

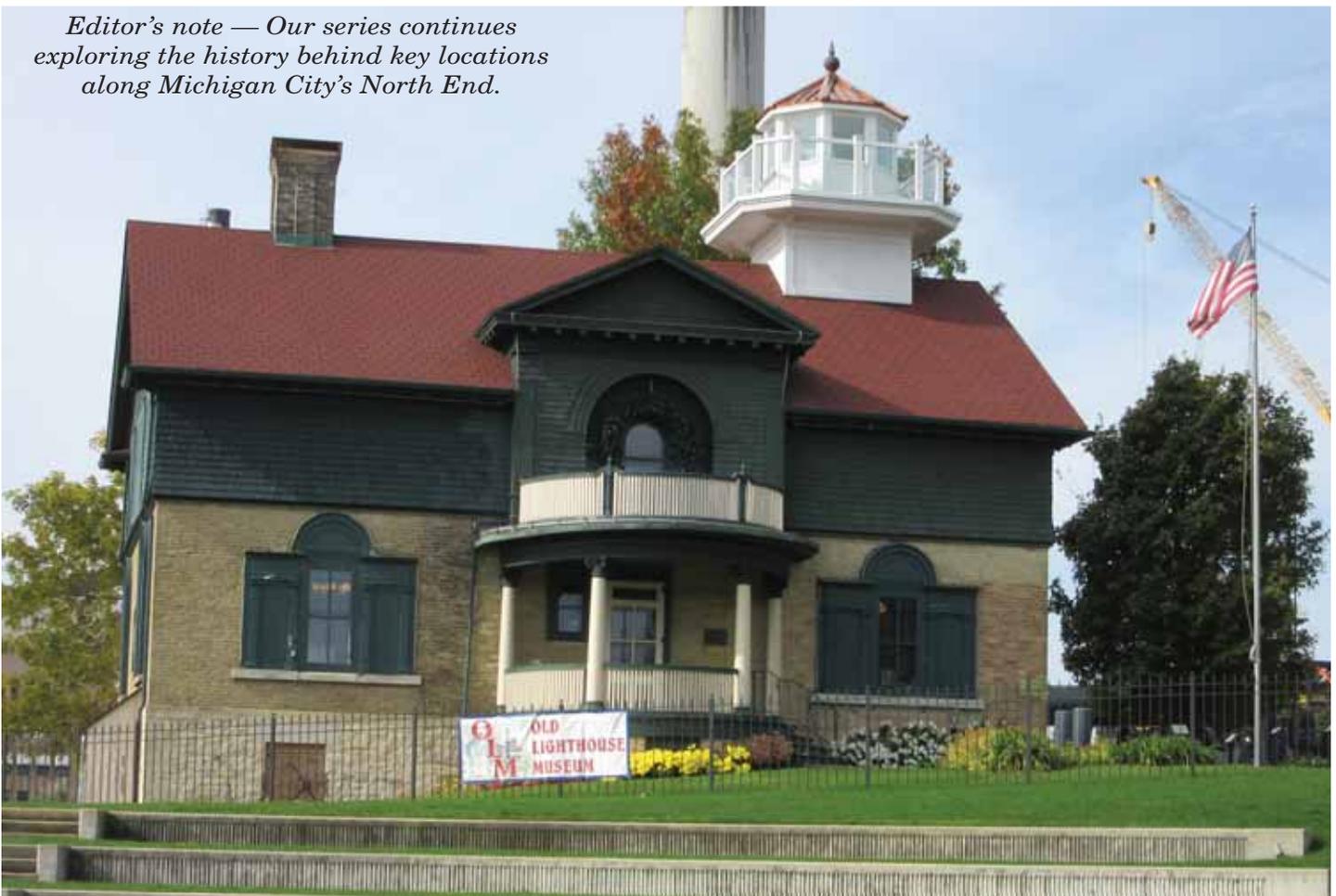


Volume 31, Number 15 Thursday, April 23, 2015

# *A Beacon of Knowledge and History*

by William Halliar

*Editor's note — Our series continues exploring the history behind key locations along Michigan City's North End.*



The Old Lighthouse Museum once was home to the beacon that led ships from Lake Michigan's stormy waters to the safety of port.

**W**hat do submarines, Abraham Lincoln and Custer's Last Stand have in common?

The answers can be found at the Old Lighthouse Museum in Washington Park, and their connection to Michigan City might surprise you.

Jim Retseck and Larry Swiger, Michigan City Historical Society co-presidents, share a great love of this city and the people who live here. This affec-

tion makes them the perfect pair to carry on the responsibility of passing down Michigan City's history to future generations.

Michigan City's 1858 lighthouse, once home to the beacon that led ships from Lake Michigan's stormy waters to the safety of port, is now a beacon of knowledge and history that throws light upon who and what we are today by illuminating the past through photos, artifacts, documents and stories

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## A Beacon

Continued from Page 1

told from the hearts of enthusiastic, knowledgeable docents.

The fate of Indiana's only lighthouse could have been much different. In 1940, the last person to occupy the building, assistant keeper Ralph Moore, locked the door and left the 82-year-old building to its fate and the elements. It sat abandoned for 25 years.

Retseck remembers playing in the old brick structure as a boy growing up in Michigan City, exploring it with his friends.

"The roof had holes, the plaster was off the walls and there was graffiti everywhere," he recalls.

The abandoned building became city property in 1964.

It has been lamented, by some old-time residents, that Michigan City is known for tearing down landmarks rather than restoring them. However, in 1964, one city councilman suggested the lighthouse be moved, arguing it sat on valuable lakefront property. Imagine moving a building with walls 3 feet thick. But the value of a historic site cannot be counted in potential tax revenue, some realized, and thus the city council decided on a nobler plan. It leased the broken-down structure to the Michigan City Historical Society for the price of \$1 a year,

with the understanding it would be refurbished and turned into a historical museum.

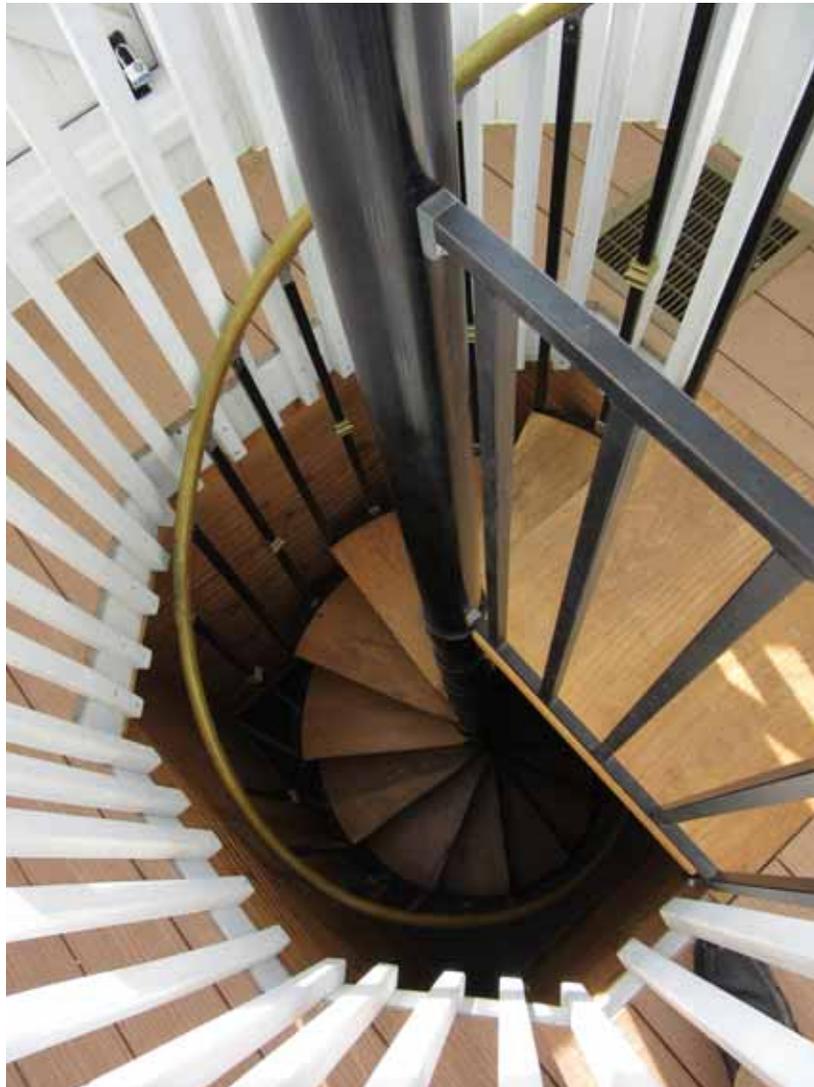
Pat Harris, Historical Society director and curator from 1974 to 1992, said this is when the real work began: the planning and promoting, fundraisers and getting everyone in the community involved.

After nine years of planning, and much physical labor and time donated by many volunteers, the Old Lighthouse Museum finally opened its doors to the public in June 1973.

That year, a replica of the original lantern tower room was placed on the roof. The first lantern room was removed in 1904 when the light was moved from the building, itself, to the new light tower on the pier at the harbor entrance. Museum visitors could climb to the top of the building and view the harbor, beach, even the Chicago skyline from within its glass enclosure.

All the furnishings used over the years by various lighthouse keepers who lived in the building were personal property and removed as each keeper moved on. Everything in the museum today has been donated by local residents and people interested in preserving the memories and stories of their families and Michigan City history.

In 2014, a new lantern room replaced the 1973 structure. From this vantage point, a visitor can take in a wonderful view of Lake Michigan, the dunes and



A wide staircase leads to the museum's second floor.

beach. What else can you expect to find within this wonderfully restored 1858 lighthouse?

Ah, this is where the adventure begins.

Ring the vintage doorbell and a portal opens revealing the collected treasures of your family, friends and neighbors, the real folks who made Michigan City what it is today.



Everything in the museum has been donated by local residents and people interested in preserving the city's history.

The building's interior has been restored to its former splendor with fine woodwork and wide staircases that lead to the second floor. The building was once divided in half. Each side of the building, structurally, is more or less a mirror image of the other.

One side of the lighthouse was the home of the primary keeper of the light, the other half the residence of the assistant lightkeeper. There was a shared kitchen in the basement.

Continued on Page 4

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# A Beacon

Continued from Page 3

At times, there were two assistant lightkeepers, and the second assistant had the privilege of sleeping in the basement with the wood stove.

The walls dividing the structure were removed during restoration efforts, and the entire building now houses the artifacts that tell of our history.

Everywhere you look, there is something of interest to study. A collection of Indian artifacts, for instance, arrow heads and stone axes found in the Waterford area, hang prominently in the first room you enter.

Reminders of local industries are located throughout the building. Fishing was an early enterprise that flourished in Michigan City, as well as the lumber industry. The mouth of Trail Creek was lined at one time with wharves dedicated to these important enterprises, harkening back to a time when the harbor sought to rival with its neighboring city on the banks of Lake Michigan, Chicago.

A poster advertising Smith Brothers Cough Drops hangs on one wall, a reminder that its factory was located just to the east of the museum until it was torn down and replaced by the beautiful Millennium Park.



A model that's part of the Barker/Pullman display.

Michigan City's largest industry, the Haskell & Barker/Pullman plant, is represented by freight car models and various memorabilia.

On the second floor is an area known as the Lincoln Room. A glass case holds a life mask of the 16th president and a piece of the bunting that decorated the presidential box at Ford's Theatre on the night he was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth. A Michigan City resident happened to be in the theater that night, and her family donated the piece of cloth to the Historical Society.

Speaking of being an eyewitness to history, the museum collection includes a gun that was present at Little Bighorn, Mont., on the day Custer rode into battle with the Plains Sioux and lost his life and the



Elements of the museum's Abraham Lincoln display.

lives of his whole command. Ask a museum docent, and the whole story will be told to you.

Of particular interest is a history of the lights that have protected ships entering our harbor for well more than 100 years. The story of lights at the mouth of Trail Creek can be traced back to 1835 when land speculator Isaac Elston deeded a tract of land along the creek to the U.S. government so a lighthouse could be built.



The old lighthouse building circa 1910.  
Photo courtesy of Mike Fleming

Although the present pier head light is automated, those protective beacons were lit and maintained by hand for many years. At one time, the lakeshore came up to what is now the fence line on the north



Jim Retseck (left) and Larry Swiger stand among the museum's many historical items.

side of the grounds. There were additional lights that had to be maintained and lit every day on each side of the harbor opening itself.

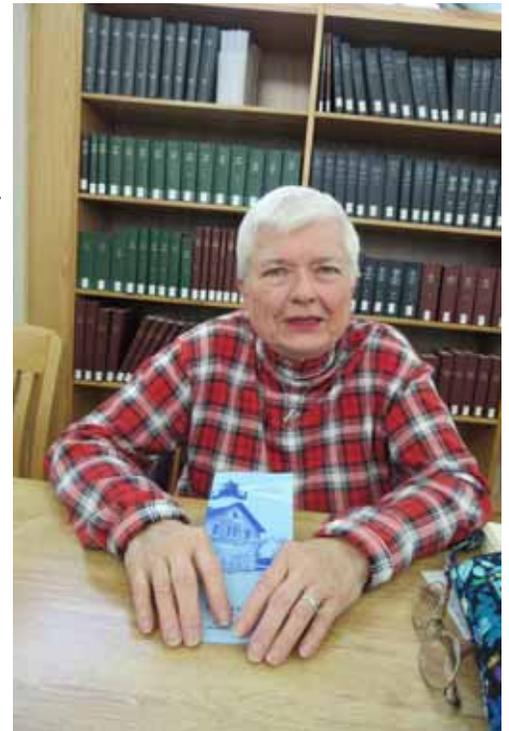
One of Retseck's favorite subjects is the story of the lighthouse's most famous lightkeeper, Harriet Colfax. She cared for the light atop the structure, as well as lights

placed each evening at the end of two piers that went straight out into Lake Michigan. For 43 years, she braved winter storms, lashing waves, spray and ice. She never failed to keep those lights burn-

ing. Harriet worked until her 80th year, retiring only after the light was moved from the roof of the lighthouse to the location at the end of the pier in 1904.

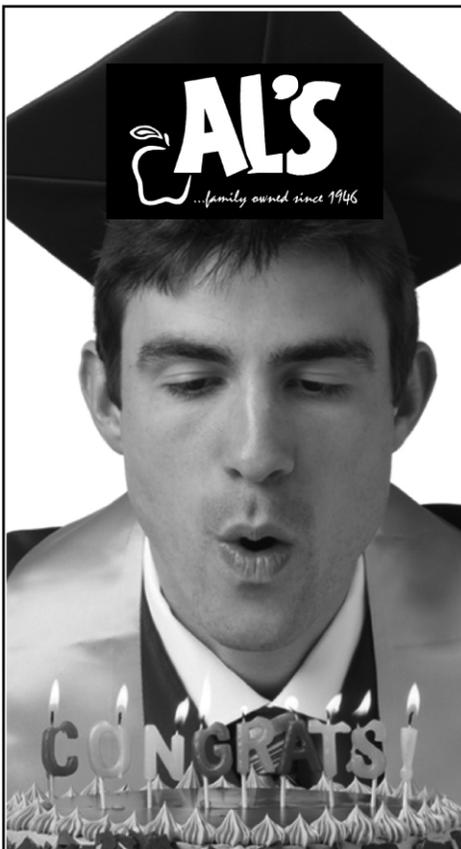
There are so many stories contained within these sand-scoured walls that only a visit with a few hours to spare could satisfy a curious person's thirst for knowledge.

After winding your way through many interesting displays and hearing all of the fascinating sto-



Pat Harris, Historical Society director and curator from 1974 to 1992.

Continued on Page 6



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# A Beacon

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Information about the anniversary of the Eastland disaster sits next to a Fresnel lens in the Old Lighthouse Museum.

ries, you arrive at the Lantern Room. Here, you can climb a spiral staircase and from this lofty perch enjoy a spectacular view of our lakefront park. As you take in the sights, there is something comforting in knowing the land on which the museum sits, and all of its treasures, are in good hands, just waiting to be discovered by generations to come.



The view from the Lantern Room

## If You Go

The Old Lighthouse Museum in Washington Park is open for public tours from 1 to 4 p.m. every day of the week except for Monday from April through October. You can walk through the building at your own pace or take docent-led tours. Admission is \$5 for visitors 14 and older, \$2 for youth 14 and younger and free for preschool children. The museum also is open from 5 to 8 p.m. during the Uptown Arts District First Friday Art walk, during which there is no admission charge.

## Lincoln's "The Final Journey"

To celebrate the 150th anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's funeral train arriving in Michigan City, actor Fritz Klein will give special presentations on Lincoln's assassination, his funeral and his vision for America on Thursday, April 30, and Friday, May 1.

"President Abraham Lincoln — The Final Journey" is at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 30, during which Michigan City Mayor Ron Meer will welcome everyone, and 1 p.m. Friday, May 1, at the National Guard Armory, 3 Lake Shore Drive.

The first-person interpretation program



consists of an introduction by a National Park Ranger, followed by a one-hour presentation of Lincoln portrayed by Klein, who has been appearing as Lincoln for more than 30 years and is considered one of the nation's top Lincoln interpreters.

A program for school children is at 10 a.m. Friday, May 1, at the Elston Performing Arts Center, 317 Detroit St. The auditorium can accommodate 850 guests, so RSVP to Larry Swiger at the Old Lighthouse Museum at (219) 872-6133 or email llswiger@att.net. Enter the building on the east side from Pine Street.



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## 22nd Annual Art Attack in Harbor Country

Businesses, galleries and local attractions will celebrate “all that is art” during the 22nd Art Attack in Harbor Country on Friday through Sunday, April 24-26. Visit [www.harborcountry.org/artattack/](http://www.harborcountry.org/artattack/) for more details, specifically demonstrations, receptions and entertainment. The schedule is:

- **Catherine & Co.**, 900 W. Buffalo St., New Buffalo — Free workshop on basic lamp rewiring. Visitors pay for parts used. Space is limited. Call (269) 469-2742. Also, Hawaiian-made art and crafts; works from self-proclaimed lamp enthusiast Robert Banker; watercolors by Dorothy Mashek; and artist Fred Zemlick.
- **The Hidden Gem**, 122 N. Whittaker St., New Buffalo — Doug Miller solo exhibit. Chris Acton will bring her table loom. Jeff Conrad will demonstrate jewelry wire wrapping.
- **Lake Interiors**, 15412 Red Arrow Highway, Lakeside — Special designs and fabrics for spring and summer.
- **Indian Summer Boutique**, 439 S. Whittaker St., New Buffalo — Jeff Lieb Jewelry Trunk Show.
- **Beachtails at Union Pier Ateliers**, 16130 Red Arrow Highway, Union Pier — Miniature pet art from local artists.
- **Millie’s Antiques**, 13815 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert — Visitors can browse selections, including Jill Redfield’s “craft stew” and Suzy Koha’s handcrafted felted pieces.
- **Catherine Doll Clothing-Fashion for Green Living**, 5844 Sawyer Road, Sawyer — View designs made from recycled materials.
- **Sweet Pea Studio**, 5794 Sawyer Road, Sawyer — Season opener highlights nautical, classic and children’s designs.
- **Vida Svavas Designs**, 122 N. Whitaker St., New Buffalo — Works by Jerry Strub, Laima Petrulis, Vida Svabas and Veronica Svabas.
- **The Pokagon Fund Art Gallery**, 821 E. Buffalo St. — Works by Angie Rice, Jason Wesaw, Kathy Getz Fodness and Sammie Cook.
- **Studio b. Gallery & Artisan Market**, 114 N. Elm St., Three Oaks — To celebrate their 11th year, the gallery will feature nature studies by fine artist Michelle Kogan.
- **Designsmith Studio**, 16272 Red Arrow Highway, Union Pier — A “contemporistic” furniture exhibit features local craftsmen Mike Stevens.
- **Artist Unite!**, 16170 Red Arrow Highway, Suite 6, Union Pier — Local artists Lynne Barto, Leah Sherman, Emily Karpinski and Julie Nitz. Also, fashion accessories by Sherry Collet and Amanda

Joyner of Chef Bizzaro Millinery.

- **Susan Fredman At Home With Nature**, 15998 Red Arrow Highway, Union Pier — Eric Hausman will discuss his photography. Also, Jennifer Webster will paint in oil on canvas on the front porch, and showcasing her abstract paintings.
- **Fritz Olsen Sculptures Contemporary Fine Art**, 6914 W. Holloway Drive, Sawyer — “His & Hers,” works by Fritz Olsen and Martha Cares, opens and continues through May 31.
- **Fitzgerald’s of Sawyer**, 5875 Sawyer Road, Sawyer — Circus sideshow art on canvas.
- **Designer CottageScapes of Harbor Country & CottageScapes “Closet,”** 122 N. Whittaker St., Studio C, New Buffalo — A book signing with photographer artist Laura Kraklav, and “The Art & Versatility of the Scarf.”
- **Nido Bianco**, 16860 Three Oaks Road, Three Oaks — Exhibits, along with demonstrations by Susan Henshaw, Kim Pruit and Andrea Peterson.
  - **Green Spirit Farms**, 18300 U.S. 12, New Buffalo — “Ad Fest and Feast,” award-winning TV commercials from 2014.
  - **The Courtyard Gallery**, 813 E. Buffalo St., New Buffalo — “Fine Art Through the Eye of a Lens,” featuring local and national photographers.
  - **Journeyman Distillery**, 109 Generations Drive, Three Oaks — An artist will be highlighted.
  - **The Plum Tree**, 16337 Red Arrow Highway, Union Pier — Oils from Pat Rodeghier.
- **Local Color Gallery**, 16187 Red Arrow Highway, Union Pier — “Polaroid Collage” by Julie Schwarz. Also, “Travels with Donovan” available as an artist-signed poster. Sally Hughes’ “Plants I have Known.” Performances by Homemade Jam.
- **Peacock Place Vacation Rental/Pantara Designs Art Studio**, 13436 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert — Create a collaborative painting on a 9-foot round market umbrella. Also, call for artists potluck gathering and after-party.
- **Sawyer Home & Garden Center**, 5865 Sawyer Road, Sawyer — Gourmet food samplings.
- **Center of the World Woodshop**, 13400 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert — Haiku workshop/contest, and “Author! Author! Readings & Reception.”
- **REMAX Harbor Country**, 10234 Community Hall Road, Union Pier — “Life In Pictures,” oil painter/pastel artist Marie Kirk Burke.
- **Customs at Union Pier Ateliers**, 16130 Red Arrow Highway, Union Pier — Multinational party with music, global food, foreign wines, regional beers and multinational cocktails.





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Marquette Catholic High School, 306 W. 10th St., will present Meredith Wilson's beloved "The Music Man" for a two-weekend run that kicks off Friday, April 24, in the school's Rudy Hart Theatre.

The production is one of the school's most ambitious, not only featuring members of the DAC

# THE MUSIC MAN

band, but more than 20 local grade-school students among the cast of more than 50.

Performances are at 7 p.m. April 24-25, 2 p.m. April 26, 7 p.m. May 1 and 2 and 7 p.m. May 2. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for students/seniors and \$5 children 12 and younger.



Directed by Amy Crane, the cast includes:

- Conductor — Nolan Cabella.
- Salesman 1 — Liam Roder.
- Salesman 2 — Will Cannon.
- Salesman 3 — Joe Salyer.
- Salesman 4 — Niko Cabella.
- Salesman 5 — Johnny Roder.
- Charlie Cowell — Dominic Vernon.
- Newspaper Reader 1 — Ben Pizarek.
- Newspaper Reader 2 — Evan Hebbe.
- Harold Hill — Patrick McDonnell.
- Mayor Shinn — David Dobben.
- Eulalie Shinn — Emily Murray.
- Zaneeta Shinn — Anna Andrisko.
- Gracie Shinn — Maggie McLinden.
- Tommy — Luke Cloninger.
- Marcellus — Declan Lawrence.
- Mrs. Paroo — Cece Dickson.
- Marian — Maggie Cannon.
- Winthrop — Liam Gowan.
- Amaryllis — Eleanor Crane.
- Alma — Abby Schmidt.
- Maude — JoHannah Kalita.
- Ethel — Ariana Gatzka.
- Mrs. Squires — Kelsey Sullivan.
- Constable — Nolan Cabella.
- Quartet: Jacey — DJ Rizer; Ewart — Andy Crane; Oliver — Brian Shepperson; Olin — Tom Burke.
- Onstage band members — Jimmy O'Connor, Katie Pampalone and Peter Wilder.
- Marian Tap Dance — William Crane and Livia Balling.
- Eulalie's Dance Girls — Alexa Reyes, Elaina Balling, Mary Pat Kelley, Mary Kate Bobillo, Maggie McLinden, Sophia McGrew and Katie Zientarski.
- Chorus — Elaina Billys, Penelope Prokuski, Fiona Eggen, Leslie Reyes, Kayla LaRocco, Nikki Szymkowski, Mahika Patel and Itza Valdez.
- Kids Chorus — Nicole Huss, Violet Murphy, Ella Jasnieski, Kennedy Oselka, Lauren Long, Emma Pera, Mackenzy McDonald, Paige Pizarek, Maggie McDonald, Ava Zientarski and Jacob Zientarski.

The crew is:

- Andrew Crane — technical director.
  - Olivia Hebbe — stage manager.
  - Running crew — Maggie Beeler, Phoebe Cai, Lily Giancaspro, Sarah Jin, Kyle McGrew, Natalie Post, Emma Wangstrom, Zach Knibbs, Grace Lowry.
- The musicians are:
- Karen Rainey — DAC orchestra director.
  - Derek Meilaender — conductor.
  - Stephanie Sobeci — vocal director, pianist.
  - Abby Alexander — keyboard.
  - DAC band members — Lily Carmel, Moriah Carmel, Gianna Maroney, Maggie Moore, Owen Ott, Madison Pahssen, Isabell Pozos and Meredith Richards.



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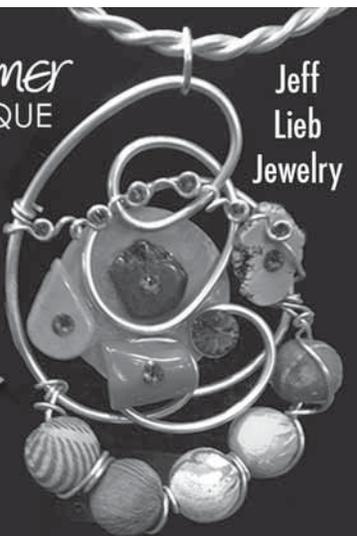
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### ArtsBridge Spring Concert, Exhibit

ArtsBridge will present a spring concert and exhibit at 4 p.m. EDT Sunday, April 26, at First Presbyterian Church, 475 Green Ave. (on Morton Hill), Benton Harbor, Mich.

The program will feature jazz vocalist Dawn Yarbrough and The ARK Jazz Project. Jazz musicians include bandleader and saxophonist Andy Kolosowsky, pianist Bill Yamakoski, bassist Tim King and drummer Jim Allen.



Yarbrough, a Benton Harbor native, is an Eastern Michigan University graduate with a bachelor's degree in radio, television and film. She has numerous years of production experience in the markets of Detroit, Los Angeles and Milan, Italy, and has performed with the likes of Michael Bublé and Italian artists Antonello Venditti and Gian Luca Guidi.

Kolosowsky played in the Chicago area for six years before getting hired by The Mel Hayes Group, a variety band that toured all over the United States. He lives in Benton Harbor, where he performs regularly with The Ark Jazz Project and other groups.



Yamakoski has performed with many local bands, such as The Ed Bagatini Quartet and Friends Jazz Trio, while King, who studied music at Lake Michigan College and University of Michigan, has performed with many local groups, including The Ed Bagatini Trio, The Ed Bagatini New Swing Orchestra, Lake Effect Big Band and Mister Edd. Allen has studied drums and percussion. He is experienced in many styles, but jazz remains his favorite.

Music selections during the concert include "Daa-houd" by Clifford Brown, "All the Things You Are" by Oscar Hammerstein and Jerome Kern, "Alone Together" by Arthur Schwartz and Howard Dietz, "West Coast Blues" by Wes Montgomery and "Monkish" by Jamey Aebersold. Glass art will be on display and for sale by Fired Up! students from Water Street Glassworks. Fired Up! is the after-school teen glass program for Benton Harbor-area students ages 13-18.

Admission is free, but donations accepted. A reception follows the program. Call (269) 925-7075 or visit on facebook at First Presbyterian Church in Benton Harbor for more information.



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### Husband and Wife Photographers, High-Schoolers New BAC Exhibits

Buchanan Art Center, 117 W. Front St., will have a public reception for its new exhibits from 2 to 4 p.m. EDT Sunday, April 26.

The exhibits are: "Sacred Faces: Photography by Wolfgang Schmidt" and "Creative Spirit: Photography by Ellen Schmidt" in the Roti Roti Gallery, and this year's Creative High School Art Exhibit in the Showplace and Hess galleries and BAC Showcases.

Wolfgang Schmidt fell in love with photography when he was 12 and received his first brownie-type camera for his birthday. When he graduated from high-school, he wanted to become a professional photographer; however, his father suggested he learn a career through which he could support his family. Working several years in a camera store, he furthered his knowledge there before studying international business at Cologne University in Germany. When he moved to the U.S. in 1962, he enhanced his photographic knowledge through trips and workshops. Eventually, he became responsible for 13 computer installations around the world. Upon retirement, he traveled extensively to Latin America, Africa and Asia, with an emphasis on visiting indigenous people. It has been his experience a face can tell someone a great deal about the wisdom and life of a person. As a result, he concentrated on documenting "Sacred Faces."



Wolfgang Schmidt's "Contemplation," which features a woman in Tibet.

Ellen Schmidt's trademark macro-photography, film only and double exposures work has been exhibited in South Bend and Cape Cod, where she is a member of the Cape Cod Art Association. She has a permanent photograph in the South Bend YWCA,



Ellen Schmidt's "Earth Mother."

and the University of Notre Dame uses her "Morning Glory Muse" image on one of its theology curriculum brochures. She received her Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education from Wheelock College in Boston in 1961. She also studied at Retreats International, Notre Dame, Ind., Workshops for Creativity at Holy Names College, Berkeley, Calif., and Omega Institute for Holistic Studies, Rhinebeck, N.Y.

The annual Creative High School Art Exhibit, which features cash awards, is open to high schools in the tri-county area and features 2-D and 3-D works, including painting, drawing, sculpture and pottery. Area schools expected to participate include Buchanan, Niles, Brandywine, Eau Claire and Michigan Lutheran.

The Schmidts' show runs through Saturday, May 30. The Creative High School Art Exhibit runs through Thursday, May 21. Visit [www.buchanan-artcenter.org](http://www.buchanan-artcenter.org) for additional information.



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# The Perks of Being a Slam Poet

by M.D. Cunningham

J.W. “Baz” Basilo is an unapologetic realist, possessed with passion when discussing his career. His words run together fast. One idea chases another.

Slam Poetry has been his life for the past 10 years, and he’s still blazing forward at breakneck speed.

“I went in there and that was it,” the 31-year-old says of The Green Mill Jazz Club, an iconic lounge in Chicago’s Uptown neighborhood widely recognized as the birthplace of Slam Poetry. Basilo started performing, or slamming, there as soon as he was 21. His fervor spread to other venues, but The Green Mill with its legendary Sunday showcase was always a “haven.”



J.W. “Baz” Basilo

“When I wasn’t there, I was on the road,” Basilo said. His dedication and drive to entertain and compete in slams had him working a circuit of “cafes, theaters and everything in between” only a few years after becoming immersed in the form. “I basically lived on a Greyhound bus ... it’s not a good living...over time, people notice you.”

The hardships were worth facing.

“I wasn’t working a job,” Basilo, a former Goose Island’s Brewpub manager, said. “I was doing the thing I loved. I lived in my car at one point in Texas. When you’re out there on the road ... I’d rather fight those challenges than get up and go into a cubicle.”

Using The Green Mill as a launch pad, early successes gave way to performances around the country and a starving artist livelihood. Then, the founder of Uptown Poetry Slam, Marc Smith, asked Basilo to work with him as co-host, even lead entire sets. Perhaps, Smith just grew frustrated with Basilo winning the event. In looking at the relationship, it’s impossible to avoid the word protégé.

“That’s the word he likes to use,” Basilo says. “He uses it on stage because he knows I don’t like it.”

The biggest challenge facing the live literary community today is filling seats. There was a point where if people wanted to be entertained, they had to go out and find it. Online streaming and social networking has vastly influenced today’s entertainment. There are a myriad of ways people can easily get by living on a couch for weeks, he said. When Basilo was making a name for himself, he didn’t have much more than his mouth and MySpace.

“What we do is tough,” he said, noting that even a venue like The Green Mill has its challenges of keeping regular patrons engaged and attending.

When he describes the feeling of participating, he sounds like an adrenaline junky, calling it “a chase for that weird juice, that magic ... that keeps us going.”

Anyone at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., during the Uptown Arts District First Friday art walk on April 3 had the chance to catch that feeling. Death, love and a broad spectrum of human experience were on display in a dazzling array of deft wordplay. Basilo called the event “one of the best shows we’ve done.”

He kicked off the night with a call to love the person who knows your faults best, in his eyes...a dental hygienist. The piece, or performance, like much of Basilo’s work, was inspired by actual events, in this case waking from a post-breakup coma paired with the guilt he’d been long overdue to see a den-

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tist. During the visit, he caught himself writing a piece in his head as he tried to escape the pleasure of a beautiful set of eyes above a mask and the pain of “12 years of Al’s roast beef being removed by a railroad spike.”

Basilo later said a rift within Slam Poetry always has existed between those who enjoy the competitive component and those who spurn it. Poets are not typically athletes, he said, so the form allows a platform for chest-beating and gladiator-like histrionics that many have not had the opportunity to savor.

“The quickest way to get a work out is to get in front of an audience,” he said.

Basilo’s jests and measured rants framed an evening of eclectic performers. The slam format demands a handful of audience members be designated judges, then rate performers. This participation determines poets who advance round by round till a sole champion is named.



Second-place competition winner  
Mary Dean.



First-place competition winner  
Red Rah.

Throughout the contest, Basilo reminded the audience: “The scores don’t matter, the performers do!”

Local performers delivered an array of emotion: touching details of a loved one being dressed for a final resting place, isolation, activism, hate, love, lust, humor, bitterness...and on and on.

The brave wordsmiths who raised their voices, sometimes over crumpled pages, clutched by shaky hands, other times empty handed, with resolute stares into the crowd, revealed the inner machinations not only of their own lives, but also the complexities and contradictions we all share. It was a firsthand lesson in that vibe Basilo described as some sort of juice, some kind of magic. Clearly, it’s worth chasing.

Basilo is tight-lipped about his exact path forward, but he is intent on progression.

He works with a house ensemble at Chicago Slam Works, performing live theatrical poetry where he serves as executive director, in addition to emceeing the Uptown Poetry Slam at The Green Mill.

In the city of big shoulders, which has and always will bombard the senses, rest assured that Basilo is casting a big shadow of his own.



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### Cripple Creek in Concert

The La Porte Community Concert Association will present Cripple Creek in concert at 7 p.m. Friday, May 1, at La Porte High School Auditorium, 700 F St.

The popular local group, which loves to play music together, has performed at La Porte's Arts in the Park for a number of years. Presenting religious and country music, the band started with Mitch Marhanka, Lou Voelker and Dave Applegarth in 1995. John Langford joined them five years later. Steve Eyrick rounds out the group and is the band's sound man.



New subscribers for the 2015-2016 season will be admitted to the show as a bonus concert. Tickets, available at the door, cost \$15 for adults and \$5 for students through high school.

Call Beth LeRoy at (219) 362-8262 or Bill Burger at (219) 362-5292 for more information.

### Collector's Corner Breakfast

The Friends of the Michigan City Public Library will hold its annual Collector's Corner Breakfast at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, April 25, at St. John's United Church of Christ Fellowship Hall, 101 St. John Road, Michigan City

Great Lakes Catering will provide breakfast. Ticketholders may take one item to be appraised by Martin Papke of Kathy's Antique Shop, Chesterton. No weapons will be considered.

Tickets are \$25 and available at the library circulation desk or by calling (219) 873-3049. No tickets will be available at the door. Limited tickets are being sold. Last year's event sold out.

### Monarch Butterfly Garden

Episcopal Church of the Mediator, 14280 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert, Mich., is inviting families to help plant a monarch butterfly garden from noon to 2 p.m. EDT Saturday, April 25.

Hot dogs and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches will be served, followed by a talk about how the garden helps the butterflies grow and survive. Guests will do a craft, then sow seeds.

RSVP online to churchofthemediator@gmail.com or call the church office at (269) 469-1441. The event rain date is May 2.

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## Uptown Fashion Affair

The Uptown Fashion Affair, which showcases local boutiques, salons and artists, is from 6:30 to 10 p.m. Friday, April 24, at Barker Hall at Trinity Episcopal Church, 600 Franklin St.

The event is a fundraiser for Uptown Arts District. Design and style pairing on the new full-scale runway include: Elle Salon/The Closet by Franklin Vintage; Salon Cilla/Luxe Boutique; Timothy Jeffrey Salon/Darling; Paris House of Bridal/Lakefront Salon & Day Spa; Dory Salon/At the Beach; The Parlor/Urban Soles Inc.; Hair's the Thing/Ella's Bella and J. Hilburn. Special artists include Chef Bizzaro Millinery and the Region R.A.T.S.

Music, small bites from local establishments, a cash bar and silent auction are planned. Small bites will be provided by Pickle & Turnip, Maxine's and Arturo's Baked Goods & More. Beverages will be provided by Shoreline Brewery, Burn 'Em Brewery and Shady Creek Winery.

Tickets, which are \$25, can be purchased at [www.theuptownfashionaffair.com](http://www.theuptownfashionaffair.com) and Uptown Arts District businesses, including Luxe Boutique, Salon Cilla, Urban Soles, Arturo's on U.S. 12, Darling, Ella's Bella (Chesterton) and Paris House of Bridal. Tickets also may be purchased at the door; however, the event has sold out the past two years.

Contact Uptown Fashion Affair Committee Chair Abigale Thayer at (219) 210-2995 or [Michigancity-mainstreet@hotmail.com](mailto:Michigancity-mainstreet@hotmail.com) for more information.



## Monday Musicale Competition Concert

Winners of Monday Musicale's annual Junior-Senior Competition will present a free concert at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 26, at First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St., Michigan City.

A number of awards and scholarships will be presented to student musicians in grades 4-12.

Each spring, Monday Musicale hosts a scholarship competition as part of its mission to recognize and encourage musical talent and accomplishments by area youth. This year's auditions were held April 12 at Barker Mansion. Twenty-seven candidates performed selections for piano, voice, saxophone, trumpet, flute, piccolo, oboe, French horn and strings.

Donations to the scholarship fund will be accepted. Contact Ange Benz at (219) 874-3754 or Sue Cassler at (219) 362-1421 for more information.

## Sarett Nature Center

*The following programs are offered at Sarett Nature Center, 2300 Benton Center Road, Benton Harbor, Mich.:*

- **Travel to Grand Mere, Warren Dunes and the Trillium Preserve in search of spring wildflowers at 9:30 a.m. EDT Friday, April 24.**

The fee is \$25.

- **Join a naturalist for an easy walk through Dowagiac Woods at 1 p.m. EDT Saturday, April 25.**

The fee is \$10.

- **Learn about and see live examples of bats at 3 p.m. EDT Sunday, April 26.**

Admission is \$6 for adults and \$2 for children.

*Call (269) 927-4832 to register or for additional information.*

## Honest Reporting Program

Gary Kenzer, Honest Reporting's North American executive director, will speak at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 26, at Sinai Temple, 2800 Franklin St.

Kenzer is one of a small staff of Israeli employees stationed throughout the world. Honest Reporting culls dozens of international news outlets — print, radio and TV — for misleading, erroneous and contradictory information on Israel and the Middle East. Once "something" is identified, Honest Reporting requests an immediate retraction or correction.

Contact Sinai Temple's office at (219) 874-4477 reservations.




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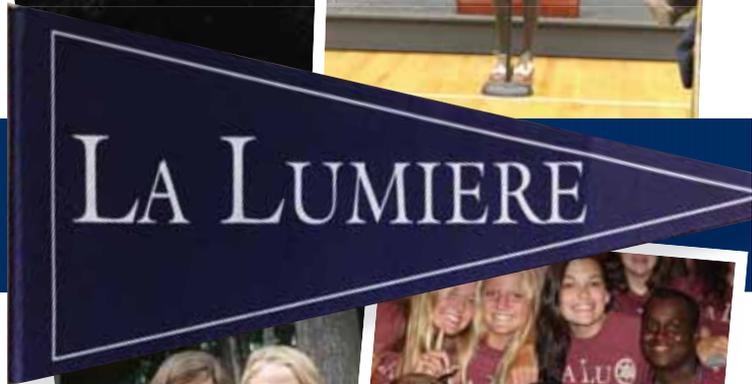
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## LaLu Students Donate Dresses

La Lumiere School students donated 80 new and gently used formal and semi-formal dresses for the 12th annual Princess for a Night held March 28 at The Century Center in South Bend.

About 300 girls from 50 area high schools chose free prom dress from more than 1,000 dresses. La Lumiere students spent Saturday morning assisting girls in finding the perfect dress for the event.



La Lumiere students (from left) Emma Patterson, South Bend, Jenny Xue, China, Frannie Eisenhauer, Beverly Shores, Andi Breitowich, La Porte, Channing Scott, Granger, and Emily Beach, South Bend.

Princess for a Night began through the initial efforts of Rebecca Kirtman, a Florida student who died in a tragic automobile accident on Aug. 20, 2003, at the age of 16. As a high school freshman, Kirtman started the drive because she believed no one should miss a high school event because of monetary constraints. The following year — her sophomore year — she collected and donated more than 250 dresses from her community. After her death, her family wanted to keep that dream alive and continued collecting dresses for those in need through the organization Becca's Closet.

## Fourth Annual Author! Author!

The fourth annual Author! Author! event is Saturday, April 25, at Center of the World Woodshop, 13400 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert, Mich.

The schedule for the free event (all times Eastern) is:

- Haiku workshop — 3 to 4 p.m.
- Haiku contest — 4 to 6 p.m.
- Reception — 4 to 6 p.m.

Poet S.M. Kozubek will lead the haiku workshop. Preregistration is recommended, with a suggested \$10 donation. Participants and other visitors will be invited to write a haiku and enter it in the contest. The author of the winning entry receives a book of poetry from Kozubek who, when not writing poetry, is an attorney and teacher.

Kozubek also will read from the Journal of Modern Poetry, V. 15, an anthology of poetry written predominantly by Chicago and other Midwest writers, and the Spring 2014 issue of ICON, a magazine for literature and art published annually at Kent State University.

Award-winning children's author Cheri L. Hallwood will read from her recent book, "Frogwilla, a Treefrog's Story," which is targeted at youth ages 7-12. Three of Hallwood's earlier picture books received Mom's Choice Awards.

Other visiting authors are:

- Elizabeth Diaz, whose "Finding Hope" follows a young woman's journey through love, loss and redemption.
- Alexander Rassogianis, who will share his memoir, "Return to Glenlord: Memories of Michigan Summers."
- Frank S. Seever, whose book, "An Agent of Change: Chicago Commons," recounts his years running Chicago Commons, and provided historical and contemporary perspectives to the Settlement House Movement.

Contact Lorraine at (269) 469-5687 for additional information.



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# Enchanted Evening

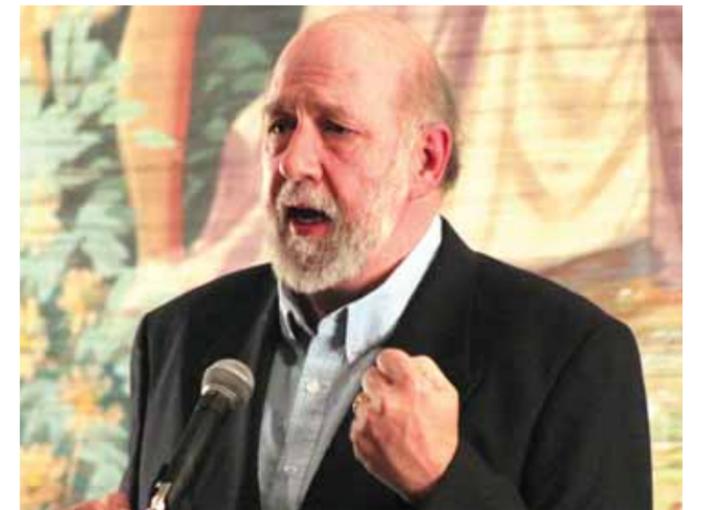


Dunes Arts Foundation paid tribute to its rich history with performances from past Dunes Summer Theatre shows during "Some Enchanted Evening — A Dinner Theatre Cabaret," on April 11. The event, presented in collaboration with



Uptown Arts District, was held at Barker Hall at Trinity Episcopal Church, 600 Franklin Square.

Photos by Bob Wellinski



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## What's Cooking

by Jim LaRocco

The year is 1908. The Chicago Cubs are champions of the baseball world. The Cubbies beat the Detroit Tigers 4 games to 1.

What's happened in the 107 years since then?

They kicked out a goat and were cursed. The White Sox won the World Series in 2005, the Boston Red Sox exorcised the Curse of the Bambino and have won the series three times. The Yankees have appeared in 40 World Series, winning 27. Several expansion teams have appeared in, and won, the World Series.

The new baseball season is upon us. Is this the year the Cubs rid themselves of the jinx? Every fan thinks this might be the year their team wins it all. We have to wait until October to see how it turns out.

The year is 1956. The baseball team my father coached in the IC Junior League has won the championship. Their sponsor, Merchants Bank, rented a Michigan City Municipal bus (purple bottom, white top) and sent the team to Comiskey Park to watch a game between the Red Sox and White Sox.

I was the team's almost 6-year-old batboy. A friend of my father's, Gabby Heinsohn, who married a Michigan City girl, was a catcher for the White Sox. Through him, I received three autographed baseballs: two from the White Sox and one from the Red Sox. Players like Luis Aparicio, Nellie Fox, Minnie Minoso, Sherman Lollar, Dominic Dimaggio, Ted Williams and Jackie Jensen were just a few of the signatures on the balls. I finally sold them at auction a few years back. I have always been a Yankee fan!

I don't recall too much about that day at Comiskey, don't remember the score, but I do know a team with Sox in its name won. The City bus was hit by a car on the way there. No one was injured. I do remember the green grass, blue sky full of white



A 1956 newspaper clipping of the IC Junior League team coached by Jim's father. Pictured are (front row, from left) Tom Logan, Jim Novereske, David LaRocco, Jim LaRocco and Chester Beebe. The second row is (from left) Ted Topolski, Joe LaRocco Jr., Ron Holtzlander, Glen Boris and Jim Parry. The top row is (from left) Coach Harold Biederstaedt, John Kubik, Tom Kazmucha, Al Levine, Jim Kozlowski and Coach Joe LaRocco.

fluffy clouds, the smells and the biggest crowd I'd ever seen.

Through the years, I have taken my son, Jim, to many Chicago White Sox and Yankee games. The problem is, when I take him, the Yankees always lose. I teased him and told him he must be a jinx because I never saw the Yankees lose.

I took our sons and grandson on a trip to New York in 2008 to see the Yankees and California Angels. We wanted to see the stadium before they tore it down. Yankee Stadium did not look as nice in person as it did on TV, but it was still an awesome

sight to a family of Yankee fans.

The game was a pitchers duel, and you guessed it, with the jinx along, the Yankees lost 1-0 on a Mark Texiera home run. Their favorite pitcher, Mariano Rivera, was flawless in relief, but the Yankees could not score.

In 2011, I took my wife, Sue, to her first game. A Yankee fan, and like every other female in the country, she wanted to go see Derek Jeter. So, after much debate, we decided to see the Yankees and the Cubs. The debate was not about whether to see the game. It was about paying the price for two tickets, three rows behind the Yankees dugout. Spending that kind of money was not something we were accustomed to. We finally hit the buy now button and the tickets were ours.



Jim LaRocco (second from right) with his son, Jim II (from left), his grandson, Cody, and son, Bobby, at a Yankees game in Aug. 1, 2008.

We were watching the Yankees play on TV, and we went back into the living room after our on-line purchase, just in time to see the replay — you guessed it — of Jeter getting injured. He would not make the trip to Chicago, and Sue was not happy, to say the least. She would not be seeing Derek Jeter.



Sue LaRocco, pictured with Jim, holds the ball she got while attending her first baseball game.

The night at Wrigley Field was not a total loss for her. Sue's second favorite Yankee, Nick Swisher, caught a fly ball in right field for the last out of the inning. He tossed the ball to first-base coach Mick Kelleher, who tossed it to us. Her first game, and she gets a ball. Needless to say, she was

thrilled, but it didn't make up for not being able to see Jeter.

The Yankees were losing 4-2 when I got a text from my son, the jinx. "Who is the jinx now?," he asked. A few moments later, with the score 4-2, Swisher hit a three-run shot over the right field wall, giving the Yankees a 5-4 lead. They would go on to win 10-4. Needless to say, the "jinx" got a return text. The lesson here: Never talk too soon. You might anger the baseball gods!

What will it cost your family of four to see a game this year? According to the Team Marketing Report released earlier this month, the most expensive tickets belong to the Boston Red Sox at \$52.44 for regular seats and premium seats going for \$180.33. Add four soft drinks, four hot dogs, two programs and parking, and the cost for a family outing is slightly more than \$350.

The New York Yankees have the second most expensive average ticket prices at \$51.55 for regular seats and a premium seat average of \$305.39, with a family outing costing a shade more than \$337.

Closer to home, the Cubs' average ticket prices are the third highest at \$44.81 for regular seats, \$113.48 for premium and \$300 for your family day at the ball park. The White Sox come in below the league average with ticket prices at \$26.05 for regular seats and \$88.15 for premium, for a total of \$208.18.

The league average ticket prices are \$28.94, premium tickets are \$96.94, with an average family price of \$211.68, a far cry for the 50-cent bleacher seats of the past.

This is a food column, so let's talk ball park food, too. You can still get a pair of hot dogs and a couple of foamy drinks for around \$20.

Today's menu is a far cry from the simple hot dogs, peanuts, popcorn and Cracker Jack of days gone by.

Yankee Stadium has a steakhouse, butcher shop and serves an \$18 prime rib sandwich. You can even get Chicken and Waffle Sliders.

In several of the West Coast ball parks, you can get Sushi — not my favorite ball park food, for sure — and even a Dungeness Crab Sandwich in Seattle. The Arizona Diamondbacks have the D-Bat Dog, an 18-inch corn dog stuffed with cheddar cheese, jalapeño peppers, bacon and a side of fries for \$25 — only \$1.39 and inch. Not to be outdone, the Texas



The Los Angeles Dodgers' Victory Knot.

Rangers have a 2-foot-long hot dog smothered in nacho cheese, chili, jalapeño peppers and caramelized onions for just \$26. The Los Angeles Dodgers have the Victory Knot, a soft pretzel that comes in a large pizza box, weighs 2 pounds and comes with three different dipping sauces. In

Miller Park, home of the Milwaukee Brewers, you can get The Beast: a grilled bratwurst sliced in half and stuffed with a grilled hot dog, both wrapped in bacon and topped with sauerkraut, grilled onions on a pretzel roll.



The Beast at the Milwaukee Brewers' Miller Park.

On a final note, fans sing "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" for the seventh-inning stretch. The song was written in 1908, the lyrics by Jack Norworth and the melody by Albert Von Tilzer. Do you realize that people sing only the chorus of the song? There is a lot more to it. Norworth claims he got the idea for the song while riding on the subway. He saw a sign that said "Baseball Today at the Polo Grounds." The strangest part of this story is that Norworth and Von Tilzer never attended a ball game before they wrote the song. Norworth did not see his first ballgame until 1940 and Von Tilzer his in 1928.

Until next time, enjoy.

Contact Jim LaRocco at [jim@jimlarocco.com](mailto:jim@jimlarocco.com)

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## Youth Artwork at CAC

Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St., will host "Cre8," a collection of artwork from preschool and after-school art students, through April 29.



Oliver Abbott, Grace Pejic and Kristoff Contrucci, young artists from Chesterton Art Center's preschool class.

Each week, the center offers eight art classes to children 3-16. Instructor Jennifer Martin focuses on a different artist each month.

This year, artists have included Joan Miro, Paul Gauguin, Pablo Picasso, Mary Cassatt, Michelangelo, Piet Mondrian, Robert Indiana and Henri Matisse. Students have worked with a variety of mediums and techniques, such as painting with tea bags and shaving cream, making creatures using papier mache, creating tempera paint using egg yolks, painting on the underside of a table, much like Michelangelo did the Sistine Chapel, drawing still lifes and working with air-dry clay.

Visit [www.chestertonart.com](http://www.chestertonart.com) for more information.

## Lend a Hand Day

La Porte County Extension Homemakers will sponsor the second Lend a Hand Day to aid La Porte County agencies from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday, April 22, at the La Porte County Purdue Extension Office, 2857 W. Indiana 2, Suite A, La Porte.

Helpers will assemble quilts, bags, backpacks, lap robes, wheelchair totes, birthday bags, hats and other items that will be donated to La Porte County residents through local service organizations. Anyone who can sew, cut, stitch, tie, sort, iron, knit, crochet, pack, stack and carry is welcome.

Donations of fabrics, notions, thread, yarn and supplies are needed. Take a sewing machine or use one provided. A light meal will be provided at noon and 6 p.m. Helpers can stop by for an hour or for the day.

Contact the extension office at (219) 324-9407 or [mwolff@purdue.edu](mailto:mwolff@purdue.edu) for more information or if interested in participating.

## Speed Networking Event

The Greater La Porte Chamber of Commerce will host a Speed Networking Event at 5 p.m. Thursday, April 30, at La Porte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave., La Porte.

The face-to-face networking event gives attendees two minutes to speak, one minute for introductions and one for questions. Once the speed part is over, there will be time later for people to reconnect with those they wanted to speak with in greater detail.

The event is free for members and non-members, but a \$5 donation is suggested for the library's Spark Labs, which will bring new technology and offer use of items the public may not have the means to purchase on their own.

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## **IKAN Club Talent Show**

The IKAN Club will host its talent show Friday, April 24, at Lakeview Christian Center, 1704 County Line Road, Michigan City.

The show will promote disability awareness in a family friendly event that also will raise funds for the Parents and Friends Inc. community.

Special guests will include "Star Wars" characters from the 501st Legion, an all-volunteer organization that dresses in Hollywood-quality costumes to bring attention to charities and other causes. Guest judges include Kevin Scott of Anytime Fitness, Direct Support Professional James Kuhn and Sgt. Chris Yagelski of Michigan City Police Department.

A silent auction will be held.

All IKAN members are part of the residential program at PAF, a non-profit that provides custom-tailored support to people with developmental and intellectual disabilities so they can reach maximum independence.

Advance tickets can be purchased at the PAF office, 2354 N. U.S. 35, La Porte. The \$10 ticket includes food and beverages. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Children 16 and younger are free. Contact Jeff Rupe at (219) 324-0656 for more information.

## **Harbor Country Book Club**

Harbor Country Book Club will discuss Anita Diamant's "Red Tent" at 7 p.m. EDT Tuesday, April 28, at The Harbor Grand, 111 W. Water St., New Buffalo, Mich.

The next book, Mosab Hassam Yousef's "Son of Hama," will be discussed Tuesday, May 26.

Meetings, held at 7 p.m. EDT the last Tuesday of the month, are open to anyone interested in discussing the book.

## **LaLu Student Receives Scholarship**

The Community Foundation of St. Joseph County announced La Lumiere School senior Emily Beach has received the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship.



The scholarship provides full tuition, required fees and books for four years of undergraduate study at any accredited public or private college or university in Indiana.

Beach will head to Purdue University next fall to study electrical engineering. She excels in academics, athletics and leadership, as was demonstrated by her recent recognition as 2015 Indiana Academic All-Star. During summer 2014, she was chosen to participate in the QuarkNet Program at the University of Notre Dame. QuarkNet, funded by the National Science Foundation and Department of Education, is a nationally-recognized program designed to bring high school students and faculty together to contribute to the University of Notre Dame's physics research.

Beach is the daughter of Barbara Tenney, South Bend, and Douglas Beach, Granger.



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## March R.O.S.E. Winner

Karen Gazdick is Visit Michigan City La Porte's March Recognition of Service Excellence winner.



Gazdick, the banquet sales coordinator at Best Western Plus La Porte Hotel & Conference Center, has worked there for four years.

"I was born and raised in La Porte, but left for 20 years," she said. "Now, I am back and I am very happy to be here and to be part of the Best Western team."

This is what the nominator wrote about Gazdick: "She is a great employee who goes above and beyond her daily work. Integrity matters

to her; it is not just a job. She works and represents the hotel and the county wonderfully. I could not ask for a better person in this position."

Gazdick received a framed certificate and rose corsage with a \$100 bill folded inside. She will be invited to the annual R.O.S.E. luncheon May 7, when she will be considered for additional awards and nominated for the state's annual Hoosier Hospitality Award.

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## Service League of Michigan City

Service League of Michigan City held its monthly meeting Tuesday, April 14, with President Katherine Brennan calling the meeting to order. Eighteen active members were present and three excused. Minutes of the March meeting, delivered to the membership by email, were approved as published.

A thank you note was read from Michael Baunach for obtaining a long-term wheelchair for him.

Vice President's Report: Linda Weeks sent a sympathy card to Lucille Greening's family, and acknowledged memorials from Esther Schlegelmilch for Florence Goetz, Ken Patterson and Dorothy Barnett. A birthday card was sent to Mary Rooney

Past President's Report: Only a couple of sustaining members haven't paid their dues. Judy Lange will contact those individuals.

Collections: In March, 15 first cards, five second cards and 10 letters were sent.

Dressings: February and March combined totals are: 4-by-4 gauze — 0; 5-by-9 pads — 1; chux — 80 dozen. Three new patients were served and 29 repeat patients.

Equipment: In March, 64 patients were served, 86 items loaned and nine items too'd. There have been donations, but none taken into inventory due to the large number of items and pending reconfiguration of the equipment area.

House: The transition to a new committee chair was discussed. Vivian Trunk has gone sustaining and Rooney will take over. She will email her committee members with thoughts and concerns.

Notes: Twelve thank-you notes were mailed, and four more will be sent out.

Public Relations: New officers will be installed at the spring luncheon May 12 at Long Beach Country Club.

The League will award at least one \$1,000 scholarship to a student who lives in the Michigan City Area Schools district, has completed at least one year of a college program and is majoring in physical therapy, occupational therapy or related field. Applications are available at the office and are due back by June 1.

New members are welcome. Any woman in the community seeking volunteer opportunities can call the office at 872-1144 and an application will be sent by mail.

The League is a volunteer, non-profit organization that loans medical equipment such as wheelchairs, walkers, shower chairs and toilet aids to residents for a three-month period who live within the MCAS boundaries. Call 872-1144 or stop by the office at 301 E. Garfield St. between 9 a.m. and noon and 1 and 4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday for more information.

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### JROTC Drill Team Earns Awards

The Michigan City High School Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps earned awards at the Eisenhower High School military drill competition April 11 in Blue Island, Ill.

Since it was the Saturday of spring break, and the same day of a boy's track meet, the Wolves were at reduced strength, missing half its members, most of them starters. Still, MCHS earned third-place finishes in armed exhibition, armed squad and personnel inspection.

The armed exhibition squad was commanded by Cadet Gunnery Sgt. Cameron Wilcher and the armed squad and personnel inspection squad commanded by Cadet Gunnery Sgt. Jalen Stockley. Additionally, Cadet 1st Sgt. Hayley Feidner earned two medals and Wilcher earned a medal in individual competition.

This was the eighth drill competition in which the cadets participated: a school record. They also earned the most awards of any drill season to include being the overall winner of the Romeoville



The cadets appear with their trophies and medals.

drill meet on March 23, when they had their full team in attendance.

During the summer, the cadets will support the school and community in a number of events, and prepare to attend two summer camps.



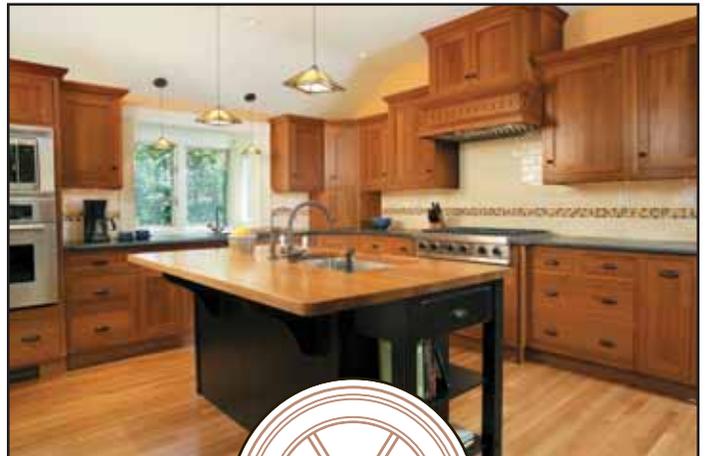
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## Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The following programs are available:

- **Green Gary Day at the Douglas Center from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 25.**

The free, family-oriented event, which celebrates National Park Week and Earth Day, features hikes, kid's activities and guest speakers.



The Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.

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

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.

## Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs are offered:

### Saturday, April 25

- **10 a.m. — Bird Banding Demonstrations.**

Explore the science of bird banding, complete with banding nets, at the Nature Center.

- **2 p.m. — High Tech Scavenger Hunt.**

Use GPS units to explore the hobby of geocaching. Prizes will be awarded. Meet outside the Nature Center.

### Sunday, April 26

- **10 a.m. — Feed the Birds.**

Join a naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding. Get close views of chickadees, cardinals and woodpeckers.

- **2 p.m. — Dune Birds and Blooms.**

Meet at the campground gate for an easy 60-minute stroll to identify spring ephemerals and recently migrated birds.

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.

## 4th Annual Renaissance Run

Renaissance Academy Charter School will host the 4th Annual Renaissance 5K Run and Fun Walk/Kid's Race on Saturday, May 9, at La Porte's Soldiers Memorial Park.

The Fun Walk/Kid's Race begins at 8:15 a.m. and the chip-timed 5K Run begins at 8:30 a.m.

The event is open to all ages. First-place awards will be given by age group, to each male and female participant. Free beverages and healthy snacks will be given after the Run/Race.

Proceeds from the annual fundraiser benefit student enrichment programs, including sports, choir club, art and music.

Early registration is accepted through April 26. The \$25 registration fee includes a T-shirt and \$20 no T-shirt. After April 26, the registration fee is \$25 (no T-shirt).

Contact Renaissance Academy at (219) 878-8711 or visit [www.rschool.net](http://www.rschool.net) for registration or additional information.

## La Lumiere Open House

La Lumiere School, 6801 N. Wilhelm Road, La Porte, invites prospective students and their parents to visit campus during its spring open house from 8:15 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 25.

The morning's events include a continental breakfast, interactive classes, tours and small group question-and-answer sessions.

Reserve a spot by Thursday, April 23, by calling (219) 326-7450 or emailing [admissions@lalumiere.org](mailto:admissions@lalumiere.org)

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## 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 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 22 and 29.**

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

• **Basket Weaving at 9:15 a.m. Saturday, April 25.**

Margie Warner offers the one-day class with all materials provided. Registration and a \$10 deposit are required. Stop by circulation to see the basket and verify the cost.

• **Understanding Your Dreams at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 25.**

Experienced dream therapist Terese Fabbri facilitates the workshop for people interested in dreams and their significance.

• **National Poetry Month Celebration at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 26.**

Indiana Poet Laureate George Kalamaras of Purdue University-Fort Wayne headlines an afternoon of poetry. He will be joined by Valparaiso University professor and poet Marci Johnson and Purdue University-North Central poet Bethany Lee. If time allows, the public will have open mic time to read their own works.

• **Great Decisions at 6:30 p.m. Monday, April 27.**

The foreign policy discussion program is in its 17th season at the library. This month's discussions are U.S. policy toward Africa and Syria's refugee crisis.

• **Yoga with David Kiple at 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays, April 28.**

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

• **AARP Driver's Smart Driver Course at 1 p.m. Wednesday, April 29.**

Available in a five-hour, one-day program, participants may earn an insurance-rate discount (check with your insurance company) by taking the course designed for drivers older than 55. The fee is \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. Take your AARP card. Call 873-3049 to register.

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

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## Shirley Heinze Land Trust Benefit

Shirley Heinze Land Trust will host its 12th Annual Spring Benefit at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, May 16, at Sand Creek Country Club, Chesterton.

The evening will feature a champagne reception, along with hors d'oeuvres and a seated dinner, as well as live and silent auctions. Afterward is a "Funding the Cause" program to benefit an initiative that would connect, restore, increase accessibility to and permanently protect 10 miles of riverfront along the Little Calumet River Corridor.

Tickets and sponsorships may be purchased through the Spring Benefit link at [www.heinze-trust.org](http://www.heinze-trust.org), or by contacting Bonnie Hawksworth at (219) 242-8558 or [atbhawksworth@heinzetrust.org](mailto:atbhawksworth@heinzetrust.org)

Donations for silent auction items may be made on the event website. Live and silent auction items will be available for preview through the website. Reservations are requested by April 24.

Shirley Heinze Land Trust manages approximately 1,600 acres of natural land in La Porte, Lake and Porter counties.

## Pancake Breakfast and Bake Sale

Springfield Township Volunteer Fire Department, 7111 N. County Road 300 West, will host its annual spring pancake breakfast and bake sale from 7 to 11 a.m. Sunday, April 26.

Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$3 for children 6-12 and free for children 6 and younger. The all-you-can-eat breakfast includes pancakes, eggs, sausage, biscuits and gravy, coffee, juice and milk. Baked goods will be available for purchase.

## Stockwell Woods Stewardship Day

Volunteers are needed to remove brush and log piles from Stockwell Woods, Nichols Court, in Long Beach from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 25.

Those who help out at the dunes preserve receive snacks and firewood as a thank you. RSVP to [sarah@savedunes.org](mailto:sarah@savedunes.org) or (219) 879-3564, Ext. 125.



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## La Porte County Parks



All registrations/questions go through the Red Mill County Park Administrative Office, 0185 S. Holmesville Road, La Porte. Call (219) 325-8315 or visit [www.laportecountyparks.org](http://www.laportecountyparks.org) for more information.

### Stroller, Baby and You

Aimed at toddlers and preschoolers, programs include music, dance, storytelling and a hike (weather permitting).

The free program is from 10 to 11 a.m. Mondays, April 27, May 18, June 1, 15 and 29, July 13 and 27 and Aug. 3, 17 and 31 at Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West. Call at least one week in advance to register.

### Senior Lifestyles

Join the free 55+ Club, a social club designed for adults 55 and older to learn and explore various types of nature. Free coffee is served to participants.

The group meets from 9 to 10 a.m. at Luhr County Park Nature Center. Call at least one week in advance to register. The schedule is:

- May 6 — "Gardening," Sacha Burns of Sunkissed Organics.
- June 3 — "Brain Fit," learn tricks to help with your memory, Regina Welsch of IU Health La Porte Hospital.
- July 1 — "Chair Yoga," Danielle Kessler of IU Health.
- Aug. 5 — "Benefits of Eating Clean," Kessler.
- Sept. 2 — "Understanding Medicare" (handouts available from Medicare and State Health Insurance Assistance Program), Denise Holmes.

### Spring Stroll

Join a naturalist for an easy, 45-minute stroll through the woods in search of signs of spring at 9 a.m. Wednesday, April 29 at Bluhm County Park, 3855 S. County Road 1100 West, Westville.

Hikers will use ADA-accessible paths. Pre-registration is required at least one week in advance. Children must be accompanied by an adult. The free hike will include a minimum of five and a maximum of 20 people. Call (219) 325-8315 to reserve a spot.

### Kids Fishing Fun Day

The free event, co-sponsored by the Northwest Indiana Steelheaders, is from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, June 6, at Luhr County Park.

Children must be accompanied by an adult. A limited amount of bait and poles will be available. No pre-registration is required.

### Quilting Classes

Michigan City Senior Center in Washington Park will hold quilting classes taught by Jan Weinig from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays, May 6, 13 and 20.

An informational meeting is at 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 29, at the senior center. Attendees will hear about needed supplies, and can ask questions and pay the registration fee, which is \$30 for all three sessions.

The class is sponsored by the park department. Registration also can be done from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday at the park office located in City Hall.

### Healthy Kids Day

La Porte County Family YMCA will hold Healthy Kids Day, a free community event to inspire children to stay active, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 25, at the La Porte branch, 901 Michigan Ave.

The event, part of a nationwide effort celebrated at nearly 1,300 Ys, will feature activities such as games, healthy cooking demonstrations, arts and crafts and a bounce house.

Contact La Porte County Family YMCA at (219) 325-9622 or visit <http://www.lpymca.org/> for more information.

### Beginning Oil Painting

Michigan City Art League will present a Beginning Oil Painting workshop with Mark Vandervinne from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 9, at the League's studio, 1314 S. Woodland Ave. (Assembly of God Church Activity Center).

The cost is \$70 for members and \$75 for non-members. Mail registration to: Michigan City Art League, P.O. Box 9720, Michigan City, IN 46360. Additional information is available by contacting Betty Thomas at (219) 879-0903 or the Art League on facebook.

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## Nuno Felting Class



One of Elizabeth Kozlowski's nuno felted scarves.

Elizabeth Kozlowski will teach a Nuno Felting Class from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 25, at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.

Each student will learn about the process of combining wool and silk, using just soap, water and friction to create a scarf or wrap.

The cost is \$35 (members receive a \$10 discount), plus a \$25 materials fee.

Call the center at (219) 926-4711 to register. Visit [www.chestertonart.com](http://www.chestertonart.com) for more information.

## Delta Mu

Delta Mu held its annual corporate meeting April 5 at The Salvation Army, with adviser Mary Lou McFadden presiding.

Farel Krueger and Cheryl Skwiat hosted the meeting. Members signed up for the summer men's shelter dinners.

Forms are available for scholarships to graduating seniors in Michigan City for community service in school counselor offices, or contact Rhonda Kowalski at (219) 898-5088. The deadline is May 1.

Members are taking orders for the annual geranium sale. Available are geranium hanging baskets in white, pink, lavender and purple black magic. Three potted patio geraniums are available in red, red mosaic, pink, lavender, rose splash and white splash. The cost is \$20, with delivery on May 8. Contact Mary Lou McFadden at (219) 873-6011 or Barb Macudzinski at (269) 469-0877. All proceeds benefit community programs in culture, charity and education.

The next meeting is at 6:30 p.m. Monday, May 4, at Barker Mansion.

## Westchester Public Library

The following programs are available:

• **Recycling craft program, Can-do Robots, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 22, at Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.**

The program is in celebration of Earth Day. Registration is required by calling (219) 926-9080. There is a limit of 15, and the craft is suited for children 5 and older.

• **Significant Battles in American History: Midway from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 22, and 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 25, in the Bertha Wood room at Thomas Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

History buff and American war enthusiast Thomas Murphy will present the program.

• **The Unnamed Guild of Gamers meets from 1:30 to 5 p.m. Sunday, April 26, in the Bertha Wood room at Thomas Library.**

The event will include a fifth edition Dungeons & Dragons campaign, and games such as "Settlers of Catan" and "Pandemic."

• **Ten Signs of Alzheimer's and Dementia from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 28, in the Bertha Wood room at Thomas Library.**

Attendees will view video footage of real people living with the early stages of dementia and their families, addressing fears and myths associated with Alzheimer's disease.

• **Bits and Bytes series, Intro to Apple Mobile, from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 28, and 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday, April 30, in the Serials/Automation Department at Thomas Library.**

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

• **Eating Well for Healthy Living Series from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 28, in the Bertha Wood room at Thomas Library.**

Registered Dietetic Technician Gia DeMartinis will discuss basic nutrition principles to lose pounds in a healthy, lasting way.

• **Wild West Trivia Night at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 28, at Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.**

Take friends as teams of one to four people. Questions will come from film, music, history and TV. No registration is necessary, but space is limited so arrive early. Refreshments will be served.

• **Teen Scene Creative Space from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, April 30, at the Library Service Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

The meeting is aimed at teens looking to meet creative minded people.

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## Low-Cost Pet Vaccination Clinic

To help owners keep their dogs and cats healthy, and comply with animal-control ordinance, Trinity Episcopal Church will offer a low-cost pet vaccination clinic from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 25.

A licensed veterinarian will give the vaccinations, in the Barker Hall lobby, Sixth and Franklin streets. Services are available to all pet owners. The cost for basic vaccinations is \$18 each. An additional service available at a slightly higher price includes puppy vaccinations and heartworm tests.

Vaccinations available for dogs are rabies, distemper and Bordatella. Vaccinations for cats are rabies, distemper and feline leukemia. Those attending the clinic are asked to pick up a number at the door, then wait in their cars with their pets until called. All dogs must be on leashes and all cats in carriers or secured containers.

It is the law in Michigan City that “all dogs and cats over 3 months of age must have shots protecting them against contracting rabies.” Pets also must wear tags at all times. Owners not in compliance are subject to expensive fines.

Michigan City pet regulations are:

- A dog may not run at large and must be kept on a leash unless in a fenced area.
- No more than three dogs and/or cats are allowed in a single residential unit.
- Pet owners must remove any animal waste deposited by their pet on public or private property immediately.
- All dogs and cats older than 3 months must have shots protecting them against rabies.
- All dogs and cats must wear tags at all times.
- Animals are prohibited on school grounds while school is in session, and in city parks and cemeteries at all times.
- Owners must keep dogs and cats in a clean, sanitary area where they are adequately sheltered.
- Owners must provide veterinarian care when needed.
- Dogs barking, molesting passersby, chasing vehicles or attacking domestic animals are considered “creating a nuisance” and will result in a fine and/or impounding of the animal.
- It is unlawful for a person to knowingly or recklessly abandon or neglect an animal.
- It is unlawful for an owner to conceal animals from law enforcement officers.
- It is unlawful to torture or kill animals.



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## ASL Class for Beginners

The Purdue University-North Central Office of Graduate and Extended Learning and Department of English and Modern Languages are partnering to offer a non-credit program in basic American Sign Language.

“Survival ASL for New Beginners” will meet from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursdays, May 14-June 25, at PNC-Porter County, 600 Vale Park Road, Valparaiso. Registration is \$169 and includes a workbook and all other materials. Special discounted rates are available for PNC and PUC students, alumni and employees. The registration deadline is 4 p.m. April 30. Seating is limited.

Participants learn to communicate in ASL for basic conversation related to routines, family, the workplace, receiving and asking for directions, making requests and describing others. The class will be taught using a combination of interactive lectures, workbook activities and hands-on practice with signing ASL to other students and the instructor.

Jason Maloney, PNC limited term lecturer in American Sign Language, will teach the class with Karen Donah, PNC continuing lecturer and coordinator of PNC’s ASL program.

Visit [www.pnc.edu/gel/workshops-and-classes](http://www.pnc.edu/gel/workshops-and-classes) or contact Cassandra Boehlke, Graduate and Extended Learning coordinator, at (219) 785-5200, Ext. 5748, or [cboehlke@pnc.edu](mailto:cboehlke@pnc.edu) to register or for additional information.



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# Lending a Hand

Volunteers from Ivy Tech Student Life, which oversees clubs, activities and other events at the Michigan City campus, gathered April 10 to volunteer at Washington Park Zoo, doing everything from raking to mulching and painting.



Photos by Tommy Parker



## Grant Links School With IDNL

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore is one of 28 national parks to receive a Park Stewards grant from the National Park Foundation, the official charity of America's national parks.

Over the last year, the National Lakeshore has worked with La Porte High School teacher Rob Walker to implement an enrichment and stewardship program for students. Walker worked last summer at the National Lakeshore developing activities for his students and learning about the area's ecology. Now, he is bringing his students from La Porte High School's new Agriculture and Natural Resources class to an in-depth, overnight visit to Dunes Learning Center on April 27-28.

Now in its sixth year, the NPF Park Stewards program gives high school teachers and students the chance to explore the relevance of national parks to their lives, and helps them become stewards of their national parks through year-long service projects.

Walker and his students will assist with oak savanna restoration work, learn about the endangered Karner blue Butterfly and enjoy experiences like an evening campfire at Dunes Learning Center.

In addition to school activities, the grant will provide funding for La Porte High School students Tucker King and Angel Hodge to work at the National Lakeshore for six weeks during the summer. They will receive a small stipend for their work and learn about career opportunities as they work alongside park staff on a variety of projects. King and Hodge were selected from a pool of applicants and begin work at the dunes in mid-June.

## Muni Women's Leagues

Municipal North Course Nine Hole Monday Women's League invites new members of all abilities to its opening luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Monday, April 27, at Lindo's, 3940 Franklin St.

The first day of play is at 8:30 a.m. Monday, May 4. Call Carol at (219) 879-6919 or Margie at (219) 872-1847 for more information.

Also, the opening dinner for the Municipal South Course Nine Hole Women's League is at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 29, at Chili's, 5300 Franklin St. New members are welcome. Contact Jane at (219) 872-9807 or Pat at (219) 872-0300 for additional information.



**American Red Cross**

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

- Franciscan St. Anthony Health — Michigan City, 301 W. Homer St., 8 a.m. to noon Friday, April 24.
- The Salvation Army, 3240 Monroe St., La Porte, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 25.
- Parish Center, 201 Bach St., La Porte, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, April 26.

*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.*

## Youth Shooting Camp

Michigan City Rifle Club, 4801 W. U.S. 20, will host a shooting camp for youth in grades five through 12 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 22-26.

The camp, conducted by NRA-certified instructors, introduces the knowledge, skills and attitude to responsibly use firearms. It concludes June 26 with a family picnic and awards ceremony. Adult family members can try their hand at the sport.

The \$125 cost includes lunch each day. Through a Friends of the NRA grant, the club will provide all firearms, targets, eye and hearing protection and ammunition. Camp size is limited. Registrations received after May 1 cost \$150.

Email [jotto32@gmail.com](mailto:jotto32@gmail.com) or call (219) 369-3577 for more information.

## Boating Safety Class

A U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Boating Safety Class is from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, April 25, at Michigan City Port Authority.

Many insurance companies give a discount to those who complete the course. Anyone interested can show up, or call Dan Hershman at (219) 464-7007 to confirm space and attendance.

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## “Flying Wild” Educator Workshop

Area educators can attend a “Flying Wild” educator workshop from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Friday, May 8, at the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.

The workshop is part of the 2015 Indiana Dunes Birding Festival. Teachers, pre-service teachers, naturalists, birders, Scout leaders and youth leaders can learn new activities to teach about birds and bird conservation, and hear about bird research and monitoring projects conducted by Indiana Dunes State Park Interpretive Naturalist Brad Bumgardner. Citizen science projects also will be featured.

Participants receive “Flying Wild: An Educators Guide to Celebrating Birds,” which provides activities that teach about birds, their migration and actions people can take to help birds and their habitats. It features three sets of activities: one to be led by teachers, another by volunteers and a third by students. All 45 activities focus on learning through hands-on activities, contests and games.

The workshop is in partnership with the Indiana Audubon Society, Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Fish and Wildlife, Indiana Dunes State Park, Great Lakes Research and Education Center and Dunes Learning Center. There is a \$35 fee to cover the cost of educator guides and program fees. Pre-registration is required, and registration is limited. Visit [duneslearningcenter.org](http://duneslearningcenter.org) or call (219) 395-9555 by Friday, May 1, for more information or to register.

The center is located on Lake Street north of U.S. 12 in the Miller Beach neighborhood in Gary.

## Lubeznik Center Summer Camps

Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., is taking registration for two summer camps: Culture Club and Famous Artists.

Nani Murphy is the instructor for both camps.

Culture Club, aimed at youth ages 7-13, runs 10 sessions from 9 to 11 a.m. Monday through Friday, July 13-24. The cost is \$125, or \$112 for members. Students are introduced to art, crafts, music and foods from different cultures, including Haiti, Japan, Korea, North Africa and Thailand. Projects will include painting, papier mache and origami.

Famous Artists, also aimed at youth ages 7-13, runs for five sessions from 9 to 11 a.m. Monday through Friday, Aug. 3-7. The cost is \$70, or \$63 for members. Students investigate works by well-known artists and create their own pieces from inspirational subjects and techniques. Projects will range from botanical drawing to Pop Art masks. Artists studied include Jacob Lawrence, Maria Sibilla Merian, William Morris, Saul Steinberg and Wayne Thiebaud.

Call (219) 874-4900 for more information.



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## New PNC Scholarships

Purdue University-North Central students will benefit from a new scholarship program funded by the Northwest Indiana McDonald's Operators.

The gift will provide multiple scholarships to students of all levels – freshman through master's candidates – and all fields of study.

The scholarship is open to full-time students who are Northwest Indiana residents, have achieved academic excellence with a minimum 2.75 grade point average, support their community through volunteer activities, serve in a leadership role in a campus club or organization and are employed while pursuing their degree.

The scholarships are in three categories:

- McDonald's Future Leaders – Ten scholarships, each in the amount of \$1,000, for freshman-level students pursuing a degree in any area of study.
- McDonald's Students of the Year – Seven scholarships, each in the amount of \$1,000, awarded to one student from each of the following departments: College of Business; College of Engineering & Technology; College of Liberal Arts; College of Science; Graduate Studies Program; Athletics; PNC Student Organizations.
- McDonald's Scholar of the Year – One recipient of the Students of the Year scholarship will receive an additional \$3,000 scholarship.

Students interested in the program can visit [www.pnc.edu/scholarships/mcdonalds/](http://www.pnc.edu/scholarships/mcdonalds/) to access the application and full instructions. The deadline is April 30.

## Mother's Day 5K Run and Walk

Taltree Arboretum & Gardens will host its Second Mother's Day 5K Run and Walk at 9 a.m. Sunday, May 10.

All ages and running-experience levels are welcome. The course is a 3.1-mile trail run at Taltree, 450 W. County Road 100 North near Valparaiso. It will be timed, and awards will go to top overall male and female finishers, top male and female masters and top three finishers in age groups from 14 and younger through older than 80.

Online registration is \$20. Mail-in and day of race registrations are \$25. Registrations prior to May 1 are guaranteed a MD5K race shirt. After May 1, shirts are on a first-come, first-served basis.

Pre-race packet pickup is from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, May 9, at Extra Mile Fitness, 1330 E. Lincolnway, Valparaiso. Day of registration and packet pickup begins at 7:30 a.m. at Taltree.

Race spectators receive free admission until 9 a.m. All proceeds support Taltree environmental restoration, conservation and education initiatives.

Visit [Taltree.org](http://Taltree.org) or call (219) 462-0025 for more information and to register.

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## Activities to Explore

### In the Local Area:

**April 24** — IKAN Club talent show/PAF fundraiser, Lakeview Christian Center, 1704 County Line Road, Michigan City. Doors open @ 5:30 p.m. Cost: \$10. Advance tickets: PAF office, 2354 N. U.S. 35, La Porte. Info: (219) 324-0656.

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

**April 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

**April 24-28** — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. *Now showing:* "Wild Tales." Rated R. In Spanish with English subtitles. Times: 6 p.m. Fri.-Mon. *Also:* "The Second Best Exotic Mari-gold Hotel." Rated PG. Times: 9 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 2:30 p.m. Sat.-Sun. *Also:* "Dear White People" Rated R. Time: 7 p.m. April 28. Includes group discussion afterward hosted by Harbor Country Progress. All times Eastern. Info: vickerstheatre.com

**April 25** — Understanding Your Dreams, 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**April 25** — Bird Banding Demonstrations, 10 a.m., Nature Center @ Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**April 25** — Collector's Corner Breakfast, 9:30 a.m., St. John's United Church of Christ Fellowship Hall, 101 St. John Road, Michigan City. Tickets: \$25. Reservations: (219) 873-3049.

**April 25** — Healthy Kids Day, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., La Porte County Family YMCA, 901 Michigan Ave. Info: (219) 325-9622.

**April 25** — Painting Party, 1 p.m., La Porte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., La Porte. Cost: \$30/\$25 members. Reservations: 219-324-6767, info@laportecountyhistory.org

**April 25** — Women in Comedy, 7:30 p.m. EDT, The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$30/general, \$50/VIP. Info: www.acorntheater.com, (269) 756-3879.

**April 25** — High Tech Scavenger Hunt, 2 p.m., Nature Center @ Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**April 26** — National Poetry Month Celebration, 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**April 26** — Free Earth Day-Arbor Day celebration, noon-4 p.m., International Friendship Gardens, 2055 U.S. 12, Michigan City.

**April 26** — Purdue University-North Central 26th annual Potpourri of Literature Readers' Theatre, 2 p.m., Library-Student-Faculty Building As-

sembly Hall, Room 02. Free. Info: (219) 785-5384.

**April 26** — Annual spring pancake breakfast and bake sale, 7-11 a.m., Springfield Township Volunteer Fire Department, 7111 N. County Road 300 West. Tickets: \$7/adults, \$3/children 6-12, free/children 6 & younger.

**April 26** — Honest Reporting program, 2 p.m., Sinai Temple, 2800 Franklin St. Reservations: (219) 874-4477.

**April 26** — Monday Musicales annual Junior-Senior Competition free concert, 2 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St., Michigan City. Info: (219) 874-3754, (219) 362-1421.

**April 27** — Great Decisions, 6:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**April 28** — Harbor Country Book Club, Anita Diamant's "Red Tent," 7 p.m. EDT, The Harbor Grand, 111 W. Water St., New Buffalo, Mich.

**April 28** — Ten Signs of Alzheimer's and Dementia, 3-4:30 p.m., Bertha Wood room @ Westchester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

**April 28** — Wild West Trivia Night, 7 p.m., Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

**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 25** — Easy walk through Dowagiac Woods, 1 p.m. EDT, Sarett Nature Center, 2300 Benton Center Road, Benton Harbor, Mich. Cost: \$10. Registration: (269) 927-4832.

**April 25** — Fourth annual Author! Author!, 3-6 p.m. EDT, Center of the World Woodshop, 13400 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert, Mich. Info: (269) 469-5687.

**April 25** — Monarch butterfly garden, noon-2 p.m. EDT, Episcopal Church of the Mediator, 14280 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert, Mich. Reservations: churchofthemediator@gmail.com, (269) 469-1441.

**April 25** — B.B. Wolfe Trio, 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 25** — Green Gary Day at the Douglas Center, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Paul H. Douglas Center, Lake Street north of U.S. 12, Gary. Free. Info: (219) 395-1882.

**April 26** — ArtsBridge spring concert/exhibit, 4 p.m. EDT, First Presbyterian Church, 475 Green Ave. (on Morton Hill), Benton Harbor, Mich. Donations accepted. Info: (269) 925-7075.

**April 26** — Public reception for new exhibits, 2-4 p.m. EDT, Buchanan Art Center, 117 W. Front St. Info: www.buchananartcenter.org



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**Plus a bonus 2nd chance 1/2-price sale Sat., May 9.**

The Girlfriend Sale just keeps getting bigger & better than ever before! There are over 100 participants who have cleaned their closets and collectively submitted 4,000 + items of clothing from petit to generous sizes, an entire wall of jewelry, hats, scarves, belts, shoes and boots, professional business wear, comfy casual, dressy beaded items, every style of sweater and jacket you can imagine, tons of jeans, racks of dress pants, great T-shirts, knit tops, blouses, short and long-sleeve shirts, leather jackets, pants and hand bags, fabric bags, coats, spring jackets, dresses, formals, all priced at \$5, \$10, \$15 and up. There is a HUGE new & never worn specialty section with RACKS and RACKS of spectacular designer clothing from Filoni in Oak Park, IL, and others, all deeply discounted. Visit us on facebook at [www.facebook.com/thegirlfriendsale](http://www.facebook.com/thegirlfriendsale) for a sneak peak preview.

**Shopping Dates:**

Fri., April 24, 6-9 PM private sale for participants and their friends.  
Sat., April 25, 10-2 PM sale open to the public and the best selection.

Sat., May 2, 10-2 PM sale with additional merchandise.

Sun., May 3, Noon-4 PM famous 1/2 price sale day.

Sat., May 9, 10-2 PM second chance bonus 1/2 price sale.

There often will be a "cash only" speedy checkout so you may want to stop off at the ATM before you come. Don't miss this one ladies!!!! Call your friends and come shop for unbelievable bargains plus a whole lot of fun!

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## Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

**Descent** by Tim Johnston (*hardcover, \$25.95 in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook*)

How can a simple summer vacation go so horribly wrong? Grant and Angela Courtland take their children — college-bound Caitlin and her high school brother Sean — to the beautiful Rocky Mountains in Colorado for a last summer vacation before the kids go back to school. So far, so good...

Caitlin is a runner, a very good one, attested to by her athletic scholarship. One morning, she and Sean get up early so Caitlin can get a run up the mountain with Sean on his bike keeping pace. Mom and dad are still sleeping. It's a serene scene on a gorgeous day, but there's a quietly-building feeling in the back of your head...something you can't define, a nagging sense of something about to happen.

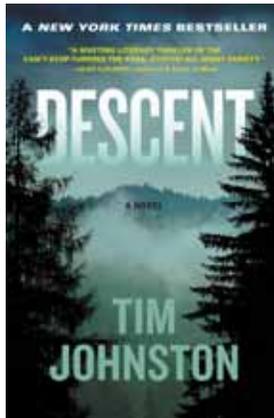
Caitlin pulls ahead of Sean, taking turns off the paved road onto dirt tracks and Sean loses sight of her. Then, the "something" you've been waiting for, happens: the scene switches to the hotel room where the parents receive a phone call that Sean is in the hospital--alone. No Caitlin.

Eventually, Sean is able to tell what happened: An SUV exploded out of nowhere, hitting Sean and sending him and his bike crashing against a tree. A man got out of the truck and persuaded Caitlin to go with him for help, as Sean is badly hurt. Caitlin gives in, and that's the last of her anyone sees.

Where the story goes from here is what makes it a hard-to-put-down read. The title tells it all: the family's hopes and fears, the coming and going years, all descend into something no one, no family, should have to go through.

Three years go by without a clue as to what happened to Caitlin after she got into that SUV. At first, the sheriff's office and the local community rally around the family, but as the days, weeks and months go by, Caitlin's disappearance fades and people go back to their own lives. Grant sends Angela and Sean back to their home in Wisconsin while he stays in Colorado, not giving up on finding his daughter.

What makes this a different read from every other abduction story is that it is told from the perspective of the grieving family and the effect it has



on them both as a family and as individuals. Angela has a breakdown and spends time in a psychiatric hospital, while Sean takes his dad's truck and roams the country alone, trying to deal with his feelings of having let his sister down by not saving her. Grant stays in Colorado with the sheriff's elderly father, trading work on his ranch for a place to stay while still hoping to find Caitlin and her abductor. "...if a man should randomly pick his daughter, then why shouldn't that same man randomly cross his path? Wasn't this the way of the world? Wasn't this the way of the god of that world?"

It's the psychological toll on each of them that author Johnston focuses on, giving the reader a deeper insight into our coping mechanisms in the face of such horror and feelings of helplessness. The story would fall short of its brilliance if not for the skill of Johnston's writing. His prose is both beautiful and atmospheric, showing us that while the descent into pain and guilt can tear us apart, the ultimate strength of the family is its love for each other.

We all have sympathy for the victim in a case like this one, but it's also important to remember the family: lost and traumatized by an unspeakable event that may or not have a resolution. The journey each family member makes over the course of three years will either make or break them, but the ending will blow you away. I can't say anymore about the story — I'm not into spoiler alerts! — all I can say is that the climax provides an ending that will stay with you--the kind of ending that begs the question: "What would I have done?"

From *The Washington Post*: "The story unfolds brilliantly, always surprisingly, but the glory of *Descent* lies not in its plot but in the quality of the writing."

A starred review from *Publishers Weekly*: "Johnston has a poet's eye for the majestic and forbidding nature of the Rockies, and a sociologist's understanding of how people act under pressure."

Johnston is a professor of creative writing at the University of Memphis and the author of several young adult novels. His story collection, *Irish Girl*, was the winner of the Katherine Anne Porter Prize in Short Fiction. This is his first adult novel.

Till next time, happy reading!



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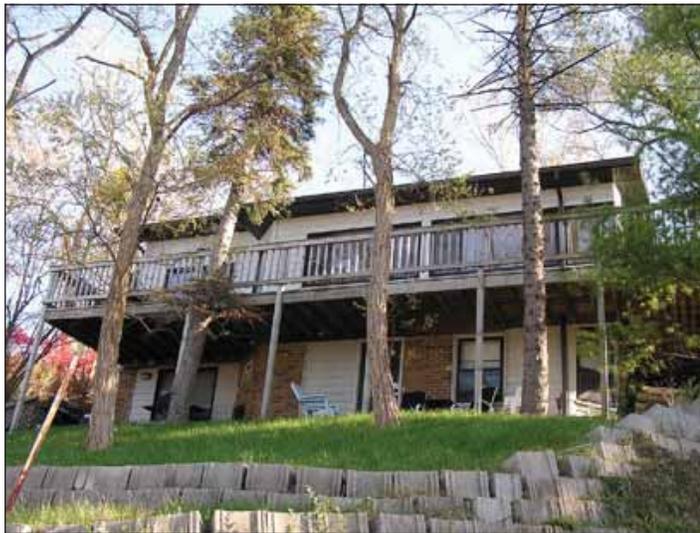
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