



Volume 31, Number 14 Thursday, April 16, 2015

# At the Helm

Latest Project for Producer/Writer/Director is Potential PBS Series

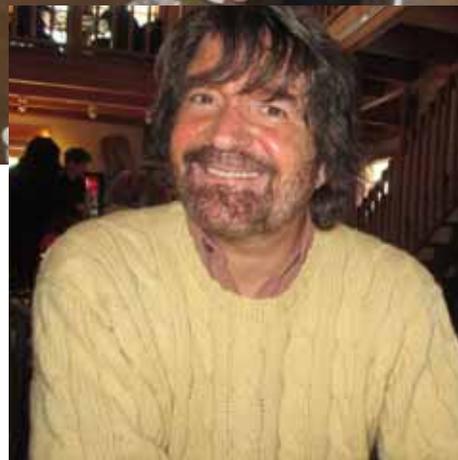
by Andrew Tallackson



The view from above at Lakeshore Coffee & Specialties as cameraman Tony Santucci films host Dennis Blitz, with actor Matt Kalita behind him.

**J**ack Olesker is working under a tight deadline. Six hours, to be precise. In that time, he must shoot a promotional video that, if fruitful, could bring one man's vision for sound financial planning into the homes of millions of PBS viewers.

Olesker, however, shows no visible signs of strain. The mood on the set is light and jovial. Packed into Lakeshore Coffee & Specialties, 444 Wabash St., Olesker is surrounded by bright lights, cameras and sound equipment, not to mention his crew and nine to 10 extras. Ninety minutes remain before filming inside the coffee shop is completed.



Jack Olesker discusses his plans for "The IRA Oracle" one week before the shoot at Lakeshore Coffee & Specialties.

Continued on Page 2

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## At the Helm Continued from Page 1

With only a few shots left, the crew fine-tuning essential details, Olesker coaches two of his actors: Dennis Blitz, the host touting his show, “The IRA Oracle,” and Matt Kalita, a local magician and actor playing a crazy barista named Rinaldo. Watching Olesker, it’s clear why the shoot has proceeded with ease. As a director, he is supportive, nurturing, a paternal puppet master who wants those he works with to enjoy the experience as much as he does.

The camera rolls and Kalita, as Rinaldo, tries to impress Blitz with magic tricks and bizarre talk of investing in earthworms. Over the next 10 minutes, Olesker shouts “cut,” reminding Blitz not to forget specific dialogue or asking Kalita to unveil his magic trick faster. In one instance, the scene moves along beautifully...until Kalita accidentally bumps into one of the lights. Olesker, however, isn’t concerned. He wants more theatricality from Kalita.

“Go over the top,” Olesker tells him. “I can always pull you back in.” Kalita takes another stab at the



Moments before shooting their scene together, Jack Olesker (right) goes over the dialogue with Dennis Blitz (center) and Matt Kalita.

“Television is such an intimate medium,” he tells Blitz and Kalita. “They want to feel comfortable with you so they can invite you into their living rooms.”

A minute or two later, someone shouts “quiet on the set.” Like someone flipping a switch, lively chatter among extras scattered throughout the shop ceases in mid-sentence. Everyone eagerly awaits for Olesker to shout “action.”

dialogue, and Olesker pushes him further. “You *really* want to give it that energy. You’re dramatic. You’re *overly* dramatic. I want this really theatrical. Go *over* the top.”

And with that, Kalita achieves precisely what Olesker wants, bellowing his dialogue with bombastic zeal. The director shouts “cut,” followed by “perfect.” Blitz heads over to Olesker and plops down into a chair.



Gayle Blitz (right) appears in the promo as a coffee shop regular, seated next to Mya Kalita and Ray Kalita.

“How’s it going?,” I ask. Blitz laughs. “I’m the least qualified to answer that,” he says, pointing to Olesker for a response. Olesker emits a hearty laugh. “He’s doing fantastically. His learning curve is skyrocketing with each shot.”

Later, relaxing by the counter where Kalita is prepping for his next shot, Blitz says the shoot has been a swift introduction to the world of television.

“The amount of detail that goes into it, all the takes and retakes, you realize each person involved is critical to the scene,” he said. “It couldn’t possibly work without each person present.

“And, it’s all come together because of Jack. His long experience in TV has been critical to this project moving forward.”

Continued on Page 4



Soundman Bryan Cantwell remains close to the actors in each shot.

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## At the Helm Continued from Page 3

For more than 30 years, Olesker has involved himself in one astonishingly successful project after another. He is best known for developing “Mighty Morphin Power Rangers,” one of the most popular children’s TV shows ever, but he’s also written for animated series such as “The Littles,” “The Care Bears,” “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles,” “Super Mario Bros.” and “M.A.S.K.”



“Mighty Morphin Power Rangers”

A Chicago native who spent his youth enjoying weekends and summers in Michiana, Mich., he’s content these days to call Long Beach home, away from Los Angeles, which he calls “a dangerous place to be successful,” and rooted in a community with the right values to raise a family.

His parents, Tom and Joan, bought a home in Michiana in 1946, his mother serving on the town board. His father ran a successful line of Chicago clothing stores, relaxing in the family’s Michiana home on the weekends.

“I grew up with golden memories (of Michiana),” he said. “It was heaven on Earth.”

Olesker majored in journalism at Bradley University, but had no interest in newspapers or magazines. He wanted to write a novel, or work in TV and film. His first novel, the murder-mystery “No Place Like Home,” was published in 1976. Prior to publication, Sherry Lansing, the former CEO for Paramount Pictures who produced movies such as “Fatal Attraction” and “The Accused,” bought the book’s film rights for MGM. That inspired Olesker to move to Los Angeles.

“I was convinced I had golden fingers,” he said. “What I didn’t realize was that there were thousands of people there with the same idea as me.”

Nonetheless, success came fairly quickly for

Olesker. He was hired by Blanc Communications, writing more than 100 commercials. In 1980, he sold his first screenplay, “Beyond Forever,” which was based on a romance novel, followed by another screenplay, “Drive-in.” In 1982, he was hired to write for the series “The Littles,” an animated TV show through DIC Entertainment and based on John Peterson’s series of children’s novels. DIC promoted him to senior story editor. He subsequently wrote, created and story edited TV shows such as “The New Adventures of He-Man,” “Care Bears,” “M.A.S.K.,” “Hot Wheels” and “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.” In 1990, he created the original development work for “Mighty Morphin Power Rangers.”

“It’s worth like a billion dollars,” he said. “Regrettably, I did not own a piece of that.”

He’s also created TV series for Fox Family Channel, The Disney Channel, CBS, NBC, Warner Bros., Columbia and Universal. He’s written, produced and directed more than 1,200 TV episodes, 18 movies and published seven novels.

Olesker was vacationing in the Bahamas when he met Kim, an Omaha native and his future wife. He told her he was a writer. She asked if he’d written anything he might know.

“I told her I was the writer of the ‘Care Bears,’ and that was it,” Olesker said, laughing. “She was hooked.”

Jack and Kim were married 19 years ago, and



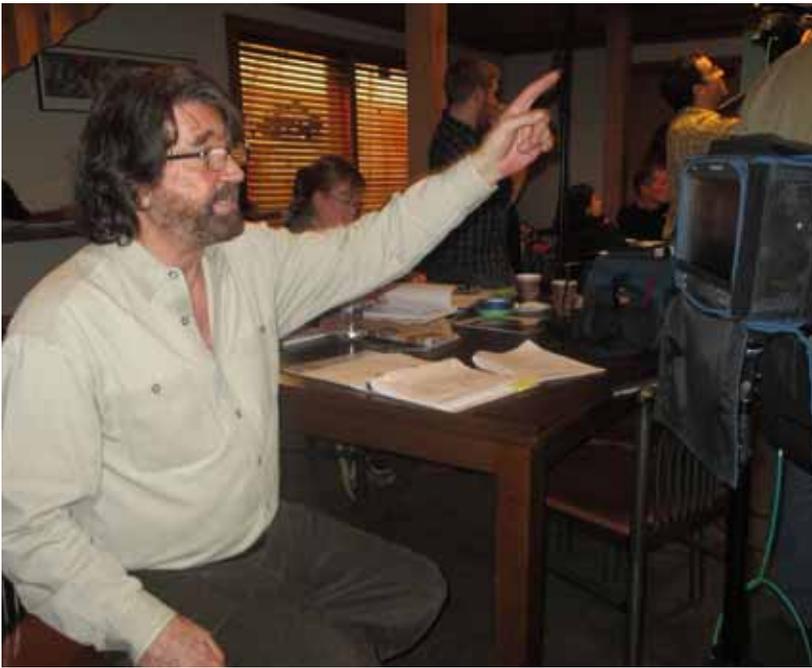
“The Littles”



“The Care Bears”

he adds, “there is not a day that goes by that I don’t thank my Lord for having the blessing of her in my life.” They relocated to his parent’s Michiana home in 2000, later moving to Long Beach, into a home built in 1920 when the community was being established.

His company, 24/7 Productions, affords him the opportunity to create, write and produce videos, TV series and films. Kim is the regional director of



Jack Olesker watches the action from his monitor.



Jack Olesker coaches Dennis Blitz before getting the next shot.

United Way Early Childhood Education Initiatives, serving United Ways in La Porte, Porter and Lake counties. They have three children: Alex, a sophomore at Marquette Catholic High School; Zoe, a seventh-grader at Notre Dame Catholic School and Max, a first-grader at Notre Dame.

“I’m crazy about the area,” he said. “There are shared values in the Midwest, a work ethic, good people who work hard.

“Anyone who doesn’t know how good they have it here, I’ll put them on a bus to New York and they will come back and kiss the ground they live on.”

Jack would not trade his life here for anything.

Continued on Page 6



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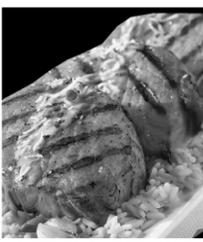


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## At the Helm

Continued from Page 5

**O**n the morning of April 7, the temperatures mild, the sky overcast, Olesker is shooting the PBS promo for “The IRA Oracle” at Lakeshore Coffee. Teaming up with Lakeshore Public Media, a PBS affiliate in Merrillville, the goal is to present the series to American Public Television in May for national PBS syndication. Olesker hopes APT will pick up either 13 or 26 episodes. Lakeshore Coffee would be the show’s permanent home. The shop, Olesker said, is ideal because it reinforces the show’s laid-back premise. And the owners, Mike and Tina Bowen, jumped at the offer. That’s why they closed the shop for the duration of the shoot, setting up a table and tent outside to continue serving customers.

“Mike was thrilled and excited that they would even think to use Lakeshore,” Tina Bowen said. “We didn’t want to pass this opportunity up.”



Cameraman Tony Santucci zeroes in on host Dennis Blitz.

Blitz, of Chicago, founded The IRA Club, having amassed a 30-year career in financial education for financial professionals. He also has written 12 books on financial regulations and taxation. Sounds like dry material for a TV show, but Olesker says Blitz is anything but stuffy.

“He’s the first guy I met who brings this stuff to life. He’s charming, with a dry sense of humor,” Olesker says. “There definitely is a series here, to take dry information people need and turn it into compelling, watchable entertainment.”

Indeed, Blitz is just as Olesker describes him: amiable, humble and with a legitimate vision for “The IRA Oracle.”

“We have a true dilemma these days,” he says. “We have Baby Boomers who are fast approaching retirement, but haven’t been successful savors.

“All they need is to learn how to use the tools they have for a successful future.”

The April 7 shoot, in more ways than one, was a family affair. Kalita brought his wife, Diane, his daughter, Mya, and his father, Ray, to appear as extras in the coffee shop. Dennis’ wife, Gayle, sat with

Ray and Mya during much of the shoot.

Asked how the day was going, Ray chuckled, his response only one word: “long.” He then added watching the production gave him a better appreciation of what it takes to create a TV promo.

“There are a lot of takes and retakes to get exactly what the director wants,” he said.



Kim Olesker carefully watches the day’s shoot, keeping notes at the same time.

Kim Olesker took the day off from work to serve as first assistant director, keeping track of everything from specific shots to lines of dialogue. She offered fascinating tidbits about the production itself. When all is said and done, it will take about six hours of filming, 52 shots and an 11-page script, written by Olesker, to create a promo lasting only three to five minutes.



Matt Kalita

Thrilled to be part of the promo was Kalita.

“Any time I can entertain, make people smile or outright laugh at me is the outcome I desire,” he said. “Whether I’m acting smarter than I really am or playing dumb, the satisfaction I get in front of the camera is real pleasure.”

Kalita was all smiles throughout the shoot, attributing his enjoyment to the working relationship he’s cultivated with Olesker. The director attended one of his magic shows and approached him afterward about appearing in one of his projects.

Kalita describes Olesker as “extremely professional.”

“He doesn’t shout out orders, make demands or issue threats,” Kalita says, “but rather explains how each scene, each spoken word, every expression should be played out to get the actors to ‘feel’ what it is they’re saying, and then to perform those actions as if they were reality.”

Indeed, Olesker had only high praise for everyone involved in the April 7 shoot.

“It was spectacular,” he said. “Everyone worked really hard. They’re true professionals. I’m thrilled.”



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# ARRANGER ENJOYS CREATIVE PARTNERSHIP WITH LA PORTE COUNTY SYMPHONY

by Kayla Weiss

Having arranged music for years for La Porte County Symphony Orchestra, Jerry Lackey has tackled everything from classical pieces to pop and contemporary hits.

His latest challenge? The Purdue Varsity Glee Club, which will appear in the Robert J. Hiler Family Foundation April Pops Concert at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 18, at La Porte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St.

"I had never heard the Purdue Glee Club sing until I looked them up on youtube to get an idea of their style and the types of numbers they have done in the past," Lackey said.



Arranger Jerry Lackey.

"When I write, I try to do things a little less standard than most, so it was an interesting and fun experience to arrange these pieces of music – taking what I knew of the styles of the Glee Club and the LCSO, and putting my own creative flair on it. I really hope (conductor) Phil (Bauman) is enjoying the arrangements."

Lackey's association with Bauman began when Bauman was assistant conductor with the Northwest Indiana Symphony.

"Phil became aware of my work and started hiring me to make arrangements for him, way back when – the same year that 'Wicked' debuted!

"The working relationship that I've developed with Phil is very energetic and really a great thing to have," Lackey continued. "Over the years, he has provided me with a lot of work, and I've enjoyed every minute of it. Right now, I'm really looking forward to coming up to Indiana for the last few practices before the big performance. I can't wait to see how it all has come together!"

For 39 years, Lackey served as an orchestra teacher with South Bend schools. He also would play the tuba and bass guitar with various area groups. He now lives in Nashville, still working closely with LCSO and other northern Indiana groups. He even was commissioned to write a piece for the LCSO's anniversary performance.

For the April 18 program, concertgoers can expect selections ranging from "Les Miserables" to "West Side Story." The symphony will be



The Purdue Varsity Glee Club

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joined by not only the Glee Club, but also the LC-SO's Children's Choir, under the direction of Matthew Nelson.

Founded in 1893, the Glee Club has entertained on behalf of Purdue University for campus, community, state, national and international events, averaging between 50 to 60 appearances each year. Its repertoire includes gospel, vocal jazz, swing, contemporary hits, romantic ballads, classical choral selections, barbershop, folk melodies, patriotic standards, familiar opera choruses, country and novelty tunes. It is directed by William Griffel.



Blair Milo



Jim Dworkin

Also part of the April 18 concert is the tradition of the Magic Baton competition. This year's featured nominees are La Porte Mayor Blair Milo and Purdue University-North Central Chancellor Jim Dworkin.

The nominee who raises the most money for the orchestra by the end of intermission will be deemed the winner and carry the title of maestro as he/she conducts the orchestra and Glee Club in performing "Hail Purdue" during the program's second half. All donations benefit LCSO youth programs, including the October children's concert for area school children, the Student Apprentice Program and LCSO Children's Choir. One dollar is equal to one vote. Donations of all sizes are encouraged.

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The Magic Baton tradition began in 1981 as a part of the city of La Porte's 150th anniversary. Mayor A.J. Rumely was the highest bidder at a live auction held during intermission of the spring pops concert. As the winning bidder, Rumely led LCSO through a vigorous rendition of "Stars and Stripes Forever." Since then, there have been 27 Magic Baton Maestros.

Vote for your favorite nominee by pledging donations online at [www.lcso.net](http://www.lcso.net) or by sending a check to P.O. Box 563, La Porte, IN 46352-0563.

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## “The Mystery of Edwin Drood”

Be part of the fun when Footlight Players presents “The Mystery of Edwin Drood,” a raucous mystery-comedy musical where theatergoers choose the ending.

The show runs April 17-19, 24-26 and May 1-3 at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St.

Based on Charles Dickens’ unfinished novel, the Tony-winning musical recently enjoyed a Broadway revival and features actors from across the region. It unfolds as a story

within a story. The Music Hall Royale, a loony Victorian musical troupe, has decided to stage a flamboyant rendition of “Drood.” The story focuses on John Jasper (Noel Carlson), a Jekyll-and-Hyde choirmaster madly in love with his music student, Miss Rosa Bud (Alice Dickey). Miss Bud is, in turn, engaged to Jasper’s nephew, young Edwin Drood (Caitlyn Desjardins). The title character disappears mysteriously one stormy Christmas Eve, but has Edwin Drood been murdered? And if so, then whodunnit?

“The best part is, the audience chooses who killed Drood, who loves who and who investigated it,” said Dutch Williams, who portrays Durdles. “Every night can be different!”

Williams is a newcomer to Footlight who can usually be found working backstage at area theaters, but said he’s excited to have his first musical role onstage with “Drood.” Another newcomer, LuAnne Pezel, has 30 years of theater experience under her



Appearing in “The Mystery of Edwin Drood” are (from left) Alice Dickey, Caitlyn Desjardins, Noel Carlson and Laura Meyer.

belt and the accolades to prove it. Playing the Chairman, she has won multiple Northern Indiana Excellence in Theatre Foundation awards in productions at Memorial Opera House and Portage Community Theatre, the latest given to her last year for her portrayal of “Marmee/The Hag” in MOH’s production of “Little Women.”

Other cast members are George Maslankowski, Laura Meyer, Hillary Havlin, Alexander Bon-

ner, Thom Nelson, Anthony Holt, Karen Arden, Debbie Bartholomew, Emil Cripe and Amanda Sixbury.

Tickets are \$15 for adults (or two for \$25 with a coupon printed off [footlightplayers.org](http://footlightplayers.org)) and \$10 for children 12 and younger. Times are 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. Doors open 45 minutes prior to curtain. Reservations will be held until 15 minutes prior to curtain unless secured by a season gift card or payment. Reservations are recommended by calling (219) 874-4035 or at [www.footlightplayers.org](http://www.footlightplayers.org)

### Auditions

Footlight Players will have auditions for its next production, “Lend Me a Tenor,” from 7 to 9 p.m. Sunday and Monday, April 19 and 20, at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St.

Director Alice Dickey seeks four men and four women for the cast.



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A unique fundraiser that transforms leftover yard signs into works of art will help provide scholarships for the Safe Harbor after-school program.

The “Off the Wall” frames are hand-crafted message centers (chalk boards or cork boards) created from leftover yard signs — used during the November 2013 Michigan City Area Schools referendum campaign — by Safe Harbor students from Michiana Resources clients.

Anyone interested in the project, supported by Michigan City Rotary Club, can stop by Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., between 2:30 and 7 p.m. Thursday, April 16. The recommended cost is a \$20 donation per frame. Only 250 frames will be available on first-come, first-served basis.



Holding message centers created for the fundraiser are (from left) Janet Bloch, Lubeznik Center for the Arts education director, Mike Hackett, Michigan City Rotary Club president, and Sherri Silcox and Herb Higgin of Safe Harbor.

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## “The Good Lie”

Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St., will present a free screening of “The Good Lie” at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 19.



Reese Witherspoon stars in “The Good Lie.”

The film, shown in collaboration with Purdue University-North Central’s Odyssey Arts and Cultural Events Series, is based on the experiences of Sudanese refugees known as the “Lost Boys.” While the characters are fictionalized, they represent a handful of the 3,600 refugees safely relocated to the U.S. Three of the characters are siblings who walk hundreds miles to safety after their parents were murdered and their village destroyed. After 13 years in a refugee camp, they are allowed to settle in Kansas City, where they are greeted by an employment agency executive played by Reese Witherspoon.

The film is rated PG-13. Parents are strongly cautioned because of scenes of wartime violence, strong language and drug use.

Contact Judy Jacobi, PNC assistant vice chancellor of marketing and campus relations, at (219) 785-5200, Ext. 5593, for more information.



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## 26th Annual Potpourri of Literature

Purdue University-North Central Communication 240 students will host the 26th annual Potpourri of Literature Readers’ Theatre at 11 a.m. Tuesday, April 21, and 2 p.m. Sunday, April 26.

The free one-hour program open to the public will be in Library-Student-Faculty Building Assembly Hall, Room 02.

This year’s edition is “Mars-Venus; Venus-Mars; The Eternal Struggle,” with a script written and edited by Daniel Padberg, associate professor of communication and Communication 240 instructor.

The program has been an annual feature since its 1989 debut as a showcase for students in Communication 240, “Introduction to Oral Interpretation.” While the theme changes and reflects moods, trends and social issues of the day, the program is built around literature and music of varying genres that illustrate the program theme from different perspectives.

Participating students are: Angela Barreto, New Carlisle; Jordan Benton, Hobart; Brandon Chambers, Valparaiso; Shelby Clindaniel, Kouts; Jordan Hancock, Mishawaka; Sarah Maddox, Rolling Prairie; Maria Elena Miller, Michigan City; Griselda Montanez, La Porte; Logan Moore, Valparaiso; Joe Reed, Jackson Township; Kaitlyn Snyder, La Porte; Timothy Stephens, La Porte; Kristen Wozniak, La Porte and Chrystal Ziegler, La Porte.

Contact Padberg at (219) 785-5384 for additional information.

## Annual Zoobilee

Washington Park Zoo will present Zoobilee, its annual event to generate community support and visibility for the zoo and its programs, at 6 p.m. Saturday, April 18, at Blue Chip Casino.

The evening will include a dinner buffet, silent auction and music by Katie Todd. Lauded by iTunes.com as one of the “top buzz bands in the country,” she has shared the stage with Patti Labelle, Steve Winwood, Sarah McLachlan and Juliana Hatfield. Her music has been featured in a number of films, and her single, “In and Around,” was National Geographic’s theme for its “Go Green” campaign.

Attire is business casual. Tickets, which are \$75, can be purchased at [www.zoobilee2015.eventbrite.com](http://www.zoobilee2015.eventbrite.com) or by calling (219) 873-1510.

## Earth Day Celebration

The Northwest Indiana Earth Day Celebration is from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 18, at Porter County Expo Center, 215 E. Division Road, Valparaiso. Contact Sarah at [sarah@savedunes.org](mailto:sarah@savedunes.org) or call (219) 879-3564, Ext. 125, for more information.

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## SMSO to Present Disney Concert

Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra will present "The Magical Music of Disney," a concert that synchronizes timeless Disney images with music that spans early classics to recent releases, at 7:30 p.m. EDT Saturday, April 18, at the Lake Michigan College Mendel Center Mainstage, Benton Harbor, Mich.

The program includes music from "Tarzan," "The Little Mermaid," "Hercules," "Mary Poppins," "Beauty and the Beast," "Rescuers Down Under," "Aladdin," "Mulan," "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" and "The Lion King."



Music  
Director  
Robin  
Fountain

A pre-concert conversation with Music Director Robin Fountain is at 6:30 p.m. EDT, offering insight into the life and times of the composers. A post-concert reception lets concertgoers mingle with Fountain and the musicians.

Individual tickets are:

- Zone A: adults \$37, seniors \$32 and students \$5.
- Zone B: adults and seniors \$20, and students \$5.

A Family 4Pack, which includes two adults and two children (additional children cost \$5 each), are \$60 for Zone A and \$40 for Zone B.

Contact the SMSO office at (269) 982-4030 or visit [www.smso.org](http://www.smso.org) for more information.

## Michigan City Public Library

The following programs are available at Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St.:

- **Story Time at 10 a.m. Wednesdays, April 15, 22 and 29.**

Children birth to age 5 accompanied by an adult/guardian can participate in stories, songs and crafts. Arrive a few minutes early to receive a name tag.

- **Knitting Club for All Ages at 5:30 p.m. Wednesdays, April 15, 22 and 29.**

Take size 9 straight knitting needles, worsted yarn and tape measure (optional). Contact Joanne Hale at [joeyAB1971@yahoo.com](mailto:joeyAB1971@yahoo.com) or (219) 814-4398 for more information.

- **"Art à la Carte: It's Spring!" at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, April 16.**

All materials are provided. The program is designed for children 4-10. A child must be present to receive craft supplies.

- **Bookmarks at 2 p.m. Friday, April 17.**

Dennis Norman will review Alan Bradley's Flavia de Luce series, as well as Muriel Barbery's "The Elegance of the Hedgehog."

- **Films on DVD Series, "The Good Lie," at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 19.**

The movie, rated PG-13, is co-sponsored with Purdue University-North Central's Odyssey Arts and Cultural Events.

- **Yoga with David Kipley at 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays, April 21 and 28.**

Kipley is a graduate of Dancing Feet Yoga's Yoga Teacher Program. All levels are welcome. Take a mat and wear comfortable clothes.

- **Creativity and Innovation Week events at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Wednesday, April 22.**

The 10 a.m. program is for children birth through age 5 accompanied by an adult. A variety of materials will be available to make something unique. The 3 p.m. program is a family event with a demonstration by the Michigan City Area Schools Robotics Team. If the team qualifies for the world competition, it will be unable to visit the library.

- **Angels Among Us at 3 p.m. Wednesday, April 23.**

Ange Benz leads the discussion on inspiring stories about the presence of angels in everyday lives.

Contact Robin Kohn at (219) 873-3049 for more information on library programming.



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## Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The following programs are available:

• **The Save the Tunes Council performs from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Friday, April 17, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

The group preserves folk songs in the traditional way, using guitar, autoharp, dulcimer, banjo, harmonica, bagpipe, penny whistle, hurdy gurdy and other obscure instruments.

• **“Stewardship Day – Attacking the Invasives” from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 18, at Heron Rookery.**

In honor of Earth Day and National Park Week, join a ranger to help remove more than 50 invasive plants along the trail. Wear comfortable clothes. Work gloves and equipment will be provided. Insect repellent and sunscreen are recommended.

Meet at Heron Rookery’s east parking lot on County Road 600 East.

• **Spring Wildflower Hike at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 18, at Heron Rookery.**

Join a ranger for the two-hour leisurely walk to explore the Little Calumet River floodplain’s diverse spring wildflowers. Be prepared for possible muddy conditions.

Meet at the Heron Rookery’s east parking lot on County Road 600 East.

• **A West Beach Dune Hike from noon to 1:30 p.m. Sunday, April 19.**

Join a ranger for the hike along West Beach’s Dune Succession Trail to learn about the changing environment. The trail features a climb of 250 stairs to a spectacular view of Lake Michigan with Chicago on the horizon. Meet the ranger on the north side of the parking lot by the bulletin board. West Beach is 1/4 mile north of U.S. 12 on County Line Road in Portage.

• **Cowles Bog Geocache Hike from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 19.**

Use GPS equipment to locate different Geocached clues along the trail to solve the mystery of “Who’s Invading Cowles Bog?” Meet the ranger at the Cowles Bog “greenbelt” parking area near the South Shore train stop. The lot is on Mineral Springs Road north of U.S. 12.

• **Douglas Center Open House from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturdays at the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.**



Heron Rookery

Explore the center and view interactive exhibits, a park video and live animal room.

• **The free Junior Ranger Program from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily at the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center and Paul H. Douglas Center.**

A variety of Junior Ranger programs exist, from a short Beachcombers Activity Page to an extensive Junior Rangers Booklet. Complete a program and earn a prize. Stop by the Visitor Center or Douglas Center to pick up a free program booklet.

• **“Kid’s Rule” from 1 to 3 p.m. Sundays at the Visitor Center.**

Join a ranger in the Visitor Center’s activity room for stories and activities. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

• **Parents and toddlers can participate in the new Nature Tot’s program from 10 a.m. to noon the second Wednesday of each month at the Paul H. Douglas Center.**

Children 2-4 will learn about nature through a ranger-led story time, crafts and outdoor play.

The Visitor Center is at 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. The Paul H. Douglas Center is on Lake Street north of U.S. 12 in the Miller Beach neighborhood of Gary. Call (219) 395-1882 for more information



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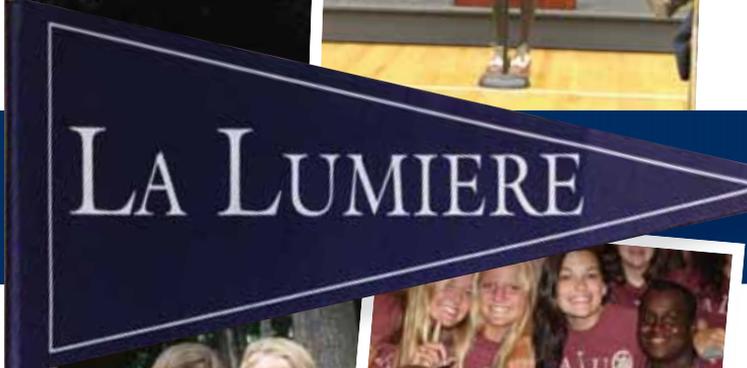
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219.326.7450  
[lalumiere.org](http://lalumiere.org)



## Student Art Exhibit



The Michigan City Area Schools Student Art Exhibit runs through May 13 at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. The display of art and fine crafts includes 2-D and 3-D pieces by kindergarten through fifth-grade students. Mediums include paint, clay, chalk pastels and paper. Visit [lubeznikcenter.org](http://lubeznikcenter.org) for more information.

## Free Gallery Talks

The Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St., Elkhart, will continue its free gallery talks from 12:20 to 1 p.m. EDT Thursdays.

Talks that include film showings start at 12:15 p.m. EDT. The schedule is:

- April 16 — Marsden Hartley (1877-1943). Curator Brian Byrn highlights artists included in the current exhibit from the permanent collection.
  - April 23 — Ellen Lanyon (1926-2013). Byrn highlights artists included in the current exhibit from the permanent collection.
  - April 30 — Jim Dine (born 1935). Byrn highlights artists included in the current exhibit from the permanent collection.
  - May 7 — Film, “Out of the Shadows: Portraits of Historic Indiana Women Artists” (44 minutes). The movie documents the accomplishments of early 20th century women artists of Indiana.
  - May 14 — “An Artist’s Still Life” Part II. Byrn highlights artists included in the current exhibit from the permanent collection.
  - May 21 — Ron Monsma, Indiana University-South Bend professor of art, a nationally recognized pastel artist who will speak about his still-life compositions.
  - May 28 — Film, “Fritz Scholder: Painting the Paradox” (47 minutes). The groundbreaking Native American painter, printmaker and collector explores his mixed-heritage roots through symbolic imagery borrowed from an array of sources, including Indian artifacts, Egyptian mummies and early Christian icons.
  - June 4 — Kathy Lieb, Elkhart, a painter who will bring current work for the talk and explain her somewhat non-traditional techniques when approaching still-life paintings.
  - June 11 — Frances Cox, Michiana Shores, a painter who will discuss her award-winning, nearly abstract stylizations of still-life subject matter.
- Visit [www.MidwestMuseum.US](http://www.MidwestMuseum.US) for additional information.

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George Kassal will offer a two-night “Getting the Most From Your Digital Camera” workshop from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesdays, April 22 and 29, at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.

The workshop is suitable for beginning and intermediate digital photographers. Kassal will review basic concepts and camera controls. He then will demonstrate how they apply when shooting portraits, closeups and outdoor landscapes. Students should take their camera and instruction manual to class. A tripod also is recommended.

The cost is \$45, with members receiving a \$5 discount. Call (219) 926-4711 to register. Visit [www.chestertonart.com](http://www.chestertonart.com) for more information.

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### “Galatea”

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Saturday, April 11, at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 12, at 3 p.m.

Friday, April 17, at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 18, at 7:30 p.m.

#### Mainstreet Theater

807 Franklin St., Michigan City

Tickets: \$10/adults, \$5/students with valid ID.

Reservations: (219) 874-4269, info@festivalplayersguild.org

## “An Artist’s Still Life”

The Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St., Elkhart, will present “An Artist’s Still Life” through Sunday, July 12.

The exhibit highlights 70 pieces by 56 artists featuring paintings, drawings and prints depicting inanimate objects by artists who have worked for more than 100 years in America. The images captured in these works are classic still-life subject matter, commonplace objects such as plants, vegetables, fruit, dishes, vases and bottles. In these instances, the artist has chosen the subjects for the sake of form, color, texture and composition. In other cases, the still-life theme will present more metaphorical or allegorical approaches. Various 20th century styles or movements besides realism are depicted, such as Cubism, Pop Art, Narrative Art and abstraction.

Artist’s selected from the museum’s holding include Anthony Droege, Cynthia Huff, Ron Monsma, Frances Cox, Steve Manheimer, Harriett Monteith, Margie Stevens and Rod Liechty. Historical figures include William Merritt Chase, Marsden Hartley, Ellen Lanyon, Joseph Stella and Edmund Tarbell. Contemporary artists include Jim Dine, Jennifer Bartlett, Claes Oldenburg, Elizabeth Murray, Sandra Freckelton and Karen Kunc.

Special gallery talks by Curator Brian Byrn and three regional artists — Monsma, South Bend, Cox, Michiana Shores, and Kathy Lieb, Elkhart, will be presented during the course of the exhibit. Visit [www.MidwestMuseum.US](http://www.MidwestMuseum.US) for more information.

## Indiana Dunes State Park

*The following programs are offered:*

### Saturday, April 18

#### • 10 a.m. — Wood Ducks/Marigold Meander.

Meet at the campground gate for the 60-minute hike along Trail 2 to search for flowering marsh marigolds and nesting wood ducks. Take binoculars.

#### • 2 p.m. — Are They Here Yet Hike!?

Meet at the Nature Center for a 45-minute early wildflower foray.

### Sunday, April 19

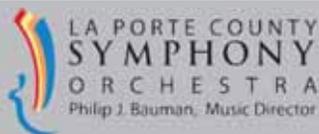
#### • 10 a.m. — Fire on the Prairie.

Meet at the Nature Center to learn how prescribed fire is used to aid habitats, then help the naturalist start a fire if conditions are right. Children 12 and younger must be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult.

#### • 2 p.m. — Owl Pellet Investigation.

Meet at the Nature Center for a brief discussion on local owls, then find out what they’ve been having for lunch.

*Indiana Dunes State Park is at 1600 N. County Road 25 East (the north end of Indiana 49), Chesterton. Call (219) 926-1390 for more information.*



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**SAT., APRIL 25, 2015**

**9:00 A.M.**

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**[www.skedaddle.org](http://www.skedaddle.org)**

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**Spring Garden Ideas Program**

Great ideas for the spring planting season is the topic of the next Friends of New Buffalo Library presentation at 7 p.m. EDT Tuesday, April 21, in the library's Pokagon Room, 33 N. Thompson St.

New Buffalo resident Annette Van Dusen is the speaker. A member of the Purdue Master Gardener Program through the La Porte County Extension Office, she will share what she has learned through the more than 45 hours of training in gardening and home horticulture.

At 6 p.m. EDT Tuesday, May 5, the Friends will present the second part of its Sustainability Project series with speaker Penny Murphy of Ma's Organic Garden. Award-winning children's author Jim Aylesworth will discuss his latest book, "My Grandfather's Coat," at 1 p.m. EDT Saturday, May 9.

More information on the Friends of New Buffalo Library's Community Forum is available from the facebook link on the library's website at newbuffalotownshiplibrary.org or by calling (269) 469-2933.

**Presentations on China, Italy Trips**

Leo Liu, president of Citslink, North America's largest China tour operator, will speak about its October China trip, planned through Michigan City Area Chamber of Commerce, at 5:15 p.m. Monday, April 20, at Visit Michigan City La Porte Convention and Visitors Bureau in Marquette Mall.

Originally from China and now an American citizen, Liu is no stranger to Michigan City. Following a visit here in 2013, he presented the Chamber with a full-size replica of a Terracotta warrior buried with the Chinese emperor in 210-209 B.C. The statue is now at International Friendship Gardens.

The Chamber also is expanding its International Awareness Program to include a trip to the Amalfi Coast of Italy. An information meeting is at 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, April 22, at the tourism bureau. The nine-day trip departing from Chicago to Rome/Minori begins Nov. 1.

Call the Chamber at (219) 874-6221 for reservations or more information on both meetings.

**Miller Garden Club**

The Miller Garden Club will meet at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 18, at Marquette Park Aquatorium, 6918 Oak Ave., Gary.

The speaker is Cynthia Smith, who will discuss creating a garden labyrinth, and the advantages it will provide. Also, James Severa will return to the club to explain how to sharpen hoes, spades and pruning shears. Take tools in need of sharpening.

Refreshments will be served. Call Joanne Stratton at (219) 939-2790 or (312) 543-1561 for additional information.

## Wine, Women and Stories

Jazzercise Center, 522 Franklin St., will host the sixth Wine, Women and Stories at 7 p.m. Friday, April 18.

Open to women 21 and older, all proceeds go to 2 BigHearts Foundation, which sheds light on the need for proper screening and awareness of heart disease. The effort was founded by Jim Clark 10 years ago after he lost his wife and her sister to unsuspected heart disease.

Mary Dean Cason, the Wine, Women and Stories creator, will read from her recently published book, "What Solomon Saw and Other Stories," a collection of short stories set in the American South, New York, Chicago and World War II Europe. Stephanie Medlock, author of "The Lives of Things" (recently sold to a major Hollywood studio), will perform a Live Lit story from her repertoire. Cason and Medlock cofounded Indigan Storytellers, a traveling workshop that teaches storytelling craft, technique and delivery.

The cost is a suggested \$10 minimum donation. Call (219) 879-3066 to make a reservation.

## Calumet Outdoors Series

The Calumet Outdoors Series, hikes organized by the Calumet Stewardship Initiative, continues at 9 a.m. Saturday, April 18, with "Warren Woods and University of Chicago Field Station."

Led by Alison Anastasio of The University of Chicago, the hike starts at 9 a.m. Take U.S. 12 north through New Buffalo. Veer to the left onto Red Arrow Highway just north of New Buffalo. Turn right onto Warren Woods Road, roughly one mile past Union Pier. Head roughly two miles east to a wooded area and park at the trailhead.

Reservations are requested. Contact Series Coordinator Eric Neagu at (773) 403-5237 or ericneagu@gmail.com

The Calumet Stewardship Initiative is a coalition of more than 40 organizations that promotes a sustainable relationship between people and nature in the Calumet region of Northwest Indiana and Northeast Illinois. Visit <http://calumetstewardship.org/events> for additional information.

## Cards for Troops

The Michigan City Parks & Recreation Department is encouraging the community to make a homemade card, or buy one with a personal greeting, for U.S. troops for Memorial Day.

Cards then can be dropped off at the park department office in City Hall or Michigan City Senior Center by May 15. They will be forwarded to The Guardian Riders, which will insert them into care packages.



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Sometimes, an art exhibit sets out to showcase neighborhood artists. Other times, the objective is to bring in new, exciting works from other places.



Larry Lars Jensen.

Guest curator Larry Jensen has managed to do both with the latest exhibit at Southern Shore Art Association Gallery, 724 Franklin St., which runs through April.

Jensen, a highly regarded woodturner, knows a lot of artists who do three-dimensional work, and his guest list gets off to a quick start in his own hometown of Beverly Shores: Kevin Firme, Linde Hansen-Lukas, Phil Dittman, Herbert George, Michael Enright and Robert Stanley.



Kevin Firme's steel sculpture, "Reach."

Firme, a Beverly Shores resident since before the town became an artistic hot spot, has embarked on a lighter style of steel sculpture: more open, more lyrical than his previous work. Enright, a comparative newcomer, chisels and carves his sculp-

# Larry Jensen Curates Sculpture Show

by Barbara Stodola

ture from gorgeous stone material, in this case a hunk of Colorado alabaster. He admits to pursuing art "on my day off" from his regular job as priest in a Chicago parish.



Ivan Chermel's clay "My Uncle with R.P."

Widening his circle of artist-friends, Jensen discovers Ivan Chermel in Dune Acres: "the most meticulous person I know," he says. "Look at that detail." Chermel, formerly a radiologist, has been doing clay and bronze sculpture in the five years since retiring from his medical practice. His entry in this exhibit,

wearing a broad-brimmed hat, is "My Uncle with R.P. (Retinitis Pigmentosa)."

As Michigan City becomes more sculpture-savvy, the names of other sculptors resonate: Richard Kiebdaj, a Michigan Citian whose dancing corkscrews adorn the entryway to Uptown Arts District; Chicagoan Lawrence Karpowicz, whose bubble gum-pink figure (also dancing) accentuates Lubeznik Center for the Arts; and Tom Scarff, a Sheridan Beacher and for many years curator of PNC's outdoor sculpture show.

"My first call always is to Purdue North Central, to Judy Jacobi," says Jensen, who has now curated 10 sculpture exhibits in Northwest Indiana, and credits PNC with raising public awareness. From PNC's annual "Odyssey" comes more familiar names: Ruth Aizuss Migdal, Christine Rojek, David Noguchi, Michael Young, Ted "Sitting Crow" Garner (the latter two are studiomates of Scarff's in Chicago).

But the show currently at SSAA is totally unlike Purdue's outdoor show, where larger-than-life sculptures punctuate the beautiful landscape. The intimate gallery on Franklin Street has a roomful of smaller pieces, more personalized, finely detailed, the type of thing you have to put your hands on and yearn to take home. Some of them are maquettes, i.e. studies for larger sculptures built or imagined,



Ruth Aizuss Migdal's "Lady in Red."

but all of them hold their own as fully realized works of art. They are for sale at affordable prices.



Cindy Fielding's "Fiery Dragon."

Fielding, a resident of Stevensville, Mich., has a glass studio in the arts district of St. Joseph-Benton Harbor, Mich.



Morgan Medlen's "Iron Lady."

Bill Conyers, a longtime blacksmith from South Bend, submitted another dragon, a stunning table-top piece of stainless steel. Conyers also has introduced two of his proteges to this exhibit: Morgan Medlen, whose "Iron Lady" is cunningly woven from strands of plaited steel, and Jamie De Priest, whose sculpted horses – in this case "Mare & Foal" — have won her statewide recognition as "Rookie Blacksmith of the Year." Medlen and De Priest are both students at Indiana University-South Bend.



Jamie DePriest's "Mare & Foal."

In the front window, Cindy Fielding's "Fiery Dragon," a colorful stained glass piece, hints at the wide variety of media these artists bring together from their different backgrounds.

Bill Conyers, a longtime blacksmith from South Bend, submitted another dragon, a stunning table-top piece of stainless steel. Conyers also has introduced two of his proteges to this exhibit: Morgan Medlen, whose "Iron Lady" is cunningly woven from strands of plaited steel, and Jamie De Priest, whose sculpted horses – in this case "Mare & Foal" — have won her statewide recognition as "Rookie Blacksmith of the Year." Medlen and De Priest are both students at Indiana University-South Bend.



Michael Enright's Colorado alabaster, "Alabaster Wave."

Jensen also included the works of sculpture professors from other campuses: Neil Goodman (Indiana University-Northwest) and John Mishler (Goshen College), both of whom have exhibited widely throughout the Midwest; and Herbert George (University of Chicago), who created an intriguing Picassoesque head of marble. Bob Stanley (formerly College of Du Page), though better known for his paintings, has done

"Both Sides," a clever little see-through sculpture that depicts a leafless tree on one side and what looks to me like a lamp-table on the other.

There are more steel and bronze pieces in this exhibit than other media. Even Jensen, who typically works in wood, has done a piece titled "Pittsburgh" in anticipation of his trip to a woodworkers' convention in Pittsburgh. In tribute to the city's industry, he used coal, limestone, iron ore and steel slate.

Hansen-Lukas's elegant bronze is one of few making reference to its human subject, but several other subtleties engage our attention. In Larry Vallem's "Four Bubble," there is more than meets the eye. And the gleaming ceramic piece, "Envy" by Alisha Lowe, seems to me sensual and quietly suggestive. I have to wonder how and why this artist got away to Greenville, Del., before we hardly had the chance to know her here in Indiana.



Larry Lars Jensen's "Pittsburgh."

## Local Artist Visits Charter School



La Porte County pottery artist Jon Hook visited the 50 fifth-graders at Discovery Charter School to educate them on how he obtains clay from the ground at his property. During Hook's visit, students created a small medallion from his clay, then learned how he makes glaze from it along with the ash of different plants. The students became an active part of his experiments, combining science and art. "Art at Ground Level" is the annual theme of the school's art program this year.

## Wall of Fame Nominations

Michigan City Area Schools is seeking nominations for its 2015 Wall of Fame.

The annual award, first presented in 1976, honors school employees who have made outstanding contributions to children in the school system. Employees from every area are eligible: administrators, bus drivers, custodians, food-service personnel, instructional assistants, maintenance personnel, paraprofessionals, teachers and secretarial staff.

The candidate must have been employed by MCAS for a minimum of 15 years. Special circumstances may be considered for those not meeting the 15-year requirement due to hardship or death. Candidates must have been retired or separated from the school system for at least five years. Employees from schools independent before school reorganization, as well as those from schools no longer in existence, are eligible. Death does not make a person ineligible.

All applications remain on file for three years. Afterward, candidates must be renominated. When candidates are removed from the active list, the person who nominated them will be notified.

Forms are available at all school offices, the MCAS Transportation/Service and Plant Planning Buildings, the MCAS Administration Building and Michigan City Public Library, as well as EducateMC.net/WOF

The nomination deadline is 4 p.m. Friday, April 24. Contact Betsy Kohn at (219) 873-2000, Ext. 8365, for more information.

## Activities Guide Available

The official 2015 Indiana Dunes Country Activities Guide, a comprehensive guide to Porter County's attractions, restaurants and hotels, is now available.

The free guide, produced by Indiana Dunes Tourism, Porter County's official tourism bureau, is available at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. It features listings for Indiana Dunes beaches and hiking trails, museums and places for family fun. It also highlights places to enjoy fishing, kayaking and birding, and includes listings for golfing, art galleries, antique shopping, farmer's markets, fall drives and winter recreation.

Articles highlight The 3 Dune Challenge at Indiana Dunes State Park, how to succeed in fishing and cooking your catch, great places to get burgers and places to go for people with pets. New this year is a two-page spread of day trips that people can take from Porter County, including to Chicago, Amish Acres, the University of Notre Dame and the Barn Quilt Trail.

Call (219) 926-2255 for more information. Visit [www.IndianaDunes.com/destination-guides](http://www.IndianaDunes.com/destination-guides) to view or download the guide electronically.

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### Northwest Indiana Green Drinks

“Installing Solar Panels on Your Home or Business” is the topic of the next Northwest Indiana Green Drinks in Michigan City meeting at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 16, at Shoreline Brewery, 208 Wabash St.

Presenter Kathy Luther, director of environmental programs for Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission, is the speaker. She will discuss the program NIRPC has created, including streamlined permit process, improved solar power connection to the electric grid, increased access to financing and rapid expansion of rooftop solar installation. Other details include economical group purchase, using qualified installers and union electricians, net-metering application with NIPSCO and governmental tax breaks and credits.

Northwest Indiana Green Drinks in Michigan City meets the third Thursday of each month at Shoreline Brewery. Events are sponsored by Save the Dunes and supported by 219 GreenConnect. The suggested donation is \$5, or \$2 for students. Call Dennis at (219) 874-4076 for more information.

### One Man Scramble

Briar Leaf Golf Club, 3233 Indiana 39, La Porte, will host its annual One Man Scramble on Saturday, April 18.

Teeing off in an 8 a.m. shotgun start, players will follow a double mulligan format, allowing them to hit two “mulligans” per hole, taking the best shot each time. Play will be in threesomes.

Call Briar Leaf at (219) 326-1992 to register and for more information on costs, the double mulligan format, maximum score and how “net” scores are calculated.



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## Museum Curator's Report

The La Porte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., La Porte, has released its March curator's report.

The museum welcomed visitors from 12 counties, 14 states and one auto tour group, Michiana Brits. Events included a book-signing by local author Matt Werner, with a program on Hoosier athletes by Bruce Johnson, and the Rumely reunion held in the meeting room. The new spring exhibit, "Presenting the Maple City Four," runs through May.

Donations included:

- St. Mary's High School letter sweater from 1953, Gene Gielow for Meredith Gulstrom.
- Handmade child's dress from 1939 made by Rena Sears Garner for granddaughter, Patricia Kessler, a tea cup and saucer that belonged to a Hanna School teacher, Lucretia Garner, a toy covered wagon, Chinese figures, Patricia Kessler.
- Receipts from various local businesses belonging to Gary Moore, Michele Barber.
- Union Mills High School basketball shoes, Dorothy Lindborg.
- Children's book, "George & Smokey" by John Mitchell, John Mitchell.
- Advertising card for Jack & Jo's Variety Store in Rolling Prairie, Daniel Weinstock.
- Archival information, Janet Brady and Delilah Euler.
- Items for the sale table, Don Bowman, Susie Richter, Janet Sikorski, Michaelene Ziembo, June Reeves and Becky Reed.

Dori Huber will host a painting party at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 25. The project will be the Michigan City Lighthouse. Reservations are requested. Call (219) 324-6767 for more details or visit [www.laportecountyhistory.org](http://www.laportecountyhistory.org)



## "Young Hoosier Innovators"

Lake Hills STEM Magnet School, 201 Ferguson Road, will host "Young Hoosier Innovators" from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Monday, April 20.

The event, held to celebrate World Creativity and Innovation Week, will include a free supper provided by the Lake Hills Parent Group.

Students will share engineering projects they created. Hands-on activities for the family will be facilitated by: Audubon Society, Solid Waste District, Soil & Water Conservation District, La Porte County Parks, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Lubeznik Center for the Arts, Michigan City Public Library, Washington Park Zoo, International Friendship Gardens, Lake Hills staff and Honor Society students.

All K-6 students will perform at 7 p.m. Special guests performing at 6:30 p.m. are Madame C.J. Walker, portrayed by O'Merrial Butchee, and Meinrad Rumely, portrayed by Leigh Morris.

Call (219) 873-2105, Ext. 6673, to RSVP.

## ASL Club Coffeehouse

The Purdue University-North Central American Sign Language Club will host an ASL Coffeehouse from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 17, at Uptown Café, 1400 E. Lincolnway, Valparaiso.

The coffeehouse is open to ASL students, as well as community members and children with a parent or adult. Participants are asked to use ASL for conversation. Coffee, food and drink may be ordered.

Coffeehouses may feature a guest speaker, who will begin at about 6 p.m. If not, guests may take decks of cards and games.

Information about the club is available at [www.aslclub.info](http://www.aslclub.info). Information about other community events is posted at [www.nwideaf.org/deafevents.htm](http://www.nwideaf.org/deafevents.htm). The club and Northwest Indiana Deaf Community also are on facebook. Additional information about the coffeehouses is available at [pncaslwithulski@yahoo.com](mailto:pncaslwithulski@yahoo.com)

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### AARP Driver Safety Class

Rittenhouse Senior Living of Michigan City, 4300 Cleveland Ave., will hold an AARP Driver Safety Class from 1 to 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 22.

Instructor David Daley will highlight current rules of the road, defensive driving techniques and how to safely operate a vehicle. Other topics include how to manage and accommodate common age-related changes in vision, hearing and reaction time.

Participants should consult his/her agent to see if he/she is eligible to receive an insurance discount, as well as a discount for roadside assistance plans, upon completing the course.

The cost is \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non-members. Have an AARP card to receive the discount and a driver's license the day of the class. Refreshments will be provided. Call (219) 872-6800 to register.

### River Valley Garden Club

River Valley Garden Club President Elizabeth Palulis will lead a seed-starting workshop at 1 p.m. EDT Tuesday, April 21, at Harbert Community Church, 6444 Harbert Road, Sawyer, Mich.

Palulis is a gardening consultant certified by the Michigan Garden Clubs. Materials will be available on how to prepare seed plantings. Also planned is a demonstration on creating compost tea, an organic spray to enhance the soil and plants.

Anyone with an interest in gardening is invited. Guests learn about the club's mission and upcoming projects, including the annual plant sale Saturday, May 16, at Harbert Community Park.

Contact Elizabeth Palulis at (269) 426-3513 or evpalulis@yahoo.com for more information, or visit www.rivervalleygardenclub.org



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### Autism Awareness Month

To celebrate Autism Awareness Month, Michiana Resources is making Zoobue-weighted scarves that allow individuals to control their sensory input.

The scarf can be used across the shoulders or lap. Some place them on top of their head or near their mouth as additional means of providing sensory input. When sensory input is provided, you increase body awareness and decrease the need for excessive movement resulting in increased attention.

The scarves also features pockets with hidden fidget toys sewn in to keep fidgety hands busy.

Individuals/diagnoses that may benefit from the use of the weighted scarves include autism, Asperger's, ADD/ADHD, Sensory Processing Disorders and Anxiety.

Regina Stovall, who helped develop the scarf, will attend the American Occupational Therapy Association National Conference in Nashville on April 16-18. More than 7,000 people are expected to attend.

Call (219) 874-4288 or visit [www.michianaresources.org](http://www.michianaresources.org) for more information.

### Lean LaunchPad Sessions

Purdue University-North Central and Purdue University Calumet will offer two free sessions on Lean LaunchPad methodology, led by Dushan Nikolvski, director of the Center for Entrepreneurship Success at the Calumet campus.

The first session is from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 21, at PNC's Library-Student-Faculty Building Assembly Hall, Room 02. The second session is from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 28, at Purdue Calumet's Hospitality and Tourism Management Building, Room 193.

The Lean LaunchPad is an experiential learning program that directs early stage entrepreneurs on how to navigate the landscape of a startup. Nikolvski will explore topics such as building a team organically, gathering customer feedback, using agile development, using business canvas model, learning not to use feedback and pivoting to success.

Registration can be completed at [tinyurl.com/o22xks2](http://tinyurl.com/o22xks2)



### Spring Cleanup at Gardens

International Friendship Gardens, 2055 U.S. 12, needs volunteers to help with spring cleanup from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 18 and 25.

Volunteers can assist with large and/or small projects. The Gardens will furnish gloves, rakes and other tools. Snacks and drinks will be provided.

Additional cleanup days are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 2-3. Leave a message for Nancy or Jan at (219) 878-9885 or email [internationalfriendshipgardens@yahoo.com](mailto:internationalfriendshipgardens@yahoo.com) if interested.

### Duneland Historical Society

Duneland Historical Society will celebrate its spring dinner for members and guests only at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 16, at Westchester Public Library Service Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

Reservations are required. The regular program, which follows at 7:30 p.m., is free and open to the public. La Porte County native Bruce Johnson, a historian, retired educator, former Peace Corps volunteer and missionary, will speak on "Famous Authors and Inventors of Indiana." Included are Gene Stratton Porter, James Whitcomb Riley, Booth Tarkington, Wilbur Wright, the Ball Brothers, the Studebaker Brothers, Orville Redenbacher, Dr. William Scholl and Madame C. J. Walker.

Johnson previously presented a program on "The Guinness Mystery," based on La Porte County's notorious female murderer.

Historical Society membership applications will be available at the meeting. Call (219) 983-9715 for more information.

### La Porte County Historical Society

The La Porte County Historical Society Inc. meets at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 21, at La Porte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., La Porte.

Judge William Boklund will present the program "Prohibition Days in La Porte County." It will include information about Attorney Lemuel Darrow, who died in 1935 while serving his 17th year as La Porte mayor. Boklund also will highlight Darrow's relationship with John Dilworth, prominent La Porte attorney and prosecuting attorney, and Thomas McDonald, who was elected sheriff in 1930 and sought the mayor's office in 1934, ultimately defeated by Darrow.

Membership is encouraged, but guests need not be a member to attend. Visit [www.laportecountyhistory.org](http://www.laportecountyhistory.org) for more information.

### 76ers Senior Golf League

The 76ers Senior Golf League, established in April 1976 by 20 senior golfers, is starting its 40th year with 47 active members.

Although most members are from the Michigan City area — including Long Beach and Trail Creek — players also represent La Porte, Chesterton and New Buffalo.

The league plays Monday morning at the Michigan City Municipal South Golf Course with an 8:30 a.m. shotgun start May 1-Oct. 1. A spring luncheon, mid-season cookout and year-end awards banquet are included.

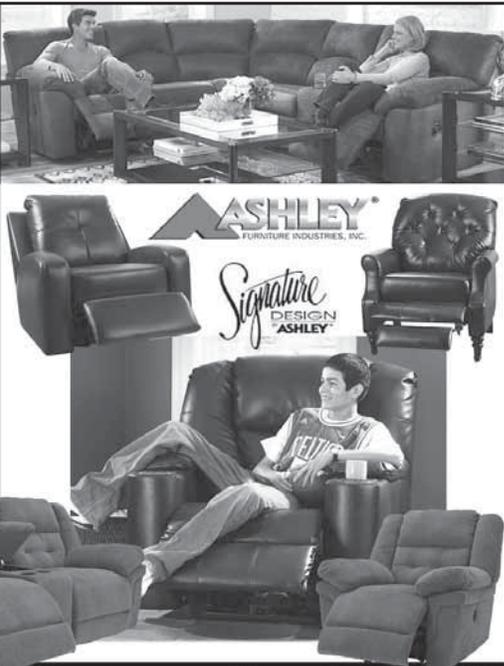
New members are welcome. Call (219) 262-9540 or (219) 872-1646 for more information.

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## Credit Union Scholarship Winner



Michigan City High School senior Ryan Stevenson has received the \$1,000 Leona Bruno Scholarship through Members Advantage Credit Union.

The son of Thomas and Michelle Stevenson, he plans to study engineering or construction management. He

hasn't made the final decision on his college choice.

With a 3.94 grade-point average, Stevenson was chosen as a Graduate with Highest Distinction and is a member of the National Honor Society and Foreign Language Honor Society. He was chosen to participate as a Hoosier Boys State Delegate and was a Rotary Club of Michigan City student of the month. He is student council vice president and the yearbook staff business manager. He also is active in the German Club, Math League, SAT Prep Club, Anti-Bullying Club and Indiana High School Athletic student advisory committee.

Stevenson also was active in athletics, including playing and lettering in soccer. He was team captain his senior year, won the MCHS Wolf Award his junior year and was chosen for the Indiana Soccer Coaches Association All-Academic Soccer Team in the 2012-2014 seasons. He also played baseball at MCHS for three years and was a kicker on the junior varsity and varsity football teams for all four years of high school.

The Leona Bruno Scholarship is awarded in memory of the first Members Advantage Credit Union manager. Applicants must be Members Advantage members. For the Leona Bruno Scholarship, students must attend a high school and plan to further their education upon entering a college or trade school the following fall after graduation.

## Library Launches Ancestry Program

Westchester Public Library has launched Ancestry Library Edition, a Web-based reference tool that allows users to explore their past by searching a surname.

A new nationwide survey shows 73 percent of Americans want to learn more about their roots. Twenty five percent of those surveyed became interested after searching for a family surname online.

Ancestry Library Edition's millions of records go as far back as the 1400s. It is available at designated genealogy and research workstation terminals in Westchester Public Library's Thomas Branch, Hageman Branch and at Westchester Township History Museum. It also is available on the library's Internet stations that are open to the public.

Once connected, the database scans its vast selection of U.S. federal and state census data, birth, marriage and death records, military records, Social Security death records and immigration lists. It also includes an extensive collection of information from all over the world, including images, census records and civil registrations.

Thomas Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chester, is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday. Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter, is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday and closed Sunday. Westchester Township History Museum, located in the Brown Mansion at 700 W. Porter Ave. in Chester, is open 1 to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday.

## Artists, Crafters Sought

Applications are available for crafters and artists interested in displaying their wares June 6 at the second Arts & Crafts Show at Swanson Activity Center, 910 State St., La Porte.

The event is a fundraiser for the center, which provides a place for seniors to socialize and participate in numerous activities. The show also will feature an award-winning professional face painter who will offer free face painting for children.

Thirty six artists and crafters from Indiana and Michigan already are signed up, and outside spaces are still available for vendors. Interested crafters can call (219) 393-4093 or email ddev48@hotmail.com for an application or additional information.

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## Unity Foundation Community Grant

With support of the Lilly Endowment GIFT VI match, Unity Foundation of La Porte County is increasing its 2015 Community Fund Grants to more than \$125,000.

Through March 31, 2016, Indianapolis-based Lilly Endowment Inc. is offering a \$1 for \$1 challenge match up to \$1 million for La Porte County to build "Community Funds." These are specific funds at Unity, opened by people making "unrestricted" gifts. Community Fund grants come from these earnings. The application for the annual grants is available at <http://uflc.net/grants/how-to-apply/> and open to all nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations located in, or serving, La Porte County residents.

Former La Porte County residents John and Anne Daley, Ernest and Mildred Delco, John and Dorothy Sieb Carstens, Charles and Pauline Dye, Ruth Pollingue and Philip Sprague left memorial legacies with Unity Foundation to start Community Funds.

With the current opportunity to double their money through the Lilly Endowment match, the following new community funds have opened: American Association of University Women, La Porte Branch; Backer Family Fund; Randy and Jane Dorman Foundation; Sanford Z. Friedman Community Fund; David C. Gardner Community Fund; and Kabelin Family Community Fund.

These funds allow a committee of volunteers from throughout the county to award grants of up to \$3,000 each. Eligible projects and programs fall into numerous categories, including, but not limited to, arts and culture, health, human services, environment, education and projects that strengthen La Porte County in meaningful ways.

Last year, the foundation awarded nearly \$107,000 in community grants for 55 projects, providing support in areas such as animal care, child safety, medication assistance, food, finances and shelter.

The deadline for submitting this year's Community Fund Grant applications is 11:59 p.m. Friday, July 17. Organizations may submit up to three grants.

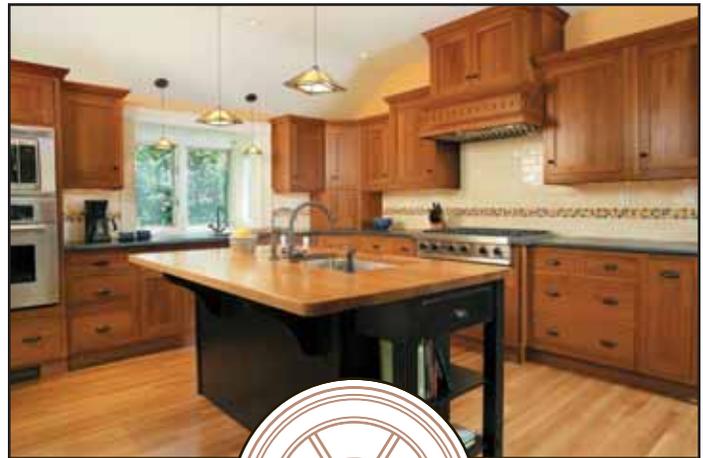
## Handgun Shooting Course

Michigan City Rifle Club, 4801 W. U.S. 20, will host an eight-hour NRA Basic Handgun Shooting Course at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, April 25.

The course introduces students to the knowledge, skills and attitude necessary for safely owning and using a handgun.

Fees range from \$175 to \$125 depending on if participants bring their own handgun and ammunition or use club equipment. The cost includes light refreshments and lunch. Class size is limited, and preregistration with deposit is required.

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## Ivy Tech Fundraiser

Ivy Tech Foundation will present its 11th annual spring fundraiser, "Going to the Movies," on Thursday, April 16, at Aberdeen Manor, 216 Ballantrae St., Valparaiso.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with a cash bar and silent auction. Dinner starts at 7 p.m. Entertainment will be provided throughout the evening.

Tickets are \$75 per person, \$40 of which is tax deductible. Tickets can be purchased at [ivytech.edu/northwest](http://ivytech.edu/northwest), then click on the camera icon, or call (219) 476-4710.

Proceeds benefit programs at the Michigan City, East Chicago, Gary and Valparaiso campuses.

## Youth Ambassador Program

Nine volunteer youth ambassadors are documenting their visits to Indiana's state parks through photos, videos and blogs at [AmericasStateParks.org](http://AmericasStateParks.org).

The ambassador program is a youth-led movement promoting the outdoors to other young adults. Ambassadors share their passion for the outdoors in hopes of inspiring others to experience what state parks offer. The goal of ambassadors is to visit all 32 state parks and help tell each property's story.

Visit [tinyurl.com/lk47ou4](http://tinyurl.com/lk47ou4) to see biographical information for the ambassadors.

## Westchester Public Library

*The following programs are available:*

• **NorthShore Health Center free blood pressure screenings from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, April 15, at Library Service Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

Patrons also can receive help calculating Body Mass Index.

• **Chesterton Chess Club meets from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, April 16, at Thomas Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

All ages and skill levels are welcome.

• **Bookmarks at the Museum, "The Elegance of the Hedgehog" and the Flavia de Luce series, at 2 p.m. Thursday, April 16, at Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.**

Dennis Norman is the reviewer. It is not necessary to read the book before attending. Books are available at Thomas and Hageman libraries.

• **Yoga Kids for children 6-11 at 6:30 p.m. Friday, April 17, at the Library Service Center.**

Wear comfortable clothes and take a towel or yoga mat if having one.

• **Friends of Westchester Public Library Spring Book Sale on April 17-19 on the second floor of Thomas Library.**

The Friends Only Preview Sale is from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday, April 17. Only current members will be admitted, but patrons can buy a membership at the door.

The public sale is from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, April 18-19. On Sunday, all items will be sold for \$3 a bag. A large number of hardcover books will be sold for \$1 each and paperbacks for 50 cents. Proceeds are donated to the library and help fund supplemental and special programming.

• **Saturday Movie, "Song of the Sea," at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 18, at Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.**

The movie, rated PG, has a running time of 94 minutes.

• **Young Adult Film Series, "The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies," at 5 p.m. Saturday, April 18, at the Library Service Center.**

The movie, rated PG-13, has a running time of 144 minutes.

• **Nature Series: Wildflowers at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 19, at Westchester Township History Museum.**

Local plant expert David Hamilla will highlight spring blooming wildflowers of the dunes.

• **Bits and Bytes series, "Intro to Ancestry Library Edition," from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 21, on the second floor of Thomas Library.**

Registration is required by visiting or calling the Serials Department at (219) 926-7696, or online at [www.wpl.lib.in.us](http://www.wpl.lib.in.us). Click on the Bits and Bytes link.



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### DNR Stocking Trout

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources this spring will stock more than 55,000 trout throughout the state in time for stream trout season, which starts April 25.

Indiana's 2015 trout stocking plan and list of stocking locations are at [wildlife.IN.gov/3622.htm](http://wildlife.IN.gov/3622.htm).

Traditionally, the state has stocked only rainbow trout in all locations except the Brookville Lake tailwater on the Whitewater River, where brown trout are stocked in addition to rainbow trout. New this year, the state will stock brown and rainbow trout in LaGrange County, in the Pigeon River and the Oliver Lake chain.

Other changes for 2015 include more fish at Morsches Park in Whitley County and changes to stocking locations along the Little Kankakee River in La Porte County.

The state's annual trout-stocking plan involves 18 lakes and 19 streams. Trout can be harvested year-round on Indiana lakes. They can be harvested in Indiana streams between 6 a.m. on the last Saturday in April and Dec. 31. The daily bag limit on most lakes and streams is five, and only one can be a brown trout. In general, the minimum size limit is 7 inches. The size limit to keep a brown trout in the Brookville Lake tailwater and on Oliver, Olin and Martin lakes in LaGrange County is 18 inches.

Certain sections of Little Elkhart River, Cobus Creek and Solomon Creek in Elkhart County are catch-and-release-only trout streams, and anglers there must use artificial lures.

The spring stocking of inland lakes with trout could be delayed because of the late ice thaw. Some stream stockings also might be canceled or delayed due to rain or flooding.

Additional information on regulations is at [fishing.IN.gov](http://fishing.IN.gov)

### Trinity Third Tuesdays

Trinity Episcopal Church, 600 Franklin St., will kick off a series of public forums this month related to stewardship in everyday lives.

The presentations are a public outreach of the church. Monthly themes are:

- April 21 — Stewardship of the Environment. Steve Sass, president of the Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society North Chapter, will discuss gardening with native plants.
- May 19 — Stewardship of the Gifts of Time and Talent.
- June 16 — Stewardship of Our Heritage.
- July 21 — Stewardship of Time and Community.
- Aug. 18 — Stewardship of Ourselves.
- Sept. 15 — Stewardship of Our Youth.
- Oct. 20 — Stewardship of God's Kingdom
- Nov. 17 — Stewardship of God's Bountiful Harvest.
- Dec. 15 — Stewardship of Our Faith (Advent).



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## American Red Cross

The American Red Cross La Porte County Chapter will sponsor the following bloodmobiles:

- IU Health La Porte Hospital, 1007 W. Lincolnway, La Porte, noon to 5 p.m. Monday, April 20.
- La Porte County Family YMCA, 901 Michigan Ave., La Porte, 3 to 7 p.m. Thursday, April 23.

Donors must be in good general health and feeling well, at least 17 (16 with parental consent) and weigh at least 110 pounds. Call (800) 733-2767 for more information.

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## "An Evening with Julia Marlowe"



Kali Rasala

Purdue University-North Central and Purdue University Calumet will present two free performances of "An Evening with Julia Marlowe" with Kali Rasala.

Performances are at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 22, in the Purdue Calumet Room With a View, and at 6 p.m. Friday, April 24, in the PNC Library-Student-Faculty Building Assembly Hall, Room 02. The PNC event also will celebrate the birthday of Marlowe's favorite playwright, William Shakespeare. Birthday cake and punch will be served at both performances.

Julia Marlowe, though born in England, has a uniquely American story. She came to this country in 1869 at age 4, on the run with her fugitive father. They lived first in poverty, but she then found work in Cincinnati as a child actor. This would lead to a rise to prominence in the world of 19th century American theater, then to worldwide fame as the greatest Shakespearian of her time. Along the way, she waged her own battle for women's rights in a male-dominated theatrical community.

Playwright Jerry Holt, chair of the PNC Department of English and Modern Languages, brings Marlowe's story to the stage in this one-person show. Rasala will be directed by Grant Fitch. The event is co-hosted by Holt and Colette Morrow, Purdue Calumet associate professor of English.

## ASL Club Fun Night

The Purdue University-North Central American Sign Language Club will host an ASL Fun Night from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Monday, April 20, in the Library-Student-Faculty Building Assembly Hall, Room 02.

The event is free and open to the public. It is open to hearing and deaf children with an adult, as well as guests with all ASL abilities. It affords the chance to practice ASL, make friends and learn new signs to better communicate with friends, co-workers or family members. Participants can take a favorite board game, card games or decks of playing cards, snacks and drinks.

Information about the club is available at [www.aslclub.info](http://www.aslclub.info). Information about other events in the community is posted at [www.nwideaf.org](http://www.nwideaf.org). Further information about the event is available by contacting Karen Donah, PNC continuing lecturer and American Sign Language coordinator, at (219) 785-5200, Ext. 5432, or [kdonah@pnc.edu](mailto:kdonah@pnc.edu). The PNC ASL Club and Northwest Indiana Deaf Community also are on facebook.

### Sarett Nature Center

Adults or children 10 and older with an adult can build a 5-foot trellis at 1 p.m. EDT Saturday, April 18, at Sarett Nature Center, 2300 Benton Center Road, Benton Harbor, Mich.

The fee is \$35. Pre-payment and pre-registration are required.

Also April 18, take a "Woodcock Walk" at 8:30 p.m. EDT. Admission is \$3 for adults.

On Tuesday, April 22, Sarett, along with Michigan's Great Southwest Sustainable Business Forum, will host an Earth Day "Green Drinks" and open house for adults from 5 to 7 p.m. EDT.

Call (269) 927-4832 for more information or to register for an event.

### State Park Honored

A panel of experts nominated 20 state parks to be considered for the 10 Best list. *USA Today* then encouraged the public to vote in March.

Indiana Dunes State Park finished seventh. It was promoted in *USA Today* and online at [tinyurl.com/m2k2kg4](http://tinyurl.com/m2k2kg4)

*USA Today* previously chose Indiana Dunes State Park as the best place to hike in Indiana and one of the top 51 places to hike in the nation. The park also has been recognized as a great destination by CNN, *Parents* magazine and *National Geographic*.

Indiana Dunes State Park is located at 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton.

### "Waterbirds at the Kuhl Spot"

The Courtyard Gallery, 813 E. Buffalo St., New Buffalo, Mich., will host Diane Kuhl's "Waterbirds at the Kuhl Spot" from noon to 5 p.m. EDT Saturday, April 18.

For many years, the gallery has supported Kuhl, a water bird rehabber. She has cared for injured and orphaned water fowl and shore birds for more than 30 years at her facility, "Waterbirds at the Kuhl Spot," located on Hudson Lake in New Carlisle.

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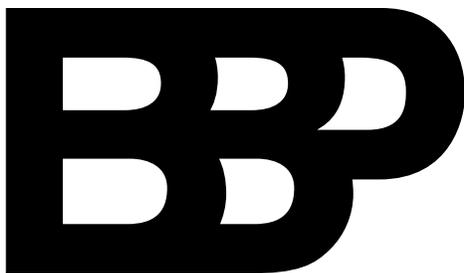
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## PoetryPalooza Competition

The Purdue University-North Central English Club will present its fifth annual PoetryPalooza Competition and Open Mic from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, April 23, in the Library-Student-Faculty Building Assembly Hall, Room 02.

The event is held to celebrate April, which is National Poetry Month. All area poets can enter a maximum of three original works of poetry three minutes or less in length. The entry fee is \$5 at the door. Spectators and open mic participants may attend for \$1. Monetary prizes will be awarded: \$75 for first place, \$50 for second place and \$25 for third place. There also is a “crowd favorite” prize.

Poets will read their poems for the audience and a panel of three judges. After the competition portion, the judges will adjourn to make their decisions, and there will be an open mic for anyone who would like to share their talents. The evening concludes with the judges announcing the winners.

To pre-register, send an email including name, a few sentences about the poet and an attachment of the poem(s) to student coordinator Mariel McElfresh at [mmcelfre@pnc.edu](mailto:mmcelfre@pnc.edu) with POETRY RSVP in the subject line.

Pre-registration, however, is not required. Additional entries will be accepted at the event. Coffee-house-style refreshments will be available.

## Donnelly Speaker at Chamber Meeting

The Greater La Porte Chamber of Commerce will host its annual meeting at 11 a.m. Friday, April 17, at Best Western Plus, 444 Pine Lake Ave., La Porte.

The event will feature a speech by U.S. Sen. Joe Donnelly. Registration starts at 11 a.m., with lunch at 11:30 a.m. This year’s event will look back at 2014 for the Chamber and its significant events and accomplishments. Awards will go to Ambassador of the Year and Business Person of the Year.

The cost is \$33 for Chamber members and \$38 for non-members. Registration is encouraged at <http://business.lpchamber.com/events/>

## YMCA Center Reaccreditation

La Porte County Family YMCA’s Level 4, Paths to Quality-rated child care and learning center has been reaccredited for another three years by the National Early Childhood Accreditation Program.

Many facets of the program are reviewed and observed during the process, which assesses: adult and child interaction; health and safety; physical environment; administration; and parent and community relationships. A strong emphasis is placed on current developments in health and safety, brain research and risk management.

## A Pleasant Surprise



Independent Cat Society, 4061 S. County Line Road, Westville, received a surprise April 1 that turned out to be no April Fool’s Day joke. A volunteer looked up to see a large semi backing into the parking lot. The truck driver, asked what he had, smiled and said, “four pallets of can cat food.”

The shelter knew it won a Purina Pet Foods contest, the prize being 20,000 cans of cat food, but expected the shipment April 2. Nonetheless, volunteers united to ensure the cat food was stored. The prize means enough food exists to keep the shelter’s cats fed for some time.



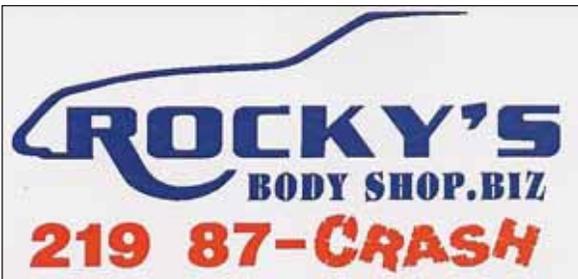
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## Activities to Explore

### In the Local Area:

**April 16** — Northwest Indiana Green Drinks in Michigan City, 6:30 p.m., Shoreline Brewery, 208 Wabash St. Suggested donation: \$5/\$2 for students. Info: (219) 874-4076.

**April 16** — Potawatomi Audubon Society program, “Attracting Birds and Pollinators — Spring, Summer and Fall,” 6 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St.

**April 16** — “Off the Wall” fundraiser for Safe Harbor, 2:30-7 p.m., Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Cost: \$20 donation per frame.

**April 16** — Free lecture, “Virginia Woolf’s Airplanes: Air Power and Aerial Views Between the World Wars” by Elizabeth Evans, 6 p.m., PNC Technology Building Room 301. Info: (219) 785-5327.

**April 16** — “Glen Campbell — I’ll Be Me,” 6 p.m., Ivy Tech Auditorium, 3100 Ivy Tech Drive, Valparaiso. Tickets: \$20. Registration: [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com)

**April 17** — Bookmarks (Alan Bradley’s Flavia de Luce series), 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**April 17** — The Save the Tunes Council, 7:30-9 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

**April 17** — Purdue University-North Central American Sign Language Club Coffeehouse, 5-7:30 p.m., Uptown Café, 1400 E. Lincolnway, Valparaiso. Info: [www.aslclub.info](http://www.aslclub.info)

**April 17-18** — PNC Theatre mashup of “Tamburlaine” and “Galatea,” Mainstreet Theatre, 807 Franklin St., Michigan City. Times: 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$10/adults, \$5/students with valid ID. Reservations: (219) 874-4269, [info@festivalplayersguild.org](mailto:info@festivalplayersguild.org)

**April 17-20** — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. *Now showing:* “The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel.” Rated PG. Times: 6 p.m. Fri.-Mon. and noon Sat. *Also:* “Gett, the Trial of Viviane Amsalem.” Not rated. In Hebrew, French and Arabic with English subtitles. Times: 9:15 p.m. Fri.-Sat. and 2:45 p.m. Sat.-Sun. All times Eastern. Info: [vickerstheatre.com](http://vickerstheatre.com)

**April 17-19, 24-26, May 1-3** — “The Mystery of Edwin Drood,” Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Fri./Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$15/adults, \$10/children 12 and younger. Reservations: (219) 874-4035, [www.footlightplayers.org](http://www.footlightplayers.org)

**April 18** — Washington Park Zoo Zoobilee, 6 p.m., Blue Chip Casino. Tickets: \$75. Reservations: (219) 873-1510, [www.zoobilee2015.eventbrite.com](http://www.zoobilee2015.eventbrite.com)

**April 18** — La Porte County Symphony Orchestra Robert J. Hiler Family Foundation April Pops Concert, 7:30 p.m., La Porte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St. Tickets/reservations: [www.lcso.net](http://www.lcso.net)

**April 18** — Wine, Women and Stories, 7 p.m., Jazzercise Center, 522 Franklin St. Cost: \$10 minimum donation. Reservations: (219) 879-3066.

**April 18** — Young Adult Film Series, “The Hob-



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bit: The Battle of the Five Armies,” 5 p.m., Library Service Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

**April 18** — Spring Wildflower Hike, 1 p.m., Heron Rookery, CR 600 East. Info: (219) 395-1882.

**April 18** — The Northwest Indiana Earth Day Celebration, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Porter County Expo Center, 215 E. Division Road, Valparaiso. Info: sarah@savedunes.org

**April 18** — Wood Ducks and Marigold Meander, 10 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**April 19** — Films on DVD Series, “The Good Lie,” 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**April 20** — Purdue University-North Central American Sign Language Club ASL Fun Night, 5:30 -8 p.m., Library-Student-Faculty Building Assembly Hall, Room 02. Info: www.aslclub.info

**April 21** — Spring planting season program, 7 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Public Library Pokagon Room, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933.

**April 21, 26** — Purdue University-North Central 26th annual Potpourri of Literature Readers’ Theatre, 11 a.m. April 21/2 p.m. April 26, Library-Student-Faculty Building Assembly Hall, Room 02. Free. Info: (219) 785-5384.

**April 22** — Creativity and Innovation Week events, 10 a.m. & 3 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**April 24** — “An Evening with Julia Marlowe,” 6 p.m., PNC Library-Student-Faculty Building Assembly Hall, Room 02. Free.

**Mondays** — Codependents Anonymous (CoDA), 6 p.m., Franciscan Alliance-St. Anthony Health. Info: (219) 879-3817.

**Wednesdays** — Al-Anon meetings, 6-7 p.m., Franciscan Alliance-St. Anthony Health. Info: (708) 927-5287.

**Farther Afield:**

**April 16** — Third Thursday Restoration Rangers, 1 p.m. EDT, Sarett Nature Center, 2300 Benton Center Road, Benton Harbor, Mich. Registration: (269) 927-4832.

**April 17-19** — Stephen Sondheim’s “Assassins,” Elkhart Civic Theatre at Bristol (Ind.) Opera House, 210 E. Vistula St. Times (EDT): 7:30 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 3 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$17/adults, \$15/students & seniors 62+. Reservations: www.elkhartcivictheatre.org, (574) 848-4116.

**April 18** — Blue Water Ramblers, 7:30 p.m. EDT, The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Tickets: \$10/general admission, \$8/students and seniors, free/children 12 and younger. Info/reservations: (269) 983-3688, info@boxfactoryforthearts.org, www.boxfactoryforthearts.org

**April 18** — Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra, “The Magical Music of Disney,” 7:30 p.m. EDT, Lake Michigan College Mendel Center Mainstage, Benton Harbor, Mich. Tickets/reservations: (269) 982-4030, www.smsso.org



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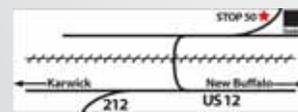
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**THIS  
WEEK  
IN  
HISTORY**



**On April 16, 1787**, “The Contrast” (by Royal Tyler), the first play written by a United States citizen, was produced in New York.

**On April 16, 1789**, President Elect George Washington left his home in Mount Vernon, bound for New York, for his first inauguration as President of the United States.

**On April 16, 1867**, Wilbur Wright, co-inventor of the airplane, was born on a farm near New Castle, IN.

**On April 16, 1900**, the United States post offices began selling books of stamps.

**On April 16, 1905**, Andrew Carnegie invested \$10 million, the income to be used for pensions for retired college and university professors. The fund became the “Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.”

**On April 16, 1945**, in his first speech to Congress, President Harry Truman pledged to carry out the war and peace policies of his late predecessor, President Franklin Roosevelt.

**On April 16, 1962**, Walter Cronkite made his debut as anchor of “The CBS Evening News.”

**On April 16, 2003**, Michael Jordan, one of the greatest to ever play the game, played in his final NBA game.

**On April 17, 1964**, Ford Motor Co. introduced the Mustang.

**On April 17, 1964**, Jerrie Mock of Columbus, OH, became the first female pilot to make a solo flight around the world.

**On April 17, 1970**, the astronauts of *Apollo 13* landed in the Pacific, four days after a ruptured oxygen tank crippled their craft.

**On April 18, 1775**, Paul Revere began his famous ride between the Massachusetts towns of Charlestown and Lexington, warning the American Colonist of the approach of British troops.

**On April 18, 1858**, rain began falling on the Chicago area, and continued to fall for 60 consecutive days.

**On April 18, 1923**, the first game was played in Yankee Stadium.

**On April 18, 1924**, the first crossword puzzle book was published by Simon and Schuster.

**On April 18, 1934**, the era of the “Laundromat” began when the first Washateria, with four electric washing machines for rent, opened in Fort Worth.

**On April 18, 1977**, author Alex Haley won the Pu-

litzer Prize for his novel "Roots."

**On April 19, 1865**, the funeral for President Abraham Lincoln was held in the White House.

**On April 19, 1892**, in Springfield, MA, Charles E. Duryea took his horseless carriage — the first American-made automobile — out of his shop for a successful drive.

**On April 19, 1903**, Eliot Ness, who became a federal agent and led the "Untouchables," the unit that captured Al Capone on tax charges, was born in Chicago.

**On April 19, 1982**, astronauts Sally Ride and Guion Bluford Jr. became the first woman and first African-American to be tapped for U.S. space missions.

**On April 19, 2001**, the musical "The Producers" opened on Broadway.

**On April 20, 1836**, Congress established the Wisconsin Territory.

**On April 20, 1857**, Chicago's Mayor John "Long John" Wentworth personally led a raid on the "Sands," a notorious North Michigan Avenue vice district.

**On April 20, 1949**, Mayo Clinic scientists revealed they had synthesized a hormone to treat rheumatoid arthritis — named "cortisone."

**On April 20, 1955**, Richard Daley began his first term as mayor of Chicago. He was reelected five times.

**On April 20, 1972**, the manned lunar module from *Apollo 16* landed on the moon.

**On April 21, 753 B.C.**, Rome, according to legend, was founded by Romulus and Remus.

**On April 21, 1789**, John Adams was sworn in as the first vice president of the United States.

**On April 21, 1843**, Chicago passed an ordinance prohibiting pigs from running free on the streets of the city.

**On April 21, 1925**, the Chicago neighborhood of Streeterville got its name when Elmo Streeter was arrested for "squatting" on the land.

**On April 21, 1940**, the quiz show that asked the "\$64 question," *Take It or Leave It*, premiered on CBS radio.

**On April 21, 1986**, a vault in Chicago's Lexington Hotel that was linked to Al Capone was opened during a live TV special hosted by Geraldo Rivera; aside from a few bottles and a sign, the vault was empty.

**On April 22, 1937**, thousands of college students in New York City staged a fourth annual "peace strike," vowing to "refuse to support the government in any war."

**On April 22, 1976**, Barbara Walters became the first full-time network evening anchorwoman when she signed on to co-anchor the *ABC Evening News with Harry Reasoner*.

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### Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail.)

Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the 'Sea, help me and show me, herein you are my mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth! I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my mother. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3x). Holy Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3x). Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in Eternal Glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. The person must say this prayer 3 consecutive days. After 3 days, the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor is granted.

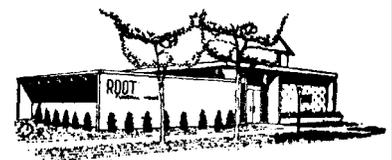
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## Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

**Station Eleven** by Emily St. John Mandel (hardcover, \$24.95 in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook)

*"It just doesn't make sense," Elizabeth insisted. "Are we supposed to believe that civilization has just **come to an end**?"... "The lights will come back on someday." Elizabeth kept insisting, "and then we'll all finally get to go home." But was there actually any reason to believe this?*

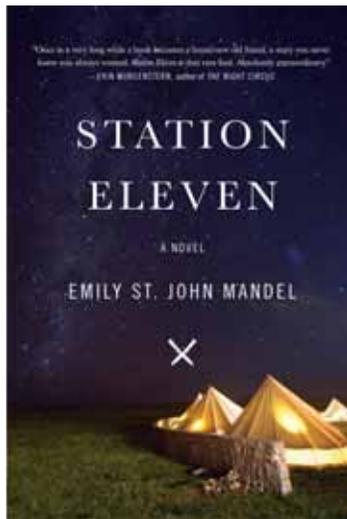
There certainly has been any number of post-apocalyptic books, movies and TV shows lately. Frankly, I'm tired of the nuclear bomb, zombie and vampire scenarios. This week, I give you something completely different--a look at "what if" from a new perspective...

First, we meet Arthur Leander, a former Hollywood actor turned Shakespeare stage actor in his waning career, now playing at a small theater in Toronto, Canada. He collapses during the performance of "King Lear" and Jeevan, an EMT in the audience, jumps on stage to administer CPR. Seven year-old Kirsten Raymonde, one of the child actors, watches in horror. It's snowing as Jeevan leaves the theater after the ambulance takes Arthur's body away. None of these people know that a horrible disease, called the Georgia Flu, is beginning its deadly trek around the world: a pandemic the likes of which has never been seen before. The flu shows no mercy to old or young, sick or healthy: if you breathe it, you die.

Jeevan is called by a doctor friend that night and told about the flu. He buys as many groceries as he can get back to his brother's apartment and the two stay locked up on the 20th floor. That night was Day 1 of the new age.

The pair watch the news and see the mass exodus of people trying to get out of the city, until the news feeds stop, planes stop flying, electricity goes out and the two men realize they are watching the end of civilization as they knew it. When his brother dies, Jeevan makes his way out of the city...

Fifteen years later, the story picks up with Kirsten and the Traveling Symphony, a group of musicians who joined with a number of actors and moved around the known land to present Shakespearean plays and symphonies. Surprisingly, people seem to want the old plays and old music. It's a reminder of what they are now missing. As the years go by, memories of electricity, cell phones and planes in the sky become a dim memory. Children born after Day 1 find it hard to believe when their parents



tell them of such wonders. Walk on the moon? Dad must be kidding.

As the Traveling Symphony makes its way along the eastern coast of Lake Michigan, they come to a town they visited two years previously. They left two members of their company there because the girl was going to have a baby. Now, no one knows of the couple or their baby, and the city is run by a strange prophet. He digs graves for anyone daring to leave him, including the pair the Symphony is looking for. So where are they? The Symphony sneaks out of town, but is soon followed...

Meanwhile, the story goes back to before the pandemic, offering a glimpse into lives about to be changed forever, and how these lives will intersect. Showing how much we take for granted, including our families and friends, this story takes a decidedly different approach to a post-apocalyptic world. An abandoned airport becomes home to several hundred people. One of the men turns part of it into a museum of now useless items that still have a hold on the people who come to bring new items, trade and reminisce about a world that will probably never come back. How soothing the music and Shakespeare is to these survivors, and how beauty can be found where we never looked before.

Simply an amazing read. Sometimes, it's not about dying, it's about living.

Thanks to my editor, Andrew Tallackson, for recommending this unforgettable book to me.

*Station Eleven* was a finalist for the 2014 National Book Award.

Bestselling author Ann Patchett wrote: "*Station Eleven* is so compelling, so fearlessly imagined, that I wouldn't have put it down for anything."

A starred review from *The Library Journal* said: "A brilliantly constructed, highly literary, post-apocalyptic page-turner."

Author George R.R. Martin (*Game of Thrones*) wrote: "Deeply melancholy, but beautifully written, and wonderfully elegiac...A book that I will long remember, and return to."

Till next time, happy reading!



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## 3008 Mayfield Way

Beautiful wood paneling throughout this two bedroom, one and a half bath classic cottage. Huge stone fireplace adds to the vintage feel of this year-round getaway. The new furnace will keep you toasty warm on chilly winter nights. A short trip to the beach can waste away your summer vacation.

**\$259,000**



## 16 E. Mechanic St., New Buffalo

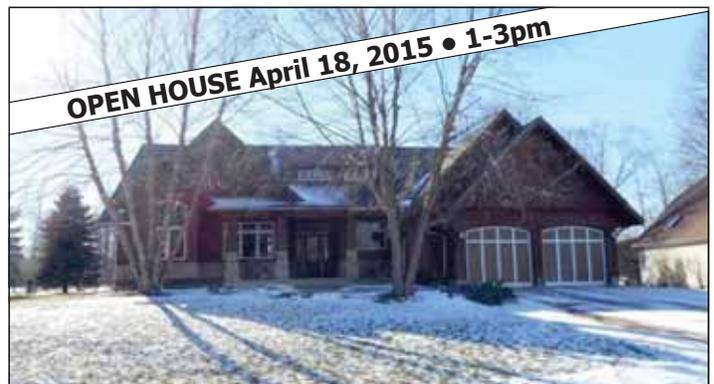
Right in the heart of downtown New Buffalo in a highly visible and high traffic location, this lot offers plenty of potential; residential, commercial or mixed use. You decide.

**\$499,000**

## 2332 Tinkers Way

Luxurious home on Lake Claire. Stone pillars surround the front entryway to the living room and gathering room with massive stone fireplaces looking on to the sunporch. Main floor master suite and a well-appointed kitchen with stainless appliances, hardwood floors, custom hickory cabinets throughout. Three bedrooms, two and a half baths.

**\$539,900**



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GRI  
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