Roy Lichtenstein (and Mickey Mouse) at the Art Institute Of Chicago

by Barbara Stodola

Fifty-one years have passed since Roy Lichtenstein amplified Walt Disney’s cartoon character into the revolutionary painting that now holds pride of place at the Art Institute of Chicago. Look Mickey introduces the 160-piece Lichtenstein retrospective that opened to the public May 22, runs thru Sept. 3, then travels to Washington, D.C., London and Paris.

This is a familiar story from the annals of art history, that yesterday’s scandals become today’s masterpieces. But even so, even with the wisdom and the hindsight that accrue after 50 years, it is hard to figure what could have been so scandalous about Mickey Mouse.

James Rondeau, contemporary art curator, reminds us “how shocking this picture was in its historical moment.” The year was 1961, and the art world (centered in New York City) was buzzing with the frenzy of Abstract Expressionism – or, as critic Harold Rosenberg termed it, Action Painting. Rosenberg and his chief adversary, Clement Greenberg, exchanged blows over what made Jackson Pollock such a great artist, but they both heaped scorn on the Pop Art springing from the studios of Lichtenstein, Andy Warhol, and eventually several others.

Lichtenstein knew he was onto something. “LOOK MICKEY! I’VE LANDED A BIG ONE!” proclaimed Donald Duck in his first painting based on a comic strip. The use of speech bubbles to convey Lichtenstein’s not-so-hidden meaning continued the next year, in the cartoonish painting he entitled Masterpiece. “Soon you’ll have all of New York clamoring for your work!” the artist’s girlfriend predicted, and she was right.

The public loved it. Here at last was an art form they could understand, based on the familiar “low art” of comic strips and mass-media advertising. It was a huge send-up, a mockery of the sophistication and elitism of “high art,” and everybody got the joke. Newsweek and Time Magazines put Pop Art on their covers.
Lichtenstein  Continued from Page 1

Lichtenstein, back in his native New York after years of studying and teaching at Ohio State University, had found his metier, and he stuck to it. In short order he served up an amusing array of images drawn from popular culture: a coffee cup, laundry detergent, a pair of gym shoes, a rubber tire, a hot dog, a fizzing Alka-Seltzer. The artist’s sense of humor rubbed off last week on Art Institute staff, who treated the media to a preview luncheon – with hot dog appetizers, served on silver platters.

Not only were Lichtenstein’s images based on everyday objects; he took the game one step further, drawing from the reproductions found in mass-market publications rather than reality. And, as coup de grace, he painted figures and backgrounds in Ben-Day dots, mimicking the commercial printing process. His paintings thus became original works of art pretending to be reproductions. At first he hand-painted the dots. Later, as work piled up, he devised a pre-cut metal screen and pushed paint through the perforations, to achieve the look of enlarged Ben-Day dots. These became his signature feature.

The artist’s mockery of avant-garde painting, its theories and theorists, took many clever turns. Since critics were devoting so much discussion to brushstroke vs. spatter techniques, Lichtenstein began a series of brushstroke paintings, enlarging his own brushstroke to fill a large canvas, and of course filling in the dots. He also parodied the work of modern masters, producing dotted versions of Monet’s haystacks, Mondrian’s grids, Picasso’s cubist compositions.

The Art Institute’s show focuses on Lichtenstein’s mature work, from his mid-30s until his death in 1997, at age 74. The pieces are arranged thematically rather than chronologically, reflecting the artist’s tendency to rework favorite themes at different stages in his career. Thus we have galleries of War And Romance, Art History, Mirrors, Black and White.

The most striking images are the scenes Lichtenstein appropriated from cartoon strips – battle scenes punctuated with toy-gun sounds WHAAM! BLAM! POW! VAROOM! – and melodramas with square-jawed heroes and weepy women whimper-
ing “Oh Jeff I love you too, but...” With tongue-in-cheek humor, the artist elevated the stuff of adolescence and pulp fiction into the heights of fine art.

In later years, as he plumbed the depths of his invented vocabulary, Lichtenstein spent more time exploring the aesthetic potential of Ben-Day dots. He painted the female figure not as a cartoon character, but in the classical style of reclining nudes. One entire gallery of this exhibit is devoted to Nudes, and another to Landscapes in the Chinese Style (1996-1997). Lichtenstein’s Ben-Day dots proved an effective medium for capturing the misty, tranquil effects of Chinese landscapes. His take-offs on modern painting became uncommonly powerful geometric abstractions.

Newsweek commissioned Lichtenstein to do its Pop Art cover in 1966.

Simple Simon Pearce

From the windows and the gardens of the Art Institute of Chicago, Lichtenstein’s cartoonish females send out their distress signals.
The Roy Lichtenstein retrospective was assembled by curators from the Art Institute of Chicago and the Tate Modern, London, with significant support from the artist’s widow, the Roy Lichtenstein Foundation, and the Bank of America. It showcases pieces that became famous during the artist’s lifetime, but also brings in lesser-known, subtler works of art. A collection of drawings demonstrates how he worked and reworked images – providing answers to the charge that Lichtenstein was “just a copyist.” Large brass sculptures show his proficiency in yet another medium.

The field of art criticism today is less polemical, less interesting and less important than it was in mid-century New York. Still, perennial questions keep resurfacing, and the Lichtenstein exhibit offers an opportunity to address such issues as how to decide who is an artist, or what is an original work of art. Why do we honor Roy Lichtenstein rather than Ub Iwerks, who created Mickey Mouse in the 1920s, or Floyd Gottfredson, who drew the comic
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Lichtenstein

Continued on Page 4

figure for 44 years? What did Lichtenstein mean
by titling some of his paintings Perfect and others
Imperfect?

A few answers present themselves: the sheer
magnitude of Lichtenstein’s achievements, amply
demonstrated in the retrospective exhibit; the con-
sistently high quality and finish of his works; the
obsessiveness of this artist; the creation of new and
ever-newer images, themes, messages; the indelible
mark he made on the art world. There are other an-
swers as well, but to find them you must visit the
exhibit.

Landscape in Fog (1996) applies the Ben-Day dot technique to
Lichtenstein’s version of a Chinese landscape painting.

Photos courtesy of the Art Institute of Chicago, vari-
ous museums and private collections, copyright Es-
tate of Ray Lichtenstein.
On May 17, 2012, three LaPorte County Realtors, Micky Gallas of Micky Gallas Properties, Lisa Daniel-King & Betty Daniel-Lanie of County-Wide Properties were among over 13,000 Realtors who rallied in Washington DC to protect homeownership, discouraging the government from challenging homeowner tax benefits.

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THE 6th Season of Opera at the Acorn

The sixth season of Opera at the Acorn will begin Sat., June 2, at 8:00 p.m. MI time, with a show called an “Opera Gala,” led by Opera at the Acorn favorite, tenor John Concepcion. The evening will be filled with great opera scenes and arias sung by John and his hand-picked consort of great voices from the Lyric Opera. Tickets will be $25.

The second production of Opera at the Acorn will take place July 7 at 8:00 p.m. and features the “spiritual leader” of the Other 3 Tenors, Warren Moulton. The evening will be entitled “Not Just ANOTHER TENOR!” Mr. Moulton will draw on his unique experience as a stand-up comic and radio host, as well as his considerable vocal talents, to fill the evening with laughter, stories, and beautiful songs, drawn from the literature of opera and Broadway. Tickets are $20 for that show.

August 15, 17 and 18 brings the signature production of the season: Ruggiero Leoncavallo’s commedia del arte masterpiece, “I Pagliacci”. Last year’s production of “Rigoletto” could have filled the house twice, so there will be two performances—Fri., August 17 and Sat., August 18—at 8p.m., with a special open dress rehearsal on Wed., August 15, at 8 p.m.

Ticket prices will vary from night to night: the open dress will offer seats at $20, Friday will be $30, and Saturday will be $35. Starring in the title role will be John Payonk, who thrilled audiences last year as Rigoletto. Nedda will be performed by the wonderful soprano Sarah Hibbard, Beppe by John Concepcion, and Tonio will be sung by Warren Moulton. This year a new voice will be introduced to the Acorn Theater---baritone Lorenzo Formosa, performing the role of Silvio. The evening will also feature a chorus and the La Porte County Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Philip Bauman. We advise patrons to reserve tickets early.

On September 15, wartime France is brought to life in a new production called “La Vie en Rose”. Martha Cares will bring back to life France’s most famous chanteuse, Edith Piaf. Audiences will remember how mesmerizing she was in last year’s “Back in Town!” Don Stille will accompany on accordion and piano. This will be a very special romantic evening of nostalgia and beauty. Early reservations are also recommended at $25.

Finally, on December 22, the annual Christmas show, which has now become a local tradition. As always, free hot roasted chestnuts, fresh off founder Robert Swan’s own tree, will be back again.

Tickets for all performances are available at www.acorntheater.com, or by phone at 269-756-3879.

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MC Children’s Choir to Perform 1st Friday

A disciplined, harmonious children’s choir is an asset to a community, and an audible, visible sign of its commitment to education and cultural development. Michigan City’s children’s choir has taken a big step forward, by applying for, and winning, a small grant from the Enrichment Corporation. Directed by Sunny Gardner Orbovich, the choir has been in existence since 2005, and has numbered just short of twenty at it’s apex.

We have a goal of growth, and intention of using the grant for that purpose. We want the choir to represent Michigan City’s diversity, include both boys and girls, and have an age span of 5 to 16.

Besides the winter program of weekly rehearsals, our summer program enriches the choir yearly. This program thrives under a different guest director each season. This July 9th to 14th, Miss Gardner will be assisted by Derek Mielander, an extraordinary young teacher in the Michigan City area Schools. Students will enjoy a master class led by Kim Jones, soprano from Chicago, theory and rhythm by Nic Orbovich, concert violinist, and, our own celebrated organist and composer Wolfgang Rubsam will teach a fun and witty class in basics of composition. Creative movement will be a part of each day, as will art and recess. Breakfast and lunch provided by Michigan City Area Schools summer feeding program completes a day from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Admission to the program is based upon a love of singing, timely application and a statement of parental support for excellent attendance. This day camp is held at Trinity Rectory, 600 Franklin Square.

On Friday, June 1st, the choir will meet at Trinity, 5:00 p.m., to warm up. At 5:30, they will proceed to 9th and Washington, sing an anthem on the porch at First Presbyterian Church’s service, and proceed back to 6th and Franklin to perform a program of evening songs on the Trinity lawn. Won’t you arrange your enjoyment of First Friday events to include this performance of songs, including Humperdinck, Schumann, Rubsam, and other world and classical music? Then pick up an application for admission into the choir. Support the training of our youth in learning to sing together in well-tuned harmony.

First Friday Pre-Party at J Anderson

Don’t miss the “First Friday Pre-Party” every month at J Anderson Gallery. As founder of the “First Fridays” Michigan City’s Uptown Arts District, Anderson gets the party started early every “First Friday” from noon-5 p.m. with refreshments and many new works displayed weekly.

The gallery is just 1.5 miles east of the Blue Chip Casino on U.S. Hwy. 12 and makes a perfect kick off for a wonderful night of art.

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Great Lakes Super Grand Prix Charity Silent Auction Taking Donations

Visit Michigan City LaPorte Convention and Visitors Bureau would like to present to you the opportunity to donate to the 2012 Great Lakes Super Boat Grand Prix Silent Auction. All proceeds from this auction will be donated to the Michiana Humane Society SPCA and Wounded Worriers Project.

The Michiana Humane Society SPCA’s mission is to promote the wellbeing of animals through prevention, intervention, education and advocacy.

The Wounded Worrier Project mission is to honor and empower Wounded Warriors. Their vision is to foster the most successful, well-adjusted generation of wounded service members in our nation's history. Their purpose is to raise awareness and enlist the public's aid for the needs of injured service members, to help injured service members aid and assist each other and to provide unique, direct programs and services to meet the needs of injured service members.

The 2011 Great Lakes Grand Prix (sanctioned by Superboat International) will be held on Lake Michigan in Michigan City, Indiana, the week of July 31-August 5 and the silent auction will be held on Sunday, August 5 (Race Day) from 10am-4pm.

The 2011 Great Lakes Grand Prix injected more than $5.5 million into the local economy and over 120,000 spectators attended the three-day event. We were able to raise over $2000.00 at our silent auction last year and that money was donated to the Boys & Girls Club of Michigan City and the Boy Scouts of America LaSalle Region.

We encourage you to consider taking advantage of this opportunity to promote your business by donating to the silent auction.

Schedule of Events for Race Week

Tuesday, July 31 – Community kick-off at Washington Park Beach. Global Warmer and Cintron Liquid Energy teams in attendance.

Wed., August 1 – Boats begin to arrive. WIMS radio live at Washington Park Beach 6-8 p.m.


Fri., August 3 – Dry pit/race village open to public, 8 a.m., Washington Park. Entertainment at Jaycees Pavilion Washington Park, live music

Sat., August 4 – Dry pit/race village open to public, 8 a.m., Washington Park. Practice and testing, noon-5 p.m. Taste of Michigan City, noon-11 p.m., Franklin Street downtown. Classic Car show, noon-5 p.m., race village. Boat parade, 6 p.m., Franklin Street downtown. Block party/meet the racers, 7-10 p.m. Franklin Street downtown. Live entertainment downtown provided by Team Cintron Energy Drink.

Sun., August 5 – Dry pit/race village open to public, 8 a.m., Washington Park. Boats enter water at 9 a.m. Race 1, 11 a.m. Race 2, 1 p.m. Charity auction benefitting Wounded Warrior Project and Michiana Humane Society, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Racer award ceremony and banquet, 5 p.m., Stardust Event Center, Blue Chip Casino, Hotel and Spa. VIPs AND public welcome.

VIP Packages

VIP packages are available for those interested in attending private parties with racers and organizers and a catered, tented, brunch on Sunday during the race. VIPs also will be able to utilize the covered beach side seating on Saturday as well.

VIP passes are coordinated by day and can be purchased the LaPorte County Convention & Visitors Bureau office or online at www.MichiganCitySuperboat.com or www.MichiganCityLaporte.com

Thurs., Aug. 2 – VIP/meet the racers party at Matey’s, 7 to 10 p.m. $45.

Fri., Aug. 3 – VIP Authentic Hawaiian Luau, Washington Park Beach, 7-10 p.m. Authentic Hawaiian food prepared by Great Lakes Catering. $55.

Sun., Aug. 5 – VIP tented brunch, catered by Great Lakes Catering, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Washington Park Beach. $45.

Sun., Aug. 5 – VIP racer awards ceremony, 5 to 7 p.m., Stardust Event Center, Blue Chip Hotel and Casino. $45

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Time for Barker Mansion’s “Pink Tea”

Barker Mansion’s “Pink Tea”, held in the formal garden of the English manor house is Sun., June 24 and Wed., June 27 at 3:30 p.m. Cost of the tea is $25 per person by pre-paid reservation. Included in the menu are cucumber dill, chicken and almond salad tea sandwiches, scones, lemon preserves, whipped cream, fresh fruit, petticoat tails shortbread and English toffee squares served with a cup of Barker Mansion’s own breakfast tea. Recipes are from “The Great Tearooms of Britain”, sold in the Mansion’s gift shop.

Pamela Bayer, Valparaiso will present the program “Tea Time Friends”. Ms Bayer, in Victorian dress, compares assorted teacups with similarities and differences of individuals in our lives, demonstrating that it takes all of us to enjoy a good cup of tea and to make the world a better place.

An optional guided tour is available at 2 p.m. prior to the tea, featuring women and children survivors of the Titanic tragedy a century ago. Each room with mannequins in period dress tell the true-life stories from first class to steerage individuals.

Regular guided tours are offered Monday-Friday at 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m., and 1 p.m. and beginning June 1, guided tours are also at noon and 2 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

Barker Mansion is a 1905 house museum listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It was the home of freight car industrialist John H. Barker and contains original furnishings and art objects. Barker Mansion is located at 631 Washington St., Michigan City, Indiana, one block east of Lighthouse Place Premium Outlet Mall. For more information, phone 219 873-1520.
“Natural Selection” Solo Exhibition by Bonnie Zimmer

June 1 – July 1
Opening Reception
First Friday June 1
(Refreshments and appetizers will be served)
Southern Shore Art Association Gallery
724 Franklin, Michigan City, IN
219-879-4980
Hours: First Friday noon-8 p.m., Fri, Sat, Sun noon-5 p.m.

“Natural Selection” by Bonnie Zimmer is a unique exhibition of sculpture, vessels, and installations in natural and found materials, celebrating place and transformation.

Bonnie works almost exclusively with materials “harvested” from the farms, fields, woods and roadsides of Indiana. She hopes to transform viewers’ perceptions and inspire them to look within and beyond themselves and reconsider such ideas as “What is Art? What is beauty? What is the value of objects and materials in our society? Can an object retain and reflect the “memory” of its earlier life?

She hopes her re-purposed objects and materials will inspire you to look at resources and possessions in a fresh way and pause before you throw away or acquire one more “thing”. She also hopes you will notice the unique beauty of a lost or discarded object with its altered form & surface and perhaps wonder at its evolving history in its journey to finally be resurrected as “art”. In short, she hopes to transform both the materials she discovers and her viewers’ perceptions about art, materials, and their own values and practices.

Bonnie Zimmer is Associate Professor of Art at Saint Joseph’s College in Rensselaer, Indiana, and chair of the Art Department. She has received numerous awards over the years, including four Indiana Arts Commission Individual Artists Grants.

For more info, check out www.SouthernShoreArtAssociation.com
**Fernwood Railway Garden**

Fernwood’s popular railway garden is open to the public for its fourth season. This season a replica of the Niles City Hall will be added to Fernwood’s permanent collection of scale models of local attractions, which include the Niles Train Depot, the St. Joseph Lighthouse, Buchanan’s Pears Mill, and Notre Dame’s Golden Dome.

Buildings in the Railway Garden are reproduced using all natural materials. For example, the new Niles City Hall building has an ash bark roof, an oak bark foundation, and ornamentation of other tree barks. The windows are represented with red-stained willow and winged euonymus twigs, the tower is made with a vine-choked tree branch, and the chimneys are contorted witch hazel and acorn caps. Other natural components include twigs, berries, seed pods, cones, vines, and shelf fungus.

The railway exhibit and buildings were designed especially for Fernwood by respected botanical architect and naturalist, Paul Busse, and his artists at Applied Imagination (www.appliedimagination.biz) in Alexandria, Kentucky. Paul has been designing and installing railway gardens across the U.S. for the past 30 years, including those at Chicago Botanic Garden, U.S. Botanic Garden, The New York Botanical Garden, and the holiday train garden at Meijer Garden in Grand Rapids.

Fernwood’s railway garden is approximately 50 feet by 50 feet with four G-scale trains, each running at different elevations, traveling through three island gardens, under a pedestrian walk-over bridge, and atop seven-foot-high trestle bridges. A total of 510 feet of track run past a seven-foot waterfall, two mountain tunnels, a six-foot-tall mountain range, and a stream descending to a ten-foot-wide lake. The detailed miniature garden features dwarf evergreens, specially pruned trees, alpine plants, and natural materials, such as stones, branches, and moss.

The railway exhibit is free with paid Fernwood admission. Fernwood members are free.

Fernwood is a favorite of all who love nature - flora and fauna. Phone them at 269.695.6491 or log onto www.fernwoodbotanical.org

Fernwood is located near Buchanan, Michigan, at 13988 Range Line Road, Niles.

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**At the Acorn Theater**

*Thursday, May 31: 8:30 p.m.*

**Adult Education: Storytelling After Hours** (professionals telling stories that are not for children or sensitive adults)

May brings the fourth round of Storytelling After Hours. A revolving cast of Chicago’s finest storytellers takes the stage at the Acorn to titillate, horrify, and entertain. Bring an open mind, a strong stomach, and your sense of humor - but not the kids.

This month’s cast:
- Scott Whitehair, of This Much Is True and Story Lab Chicago
- JW Basilo, touring slam poet and spoken word artist
- Paul Whitehouse, children’s theater performer, storyteller, and actor
- A fourth special guest TBA.

Tickets are $10; reserve them at 269/756-3879 or www.acorntheater.com. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks, MI.

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**“Sunshine” at PEO Meeting**

At the March meeting of PEO (Philanthropic Education Organization), President Betty Hill and Vice President Joyce Beckner, Chapter DF of Michigan City, welcomed D.E. “Sunshine” Troche, Executive Director of Worthy Women Recovery Home of LaPorte, Indiana.

“Sunshine,” as she likes to be addressed, informed PEO members of the vital mission of the facility which seeks to reduce the recidivism rate of female inmates who reenter the LaPorte County community. The WWRH is a 501(c)3 non-profit program which also provides reentry strategies and tools to reduce substance abuse and addiction.

“Sunshine’s” presentation was energetic and extremely informative. She is a recipient of the ATHENA AWARD. More information may be found at www.worthyrecovery.org
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- Baked Spinach Lasagna
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Summer Reading at MC Library

Dream Big. Read!

The Summer Reading Program is set to begin at the Michigan City Public Library. “Dream Big. Read!” is for all ages, children through adults. Everyone can earn prizes just by reading. The program begins June 11 and ends July 21, 2012.

Free Fishing Weekend is June 2-3

For Hoosiers who have never cast a fishing line or haven't cast a line in a while, Free Fishing Weekend, June 2-3, is a great opportunity.

That’s because Indiana's adult residents do not need a fishing license or a trout/salmon stamp to fish Indiana waters during Free Fishing Weekend.

Clint Kowalik, DNR Go FishIN coordinator, suggested several Free Fishing Weekend options for adults and families.

“Go alone to a quiet, secret spot, explore new waters with your family, or take a kid to a local fishing derby or city park pond,” Kowalik said.

To celebrate Free Fishing Weekend, recreation areas across the state are planning fun fishing derbies, casting clinics, fish-cleaning demonstrations and cooking classes.

Properties hosting activities for Free Fishing Weekend nearby are:
- Cedar Lake, Cedar Lake, (219) 374-6157
- Pokagon State Park, Angola, (260) 833-3506
- River Preserve County Park, Goshen, (574) 535-6458
- Robinson Lake, Hobart, (219) 743-0679
- St. Patrick County Park, South Bend, (574) 277-4828
- Tippecanoe River State Park, Winamac, (574) 946-3213

Further information is available at dnr.IN.gov/fishwild/3598.htm.

Adults can buy a license for the rest of the year anytime at IndianaOutdoor.IN.gov. The standard resident license costs $17.

Children 17 and younger do not need a fishing license in Indiana. All other fishing regulations are still in effect during Free Fishing Weekend.

Beginners American Sign Language

A beginners American Sign Language class is being offered at the Michigan City Public Library. Learn to communicate with deaf people. The 8-week class will meet Wednesdays beginning June 6 from 5-7 p.m. The exception will be Tuesdays, June 12 & 26. The class fee is $75.

For those over 60 years old or if you bring a friend, the discounted fee is $55. The instructor Joanna Witulski is a Deaf Services Coordinator and a professor of ASL at Purdue University North Central. Contact Joanna at jtwitulski@gmail.com or 219-881-8720.

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“Hands Off”--New Sculpture Works

The Courtyard Gallery proudly presents sculptor and creator James Jackson and his latest outdoor creation “Hands Off”.

Now gracing the front sculpture garden of the gallery, this steel and mixed media work is a dynamic affirmation to the creativeness of Mr. Jackson and his use of castoff materials.

James Jackson, a lifetime resident of west Michigan, still lives in Kalamazoo. This graduate of Western Michigan University is a painter, sculptor, inventor, husband and grandfather. His work is imbued with themes like nature, personal balance and even Aikido, which James has been studying most of his life. The State Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, Russia, has consigned four pieces of his work since 1994. Collectors from as far away as Russia and the capital city of Brazil own his works. His sculptures can be seen throughout southern Michigan; the 26 ton entrance sign between St. Joseph’s and Benton Harbor, for example, or on the campus of Lake Michigan College.

Additional works by James Jackson may be viewed at the gallery or on the website www.courtyardfineart.com. The Courtyard Gallery is located at 813 E. Buffalo St. (US 12) New Buffalo, Michigan. Gallery hours are Sun.-Sat. 11:00-5:00, Tues. by appointment.

For more information, phone 800-291-9287 or email courtyardgallery@sbcglobal.net

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August 10-12
Fall Sidewalk Sales
September 14-15
Harvest & Wine Fest
October 6
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November 24

In Season, Every Season | newbuffalo.org
Meet Amazon Jungle Jim!

Amazon Jungle John will present “Creatures of the Night!” at noon on Mon., June 4 on the back lawn at La Porte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave., downtown LaPorte. Come and see nocturnal animals such as an owl, alligator, skunk, frog, snake, and bugs too. Other nocturnal animals will also be discussed. Explore myths and legends about them and find out how they survive in the dark. Pack a sack lunch to eat during the presentation if you want.

The program will be repeated at the Coolspring Branch Library which is near the corner of Johnson Road and 400 North at 6:00 p.m. There is no charge. Phone 219-362-6156 to request signing for the hearing impaired 48 hours in advance.
May 31, 2012

THE

“Art and the Subconscious”

Ginny Scott, professional artist of Northwest Indiana, will be exhibiting new paintings at The Vickers Theatre, Three Oaks, Mi. for the month of June. Ginny moved to La Porte from Chicago a few years ago and is a juried member of Northern Indiana Artists’ Inc, and a juried member of the Area Artists’ Association of the Lubeznik Center for the Arts. She has studied with several well known artists in New York and has exhibited widely in New York, Westchester County, Florida and Indiana.

Since moving to Indiana, she has been represented in many solo exhibitions, group shows and juried exhibits. She taught art in all of her studios and privately as well. She is available to teach privately and also for commissioned work. Her paintings are in collections in the United States and Internationally. Ginny maintains her art studio in LaPorte.

June First Friday on June 1st!

The Michigan City Mainstreet Association is pleased to present the First Friday Artwalk in the Uptown Arts District on June 1, from 5-8 p.m. The Uptown Arts District is comprised of fine art galleries, retail and restaurants located in the area from 11th Street to the lake and Spring Street to Wabash Street in Michigan City.

The June First Friday Artwalk is all about art this month, featuring a mix of jewelry, eclectic and fine art. See, taste, and enjoy all of the offerings at the businesses lining the Uptown Arts District. See the fine works at the Framing Station, Lakeside Gallery West, the Lubeznik Center for the Arts, Threadbenders Quilt Shop, the Southern Shore Art Association and many more. Taste the Tiramisu cupcakes at Arturo’s Baked Goods, delectable cake pops at Urban Soles, and finish with dinner at Maxine’s or Ryan’s Irish Pub.

There is something for everyone in the Uptown Arts District. Bring the family to view the amazing sand castle creations at Haas & Associates or to be amazed by the Joy of Flowers’ exhibit of larger-than-life arrangements. Take along the ladies for a night out of shopping at fine consignment shop Revive and Darling.

For a full listing of the events at the First Friday Artwalk and other Michigan City events, visit www.uptownartsdistrict.org or like their Facebook page. For more information on the Michigan City Mainstreet Association or to become a member, visit the Uptown Arts website.

The Michigan City Mainstreet Association (MCMA) is a nonprofit, membership organization dedicated to creating a vibrant and economically viable atmosphere for the historic downtown, Uptown Arts District in Michigan City, Indiana, as an exciting place to live, work, play, and invest.
### Upcoming Red Cross Blood Drives

- **Fri., June 1, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.**
  Arbors of Michigan City, in the Therapy Gym, 1101 E. Coolspring Ave., Michigan City.
- **Tues., June 5, noon-6 p.m.**
  St. John’s United Church of Christ in the Fellowship Hall, 101 St. John Road in Michigan City.
- **Wed., June 6, noon-4 p.m.**
  Phone 879-9598 to schedule your blood donation appointment.
- **Mon., June 11, noon-6 p.m.**
  First Church of God in the gymnasium, 2020 E. Lincolnway, LaPorte.
  Donate now through June 30 and be entered into a region-wide monthly drawing for a $500 gasoline card.
  To schedule an appointment to donate, phone 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org for more information. Individuals who are 17 years of age, meet weight and height requirements (110 pounds or more, depending on height, and in generally good health, may donate blood. Bring your Red Cross blood donor card or other form of positive ID.

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### Musicale Season Finale: American Music

During the past two seasons, Monday Musicale has gone “Around the World on a Musical Journey”. The club has featured music from far off lands including the South Sea Islands, Germany, Scandinavia, Russia, Africa, the Far East, and others. The final meeting of the 2011-2012 season is to highlight the music of the U.S.A.

The public is invited to attend the meeting, to be held at 7 p.m. on Mon., June 4 at the Barker Mansion, 631 Washington Street in Michigan City. Kathy Chase is program chairman.

Performers are to include Ange Benz, Richard Childers, Robert Komendera, Lee Meyer, Dan Moser, Lisa Schwingendorf, Stan Shepard, Felicia Thomas, Karol Valek, and Lori Lubs Zylstra.

The evening will conclude with a social hour, with refreshments provided by Florence Blake, Carol Garrett and their hosting committee.

For more information, contact Ange Benz at (219) 874-3754 or Sue Cassler at (219) 362-1421.

### Bark For Life

Bring your dogs and join the fun at Duneland Resale’s Bark for Life, Sun., June 3, 1-4 p.m. at the Duneland Community Center (Duneland Resale), 801 Broadway, Chesterton.

Dogs and owners will join in a one-mile stroll beginning at Resale. Pet accessories and services, such as identification microchips, and rescue groups will be available. There will be face painting and delicious food treats for pets and people. Prizes will be awarded for the best costumes. Best Buddies Pet Food Pantry will be accepting donations that day.

Registration: $10 per dog; $5 for a second dog. All dogs will receive bandanas. Dogs must be on a leash. Profit and not-for-profit booth applications are available at Duneland Resale (Open: Tues.-Fri., 10 a.m.-4:00 p.m. and Sat., 9 a.m.-noon.) For information, phone Joy, Bark for Life Chairman, at 219/926-1404.

All proceeds will go to the American Cancer Society’s Duneland Relay for Life.

### MCAS Partners with Area Providers for Pre-K

Michigan City Area Schools has announced that it will partner with the LaPorte County Family YMCA and Imagination Station to offer Pre-kindergarten programs for 3- and 4-year-old children. The programs will be housed at eight MCAS elementary schools next fall.

The YMCA will offer programs at Coolspring, Edgewood, Knapp, Lake Hills, Niemann, Pine, and Springfield Elementary Schools, while Imagination Station will offer a program at Marsh. Students living in the Joy district will be served at Pine.

For more information about Pre-K services for the 2012-13 school year, visit www.educateMC.net/pre-K
Elston’s Community Garage Sale

Elston’s Positive Behavioral Support Committee will be having a fundraiser to raise money for their Positive Behavioral Support Program on Sat., June 2nd from 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

It will be held in the Elston Wolf-Pack gym on Pahs Road in Michigan City. A concession stand will also be open.

If you would be interested in renting a table, email Samantha Babb at sbabb@mcas.k12.in.us

Cost is $15/table or $25/two tables and you will keep all of the profits from your sales. Deadline to sign up is June 1st. There will be a set up time on Friday, June 1st from 5-7 p.m. If you are interested but do not want to rent a table, you may donate your items for the committee’s profit.

Reins of Life Golf Outing

Reins of Life (ROL) will host a golf outing on June 4th at Long Beach Country Club.

The outing is offering several contest holes including Hole-in-One contests on every Par 3, a $5,000 consecutive putting contest, and a chance for one lucky player to take a $25,000 shot. Sponsors are being sought for the golf outing at various levels, from $225-$1,000, as well as golfers and prize donations. The fee for an individual player is $150 and a foursome is $600.

Reins of Life is a therapeutic horseback riding center for adults and children with disabilities at facilities in South Bend and Michigan City. The organization served 519 riders with 3,000 hours of lesson time in 2011 and has been in operation for 34 years. Nearly 500 volunteers help Reins fulfill its mission to “improve the quality of life for children and adults with disabilities through equine-assisted therapy.”

For more information or to sponsor, donate or register for the golf outing, phone Reins of Life at (574) 232-0853.

Insights in History -Center for History

At the Center for History’s Insights in History, taking place at 1:30 p.m. Eastern time, on Wed., June 6, Director of School Programs Travis Childs will chronicle the history of illegal activities of decades past in Michiana, including those who evaded Prohibition, participated in illegal gambling operations, robbed banks, profited from “the world’s oldest profession,” and more.

The program will also include a guided tour of the new exhibit Misbehaving Michiana.

Admission is $3 or $1 for members, and reservations are required by June 4. The Center for History, 808 W. Washington St., South Bend, IN.

For information, phone (574) 235-9664 or visit www.centerforhistory.org

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Left to right:
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10th Grade: Isabella Schuster, La Porte and George Koehm, La Porte
11th Grade: Margaret Costello, Chesterton and Michael Spaeth, La Porte

Highest Academic GPA
Left to right:
10th Grade: Taylor Schaetzle, Michigan City
9th Grade: Ana Kleihege, La Porte
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Have Tea on the Titanic

“Titanic, the Ship of Dreams,” presented by The Tea Ladies, will begin at 1:00 p.m., on Thurs., June 7. Come and participate in what it was like to be on board the Titanic before it sank. Come in Edwardian dress if you wish. This is intended for adults and teens. For more information, go to http://thetealadiesinc.com or phone 219-362-6156.

The Stephen E. Feinman Estate Exhibition

The Thaddeus C. Gallery is honored to host the Feinman Estate Exhibition. All artwork comes from the personal collection of a New York gallery owner. Over 100 artists from such locations as New York, Chicago, Santa Fe, Barcelona, Paris, Moscow, and Tokyo will be on display and for sale. This is a magnificent collection of paintings, lithographs, etchings, mezzotints, and watercolors in a multitude of styles.

The opening reception takes place on Fri., June 1, from 5-8 p.m.

Gallery hours are Thur/Fri 10 a.m.-6 p.m., and Sat 10 a.m.-3 p.m For more information, visit www.thaddeusc.com, or phone 219.326.8626.

“Man with Dog and Bouquet,” by Russian artist Felix Sherman

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“Man with Dog and Bouquet,” by Russian artist Felix Sherman
Travels with Charley:
Teaming up in Berrien for Team Birdathon

by Charles McKelvy

What do a weasel and two Snapping turtles have to do with the 24th Annual Southwest Michigan Team Birdathon on May 12?
Nothing and everything.
Meaning that the objective of the popular, one-day event is to engage people and birds in a festival of fun, adventure, and fund-raising for nature centers and conservation. In other words, birds are the words.

Love Creek Nature Center Naturalist Pat Underwood once again led the Sapsuckers, and he was at the head of the team at mid-day on the Yellow Birch Trail in Warren Dunes State Park when a trailing member of the team, who might have been me, happened to look at the trail and said: “Hey, there goes a weasel. Can we count it?”
“No,” Pat said.
The other Sapsuckers—Elizabeth Hosnedl, Brad Anderson, and Jon Wuepper, all wanted to know where the weasel went. But all I could tell them was that the weasel had dashed at high speed from the marsh into the forest.
Darn weasel.
But we darn well heard a pair of chatty Marsh wrens a short distance later as we walked along a boardwalk made slippery by the rain that had not been forecast but that had nonetheless seen fit to fall on us most of the day.
Oh well.
We got those Marsh wrens, and we got those other 118 birdies big and small, including an immature Bald eagle that practically flew right over us as we looked for the Summer tanager in another portion of the vastness that is Warren Dunes State Park.

But on the way to seeing and hearing some 180 species of birds in one day in the one county of Berrien in the one state of Michigan, 80 birders, organized into 17 teams, sure got out and about the county and had contact with all kinds of critters.
And that brings us back to the aforementioned weasel and Snapping turtles. That mammal and two reptiles appeared to members of the Sapsuckers as they traveled about Berrien County from 4 a.m. until 6:45 p.m. compiling a record of 119 species of birds seen and/or heard in one day.
Love Creek Nature Center Naturalist Pat Underwood once again led the Sapsuckers, and he was at the head of the team at mid-day on the Yellow Birch Trail in Warren Dunes State Park when a trailing member of the team, who might have been me, happened to look at the trail and said: “Hey, there goes a weasel. Can we count it?”
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We got those Marsh wrens, and we got those other 118 birdies big and small, including an immature Bald eagle that practically flew right over us as we looked for the Summer tanager in another portion of the vastness that is Warren Dunes State Park.

And as for those two Snapping turtles, why we encountered them in the cemetery in New Troy where we were looking for the Pine warbler in the White pines. When one is looking up for warblers one does not look down for Snappers, but we got lucky, and so we did not accidentally step near or on either turtle.
Both appeared to be females, and both appeared to be looking for places in which to lay eggs. One was right by the road, so Pat and Jon did the good deed of the day by gently but firmly herding the lady turtle off the road.

She cooperated as much as Snapping turtles are likely to cooperate, and she expressed her gratitude by thoughtfully not snapping any of us. And then we saw the Pine warbler right over her in the White pines.

Birdathon was good despite the rain and the incessant over-chattering of robins and cars and trains and dogs and who knows what else.

We were on a mission, and we accomplished it, and, as Pat Underwood stated the following day: “Actually our total of 119 was better than I thought. I was wrong about the 2011 Birdathon total—we actually had 115, which was the lowest ever and we had that total three times. So, 119 ties the third lowest total ever.”

And, Pat reported, the Sapsuckers have thus averaged 130.3 species since Birdathon began back when the Passenger pigeon was still in flight. He also said that the clean white county van we used as our official vehicle was clean and white again when he got finished cleaning all the mud we had tracked into it and out of it.

Thanks, Pat.

Oh, and you’re probably wondering what became of my dear wife Natalie on that soggy day of birthing. Well, Natalie defected to the Soras on the day before Birdathon, and they beat us by almost 20 birds, so I am not going there except to say that their team leader, the irrepressible Alison Village, birded the whole entire day barefoot.

We Sapsuckers at least had the sense to keep our shoes and socks on, and we knew not to step in the poison ivy whenever it presented itself, and that seemed to be just about everywhere we stopped to see what we needed to see or hear.

Finally, please know that the 25th Annual Southwest Michigan Team Birdathon will be held on Saturday, May 18, 2013. Save the date, organize a team, and just try and beat our socks off by contacting Love Creek Nature Center at: lovecreek@berriencounty.org.

I double-bird-dog dare ya!
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Women Educating Women

On April 21st, the Philanthropic Education Organization (PEO), Chapters BA, BR, and DF of Michigan City celebrated Founder’s Day at Long Beach Country Club. PEO is a philanthropic organization where women celebrate the advancement and education of women through scholarships, grants, loans, and stewardship of Cottey College in Nevada, Missouri.

Cottey College was established in 1884 and continues as a non-sectarian college which is owned and funded by women. Dr. Virginia Alice Cottey Stockard gifted the institution to PEO in 1927. It was Dr. Cottey’s belief that women deserve the same quality education as men.

In honoring Dr. Cottey on Founder’s Day, Chapter DF presented “The Gift,” a program celebrating the munificent donation. The performance consisted of an exchange of letters from the six surviving founders to Dr. Cottey in 1927. The spirited cast delivered a varied, informative and humorous body of letters attired in 1920 fashions including hats and gloves. All PEO members were enthusiastically engaged in a Victorian parlor game and joined hands to sing, “Thanks for the Memories” at the conclusion of the program.

The script and the novel lyrics to the tune of “Thanks for the Memories” were written by Joan Langley; the keyboard music was provided by Luella Ensign. The cast members were: Barbara Dobben (Dr. Virginia Alice Cottey), Connie Crama (Alice Bird Babb), Jeanette Tyrrel (Mary Allen Stafford), Pat Graham (Frances Roads Elliot), Elaine Alonso (Sue Pearson Penfield) and Bev Gallagher (Ella Stewart).


Missing from picture is Luella Ensign.

CALL THE BEACHER WITH YOUR NEWS!
Friday at Noon is the deadline for the following week’s issue. (219) 879-0088
Inaugural Cash Mob Set for LaPorte

The inaugural Cash Mob for downtown LaPorte is set for Sat., June 16, at 10 a.m. What is a Cash Mob? It is an event in which individuals contribute to the local economy by ‘mobbing’ a locally owned and operated business. This first cash mob will take place at Crow’s in the Cupboard, 706 Detroit Street in LaPorte.

Spend at least $20 to get your mob on, meet some people you’ve never met before, and most importantly, have fun. Whatever you purchase during the mob should be posted to Downtown LaPorte’s Facebook page. One lucky mobber will be chosen of those posts to receive a gift card from Crow’s in the Cupboard.

Throughout the mob day, giveaways and refreshments will also be served at Crow’s in the Cupboard. Crow’s has an eclectic mix of items and is excited to host the inaugural Cash Mob. “I am very excited to kick off the first-ever Cash Mob,” said Becky Pres- sel, co-owner of Crow’s in the Cupboard, “I hope everyone comes out to participate in our mob mania at Crow’s in the Cupboard.”

For more information on the Cash Mob or the plans for the ‘after-mob’ contact Tiffany Bley, Downtown Director for LaPorte at the Greater La Porte Chamber of Commerce, (219) 362-3178 or by email at bley@lpchamber.com

This Weekend at The Acorn Theater

Friday, June 1, 8 p.m. MI time

Alfonso Ponticelli and Swing Gitan (gypsy jazz band) tickets are $20; reserve at 269/756-3879 or www.acorntheater.com

Alfonso Ponticelli and Swing Gitan is Chicago’s premier gypsy-jazz band. The group plays the 1930s-style music of guitarist Django Reinhardt -- foot-tappin’ swing played on acoustic instruments.


Attention Michigan Job Seekers

Getting no where in your job search? This is your opportunity to meet with a Michigan WORKS! Career Coach. Job seekers will be able to discuss their job search, work on resume and cover letter development, or practice interviewing.

Michigan WORKS! will be at the HELP for Southwest Michigan Advocacy Center on Thursday, May 31, from 10 a.m. to noon. The Advocacy Center is located at 16170 Red Arrow Highway in Union Pier. To schedule a private appointment, call (269) 469-2559. Walk-ins always welcome.
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Noon Organ Series Begins June 6

Wed., June 6
First Congregational Church noon organ series
6th & Washington streets, Michigan City
Free admission

The first in the noon organ series at First Congregational Church of Michigan City will be The Queen of Angels Choristers, one of four choirs at Queen of Angels Parish in the Lincoln Square neighborhood of Chicago. This group of young musicians in the fourth through eighth grades rehearses weekly during the school year, mainly preparing choral music, hymns, and Psalms to enhance the liturgical celebrations at Queen of Angels.

The Choristers tackle serious choral music including works by J. S. Bach, Handel, and many other great choral composers. At the weekly rehearsals and in special small group sessions Choristers develop their musical skills including vocal technique, sight-reading and theory. Associated with the Royal School of Church Music, Choristers are able to chart their progress toward specific goals demonstrating their proficiency as choral singers.

Besides their work at Queen of Angels the Choristers sing a yearly concert at the Chicago City Hall as a part of the Mayor’s Office of Special Events Noontime Christmas Recital Series. They have also been invited to sing at the St. Nicholas Ball, an annual Catholic Charities event in Chicago and have traveled to Milwaukee to sing at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist.

The concert at the First Congregational Church noontime recital series culminates the Choristers 2011-2012 season. Featured in the concert are works performed by the Choristers this past season. Highlights include For the Beauty of the Earth by John Rutter, Gabriel Faure’s setting of Ave Verum, and Rejoice, O My Spirit by J. S. Bach. The choir will be accompanied by Mr. Kent Jager, organist at Queen of Angels, using the historic Roosevelt pipe organ at First Congregational Church. The Chorister conductor is Ms. Cassandra Berger.
The following programs are offered at Luhr County Park, located at 3178 S 150W, LaPorte. For registration and questions, contact Red Mill County Park Administrative Office at 219/325-8315 or log onto www.laportecountyparks.org

• Stroller, Baby, and You - 10–11 a.m.
  June 4, 18, July 2, 16, & 30, Aug. 13 & 27
  Toddlers – Pre-School age. Free program. Fun filled programs with other toddlers and preschoolers. Enjoy music, dance with your kids, giggle, and storytelling, take a hike (weather permitting) and just have fun. Phone 219-325-8315 to pre-register one week in advance & assure a spot.

• Senior Lifestyles - 9-10 a.m.
  Join the 55+ Club, a social club designed specifically for adults ages 55 and older. Learn and explore various types of nature at its best in the county parks. Come relax, enjoy nature, & have coffee on the Parks with your new friends. Phone 219-325-8315 at least one week in advance to signup & assure a spot. Free.

  June 7 - Veteran’s Benefits & Medicare/Medicaid use with Kayde Darnell, Oak Woods Manor
  July 12 - Fire Safety with LaPorte Fire Chief Andy Snyder
  August 2 - Managing Stress with Phyllis Baker of the Wellness Center

Summer Day Camp – Tuesday Treasures at Luhr Park. Ages 6 – 13 9 a.m.–noon. $8 per person per program. All programs include arts and crafts, games, snack and fun for everyone.

  June 19 – A Hooting Good Time
  June 26 - Life Cycles
  July 17 – Predators and their Prey
  July 24 – Flying High
  July 31 – What’s Bugging You
  August 7 – Wild Wind

Nature Hike - Sat., June 2, 8-9 a.m.
  Start your morning off with a Nature Hike to celebrate National Trails Day. Pre-registration is required at least one week in advance. Children must be accompanied by an adult. All ages welcomed. Free—just call to reserve your spot. Min 5/Max 30.

Kids Fishing Fun Day - June 2, 9-11 a.m.
  Children must be accompanied by an adult. A limited amount of bait and poles will be available during the program. This event is co-sponsored by the Northwest Indiana Steelheaders. No pre-registration required. Free for all ages.
Observe the Venus Transit

Several Indiana State Parks Offer Viewing

Several Indiana state parks and state recreation areas will host viewing programs for the once-in-a-lifetime Venus transit on Tues., June 5.

The Venus transit is a rare astronomical event in which Venus passes between the sun and the earth. During the transit, Venus will appear as a small black dot moving slowly across the face of the sun. The next Venus transit is in 2117.

The state parks and recreation areas offer a good view of the western horizon, which is important for the observation. At many properties, astronomers and astronomy clubs will offer information about the transit and answer questions.

The properties will also make it easy to observe the transit safely. Observing the transit without proper equipment could cause eye damage. The properties will provide viewing glasses and in some cases filtered telescopes and other equipment.

The transit will start around 6 p.m. EDT and be visible until sunset, around 9 p.m. EDT.

State properties with programs include:

–Indiana Dunes State Park: Viewing starts at 7 p.m. CDT at the Beach Pavilion.

While most programs are free, the normal gate fee of $5 per in-state vehicle and $7 per out-of-state vehicle will apply.

For more information, contact Vicki Basman at (317) 234-4926 or vbasman@dnr.IN.gov

PNC Offers Viewing of the Night Sky

Purdue University North Central will host a viewing of a once-in-a-lifetime event, the transit of Venus, on Tuesday, June 5 from 5 to 8 p.m. Observation through the telescope that will located near the main entrance of Schwarz Hall, on the west side of the building. The event is free and open to the public. This is an interactive learning experience suitable for all ages and interests.

Venus will be moving between the Earth and the Sun and a telescope with a solar filter will be available to allow people a view of the transit. The public is invited to take a close-up look and ask astronomy questions.

Dr. Aaron Warren, PNC associate professor of Physics, will be on hand to answer astronomy-related questions and provide descriptions of the transit of Venus. The event will be cancelled for cloudy or inclement weather. Further information with Warren at 872-0527, ext. 5659 or awarren@pnc.edu

“The Read Big!”

“Read Big!” at the Coolspring Branch Library, corner 400N & Johnson Rd., Michigan City, at 1:00 p.m., on Thursdays, June 7, 14, 21, and 28. Listen to and act out stories about giants, big-thinking inventors, superheroes, and other BIG characters.

For more information, phone 879-3272.
Activities to Explore

In the Local Area:

May 31-- Adult Education: Storytelling After Hours (professionals telling stories that are not for children or sensitive adults) 8:30 pm MI time. Tix $10; reserve at 269/756-3879 or www.acorntheater.com Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks, MI.

May 31-June 3 -- Riverside Marketplace. 10 am-3 pm. Indoor/outdoor market at Pioneer Pier Development, 234 E. 2nd St., MC. Starting May 31 Market will also be open Thurs & Fri.


June 1 -- NATIONAL GO BAREFOOT DAY

June 1 -- First Friday Uptown Arts District Art Walk. 5-8 pm north Franklin Street area of Michigan City. Art galleries, clothing and other retail shops, restaurants and more stay open later. Enjoy refreshments, art exhibitions and more.

June 1 -- Alfonso Ponticelli and Swing Gitan (gypsy jazz band) 8 pm MI time. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks, MI. Tix $20; reserve at 269/756-3879 or www.acorntheater.com

June 1-3, 8-10, 15-17 -- “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee” performed by Footlight Players. Thurs/Fri/Sat 8 pm; Sun/2 pm. Tix $12; reserve at 874-4035 or www.footlightlayers.org. Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St., MC.

June 2 -- NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

June 2 -- Michigan City Mainstreet Association Farmer’s Market. 8 am-sell-out at 8th & Washington streets.

June 2 -- Elston’s Community Garage Sale to raise funds for the Positive Behavioral Support program. 8 am-1 pm in the Elston Wolf-Pack gym on Pats Rd., MC.

June 2 -- Annual Garage and Bake Sale, Village Green area of Michigan City. 8 am-2 pm. Bake Sale only at 3606 Dorchester Rd.

June 2 -- Free Gentle Flow Yoga Class. 12:15 pm at the MC Public Library. Bring mat, wear comfortable attire; led by certified instructor Lauralee Sikorski.

June 2 -- Opening Reception for exhibit on William and Flora Richardson. 2-5 pm at the historic Brown Mansion Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton. Refreshments and receive a free bookmark. Related story this issue.

June 2 -- Trio and Solo Recital with piano, clarinet and viola by Carey Scheck, Frank Delo and Cara Ying at 5 pm, Presbyterian Church of LaPorte,

June 2 -- “Jews & Baseball, An American Love Story” is a documentary narrated by Dustin Hoffman. An evening of food, music and film at Sinai Temple, 2800 Franklin St., MC at 7 pm. $10 ticket includes hot dogs, peanuts and Cracker Jacks. Save $1.00 by wearing a baseball cap. Cash bar available. Open to the public. Reservations: 219-874-4477.

June 2 -- Opera at the Acorn: “Opera Gala” with tenor John Concepcion and friends from the Lyric Opera of Chicago. 8 pm MI time at The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. Tix $25; reserve at 269/756-3879 or www.acorntheater.com


June 4 -- Monday Musicale, featuring music of the USA. 7 pm at Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St., MC. Social hour following with refreshments. Free program, and open to the public.

June 5 -- WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY
June 6 -- Noon Organ Series at 1st Congregational Church, 6th & Washington streets, MC. Free, open to the public. This week featuring the Queen of Angels Choristers.

June 6 -- Knitting Club for all Ages. 5:30 pm at the MC Public Library. Bring size 9 needles, worsted yarn. Info: Joanne Hale, 219-814-4398.

June 8 -- Dunebrook's Annual Golf Outing and Golf Ball Drop at Michigan City Municipal Golf Course. Golf, lunch, prime rib buffet for $125; golf ball drop $5/ticket. 800/897-0007 or www.dunebrook.org

June 8 -- MC Summer Festival Event: Fish Fry at Senior Center, Washington Park. 4:30-6:30 pm. Complete lake perch dinner with potato and cole slaw. Drinks extra. Tix $10; at the door or www.mcsummerfest.org

Fridays thru September 28 -- Fitness Fridays. Walkers and runners invited every Friday at 4 pm at the YMCA, 901 Michigan Ave., LaPorte. 5K route from LaPorte to Beechwood Golf course and back. Free. Free T-shirt to those who attend 10 or more sessions. Info: 219-325-9622.

Farther Afield:
June 4 -- Free public observing for Partial Lunar Eclipse. midnight-5 am at the Conway Observatory at Buckley Homestead, Lowell, IN. Presented by the Calumet Astronomical Society. www.casonline.org. Located 4.5 miles west of I-65 just south of Rt 2. Exit I-65 west at Rt. 2 toward Lowell to Hendricks Road, then south to the “T” at Belshaw. East (left) on Belshaw to the first right (Chase Street) and south for one mile.
THE A Michigan City Lake Fish Feast

Available For Middle School Students

The Michigan City Public Library, Purdue North Central English Department, and the Lubeznik Center for the Arts are combining efforts to bring a writing summer camp experience to area middle school students.

“Slam Camp” will offer poetry reading and writing activities and games with focus on expressive, slam-style writing and performance. Students will experience dynamic presentations by area poets, engage in small and large group writing exercises and activities, and forge friendships with other area middle-schoolers. Sessions will be led by PNC writing professors and smaller groups will be led or coordinated by PNC students from the English Club and Dean Leadership group.

The camp will be held Mon.-Thurs., June 11-14 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. each day. The group will offer a public performance of their work on Saturday, June 16. Lunch and t-shirts will be provided. The camp is free and open to any middle school-aged student (exiting 5th through 8th graders) who love to read, write poetry and/or to perform original work. The registration fee is $5 and you can sign up on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SlamCamp2012.

The camp is being funded by the Michigan City Public Library Endowment Fund, The Purdue North Central Diversity Fund, and the Unity Foundation. For more information, contact Robin Kohn at the Michigan City Public Library at 219-873-3049 or at rkohn@mclib.org.

A Michigan City Lake Fish Feast

Reserve your ticket to some of the hottest events in Michigan City. Right now, the Michigan City Summer Festival is your connection for tickets to the Annual Fish Fry. Tickets are on sale today at $10 per person. For more information or to reserve tickets, go to www.mcsummerfest.org.

The Annual Fish Fry

Each year, the Michigan City Summer Festival hauls in a sampling of fresh lake perch from Lake Michigan for a feast. The lake perch dinner is a complete meal with a potato and coleslaw. Drinks are available. During the event, you can also sample some of the Lake Michigan Coho fish caught by prizewinning Great Lakes fishermen and the Coho Club.

The Fish Fry will take place on Fri., June 8th, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., at the Michigan City Senior Center, (2 on the Lake, Washington Park).

About the Organization

The Michigan City Summer Festival, Inc. is a nonprofit organization tasked with providing and overseeing family activities and events during Michigan City’s busiest season, made up of volunteers and headed by the Mayor of Michigan City.
On May 31, 1907, a fleet of “taximeter cabs” arrived in New York from Paris, the first taxis to be operated in an American city.

On May 31, 2003, Air France’s Concorde returned to Paris in a final commercial flight.

On June 1, 1792, Kentucky became the 15th state to join the Union.

On June 1, 1796, Tennessee became the 16th state to join the Union.

On June 1, 1944, the British Broadcasting Corporation aired a coded message intended to warn the French resistance that the D-Day invasion was imminent.

On June 2, 1883, in Fort Wayne, IN, 2,000 spectators attended the first baseball game to be played at night.

On June 2, 1885, the P. T. Barnum circus began its first tour of the United States.

On June 2, 1966, after making America’s first soft landing on the moon, the unmanned Surveyor 1 spacecraft relayed pictures from the lunar surface.

On June 3, 1965, Edward White (during the flight of Gemini 4) became the first American to walk in space.

On June 3, 1976, in honor of America’s Bicentennial, a British delegation presented the United States with the oldest known copy of the Magna Carta.

On June 4, 1940, following the Allies’ military evacuation at Dunkirk, Prime Minister Winston Churchill told Parliament: “… We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender.”

On June 4, 1942, the Battle of Midway (a naval encounter that would give the United States its first important victory over Japan in World War II) began. Japan’s devastating losses ended any chance that they ever had of winning the war in the Pacific.

On June 5, 1783, Joseph and Jacques Montgolfier first demonstrated their hot air balloon over the French city of Annonay.

On June 5, 1968, in Los Angeles, Senator Robert Kennedy, after claiming victory in the California Democratic presidential primary, was assassinated by Sirhan Sirhan.

On June 6, 1844, the first YMCA was established in London.

On June 6, 1933, the first motion-picture “drive-in” theatre was opened in Camden, NJ. Space was provided for 500 cars, and patrons viewed the film on a screen measuring 40 by 50 feet.
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**LBCC Women’s Golf Leagues**

**18 Hole League**

Event: Odd Lady In

**Event Winners:** Lynn Jacox, Sue Luegers, Carol Excell

**Low Net:**

- "A" Flight
  - Jen Gronceski

- "B" Flight
  - Connie Sullivan

- "C" Flight
  - Kathy Brennan

- "D" Flight
  - Lynn Jacox

**Low Putts:**

- "A" Flight
  - Adele O'Donnell

- "B" Flight
  - Kathy Kenefick

- "C" Flight
  - Gloria McMahon

- "D" Flight
  - Carol Excell

**Birdies:** Sue Luegers #8 & #11, Carol Excel #17

**Sunken Approaches:** Connie Sullivan #9

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**9 Hole League**

Event: Low Net

**Championship Flight**

Event:

- Donna Hennard

**Low Gross:**

- Pat Kelley

**Low Putts:**

- Liz Slattery

**“A” Flight**

Event:

- Gloria McMahon

**Low Gross:**

- Gloria McMahon

**Low Putts:**

- Susan Keeley

**“B” Flight**

Event:

- Kathy Hanley

**Low Gross:**

- Kathy Hanley

**Low Putts:**

- Terry Deming

**“C” Flight**

Event:

- Nancy Trainor

**Low Gross:**

- Judy Curtain

**Low Putts:**

- Betty Duggan

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beaches, Northwest Indiana, Chicago area, and Michigan coast. I have
experience with all ages, multiples, and special needs children. I also
have experience with elderly family members, pet care and house sit-
ting. I consider myself energetic, quick, responsible, fun, creative, gentle,
nurturing, patient, healthy, intelligent and articulate. I am certified in CPR
and First Aid. I have excellent references, background check, (a former
Federal employee), drug free, a dependable vehicle, insurance, an excel-

ental driving record. Please call anytime. Thank You. I look forward to
meeting many new families and developing new friendships this year.

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**REAL ESTATE FOR SALE** 1817 Lake Shore Dr., Sheridan Beach. Entertain by the beach. Single family home with 2 units on LSD. Upstairs is a 2BR, 2BA and downstairs a studio with full kitchen. Deck with bar and lake views. Steps to beach. $485,000. **Please call for more information 847-274-9800.**

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**GET TICKETS TO SUMMER FESTIVAL EVENTS**

Reserve your ticket to some of the hottest event in Michigan City. Right now, the Michigan City Summer Festival is your connection for tickets to the Annual Fish Fry, the Big Show—DCI Pageant of the Drums and the DCI Championships. Tickets are on sale today!

The dates for the events are: June 8—Annual Fish Fry, and June 30—The Big Show, DCI Pageant of the Drums.

The Annual Fish Fry tickets are $10 and available through the Michigan City Summer Festival. You can email info@mcssummerfest.org or purchase from the Senior Center in Washington Park.

The DCI Pageant of the Drums tickets are being sold locally by the LaPorte County Convention and Visitor’s Bureau, located at Marquette Mall in Michigan City. Get your tickets now. The Pageant of the Drums is always a sold out event.
The Columbus Affair by Steve Berry

This week my book selection is more of a consideration rather than a recommendation. Steve Berry has written an action/historical/fiction-type story that ponders family strife, political implications, hidden treasure, and who the heck was Christopher Columbus?!

Berry prefaces his story with this quote from an anonymous observer: "For 500 years historians have pondered the question: Who was Christopher Columbus? The answer is simply another question: Who do you want him to be?"

As I mentioned, fact and fiction are skillfully blended in this story long and hard into the fact that really not much is known of Columbus. His parentage, his home town, even his name, have been disputed by historians for centuries. One theory is that he was actually a Jew. There are several reasons for this: on his first voyage it was noted that there was no Catholic priest aboard his ship, most unusual for the time, and he pushed his men to sail at midnight the night before the Spanish government ordered all Jews out of Spain under threat of death. Their only choice was to become a converso, that is, a convert to the Catholic religion, renouncing Judaism. There are many other inconsistencies and theories, but that's just the tip of the iceberg. Let me give you a little more background on this story...

Our story starts out with Tom Sagan in modern day Florida with a gun in his hand ready to commit suicide. Once a respected journalist with a Pulitzer under his belt, he was stripped of his award when his last story proved to be a pack of lies, a set-up to discredit him by...who? He never found out. He wasn't the best of husbands; gone much of the time, had numerous affairs, and wasn't always there for his daughter, Alle.

Tom Sagan was born Jewish, but never practiced his religion, not like his parents and grandparents. When he married, his wife convinced him to convert to Christianity. After all, he wasn't going to actually practice it anyway. But as fate would have it, Alle decided to embrace the Judaism of her father's people.

How does all this relate to Columbus? Stick around...

As fate would have it, a knock on the door stopped Tom, especially when the man held up a picture of Alle, lying on a bed, bound and gagged. Tom now had one thought--save his daughter.

Zachariah Simon has Alle. A rich scoundrel, not to mention religious fanatic, he believes that Sagan has the answer to finding a treasure that could rock the Jewish world, as well as have explosive political implications in the battle between Jews and Arabs.

Till next time, happy reading!
Spring is Here! Build Your Dream Home on One of These Properties!

Mayfield Dr., Michigan City
$18,900
Perfect Place to Call HOME!!! Bring your house plans to build on this 100 x 108 ft. lot. Eight homes built in Mayfield Place Subdivision. City Sewer available. Minutes away from beaches, Harbor Country, Lighthouse Place, Casino’s and more. Michele Cihak @219-861-2073

26 Mayfield Dr., Michigan City
$19,500
A gorgeous site for your home! Bring your house plans to build on the 75 x 229.94 lot. City services available. Tryon Farms is across street. Close to Lake Michigan beaches, Harbor Country, Lighthouse Place, Casino’s & more. Easy access to I-94. Give me a call! Michele Cihak @219-861-2073

28 Mayfield Dr., Michigan City
$19,500
Build your Dream Home Here! 75 x 171.36 lot. City services available. Tryon Farms is across street, Close to Lake Michigan beaches, Harbor Country, Lighthouse Place. Casinos & more. Easy access to I-94. Give me a call! Michele Cihak @219-861-2073

Lot 2 Freyer Rd., Michigan City
$28,000
Beautiful corner lot of proposed future subdivision. City sewer and water available. Owner will remove selected trees per buyer’s choice with accepted contract. Easy access to highways and beaches. Call today! Cari Adams @ 219-898-5412

Jamestown Drive, Kimball Woods
$42,000
It’s waiting for you! Beautifully landscaped 127 x 140 buildable lot in desirable Kimball Woods! Bring your plans for your dream home and your swimsuit for the community pool! Cari Adams @ 219-898-5412

Northbrook 1-A Dr, Shoreland Hills
$42,500
Located between Duneland Dr & Elmwood Dr, this 7376 sq ft parcel has 97’ of frontage on Northbrook. City sewer and water available in Shoreland Hills. This level lot is located in a peaceful neighborhood where the residents take good care of their properties. Come see! Ed Merrion @ 219-898-541

Elmwood, Michiana Shores
$50,500
Wonderful Wooded Building Site! The lot is 80 x 130 with city sewer & water available. A great location for a summer cottage to enjoy for the weekends or all year round home. It’s only a 10 minute walk to Lake Michigan Beaches. Give me a call to take a look at property. Michele Cihak @219-861-2073

307 W Michigan, New Buffalo
$79,900
BEAUTIFUL, Park-Like Lot in a newer development in the Heart of Harbor Country. This ready to build lot is 112 x 132 and backs up to a Wooded Ravine. In an area w/new construction homes within New Buffalo Area Schools. Come take a look!! Michele Cihak @219-861-2073

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$42,000
It’s waiting for you! Beautifully landscaped 127 x 140 buildable lot in desirable Kimball Woods! Bring your plans for your dream home and your swimsuit for the community pool! Cari Adams @ 219-898-5412

309 W Michigan, New Buffalo
$79,900
The Perfect Site for Your Future available at this 66 x 132 lot! Ready to build and backs up to a wooded ravine! This area is dotted with new construction homes in the desirable New Buffalo Area Schools neighborhood. Come take a look! Michele Cihak @219-861-2073

Fairway Drive, Long Beach
$111,000
Gorgeous lot with a great view of Lake Claire! A perfect place for you to build your dream home! It’s a site for your future. Call Today! David Angus @ 219-898-7009

Birchmont, New Buffalo
$199,000
Beautiful setting in the Heart of Michiana! About 3 blks. To Lake Michigan Beaches – elevated wooded site w/ftontage on 2 opposite streets (Birchmont & Cherokee). Call today! Michele Cihak @219-861-2073

28 Ponchartrain, New Buffalo
$359,000
Impressive Wooded Corner Lot 100 x 120 just down the hill from Stop 37 in the Village of Michiana, Michigan. You’ll hear the waves from Lake Michigan & feel the summer breezes while surrounded by multi-million dollar homes. Only a phone call away! Michele Cihak @219-861-2073

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**601 Lake Shore Drive**

3 bedroom, 2 full baths home on 2 huge lots. Spectacular lake views, fireplace with wrap around decks and several patios. Guest suite in lower walk-out has a full kitchen, bedroom and bath.  

$399,900

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**3103 Lake Shore Drive**

Stunning Lake Michigan views with singing sands beach just steps away. 4 bedrooms, 4 baths and plenty of parking. Large deck for outdoor entertaining or relaxing.  

$729,000

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**106 Elmwood**

3 bedroom home situated on a wooded lot. 2 car garage with heated drive. Well insulated, near the beach. Perfect for year round living or quick weekend getaways.  

$244,900

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**Terre Du Lac, Lot 16**

New Listing. Be apart of a quickly growing neighborhood only 2 blocks from the beach. Be near night life, family fun and cultural attractions, yet enjoy the tranquility of being off the beaten path. All permits needed. Slightly over ¼ acre of buildable land.  

$66,066

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