We will always remember when we first saw it: the sight of the twin towers falling, the Pentagon ablaze. A year later, commemorating that fateful day when the world as we knew it changed forever, a group of grass roots artists from our community have used the sensitivity of their art to express these feelings for us in an exhibition, Remembering the People of September 11. The exhibition which opened on September 8, will be at the Lake’s Edge Gallery in Long Beach through September, then moves to Purdue University North Central.

A steel sculpture by Sandy Friedman centers the room with the symbol of optimism and hope beneath the arch of the fallen.

The walls come alive and surround you with images as hands touch hands in “Remembering the People of September 11”

Artists in the Exhibition:
Charlotte Bass
Halcyon Domanski
April Fallon
Sanford Friedman
Connie Kassal
George Kassal
Sarah Kassal
Andrea Moore
Andrea Peterson
Lynn Retson
Madeleine Schooley
Marsha Stonerook
Linda Weigel

Original music:
Katie Wall

Remembering Continued on Page 2
Remembering Continued from Page 1

One of the exhibition’s artists, Madeleine Schooley and granddaughter, Zahara, came to put a contribution on the Wall of Remembrance.

Zahara Schooley, a kindergartner at Marsh School, wrote a letter that said:

I felt bad
when the planes
crashed in the buildings.

A wall of remembrance and appreciation stands outside the exhibition.

Children remember with gifts of love:
Teddy bears and balloons.

Zahara signed her note with a self-portrait, a little girl with hair flying and hands reaching out. Lauron Schooley, 8, sent a note from Indianapolis for the Wall that said, “I was worried about the people in the buildings...and the firefighters.” Both girls are granddaughters of Madeleine Schooley, and nieces of her sons James and Matt, a fireman and policeman.

How did the artists do it? With ingenuity and purpose. With canvas and fabric, oil and tempura, paper and montage, lights and lumber and steel...and inspired creativity. The theme is universal man, Leonardo da Vinci’s depiction, joining hands from lighted panels hung on walls surrounding the gallery, each an artist’s interpretation of how 9/11 events affected their families and the world. Katie Wall’s original music forms a backdrop. Integral to the exhibition is an invitation to participate, particularly by children, in making a personal contribution to the wall of remembrance. Little drawings, flowers, a prayer, a picture, lighting a candle, all give a healing opportunity for individual response. Each panel tells an artist’s story with minute detail, poignant and personal. Look closely, and find your own feelings mirrored there. Here’s how some of the artists tell it:
Madeleine Schooley... “My sons are a policeman and fireman and I used them as models for my piece called Bravery and Brotherhood, a memorial tribute to law enforcement and firefighters emerging from the chaos of ground zero. My grandchildren were the helping hands shown around the central figures.

George Kassal... “Having spent over 15 years as a volunteer fireman, those who charged into the buildings while everyone was trying to escape have a special meaning for me in their courage. While working on this piece, and helping mount the exhibits, my emotions kept oscillating between grief and anger. One moment there would be tears running down my face, and the next moment I would be swearing and slamming my fist on the table.”

Rembering Continued on Page 4
Remembering Continued from Page 3

April Fallon painted symbols of remembrance and love in “All Nations Under God.”

Charlotte Bass... “The day that changed America shook the foundation of the world bringing about a unification of all walks of life; I have focused on the three sites of terror with flags for the Bravest of the Brave.”

Sarah Kassal filled her ground with images of rescue workers including dogs who burned their paws trying to find those buried under the rubble; friend Brett Metzan, a Milwaukee area policeman, used the universal human image to list all the people who died in the disaster flights.

Lynn Retson... “my figure is black, dusted with ashes. The ashes will slowly disappear with time just as the buildings and the dead have disappeared physically; memory remains.”

Marsha Stonerook... “my figure holds a memorial candle in front of a world map image. Many countries all over the world lost citizens in the September 11 events.”

In “Together We Mourn” Marsha Stonerook emblazoned her creation with a line from John Donne: “Any man’s death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind.”

April Fallon painted symbols of remembrance and love in “All Nations Under God.”

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Shown with Connie Kassal, Halcyon Domanski videotaped and interviewed all the artists in the exhibition. “I felt called to do the video,” she said. “Now I feel called to do a book as well as how it all came together.”

**Halcyon Domanski.** “my figure is a metaphor for the lost mothers and parentless children. I was getting dressed that morning as the news unfolded and my figure of a pregnant woman clutching a small child moves her hands to her face in horror as ground zero unfolds.”

**Connie Kassal.** “I call my piece “Being in the Sky” that could be a viewpoint from the crashing planes, those who died in the upper floors or a spiritual presence. Smoky dark colors are filled with helping hands. Chips of mirror, like the shards of falling windows, reflect the viewer's face. We are all part of this event.”

Many good ideas are conceived when a few people sit around a table having a cup of coffee, and someone says, “Why don’t we...?” So it was with this artists’ exhibition of *Remembering the People of September 11*. George and Connie Kassal put the idea forth, and it began to roll from there including the concept of community participation, especially the children. “We are reaching out to the children of the community,” says George Kassal. “The events of September 11 were confusing enough for adults. We hope to help children learn to express tough emotions through art.” Teachers interested in having their classes tour the exhibit can call 219/879-6741 to make arrangements; artists will be available to talk to groups whenever possible. The Lake’s Edge Gallery is located at 2501 Oriole Trail in the Old School Community Center.
Personal and Professional Effects
of 9-11
by Paula McHugh

The violence, terror and destruction was shocking. And it instantly turned formerly passive doves into hawks.

Violence had been an issue I dealt with weekly for several years as a facilitator for groups comprised of perpetrators of domestic abuse. The job required that a facilitator serve as a role model for the group, not allowing her buttons to be pushed, not responding to anger with anger, but demonstrating instead more constructive alternatives.

I had retired from this weekly classroom challenge by the time the events of 9-11 happened. Could I have taught nonviolence at a personal level and then condone retaliation on a global level? The events of 9-11 had me doing some deep soul-searching. And the question that kept popping up was, “if you condone waging war on the instigators of the insidious WTC and Pentagon attacks, what was your motivation in spending four years of your life attempting to teach alternatives to violence in families?” Is violence in one context different from violence in another?

An informal survey taken by Time columnist Margaret Carlson after 9-11 disclosed that women who had formerly been doves changed their thinking. They condoned retaliation. They became hawks. I, during that same time period, became terribly confused. But the dove has held on, albeit precariously.

It was difficult enough feeling the irrelevance of writing for The Beacher after 9-11. But my hat is off to the facilitators for the domestic abuse intervention project. Their work goes on quietly, in small and large towns across the country. As I see it, their work will be continuing for a long time to come.
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Call for Entries to Juried Show

Heartland Artists, Inc. is inviting all artists to enter their original art work in all media, including sculpture, for the 14th Annual Juried Regional Art Exhibit 2002. The show will be Oct. 6-26, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Heartland Artists Gallery, 321 N. Water St., Plymouth, IN. There will be $5,000 in awards and purchase awards. There is no limit to the numbers of entries. A $7 non-refundable fee per entry/piece is required. Entry deadline is Sept. 25. Work will be received Sept. 29-30.

For more information and entry forms, write: Heartland Artists, P.O. Box 714, Plymouth, IN 46563 or phone Jayne Jacobson at 574/936-8766. You may also email her at jjacobson@dnsonline.net or visit www.heartlandartists.org

Harbor Country Book Club

The Harbor Country Book Club will meet the last Tuesday of the month, Sept. 24, at the Harbor Grand Hotel, New Buffalo, starting at 7:30 p.m. (MI time). The selections for the month are: fiction, Justine by Lawrence Durrell, and non-fiction, Wind, Sand and Stars by Antoine De Saint Exup-Ery.

For the month of October, the selections will be: fiction, Bel canto by Ann Patchett and non-fiction, Seabiscuit by Laura Hillenbrand.

New members are invited to attend.
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Chicora Mystery Near Solution
by William F. Keefe

The mystery surrounding the identity of the shipwreck once thought to be the Chicora may be nearing a solution.

In a minor change of plans, the University of Michigan's M-Rover will visit the wreck during the week beginning September 30, according to Dennis Donahue, marine superintendent of the Muskegon, Michigan field office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The 503-pound remote-operated vehicle (ROV) will have the mission of conclusively identifying and documenting the mystery ship.

NOAA will provide the research vessel Laurentian to serve as the "platform" for the research project, Donahue said. "Depending on the weather, we would hope to have the research done within a day or two, probably using both the still and video cameras carried on the Rover. We'll be prepared to work around the clock if necessary."

For the photo researches slated to start September 30, the 80-foot Laurentian will, according to present plans, "start out from Muskegon, her home port, and travel straight to the wreck site," Donahue said. "We'll have representatives of the interested state and local agencies on board--including the Michigan State Police, the state archeological people, the University of Michigan, and the MSRA."

Donahue added that NOAA has "blocked out" up to two weeks for the identification/documentation effort. He has worked on the project with officials of the Michigan Shipwreck Research Associates, the Holland, Michigan group that found the shipwreck some 106 years after the Chicora sank in 280 feet of water during the night of January 21-22, 1895.

Using sidescan sonar and makeshift camera facilities, the MSRA photographed the ship in the weeks succeeding May 24, 2001, when the wreck was discovered. The hulk lies about 15 miles off Saugatuck, some 12 miles from where most earlier searches were carried out.
None of the photographs taken last year pictured a name board or other definitive evidence that the wreck was the *Chicora*. "Dives made this past spring and summer indicate that the vessel may not be the *Chicora*," said Jan R. Miller, president of the MSRA. "Some of our divers believe it’s the *H.C. Akeley*, a ship of similar configuration that sank in the same general area some 12 years before the *Chicora*."

"Prof. Guy A. Meadows of U-M will as usual be the engineer-operator of the M-Rover. With me to direct operations on the ship will be Bill Burns, also of NOAA, and Dennis Greenwald, a contract captain."

NOAA is leasing the *Laurentian* from the U-M under a 15-year agreement signed in May of this year. The research vessel remains available to U-M researchers for special projects.

The steam barge *H.C. Akeley* was built in Grand Haven, Michigan in the spring of 1881. She sank off Saugatuck in 1883 with the loss of six lives. Twelve crew members were saved.

"We’ve received permission to take core samples of the cargo of the wrecked vessel," said Craig Rich, MSRA official who has researched the history of the ship. "We plan to have the sample analyzed. If it’s corn, the wreck is the *Akeley*. If it’s flour, we know it’s the *Chicora*.”

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**Stop in and see us soon!**
Regional Literacy Conference Planned

A regional conference on literacy will be held from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. on Fri., Sept. 27, at the Indian Oak Resort and Spa, Chesterton, according to Linda Woloshansky, President, Center of Workforce Innovations.

The featured speaker at the 2002 Regional Literacy Conference will be Susan Hall, an author and national literacy consultant recently featured on “The Today Show.” Her remarks will be the foundation for the theme of this year’s conference: “A New Model for Reading Success: What Research Tells Us About Practice.” Breakout sessions will be offered, organized by age and grade level of literacy learners, as well as by the type of literacy programming, and will address corresponding research issues. Organizations that provide local literacy programs will be available with information exhibiting their services.

The event is sponsored by The Discovery Alliance, a coalition of the region’s four community foundations. TDA supports programs to enhance literacy, youth readiness and workforce development in Northwest Indiana. The Center of Workforce Innovations administers TDA projects funded through a $15 million grant from Lilly Endowment.

The cost of registration is the donation of new or gently used books, and includes breakfast and lunch. RSVP by Sept. 20. To register, phone Tammy Smith at 219/462-2940 or email tsmith@innovativeworkforce.com.

For general information about the 2002 Regional Literacy Conference, phone Cecelia Wagner, Literacy Program Consultant, TDA, or Linda Woloshansky, also at 219/462-2940.

Harvest House Tour—September 28

This benefit for the Michiana Humane Society is being planned for Sat., Sept. 28, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. The tickets are $40 in advance or $45 the day of the tour.

This year’s tour features six unique homes of historical and architectural significance in the beach area: four are in Long Beach, one is in Long Beach Cove and one is in Shoreland Hills. The newly renovated Long Beach Town Center, a John Lloyd Wright design, will also be on the tour.

Reservations may be made by mailing a check to: Michiana Humane Society, P.O. Box 8651, Michigan City, IN 46361, or phone 872-4499.

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ASK FOR KAREN ROHDE @ 874-2121

Overlooking greens of Long Beach Country Club and a short walk to your neighborhood beach. This 3 bedroom ranch makes the perfect spot for family living or week-end relaxing. 2 fireplaces, 2½ baths, 2 car garage plus extra off street parking. Great value in the beach area...won’t last long. Call for your appointments!!!

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This is a fantastic executive home off Small Road in LaPorte. This home sits on 5.35 acres of wooded land which overlooks its own private lakes. This property features 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 4 fireplaces, decks with views of the lakes, alarm system, and more. It even has a 28x40 barn. $499,000  #59591
ASK FOR LARRY MIDDLETON @ 874-2121

Beautiful family home on a wooded lot on a quiet cul de sac. 2 Bdrms up, 2 down offers lots of privacy for guests or family. Kitchen area has open views of woods. Lower level walkout to brick patio. Adjoining buildable lot for sale, but not reflected in the price. Will not separate.

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Fantastic turn of the century 5 bedroom, 3½ bath home. Main floor includes formal living room with gas fireplace, enclosed & heated solarium with leaded glass galore, library with gas fireplace, family room, large kitchen, formal dining room, breakfast room, & beautiful foyer with 3 way staircase. 2nd floor includes 1 master bedroom suite, 2 large bedrooms, & 2 baths. 3rd floor consists of 2 more bedrooms & is perfect for teenagers. Each bedroom even has its own sitting area! More features include: Inground swimming pool which is nicely landscaped & private, security system, & property is fenced & has an electric gate to your driveway. 3 newer gas forced air furnaces & 3 newer central airs. This is an unbelievable home in the heart of Michigan City with historic significance. $339,000  #69440
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Be sure to watch our Century 21 Home Show Sundays 10 a.m. - Channel 48 in Michigan City and Channel 45 in LaPorte
Steam Society Expands

Crews from Railworks Track Services, Inc. in Moline, Michigan can be seen fashioning the new rails and “cutting-in” one of the new stitches.

The Hesston Steam Museum has launched an expansion project expected to total more than $250 million when completed.

Ted Rita, Manager of Hesston’s 2 ft/3 ft dual gauge railway, said work began with the construction of a new “carbarn” just east of Duck Lake, followed by new dual gauge track being laid into the new yard from the mainline and into the new building.

Rita said the track work will take close to a month because laying dual gauge trackage is very time consuming and requires special custom-made switches. Work will also include widening the radius of the curve around the south end of Duck Lake to accommodate larger steam engines and reduce wheel wear.

The Museum is now open Sundays only through the month of October from noon-5 p.m. Trains operate rain or shine. The Hesston Steam Museum is located on LaPorte County Road 1000 North, between LaPorte and New Buffalo. Visit them at www.hesston.org

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Organ Recital in LaPorte

Bruce Bengtson, Director of Music at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church in Madison, Wisconsin, will give an Organ Recital of dance related/inspired music on Sun., Sept. 15. The event will take place at The Presbyterian Church of LaPorte, Kingsbury Ave, & U.S. 35, starting at 4 p.m. This concert is the first of the Fine Art Series put on by the church.

Mr. Bengtson has performed in Mexico, Canada and Europe. He has recorded a CD of organ music and had an anthem for choir and organ published. There will be a reception following the recital to meet the artist and a free will offering will be taken. The church is handicapped accessible.

Other upcoming events in the series include an Art Exhibition, Nov. 3-22; a concert by the Sweet Prospect Celtic Band on Nov. 10; “Light and Favorite Opera” on Feb. 9; and the 9th Biennial Juried Art Exhibition, May 4-23.

For more information, phone 219/362-6219 or visit www.laportepresbyterian.org
Indiana Historic Radio Museum

Since The Indiana Historic Radio Museum opened its doors in 1995, visitors from every state in the nation and seven foreign countries have visited.

The museum is home to over 400 rare and unique radios: From the 1890s telegraphy keys to the 1954 Regency first all transistor set, produced in Indianapolis. Displays include early battery sets, cathedrals, consoles, rare plastic sets, vacuum tubes, crystal sets, novelty radios, and early Marconi and Deforest equipment. The museum also houses a large collection of radio related memorabilia.

The museum is owned and operated by the Indiana Historical Radio Society. The Society was founded in 1971 and is the second oldest radio collector's group in the U.S.

Located in Northeastern Indiana’s Amish country on State Road 5 in Ligonier, the museum is open year round. May through October: Tues.-Sat., 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; November through April: Sat., 10 a.m.-2 p.m. No admission fee is charged and the facility is handicapped accessible.

For more information, phone 260/894-9000 or email olradio@ligtel.com
Noble-Wood Nuptials

Elizabeth Ann Noble and Matthew Leland Wood III were joined in marriage by the Rev. Dr. Philip Cumbia at the First Baptist Church of Richmond, Virginia on July 5, 2002.

Soloists were Lisa Meyer and Laura Benson; reader was Debra Benson; they are all cousins of the bride. Flower girls were Morgan and Jillian Meyer, daughters of Lisa and Tim Meyer.

Wedding party members included: Maid of Honor, Erin Devaney, and bridesmaids Jeanne Hieronimus, Lisa DaDeppo, Susannah Wood (sister of the groom). Best Man was Matthew Wood, Jr., father of the groom. Groomsmen were Bill Noble (brother of the bride), Brendan Drew, Eric Hamp. Ushers were John Noble (uncle of the bride), David Arizmendi, Michael Fernandez.

Elizabeth is the daughter of Beth and Bill Noble of Champaign, Illinois, and the granddaughter of Irv and Pearl Carlson of Long Beach. The bride’s mother is a former teacher at Long Beach School.

Elizabeth is completing her master’s degree at the University of Maryland, where she is employed as a learning specialist.

Matthew is the son of Ann Grey and Matthew Leland Wood, Jr., of White Stone, Virginia. He is employed with the State Department in Washington, D.C.

The couple will be residing in Alexandria, Virginia.

An open house to honor the new couple was held on Sun., Sept. 1, at the Crestwicke Country Club, Bloomington, IL.
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Donita Ton stands beside one of the purple and blue ribbons signifying a Unity Foundation grant to the Salvation Army.

This year the Unity Foundation of LaPorte County celebrates its tenth anniversary. To show the community how many organizations have benefitted from Unity Foundation grants, local nonprofits that have received a grant from Unity over the past ten years have been asked to display a blue and purple bow for the next two weeks; this means over 150 different organizations in LaPorte County.

“If you see a bow and don’t know that organization, please stop in and ask to learn more about it and the good it does,” explained Maggi Spartz, Unity Foundation president. “We’re here to help these organizations as they improve and enrich people’s lives.”

Mike Brennen, co-chairman of the Unity Foundation explained, “We are delighted to celebrate the good that Unity Foundation has done in LaPorte County over the past ten years. We have grown to over ten million (dollars) in assets and have made possible $2.6 million in local grants since 1992. Through December 31, 2002, the Lilly Endowment will match, dollar for dollar, every contribution made to the Community Fund. Whatever amount we raise, up to $2 million, will be matched. Unity will then be able to do even more.”

For information on how you can help your community forever by making a gift to the Community Fund and be “A Power for Good” in LaPorte County, phone 879-0327, or toll-free, 888/89UNITY, or email unity@uflc.net
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Suspended Animation
director John Hancock was impressed the first time that he saw LaPorte resident Jeff Puckett on stage. After seeing Jeff in a production at the LaPorte Little Theater, Hancock cast the actor in A Piece of Eden. When deciding on a cast for Suspended Animation, the director looked to Jeff to take a main part.

"He’s a wonderful actor," John said.

Jeff will be on hand with John, along with scriptwriter Dorothy Tristan, actress Maria Cina and co-producer Dean Jacobson to meet moviegoers at the premiere of Suspended Animation Sept. 13 at Dunes Plaza Cinema. In the cinema's lobby, amidst snow that is actually potato flakes, will be a snowmobile used in the movie.

John is looking forward to speaking to the moviegoers and seeing the theater packed for the showing. The numbers that come to Dunes Cinema, as well as the premieres in South Bend, Elkhart, Niles, and Benton Harbor, could have an impact on the film’s distribution. Dimension, a wing of Miramax, and Artisan have been asked to consider distributing the film.

"We’re doing this opening around here ourselves to show its (Suspended Animation’s) capacity to make money," the director said.

The marketing for Suspended Animation predicts that the movie "will chill you to the bone." The movie is unlike Hancock’s Prancer or A Piece of Eden, both filmed in the area and suitable for family viewing. If the movie were rated, it would likely receive an "R" for violence and brief nudity. In Suspended Animation, two psychotic sisters terrorize the lead character, Tom, as they plan for him to be their next meal.

Bags of potato flakes are left from the filming of A Piece of Eden and Suspended Animation.

These gnomes may need another home.

John Hancock looks over snowmobile helmets used in Suspended Animation.

LaPorte resident Jeff Puckett wore this jacket in Suspended Animation.

Extra snowmobile hoods were needed for the filming of the thriller movie premiering at Dunes Plaza Cinema Sept. 13.
This is not the first time that Hancock has made a movie in the "thriller" category. His first film was *Let's Scare Jessica to Death*. "And it was very scary," John said. "It made a great deal of money. Paramount distributed it," he added.

The director of *Bang the Drum Slowly, California Dreaming, Baby Blue Marine* and *Weeds* spoke about the pleasures of filming in LaPorte County, moving back to the area and future plans during an interview at the FilmAcres Production Office on Fail Road, LaPorte.

He has found the LaPorte County area to be filled with talented people and helpful businesses and organizations. John saw actress Faith Marie in a play at Footlights Theater and cast her in *Suspended Animation*. She and Jeff are among the 10 or 12 local people awarded speaking roles in the movie and the several hundred from the area are in scenes. Beth Behler, formerly from Michigan City and now living in the Los Angeles area, was Hancock's assistant, production coordinator, product placement coordinator and script supervisor. Margaret Clifford, former principal at St. Stanislaus School in Michigan City, was the production office coordinator.

Don Jacobson, who has been a master carpen-ter/scenic artist and a technical director for the Dunes Arts Foundation Summer Theatre, was the production designer. He served as special effects/scenic artist for *A Piece of Eden*.

Curtains borrowed from the Dunes Summer Theatre were used to drape the walls in the huge room at FilmAcres in which about a quarter of *Suspended Animation* was shot. The production office is in the former American Home Foods building and shooting was done in what had been a cooler for frozen pizzas. The three-foot-thick walls insulated the room from outside noises but drapes were needed to prevent an echo.

On location around the county, distracting sounds were not a problem. The director noted that he did not have a problem with trains, planes and other noises interfering with sound quality. "One thing about this area is it is quiet compared to every other place else I've shot in. You get very good sound tracks in this area," he said.

A plus, too, are the varied settings in the county. "Also, there's a lot of different looks around here. You can shoot Lake Michigan and have it be an ocean. There are wooded, as well as flat and rolling areas."

With special-effects enhancement, reason to leave the county is kept minimal. "We were able to be in an alley in LaPorte and appear to be in Chicago," John said.

A scene depicting the Cliffs of Corsica was filmed on County Road 1000N, thanks to the ability to paint that scene on glass. "We had a little cliff and a sand pit, and we painted more cliffs and a distant Mediterranean village," John said.

Forty days were spent shooting in the area, with some of that time filming at a log cabin outside of Michigan City and a multiplex in South Bend. Another 10 days of filming were in Canada and South Bend.

John, who spent his youth vacationing on his grandfather's fruit farm, is happy to be living in the area with wife Dorothy. The two have turned the family fruit farm into their home, still caring for the 500 peach trees, along with the apple and pear trees. The farm is no longer a working farm but provides plenty of fruit for friends and undoubtedly for daughter, Alex, a photographer for National Geographic, and Tristan, a rock musician with The Turtles.

The couple opted for the tranquility of the farm after their home was destroyed in a fire and they endured an earthquake. That earthquake left them walking down a spiral staircase that was detaching from a wall. During an aftershock, the couple exchanged looks and said, "Indiana looks good."

John and his production company are in the midst of considering the next movie to film in the area. He plans for future movies to be shot mostly in the vicinity. Possibly, a movie would call for a trip to Europe, he said, "but even with that, you would do a big chunk of it here."

Phone Dunes Cinema, 874-4281, for viewing times.
Prairie Club Welcomes Hikers

The Prairie Club is an avid nonprofit volunteer organization currently based in Elmhurst, Illinois. Its mission, in part, is to promote outdoors recreation, encourage the love of nature, and to work to improve our environment. Founded in 1908, the Prairie Club has its roots in the Indiana Dunes. A Prairie Club beach house was once on property that is now a part of Indiana Dunes State Park. Early efforts on the part of club members to draw the public’s attention to the need for conservation in the Indiana Dunes eventually led to the formation of the state park.

On Sat., Sept. 14, the Prairie Club will once again hike the trails of the Indiana Dunes, and they invite the public to come along and join them. At 11:45 a.m., Prairie Club members will gather for a picnic at Wilson Shelter and encourage interested persons to bring a lunch and join them. After the picnic, there will be a short walk along park trails to enjoy the natural beauty of the area. Those looking for a longer exploration are invited to stay for a second, longer stroll through the duneland.

The Prairie Club leads walks in different locations each weekend throughout the year. People wishing to learn of the Prairie Club’s early interactions in the Indiana Dunes are invited to meet at the Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center at 10 a.m. on Sept. 14 to watch the video “The Prairie Club—The Early Years”. This video was produced by the Westchester Public Library and is one hour long.

The programs are free of charge, although the State Park charges an entrance fee of $4/in-state and $5/out-of-state vehicle. For more information, phone the Nature Center at 219/926-1390.
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The Lake’s Edge Gallery here at the Community Center is featuring a thought-provoking art exhibit entitled “Remembering the People of September 11.” The community is invited to view the collective work of artists from across the region and to actively participate in the presentation by contributing to a makeshift memorial on a section of fencing just outside the gallery door. You are welcome to bring things from home. We anticipated friends and families will take this opportunity to reflect and find a sense of gratitude for every moment we as survivors are so privileged to experience. The exhibit is open to the public Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. throughout the month of September. Private group tours with one of the artists may be scheduled free of charge by calling April Fallon, 879-2290. Anyone wishing to participate in or contribute to a Lake’s Edge Gallery exhibit in the future may phone the Community Center for more details.

Project: Experience Music Camp is offering the Guitar Shop Workshop for adults and children at a new date and time. The two hour session will be held on Sat., Sept. 14 & 21, from noon-2 p.m. This class focuses on the mechanics of acoustic and electric guitar and will teach you everything you need to know to keep your instrument in top notch condition. Class size is limited to provide individual attention and all materials are included in the cost of $40. Most students have found the class to be so worthwhile they have taken it for a second time.

A DeMello Spirituality Retreat, hosted by beach area residents and featuring Father James Dolan, is scheduled to take place here in room #4 on Sept. 17 & 18. Father James spent nine months with fellow Jesuit, Anthony DeMello at Lonavla, India; worked with him in the U.S., and has been giving DeMello Spirituality retreats around the world for many years. Those who have read DeMello’s books, or listened to his tapes, know what a life-changing event that was. There are four sessions available over the two-day period at a cost of $11 each or $35 for all four. Morning sessions will take place at 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. and evening sessions, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Advanced registration is recommended. For more information or to make reservations, phone Therese at 269/469-7873.

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**Diggin' in the Earth**
*with Maggie Beyer*

Two weeks ago when I opened the door for our morning tour of the garden, my dog Rusty looked at me without his usual dash to check on intruders like raccoons, deer or squirrels. Instead, he made a slow tour of the perimeter . . . maybe for one last look. He had been ailing in a lethargic way for a few days and a trip to the vet that afternoon confirmed the worst: the malignant melanoma diagnosed by surgery and biopsy about two years ago had metastasized to lung and spleen. It was time to say goodbye to my dog, my friend, companion, to hold him again and say as I did every night, *dog that I love* and hear him give his little throaty sound in return. I cry as I write this, I hope, for one last time.

---

I needn't have worried, it seems, about Rusty challenging those fragile sedum plants. However, when Bryan Manuele saw the golden hosta planted instead (my choice), I think he secretly thought my choice was better. I know he liked them because he suggested using the same hosta behind the yews that edge another side of the patio. But I'm going to wait until Spring for that planting, and consider it well. Spring brings a carpet of blue scilla, snow drops, and May flowers in waves to this particular area and I'm almost willing to pick the larger weeds and let the big-leaved violets and lily of the valley that come later take it over as they seem willing to do.

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Rusty gave the garden a final stamp of approval.

---

**SODAS & MILKSHAKES & CONES\n**
*oh my.*

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The rest of the garden is slowly reaching its prime. How could it not when it is crowned by a sculpture by Sandy Friedman, one of his abstractions in steel that have grace and power in flowing form? I watched it take shape as he welded it (Sandy is a neighbor across the road) and he suggested (insisted) I paint the circle in karmic yellow to make it my very own. If you think I did a Molly Bloom yes, yes, yes when Bryan installed my pond, you should have heard me when I saw my finished sculpture.

Sandy also thought a Buddhist chant might be in order for full Feng Shui effect as the sculpture was completed. All I think of on the spur was *om mani padme hum*, which I think translates into something like "the heart is in the lotus", meaning (I think) that truth is discovered on an inward journey. I remembered another chant from way back in my Esalen days that phonetically sounds like *jonga nasta, jonga nasta, jonga nasta padi wab*. I haven't the foggiest memory of what it means. But I'll give and take my blessings, for me and the new sculpture, wherever I can find them.

There must be many of us who have doused our gardens with mushroom compost and who now find some strange apparitions popping up here and there. Along with a box of morels and a bottle of truffle oil, my daughter Jan sent me a book on mushrooms a few Mother's Days past. If I find anything interesting on these little fungi that I'm finding around my place, I'll pass it on. I will definitely not try to eat them first.

Every garden should be graced by a sculpture from Sandy Friedman.

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Dogs, a Donkey and a Bird

The first annual pet parade, part of the new Labor Dayz event, headed down Washington Street on a beautiful Saturday afternoon. Greyhounds rescued from the racing circuit led the parade. These were followed by pets and their owners, sadly very bunched together. It was difficult to see all of the costumes of both pet and owner because of the tight grouping.

Their finishing line was the site of the farmer’s market. There, pet treats and prizes were handed out for categories such as biggest entry & smallest entry. There was an enormous turnout of dogs - big ones, little ones, medium and very tiny ones - so the presence of a donkey and a parakeet brought what little variety they could. Kids and pets (more doggies) lined the street to watch the fun.

Despite the large canine presence, it was fast and fun and everyone, including the owners, behaved admirably. There was a fair turn out and by spreading the entrants out a bit it would be easier to see all who were walking.

This was a great start, however, and I look forward to the event next year. Even though I am a dog lover it would be nice to see a cat or two, or an iguana or anything else in the animal line. How about it kids?!

A Michigan City squad car leads the 1st annual Pet Parade

A Hawaiian theme for these fellas. The big one in the middle, I believe its name is Tugboat, won for the biggest entry!

This little one displays patriotic apparel - a popular theme with many marchers.

Barking joyous greetings from the sideline, these two wanted very badly to join in the fun.

First up - the rescued greyhounds,

Bringing up the rear is Blue of Blue’s Clues fame.

All sizes being represented, we have here these sprightly little ones.

A Hawaiian theme for these fellas. The big one in the middle, I believe its name is Tugboat, won for the biggest entry!

This little one displays patriotic apparel- a popular theme with many marchers.

Tigger gives us a wave, while Fire Plug, partially hidden and Clifford the big red dog march on.

This lovely, large St. Bernard needed a little rest after its walk.

Besides the dogs and the donkey, a parakeet was there to represent another member of the animal kingdom. Can you spot its cage here?
Daughters of the Nile Annual Luncheon

Daughters of the Nile are the female counterparts of the Shriners. There are 150 temples throughout the U.S. and Canada and each temple conducts fund-raisers to benefit the outpatients of the 22 Shriners’ Hospitals for Children.

Daughters of the Nile, Aretas Temple No. 153, at the Michigan City Orak Shrine Center, Franklin St. near I-94, will hold this annual event on Sat., Oct. 5. There will be a luncheon at noon (tickets $6 each) followed by a live auction at 1 p.m. A silent auction will be held from 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m. The public is invited to attend. Luncheon tickets can be purchased from members or are available at the door. The auctions offer jewelry, appliances, furniture, household goods, collectibles and many other items. Door prizes will be awarded.

Free Mousing & Internet Classes

Free mousing and Internet classes will be held at LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave., LaPorte, in September.

Basic Mousing, for those new to computers, will be held at 9:30 a.m., on Thurs., Sept. 19.

Basic Internet, for those familiar with mousing, will be held at 1 p.m., Thurs., Sept. 19, and repeated on Thurs., Sept. 26 at 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

There is no charge, but registration is necessary. To sign up, phone the Information Desk at 219/362-6156.

PC Maintenance is a 2 hour class to be held on Sat., Sept. 28, 2-4 p.m. Sign up at the Information Desk.
Auditions in Valparaso

The Memorial Theatre Company announces auditions for “The 1940s Radio Hour” on Mon., Sept. 16 and Tues., Sept. 17, from 7-10 p.m. Auditions will be held at the Memorial Opera House, 104 Indiana Ave., Valparaiso.

The Broadway hit accurately captures the spirit of that bygone era when the world was at war, television was something from science fiction, and pop music meant “The Chattanooga Choo Choo” and “Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy”, both of which are among the memorable songs in the show.

Those wishing to audition should bring a prepared song with the sheet music. An accompanist will be provided. There is casting for 10 men and 5 women.

Performances begin Nov. 2. For more information, phone 219/548-9137.

Grinders vs. The Bucks

The Deep River Grinders, Indiana’s premier Vintage Base Ball Club Nine, will host the Bucks from Elk Grove, Illinois, in a game of 1858 base ball on Sun., Sept. 15, at 2 p.m. at Deep River County Park.

Bring your lawn chair, enjoy a hot dog, chips or a sarsaparilla (the favorite drink of the Grinders), and shout “Huzzah!” for good plays by either team. The game is free, and is wholesome fun for young and old alike.

Deep River County Park is located on Old Lincoln Highway (US 30) at County Line Road, between Valparaiso and Merrillville (go west past Deep River Water Park to stop light; turn right and follow signs). For more information, phone 219/947-1958.
Building a Float, One Kernel at a Time
by Paula McHugh

Wednesday, September 4, 2001:
The big yellow bus in the Valparaiso Public Schools’ bus barn is covered with popcorn. As it should be.
Diana Landrum and Cookie Weeks, the former a veteran school bus driver, the latter a bus aide for students with disabilities, have hours to go before their tasks are complete. But they are not here to clean up after untidy schoolchildren. Diana and Cookie are three workdays away from completing their float entry in Valparaiso’s annual Popcorn Festival Parade.

The pair of float artists, last year’s Grand Champion winners, have already put 800 hours of work into what they consider a labor of love. Their whimsical float carries a poignant message, and the creators are keenly aware that thousands of people along the parade route will read the cracked corn-covered missive: “We stand united to provide a safe ride for children all around the world.”

That the message comes on the anniversary of September 11 is anything but corny.

“We started planning (this year’s float) in February, and started construction on July 5th. We’ve been here every day since,” says Diana, adding that she and her family had their Labor Day picnic right here at the bus barn. All of the 500 gallons of popped corn on the float has been put on piece by piece. No shortcuts, they say.

The big yellow, popcorn-covered schoolbus, the work of Diana Landrum and Cookie Weeks, sits sheltered inside the Valparaiso Public Schools’ Bus Barn.

Cookie Weeks flips some switches to show us that the float’s swing-arm actually works. The red and yellow flashing lights work, too.

“Stop-Arm-Sally” to remind drivers about school bus laws,” Diana explains as Cookie crawls into a trap door in the stick-framed float to flip a switch. Voila! The bright red stop arm swings out as the bus’ yellow caution lights flash on and off. The 2001 Grand Champion float did her job to lower the number of stop-arm violations in the city over the past year, according to the winning entrants.

Diana demonstrates how she and Cookie glued each separate piece of popcorn onto the float. The women say that after immersing themselves in this project for the third year running, they can no longer eat popcorn.

With 800 hours of work on the float behind them, Diana Landrum and Cookie Weeks prepare to glue 200 stars to the platforms to complete the work.

This is just one small part of the float. Imagine the patience it takes to glue popcorn to the frame piece by piece. And you thought stringing popcorn for the Christmas tree was a chore?
To follow the 2002 Popcorn Fest theme, three-dimensional children were designed from papier-mâché to denote schoolkids of different nationalities. Diana and Cookie found that cornhusks made great “hair” when a curling iron was applied. The hands are rubber gloves filled with foam insulation, then covered with grits; the arms are covered in cracked corn.

In addition to the popped variety, cracked corn, grits, and cornhusks make up the tools the women use to create the float. The corn varieties are glued to Styrofoam, papier-mâché, and other materials. And after the parade is over and all the revelers have gone home after the big weekend, 90% of the float—the corny parts—are destroyed.

“When its all over, it (the float) gets trashed. And we cry,” Diana says. But last year the women were determined to salvage the stick frame, only to discover that it became infested with fleas.

“The corn gets buggy, and that’s why you can’t keep it,” Cookie says.

The women have no qualms about sharing a few of their trade secrets, learned from three years of crafting floats for Valparaiso’s biggest town event. They discovered that the cornhusks, ordered in bulk from Mexico, are malleable when dampened with water. They used, they tell us, a curling iron on the husks to fashion some of their 3-dimensional riders’ hairdos. Smiling down from the windows of the make-believe bus, corn-covered “children” of different nationalities appear in a festive mood.

“Painting the popcorn is a trick,” Diana says. “The popcorn has to be stale in order for the colors to stick. Red is a tricky color to get right,” she adds, as she and Cookie prepare to glue 200 sparkly stars onto the red and blue platform parts of the float’s display.

Diana says that there are always new things to learn about float building.

“I hate to cook and hate to clean, but give me a craft (anytime). The Popcorn Festival has sentimental meaning to the veteran bus driver, since she and her husband were married during the festival weekend 22 years ago.

And if it should rain during the festival parade? A look of horror crosses Diana’s face.

“It’s not going to rain! Don’t even mention it,” she commands.

“When you put your soul into this, that (rain) would be a disaster.”

(Editor’s note: The Popcorn Fest Parade was on September 7 this year and Diana & Cookie’s float won Grand Champion again.)
LaPorte Literacy Coalition Fundraiser

LaPorte Literacy Coalition has the Northwest Indiana edition of Entertainment Book for sale at $30 each. A portion of the profits goes to help people of all ages increase their skills in reading and speaking English.

Included in the book are discounts and two for one coupons for LaPorte businesses such as Café L’Amour, Red Rose Restaurant & Lounge, A & W, J-Mart BP Amoco Shops, LaPorte Symphony Orchestra, Greg’s Diamonds & Gold, Smith Shoes, Zelden’s Shoe Stores, Family Express, and Chapman-Graf Cleaners. Offers from many near-by communities are also included as well as hotel and other discounts from around the nation.

Other editions of Entertainment Book, such as the near-by Michiana/South Bend edition and other in-state and out-of-state editions may be ordered.

To arrange a time to purchase or look at these books, phone Mary Hedge at 219/362-6156.

At the LaPorte County Public Library

Sat., September 21, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Sunflower Fair activities
Mini Book Sale. 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.
For kids:
Free Balloon Creatures from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Free face painting, make it and take it craft, Nerfball toss.
Show your library card and get a coupon for a free ice cream at Temple News or coffee at KarMel.
Mon., September 23, 4-5 p.m.
Senior Monday. This month’s program will feature a program by massage therapists Dennis Hedstrom and Suki Cho will will demonstrate a few easy relaxation massage techniques especially for seniors.
It will be held in the large meeting room. There is no admission fee or preregistration necessary.
The LaPorte County Public Library is located at 904 Indiana Ave., LaPorte; phone 219/362-6156.

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To arrange a time to purchase or look at these books, phone Mary Hedge at 219/362-6156.
ICS Rummage Sale

The Independent Cat Society is hosting a one-day, end of the season rummage sale at its shelter in Westville, on Sat., Sept. 14, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

A wide variety of items for home, office and garden will be for sale at rock bottom prices. Items include window air conditioners, box fans, covered litter boxes, glassware, flatware, Christmas decorations, home decor and much more.

All proceeds from the raffle will go directly to the care of cats and kittens of the Independent Cat Society's no-kill shelter. The "no-kill" policy means that the shelter does not euthanize a cat unless a veterinarian advises it for medical reasons, or when it is necessary to relieve the animal's pain and suffering.

The ICS shelter is located 6-1/2 miles east of Rt. 49, at the corner of Rt. 6 and the LaPorte/Porter County Line Road, in Westville (From Michigan City, take U.S. 20 west to the LaPorte/Porter County Line Road; turn left and proceed to the shelter). Phone them at 219/785-4936.

Vote For Veteran of the Year

The Great Lakes Museum of Military History will present the 9th Annual Veteran of the Year Award at its Red, White & Blue Ball—A Salute to Veterans, on Sat., Nov. 2. The ball, which is black-tie optional, will be held at Hesston Hills Banquet & Conference Center starting at 5:30 p.m. with John Haynes in the Piano Bar, followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Nominations are now being taken for the Northern Indiana Veteran of the Year. The deadline for nominations is 4 p.m., Sat., Oct. 6. Nomination forms and information about the award are available at the museum, 360 Dunes Plaza, Michigan City, or by phoning 872-2702. All area veteran's organizations/clubs are encouraged to submit nominations from among their members.

The nominees will remain anonymous during the judging. Lysaught, Salmon & Co. CPAs will tabulate results of the point-based award. The nominees and recipient of the award will be presented at the ball.
By Paula McHugh

September 11 and the Internet

We’ve been watching many television tributes to the heroes and heroines of September 11th, now officially proclaimed as “Patriot’s Day.” The Internet and digital technology played a big part in communications last year, which we’ll talk about here shortly. Many of the websites pertaining to that darkest day in American history remain cached. It’s like having a scrapbook of the news events readily at hand.

One particularly poignant website contains stories—286 of them at last count—from people across the country (and some from other countries). These writings are well-written contributions describing reactions, impact, personal views and emotions—a contemporary oral history from just plain folks, not the media. One former Oklahoman recently relocated to NYC wrote of his reactions to witnessing two horrors—the Oklahoma City bombings and the WTC collapse. Others from New York give descriptions of being in the midst of the downtown panic. Illinois contributor Kathy Pelot summed up her thoughts by saying, “May we learn from this tragedy that life cannot be taken for granted. At any second it can be taken away without reason or warning…” These are slice-of-life perspectives placed in a website for all to read. Find them at: http://mystory.inter.net/. By the way, the invitation to submit personal stories to this site was (and apparently still is) open to anyone.

The search engine Google posted an article by Michigan State University professor and author Richard Wiggins detailing the impact of search requests on the Internet immediately following the first news report about the World Trade Center. He found that 6,000 users per minute made a search request on Google, and during the first few days 120 million queries related to the 9-11 events were logged. Google’s record of Top Ten searches on that particular day
(September 11) were, from 1 to 10: CNN, World Trade Center, BBC, Pentagon, MSNBC, Osama Bin Laden, Nostradamus, American Airlines, FBI, and Barbara Olson. While Google's query requests counted staggering numbers, Google added a message to their home page informing visitors “that television and radio were the best places to find information.”

Wiggins also noted how the Internet and digital technology played an important role for people directly involved in the tragedy. Since long distance and cell phone usage was quickly jamming up the lines, people desperate to reach loved ones used the text-mode messaging features of their cell phones. Cable, DSL, and direct Internet lines worked for New Yorkers and Washingtonians to get email messages out. Others used Internet Relay Chat to get messages out to those who needed them. And when certain media websites became overloaded with too many users, mirror sites sprung up to help with the crush of website traffic.

There are what appears to be gazillions of websites devoted to September 11. Use a search engine to help you sort through the categories of topics, from photos to original newscasts and much, much more, that most interest you.

(Please send any comments, suggestions, etc. to left2write@hotmail.com with “cyberscribbles” in the subject heading).

Art Center Yard Sale & Bake Sale

On Sat., Sept. 14, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., the John G. Blank Center for the Arts, 312 E. 8th St., will hold a Recyclables Sale/Bake Sale. Items for sale will include small appliances, clothing, sport equipment, children’s items, picture frames, antiques, bikes, books, furniture, jewelry, and household items. Baked treats and goodies made by members of the Art Center Guild will also be for sale.

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Lipizzaner Stallions to Appear Oct. 6

The world famous Lipizzaner Stallions are on their 32nd Anniversary tour in 2002 with an all new production. Over the years, 23 million people throughout North and South America, Europe, Australia and Hawaii have seen this internationally acclaimed spectacle. The Lipizzaner Stallion has galloped boldly out of the pages of 425 years of history, and is now preserved as an equestrian work of art, an equine ballet not to be rivaled. Their website is www.lipizzaner.com

Locally, they can be seen at the Joyce Center, University of Notre Dame, South Bend. There will be two shows on Sun., Oct. 6: 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Tickets may be purchased at the Joyce Center Box Office and all Ticketmaster outlets. Purchase online at www.ticketmaster.com or phone 574/631-7354 for more information.

9th Annual Barnfest

This event will take place Sat., Sept. 14, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., at 1026 N. Forrester Road, LaPorte. (Directions: take Wozniak Rd to 125N; turn left on 125N and go approx. 1/4 mile; turn right on Forrester Rd, 7 houses on right).

A variety of crafts, antiques, collectibles, fresh fruits and veggies will be available. There will be fall flowers, hanging plants, bales of straw, corn stalks and pumpkins. There is also a section in the barn filled with “treasures.”

The festival is within two miles of Garwood’s Applefest. The Exchangettes will offer homemade baked goods for their annual fundraiser and will be selling Entertainment Books for $30 which contain coupons for a variety of services throughout the Northern Indiana and Chicago areas. Coolspring School will also have a fundraiser during the festival.

For more information, phone 800/634-2650.
“Weavers, Potters & Jewelers: Small Business in Ireland”

Purdue University North Central Women’s Association will host the program, “Weavers, Potters & Jewelers: Small Business in Ireland” on Sat., Sept. 21, at 1 p.m. in the Library-Student-Faculty Building Assembly Hall, Room 02. The event is free and open to the public.

The program will feature Faye Sandsbury, Northwest District Director of Purdue Cooperative Extension Service, and Karen DeZarn, Purdue Porter County Extension Director who will describe their two-week trip to Ireland on a Rural Development Study Tour.

They were part of a group of Purdue University consumer and Family Sciences educators who explored health, family services, foods and nutrition. They looked at rural economic development and the relationship of technology, tourism and small business.

Their talk will cover principles they observed as key to making small and home-based businesses successful in small towns. They will share pictures, experiences and observations of businesses in textiles, weaving, pottery, jewelry and dairy. Participants will have an opportunity to see examples of their craft items.

For more information, phone 872-0527, ext. 5267.

VU Professor Awarded Grant From NASA

A Valparaiso University professor has earned a grant of more than $54,000 from NASA to carry out research with the Hubble Space Telescope.

Dr. Bruce Hrivnak, professor of physics and astronomy, was awarded the grant to support his research project “Molecular Hydrogen Imaging of Proto-Planetary Nebulae: Probing the Dynamics and Morphology.”

Dr. Hrivnak has been awarded 13 “orbits” of time with the Hubble telescope to observe 11 dying stars. An orbit is a 90-minute session in which the telescope circles the earth. Five orbits already have been carried out, and the remaining orbits will take place during the next year.

Once the telescope observations are completed, the data will be sent to Dr. Hrivnak and his collaborators at the University of Arizona and the University of Calgary. They are examining the 11 stars to see what processes they go through as they lose their outer layers of gas as they die. The analysis will be carried out during the next two years.
Mark Twain was the guest speaker at the Annual Friendship Gardens Tea held on Sunday afternoon, August 25th. Actually, it was the Rev. Dick Anderson of Lombard, Illinois, impersonating Mark Twain, but looking at him, you would have been fooled!

The day was a beautiful, hot, sunny one and many people took advantage of it to attend this annual event at the Gardens. A colorful sign at the Route 12 entrance welcomed everyone to the tea. Once inside, guests could sign in at a table with Chairman of the Tea, Ramona Hay, and then walk or ride on a cart to the canopied area where the tea would be held. Punch was available as guests entered. There were items given away in a raffle and five door prizes were also awarded. Many volunteers served to help make the tea a successful event. Executive Director, Tammy Steinhagen, said, “My mom and my sister were here from the beginning. My daughter, Marque, has the jobs of pouring tea and taking Polaroid photos of those who request them. It’s just amazing how this all came together. Royal Doulton donated some cups to us for this year’s tea. And, best of all, the weather is perfect!”

As guests were arriving, I took the chance to take some photographs. Mark (Rev. Anderson) and his wife, Robin, were circulating among the crowd before the event began. A few of his parishioners were present for the tea. Also there was Retired Executive Director of the Gardens, Jeanne Houck, who was very pretty in pink. She said, “My husband (President of the Board) does not know a petunia from a pansy, but he’s so dedicated to the whole reconstruction project! I chose my dress because of the floral design. To me, anything floral is beautiful. There are a lot of women wearing floral dresses this year.”
At a front table (The Nature’s Cupboard Table) were: Sharon Erickson, Jene Jensen, Sharon Stahoviak, Mylesi Tucker, James Jensen, LaVora Tucker, and Chloe Andrew. Everyone here was wearing a hat.

Dr. Richard Houck spoke to the group and said, “Every year, the tea here gets better and better, which is mostly due to the effort of all the volunteers!” He thanked all of them and especially Ramona Hay, Chairman of the Afternoon Tea.

Musicians Emily Blitstein played the harp and Melissa Dittman played the violin. They regularly perform at weddings, receptions, holiday and special events.

The food was arriving, so it was time to enjoy the goodies. The menu included: petite lemon scones, tea sandwiches (chicken salad, cream cheese with cucumber, & ham salad with sweet pickle), desserts (pettis-fors, wild berry charlottes, luscious lemon squares, fresh fruit), Earl Gray Tea, and lemonade. Volunteers passed plates, poured beverages, and then made the rounds again for those who wanted more.

At one table were: Gerrie Bowie, Dena Wilkinson, Mamie Davis, Donna Cawley (Mamie’s niece), Gail Cross, Mariam Nasidi, Pam Bayer, and Leah Kensey. At another were Maggie Beyer (from *The Beacher*) at the right front with others, four there wearing hats.

At my table were friends, Kathy Zmuda and Thelma Westman. Kathy had been wearing a hat with a scarf around it, but when Mamie Davis mentioned that she had forgotten her own hat, Kathy generously loaned HER hat to Mamie to wear for the afternoon! Thelma said, “I went to the florist on 8th and Washington Streets, to see what I could find. I spied this hat hanging there, decorated with leaves and fruit. It was very reasonable, so I bought it from him and I’m wearing it today!” Kathy asked me if I realized that the International Friendship Gardens had been featured in National Geographic and that more bulbs have been sent to the Gardens than to any other place in the world. She also said, “It’s really different to come in the new way from Route 12.”

At a front table were: Dr. Gene Hay, (Ramona Hay sat there, but she also had other things to do), Robin Anderson, Luella Ensign, Jeanne Houck, and Dr. Richard Houck. At another table were: Neil Keinitz, Melissa Dittman, Emily Blitstein, and the Blitstein family.
Now it was time for “The Wit and Wisdom of Mark Twain,” presented by the Rev. Dick Anderson. First, he led the crowd in the singing of “The Star Spangled Banner.”

Then he began his program, which all seemed to enjoy very much. “My (Samuel Clemmons’) brother was a supporter of Abraham Lincoln. He was made secretary of a western territory because of this. I spent a 19-day trip on a stagecoach to Nevada. What a trip! I planned to get rich on stories, not silver. So I would sit in a bar and tell jokes and stories. Do you know what my name, Mark Twain, means? It means two fathoms, twelve feet, clear water; or clear passage for the boats which would go down the river.”

Continuing, he said, “I was born modest, but it wore off! We had a lawyer who kept his hands in his own pockets! Can you imagine that?”

Next, he entertained with the singing of “Old Man River.” In describing a Dalmatian, he said, “If it had had more legs, it would have been stronger and not so swaybacked.” Asking the audience if they wanted him to smoke a cigar, the response was a chorus of “No’s!”

Mark found an extremely gentle horse to ride, but “He started out so slowly that it began to irritate me. Was there anything wild in his eyes?” Then, getting to San Francisco, he was interviewed by “the local interviewer from The Daily Thunderstorm. I answered his questions that I was 19 and was born in Missouri. Also, that I began to write in 1836. I told him that I knew George Washington. But he wondered how that could be, since I was only 19. So I asked him, ‘If you know all about me, why are you asking all these questions?’”

“Edelweiss” from the “Sound of Music” was the next solo by the entertainer for the afternoon. Then Mark Twain continued with some excerpts from Huck Finn. “Both my Aunt Polly (the Widow Douglas) and her sister, Miss Watson, were continually at me to behave. Miss Watson told me all about the ‘bad place.’ I wanted to be there, though, if she wouldn’t be there and I wasn’t going to try for the ‘good place.’ So I left.”

“I met Miss Watson’s slave, Jim, on the island one night. Jim and me found a log raft and then we went off down the river together. We slept days and rode on the raft in the nights. On such nights, we could see the steamboats slipping along in the dark. I wouldn’t turn Jim in, because I couldn’t do that!”

“Now I’m 70 which I recognize, but I don’t realize it. I came in with Halley’s Comet, and I expect to go out with it. I’ll stop now, and say Good Afternoon!”

The crowd clapped appreciatively and chatted with one another before leaving the scene of a very pleasant afternoon.

The Afternoon Tea Volunteers get together for a group photo.

Mark Twain sings for the audience.
Beach Clean-Up Sept. 21

Every year, nearly a million volunteers around the world spend three hours on the third Saturday of September combing the beaches for shiny wrappers, discarded cigarette filters, deflated balloons, and other pieces of litter. They clean up the trash that pollutes our waters, harms aquatic life, hampers tourism, and poses health risks for beach-goers.

Volunteers from around the globe and 55 U.S. states and territories participate each year—clearing tons of trash from coastlines, rivers and lakes.

Join a group of beach sweepers who will collect debris along the shoreline from Washington Park to Long Beach. Volunteers will meet at the Jaycee Stage at 8:30 a.m. and begin the sweep at 9 a.m. Reservations are not necessary. Gloves, bags and data cards for debris collection will be provided. For more information, contact Leslie Dorworth, Aquatic Ecology Specialist, Purdue University Calumet, 219/989-2726.

Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program

The beach clean-up is the culmination of a week’s events planned in conjunction with Lake Michigan Coast Week as proclaimed by Governor O’Bannon. Other activities this week include:

Sun., Sept. 15: Coffee Creek Preserve Hike at Coffee Creek, 1050 and St. Rd. 49, Chesterton. 1 p.m. No reservations required. Visit www.coffeecreekwc.org

Mon., Sept. 16: Lake Michigan Shoreline Dynamics. This DNR field trip to the shoreline will take place 10 a.m.-noon at Washington Park. Meet at the parking lot near the lighthouse pier.

Wed., Sept. 18: Conservation Field Day. 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at Soldiers Memorial Park, Cummings Lodge, Grangemouth Road & Waverly Road in LaPorte. Optional tour of Kingsbury Fish and Wildlife Area. Lunch will be provided. Contact Blank’s Nursery, 219/393-5411, to register.


Fri., Sept. 20: Diving into Biology-Live Virtual Dive in Lake Michigan. 10:30 a.m. at Pastrick Marina, 3301 Aldis Street, East Chicago, IN. Also available through video teleconferencing. Reservations required, phone Jim Gentile, 219/391-4138.

Sat., Sept. 21 & Sun., Sept. 22: Duneland Harvest Festival, Chellberg Farm and Bailly Homestead, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Porter, IN. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. each day. Parking fee of $5. Info 219/926-7561, ext. 225.

Read The Beacher On Line
http://www.bbpbnet.com/Beacher/
Off the Book Shelf
by Sally Carpenter

It’s hard to believe that a year has passed since that beautiful Tuesday in September that started out with such promise and ended so abruptly and so devastatingly for all of us. I remember going in to work shortly before 8 a.m., pouring the first cup of coffee of the day, having the usual office banter with my co-workers, and finally settling down to the day’s work. At about 8:20 a.m., someone from another office came in and asked if we had heard about the plane crash in New York. Of course, the first thing that happens is disbelief: are you sure? how bad is it? will someone turn on the radio? As the reports started coming in faster than the brain could absorb, someone had the sense to get the TV out of the auditorium and set it up in the foyer for all to see. Yes, we all looked, we all fell silent, trying to accept the reality of viewing something that should only happen on a Hollywood movie set.

Like it or not, 9-11 will now and forever more be a part of our history, and in the months since that horrible day, we have all had to move on with our lives, trying to explain to our children what happened, while trying to cope with all the emotions within ourselves. Now, on the anniversary of 9-11, I would like to offer some books that are worth your consideration. In remembrance? In contemplation? You be the judge. There is a mountain of books on the subject, but I picked these because they come from well-respected authors and/or publishing houses.

What We Saw by CBS News, with an introduction by Dan Rather is a slim volume done in stark black and white. Isn’t that the way we see all history? as black and white? There are no in between colors from 9-11, only the extremes; only the colors of life and death. The book opens with a picturesque view of the New York skyline, the Twin Towers still intact. The next page shows a fireman waving an American flag with the skeletal remains of the Towers in the background. Such a contrast—such is the power of photography.

In his introduction, Dan Rather said, “For me, though—and I suspect this is also true for others—the true force of September 11 was revealed not in a single moment but in a series of moments.” This statement was inforced by the stories (and photos) following that were written by CBS news team members and correspondents; some in New York, some in Washington and others at the Pentagon. Each story gives a different perspective on the day’s events; some stories were the result of interviews with survivors on the scene.

Ad added bonus is a DVD glued to the back inside cover that contains the CBS news coverage of the day. I highly recommend this book.

The American Spirit: Meeting the Challenge of September 11 published by Life Books is a big book
typical of the wonderful job Time-Life Books always does. If you prefer color photography, this may be the book for you; it’s filled with pages and pages of photos done by the talented team at Time-Life. Followed by an introduction by President Bush, there is a series of aerial photos showing the clean-up at “ground zero” from Sept. 11 to May 31. The rest of the book is about Americans: saying good-bye to loved ones, getting back to work, visiting the site, showing their patriotism. One chapter centers on Mayor Giuliani’s year since 9-11, while another tells of a New York firefighter, Dan Rowan, and four fellow firefighters, who found cleansing in a cross-country bike ride, leaving New York on Nov, 11 and heading for the Pacific coast. In typical Time-Life fashion, this book is as American as apple pie. Another highly recommended book.

*Let’s Roll* by Lisa Beamer is probably the most eagerly awaited book about 9-11. Do I need to remind you who she is? Her husband, Todd, and the other passengers of United Flight 93 fought the terrorists and probably foiled their attempt to crash into the White House. Todd’s famous “Let’s Roll” were the last words heard by GTE operator Lisa Jefferson before their phone connection was lost and the plane went down. Since then, “let’s roll” has become a national rallying cry. Those words were very familiar to Lisa Beamer, words that Todd always used to get the children going.

This book is classified by the publisher as Inspiration/Biography and there is plenty of both here. Lisa goes back not just to her and Todd’s childhood, but to their parents’ as well. She tells of lives filled with love: love of family and a deep and abiding love of God. Both Todd and Lisa grew up with a strong sense of purpose and ethics; it seems they were truly destined to find each other. Photos, too, help bring this couple’s story to life, and, I think, makes the reader realize how many other Todds and Lisas had their lives shattered on 9-11.

Lisa tells of her courtship with Todd, their marriage and stages of Todd’s career; their move to New Jersey and the birth of their two sons. The Beamers had just returned from a trip to Italy on Sept. 10. She recounts the events of Sept. 11 from the moment Todd kissed her good-bye for the last time to the stunned realization, after hearing about the plane crashes, that she really didn’t know which airline or flight her husband was on. After the horror of finding out that Todd was, indeed, on United Flight 93, her world became a nightmare, as it did for so many others.

Because of her husband’s role that day, Lisa Beamer has had herself thrust in the limelight, like it or not, and she has become a strong and much admired spokesperson over the past year; even with having to take time out for the birth of her daughter, Morgan, in January of this year.

How does a young mother make it day to day after such a horror? “I had indeed decided that with faith in God, my children and I could face whatever life
Activities to Explore

In the Local Area:

- September 11 — Memorial Services to be held at various locations in the area. See story this issue.

- September 12 — Interfaith Luncheon Series at Trinity Episcopal Church, 600 Franklin Sq. 11:30 am-1 pm. Rabbi Joseph Edelheit will speak. Bring your lunch; beverages will be served and a free will offering will be taken.


- September 13 — Adult Tennis. 5 pm at the Michigan City Junior High School tennis courts. Info, Neil Sheehan, 874-3174.

- September 14 — John G. Blank Art Center Yard Sale & Bake Sale. 9 am-2 pm, 312 E. 8th St. See story this issue.

- September 14 — 9th annual 2002 Barnfest. 8 am-4 pm. Crafts, antiques, fresh fruit, baked sales.1026 N. Forrester Rd., LaPorte. See story this issue.

- September 14 — Friends of the Library Collectors Breakfast featuring appraiser Karl Gates. 9 am at the Pottawattomie Country Club. No tix sold at the door, visit the Circulation Desk at the MC Public Library to purchase.


- September 14 — Independent Cat Society Rummage Sale at the shelter, LaPorte/Porter County Line Road & Rt. 6 in Westville. 8 am-2 pm. 219/785-4936.

- September 15 — Fine Art Series at the Presbyterian Church, 307 Kingsbury Ave., LaPorte featuring Bruce Bengtson in an organ recital. 4 pm. Free-will offering will be taken. Reception to meet the artist immediately following the concert.

- September 15 — Meditation Group. 7 pm at the MC Public Library. New members invited to attend.

- September 16 — Page Turners Book Discussion at the LaPorte Co. Public Library. Noon-1 pm. John Adams by David McCullough to be discussed. Free. Bring your lunch, light refreshments will be served. 904 Indiana Ave., LaPorte. 219/361-6156.

- September 18 — Blood Pressure Screening at the MC Public Library. 2 pm. Bring your list of meds and blood pressure card. Note time change.

- September 18 — Mighty Mic Showcase. 6:30 pm at the MC Public Library. Hosted by Troubadour Poet Richard Fammeree. Free & open to the public. Info 873-3049.

- September 19 — Computer classes at the LaP. Co. Public Library: Basic Mousing class at 9:30 am and Basic Internet at 1 pm. Sign up at the Information Desk or phone 219/362-6156. 904 Indiana Ave.,
LaPorte.

September 20 — Bookmarks at Noon. MC Public Library. Hard Eight by Janet Evanovich will be reviewed by PNC Professor Patricia Buckler. Free & open to the public. Bring your lunch.

**Places to Visit:**

Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St., Michigan City. Guided tours on Mon-Fri, 10 am, 11:30 am. Adm. $4/adults, $2/kids 18 and under, free/kids under 3.


Door Prairie Auto Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., LaPorte (one mi. south of LaPorte on US 35). Open Tues-Sat, 10 am-4:30 pm; Sun, noon-4:30 pm; closed Mon & holidays. Adm. chg.; phone 219/326-1337 for more info. or visit www.dpautomuseum.com

Great Lakes Museum of Military History, 360 Dunes Plaza, Michigan City. Info 872-2702 or on the web at www.militaryhistorymuseum.org

LaPorte County Historical Museum, county complex in downtown LaPorte, Indiana. Hours 10 am-4:30 pm, Tues-Sat. Adm. free; donations welcome. 219/326-6808, ext. 276 or www.lapcohistsoc.org.

New Buffalo Railroad Museum, 530 S. Whittaker St., New Buffalo, MI. Open Mon-Fri, 9 am-5 pm; Sat-Sun, 10 am-3 pm (MI time). Info 616/469-5409.

John G. Blank Center for the Arts, 312 E. 8th St., Michigan City. Gallery hours Mon-Fri, 10 am-4 pm; Sat, 10 am-2 pm. 874-4900. New exhibits: Juried Art Exhibition. Continues through Sept. 27.


**Farther Afield:**


Through November 23 — Holland Farmer’s Market (Mon/Sat), Holland, MI. 800/506-1299 or www.holland.org

Through mid-December — Ernie Pyle State Historic Site. Dana, Indiana (west of Indianapolis). Restored turn-of-the-century birthplace home and two Quonset huts displaying authentic WWII scenes. Free adm. Wed-Sat, 9 am-5 pm; Sun 1-5 pm. 765/665-3633.

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Visit us at: www.beachsidegardens.com
Continuing to Find Comfort After September 11, 2001

by Charles McKelvey

at that horrific image of those two stricken towers. Like the rest of the country, the three of us were in shock as we watched those two towers of American business might collapse in on themselves.

I asked Natalie if we should go ahead with our plans to ride the Kal-Haven, and she said: “Absolutely. What else can we do today?”

Natalie had a point, and so off we went to the trail’s mid-point in Bloomingdale. But first we stopped at Cycle Path in Stevensville to see our old pal Reinhardt Brandt about some new bike gloves for me and some minor adjustments for our bikes.

When we walked into Reinhardt’s shop, of course, he was mesmerized by the live broadcast from New York, and Washington, D.C. where a third hijacked plane had crashed into the Pentagon.

We simply stopped and stared in horror at what was happening to our country. Natalie and I had been to the top of the World Trade Center some years back on a similarly splendid September morning, and I had once served two weeks of active duty at the Pentagon, so we were more than a little affected by what we were watching.

It was too much to take in, but I don’t have to remind you because you all know only too well that September 11, 2001 was a day of collective shock, disbelief, horror, sorrow, and anger.

When we had absorbed all that we could from the televised stories, we concluded our business with Reinhardt Brandt and drove the backway to Bloomingdale, rarely even matching the posted speed limits.

There was little traffic, and what there was of it was moving as slowly as we were through the splendor of that September morn. It was as though we were all still stuck in some invisible fog.

We passed the entrance to the Palisades Nuclear Plant in Covert Township on the way to Bloomingdale, and we somberly noted the presence of conspicuously armed police officers screening arrivals. Later, we learned that Palisades and the Cook Nuclear Plant closer to home in Bridgman had both activated emergency security measures as a result of the national crisis, and, of course, we were glad but sad at the same time.

Just as we gladly helped served a Hawaiian luau to the noble crews at Palisades in March, 2002 as a reward for their long, long hours of service in the wake of the national disaster. In fact, the March luau was really the first time since September 11, 2001 that they all got to relax and linger over a good meal. And we at Classic Catering did our best to ensure it was a grand meal, because we all felt we were doing our patriotic duty by feeding those tired and hungry and totally unsung American heroes.
When Natalie and I returned to Palisades in March to be of service, we vividly remembered our ride past there on September 11, 2001 and were glad to be back, even if it was cold and windy.

For although September 11, 2001 had been bright and sunny, our world had changed in a twinkling, and we sensed it would take a lot of work putting it back together again.

Our efforts in March were, for us at least, a part of that healing process.

Just as our ride on the Kal-Haven Trail on September 11, 2001 was immediately restorative.

We didn't talk much on our 32-mile round-trip, and we didn't see much in the way of wildlife, and we encountered but a few other cyclists, but we found peace on that dark afternoon in American history.

And we have been back many times since September 11, 2001 to continue finding peace on the Kal-Haven Trail. We hope to greet you in peace out there this September.
On September 12, 1812, Richard Hoe, inventor of the rotary printing press, was born in New York City.

On September 12, 1881, the Turkish governor of Lebanon issued an ordinance for the protection of the remaining 400 trees of the once extensive forest of cedars. A custodian was appointed to protect the trees from souvenir hunter’s practice of cutting branches, thus saving the famous “Cedars of Lebanon.”

On September 13, 1788, the United States Constitutional Convention authorized the new nation’s first national election to be held on “the first Wednesday in January next.”

On September 13, 1872, presidential candidate George Francis Train described his qualification for office as follows: “I am that wonderful, eccentric, independent, extraordinary genius and political reformer of America, who is sweeping off all the politicians before him like a hurricane. I am your modest, diffident, unassuming friend, the future President of America — George Francis Train.” He received no votes in the general election the following November.

On September 13, 1874, Austrian composer Arnold Schonberg, who developed a unique style of writing which he called “the technique of composition with 12 tones,” was born in Vienna.

On September 14, 1741, George Fredrick Handel, having worked without interruption for 23 days, finished his composition of The Messiah.

On September 14, 1752, Great Britain, along with her American Colonies, adopted the Gregorian calendar.

On September 14, 1778, Benjamin Franklin was appointed a major general in the Continental Army.

On September 15, 1776, during the American Revolution, British forces occupied New York City.

On September 15, 1777, during the Revolutionary War, Polish Count Casimir Pulaski was commissioned a major general in the Continental Army.

On September 15, 1789, American novelist James Fenimore Cooper was born in Burlington, New Jersey.

On September 15, 1949, Konrad Adenauer became the first chancellor of West Germany.
On September 15, 1959, Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev arrived in the United States to begin a 13-day visit.

On September 15, 1966, Gemini 2, after a record 3-day space flight, splashed down in the Atlantic Ocean.

On September 16, 1630, the Massachusetts village of Shawmut changed its name to Boston.

On September 16, 1823, American historian Francis Parkman, who wrote vivid accounts of the role of the Indians in North American history, was born in Boston.

On September 16, 1893, more than 100,000 homesteaders rushed into Oklahoma’s “Cherokee Strip” to claim shares of 6-million acres of land opened up to settlers by the government of the United States.

On September 16, 1919, the American Legion was incorporated by an act of Congress.

On September 16, 1926, air mail pilot Charles Lindbergh, short of fuel - and unable to land at Maywood Airport, parachuted to safety near Ottawa, Illinois.

On September 16, 1966, the Metropolitan Opera opened its season in the new opera house at New York’s Lincoln Center. The audience saw the premiere of Samuel Barber’s “Anthony and Cleopatra.”

On September 16, 1971, citing increased postal rates and declining advertising revenue, “Look” magazine announced that it was discontinuing operations.

On September 17, 1787, the Constitution of the United States was signed by the majority of the 55 delegates attending the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia. Delegates were sent from 12 of the original 13 colonies. Only Rhode Island failed to send a representative.

On September 17, 1796, President George Washington, in his farewell address, said: “Tis our true policy to steer clear of permanent alliances with any portion of the foreign world . . . . Harmony, and a liberal intercourse with all nations, are recommended by policy, humanity, and interest.”

On September 17, 1983, New York’s Vanessa Williams became the first black to be crowned Miss America.

On September 17, 1986, Supreme Court Justice William Rehnquist was confirmed as the 16th United States Chief Justice.

On September 18, 1769, the Boston Gazette reported that the first piano made in this country was a spinet, with a three-to four-octave range, manufactured by one John Harris.

On September 18, 1851, the New York Times, founded by George Jones and Henry Raymond, went on sale for two cents a copy.

On September 18, 1947, the United States Air Force was established as a separate branch of the military.
LBCC Women’s Golf
18-Hole League
September 3, 2002

Event: Player’s Choice

“A” Flight
Low Gross: Mary Sheridan
Low Net: Sue Luegers
Low Putts: Linda Wilson

“B” Flight
Low Gross: Nancy Pavletic
Low Net: Laurel Byrne
Low Putts: Kathy Brennan

“C” Flight
Low Gross: Terry Deming
Low Net: Seanne Heffernan
Low Putts: Adele O’Donnell

Birdies: Sue Luegers, Mary Sheridan, Pat Kelley, June Salmon
Sunken Approaches: Sue Luegers, Mary Sheridan, Nancy Pavletic, Marge Hurley

9-Hole League
September 5, 2002

Championship Flight
Low Net: Donna Hennard
2nd Low Net: Jo Vine
Low Putts: Marci Meyer

“A” Flight
Low Net: Julie Girsch
2nd Low Net: Terry Deming
Low Putts: Joan Geoghegan

“B” Flight
Low Net: Bobbie Blank
2nd Low Net: Bern Lake
Low Putts: Marianne Gosswiller

“C” Flight
Low Net: Anita Ludington
2nd Low Net: Betty Duggan
Low Putts: Vangie Kuhn

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brought to us, and we’d do so as a testimony of Todd’s faith and our own.”

The book ends with a two-page introduction to The Todd M. Beamer Foundation which “seeks to equip children experiencing family trauma to make heroic choices every day.” This Foundation focuses especially on those children who lost a parent on Sept. 11. Their website is www.beamerfoundation.org

This book is a truly moving story, told from the perspective of one very special person.

Among the Heroes by Jere Longman also focuses on the crew and passengers of United Flight 93. The author is a reporter for The New York Times and has put together a carefully researched book, completed after months of interviews and on the site research made possible by the coroner of Somerset County, Pennsylvania. There are photos of everyone who was on the plane that day: United personnel, the passengers, and the hijackers.

Author Longman said that with only one exception, family members from all those on board the plane granted him interviews. “In the midst of their grieving, they answered my questions with grace and patience far beyond what I had a right to expect.” That humble statement gives you a clue as to why I so recommend this book. A meticulous and sensitive writer, Mr. Longman has reconstructed the events of the day from the perspective of each person on the plane: we follow them on their way that morning, and find out about their lives and families. It becomes evident early on that, like Todd Beamer, the rest of the passengers and crew of United Flight 93 were definitely Type A personalities. It simply had to be fate that brought that particular group of people together that day.

Mr. Longman interviewed people in the nearby town of Boswell, Pennsylvania who saw the last erratic movements of the big plane before it went down. “Much of what happened in the final minutes of the flight fell into the uncertain realm of conjecture, according to officials who heard the cockpit voice recorder and read transcripts.” Family members were later invited to hear the recorder, many simply could not face hearing it.

The author said that he set out to accomplish three things: to recreate the last minutes of Flight 93 as accurately as possible, to commemorate the crew and passengers, and to attempt to understand how Ziad Jarrah, the hijacker pilot, became so radicalized and suicidal. I think he succeeded on all counts.

Men of Steel by Karl Koch III with Richard Firstman tells the story of the construction of the World Trade Center buildings by the man who should know them best: Karl Koch, whose family business, Koch Erecting, won the bid back in the 60s. The man himself says it best: “For our closely held family company, a diminutive outfit by the standards that might be expected of the World Trade Center, erecting these towers was a feat of technology and finance, and ultimately, of sheer will. But it was also, always, something much less triumphant. The World Trade Center provided the foundation for a fatal betrayal of family trust that would be the defining saga of my life.....To me, the World Trade Center was both the best thing and the worst thing that ever happened to the Koch family.....And now it was gone.”

He starts his story with Grandpa Koch who came to New York City to work on the Manhattan Bridge in 1908. He was an ironworker, a bridgeman. His claim to fame is that he promptly fell off the bridge, but lived to tell about it! His family history is extremely readable and typical of the immigrant stories in many families, mine included.

Karl Koch gives much background on the ironworker's trade, as well as his own family, because the two are inextricably wound around each other. He makes it all very interesting and sets the stage for the birth of a successful family business.

Karl's father and grandfather started up the Koch Erecting in the 20s. This represented the ultimate American dream for this family who struggled so hard for so many years. The book is definitely fascinating; maybe because of the author, I'm not sure. Karl has a simple, unassuming way of telling his story that makes you eager to keep reading; nothing about this book is boring. There are the requisite photos of the family and the WTC buildings in progress that add to the story, plus a number of well placed sketches.

Till next time, I wish you life, love and good books.
NIRVANA! This beautiful 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath home is nestled in a lovely wooded setting overlooking two lakes. Over 2500 sq ft on the main level is supplemented by a full, finished, walk-out basement which opens onto a patio from which you can walk down for a little blue gill fishing. Deer, peace & privacy abound! Call Fran Merrion for all the details. $269,000

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