



Volume 34, Number 37 Thursday, September 20, 2018

Passport to Adventure

by William Halliar

"Blessed is the man who has found his work."

Elbert Hubbard

Why not dream big?

Carl Monroe Purcell's story is one of high adventure, great satisfaction and accomplishment. It is an exciting tale of a local boy making good on the world scene. His story can be an inspiration to any young person desiring to make his way in the world, pursuing a career far from the streets of Michigan City.

It was a damp, gloomy Friday afternoon when I

first met Purcell. Richard Houck had recommended his stepbrother as someone I should meet, and when a suggestion comes from someone as highly respected in the community as Dr. Houck, I made a call to Trail Creek Place, 1300 Coolspring Ave., where Purcell now lives, to set up a meeting.

I entered this senior-living residence, as I always do, with some trepidation. Perhaps I do not like to be confronted with my own advancing age. I knocked on the door to his apartment and was bid

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Carl Purcell had the opportunity to experience the Concorde's maiden flight. Photo by Andrew Tallackson

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to enter by a quiet, calm voice. I first noticed a giant computer screen and desk stacked high with DVDs. Walls decorated with photos of exotic locations, and a map prominently displayed and filled with colored pins highlighting locations around the world.

I did not expect to meet someone so charming, witty and, frankly, so formidable a character. I knew immediately this man most definitely is someone to whom readers of *The Beacher* should become acquainted.

Carl Purcell is an Elston High School graduate who was raised in Long Beach. I will not speak of his age. People with an inner passion to pursue their dreams appear so young in spirit, the only impression a visitor comes away with, after spending some time with them, is the fire in their eyes as they speak of their love and passion for their work. Carl's outward appearance belies a youthful heart, and a certain steeliness within.

One of his first jobs as a young man was as a re-

porter for *The News-Dispatch*. He majored in journalism and education at Indiana University, and it made sense to find a job in his field while he attended classes. He was headed out on an assignment one day and someone, as Carl puts it, "handed me a camera."

Thus began a love affair with photographic art that has taken Purcell from the depths of the ocean, to the skies over the Atlantic on the maiden flight of the Concorde, from Africa to the Great Barrier Reef.

He considers his camera a "time machine" that captures the present moment, freezing scenes and people in timeless moments to be studied and enjoyed forever into the future.

Purcell speaks of Professor Henry Holmes Smith, of Indiana University's art department, who taught him to see the world through the eye of a photographer, and to record it on film with his camera. He credits Smith, noted as one of the mid-20th century's most influential fine-art photographers, as inspiring him to a career in photo journalism, a career he calls his "Passport to Adventure."



Carl Purcell stands next to a photo he took of one of Paris' most famous monuments, the Arc de Triomphe. The photo hangs on a wall in the dining area of Trail Creek Place for residents to enjoy. Photo by Andrew Tallackson

After graduating from college, a friend in passing mentioned he had been working in the Peace Corps, but his required 24 months of service were almost up. He asked Purcell if he would like to take his place. The next day, Purcell applied for the position. The day after that, he was on a plane bound for the other side of the globe.

Thus began an around-the-world adventure that would frame his life and inspire memories to last a lifetime.

According to Purcell's biography, *"I carried my camera to the depths of the ocean to explore coral reefs and swim through shimmering schools of silver fish. It has unlocked doors of both ancient castles in Europe and mud huts on the edge of the Sahara. I have photographed presidents and marched with Martin Luther King for civil rights."*

Service in President Kennedy's Peace Corps was a two-year obligation. After that, his talent was recognized and he was asked to join the National Education Association, where his mission was to educate the general public about events around the world through his journalism and photography.



Carl's photo of a woman who confronts Zeus at the Louvre Museum in Paris.

Purcell would meet with editors in places such as New York and Washington, D.C., and pitch ideas for stories that would illuminate world conditions. He would be sent on assignments and sell these works to publishers around the world. His work has been published in *Life*, *Look*, *Parade*, *National Geographic*, *Paris Match* and *Stern*, a German publication.

Over the years, his column, "The Traveling Camera," appeared in almost every major newspaper in North America. For 17 years, he wrote a monthly column for *Popular Photography* magazine. He became a proficient scuba diver and took many of his photos underwater.

Purcell led numerous camera safaris to Kenya and Tanzania and photographed migrations of Zebra and wildebeest on the Masai Mara and Seren-

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The iconic Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco.



The Matterhorn Mountain in Switzerland.

geti. Ever wonder what it would be like to ride the back of an ostrich? Ask Purcell. He has done this and much more in his travels.

Through his photos and writings, Purcell feels he has been able to shed light on conditions in far-flung corners of the earth. He has shared his adventures with a wide audience through images captured by his lens and stories recorded by his pen. The exciting, the mundane, the beautiful, the horrifying, the fantastic and the ordinary — all captured and shared with a public that thirsts for a deeper knowledge of the world.

I was fascinated by his photographs of Parisian night scenes, especially those taken with a timed exposure. When asked what his favorite memory of Paris was, he replied with a smile that it was the food. A commodity that, by the way, also pleases him about his digs at Michigan City's Trail Creek Place.

"They feed me well," he



A map in Carl's apartment is filled with colored pins highlighting locations around the world he's visited.
Photo by William Halliar

says.

Though Carl has slowed down a bit physically, his mind and eye still seek out images to be captured by his lens, to be shared and preserved for the ages.

The lessons to be gleaned from a chat with this elder statesman of adventure and art are to dream big, take a chance and go for the big adventure when it is offered. Explore your talents and see where they will lead and, yes, a young person from Michigan City can grow up to make an impact on the world.



The giant face sculpture, photographed by Carl, outside The British Museum.



Carl captured the precise moment when a shark hovered above an underwater attraction at Atlantis in the Bahamas.

"I wonder about the people that I have photographed during my travels," he says. "Are they still alive? Do they have enough food? Their faces are preserved for posterity, but they have grown older and, of course, so have I."

As we sit and chat in his cozy apartment, Purcell looks off in the dreamy distance. Framing his next shot in his mind's eye.

"I couldn't have chosen a more exciting life," he says.

(Visit fineartamerica.com/profiles/carl-purcell.html to view more of Carl Purcell's images.)



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“Unbroken” Brings Louis Zamperini’s Story to Powerful Close

by Andrew Tallackson



Samuel Hunt and Merritt Patterson star as Louis and Cynthia Zamperini in “Unbroken: Path to Redemption.”

“Unbroken: Path to Redemption” rights an egregious wrong Angelina Jolie committed when telling Louis Zamperini’s astonishing story in 2014.

True, the 2010 non-fiction triumph by Laura Hillenbrand (“Seabiscuit: An American Legend”) was too much book for one movie. Exhaustively researched, and breathlessly paced like a riveting piece of fiction, the writer covered a staggering amount of ground: Zamperini’s early days, his Olympic triumphs and World War II military training, the crash at sea that stranded him and two others in a life raft for 47 days, the physical and psychological violence exacted on him and other POWs by their Japanese captors, and life after the war.

It was that last segment that Jolie reduced to a two- or three-sentence postscript that not only felt lazy, but an insult to Zamperini himself. The reason you endured pages of the unthinkable in Hillenbrand’s book was *because* of the redemptive last act that extolled the power of forgiveness.

Considering the emotionally charged material, what’s impressive about “Unbroken: Path to Redemption” is its restraint: the PTSD Zamperini suffered, his spiritual conversion – all of it handled with a mature, deft hand.

Exceedingly faithful to Hillenbrand’s work, “Unbroken” heralds itself as the “spiritual sequel” to Jolie’s film, using newspaper headlines to recount Zamperini’s early life and war-time odyssey before returning home.

Zamperini (Chicago actor Samuel Hunt, far more

expressive than Jack O’Connell in the 2014 picture) finds work traveling the country promoting war bonds, his reliance on alcohol a defense mechanism against memories of the POW camps. He finds solace through his marriage to Cynthia Applewhite (Merritt Patterson, lovely), who adores her husband, even when his fragile mental state, compounded by his drinking, threaten to destroy their marriage.

PTSD was not a term bandied about at the time, but the film expertly depicts how Zamperini was consumed by the ghosts of his past. In one case, a bowl of rice – the only food allotted him and fellow POWs in the camps – triggers erratic behavior in a swanky restaurant. Much of the film, in fact, is a heartbreaking depiction of a marriage spiraling into despair.

The turning point arrives when Cynthia finally persuades Louis to join her at one of Billy Graham’s Los Angeles tent revivals. The film risks alienating a segment of its audience; however, Hillenbrand, in writing her book, had access to recordings of the night Zamperini attended the revival, so what unfolds on screen is an exact replication of that pivotal moment. And with the late Graham portrayed by his grandson, Will, the scene is staged with exceptional care. Only the hardest hearts could not be moved, even more so by what comes next.

“Unbroken: Path to Redemption” serves Zamperini well. His life, on screen, is now complete.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

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Wanatah Scarecrow Festival Returns This Weekend

The annual Wanatah Scarecrow Festival returns Friday through Sunday, Sept. 21-23, at locations throughout the town off U.S. 30.

The schedule is:

FRIDAY

- 3-6 p.m. — Harvest Contest in front of the information booth.
- 4:30-7 p.m. — Pork chop dinner at Wanatah School. The adult dinner costs \$12 at the door. Dinner includes a pork chop, potatoes and green beans, apple sauce, roll, homemade dessert and drink. Extra chops cost \$4, while children's hot dog meals for 10 and younger cost \$5.
- 5 p.m. — Flag raising at the flagpole by the monument.
- 5-8 p.m. — Entertainment tent, free.
- 6 p.m. — Kenny & the Martin Boys.
- 8:30 p.m. — Harvest contest awards, merchant drawings.

SATURDAY

- 8 a.m.: 3K Walk and 5K Run, sponsored by Wanatah Little League, at Wanatah School.
- 9:30 a.m.: Scarecrow Scamper Kids Fun Run for ages 2-9, sponsored by Cass Merrymakers 4-H Club, at Main and First streets.
- 11 a.m.: Parade begins and ends at American Legion.
- Noon-4 p.m.: Bingo at American Legion Post 403, sponsored by the legion auxiliary.
- 12:30-1 p.m.: Children 12 and younger can make a crown with the queen by the information booth.
- 12:30 p.m.: Hourly historical walking tours, sponsored by Wanatah Historical Society, at Main and Cross streets. The last tour starts at 3:30 p.m.
- Noon-8 p.m.: Entertainment Tent. Free admission. The lineup is: 12:15 p.m. — 27th Best; 1 p.m. — Talent Show and Scarecrow Dress Up Contest; 3 p.m. — John Fister; 4 p.m. — David Hagenow; 5 p.m. — Cutest Baby Contest; 7 p.m. — Jerica Paliga; and 8:30 p.m. — merchant drawings. Winners must be present to win.
- 1-3 p.m.: Scarecrow sculpting for children 10 and



younger, sponsored by the Scarecrow Committee, by the information booth.

- 4 p.m.: Lions Club Fish Fry, sponsored by Wanatah Athletic Department, at Wanatah School.
- 8 p.m.: Karaoke contest at American Legion Post 403. Sign-in for performers 21 and older at 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY

- 7-11:30 a.m.: Pancake breakfast, sponsored by Knights of Columbus, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church.
- 8 a.m.-2 p.m.: Car show sponsored by Michiana Antique Auto Club at Lions Park.
- 10 a.m.-4 p.m.: Entertainment Tent. Admission is free. The lineup is: 11 a.m. — LaMar Yoder; noon — Goodtime Cloggers; 1:15 p.m. — Homemade Jam; 2 p.m. — Queen Contest.
- 10 a.m.: Non-denominational church service.
- Noon-3 p.m.: Bingo at American Legion Post 403, sponsored by the legion auxiliary.
- 1 p.m.: Pedal Pull, sponsored by Cass-Clinton Volunteer Fire Department, in front of Second Street fire station.
- 1-3 p.m.: Scarecrow Sculpting for children 10 and younger, sponsored by the Scarecrow Committee, by the information booth.
- 4 p.m.: Duck Race at American Legion Post 403.
- 4 p.m. — Closing ceremonies and merchant drawings. Winners must be present to win



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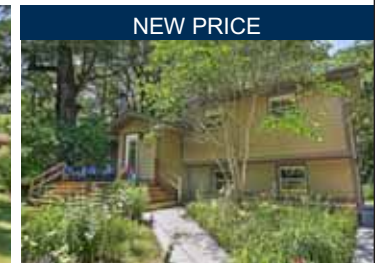
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Putting a Tiger in Our Tank

When our beloved cat, Jacqui Jackson, was taken by a coyote Aug. 12, friends suggested we get another cat.

After, of course, a suitable mourning period.

Natalie and I suitably mourned the 9-year-old, black-and-white cat we sheltered for seven years, then heeded their advice by visiting Fried's Cat Shelter, 509 Indiana 212, on Saturday, Aug. 18, in search of a worthy successor. We told manager Cyndi Taylor we wanted an older, neutered, front-declawed, strictly indoor cat.

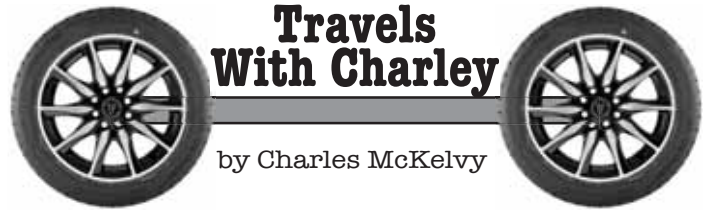
After what happened to Jacqui, the indoor/outdoor cat, we wanted our next pet to look at our deep Michigan woods from the safety of indoor perches. No more adventure cats for us.

Cyndi had just the cat for us: an orange tiger they called Skipper because they assigned all current cats in the intake unit names from "Gilligan's Island." Hey, we live in a TV culture, right?

Anyway, Cyndi said this Skipper character was a neutered male of undetermined age who was found trying to break into a Michigan City house. The owner called animal control, and they brought the front-declawed cat to the shelter because, as you



Tiger says, "I want to go home with you!"



may or may not know, Fried's is a no-kill shelter — "A Port in the Storm," as its letterhead states.

"Want to meet Skipper?" Cyndi asked.

"You bet," we replied. In no time flat, we were in the presence of a spirited orange tiger of a domestic cat who loudly purred upon meeting us. He was lively, inquisitive and, yes, totally emaciated. Meaning, Cyndi said, he had been living at large for who knows how long. With no front claws to aid him in offense and defense, he clearly had been having one hard time of it.

"But he'll bounce back," Cyndi said. "They always do."

Hmmmm, we both thought. We looked at each other, then at this scrawny cat, then, as oldydweds often do, said in one voice, "We'll take him."

Cyndi was grateful because she said most folks who adopt cats from the shelter want

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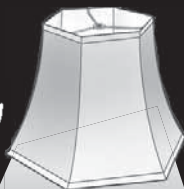
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kittens or young cats.

We reckoned that since we are senior citizens, why shouldn't we have a middle-aged cat, one who was abandoned and left to wander the streets of Michigan City?

"But," I said, "I want to name him Tiger. He's an orange tiger, and he clearly has the heart of tiger, so..."

"Skipper was just a temporary name," Cyndi replied. "We have no idea what his real name was, so Tiger will be fine."

And Tiger was fine when he had his physical Aug. 22. He was even finer when we came to collect him Friday, Aug. 24. For the three of us, it was Christmas Eve in August. We were mighty pleased a short time later when we released Tiger into our living room in Harbert. He checked out the litter box, food and water bowls...and pretty much our entire 800 square-foot house. Tiger pronounced himself most

pleased to be Jacqui's successor, and I am sure he smelled more than a little of her lingering scent. I further know Jacqui was smiling down from cat heaven on this happy, little, made-for-TV scene.

Speaking of TV, Tiger curled up with me on my recliner later that same day as we binged another season of the Showtime hit series, "Shameless."

(Author's note: Tiger helped me type the previous sentence. Really!)

Tiger, of course, would relate to the wild behavior of the Gallagher family on Chicago's South Side. He had lived on the wild side of Michigan City, so he could relate, but now strictly as an indoor cat.

More will be revealed as we grow in love and service to Tiger the orange tiger. Meanwhile, you should consider adopting a rescue cat of your own from Fried's Cat Shelter. The hours are noon to 4 p.m. Friday through Sunday. The phone number is (219) 874-6932.



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To celebrate the 100th anniversary of Lithuania's restoration, Friendship Botanic Gardens will host a special event from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 23, in the Lithuanian Garden.



The Lithuanian Garden at Friendship Botanic Gardens.

Participants include Mantvydas Bekesius and other guests. The event also includes Lithuanian folk dancing groups, Suktinis, Laume, Spindulys, soloists, musicians and Lithuanian food.

Tickets can be purchased for \$15 through Eventbrite, or \$20 at the door the day of the event. Contact Rima Binder at rimabinder@comcast.net for more details.

The Gardens are located at 2055 E. U.S. 12.

St. Mary's Chicken Dinner

St. Mary's Church will host its annual raffle and chicken dinner, complete with prizes and music, Sunday, Oct. 7, at Elks Lodge 432, 416 U.S. 20.

Doors open at 11 a.m., with servings starting at 12:30 p.m. and the drawing at 2 p.m. Reservations of \$15 per person are advised before Sept. 23 from any St. Mary's parishioner, or call (219) 871-2725 or (219) 878-1835.

Tickets are \$17 at the door. Email mssyp0311@hotmail.com or silverthimble@comcast.net for more details.

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For questions or more information please visit:
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shelter@catsociety.org

Deadline for ordering tickets is
October 9th, 2018

Stand-Up Comedy for Kids



Comedian and storyteller Dot Kane will present three performances at The School of American Music's Arts & Education Center, 14 Maple St., Three Oaks, Mich.

The two evening performances — 6 p.m. EDT Saturdays, Sept. 22 and Oct. 27 — are family storytelling/comedy shows, while the morning performance — 10 a.m. EDT Saturday, Oct. 20 — is a "Storycise" session that combines storytelling with exercise.

Kane, whose background is in dance, theater and early childhood education, has been entertaining families for the past 30 years. A Chicagoan, she also has a house in Union Pier, Mich.

Tickets cost \$5, or \$20 per family. Email schoolofamericanmusic@gmail.com or call (269) 409-1191 to register.

LaPorte County Public Library

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

• **Wonder Community Kindness Convocation from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday Sept. 26.**

In collaboration with New Prairie United School Corp., and inspired by the popular book/movie "Wonder," the event features a speaker from myface.org, which aims to transform the lives of patients living with craniofacial conditions.

The following program is at the Coolspring branch, 6925 W. County Road 400 North:

• **Yoga for Beginners from 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 22.**

The free class includes fitness mats and blocks. April Kelly from Go Aerial! is the instructor.



Visit www.laportelibrary.org for more details.

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Early purchase tickets \$15 At entry \$20

A Gift of Knowledge



Michiana Lions Evening Club members stopped by Joy Elementary School on Sept. 5 to present dictionaries to every third-grader. Pictured are club members Verne Hixon, Sandra Hixon, Alex Vartia, Maryann Vartia and George Jenks with students from Jodie Macke's and Cathy Knouse's classes.



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Saturday 11:00 AM - 10:00 PM
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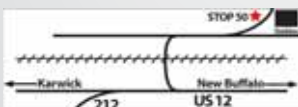
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Michigan City Public Library

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

• **Needle Arts League at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 20.**

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.

• **Bookmarks: Walter Isaacson's "Leonardo da Vinci" at 2 p.m. Friday, Sept. 21.**

Dennis Norman is the reviewer.

• **Keith Scott Sings the Blues at 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 23.**

Chicago-based blues/rock guitarist Keith Scott will present the free concert.

• **Story Time at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 25, and 10 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 26.**

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

• **Youth Services Grand Opening at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 26.**

The ceremony, which also showcases the new Makerspace, includes live demonstrations and activities, a limited supply of free giveaways and light refreshments at 4 p.m.



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

Movable Art Feast

Movable Art Feast continues its "Collection Ob-session" series starting at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 23, at Blink Contemporary Art, 1709 Franklin St.

The emphasis is the "why" and "how" of collecting. The "why" portion at Blink features Sharon Goodman, a retired commercial photographer whose collection spans paintings, photography, fiber art and sculpture. The "how" portion is at 11:30 a.m. at The Nest, 803 Franklin St. It features demonstrations of painting and printmaking techniques by Kei Constantinov, Susan Atwell and others.

Constantinov is an oil painter. Atwell, a fiber artist, will demonstrate printing with thickened fiber reactive dyes on fabrics using recycled objects.

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The Age of Machines

by Kevin Scott of Anytime Fitness

Let's take a quick look back in history.

In the Industrial Revolution, the concept of a machine replacing a person was born. Businesses saw it as a way to dramatically speed up the manufacturing process. The evolution of machines continued,



The Fitness Rebellion

and as it did, many of those machines replaced human jobs (relatable illustration: Charlie's dad from "Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory," or "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," depending on when you were born).

So what does this have to do with fitness? I'm glad you asked. That whole concept started back in the Industrial Revolution, and it has snowballed and is a standard today. While it works in certain areas of every type of industry, there are still certain areas humans truly do better than machines.

Whatever industry you work in, or even any hobby you have, you can find an example. Think of one in your head. You can argue your view on the human element of Major League Baseball, with umpires making calls or instant replay. You can argue your view on those pesky automated phone calls that drive everyone up the walls. No matter which side you fall on for your specific example, you can easily hop to the other side for another example.

For the fitness industry, the machine has played a big role. From the days of Muscle Beach, Arnold Schwarzenegger helped revolutionize the fitness industry. He helped companies make machines that worked out specific muscle groups. It is hard to go to a gym now that doesn't have machines.

However, let me reference a quote from English-American poet W.H. Auden. He said, "*Machines are beneficial to the degree that they eliminate the need for labor; harmful to the degree that they eliminate the need for skill.*" So again, how can that relate to fitness?

Everyone has different goals at the gym. Whether

it is your first time in a gym, or you are competing for a show, your goal, your body and your set of needs are unique to you. So why does everyone look for that one specific workout to end all workouts? Why do people look to the machines in the gym to reach their goals? If a bodybuilder is on it, does that mean a lady in her 60s can't use it or vice versa?

Absolutely not. These machines all serve a great purpose, but their purpose is isolating the muscle that machine was built to isolate. But your day-to-day life doesn't work like that. You aren't picking up the exact same weight, the exact same object, the exact same motion, the exact same pattern every single day. Your day consists of getting out of bed, bending over to pick something up, playing with your kids, running after your dog, carrying groceries into the house. Are you starting to see what I am talking about?

Functional training takes the machine out of the equation in most cases. We all move in three different planes of movement: sagittal, frontal and transverse. As I mentioned, there are situations where they are needed, but for the most part, these machines take balance out of the equation. And think about balance in daily life, or in life as you age. Pretty important, right? Functional training is designed to perform work against resistance in a way that the improvements in strength directly enhance the performance of movements in an individual's daily life.

Our lives are different every day. So why do you go to a gym and look at the machines as the end all be all? Bring it back to the Industrial Revolution concept. Your workouts should be designed specifically to your individual unique goal. There is no one machine that will do it all, or a combination of machines that will do it all. There are no cookie cutter plans, and nothing beats meeting with someone who truly cares about you, and listens to you, and not only designs a plan tailored towards your unique set of goals, but works with you the entire way.



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Mike Green accepts the award for adult division winner.



Jacob Griffin is named the youth division winner.



It was an emotional, exhilarating night as Hoosier Star crowned its new champions Saturday, Sept. 8, at LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St.

The annual event, which raises funds for LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra, gives contestants the opportunity so sing with the orchestra, with subsequent comments from celebrity judges and the audience voting for the winner.

The adult division winner was Mike Green and the youth division winner Jacob Griffin. Green, LaPorte, performed Andrea Bocelli's "Con Te Partiro," while Griffin, a Michigan City resident who attends Westville High School, performed Styx's "Come Sail Away."

All photos by Bob Wellinski

Author Recounts Tragic Maritime Tale During Library Program

by William Halliar

No ship gives up her life and goes to the bottom of Lake Michigan without great drama, commotion and turmoil, often leaving in its debris-littered wake stories of incredible heroism, terror and loss.

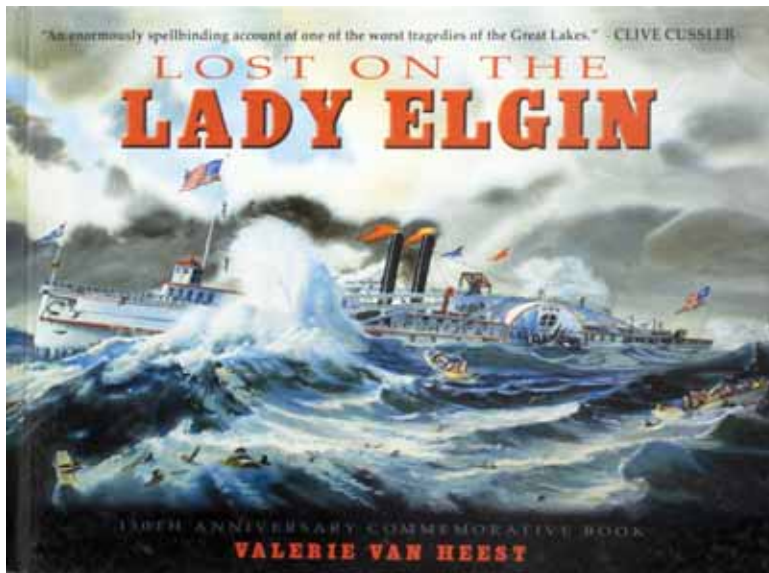
Valerie Van Heest, author, undersea explorer and Michigan Shipwreck Research Association director, recounted such events from her book, *Lost on the Lady Elgin*, on Sept. 8, at Michigan

City Public Library. She shared the tale of the sinking of the side-wheel steamer Lady Elgin, a tragedy that occurred on the waters of Lake Michigan exactly to the day 158 years ago.

Her presentation was sponsored by the library and Michigan City Historical Society/Old Lighthouse Museum.

On Sept. 8, 1860, the "palace steamer" Lady Elgin — a double-decked, wooden-side wheeled steamboat built in 1851 — left its dock in the Chicago River, bound for Milwaukee. She was a large, comfortable ship with the capacity to carry more than 400 passengers in complete luxury. At 252 feet in length and 32 feet in breadth, she was a steady and reliable sailor.

The passengers on that day were mainly Irish members of Wisconsin's Independent Guard unit



from Milwaukee who had been drilling and preparing in these tumultuous 1850s for what many thought would become a war between the northern and southern states. They had travelled to Chicago to hear a talk by famed orator Steven Douglas. Now, after a day spent in the wild and woolly cow town of Chicago, they wearily boarded their sturdy ship for the trip home.

By 11 p.m. Friday, Sept. 7, the Lady Elgin

left Chicago and headed out into the night, into the fog and crashing waves of a freshening storm.

At 2 a.m., the Lady Elgin was about 15 miles north of Chicago near Evanston, Ill. Suddenly, the story turned to disaster for the 400 people aboard the Lady Elgin and the 300 passengers who lost their lives to the storm-tossed waters that night.

The hour struck 2:25 a.m., and a severe squall hit the Lady Elgin. Nearby, and struggling in the same storm, was the wooden schooner Augusta, heavily laden with lumber. How the two vessels came to be in the exact same location at the same time on Lake Michigan's immense surface is difficult to determine. But in the heat of the storm, the Lady Elgin and Augusta collided in spite of heroic efforts on the parts of both crews to avoid disaster.

In a few short minutes, amid a horrific storm, the



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Done Right, Weather Tight!



Valerie Van Heest is photographed with Jim Retseck and Karen Rueter.
Photo by William Halliar.

Lady Elgin broke apart, casting 400 human souls to the mercy of lightning, fog and waves.

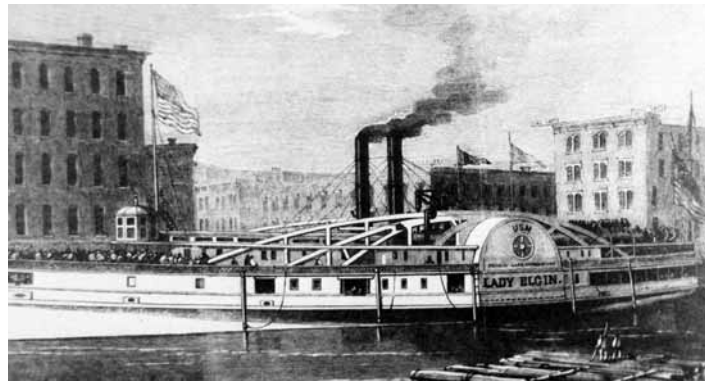
Lost on the Lady Elgin recounts harrowing details of the times and stories of the survivors, and of the loss of this great ship.

In 1989, the wreck of the Lady Elgin was discovered in 50 feet of water by Chicago native and diver Harry Zych. Court battles ensued to determine the owner of the shipwreck, and the story of the salvage and preservation of the Lady Elgin's remains continues to this day.

In 1992, Van Heest, herself, explored the wreckage. "When (my) hand touched the wood stock of a musket laying in a field of debris on the bottom of Lake Michigan from the once palatial sidewheel steamer Lady Elgin, it ignited a passion for the study of the ship's sinking," she wrote.

Van Heest, who lives in Holland, Mich., wove a tale of the doomed ship with video, music and historic photographs. To further illustrate the humanity of the event, she brought several artifacts recovered from the wreck, including a rust encrusted 1850s-style musket.

Van Heest's award-winning account of the tragedy, Lost on the Lady Elgin, is available in the Old Lighthouse Museum gift shop. It is a must read for anyone interested in the lore of Lake Michigan.



A rendering of the Lady Elgin.

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County Parks Receives Land Donation

The LaPorte County Park Foundation has donated 15 acres adjacent to Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, to the LaPorte County Park Department.

"The land will be permanently protected from development," Park Superintendent Jeremy Sobecki said in a press release. "(It) adds to the varying wildlife habitat and will allow more trails to be built at Luhr."



A portion of the 15 acres donated to LaPorte County Park Department.

Another bonus, Sobecki said, is that in 2015, the foundation and Northwest Indiana Chapter of Pheasants Forever oversaw efforts to plant native prairie species there.

"So," he said, "it is already established as good quality habitat."

The parks department received a \$200,000 Land and Water Conservation Fund grant through the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Outdoor Recreation. The funds, along with local matching funds, will allow the department to develop new paved trails in the park, add a new picnic shelter, improve parking and add a restroom.

While the park foundation has owned the 15 acres for five years, the donation's timing allows the park department to utilize the value of the property as a match to the DNR grant dollars. This, along with \$70,000 from the Healthcare Foundation of LaPorte, makes up the majority of the local match needed to complete the project.

That totals \$400,000 in improvements to Luhr County Park, with construction under way.



Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The following programs are available:

- **The Save the Tunes Council performs from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 21, 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.

- **Bog Gone Wild from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 22, at Pinhook Bog and Upland Trail.**

The hike's starting point is the Pinhook Bog parking lot, 946 N. Wozniak Road, Michigan City.

- **Monarch Watch from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 23, 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.

- **Miller Woods Hike from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 23, at Paul H. Douglas Center.**

The ranger-led stroll explores a rare black oak savanna, and offers views of Lake Michigan and Chicago.

- **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.



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.

"Introduction to the Tallgrass Prairie"

Author-naturalist Cindy Crosby will teach the class "Introduction to the Tallgrass Prairie" at 9 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 6, at Gabis Arboretum at Purdue Northwest.

The class begins with an indoor lecture, followed by a guided walk through the prairie. Participants then explore the arboretum's grasses and wildflowers, and hear about their uses by Native Americans and early settlers.

Attendees should dress for the outdoors. The cost is \$35 for members and \$39 for non-members. Payments, due by Sept. 29, can be made by check to Gabis Arboretum at Purdue Northwest, by cash at the arboretum business office, 71 N. County Road 500 West, or by credit card by calling (219) 742-8147.

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"Having had severe low back pain for many years, my family doctor had my back X-rayed. It showed severe arthritis. I had actually blamed it on a medication I had taken for years, thinking it had caused my low back pain, but no...it was due to my 84-year-old body developing arthritis. He said I should go to physical therapy, which I have done for many months. My pain had come down only from a 10 to a 7. I was still in tears with the pain, and I had decided to QUIT. Arlan Alburo from OBTS then contacted me regarding a new 'light-type' of therapy that he had acquired. Having had now 5 treatments of this 'new' LASER treatment, I really do feel healed!! It's wonderful not to be in pain as I rise from a seated position or walk or work around my kitchen!!" S.K. of Valparaiso

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- **LaPORTE** office **Tuesday, Oct. 9, at 6 p.m.** located at 1405 E. Lincolnway, Suite B (across Indiana 2 from Walmart).
- **VALPARAISO** office **Thursday, Oct. 11, at 6 p.m.** located at 3125 Calumet Ave. Suite 8 (next to the YMCA).

This workshop is FREE, but I am only taking 20 attendees at each location due to space constraints.



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Orthopedic and Balance Therapy Specialists

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LaLu Seniors Are Merit Semifinalists

La Lumiere seniors Annabelle Lake, LaPorte, and Katherine Rowan, Munster, are semifinalists in the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program.



La Lumiere students Katherine Rowan (left) and Annabelle Lake are semifinalists in the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Annabelle, the daughter of John and Mary Lake, is the school's head prefect, head of the Yearbook Club, and a member of the National Honor Society, Latin Honor Society and girls' soccer team.

Katie, the daughter of Dr. John Rowan and Cecelia Wagner, is a member of the French National Honor Society and girls' volleyball team. She also performs in drama productions and with the Improv Club.

Semifinalists such as Lake and Rowan represent fewer than 1 percent of all U.S. high school seniors. Among students who advance to the finalist level — to be announced in February 2019 — approximately half will go on to win a National Merit Scholarship.



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Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs are offered:

• **Prickly Pear Promenade and Beach Litter Pick Up from 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 22.**

Join a naturalist at the beach for a trek on Trail 3 to search out Indiana's only native cacti that live in the dunes: the prickly pear. Participants also will pick up any litter to help celebrate National Public Lands Day.

• **The Wonder of Autumn Poetry Reading from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 22.**

Historian and spoken-word performer Glory-June Greiff will present material that celebrates the first day of autumn, delving into works by James Whitcomb Riley and Edgar Allen Poe. The program is supported by an Indiana Arts Commission grant.

• **Fall Equinox — Mostly Full Moon Hike from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 22.**

Meet at the Nature Center to celebrate the fall equinox for a full-moon hike to Lake Michigan and back. The Friends of the Indiana Dunes will provide snacks.

• **Beach Mysteries from 10 to 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 23.**

Meet at the Nature Center to identify items found on the beach.

• **A High Tech Scavenger Hunt from 3 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 23.**

Meet at the Nature Center to learn about geocaching, and take a stab at finding one. Prizes for children are planned.



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.

Call to Artists

The non-profit Berrien Artist Guild is accepting applications for the 2019 gallery exhibit season and beyond.

The guild, affiliated with The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich., serves as a vehicle for Michiana artists to gain exposure in a gallery setting.

Applications for this round of submissions are due by midnight Oct. 15. Artists will be notified by Nov. 15. Email Nikki Gauthier at nikki@boxfactory-forthearths.org for details.

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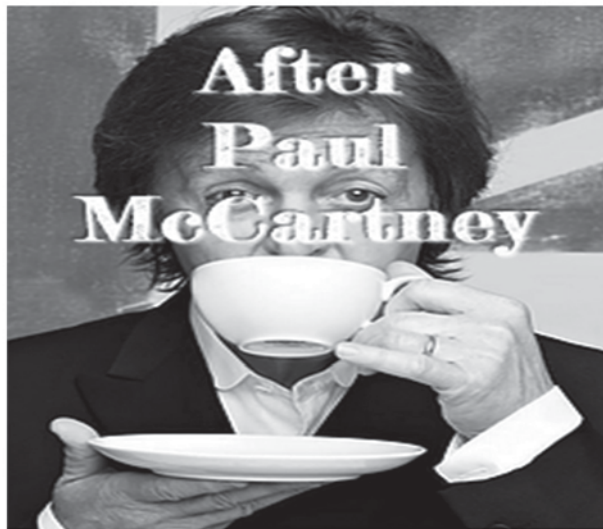
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Residency Certificate Award

The descendant of an 1800s pioneer family was honored during LaPorte County Genealogical Society's annual Residency Certificate awards Sept. 11.

Committee Chairwoman Fern Eddy Schultz and committee members Anne Durrant and Alan Zeller reviewed and approved the award in this category: Pioneer Family for documented ancestor in LaPorte County from 1841-1860. It went to Carol Lloyd, whose ancestor, Hiram McNett, appears in the 1850 Federal census of LaPorte County. McNett died in 1865 and is buried in Union Mills Cemetery.



Lloyd

In addition to the Pioneer Family certificates, the society also presents First Family, Settler Family and Civil War Ancestor Family certificates.

The primary purposes of the program are to:

- Identify and honor the memory of the earliest pioneers and veterans in LaPorte County.
- Show the pioneer's and veteran's lasting mark on the county they helped develop and serve by honoring their descendants.

New Prairie Reunion

The New Prairie High School Class of 1983 will celebrate its 35th reunion at 6 p.m. CDT Saturday, Sept. 22, at Monroe Crossings, 7038 N. Chicago Road, New Carlisle.

The event includes dinner and a cash bar. The cost is \$30. Reservations are required in advance. Payment may be made in advance or at the door.

Search for New Prairie High School Class of 1983's Facebook page or contact Monica (Davis) Komasinski at (219) 325-8223 for more details.

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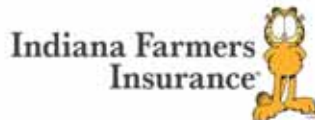
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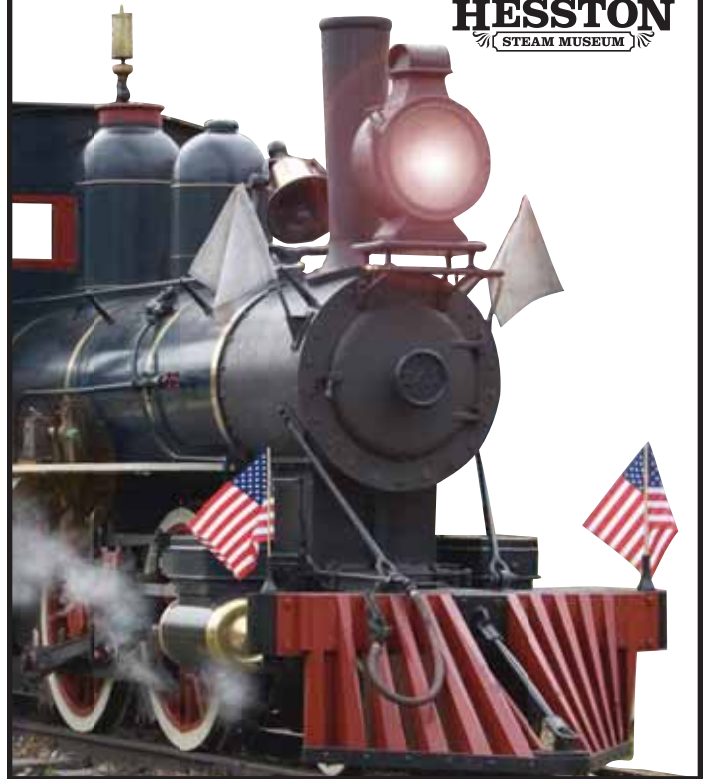
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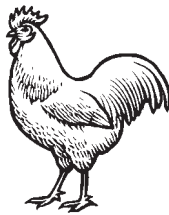
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Builders Association 50th Anniversary

The Builders Association of LaPorte County will celebrate its 50th anniversary with a special event from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 21, at LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St.

Since 1968, the BALC's mission has been to improve the local housing industry through legislation, education and services for members and local communities.

Those expected to attend the Sept. 21 event include: current and past BALC presidents and board members; current and past builder and associate members; local civic leaders; and the 2018 Indiana Builders Association president/CEO.

Make reservations for the Sept. 21 event by calling the office at (219) 326-0624.

Dance With Me

Dance With Me sessions have been extended to offer people of all abilities the chance to express themselves through music and dance.

The program began in March to celebrate Disability Awareness Month, attracting more than 10 dancers. The dancers performed at Washington Park's Guy Foreman Amphitheater after completing their inaugural session.

The latest six-week session began Sept. 18 and runs through October 23, with sessions held from 6 to 6:45 p.m. Tuesdays. The last session of 2018 is Nov. 6-Dec. 18. The sessions cost \$50 and include an additional community performance date.

Dance With Me was developed in partnership with Studio M, 703 Pearl St.

Dearest Doll Tea

The annual Dearest Doll Tea Party returns to Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St., from 3 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 22.

The event, held in the gardens, features tea, lemonade, fruit and pastries with guests and their dolls and stuffed animals. Participants then view Catherine Barker's favorite doll and create a craft indoors.

The cost is \$10 per youth and \$15 per adult. Registration is required at Eventbrite or by calling the mansion at (219) 873-1520, Ext. 5. Visit www.barkermansion.com for details.

Free Movie Night

A free, outdoors showing of "Incredibles 2" is at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 22, at Michigan City Fire Station 4, 5000 Cleveland Ave.

Hot dogs, soft drinks and popcorn will be provided. Parking is at Bosak Honda. The screening moves indoors if the weather is poor.



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Chesterton Art Center

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

• **George Kassal, Long Beach, will teach a three-week Cell Phone Photography Class starting from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 20.**

The class helps students take better pictures using a smartphone, regardless of the make or model. Students learn how to achieve clear and properly exposed photos, and how to best use editing apps and photo-sharing services, such as Instagram.

The class is designed for beginners and those with some experience. The cost is \$65, with members receiving a \$20 discount.

• **Jayde McAloon will teach Beginning Wire Wrapping Jewelry from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 20.**

All participants finish class with a wire-wrapped pendant using beach glass or a crystal. Supplies are included, but students can take their own specimens. The cost is \$50, with members receiving a \$20 discount.

McAloon owns Pieces of Jayde Fine Art Wire Jewelry in Chesterton.

• **The 2018 annual meeting at 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 23.**

The agenda includes discussion on the past year, future plans and possible additions to the board. Center members and the general public are invited. Refreshments will be served.

• **MaryAnn Pals will teach a six-week Intermediate Drawing Class starting from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 25.**

Beginning Drawing is a prerequisite, since the class goes beyond drawing basics to tackle more difficult subjects, such as clouds, reflecting water and folds in fabric. Students must be 16 or older to participate.

The cost is \$95, with members receiving a \$20 discount. Anyone with questions about ability level should contact the center to get in touch with Pals.

Call (219) 926-4711 or visit www.chestertonart.com for more details.



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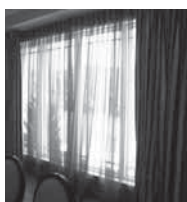
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Youth Orchestra Fall Auditions

The Lake Michigan Youth Orchestra, which consists of Concert Strings, Encore Strings, LMYO Winds and Youth Symphony, will host fall auditions.

Auditions for Concert and Encore Strings are by appointment from 6 to 8 p.m. EDT Tuesday, Sept. 25, and Monday, Oct. 1, at Upton Middle School, 800 Maiden Lane, St. Joseph, Mich. Youth Symphony auditions are from 6 to 8 p.m. EDT Thursday, Sept. 27, and 6 to 9 p.m. EDT Monday, Oct. 1.

Students should call the SMSO office at (269) 982-4030 to schedule an audition. Participation in LMYO Winds, a newly formed ensemble for middle-school wind, brass and percussion players, is added in the spring term.

Two new conductors have been added to the LMYO program.

Rachel-Cabanilla Sinnett returns as the Encore Strings conductor, while Mark Hollandsworth will conduct the LMYO Winds for the spring term. Cabanilla-Sinnett, who previously conducted the ensemble, is orchestra director at Upton Middle School. Hollandsworth is director of bands at Buchanan Community Schools.

The Lake Michigan Youth Orchestra is one of several educational programs through Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra. The Youth Orchestra, Encore Strings and Concert Strings rehearse Monday evenings during the fall term from Oct. 8 to Dec. 10.

Visit bbpnet.com/x37a for more details.

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Westchester Public Library

The following programs are available:

• **Bookmarks at the Museum at 2 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 20, at Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.**

Dennis Norman will review Walter Isaacson's "Leonardo Da Vinci."

• **Books That Make You Think Discussion Group from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 20, at Thomas Library's Bertha Wood Meeting Room, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

The selection is Charles Dickens' "Great Expectations." Register at the reference desk, at the upstairs computer classroom or by calling (219) 926-7696. Copies of the book are available for checkout.

• **Kids Science Explorer Club at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 21, at the Thomas Library Children's Department.**

Duneland School Corp. teacher Kim Stahura leads the science-based program for children 6 and older. The focus this month is Newton's "Three Laws" with masses, cars and ramps. Registration is required in person or by calling (219) 926-7696.

• **"Friends" Trivia Night from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 25, at Westchester Township History Museum.**

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

• **Bent Objects Art Party from 6 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 26, in the Thomas Library Bertha Wood room.**

Children 7-11 can create "bent objects" art with construction paper, pipe cleaners, pom-poms and other available objects. Registration is required by calling (219) 926-7696.

LCA Tour/Workshop

Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., will host a free Family Gallery Tour & Pop Art Workshop from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 22.

LCA Education Director Hannah Hammond-Hagman leads the program that includes a gallery tour of "Warhol: Icon & Influence," followed by a hands-on Pop Art printmaking project.

Pre-registration is required, and space is limited. Call (219) 874-4900 to register.

Miss Duneland 2018

The Miss Duneland Scholarship Organization will host its annual open pageant at 4:45 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 23, at Queen of All Saints School, 1715 E. Barker Ave.

Miss Duneland and Miss Duneland's Outstanding Teen are preliminaries to Miss Indiana and Miss America organizations.

Visit www.missduneland.com for more details.



American Red Cross

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

- Kingsford Heights Elementary School, 460 Evanston Road, 2:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 21. Students who recruit one presenting donor receive a Red Cross medal while supplies last.
- Conservation Club House, 1 Mill Pond Road, Union Mills, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 23.
- South Central Junior-Senior High School, 9808 S. County Road 600 West, Union Mills, 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 26.

Those who donate through Sept. 30 receive a free haircut coupon from Sport Clips by email. 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 red-crossblood.org for more details.

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Activities to Explore

In the Area:

Sept. 20 — Books That Make You Think Discussion Group, “Great Expectations,” 4-5:30 p.m., Westchester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

Sept. 21 — Bookmarks: Walter Isaacson’s “Leonardo da Vinci,” 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Sept. 21 — Save the Tunes Council, 7:30-9 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

Sept. 21-22 — David Hoppe’s “After Paul McCartney,” Dunes Summer Theater, 288 Shady Oak Drive, Michiana Shores. Times: 7 p.m. Fri.-Sat. Tickets: \$18/general admission, \$15/students & seniors. Tickets: DunesArtsFoundation.org, (219) 879-7509.

Sept. 21-23 — Wanatah Scarecrow Festival, Scarecrow Square off U.S. 30.

Sept. 21-24 — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. *Now showing:* “The Cakemaker.” Not Rated. In Hebrew, German and English with subtitles. Times: 6 p.m. Fri.-Mon. *Also Showing:* “Don’t Worry, He Won’t Get Far on Foot.” Rated R. Times: 9 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 3 p.m. Sat.-Sun. All times Eastern. Info: vickerstheatre.com

Sept. 22 — Yoga for Beginners, 10-11 a.m., Cool-spring Branch Library, 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Sept. 22 — Free Family Gallery Tour & Pop Art Workshop, 1-3 p.m., Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Registration: (219) 874-4900.

Sept. 22 — Dearest Doll Tea Party, 3-5 p.m., Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St. Cost: \$10/youth, \$15/adult. Registration: Eventbrite, (219) 873-1520, Ext. 5. Info: www.barkermansion.com

Sept. 22 — Stand-Up Comedy for Kids, 6 p.m. EDT, Three Oaks (Mich.) Arts & Education Center, 14 Maple St. Tickets: \$5, \$20/family. Info: (269) 409-1191.

Sept. 22 — Free outdoors screening, “Incredibles 2,” 6:30 p.m., Michigan City Fire Station 4, 5000 Cleveland Ave.

Sept. 22 — The Wonder of Autumn Poetry Reading, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Sept. 22 — Fall Equinox — Mostly Full Moon Hike, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Sept. 23 — FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN.

Sept. 23 — Movable Art Feast, “Collection Obsession” series. Times: 10:30 a.m./Blink Contemporary Art, 1709 Franklin St., 11:30 a.m./The Nest, 803 Franklin St.

Sept. 23 — Lithuanian 100-Year Celebration, 1-5 p.m., Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12.

Sept. 23 — Keith Scott Sings the Blues, 2 p.m.,

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

Sept. 23 — Miss Duneland Scholarship Organization pageant, 4:45 p.m., Queen of All Saints School, 1715 E. Barker Ave. Info: www.missduneland.com

Sept. 25 — "Friends" Trivia Night, 7-8:30 p.m., Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

Sept. 26 — Youth Services Grand Opening, 3 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Sept. 26 — Wonder Community Kindness Convocation, 6-8 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave., LaPorte. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

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

Sept. 22 — Acorn Concert Series, Mississippi Heat with Funk Mojo Daddy, 7-10 p.m., Gabis Arboretum, 71 N. County Road 500 West, Valparaiso. Tickets: \$15/advance, \$20/week of. Reservations: taltree.org

Sept. 22 — Unwrapped at the Box Concert Series, Danny Dine, 9 p.m. EDT, The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Tickets: \$10. Info/reservations: (269) 983-3688, info@boxfactoryforthearts.org

Sept. 23 — Monarch Watch, 1-3 p.m., Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, 100 N. Lake St., Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882.

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.

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sale, email thefallgirlfriendsale@gmail.com to add your name to the list, and
we will let you know you if there is an opening or cancellation.

Sale dates:

Friday, Oct. 5, 6-9 p.m. Private sale for participants and friends

Saturday, Oct. 6, 10-2 p.m. Sale open to the public

Saturday, Oct. 13, 10-2 p.m. Sale continues.

Sunday, Oct. 14, Noon-4 p.m. Discount day 25% off on most items

Saturday, Oct. 20, 10-2 p.m. famous 1/2 price sale day.

Saturday, Oct. 27, 10-12 p.m. Give back sale with proceeds to benefit the
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Day of Mindfulness

Peacemakers' Sangha's 17th Day of Mindfulness
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County Road 350 North, LaPorte.

Registration is at 9:45 a.m., with the event from
10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The cost is a \$15 donation.

Visitors can engage in sitting and walking medi-
tation, nature and Qigong. Take a lunch, water,
meditation cushion and/or chair. Also, take a book
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meditation or spirituality.

Pre-register by contacting Ange Benz at (219)
874-3754 or Lee Malizia at leemalizia@gmail.com

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Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

The Masterpiece by Fiona Davis (hardcover, \$26 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook)

She's ba-a-a-k! With each new book, Fiona Davis maintains her standing as queen of the historical drama. In 2016, I reviewed her first book, The Dollhouse, about the Barbizon Hotel in New York City. Last year, she wrote The Address, about the famous Dakota building, also in New York. Now, she has taken on another New York landmark and the art world in this memorable story of two women struggling to make their place in a man's world...

"When she drew or painted, it was as if an unseen hand guided her own. She'd never been able to explain that to anyone. To her, painting was an internal expression, not a political or social one. She didn't have a manifesto or an affiliation, other than to please herself doing what she loved to do and make money doing it. The first part was easy — the second, more elusive."

The painter mentioned here is Clara Darden, a character based on the real life of American artist, fashion illustrator and industrial designer Helen Dryden. At one time, she was described as America's highest-paid woman painter. The other main character is Virginia Clay, a divorcee and mother of a teenage girl in 1974.

However, the real star of this story is the Grand Central Train Terminal — the magnificent structure everyone revolves around, both in the telling of Clara's story in the late 1920s and Virginia's in 1974-1975. Here's how...

Built in 1913, the building had become an iconic part of New York's history. The architecture was designed in the beaux-arts style featuring soaring spaces with a vaulted ceiling, marble arches and the famous Whispering Gallery. The big clock above the information desk in the middle of the terminal was a famous meeting place for families, for lovers, for the whole city.

Most people don't know that from 1924-1944, there was a Grand Central School of Art on the terminal's seventh floor. It was founded by John Singer Sargent and several other artists. *"With its exhilarating mix of light, air, and movement, the terminal was the perfect location for a school of art."*

Our story opens in 1928. Clara has been off the train from Arizona less than a year. She takes classes at the art school and is soon promoted to interim teacher. Clara's class is illustration, not a popular

class nor accepted as a proper art study. Also, the class falls from 15 to five students after they learn their teacher is a woman. Sigh. Sign of the time.

A school art exhibition one night finds her paintings relegated to a back office where no one is likely to see them. Sigh. Male chauvinism? Or fear her paintings are actually quite good?

Switching to 1974, we meet Virginia Clay, newly divorced and with a teen daughter, Ruby. She's only been a wife. Her art studies at college hardly qualify her for a job to sustain the two of them.

A chance for a secretary job at the Grand Central Terminal office falls through, but they offer her a job at the information booth in the main concourse. What other choice does she have? None.

She soon comes to respect the others in the booth, finding out the history of the Terminal, and the sad fact that it may soon be torn down and replaced with a modern high-rise.

She stumbles upon the old School of Art one day and is surprised to find so much of the materials, even paintings, still there... including a sketch that looks like the study for a finished painting by the artist Clara Darden, soon to be

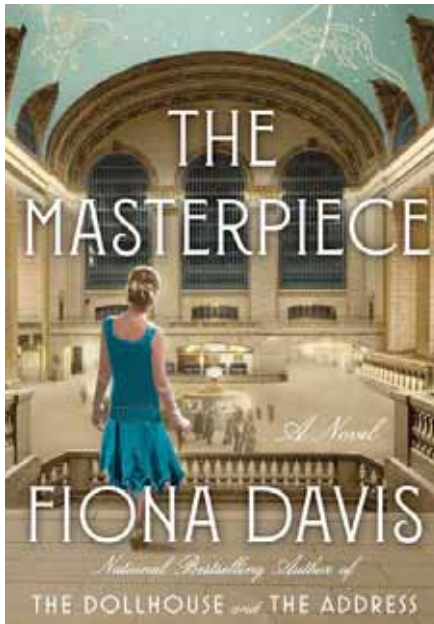
auctioned off by Sotheby's. This could be a find worth thousands of dollars! But who could she take it to for an appraisal without revealing how she found it stuck behind a filing cabinet in the closed school? This will prove to be a story worth following up...

The switching from 1928 to 1974 is smooth as silk, a quiet fading from one era to another, one woman to another. The stories of Clara and Virginia are similar in an important way: both women struggled to make their way in a man's world, seeking financial independence and the freedom to be who they wanted to be, and on their own terms. I felt exasperated in both eras, feeling so strongly for both women, their hands, their minds, even their bodies, tied up in the bonds of outdated traditions and archaic beliefs. After all, women are too fragile to be left to their own devices, right? Hogwash!

A fascinating look at art and an iconic landmark, this book is sure to please. Two thumbs up aren't enough.

Davis is a graduate of the College of William & Mary and the Columbia Journalism School. Website: www.fionadavis.net; FB: [FionaDavisAuthor](https://www.facebook.com/FionaDavisAuthor)

Till next time, happy reading!





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