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Art on the Grandest Scale

by Linda Weigel

The world's largest art competition has again transformed downtown Grand Rapids, Mich., into one massive indoor-outdoor art gallery. For the half-million curious art lovers, this event signals the coming of fall, and the opportunity to stroll casu-

over downtown Grand Rapids and splitting it into zones. The result is one gigantic art extravaganza.

Held Sept. 19 through Oct. 7, visitors immerse themselves in art, discovering through more than 1,200 entries a wide range of artistic styles and me-



"Stream," the installation involving cinder blocks and mirrors by Gustavo Prado of Brooklyn. All photos by Linda Weigel



ally, lingering among the extensive venues while voting to select their favorite visual artists.

ArtPrize, which marks its 10th anniversary, celebrates art and creativity on a large scale. The open, independently organized international event unfolds over 19 days, taking

dia. One hundred sixty-six host venues scattered throughout five zones — museums, parks, theaters, community centers, restaurants, bars, hotel lobbies, coffee shops — await your visit. Artists may come from anywhere in the world.

This year, more than 1,400 artists from 41 states and 40 countries created more than 1,260 works. Applying artists completed required forms, submitting them directly to their selected venue(s) — each and every venue separately — in hopes of receiving an acceptance.

As a viewer and eventual voter, you can discuss and debate the merits of what defines good art be-

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fore making a decision. This is important, because as a visitor, you vote using your smartphone to select your favorite works within several categories. The stakes are high, with more than \$500,000 in prizes, including a juror's grand prize of \$200,000 and a public-vote grand prize of \$200,000.

Entrepreneur Rick DeVos helped establish the citywide event in 2009. It included more than 150 venues and 1,262 artists from 40 states and a dozen countries. His idea of creating an art competition open to any and all artists, with the largest monetary award in the world, where the public had a clear say in the major winners, opened the door to what the event has become today.

As ArtPrize evolved, changes ensued. In 2010, it introduced an international jury of artists, critics, curators and museum directors. By 2014, additional category prizes offered the voting public a chance to compare votes in four categories (two dimensional, three dimensional, installation and time-based work) with art experts. Also that year, the two grand prizes of \$200,000 each – one by popular vote, and one by juror vote — launched the event into one of the world's best art competitions.

No question about it. Making art is hard. It is a process that takes time and care. Some artists may spend years on a single piece. The results are personal, unique and may perhaps represent false starts combined with a careful exploration of multiple materials.

Clearly, the artists juried into this event are outstanding within their selected media. The creativity, design originality and conceptual ideas incorporated within many of the pieces clearly reflect the times we live in and the concerns we share.

Calder Plaza, 300 Monroe St.

I began my exploration on Sunday, Sept. 23, first locating a convenient parking garage on Ottawa Street. Then, I immediately discovered Gustavo Prado's "Stream" set against the massive permanent outdoor work "La Grande Vitesse" by the great 20th century sculptor Alexander Calder. Prado's work explores "various aspects of space – whether real or formal – and the complexities inherent in the act of gazing."



Brian Lacey's "To Advance God's Kingdom (Rose Colored Glasses)," an installation involving paint on corten shipping container.

In contrast to the materials and sense of expanded space Prado uses, Brian Lacey's corten shipping container, "To Advance God's Kingdom (Rose Colored Glasses)," espoused a different viewpoint, using symbolism, abstraction and a contained space "to celebrate Grand Rapids and Western Michigan's rich history of arts, crafts and design and the important role public education plays in furthering the advancement of such discipline."

Atwater Brewery, 201 Michigan St.

A visit to Atwater Brewery on Michigan Street revealed 12 original entries, including one by professional artist Dorothy Graden, Valparaiso, who is a member of Lubeznik Center for the Arts and Area Artists Association.

Graden has attended numerous art classes since her teens, later incorporating college art classes, art history classes, continuing educational studies in watercolor and Chinese calligraphy into her expanded repertoire. She studied under individual artists while her work continued to evolve, becoming highly exploratory and driven by self-discovery.

For more than 30 years, she has hiked in canyons, traversed arroyos and clambered up mountains searching out ancient prehistoric rock art. She has traveled from the Rio Grande to central Montana, and every state in between.

"What's interesting about it is the rock art varies depending on the time period, culture and location," she said. "I take thousands of pictures. I took 600 pictures just this past May on a trip to Utah and Colorado."



"Sky Spirits."



Dorothy Graden.

Her art truly represents a fusion of multiple media, resulting in work that holds great depth, color, form and mystery. She begins by making sheets of handmade paper, generally 15 to 20 sheets at a time. While the paper is still damp, she applies color and/or stencils to achieve specific design patterns. Next, she inventories her photos and determines which images would look best on her newly made papers. Lastly, she uses watercolor, India ink and pastels to enhance those images.

After much encouragement, she submitted a work last year to ArtPrize, which was accepted and later sold.

"The exposure is unbelievable!," she said of the event.

Homewood Suites by Hilton, 161 Ottawa Ave.

Exiting the Atwater, I continued my explorations, popping in and out of venues and discovering enumerable exciting works, including a pair of three-dimensional works at the Homewood Suites by Hilton at Waters Center on Ottawa Avenue.

Grand Rapids Art Museum, 101 Monroe Center St.

The Grand Rapids Art Museum never fails to host thoughtful, serious works. This year, it sponsored eight artists, among which Sarah Fitzsimmons' "Pacific Quilt" and Conrad Egyir's "The Labor of Love" were timely and deeply, thoughtfully inspired.

Fitzsimmons' creation assumes the form of a giant quilt

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"Pacific Quilt," fabric, batting and thread by Sarah Fitzsimmons.

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with varying shades of blue fabric meant to “convey underwater topography, and quilting lines to describe surface currents.” I found her work poetic, peaceful and cautionary, reminding us of the importance of our oceans and fresh waters.



“The Labor of Love” by Conrad Egyir, part three of a triptych — oil, mounted Plexiglas and wood on canvas.

Egyir’s “The Labor of Love” was executed as a triptych (in three parts) and based on Labor Day and the day Emmett Till lost his life.

“On both sides of the central painting are allegories of what present day or future interpretations of labor and love might mean.” Egyir also has incorporated West African adinkra symbols

flanking the portraits. I was fascinated by his materials use, and the method by which he combined them into such a polished, highly charged symbol.

Studio D2D – The Harris Building, 111 Division St.

The Harris Building on Division Street featured 49 artists and is the third largest of the ArtPrize destination/venues.

Studio D2D – Harris Building presented another Indiana artist, L. Lee Ligocki of Winamac. Her installation, “Tribute to the Grammar of Architectural Ornamentation,” “originated from drawings I created on transparent vellum in the 1960s.”

Her work is produced in transparent layers using oil and ink on architectural transparent vellum, assembled with wood slats and resulting in an overall depth of 10”, width 50” and height 72”. Each of the four layers uses a single color incorporating free hand drawing, representing a different architectural time period



L.L. Ligocki, standing next to her ArtPrize submission.

and ornamentation. The blue layer is Chinese, the red Italian Renaissance, the yellow Egyptian and the black layer Gothic.

Much like Dorothy Graden, Ligocki primarily is a self-taught artist who also pursued individual college classes, studied with accomplished professional artists and did additional work in printmaking and three-dimensional art.



The blue layer, with Chinese symbols in process.

“I have done huge bodies of work of social and emotional commentaries in years past,” she said. “But, I wanted to approach art using a very basic concept in a way that no one has explored. My art has always been about ‘color’ and ‘layers of thought’.”

The importance of color and layering of color, and the visual effect for the viewer, she continued, is of primary importance. The use of limited primary colors plus black, she says, keeps “the process very basic.”

Every three days or so, during the run of ArtPrize, Ligocki travels from Winamac to Grand Rapids and the Harris Building. She carefully rearranges the



“Edge of Eden” by Jody Williams.

transparent layers, resulting in a new and curious set of visual cues. Red overlapping yellow, for example, creates a range of oranges. She already has received three commissions from her exposure at this venue, and much like Graden agrees that having her work accepted into ArtPrize has been an unbelievable experience.

**DeVos Place Convention Center,
303 Monroe Ave.**

DeVos Center presented 24 projects and some of the largest 2-D art works. Jody Williams' "Edge of Eden" is an oil painting seemingly illuminated from

within, without benefit of artificial light. This effect is due, in fact, to his superb color control and use of light versus dark.

Williams states he wanted to "simply paint a small spot on this earth of personal significance. A place that whispers to the mysteries and secrets of life...located on the edge of a deep wood just off the shores and dunes of Lake Michigan."

"The String Project" is overwhelmingly ambitious, and kudos to the photographic team that produced it. Photographer Chelsea Nix — a Hoosier native — and her Argentinian husband, Mariano Cortez, are photographers specializing in "travel

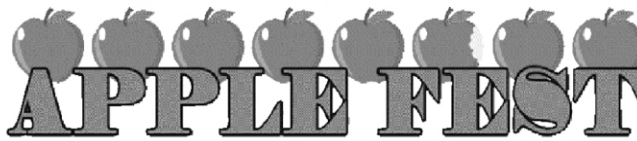
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"The String Project" by Chelsea Nix and Mariano Cortez.



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photography.” Their work even has been published in *National Geographic*. This particular submission features photographs from North and Latin America, Asia, Europe and Africa.

“The couple’s focus has been on creating a project that connects the viewer to the image in a more tangible way, bringing the photograph to life.”

In this project, you notice everyone, each individual photo, holding what appears to be the same string, “a visible representation symbolizing an invisible connection.” When the photos are placed side by side, the string continues from one to the next and so on, connecting each of us no, matter the differences in culture, society or lifestyle.



This is but a small portion of what is available. You still have time to visit this amazing, expansive event before it closes Oct. 7. After then, the next opportunity to experience it is 2020. During off years, it is replaced with a smaller-scale project. Making the event biannual gives participating artists more time to create unique/highly personal statements, allows volunteers and organizers more time to recoup, to avoid burnout and, finally, permit some of the larger, permanent sites such as the Grand Rapids Art Museum more time for planning and scheduling, thus maintaining the high quality of accepted works.

If You Go

Take Interstate 94 to Benton Harbor exit I-196 North. Head north on I-196 to Benton Harbor and exit at Ottawa Avenue/Downtown. Once parked, head for Rosa Parks Circle (Pearl and Ottawa Avenue) and pick up a free ArtPrize map. Or, visitors can download a digital map off the ArtPrize app onto a smartphone.

The drive takes about two hours — weather and traffic permitting. There are plenty of places to eat and/or drink, and special events for families and children are part of the experience.

Visit www.artprize.org for more details.



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“The Wife” Contains Two of the Year’s Best Performances

by Andrew Tallackson



Glenn Close and Jonathan Pryce are at the top of their game in “The Wife.”

“The Wife,” based on Meg Wolitzer’s 2003 novel, carefully divulges one corker of a twist. The story has built to this point, vigilant with hints we have observed, yet not absorbed to full effect. We accept there are cracks in the film’s protracted marriage. We just don’t know why.

So when the bomb finally drops, it redefines the entire dynamic between husband and wife. Thus, we have the two single greatest performances of the year so far from Glenn Close and Jonathan Pryce: actors whose talents go unrewarded year after year by Oscar voters, yet now may get their due.

The story, set in 1992, revolves around a singular event. American writer Joe Castleman (Pryce), widely regarded for redefining the approach to narrative storytelling, arrives in Stockholm to claim the Nobel Prize in Literature. With him are his wife, Joan (Close), and son, David (Max Irons), a young writer. Joe relishes the attention, the “performance,” if you will, of feigning humble gratitude. Joan appears resigned to playing second fiddle. It is her role, and she carries it out without question.

The early scenes of “The Wife” quietly, and effectively, explore the unspoken language between husband and wife, the way one spouse remains one step ahead of the other, knowing precisely what the other requires. We also, through flashbacks, encounter Joe and Joan (Annie Starke, Close’s real-life daughter) early in the relationship, when he was a university professor and she his former student, a writer with significant potential.

Then, the truth about these two reveals itself. Yes, Joan has existed within Joe’s shadow, but not for reasons we suspect. To spill the details would be to unleash the cruelest of spoilers. What is interest-

ing about “The Wife,” though, helmed by Swedish director Björn Runge, is that the tone of the film, under lesser hands, might have shifted in less satisfying directions. It could have treated Wolitzer’s story as potboiler material, sensationalizing it, or emerged as a message movie with feminist undertones.

Is is neither. What “The Wife” is about is how the consequences of the past have frayed the edges of this marriage to where now, it has begun to implode.

Runge is wise enough to stay out of the way of his actors so they have the freedom to roam the material with intricate precision.

Pryce has been one of my favorite actors for years: sly, subtle, content to weave through eclectic period pieces (“Evita,” “The Age of Innocence.”) This, however, is magnificent work. Joe has played a certain role for so long, he’s worn it like a finely tailored suit. The suit, however, no longer fits, and the feverish desperation that seeps out of Pryce makes Joe not so easily dismissable.

Then, there is Close. I will argue to this day her work in “Fatal Attraction” is one of the greatest performances ever committed to film: terrifying because of its psychological complexity and completeness. Her work in “The Wife” is a slow burn. Joan exists in the periphery of Joe’s public triumph, but every fiber of her being is tremulous with regret, resentment and rage. When she finally does erupt, all that remains are those three emotions.

Until the final shot. An image of brilliant symbolism – a blank page – followed by a gleam in Close’s eyes that suggests a new chapter is about to be written. This is, simply put, an Oscar-winning performance.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

If You Go

“The Wife” continues its run at Vickers Theatre, Three Oaks, Mich. Check Activities for show times.



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“It’s Fall — Time to Plant Tulips!”

Editor’s note — Duneland Beach resident Julie Ryan McGue submitted this column to The Beacher.

For me, fall has always meant putting the summer garden to bed, and digging in tulips, daffodils and hyacinths for early spring color.

On a recent trip to Amsterdam, I made a point of visiting the Keukenhof Gardens. The elaborate landscapes and colorful beds of tulips were magnificent and inspirational. Years ago, when my thumb was its darkest green, I planted bushels of bulbs grown in Holland every October.

Now, when autumn whistles in, or when I glimpse mass plantings of tulips, I chuckle to myself. Not because I miss the rigorous process of selecting and planting bulbs, but because of something that happened decades ago when my tulips awoke from their wintry slumber.

Farming is in my blood. While I did not grow up harvesting corn, I have always had a garden, which has varied in scale depending on the size of my yard. The Dutch tulip catalogues were like gold to me in those peak gardening years. I’d dog-ear the pages, circle my favorites, then pop my order in the mail. When October rolled in, packets of bulbs found their ways from the garage and into my yard for planting.

It was while I lived in an old Victorian on the main street of Hinsdale, Ill., that tulips produced the memory I am going to share.

The flower borders in my compact front yard were full and flourishing, so I expanded my scope. The concrete driveway to the right of the house needed sprucing up. To soften the edges of the hardscape, I envisioned a vibrant wave of spring color.

Tulips!

Scouring my catalogues, I ordered early and late blooming bulbs in a range of stem heights and colors. When autumn arrived and the kids were in school, I donned my elbow-length gardening gloves and dug in neat rows of tulips along the driveway by the neighbor’s fence. I placed markers in the mounds of soil so in the spring, I’d know what varieties bloomed.

Once the winter snow cover melted, I began to monitor the progress of my driveway bulbs. By April, green sprouts emerged from the mulch and regular spring rains produced stems, sturdy and strong. The vibrant oranges, dazzling pinks and gripping purples were staged to open with the next warmup.

I was standing at the kitchen sink when I spied my preschooler escape the fenced-in yard with our old collie. Even though it was close to 10 in the morning, my son was still in his favorite Superman pajamas. Some days, it wasn’t worth the hassle to get him changed out of those. I do not recall if the Velcro cape was attached, but I suspect it was on the family room carpet. Sometimes, as you fly around the house mimicking your idols, a cape can get in the way.

Before I could make it to the back door, my son picked up a stick from the driveway. Before I could skip down the back steps, my angel karate chopped the first row of tulips. Before I unlatched the gate, he was on to the second row. Before he lifted the weapon for the assault on the final grouping, I swatted the stick from his pudgy fist. He’d been so dedicated to the superhero task of taking out the enemy in Mommy’s driveway, he hadn’t heard my loud and vicious protests.

As I came to a gasping standstill, my boy’s chubby cheeks glistened with tears. He’d been battling good and evil with his dog. My tirade had scared him silly. I realized at once my error. I hadn’t warned my son about how important it was to his mommy to see all the flowers open their colorful faces. I hadn’t asked him to leave them alone. I hadn’t thought to do so. I had simply planted my bulbs in the fall and waited for

spring to do its magic.

I looked at the shorn flowers, and at my son’s sorrowful face. I said, “Go ahead. Finish the job. Make sure you get all the bad guys.” As my budding superhero completed his mission, I reasoned that a fully shorn garden was more appealing from the curb than a spotty hatchet job.

I loved the tulips at Keukenhoff, and my pleasure was multi-faceted. I enjoyed the unusual varieties, colors and textures, the showy scale of the garden, and the way pockets of bulbs enhanced mature spring beds. The Holland tulips brought back with vivid reality that scene in my driveway.

The morning my son annihilated the enemy with the swat of a stick.

Fall is a special time to prepare for winter and plan for spring growth, and it is a time to remember. While gardens make us happy, memories make us happiest.





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"Dark of the Moon" Up Next at Footlight Players

Just in time for Halloween, Footlight Players will present the love story of Barbara Allen and the Witch-Boy in "Dark of the Moon" on Oct. 5-7 and 11-14 at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St.

Directed by Robert Komendera, the Appalachian tale centers on John (Andrew Vendl), the Witch-Boy who loves the human girl of his dreams, Barbara Allen (Alayna Lauritsen). He asks the Conjur-Man and Conjur Woman (Joe Blanchard and Diana Hirsch) to change him into a human so he can wed the "prettiest girl in the world."

The story follows the highs and lows of their life together, including a jealous ex-boyfriend (Ian Pappas), a preacher (David Mikolajczyk) determined to grant them salvation, her family (Rick Valle, Dorothea Holley and Michael J. Thomas), who want their "bewitched" daughter/sister back, and John's two witch friends (Emma Blanchard and Courtney Barnes), who want him back in their world.

The play weaves through drama, comedy and folk music. Fleshing out the cast are the Appalachian townsfolk and neighbors (Emil Cripe, Bill Cullens, Savannah Holley, Bobbi Lauritsen, Paulette Lisek, Prachi Murarka, Dee Piotrowski, Amanda Sixbury, Jill and Tony Thomas).

The script deals with adult issues, so viewer discretion is advised. Artwork in the lobby is by Cripe.



Joe Blanchard (from left), Alayna Lauritsen, Andrew Vendl and Diana Hirsch appear in "Dark of the Moon."

Members of the Purdue University Northwest Drama Department are invited to preview the show, and those with student passes receive a discounted price of \$10 for the opening-night performance.

Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$15, or \$10 for children 12 and younger. Lap children are not allowed. Reservations are recommended by calling the theater at (219) 874-4035 or at www.footlightplayers.org

Holiday Show Auditions

Footlight Players will hold auditions for its December production, "A Doublewide, Texas Christmas," from 7 to 9 p.m. Sunday and Monday, Oct. 7-8, at Footlight Theater, 1705 Franklin St.

The comedy was written by the same team that created The Futrelle Sister Trilogy, "Dixie Swim Club" and "The Savannah Sipping Society." The cast includes six women and four men 16 and older. The audition involves cold readings from the script. Performances are Dec. 7-9 and 13-16.

Contact director Robert Komendera at (219) 879-5840, the theater at (219) 874-4035 or visit www.footlightplayers.org for details.



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Travels with the Typing Writer

I am writing the first draft of this column on the Remington Quiet-Riter Eleven manual typewriter I purchased last year from a gentleman in the South Bend area who moonlights as a used typewriter dealer.

Why?

Well, let's head back to 1965 when I was a sophomore at Morgan Park High School, bitten by the creative writing bug mainly from watching well-crafted episodes of "The Twilight Zone." I knew I was going to be a writer, just like the show's host, Rod Serling, so I signed on for typing class with Mrs. Veronica Gillolly. She was all business, wanting to know why I was taking her class. I told her writers needed to know how to type. That made sense to Mrs. Gillolly and, as a bonus, I immediately realized I was one of the only boys in her class.

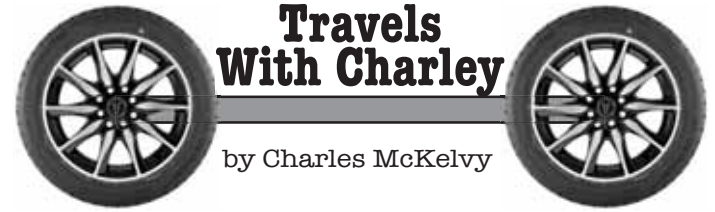
I applied myself in a class that featured desktop manual typewriters, but Mrs. Gillolly held her students to high standards. I only earned a C for my efforts. Still, I could type like a writer when the class ended, and I began composing short stories and essays on the brand-new Smith Corona portable I purchased from an office supply store on Western Avenue. That blue Smith Co-



This Remington Quiet-Riter has earned a place of honor on my desk.

Travels With Charley

by Charles McKelvy



rona and I became such good buddies that by the time I reached the ripe old age of 18 — a senior at Morgan Park — I was able to type a letter-perfect term paper for an English class that earned me an A+.

Later that same year, I went off to Illinois State University in Normal with my trusty Smith Corona in tow. It was used to good effect for the four years I was there, earning a Bachelor of Science in

English-Journalism in 1972. And, yes, the Smith Corona and I made some pocket money writing last-minute term papers for desperate fraternity brothers.

Have typewriter, will travel, right?

Let's fast-forward to the modern era when I purchased a refurbished Smith Corona (just like the one from high school) from Glenn L. Firme Office Supply in Michigan City in, oh, say, 2007 or 2008.

Why?

Is "Travels with Charley" your type of writing?

Then you might consider spending \$10 for 20 pages of original fiction written on a Remington manual typewriter by Charles McKelvy, with a little help from his cat muse, Tiger.

All you have to do is send a check for \$10, payable to: Charles McKelvy, along with your mailing address, to:

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I will then mail you an autographed copy of my typewritten story, A NOVEL IDEA. It's rough; it's raw, and it's right out of my typewriter. And, yes, it will make a perfect holiday gift.

Such a deal!



It's why I'm here.

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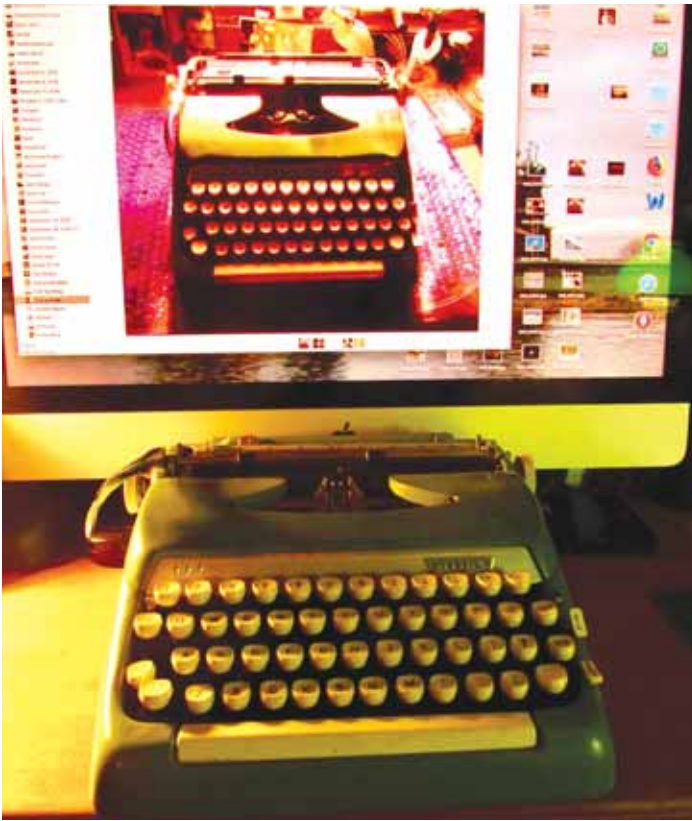
Your home and car are more than just things. They're where you make your memories — and they deserve the right protection. I get it. It's why I'm here.

LET'S TALK TODAY.



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Manual typewriter meets modern writing machine.
Yes, I do blog about being a typing writer.

Because I really missed that old Smith Corona that I foolishly gave away at the onset of electric typewriters and computers. And because we were having one power failure after another back then, and we did not have a generator (we do now!). I was writing for three newspapers, including *The Beacher*, and, well, it made sense to have a backup writing machine that relied solely on human power.

So, that Smith Corona from Firme Office Supply was ready and waiting in June 2009 when we lost power for four days to a 90 mph wind shear. I banged out copy for the newspaper in the manner I'd learned as a reporter for the *City News Bureau of Chicago* in 1976.

Did I just mention *City News*?

Yes, I did, and we did indeed bang out copy on industrial-strength desk models. Sorry, I don't remember the brand, but I do remember those big babies could handle flood after flood of hard news. And, yes, when you were on the rewrite desk, you either learned to compose on a manual typewriter, or you shipped out. I did not ship out, so I obviously mastered the fine art of writing wire copy on a man-

ual typewriter.

Then, along came electric typewriters, like the IBM Selectric, that graced our home office for many a year, but I never lost my love of manual typewriters, so I bought the aforementioned Smith Corona from Firme Office Supply.

I would unpack that beautiful machine any and every time I wanted to do some especially creative writing. Long story short, it held me in good stead for many a year until 2017, when it threw some vital interior mechanism and started jumping two or more spaces when I didn't want it to jump two or more spaces.

What to do?

Where to turn?

Naturally, Natalie went online and found that gentleman in the South Bend area, made a phone call and, in no time flat, delivered me to his used typewriter emporium. He took one look at the Smith Corona and said they no longer made the part needed to allow it to write right. However, he had a mint condition Remington Quiet-Riter from the 1960s he would let me have for \$99.

I was so happy I paid him a full \$100 and put that green machine permanently on my desk when we arrived home.

I travel back in time every time I compose on

my Quiet-Riter, and my typing travels the country over to friends and relatives who get a real kick out of receiving typed letters — typos and all.

The biggest kick was when I took it to the hardware store in nearby Baroda in search of a screw to secure a loose plate next to the platen. The owner said he had just the screw I was looking for, and while he went to get it, his young assistant dropped his jaw in wonder at my Remington.

"Is that a real typewriter?" he said.

"You bet," I replied. "Care to take it for a test drive?"

Did he ever. When the owner got a piece of scrap paper, we showed him how to feed it into the typewriter. Then, we stood back and watched in old-guy

delight as the young man took his first trip on an actual manual typewriter.

So there you have it, fans of far-out, the travels of the typing writer. And, you should know, I am typing a short novel on my Remington that I just might make available to readers of *The Beacher*.

Stay tuned.

Write on!

TRAVELS WITH CHARLEY The Typing Writer by Charles McKelvey

I am writing the first draft of this column on the Remington Quiet-Riter Eleven manual typewriter I purchased last September from a gentleman in the South Bend area who moonlights as a used typewriter dealer.

Why?

Well, let's go back in time to 1965 when I was a sophomore at Morgan Park High School in Chicago and was bitten by the creative writing bug. I knew I was going to be a writer, no matter what, so I signed on for typing with Mrs. Veronica Gillyolly. Mrs. Gillyolly wanted to know why I was there that first day, and I told her writers needed to know how to type. Made sense to her, and, as a bonus, I immediately realized I was one of the only boys in the class. I applied myself, but Mrs. Gillyolly held her class to high standards, and so I only earned a "C" for my efforts. Still, I could type like a writer when the class ended, and I ~~sh~~ began composing short stories and essays on a Smith-Corona portable purchased from an office supply store on Western Avenue. That Smith-Corona and I became such good buddies that by the time I reached the ripe old age of 18 as a senior at Morgan Park, I typed a letter-perfect term paper on my Smith-Corona and received an "A" for my efforts.

I went off to Illinois State University in Normal with my Smith-Corona in tow, and used it to good effect for the four years I was there before earning a B.S. in English-Journalism in 1972.

Have typewriter, will travel, right?

Well, let's fast forward to the near present when I purchased a refurbished Smith-Corona (just like the one I had in high school) from Firme Office Supply in Michigan City, In, oh say 2006 or 2007.

Why?

Because we were having one power failure after another back then, and we did not have a generator (we do now!!!), and I was writing for three newspapers, including *The Beacher*, and---well, it made sense to have a back-up writing machine that relied only on human power.

So we shelled out significantly less than \$100 for that good, old Smith-Corona, and it was ready and waiting in June 2009 when we lost power for more than three days to a 90 mph wind shear. I banged out copy for the newspapers in the manner I had learned as a reporter for the *City News Bureau of Chicago* in 1976.

(more)

I typed the first draft of this article on my Remington.

Michigan City Public Library

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

• **AARP Smart Driver Course at 1 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 4.**

The course is aimed at drivers 50 and older; however, it is open to all ages. AARP membership is not required, and there are no tests. Some insurance companies offer discounts for taking the course. Call (219) 873-3049 for details.

• **Angels Among Us at 3 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 4.**

Ange Benz leads the discussion on inspiring stories about the presence of angels in everyday lives.

• **Needle Arts League at 5:30 p.m. Thursdays, Oct. 4, 11, 18 and 25.**

Membership to the group, formerly known as the Knit Club, is open to anyone interested in needle arts such as crochet, needlepoint, cross-stitch, crewel, tatting and other hand stitching. All skill levels and ages are welcome.

• **Free Gentle Flow Yoga at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 6.**

Certified yoga instructor Lauralee Sikorski emphasizes deep breathing and releasing stress. Take a mat and wear comfortable attire, and come on an empty stomach.

• **Writing Out Loud: Graham Hoppe at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 6, in the meeting room.**

Hoppe writes about culture and history with a focus on food, music and tourism. He is a graduate of the folklore program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. While there, he studied topics such as Cracker Barrel, firehouse dinners and parking garages. His first book, "Gone Dollywood," is available from Ohio University Press.



Raised in Indianapolis, he lives in Raleigh, N.C. His father, David, of Long Beach, is a former Writing Out Loud author and helped create the program in 1984.

The Friends of the Library will host a reception and book signing after the program.

• **The Fourth Annual MC Video Fest at 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 7, in the meeting room.**

Because of the variety of this year's entries, the event highlights shorter videos with more local flavor. Many of the videomakers will be available for comments and questions. A short preview video, and a complete list of videos to be shown, are available at MCVideoFest.com and on Facebook at MCVideoFest.

• **Beginner/Intermediate Spanish Language Course at 9:10 a.m. Mondays, Oct. 8, 15, 22 and 29, in the meeting room.**

The eight-week course is ideal for students who have completed the beginning course. The class is free, but a \$5 textbook is required.

• **Beginner/Intermediate French Language Course at 10:15 a.m. Mondays, Oct. 8, 15, 22 and 29, in the meeting room.**

The eight-week course is ideal for students who have completed the beginning course. The class is free, but a \$5 textbook is required.

• **Story Time at 1 p.m. Tuesdays, Oct. 9, 16, 23 and 30, and 10 a.m. Wednesdays, Oct. 10, 17 and 24.**

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



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

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LCSO Children's Concert Celebrates 30th Anniversary

Students from schools throughout the area will attend LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra's Children's Education Concert on Oct. 10, marking the special event's 30th anniversary.

Held at LaPorte Civic Auditorium, the concert is acclaimed by the American String Teacher's Association and National School Orchestra Association.

For 30 years, Michael Drayton, with help from administrative staff at Drayton, Biege, Sirugo & Elliott LLP, has coordinated all aspects of the concert, including reservations, bus parking and seating arrangements. LCSO also collaborates with LaPorte Service League and Kesling Middle School's Student Council to produce the three concerts.

This year, Rick DeJonge, Hollywood film and TV composer, and a Southwest Michigan native, returns to guest conduct his original education concert program, "Magical World of Music," with the assistance of Interim Music Director Charles Steck.

DeJonge debuted his "Tribute to Silent Film" multimedia presentation and original composition at the symphony's season finale this past May.

"Magical World of Music" incorporates theater,



Children find themselves enraptured by the music during last year's concert.

File photo by Bob Wellinski

dance, movie scoring and video-gaming styles of classical music into an interactive, multimedia lesson, including a special tap dance number performed by professional dancer Jennifer Carlson.

The concert is open to the public. Tickets are \$1 and can be purchased at www.lcso.net/childrens-educational-concert, or pay at the event. The concert is at 9:30 a.m., 11:10 a.m. and 12:45 p.m.

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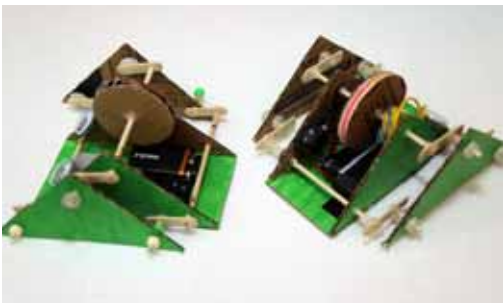




All photos by Paul Kemiel

A Day to Celebrate

Community members had the opportunity Sept. 26 to view the changes made to the Youth Services Department at Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. The grand-opening ceremony showcased the new Makerspace, with live demonstrations, free giveaways and light refreshments rounding out the afternoon.



ATTENTION: LaPorte County residents and Surrounding Communities

FREE Natural Healing Health Fair in LaPORTE

Saturday, Oct. 13, 2018, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

These topics 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, 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
- Top 2 causes of heel and foot pain, and how to conquer them for good

Here's the schedule...Saturday, Oct. 13, 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 | Heel and Foot Pain Workshop: Top 2 Most Common Causes |
| | Top Self-Help Techniques for Natural Healing |

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How do you register?

- **Call (219) 380-0809**
- Tell our phone reps you want to register for the Health Fair in LaPORTE
- Our phone representatives will ask you what classes you want to attend
- You then will get a confirmation email and/or confirmation letter in the mail.

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How Much Is It to Attend? This Health Fair is absolutely FREE...but call (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 (LaPorte Office)

1405 E. Lincolnway, Suite B, LaPorte 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 autumn 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 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) 380-0809**

See you at the Health Fair!

Sincerely,



Dr. Arlan Alburo, PT, DPT, MTC
Orthopedic and Balance Therapy Specialists

PS- Call (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-Bonus door prizes, and FREE food and healthy snacks for the event.

First Friday @ LCA

Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., will host rock group Fragile Soul amid the "Warhol: Icon & Influence" exhibit during First Friday Art Walk, which is from 5 to 8 p.m. Oct. 5.



Fragile Soul

Fragile Soul is influenced by Red Hot Chili Peppers, Pink Floyd and City and Colour. The performance starts at 5:30 p.m. in the Hyndman Gallery. Admission is free, and light bites and a cash bar are planned.

Also, opening receptions are planned for two shows.

In the NIPSCO Art Education Studios is "Inspired to Inspire," the annual show featuring Michigan City Area Schools art teachers. It includes: Holly Beadles, Sue Cleveland, Diane Grams, Samantha Lakin, Erin Ledyard, Julie Pitman, Sarah Quartuccio, Kelly Tokoly-Rothermel, Susanne Vigen and Cheri Whitler.

In the adjacent Area Artists' Association Gallery, Angie McKeenan presents "Noir," which features photography using hard light and dark shadows to create high contrast images reminiscent of classic film noir.

Both exhibits continue through Oct. 31.

Visit www.lubeznikcenter.org or call (219) 874-4900 for more information.

CASA Superhero Races

Family Advocates will host the sixth annual CASA Superhero 5K, 10K & 10-mile bike race on Saturday, Oct. 6, at LaPorte's Cummings Lodge, 350 Grangemouth Road.

The fundraiser aims to increase awareness of the Court Appointed Special Advocates program, and recruit more volunteer advocates.

Families are encouraged to participate with their children by walking, jogging or running the 5K, 10K and 10-mile bike ride together, or by participating in the Kids Fun Run. A Super Hero Costume Contest include categories such as youth, team and family. A Family Fun Zone is planned with carnival games, face painting, bounce house and balloon animals.



Advance registration costs are:

- 5K — \$25 for adults and \$15 for youth.
- 10K — \$35 for adults and \$20 for youth.
- 10-mile Bike Race — \$35 for adults and \$20 for youth.
- Kids Fun Run — \$5.

Those costs increase if registered the day of the event. Registration begins at 7 a.m. Race start times are:

- 10-mile bike race — 8 a.m.
- 5K and 10K — 9 a.m.
- Kids Fun Run — 10 a.m.

Visit www.lpfamilyadvocates.com for more details, or contact Maggie Fritzen at mfritzen@lpfamilyadvocates.com or (219) 324-3385.

Chesterton Art Center

George Kassal, Long Beach, will offer a three-session Beginning Digital Photography class starting from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 11.

The class is designed for people new to digital and primarily use point-and-shoot cameras. Kassal will cover the basic operation, and use of features such as scene modes, exposure compensation, white balance and flash usage. Students should take their camera and instruction manual to class.

The cost is \$65, with members receiving a \$20 discount. Call the center at (219) 926-4711 or visit www.chestertonart.com for details.

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MARKET IS GOOD

Here are some numbers for the low year of 2010-2011 and the last three years. Fiscal year is from Sept. 1st through Aug. 31st for each year.

| Year | Aver. Price | Med. Price | \$Vol | Un Sold | Av. DOM |
|-------|-------------|------------|-------|---------|---------|
| 10-11 | \$378k | \$292k | \$33M | 87 | 132 |
| 15-16 | \$360k | \$331k | \$50M | 138 | 112 |
| 16-17 | \$428k | \$364k | \$69M | 162 | 130 |
| 17-18 | \$502 | \$370 | \$81M | 161 | 134 |

So, let me begin to read the tea leaves of these numbers.

First, while we can see something from the Days on Market (DOM) data, I always read "average DOM" with some reservation. But I would say all the data from all the studies I have done the past few years indicates 2015-2016 was a year when things sold faster. Ho hum information.

If you want to make yourself feel good about owning real estate on the Indiana lakefront in 2018, look at 2010-2011 compared to the last 12 months of 2017-2018. Almost every number has doubled.

When we see the average price spike up like these last 12 months, and the total \$Volume also spike up and the number of sales hold steady, it is safe to conclude that the higher end of the market is selling well. Think of it this way. The number of units sold was static (down one sale). The median price went up less than 2%. But the total \$Volume went up 17% and the average price (pulled by some very high prices) also went up 17%.

Finally, I like this median price data. The median is the mid-point of all sales. Half sold higher. Half sold lower. The median has been going up every year, even if it appears to show a bit of a slowdown for this year.

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“The Artist’s Eye”

“The Artist’s Eye” marks the October exhibit at Southern Shore Art Association, 724 Franklin St., with an opening reception from 5 to 8 p.m. Oct. 5. The exhibit, which runs through Oct. 28, explores how each artist, photographer or sculptor brings his/her individual vision to what he/she creates. The work featured here is by Dana Dabagia.

Gallery hours are noon to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday. Visit www.SouthernShore-ArtAssociation.com or the SSAA Facebook page for more details.



Green Apple Award

Dunes Learning Center celebrated its 20th anniversary with its Sept. 14 “A Dunes Affair” gala, with Jeannette Melcic receiving the Green Apple Award for excellence in environmental education.

Melcic is an eighth-grade science teacher from Henry W. Eggers School in Hammond. She was one of the first teachers to bring students to Dunes Learning Center when it opened in 1998.

“My most basic classroom goals are to instill a love of learning in my students and for them to become stewards of the land,” she said in a press release.



Melcic

“The residential programs at Dunes Learning Center really help me meet those goals for students. I have never had one student who did not have a great time — and they all come away excited about science, nature and their role in both!”

The gala celebrated the center’s 20th anniversary with the award program, silent and live auctions, and paddle raise to support student scholarships for nature education.

Proceeds from “A Dunes Affair” gala will be used to further Dunes Learning Center’s mission to inspire curiosity and stewardship with nature.



For its 20th anniversary, the center will host a Homecoming Celebration, complete with a casual picnic dinner and campfire, from 6 to 10 p.m. Friday, Oct. 5.

Guests can tour campus facilities and chat with naturalists. Music is by The Planetary Blues Band. A cash bar includes wine and local craft beer. Dress for the weather.

Tickets cost \$25 for adults, \$10 for children 3-12 and free for children 3 and younger. They can be purchased at www.eventbrite.com. The center is located at 700 Howe Road, Chesterton.

LaPorte County Public Library

The following program is at the main branch of LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave.:

• **Alcohol Ink Tiles from 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 11.**

Learn how to work with alcohol inks and make ceramic tile coasters. The class includes a brief introduction to the Cricut Maker machine used to cut vinyl designs to stylize tiles. Online registration is required.



Visit www.laportelibrary.org for more details.

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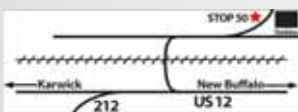
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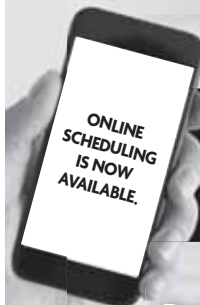
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Blessing of the Pets



The following Blessing of the Pets events are scheduled:

- Queen of All Saints Parish, 606 S. Woodland Ave., 2:15 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 4, near the school playground, with Father Kevin Huber imparting the blessing. Pets must be leashed or in a carrier. Visit www.qas.org or call (219) 872-9196 for more details.
- The Episcopal Church of the Mediator, 14280 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert, Mich., at 11 a.m. EDT Saturday, Oct. 6, on the church grounds. Take donations of pet food, toys, blankets, towels or bleach for the church's pet ministry that supports Berrien County Animal Control and the Humane Society of Southwestern Michigan.

Hesston Steam Museum

Among its many attractions, Hesston Steam Museum offers two fondly remembered rides.

One is the miniature steam train from Kiddieland in Melrose Park that carried families since the 1930s. The other is the Salt Creek & Western Railroad that meandered through Brookfield Zoo, giving a behind-the-scenes zoo tour from 1967 to 1985.

Those two trains, along with the steam museum's many other attractions, will be on display Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 6-7.

The best-known pair of steam locomotives that ran at Kiddieland are "The Hudson" and "The Northern," which are art deco streamlined trains of the 1930s. At Brookfield Zoo, three locomotives were in operation: two steam engines — one nicknamed "The Blue Goose" and the other "Granny" — and a diesel-powered locomotive fondly called "Rudy," commissioned and donated to the zoo by the late Elliott Donnelley of RR Donnelley Printing.

Robert Franken, a museum volunteer and head conductor of the Hesston Scenic Railroad, worked with others to restore a coach that was still in the original paint from the zoo that reads Brookfield, Salt Creek & Western. Franken and crew kept the coach in its original colors when they restored the paint on it.

The steam museum is located at 1201 E. County Road 1000 North, LaPorte. Grounds open at 11:30 a.m., and trains run from noon to 5 p.m. Train fares are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children 3 to 12. Parking is free, and there is no admission cost. Visit www.hesston.org or call (219) 778-2783 on weekends for more information.

Nutrition-Fitness Program

Purdue Extension will present "Being Active!," a free, mostly seated nutrition lesson and muscle-toning fitness program, from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Oct. 4-Nov. 8 at Madeline & George Smrt Center, 301 Grant Ave.

Participants, who can join at any time, should consult a health-care provider before starting the program. Wear comfortable clothes and supportive shoes.



Join Us!

Sunday, October 7th

11:00 am - 4:00 pm | Tryon Farm | 1500 Tryon Road, Michigan City, IN

The **TRYON HOME + FARM TOUR** benefitting Tryon Farm Institute, will showcase 6 modern country homes on a historic Michiana farm. *Rain or shine. No refunds.*

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American Red Cross

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

- Sacred Heart Church, 201 Bach St., LaPorte, noon-5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 5.
- First Church of God, 2020 E. Lincolnway, LaPorte, noon-6 p.m. Monday, Oct. 8.
- Edgewood Elementary School, 502 Boyd Circle, 1:30-6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 10.

Donors from Oct. 1-31 have a chance to win one of five \$500 gift cards. Visit rcblood.org/goal for details. 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 details.

Walk to End Alzheimer's

Walk to End Alzheimer's – Michigan City is Saturday, Oct. 6, at Washington Park, with on-site registration kicking off at 11 a.m.

The event is presented by The Alzheimer's Association Greater Indiana Chapter.

Along the walk route, participants learn about Alzheimer's disease and dementia, volunteer opportunities, public policy initiatives and local programs and services. They also honor those affected by the disease with a Promise Garden ceremony before the walk, which they can display colored flowers that represent personal connections to the disease.

In 2017, the event raised more than \$47,000 for Alzheimer's care, support and research. This year, the Greater Indiana Chapter aims to raise \$50,000.

Participants are encouraged to pre-register at alz.org/indiana/walk. For updates, visit the Greater Indiana Chapter on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram at @alzindiana

Westchester Public Library

The following programs are available:

- **Bits & Bytes series, Manage Your Passwords, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 4, in the Thomas Library Serials/Automation Department, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

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

- **Make N Take Kids Craft Time on Saturday, Oct. 6, at Thomas Library.**

Children can stop by the Children's Department anytime during the day (while supplies last) and make Halloween-themed puppets.

- **Chesterton Cubing Club from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 7, at Thomas Library.**

Anyone interested in Rubik's Cube is welcome.

- **Knitting Together from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 7, at Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.**

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

New CAYA Volunteers



LaPorte Circuit Court Judge Tom Alevizos, accompanied by Juvenile Magistrate Jonathan Forker, recently swore in a new group of Court Appointed Youth Advocate volunteers. These individuals support struggling youth in the juvenile justice system by promoting education, employment, positive peer relationships, life skills and other short-term goals. Pictured is Alevizos with Maggie Fritzen, Mike Bohacek, Forker, Dave Pawson and Jeannie Martin. Not pictured is Keiren O'Kelly.



Join Us!

Sunday, October 7th

11:00 am - 4:00 pm | Tryon Farm | 1500 Tryon Road, Michigan City, IN

The **TRYON HOME + FARM TOUR** benefitting Tryon Farm Institute, will showcase 6 modern country homes on a historic Michiana farm. Rain or shine. No refunds.

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HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES

| | SCORE |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Cindy Beck | 173 |
| 2. Lenore Hadaway | 170 |
| 3. Sue Luegers | 169 |
| 3. Sue Labovitz | 169 |
| 3. Nancy Kubath | 169 |
| 4. Mary Lou McFadden | 167 |
| 5. Carolyn Wiggins | 164 |
| 6. Linda Neulieb | 157 |
| 7. Tammy Nelmar | 151 |
| 8. Margie Midkiff (series) | 418 |
| 9. Ann Bogart (series) | 416 |
| 10. Dottie Brinckman (series) | 402 |

SPLITS

| | |
|-------------------------------|------|
| 1. Jean St.Peter | 5-6 |
| 2. Barb Macudzinski | 2-7 |
| 3. Nancy Klausner, Susie Lutz | 3-10 |

THREE STRIKES

Cindy Beck, Peggy King



More bowlers are invited when teams meet at 12:30 p.m. Tuesdays at City Lanes.

Tryon Farm + Home Tour

The Tryon Farm + Home Tour, which benefits the non-profit Tryon Farm Institute, is from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 7, at Tryon Farm, 1500 Tryon Farm Road.

The event showcases six modern country homes. Transportation is available between homes. Tickets are \$35, or \$40 after Oct. 5. Visit tfainstitute.org for reservations.

St. Luke Rummage Sale

St. Luke United Lutheran Church, 2000 E. Cool-spring Ave., will host a rummage sale from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 5, and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 6.

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The following programs are available:

• Outdoor Adventure Festival on Friday through Sunday, Oct. 5-7.

The event, held throughout the region, unites nearly 60 activities, with support from Indiana Dunes State Park, Indiana Dunes Tourism and a dozen other partners.

Centered at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, it showcases activities such as hiking, paddling, biking, geocaching, photography, birding and yoga. Skill levels range from families and beginners to experts and those with limited mobility.

Another opportunity is an overnight backpacking trip to Cowles Bog beach and back. Guests can view the sunset from his/her tent pitched on the beach. No experience is required, and equipment is available to rent.

Many events have limited spaces and fill up quickly, so pre-registration is required at oaf2018.eventbrite.com.

• Monarch Watch from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 6, at the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.

Participate in the International Citizen Science program by helping search for monarchs to document their life cycle and migration.

• Playdate in the Nature Play Zone from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 6, at The Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.

Explore Miller Woods, build a fort, climb a tree, create nature art and feed the resident fish, turtles, snakes, toads and frogs. Dress for the weather.

• Feed the Farm Animals at Chellberg Farm from 4 to 5 p.m. Sundays through Oct. 28.

The farm's current residents include cows, pigs and chickens. The animals are at the farm through a partnership with Dunes Learning Center, Friends of Indiana Dunes, 4-H Club of Porter County and the FFA of Westville. Chellberg Farm is off Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 20 and 12 in Porter.

• Parents and toddlers can participate in the Nature Tots program from 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday, Oct. 10, at the Paul H. Douglas Center.

Children 2-4 will learn about nature through a ranger-led story time, crafts and outdoor play.



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.

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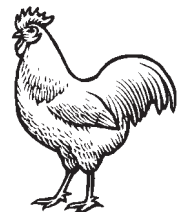
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Mission Quilt Sale

The seventh annual Mission Quilt Sale is from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 6, at LaPorte Missionary Church, 104 E. 18th St. near Kesling Middle School.

At the sale, more than 200 quilts will be available for \$55 each.

Since April 2012, men and women have volunteered Thursday mornings to make "mission quilts" for those in need. While most of the fabric is donated, once a year, the group holds a sale to raise funds to buy quilt batting, equipment and supplies.

More than 1,000 quilts have been given to organizations, including:

- All fire departments in LaPorte, Michigan City and New Carlisle, and all 16 volunteer fire departments throughout LaPorte County.
- Stepping Stone Shelter for Women and Children.
- Sand Castle Shelter for Homeless Families.
- Veterans Homeless Shelter in South Bend.
- Worthy Women's Recovery Home in LaPorte.
- LaPorte elementary schools.
- Disaster relief such as Hurricane Sandy, and Children's Hospital Zinga, Tanzania, East Africa.

Anyone interested in helping make quilts is invited to join the group from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Thursdays in the fellowship hall. Women and men participate. No sewing skills are needed. All equipment is supplied. Sit-down jobs are available.

Call Lynda at (219) 363-5677 for details.

Fall Barn/Shop Hop

The fourth annual LaPorte County Fall Barn/Shop Hop is from 10 a.m. Friday, Oct. 5, to 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 7, at locations throughout the area.

The event features five shops offering antiques, folk art, handcrafts, salvage, repurposed, vintage, primitives, furniture and yard art. Pick up a rack card at participating shops. Visit all five to have the card punched, then enter it into a drawing for gift certificates redeemable at any of the shops.

The participants include:

- Fawn Run Farm Mercantile, 3883 E. County Road 700 North, Rolling Prairie.
- Freckle Farm Primitives and Antiques, 508 State St., LaPorte.
- Plain and Fancy, 5395 W. Johnson Road, LaPorte.
- Barn Style, 2194 E. Indiana 2, Rolling Prairie.
- It's All About the Barn, 0744 E. County Road 900 North, LaPorte.



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Lunch with the League

Judge Greta Friedman will speak during the next Lunch with the League, presented by League of Women Voters of LaPorte County, on Tuesday, Oct. 9, at Patrick's Grille, 4125 Franklin St.

Friedman has served as a magistrate and elected judge of LaPorte Superior Court 4 beginning in 2008. She handles civil and criminal cases, but is most proud of her work with the LaPorte Problem Solving Court. That is an alternative sentencing court for individuals with substance-abuse addictions facing felonies in the criminal-justice system. It has been operating since 2012.



The public is invited. Reservations are not required; however, a \$5 donation from non-members is suggested. Attendees may buy lunch from the menu. Doors open at 11:30 a.m., and orders will be taken as the tables fill up.

Email LWVLaPorte@gmail.com for details.

Comic Book Convention

The South Bend Comic Book Convention is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. EDT Saturday, Oct. 6, at Comfort Suites, 52933 U.S. 933.

Dealers will have comics from the golden age to the present, as well as collectible items. They also will buy comics. Call Alan at (309) 657-1599 or visit www.epguides.com/comics for details.





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Activities to Explore

In the Area:

Oct. 5 — First Friday in the Chapel, LaPorte High School Chorale, noon, IU Health LaPorte Hospital Family Chapel. Free. Info: (219) 325-7633.

Oct. 5 — First Friday Art Walk, 5-8 p.m., Uptown Arts District (downtown Michigan City).

Oct. 5 — First Friday, 5-8 p.m., Old Lighthouse Museum, Washington Park.

Oct. 5 — First Friday, 5-8 p.m., The Rising Phoenix Gallery, 2803 Franklin St.

Oct. 5 — First Friday at LCA, 5-8 p.m., Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: www.lubeznikcenter.org.

Oct. 5 — Opening reception, "The Artist's Eye," 5-8 p.m., Southern Shore Art Association, 724 Franklin St. Info: www.SouthernShoreArtAssociation.com

Oct. 5-7 — LaPorte County Fall Barn/Shop Hop. 10 a.m. Fri.-4 p.m. Sun. Info: facebook page @ LaPorte County Antique Barn Shop Hop Events

Oct. 5-7 — Outdoor Adventure Festival throughout Dunes Region. Info/registration: oaf2018.eventbrite.com

Oct. 5-7 and 11-14 — Footlight Players, "Dark of the Moon," Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Thur.-Sat./2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$15, \$10/children 12 & younger. Reservations: (219) 874-4035, www.footlightplayers.org

Oct. 5-8 — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. *Now showing:* "Tea with the Dames." Not Rated. Times: 6:30 p.m. Fri.-Mon. *Also:* "The Wife." Rated R. Times: 9 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 3:30 p.m. Sat.-Sun. *Also:* "Manhattan Short Film Festival." Not Rated. Time: Noon Oct. 6. Cost: \$15. All times Eastern. Info: vickerstheatre.com

Oct. 6 — Mission Quilt Sale, 9 a.m.-noon, LaPorte Missionary Church, 104 E. 18th St. near Kesling Middle School. Info: (219) 363-5677.

Oct. 6 — Walk to End Alzheimer's – Michigan City, Washington Park. On-site registration: 11 a.m. Info: alz.org/indiana/walk

Oct. 6 — Writing Out Loud, Graham Hoppe, 7:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Oct. 6 — Visions of Santana, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$25. Info: www.acorntheater.org, (269) 756-3879.

Oct. 6-7 — Chicago Days, 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Hesston Steam Museum, 1201 E. County Road 1000 North, LaPorte. Train fares: \$5/adults, \$3/children 3-12. Info: www.hesston.org, (219) 778-2783.

Oct. 7 — The Fourth Annual MC Video Fest, 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Oct. 7 — Tryon Farm + Home Tour, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Tryon Farm, 1500 Tryon Road. Tickets: \$35, \$40 after Oct. 5 and day of. Reservations: tfinsti.com

tute.org

Oct. 7 — Comedy with Sammy Arechar plus Genius Night, 8 p.m. EDT, Elsie Earl Studios Art Gallery, 200 W. Buffalo St., New Buffalo, Mich. Cost: \$15. Info: (734) 646-6633.

Oct. 8 — COLUMBUS DAY.

Oct. 9 — Lunch with the League, Greta Friedman, Patrick's Grille, 4125 Franklin St. Doors open @ 11:30 a.m. Cost: \$5 donation from non-members. Info: LWVLaPorte@gmail.com

Through Oct. 13 — "Warhol: Icon & Influence," Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: www.lubeznikcenter.org

Saturdays — St. Stanislaus of Michigan City farmers market, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. through Oct. 27, parking lot next to tennis courts. Info: ssmcfarmersmarket@gmail.com, (219) 851-1785.

Saturdays — Michigan City Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Eighth and Washington streets. Through October.

Saturdays — LaPorte Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Lincolnway & Monroe. Info: www.facebook.com/laportefarmersmarket

In the Region

Oct. 6 — Monarch Watch, 1-3 p.m., Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, Lake Street, north of U.S. 12, Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882.

Oct. 6 — South Bend Comic Book Convention, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. EDT, Comfort Suites, 52933 U.S. 933. Info: (309) 657-1599.

Oct. 6 — Riversong Music Society presents The Winsome Hags, 7 p.m. EDT, The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Tickets: \$10. Info/reservations: (269) 983-3688, info@boxfactory-forthearts.org, www.boxfactoryforthearts.org

Oct. 12 — Free star gazing program, 6:30-8 p.m., Gabis Arboretum, 71 N. County Road 500 West near Valparaiso. Info: pnw.edu/gabis-arboretum.

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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Sat., Oct. 6, 10a.m.-2 p.m. sale opens

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Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

Miss Kopp Just Won't Quit by Amy Stewart
(hardcover, \$26 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook)

Legions of people have come and gone before us, yet every one has a story unique to their time and circumstance. Most will never be sung of by troubadours or written up in history books.

This week's recommendation tells the story of one woman's life who, if it wasn't for Amy Stewart, might never have been written about or known...

Constance Kopp (yes, that's her real name) lived in New Jersey in the early years of the 20th century. She was an ordinary woman of the time until she became the nation's first deputy sheriff.

Much of her life remains a mystery, and what is known has been put into this series of four books, novelizations to be sure, but meticulously based on all available records and newspaper accounts. Stewart's writing skills have brought Constance's life to what I call Technicolor reading — people, place and time spring off the pages, giving us a glimpse of life 100 years ago.

I recommend this fourth offering, partly because it was recently released, and partly to whet your appetite in hopes you will go back and read the other three books, all of which are available in paperback. Reading this book first or fourth will not make a difference in your reading enjoyment. Each book is a standalone story in which enough background is given to make you understand where it all started.

In this book, the time is 1916. Miss Kopp is nearing 40 and has been a deputy sheriff for Bergen County, N.J., for almost three years now.

The opening has her taking a woman to the state insane asylum...a most curious event to Constance because Mrs. Kayser doesn't fit the bill for insanity: *"I knew perfectly well that lunatics didn't keep clean and comfortable homes and cook regular meals."*

At the same time, Deputy Morris has been assigned to help take a thief to the prison. A series of unfortunate events has the thief running away from the car and jumping into the river. Miss Kopp jumps in and saves the man from drowning. The paper the next day makes a joke of the whole thing — *"will the sheriff buy her a new dress?"* — and Sheriff Heath

stands by his lady deputy, even requests she get a medal from the county, which is, of course, denied.

Constance sums up the situation: *"But I knew that no matter what Sheriff Heath and Deputy Morris said, I wasn't the same as them, and my actions wouldn't ever be seen in the same light as theirs."*

Remember, this is the era of suffragettes, union organizing and a country preparing for war against

Germany. Women virtually had no say in anything, and Miss Kopp saw and heard all the bad jokes and nasty comments thrown her way. She had to endure cat-calls and whistles on the street, and derision from Sheriff Heath's opponent in the upcoming election. Truth is, she isn't like most women of her time. She is 6 feet tall, lives with her two sisters, doesn't seem interested in getting married and, surprise, surprise, enjoys her job as deputy sheriff. And, since neither of her sisters are married, she is carrying the burden of earning a paycheck.

She even set up a probation program for women inmates, visiting their homes after their release to make sure they are trying to better their lives.

Miss Kopp even takes it on herself to look into Mrs. Kayser's case, only making things worse. She cannot let Mrs. Kayser's case fall by the wayside, and to that end enlists the help of a woman attorney from New York City. She is such a seeker of truth, she doesn't realize what harm she can do to Sheriff Heath's campaign.

The sheriff is running for a seat in congress, and the man on the opposing ticket for sheriff, Mr. Courtner, is a former sheriff and self-serving man who has no use for women on the police force. If he wins, it could be goodbye to Miss Kopp's career.

As I read, I couldn't help but be amazed by what women have achieved in the past century despite great odds. Miss Kopp was certainly a woman ahead of her time, both

in her thinking and actions. Her story is one of continual opposition, but with the sheriff's backing and her own moral compass, Constance perseveres and rolls with the punches.

This is an enjoyable read, as well as a historical glimpse into the life of one woman you will probably never read about in a history book, but whose life is worth knowing about.

If you're interested in learning more about Stewart and her search for the real Constance Kopp, visit her website at www.amystewart.com

Till next time, happy reading!



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