparaiso. Call (219) 464-5365 or email gregg.hertzlieb@valpo.edu for more information.

Youth Baseball League

Registration is under way for Michigan City Youth Baseball League.

Individuals may register at www.mcparksandrec.com or at the Park Office in City Hall's lower level. Games are played at Patriot and Gardena parks. All players undergo a pre-season evaluation. The season runs May through mid-July.

Contact Jeremy at (219) 873-1506 or jkienitz@emichigancity.com for more information.

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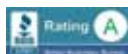
We will also tour *Sun Studio*, "the birthplace of rock 'n' roll" and the studio of several of Elvis' early recordings. While in Tennessee, we will also tour the *Memphis Rock 'n' Soul Museum* to learn first-hand the complete history of Memphis music!

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Do You Have a Leap Year Story to Share?

Were you born on Feb. 29?

Do you celebrate a special anniversary or milestone on that date?

Or did something memorable happen on a Leap Day many years ago?

If so, we'd like you to share your story with us for an upcoming article in *The Beacher* celebrating 2016 as a Leap Year. Contact Editor Drew Tallackson at (219) 879-0088 or drew@thebeacher.com by noon Monday, Jan. 25, if interested.

Brown Bag Lunch Gardening Series

La Porte County Master Gardeners will present four sessions — two each in Michigan City and La Porte — as part of its Brown Bag Gardening Series.

Sponsored by the La Porte County Master Gardener Association, the series won a statewide Search for Excellence award last year for educational service conducted by Purdue Master Gardeners.

All sessions are from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday. The first, Organic Gardening, is Jan. 20 at Purdue Extension-La Porte County Office, 2857 W. Indiana 2, La Porte. The speaker is Sacha Gee Burns, owner of Sunkissed Organics, a local organic gardening enterprise. A gardening columnist for *The La Porte Herald-Argus*, she is a trained Master Gardener



with years of experience raising vegetables and other plants organically. She will review the process gardeners must take to plan and adapt their available space to plants they would like to raise.

The ensuing schedule is:

- Wednesday, Feb. 17, Water Gardens, Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St.
- Wednesday, March 9, Backyard Chicken Basics, Purdue Extension-La Porte County Office.
- Wednesday, April 20, Wildlife Backyard Habitat, Michigan City Public Library.

The fee is \$5 for each session, which includes informational handouts, or \$15 for all four. No registration is required.

Call Purdue Extension – La Porte County at (219) 324-9407 for more information. Those interested also can download a flyer at www.extension.purdue.edu/laporte. Click on the “Garden” heading at the top of the web page. Information also is on facebook at tinyurl.com/hgaz7zf

The La Porte County Master Gardener Association is a Purdue Cooperative Extension Service program that helps fulfill the state motto of “Helping Others Grow” by training volunteers to promote good gardening and horticultural practices. It accomplishes this through volunteers conducting educational activities and projects in the community throughout the year.



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Create With the Special Ks



An example of the work children may do in class.

Marsha Browne will offer a children's art class, "Create with the Special K's — Kandinsky and Klee," from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 23, at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.

Children ages 5-12 will learn about Russian painter Wassily Kandinsky and Swiss-German painter Paul Klee, both known for abstract styles. The cost is \$25, with members receiving a \$5 discount. All sup-

plies are included.

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

Center of the World Awarded

Center of the World Woodshop, 13400 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert, Mich., has won "Best of Customer Service" on Houzz, the leading platform for home remodeling and design.

The annual Best Of Houzz is awarded in three categories: Design, Customer Service and Photography. Customer Service honors are based on several factors, including the number and quality of client reviews a professional received in 2015. A "Best Of Houzz 2016" badge will appear on winners' profiles. These badges help homeowners identify popular and top-rated home professionals in every metro area on Houzz.

Center of the World Woodshop, a 40-year-old design and woodworking company, is run by Terry and Lorraine Hanover.

Krasl Winter Classes

Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich., is offering youth and adult studio classes in drawing, painting, photography, sculpture, ceramics and jewelry.

Classes begin the first week of February and are open to all skill levels. Youth classes are available for ages 4-18. Offerings include "Saturday Ceramics" (ages 4-5, 6-10), "Stop-Motion Animation" (ages 8-12) and "Painting with Image Transfers" (ages 13-18). Adult classes are open to teens and adults. Offerings include "Ceramic Techniques," "2-D Art and 3-D Printing" and "Introduction to Digital Photography." Two- or three-day workshops include "Make Your Own Beer Stein" and "Low Light and Night Photography."

Visit krasl.org to see the full class listings.

Chamber Membership Luncheon

The Greater La Porte Chamber of Commerce will host a Chamber Membership Luncheon on Tuesday, Jan. 26, at Portofino Grill, 3233 N. Indiana 39, La Porte.

Registration begins at 11:15 a.m., with lunch and the presentation at 11:30 a.m. The sponsor is Full Throttle Salon. The non-profit sponsor is READ La Porte County Inc.

The cost is \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. Registration is encouraged at www.lp-chamber.com or by calling (219) 362-3178.

Life Drawing Class

Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St., will offer a Life Drawing Class from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Mondays.

An open studio setting, each artist must take their own supplies and clean up afterwards. No formal instruction is included. A fully clothed model will serve as the subject matter.

The cost of each session is \$10, plus a tip for the model. Call (219) 926-4711 to reserve a seat or inquire about being a model.

Public Art Committee

The Michigan City Public Art Committee meets at 2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 21, in the lower level at Michigan City City Hall.

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| 1. Gutter Golfers | 4 | 0 |
| 3. IncrediBowls | 3 | 0 |
| 3. Wrecking Balls | 3 | 0 |

| HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES | SCORE |
|-----------------------|-------|
| 1. Barb McCorkel | 193 |
| 2. Barb Macudzinski | 175 |
| 3. Tammy Nelmar | 171 |
| 4. Tammy Vouri | 170 |
| 5. Lenore Hadaway | 157 |
| 5. Mary Lou McFadden | 157 |
| 6. Sue Luegers | 156 |

THREE STRIKES IN A ROW

Sue Luegers

SPLITS

| | |
|------------------|-----------|
| 1. Debbie Novak | 1-2-7-8-9 |
| 2. Judy Yagodnik | 3-10 |
| 3. Barb McCorkel | 5-7 |



American Red Cross

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

- IU Health La Porte Hospital, 1007 W. Lincolnway, La Porte, 8 a.m. to noon Monday, Jan. 25.
- Bethany Lutheran Church, 102 G St., La Porte, 1 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 26.
- Michiana Hematology Oncology, 1668 S. U.S. 421, Westville, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 27.

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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Activities to Explore

In the Local Area:

Jan. 21 — Bookmarks at the Museum, J.D. Robb's "In Death" series, 2 p.m., Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

Jan. 21 — Northwest Indiana Green Drinks, 6:30 p.m., Shoreline Brewery, 208 Wabash St., Michigan City. Suggested donation: \$5, \$2/students. Info: (219) 874-6809.

Jan. 21 — Thursday Night Noir, "Phantom Lady" (1944), 7 p.m., Valparaiso University's Brauer Museum of Art, 1709 Chapel Drive. Free. Info: (219) 464-5365.

Jan. 22 — Bookmarks: J.D. Robb's "In Death" Series, 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Jan. 22 — WinterFest ice-sculpture demonstrations, 4 p.m., downtown La Porte. Info: (219) 326-9600.

Jan. 23 — Snowshoe hike, 1-3 p.m., Bailly/Chellberg parking lot, Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 20/12, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

Jan. 23 — Family Movie: "Frozen" Sing-along, 10:30 a.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Jan. 23 — WinterFest horse-drawn carriage rides, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Soldiers Memorial Park, La Porte. Info: (219) 326-9600.

Jan. 23 — Dunes Through Four Seasons, 2 p.m., Nature Center @ Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Jan. 23 — Michigan City Summer Fest Melt-Down, 7-11 p.m., Moose Family Center 980, 1108 Franklin St. Admission: \$20. Tickets: La Porte County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Michigan City Senior Center, Meyer Glass & Mirror, Moose Family Center. Info: www.mcsummerfest.org

Jan. 24 — Bird Banding Demonstrations, 10 a.m., Nature Center @ Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Jan. 24 — Free winter bus tour with a ranger, 1-3 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Reservations: (219) 395-1882.

Jan. 24 — Mightiest of Mighty Mic Returns, 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Jan. 25 — Art à la Carte, 3:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Jan. 26 — "Star Wars" Trivia Night, 7 p.m., Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

Through May — "Intimate Illinois Landscapes," Purdue University-North Central Technology Building, first-floor north study area. Info: (219) 785-5593.

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:

Jan. 23, 30 — Indoor Flea Market, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road. Info: (773) 275-1514.

New Endowment to Aid Preserve

Hoosier Prairie Nature Preserve, one of the state's best remaining grasslands, will benefit from a lifelong Northwest Indiana conservationist.

Myrna Newgent, Portage, has established an endowment through Indiana Natural Resources Foundation to help pay for the long-term stewardship of the 719-acre property in Lake County.

Owned and managed by the DNR Division of Nature Preserves, Hoosier Prairie is a large remnant of the prairie landscape once common in Northwest Indiana. It features a wealth of plant diversity due to a range of moisture conditions affected by slopes and swales. It also is an excellent place to birdwatch.

The endowment may fund labor by summer interns and temporary workers, contracts to perform land stewardship and site improvements such as parking lots, trails, fencing and signs, DNR Nature Preserves Director John Bacone said.

The DNR and Natural Resources Foundation will host a public event with Newgent at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 26, at Schererville Town Hall to recognize her, and provide information about the endowment, including how people can contribute.

Newgent is a longtime member, past-president and life trustee of Shirley Heinze Land Trust. Through that group, she worked collaboratively with the Division of Nature Preserves to identify and protect a number of dedicated nature preserves in Northwest Indiana. She also has volunteered with Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore for 35 years, and served for 15 years as an American Cancer Society volunteer. She has been a Northwest Indiana resident for more than 50 years.

Chamber Annual Meeting

The Greater La Porte Chamber of Commerce will host its annual meeting at 11 a.m. Friday, Feb. 5, at Best Western Plus, 444 Pine Lake Ave., La Porte.

The event will feature a speech by U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski. It also will include a review of 2015, as well as Ambassador of the Year and Business Person of the Year awards.

Registration is at 11 a.m., with lunch at 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$33 for Chamber members and \$38 for non-members. Register at www.lpchamber.com or by calling (219) 362-3178.



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**THIS
WEEK
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HISTORY**



On January 21, 1908, New York passed an ordinance prohibiting women from smoking in public. The penalty was a fine of \$5 to \$25, or imprisonment for up to 10 days.

On January 21, 1915, the Kiwanis Club was founded in Detroit.

On January 21, 1942, Count Basie and his orchestra recorded “One O’Clock Jump” in New York for Okeh Records.

On January 21, 1954, the *Nautilus*, the world’s first atomic-powered submarine, was launched at New London, CT.

On January 21, 1979, in the highest scoring game in the Super Bowl’s brief history, the Pittsburgh Steelers beat the Dallas Cowboys 35 to 31.

On January 21, 1996, at the 53rd annual Golden Globes, “Sense and Sensibility” won best dramatic picture; “Babe” won best comedy.

On January 22, 1789, the first American novel, “The Power of Sympathy,” was published. It was a story of lust, seduction, incest, and suicide, and set the pattern for American novels of the day.

On January 22, 1907, the premiere of the Richard Strauss opera, *Salome*, with its “Dance of the Seven Veils,” inspired vaudeville performers everywhere to do their version of the “naughty” dance. Directors of the Metropolitan Opera were so shocked by the opera, they prohibited further performances by the Met.

On January 22, 1938, Thornton Wilder’s play “Our Town” made its debut, in Princeton, NJ.

On January 22, 1968, “Rowan & Martin’s Laugh-In” premiered on NBC.

On January 23, 1849, Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell became the first woman to receive a degree in medicine. A native of Bristol, England, her degree was awarded by the Medical Institution of Geneva, New York.

On January 23, 1977, the popular television miniseries “Roots,” based on Alex Haley’s novel, began airing on ABC.

On January 24, 1848, gold was discovered on the California property of John A. Sutter, leading to the famous “California Gold Rush,” as well as to the infamous “forty-niners.”

On January 24, 1908, the first public meeting of the Boy Scouts, founded by England’s Robert Baden-Powell, took place in London.

On January 24, 1916, the United States Supreme Court ruled that the federal income tax was constitutional.

On January 24, 1986, photos from *Voyager 2* revealed 10 previously unknown moons were in orbit around Uranus.

On January 24, 2004, NASA's *Opportunity* rover landed on Mars, arriving at the Red Planet three weeks after its identical twin's landing.

On January 25, 1890, *New York World* reporter Nellie Bly received a tumultuous welcome after completing a round-the-world journey in 72 days, beating the fictional 80-day trip of Jules Verne's Phileas Fogg.

On January 25, 1915, telephone inventor Alexander Graham Bell inaugurated transcontinental phone service with a call from New York to San Francisco.

On January 26, 1784, Benjamin Franklin, in a letter to his daughter, Sarah Bache, disapproved of the eagle as a symbol of the United States. His reasons: "I wish that the Bald Eagle had not been chosen as the Representative of our Country. He is a Bird of bad moral Character; like those among Men who live by Sharping and Robbing, he is generally poor, and often very lousy. The Turkey is a much more respectable bird, and withal a true original Native of America."

On January 26, 1918, to conserve meat and grain, World War I food administrator Herbert Hoover asked Americans to voluntarily observe "wheatless Mondays and Wednesdays; and meatless Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays."

On January 26, 1967, the "Great Blizzard of '67" began piling up snow (eventually totaling in excess of two feet), and bringing many Midwest cities, including Chicago, to a virtual standstill.

On January 26, 1986, the Chicago Bears won Super Bowl XX, defeating the New England Patriots by a score of 46 to 10.

On January 26, 1988, the Andrew Lloyd Weber musical "Phantom of the Opera" opened at Broadway's Majestic Theater.

On January 27, 1756, Austrian music composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born at Salsburg.

On January 27, 1854, the first regularly scheduled trains began rolling on the Canadian Great Western Railway.

On January 27, 1880, Thomas Edison was granted a patent for an incandescent light.

On January 27, 1967, at Cape Kennedy, FL, astronauts "Gus" Grissom, Edward white, and Roger Chaffee died in a flash fire during a routine test aboard their Apollo I spacecraft.

On January 27, 1978, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio were declared federal disaster areas as severe winter storms swept the areas.

On January 27, 2004, Jack Paar, "Tonight Show" host, who pioneered the late-night talk show, died, in Greenwich, CT at the age of 85.



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

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

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LLOYD TREE SERVICE & BRUSH REMOVAL Trimming • Cutting • Removal • Reasonably Priced. **219-229-5867**

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Now Hiring Caregivers

Caring, dependable caregivers needed to provide in-home care to seniors. Positions available in Michigan City, La Porte and surrounding areas.
Call (219)662-2999 or visit www.seniorhelpers.com/michigancity-in
Rita's European Touch Cleaning is hiring ladies to clean houses.
Full & part time. A car is necessary. Call after 9 a.m.:
(219) 878-9311 or (630) 596-6119

Housework in Rolling Prairie. Been sick. Lots to put away, then clean. Need 2/3 temporary helpers, then 1 permanent helper to keep up. Respond in writing to 911 Franklin St., Michigan City, IN 46360, attn: Housework ad.

WANT TO SELL

ART SUPPLY GIFT SETS FOR BUDDING ARTISTS – FIRME'S
(2 Stores) 11th & Franklin Streets, Michigan City - 219/874-3455
Hwy 12, Beverly Shores - Just West of Traffic Light - 219/874-4003.

WANT TO BUY

WANTED: I buy all types of antiques and collectibles, including toys, advertising, military items and more. **Call Matt at (219) 794-6500.**

Wanted: Vintage furniture, lamps and rugs.
Please call 219-871-9064.

Would like to rent heated garage spot for winter in Long Beach/New Buffalo area. Email wintergarage@yahoo.com

REAL ESTATE

COMMERCIAL – RENTALS/LEASE/SELL

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(219) 898-1060 • equilibriumrentals@yahoo.com

RENTALS INDIANA

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

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

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.

Stop 30 spring rental available. Furnished, 3BR/2BA. 1/2 block to beach. Lake views. W/D. No smoking. No pets. \$895/mo + util. Available mid-Feb thru mid-May. Call Gloria at (219) 214-3451.

2BR/1BA Uptown Arts District apt., furnished, available mid-February for short-term lease. \$850 per mo., includes utilities.
Call Gloria at (219) 214-3451.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

For sale: Grand Beach summer cottage, 2 BR/1BA, living room, family room, ½ block from private beach. Fully furnished. \$285,000. Unlimited summer rental income potential. Call Mark at (630) 918-7373.

Waterfront home for sale by owner on Lake Clare.

Open house: 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Jan. 30-31.

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.
\$349,000. 219-898-5433. 141 Shorewood Dr.

Bicentennial Birding Big Year

Bird enthusiasts can celebrate the state's bicentennial by trying to find and log 200 bird species as part of the Indiana Bicentennial Birding Big Year.

Birders who find at least 100 species will receive a commemorative IBBY sticker or decal provided by the Indiana Audubon Society.

Birders who find at least 200 species also will be entered in a drawing for items such as Indiana DNR Annual Entrance Permits, DNR Inns Gift Cards, free Indiana Audubon memberships, Eagle Optic binoculars and Indiana Dunes Birding Festival tickets.

Because 2016 also is the 100th anniversary of Indiana State Parks and the National Park Service, 100 of the 200 species must have been found on an Indiana State Park (or reservoir) or National Park site in Indiana. State Fish & Wildlife Areas, State Forests and State Nature Preserves (not located inside a state park) do not count.

Participants must log their checklists and download their year list into ebird.com by Dec. 16.

Call the Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center at (219) 926-1390 or visit indianaaudubon.org for more information.

Taltree Winter Class Schedule

Taltree Arboretum & Gardens' 2016 winter class schedule is available online.

The classes, which cover nature, health and recreation topics, are geared toward adults, children and families. They are located in the heated greenhouse, Visitor's Center or classroom. Details for each class are available online. Topics include indoor yoga, pendant wire wrapping, vegetable gardening, pruning, Indiana Master Naturalist, birding in winter, nature bingo, fossils, wild edibles and rain gardening. The educational hike schedule also is online.

Taltree is located at 450 W. County Road 100 North near Valparaiso. Visit Taltree.org or follow Taltree on Twitter at @TaltreeArb and facebook at facebook.com/Taltree for more information.



Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

Villa America by Liza Klaussmann (hardcover, \$26 retail online and in bookstores; also available as an eBook)

Too much of a good thing. That's all I could think about after reading this intelligent, thought-provoking historical novel set in the 1920s-1930s.

We all wish for riches and a lifestyle free of time clocks and deadlines. Heaven on Earth, right? Well, you might be deliriously happy with your present lifestyle after reading this story of "paradise lost." Let me explain...

Sara and Gerald Murphy were the poster children for the rich American expatriates living in the south of France and part of the so-called Lost Generation.

Here's a small portion of their background, if, like me, you haven't heard of the Murphys. He was the heir to the Mark Cross leather company and she the daughter of a millionaire manufacturer of printing ink. Sara's family didn't want an alliance between her and Gerald, but they persevered, married and had three children: Honoria, Baoth and Patrick.

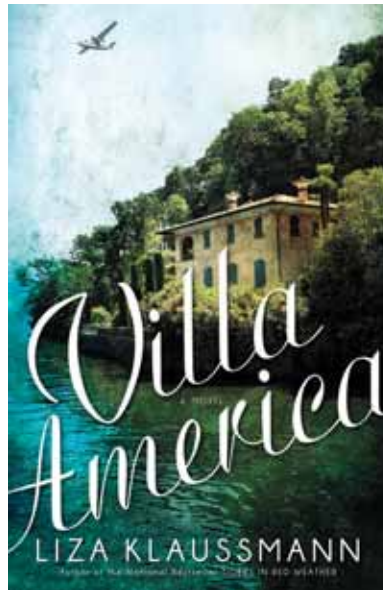
They packed up and headed for Paris in the 1920s and soon found their way to the south of France, settling on the coast of Antibes. It wasn't long before they gathered a number of like-minded friends. Friends that included Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald, Ernest Hemingway, Cole and Linda Porter, John dos Passos, Archie and Ada MacLeish, Pablo Picasso and others. Money was not a problem—they both had plenty. And, their parties became the stuff of legends.

How easily I found it to slip into the world of the Murphys and their friends—as if it was the most normal lifestyle. Endless days poolside or down by the beach, endless dinner parties and endless drinking. I'm surprised there was any champagne left in the whole of France after this lot left!

At a time when winter was a dead period for tourists to the south of France, the Murphys persuaded the local hotel owner to stay open so they had a place to stay while their house, Villa America, was being renovated. And, of course, to this day, the south of France remains a popular winter getaway.

Sara was a likable person—devoted to her husband and children. She was a beauty whom Hemingway, and a lot of men, seemed quite attracted to, but she never wavered in her love for Gerald.

The Fitzgeralds' tempestuous marriage is covered, too, with too much celebratory drink prompt-



ing many scenes Sara and Gerald had to defuse. In her notes at the end of the book, Klaussmann says Fitzgerald based his characters, Dick and Nicole Diver in Tender is the Night, after the Murphys, a claim Sara apparently found insulting. Hemingway took the couple to Pamplona, Spain, for the running of the bulls, which Sara found quite distasteful—can't say I blame her there. Gerald worked with Cole Porter on scenery for one of his musicals, and Picasso provided influence for his painting.

Klaussmann's intriguing novel is based on her relentless research into memoirs, and the countless letters between Sara and Gerald and between them and their friends.

The story touches on Gerald's inner turmoil with his own sexuality and his struggle with his paintings—he was a modernist artist working in the pre-pop art movement. His most famous paintings still can be seen by the public, but his most famous, an 8 x 12 ft. titled "Boatdeck," was lost sometime after World War II.

This book is a fine example of why I adore historical fiction. As Klaussmann tells in her notes: *"One of the major differences between historical fiction and biography is that, in biography, gaps in the known narrative can be filled only with supposition, whereas in fiction, the gaps are where the story lives. The author's job is to dramatize what the biographer is permitted only to guess at."*

Historical fiction makes two-dimensional people, places and events into three dimensional, full color, in your face excitement! How wonderful it is to feel the warm sand under my feet as I walk with Sara and the children on the beach, to sit and enjoy a cocktail with Gerald on the veranda before dinner is served and to see the Fitzgeralds at their best and worst. Klaussmann's grasp of human nature, and interpreting letters and events, is phenomenal.

Sunday Times (UK): "Tense, seductive fiction... impressively done."

Booklist (starred review): "Psychologically lush and gorgeously descriptive..."

Kirkus Reviews (starred review): "Beautifully written..."

Klaussmann is the author of the bestselling Tigers in Red Weather, for which she won a British National Book Award. She is a former journalist from Brooklyn who spent time in Paris and now lives in North London.

Till next time, happy reading!



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Hazelwood Trail **Shoreland Hills • \$455,000**

Contemporary 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath home. Huge Great room w/fireplace, dry bar & extra large kitchen. Master en-suite has ample closets. Nine & ten foot ceilings, high quality, energy efficient electrical & mechanical systems. Sales price is based on current construction specifications & current general contractor's construction bid.



2817 Roslyn Trail **Long Beach • \$311,000**

Hidden by a border of trees, shrubbery & perennials lies this 5 bedroom, 2.5 bath beach gem. Living room with wall of sliders, beautifully redone kitchen opens to dining area & sliders to back deck. Brick fireplace, new staircase leads to completely remodeled walk-out lower level. Walking distance to expansive Stop 28 beach.



122 Hazelwood Trail **Shoreland Hills • \$205,000**

This 4 bedroom, 1.5 bath home has deeded beach rights to Shoreland Hills private association beach at Stop 31. Living room with large front windows. Lower level rec room with wet bar. Large deck, hot tub, storage shed & fenced in back yard. Within the last 5 years, this home has had a new roof, central air & laminate flooring.

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fire: it is the time for home.”

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