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A Good Steward

by Connie Kuzydym

"Use what talents you possess; the woods would be very silent if no birds sang there except those that sang best."

Henry Van Dyke



Sacha Gee-Burns is photographed by *The Beacher's* Bob Wellinski on her farm.

Being a good steward to the environment comes second nature to lifelong LaPorte County resident Sacha Gee-Burns.

That passion was instilled at an early age, when she learned the importance of hard work and taking care of the earth. Her family's chrysanthemum farm at one point was the state's largest grower, yielding 5,000 chrysanthemums. Suffering from hay fever, the pollen from the mums was a struggle, but the farm over time made the transition to perennials, shrubs and, eventually, organic heirloom vegetables.

These days, Sacha is LaPorte County Solid Waste District's public outreach coordinator and environmental educator. In this role, she creates events and classes for the public — adults and children — to encourage recycling, composting and correctly disposing of household hazardous waste.

With Earth Day right around the corner, *The Beacher* spoke with her about everything from the LPCSWD and recycling to Sunkissed Organics, the business she started about 15 years ago. Her enthusiasm is contagious, making you want to up your part with recycling. Her desire to get LaPorte County residents, businesses and non-profits to do more with recycling is genuine, offering help to those wishing to begin or expand their efforts.

Sacha's overall vision for LaPorte County is to increase the number of residents who recycle. Currently, half to three fourths participate in curbside recycling.

"My main goal is to see as close to total county participation as possible," Sacha

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said. "It would be nice for people to want to recycle to begin with...I would like for people to call me that there's no recycling bin, for example at the beach, for them to recycle."

Sacha's commitment to recycling is an extension of a lifelong curiosity, to investigate ways she can be a better steward to the environment.

She attended college for landscape architecture, but decided she enjoyed being outdoors. In 2000, she went through the Master Gardners program.

"I learned a lot from other master gardeners and doing events," she said. "It was pretty neat stuff."

When she opened Sunkissed Organics, she researched the types of heirloom vegetables to grow and settled on varieties from the 1950s and earlier. She began growing 75 varieties of heirloom tomatoes and a wide assortment of other vegetables.

One day at a farmer's market, she saw heritage livestock, and another passion took hold. She expanded the operation to include these rare breeds. Her heritage livestock at one time included black guineas. Today, she has a wide variety of poultry and rabbits. Her goats, which she sells every spring, are considered critically endangered.

According to Sacha, rare breeds are the ones all the main breeding stock come from these days. They fell out of popularity for various reasons, one being there was not as much money to be made on them.

By choosing to raise heirloom and heritage varieties, she is ensuring if something were to happen, like the potato blight in Ireland, our food source will not come to an end.

"So many people monoculture — grow all one type of corn, one type of bean," Sacha said. "If something were to actually happen to that type, that variety was hit, that's our whole food source that's gone. Especially if people are growing massive fields of it," she said. "When people are able to grow these heritage and heirloom variety of different things, whether it be animals, vegetables or fruit, then you have an extra DNA basically that could be adapted and overcome the different stuff (diseases)."

At its height, Sunkissed Organics appeared at numerous farmers markets in Illinois and Indiana. At one point, she was appearing weekly at seven markets in five days. It was a strenuous schedule,

beginning at sunup and ending when the bounty was picked for the next day.

Sitting on 8 1/2 acres, Sacha, with help from her two children, takes care of the farm in the mornings, after work and on the weekends. Surprisingly, she is not a big weeder. She does mow the aisles and pulls the big stuff; otherwise, she weeds until July, then lets it go.

"I used to think it had to be pristine out there," Sacha said. "It turns out with tomatoes...if they get as tall as weeds, the frost hits the weeds first, then you will get two more weeks of tomatoes."

Sacha takes the French intensive gardening approach. Her aisles are approximately 4 feet wide, and she alternates her planting in these aisles. When there are no plants in the aisle, she piles manure from the barn there. By flipping back and forth, it balances out the soil. By

continuing to work with the soil, less weeds appear over time.

Sacha has not totally backed off of Sunkissed



Some of the 75 varieties Sacha grows on her farm.



Sacha (right) plants potatoes with her great-aunt, Anna Bloos, and grandmother, Irmgard Winter.

Organics. Last summer, she had an honor system stand outside her home. Due to the volume of plantings she still does, she also donates many of her vegetables.

It was a year ago that Sacha took on her new post with the LPCSWD. The district formed in 1991 to comply with or exceed Indiana's goal of reducing materials entering the waste stream. A 20-year plan was developed to reduce the amount of solid waste incinerated or disposed of in landfills.

"Basically, what I'm doing is to divert as much waste from going to the landfills as possible," Sacha said.

Indeed, Sacha radiates positive energy and new ideas. She is optimistic and leads by example.

Having recycled her entire life, Sacha is perplexed as to why everyone is not recycling through the residential curbside program.

"I feel that we have one of the best recycling programs in the state," Sacha said. "We were the first one in the state to go curbside and to do entire curbside for our entire county. There's a lot of areas in Indiana that still don't do that. They just have random dumpsters throughout their communities for people to drive to and put their stuff in...We try to make it as accessible as possible, as easy as possible."



Sacha, attending one of LaPorte's downtown farm dinners, is pictured with musician Chris Meadows.

Curbside recycling is simple. Items you find in a grocery store — cans, glass, magazines — go into the bin. Containers should be rinsed so as not to contaminate the other

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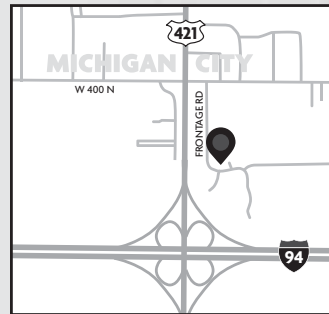
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items within the bin. Can't remember your recycling day? Don't worry. Simply go to recyclecoach.com to set up a personalized recycling pickup calendar. Then, roll your bin to the curb.

Let's veer a second. Plastic grocery bags should never go into the recycling bin. Equipment at the sorting facility cannot handle them. The bags get tangled in the machinery, which causes a shutdown and becomes dangerous, as workers hang from harnesses over the machines to disentangle the bags.



Sacha's daughter, Lexi Burns, with a hatched butterfly on their property.

If you are like me and have a need to bag all or a portion of your recyclables, then use garbage bags instead, as they are grabbed off the conveyor, tossed to the side, later slit open and contents dumped onto the conveyor. Those bags then are recycled into biofuel.

The yearly user fee for biweekly curbside recycling is \$48, which amounts to about \$2 per pickup and is automatically placed on every resident's property taxes.

The recycling fee is reasonable when you consider the overall picture.

Recycling is a commodity market. Thus, the prices for recycling materials fluctuate as they do for other commodities, such as hogs and grains.

The LPCSWD contracts recycling pickup, as the price tag for one truck is \$300,000, which does not include other costs to operate or maintain it. In LaPorte County, eight or nine trucks pick up recyclables throughout the year. The hauler must pay a fee to the recycling facility to take the recyclables. The facility sorts the items and must quickly find a buyer since there is not enough space to store everything.

Looking at it this way, \$2 biweekly sounds like a great bargain.

"It's pretty much that you're paying for garbage service and nothing is happening to your garbage," Sacha said. "It's going to a landfill where it's going to permanently be there. A glass jar will sit there for a million years, never going to break down. A plastic water bottle — a thousand years... there's no money

to be made anywhere in that except to the landfill because they're paying the tipping fee."

For those items that cannot go into the bin, the waste district provides a variety of programs to county residents, such as the composting site on Ziegler Road and two electronics recycling sites. There are six household 5-in-1's, where residents can take in their household hazardous waste, electronics, appliances, shredding, needles at no additional charge. There is a nominal fee for tires.

Why the continual push to remind us to recycle?

"We're going to run out of space in the landfills," Sacha said. "Not only do they pay for the land they sit on, they have to buy their airspace so they are only allowed to go up so high and then they have to start a new section. Nobody wants a landfill by them. One day, landfills will run out of space, then where will our trash go?"

Sacha makes another great point.

Did You Know?

- Earth Day is Sunday, April 22.
- Earth Day Cleanup in LaPorte County began April 1 and runs through May 31. Contact Sacha to choose your day, location or to be assigned an area to clean. Call (219) 326-0014 or email sgeeburns@solidwastedistrict.com
- Bins are assigned to the house and not to the household. If you move, you should leave your bin.
- New owners, use the blue bin, as you are being charged for it on your property taxes. If there is no bin, call the LaPorte County Solid Waste District.
- It is universally known that white, clear or blue bags are recyclables, black bags are garbage.
- Glass, cans, paper, magazines, cereal boxes, plastics 1-7 can be recycled through your bin. No. 6 Styrofoam/plastics cannot.
- In the fall, the district offers a six-week Master Recycler program that covers all components of a solid waste district.
- Free portable recycling containers are available to non-profits and special events by calling the district.
- Looking to recycle clothing, bedding items, shoes and books? There are various containers throughout the county. Items past their prime, put in a bag and write recycling on the outside. Lost a mate to your shoe? Toss it into the appropriate the bin.
- For towels, bedding items, etc., contact your local animal shelters or Washington Park Zoo.
- Bags dropped off at Walmart are turned into their hangers. Kohl's partners with Trex.
- Pills can be dropped off year-round at police stations in Michigan City and LaPorte, and LaPorte County Sheriff's Office.

"If recycling stopped tomorrow, how much garbage would we have? Especially since so many things now are single serve."

Progress has been made in turning recycled items into something else to avoid having to produce new raw material.

Since November, LPCSWD has participated in the Trex Bag Recycling program that runs through Earth Day. Collecting bags at their office and at various places throughout the county, the district is close to 500 pounds of bags, which will be transformed into an engineered lumber bench.

Indeed, Sacha's first year with the waste district has been productive.

She continues to expand items that are sent postage free to Terracycle, a specialty recycler. In the entrance to their office near LaPorte County Fairgrounds, there is an assortment of boxes that accepts items that cannot go into the curbside recycling bin, such as Solo cups, beauty/dental health containers, Brita water fil-

ters, corks, batteries and fluorescent bulbs. Points are accrued that turn into cash. Current recipients of these funds are LaPorte County 4-H, LaPorte County Small Animal Shelter and Michigan City Boys & Girls Club.

Are you looking for a way to recycle markers? Whether used by kids or adults, the Crayola marker recycling program takes any brand of used markers that can be recycled at their office. What an easy program for businesses, schools or non-profits to participate by collecting these on their premises.

She also held two Eco-Kids Camps, applied for various grants, one for a machine that would take diabetic or pet sharps, sanitize them and turn them into pellets. She is assisting the Michigan City Mainstreet Association farmers market with setting up compost bins. She is willing to work or partner with businesses or schools to implement programs.

And that's not all.

She is chairwoman of

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Examples of Sacha's heirloom beans.



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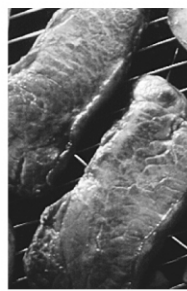


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the Soil and Water Conservation District, and associate director for the North Northwest Division of the Indiana State Soil & Water Conservation District. She is part of Leadership LaPorte County and is involved in Junior Achievement. She participates in the annual farm dinner in downtown LaPorte, providing either poultry or vegetables.

How does she balance Sunkissed Organics with the LPCSWD?

"It's a free-for-all...I set deadlines in my head. I know how much leeway before I dig my teeth in and actually get it (planting) done," she said.

"It's therapeutic working...when you're outside, something distracts you, like a butterfly. It's relaxing. It's a mindless task that lets your mind wander and it resets you. It's almost like you're in a meditative state without realizing it. You're just clearing your mind. Your body is all relaxed and not so tense."

Without a doubt, Sacha has an appreciation of the area, which comes from being a lifelong resident.

"I don't think I would actually pick anywhere else to live," she said. "It's diverse enough that there are all kinds of different opportunities for people to be a part of and to feel like they belong."

"But it's also small enough that everybody knows everybody. If you don't know them, you know somebody that knows them that bridges the gap in between. It's just a sense of community."

How to Help Washington Park Zoo

Did you know Washington Park Zoo loves to "up-cycle" for animal enrichment and budget savings?

Accepted items include: shredded paper (no staples); craft supplies; fabric; pet bowls; outdoor yard decorations; Rubbermaid totes with lids; blankets; baby blankets; pillow cases; towels; horse care items; animal books; rope; paint brushes; pet crates; bird houses; baby toys; perfumes; 5 gallon water jugs; blank canvases; non-toxic (childproof) paints; burlap sacks; food dehydrator; flashlights; plastic decoy animals; piñatas; parrot toys; bird feeders; reptile supplies; Lego blocks (all sizes); stainless steel clips and hooks; plastic chain; stainless steel mirror; scales to weigh animals; avian cages; manila folders (new); cardboard tubes (paper towel, toilet paper, fabric, wrapping paper); phone books; pet toys; blank posterboard; hand tools; garden tools; zip ties; soccer net; catch nets of all shapes and sizes; clip boards of all sizes; and yard tools.

Call (219) 873-1510 or email jhuss@emichigan-city.com at the zoo to set up a dropoff time.



Part of Sacha's mission is educating people about how they can be better stewards of the environment. Pictured here is a sign listing her as one of the speakers at the Chicago Flower Show.

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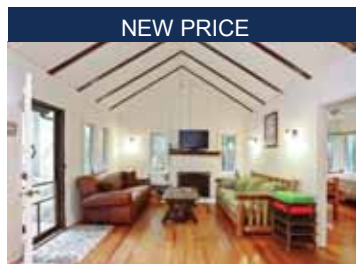
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Earth Day Celebration Offers Free Events

Porter County Recycling and Waste Reduction will host the Northwest Indiana Earth Day Celebration, complete with exhibits, entertainment and activities, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 21, at Porter County Expo Center, 215 E. Division Road, Valparaiso.

Admission and parking are free. The first 300 families receive free reusable bags. Approximately 70 exhibitors will educate about energy efficiency, recycling, natural products, reducing emissions, wildlife and nature.

Silly Safaris will present two live animal shows at 10 a.m. and noon, as well as an all-day exhibit featuring mammals, reptiles, birds and bugs. Dumpster Drummers will bring percussion and animation to the stage with two shows at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Anyone planning to attend should view the Reuse Fair Wish List at www.PorterCountyRecycling.org to see if they have items they can donate to benefit 10 schools and non-profits.



Working Bikes will collect unwanted bicycles to refurbish for distribution in third world countries.

Working Bikes will return as part of the Reuse Fair, collecting old and unused bicycles. The Chicago

organization refurbishes bicycles and gives many of them to people in third world countries.

Thanks to Boy Scout Troop 907, the children's activity "Build Your Own Birdhouse" will guide children 7 and older to construct new birdhomes.

Document shredding is from 9 a.m. and noon. Opportunity Enterprises staff will confidentially collect and transport sensitive documents to Opportunity Enterprises Secure Shred to be destroyed. Each attendee is asked to limit material to be shredded to two boxes.



Thirty-five Northwest Indiana schools are vying for classroom scholarships in the School Rain Barrel Design Contest.

Thirty-five schools are vying for cash scholarships in the School Rain Barrel Design Contest. In addition, the Re-Think Art Competition & Exposition will showcase artists' creations using 100 percent recycled materials. The public can vote on its favorites in both contests.

Visit www.PorterCountyRecycling.org or call (219) 465-3819 for more information.



ARTATTACK
IN HARBOR COUNTRY
APRIL 27, 28 & 29

ART & MUSIC

For More Information or to download a schedule of events go to www.harborcountry.org



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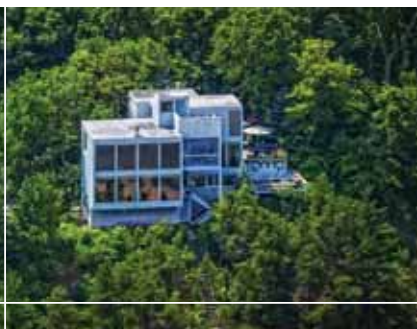
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**LEAVES MUST BE AT THE
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STREET BY APRIL 22nd**

NB Library Community Forum

Historian Christopher Siriano will speak at the Friends of New Buffalo Library Community Forum at 6:30 p.m. EDT Tuesday, April 24, in the library's Pokagon Room, 33 S. Thompson St.

Siriano is the founder and director of House of David Museum and the author of "The House of David." He will shed light on the sect founded in Benton Harbor in 1903 with the arrival of Benjamin Purnell, a long-haired, bearded itinerant preacher and his wife, Mary. Together, they established the religious colony House of David, which grew to more than 1,000 members from around the world.



House of David's bearded baseball team.

In addition to the famous bearded baseball team, House of David built mansions, hotels, restaurants, cruise ships, factories and miniature railroads. Other holdings included diamond and gold mines, an island in Lake Michigan, thousands of acres of farmland, an Austrian resort, an art studio, orchestras and vaudeville acts.

The free library series is underwritten in part by The Pokagon Fund. Upcoming programs include: "Women of World War II," Tuesday, May 15; "Backyard Birds," Tuesday, June 5; and "A Spring Hoote-nanny," Thursday, June 21.

Call the library at (269) 469-2933, follow the Facebook link at newbuffalotownshiplibrary.org or email new.buffalo.FOL@gmail.com for details.



The Girlfriend Sale

Friday, April 27th 6-9 p.m.

Private sale for participants & their friends

Saturday, April 28th 10-2 p.m.

Open to the public and the best selection

Saturday, May 5th 10-2 p.m.

Sale with additional merchandise added

Sunday, May 6th 12-4 p.m.

Famous ½ price sale day.

Saturday, May 12th 10-2 p.m.

Second Chance Bonus ½ price Sale.

**The Long Beach Community Center
2501 Oriole Trail, Long Beach, IN 46360**

Questions: Email thegirlfriendsale@gmail.com

GIVE BACK SALE

Saturday, May 19th 10-12 p.m.

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Alzheimer's & Dementia Services of Northern Indiana will be presenting a lunch and learn to help individuals understand the process of Alzheimer's disease; Presenter: Kristina Fuller, MA, LPC, ATR

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Michigan City Public Library

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

• **Bookmarks at 2 p.m. Friday, April 20, in the meeting room.**

Ronnie Early will review Lisa Wingate's "Before We Were Yours."

• **Earth Day Craft for Kids at 3:30 p.m. Friday, April 20, in the meeting room.**

Children 4 and older, and accompanied by an adult, are welcome. All materials are provided, and children must be present to receive the supplies.

• **Zine and Small Press Fest at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 21.**

The event not only is at the library, but also Lubeznik Center for the Arts and ArtSpace Uptown Artists Lofts. Details are featured in Linda Weigel's column on Pages xxxx.

• **Friends of the Library Collector's Breakfast.**

Tickets for the annual fundraiser, held at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, April 21, at Full Gospel Church of Deliverance, 2700 Ohio St., are \$25. Martin Papke will share his expertise on collector items. Guests can take one item for appraisal. Portofino Grill will cater breakfast. Tickets are available from Friends' board members and at the library circulation desk.

• **Great Decisions at 6:30 p.m. Monday, April 23, in the meeting room.**

The foreign-policy discussion program will focus on "Crossroads: America's Defense Strategy."

• **Story Time at 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 24, and 10 a.m. Wednesday, April 25.**

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

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



ARTATTACK
IN HARBOR COUNTRY
APRIL 27, 28 & 29

FOOD & FASHION

For More Information or to download a schedule of events go to www.harborcountry.org

Early Childhood Conference

Purdue University Northwest's Center for Early Learning will host its 12th Annual Early Childhood Conference from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, April 21, in the James B. Dworkin Student Services and Activities Complex.

The conference is intended for early childhood professionals, caregivers, child-development experts, parents and students. This year examines executive function in preschool children — skills centered on attention, impulse control, working memory and cognitive flexibility.



Stephanie Carlson and Philip Zelazo.

The keynote speakers are Stephanie Carlson and Philip Zelazo.

Carlson is a development psychologist and recognized leader in measuring executive function in preschool children. She received her doctorate in experimental psychology from the University of Oregon and is a Distinguished McKnight University professor and director of research at the Institute of Child Development at the University of Minnesota.

Zelazo is a developmental cognitive neuroscientist and investigator of the development and neural correlates of executive function in childhood and across the lifespan. Having received his doctorate from Yale, he catalyzed the field of developmental research in executive function with new measurement tools for children. He serves as the Lindahl Professor at the Institute of Child Development, University of Minnesota.

The conference will feature 27 breakout sessions. Participants can attend the sessions of their choice.

Single registration is \$80, while groups of five to 12 may register for \$60 per person. PNW students pay \$15. Registration for all other students is \$25. Fees include all conference activities, breakout sessions, breakfast and lunch.

The day begins with registration and continental breakfast at 7 a.m. Opening remarks are at 7:45 a.m., followed by the keynote speeches at 8 a.m.

Registration for the conference and the pre-conference events is required and can be completed at bbpnet.com/x15b



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Fernwood Botanical Garden

A variety of Earth Day activities are planned from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. EDT Sunday, April 22, at Fernwood Botanical Garden & Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich.

The schedule is (all times Eastern):

- Visitors can make a seed bomb to plant in their garden, learn about turtles at a nature station and make a recycled craft from 1 to 4 p.m. The program is free with Fernwood admission.

- Southwest Michigan Daffodil Show is from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Members from St. Joseph Valley Daffodil Society, Indiana Daffodil Society, American Daffodil Society and private growers exhibit their collections. Learn more about daffodils from top experts during a free program from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

- Kokedama: A Centuries-Old Art is from 2 to 4 p.m. Josephine Fowler of Puddingstone Farms will demonstrate and construct two to three Kokedama, using simple, easy-to-care-for plants and herbs. Learn about the technique and history



An example of Kokedama.

of the centuries-old Japanese art, and create a tabletop herb garden Kokedama.

Instruction on taking cuttings to start new plants, care and maintenance are provided. All materials and plants are included. The cost is \$40, or \$32 for members.

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

Art Attack

Gallery receptions, artist demonstrations, exhibits, music and fashion mix to create the annual Art Attack on April 27-29 throughout Harbor Country.

The self-guided tour includes a brochure and map at businesses in New Buffalo, Union Pier, Lakeside, Sawyer and Three Oaks. The full list of events also is available at www.harborcountry.org.

"What began 25 years ago, as a chance to get together, have some fun and show off the diverse talents of our artistic community has grown into an annual cultural event," said event chairwoman Rita Cochran, co-owner with her sister, Jennifer, of Union Pier's Local Color Gallery.

"Perhaps the two things that most set Art Attack apart from other art exhibitions are the natural beauty of the Harbor Country setting and the degree of interaction between artists and participants."

Participating galleries include: Sweet Pea Studio; Studio b.; Local Color Gallery; Fritz Olsen Sculptures & My Rescue Studio; The Pokagon Fund Art Gallery; Elsie Earl Studios; The Hidden Gem; Go Fish; and The Plum Tree. Many of these galleries will offer artist demonstrations and new shows.

Vintage art is featured at Blue Moon Vintage Market, Lakeside Antiques and HCM Vintage Finds. Learn how to fix a lamp at Catherine & Company, participate in a community art project at Greenbush Brewing Co. or make a spring centerpiece at Frecklefarm.

Hosting artists are People's Property, Yellow Bird Vacations, Re/Max Harbor Country and Bluefish Vacation Rentals. Those interested in fashion can stop by Indian Summer Boutique and Catherine Doll Clothing-Fashion for Green Living.

McCollum Architects, Designsmith Spaces, Lake Interiors and Fredman Design Group will feature artist exhibits, while edible art takes center stage at Froehlich's Bakery & Deli and Journeyman Distillery.

Music is on tap at Local Color Gallery.

Women's Golf League

The Wednesday morning 9-hole women's golf league starts play Wednesday, May 2, on Michigan City Municipal South Course.

Women of all ability levels are invited. Call Jane at (219) 877-5942 for more information.

The Potted Plant Greenhouse & Nursery

Unusual Annuals, Hanging Baskets, Flats, Accents, and Arrangements. Custom Planters. Geraniums

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Large Hosta.

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9 a.m.-6 p.m. Daily

July-October Hours

9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday

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Special Teaching at Manjushree Hermitage
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Ven. Shangpa Rinpoche will give Buddhist teachings
Thursday, April 19, through Sunday, April 22.

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FREE Natural Healing Health Fair in LA PORTE

Saturday, April 28, 2018, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

These are the topics that will be covered during the HEALTH FAIR.

- How to conquer lower back and sciatica naturally without relying on medications, injections or surgery
- Top exercise tips for the back, the core, neck, shoulders, hips, knees and foot.
- Balance and Fall Prevention, including top exercises to get you steady on your feet
- How to heal naturally from rotator cuff tears
- How LASER helps injured tissues heal naturally
- Top 2 causes of heel and foot pain, and how to conquer them for good

Here's the schedule...Saturday, April 28, 2018.

Time	Topic
10:00-10:50 AM	How to Heal Naturally from the Top 3 Causes of Low Back Pain
	Your 2 Main Core Muscles and How to Strengthen Them (exercise sheets provided)
11:00-11:50 AM	Don't Fall in 2018: Balance and Fall Prevention Workshop
	Simple Techniques to Strengthen The 3 Main Components of Balance Control (instruction sheets provided)
12:00-12:50 PM	The Gift of Healthy Shoulders: Rotator Cuff and Shoulder Pain Workshop
	Top 3 Tips for Natural Healing (instructions provided)
1:00-1:50 PM	Deep Tissue Laser Therapy
	Discover the natural power of LASER
2:00-2:50 PM	Heel and Foot Pain Workshop: Top 2 Most Common Causes
	Top Self-Help Techniques for Natural Healing

CALL NOW TO REGISTER AND RESERVE YOUR SPOT
(Limited to 30 seats per class)

How do you register?

- **Call 219-202-2500 or 219-380-0809**
- Tell our phone reps you want to register for the Health Fair in LA PORTE

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

- Our phone representatives will ask you what classes you want to attend
- You then will get a confirmation email and/or a confirmation letter in the mail.

How Much Is It to Attend? This Health Fair is absolutely FREE...but call 219-202-2500 or 219-380-0809 now to register as we are taking only 30 attendees for each class.

Here's the venue for the event...

Orthopedic and Balance Therapy Specialists (La Porte Office)

1405 E. Lincolnway Suite B La Porte IN 46350 (next to All Star Auto, across Indiana 2 from Walmart)

So what's the RISK you're taking on for not attending?

1. Long-term side effects of pain killers and medications (the list is too long to put here)
2. Unnecessary surgery
3. Loss of mobility and independence
4. Remain "grouchy"
5. Wasted Spring, even Summer, and maybe the rest of 2018

Be the Super Grandma or Grandpa you've always been! Your family deserves to get back that fun person like you used to be!

So call now to reserve your spot for The FREE Natural Healing Health Fair All Day Event. Limited to only 30 badges for each class. You may attend more than one class.

- Call **219-202-2500 or 219-380-0809**

See you at the Health Fair!

Sincerely,



Dr. Michael Pfeifer, PT, DPT, ATC
Orthopedic and Balance Therapy Specialists

PS- Call 219-202-2500 or 219-380-0809 to hold your spot for The FREE Natural Healing Health Fair All Day Event. Call and let us know what classes you want to attend.

PPS-Free chair massages to the first 15 registrants.

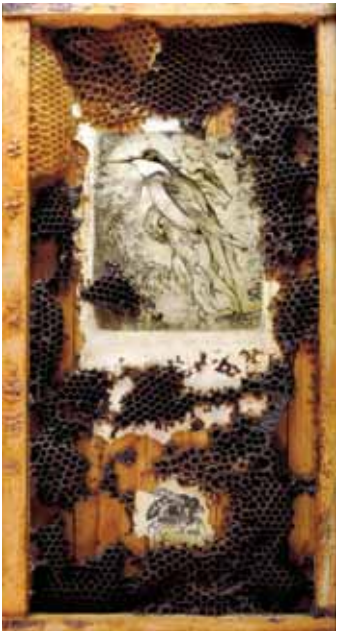
PPPS-Bonus door prizes, and FREE food and healthy snacks for the event.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Despite the unseasonable cold and wind, the First Friday Art Walk on April 6 brought forth warmth and enthusiasm for those fortunate enough to attend the many excellent and diverse offerings.



Kristina Knowski's "Huia Birds Pair."



"Bee Eater and Bee," etchings and honeycomb by Ladislav Hanka.

Other artists' works are equally interesting and technically well-executed. The exhibit's overall theme allows for a wonderful flow of artistic inspiration as one proceeds around the space. It continues through June 2.

Down the street is FADA, or Franklin Arts District Artists, which hosts several artist studios, including one of the newer spaces, studioROMA. Developed by Matt and Sharon Kubik, Friday night's "50 Shades of Grisaille" featured Matt Kubik's paintings and drawings. Grisaille is a style of painting executed in various shades of gray, or other neutral grayish color, and has been used by artists for

hundreds of years. Approaching the studio, the hallway walls are covered in large canvas-like grisaille paintings based on various field sketches and vignettes from the Italian countryside around Rome. Inside the studio, I found beautifully rendered precision drawings of architectural elements and low-relief sculpture. Matt Kubik has been leading trips to Rome to discover and appreciate the architecture and art for more than 40 years. He has a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Notre Dame. He completed additional studies in London at the Royal College of Art and the Architectural Association School of Architecture.

"Native Visions" marks the fourth year Southern Shore Art Association has hosted this show of arts and crafts produced by the Native American Circle at Indiana State Prison here in Michigan City.

The exhibit was curated by Karl and Kathy Dennis. Paintings, jewelry and crafts fill the walls and are for sale. Proceeds from sales are split between two deserving organizations: Camp New Happenings, run by the Episcopal Diocese in Northern Indiana, and the Potawatomi Trail of Death Association, which is dedicated to preserving, collecting and researching the history and heritage of the Potawatomi 1838 Trail of Death March from Indiana to Kansas.

The exhibit runs through April 29.

Blink Contemporary Art opened its 2018 season with "Pages," a group show featuring six Chicago

Variety /s the Spice of Life

by Linda Weigel

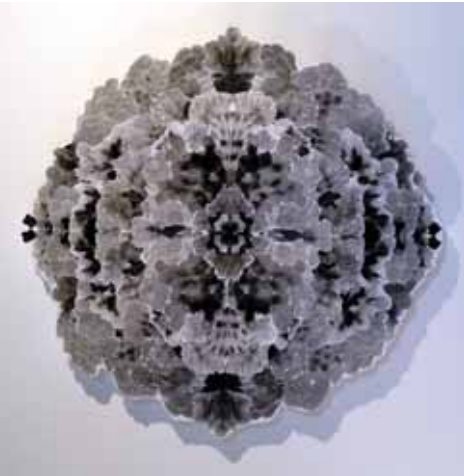


Keystone Mask, detail drawing in ink wash by Matthew Kubik.



This untitled work appears with the "Native Visions" exhibit.

women artists and a guest curator, Chicago artist Yoonshin Park.



Allison Svoboda's "Mandala Galanthus," Sumi ink on handmade mulberry paper.

neutral color palette, and meditative-infused gallery space that serves well to highlight the stunning individual works. Textural variations and contrasts between the materials used to execute these wonderful pieces further enhance the overall enjoyment in viewing the works.

Blink Contemporary Art has limited times available for viewing, but it is well worth the effort to go. The exhibit runs through May 27.

Rising Phoenix Gallery offers "Adventures in Glass," acrylic reverse-painted glass pieces and photographic works by Al Lukasec of Hobart, Ind.

Reverse painting on glass is a tricky and difficult style. Most of the time when artists paint, they begin with the background area and gradually build up colors and shapes, ending with their lightest colors and darkest darks. In reverse painting, you do the



Al Lukasec's "19," a reverse painting on glass.

racing cars/motorcycles to outer space. The exhibit continues through April 29.

If You Go

- Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekends. Visit www.lubeznikcenter.org
- studioROMA is available by appointment at (219) 561-5444. Visit studioROMA on Facebook.
- Southern Shore Art Association, 724 Franklin St., is open from noon to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday. Visit www.southernshoreartassociation.com
- Blink Contemporary Art, 1709 Franklin St. Hours for the current exhibit are 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays or by appointment at (219) 879-2994. Visit www.blinkcontemporaryart.com
- The Rising Phoenix Gallery, 2803 Franklin St., is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Visit www.risingphxgallery.com

A Very Special Community Event

by Linda Weigel

The combination and special blending of art and writing merge Saturday, April 21, while celebrating the Zine & Small Press Fest at various times and locations in Michigan City's Uptown Arts District.

A zine (pronounced "zeen" and short for magazine) is a self-published work of original or appropriated artwork, poetry and/or writing, and is usually produced in a limited edition of fewer than 100 on a photocopier or home printer. Zines can be readily designed on a single sheet of paper or produced as a small booklet. They often are the product of a single individual or small group and first emerged as an art form in the 1930s. Subject matter may vary, too, from the comic to the serious to the highly personal.

There has been a huge resurgence of the zine in recent years, and artists across the region enjoy

working with this type of media, which they find to be timely, creative, relevant and easy to self-publish.

Hannah Hammond-Hagman, Lubeznik Center for the Arts education director, was interested for some time in the zine movement. As such, she reached out to Michele McDannold, who lives at Artspace Uptown Artist Lofts, and runs The Literacy Underground, about developing a festival in Michigan City. From there, a partnership formed with her, as well as Lori Richardson at Michigan City Public Library, Alec Villareal of Mythos Publications LLC, Corey Hagelberg and Sam Love of the Calumet Artist Residency, Jesse Cohn of Purdue University Northwest, Kelly Knaga of Indiana University Northwest and George Kassal of the Area Artists' Association.

Continued on Page 26

A Very Special Event Continued from Page 25



Zines by George and Connie Kassal.

Participation in the event is not limited to adults. For the past three years, Lubeznik Center has sponsored Literacy Through the Arts “as an after school program combining academic grade-appropriate literacy and STEM standards with creative artmaking processes so students gain understanding of specific literacy and STEM standards and develop critical thinking and interpretive skills.”


Incorporating the production of zines by young students then could follow naturally as a consequence of this special enrichment program.

Outreach was additionally extended to regional artists and art groups by inviting them to participate, and to artists in locations such as Chicago, Indianapolis and South Bend.


Once the fest ends, a special exhibit of zines is planned at the NIPSCO gallery in Lubeznik Center’s lower level. It runs through May 19. The show features original zines, original art from zine artists, Harry Who comics on loan from Tom Brand and a collection of zines and self-published materials on loan from Sam Love of the Calumet Artist Residency.



Sample zines from student participants in Literacy Through the Arts.



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If You Go

The schedule is:

Michigan City Public Library
100 E. Fourth St.

A free, interactive family zine-making workshop is from 10 a.m. to noon.

Lubeznik Center for the Arts
101 W. Second St.

Fred Wright delivers the keynote address at 12:30 p.m., followed by the event from 1 to 5 p.m. Thirty to 40 zine makers, self-publishers, small press and indie authors will exhibit, share and/or sell works. Artists, activists and academics will host a special panel at 2 p.m., followed by free poetry readings from 3 to 5 p.m. Visit www.lubeznikcenter.org for details.

Artspace Uptown Artist Lofts
717 Franklin St.

The Literary Underground will host activities from 6 to 9:30 p.m. The free event is appropriate for people 16 and older. A cash bar, beer and wine will be available for individuals 21 and older. Storytelling hour is at 6:30 p.m., followed by featured poets at 7:30 p.m. and music by A.S. Commer at 9 p.m.

Children's Choir Camp

Michigan City Chamber Music Festival will present its week-long choir camp July 9-13 at First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St.

Children ages 5-18 can attend for individual and group instruction in music from many traditions and cultures. The four-day program for children 5-10 is from 9 a.m. to noon, while youth 10-18 attend from 1 to 3 p.m. On the fifth day, students present a public musical program at 3 p.m.



Muniz



Jones



Coe

Faculty are Jennifer Muniz, Indiana University professor of piano, and Kim Jones, Lyric Opera of Chicago soprano. Thomas Coe, LaPorte High School choral director, will direct the afternoon group. Muniz will accompany both groups on piano, and Jones is the performance coach for soloists from both groups. Education Director Sunny Gardner-Orbovich will teach the morning group, which concludes with a daily art period.

No more than 30 voices will be accepted for each age group. The \$50 fee is due June 15. The application can be found at mccmf.org. Call Gardner-Orbovich at (219) 561-3264 for details.

Monday Musicale Youth Concert

Top scoring musicians from Monday Musicale's 2018 Student Awards Competition will appear in concert at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 22, at First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St.

The free program is open to the public.

Monday Musicale hosts a scholarship competition each spring to recognize and encourage musical talent and accomplishments by area youth. This year's auditions were April 8 at First Presbyterian Church. Twenty-six candidates performed selections for piano, voice, flute, violin and oboe. Certificates, engraved plaques and scholarships totaling \$2,700 will be awarded to musicians in grades five through 12.

Voluntary donations to fund future scholarships will be accepted. Contact Ange Benz at (219) 874-3754 or Sue Cassler at (219) 362-1421 for details.

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Spring Break Science



A group of students from Krueger Middle School in Michigan City spent spring break in the Tampa Bay (Fla.) area on a science field trip. The group snorkeled in Rainbow River with manatees, kayaked in a mangrove forest, visited Clearwater Marine Aquarium and conducted a biodiversity study of the Gulf, among other activities. Krueger science teacher Kate Triemstra coordinated the trip that also involved schools from New York, California and Washington state. Each spring, MCAS middle school students can join in the trip. Next April, the group will travel to Washington, D.C.



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Sunday 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.**

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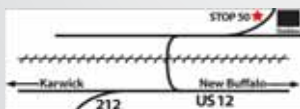
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Walk to Prevent Child Abuse

The Seventh Annual Walk to Prevent Child Abuse, organized by LaPorte First United Methodist Church, is at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, April 26.

Held in conjunction with April being National Child Abuse Prevention Month, the event starts at the church parking lot, 1225 Michigan Ave., then heads north on Indiana Avenue toward the courthouse, where community leaders will address the importance of child protection.

Expected to speak are Family Advocates Chief Executive Officer Karen Biernacki, Take Ten Director Ellen Kyes, Dunebrook Executive Director Jeanne Ann Cannon and a representative from the mayor's office.

All participants are encouraged to wear blue as a symbol of Child Abuse Prevention. Those unable to make the walk portion of the event can join the group on the southwest lawn of the courthouse.

Following the speeches, the procession heads down Michigan Avenue to the church for a chicken noodle dinner and community fellowship. Call the church at (219)-362-2443 for more details.

Comcast Cares Day

Volunteers are needed for the 17th annual Comcast Cares Day from 8 a.m. to noon EDT Saturday, April 21, at River Valley Senior Center, 13321 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert, Mich.

Volunteer tasks include painting, cleaning, yardwork and gardening. A "Cares Day" T-shirt and all supplies are provided, as well as a continental breakfast and box lunch. Those interested should register by calling (269) 469-4556 or by email at rvsc@comcast.net

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Prayer to St. Jude

To be said when problems arise or when one seems to be deprived of all visible help, or for cases most despaired of.

Most holy apostle, St. Jude, faithful servant and friend of Jesus, the Church honors and invokes you universally, as the patron of hopeless cases, of things

most despaired of. Pray for me, I am so helpless and alone. Make use I implore you, of that particular privilege given to you, to bring visible and speedy help where help is almost despaired of. Come to my assistance in this great need that I may receive the consolation and help of heaven in all my necessities, tribulations, and sufferings, particularly – *(Here make your request)* and that I may praise God with you and all the elect forever. I promise, O blessed St. Jude, to be ever mindful of this great favor, to always honor you as my special and powerful patron, and to gratefully encourage devotion to you. Amen.



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.

Westchester Public Library

The following programs are available:

• **Bookmarks at the Museum at 2 p.m. Thursday, April 19, at Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.**

Ronnie Earley will review Lisa Wingate's "Before We Were Yours."

• **Friends of the Library Spring Book Sale.**

The Spring Friends of the Library Book Sale is April 20-22 at Thomas Branch, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

The Friends Only Preview Sale is from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday, April 20. Memberships will be sold at the door for \$5 and allow entrance into the sale. The public sale is from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, April 21-22. On Sunday, all items will be sold for \$3 a bag.

Prices for newer and special books will be individually marked. A large selection of hardcover books will be sold for \$1 each and paperback books for 50 cents each. Children's and Young Adult books are 25 cents. Patrons donating materials for the sale should take them to the collection box in the Thomas Branch lobby.

Sale proceeds fund supplemental and special programming.

• **Duplo Club from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, April 21, at Thomas Library's Children's Department.**

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

• **Saturday Crafternoons from 2 to 3 p.m. April 21 at Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.**

Miss Ronnie will show how to make a fishbowl.

• **Children's Crochet Club from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Tuesdays through April 24 at Thomas Library.**

Children in grades 3 and older learn beginning crochet from instructor Sadie Steciuch. They should take a size G crochet hook and skein of medium weight yarn. Call (219) 926-7696 to register.

• **MTV Trivia Night from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 24, at Westchester Township History Museum.**

Doors open at 6:45 p.m. and remain open until space is full. Teams of 1-4 people can vie for a prize. Refreshments will be served.

• **Shopkins Swap from 6 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 25, at the Thomas Branch Children's Department.**

Shopkins board games and door prizes also are planned.

• **Graphic Novel Book Club from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 25, in the Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

The focus is "Walking Dead: Vols. 1-12." Register in person with the IT department or by phone at (219) 926-7696.

Museum Curator's Report

Susie Richter, curator at LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., has released her March report.

Visitors came from 11 counties, 12 states and South Africa. Tours came from two Michigan City magnet schools: Lake Hills and Pines. The spring display, "Up Up and Away," focuses on aerial photos of LaPorte County and continues through May. Several mannequins were purchased and put in place.

Donations included:

- Eastport School letter, Elston High School letters, 1959-1960 Elston High School pin, Janice Caspar.
- "Operation Desert Storm" sweatshirt from 1991, Bruce Johnson.
- Sunoco salt and pepper shakers, postcard scrapbook, Patricia Kessler.
- Book, The Truth About Belle Gunness, Donna McCleary.
- Walker and crutches from Pleasant Township Fire Department in Stillwell, Joe Kapuscinski.
- Baby doll circa 1950s, Jan Wooden.
- Toy tractor in display case, Conrad Corp. measuring tape, Eric Haverstock.
- Photos, Barry Happel.
- Sale table items, Leigh Morris, Susie Richter.
- Archival information, Kathy and Jerry Orcutt.

Barry Happel will give a program on aerial photography at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 5. A new booklet, "LaPorte University & Indiana Medical College" by Leigh Morris, is for sale for \$5 at the front desk. Those wishing to do genealogy may use the Fern Eddy Schultz Research Library.

Anyone wishing to use the museum meeting room can call (219) 324-6767 and ask for Janet or Susie. Email info@laportecountyhistory.org for details.



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Shirley Heinze Seminar/Hike

Shirley Heinze Land Trust will host a free seminar about fungi from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 21, at Meadowbrook Conservation Center, 109 W. County Road 700 North, Valparaiso.

The speaker is Scott Bates, a mycologist and researcher with Purdue University Northwest. He will describe fungal diversity in the region, and the role of fungi in nature. Afterward, weather permitting, participants will hike Meadowbrook Nature Preserve to identify species of fungi. Participants should dress for the weather.

Space is limited, so early registration is advised. Contact Sarah at Shirley Heinze Land Trust at (219) 242-8558 or emails@heinzetrust.org for details.



Bates

Harbor Country Hikers

Harbor Country Hikers will celebrate spring with two April events, including a search for budding wildflowers and planting a tree for Arbor Day.

At 10 a.m. EDT Saturday, April 21, HCH member and botanist Arch Hopkins will discuss abundant wildflowers in Michigan's last beech-maple climax forest found at Warren Woods State Park. The trail winds under forest specimens up to 125 feet tall and 5 feet in diameter. The hike is rated easy to moderate, with some stairs and a short climb or two. The Warren Woods trailhead parking is on the north side of Elm Valley/Union Pier Road between Three Oaks Road and Red Arrow Highway.

In celebration of Arbor Day, HCH will team up with C&A Arborists and Bison After School Enrichment students to plant a tree and take a nature hike at 4:45 p.m. EDT Thursday, April 26, at New Buffalo Elementary School, 12291 Lubke Road.

Christian Siewert, C&A owner and certified arborist, will discuss the importance of matching trees to the environment. An oak tree donated by C&A will be planted on school grounds with help from students. Siewert and BASE Director Andrea Brown then will lead hikers through forested trails behind the school and through the Chikaming Open Lands Turtle Creek Preserve.

Although membership is encouraged, HCH events are open to everyone, and children are welcome if accompanied by an adult. Membership costs \$20 for individuals or \$30 for families.


Visit harborcountryhikers.com for details.

YMCA Spring Open House

LaPorte County Family YMCA's Michigan City Elston Branch, 1202 Spring St., will host a free Spring Open House from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 21.

The event will feature demonstrations of YMCA fitness classes and sports programs. The day begins with a free women's self-defense class at 8 a.m., followed by additional activities every half hour beginning at 10 a.m. Participants also can use the cardio room, weight room, gyms and pool. Prizes, snacks and games for children are planned, and free child care will be offered.

Contact Kathy Workman at (219) 221-4055 for more information.



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La Porte County Parks



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

Nature's Tiny Tots

Designed for parents and grandparents, explore nature with toddlers and preschoolers. Enjoy music, dancing, storytelling and, weather permitting, hiking.

The free program is from 10 to 11 a.m. April 30, May 21, June 4 and 18, July 9 and 23, and Aug. 6 and 20 at Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, La Porte. Call (219) 325-8315 at least one week in advance to register.

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:

- May 2 — "Recycling, Composting, Soil Health," Sacha Gee-Burns of LaPorte County Solid Waste District.
- June 6 — "Mixing Medicine," over the counter do's and don'ts, pharmacist Jeremy Blosser.
- July 11 — "Diabetes Awareness and Sugar Glucose" with Clarise Largen of IU Health LaPorte Hospital.
- Aug. 1 — "Meditation, Relaxation and Chair Yoga" with Danielle Kessler of The Crossing Wellness Center.

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:

- June 13 — Water, Water, Everywhere.
- June 20 — Sweet as Honey.
- June 27 — Creepy Crawlers.
- July 18 — Snakes Alive.
- July 25 — Rock Your Planet.

Shelter and Hall Reservations

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

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Dancing With the Symphony Stars

Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra will present "Dancing With the Symphony Stars" at 5:30 p.m. EDT Saturday, May 12, at Lake Michigan College's Grand Upton Hall, 1100 Yore Ave., Benton Harbor, Mich.

Celebrating its fifth year, the event features local celebrities competing for the Mirror Ball Award. It also includes cocktails, dinner, live and silent auctions.

Modeled after TV's "Dancing with the Stars," the dancers actually vie for three honors:

- A "People's Choice Award," aided by votes before the event from friends, family and the public.
- The "Judges' Choice Award" for excellence in dancing.
- The top "Mirror Ball Award," which combines audience member voting and judge scores.

The stars include: Amy Bleich Heugel, Brett Lutz, Matthew and Christina Mantei, Kurt Marzke, Becky Spicer, Laura Starks, Brian Uridge and Megan Yore.

Judges include History's "American Pickers" star Danielle Colby, Miss Michigan 2017 Heather Kendrick and Jerry Price, YMCA of Southwest Michigan development director. Serving as emcees are Bill Downey, Cook Nuclear Plant communications specialist and Twin Cities Players actor/director, and auctioneer Dan McCrery, general manager of Tosi's restaurant.

Tickets, which are \$125 for table seating and dinner, can be purchased at www.smso.org or by calling the SMSO office at (269) 982-4030. Proceeds support SMSO's mission.

Sailing School Youth Day Camp

Michigan City Yacht Club Sailing School will offer its Youth Sailing Day Camp at Washington Park Marina.

The program for children 8 and older teaches basic boat-handling skills and gets them comfortable in a boat. Classes are tailored to the age and ability of each student, emphasizing the fun of sailing. Students are instructed in Optis, Club Rigged 420s and Catalina Capri 14.2s. As sailors become skilled, they progress to different boats. When skills and comfortability allow, students can sail on their own.

Camp dates are June 11 through Aug. 10. Times are 9 a.m. to noon or 1 to 4 p.m. One break is planned July 23, during the week of the Chicago to Mackinac Races. Classes meet Monday through Friday, except national holidays (July 4).

Scholarships are available. Visit www.mcycsailingschool.com or contact Program Director Joel Florek at mcycsailingschool@gmail.com or (219) 561-0141 for details. Additional information is available at www.facebook.com/MichiganCitySailing School or on Instagram, MCYC Sailing.



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.

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The following programs are available:

- **The Save the Tunes Council performs from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Friday, April 20, 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.

- **Gardening at Chellberg Farm from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 21.**

Join staff and fellow gardening enthusiasts at the Chellberg Farm garden. Wear comfortable clothes; work gloves and equipment are provided. Insect repellent and sunscreen are recommended. The farm parking lot is on Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 and 20 in Porter.

- **Pinhook Bog Earth Day Open House from noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, April 22.**

Rangers and volunteers stationed along the trail shed light on the bog filled with carnivorous plants, orchids and other interesting features. Allow one hour to walk the trail and tour the quaking bog.

The parking lot is located at 920 N. Wozniak Road, Michigan City.

The Visitor Center is at 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. The Paul H. Douglas Center is at 100 N. Lake St. in Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Call (219) 395-1882 for more information.

Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs are offered:

- **Poetry in the Park from 2 to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 21.**

Historian Glory-June Greiff leads the program that emphasizes poetry as a storytelling experience. The focus is spring. Those attending, if interested, can take a favorite nature poem.

The program is possible due to the Indiana Arts Commission.

- **Earth Day Bubble Art from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Sunday, April 22.**

Bubble artist Mike Bever demonstrates artistic creations using colored bubbles made from reuse items. Visitors can create bubble art as well.

The program is possible due to the Indiana Arts Commission.

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.



Greiff

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Last day to register to vote in the Primary election on May 8th is April 9th

First day of early voting at the LaPorte or Michigan City Courthouse is April 9th.

Go to www.indianavoters.in.gov to make sure that you are registered to vote.

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New Great Lakes Partnership

Five shoreline community foundations have joined the Great Lakes One Water Partnership, a new effort designed to help communities around the Great Lakes develop projects that secure the region's water future.

Included is Unity Foundation of LaPorte County which, in representing Lake Michigan's southwest region, includes: Evanston Community Foundation (Ill.); Legacy Foundation (Ind.); Porter County Community Foundation (Ind.); and The Chicago Community Trust (Ill.).

The partnership is a multi-year, basin-wide initiative supported by the Great Lakes Protection Fund and Council of Michigan Foundations. It will support these shoreline community foundations to advance water infrastructure management.

With \$1 million in seed funding from the Great Lakes Protection Fund, the Council of Michigan Foundations and a team of water experts will raise more than \$4 million to coordinate nearly 30 community foundations in six regions surrounding the Great Lakes, in the United States and Canada.

LaPorte County Business Expo

The Michigan City Area Chamber of Commerce will present the LaPorte County Business Expo from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 9, at Blue Chip Casino's Stardust Event Center.

The event is open to members, non-members and the public.

New this year are four resource sessions on topics relevant to business management:

- Session 1: "Tax Talk — What Matters Right Now," 1:30 to 2:15 p.m.
- Session 2: "Sexual Harassment in the Workplace," 2:30 to 3:15 p.m.
- Session 3: "Cybersecurity in the Workforce," 3:30 to 4:15 p.m.
- Session 4: "From Expectations to Experience," 4:30 to 5:15 p.m.

Visit bbpnet.com/x15a for more details.

Indiana's Amphibians Program

"The Lives and Times of Indiana's Amphibians" is from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 21, at Gabis Arboretum (formerly Taltree), 71 N. County Road 500 West, Valparaiso.

After an illustrated presentation, explore the arboretum with Spencer Cortwright, Indiana University Northwest biology professor.

The course is geared towards adults. The cost is \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. Call (219) 462-0025 or visit Taltree.org for details.

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Miller Garden Club

Miller Garden Club meets at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 21, at Marquette Park Aquatorium, 6918 Oak Ave. in Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood.



Pilla

A brief business meeting is followed by speaker Nathanael Pilla, a botanist for Orbis Environmental Consulting and an Indiana Plant and Wildflower Society North Chapter board member. He will discuss why pondweeds and other aquatic plants aid water systems, backyard ponds and decks.

Prior to his work with Orbis, Nathanael worked as the project coordinator for Save the Dunes and as a biologist for Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. He received his Masters of Science in Biology, with a focus on plant ecology, from Purdue University Northwest. He created www.indunesguide.com, the website for native plants in Northwest Indiana.

Contact Joanne Stratton at (312) 543-1561 or jm-stratt@sbcglobal.net for details.

Footlight Free Youth Workshop

Footlight Players will present a free workshop for youth ages 10-17 from 1 to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday, June 11-21, at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St.

The instructors are Robert Komendera, Lee Meyer, Laura Meyer and Emma Blanchard. The focus is auditioning, stage presence, vocal and dance training and character development. The sessions end with a full dress rehearsal June 22, followed by a two-day run of an original musical-comedy, "The Death and Good Times of Julius Caesar: A Tragic Farce," at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, June 23, and 2 p.m. Sunday, June 24.

The workshop is limited to 30 participants. The cutoff date for applications is June 1. To sign up and receive an application, visit www.FootlightPlayers.org, or call the theater at (219) 874-4035 and request one be mailed.

Elle Salon Environmental Party

Elle Salon will celebrate Earth Month with an Environmental Party from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Saturday, April 28, at Shady Creek Winery, 2030 Tryon Road.

Proceeds from the fundraiser benefit the conservation/restoration group Alliance for the Great Lakes. More information is at greatlakes.org

Tickets cost \$25 and include a pizza bar and automatic entry into a drawing for an Aveda gift basket. Tickets are available at the salon, 113 W. Eighth St., or at the door the day of the event.

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Garden Hotline

LaPorte County Master Gardeners offers a free garden hotline, complete with solutions to home-gardening questions, from 9 a.m. to noon Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays through Sept. 28.

Master Gardeners can answer questions on house plants, landscaping, flowers, fruit trees, vegetables, trees, shrubs, lawns, insects and garden pests. They also provide research-based materials from the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service or other regional land-grant universities.

The phone number is (219) 324-9407. Michigan City area residents can call (219) 874-5611, Ext. 2655. Questions also can be emailed to lpmastergardener@gmail.com

Homeowners also can view information at www.extension.purdue.edu/laporte

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Program by Autism Expert

Dr. Bridget Harrison, an autism expert and clinical director/owner of Innovations In Learning, will speak at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, April 26, at Living Way Church, 2410 Duneland Beach Drive.

The program is presented by Michigan City Human Rights Commission as part of Autism Awareness Month.

Harrison will help shed light on autism, sharing testing and therapy resources, and providing insight to Applied Behavior Analysis therapy and how it can help those diagnosed with autism.

The event is free. Child care is available, but due to limited space, a reservation must be secured by Wednesday, April 25, by contacting Joanne Tedesco, Michigan City Human Rights commissioner, at (573) 355-7855.



Harrison

Fall Arts & Crafts Show

Artists and crafters are sought for the women of LaPorte First United Methodist Church's fifth annual Arts & Crafts Show, which is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 29, at LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 W. Indiana 2.

The event features 100 artists and crafters from Indiana, Michigan and Illinois. All booths are inside. Interested vendors can call (219) 393-4093 or email ddev48@hotmail.com

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Seedling Sale Fundraiser

The Berrien Conservation District will hold its annual Tree and Shrub Seedling Fundraiser Sale at the Berrien County Youth Fairgrounds, 9122 Old U.S. 31, Berrien Springs, Mich.

The sale is from 3 to 8 p.m. EDT Friday, April 20, and 9 a.m. to noon EDT Saturday, April 21. Pre-orders can be picked up then.

A variety of bare root evergreens, deciduous trees and shrub seedlings will be sold in bundles of 5, 10 or more. Fruit tree seedlings will be sold individually. Quantities are limited.

Rain barrels and composters will be offered, along with books on nature and related subjects.

Visit www.berriencd.org for details.

Duneland Historical Society

Duneland Historical Society will host its annual spring dinner for members and guests at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 19, at The Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

The regular evening program, which is free and open to the public, starts at 7 p.m. It features select members from The Sandpipers, Chesterton High School's mixed show choir directed by Kristin Morris. They will perform songs from this year's competition set, as well as solos and other music.

Memberships will be available. Call (219) 983-9715 for more details.

State of the County Luncheon

The Michigan City Area Chamber of Commerce and Greater LaPorte Chamber of Commerce will host the State of the County Luncheon on Friday, April 27, at Blue Chip Casino's Orleans Room.

Check-in is at 11 a.m., followed by lunch and the program from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Rich Mrozinski, County Board of Commissioners president, and County Council member Randy Novak will share LaPorte County's 2017 accomplishments and 2018 goals.

The event is open to the public. Registration is required, and the \$35 cost includes lunch. Visit MichiganCityChamber.com or call (219) 874-6221.

Flag Day Pig Roast

The Three Oaks Flag Day Pig Roast is from noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, April 22, at The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Drive.

The event includes food, music and a silent auction. The cost is \$15, while children 6 and younger eat for free. Four tickets cost \$50.

Visit www.acorntheater.org for tickets or details.

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Activities to Explore

In the Area:

April 19 — Duneland Historical Society, 7 p.m., The Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton. Info: (219) 983-9715.

April 20 — Bookmarks, Lisa Wingate's "Before We Were Yours," 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

April 20 — Earth Day Craft for Kids, 3:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

April 20 — Save the Tunes Council, 7:30-9 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

April 20-22 — "Annie," Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$15/\$10 kids 12 & younger. Reservations: www.FootlightPlayers.org, (219) 874-4035.

April 20-22 — Friends of the Library Spring Book Sale, Westchester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton. Friends Only Preview Sale: 4-8 p.m. April 20. April 21-22: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

April 20-23 — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. *Now showing*: "A Fantastic Woman." Not Rated. Spanish with English subtitles. Times: 6 p.m. Fri.-Mon., 3 p.m. Sat.-Sun. All times Eastern. Info: vickerstheatre.com

April 21 — Spring Open House, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., LaPorte County Family YMCA Elston Branch, 1202 Spring St. Info: (219) 221-4055.

April 21 — Gardening at Chellberg Farm, 9 a.m.-noon, Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12/20, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

April 21 — Friends of the Library Collector's Breakfast, 9:30 a.m., Full Gospel Church of Deliverance, 2700 Ohio St. Cost: \$25. Info: (219) 873-3049.

April 21 — Zine and Small Press Fest, 10 a.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St., Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., ArtSpace Uptown Artists Lofts, 717 Franklin St. Info: www.lubeznikcenter.org

April 21 — Poetry in the Park, 2-3 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

April 21 — Miles Nielsen & the Rusted Hearts with opener Chris Dupont, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$25, VIP party & show @ 6 p.m. EDT/\$50. Info: www.acorntheater.org, (269) 756-3879.

April 22 — Pinhook Bog Earth Day Open House, noon-3 p.m., 920 N. Wozniak Road, Michigan City. Info: (219) 395-1882.

April 22 — Three Oaks Flag Day pig roast fundraiser, noon-3 p.m. EDT, The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Drive. Tickets: \$15, 6 & younger/free, four tickets/\$50. Tickets: www.acorntheater.org

April 22 — Earth Day Bubble Art, 1-2:30 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25

East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

April 24 — Friends of New Buffalo Library Community Forum, historian Christopher Siriano, 6:30 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Public Library, 33 S. Thompson St. Free. Info: (269) 469-2933.

April 24 — MTV Trivia Night, 7-8:30 p.m., Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

Through May — “Up Up and Away!: A Look at Aerial Photography from La Porte County,” La Porte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportecountyhistory.org, (219) 324-6767.

In the Region

April 20-21 — Berrien Conservation District Tree and Shrub Seedling Fundraiser Sale, Berrien County Youth Fairgrounds, 9122 Old U.S. 31, Berrien Springs, Mich. Times (Eastern): 3-8 p.m. April 20/9 a.m.-noon April 21. Info: www.berriencd.org

April 20-22 — Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery," Elkhart Civic Theatre @ Bristol (Ind.) Opera House, 210 E. Vistula St. Times (Eastern): 7:30 p.m. April 20-21, 3 p.m. April 22. Tickets: \$21/adults, \$19/students & seniors (62+). Reservations: (574) 848-4116, at elkhartcivictheatre.org

April 21 — Harbor Country Hikers, 10 a.m. EDT, Warren Woods State Park, north side of Elm Valley/Union Pier Road, between Three Oaks Road & Red Arrow Highway. Info: harborcountryhikers.com

April 21 — Miller Garden Club, 10 a.m., Marquette Park Aquatorium, 6918 Oak Ave., Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (312) 543-1561, jmstratt@sbcglobal.net

April 21 — Northwest Indiana Earth Day Celebration, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Porter County Expo Center, 215 E. Division Road, Valparaiso. Free. Info: www.PorterCountyRecycling.org

April 21-22 — Indoor flea market, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. EDT, New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road. Info: (773) 803-9773.

April 22 — Earth Day activities, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. EDT, Fernwood Botanical Garden & Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich. Info: (269) 695-6491, www.fernwoodbotanical.org

Support Groups

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

Mondays, Fridays — Overeaters Anonymous, 7 p.m. Mon./Franciscan St. Anthony Health, 301 W. Homer St., 9 a.m. Fri./First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St. Info: <https://oa.org>, (219) 879-0300.

Wednesdays — Alzheimer's/Dementia Support Group for Caregivers, 2 p.m., third Wednesday of each month, Rittenhouse Senior Living, 4300 Cleveland Ave. Info: (888) 303-0180.

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



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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



On April 19, 1775, the Revolutionary War began in Massachusetts as British and American forces began fighting at both Lexington and Concord.

On April 19, 1865, the funeral for President Abraham Lincoln was held in the White House.

On April 19, 1892, in Springfield, Mass., Charles E. Duryea took his horseless carriage — the first American-made automobile — out of his shop for a successful drive.

On April 19, 1897, the first Boston Marathon was run from Ashland, Mass., to Boston. Winner John McDermott ran the course in 2 hrs., 55 min., 10 sec.

On April 20, 1857, Chicago Mayor John “Long John” Wentworth personally led a raid on the “Sands,” a notorious North Michigan Avenue vice district.

On April 20, 1861, Col. Robert E. Lee resigned his commission in the U.S. Army.

On April 20, 1949, Mayo Clinic scientists revealed they had synthesized a hormone to treat rheumatoid arthritis — named “cortisone.”

On April 20, 1955, Richard Daley began his first term as mayor of Chicago. He was re-elected five times.

On April 20, 1972, the manned lunar module from Apollo 16 landed on the moon.

On April 21, 753 B.C., Rome, according to legend, was founded by Romulus and Remus.

On April 21, 1836, at San Jacinto, with the battle cry “Remember the Alamo!” an army of Texans, led by Gen. Sam Houston, defeated a Mexican Army led by Gen. Santa Anna. Few battles in history have had such a devastating effect on a nation as did this one on Mexico. In the treaty that followed, they ceded to the new Republic of Texas all of present-day Texas, about half of New Mexico, and parts of Colorado and Wyoming. Ten years later, in the Mexican War with the United States — Fueled by a dispute over the southern boundary of Texas — Mexico lost Arizona, California, and the rest of New Mexico.

On April 21, 1843, Chicago passed an ordinance prohibiting pigs from running free on the streets of the city.

On April 22, 1864, Congress first authorized the director of the U.S. Mint to use the motto “In God We Trust” on all coins.

On April 22, 1889, the Oklahoma Land Rush began as thousands rushed to stake claims on land that the federal government had not assigned to the Indians. Those claimants who “jumped the gun” (entering the “territory” a little sooner than the rules

allowed) were referred to as “Sooners.”

On April 22, 1937, thousands of college students in New York City staged a fourth annual “peace strike,” vowing to “refuse to support the government in any war.”

On April 22, 1970, millions of Americans, concerned about the destruction of the environment, observed the first “Earth Day.”

On April 23, 1564, William Shakespeare, considered the greatest dramatist the world has known, was born in Stratford-on-Avon, an English market town about eighty miles northwest of London.

On April 23, 1616, English poet and dramatist, William Shakespeare, the Bard-of-Avon, died at 52.

On April 23, 1789, in New York (then the nation’s capital) President George Washington moved into the Franklin House, the new nation’s first executive mansion.

On April 23, 1896, in New York, the first public showing of a motion picture took place.

On April 23, 1954, Hank Aaron, in a game against the St. Louis Cardinals, hit the first of his record 755 major league home runs.

On April 23, 1992, McDonald’s opened its first fast-food restaurant in Beijing.

On April 24, 1704, the *Boston News Letter* commenced publication. It was the first American newspaper to be printed on a regular basis over an extended period of time.

On April 24, 1800, with a startup fund of \$5,000 “for the purchase of such books as may be necessary,” and with the books from Thomas Jefferson’s entire library, the Library of Congress was officially established.

On April 24, 1877, the “Reconstruction of the South” ended when Union troops were ordered out of New Orleans.

On April 24, 1897, William Price, reporting for work at *The Washington Star*, became the first journalist to have the title of “White House Reporter.”

On April 24, 1953, British statesman Winston Churchill was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II.

On April 25, 1719, “Robinson Crusoe,” a novel by Daniel Defoe, was first published.

On April 25, 1859, Chicago’s first horse-drawn street railway begin operation on State Street between Lake and 12th Street (Roosevelt Road).

On April 25, 1859, construction of the Suez Canal began.

On April 25, 1901, New York became the first state requiring automobile owners to have license plates for their vehicles; the fee was \$1. The plates, for all 954 registered cars, carried their owners’ initials.

On April 25, 1990, the Hubble Space Telescope was deployed from the space shuttle Discovery.

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An amazing selection of new, designer boutique clothing, and gently used consignment items.

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Open to the public and the best selection

Saturday, May 5,

Sale continues with additional merchandise added

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Saturday, May 12,

Second chance 1/2 price sale.

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Saturday and Sunday, April 21-22, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

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Noted local artist Marjorie Wiseman studio full. Liquidation of superior household goods, furniture (dining/bedroom), 1930s upright radio, jewelry, fine glassware, collectibles, Michigan City-South Shore-World's Fair memorabilia, old advertising, vintage toys, antiques. Too much to list.

For partial pictured listing go to Find Upcoming Estate Sales Using EstateSales.NET (search Indiana, then Exceptional, Vintage Trail Creek Estate Tag Sale). (219) 393-4609

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Doubledoodle Puppies (Goldendoodle/Labradoodle) born 2-24-18, \$1,000. Text (219) 871-5155 for more info.

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Stop 31. Nicely furn. 3BR, 2BA with 3-season porch. Family room. \$2,100/wk. WiFi. W/D. No smoking/pets. 4-min. walk to beautiful beach. Winter/spring available: \$895/mo+util. **Call Pat at 708-361-8240.**

Furnished 1BR apartment over garage, quiet wooded setting among \$500K homes, granite, hardwood floors, shared pool, tennis, basketball. Kitchenette. Utilities included. \$800, 1-yr lease, no smoking, no pets. (312) 399-5341.

LB summer rental: July-August. Big, beautiful house ½ block from beach. 4BR/1BA. **Call (219) 210-1181.**

Stop 31: Renovated 2 BR/1BA ranch within walking distance to private beach. Avail May 15-Oct. 15 \$200/nt; 3-nt min; Oct 15-May 15, 2019: \$825/mo.+utilities. **Contact cmpgsusan@gmail.com**

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

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Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

The Italian Teacher by Tom Rachman (hardcover, \$27 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook)

“Even if a man’s important,” she argues, “he doesn’t get to live by different rules.”

Pinch: “Isn’t society based on that premise?”

Art, the artist and the artist’s son. There you have it. The premise for an utterly absorbing story of a life — two lives, actually — that revolve around each other and the art world. But who comes out on top and who gets the short stick? The larger-than-life, self-absorbed artist? Or the son, always in his father’s shadow, never able to come into his own?

American-born Bear Bavinsky was having a good time roaming Europe in the 1950s, painting and womanizing — his two favorite occupations. It was in Rome at this time when he met a lovely pottery artist, Canadian-born Natalie. They marry, she becomes his third wife and gives birth, alone, in 1951 to his son, nicknamed Pinch. Bear has moved on by then. Oh, he shows up now and then, wife and son adoring every precious moment he gives them. But Bear is too busy with his art. He paints a series called Life-Stills that shows only parts of a body — “...a bare throat filling the huge canvas, or a roll of tummy fat, or a pricked shoulder.” None of these paintings show a subject’s face. They make a big splash in the art world, and Bear is off and running to party after party, gallery show after gallery show, always the life of the event. He builds up an army of worshipping followers, and his status as artist extraordinaire is set. *“His new paintings are the prize — they are truly something else, it’s said, and diabolically hard to lay one’s hands on.”*

His booming voice is as big as his opinions, and both men and women are captivated by his mere presence. But Bear has big ideas for his paintings. Sell them? Oh no. Bear aims for his entire collection to someday land in a museum to ensure his legacy.

How does a boy cope with a father like this? Pinch grows up adoring his part-time father, even though Bear always has an excuse for not keeping his promises to the boy. But he always does it in such a way to satisfy the adoring son.

Eventually, Pinch finds out his father has 17 children by a number of wives. A sister, Birdie, comes

to spend time with the family in Rome. It will be a lifelong relationship that Pinch will come to appreciate, in later life, because Pinch does not make friends, nor does he want to: *“When young, Pinch considered human connections the refuge of those who couldn’t make art. Or is art just the refuge of those who cannot connect?”*

By the time Pinch is a teen, he is sure art is his future. His father soon shoots down his ambition, when, after looking at Pinch’s first proud canvas, declares, *“You will never be a great artist.”*

In college, plans for art are replaced with studying languages — he’s already fluent in Italian — and at one point he considers becoming a writer. In fact, he could score points with the old man by writing his biography!

Girlfriends? Pinch has had a few, but he always manages to say the wrong thing at the wrong time, leaving him once more alone.

Post college sees Pinch finally accepting a job teaching Italian at a language school in London — quite a letdown from his original plans...

Years later, when Bear dies, he leaves his estate in Pinch’s hands. Wow, what a surprise to the other 16 siblings! They all want a piece of the action, thinking Pinch will sell all of dear old dad’s paintings, leaving them with nothing to show for. Not so. Pinch has other ideas... and wait till you read what they are! The last third of the book shows the culmination of years of self-doubt, self-loathing and too much filial devotion. Pinch has all of Bear’s paintings stored away in his cottage and workshop in a remote village in France. It’s a delicious ending...some might call it karma... you see, Pinch never really gave up his desire to be an artist — but I’ll have to leave it right there!

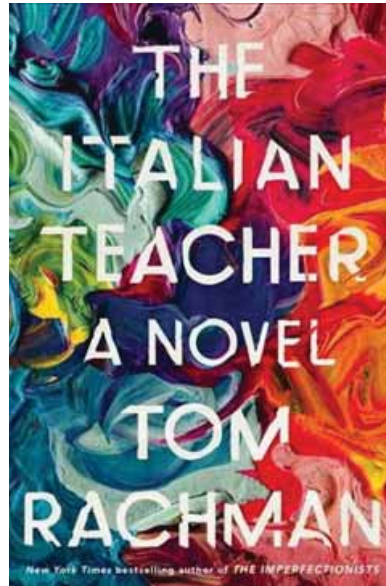
This is not just a story. The underlying themes are what count: art and how we perceive it, families and the dynamics that make it work — or not, and filial devotion and the effect it has on a sensitive soul. This is not just a work of fiction. It is true literature.

Named a Most Anticipated Book of 2018 by *The Wall Street Journal*, *Huffington Post*, [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), *Chicago Review of Books* and others.

Booklist (starred review): “A momentous drama of a volatile relationship and the fundamental will to survive.”

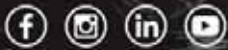
Rachman is the author of two other novels, one of which, *Imperfections*, has been translated into 25 languages. He lives in London.

Till next time, happy reading!



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