The kids from Columbia College, students in theatrical arts, came to Michiana from as far north as Portland, from Chattanooga in the south, Washington D.C. in the east, the midwest states of Wisconsin and Michigan, Chicago and its suburbs of Hinsdale, University Park, and Bellwood. Some like Zach and Jesse had returned from Serbia where they had participated in the college’s exchange student program and the International New Theatre Festival. Some were recent grads, most of the others sophomores, juniors, seniors, all working toward degrees in some of the fifty related degrees offered in theatrical arts by Columbia College. They were here to perform in “Once Upon an Island”, a musical adaptation of an adaptation of Hans Christian Anderson’s story of “The Little Mermaid”, reset in Haiti from Rosa Guy’s “My Love My Love”, then shaped in music and song by Flaherty and Aherns. They had produced the play before, in the college’s New Studio that students call the “black box”, performed it with standing room only, four nights running, to a student audience. But this time was different. They were doing it at the Dunes.

Many were awed by the nature they discovered surrounding them. I knew our interview was at a close when they saw a deer peering from the nearby trees and the group rushed over to see it. They discovered that Indiana and Michigan folk were friendly people, kind and helpful, and welcoming to the students, one and all. The community was conquered by the talent they saw on stage.

Playing James Lipton as in television’s Actor’s Studio, I didn’t ask for a favorite word, but for a Wow! experience from their lives in theater so far. Heads nodded and agreed: the first standing ovation, that was it. When they knew they were in the right place, doing the right thing, some- thing they loved. If the ovations were a thrill to remember, so was their stay in the Michiana area for all of us. Thanks Columbia College. Thanks, Dunes Arts Foundation for making the Michiana Festival of Arts happen once again.
Columbia  Continued from Page 1

“It was ensemble acting at its best.” Those were the words of opening night patron and veteran Dunes Summer Theatre performer Basil Cross after the show brought the audience to its feet with rousing cheers on July 11th. The all-student production played two nights in the Michiana Shores playhouse, two performances that the students will never forget. Neither will the audience that enjoyed them, their talent, energy and professional skill.

How does the ensemble come together? Right from the conception, said director/choreographer Danny Bernardo. “We had to discover how we were going to tell the story,” he said. “That began our collaboration.” We includes lighting designer Jesse Klug and set and costume designer David Beaupre. The overall theme had to be circular, they decided, in movement and form because they were telling a story about the circle of life. The ovoid raked stage-on-stage developed that concept. There had to be a symbolic tree, growing free because the country wasn’t, set on the island where 95% of its area has been deforested. The island was poor so costumes reflected poverty. “We did dumpster diving for three months before the production to get our costumes,” David added. Dances were choreographed with circular motion, a challenge for choreographer Danny Bernado, a dancer himself trained in Russian dance and classes with Twyla Twarps and Katherine Dunham. “I was surprised when Basil Cross could pinpoint some of these techniques when he watched our rehearsal,” Danny said. No problem for Basil. He has seen and been part of it all on stage at the Dunes Summer Theatre for 40 years.

As I waited for the actors to assemble for cast call on Saturday evening, I walked through the empty theatre. One of the students said later: “Acting here was so different. The stage was so much bigger, we had wings for exits and entrances,” but the stage was dark and empty then and seemed a small place to produce so much magic over the years. So many people had started careers here in the Youth and Children’s theatre begun by Nora McAlvey and now directed by Joann Saxon. Three of the former students were here this summer directing and acting in the headlining productions. Eric Nordholm was a student from those early years, going on to teach stagecraft at a university in Tacoma, Washington; our own Sally Montgomery, editor of The Beacher, had danced on its stage with international star, Lawrence Novikoff. “When you come down the road through the trees to the theater, you’re entering into a completely different atmosphere than getting off the cement sidewalk in Chicago. It just has to be a different experience,” one of the students, Zach Laliberte, said. “You can feel the energy on the stage.” So many years of theatre history; so many people; and the experience still lives.
Danny Bernardo said that he felt this musical production was so welcome now because it has a message of hope and love at a time when people need the message. “You see yourself reflected in the people’s problems and how they resolve them.” Erlene Dorsey, who played Ti Moune on Friday night after just five rehearsals with only one of those on stage, said of her part that “everyone can relate to how it feels to be in love and rejected, wanting to love and be loved.” Melanie McCullough, who played the role in the Saturday performance as she had down in the earlier production at Columbia, agreed. As did Gemini Wadley who plays Daniel. “We have all had struggles with family and traditions,” he said.

Director Danny Bernardo said, too, that the ensemble approach to directing and producing a play is being incorporated more and more in Chicago theater, not just the role of producer and artistic director as stars. His cast echoed the feeling. Just being together, getting to know each other, was high on their list of what they had discovered and enjoyed most. Gina Cornejo said it for them all: “Everything just came together. You knew that without each and every one of us, it wouldn’t be the same.” Of course, there were some problems. When I saw music director Isaiah Robinson after the Friday night show, I told him I had never heard better sound acoustics in the Dunes Summer. He was inside the theater even as we talked on Saturday, re-recording his music cues on the electronic soundboard from scratch. Someone had tripped over the cord the night before and pulled the plug. In the theatre, these things happen and the show goes on. There was not a doubt in anyone’s mind that he would get it all together again for the show on Saturday night.
“Happy Birthday, Tinkerbell!”

Acting Theatre of Michigan City presents the third of Ken Brelsfoard's plays about Peter Pan growing up. “Happy Birthday, Tinkerbell!” will be performed on July 25-27, August 1-3 and August 8-10, in The Acting Theatre, 215 West 10th Street, Michigan City.

In the new adventure, a junk-food-challenged Tinkerbell (Mary Fridh) is rescued once again from the evil Miss Hannigan (Jeanoma Babcock) and Captain Hook (Doug Moon), this time disguised as a martial arts master. Peter Pan (Judith Joseph), returning from summer camp, has to put everything back in order with the help of the stuttering UPS delivery man, Tom (Pat O’Leary) and Wendy’s children (Madison Chartier, Rosario Guastella, Joe Stewart). Along with the Lost Children of Lost Children (Megan Daurer, Angelo Guastella, Sarah Murray, Alyssa Rosselli, Mara Sandroff, Samantha Weiler, Veronika Werner) and Tom Montgomery’s climb-slide-swing backyard set, Peter triumphs over evil once again.

Meant for families to enjoy together.

Show times are 7 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays; 5 p.m. on Sundays. Reservations are advised; phone 872-4221. Ticket are $12/adults, $8/children 12 and under.
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Call Donna Iwamoto.
Starry, Starry Night at the Michiana Festival of the Arts

by Maggie Beyer

They were all stars... supporters, committee, faculty, and cast... as Columbia College and the Dunes Arts Foundation joined in a preview benefit on July 11th. The posh party at the home of Jack and Dani Lane in New Buffalo kicked off the opening performance of “Once Upon an Island” at the Dunes Summer Theatre.

A night to remember, here are some of the people who helped make it happen:

From the Dunes Summer Theatre, Kevin Lee Giese, actor, singer, and director for 12 seasons, and Robert-Eric West, director, instructor, artist-in-residence who also prepared the preview party food and Caribbean feast after opening night.

Columbia College president, Warrick Carter Ph.D., and Dani Lane, president of the Dunes Arts Foundation.

Lee Behr of Michiana Shores and Basil Cross, opening night patron, both veterans of the Dunes Arts Foundation and Dunes Summer Theatre for 40 years.

Doreen Bartoni, Dean of the Columbia School of Media Arts, and Trisha Miller, Festival committee member.

Committee member Gwynne Winsberg, and Eugenia Carpenter who came from Ann Arbor for the event.

Supporter Jackie Schiewe of Duneland Beach, and committee member, Pam Oselka of New Buffalo.

Andrew Greeley, priest, author, sociologist, came wearing the green and flashing a gamin grin for the camera.

Robert Mosier and Dee Mosier, chair of the Festival’s Art of the Home Tour to be held on August 9th.
The Festival of the Arts, which began as a collaboration between the Dunes Arts Foundation and Columbia College last year, has spread its wings this year to include the growing center of theatre in Three Oaks with the Vickers Theatre and Acorn Theatre joining in with special attractions including the Film Roadshows to be held on August 8th and 9th at the Vickers Theatre. A new feature, “Lakeshore Conversations,” brought noted names to the Dunes Summer Theatre as film critic Roger Ebert; film critic, Sheldon Pantinkin, Columbia faculty director; and John Landecker, radio personality, talked about the role of critics on July 12th; on July 19th, Andrew Greeley, priest, author and sociologist, and Paul Galloway, Chicago SunTimes and Tribune feature writer, joined in conversation about theatre and film. Festival Finale will be the Art of the Home Tour on August 9th through ten LaPorte countryside homes and gardens, with a closing benefit party, Columbia Goes Country, at Columbia trustee Allen Turner’s Spring Creek Farm. Committee members include Laurel E. Carter, Joan Harris, Howard Mendelsohn, Marcia Lazar, Averill Leviton, Delores J. Mosier, John P. Rijos, Catherine Slade and Helena Chapelin Wilson.

The 2003 Michiana Festival of the Arts was a month long celebration of the visual and performing arts showcasing works by emerging artists, writers and award winning filmmakers beginning in July with workshops at Tall Oaks Inn in Grand Beach and continuing into August. Benefit parties and performances help support scholarship programs at Columbia College and the Dunes Arts Foundation.
Hot Latin Jazz at Firefly Festival

The Firefly Festival presents Grammy Award-winning trumpeter Arturo Sandoval on Sat., July 26, at 8 p.m. Sandoval is one of the hottest artists on today's musical scene. He is in high demand as a soloist and has performed with some of the world's most acclaimed orchestras, from the BBC Symphony to the National Symphony to the Boston Pops. He has also performed at the White House as a featured artist for every administration since his arrival in the United States.

Arturo Sandoval has received three Grammys for “Best Latin Album” and *Billboard Magazine* has given him its “Best Latin Jazz Album” award three times. He is also the first inductee into the Walt Disney World Jazz Hall of Fame. His original compositions were featured in the movie “Mambo Kings.”

Michiana’s own Musica del Alma (Music of the Soul) will open for Sandoval at 7 p.m.

All Firefly performances are held at St. Patrick’s County Park, 50651 Laurel Road, South Bend, near the Indiana/Michigan state line. The St. Joseph County Parks charge a parking fee of $3 a car at Firefly events. The hillside has areas for chairs and blankets. The gates open at 5 p.m. Picnics are welcome; glass containers and alcoholic beverages are not allowed. A vendor for the St. Joseph County Parks will sell beer and wine.

Firefly offers sound enhancement for the hearing impaired, as well as Braille and recorded program books for the visually impaired. Rest rooms and drinking fountains are wheelchair accessible.

Tickets are $12 in advance and $16 the day of the show for adults and $5 for youth ages 6-16; phone 574/288-3472 or email firefly@fireflyfestival.com. Visit their website at www.fireflyfestival.com

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DAF Children’s Theatre to Present J.R.R. Tolkien’s Blockbuster, “The Hobbit”

After six weeks of intensive rehearsal, the Dunes Arts Foundation will present the Children’s Theatre production of “The Hobbit”, J.R.R. Tolkien’s prologue to the wildly popular ‘Ring’ trilogy. Children, ages 10-15 will take audiences on a fun-filled fantasy journey to Middle Earth, the home of a brave little hobbit named Bilbo Baggins. Along the way, Bilbo and his trusty band of dwarves encounter goblins, elves, trolls and a curious creature named Gollum plus the great dragon Smaug, guardian of a stolen treasure he hoards. Goblin battles, a trip over the falls in barrels, and even a musical number or two make this version of the tale fun for all ages.

Robert-Eric West and Nancy Saxon co-direct this group of young actors. Both Nancy and Robert-Eric were raised at the Dunes under instruction of the late Nora MacAlvay and the eternally young Joann Saxon. This lively band of young actors have been instructed in a six-week-long intensive classroom setting including instruction in movement, voice, technical theatre and stage management.

These charming children have braved cold waves, heat waves and an army of mosquitoes to produce this show for the 53rd consecutive year of the Children’s Theatre.

The cast includes Jenny Vihon as Bilbo, Bobby Webb as Thorin, Haley Biggerstaff as Gandalf, Mary Condon as Gollum and Derek Killingbeck as Smaug. Nora Cusick, Mike Biggerstaff, Moses L. Norton, Charlie Saxon, Tyler Bonheur, Sam Stockwell Laubach, Danielle Webb, Katie Papp, Chelsea Killingbeck, Tara Hefner and Lorna Whiting as the Elven Queen round out this lively bunch.

“The Hobbit” will be presented at the Dunes Summer Theatre, Michiana Shores, on Thurs., July 31 at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Fri. and Sat., Aug. 1 & 2 at 7 p.m. and Sun., Aug. 3 at 2 p.m. All times are Chicago time and ticket prices are $5 general admission and $3 for groups of 15 or more. Phone the Dunes Box Office 219/879-7509 for reservations and group rate details.
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This year commemorates the centennial of Wilbur and Orville Wright’s first powered flight at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, on Dec. 17, 1903. However, the Wright brothers might never have gotten off the ground had it not been for Octave Chanute and his experimental glider flights in the Indiana Dunes during the summer of 1896. Chanute was an immigrant, accomplished engineer, inventor and entrepreneur, whose aeronautical experiments paved the way for man to boldly go where only birds had gone before.

On Sat., July 26, the Friends of Indiana Dunes will hold “An Afternoon With Early Aviator-Octave Chanute,” from noon-1:30 p.m. in the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Visitor Center (Kemil Rd. & US 12). Local resident and renowned Chicago actor, Tony Mockus, Jr. will bring life to Octave Chanute as he tells stories of the struggles and triumphs of achieving flight over our Indiana Dunes. The presentation will also include historical photographs of the experimental gliders.

For more information, phone the National Lakeshore at 219/962-7561, ext. 225.
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There are many other rooms for family gathering or sitting areas that are enhanced with fireplaces and outstanding views from wall to ceiling windows. Offers vaulted ceilings with plant shelves and indirect lighting. The interior design is remarkably defined throughout, including various types of wood flooring, cabinets, trim & a beautiful oak winding stairway which stands out as an icon by itself. Venture into the recreational levels where you can achieve a great workout, play a game of pool, relax in the massage room or 8 person hot tub. Access a lovely deck or patio from each level. Two of the levels lead to a 2-story gazebo with screened in upper level and both levels have a fireplace. The amenities in this home are endless! call Linda for a private showing.

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“Fiddler on the Roof” at Mainstreet

One of the most beloved musicals in American musical history, “Fiddler on the Roof,” opens Wed., July 23 at Michigan City's Mainstreet Theatre, 807 Franklin Street. Performances continue through August 2. This is the fourth offering in the Festival Players Guild's 35th Canterbury Summer Theatre Season.

“Fiddler on the Roof” opened on Broadway in 1964 and made musical history logging the eighth longest run for a musical. The music was written by Jerry Bock, the lyrics by Sheldon Harnick and the book by Joseph Stein.

Based on the stories of Sholom Aleichem, “Fiddler on the Roof” has been lauded by critics and has won the hearts of people all around the world. It introduced such hits as “Tradition,” “Matchmaker, Matchmaker,” “If I Were a Rich Man,” and “Sunrise, Sunset.”

Tevye (Joseph Ginnane), a humble milkman in the Russian village of Anatevka, is the father of five marriageable daughters. Tradition is everything to Tevye and his wife Golde (Amy Crane)--how to eat, how to dress, how to pray and how to marry--but all these beliefs are challenged by his daughters as they fall in love and want to marry. Each of their choices, however, challenge his beloved beliefs.

At the same time, oppressive forces are at work in Czarist Russia. The residents are being forced from their homes and must set out to find new lives in a new land, taking only a few possessions and their abiding faith.

The Canterbury production is directed by Kevin Gladish, a veteran of the Canterbury Summer Theatre Season both as an actor and a director. Musical director is Elizabeth West and set designer is Zachary Elms.

Performances are Wednesday through Friday at 8 p.m.; Saturdays at 6 and 9 p.m. Wednesday matinees are at 2 p.m. Tickets are $12/adults, $6/students high school age and below on Wednesday and Thursday.

On Friday and Saturday, tickets are $13/adults, $6.50/high school age and below. Senior citizen and group discounts are also available; phone the box office at 874-4269.

The Guild also offers group dinner/theatre packages in cooperation with the Michigan City Yacht Club and with Galveston Steak House. Individual dinner/theatre packages are offered in cooperation with Galveston.

The programs of the Festival Players Guild are presented with support from the Northern Indiana Arts Association, the Indiana Arts Commission, and the National Endowment for the Arts.
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A 4th of July Family Gathering

The children and granddaughters of Patti & Randy Harris came from Florida, California and Detroit to celebrate the 4th of July in Michiana.

Cathy and Richie Ingoglia of Southampton, New York, walk beside the fire truck at the end of the parade.

Mr. Chip and Punkin got all decked out for the parade, thanks to Dolores and Dick Mignery.
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Alfred "Jake" Lingle, 38, a Chicago crime reporter and friend of Al Capone, was shot to death in broad daylight, June 9, 1930, just hours before he was scheduled to bring his wife Helen, son Alfred Jr., and daughter Dolores to their new home in Long Beach.

Leo Vincent Brothers, a St. Louis gangster, took the rap for Lingle's murder. Although few people believed he was guilty, Brothers served eight years for the crime and later became the victim of another murder.

Jake Lingle, the crime syndicate’s favorite news reporter, was shot to death in the Chicago Loop at midday on June 9, 1930. Later that afternoon, he was to bring his wife, Helen, and their two small children to their luxurious new home in Long Beach. Helen had already packed their bags and made a quick trip to the dressmaker’s. Upon returning home, she learned her husband had been killed.

At the time of his death, Lingle was wearing a diamond belt buckle, gift from Al Capone. He had a big cigar in his mouth, a racing form in his hand, and $1469 in his pocket, a substantial sum for a $65/week Chicago Tribune reporter. Evidently headed for Washington Park Race Track, he was shot in the back of the neck, while walking to the Randolph Street train station.

Murder in itself was not surprising news, in a city that was experiencing a murder-a-day.

A crowd gathered at the scene as Jake Lingle, Chicago Tribune reporter, lay dying in a Chicago subway station. The high-living reporter had spent the night at his suite in the Stevens Hotel and evidently was heading for Washington Park Race Track in Homewood, Illinois, when he was shot to death by unknown gunmen.

The shooting death of Alfred J. Lingle, however, marked the first time that a non-mobster had been killed in a gangland-style murder. Tribune publisher Colonel McCormick was enraged. Considering this incident an attack on the Tribune, he vowed to punish the killer and offered a $25,000 reward. Other newspapers followed suit, and the total reward money came to $55,825.

Everyone knew that Jake Lingle, “cleverest police reporter of his time,” had infiltrated the upper echelons of Capone’s syndicate and made powerful friends at City Hall. Rumor had it that Lingle’s recommendation helped install William Russell as police chief. Although Jake’s contacts may have desired (and in fact received) favorable treatment by the press, there seemed to be no motive for killing the kingpin in an arrangement that was working well.

As the details began to surface, however, Lingle’s personal involvement with mob activities ran far deeper than the stories he fed to the Tribune. Deposits to his bank account ($63,900 in cash) disclosed a steady flow of income, besides which other bank accounts were held jointly with Police Chief Russell — and then there was that impressive $25,000 house in Long Beach. Lingle evidently had a piece of the action, and Colonel McCormick had to eat crow.
Making News Capone-Style

“Alfred Lingle now takes a different character,” admitted the Colonel, in a personally-written editorial. “He was not, and he could not have been, a great reporter.” Indications were “that Alfred Lingle was killed because he was using his Tribune position to profit from criminal operations and not because he was serving the Tribune as thought.”

The motive for the Lingle slaying never was absolutely certified, but a plausible explanation seems to be his extortion of money from North Side operators, specifically Jack Zuta. The story related by author Robert Schoenberg charges Lingle with receiving $50,000 from Zuta, as payment for permission to open dog tracks — a promise Lingle was unable to fulfill.

If you want to know who ordered a gangland murder, so the saying goes, wait to see who gets killed next. On August 1st Zuta was gunned down, as one report stated, “in businesslike fashion.” Sixteen bullets were in his body. Even so, vindication for the high-profile murder of a newspaper reporter required a full-scale trial, duly covered on Page 1, and a convicted killer. The Tribune got this in the person of Leo V. Brothers, a St. Louis gangster who served eight years for the crime. Few people believed he was guilty.

In the meantime, Alfred J. Lingle, although born a Jew, had been buried as a Catholic at Mt. Carmel Cemetery, the final resting place of many racketeers. A big state funeral, with military escorts and bands, was held in his honor. According to published accounts, the funeral was attended not by gangsters, but by all the big-time politicians in Chicago — one of whom was Charles Krutckoff, Cook County Assessor and owner of “Beach View,” a big house on Lake Shore Drive in Long Beach, Indiana.

“Melody Terrace” soon enough passed over into the respectability of its Long Beach environs. The Long Beach Billows carried a lengthy feature story on its harmonious decor: the dining room with red velvet drapes and gold candelabra, the delicate orange and green kitchen with its large Frigidaire, “the beautiful dressing room, a symphony in green and lavender,” the wide and sweeping stairway, the organdy ruffles, the taffeta curtains. “A splash of green, red, orange, and black fairly calls one into the sun porch,” rhymed the writer... and all this standing majestically amid “the gentle wind which rustles the trees and flowers in the garden.”

The unique home built for the Lingles, a brick structure with flagstone insets, is occupied today by Ned and Kelley Leiby, who love “Melody Terrace” and its history.

The Lingle family never did make it out to Long Beach. A rumor still circulating in the neighborhood is that Mrs. Lingle was waiting for the patio to be completed. The property they had acquired on June 10, 1929, was purchased by Edgar and Elizabeth Smith on March 2, 1931, and was named “Melody Terrace.” Smith was the retired president of Kimball Piano Company in Chicago.

The Leibys bought “Melody Terrace” from the Ulrich family, pictured here c. 1950: Evelyn Ulrich and her daughters Lynn and Isabel. The history of the home has been preserved by its owners, who continue passing along the anecdotes and photos.

Special thanks to the LaPorte County Real Estate and Recorder’s Offices, and to Robert J. Schoenberg, author of Mr. Capone. The diagram of Lingle’s killing was originally published in Richard Enright’s 1931 book, Capone’s Chicago, and photographs are from the collection of Ned and Kelley Leiby, current owners of “Melody Terrace.” The study of Long Beach houses and their owners is ongoing, and persons with new information are urged to contact author Barbara Stodola at The Beacher.
Barb Stodola Reception & Book Signing

The Beverly Shores Depot Museum and Art Gallery will host a “Meet the Author Reception” for Barbara Stodola on Aug. 3rd, 2 – 4 p.m. Barbara is the author of the newly released book Michigan City Beach Communities; the latest in Arcadia’s acclaimed Images of America series.

The book traces the development of Michigan City’s beach communities; the original harbor, Washington Park, Sheridan Beach, Long Beach, Duneland Beach, Michiana Shores and includes mention of Beverly Shores and Grand Beach Michigan. It is filled with over 200 photographs. Photographic highlights include pictures of the original land developers and their beach cottages as well as celebrities of the era: Jack Dempsey, Johnny Weismuller and Dr. Scholl at our area beaches.

Barbara Stodola, a resident of Michigan City, has been a leader in the community. She is an experienced journalist and supporter of the arts, history and culture of the area, and former director of the Blank Center for the Arts.

The Depot of Beverly Shores Museum and Art Gallery is located at 525 Broadway, Beverly Shores, just north of Highway #12. Admission is free, donations are welcome. The Depot is open Saturdays and Sundays 1-4 p.m., from May through November.

Quilting Bee & Tea at Deep River

A Honey of a Tea is the theme of the Quilting Bee & Tea to be held at Deep River County Park on Sun., July 27, from 1-4 p.m.

Enjoy tea and treats, then watch the volunteer quilters work their magic on the Friendship Quilt, “House,” currently in progress. Learn how bees work to make honey, the benefits of honey, then play a game about honey.

These activities take place in Wood’s Historic Grist Mill in Deep River County Park, located off Hwy. 30, between Valparaiso and Merrillville. Go past Deep River Water Park to next signal light, turn right and follow signs to the park. For more information, phone 219/947-1958.
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Extra tomatoes? Zucchini from the neighbor? Do home preserves have more flavor? Annetta Jones, LaPorte County Extension Educator, will show how to safely preserve a garden’s bounty so that you can enjoy delicious food this winter or share a harvest gift.

No registration is necessary. This program will be held at the LaPorte County Public Library on Thurs., July 31, at 6:30 p.m. It is free and open to the public. The library is located at 904 Indiana Ave., LaPorte. For more information, phone 219/362-6156 or log onto www.lapcat.org

Phone the library 48 hours in advance to request signing for the hearing impaired.

“Chuck Wagon Chow” Program for Kids

Summer fun for children is being held at Deep River County Park during its Historical Discovery Series. Held on July 29, 30 & 31, the program is open to all area children free of charge. The topic for this week is “Chuck Wagon Chow.” Children should attend their appropriate session: Tues., July 29, 11 a.m. for ages 3-5; Wed., July 30, 11 a.m. for ages 6-8; and, Thurs., July 31, 11 a.m. for ages 9 and over.

The one-hour programs are for individuals and families, not groups, and there is no preregistration needed. Meet in front of the Visitor Center.

Deep River County Park is located off Hwy. 30 between Valparaiso and Merrillville. Go past Deep River Water Park to next signal light, turn right and follow signs. For more information, phone 219/947-1958.

English Watercolor Artists at Gaia Gallery

Gaia Gallery announces a Special Evening Artist’s Reception on Sat., July 26, 6-8 p.m. (MT time). This exhibit will feature local artists working in the English watercolor tradition and watercolor artists using innovative materials such as handmade earth pigments, mylar surfaces and computer graphics. Fine pottery, jewelry, silk scarves, pastels and oils will also be on display.

The reception will take place at the Shaker Cottage Complex, 19135 West U.S. 12, New Buffalo. Meet the artists while enjoying refreshments such as wine, cheese and more. For more information, phone 269/469-4616.

Correction

In last week’s Beacher Carolyn McConnell’s story about Chef Zrenner (“Local boy makes great chef”) mistakenly said that he was part of the 9/11 survivor meals at the James Beard house in New York. He was not. Ed.
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Schoolhouse Shop Hosts Harry Mark Petrakis’ Book Signing

by Paula McHugh

The lush, greeny garden patio at the Schoolhouse Shop will serve as the setting in which Harry Mark Petrakis will be signing copies this Sunday of his latest novel, **Twilight of the Ice**.

The Schoolhouse Shop & Antiques, in Furnessville, is just a mile or so south of the South Shore tracks, and those tracks, as many commuters know, take riders all the way in to the railroad yards of the City of Big Shoulders. It is in these and nearby gritty areas within Chicago that acclaimed storyteller Petrakis sets his 1950's story of railroad car icemen.

Imagine yourself back in the 1950's before air conditioning. It’s unlikely that many who remember the summer swelters ever considered how America’s perishable food was transported from point A to point B without rotting. Nor ever considered or conceived of the grueling, perilous labor that the strong, athletic icemen performed year 'round. Harry Mark Petrakis, through his protagonist Mike Zervaikis, presents us with a portrait of spirit and energy, of an aging man who takes pride in his craft and is determined to pass on what he has learned. We learn why Earl, despised by the icing team, is full of anger and resentment. We root for Rafer, always one step away from the bottle. The author makes us care about his well-drawn characters. Compassion flows through the conflicts. Father Andrew Greeley has heralded the book as “…a dazzling creation, filled finally with grace…”

A former resident of Beverly Shores who lives with his wife Diana in Dune Acres, Harry Mark Petrakis knows firsthand the Chicago neighborhoods he writes about. As a child, he grew up there and he knows his city intimately. On Sunday, the renowned author and short story writer will be signing copies of **Twilight of the Ice** at the Schoolhouse Shop in Furnessville, beginning at 1 pm.

Museum at Ellis Island in New York. Harry Mark Petrakis is not in that picture, however. The man of letters listed in Who's Who in America, twice nominated for the National Book Award in Fiction and winner of the O Henry Award and numerous others, was born in St. Louis in 1923.

Having celebrated his 80th birthday last month, Petrakis is anticipating the publication of his next novel, **The Orchards of Ithaca**, published by Southern Illinois Press and due out in spring, 2004. The seeds of a subsequent novel based on the theme of the Greek War of Independence to follow **The Hour of the Bell** (published in 1976) are already stirring in Petrakis’ thoughts.

The Chesterton-area resident, who has lectured on storytelling over the years at numerous colleges, is a local treasure who years ago founded and initiated the writing group that now meets monthly at the Michigan City Public Library. Plans are currently in the works for an upcoming visit to the group, as well as a lecture and reading at the library for the general public later this summer, Petrakis said.

Take the opportunity to meet and chat with Petrakis at his book signing for **Twilight of the Ice**, which begins at 1 pm this Sunday, July 27 at the Schoolhouse Shop, located off Kemil Road between Highway 12 and 20. Then head to your favorite reading spot and immerse yourself in this memorable 173-page novel. For more information, call the Schoolhouse Shop & Antiques at 926-1551.
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Those billowing clouds of white canvas that will move into the Chicago River and adjoining water “parking lots” on July 30 won’t be hiding pirates bent on finding buried treasure. They’ll be the advance guard of an invasion fleet of tall ships that will dwarf anything of its type ever seen in the Windy City.

They will look, not coincidentally, like some of the storied ships that made history in the Age of Sail. Representing ports in the United States, Canada, India, The Netherlands, and other countries, the tall ships will represent maritime history from the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and other eras. Among them will be replicas of Great Lakes trading schooners, 17th Century Boston cargo haulers, and Baltimore Clippers.

Their names carry the scent of romantic adventure on the high seas. Can you see the Nina, the Amistad, the fabled HMS Bounty as they bend before trade winds or creep into harbors where Captain Kidd once held court?

Can you picture, just east of Michigan Avenue, the Tarangini as it shares docking space with Chicago’s First Lady and the Pride of Baltimore II? In imagination you can catch the tang of salt spray on the main decks of the Mist of Avalon, the Fair Jeanne, or Rain Dancer II.

Scheduled for the six days between July 30 and August 4, “Tall Ships Chicago 2003” will first welcome the stately wind-powered vessels as they reach Chicago waters and then sail across the city’s lake-
August 3. Beginning daily at 11 a.m., the vessels will be open for boarding until 8 p.m.

The tall ships will dock in more than 500,000 square feet of festival grounds including Navy Pier, DuSable Harbor, just north of the Columbia Yacht Club, and the Chicago River. State and city officials have hailed Tall Ships Chicago 2003 as a celebration of the city’s rich maritime heritage and a reminder of Chicago’s legacy as the Great Port City.

The family festival will also serve to highlight new waterfront developments and recreational boating on Lake Michigan.

Persons planning to board the tall ships will need boarding passes costing $8. Each boarding pass will entitle the visitor to unlimited boarding of all the visiting ships for a particular day—July 31 or August 1, 2, or 3. Advance purchases of boarding passes may be made by logging on to www.tallshipschicago.com. During the festival, tickets will be available on Navy Pier and at half a dozen ticket offices on the fairgrounds.

Live entertainment will be featured at Navy Pier venues starting daily in the late morning and ending at 7 p.m. As a highlight of the tall ships festival, Chicago’s 46th annual Venetian Night will feature privately owned boats parading along the lakefront in front of Monroe Harbor. The boat promenade will begin at 8:30 p.m. Saturday, August 2. A “spectacular” fireworks display will follow at 9:30 p.m.

Chicago Not Alone

In welcoming the tall ships, Chicago will not be alone. Similar festivals including most or all of the Chicago-bound sailing vessels were to take place in a number of Great Lakes ports. Among them are Bay City and Muskegon, Michigan, and Cleveland and Toledo, Ohio.

Both the Chicago and Muskegon festivals will take place as phases of the Tall Ships Challenge 2003, an annual series of sail training races, rallies, cruises, and port festivities organized by ASTA, the American Sail Training Association, in conjunction with participating host ports in the United States and Canada.

As in Chicago, the ships in the Muskegon event, scheduled for August 8 to 10, will include some 20 ships ranging from 50 to 235 feet in overall length. The Muskegon festival will take place off the city’s Heritage Landing and Festival Grounds on the Muskegon waterfront.

The tall ships last visited Muskegon in 2001, when the work of completing the festival grounds was still under way. Today that work has been completed, providing dock space for the tall ships.

The Tall Ships Festival was scheduled in Cleveland on July 10-13. The venue was the Cleveland waterfront, with music to be provided daily in Voinovich Park.

In Toledo the festival was scheduled for July 18 only while the Bay City event was to run four days, from August 14-17.

Bay City is also planning an “amazing” lineup of maritime music on three different stages. Singers from the United States, Canada, and Europe are scheduled to participate.
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Jenna Mammina at The Acorn Theater

The Acorn Theater in Three Oaks will present jazz singer Jenna Mammina on Fri., July 25, and cabaret singer Rob Lindley on Sat., July 26. Both shows begin at 8 p.m. (MI time).

Locally raised Mammina was voted Jazz Performer of the Year by SF Weekly. Currently a resident of San Francisco, she is a recipient of the Goldie Award and was nominated for CMA Outstanding Jazz Album in 2003.

Lindley will perform “Pants on Fire,” which he describes as “a comic cabaret that delves into the lies we all tell and the lies we’ve all been told—and some of the confessions that come when we begin to tell ourselves the truth.” Borrowing from a wide range of song writers—from the Gershwins, Mercer and Dietz and Schwartz to the Bee Gees, Lyle Lovett and Tom Lehrer—there is something for everyone in this light-hearted and sometimes touching look at lies and confessions. Accompanying Lindley will be Dan Stetzel on piano.

Lindley has an established career in cabaret and has directed, produced and starred in many shows at Davenport’s Piano Bar & Cabaret in Chicago. A graduate of Second City’s Training Center Conservatory Program, he was recently named one of the “30 Below 30” artists to keep an eye on by the Chicago Sun-Times.

Tickets are $15 and can be reserved by phoning the theater at 269/756-3879 or they may be purchased at the door. The Acorn Theater is located in the historic Featherbone Factory at 107 Generations Drive, behind the Three Oaks Post Office on North Elm Street.

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Reflections on Our Father’s Life

William H. Marshall, Sr., likely the beach community’s oldest resident, just celebrated his 103rd birthday on July 10, 2003. He and his oldest son, Bill Jr., live on Lake Shore Drive at Stop 37. I am the younger son, Bob Marshall, from Alamo, California (San Francisco East Bay).

In 1960 Dad and Mother were thinking of his retirement as Vice-President of Citizens Bank (now Horizon Bank) in Michigan City. Dad began working there in 1918. Dad’s real estate broker friend, Frank Cunny, searched the lake front for a choice home setting. Cunny found and negotiated the initial purchase of three lots on Lake Shore Drive.

Since his retirement from the bank in 1971 and Bill Jr.’s from IBM in 1991, both have kept busy and young with lots of yard work. Dad was cutting down trees yet at 100, and we are sure that he has raked more leaves than anyone. However, our Dad’s longevity and good health has really been due to brother Bill keeping him active and getting him out and about. Bill Sr. still has a valid Michigan driver’s license (good through July 2004), although due to some visual eye impairment has not driven in a year.

Born in a home on Congress Street near the Indiana State Prison, Dad has lived all his life in Michigan City and the Michiana beach area. He grew up on the south side of town the eldest of three brothers and three sisters. At age 11 he would begin the day most mornings before 4 a.m. and in the morning darkness find two horses coralled in what is now Ames Field and hitch them to the Albers Bakery delivery wagon. Following initial stops at west side groceries, the wagon would stop at the Lakeside Hotel on North Franklin Street to deliver fresh baked goods for hotel guest breakfasts prior to many of them boarding early Michigan Central trains to Chicago. Dad said, “If we did not make our deliveries by 5 a.m., the grocers would not accept the bread and baked goods since the Michigan City west side wives would be already there waiting to buy bread for their husband’s lunch pails prior to the men going off to work at the car factory (Haskel & Barker—later Pullman Standard).”

Dad never learned to swim and thus was not too keen on living on or enjoying the lake (especially when his younger brother drowned in the Rhine River as WWII ended). However, years ago, we talked our parents into moving from Michigan City’s south-side to Chastleton Drive (Stop 22), Long Beach. They grew to love Long Beach and decided to seek lake view lots on which to build, but not on the lake side, but on the hill side of Lake Shore Drive. Dad remembers when Long Beach was initially developed by Gotto, Glidden and Mathias. He relates that builders would run hoses out into Lake Michigan, and day and night pump to level the dunes to make roads and home sites accessible. (Today, developers would likely opt to retain higher dune sites for optimum views.)

While attending a dinner party on Lake Shore Drive at Stop 22 in October 1929, our parents witnessed a very severe lake storm. Some Lake Shore Drive homes then were without seawalls and had poor protection from the pounding of the lake. That night and the following day, even with the help of hundreds of men from Michigan City filling sand bags, they watched as at least four homes were swept into the lake, one or two even with grand pianos. Thus, Dad preferred building on the hillside of Lake Shore Drive. He well remembers being able to drive from Washington Park to Grand Beach before Lake Shore Drive was washed away at Stop 42.

Bob: “Even though my mother did not drive she would sometimes take the Michigan City bus downtown. Her mother, our grandmother, also lived with us, and would enjoy the ever changing picture of the lake. Mom loved her garden and especially the fertile sandy soil of Michiana. She would have us picking up buckets of dead fish off the beach to fertilize her garden.

“She and Dad were happily married for 66 years. After her death in 1989, I began to tire of addressing my letters to Dad and my brother as William H. Marshall Sr. & Jr., Lake Shore Drive, Michiana, New Buffalo, MI, so I began to address them to ‘the New Buffalo Bills’. Neither Dad or brother Bill are sports fans, so at first, I think only the mail carrier caught the humor.”

Bill Marshall Sr. is indeed a fine example to all, a truly remarkable man and loved by so many. His advice to young and old is “keep moving,” “never give up,” and “go when you can.” This he has done even since his 100th birthday when Bill hosted a big (350+) luncheon at St. John’s United Church of Christ in Michigan City where he is its oldest member. Cousins from as far away as California attended including Bob’s three daughters Jennifer, Melissa and Amanda. Since then the New Buffalo Bills have been to California on three occasions: in October 2000 for Amanda’s wedding to Ryan Kuder in LaJolla, California and two months later for Melissa’s marriage to Patrick Barber in San Francisco; then in April 2002 for the joint baptisms of Bill Sr.’s great-grandchildren, Ashley Kuder and Mason Barber. But now it is easier for the family to visit Opa and Great Opa as he is now known by his grandchildren’s families.

William H. Marshall Sr., 103 years young—loved by his family and so many beachers.

---submitted by Robert and Wm. Marshall, Jr.
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Grissom Community Air Show

Freedom will be in the air this Sat. & Sun., July 26 & 27, as the skies over the Grissom Aeroplex and Grissom Air Museum State Historic Site (Peru, Indiana) will once again be filled with the roar of fighter jets and the gravity-defying stunts of flight teams.

The Grissom Community Air Show 2003 will feature both military and civilian flying acts including U.S. Air Force F-15 Eagles, a WWII Mustang, a jet powered biplane, stunt planes, dogfighting, warbirds, and an aerobatic sail plane.

On Sunday, July 27, there will be a performance by the famous U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds. In addition, both days will feature the U.S. Army Golden Knights, a jet-propelled car, and many, many aircraft you can see up close. Aircraft on display will include a 1903 Wright Flyer, some of today’s mighty American aircraft and even one of NASA’s aircraft of the future. Plus, there will be music, food and fun for all ages.

The show will be held at the Grissom Aeroplex, adjacent to the Grissom Air Reserve Base located on Hwy. 31 between Peru and Kokomo. Both days the show will run from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission is $3 per person. Children 6 years and under are admitted free. Admission to the Grissom Air Museum State Historic Site is free.

Some military flying acts are contingent on U.S. deployment requirements. No coolers or weapons may be brought into the show grounds. All bags are subject to inspection. For questions, phone 765/689-9503 or log onto www.GrissomAirShow.com

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A table is on the deck of the Michiana home that Jacqueline Widmar Stewart and husband Blair share with family and friends all summer. There, the Stewarts watch the lake during the day as they dine and the sunsets in the evenings.

In between, the attorneys, both graduates of Stanford Law School, work in their home office, swim, visit relatives and take in the sites of the area. Then, of course, there is the occasional book signing, for Jacqueline's book, "The Glaciers’ Treasure Trove: A Field Guide to the Lake Michigan Riviera" that came out this year.

At one such book signing at the Beverly Shores Depot and Museum, Jacqueline greeted people whom she knew while growing up in Beverly Shores as well as those interested in discovering more about the area. As the author signed a book for Tracey Catalano, the new Miller Beach resident expressed her appreciation. “This is really exactly what I need,” said the operating room nurse at the University of Chicago Hospitals. “I’m new to the area,” she explained. “This is going to make my life easier.” She added, “I want to find the charm that’s here, because I know it’s here.”

Jacqueline was visibly pleased that her book was greeted with such enthusiasm. Until she married at age 25 in the lakefront home of her parents, Jewel and Jack Widmar, Jacqueline had called Beverly Shores home. From her earliest days, she appreciated the soft feel of the sand on her feet and the long sunsets at the beach. After years away, she looked at the area with another perspective. She wanted her children, Andrew and Julia, and sister Suzanne’s children as well as others to appreciate the area’s richness. She began researching a book that ended up focusing on the national, state and city parks on the 42-mile coastline from Miller to Bridgman.

The book is more than a guidebook telling of favored restaurants, museums and activities. It tells of how glaciers formed the area as well as the people who made sure that public land would be available for recreation for generations. “It was a treasure hunt for me,” she said of the research for the book.

Previously, she had not known much of the area’s formation. “I never knew it was so glacial,” she said.

Nor had she known of the people behind the public parks. The story of Earl Warren, for whom Warren Dunes State Park and Warren Woods is named, captured her imagination. “His story is more bizarre than you can ever imagine,” she commented.

She also explains the work of the Prairie Club, Sen. Paul Douglas and the Save the Dunes Council to establish Indiana Dunes State Park and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. She lets the reader in on the features of the parks, such as hiking trails and visitor centers, but also of the people who sought to protect the land. The Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor
Jacqueline Widmar Stewart on the deck on her Michiana home.

Center, the guidebook tells, is named after a woman who spent years organizing people and groups to lobby to preserve the area’s natural resources.

Jacqueline and her husband live most of the year at their home in Palo Alto, Calif. Jacqueline has taught law classes at the University of Santa Clara, worked as an assistant city attorney in San Jose and started and for 10 years ran the East Palo Alto Kids’ Foundation. That foundation gives small grants to teachers for specific needs.

Now with a summer home in Michiana, the Stewarts entertain family and friends on the lakefront. The area, Jacqueline noted, is ideal for people with a wide range of interests to visit. People can swim, pick blueberries, kayak, visit local museums and get into Chicago easily. “There are thousands of different activities that can keep people busy,” she said. “Hopefully, no one gets bored. People can jump on the South Shore to go into the city. We can keep both the urbanites and the country people busy. That’s a good reason for the book. I want people to know the options.”

In fact, last summer Jacqueline’s friend from Russia seemed to enjoy both the city and the country. During the day, the woman took in the sights of Chicago and late at night, the stars in the Michiana sky. “She was not a beach person. She did not like the sand or the water. But she liked the stars. She would be out at 3 a.m. studying Venus.”

One of the most enjoyable parts of researching the book, Jacqueline said, was sampling the foods at local restaurants. She lists recommendations of places to dine from Miller to Buchanan, She was glad for the impetus to get on the trails at the national and state parks. When she left the area, the parks were in their early stages of development. She was happy to return to find rangers and environmental centers.

In her travels across the country, she has become a fan of national parks. “Anywhere there’s a national park, we try to go if at all remotely possible,” she said.
We don’t have to tell our readers that talent abounds in Beacher Country. Yet some of our gifted artists, either established or up-and-coming, stand back in the shadows until they are urged by friends and fans to take center stage.

That is where Open Mic Nights come in. The newest one on the scene is at Long Beach’s Old School Community Center. Billing itself as the “Second Saturday Open Mic Night,” the family-friendly event is seeking to increase its audience numbers as well as its lineup of artist/performers—meaning musicians, poets, storytellers, mimes, and, well—whatever entertainment might appeal to a crowd looking for a good time in wholesome surroundings. And for a two buck donation, you get at least two hours of non-stop entertainment, free pizza, and free nonalcoholic beverage, a smoke-free setting, and freedom from insipid television programming, among other things. What’s more, the Second Saturday Open Mike is a casual affair.

Each month, the Old School’s Open Mic presents a featured artist. At July’s Saturday Night Open Mic, featured artist Captain Craig Darnell entertained on his acoustic guitar with lyrics he writes in between the busy times on his job as an American Airlines pilot. Luthier and musician Greg Kent, Blake Vissing and Rick Sunderland soloed, each demonstrating fine finger-picking skills. And a surprise visit to the microphone by former Long Beacher Shaun Armour wowed the audience with a Van Gogh-inspired “Starry, Starry Night” vocal and guitar rendition and then personally invited everyone after the show to stroll down the hall to view his featured exhibit in the art gallery. Julia and Dave of Shiloh Crossing tempted much toe-tapping with a blend of sweet fiddle bluegrass and vocally-strong contemporary tunes. Doran rounded out the evening fare with plugged-in guitar-and-percussion, Chet Atkins’ style.

Second Saturday Open Mic, hosted by Christina Karamasenes (Director of Long Beach Spa), is held in the Old School’s Room 4, which many remember as the old kindergarten room. Performers pay a $1.00 donation and are asked to sign in on the blackboard. They perform on a first-come, first served basis. Doors open at 6:45 p.m. and the entertainment begins with the month’s featured artist beginning at 7 p.m.

The next Second Saturday Open Mic is August 9. Rick Sunderland, a guitar player who writes and performs original and cover songs is the featured artist. Rick and his partner are in the process of opening a recording studio, Planet One, in Michigan City.

Christina Karamasenes, hostess and fundraising organizer for the monthly programs, said that she is working on a silent auction fundraiser to purchase a small stage area and lighting for the old Room 4 kindergarten area. The cozy, cabaret-type space serves to fit the open mike acoustics much better and leaves the large gym/auditorium free for larger events, such as receptions or private parties. Little Giant Pizza in Long Beach is donating the free pizzas for the August event, and The Beacher is one of the first community businesses that have agreed to chip in for the refreshments. Some of the items already donated for the auction include original paintings and jewelry, a complete spa package, and recording studio time. More donations are encouraged, according to Christina, who will be happy to arrange to have them picked up.

For more information about the Second Saturday Open Mics, contact Christina at the Long Beach Spa at 874-4674 or Susan Vissing at the Old School Community Center, 879-3845.
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20th Antique Engine & Tractor Show

The River Valley Antique Power Association will hold this show on Sat., July 26, and Sun., July 27, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. each day.

The association invites the whole family to bring a picnic basket and enjoy a day spent visiting history. The show will feature antique tractors, antique cars, hit and miss engines, threshing demonstrations, sawmill in action, stuff for sale, live music and food. Admission is free.

The RVAPA will be selling tickets for its 2003 Raffle Tractor, a 1949 restored CASE VAC.

The RVAPA grounds are located at 7816 Warren Woods Road, Three Oaks (right next to Bob-a-Ron Campground). From I-94, take exit 6 and follow the signs.

The RVAPA is a not-for-profit organization supporting the development and preservation of antique and gas powered engines and tractors related to historic methods of agriculture and early industrial technology. Their website: www.threeoakstractorclub.org

Footlight Players Auditions

Footlight Players has announced audition dates for their October production of “Deathtrap,” a murder mystery directed by Bonnie Quigley. Auditions will be held at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St., Michigan City, on Sun., Aug. 3, from 5:30-7:30 p.m.; Mon., Aug. 4, and Tues., Aug. 5, from 7-10 p.m.

Cast requirements are for 3 adult males and 2 adult females. For further information, 874-4035.

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**Program For Seniors at Center for History**

Weddings of the Oliver family will be the focus of a “Senior Specialty Tour” taking place at 1:30 p.m., on Wed., Aug. 6, at the Northern Indiana Center for History, 808 W. Washington St., South Bend. The program will feature a slide presentation on the Oliver family and their marriages, including Gertrude Oliver, whose wedding reception was held at Copshaholm. Also included is a first-floor tour of the Oliver Mansion, where gowns dating to the 1880s are shown in the exhibition, “Veiled Illusion: Vintage Brides in the Oliver Mansion.” A look at the Milburn electric car, all decorated as though for a wedding, will also be offered. Refreshments will be served.

Offered the first Wednesday of each month, the series has a different theme each month and is designed especially for adults 55 and over. Each program lasts approximately 2 hours and features a slide presentation, followed by a specialty tour in a related area of the museum.

Admission to the program is $3. Reservations are required by Aug. 4. For more information, phone 574/235-9664 or log onto www.centerforhistory.org

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**9th Annual Leprechaun Hunt**

On Sun., Aug. 3, twenty-seven Leprechauns will hide with their pots o’ gold in the fields of Sharing Meadows in Rolling Prairie. Father Dennis Blaney, President of the Share Foundation, invites families and friends to hunt for the Leprechauns and win cash prizes up to $1,000. This year marks the 9th annual Leprechaun Hunt; the festivities start at noon and last until 6 p.m. For more information, phone 219/778-2582.
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Niles Riverfest 2003

This event is one of southwest Michigan’s most popular festivals and will take place from Thurs., July 31 through Sun., Aug. 3, in downtown Niles, Michigan in Riverfront Park along the St. Joseph River and is free to attend.

There will be entertainment, food, craft booths, and much more. Like the Mr. & Mrs. Riverfest contest which is open to all men and women over the age of 18. Winners will receive over $1,000 in prizes.

The opening ceremony will take place on Fri., Aug. 1 at the Riverfront Amphitheater.

Dragon Boat races will take place on Sat. This colorful event is part of the Chinese tradition which began more than 2,000 years ago. Many people believed that boat racing would ensure prosperous and bountiful crops. These celebrations took place on the summer solstice--at the time of year typically associated with disease and death, and when man felt most helpless against the powers of nature. The race has come to symbolize man’s struggle against nature and his fight against dangerous enemies.

The 3rd annual Fifth Third Bank/YMCA 5K Run/Walk will be held on Sat. Registration begins at 8 a.m. and the Run/Walk at 9 a.m.

There will be a large arts and crafts area and a “anything That Floats” raft race. The AAA 9th annual Classic Car and Truck Show is a popular event, and new this year is the Mountain Bike Poker Run sponsored by the South Bend Lions Club.

For more information, log onto www.nilesriverfest.org
FRIDAY, JULY 25
7-8:30 p.m. HABITAT MADNESS HIKE. Join a ranger for a hike on one of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore’s most biologically diverse trails. Bring your hiking boots and a sense of adventure for this unique hike that will conclude with a sunset on the beach. Meet at Kemil Beach parking lot.

SATURDAY, JULY 26
Noon-1:30 p.m. AN AFTERNOON WITH EARLY AVIATOR OCTAVE CHANUTE. This year marks the centennial of Wilbur and Orville Wright’s first “powered” flight. However, they might never have gotten off the ground had it not been for Octave Chanute. His experimental glider flights in the summer of 1896 over the Indiana Dunes laid the groundwork for the Wright Brothers. Local resident and Chicago actor, Tony Mockus, Jr. will portray Chanute and share his history-making summer in the dunes. Meet at Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center. Sponsored by the Friends of Indiana Dunes, Inc.

7:30-8:30 p.m. GET THE LEAD OUT. Wetlands act as natural reservoirs for contaminants such as lead, arsenic and mercury. Changes, natural or induced by man, affect the distribution of these pollutants in the wetland. Join a ranger at the National Lakeshore Campground Amphitheater for this visual exploration into the science of Dune Country’s wetlands and their relationship to groundwater.

For more information, phone 926-7561, ext. 225.

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Many people think that the only way for them to culture themselves by any means is to take in an art gallery. A common mistake for these people has been in thinking that they are required to take a day of vacation from work or to just wait until a day in which the conditions and ongoing activities of the art lovers are exactly correct to be able to pile themselves and the family into a car to experience good artwork to improve their minds. The trips usually lead away into a large city such as Chicago or Indianapolis and require hours of driving to complete the journey. This assumption is definitely not the only possible course of action. I, as well as many others artists and art lovers from the community, have discovered that there is a selection of mind-enhancing art centers with galleries and exhibits closer to home than previously guessed. One of these centers is the Lubeznik Center for the Arts, where one of many interesting exhibits the center displays every year is being held.

This exhibit was the third annual “Emerging Artists from Michigan City & Vicinity”- an exhibit that displayed art from young adults from nearby Michigan City. An opening reception was held on Saturday, July 12 to welcome the artists and to promote the first night of the exhibit. The artists themselves were present at the event to promote their talents, meet other emerging artists from the area, and to explain the importance of and issues targeted by their works.

There was no lack of these people who participated in the event, as nineteen young adults (including the two-man bluegrass band, Hillbilly Winos, who provided live music for the event) had their works displayed. The young emerging artists showed their talents in the wide variety of creative and eye-opening works displayed: sculptures, photographs, paintings, drawings, prints, cheesecloth burnings, and weavings.
The artists were: Danielle Adair, Sarah Lankenbaker, Adam Capone, Alice Carver-Kubik, Gabrielle DeBone, Christopher S. Grohs, Matt Hutchins, Sarah Kaiser, Amanda Love, Matt Paige, Yoonshin Park, Colby Parsons-O’Keefe, Jason Poteet, Kiley Reed, John Ryszka II, David Schutter, and Josh Thayer. Most of these artists’ works were on sale, but a few were just for display. The artists filled nearly all of the display area’s free space with over 79 works in the temporary Lubeznik exhibit location, located at 720 Franklin Square.

The artists who participated in the event ranged in ages from 19 to 30 years of age. The participants had at least some college education in their field of artistic media. A few of the colleges attended by the young adults were Columbia College, the University of Chicago, and Vincennes University, where a few of the artists, majors were in Independent Art Study, Photography, and Graphic Design, as well as other areas of focus.

The next exhibit to be held by the Center will be the 18th Annual Juried Art Exhibit from September 20 until November 1. The Lubeznik Center for the Arts, current, but temporary, location is at 720 Franklin Square, Michigan City, Indiana 46360, but will later move to a permanent building at 101 West 2nd Street, Michigan City, Indiana 46360. The future relocation will not affect the current “Emerging Artists from Michigan City & Vicinity” exhibit. The Lubeznik Center for the Arts is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday - Friday and from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Saturday and can be reached by telephone at (219) 874-4900. The Center is closed on Sundays and Mondays. My photographs do not do the artists justice. I would recommend seeing this marvelous exhibit of talents and imagination in person, as critical information and the true experience is lacking.
We are now on the shady side of summer. Trees are in full leaf and those of us with shade gardens follow the sun across the sky watching for pockets of sunlight to see where they fall. These pockets might give just enough sun to nurture some part shade plantings. I have been told, and I believe the authority, that when a plant calls for sun to part shade, the part shade means more than just an hour or two a day; part shade means half and half. I pushed the envelope a bit with two new perennials I found at Beachside Gardens and so far, they seem to have done quite well. Besides, they both have lovely foliage, and such tongue-tickling names.

One is called *persicaria microcephala*, or European Bistort, or Red Dragon fleeceflower. Doing as many hosta as I do, when I find a perennial with a deep contrast color and foliage, I am drawn to it as surely as Charlie chases squirrels. *Persicaria* has leaves of green and white in a chevron pattern, and though it doesn’t get a 6-hour dose of sun, it has already blessed its spot with a spray of delicate white flowers. The little plant tag says it is tolerant of heavy clay soils, and though it likes moist areas better, will tolerate short dry spells with cool, northern nights that intensify the color. That could mean us; I’ve pulled my comforter up every night so far. If older (I mean more experienced) gardeners than I have tried this plant before and found it invasive, not to fear. The new Red Dragon hybrid promises to stay in place and was created at Crystal Palace Perennials in St. John, Indiana, not too far from here.

The other perennial is *ligularia dentata Othello*. Just roll *ligularia Othello* off your tongue. Isn’t that more exciting than Leopard plant or ragwort? Like *persicaria*, (I love to say these names) *ligularia* is also touted for partial sun to shade and has that same deep burgundy stems and sizable deep green kidney-shaped leaves that have a tropical feel in the way they spread. The tag says the leaves can be 20 inches wide! It is beautiful, spreading those leaves like a peacock fan cooling a rajah. I’ve planted a trio near the
pond above a mat of creeping blue juniper and will accept an orchid for the striking effect. I don't care a snap if it doesn't produce the promised orange flowers in summer. The same ligularia dentata also has a variety called 'Desdemona' in its line-up. Dare I bring it near? What if Iago lurks somewhere in the garden? I think my Othello will have to go it alone.

Iago might be the name of the mole that lurks in my garden, slyly undercutting some prize hosta. I thought the droop in the hosta's leaves came from a soil problem but when I reached to pick a yellowed leaf, up came the hosta as well. Something had been snacking on the roots. Not enough to kill it (yet), but certainly put it into a state of retardation. What else but to go on an Internet search about moles, learning more, of course, than I really wanted to know. Seems moles might not be the culprit; they are carnivorous, burrowing for the worms and grubs that grow among roots, deep down in the soil. It's the little vole that uses the mole's burrow to feast on a vegetarian diet of corms and tubers. It is also not true that moles eat 2 to 3 times their body weight every day; they eat only 70 to 100% of their body weight each day. One hosta is just a nosh. And though we might blame the vole for eating the actual plant, moles do scrape dirt away from roots in search of their grubs and thereby deprive the plant of its nourishment.

More about moles: they are not exclusively nocturnal, though the raised tunnels do seem to pop up at night. Current research (I wonder who does that and with what government grant) shows that moles work in 4-four shifts. It only seems they work at night because they choose quiet times; people and pets walking on the ground sets up vibrations and they cease their digging. The ways suggested to rid the garden of moles and the vole that gets a free ride through their tunnels are to kill, by trap or poison. I doan wanna do either. I've heard tell of a little pinwheel affair you can put in or near a tunnel to create those vibrations of dissuasion, and I'll begin with that. My impeccable source says that moles are usually solitary. They generally do not get along with one another. I can understand why. If the pinwheel doesn't work, I've read of something called jeyes fluid, a chemical with a foul smell that has been around for 50 years. They don't like it and will move to another location. I hope I can send them to every garlic mustard patch in the neighborhood. When it comes to moles, I'm pretty territorial myself. NIMBY, not in my back yard.

And so it is.
9th Annual 5K Fun Run

The 9th Annual 5K Fun Run will take place in New Buffalo on Sat., Aug. 2. The run/walk will take place along Lake Michigan and is sponsored by the New Buffalo High School Bison Boosters. This is the organization's largest fund raiser of the year.

Registration forms are available on line at www.nbboas.org or at the New Buffalo City Beach at 7:30 a.m. (MI time) on day of race. There will be free parking on the beach lot during race for participants.

The Boosters provide sack lunches for away games and have provided funds for the purchase of equipment for the weight room, baseball and softball, girls' and boys' basketball, golf, football, track and volleyball as well as special needs when requested. The Boosters also help financially challenged student athletes to insure that all qualified students can participate in athletics. Anyone interested in joining the Boosters or making a donation should contact the New Buffalo High School Athletic office at 269/469-6004.

Put on Some Antlers & Walk Like a Moose

Children's author April Pulley Sayre will explore how science and writing come together in the animal kingdom. This program will be held at the LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave., downtown LaPorte, on Tues., July 29, at 5 p.m. It is free and open to the public.

Join the fun as Ms Sayre entertains with the stories about her encounters with wild animals that have inspired her books. Hear what animals sound like, learn animal calls and take an interactive photo quiz. For more information, phone 219/362-7128.
Valparaiso Leads Club to Meet

The Co-Ed Valparaiso Leads Club meets every Wednesday morning at Courtyard Inn, 2301 E. Northland Drive (US 30), Valparaiso, from 7:30-8:45 a.m. Leads Club is an international organized networking organization for businesses and professionals. Guests are welcome. For more information, phone Bob at 219/531-5929.

Speaking at the July 23 meeting will be John Gagnier, mortgages; Carol Gilliland, cruises; and Maggie Reister, regional director.

Speaking at the July 30 meeting will be Bob Stout, insurance/investments and Jan Penner, Mary Kay Cosmetics.

TGIF: Music in the Gardens

Danny Lerman will be the featured performer at TGIF: Music in the Gardens, which takes place from 5-8:30 p.m. on Fri., Aug. 1 at the Northern Indiana Center for History, 808 W. Washington St., South Bend. Admission is $5.

The lush grounds of Copshaholm, the 1896 mansion built for industrialist J.D. Oliver, provides the perfect setting for this event. Guests are invited to bring lawn chairs or blankets. Food and beverages will be sold.

Danny’s music is infused with rap rhythms, vocal spice, and world-beat flavoring all merging into a Lermanesque panache. He has toured extensively throughout the U.S. He has several CDs out, and several of his songs have been featured in movies.

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wReservations Still Available

Reservations are available for the Arts Center Guild’s Chicago tour to take place on Thurs., July 31. Led by Dr. Ross Blythe, the tour will feature a number of historic Chicago churches famous for architectural style and beautiful windows.

First stop will be Temple Sholom with its stunning contemporary panels of windows, the Quigley Chapel with its glorious blue windows, and then a guided tour of the Gothic style Fourth Presbyterian Church.

At lunch the group will be at Navy Pier to eat and enjoy the Smith Museum of Stained Glass Windows, with time for a quick view of the Tall Ships at the Pier.

The group will then tour the First Baptist Church built in 1869 where Mary Todd Lincoln once worshiped, and then the Gothic style St. Philip Neri Church.

The bus will depart the Lubeznik Center on Second Street at 8 a.m. and return at 5 p.m. Costs are $30 for Arts Center members and $35 for non-members. Reservations should be made with Greta LaFountain at 874-6359.

Friends of the MC Public Library

The Friends’ regularly meet the first Monday of the month at 2 p.m. Their next meeting will be Mon., Aug. 4, at 1 p.m. The Friends Annual Collector’s Breakfast is planned for Sat., Sept. 27. Mark your calendar now; tickets will go on sale Aug. 4.

The Friends’ Book and Magazine Sale is located in the library near the Circulation Desk. The Friends are in urgent need of your new and gently used books for the on-going book sale. The Friends help fund many programs, materials and equipment for the library from the money raised in the sale.

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Book Reader Discussion Groups

Harbor Country Book Club

This group will meet on Tues., July 29, 7:30 p.m. (MI time) at the Harbor Grand Hotel, New Buffalo. You do not have to have read the book to join in. All book lovers are invited to attend. There is always a brief bio of the author and a book review before the discussion. This month’s book is Forgiveness: Finding Freedom Through Reconciliation by Avis Clendenen and Troy Martin.

Great Books at the Michigan City Public Library

This group will meet on Wed., July 30, 6 p.m., at the library. The July selection is The Bridge of San Luis Rey by Thornton Wilder. New members are invited to attend. Confirm next month’s reading material by phoning 873-3049 or check in at the Circulation Desk.

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foodstuff by carolyn mc’connell

Years ago the word whistlestop referred to the route of an eager politician chugging along the campaign trail, making speeches and kissing babies. These days it’s our neighborhood gourmet shop, across the road from the tracks, with remarkable stuff crowding its inviting shelves. And it is changing.

There’s some exciting news at the Whistle Stop on the Red Arrow highway at the edge of Union Pier, Michigan. Two new partners have been taken on board. For seven years, Marilyn Lieberman led an incredibly busy life as owner/buyer/director of the Whistle Stop, but beginning this summer, she will happily share it all with fellow travelers – clinical psychologist Suraleah Michaels and attorney Jess Forrest, a Chicago couple now weekending in Harbor Country.

These two originally planned to spend one weekend per month at their new summer place, but once here, they fell in love with the territory. And after a few Whistle Stop visits, plans skyrocketed. When

Marilyn Lieberman joked “why don’t you folks join me as business partners?” they were first speechless and astounded, then they became seriously interested. For months, the three spent hours, getting acquainted. They met at local restaurants, talking non-stop until they got kicked out at closing time, then continued discussions in parking lots into the wee hours. They miraculously became close friends in no time, exchanging life stories, eventually knowing all there was to know about each other. Today, all three use the words total trust when referring to each other. These new cohorts fondly call each other “characters,” and claim they’re partners-in-heaven. To add to their camaraderie, Marilyn and Suraleah are equally fashion-conscious. Marilyn, in her endless wardrobe of beautiful starched white shirts, Suraleah with her head-turning rock star hairdo and elegant style.

Suraleah is originally from Boston, Jess from the Bronx. Lieberman is familiar with both those hometowns, being a former Easterner herself. The only food focus in the new partners’ past is that Jess was once co-owner of a client’s restaurant located in near-north Chicago. The food offered there was of Mediterranean flavor. Jess became a true Mediterranean in no time...he loved that food. In fact, he’s brought it to us in Union Pier.

Some new happenings at the Whistle Stop, teamed with the two new partners, include a weekend outdoor organic farm stand on the premises. Michigan produce is offered and we all know that local stuff is outstanding. Stunning pastries from Bit of Swiss have been added next to the deli counter – baklava, colorful fruit tarts, triple mousse cakes, cannoli and more. New healthy pizzas adorn the freezer shelves – Vegstar on whole wheat crust and all natural American Flatbread. And thanks to Jess and his
lient, Mediterranean favorites are now in the deli case (hummus and stuffed vegetarian grape leaves, among others). Every Saturday, tasting samples of Whistle Stop goodies are laid out on the counter (I got a few bites of andouille sausage, chicken-apple sausage, Spanish cheese when I was there. Great!) Heading for the beach? Stop en route and order your parties’ take-out box lunches.

The Whistle Stop is now offering Friday take-out dinners (e.g., salmon poached in vermouth and herbs with seasonable vegetable and roasted potatoes) and can be ordered a few days in advance. And much to everyone’s delight, catering service of the Whistle Stop’s excellent food will be introduced as the summer season progresses.

The people behind the counter there are excited with the introduction of Jess and Suraleah, and all the new products and services. April, among the dozen or so employees, has been serving customers for a total of six years now. A new cook appeared in the kitchen at exactly the right time – Tyra, local Union Pier-er, is capable of any cooking required. Amazing, at age 17.

Meantime, the usual Whistle Stop’s familiar pleasures are still on the shelves. Two of my many old favorites are the imported Plugra butter, Intelligentsia coffee beans and grapeseed oil for high-smoke point/no sodium cooking. And of the new products, my faves are virgin Argan oil, which is both beneficial to health and delicious in cooking at the same time and the deli’s hummus. Oh yes, speaking of favorites, remember the Collins Caviar ladies at the Sparkling Event last fall? Their exotic products have now appeared on Whistle Stop’s shelves – the various caviars, plus things like Lieberman’s favorite, lobster-caviar spread.

You don’t have to be a politician to stop at this Whistle Stop. Next time you’re on the Red Arrow, drop in and meet Suraleah and Jess and their family (beautiful Bogart and Hudson). And congratulate Marilyn Lieberman on her new family.

The Whistle Stop, 15700 Red Arrow Hwy, Union Pier, MI, 269-469-6700

EGGPLANT WITH BREAD STUFFING
(yes, you can get most of these ingredients at Whistle Stop)

5 small eggplants, trimmed and halved lengthwise
4 slices white bread, crusts discarded and torn into pieces (about 2 cups)
1/2 c. milk
2 T. finely chopped basil leaves
3/4 c. grated Gruyere (about 1 oz.)
2 large eggs beaten lightly
1 T. olive oil

In a kettle of boiling salted water, boil eggplant halves for 8 to 10 minutes, or until they are tender. Drain them and let cool until they can be handled. In a small bowl, let the bread soak in the milk and 1/2 cup water for 10 minutes. Scoop out the eggplant flesh, leaving 1/4” thick shells. Chop the flesh fine and in a bowl, combine it well with the bread, squeezed dry, the garlic, basil, cheese, eggs and salt/pepper to taste. Divide the mixture among the eggplant shells, drizzle with oil and bake on baking sheet in upper third of preheated 375º oven for 30 to 35 minutes, until they are golden.
College Funding Workshop

Purdue University North Central will host a College Funding Workshop on Mon., July 28, from 6:30-8 p.m. in the Library-Student-Faculty Building Assembly Hall, Room 02. The workshop is intended for both current and prospective students and their families to explain the financial aid options available to help pay tuition.

PNC Financial Aid staff members will present information on grants, loans and other options available. They will also explain how students and their families can look for sources of funding and how to apply. They will also help with filing out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Members of the PNC Admissions staff will be present to help prospective students apply for admission to PNC.

Fall semester classes begin the week of Aug. 25. For more information, phone 872-0527, ext. 5493, or log onto www.pnc.edu

Did You Know?

Here are some interesting tidbits from the Michigan City Public Library:

The Library on the Internet. You can find information about the library by logging onto www.mclib.org. The website will take you to the Online Catalog where you can access books, videos, DVDs, CDs, magazines and much more. Information on library hours, programming, youth services activities and genealogy is also available.

Homebound Delivery Service. The library Reference Department will send books to patrons who are temporarily or permanently unable to visit the library due to health limitations. Delivery and return is by U.S. Mail and the library pays postage both ways. For more information, or an application, phone 873-3044 or stop by the Reference Desk.

On DVD. Don’t forget the library has more than 2,000 DVDs available for rent.

New on Videocassette: “Spy Kids 2” starring Antonio Banderas. Rated PG.

Summer Reading Program. The Summer Reading Program, “Hello World,” is in full swing and it’s not just for kids anymore. Read your favorite book, monitor your time and win prizes just like the kids.

Lots going on at the library—check it out!
NBBA Postpones Tom Ray Golf Outing

The New Buffalo Business Association has postponed the 4th annual Tom Ray Memorial Golf Outing to Thurs., Aug. 14 at the Diamond Bowl Miniature Golf Course in New Buffalo.

Barry Griffin, one of the organizers, explained, “When we set the date for the tournament, we didn’t realize that it was in conflict with a major gift market in Chicago to which most of our retailers go. Since this tournament is the major fundraiser for a scholarship for a New Buffalo student, we want to maximize the participation.”

For more information, phone Barry at 269/469-7283.

How to Study Class at PNC

Purdue University North Central’s Office of Continuing Education will offer How to Study, a course for high school juniors, seniors, and college students, this summer.

This class will teach the fundamentals of taking notes and the easy way to take tests. It is intended for students who want to read to remember and learn how to think creatively and critically. In addition, memory techniques and time management for peak study time will be taught.

The course will meet twice -- on Tues., July 29 & Thurs., July 31, from 6-8:50 p.m., or, Tues., Aug. 5 & Thurs., Aug. 7, from 6-8:50 p.m. The fee is $99.

For more information, phone 872-0527, ext. 5343 or log onto www.pnc.edu

Poetry Slam in Three Oaks

This evening will be devoted to readings of original works by area poets whose passion for the spoken word brings new ideas to those who really listen. Among the participants will be Three Oaks’ recently appointed Poet Laureate, Amy Mitchell. Join in with your favorite poem or just come to listen. Park bench seating will be in place or bring a blanket or lawn chair of your own.

The Poetry Slam will take place on Sat., July 26, at 7 p.m. (MI time) in downtown Three Oaks in the Dewey Cannon Park, next to the train tracks. This evening is part of the Harbor Country Music in the Park series, with entertainment every Saturday night throughout the summer. For more information, phone 269/756-3544.

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Messages—Media—Meeting

For anyone wanting to travel and needing a buddy to share expenses, Travel Chums is a Web sign up service that matches solo travelers who have similar outlooks. For example, if you are wanting to attend a workshop far from home or go on a cruise, but you don’t want to pay the single supplement, Travel Chums offers the possibility of finding a like-minded person to split rooming costs. Travel Chums (travelchums.meetup.com) is one of a huge number of categories that makes up the website Meetup.com. Meetup is a free service that “organizes local gathering about anything, anywhere.” Topic areas include Politics & Activism, Books, Film and TV, Games, Health, Internet/Technology, Languages, Music, Pets, Hobbies, and Work and Careers as well as the Travel Chums group. In all, there are 1450 topics and subtopics with close to 450,000 people signed on to Meetup. The Meet-ups are not of the computer world, but occur locally, even right here in Michigan City. These are gatherings that bring together people with common interests, and they vote via the Meetup website on places and times (monthly) to meet.

Within Michigan City, I discovered that there are more than a dozen interest groups of various sizes. Those with the largest number of people are the Witches group, Dean in 2004 group, a Pagan group, and a Mutt-lovers group. Others who are trying to attract new members via Meetup include the Insane Clown Posse, Harry Potter, Poetry, Homeschool, Boxer, Xena, Punk, Bill O’Reilly, Slashdot, Bookcrossing, Mail Art, Altered Books, and Everything2 groups. Each group establishes its own agenda. Meeting times and places are posted at MeetUp.com. Topic members from other cities around the country post messages about their group or topic, too. If you are traveling to another city at a time when another meet up group
is meeting on your topic, you’ll have the opportunity to make new acquaintances who share your interests. If your interest or hobby isn’t listed in the topics mentioned above, not to worry. Through MeetUp.com, you can post your own intentions to start a group. Among some of the more intriguing topics, Dumpster Diving, Soapmaking, and Adult Fans of Lego have groups that meet in other places.

What I like about the Meetup concept is how it encourages otherwise reluctant or shy people to get away from their computers for awhile in order to have face-to-face contact with like-minded souls. No doubt some people use it as a potential dating tool, but since the meet ups are arranged for groups in a public place, the potential for scary situations to develop is low. The Meetup service also asks its members to suggest appropriate meeting places, such as cafés, bowling alleys, donut shops, etc. The potential for a host meeting place to increase business on an otherwise slow night is not lost on the folks who created Meetup. In fact, if you are a restaurant owner who is reading this, you might want to log on and find out more about the site. Businesses pay a monthly fee to Meetup to become a host, according to the website information. In return, they get publicity and an already-assembled group, usually hungry or thirsty, to come into their place every month.

Whoops! I can’t believe I’m almost out of room this week. I wanted to tell you a little more about my discovery of the Everything2 website, but I’ll save it for next week. Curious because that I saw on Meetup that Michigan City has such a group, I wanted to learn more about it. So I’ll save my newfound knowledge about “noding” for later.

(Questions and comments can be sent to left2write@hotmail.com with “cyberscribbles” in the subject header).
Activities to Explore

In the Local Area:


July 23-August 2 — “Fiddler on the Roof.” Festival Players Guild production at the Mainstreet Theatre, 807 Franklin St. Wed-Fri @ 8 pm; Sat @ 6 & 9 pm. Wed. matinee @ 2 pm. Tix $12/weekdays; $13/Fri & Sat. Discount tix available; phone 874-4269.


POSTPONED — Tom Ray Memorial Golf Outing. Was scheduled for July 24 has been postponed until August 14. Held at the Diamond Bowl, New Buffalo. Registration 5:30 pm with Hole-in-One contest at 6:30 pm & shotgun start at 7 pm. Fundraiser for the New Buffalo Business Association for their scholarship program.


July 24-26 — “Lie of the Mind.” A play by Sam Shepard presented by Community Theatre Guild at Chicago Street Theatre, 154 W. Chicago St., Valparaiso. Fri & Sat @ 8 pm; Sun @ 2:30 pm. Tix $12/adults, $10/sen. cit., $8/students. 219/464-1636 or www.ctgonline.org

July 24-28 — “Man on the Train.” Winner Best Picture Venice Film Festival. Rated R. French with Eng. subtitles. Thurs. 6:30 pm; Fri, Sat, Sun 4:30 & 6:45 pm; Mon 6:30 pm. Playing for one more week: “The Man Without a Past.” Thurs 9 pm; Fri, Sat & Sun 2 & 9 pm; Mon 9 pm. Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, MI. 269/756-3522. www.vickerstheatre.com

July 25 — Jazz singer Jenna Mammina in concert at The Acorn Theater, Three Oaks, MI. 8 pm (MI time). Tix $15; phone 269/756-3879 or at the door.


July 25-27 — “Bat Boy—the Musical” at the Dunes Summer Theatre, Michiana Shores. Curtain Fri & Sat @ 8 pm; Sun. at 7 pm. Tix $15/adults, $12/students & senior citizens. Subscriptions also available; phone 879-7509.


July 26 — Farmer’s Market. 8th & Washington streets, Michigan City. 8 am-1 pm.


July 26 — Innovative and Traditional Watercolor Work Artist’s Reception. 6-8 pm (MI time) at Gaia Gallery, at the Shaker Cottage Complex, 19135 W US 12, New Buffalo. Refreshments will be served. 269/469-4616.

July 26 — Cabaret singer Rob Lindley in concert at The Acorn Theater, Three Oaks, MI. 8 pm (MI time). Tix $15; phone 269/756-3879 or at the door.


July 27 — College Funding Workshop at Purdue University North Central. 6:30-8 pm in the Library-Student-Faculty Bldg. Assembly Hall, Rm. 02. Info on grants, loans & other options. 872-0527, ext. 5493 or www.pnc.edu

July 29 — Put on Some Antlers & Walk Like a Moose! 5 pm at the LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave., LaPorte. Free. Author April Pulley Sayre will entertain kids & parents with stories about her encounters with animals that have inspired her books. 219/362-7128.

July 29 -- Harbor Country Book Club. 7:30 pm (MI time) at the Harbor Grand Hotel, New Buffalo. To be discussed: Forgiveness: Finding Freedom Through Reconciliation by Avis Clendenen and Troy Martin. Free & open to all interested persons.

July 29 & 31 -- “How to Study” class at Purdue University North Central. 6-8:50 pm (attend both days). Fee is $99. A course for high school juniors, seniors & college students. Register at 872-0527, ext. 5343 or www.pnc.edu


July 31 — Pickling, Canning and Putting Food By. 6:30 pm at the LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave., LaPorte. Free. How to safely preserve your garden vegetables and fruits. 219/362-6156.

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.
Beverly Shores Depot Museum and Art Gallery. In the Gallery: artists Valerie Taglieri & Ron Wenekes-
"Twilight Fragment." In the museum: photo exhibit of the old Beverly Shores School. Phone 871-0832.

Door Prairie Auto Museum. Located one mile south of LaPorte on US 35. Hours 10 am-4:30 pm, Tues-Sat;
noon-4:30 pm Sun. 219/326-1337 or 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.

Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 720 Franklin St.,

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 269/469-5409.

Old Lighthouse Museum, Washington Park, Michigan City. Open Tues-Sun, 1-4 pm. Adm. $2/adults, $1/kids
grades 9-12, 50 cents/kids grades 1-8, free to preschoolers. Group tours available, phone 872-6133. Closed January and February.


The Depot of Beverly Shores Museum and Art Gallery, 525 Broadway, Beverly Shores, IN. Adm.
free, donations welcome. Open Sat. & Sun, 1-4 pm from May-November. Info about museum, 874-5322; info about gallery, 872-4185.

Further Afield:

July 26 — Firefly Festival presents Arturo Sandoval in concert at 8 pm. Gates open 5 pm. Held at St.
Patrick's County Park, South Bend.Tix $12/$16/$5. 574/288-3472 or www.fireflyfestival.com

July 26-27 — Grissom Community Air Show, Peru, IN. Adm. $3 per person/kids under 6 adm. free. For complete schedule phone 765/689-9503 or log onto www.GrissomAirShow.com


Through September 14 — “Linda McCartney’s Sixties Portrait of an Era.” Photo exhibit by the late wife of Beatle Paul McCartney. At the Ella Sharp Museum, 3225 4th St., Jackson, MI. 517/787-2320 or log onto www.ellasharp.org

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**Lakeside, Michigan**...a mini-meca for shoppers of antiques and fine decorative furnishings, all built around a pocket of park where Lakeside holds its annual ice cream social. There’s **Lovell and Whyte**, the **Fenway Gallery**, Owner **Bruce Wood** is painting again, inspired by his art on the cover of the Harbor Country Guide. A new shop called **Sprite of Hand** opened on Memorial Day where everything is a hand-made original in fiber, wood, ceramic and spun silk. On August 2 and 3, Swedish weaver Maj Curtis will be artist-in-residence from 11 to 6 pm Michigan time on Saturday; 11 to 5:30 on Sunday. Drop in if you can.

More about these shops another time; this time the focus is on charm as in **Charm Cottage** on the far side of the park. Charm is the only word that could fit this cottage complex, from the welcoming deck and patio outside, to the rooms filled with primitive antiques and folk art inside, to the friendly welcome of owners Alan Palmer and Bill Lindblom. Charm Cottage came by its name over 70 years ago when a young widow decided to make do selling “geegaws and doodads and some flowers from the greenhouse tacked on back. When Red Arrow Highway came through in 1932, she became its first retailer.

Over the years, other name changes came, but five years ago when they bought the cottage complex, Alan and Bill decided the original name **Charm Cottage** fit their future plans the best. Plans included a new floor for the old greenhouse where folk art reigns supreme; other rooms hold antiques from England and France, primitive American pieces, a dollop of gift wares, and jewelry from **Jackie Gedwitz** who also shows her original creations in semi-precious stones at Chicago's Ultimo. Everywhere you look in Charm Cottage, there is something unique and appealing. If there is something special on your list, Alan would delight in helping you find it from his many resources, or keep an eye out on the partners annual shopping trips down south and overseas. I **did** say Alan was charming, didn’t I?
If you want to complete your visit and wander an antique world, Lakeside Antique Center shares the corner stop. It’s been there for ages, a complex once run by the owners of Three Oaks Springdale store. If you haven’t visited the Acorn Theater in Three Oaks, they have some interesting fare coming up. July 25 has Jenna Mamina, Goldie recipient voted Jazz Performer of the Year by SF Weekly; Rob Lindley performing piano and vocals on July 26; on August 1 & 2, Tripaway Theater offers a version of Aristophanes, a very irreverent production. Both the Acorn and Vickers Theater have been presenting programs as part of the 2003 Michiana Festival of the Arts sponsored by Columbia College of Chicago and the Dunes Arts Foundation and Summer Theatre of Michiana Shores. On Friday, August 8, the Vickers Theater will present Film Roadshow at 8 pm, Michigan time, featuring award-winning films by female students and faculty of Columbia, on Saturday, August 9, 2 pm Michigan time. Film and Video Roadshow, a program featuring films by men with Bruce Sheridan, chair of the Columbia College Film & Video Department leading a session of Q&A.

The welcome at Charm Cottage extends to its gardens planted and tended by Bill who also consults with Riviera Gardens, and the once-upon-a-time shed where Luca Woodfield and Sophie, a fluffy pug who helps mind the store, hold forth. Once a shed, look inside and see what whitewash and country flair can do. Lisa calls her shop of home décor Brooke James Ltd., named for her mother, Brooke, and her father, James, and she keeps that friendly, family atmosphere. Really a must-see stop at 14906 Red Arrow Hwy, find Charm Cottage open Friday through Monday, 11 am to 6 pm, Michigan time, and for all Harbor Country special events like Midnight Madness and Red Arrow Ride. I did say Charm Cottage has charm to spare, didn’t I?

If you want to complete your visit and wander an antique world, Lakeside Antique Center shares the corner stop. It’s been there for ages, a complex once run by the owners of Three Oaks Springdale store. If you haven’t visited the Acorn Theater in Three Oaks, they have some interesting fare coming up. July 25 has Jenna Mamina, Goldie recipient voted Jazz Performer of the Year by SF Weekly; Rob Lindley performing piano and vocals on July 26; on August 1 & 2, Tripaway Theater offers a version of Aristophanes, a very irreverent production. Both the Acorn and Vickers Theater have been presenting programs as part of the 2003 Michiana Festival of the Arts sponsored by Columbia College of Chicago and the Dunes Arts Foundation and Summer Theatre of Michiana Shores. On Friday, August 8, the Vickers Theater will present Film Roadshow at 8 pm, Michigan time, featuring award-winning films by female students and faculty of Columbia, on Saturday, August 9, 2 pm Michigan time. Film and Video Roadshow, a program featuring films by men with Bruce Sheridan, chair of the Columbia College Film & Video Department leading a session of Q&A.
On July 24, 1897, Amelia Earhart, the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean, was born in Atchison, Kansas.

On July 24, 1915, 812 were drowned when The Edelweiss, an excursion boat preparing to leave Chicago for Michigan City, Indiana, rolled over in the Chicago River.

On July 25, 1866, Ulysses S. Grant, victorious Union general in the Civil War, was named to the five-star rank of "General of the Armies," the first officer to be so honored.

On July 25, 1878, the first Chinese diplomatic mission to the United States arrived in Washington.

On July 25, 1885, Louis Pasteur inoculated the first human being against rabies. The patient, Joseph Meister, who had been bitten by a rabid dog, later became superintendent of the Pasteur Institute.


On July 25, 1963, the Korean War armistice was signed at Panmunjom.

On July 25, 1984, Soviet cosmonaut Svetlana Savitskaya, as she stepped from a Soyuz T-12 space capsule, became the first woman to walk in space.

On July 26, 1759, during the French and Indian War, the French abandoned Fort Ticonderoga to the British.

On July 26, 1775, the Continental Congress appointed Benjamin Franklin to be the nation's first postmaster general.

On July 26, 1788, New York ratified the Constitution.

On July 26, 1856, playwright George Bernard Shaw was born in Dublin.

On July 26, 1956, Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser nationalized the Suez Canal.

On July 26, 1986, Rev. Lawrence Martin Jenco, of Joliet, Ill., was freed by the Islamic Jihad after almost 19-months as a hostage in Lebanon.

On July 27, 1694, the Bank of England was incorporated.

On July 27, 1790, Congress established the Department of Foreign Affairs, forerunner of the present State Department.

On July 27, 1866, the first underwater cable message was sent between North America and Europe.

On July 27, 1993, the Korean War armistice was signed at Panmunjom.
July 24, 2003

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On July 27, 1933, Cyrus W. Field completed the laying of a cable between Newfoundland and Valentia, on the Irish coast, a distance of 1,686 miles.

On July 27, 1854, Britain and Egypt agreed on terms ending British control of the Suez Canal.

On July 27, 1869, Sacramentos Greg LeMond became the first American to win the 2,500 mile Tour de France, the world's toughest cycling competition.

On July 28, 1868, the 14th Amendment to the Constitution, guaranteeing due process of law, was ratified.

On July 28, 1896, Florida's city of Miami was incorporated.

On July 28, 1943, during World War II, President Franklin Roosevelt announced the end of coffee rationing.

On July 28, 1945, by a vote of 80 to 2, the United States Senate ratified the United Nations charter.

On July 28, 1986, the Los Angeles Summer Olympics opened, minus 15 nations who stayed away in a Soviet-led boycott.

On July 28, 1996, former Chicago native Harold Fox, designer of the wide-shouldered, narrow-cuffed "Zoot Suit," popular in the '30s and '40s, died, in Siesta Key, Florida, at the age of 86.

On July 29, 1850, "La Traviatia," the first opera to be performed in Chicago, opened at the Rice Theater.

On July 29, 1869, Booth Tarkington, American novelist and dramatist whose writings are considered one of the best mirrors of life in the Middle West, was born in Indianapolis.

On July 29, 1914, transcontinental telephone service began with the first phone conversation between New York and San Francisco.

On July 29, 1958, NASA came into being when President Eisenhower signed the National Aeronautics and Space Act.

On July 29, 1977, the first oil began flowing through the 800-mile long Alaska pipeline.

On July 29, 1978, Penny Dean set a new record (7 hours & 42 minutes) for swimming the English Channel.

On July 30, 1909, the U.S. Government paid $30,000 for its first airplane, a Wright biplane.

On July 30, 1942, President Franklin Roosevelt signed a bill creating the WAVES, a women's auxiliary of the Navy.

On July 30, 1971, Chicago's famous Union Stockyards were permanently closed.

On July 30, 1971, Apollo 15 astronaut David Scott and James Irwin landed on the Moon.
And, after a good night’s sleep, I was able to file the following report:

Just so you know — a noteworthy bicycle tour DID pass through Michigan City, New Buffalo, Three Oaks and Galien along U.S. 12 on Wednesday, July 16. Actually, the 13 riders, who were riding across the United States to call attention to domestic poverty, did more than just ride through our lovely corner of Indiana and Michigan. (The rest of their group had split off in Michigan City for a detour to Notre Dame and would rejoin them the following day in White Pigeon.)

The assignment was ever so simple: Link up with the Brake the Cycle of Poverty Bike Tour Across the U.S.A. as they crossed into Michigan on U.S. 12 on Wednesday, July 16 and ride along with them. And then, of course, write a story about it.

Null problems, as they say, and when I checked in at Saint Mary of the Lake Church in New Buffalo to see when the 13 riders could be expected from their previous stop at St. Mary the Immaculate Conception in Michigan City, I was told by the good Sister Susan Ridley, O.P. of the Diocese of Kalamazoo to simply ride the few, short miles to the state line and wait there for the cross-country cyclists.

Sister Susan added that that was the best plan because she wasn’t sure exactly where they were going to get back on U.S. 12. “So just stay put at the state line, and you won’t miss them,” she advised.

Simple enough, right?

Well for most people, but then yours truly is nothing if not short on patience, and so when I got to the state line, I got antsy.

Waiting is not my game, and so I rode all the way on U.S. 12 to that big bridge by the Blue Chip Casino and looked around.

No sign of the 13 cyclists. Wowzer!

Seeing that I had somehow missed them along the way, I turned about and cycled as fast as my old legs would rotate back to New Buffalo, and — miracle of miracles — found the happy group having a relaxing lunch compliments of Saint Mary of the Lake. Sister Susan said they were just fixing to send out the bloodhounds for me, and I just hacked and wheezed for a while.

Finally, I was able to settle down and thus was able to mount up with the group a short time later and actually, and actually complete with them that day’s journey to Saint Mary Church in Niles.
After a refreshing lunch at Saint Mary of the Lake Church in New Buffalo, the hearty band were hailed by a welcoming group of parishioners at Saint Mary of the Assumption Church in Three Oaks, and were given plenty of cold water and food for their journey which would take them that day on to Saint Mary Church in Niles for a dinner with Bishop James Murray of the Diocese of Kalamazoo.

And after climbing through the Sierras and Rockies and enduring the mad dogs and merciless humidity of Missouri, the “Brake the Cycle of Poverty Bike Tour Across the USA” riders were really happy to cross into Michigan on July 16 because it was sunny, warm, dry, and all the dogs along their route were properly restrained.

Brother Jeffrey Gros, F.S.C., who works in Washington, D.C. combating poverty for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, was happy to rest his 66-year-old bones and bike in Three Oaks after a pedaling some 2,950 miles from San Francisco on June 1.

Sure, Brother Jeffrey was looking forward to the group’s arrival in his hometown on August 1, but he was content for the moment to focus attention in Three Oaks on poverty in the United States.

As Brother Jeffrey explained, the awareness effort is being call “Brake the Cycle,” and it is being sponsored by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD). The purpose of the tour is to raise public awareness of the fact that nearly 33 million Americans now live below the poverty line.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the poverty guideline for a family of four is $18,100 for all states in the contiguous U.S.

Other riders joined Brother Jeffrey in noting that such a number is “scandalous,” given the great wealth of this nation.

Their message was certainly not lost on those they
Brake  Continued from Page 67

spoke to along their way, particularly in Three Oaks where children from the Kinder-Court Day Care in Sawyer were on hand to wave their hand-made signs and banners in support of the riders.

Lee Anne Adams, who coordinated the incredibly complicated cross-country ride as one of her duties working in Washington for the Conference of Bishops, said the ride was not about the amazing statistics compiled by the riders, but about their two-fold message:

“One, we want to raise awareness of poverty in the United States,” Adams said. “We want people to visualize who is not with us at the table. The number of those living below the poverty line will grow with our bad economy. And, two, we want to raise awareness of the Catholic Church’s response through the CCHD.”

Established in 1970 by the Catholic Bishops of the United States, the CCHD is one of the largest private funders of self-help programs for poor people in the United States and has supported more than 4,000 community-based development projects.

Brother Jeffrey cited a particularly inspiring one called the Poor People’s Clinic in an impoverished rural county near Memphis, Tennessee.

Noting that the predominantly African-American county had no physicians, he said the CCHD empowered the people to create their own clinic, recruit volunteer physicians from Memphis and provide their own staffing.

While cruising east along U.S. 12 near Galien, Hillary Chester of Dallas extolled a CCHD grant recipient in Wichita, Kansas called Hope Street. Noting that they were a group of teen-agers who had decided to take control of their urban environment, Chester said funding from the CCHD had enabled them to lobby their city to install streetlights for the first time in a high-crime area.

“They learned how to deal with government, and some of them even got on the youth advisory board of the local school district. They found out who owned a crack house in their neighborhood, and they went to him and made him shut it down,” Chester said.

But I must conclude on a personal note by saying how privileged I was to ride from New Buffalo to Niles with a likable bunch of people who are literally riding their butts off to make us all aware that the second most populated state in the United States is the State of Poverty with a population of 33 million. And growing.

The cyclists said we can all help “brake the cycle of poverty” by praying for solutions to the root causes of poverty and by working with poor and low-income people to build a more just world.

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Low Putts: Eileen Healy

“B” Flight
Low Gross: Nancy Pavletic
Low Net: Nancy Henry
Low Putts: Marge Walsh

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Low Gross: Dorie Mertz
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4 year old Sajag Argawal celebrated his 4th birthday here at the Community Center along with 100 friends and relatives. It was a lovely party with traditional Indian attire, dancing and cuisine. The Gymnasium with stage and attached kitchen was perfect for the gathering. It was a pleasure to facilitate such a joyous occasion.

Laurel and Edwin invite students to register this week for *Izvin Clay Camp for Kids*. Class takes place on Tuesdays and Thursdays July 22 - August 7th from 1 - 2:30 p.m. The Camp is designed for children ages 6 to 11 and all materials are supplied. To register and for more information call 219-874-1339.

This is the last week to register for the *Figure Drawing Class* instructed by Ron Wennekes. Space is limited, however we have room for 4 additional students. Class is scheduled to take place on Thursday evenings beginning July 24th and continue through August 28th. The cost to participate is $95 and includes model fees. To register or for more information call the Center and leave a message at 879-3845.

The works of Shaun Armor, *Pastels and Paintings*, will be on display and for sale in the Historical Room here at the Community Center through July 23rd. You may stop by during business hours or set up an appointment to view his work by calling 879-3845 or 874-1339.

**COMMUNITY = COMMUNICATION IN UNITY**
**Off the Book Shelf**

*by Sally Carpenter*

**Monkey Hunting** by Cristina Garcia

I have had the privilege of reading so many good books this past year, and it seems the ones that stand out have to do with family. The great thing about families is their diversity. They come in many sizes, many colors, all over the world. And in many books. But I never expected the family combination of Chinese, Cuban, and mulatto that makes up this week’s reading recommendation.

This novel chronicles the life of Chen Pan. The reader first meets him in 1857 in Amoy, China...before the Japanese and before the Communists. Life there is....just life. Until a stranger in a Western suit approaches Chen and offers him the world. “Spit the country dirt from your mouth! You need to act while you’re young!” He counted out Mexican coins in Chen’s hand and promised him more for work in Cuba for the next eight years of his life. “And remember, one foreign year elapses twice as fast as a Chinese one!” Hmm...

Of course Chen jumped at the chance to see the world and come back to his village a rich and important man. There were many other Chinese on the ship that sailed for Cuba that day. All destined to be slaves, of course. Once they arrived in port, the men were sold to landowners and sent to work in the sugar cane fields. They met the Africans who shared their fate, both races suspicious of each other, not understanding each other’s languages or customs.

Not to spoil your reading, suffice it to say that the cruelties and inhumanity suffered at the hands of the overseers reaches a climax and Chen kills a man and hides in the jungle to avoid recapture. After a year, he finally makes his way to Havana where he becomes a successful shop owner; he buys and sells antiques, art objects, furniture, even jewelry.

End of story? Oh, no. He buys a mulatto slave, Lucrecia, to help him in his business, but the two eventually fall in love and have three children: Desiderio, Lorenzo and Caridad.

“Sometimes Lucrecia questioned the origin of her birth, but she didn’t question who she’d become. Her name was Lucrecia Chen. She was thirty-six years old and the wife of Chen Pan, mother of his children. She was Chinese in her liver, Chinese in her heart.”

As Lorenzo grows up, he shows a talent for learning about herbs and healing the sick. He travels to China where he wanders for ten years, picking up herbs and medicine and learning the ways of a healer. He returns to Cuba and earns a reputation as a respected doctor, not only by the Chinese but by the Spanish, too.

Through Chen’s eyes we see the years pass and the changes that occur in Cuba: The expansion of Chinatown districts in many towns, the influx of Europeans and Americans (and their money) and the revolutions that scar the land and people. Chen even realizes that he has become more Cuban than Chinese as the years pass. The desire to go back home slowly fades.

I didn’t get a real sense of the island that is Cuba in this book, but I did get a great feel for the people through Chen’s observations—the interactions of the various races and the superiority complex of the Spanish.

In my lifetime I have observed five generations of my family. I love to see how certain traits or physical attributes have found their way to various relatives over the years. That’s the thread that holds this story together as chapters in the middle of the book, titled Traveling Through the Flesh, follow the lives of two of Chen’s progeny: a granddaughter, Chen Fang in Shanghai in the 1920s and 30s, and Domingo Chen, a great-grandson who winds up in the Vietnam War in 1969. The questions and problems that plague their lives are a reflection of what Chen Pan started that fateful day he boarded the boat for Cuba.

An interesting read, to say the least. Totally different and totally readable.

Author Cristina Garcia has written two other books: Dreaming in Cuban, which was nominated for the National Book Award, and The Aguero Sisters. She was born in Havana and grew up in New York City.

Till next time, happy reading!

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