Great Lakes National Museum Planned

by William F. Keefe

The Great Lakes Historical Society will soon move into a new museum/administrative headquarters in fulfillment of its years-long mission as a national center for Great Lakes history.

The Vermilion, Ohio-based Society expects that the new venue will help the GLHS “to preserve and make known the maritime history of the Great Lakes.” An announcement by Christopher Gillchrist, the Society’s Executive Director, added that the Society in its new location in Toledo, Ohio should find it easier to explain and interpret “the impact that Great Lakes history has had on our nation’s development.”

Primary among the reasons for the GLHS withdrawal from an earlier plan to move the Society’s museum to Lorain, Ohio is the existence of a 16,000 square foot building on the Maumee River in Toledo. The GLHS has already signed a Memorandum of Agreement for use of the building.

Great Lakes Continued on Page 2
Great Lakes  Continued from Page 1

The agreement with the Toledo Lucas County Port Authority and the Boyer Riverfront Inc. provides that the GLHS can create the National Great Lakes Maritime Museum in the newly constructed building.

The GLHS cites 11 additional reasons why the new location possesses the ideal qualifications for use as the Society’s permanent new home...

-- The GLHS, once it is located in the building on the Maumee River, will be able to “create a unique integrated experience with the Willis B. Boyer Museum ship, which would be moored in a slip adjacent to the projected museum.

-- The GLHS could hold an option on additional adjoining land for future development.

-- There would be opportunity to cooperate with a newly constructed city-owned 72-slip marina.

-- The new museum would be close to highways I-280, I-75, and I-80/90.

-- The planned museum would also be close to other major cultural attractions such as Imagination Station and the Toledo Museum of Art.

-- Commercial shipping traffic would be passing nearby.

-- The museum would also be near an authentic lighthouse.

-- Very importantly, the GLHS museum would be close to Detroit/Toledo, the fifth-largest metro area in the United States.

-- The new GLHS museum would effect a 70 percent reduction in per-square-foot direct operation costs.

-- The area in which the new structure is located is An “up-and-coming” redevelopment district.

-- Finally, a feasibility study of the new site predicts that the GLHS museum would attract 37,000 to 61,000 visitors per year instead of the 6,500 currently averaged in Vermilion.

Time Lapse Disqualifies Lorain

Supplementing the positive factors influencing the GLHS choice of the Maumee River location are other realities that impinge directly on the decision. “Our feasibility study for the Lorain site concluded that although we would attract a significant increase in attendance over our Vermilion site, this fact would not occur until the entire area north and south of the bascule bridge was developed,” noted The Chadburn, the GLHS quarterly newsletter.

“This development is not likely until the City of Lorain moves their waterfront sewage treatment plant at a $100,000,000 price tag.

“The time-frame to complete such a move is ten to twenty years--well beyond the Society’s time-frame to move its museum.”

Plans already announced for the renovation of the museum ship Willis B. Boyer add a critical attraction to the GLHS program for the move to Ohio. In a service stop at the Toledo Ship Yard, according to the Newsletter, “The Boyer’s exterior will be completely sandblasted, sealed, and painted with the ship’s original colors,” the black and red livery that it wore while with the Shenango fleet.

While in drydock the Boyer will also receive its original name, Col. James M. Schoonemaker. On completion of the renovation, the Boyer/Schoonemaker will dock close to the new museum as part of a one-of-a-kind integrated maritime experience.

The city of Toledo will continue to own the museum ship, but it will be managed by the GLHS.

The Boyer boasts a colorful history to go along with her wealth of maritime exhibits. Not only was she the largest bulk carrier in the world when she was launched; she was also the only vessel on the Great Lakes to bear the name (Schoonemaker) of a winner of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

When launched the Schoonemaker was “the first ship on the Great Lakes to have a general alarm system” and “one of only three ships on the Great Lakes to have an electric light fireplace.”

Old times come back to life in art by Paul LaMarre II. The picture shows the tug America and the freighter Col. James M. Schoonemaker, the ship that later became the Willis B. Boyer.
Exhibits Tell the Story

The National Museum in Toledo will have as a primary mission a reversal of the accidental strategy of silence that has kept Great Lakes history in a dark corner of the general history of the United States. As The Chadburn notes, “For decades, topics in Great Lakes history have been largely overlooked by academic historians…”

“The impact of their disregard is significant. Today, in high school and college textbooks nary a mention is made of the impact of events and trends in the Great Lakes Basin. The failure to adequately address such facts has resulted in generations of citizens blind to even the most basic historical fact: “92 percent of all fresh water in the United States and 20 percent of all fresh water in the world resides in the Great Lakes!”

“Every model and every artifact has a story to tell!” Even those “Lakers,” large and small, that ended their annals as shipwrecks have their contributions to make. Some, like the Edmund Fitzgerald, stand as cautionary chapters in Great Lakes history.” The GLHS National Museum will feature the “largest collection of original Fitzgerald shipwreck artifacts in the world.”

The expectation, thus, is that the Shipwrecks section will become a centerpiece of the new facility. Not to be forgotten are over 50 other shipwreck artifacts that in their own ways commemorate the ships and their crews, and provide insights into the experiences of “schooners, brigs, barks, side-wheel steamers, lumber hookers, bulk freighters, and car ferries.”

Summarizing, the Historical Society foresees mutual benefits deriving from the collaboration of the National Museum and the water-borne Schoonermaker Ship Museum. Like other such institutions, the new museum will touch civic pride and boost economic opportunity.

Inevitably, because “museums are educational assets that local school systems utilize to complement the good work they are doing in the classroom,” opportunities for “edutainment experience and community events will abound.”

The possibilities in the new museum “are only limited by our collective imagination.”
Cheer & Dance Camp at Marquette

On February 14th the Marquette Catholic High School Cheer and Dance teams are hosting a Cheer and Dance camp. This is for all kids pre-school through 8th grade. The cost is $25 payable at registration on February 14th. The camp will be held at the Marquette High School Scholl Center. Registration starts at 9:00 a.m., camp starts at 9:30 a.m., lunch at noon and camp ends at 2:00 p.m.

The future Blazers will then perform at the half time of the girls Championship game which starts at 2:00 p.m. Please bring a sack lunch. The Marquette cheer and dance teams will teach the basics of Cheerleading, Stunting and Dance. If you have any questions, phone Mary Jo Kelley at 219.210.1090.

This Weekend at The Acorn Theater

Friday, February 5th, 8 p.m. MI time
Singer/Songwriter James Lee Stanley with his sister, Pamala Stanley (Disco, Broadway, Jazz, Blues, Pops singer). Tickets are $15; reserve at 269/756-3879 or www.acorntheater.com

James Lee Stanley, the true renaissance man, was born in Philadelphia, PA, and has been recording and performing since he was fourteen. He has toured consistently since he returned from the USAF (as a Chinese linguist) and has performed up to three hundred dates a year since then, with such diverse acts as Bonnie Raitt, Robin Williams, Nicolette Larson and even Bill Cosby. Steven Wright chose James Lee as his opening act for three years in a row; a testament to his professionalism and talent. Learn more at www.jamesleestanley.com

Saturday, February 6th, 8 p.m. MI time
Pamala Stanley (Disco, Broadway, Jazz, Blues, and Pops Singer) with her brother, James Lee Stanley (Singer/Songwriter). Tickets are $15; reserve at 269/756-3879 or www.acorntheater.com

From Disco Diva to Jazz and Blues Chanteuse: By the age of ten Pamala had recorded her first three singles, and by seventeen, she began her astounding solo career. After moving to New York in 1977, and finding additional success in national commercial work, Pamala landed a recording contract with EMI in Germany and began touring extensively. While recording in Berlin, Pamala wrote the album “This Is Hot” with Joachim Heider, her producer, and David Zippel [this recording also included songs from Lou Shere and Rhoda Roberts]. Pamala spent the next whirlwind year touring and promoting her album throughout Europe. Eventually signing with EMI America, Pamala released “This Is Hot” in 1979. This single reached #13 on US Disco charts and received great acclaim in Europe, Mexico and South America. Learn more at www.pamelastanley.com

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February 4, 2010
Purdue University North Central Office of Career Development will host its Spring Career Day Job & Internship Fair on Fri., Feb. 12, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Library-Student-Faculty Building, Room 144. This free event is open to all current Purdue students and alumni, regardless of campus, including PNC, Purdue West Lafayette, Purdue Calumet, IPFW and IUPUI.

More than 25 employers are expected to attend. Among the companies who are seeking resumes for employees or interns are: Boys & Girls Club of Michigan City; Camp Ray Bird, South Bend; Dunes Learning Center, Chesterton; Dwyer Instruments, Inc., Michigan City; Easter Seals of Wisconsin; Express Employment Professionals, Valparaiso; Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore; Indiana Wesleyan University, Merrillville; Lakeshore Area Regional Recovery of Indiana, Munster; LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, LaPorte; LaPorte Savings Bank, LaPorte; Liberty Mutual, Boston, Mass.; Northwest Indiana Public Broadcasting, Inc. Lakeshore Public Radio & Lakeshore Public TV, Merrillville; Porter-Starke Services, Valparaiso; Purdue University North Central, Westville; Sisters of St Francis Health Services, Michigan City representing St. Anthony Memorial and St. Margaret Mercy hospitals and St. Anthony Medical Center; Social Security Administration, Michigan City; Swanson Center, Michigan City; Toast Hotel Group, New Buffalo, Mich.; US Census Bureau, South Bend; Valparaiso Family YMCA, Valparaiso; Valparaiso University School of Law; Walgreens, Deerfield, Ill.

Career Fair visitors are asked to wear professional dress and should bring multiple copies of their resumes. Job seekers are encouraged to pre-register at www.pnc.edu/careers

Do You Have a Romantic Story to Tell?

Do you remember the moment that you met the love of your life? Where were you? What music was playing? If, so, the Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra would love to hear it!

In celebration of 50 years of Motown, Valentine’s Day, and a concert featuring the fabulous Motown group, the Contours, performing on Sat., Feb. 13, they are holding a “Most Romantic How You Met Your Spouse or Partner” contest.

To enter, just become a fan of the Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra Facebook page and post your story. The most romantic story will win two tickets to the Contours concert, a $50 gift certificate to the Bistro, and a $50 gift certificate for handmade chocolates, compliments of D.W. Hammond Chocolates and Fudge.

Winners will be contacted through Facebook on Thursday, February 11. For more information, phone the Symphony office at 269.982.4030.
This 1447 sq. ft. condo is back on the market and at the incredibly new price of only $249,000. This is your chance to own a NE corner, 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo with views of Lake Michigan from 2 sides. The first floor location (third story up) allows easy stairway access to your parking, storage and beach boardwalk. No need to take the elevator. Amenities include indoor pool, sauna, fitness center, private pristine beach and gated entry. A great opportunity at only $249,000.

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<td>Lasagna (Please give 24 hour notice)</td>
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**First Friday @ 5 at the Lubeznik Center**

The New Moderns Opening Reception
First Fridays @ 5

Friday, February 5, 5:00 p.m.– 8:00 p.m.

A distinctly modern First Friday @ 5 will celebrate the opening of the “New Moderns” exhibition at the Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. 2nd St., Michigan City. There will be art, refreshments and electronic music by Button.

Button (Mars Giolas) studied guitar at the Old Town School of Folk Music in Chicago and began composing his own electronic music at the age of 14. Button is fun, danceable, and above all, unique. Invite your family, friends and neighbors. This event is free and open to the public.

“The New Moderns” demonstrates that the art of painting is alive and well in the 21st century. Selected by local artist Carole Stodder, the seven artists in the exhibition were chosen for their outstanding ability and the strength of their work. Featuring work by New York artist Michael Scott Barrat, Michigan’s Delbert Michel, and Indiana/Illinois painters Tom Brand, William Conger, Eleanor Himmelfarb, Susan Hodgin and Richard Lange, this exhibition will draw viewers in with its energetic exploration of form in the aesthetic tradition of Modernism. More information at 874-4900.

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**ICS Lucky 50/50 Raffle**

The Independent Cat Society is holding a Lucky 50/50 Raffle beginning on Sat., Jan. 30th. Tickets are $2 each or 3 for $5. Tickets are available at the shelter located at Route 6 and County Line Road in Westville, IN during adoption hours: Saturdays 10 a.m.-4 p.m. or Sunday 1-4 p.m.

You can also purchase tickets by mail. Just send your ticket request along with your payment and your return address to Independent Cat Society, Lucky 50/50 Raffle, P.O. Box 735, Westville, IN 46391 and tickets will be mailed to you. Make checks payable to Independent Cat Society.

Drawing will be held at the shelter on April 3rd. Winner need not be present. The proceeds of this raffle will be divided between the winner and the ICS. If you have any questions regarding the raffle, contact the ICS at (219) 785-4936.

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**Great Backyard Bird Count**

“Great Backyard Bird Count” will be held from 11:00 a.m. to noon, on Sat., Feb. 6 in Children’s Services at La Porte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave., La Porte. Everyone is invited to come and make a pine cone bird feeder, have some hot cider and a cookie, and participate in the annual bird count. Birdie the Library Dog will also visit from 10-11 a.m. There is no charge or registration.

More information at 219/362-7128 or to request signing for the hearing impaired.
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ff@5

The Boogie-Woogie Bugle Boy Musical

L-R: John Hanaway (Lawrence Andrews) Alex Gonzalez (Max Andrews) Jenna Rose Underwood (Peggy Jones) and Scot MacDonald (Patrick Andrews)

The Memorial Opera House’s proudly presents the Boogie-Woogie Bugle Boy musical, “Andrews Brothers” by Roger Bean.

At an afternoon rehearsal for a USO show in the South Pacific, Max, Lawrence and Patrick Andrews are rehearsing with pin-up girl Peggy Jones for the big show that night. What Peggy doesn’t know is that the brothers are really just the stagehands for the show — her back-up singers didn’t arrive in time, and the boys were recruited by the Major in charge to fill in where needed. Just as they assume all will work out well, a radiogram arrives with the news that the headliners for tonight’s show, The Andrews Sisters, have been held in quarantine in Hawaii. The show must be cancelled. Unless, of course, there’s a way for the Andrews Sisters to appear...

Great songs include: Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy, Don’t Sit Under the Apple Tree, The Hut-Sut Song, Rosie the Riveter, Peggy the Pin-Up Girl, Breathless, Mairzy Doats, A Slow Boat to China, Hawaiian War Chant, Beat Me Daddy, Eight to the Bar, Ac-Cent-Tchu-Ate the Positive and many more.

Directed by Michele Craig. Choreography by Steven Spanopoulos and Amber Mills. Vocal and Music Director, Jeff Otto. Costumes by Amy Bannister. Also featuring an eight-piece orchestra.

Performance Dates: Friday & Saturdays, February 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20 @ 8 p.m. & Sundays, February 7, 14, 21 @ 2 p.m. Tickets are $20/adults and $17/seniors & students. Group Rates are also available. Season tickets are still available. Phone the Box office for more information: 219/548-9137 or stop by the Box Office at 104 Indiana Ave., Valparaiso, IN. Box office hours: Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. You may also visit www.mohlive.com

Collector’s Club

Thurs., Feb. 11, 6 p.m.

The stamp collecting club at the Michigan City Public Library meets the second Thursday of each month. New members are invited to attend.
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**THE BEACHER**
February 4, 2010

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Chellberg Farm Task Force & the NPS

Recently Celina Weatherwax, Senator Lugar’s Northwest Indiana Regional Director, facilitated a meeting between the Chellberg Farm Task Force and the National Park Service.

The meeting was called to explore a constructive dialogue on the future of Chellberg Farm as a “living history” farm. Numerous Governmental bodies and community organizations have sent letters of support and passed resolutions urging the return of farm animals to Chellberg. Over the course of the summer and fall, the Chellberg Farm Task Force collected some 6,000 signatures on petitions that advocated for the return of livestock to the farm.

Due to a declining number of employees, the National Park Service (NPS) has reduced programs and operations over the past ten years. Upon the retirement of the park’s farmer in 2008, NPS made the decision not to replace the farmer but to retain all operations and programs at the Chellberg Farm except for the presence of farm livestock. This decision allowed the fall harvest festival, Maple Sugar Time program, school programs, annual Swedish Christmas programs, the historic garden, and the field crop programs to remain. The lack of a full-time, trained staff to maintain livestock would have jeopardized the health and welfare of animals as well as the visiting public.

In order to respond to the fiscal realities facing the national park and to assess the wide range of interpretation opportunities, the NPS had announced last fall that it would begin a new Long-Range Interpretive Plan for the national lakeshore. An important part of this process includes public participation and the NPS is encouraging the public to voice their interests in the future of the park by participating in the upcoming planning meetings, expected to begin in March 2010. The park will keep the public advised of the process on its web site at www.nps.gov/indu.

The Chellberg Farm Task Force intends to participate in the entire planning process. The Task Force also voiced its position that the story of farming at Chellberg Farm is best told through a living history farm with live animals. The Park has no plans to return the animals in 2010. The decision to return the animals will only be made if a new Interpretive Plan, to be completed in 2011, recommends this action and the Superintendent agrees with the recommendation and believes he has the financial means to do so without harming other aspects of the Park.

Those Attending the Meeting

Representing the Task Force were: Sandra O’Brien, Sierra Club Hoosier Chapter; Tim Cole, Indiana Division of the Izaak Walton League; Falon French, Hoosier Environmental Council; Tom Anderson, Save the Dunes and Jeanette Neagu, Coordinator of the Chellberg Farm Task Force.

Representing the National Park Service were Superintendent Costa Dillon and members of his staff.

Remember When Animals Ruled the Roost at Chellberg?
Listen Up, Ladies!

Women of all ages are invited to participate in this free event.

Women & Heart Disease

Heart disease is the #1 killer of women in the United States. Women often overlook the signs, dismissing symptoms as common ailments such as heartburn or anxiety.

Saturday, February 20, 2010
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Doors open at 9 a.m. • Educational presentation at 10 a.m.

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**Books & Coffee Series at VU**

The annual Valparaiso University Books & Coffee series featuring notable new fiction and non-fiction has now reached the half-way mark. There are only three more sessions this year.

The series is sponsored by Valparaiso University’s Department of English and is offered on Thursdays at 4 p.m. Discussions are held in the Christopher Center for Library and Information Resources.

The sessions include a review of the book by a Valpo faculty or staff member followed by audience discussion, and is free and open to the public. Here are the final three programs:

- **February 11** – *The Wheeling Motel* by Franz Wright, reviewed by Dr. Susanna Childress, lecturer in humanities and English in Christ College;
- **February 18** – *Crude World: The Violent Twilight of Oil*, by Peter Maass, reviewed by Bharath Ganesh-Babu, instructor in geography and meteorology;
- **February 25** – *Olive Kitteridge* by Elizabeth Strout, reviewed by Dr. Edward Uehling, professor of English.

(219) 464-5268 or visit www.valpo.edu/english/

**Junior Achievement of LaPorte Co.**

The 2010 Junior Achievement Bowl-a-Thon will be held Sat., Feb. 20th at City Lanes, S. Woodland Ave., Michigan City. Event highlights include the traditional silent auction, first strike prizes, and fun, fun, fun! Some exciting changes for this year include t-shirts for each bowler and a live radio broadcast by WEFM. This annual event is the organization’s largest fundraiser, and provides the resources needed to reach over 4,000 students in La Porte County classrooms. Several opportunities are still available such as team and event sponsorships, and auction item donations.

For more information contact Rudy Kohn, JA Director at 874-7147 or jalaportecounty@comcast.net or Katie Eaton, JA Coordinator at 210-3672 or katie.eaton@ja.org

**Rotary Club of La Porte Chili Fundraiser**

Sat., February 6, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

- Held at LP County Fairgrounds, in the Community Center, LaPorte.
- Adults $6/meal; children 3-12 yrs. $4/meal; children under 3 yrs. free. Buy your tickets from any Rotary member or at the door.
- Family-sized carry-out will be available for purchase. Tickets purchased prior to the day of the event need to be presented by 1 p.m. on February 6, for guarantee of being served.
- This is Super Bowl Sunday--take some chili home for the Big Game!

All proceeds raised from this event will be used for the benefit of the LaPorte community.
## Sawyer Home & Garden Center

**Open 7 Days 9 AM-7 PM**

**Gourmet Foods**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity/Unit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FRONTERA SALSA</td>
<td>$3.99 ea.</td>
<td>16 oz. 8 Varieties</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RACINE DANISH KRINGLE</td>
<td>14 oz. Assorted Flavors</td>
<td>3 for $1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHOLEY COOKED TAIL-ON SHRIMP</td>
<td>1 lb. Peeled &amp; Deveined</td>
<td>4/50 1 bag</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHIQUITA BANANAS</td>
<td>39¢ lb.</td>
<td>Assorted Flavors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**In Store Specials**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Produce</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RED PEPPERS</td>
<td>99¢ ea.</td>
<td>ONLY $1.99 ea. WHILE THEY LAST!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CANTALOUPE</td>
<td>$1.99 ea.</td>
<td>1 lb. bag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CARROTS</td>
<td>99¢ ea.</td>
<td>1 lb. bag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BROCCOLI CROWNS</td>
<td>$1.49 lb.</td>
<td>Top 10 Best Foods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOMATOES</td>
<td>99¢ lb.</td>
<td>Roma Assorted Flavors 3 for $1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEMONS &amp; LIMES</td>
<td>3 for $1</td>
<td>3 for $1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YAMS</td>
<td>49¢ lb.</td>
<td>Southern Assorted Flavors 3 for $1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York Style FOCACCIA STICKS</td>
<td>5 oz. 2 for $4</td>
<td>3 Flavors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GIANT POTTERY SALE</td>
<td>50% OFF</td>
<td>All Glazed Pottery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MILLER LITE</td>
<td>$11.99 + Dep.</td>
<td>20 Pak Bottles Plus $5.00 Mail-In Rebate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUTHERN YAMS</td>
<td>49¢ lb.</td>
<td>Top 10 Best Foods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WILD HARE California CHARDONNAY</td>
<td>$7.99 750 ML</td>
<td>Everyday Low Price</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jumbo BROCCOLI CROWNS</td>
<td>$1.49 lb.</td>
<td>Top 10 Best Foods</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Remember Us This Valentine’s Day…**

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While snow is gently falling outside, I am thinking of gardens. And while gardens and gardening have been the domain of fellow Beacher writer Maggie Beyer, I hope I am not treading too deeply into her territory by mentioning garden trains. I have become fascinated by them.

So naturally I searched the Web for sites about hobbyists who indulge in these large scale model trains. My interest, I believe, was piqued many years back when I researched and wrote a story about Littleville in Chesterton. Littleville is long gone, and it did not have any garden trains. But the concept is very similar. What I like about garden train hobbyists is their fondness for videotaping—and uploading—their footage to the Web. Watching the videos is like being thrown into the pages of Gulliver’s Travels. Well, almost.

Here are some of the places I visited that are all about model trains, and mostly garden trains.

**Hamburg’s Miniature Wonderland** ([www.miniatur-wunderland.com](http://www.miniatur-wunderland.com/)). My friend Shar, who is a prolific emailer, sent me a link to a YouTube video about Hamburg’s incredible model railroad exhibit. Here is part of that email, in quotes:

“This is simply unbelievable. The Miniature Wonderland model railroad in Hamburg, Germany is the largest in the world, covering 16,146 square feet of space with more than 10,000 train cars running around its 6.8 miles of HO scale track.

Now, the makers of this huge layout have created a video that gives you a jaw-dropping look at the vast scope of this intricate work of art. Its construction started in 2000, and is still underway, with a tiny airport due for completion by the end of this year.

This is just the beginning - there are plans to double to layout by 2014.”

After reading that, who would not take a look at the video? I have posted the video portion on my blog, which you can find athttp://cyberscribbles.wordpress.com.

**Andrew’s Garden Railway** ([http://homepage.ntrworld.com/andrewburchell/](http://homepage.ntrworld.com/andrewburchell/)). Hamburg’s exhibit may be a hard act to follow, but if you are at all interested in garden trains, particularly installing one in your own garden, this is a good start. His railway is a 16mm narrow gauge train and his pictures are good. Take that from someone who sifted through a lotta sites to find some decent ones.

**Orchard Light Railway** ([www.tonyw.org.uk](http://www.tonyw.org.uk)). Think you can’t make a run if there is snow in the garden? Tony shows you how it’s done with his locomotive plow.

**Railway World** ([www.railwayworld.tv](http://www.railwayworld.tv)). Train buffs can enjoy movies of steam trains, list or view upcoming events, and much more.

**Garden Trains on Film** ([http://gardentrainsonfilm.webs.com](http://gardentrainsonfilm.webs.com)). Model train hobbyists display their amateur ideographic skills, and most with flying colors, I might add. One video is titled, “Enjoying the Thyme.” When you are at this site, be sure to view the video, “Morning Passenger Run on the Tuscarora Railroad.” It will put you in an entirely different world. There are lots of very good videos here, so be prepared to spend a good half hour or more viewing them.

**Box Factory New Schedule of Classes**

The Box Factory for the Arts has been known locally as offering a venue for artists of many genres. Now the Box Factory announces the release of the first in its tri-annual Schedule of Classes Wednesday January 27. Students will enjoy the wide variety of classes to be offered this Winter and Spring.

The first class to be offered is taught by collage artist Ali Hansen. She is teaching a one-day workshop entitled “Be My Valentine!” Sat., Jan. 30 from 10 a.m.-noon MI time. Ages 12 and over will be able to “Collage” their own valentine. They will make three or four valentines from paper, fabric, photos and trim. Students should feel free to bring items to use in their designs. Teacher will provide basic materials and a “goody box” of trim to choose from. Price is $20 for Berrien Artist Guild Members and $25 for non-members. Students may join the B.A.G. upon registration at the Box Factory.

Other classes being offered in the Winter/Spring Schedule include art classes for students interested in learning Quilting, Polymer Clay techniques, Beginning Drawing, Glass Tile Jewelry and Creating a Gourd Drum.

In addition, the Box Factory will also offer new language classes including Conversational Italian and Beginning Sign Language. The Box Factory Theatre Company will offer classes including an audition workshop and improvisation for students. A new music component has been added including music composition and a class mentoring high school students interested in starting their own band.

The Writer’s Studio has a Visiting Writers Series, which includes workshops designed for those interested in getting their writing published. Writer’s Studio Director Denise Tackett will also be offering a class for capturing your memories into memoirs.

The Box Factory for the Arts also offers Open Studio classes for drawing or painting artists who can’t commit to a weekly class but would just like to drop in for a class. Seniors will be offered an additional discount of $25 per selected classes.

More information about specific classes, schedules and fees are available at the Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Michigan, by phoning 269-983-3688 or online at www.boxfactoryforthearts.org
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**Bronze Work Commemorates Ironworkers**

Richard Kiebdaj, a local Chicago and Michigan City sculptor, has created a lifesize bronze sculpture for the Ironworkers #395 positioned outside their new union hall in Portage, Indiana. The Ross Group, Inc. of Portage Indiana were the designers and developers of the new union hall and commissioned the memorial to grace the outside of the building. The memorial sculpture, titled “Reaching to Build America”, honors all fallen ironworkers who died building America’s bridges and skyscrapers. The sculpture pictures a lifesize ironworker balanced precariously on a high steel beam hammering a bull pin into a steel beam.

When commissioned to do the work, Kiebdaj was immediately inspired by the human scale of the sculpture. This was before he knew that it was a memorial to fallen ironworkers. Ironically as a young man he had apprenticed with the ironworkers and learned welding, an artful skill he uses in his own artistic work. Richard Kiebdaj has been producing sculpture professionally since 1970. Kiebdaj’s high profile clients include film critic, Roger Ebert, Dean Buntrock (former CEO of Waste Management), Willie Gault (former wide receiver for the Chicago Bears) and Hugh Hefner. The project for the Playboy Mansion in California lasted three years and consisted of thousands of feet of wood carvings. He has exhibited outdoor works in the City of Chicago’s Lakefront Sculpture Program and for the last four years in Purdue University’s Odyssey sculpture program in Westville, Indiana.

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- 12 oz. New York Strip Steak
  Baked Potato, Vegetable, Soup of the Day or Salad, Roll & Butter

- Grilled Grouper in Mango Salsa
  Baked Potato, Vegetable, Soup of the Day or Salad, Roll & Butter

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  Portabella Stuffed Ravioli, Vegetable, Soup of the Day, Salad, Roll & Butter

- One Pound of Crab Legs
  Baked Potato, Vegetable, Soup of the Day or Salad, Roll & Butter

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Dr. Wynter is Board Certified in cardiovascular disease and internal medicine by the American Board of Internal Medicine. Further, he is certified in echocardiography and nuclear cardiology. He received his medical degree from Temple University School of Medicine, Pennsylvania and completed his internal medicine internship and residency at St. Luke’s-Roosevelt Hospital Center. Dr. Wynter completed his fellowships in cardiology at Henry Ford Hospital, Michigan and cardiac imaging at Massachusetts General Hospital Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts.

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Dr. McPherron, a native of Plymouth, is an orthopaedic surgeon. He specializes in both primary (first time) and revision (repeat) joint replacement surgery of the hip, knee and shoulder. Dr. McPherron is an international lecturer and has designed numerous joint replacement instruments and implants used worldwide. Further, he has worked with NHL and NCAA athletes and is the team physician for Plymouth High School.

Dr. McPherron is Board Certified in orthopedic surgery by the American Osteopathic Board of Orthopedic Surgery. He received his medical degree from Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine. Dr. McPherron completed a fellowship in adult reconstruction/total joint replacement at Florida Orthopedic Institute/Tampa General Hospital and an orthopaedic surgery residency at St. Vincent Medical Center, Ohio.
**Project Angel Hugs at Notre Dame School**  
*submitted by teacher Lynn Delehanty*

Pink, red, and white paper combined with sincere sentiments to form the basis for a heartwarming project at Notre Dame. Art teacher Mrs. Michele Ohms is spearheading Project Angel Hugs. Students have cut and pasted expressions of care in personalized Valentine cards to be sent to children with childhood cancer.

The contents could be as simple as “Happy Valentine’s Day” or as dear as “Little child that is blessed. I hope you feel better” from Carey Rose Tharp.

Second graders Maeve Wilson and Carey Rose Tharp apply the finishing touches to their Valentine card and angel for Project Angel Hugs.

First grader Kathryn DePalma expressed, “To that special child, Happy Valentine’s Day. I wish you a happy year and that all your wishes come true.”

Then there was second grader Kenzie Wangstrom, who conveyed her thoughts in a poem:

*You’re special in every way.  
That is what I would say  
You’re made of gold  
You’re not old  
I hope you’re happy today.*

Second grader Carey Rose Tharp applies the finishing touches to her Valentine card and angel for Project Angel Hugs.

**Greek Film to be Shown at Box Factory**

The Friday Film series at the Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, MI, kicks off its 2010 season with the documentary film, “Ellines Kai Amerikanoi” (Greeks and Americans) Fri., Feb. 5th at 7:30 p.m. MI time.

The documentary features an historical account of Greek immigration to America, sharing various family testimonies and the trials and tribulations Greek immigrants survived to arrive, live, and work in America. In the film, John Kallas says, “We are not really considered Greek or Americans”, and goes on to explain how that perspective affected those people. The film was written and directed by, Tassos Rigopoulos.

The film will be followed by a film discussion by Dr. Elaine Thomopoulos. A $5 donation will be requested for this film. Light Greek themed foods will be on hand to sample. More at 269-983-3688 or check online at www.boxfactoryforthearts.org

**Lego Stop Motion Program**

Young adults are invited to the Lego Stop Motion Program at Westchester Public Library. The program will take place in the Bertha Wood meeting room at Thomas Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton, on 3 different days:

The first session will take place Mon., Feb. 8 from 4-5 p.m. Join Gabe Underwood as he instructs attendees in the pre-production stage of creating a stop motion film.

The production session will take place on Thurs., Feb. 11 from 4-5:30 p.m. Attendees will view their productions on Mon., Feb. 22 from 4-4:30 p.m.

Stop motion (or frame-by-frame) is an animation technique to make a physically manipulated object appear to move on its own. The object is moved in small amounts between individually photographed frames, creating the illusion of movement when the series of frames are played as a continuous sequence.

For more information, phone the Reference department at 219/926-7696.

**Knitting Together**

Area knitters are invited to gather in the Brown Mansion parlor for a cozy afternoon of knitting, conversation and refreshments on Sun., Feb. 7 from 1-5 p.m. The event continues the series entitled *Knitting Together*. The program is free of charge and open to the public. Those who crochet or do the needlework are also welcome to attend.

The Westchester Township History Museum is housed in the Brown Mansion at 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton. The museum is open to the public Wednesday-Sunday from 1-5 p.m. Groups may make reservations for tours by calling the museum at 219/983-9715.
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“Souper Bowl of Caring 2010”

Students from Elston Middle School -- along with 11 other area schools and several community organizations -- have created more than 400 bowls that will be sold at the Lubeznik Center during the “Souper Bowl of Caring 2010” on Thurs., Feb. 4 from 4:00 - 6:30 p.m.

At the event, patrons can enjoy an unlimited soup dinner provided by Great Lakes Catering when they purchase a one-of-a-kind bowl created by students of the Lubeznik Center’s art instruction at the Safe Harbor After-School program, the Boys and Girls Club, Michigan City Area Schools, and various community groups. Proceeds will benefit the affiliated food pantries of the Food Bank of Northern Indiana. Tickets are $15, available at the Lubeznik Center or by phoning (800) 879-7040.
“Who cares if it hurts” Mother Daughter Boot Camp is now having a co-ed class on Saturday mornings from 8-9 a.m. Classes held on Mon. Wed. and Fri at 8:30 a.m. are for women only. Phone Amy to RSVP at 219-210-9635. Baby sitting is available for weekday classes only.

New to Yoga? Curious but not sure if it is for you? Try your first class free, yoga mats and props are provided! Class times are Beginner Flow Wed. & Fri., 10-11:15 a.m., and Gentle Intermediate Flow Tuesdays 6:15-7:30 p.m. Lauralee Sikorski CYT, IYT has been teaching classes and doing private instruction since her Yoga Alliance Certification in 2004. Private Class Instruction and Yoga Deep sessions by appt. Yoga Deep is a completely passive, guided yoga experience of deep yoga stretches and conscious breathing that results in a profound relaxation. To RSVP and get your first class free, phone 219-861-7394 or email lauraleesikorski@yahoo.com

Chakra Bliss, Massage therapy is located in room #3 in the Long Beach Community Center. Julie Sosa, licensed massage therapist has office hours by appointment. She has training in Swedish, deep tissue, myofascial, sports massage, trigger point, and neuromuscular modalities. Julie is licensed in IN and IL. A 60-min. full body relaxation massage is $60. A 90-min. massage is $90. 219.561.3522 for appointment or gift certificates.

Donna Knoll, certified group instructor, is offering Aerobic Cardio Classes on Mon, Wed., & Fri. from 8-9 a.m. It’s a dynamic class suitable for all levels. New participants get 1st class free; regular fee is $5. Phone 219-879-1395 for information.

We welcome Ron Papke, owner of Quality Carpet Care, as a resident to the Community Center. His business uses the steam cleaning method with eco-friendly, non toxic, products, is fully insured, and has been serving the community for 8 years. Ron is offering a great winter special with 2 rooms cleaned for $45; additional rooms $20 ea. Phone Ron at 219-608-3145 for an appointment.

Lake Shore Group closed AA meeting is held on Monday. There is an open meeting every 4th Monday. Our Side of the Beach Al-Anon Family Group meets every Wednesday. Both groups meet at 7 p.m. in room #10 and use the Fitness Center entrance.

The Long Beach Community Center has space for rent. For a tour of the facility or for more information phone Anne Heywood at the Long Beach Town Hall at 219-874-6616.

--submitted by Susan Vissing & Anne Heywood
Michigan City Entrepreneur Center

- **Learn How to Say “NO”**
  - Tues., Feb. 9th from 8:00 a.m.-9:15 a.m.
  - Cost $35 ($25 for Chamber Members)
  - People tend to avoid conflict because they fear harming their relationship with others. Avoidance isn’t the answer. Understand how to ground your objection and reach out to the person to develop a more honest relationship.
  - Taught by Nora Akins of Strategic Management
  - Nora will be here the 2nd Tuesday of each month to cover a different supervision topic.

- **QuickBooks “a la carte”**
  - Thurs., Feb. 18th from 9:00 a.m.-noon
  - Cost $59 ($49 for Chamber Members)
  - A variety of specialized QuickBooks Topics, designed to meet your specific needs. Whether you are a contractor, retailer, manufacturer, property manager, a non-profit business or even an accountant—there is a session for you.
  - A different topic will be featured on the 3rd Thursday of each month. Taught by Anna Sheets of Accounting Made Simple. For more, visit Quickbooksalacarte.com or contact the ECMC at 219/809-4200, ext. 300 or log onto www.ec-mc.org. MCEC is located at 422 Franklin St., Michigan City.

LaP. Co. Indiana Genealogical Society

For Christmas 1848, William and Ellen Craft gave each other a very special present: their freedom. The Crafts were black slaves who were “owned” by different masters in Macon, Georgia. William and Ellen were illiterate, but they knew they could be free if they could only manage to get a thousand miles north, away from the Southern slaveholding states.

How did they do it? Find out Tuesday evening, February 9, when La Porte County Genealogical Society member Paul Graham presents a program in honor of Black History Month, derived from William Craft’s book Running a Thousand Miles for Freedom.

The society meets at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month at the Swanson Center for Older Adults, 910 State St., La Porte. The public is welcome at all meetings. For a list of upcoming programs and more information about the society’s activities, visit www.rootsweb.ancestry.com

Middle of the Month Craft at Library

- Wed., Feb. 10, 4 p.m.
  - Children can enjoy making a Valentine craft at this session at the Michigan City Public Library. All materials provided. Designed for ages 6 years and up; under 6 must be accompanied by an adult. More information at 873-3045.
“There appears to be no global warming here in Michiana, Michigan at our log house. The landmark lifeguard chair located on Michiana Drive and El Portal has appeared in The Beacher a few times. The chair is usually decorated for the season, now ‘winter welcome’. The area has been hit with a lot of lake effect snow this season but don’t worry, a neighbor has informed us that a warm up is coming -- it’s called Spring.”

---submitted by Mark Weyermuller

**MC Public Library Learning Center**

The Michigan City Public Library Literacy Program is excited to announce that there has been a complete update of educational materials that are available to the public for check out. The Learning Center shelves are now full of new reading, writing, math, and GED prep materials.

The materials are being well received by the community. Circulation numbers have increased for the Learning Center. The materials are available for anyone who has a library card. Students, parents, tutors, and the general public has access to the full range of educational materials. Tutors in the program appreciate the fresh, comprehensive, updated materials available for their instructional use.

Program supervisor, Cyndie McKinney reports that she gets daily comments from the public about the quality reading and math materials.

Contributions were made by the M. C. Community Enrichment Corporation, M. C. Urban Enterprise Association, and the M. C. Wal-Mart to the public access of educational materials for our community.

**Great Decisions Discussion Group**

Mondays, Feb. 8 & 22, 6:30 p.m.

This foreign policy discussion program returns for a 12th season at the Michigan City Public Library. The discussions for the month are “Special Envoys” and “Kenya/East Africa.” More info at 873-3049.

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**Historical Society to Host Gun Display**

The Bridgman/Lake Township Historical Society will host a presentation by Lt. Michael Kline of the Berrien County Sheriff’s Department on Sun., Feb. 7. Fred “Killer” Burke was a hit man for Al Capone during the 1920s and was known to have participated in the infamous St. Valentine’s Day Massacre in Chicago in 1929.

Later, in December of that year, after being involved in a minor traffic accident in St. Joseph, Michigan, he shot and killed city policeman Charles Skelly. Burke escaped and a nation-wide bulletin went out seeking his capture and arrest. A search of Burke’s hideout in Stevensville revealed a huge arsenal, including the machine guns used in the St. Valentine’s Day Massacre.

He was ultimately arrested in March 1931, brought back to Berrien County and convicted of Skelly’s murder. He died in prison of heart disease in 1940 at age 47. Burke’s machine guns remain in the custody of the Berrien County Sheriff’s Department and they will be on display at this presentation along with photographs and other artifacts surrounding Burke’s crime, his escape, his capture, his trial and his ultimate conviction.

The presentation will begin at 2:00 p.m. MI time at the Lake Township Hall, 3220 Shawnee Road, Bridgman, MI. Admission is free.

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Travels with Charley:

A Moving Experience with the Mother Who Went to Russia

by Charles McKelvy

In October 2007, when she was all of 86, my mother, the one and only Hannah Macfarlane McKelvy, went to Russia for a little cruise up the Volga from Moscow to Saint Petersburg. You may recall reading about her travels here in The Beacher back in late 2007.

Well, Mom, or Momska as they say in Russia, had an even bolder trip in store for her at the outset of this brave new decade. And, through the miracle of modern technology, we are able to bring you the following eyewitness account of Mom’s moving experience:

(January 4, 2010) ...She was leaving home after all these years—well—since she moved into a home of her own in 1996, and she needed company.

She being my 88-year-old widowed mother, Hannah, and the needed company being: yours truly and his Lovely wife Natalie, stalwart brother-in-law Stu Wright, and go-to-nephew and University of Illinois sophomore Jim Wright.

Stu, who is married to my dear sister Mary “Missy” Wright, took time off from work to help move Mom from her bungalow on the hill in the Beverly Hills neighborhood of Chicago to a second-floor assisted living apartment in Smith Village in neighboring Morgan Park. Natalie and I are always on a “relaxed work” schedule, so we were available, and Jim was still on Christmas break, so we had a crew—tested and true—for Mom’s moving experience.

The impetus for the move was a long time in coming, and all of us were “gently guiding” her on her way. All being: her three children, all three spouses of her three children, and, most especially, all six of her grandchildren and her granddaughter-in-law.

Mom wanted to be the last one standing—the last one of her peers to be in her own house.

And she probably was.

But the time had finally come when she needed more assistance than the family could provide.

My brother and his wife live in Florida, and Natalie and I obviously live here in lovely Berrien County, Michigan, so none of us were available for the occasional middle-of-the-night emergencies with Mom. Those fell to Missy and Stu, who live right next door to her bungalow on the hill.

And the last episode, which saw Stu and Jim out flagging down an ambulance at 2 in the morning, was the dealmaker.
The deal being to move Mom to Smith Village just as soon as she completed her treatment in the hospital and rehab. And the latter was received, by no mere coincidence, at the skilled care unit of Smith Village.

Mom resisted all right.

She called my brother and me the “Mafia” when we had our little meeting with the folks at Smith to discuss her future, and she told complete strangers that we were all “incarcerating her.”

But Mom was ready and waiting that snowing and blowing day in early January of 2010 when the local moving company appeared with their capable truck and dollies and packing crates.

She had her hair done that day, and her biggest concern before we moved her was: “When do we eat?”

So Stu and I, after helping the movers get everything just so at her new digs, got some carry-out from a great local Italian eatery, and we had a festive “last lunch” on folding chairs and what our family has always called “TV tables.”

The ketchup was passed, and we laughed and ate everything in sight, and soon I was whisking Mom off in our little snow-covered Michigan car to her new quarters in the neighboring neighborhood of Morgan Park.

Hannah McKelvy arrived without fanfare but was soon busily telling the staff just how things were to be, and so a new decade and chapter in our collective life opened with perfect pitch.

And, if you are facing such a moving experience in your family, may I respectfully recommend a most helpful book, When Love Gets Tough, The Nursing Home Decision by Doug Manning. It is published by In-Sight Books, Inc., with whom I have absolutely no affiliation, and you can order it on-line at: orders&info@insightbooks.com or by calling toll-free 800-658-9262.
LCSO Children’s Choir Seeks Members

Do you love the fair? Do you love excitement? Do you love music? Do you love to sing?

If you answered yes to any of the questions above, and you are in 2nd through 5th grade, the LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra would like to invite you (and your friends) to join the LCSO Children’s Choir with Matt Nelson as they prepare to perform with the La Porte County Symphony Orchestra on April 17 at the La Porte Civic Auditorium.

The music for this concert is fun and exciting, upbeat and exhilarating... just like the fair!

Rehearsals will be held at Agape Christian Church, 1601 “I” Street in La Porte, beginning on February 9, at 6 p.m.

The registration fee is just $10.00 for new members! Where else could you have this much fun for so little! You can pre-register at www.LCSO.net or register at the first rehearsal.

If you have any questions, contact: LCSO office 219-362-9020 or e-mail: Info@LCSO.net

Valentine Sweetheart Dance

Sat., Feb. 6, 7:30-11 p.m.

The ValPorte-City Parents Without Partners Chapter 193 will host a Valentine Sweetheart Dance at the Skwiat American Legion Post, 121 Skwiat Legion Ave., Michigan City.

Orientation for new members from 7-7:30 p.m., and Line Dance lessons at 7 p.m. First dance is free to new members, otherwise $7 admission. Because this is a “Ladies Nite,” ladies are admitted for $6. Music by D.J. and Da Bear. For more information, phone 219/326-8096. This is a non-profit single parent support group.

High School Art Show at SSAA

The 4th annual LaPorte County High School Art Show and Competition will be held Feb. 6-21. It is sponsored by the Southern Shore Art Association (SSAA) located at 724 Franklin St., Michigan City.

An opening reception and awards presentation will be held at the SSAA gallery from 1-4 p.m. on Sun., Feb. 7.

The gallery is open from 1-4 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday. More information at 879-9025.

Villager Wine & Cheese Reception

The Villager will host a Wine and Cheese Reception on Sat., Feb. 6, 4-7 p.m. MI time. A portion of the sales during the reception will benefit the 2 Big Hearts Foundation which offers free heart screening for women and information regarding causes and prevention of heart disease.

The Villager is located at 100 N Whittaker St., New Buffalo. More information at 269/469-6151.
THE Un-Valentine Show" at Blink

Blink Contemporary Art will open a new exhibition, "The Un-Valentine Show," on Sat., Feb. 13, 4-7 p.m. The public is invited to view the art, refreshments and drinks, and special performance by Donna Blue Lachman. Blink Contemporary Art, 1709 Franklin St., Michigan City.

Page Turners Discussion Group

The Page Turners book discussion group will meet from noon-1:00 p.m., on Tues., Feb. 9 to talk about Plain Truth by Jodi Picoult. The book is a novel about an Amish teen who is accused of having a baby and killing it. It is available for check-out in print in English or Polish and on Playaway. The movie version is available for check-out on DVD.

Everyone is welcome. There is no charge. Refreshments appropriate to the book will be served. People may bring a lunch if they wish. Phone 219/362-6156 for more information or to request signing for the hearing impaired 48 hours in advance.

Lyric Opera of Chicago Program

Sun., Feb. 7, 2 p.m.

Join Charles DeWitt, volunteer from the Lyric Opera of Chicago, at the Michigan City Public Library, as he gives a view of Mozart’s comic opera, “The Marriage of Figaro,” which begins its run in Chicago on Feb. 28.

Set in the late 18th century, the opera was originally banned in Vienna because of its caustic satire of the aristocracy. But later it became one of Mozart’s most successful works. The program is free and open to the public.

Preschool Fun at MC Public Library

Toddler Time - Wed., Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24, 9:30 a.m.

Children ages 24-36 months with an adult will have fun learning through literature, music, interactive activities, finger plays and a craft.

Registration is required and limited to 15 children. Phone 873-3045.

Preschool Story Time -
Wed., Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24, 10:30 a.m.

Interactive activities, literature, finger plays, songs, and crafts for children ages 3-5 years with an adult. More information at 873-3045.

Magical Story Corner

Magical Story Corner will be held at 5:30 p.m., on all February Thursdays at the Coolspring Branch Library. Everyone from 3-5 years with an adult is invited to come and travel to a different story place with Mr. Wizard each week. There is no fee or registration. For more information, phone 879-3272. Phone 219/362-6156 48 hours in advance to request signing for the hearing impaired.

“The Un-Valentine Show” at Blink

Blink Contemporary Art will open a new exhibition, “The Un-Valentine Show,” on Sat., Feb. 13, 4-7 p.m. The public is invited to view the art, refreshments and drinks, and special performance by Donna Blue Lachman. Blink Contemporary Art, 1709 Franklin St., Michigan City.
Activities to Explore

In the Local Area:

February 3-6 -- INTERNATIONAL SNOW SCULPTING WEEK

Ongoing -- Puppet Parlor Theatre present “The Snow Queen” at Marquette Mall, MC. Performances Wed/11 am & 4:30 pm; Fri/4:30 pm; Sat/11 am, 2 pm & 4:30 pm; Sun/2 pm. Adm. $5. Info: Ralph Kipniss, director, 219/210-3428.

February 4 -- Chess Club at the MC Public Library. 3:30 pm with instructor Roy Quiriconi. For all ages and all skill levels. Free. 873-3045.

February 4 -- Souper Bowl of Caring 2010 -- buy a bowl made by students, fill with soup provided by Great Lakes Catering. 4-6:30 pm at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. 2nd St., MC. $15 at the door. Proceeds go to food pantries in area.

February 5 -- WEAR RED DAY

February 5 -- Opening reception for “Seeing the Light” at the Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. 2nd. St., MC. 5-8 pm. Over 30 works by members of Area Artists Association. Adm. free. In conjunction with the First Friday @ 5 celebration. 874-4900.

February 5 -- “Night at the Museum” event at LaP. Co. Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., LaPorte. 5-9 pm. For kids in grades 4-8 (under 12 yrs. must be accompanied by an adult). Behind-the-scenes tour, model railroad demo, slideshow & more. Preregister by Feb. 4; download form at www.laportecountyhistory.org or email info@laportecountyhistory.org. Adm. chg. $5. More: 219/324-6767.

February 5 -- Singer/songwriter James Lee Stanley with his sister, Pamala Stanley in concert at The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks, MI. 8 pm MI time. Tix $15; reserve at 269/756-3879 or www.acorntheater.com


February 5-7, 12-14, 19-21 -- “Closer Than Ever.” Footlight Players musical revue at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St., MC. Fri/Sat 8 pm; Sun 2 pm. Tix $12; reserve at 219/464-1636 or www.chicagostreet.org

February 5-7, 12-14, 19-21 -- “Andrews Brothers” - the Boogie-Woogie Bugle Boy musical at Memorial Opera House, 104 Indiana Ave., Valparaiso, IN. Fri/Sat 8 pm; Sun 2 pm. Tix $20/adults, $17/seniors & students; reserve at 219/548-9137 or www.mohlive.com

February 6 -- Rotary Club of LaPorte Chili Fundraiser. 11 am-4 pm at LaP. Co. fairgrounds. Adults/$6, kids 3-12 yrs/$4; under 3 yrs./free. Family-sized carry-out available. Buy tix from Rotary members or at the door.
February 6 -- MC Branch of American Association of University Women meeting. 10 am at Station 801, 8th & Franklin streets, MC. Virginia Bushong will present “Lincoln--The Final Years.” Anyone with associate’s or bachelor’s degree eligible to join: phone Melinda Nagle, 872-1217 for more info.

February 6 -- Wine and Cheese Reception at the Villager, 100 N. Whittaker, New Buffalo. To benefit 2 Big Hearts Foundation. 4-7 pm MI time.


February 6 -- Pamala Stanley (jazz, blues & pops singer) and her brother, singer/songwriter James Lee Stanley in concert at The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks, MI. 8 pm MI time. Tix $15; reserve at 269/756-3879 or www.acorntheater.com

February 7 -- Lyric Opera of Chicago volunteer Charles DeWitt will speak on Mozart’s comic opera, “The Marriage of Figaro.” 2 pm at the MC Public Library. Free and open to the public.

February 7 -- Gun Display and Talk on hit man for Al Capone. 2 pm MI time at Lake Twp. Hall, 3220 Shawnee Rd., Bridgman, MI. Presented by the Bridgman/Lake Twp. Historical Society. Free.

February 9 -- READ IN THE BATHTUB DAY

February 11 -- Books & Coffee Series at Valparaiso University. 4 pm in the Christopher Center for Library and Information Resources on campus. The Wheeling Motel by Franz Wright will be reviewed by Dr. Suzanna Childress, lecturer in humanities and English in Christ College. Free and open to the public.

February 12 -- PNC Career Fair for Students & Alumni. 10 am-2 pm in the Library-Student-Faculty Bldg, Rm 144 on campus. Free. Dress for an interview and bring resumes. Preregister at www.pnc.edu/careers

February 13 -- 60th Valentine Tea hosted by United Methodist Women of First United Methodist Church, 7th & Pine, MC. 1 pm. Special program and music and refreshments. Free to area women.

Farther Afield:

February 5 -- Friday Film Series: Greek Film (“Ellines Kai Amerikanoi”) at the Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, MI. 7:30 pm MI time. Documentary on Greek immigration to America. $5 donation requested. Greek themed foods will be on hand to sample. More at 269/983-3688.

Through March 19 -- Harley-Davidson: Building a Legend. Exhibit at the Studebaker National Museum, 201 S. Chapin St., South Bend, IN. View 100 years of Harley-Davidson motorcycles and history of the company. Mon-Sat 10 am-5 pm; Sun noon-5 pm. Adm. $8/adults, $6.40/seniors (60+), $5/6-18 yrs. Info: 574/235-9714.
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**Wild Child and Other Stories** by T.C. Boyle

I’ve never been one for short stories. Give me those giant novels by Dostoyevsky or Ken Follett or others. 500 to 1000 pages—that’s always been my style! But now with less free time and a desire to finish reading something at one sitting, I find that short stories really are great. If all you have is a short time before bed, or waiting in line (the way we Americans spend a great deal of our lives), then the short story is a satisfying way to not only start, but resolve all issues and reach a conclusion before the doctor is ready to see you or the plane is ready for take-off!

This week’s book recommendation really blew my socks off. T.C. Boyle is an amazing writer. Let me explain...

Boyle puts an intimate touch to the human experience. His stories reveal the inner feelings and turmoil of his characters that make you fall into the story, eating up every word like a tasty bowl of popcorn.

There are fourteen stories in this collection, each one mainly about twenty pages, nice and manageable, except for the title story, “Wild Child” which comes in at a reasonable sixty-four pages.

Every story is unique. All take place in the present except for the title story which takes us back to late 18th century France. There is no room for boredom here. All of these stories are based on action and reaction; how our decisions lead to consequences that can affect our lives forever. In other words, Boyle gives us a look at what being human really means...

Right off the bat in story one (“Balto”) a young girl must decide what is the truth—the truth as her father’s attorney sees it, or the truth as she knows it; whatever she decides, her life will never be the same.

In “La Conchita” a courier rushing to deliver a liver to a hospital operating room, is stopped by a mudslide. He can’t go forward, and the way back is blocked by traffic, and there’s so many people needing help...what should he do?

“Question 62” parallels the lives of two elderly sisters, one in California and one in Wisconsin. One is gardening and finds something in the yard more unusual, and dangerous, than the snails in the flower bed while her sister is confronted with a decision that could fulfill her life or leave her alone.

“The Lie” absolutely astounded me! How one man could start out just wanting a few days off from a nowhere job to telling his boss...well, you’ll just have to read this one. It really fits the “oh what a web we weave when first we practice to deceive...”

The mother of a South American baseball player is kidnapped in “The Unlucky Mother of Aquiles Maldonado” but just who is the victim here? An interesting end to an unusual story.

Grief does strange things to people, but not stranger than the story “Thirteen Hundred Rats.” This one is sad and weird...I hate rats!

Now I come to the pièce de résistance: “Wild Child.” This story is the only one in the collection that is based on a true story. In the late 18th century in France, a young boy was seen running naked in the countryside. At first remaining elusive, the boy is finally captured but escapes. Several years later, he is seen again and this time caught. He is emaciated, filthy and smelly, and unable to communicate.

Dubbed The Savage, the boy gathers crowds wherever they take him. He is seen by several learned men and finally ends up in Paris under the direction of the Minister of the Interior. After being handed over to several scientists, the boy is assigned to the Institute of Deaf-Mutes.

What follows is the attempt by a new doctor, Jean-Marc Gaspard Itard, to civilize the boy he names Victor and discover how to communicate with him, since at first they had thought him a deaf-mute.

The story is based on fact and is heartbreaking. What does it mean to be a human being? How do we learn? And what does the effect of living in the wild for eleven years bring this all into perspective?

This story alone makes the book worth reading...

This book was a great find, one that I didn’t expect to find so engaging. *The New York Times* said, “This is a writer who can take you anywhere.” Bingo! I couldn’t agree more!

T.C. Boyle has written twelve novels which have garnered him a number of prestigious awards. His novel, *Drop City* was not only a *New York Times* best seller but a finalist for the National Book Award. A California resident, Boyle is a Distinguished professor of English at the University of Southern California.

Learn more about him at www.tcboyle.com

Till next time, happy reading!

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**Off the Book Shelf**

*by Sally Carpenter*

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