Happy Birthday to the Man From City!

by Rick A. Richards

For one night at least, Michigan City Elston Red Devils raised their voices and it was a return to 1958 or 1960 or 1962, or that wonderful year of 1966 when City won the IHSAA boys basketball championship.

It didn’t matter what year you graduated or whether your class won a title. On this night, Red Devil pride was on display for one man – Warren Jones.

In honor of Jones’ 90th birthday, his family and friends organized a surprise celebration at Georgetti’s (the former Michigan City Yacht Club) on Saturday night, March 5th.

From 1949 to 1982, Jones was an integral part of Michigan City Area Schools, especially the 14 years from 1963 to 1977 that he was principal of Elston High School.

He also was a geography teacher and baseball and basketball coach at Elston, an assistant principal at the high school, counselor at Elston Junior High, principal at Barker Junior High and also served as assistant superintendent and superintendent before retiring in 1982.

As Jones, escorted by his daughter Susan and her husband, Glen, walked through the door, he was greeted by “Happy Birthday” by some of the more than 60 people who braved cold, icy conditions to honor a man they said has been a mentor and inspiration to them.

A broad grin crossed Jones’ face. After a momentary pause, Jones shouted his trademark cheer, “Is anybody here from City?” The entire room broke into cheers.

Rick Jones, the retired pastor of Countryside Christian Church, spoke about his father. “His legacy is that Warren Jones is the Michigan City Red Devils. He got out on the floor and led pep rallies. Everybody in LaPorte County knew who he was. The other schools called him Mr. Red Devil.”

But beyond his legacy as an educator, Rick Jones said he’s proud of his father’s service on a U.S. Navy...
battleship in the South Pacific during World War II. He added that his dad can still wear his Navy uniform.

“He broke the mold,” said Rick Jones. “He was a great representative of the school and the city.” Of the three Jones children, Rick said he was the only one who didn’t attend Elston when he father was principal. “I graduated in the fall of 1963 and one month later, dad was named principal. I’m the only one of the kids who doesn’t have dad’s signature on their diploma.”

Golfing buddy Bob Barker of Michigan City has known Jones only since he retired, but is just as impressed with Jones as any of his students.

“He kept inviting me to play golf with him so I finally did. He kept inviting me to join Lions Club so I finally did,” said Barker. “He’s a great guy. I got to see his most recent hole in one, and he didn’t. He thought it was going to the right so he bent down to pick up his tee, and when he did, the ball rolled into the cup.”

Dan Wright was a student in Warren Jones’ geography class at Elston Junior High. (Photo by Rick A. Richards)

Men and women in their 60s and 70s wouldn’t think to call him Warren. It was always “Mr. Jones.”

Paul Hadaway has been a golfing pal of Jones for the past eight years. The two men met through Lions Club.

“The guy is a magician with a club from 150 yards,” said Hadaway. “He is the most congenial person I think I have ever known.”

State Sen. Jim Arnold, a 1962 graduate of Elston when Jones was assistant principal, presented Jones with a Senate Resolution “to honor Warren Elihu Jones for his service in the school system and community of Michigan City.”

The resolution outlined Jones’ educational career, his military service during World War II, and his service as a Sunday school teacher and elder at Countryside Christian Church. The resolution concludes by praising Jones for his “spirit, optimism and his humanity.”

“Any time someone needed advice, he was there,” said Arnold, who warmly embraced Jones after the presentation.

Al Whitlow (Class of 1957) and Pat Gorman (Class of 1956) both taught at Elston when Jones was principal.

“He was a highly organized man who simply loved the Michigan City Red Devils,” said Whitlow. “I remember his enthusiasm,” said Gorman.

“Warren hired me as assistant principal in 1971 and I am extremely grateful for that,” said Whitlow. “For me,” said Gorman, “he represents integrity. He is a great and honest man.”

Al Whitlow greets Warren Jones warmly at Saturday’s 90th birthday celebration for Jones. (Photo by Rick A. Richards)
During the celebration, son John Jones talked about what the evening meant to his father. “I saw his eyes sparkling when he walked in. I think this is the greatest thing ever for him.”

Daughter Susan was impressed by the turnout. “He thought he was coming to a dinner with me and Rick and John. Dad is so humble which is why this is so great. I think one of the reasons so many have stayed in touch with him over the years is that he got personal with his students because he cared for them, and they knew that.”

Sharon Jackson, who, along with husband Bob, did most of the planning for Saturday’s celebration, said organizing the event wasn’t hard. “What was hard was keeping him from finding out,” she said. “We just love him. We call him Michigan City’s ‘Mr. Chips,’” Jackson said referring to a classic movie. “One of the things about him is that he knows everyone’s name and the year they graduated. He makes you feel special.”

State Sen. Jim Arnold reads a resolution approved by the Indiana State Senate in honor of Warren Jones. (Photo by Rick A. Richards)
THE

Jones was genuinely touched by the celebration. “This means a lot to me. It shows me I have a lot of friends,” said Jones.

As he looked around the room, Jones reflected on the impact he has had on generations of Michigan City Elston graduates. “I hope they got the message to be true to themselves, to honor their parents and to be good citizens. And most of all, to try your best.”

Before Jones had a chance to sit down, Shirley Booth approached and presented Jones with the red blazer he wore at Elston basketball games. The jacket, now in the Warren Jones Wing of Heritage Hall at Michigan City High School, is as much as part of Michigan City’s athletic history as any athlete.

Jones was asked to try on the blazer and it fit like a glove. When he put it on, he shouted, “Anybody here from City?” The cheers were deafening. “Let me hear you,” he shouted. “Give me a C. Give me an I. Give me a T. Give me a Y. What’s that spell?” “City,” responded the crowd. “I can’t hear you,” said Jones.

And on it went. It was a pep rally that brought back memories of another era and of a man who had influenced them all.

Bob Jackson, who organized Warren’s Birthday Surprise along with wife Sharon.

(Warren Jones slips on his Red Devil blazer, which is now a part of the Warren Jones Heritage Hall at Michigan City High School.

(PHOTO BY RICK A. RICHARDS)
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<td>105 UPLAND DRIVE, MICHIGAN CITY</td>
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“Blooming Melodies” – Spring Children’s Chorus and Young Musician Recital

When: Sun., March 27 at 3:00 p.m.
Where: Presbyterian Church of La Porte
Price: Free to the public

“Blooming Melodies” is the La Porte County Symphony Orchestra’s Children’s Chorus spring program featuring local young vocalists and talented musicians. Sponsored by the Unity Foundation of La Porte County and hosted by the LCSO, this recital will celebrate talented young people who enjoy making music.

The Children’s Chorus, directed by Matthew Nelson and accompanied by Susan Rosselli has blossomed into a fine program comprised of 2nd – 5th grade students. Familiar songs will include “Ode to Joy” and Irving Berlin’s popular “Anything You Can Do.” Student soloists from the chorus will be featured in “I Am a Small Part of the World” and “I Believe.”

Solo performances by local instrumentalists include: Andrew Steck, trumpet; Zach Whitacre, trombone; Matthew Steck, French horn; Whitney Hart, French horn and Josh DeVries, cello with piano accompaniment provided by Jane DeVries and Cindy Ault. These students will demonstrate their personal musical abilities sharing with the audience performance pieces that won them high honors at solo and ensemble contests that were held this winter.

Beethoven’s Opus 18 will begin the program as Opus 2 String Quartet from the Northwest Indiana Youth Symphony Orchestra with Bailey Wantuch and Barbie Dixon on violin, Anne Burke, viola and Clara Suh, cello will prepare the audience for a variety of quality, uplifting musical performances. Another string highlight later in the program will include Schubert’s String Quartet No. 14 as performed by the Apollo String Quartet from Chesterton High School. This quartet includes Bailey Wantuch with Ellie Melon playing violin, Toni Kusiela on viola and Joshua DeVries, cello.

Special thanks goes to the Presbyterian Church of La Porte for providing the performance space and supporting youth in the performing arts. There is no charge to the public for this afternoon of enjoyable music. Donations for youth programs are welcome from members of the community who wish to contribute.
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Enjoy an evening with Dr. David Miller and Dr. Lovera Wolf-Miller, authors of “Womenopause...Stop Pausing and Start Living” along with Financial Advisor Kelly Shikany, CFP® as they share their perspective on the unique challenges women face in health and wealth matters for women beginning the second half of their lives.

When: Tuesday, April 12, 2011
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Where: Pottawattomie Country Club
1900 Springland Ave
Michigan City, IN  46360
Cost: $15.00
Light appetizers will be served

For reservations or more information call toll free 855-462-0110 or email Kelly Shikany at kshikany@wfafinet.com. Seating is limited.

This event is sponsored by Vogelsang Asset Management, LLC. The views expressed by Lovera Miller and David Miller are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Vogelsang Asset Management, LLC, Wells Fargo Advisors Financial Network and its affiliates. Investment products and services are offered through Wells Fargo Advisors Financial Network LLC (WFAFN), member SIPC, a registered broker-dealer and a non-bank separate affiliate of Wells Fargo & Co. Vogelsang Asset Management, LLC is a separate entity from WFAFN.
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When Irish Eyes are Smilin’

Irish eyes were smilin’ when Mrs. Ellie Parkerson’s third graders were decked out in their green hats to greet the “wee folks of Notre Dame” at the 9:30 a.m. mass on March 13. The children planned a reception for members of the parish complete with Irish soda bread, cheeses, and other delicacies following the service.

The Glee Club sang old favorites like “McNamara’s Band,” “When Irish Eyes are Smiling,” and “Little Molly Malone.” The group, led by music director Barbara Brandon and Michelle Alexander, also entertained the Senior Center at a noontime performance.

In, out, hop, 1-2-3-4. Point, hop back, step in. So goes the intricate footwork of the Irish dancers. Eighth grader Katie Kelley choreographed the movements for dancers Maggie Cannon, Zoya Ganz, Abby Schmidt, Tara Seizys, and Claire Werner.

---submitted by Lynn Delehanty
Tom Burke, Ben Potts, and Molly Wilson are planning the next ND event!

Charlie Cate, Jeanne Cannon and Pat Cannon are all smiles on this festive day.

Brian Godfrey (right) is trying to convince Father Keith and Joanne McDonald the benefits of playing golf.

Betty Dugan, Brigid McKee, Maeve McKee and Kate Bobillo are sharing parental tips and tasting the Irish soda bread.

**Poster Sale!**

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Indiana Ballet Theatre

Indiana Ballet Theatre will perform one of its favorite ballets throughout the Northwest Indiana Region, bringing opportunity and culture to hundreds of students who will perform and thousands of families as audience members. Ballet Outreach “Sleeping Beauty” is a pantomime production with amazing dancing, children’s scenes and the wonderful fairy tale that will delight all ages. Andrew Amos from Michigan will be performing as Prince Desiré for all the shows. “Come and enjoy live quality entertainment close to home,” said Gloria Tuohy, CEO/Founder of Indiana Ballet Theatre.

Performances will be:

- Sat., March 26, 7 p.m., Lowell High School, 2051 E. Commercial Ave. Lowell
- Sat., April 2, 7 p.m., Munster High School, 8808 Columbia Ave. Munster
- Sun., April 3, 1 p.m., St. Elijah Hall with a princess tea, 8700 Taft St. Merrillville
- Sat., April 16, 7 p.m., Morton High School, 6915 Grand Ave. Hammond

Indiana Ballet Theatre is collaborating with Beachfront Dance Studio for the Morton High School performance.

Tickets are $15/adults, children and seniors for the Lowell, Munster, and Morton performances. Tickets are $22/adults and $18/children/seniors for the St. Elijah performance (which includes a princess tea). For tickets and group sales, phone Indiana Ballet Theatre at 219-755-4444. Tickets are also available at Dance Stuf Etc., 3618 W. 80th Lane, Merrillville.

About Indiana Ballet Theatre

Indiana Ballet Theatre Northwest, INC., is a 501C3 not-for-profit organization. IBT dedicated to the art of dance to enriching the cultural life of our community. IBT was established in 1980 under the artistic direction of Gloria Tuohy, MDE. Her career has spanned over fifty years of professional dance, teaching, choreography and costume design experience in England, other parts of Europe and the United States. She was trained by the prestigious French Cecchetti classical ballet syllabus. She danced with Volska Ballet Company in London, England and the Surry Light Operatic Society of England.

The company’s programs include all forms of dance: ballet, tap, jazz, hip hop and modern.

Program on Home School Options

“Yes! Home Education Is an Option” will be held at 6:00 p.m., on Mon., March 28 at La Porte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave., La Porte. Come and learn about home school options from the library and the La Porte County Christian Home School Association.

There is no charge. For more information, phone 219-362-6156.

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Library Links

The New Buffalo Township Public Library will soon participate in a program called OverDrive. This is will enable patrons to download free ebooks, music and video on personal readers and devices! The library will be “live” with this service in May.

Adults, join us for Scrabble each Tuesday evening at 6:00 p.m. in the lower level of the library! Also, on Thurs., April 7th at 5:45 p.m., there will be another Card Making Class. These classes are big hit so sign up soon. There is a $5 charge for materials only. Phone the library at 269-469-2933 or visit to sign up.

On Fri., March 25th, there will be a special reader for Storytime. Mary Dunbar will read several books to the children that are available from Dolly Pardon’s Imagination Library. Children who sign up for Imagination Library will receive age appropriate books each month from birth to age 5. The Pokagon Fund provides funding to United Way of Southwest Michigan to support this project.

Baby lap time is offered on Tuesdays from 11:00 to 11:30 a.m. and story hour is offered on Fridays from 10:30- to 11:15 a.m.

Visit www.nbtpl.org for information, events and new materials offered at New Buffalo library.

“Craft-an-Egg Afternoon”

“Craft-an-Egg Afternoon” will be held just in time for spring decorating at 1:00 p.m., on Sat., March 26 at the Coolspring Branch Library, 400N & Johnson Rd., Michigan City. Make a folded fabric egg ornament to hang or display in a basket. It is easy to make and very pretty. Crafter Beth Shire will help you. You supply the time (1-1/2-2 hours) and the library will supply the materials.

This event is for people aged ten years through adults. Please register by phoning the library at 879-3272. Space is limited. Phone 219-362-6156 to request signing for the hearing impaired 48 hours in advance.

Calling All Artists and Crafters

Artists and crafters with unique items are being sought for our 2nd Annual Arts and Crafts Show to be held in May. This show, sponsored by St. John United Church of Christ, will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sat., May 28th in Frohne Hall, and outside, at the church, 200 W. Buffalo, New Buffalo, Michigan.

Inside spaces are $35, outside spaces, $30. For more information and to request an application, email craftfair200@att.net or phone Pam Oselka at 734-277-3180 or 269-469-2706.

Deadline for applications, with a check and submitted photos, is May 1, or until all spaces are rented. Only hand-crafted items may be displayed. No flea market or purchased items for resale will be permitted.
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Recently I attended a gathering with some of my older relatives. During the get-together, I asked each of my cousins if they had an email address they could give me so that I could invite them to view my Flickr collection of vintage photos of our family. To my great dismay, all but one cousin stated that they do not use computers. And the one cousin who does have an internet account wanted to give me her young niece’s email address, since she herself rarely logged on to her laptop anymore.

What a wake-up call that was to me! I figured that even we card-carrying AARP members all had joined the digital world by now. I figured wrongly. How nice it is to scan all those old photos and get them out of the shoebox, where they have lain in dusty obscurity for decades. I figured that my family would enjoy seeing them on Flickr. Instead, they will have to tell their children and grandchildren to send me email addresses.

Speaking of dusty obscurity, I came across a box of cassette tapes filled with music I once enjoyed. Not sure what to do with them, I didn’t have the heart to throw those easily breakable tapes away. Then, a few days after I found them, I discovered a cassette tape-to-mp3 converter for sale online at www.1saleaday.com. I ordered it, and now, when I get around to it, I will convert all those tunes so I can listen to them once again. I keep thinking about all that my older cousins are missing because they are not “plugged in.” But then, they may still be hanging on to 8-tracks, and I do not believe there is an app for that.

I’m devoting the rest of this week’s column to a revisit of www.nonags.com, and to the wonderful world of free downloads to be had from that website. One has to be very careful about downloading free stuff, since it’s a great way to catch a virus. However, if you download from a reputable site such as this one, then you should be okay. So maybe the first thing you should think about downloading is an antivirus program. Without question, two very good ones, free ones at that, are Avast and AVG. I’ve used both and have been quite pleased. I recommend either of them over the Norton products. Norton tended to plug up my machine, and the antivirus suite is notorious for bloat. Also, I’ve read that the free AVG caught more than six viruses that Norton overlooked. I cannot verify that, but it’s something to think about. And why anyone would pay big bucks for an antivirus program when you could get two different top-rated products for free? Sounds nuts to me. A computer newbie might get talked into the pricey product, but CyberScribbles’ readers know better, right?

While you’re at Nonags, download the free Ccleaner. It will delete all those accumulated cookies and other temp files, and can do some handy troubleshooting.

When I ordered the laptop that I am typing this on, I ordered it bare bones, without Microsoft Office. I did so because I knew that when my new laptop arrived, I
could download Open Office, a nice little substitute for the pricey MS version. Open Office gives me the Writer, plus a Powerpoint type program, an Excel substitute, and all the other tools I might need. For years I have used only Writer, but it's nice to not feel left out. I saved a bundle of dough by not ordering MS Office. Take a look at Non-ag's top downloads. Know that you can save bundles of money, too.

**Twin Singer/Songwriters at Box Factory**

The Riversong Music Society presents Gemini with the All God's Children Choir at the Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, MI, on Sat., March 26th, 8 p.m. MI time.  
Gemini, twin brothers San and Laz Slomovits, are award-winning singer-songwriters and multi-instrumentalists, nationally known for their music for children (GeminiChildrensMusic.com). In this concert, they return to the roots of their music – the classic songs of Pete Seeger, Bob Dylan, Malvina Reynolds, Peter, Paul, and Mary, Joni Mitchell, Simon and Garfunkel, etc., as well as traditional songs associated with the 60's. This is the music San and Laz grew up on, and they've put together a tribute/celebration concert with these quintessential songs. For part of this concert, Gemini will be joined by the All God's Children Community Choir, a racially diverse group of boys and girls, ages three to eighteen, from the Benton Harbor-St. Joseph area. Now in its eleventh year, the choir has performed at numerous events, including a special Habitat for Humanity performance for former President Jimmy Carter; a Holiday Traditions concert with the Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra; and performances with renowned professional musicians Tom Chapin, Josh White Jr., LaRon Williams, Nikki Harris, Pamela Chappell, and Gemini.  
Tickets for this concert are $8 for adults and $6 for seniors and students. Children 12 and under will be admitted free when accompanied by an adult. More at www.boxfactoryforthearts.org or 269/983-3688.
St. Patrick’s Day Parade—Michigan City—March 12, 2011

There were three pipe and drum groups from the area: The NW Indiana Pipe & Drum, the Lake County Sheriff’s and Caledonia Kilty Band.

Everyone was wearin’ the green and big, bright smiles!

Photos by Janet Baines

Colorful characters were a big treat for the kids—can you name them?

Soul Steppers stepped out and…

—even Chauncy the dog put in an appearance!
Irish Eyes Will Smile!

Sunday, March 27, 2:00 p.m.

Kennedy's Kitchen returns to the Michigan City Public Library to celebrate all that is Irish with a concert of great traditional music. The group plays tear-up-the-floor, heart-thumping Irish music: traditional dance tunes, pub and original songs, stories, jokes, and astonishingly large lies.

Never letting the facts get in the way of a good story, their instruments include: fiddles, flute, whistles, mandolin, bouzuoki, guitars, bohdran, and bass. Tap your toes to the Irish beat at this very special appearance by Kennedy's Kitchen! The program is free and open to the public.

Free Admission to Museum

Ragtops Auto Museum of Michigan City is pleased to announce an open house for all residents of LaPorte County. With valid identification, residents will be admitted at no charge between March 22nd thru March 27th. The Museum has over 60 cars on display as well as a vast array of memorabilia. In addition there is a re-creation of a 50's diner, an old time gas station, the Lido Theatre and George's Barber Shop that help create an ambiance that you are sure to enjoy.

The Museum is open Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sunday noon-4 p.m.

Boating Safety Class

The Michigan City Power Squadron is offering America’s Boating Course at B&E Marine, 31 Lakeshore Dr., Michigan City. The class is scheduled beginning Wed., March 23, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The course will continue each Wednesday evening through April 27. The cost of the course is $45.00 and this includes all materials needed. If materials are shared, the cost remains $45.00 for a couple. Anyone who is interested in attending should contact Roger Bateman by email at sailingpartners@msn.com or phone at 219-462-1585.

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After giving me good, orderly direction the other day, my spiritual director, the learned Sister Gertrude Maurer, CSJ, handed me a pamphlet titled, *Seeing the Holy, Praying through Your Camera Lens*, and said, “You might want to attend this.”

This, being the course of the same name being offered Saturday, April 30 at Transformations Spirituality Center in Nazareth, Michigan.

That’s just east of Kalamazoo, and that’s just where I found myself the other day talking to Sister Gertrude when she made the aforementioned suggestion to spend the better part of a spring Saturday with Sister Christine Parks, CSJ looking for the Holy through a camera.

I told Sister Gertrude I might well take the camera course with Sister Christine on April 30, but I also said I just happened to have my Canon PowerShot A490 digital camera handy and would wander right out on the grounds in search of some wholly Holy subjects.

The afternoon sun had center stage in a cloudless sky, and the play of natural light on the trees and buildings was a photographer’s dream come true.

“Have at it,” Sister Gertrude said.

And I did.

And I will let my photographs tell you most of the story that followed my departure from my spiritual director’s office that afternoon.

There truly were photographs at every turn, and all I had to do was turn my head in the direction of the westbound sun and see where the next play of light and shadow was likely to appear.

“Ah,” I said to myself, “there on the dome.”

“Snap.”

Well, digital cameras don’t say, “snap,” but my trusty little Canon certainly snapped a most pleasing image.

I tromped farther along to the nature preserve behind the Transformations Spirituality Center that is managed by the Southwest Michigan Land Conversancy, and carefully descended into wetlands that were fighting off winter’s grip and beckoning spring to come.

Images aplenty tempted my camera, and me and we got to work.

I saw the glory of God’s creation at every bend, and I was most grateful that my digital camera has an exhaustive memory.

Snap, snap, snap, and the camera never wants to take a nap.

How can a spiritually directed photographer go wrong?

I certainly did not.

And after I had walked and photographed a good way around

Transformed by the sun
Transformations Spirituality Center.

Let there be light.
A place to be transformed at 3427 Gull Road in Nazareth, Michigan: Transformations Spirituality Center. Phone 29-3814616 for course information.

Transformations Spirituality Center in Nazareth, I drove west into the heart of Kalamazoo and spent a profitable unrushed Rush Hour leisurely chasing the sun and shadows all over the Haymarket Historic District and its environs. That gracefully aging cityscape cooperated completely with my attempt to pray through my camera.

The light was just lovely, and I was practically singing “Holy, Holy” when I got to the city’s Transportation Center which serves Amtrak and various bus lines and caught a light/shadow show under the graceful archway that had me ready to shout: “Amen!”

When I finally returned to my car, which, of course, I had parked in a free parking space near the bus garage, I gave thanks for the gift of photography.

And I am giving more than a passing thought to taking the Seeing the Holy, Praying through Your Camera Lens course at Nazareth on Saturday, April 30 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (EDT) with Christine Parks, CSJ. It is only $40 with paid registration by April 8, and $45 after.

Such a deal for “a day of seeing, and being present to the Holy through your eyes and the lens of your camera.”

And, yes, students are asked to bring their own digital cameras, journals, and clothes and shoes for walking outdoors.

Hmm. What do you think?

Contact Transformations Spirituality Center at 269-381-4616 or on-line at www.transformationscenter.org, and they’ll tell you how you can develop spiritually with your camera.

The Haymarket Historic District in downtown Kalamazoo can be a place of glorious afternoon light.

The play of light in the forest was forever Holy.
Monday Musicale Meeting

Members of Monday Musicale will be treated to a musical tour of the Western Mediterranean region when they meet at the Barker Civic Center, 631 Washington Street, on Mon., March 28 at 7 p.m. According to program chairman and “tour guide” Joan Brill, the itinerary includes stops in Spain, France and Italy.

A variety of music, from classical to popular, and from operatic arias to traditional flamenco music, will be presented. Compositions for piano, voice, violin and guitar make up the program. Slated to perform are Michelle Alexander, Frank Casorio, Merry Johnson, Kathi R. Jones, Laura Meyer and Sara Miller.

The evening will conclude with a social hour, with refreshments provided by Florence Blake and her hosting committee. For membership information, contact Ange Benz at (219) 874-3754 or Sue Cassler at (219) 362-1421.

Poetry Slam at Lubeznik Center

First Fridays @ 5 continue at Lubeznik Center for the Arts on April 1st with a Poetry Slam hosted by writer, performer and humorist, J.W. Basilo.

Inviting both a wide range of voices and boisterous audience participation, anyone is welcome to perform, but competitors must adhere to the following rules:

• All work must be original and of the performers’ own construction
• No props, costumes, or musical instruments
• You must pre-register in order to read

Previous Poetry Slam winners include Warsaw’s Stephen Henn and 14 year old Rasheed Starks of Michigan City High School in his first performance.

Returning emcee J.W. “Baz” is one of the most sought-after and compelling spoken word artists working today. His charismatic spoken word pieces have been featured on National Public Radio and in the Chicago Tribune. He’ll have his hands full this time, with an April Fool’s Day crowd.

You won’t want to miss this chance to cheer, boo, or even participate in this unique event. Performers should contact Janet Bloch, Lubeznik Center’s Education Director at 219.874.4900 or jbloch@lubeznikcenter.org

Plan to arrive at 5:00 p.m. if you’d like to take in the evocative “100 Views of Chicago” exhibition, currently in the Hyndman Gallery. The Poetry Slam will begin promptly at 6:00 p.m. and the exhibit will be closed to viewing once the performance begins. Refreshments will be available. Admission is free.

The Lubeznik Center is located at 101 W. 2nd St., at the lakefront in Michigan City, IN. More information at www.lubeznikcenter.org or 219-874-4900.

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Dr. Seuss Whobilation at Library

A Dr. Seuss Whobilation will be held at 5:00 p.m., on Mon., March 28 in Children’s Services at La Porte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave., LaPorte. Help celebrate Dr. Seuss’s birthday with a read-in for the whole family. Get stickers and enter to win a Dr. Seuss prize.

There is no charge or registration. For more information, phone 219-362-7128 or phone 219/362-6156 48 hours in advance to request signing for the hearing impaired.

IBCA Academic All-State Award

Marquette Catholic High School Principal James G. White announced that senior Matthew Pomranke has been named to the Indiana Basketball Coaches Association Academic All-State Team (Honorable Mention.)

Sixty-one Indiana high school seniors -- 30 boys and 31 girls -- have been chosen as first-team Academic All-State by the Indiana Basketball Coaches Association, it was announced March 16.

In addition, 76 more boys and 105 more girls were recognized as honorable mention Academic All-State, IBCA executive director Steve Witty said.

The IBCA Academic All-State team is a program where academic prowess and athletic prowess both are considered in the selections.

IBCA-member head coaches from schools across the state may nominate their seniors who meet criteria that include a 3.5 GPA or higher on a 4.0 scale, a class rank in the upper 25 percent of one’s class, an SAT score of 1,500 or an ACT score of 23. Nominees are to have been starting players in at least 90% of their team’s games when physically able.

MC Kindergarten and Pre-K Roundup

Michigan City Area Schools will conduct Kindergarten and Preschool (Pre-K) registration for the 2011-2012 school year on Thurs., March 24 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Kindergarten students must by age 5 by August 1, 2011. Pre-K students must be age 3 by August 1, 2011. Kindergarten round-up will be held at all MCAS elementary buildings on March 24th. Pre-K students should be enrolled on March 24th at the school that serves the area in which they live.

Parents who need assistance to determine which school their child will attend may contact the MCAS Transportation Department at 873-2127. For further information about registration, contact the school where the child will be enrolled.

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Vendors Wanted for Farmers Market

Vendors interested in participating in the 2011 Michigan City Mainstreet Association’s Farmers Market are invited to attend an organizational meeting on Tues., March 29 at 8:30 a.m. at Traditions Heritage Room, 803 Franklin Street.

The Farmers Market will open the first Saturday in May and will continue through the last Saturday in October at the municipal parking lot at the corner of Eighth and Franklin Streets.

Products at the market are confined to produce, plants, meats or food related products. Vendors selling items such as baked goods, meats or jellies must meet the requirements of the LaPorte County Health Department.

Ruth Deutscher returns as Market Manager and Jerry Peters serves as liaison to the Board of Directors. Those unable to attend the meeting or who need further information may contact Ruth at 219-879-5807 or Jerry at gpeters@adsnet.com or at the Mainstreet Theatre, 219-874-4269.

Colored Pencil Workshop

The Michigan City Art League is hosting a Colored Pencil Workshop, “Vivid and Versatile,” on Sat. & Sun., April 2 & 3. Time will be 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. each day at the former St. Mary’s Grade School, 321 W. 11th St., Michigan City.

The workshop will be led by Kristy Kutch. She will feature the many dimensions of this excitingly vivid, versatile, and non-toxic medium. With plenty of studio demonstrations and access to a generous supply of sample materials, workshop students will explore a wide range of colored pencils and enhancing techniques.

The cost of the workshop is $50 for MC Art League members or $55 for non-members. To register, phone Rose Peterson, 219-362-4833, e-mail rose.p1@comcast.net or phone 219-561-1284.

You can also sign up with Georgette Senter, 219-561-1284, e-mail: gssenter@gmail.com

Readers Group at Coolspring Library

The Readers Group at the Coolspring Branch Library, 400N & Johnson Rd., Michigan City, will discuss Lottery by Patricia Wood at 7:00 p.m., on Tues., March 29. The book is about a man with a low IQ who wins the lottery. The book is available to request for check-out to read ahead of time.

Phone 219-879-3272 for more information. To request signing for the hearing impaired, phone 219/362-6156 48 hours in advance.
Local Man Honored

Notification has been received from Harry E. Johnson, Sr, President and CEO, of the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial, Washington, D.C., that the following will be inscribed on the Founder’s Roll of Honor next to the statue of Dr. King:

George V. Neagu
Michigan City, IN

The Air Gram from Johnson states: “George, thank you for being so loyal as a Founding Sponsor. You deserve to have your name right there at the Memorial after all the generous help you’ve given to the Washington, DC Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation...your listing was among the first to be entered.”

Founded in 1998 the memorial honoring Dr. King will be dedicated August 28, 2011. It will be adjacent to the Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial, between Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials, on a four acre site administered by the National Park Service. King is the first Afro-American to be placed in Area 1 of the National Mall.

Neagu stated: “It has been a great privilege to help in my small way to see that Dr. King’s Memorial becomes a reality. It is designed to be an inspiration to youth to follow his philosophy of social peace and non-violence. I am honored to be a part of the Memorial.”

Basket Weaving Class at MC Library

Sat., March 26, 9:15 a.m.

Margie Warner teaches this single-session class and each person will make a basket to take home. The class includes all materials. A $10 non-refundable deposit is required and prices vary. The basket is on display and sign up is at the Michigan City Public Library circulation desk.
Activities to Explore

In the Local Area:

March 23-27 -- Yoyo and Skill Toys Week

March 24 -- Maple City Word Crafters. 5:30-8 pm at LaPorte Co. Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave., LaPorte. For aspiring writers. Free, new members invited to join.

March 25-28 -- At the Vickers Theatre: “Another Year.” Directed by Mike Leigh. Rated PG-13. Fri thru Mon 6 pm. Also showing: “Made in Dagenham.” Rated R. Fri/9 pm; Sat/Sun 3 & 9 pm; Mon/no show. 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, MI. 269/756-3522. www.vickerstheatre.com

March 26 -- Trash n’ Treasure Sale at the MC Senior Center, Washington Park. 8 am-noon. Indoor flea market featuring 40 tables of gently used items, collectibles and more; while there, pick up your Park sticker for 2011.

March 26 -- Craft-an-Egg Afternoon. 1 pm at Coolspring Library, 400N & Johnson Rd., MC. Make a folded fabric egg ornament to hang or display.

March 26 -- “Beer Wars” -- documentary film shown 7 pm MI time at The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. Tix $10; reserve at 269/756-3879 or www.acorntheater.com

March 27 -- Kennedy’s Kitchen (Irish music) in concert at MC Public Library. 2 pm. Free, open to public.

March 27 -- “Blooming Melodies” --LaP. Co. Symphony Orchestra’s Spring Children’s Recital. 3 pm at Presbyterian Church of LaPorte. Free, open to the public.

March 28 -- Dr. Seuss Whobilation. 5 pm. Help celebrate Dr. Seuss’ birthday at LaP. Co. Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave., LaPorte. Free, open to public. 219/362-7128 for more info.

March 28 -- Monday Musicale meeting. 7 pm at Barker Civic Center, 631 Washington St., MC. A musical tour of the Mediterranean region will be the program, followed by a social hour. For membership info, phone Ange Benz 874-3754, or Sue Cassler 219/362-1421.

March 29 -- Readers Group at Coolspring Library, 400N & Johnson Rd., MC. 7 pm. Lottery by Patricia Wood will be discussed. Free, open to the public. Info: 879-3272.

April 1 -- Poetry Slam at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. 2nd. St., MC. Hosted by J.W. Basilo. Sign up to perform at 874-4900. Part of First Fridays @ 5 monthly arts walk in downtown Michigan City. Open 5-8 pm. Free, open to the public.

April 1-3, 8-10, 15-17 -- “Nunsense” at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St., MC. Fri/Sat 8 pm; Sun 2 pm. All tix $12; reserve at 874-4035 or www.footlightplayers.org/reservations

April 3 -- St. Mary’s College Women’s Choir in concert at Presbyterian Church of LaPorte, 307 Kingsbury Ave., LaPorte. 4 pm. Freewill offering
March 24, 2011 Page 29

will be taken; childcare available.

April 7 -- PNC English Club Poetry Comp. All area poets can submit one original work; entry fee of $5, prizes will be awarded. 7-9 pm in Library-Student-Faculty Bldg. Assembly Hall Rm. 02 on campus. Story elsewhere this issue.

April 8-10, 15-17 -- “Once Upon a Mattress.” Musical comedy at Memorial Opera House, 104 Indiana Ave., Valparaiso. Fri/Sat 8 pm; Sun/2 pm. Tix $21/adults, $18/seniors & students. Group rates avail. Phone 219/548-9137 or www.mohlive.com

Farther Afield:

March 25-27 -- “Footloose, the Musical.” Fri/Sat 7 pm; Sun/3 pm MI time. Presented by Lakeshore High School, 5771 Cleveland Ave, Stevensville, MI. Tix $12/adults, $10/students w/ID; purchase at box office one hr. before performance.

March 26 -- Indoor Flea Market. 9 am-3 pm MI time at New Troy Community Center, 13372 California Rd., New Troy, MI. Adm. free, homecooked lunch available for purchase.

March 26 -- Gemini (twin brothers San and Laz Slomovits) in concert with the All God’s Children Choir at Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, MI. 8 pm MI time. Tix at the door: $8/adults, $6/seniors & students. 269/983-3688 or www.boxfactoryforthearts.org


April 2 -- Bridgman/Lake Twp Historical Society hosts The Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War in a program in honor of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. 1:30 pm MI time at Lake Twp Hall, 3220 Shawnee Rd., Bridgman, MI. Free, refreshments will be served.

Registration at St. Mary of the Lake

Spring is in the air, and it is time to register for Kaleidoscope Preschool or Kindergarten at St. Mary's in New Buffalo. Register on Wed., March 30, or Thurs., March 31, from 6-8 p.m. MI time at St. Mary of the Lake School, 704 W. Merchant St., New Buffalo.

Please bring: official birth certificate and proof of immunizations. Preschool and Kindergarten vision screening by the Berrien County Health Dept. will be at St. Mary's on May 13. Phone 269/469-1515 for more information.
47th Annual International Food Fair

A long standing Andrews University tradition, the 47th International Food Fair promises authentic cuisines prepared by volunteers from more than 20 international clubs representing cultures and traditions from around the world. The public is invited to attend this year’s annual event on Sun., March 27, at the Johnson Gym on the campus of Andrews University. From noon to 7 p.m., visitors will enjoy a small taste of the diversity represented among the student body. Admission to the event is free.

Each spring, dozens of campus clubs join together for this tasty tradition. Over 150 volunteers help prepare vegetarian entrees, drinks and desserts from countries around the world, including Europe, Mexico, Korea, the Philippines, Japan and Brazil, to name a few. Each booth will offer an authentic menu while showcasing various displays, music and ethnic décor.

Nearly 5,000 visitors attend the fair annually. Each year, there are the familiar ethnic dishes, such as eggrolls, quiche, chips and salsa, and new flavors including pansit, chapati (a special Indian bread resembling a tortilla) and samosas (a Southeast Asian triangular-shaped pastry shell stuffed with spiced potatoes, onions and peas). If you aren’t feeling adventurous, an all-American favorite, the corn dog, is sure to please. Satisfy your sweet tooth with tasty bubble tea, Brazilian fudge candy, delicious pastries, cakes, rolls and an assortment of European bakery treats.

Food tickets can be purchased the day of the event in the ticket office of the Johnson Gym. Tickets are sold in increments of $5 and menu prices range from 50-cents to $6. Students will be allowed to access money from their cafeteria accounts to buy meal tickets. For more information, contact the Office of International Student Services at 269-471-6395.

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March 24, 2011 Page 31
“Nunsense” to Open at Footlight

April 1-3, 8-10, & 15-17

Footlight Players will open the musical comedy “Nunsense” on Fri., April 1st at 8 p.m. Directed by theatre veteran Ernie Ritchie, this comedy favorite is the winner of four Outer Critics Circle Awards including Best Off Broadway Musical in its original New York production.

The show is played as a fund raiser put on by the Little Sisters of Hoboken to raise money to bury sisters accidently poisoned by the convent cook, Sister Julia (Child of God). Updated with new jokes, additional lyrics, two new arrangements and a brand new song, this zany musical is sure to please Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

Directed by Ernie Ritchie with Musical Direction by Sharon Angelina. Starring Christine Wiegand (Sister Mary Regina) and Kathy Chase (Sister Robert Ann) both from Michigan City, Stephanie Naumoff (Sister Mary Hubert), Kelsey Dougherty (Sister Mary Amnesia) and Isha Leon (Sister Mary Leo) all from Valparaiso. Presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

There will be a “Patron Appreciation Reception” immediately following the Sun., April 3rd performance at the neighboring Blink Art Gallery. Laporte photographer Nancy Snyder will be displaying some of her framed work during this period in the Footlight lobby.

Friday and Saturday curtains are at 8 p.m. with Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Doors open 15 minutes prior to curtain. All tickets are $12. Reduced rates available for groups of 20 or more. Sorry credit cards are not accepted. Reservations are recommended and may be made at 219-874-4035 or online at www.footlightplayers.org/reservations.html. Reservations will be held until 15 minutes prior to curtain unless secured by the presentation of a Footlight Season Gift Card or by prior payment in full. Footlight Theatre is located at 1705 Franklin Street, Michigan City.

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My Korean Deli by Ben Ryder Howe

“Last summer my wife’s family and I decided to buy a deli. By fall, with loans from three different relatives, two new credit cards, and a sad kiss good-bye to thirty thousand dollars my wife and I had saved while living in my mother-in-law’s Staten Island basement, we had rounded up the money. Now it is November, and we are searching New York City for a place to buy.”

This is a memoir like no other. Ben Howe is married to Gab, a Korean girl he met when they were both attending the University of Chicago. Gab went on to receive her master’s and law degrees, while Ben barely made it through college (his words). Gab had become a successful corporate lawyer, and Ben, well, he admits that money doesn’t really interest him as his present job working for George Plimpton at his Paris Review magazine testifies. George is the eternal bouncing rubber ball, flitting from one thing to another and maybe not running his magazine as economically as he could. But it was a chance for Ben to get close to the legendary man who had discovered many literary talents, as well as being a bestselling author, friend to presidents and a real action hero.

Ben came from a New England Puritan family that could trace itself back to Plymouth Rock while Gab’s family had similar strong roots in Korea.

Later in the book, Ben tells of his in-laws upbringing in Korea and how they came to land in America. It’s a fascinating story of determination and hard work that brought them to this point in 2002 with Ben and Gab living in their basement and now contemplating buying a deli...

The reason for this life altering decision is Gab’s desperate need to pay her mother, Kay, back for her years of sacrifice for her family. Kay is a bundle of constant energy who was a workaholic and always wanted to own her own deli and so Ben is amenable to this new phase of their life.

Their search almost ends in tears of frustration as they can’t agree on what kind of store they want—Kay wants a steam table for a hot food deli—Ben thinks more along the line of organic fruit and vegetable market.

“I exhale deeply and try to follow her advice, but instead of fistfuls of cash all I can think of are slabs of desiccated meat loaf slathered in congealed gravy and the smell of boiled ham.”

After many disappointments, Kay finds an ad in the Korean newspaper: “Busy street, bright store, new refrigerators--Brooklyn. $170K.” Bingo.

On first inspection, Kay noticed right away it was small, dirty, in bad condition, but, it had lots of customers! Soon, the store is purchased and work begins in earnest to open before Christmas, 2002.

What follows is the most heart-warming, ridiculous, scary, ethnic, loving (I’m running out of adjectives here) memoir ever written. Ben was no where, no how prepared for what he was about to enter into. From trying to figure out the cash register, to remembering the prices, to making sandwiches and coffee was nothing compared to dealing with the many ethnic-based customers who flowed in and out of the store—impatient, demanding, and expecting things to be as they have been, and that includes the brands and types of food and other things they have been buying there for years. See, Ben still had this idea of changing the food stuffs to more upscale items and brands—an idea that almost ended in disaster! And the lottery machine? He didn’t think they really needed it to survive—ha!

Dealing with vendors, and city inspectors was also new ground for Ben. Fines were passed out like candy at a political parade and Ben and family found out they could ruin a small business real fast.

The real core of this book comes from the heart of Ben, Gab and Kay. Struggling with the store and each other, Ben trying to keep his job at the Paris Review, is more than entertaining—it’s a lesson in humanity, too. Come along for the ride—you’ll laugh and cry and feel refreshed when it’s all over. I did.

Till next time, happy reading!
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