Only One Mother

Most of all the other beautiful things in life
   come by twos and threes,
   by dozens and hundreds.
   Plenty of roses, stars, sunsets, rainbows,
   brothers and sisters, aunts and cousins, but
   Only One Mother in the whole world.

   --- Kate Douglas Wiggin

Mom... you're the best!
Cut a Rug, Trip the Light Fantastic, or Just Dance

by Paula McHugh

Whoever said that dancing was a no-brainer has not taken ballroom dancing lessons.

Sure, anyone can stand on a dance floor and move his feet. But not with panache. Or grace, or danger of stepping on toes.

More than fifty couples and a good number of partner-less students of ballroom dance have been looking to Mary Chandler to show them how to glide, sway, swing, waltz, jitterbug, polka, salsa, rhumba, cha-cha, merengue, and foxtrot across the dance floor. They come to the Old School Community Center weekly to learn and to practice for a grand evening’s celebration: it could be for a wedding, a dinner-dance, or just as an excellent excuse for a couple to share a common hobby.

The Beacher sneaked in to watch the dancers assembled and ready to learn the “Foxy” and the jitterbug. Many of them might have cringed when we pulled out the camera to catch the action, but it was, after all, still photos and not videos that we were taking. Not that anyone was stepping on feet, or bungling their steps—so we figured that the camera was just a distraction for the concentration the dancers needed to get their footwork in the correct sequence.

Mary, along with her husband, Mike and additional help from dance pro Jerry Stalbaum, stood in the middle of the gymnasium-turned-dance-floor to demonstrate steps for the Foxy. Gentlemen students stood on one side of the room, and the ladies along the opposite wall, and yes, that scene did remind us just a little of long-ago school dances. You remember: guys clustered on one side, eying the girls; girls on the other side, waiting to be asked. But the Old School opposite-wall scenario was different, because Mary planned it that way. First, the men were taught their steps, since they would be leading their dance partner. Next, the ladies.

“You have to think when you dance,” instructor Mary Chandler explained. “And, it provides low-impact exercise and couples’ time together.”

Mary has more than twenty years of dance instruction under her dance shoes. And the ballroom dance lessons that she has been providing in Long Beach marked their first year anniversary in late April with a get-acquainted lesson followed by an informal potluck dinner dance.

“Women, what foot do you start on?” Mary asked. “The right. Because women are always right,” came the reply.

The April 20th class was offered free to anyone who might have wanted to “test the waters,” according to Mary. Newcomers practiced with more-seasoned stu-
Now what foot do we start on?

Now it’s the ladies’ turn to follow Mary’s instruction.

...ents, and everyone wore smiles even when the camera wasn’t clicking away.

Students Cookie and Steve Ferguson said they love Mary’s classes.

“Mary is a great teacher,” Cookie said.

Peter and Jane Bishop of Michigan City have been enrolled in one of Mary’s 12-week classes and are glad they did.

“It’s cool,” Peter said. Jane had on a new pair of specially-ordered dancing shoes, which have suede soles, she said.

“The suede soles let you slide, and the shoes are much lighter than a regular pair.”

Dance Continued on Page 4

Peter and Jane Bishop cut a rug.

Vera Bradley - Sales Representative will be in the store on Friday! Fresh and original quilted handbags, purses, accessories luggage and totes. “WHEN YOU CARRY VERA BRADLEY, YOU CARRY THE ORIGINAL!”

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While the dancers practiced their steps, we had a peek at the shoe catalog just for dancers. It listed over 100 various styles, including 25 different heel options, and that was just for women. Men have about 40 styles to choose from.

“I strongly recommend that the students get the dance shoes,” Mary said. “They help you do better and they’re light on the feet.” Mary herself admitted to owning about a dozen various styles.

Jerry Stalbaum was wearing a dapper pair of black and white wing tips to match his black-and-white themed dance attire. It was a celebratory night for those who have been taking the ballroom classes over the past at the community center. Yet dressed-up mingled with dressed-down, because no dress code was necessary for the evening’s class and anniversary celebration.

After the evening’s abbreviated lesson, dancers retreated to the specially-decorated dinner tables to enjoy the potluck. The evening also featured a raffle, with proceeds going to the Old School Community Center. Local businesses that donated prizes include the Schoolhouse Shop, Northwest Athletic Club, Harbor Grand, New Buffalo Savings Bank, A Cut Above, Thor's, Long Beach Styling Salon, Swingbelly's, Hannah's, Little Giant Pizza, Hacienda, Body Works Institute, Ben and Linda Mickevicius, and Peter and Jane Bishop.

Mary admitted that before she became a dance instructor over 20 years ago, she had never danced in her life. She had never even gone to her school prom, she said. But, during her months and months of training, she was dancing four hours a day, five days a week, and dancing both the men’s and the ladies’ parts.

“I like being with people,” Mary said, adding that before becoming a dance instructor, she had very unfulfilling jobs sitting at a desk eight hours a day.

Mary said that most of her students find swing dancing the most challenging to learn, because there are so many steps involved. In addition to the popular menu of dance steps she teaches in her beginner and intermediate classes, Mary also teaches private lessons for learning the samba, mambo, and bolero.

Mary taught her husband, Mike how to dance—(“he’s a fast learner,” she said)—and the couple has been involved in competitive ballroom dance in Chicago,
Fran and Ed Merrion trip the light fantastic. The Merrion’s have enjoyed Mary’s lessons so much that they are signing up for another class.

Dancers have to think on their feet. One of the many benefits of ballroom dancing is that it keeps the mind sharp.

where they have won numerous trophies and ribbons.

“We compete in the Pro-Am divisions where they grade Mike, not me,” Mary explained. Since Mary has many more years’ experience, she said that it can be a challenge, since the less-experienced Mike does the leading. Their next competition comes in June in Chicago, and they often practice at the Old School. Their next challenge is to enter the more intense scholarship competitions, which provide monetary awards rather than just ribbons and trophies.

Mary’s students may not care at all about competing. They’re satisfied just having a good time on the dance floor.

…and they danced the night away.
Col. Murray Memorial Kite Festival

The Colonel Murray Memorial Kite Festival is a family focused fun day at the (Porter Co.) Sunset Hill County Farm Park. This year’s 8th Annual Festival will be held Sat., May 7, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Kite enthusiasts from all over come out to launch their unique skyfliers and entertain all those who are enjoying the festival. There are two kite-building workshops for children of all ages to build, decorate and fly kites as well as workshops for amateur kite flyers who may need assistance in lifting, directing and landing. Kite vendors will also be on hand.

Music will be provided by Attention Deficit, a local jazz band, Glen Murschel, an easy listening acoustical guitarist and Strolling Minstrels, Liza and Mark Woolever.

Kids will enjoy clowns and games as well as bubble chasing, pony, mini cart and wagon rides will be available. Rides and games at a nominal fee, bubble chasing is free.

Admission to the festival is $5 per person over the age of 8; under 8 admitted free. The Sunset Hill County Park is located at the corner of US 6 and Meridian Road in Valparaiso. (Take Ind 49 south to Hwy 6; turn right -west- and go to first stop light and turn left-south-onto Meridian.) For more information, phone 219/465-3586.

P.E.O. Founder’s Day Luncheon

The four LaPorte County Chapters of P.E.O. held their annual Founder’s Day Luncheon on April 23rd at Pottawattomie Country Club. Three chapters are from Michigan City and one is from LaPorte.

Romona Hay narrated the program given by Chapter DF (Michigan City). It portrayed the lives of the seven founders of the sisterhood. Eight sisters from Chapter DF took part in the program.

Founded in 1869, P.E.O. (Philanthropic Educational Organization) is dedicated to bringing women increased opportunities for higher education both in the United States and abroad.

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Put on your jazziest outfit and attend "Jazz It up for the Arts," the annual fundraiser of the Berrien Artist Guild. The event is at the Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, MI on Fri., May 6 from 6 to 8 p.m. Featured will be both live and silent auctions of original artwork in all media donated by Guild members and other area artists; a razzle-dazzle raffle of donated arts-related items; and appetizers by local food vendors and wine tasting by local wineries.

Emceeing the event will be Robin Van Dyke, a local radio personality, who can be heard on The Radio Stations of Michigan's Great Southwest, mornings on 94.9 The Coast FM and afternoons on Cosy 98.3 FM. Live music will be provided by jazz guitarist Bryan Lubeck and vocalist Lance Moore. Conducting the live auction will be Dawn Wilfong, an award-winning auctioneer, from Goshen, IN. Honorary co-chairs for the event are St. Joseph Mayor Mary Goff and her husband Carl.

Live auction items include sculptures by Alec Greaves and Jack Holme; commissioned work by Guild artists Bob Williams, Lori Jesperson, Neville Clouten and Tim Macdonald; gemstone-cutting training session by Chuck Brinkman of the Natural Gem; a Carousel horse especially designed for the event; opportunity to guest conduct the St. Joseph Municipal Band under the direction of Don Moely; framed Carousel horse memorabilia by Box Factory framer K.V. Rathnam; a new-in-the-case banjo donated by Dr. Margaret Walter; a manuscript critique by local author Rosanne Bittner; a limo/dinner/symphony package donated by America Premier Limousine Service/Tosi's Restaurant/Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra; and some surprises.

Participating in the event are Martin's Supermarket, Kilwin's, Crystal Springs Florists, Tabor Hill Winery, The Chocolate Cafe, The Round Barn, Domaine Berrien Cellar, Roger's Foodland, Yummies Catering, Edgewater Deli, Jeannie's Cafe, Mr. Gyros, Panzarella's Deli, Fenn Valley Winery, and Golden Brown Bakery.

Tax-deductible tickets are $25 per person. For information, phone the Box office at 269/983-3688 or e-mail to boxfactory@sbcglobal.net. Monies raised will go toward the Guild's Arts Endowment Fund at the Berrien Community Foundation.
ARCHITECTURALLY DESIGNED LAKEFRONT HOME with 4 levels of expansive lakeviews. This custom home offers 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, open concept for exceptional views, custom kitchen, porcelain tile floors throughout except bedrooms that have tongue & groove solid oak floors, 3 lakefront decks, main floor master suite, 2 fireplaces, heated garage. Too many amenities to mention! $1,895,000

THE MAHOGANY - Exquisite New Construction Home just a few minute walk to Lake Michigan. 4 bedrooms, each with private bath, mahogany flooring throughout the main level, custom kitchen, 3 masonry fireplaces (1 outside), expansive mahogany decking overlooking a Nature Preserve, outdoor shower, main floor master suite, garage and 45' boat dock to accommodate a 55' yacht. $1,350,000

GREAT MICHIANA HOME just 1/2 of a mile to private Lake Michigan beach. This lovely home offers 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, new countertops and tile floor in kitchen, sunken living room with fireplace, lower level rec room with fireplace, 4 season room with lots of windows to allow for great views of mature trees, expansive deck great for entertaining, bonus room great for guests and garage. $499,000

BUILD YOUR DREAM COTTAGE on this Long Beach lot just 2 blocks from Lake Michigan beach! Sloping lot, electric, gas & municipal water available and survey on file. Stop 27, 2738 Floral Trail. $250,000

CHARMING CHALET with open floor plan, cedar cathedral ceilings and fireplace make this a must see home. This 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath home is in move in condition and best of all includes an extra buildable lot for another home, pool or play area. Home has recent upgrades including newer roof, windows, HVAC and much more! Close to New Buffalo’s shops, harbor & beach. $365,000

GINGERBREAD COTTAGE complete with white picket fence and within walking distance to the beach. This 2 bedroom, 2 bath cottage is in a quiet Sawyer location and has a gorgeous .50 acre lot with a stream running through it. Screened porch, deck and lots of outdoor entertaining space. Won’t last long at $299,000.

3 LEVEL BRICK LAKEFRONT HOME on Pleasant Lake in Three Rivers. 175 feet of frontage on Pleasant Lake, which is a 262 acre all sports lake with a nice sandy beach. The home offers 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, 8180 square feet of living space, 3 fireplaces, lakeside master suite, inground pool with brick patio surround, kitchen with custom oak cabinets - way too many custom features to mention!! $995,000

REduced

A LONG WINDING DRIVE leads to this private 3500 sq. ft. cedar shake Prairie Style home nestled on 20 acres. This gorgeous location includes a 1 acre private pond with cabana and dock, 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, open concept, one of a kind fireplace, gourmet kitchen, office, screened porch, covered front porch and lots of custom features throughout. Just 10 minute drive to Lake Michigan. $1,100,000

A QUINTESSENTIAL COUNTRY FARMHOUSE on 61.2 acres. 4 bedrooms, 2 updated full baths, large eat-in country kitchen, formal dining room, living room with wood burner, main floor laundry, huge screened porch great for outdoor entertaining, wood floors, several outbuildings including large red barn, in-ground pool with terraced patio and on a quiet country lane. $985,000

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Page Turners Book Discussion

Hour Game by David Baldacci will be discussed at the Tues., May 10 meeting of the Page Turners book discussion group from noon-1 p.m. at the LaPorte County Public Library, located at 904 Indiana Ave., LaPorte. The book is a mystery about two former Secret Service agents who try to solve a series of murders, each imitating the signs of prior serial killers and each leaving a watch turned to the number of killings on the body.

The book is available for check out in print, and on cassette tape and CD. Page Turners meets the second Tuesday of each month at noon. Refreshments appropriate to the book are served and participants are encouraged to bring their lunch. The public is invited to attend this free program.

For more information, or signing for the hearing impaired 48 hrs. in advance, phone 219/362-6156.

Service League of Michigan City

On April 12th, the Service League of Michigan City held their Annual Luncheon at Duneland Beach Inn and installed new officers for the year.

Pictured are (l-r) Claire Williams, Past President installing Barbara Holdcraft as President; Kathryn DeLaBarre as Vice-President; Barbara Varro as Secretary; and Kay Story as Treasurer.

“Early Birdie” Golf Scramble

to be held at
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$125.00 per player
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$299K
Call Bobbie Cavic 269-469-8748

RESTORED TURN-OF-THE-CENTURY BRICK VICTORIAN – Completely new mechanicals, bath, floors, and fixtures located in an up and coming beach neighborhood. Property can be used as extra large two family residences, two unit apartment or office. Currently zoned industrial. Walk to beach or Casino. Currently priced at $369K
Call Bonnie “B” Meyer 269-469-8735

SITUATED IN THE CENTER OF 3 LOTS, this nearly new home boasts porches, covered balcony, wood floors, Pella windows, finished lower level to house a crowd. Less than .6 of a mile to deeded beach. Third full bath roughed in basement.

$498K
Call Bonnie “B” Meyer 269-469-8735

WHITE WASHED CATHEDRAL CEILINGS oppose Mexican tile flrs throughout the great room of this 1 owner home. The first of 2 fireplaces compliment the floor to ceiling windows that open onto the treetop wrap around deck. 2BR/1BA finish the main level. Office area lofted over the great room, & the sumptuous master suite comprise the top level. The second fireplace adds warmth to the sunlit lower level playroom. Garage, beach bath & finished laundry included. Lake MI Michiana deeded beach rights are only 2 blocks away. Recent reduction to $825K
Call Bonnie “B” Meyer 269-469-8735

HIGH CEILINGS punctuated w/halogen lights oppose crisp bamboo floors running through out this 2BR/1BA cottage built 2004. Generous granite topped island separates the kitchen & all stainless appliances from the greatroom. Private rear screen porch, deck & woods comforts the naturalist. Gardeners’ shed, detached 1 car garage & floored crawl space provide plenty of storage. Located on a dead end street just a walk or bike ride to New Buffalo & beach.

$269K
Call Bonnie “B” Meyer 269-469-8735

SWEET RETREAT. Cute and cozy describes this 2BR/2BA cottage retreat nestled among towering pines on 3 lots in Michiana. Charming cottage style with knotty pine walls, stone fireplace, large deck with hot tub and a wonderful screened gazebo for entertaining. This is an easy care getaway and just a short walk to the beach. Delightful!

$375K
Call Donna Iwamoto 269-469-8726

TOWERING EVERGREENS separate the 6th tee of Pottawatomie Country Club from the lush rear yard of this brick & cedar home. Generous master suite, guest room & bath occupy the South wing of the main floor. Double sided fireplace separates the sunny living room from the cozy den that adjoins the eat-in kitchen w/rear screened porch. Formal dining is available off the spacious 2 story foyer. Upstairs offers 3 more bedrooms, bath & lofted library that opens to foyer below. Amenities include security system & underground sprinklers.

$380K
Call Bonnie “B” Meyer 269-469-8735

WONDERFUL, SPACIOUS UNION PIER CO-OP RETREAT, located just 2 houses away from a private beach access! Renovated in 1997 with wonderful cottage charm & features vaulted cathedral ceilings with custom milled natural cedar, knotty pine walls, wood floors, fireplace, 4 BRs plus 2 sleeping lofts, metal roof, screened in gazebo & deck. A great rental property with deeded beach rights to a beautiful wide sandy beach.

$569,900
Call Donna Iwamoto 269-469-8726

FABULOUS NEW CONSTRUCTION on the lakeside of Red Arrow - only blocks to Union Pier beaches. Log & cedar on the outside, inside 4BR/3BA w/loft for additional living/work space. Everything a buyer wants: wood floors, beadboard cabinetry, quality stainless appliances, large screened in porch & outside shower. Walk to beach, restaurants & all of downtown Union Pier.

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Mother’s Day at Barker Mansion

Mothers are invited to a complimentary tour of Barker Mansion in celebration of Mother’s Day during the entire month of May.

Tours begin with an introductory historical video followed by a guided tour of three floors of the turn-of-the-century mansion. The summer display, “Party Dresses, Pretty Hats”, may be seen during the guided tour. This display includes Mrs. Barker’s black lace and velvet French gown waiting to be assembled by her seamstress, and another French gown of peach taffeta and lace representing the 1880s. Displayed in the Master Bedroom is a copy of an 1890’s gown by famous designer, Charles Wright, made of peach silk embellished with black lace butterflies. A scene from the roaring 20’s with flapper dresses of pastel chiffon to black sequined elegance is in one of the Mansion’s bedrooms. Another room features a red velvet and chiffon gown worn by Catherine Barker in a 1960’s photograph and an ivory satin and seed pearl Jackie Kennedy-style gown. Pretty hats from throughout the years are also displayed.

Mothers and grandmothers, accompanied by a paid admission, will be admitted free. Admission fees are $4/adults and $2/youth 18 and under. Guided tours are 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m., Monday-Friday. The Mansion is closed May weekends with the exception of Sat., May 7 when tours will be given at noon and 2 p.m.

Barker Mansion, a 1905 house museum, was the home of freight car industrialist John H. Barker and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Mansion is located at 631 Washington St., Michigan City, IN. Information: (219) 873-1520.

Annual May Tea

The women of First Presbyterian Church invite all women of the area to gather together on Sat., May 7, at 1 p.m. for their annual May Tea. Attend an afternoon of fellowship, entertainment, and refreshments. Enjoy a delightful program “O, You Beautiful Doll” plus special music. Plan to attend and bring a friend to this free event. The First Presbyterian Church is located at 9th and Washington St.
May 5, 2005

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Charming home high
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floors, French doors,
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#127240

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207 Northbrook Dr.,
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Great floor plan, built by a contractor for his family, features oak trim and crown molding accenting 10’ high ceiling in the central room, looking through Palladian windows to yard, garden and creek. Main floor master suite includes walk-in closet, bath with whirlpool and shower, built-in oak dressing table. Walk-out lower level has 2 bedrooms, bath, rec room open to patio and 2nd fireplace. Beautiful & peaceful setting, quality finishes, great space, oversized garage and spacious deck. You’ll find everything that you were looking for...right here! #138007

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Ask for Rick Remijas @ 874-2121 ext. 36

104 Shadow Trl., Michigan City

Take to the waters of Lake Michigan!!! Only 3 blocks will get you to wonderful summer days and nights by the waterside. This enchanting log home is spacious beyond belief with 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, living room with fieldstone wood burning fireplace and upstairs loft, family room huge for lots of entertaining. 3/4 basement with walkout to outdoor shower. Screened in back porch with quarry tile & ceiling fan for those evenings you don’t want to be bugged. This is a great home. #128021

$710,000

Ask for Nancy Rich @ 874-2121 ext. 34

405 E. 1000 N., LaPorte
Country estate on 10 acres located in desirable Galena Township. This new construction brick home was built using the bricks from the old farmhouse that graced this beautiful acreage. This very high quality home features Brazilian cherry wood floors stretching to an open space perfect for any type of entertaining. Unique touches such as the living room cobblestone fireplace, custom kitchen cabinets, top of the line Kitchen-Aid appliances, two guest suites plus a master suite, original barn in excellent condition and SO much more! This one must be seen to be fully appreciated. #115536

$1,295,000

Ask for Laurie Boo @ 874-2121 ext. 4

305 Westwood Trl.,
Michigan City

Just four blocks to Lake Michigan’s captivating beaches! Completely restored within the last three years, from the roof to the large, finished basement and almost everything in between. Maintenance-free brick exterior. City water and sewer and better-than-new condition will satisfy the choosiest buyer. #124614

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Ask for Pam Navarro @ 874-2121 ext. 28

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Lithuanians Bring International Flavor to Art Attack

by Barbara Stodola

Every year I discover a new Lithuanian artist (new to me) and, just when I think there cannot be another, an event such as Art Attack comes along and brings into our orbit yet another cluster of Lithuanian artists. It is always a joy to join in their jolly gallery-going, their immersion in the arts, their festive spirits.

For this occasion, they have more than the usual reasons to gather with countrymen and art patrons. Art Attack gives them the opportunity to spend the weekend at Gintaras Resort, a grandly updated historic inn, perched on a windswept bluff overlooking Lake Michigan at Union Pier. Anyone would find this location refreshing, but for artists it is inspiring.

Gintaras Karaitis (second-generation owner of the inn), Marius Narbutaitis (metal sculptor), Raimundas and Raminta Lapsys (glass artisans), Vidas Zimkus (mixed media), Nora Ausriene (ceramicist) -- all these names are new to me.

But first I have to seek out Algimantas Kezys, the famed photographer whose work was exhibited in Michigan City, at the John G. Blank Center for the Arts, about ten years ago. Kezys has changed very little since I saw him last. He talks less about his life as a Jesuit and more about the books he has published -- an astonishing total of 75 books, averaging about two a year since his life turned in that direction.

Chicago/Kezys was the book that brought him wide acclaim in architectural circles. With its dramatic view of the Picasso sculpture on the cover, the Chicago book showed the city's striking geometries, as seen through the lens of a gifted photographer. The 1st edition was printed in 1983 and sold out. The 2nd edition is still available. At the time of its publication, reviewers called it "offbeat" and commended "the new look" Kezys introduced to urban photography.

Describing his work as "design-oriented documentary photography," Kezys has focused on themes from the arts and from nature -- waterfalls, trees, sand dunes and seashores. He has photographed many cities. He has traveled all over the world, and in one book documented the World’s Fairs from the 1980s -- those held in Japan, New Orleans, Vancouver, Canada and Knoxville, Tennessee. The introduction to his World’s Fair book was written by Brian Byrn, curator of the Midwest Museum in Elkhart.

As might be expected, Kezys has returned often to his native Lithuania, and the books produced on these trips reveal the contemplative aspect of his character. On three occasions he has collaborated with Lithuanian poets, attempting to find "an acceptable explanation of the Transcendental, using the terms available to us today." Two of his books are devoted to cemeteries in Lithuania, and another to images of angels.
Until 1999, Kezys worked only in black-and-white photography. With the advent of computer coloring software, he began to put color into his photographs. His “new style” also includes techniques of montaging, sandwiching and double-printing, thus moving further from reality and toward greater abstraction. “From one extreme to another,” he admits -- from single-shot images to computerized manipulation, from classic black-and-white to color, from serene reflection to frenzied, agitated effects.

Lithuanians  Continued on Page 16
Lithuanians Continued from Page 15

The other artists exhibiting at Gintaras Resort are representative of the many media being used by Lithuanian artists today. Nora Ausriene is a ceramic artist. Vidas Zimkus makes multi-media pieces out of found objects, often clocks, and each of his sculptures has moving elements. Marius Narbutaitis does metal sculpture, incorporating bits of stained glass. Like others, his art sometimes refers to traditional Lithuanian themes and techniques. Raimundas Lapsys, a glass artisan trained in Europe, works with his wife Raminta in the production of engraved crystal objects, recalling his childhood memories of rainbows radiating from crystals.
Wildflower Wander Hike-A-thon

You are invited to take a walk in the woods on May 7, and raise money for environmental education. The Wildflower Wander Hike-A-Thon is an annual event, sponsored by Friends of Indiana Dunes. How can you participate? It is as easy as 1, 2, 3!

1. Collect Pledges
Ask your friends, family and neighbors to pledge a donation as your sponsor. Be sure to collect pledges at that time. Checks should be payable to Friends of Indiana Dunes, and all pledges are tax deductible.

2. Register
Registration begins at 9 a.m. on the Nature Center deck at Indiana Dunes State Park.

3. Hike!
Choose a trail ranging in length from 1 mile to 5-1/2 miles.

Prizes will be awarded to the top three individuals who raise the most money. A special prize will be awarded to the group raising the most money. Hikers are asked to be off the trail by 2 p.m.

The funds raised through this hike-a-thon will be used for environmental education study aids and equipment. These materials will be used in environmental education programs conducted by the Indiana Dunes State Naturalist staff.

This program is sponsored by the Friends of Indiana Dunes and Indiana Dunes State Park. The rain date for this event is May 8. The entrance fees to the park are $4 for in-state vehicles and $8 for out-of-state vehicles. For more information, or to obtain a pledge sheet, please visit www.interpretiveservices.in.gov or phone 219-926-1952.

Operation Home Front-IN Inc.

Operation Home Front Indiana is a non-profit organization with the goal of raising funds to provide care packages for our local units currently serving America overseas.

On Mon., May 9, there will be an opportunity to help this group while enjoying a fine meal at Hacienda Restaurant, Michigan City. Upon presenting a token to your waitress, 20% of your total bill will be donated to OHF-IN.

Tokens can be obtained at the LaPorte Chamber of Commerce, the LaPorte Mayor’s office, Kemps Office Supply (LaPorte). For a complete list, phone 800/390-4876 or email indiana@operationhomefront.net
**Barracudas Swim Team at State Meet**

The Michigan City Family YMCA Barracudas Swim Team participated in the State Swim Meet in Fort Wayne on March 11-13. Facing 13 teams, the Barracudas finished 3rd in the state.

Eric Daniel finished 2nd in the 15 and over boys age group. Michael Wisthoff finished 6th in 13-14 boys age group. Alex Williams finished 2nd in the 9-10 boys. Emily Murray finished 3rd in the 8 and under girls; Brielle Warnock finished 4th in 8 and under age group; Julianna Rivich finished 6th in 13-14 girls; Dustin Rivich finished 3rd in the 11-12 boys. The 8 and under girls finished in 2nd place in the team standings.

A Conference Meet was held on Feb. 27th in Kendallville, Indiana. The Barracudas finished 3rd. The three 1st place winners in their age group were Eric Daniel, Michael Wisthoff and Alex Williams.

Swim parent Gabrielle DeBone designed a banner for the team and all swimmers signed it.
Happy Mother’s Day!

The job that is 24/7!

2720 Belle Plaine Trail • Offered for $299,900
LOOKS CAN BE DECEIVING! This home offers over 2,000 sq. ft. of living space. Open concept, large living room with lots of windows & cathedral ceiling. Three bedrooms plus office/den on lower level could be 4th. One full bath & two 3⁄4 baths. Screen porch allows you to enjoy the well-manicured, colorfully landscaped back yard…spring, summer & fall.

601 Pinewood Trail • Offered for $249,000
On two corner lots, this home invites one in. Hardwood floors on main level. Outside was stained 2004. New A/C, roof & electronic filters 2003 & the bathroom has been redone. There is a 2-way fireplace in living room & dining room. The 2nd fireplace is in the lower level rec room. There are sliders off the kitchen that lead to a large 28 x 20 deck & nicely landscaped yard. Just a short stroll to the beach!

Micky Gallas Properties
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(269) 586-2350 Michigan
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www.mickygallasproperties.com

418 Meadow Drive • Offered for $289,000
Enjoy the beach in this remodeled Michiana Shores home on 2 lots. Newer kitchen, bath, central air, furnace and deck. Hardwood floors. Full basement just waiting to be finished for additional living space. Large deck overlooking back yard with room to expand. You have to see the inside to appreciate this home.

109 1⁄2 Nevada Avenue • Offered for $399,000
The perfect summer cottage, completely redone & ready to occupy. Amazing touches bring this quaint home to life. Offers 4 bedrooms, 1⁄2 baths & living room with fireplace. Spacious kitchen with dining area, breakfast bar & all appliances remaining. This cottage also has a nice screened porch & is only steps away from Lake Michigan.

NEW LISTING
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Mother’s Day Jazz Concert

Award-winning jazz singer Libby York will wow the audience with her jazz concert on Sun., May 8, at 3 p.m. Accompanying her will be Steve Million on piano and Dan Shapera on bass, two of Chicago’s finest jazz musicians.

York’s latest release “Sunday in New York” has received rave reviews, both nationally and internationally. The trade publication Downbeat gave it a four-star rating and its reviewer John McDonough wrote, “This CD, rich with the scent of smoke rings and martinis, could possibly bring back Chesterfields (though probably not vermouth.) Stylish and cosmopolitan with a broad streak of lush life urbanity, Libby York has a sound that recalls, without any condescension or gratuitous nostalgia, the slightly world-weary, been-around-the-block ennui of post-war Anita O’Day, Chris Connor and Sarah Vaughn.”

As Chicago jazz radio personality Neil Teser writes in his liner notes to her new CD, “York finds the complicated emotional center of a lyric, and sets it out with disarming simplicity.” With “Sunday in New York,” York provides evidence that she is ready to be considered among the foremost jazz singers on the scene today.

A Chicago native, York spent time in Key West where she began studying piano with Yehuda Guttman, a superb pianist, who had taught at Julliard. She joined a reggae band called The Survivors, doing three-part harmony with two other girl singers behind the lead singer.

Continuing her interest in the arts, York moved to New York in 1981, where she remained for the next 13 years. During that period, York studied with the renowned jazz singer Abby Lincoln, who she says, “taught me about the truth and soul of a song.” She also was the featured vocalist with Swing Street, and performed in concerts all over New York.

At this time, she met pianist Renee Rosnes and started working with her in various nightclubs. In the next several years she commuted between New York and Key West. In 1994 she moved back to Chicago and began singing in clubs there. Five years later, her 1999 CD debut release, Blue Gardenia, received a number of highly favorable reviews.

Tickets are $15 and can be reserved by phoning the theater at 269/756-3879 or purchased at the door. The Acorn Theater is located in the historic Featherbone Factory at 107 Generations Dr., behind the Three Oaks Post Office on North Elm Street.
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A small cannon of the type that served as armament on the history-rich warship Niagara is one of the unusual exhibits on display in the Michigan Maritime Museum.

On loan from Erie, Pennsylvania, the replica carronade is part of the South Haven museum's new exhibit, “With Indomitable Spirit: The Great Lakes War of 1812.” The exhibit, according to Barbara Kreuzer, museum executive director, will remain open until the spring of next year.

Weighing some 300 pounds, the carronade was a short-range cannon firing a 32-pound ball. The Niagara, one of two heavily armed brigs under the command of Master-Commandant Oliver Hazard Perry at the Battle of Lake Erie on September 10, 1813, carried 18 carronades during the battle.

In all, the United States fleet that defeated the British fleet on September 10 consisted of nine warships.

When Perry blockaded the British ships at the western end of Lake Erie, the British began to fight. In the course of the battle, a decisive victory for the United States, Perry's flagship, the Lawrence, was disabled. Perry had sailors row him in a small boat to the Niagara.

The Niagara became Perry's flagship for the remainder of the historic engagement. Raised in 1913 and restored, the ship tours the Great Lakes in the summer months as one of the lakes' tall ships. The carronade now on exhibit in South Haven was part of the restored Niagara’s Armament.

Using the Niagara as his flagship, Perry not only defeated the British fleet; he also captured the enemy ships that had taken part in the battle. His message reporting the victory has inspired later generations of American sailors:

“We have met the enemy and they are ours.”

Based in Erie near the Erie Maritime Museum, the restored Niagara today serves as a major tourist attraction.

**A First Test**

The War of 1812 represented a historic first test for the young American nation, as the Michigan Maritime Museum exhibit indicates. “Just 30 years after gaining independence,” museum officials note, “the United States was invaded by an enemy force with expansionist goals.”

“Much of the war was fought in the Great Lakes Basin where citizens, soldiers, and sailors representing Britain, the United States, and Native American nations faced the conflict with great resolve and courage.”

The exhibit “With Indomitable Spirit” presents a view of the early nineteenth century from the perspective of several individuals with differing backgrounds, museum officials said. “The exhibit seeks to inform visitors about the specific time period and one of the least understood wars in American history through the viewpoints of pioneers, Native Americans, African Americans, women and children.”

“Visitors will learn about the differing cultural, social, and political dynamics prevailing in the Great Lakes Basin through personal histories, striking pictures, and objects.”

The exhibit includes military equipment in addition to the carronade and military clothing, period images, Native American objects, navigational aids, and children's toys.

The South Haven Maritime Museum organized the new exhibit as a thematic adjunct to the replica War of 1812 sloop Friends Good Will. Now resting at
Docked in front of the Michigan Maritime Museum, the *Friends Good Will* is undergoing final preparations for the summer season. The tall ship is a replica of an original that was built by an American, captured by the British, and recaptured by American forces during the War of 1812. (Keefe photo)

anchor in the South Haven harbor, the sloop last year became the latest addition to the Great Lakes fleet of tall ships.

“Our target for having *Friends Good Will* operational is May 15,” Ms. Kreuzer said. “At that time we’ll be offering her for rent for charter trips or sunset sails as well as using her as a floating classroom and for ceremonial appearances.”

Located in the museum’s Davis Gallery, the exhibit will be open to visitors during regular museum hours. More information may be obtained by calling 800/747-3810 or 269-637-8078 or by visiting Web site www.MichiganMaritimeMuseum.org.

The exhibit on the War of 1812 is one of a full schedule of activities at the Michigan Maritime Museum in South Haven. Among the special offerings are classes (above) in boat-building for young people. (Image courtesy Michigan Maritime Museum)
**Friends of the Symphony**

The Friends of the Symphony had a luncheon meeting on April 12 at the Lubeznik Center for the Arts in Michigan City. Liz Bernel, President, welcomed the 38 members and guests and updated the group on special events and activities. Philip Bauman, Conductor and Music Director of the La Porte County Symphony Orchestra, shared his thoughts on the question, "Why are we here?", talked about how he became involved in music as a child, and how he enjoys sharing his love of music with others. He also discussed the orchestra’s educational programs, including the annual children's concert attended by 7,000 elementary school students. He answered numerous questions from the audience.

Meg Rodgers, harpist, entertained the group with two musical selections and explained the workings and history of her harp.

Edwin Shelton of the Lubeznik Center talked about some of the art center’s programs and exhibits, and then provided tours of the facility. A drawing was held for the floral centerpieces. The next luncheon meeting will be at noon on June 6 in La Porte. The public is invited; make reservations at 219-325-0666.

**Marquette Athletic Club Golf Outing**

The Marquette Athletic Club will be holding its 5th Annual Golf Outing on Mon., May 23rd, at Long Beach Country Club. Sign-in is at 10 a.m., and a shotgun start will be at 11 a.m.

The event helps support Marquette High School and its athletic programs.

Participants can set their own foursome, or the group can pair you up with others. There will be entry gifts, prizes for hole-in-one, longest drive and closest to pin and betting holes.

Lunch on the course will be followed by dinner after the round, with beverages available all day. Besides prizes, there will be a raffle and auction.

The entry fee is $200. Questions? Phone Larry Wall, 879-8291.
Immediately following a Thermage® procedure, your skin should feel tighter, smoother and more youthful. Over time, you will notice additional tightening. The Thermage® procedure employs a patented radiofrequency technology called ThermaCool™. It has been clinically proven to tighten and gently lift the skin to smooth out wrinkles and renew facial contours. The incision-free procedure is fast and easy, and requires no downtime from normal activities. Your physician is your best information resource for determining how this treatment will most benefit you. For more information call Dr. Mirza Raheem, or visit www.thermage.com

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House Walk May 14
“Our Favorite Homes” House Walk will feature a tour of six homes representing the range of styles in Harbor Country. The house walk will take place 11 a.m.-5 p.m. (MI time), Sat., May 14. Advance tickets are $50 and day-of-the-event tickets are $60.
Tickets may be purchased at Whittaker House, New Buffalo Savings Bank and St. Mary of the Lake School. On May 14, tickets may be purchased at Whitechapel Inn, 18 W. Merchant St.
Homes on the tour are in Long Beach, Michiana, Grand Beach, New Buffalo and Gordon Beach. Among the homes are one in Grand Beach with a television in the shower/sauna and an 8,000 square-foot home on Marquette Road with pickled plank and bead paneling for a nautical theme.
For more information, contact St. Mary of the Lake School, 269/469-1515. Proceeds from the house walk fund programs at St. Mary of the Lake School.

Southern Shore Art Association News
May Events
Every Wed.: Open Studio, 6:30-9 p.m. $3/members, $4/non-members.
Thurs., May 12: Monthly Critique. 6:30 p.m.
Thurs., May 26: “Your Art, Your Business.” Presented by Susan Wolf. 7 p.m. Short general meeting after the presentation.
The group meets at 720 Franklin St., Michigan City. Phone 872-4634 or fax 872-3713.

Library Looking for Tutors
The Literacy Center of the Michigan City Public Library needs reading and math tutors for children and adults. Tutor training to work with adults will be held May 10 & 12. Training to tutor children in reading will be held May 24 & 26. The sessions will be held in the library meeting room from 1:30-4 p.m. each day. Attendance on both dates is necessary to complete one training. Phone 873-3043 to preregister or for more information.

Mirza Raheem, MD
1501 Wabash Street, Suite 105
Michigan City, IN 46360
866-205-8245
Greetings, gardening friends!

Continuing on the subject of design and installation of a new bed or border.

So you have placed your focal point and now need to start your layers that allow your eyes to flow from your new focal point to the next and back. This is the part of the garden composition that you strive for brush strokes. You’ve got to think in terms of massing for effect. You will also need the occasional singular plants that are outstanding in a contrasting quality to keep up the interest.

Now is the time to write your favorites list of shrubs and perennials, or the “I’ve got to try that” selections. Once you have determined the plant meets the environmental requirements of the location, consider the qualities of the overall size, shape, texture and color of the foliage, evergreen or herbaceous. For flower display note the colr and bloom time. Coordinated blooms of two or more favorites. More next week -Kristi

**The Pond Balancing Act**

We love our ponds for obvious reasons, the sound of running water, the beauty of flowering lilies and the croaking of frogs as well as the spectacular colors of our fish. The reasoning of Mother nature’s response to our actions when it comes to the ecology of our ponds may not be so obvious to us. When the first spring algae bloom occurs we might respond with horror to its site and immediately remove the offensive plants or attempt to control their growth with chemicals or dyes. Remember that for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction! Mother nature takes this challenge seriously!

Chemicals can spoil the ecological balance of your pond in a heart beat. Dyes can reduce dissolved oxygen levels to fatal levels in a matter of hours. The result may be that the only remaining aesthetic value of your pond is the sound of running water. What a horror that would be. So take a non-invasive approach when treating your pond and the needs of nature. Provide 10% water changes on a regular basis, remember to use chlorine/chloramine/bromine neutralizers if you use city water. Add natural bacterias and enzymes to assist Mother nature in managing the nitrate and other biological loads placed on your beautiful ecological system. Love your pond and the creatures and plants that revel in it. And remember the old saying, “It’s not nice to fool with Mother nature”!

**Mystery perennial plant puzzle**

Test your garden IQ and save on weekly specials.

Genus: S _ l _ _ _  species: All
Sunny well drained favorite, mostly known for it’s purple spikey flower, fragrant leaves and resistance to deer browse.
Secret Clue: the species officinalis makes your breakfast sausage taste great!

(50% off this week! All sizes.)
Tea Time With a Twist

The theme at Patty’s Picks, 16117 Red Arrow Highway in Union Pier, is a Tea Party for Mother’s Day weekend, May 6-8. Patty is offering a free Tea Sampling Party on Sat., May 7 with LaBouquetiere finest handpicked loose fruit & petal and green teas from China.

The weekend celebration continues on Sun., May 8, at 1 p.m. (MI time), when Patty invites her customers to share tea time stories and memories with each other.

“As a young girl my teatime was special. I have two sisters that always attended my tea parties and gave me many invitations when it was their turn to play hostess,” said Patty Prino, owner of Patty’s Picks. “Our Grandmother lived with us and had a collection of china tea sets of her own. We each had our favorite, and Grandma would let us use it for our tea times.”

Information: pattyspicks.com or 269/469-1919.

1st Annual MC Professionals Golf Clinic

Junior Achievement serving Michigan City proudly announces the First Annual Michigan City Professionals Golf Clinic. The clinic will be held at the Michigan City Municipal Golf Course located at 4000 E. Michigan Blvd. in Michigan City on Sun., June 5th, from 1-4 p.m.

Matt Blair (Michigan City Municipal Golf Course Professional), Brian Godfrey (Long Beach Country Club Professional) and Mike Nygren (Pottawattomie Country Club Professional) will work with golfers of all ages. The three professionals will give instructions on Putting Skills, Short game/Fairway shots and Driving skills/Long game shots.

The advance registration fee is $20. All proceeds raised from this event will benefit Junior Achievement serving Michigan City to help fund the programs that volunteers teach at all of the local elementary schools.

For information, contact Junior Achievement at 874-7147 or e-mail jamichigancity@comcast.net.

Historical Society Website

The LaPorte County Historical Society has announced a redesigned website, with new features and an easier to remember address: www.laportecountyhistory.org along with a fresh new look, a page about the moving of the museum to its new building at 2405 Indiana Avenue shows photographs of the construction project. Check this page regularly for updates on the process, along with information on museum closing and opening dates as a result of the upcoming move.

Another favorite feature of many visitors to the website is the “Historical Photography” page which features a “new” photo each month, taken from the archives of the LaPorte County Historical Society.

Support those who advertise in the Beacher! Tell them you saw their Ad!
Open Mother’s Day 11-4 pm
Buffet Style Dining $19.95

Live Jazz Fridays 9-11 pm

Restaurant
& Bar

Open Daily 5 pm
Reservations Accepted

521 Franklin, Michigan City
219 872 4500
The Nations of Notre Dame (around the world in eight classrooms) was the best party I’ve been to in ages. A hearty crowd enjoyed numerous appetizers and drinks while visiting different classrooms. You’d never recognize the handsomely decorated surroundings as a classroom - so extremely well done. Countries represented included France, Italy, Lithuania, China, Ireland, Norway, Mexico and, of course, the United States. Then, from 8 to 12 p.m. the Notre Dame gym became the United Nations Pavilion and the Rock Doctors provided dance music. The entire evening was bursting with pleasure and friendliness. The food was divine.

Nancy Anderson in uniform (Isn’t that Schreiber again?)

Kathleen Arvin, fine pre-school teacher, fine cook - try those meatballs

Grandma’s meatballs - concocted by Kathleen Arvin. See page 38.

Welcome to the Italian table - its beautiful

Mickey Gallas with a long leprechaun coat and her husband with a long name, Joe Gazarekewicz

Mighty Mike Grams, Wally Veden, Rich Mrozinski - the fantastic Rock Doctors

Lotsa Latchfords - sister Cathy Grady, Janet and Phil and yes, Pat, too

Casey Allen, Leigh Ann Flor, Julia Burke, Helen Welsh, Kim Janowiak - I believe we’re in Paris

Three beautiful blonds - Mary Lou Lynn, George & Kathleen Connolly

Sheila Heigens and Father Keith McMillan

Bikash and Swati Agarwal, in the food-from-India room, with Chris Powers

Back row: Missy Grams, Susie Yemc; front: Meg Caplice, Anne Robson, the instigators and managers of this wonderful event

Kathleen Beeler and Bev Swider, serving from Mexico

Nancy and Tom Henry (good guests as well as good hosts)

June Salmon, Nancy Anderson, Lisa Scholl. Is that Jerry Schreiber in the foreground?
The Coolspring Branch of the LaPorte County Public Library sits at the corner of 400 N and Johnson Road in Michigan City. It's a bright corner of Coolspring Township that you really ought to visit sometime.

It's hard to believe, but the Coolspring library has been around for almost twenty years now. In fact, the library has an anniversary coming up on July 1 and there is much planned. A renovation of the interior of the building will close the library from May 12 to June 6. The anniversary date will include a celebration and the unveiling of a beautiful quilt to commemorate the event.

This quilt represents what a community library is all about. On a recent Tuesday evening, I joined a group of the women working on the quilt. I was amazed by their enthusiasm for the project. Almost all of them had memories of growing up in the area and are pleased to have a real neighborhood meeting place.

This enthusiasm, plus their love of books, gave librarian Cyndee Goetz the idea to make a quilt that would embody what the library represents. Only a few of the quilt contributors were on hand that Tuesday night I visited, but each one of them knew someone else who was planning on adding their own block to the quilt.

The blocks I saw were amazing! Each one represented a book or genre that had made an impression on the sewer. Mystery writers seem to have the edge so far, but children's books and Americana aren't far behind. The hope is to have 40 blocks to make the quilt, which will then hang in the library for all to see and enjoy.

I promised to be back on July 1 for the anniversary and to see the building face-lift, but I'll be especially looking for the quilt made with love of books and love of community.
Official Registration Form:

Three Ways to Register:

1. Fill out this form and return for each runner/walker.
2. Register on the website at www.2BigHearts.org.
3. Register on Race Day, starting at 8:30am-9:30am (CDT).

Name_________________________________________________________
Address _______________________________________________________
City/State/Zip _________________________________________________
Phone_________________________________________________________
Email Address __________________________________________________
DOB _________________________ Age Day of Race _________________
Female □  Male □  Running □  or Walking □
Pets Welcome for Walking Only: Name of pet? _____________________
Signature ______________________________________________________

T-Shirt Options:
Adult XL ______  Adult L ______  Adult M ______  Adult S ______

Registration Fees:
$20 pre-registration (website or check with paper registration)
$25 registration on day of event (check or cash only)

Additional Sponsorship:
I can not walk or run on May 28th but please accept my donation of $_____________________
Total Enclosed: $_____________________

Send entry form and check to:
2 Big Hearts Foundation
3650 West 117th Street
Alsip, IL 60803

www.2BigHearts.org
May 5, 2005

Visiting Harbor Country’s Twelfth Annual Art Attack
by Jan Van Ausdal

One of the events that I look forward to every April is the Art Attack held in Harbor Country, Michigan. 2005 marked the Twelfth Annual such event, which was held on April 23, 24, and 25th. There are so many openings with visiting artists and demonstrations that it is impossible to attend everything during those three days. But I will share with you what I did see and some of the things I learned from my stops during this recent weekend.

At Vivian’s & American Art Manufacturing Company in New Buffalo, pearl and bead stringing was being demonstrated. Owner Vivian Hardister demonstrated the pearl stringing, using a needle with a string and twisted wire. The pearls (with holes drilled in them) were put on double string with a clasp and knots, and French wire is used to cut down on wear. After the clasp and the first three pearls, the middle section of the necklace can be strung more easily and quickly, until the other end of the necklace needs the extra reinforcement. Steady hands and eyes make this work easier.

that Lisa uses in her jewelry include lemon quartz, blue topaz, peanut pearls, coin pearls, fresh water pearls, clear quartz, jade, and Swarovski crystal.

The Courtyard Gallery in New Buffalo hosted “Three Divas” for the weekend event. One artist, Crystal Watrous, was present when I visited. Crystal had many of her bold and colorful abstract glass designs in the gallery, and some of her art remains in the shop when she returns home to Rockford, Michigan.

The guest artist of the day was Lisa Hermann. One case in the store was filled with jewelry made by Lisa. I found the perfect bracelet for a necessary gift. Some of Lisa’s jewelry is for sale in the gift shop in Skip’s Other Place Restaurant. Holding out her hand, she said, “I made this ring for a special friend who turns 50 tomorrow and will be honored at a birthday party. There is a cubic zirconia in the ring now, but later it will be replaced with a diamond.” Some of the stones

Robin Chamblin from Union Pier was there for the demonstration and so were Roger and Margo Maple of Itasca, Illinois. Roger said, “It’s our first time here. Margo read about Art Attack in a small article in one of the Chicago papers.”

Vivian told us, “I learned this craft about eight years ago. I studied in GIA correspondence school, the Jewelry Institute’s Association. I started at Marquette Mall, and have been in the store here for about seven years.”

The guest artist of the day was Lisa Hermann. One case in the store was filled with jewelry made by Lisa. I found the perfect bracelet for a necessary gift. Some of Lisa’s jewelry is for sale in the gift shop in Skip’s Other Place Restaurant. Holding out her hand, she said, “I made this ring for a special friend who turns 50 tomorrow and will be honored at a birthday party. There is a cubic zirconia in the ring now, but later it will be replaced with a diamond.” Some of the stones

Robin Chamblin and (c.) Margo & Roger Maple.

Vivian Hardister (behind counter) demonstrates stringing pearls to (l.) Robin Chamblin and (r.) Margo & Roger Maple.

At Courtyard Gallery, Crystal Watrous sits next to three of her abstract glass pieces.

Crystal said, “I have been an artist my entire life. You may not necessarily make your living at art, but you have to do it. I have been working in glass about 15 years. I started making stained glass and moved to crazed glass. I used to do art shows but since I now have about 40 galleries carrying my work, I stopped doing art shows. I am going to school on weekends, studying to be a certified naturopath. That is some-
one whom you consult to manage your health from a totally natural perspective, using no chemicals or drugs. They work with chiropractors. I’m doing some of that work already.”

Continuing, she told me, “Glass may be in the kiln about 24 hours. Some individual pieces are quick to fire; one piece may need only one firing while others need multiple firings. The glass comes in precolored sheets of different textures and shapes. I have named some of my pieces in different series, such as The Light Series, and The Pure Energy Series. Because I start from scratch, some pieces may be similar but no two pieces alike. This makes my work more fun for me.” She posed beside a set of three pieces of different sizes and colors, which are her favorites.

At Patty’s Picks in Union Pier, Fran Paulson was present (wearing art on her blouse) to share her travel memories and show colorful handicrafts from Central America and other folk art objects. Claire Warshaw from Union Pier was talking with Fran about various kinds of travel. Claire and her husband had found two great mirrors at Patty’s Picks, which they bought for their home.

Fran said, “I am an inveterate tourist. I believe that a trip should never be less than two weeks but three weeks is better. I usually take a long trip every year and several little trips. Last summer, I was ‘doing the States,’ and especially enjoyed San Francisco and Tulsa, Oklahoma. I started traveling because I was curious and wanted to learn more. I just went by myself; I like new things and meeting new people. If you travel alone, you meet more people. I especially like traveling in Africa and have been there three times.” Fran discussed some of the African tribal customs and ceremonies.

Dirk Wales, a photographer, arrived at Patty’s Picks to discuss his photographs of the people and the colorful art of the Kuna Indians who live on islands near the north coast of Panama. Holding a Maasai spear, he sat beside a table displaying some of his photographs and other art objects.

Dirk had been through the Panama Canal when he was only 8 years old. He said, “I returned to the area on a cruise in 1984 and hoped to visit some of the islands to take photographs. When we went ashore for an hour and 45 minutes, I took five rolls of 36-exposure film and many quarters to give to the people I photographed. Some of the photographs I’ve taken have numbers in them; I was taking pictures with numbers in them before I realized that I was doing that. In fact, I’ve been taking pictures with numbers in them for about 7 years.”

At The Roger Harvey Art Gallery on 17 W. Merchant Street in New Buffalo, there was a Friday evening reception with a showing of Roger’s landscape painting and the work of local photographers Dave Moll and Tim Rogers. A number of local artists and shop owners were present at this reception to view the art and meet with their friends. Dave Moll did panorama photography of pictures that were in his mind. He posed beside several of his works, which were of country scenes. He has been in photography for 30 years. He came from Chicago where he did a lot of TV commercials and black & white work. He came out a few years ago and has experimented and tries to do work that has a lot of sentimental feeling in it.
Art Attack  Continued from  Page 35

Tim Rogers said, “I was born and raised here and live in New Buffalo. I grew up on the lake and just love spending time here because I love the lake. I have been a graphic designer in the advertising business for 18 years, but now I’m trying to do something new. I love showing light and dark and nature and changes of nature.” Tim stood beside his photography, which usually includes a lake in it.

At Catherine and Company, 900 W. Buffalo St. in New Buffalo, jewelry artist Nannette Dombkowski sat by a window, demonstrating and explaining the stringing and knotting of pearls. Her full time job is as a landscaper, but she works with jewelry in her free time. She and the owner, Catherine (who sells vintage & new lamps, jewelry and other items in the store), posed behind the counter, each holding a necklace which Nannette had made. A woman from Detroit had been in the store earlier; she had bought both necklaces and a few lamps and would return the next day to pick up her purchases.

Many of the necklaces are in 17” lengths, although longer necklaces such as 40” will be really popular for the fall. Turquoise and pearl combinations are popular as are fresh water pearls. Some of Nannette’s jewelry in a display case included blue and mauve fresh water pearls. Turquoise jewelry will be really “hot” for the summer.

At the Country Mates Gift and Christmas Shop in New Buffalo, Paul J. Dunne, a local photographer and artist, had his work on display. Peggy and Mike West of Long Beach held one of Paul’s pieces while I photographed the three of them. Coming to Art Attack for the first time, Peggy said, “It’s really fun. You sure can’t sit on the beach today!”

Artist Paul lives in Duneland Beach and can look out the window to see views that he will photograph. He said, “My son gave me a camera for Father’s Day two years ago and then I began to take photographs.” He has several sets of various photographs, which make up his Tranquility Series. After the photographs are taken, they are printed and enlarged by a printer in Michigan City. Paul’s work consists of very colorful fine art prints of various sizes and note cards. His art is being sold in Michigan City and also in South Bend and St. Joseph, Michigan.

If you haven’t yet made it to Michigan’s Harbor Country Art Attack, mark your 2006 calendar for next year’s April event. You’ll enjoy yourself!
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foodstuff by carolyn m’connell

GRANDMOTHER’S MEATBALLS, SERVED IN MARINARA SAUCE

-from Kathleen Arvin, pre-school teacher at Notre Dame

5 lbs ground beef (or 4 lbs beef and 1 lb of ground pork)
3 eggs
8 - 10 cloves garlic, finely chopped
1 cup chopped Italian flat leaf parsley
3/4 cup plain bread crumbs
2 cups Pecorino Romano* cheese, grated
olive oil for browning meat balls
salt and pepper to taste

Mix all ingredients together until well blended, preferably by hand. Roll into the size of your choice.** Heat olive oil and brown the meat balls. Drop them into your favorite sauce and continue to cook for at least one hour. The longer the better. Enjoy!

*This cheese is available at any specialty Italian store. You can use any Romano cheese, but Pecorino is the best. Make sure its grated.

**Some of Kathleen’s meatballs had cheese in the center, small cubes of extra mozzarella. Yum.

(Want Kathleen’s, er grandma’s, marinara sauce? E-mail me cmcconnell@adsnet.com)

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Spring to ART!

Let your imagination bloom by enrolling in one of the many educational art opportunities available for you and your family at The Lubeznik Center for the Arts. The Center has announced its 2005 Spring/Summer Class and Workshop schedule which begins May 16th and runs through the beginning of July. Registration deadline is May 13th.

Visit their website to get more detailed descriptions and information about the offerings at www.lubeznikcenter.org or phone the center for a brochure at 219/874-4900. A mail-in registration form (PDF format) is now available on the website. Registration is required. Offerings that do not draw sufficient interest will be cancelled 3 days before the start date.

There will be Children’s Classes (like Art and Beginning Guitar), Adolescent Classes (like Beaded Jewelry Making, Color Wheel Basics and Connecting with Stories), Adult Classes (lots to choose from like Design in Fine Art Painting, PhotoShop, the World of Watercolor or Introduction to Italian) and Workshops to choose from.

The Jack and Shirley Lubeznik Center for the Arts is located at 101 Avenue of the Arts (W. 2nd St.), Michigan City. Phone: 219.874.4900; email art-info@lubeznikcenter.org or visit www.lubeznikcenter.org
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The Spring Girlfriend Sale, your ultimate woman's resale clothing event will take place this weekend and next. We have over 70 participants who have cleaned their closets and collectively submitted 2000+ items of clothing in all sizes plus oversized, jewelry, and accessories to be sold at $5, $10, $15 and up. We have an extraordinary amount of artistic, designer clothing such as Nadha and Blue Fish along with Coach handbags, Flax, Ann Taylor, one of a kind items, plus much, much more!

The Sale begins Fri., May 6th, from 6-9 p.m. for participants and their friends; and is advertised and open to the public May 7th & 14th from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Our famous 1/2 price sale day is on Sun., May 15th from noon-4 p.m. The Sale has become a tradition for buyers and sellers and has grown to be a fund raiser for various organizations. We accept cash, check with picture ID and Visa and MasterCard. Come shop for incredible values plus a whole lot of fun!

To find the Long Beach Community Center, from Michigan City take Hwy 12; turn onto Karwick Rd/Chastleton Dr. toward's Al's Grocery Store and continue to Lake Shore Drive. Turn right onto LSD and continue to next stop sign. Turn right onto St. Lawrence Ave., continue to stop sign and turn left onto Oriole Tr. The Center is 2 blocks up on the right (old Long Beach Elementary School).

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The Scarlet Macaw Community Art Center is host to the first River Valley High School Exhibition featuring the work of 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade art students. The exhibition will continue through May 22nd.

The Scarlet Macaw is located at 5888 Sawyer Road, Sawyer, Michigan. Hours are Tues.-Sat., 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sun., noon-5 p.m. (MI time). Phone: 269/469-8226 or www.ScarletMacawCAC.org
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A garden can be so humbling. Take my little weeping cherry tree. I watched it carefully as it budded this spring, hoping, valiantly hoping, that it would grace its presence with a profusion of blooms as promised. It is now leafed out with not a flower in sight. The thick green leaves tell me that it is growing well and likes its selected spot, so I’ve given it a pat and an encouraging word. After all, it’s only two years old. Just a toddler. Lots of time for blooms to come, but I can’t help thinking...is it me? Have I not done my part? Does it want for water, added fertilizer? What fault of mine is part of my great expectations? I ponder and think that this is sometimes what we do with children. Will they walk by one, talk by two? Will they ever decide on a major for college? Some do, some don’t...on our time schedule. Healthy growth, as in my cherry tree, should be enough to give us joy. A humbling thought.

Equally humbling is the search for my hidden hosta. I have lots of hosta and they are popping up, some a foot tall by now, all in their allotted places: filling the hill behind the pond; along the shady walk on the side of my cottage; in the woodland garden; around the bird feeder. In some places, the hosta are slower than others, the more shady spots where the ground is still cold. But I keep watching the area where late last year I planted a small red cut-leaf Chinese maple near a favorite rock. A clump of hosta had to be moved, but where did I move them? They are simply not coming through according to what I thought had been my original plan, the other side of the rock. Did I have an inspiration in mid-planting and change my mind? Are they just slowly breaking ground somewhere else? Did my digger bury them under the rock that now stands as a sepulcher to their grave beneath? Does any other gardener go through this transplanting dilemma and simply lose track of plants? Or is failing memory now descended upon me with Sisyphean force, a clouded forboding of advancing years? I bow my head to fate and wait. I hope now for a surprise.
I am great for rearranging things, inside and out, moving plants to what I feel is a more pleasing aspect, organizing storage thinking I will find a better way of arranging my life. I tackled my office detriment this winter, dutifully finding a place for everything, neatly labeled, boxed, filed. The labels and tape for mailings were neatly boxed and put away. But just the other day I needed the labels and of course, I went to their former place, scattered untidily at the bottom of a desk drawer. Not there. . . and I couldn’t remember where I’d put the new container. Time passed. A flash bulb popped in my head. Of course, there they were, on a shelf of the supply cabinet where they should have been all along. Will my hosta pop up as well? My consolation is that some things in my garden are popping up right where they should be. Scilla have come and gone with May flowers taking their place, Trillium and Muscari are still blooming and a feathery perennial bleeding heart is budding even as I write. It is especially pretty, small red blossoms in a ferny nest of leaves, tucked in the welcoming embrace of a piece of driftwood as I had originally planned.

I am particularly fond of bleeding heart, the Dicentra that likes shade and blooms in spring. In the wild Dicentra is called Dutchman’s breeches; some of the larger blooms, when turned upside-down are called “lady in a bathtub”. Pick one and use your imagination. Surely a well-endowed damsel will emerge.

Alongside my cottage, where the weeping cherry is not blooming, there are beautiful blooms of white bleeding heart that seem to love their location in a raised brick border along the house. They are spreading beyond their bounds, and my urge is to move them, but each year I resist as they come into bloom. They like it there. I haven’t kept track of the names of the different varieties, but the white could be variety *Dicentra eximia* known as Purity, Snowdrift or Alba, an old-fashioned favorite. The large rose-pink bloomers often found in the wild could be *Dicentra formosa*; the smaller one I have in its driftwood has tiny deep maroon flowers and could be *Dicentra formosa ‘Baccanal’*, a cultivar with fern-like foliage that looks great even when it’s not blooming. I’ve read about the *Dicentra macrocaphonos*, a climbing bleeding heart vine that grows fifteen feet high. It holds promise and I’ll watch for it and find a place where it might to climb. And I vow I will learn from my bleeding hearts to let them be and grow at their own pace. Like children, plants live in the Now.

And so it is.
**ACTIVITIES**

**FRIDAY, MAY 6**
7:30-9 p.m. CREATING A BACKYARD NATIVE SANCTUARY. If you enjoy watching wildlife, join a ranger and learn how your backyard can be turned into a safe haven for native species. Bring your ideas along for this sharing session discussing how to grow native plants and attract wildlife to your backyard. Meet at Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center.

**SATURDAY, MAY 7**
9-10:30 a.m. TREKKING THE BOG. Pinhook Bog is a remnant of the last Ice Age of 14,000 years ago. Join a ranger to discover the unique plants that call Pinhook Bog their home. Due to the fragility of the bog, reservations are required. Phone 219/926-7561, ext. 225. Meet at Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center.

1-3:30 p.m. MILLER WOODS NATURAL HISTORY HIKE. Learn the local history and nature of Miller Woods with Tom Serynek and glimpse what goes on underwater in the Miller Woods ponds with zoologist George Smolka. Meet at Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education on Lake St. in Miller, IN.

7-8:30 p.m. SWALLOWS AND THE SETTING SUN. Join a ranger for a leisurely stroll along the beach to a favorite nesting spot of the bank swallow and learn interesting facts about this tiny bird. Afterward, trek to the top of Mount Baldy to enjoy the setting sun. Meet at Mount Baldy parking lot.

**SUNDAY, MAY 8**
1-4 p.m. SPRING ON THE FARM. Spring is in the air, and the life of a rural farmer has been kicked into high gear. Chat with the volunteer gardeners, help groom or feed the animals, and do what all good farmers do—check out the crops. Park at Bailly/Chellberg parking lot and follow the trail to Chellberg Farm. For more information, phone 219/926-7561, ext. 225.

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_by Paula McHugh_

**This & That—again**

Sometimes I find things around the Web that don’t fit neatly into categories. Or, they do fit into categories, but I may not have the time to explore them in more depth. This week, take a spin to investigate the USDA’s newly revised Food Pyramid, to a recipe page filled with a global variety of offerings, and to some lesser-known Indiana web pages.

**My Pyramid** (www.mypyramid.gov). The old food pyramid that we learned in school is now obsolete. The government has developed a new one that is more personalized to each individual, and they’ve been quick to offer a series of interactive web pages to instruct us about how to balance our energy intake and outgo. One can register at the sight or look around as a guest. I did the latter, surfing directly over to the activity tracker part of the site. But first, I had to fill in some basic information (age, gender, level of activity), for which I was given my personal food pyramid and serving suggestions. When I got to the activity tracker page, I became frustrated with the amount of time it took for the page to “process” the types of exercise I regularly do. A form gives you first, choices of activities (eg. Water sports) to click on. Then it gives another submenu with more choices (eg. Swimming: backstroke, moderate) to click on. I figured it would take me at least 15 minutes to enter my meager number of exercise routines before I could find out how my “energy balance” rated. Golly, they even had a category for pulling rice stalks out of water under the water sports category! But when it came to lap swimming, they had several different categories that you have to click, then wait, then go back and start from scratch again. The purpose of the website is to provide “steps for a healthier you.” By the time I gave up clicking, I was ready to head for some stress management websites for more steps I needed for a healthier me.

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Cheap Eats (http://chicago.us.mensa.org/features/cheats/intro.htm). Don’t let the title fool you. It’s not about fast food or throwing things together to make a meal. And of all places, I found this sleeper of a recipe site—not really a recipe website—at the Chicago area Mensa homepages. What a great find, too! Author Cynthia Clampitt offers up a lengthy list of exotic fare from around the globe. She has traveled to most of these places and has sampled them first hand from the natives. A selection of goodies includes Huushuur (Mongolian Fried Meat-filled pastries), Mtori from East Africa, Lamb and Quince Stew from Turkey, Doro Wat from Ethiopia, Aba curriya from Sri Lanka, Koshry from Egypt, and Avocado Mousse from Costa Rica. That is just a small selection of the many dishes she provides recipes for, along with background information about each. If you have a hankering to dish up something very different, take a look at these web pages. While you are still at the Mensa website, skim over to a feature on Mothers’ Day (http://us.mensa.org/features/bestofchime/mothers.html) by Joan Skoggin. She insists that August 28 is the true Mothers’ Day, but you will have to read her feature essay to understand why.

Indiana Women’s History Association (www.iwh.iupui.edu/bios.html). I had no idea that such an organization existed in Indiana. I might add that it could use more input from our Northwest Indiana counties about women who should be included in its listings. Many of the listings include contemporary women who have been strong advocates of particular causes. Celebrities such as Jane Pauley, Sandi Patti and Polly Bergen are noted, along with a list of names of women that we never read about in our Indiana history books. If you know of someone who should be included, there is a place on the website to submit your information for review. Get busy! We have many notable women from our area who deserve to be among those highlighted at this site.

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Travels with Charley: Back to Birding with the BBC on the Yellow Birch Trail
by Charles Mc Kelvy

Natalie and I needed a good birding fix after a long winter in the old cabin, and so we got all excited when we got the Berrien Birding Club’s list of upcoming activities in the mail recently.

The Berrien Birding Club, or BBC as the cognoscenti call it, has been our passport to more outdoor adventures than a whole basement full of National Geographics.

Why last May we spent a delightful day with BBC President Kip Miller birding at Warren Dunes State Park where we saw more than 70 species, many of which were warblers.

And so when the BBC newsletter arrived in our box at the Harbert Post Office and listed a number of worthy outings, we pounced on the one that promised “a morning on the Yellow Birch Trail” in Warren Dunes State Park in Sawyer, Michigan. The promo promised a good time for watching mid-spring woodland migrants.

And what was implied in the copy was fellowship among seasoned birders and the customary coffee-and-donut session that follows every outing.

Hey, birding is serious business and one does not tromp over dune and dale without knowing that a box of donuts and pots of hot coffee await back at base camp.

All right, we didn’t exactly have a base camp on our recent morning on the Yellow Birch Trail, but as we all assembled at the parking lot on Floral Lane, we noticed that at least two Boy Scout troops were camping nearby. As we scouted the nearby trees for fox sparrows and other spring delights, Scouts and leaders headed off on hikes along the park’s trail network.

It was great to see the 1,507-acre park being put to so many good uses on a gorgeous spring day, and we were all smiles as we headed down Floral Lane into what is identified on the map as the Great Warren Dune.

What’s particularly great about it is that our feathered friends are fond of flocking there, particularly during the spring and fall migrations.

And with BBC Vice President Pat Underwood as our guide, we almost immediately had the following in our binoculars: the aforementioned fox sparrow, any number of flitting ruby-crowned kinglets, a swamp sparrow cavorting in the swamp, four wood ducks in flight, an elusive yellow-rumped warbler, a towhee or two, a golden-crowned kinglet whose crown gleamed in the morning sun, creepers a creeping, and a field sparrow in the field.

We also spotted a titmouse or two and plenty of cardinals, turkey vultures, ring-billed gulls, crows, and red-winged blackbirds.

Occasionally a runner or group of Boy Scouts would overtake us as we slow-marched along the Yellow Birch Trail on the north end of Warren Dunes State Park. We greeted them heartily and let them pass and were happy to see that they didn’t scare the birds away.
We were also happy for the presence of the boardwalks that the BBC was largely responsible for having installed through the wetland portion of the trail. Before the boardwalk, one needed hip-waders to traverse the marsh back there, but now it’s an elevating experience.

Everyone arrived safely at trail’s end, and we compared notes as we noshed on donuts and sipped coffee.

Pat Underwood, who works as Parks Naturalist at Love Creek County Park in Berrien Center, Michigan, led a discussion about how cold-blooded frogs cope with changes in temperature. Noting that they go into what he called a "torpor" when the thermometer dips below 32, Pat said they are about as close to being dead without being dead as you can get. But, he added, when the temperature climbs, the frogs spring right back to life.

I suggested to Pat that perhaps he could conduct a "torpor" clinic at Love Creek County Park in which participants were subjected to gradually lower temperatures until they entered their own states of torpor. Then, I said, they could be brought back to life with gradually higher temperatures.

"And the first thing they would want to do would be to eat flies," I said, smiling at my own joke.

Pat nodded patiently, and said he would pass that "brilliant" idea on to his superiors. But he told me not to hold my breath for word of the first torpor clinic at Love Creek.

And speaking of Love Creek, you will find it featured in these pages in coming weeks as the BBC was planning an outing there to look for spring wildflowers and migrating birds.

Hopefully these words on birds have whetted your appetite for binoculars and donuts. Along, of course, with great conversation and expert commentary.

Good, because the BBC is the club for you, and you should know that this really is the beginning of "birding" season. There are many great outings planned for the weekends ahead, and come fall – why, you can’t keep up with all the wonderful wanderings the BBC does during that amazing time of year.

Regular membership is a bargain at $10 per household, and you can get all the information you need about the BBC and their outings by calling the club sponsor, the Berrien County Parks, at: 269/471-2617.
In the Local Area:

May 4 -- “Spring Yard and Garden Clean-Up.” Free program presented by Master Gardener Sacha Burns. 6:30 pm at the Michigan City Public Library.


May 6-7 -- “Sylvia.” A.R.Gurney’s comedy presented by the Festival Players Guild and Head Fine Arts at Mainstreet Theatre, 807 Franklin St., MC. Curtain May 6 at 8 pm; May 7 at 2 pm & 8 pm. Tix $10/adults, $9/sen.cit. & $5/students. Reservations: 219/874-4269. Recommended for high school age and older.

May 7 — Farmer’s Market season begins. Outdoor market at 8th & Washington streets, Michigan City. 8 am-noon.


May 7 -- Annual May Tea at First Presbyterian Church, 9th & Washington streets, MC. 1 pm. Fellowship, entertainment and refreshments. Free to all ladies of the area. Story this issue.

May 8 — Mother's Day at the Zoo. First 50 moms have free adm. when accompanied by a child.10:30 am-3 pm at Washington Park Zoo, Michigan City. Reg. adm. $4.50/adults, $3/sen.cit., $2.50/children.

May 9 & 23 — Great Decisions. Foreign policy discussion group. Final two sessions. 6:30 pm at the Michigan City Public Library. Topics: “Middle East” & “Global Water Issues.” 873-3049.

May 10 -- Page Turners book discussion group at LaPorte Co. Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave., LaPorte. "Hour Game" by David Baldacci will be discussed. Noon-1 pm. Free & open to the public. Refreshments

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May 10 -- “Free Software on the Internet.” Free program held at LaPorte Co. Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave., downtown LaPorte. 7 pm. Preregister at 219/362-6156, ext. 12. How to save money by using the Internet to download free software for Windows.

May 13-14, 20-22, 26-29 -- “Down the Road.” Adult drama presented by 4th Street Theater, 125 N. 4th St., Chesterton. Sunday curtain 3 pm; all other 8 pm. Tix $10; reservations 219/926-7875.

Places to Visit:


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

LaPorte County Historical Museum, county complex in downtown LaPorte, IN. 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, 101 W. 2nd St., Michigan City. Tues.-Fri., 10 am-5 pm; Sat-Sun, 11 am-4 pm. Phone 874-4900. Current exhibit: “INDesign: Indiana Products Design Exhibition.”

New Buffalo Railroad Museum, 530 S. Whittaker St., New Buffalo, MI. Mon-Fri, 9 am-5 pm; Sat-Sun, 10 am-3 pm (MI time). Info: 269/469-5409.


The Depot Museum and Art Gallery of Beverly Shores,. 525 Broadway, Beverly Shores, IN. Open Sat. & Sun., 1-4 pm through November. Adm. free; donations welcome.

Washington Park Zoo, Michigan City. Gates open 10:30 am; adm. gate closes 3 pm; park closes 4 pm. Adm. $4.50 adults (12-61 yrs); $3.00 sen. cit. (62+); $2.50/kids 3-11; free/2 & under. 873-1510.

Farther Afield:

May 6 — Spring Videos at the Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, MI. This week: The Gilded Age. 60 mins. Featuring the many sides of America in the 19th century. Noon (MI time). Free & open to the public. Coffee will be served. Discussion after the video. Info: 269/983-0271 or www.krasl.org

May 6 -- “Jazz it Up For the Arts.” Berrien Artist Guild annual fundraiser at Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, MI. 6-8 pm. Tix $25; phone 269/983-3688. Story this issue.

May 7 — “South Street” in concert (Classic Rock ‘n Roll). 8 pm (MI time) at Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, MI. Tix $8/adults, $6/sen. cit. & students. 269/983-3688.

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On May 5, 1961, Alan Shepherd became the first American in space. He made a brief suborbital flight in a capsule launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida.

On May 6, 1851, Dr. John Gorris, of Apalachicola, Florida, patented a "mechanical refrigeration machine" that produced a very cold temperature by compressing air in a cylinder immersed in a chamber of cooling water.

On May 6, 1856, American explorer Admiral Robert E. Peary, who became famous as the discoverer of the North Pole, was born in Cresson, Pennsylvania.

On May 6, 1962, the first Telstar Communication Satellite was launched.

On May 7, 1954, President Gerald Ford formally declared an end to the "Vietnam era."

On May 7, 1982, the space shuttle Endeavor made its first voyage.

On May 8, 1884, Harry S. Truman, who would become the 33rd President of the United States, was born in Lamar, Missouri.

On May 8, 1886, an Atlanta pharmacist, John Styth Pemberton, invented a syrup for a beverage that was to become known as "Coca-Cola."

On May 9, 1914, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed Mothers Day to be a public holiday.

On May 9, 1926, U.S. Navy Commander Richard Byrd and Floyd Bennett became the first people to fly over the North Pole.

On May 10, 1869, the first transcontinental railway was completed when the Union Pacific and the Central Pacific railways met at Utah's Promontory Point.

On May 10, 1894, two 10-foot bronze lions were unveiled at the west entrance to the Chicago Art Museum.

On May 10, 1899, Frederick Austerlitz, who became famous as dancer Fred Astaire, was born in Omaha.

On May 11, 1858, Minnesota became the 32nd state to join the Union.


On May 11, 1928, in Schenectady, New York, Station WGY began the first regularly scheduled television programs.

On May 11, 1949, the Kingdom of Siam changed its name to Thailand.
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The History of Love by Nicole Krauss

“When they write my obituary. Tomorrow. Or the next day. It will say, Leo Gursky is survived by an apartment full of shit."

Now that’s a pretty strange way to start a book called The History of Love. And yet. I was intrigued. So I kept reading. Leo Gursky is an octogenarian who lives in a New York apartment downstairs from his best friend, Bruno. Bruno keeps track of Leo by tapping his walking stick on the radiator. “Three taps means ARE YOU ALIVE?, two means YES, one, NO.” And yet. Leo carries around a heavy heart. So heavy that he has to keep proving to himself that he still exists.

You see, Leo is a Polish Jew. In 1940 he had to say goodbye to his love, Alma, when her father wisely sent her to America, far away from the German threat. And yet. Leo didn’t know that with her she carried their unborn baby. “When she found out, she wrote to the boy. Every day she waited for a letter from him, but none came.” None came because the Nazi came to Leo’s village. He spent the next four years hiding until 1945 when he was able to follow his love to America.

When he finally tracked her down, and learned the truth of his son, Isaac, and her marriage to another man, was it really so hard for the man who had spent the last four years of his life becoming invisible, to remain invisible to his son and the only woman he would ever love?

And yet. I’m leaving out the most important part. When Leo left Poland, he entrusted a book he had written, The History of Love, to a friend, Zvi Litvinoff. who was immigrating to Chile, South America. You see, Leo was a writer. He has been writing since he was a boy. The History of Love was his story, his feelings.

Unfortunately, after Zvi got married, his wife found the manuscript and insisted he get it published. Feeling guilty, Zvi still could not bring himself to admit the writing wasn’t his.

Fast forward to the 1990s and another Alma, this one a fifteen year old Alma Singer, tells her story of growing up with only her mother and brother. Her father died when she was seven. Mom only read books and drank tea and translated books from Spanish into English to earn money. Imagine her surprise when a Jacob Marcus offered her $100,000 to translate the Spanish History of Love into English. Especially since Alma’s father had purchased a copy of the book when he was backpacking around South America before he married her mother. Coincidence? Maybe. Maybe it was inevitable. Alma finds her mother’s translation of the book and starts to read it.

I found it fascinating reading to discover Leo’s simple, but somehow sad, life and how fate, fortune or call it what you may, brings Leo and the young Alma to work toward similar goals while being unaware of each other.

Does love make the world go ‘round? You might just believe it does after you read this book. Leo finds out his son has become a famous writer and tries to track him down, but he’s too late.....while Alma decides to find out who the people in History of Love really are. Her sleuthing causes a meeting that helps heal more than one person.

Prose, poetry, this story has elements of both. It’s a heavenly chorus of words as carefully orchestrated as a Mozart concerto.

But, more than that, it’s a story of humanity and our vast capacity to love.

“He was a great writer.
“Really, there isn’t much to say.

“He fell in love.
“It was his life.”

Till next time, happy reading!

---

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IF MOM’S INTO NATURE, how about this beautifully maintained 4 bedroom, 2 bath split level home on White Creek in Shoreland Hills? There’s a gorgeous yard with 132’ frontage on White Creek and serene views of the unbuildable woodlands beyond. Inside, sparkling clean hardwood & ceramic tile floors brighten a roomy floor plan. Deeded beach rights are also a part of the package. $343,500

IS YOUR MOM TIRED of stairs and yard work and all the concerns that come with maintaining a home that is really too big except for the holidays when all the kids come home to thank her for always being there for them? Well, do your Mom a favor & bring her over to St. Andrews to see this 2 bedroom, 2 bath townhome. The Great Room is large enough for get-togethers; the rest is just for her! $279,000

DOES YOUR MOM DESERVE A LAKE VIEW??? Panoramic lake views are the icing on the cake of this magnificent 4550 sq ft tree-top home in Sheridan Beach. This 5 bedroom, 4.5 bath contemporary has state-of-the-art mechanicals, including a zoned radiant floor hot water heating system, multiple lake-view decks, 2 fireplaces and much, much more. Call Debbie to see your Mom’s summer place. $899,000

MOM’S PLACE IN THE COUNTRY!!! You don’t have to travel over the river and through the woods to get to this idyllic home on 10 acres. Just call Debbie Burke for directions to find this 5 bedroom, 4.5 bath Cape Cod. There’s an in-ground lap pool, a stocked, spring-fed pond, guest house, old barn, and 3650 sq ft living area of private comfort and peaceful wooded views. $649,000

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Delightful English Cottage on two lots surrounded by woods and creek only 10 minutes from South Shore Station, Highway 90/94, and Dunes National Park. Fireplace in large living room, separate dining room. Kitchen opens to deck and forested yard. Three bedrooms include master suite with French doors to private patio, 2½ baths. Lower level recreation room, office. $269,900

Car Pool No More. Notre Dame School is just steps from this lovely custom built home. Tray and vaulted ceilings, oak and ceramic floors. Hot tub, custom Amish cabinets in family kitchen. Family room with fireplace. Formal dining room. 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, large kitchen, first floor family room, game room, utility room. $399,000

Shoreland Hills year round rental. Unfurnished, four bedrooms, 3 baths, family room, double garage. 3 blocks to Lake Michigan. $1750 per month

Vacation Rentals by the week or month. Furnished. Call to list or rent.