

THE
*Beacher*TM

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THE Beacher

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About the Cover

Our Christmas edition cover, which features Santa sneaking in a sled ride before delivering presents, is by Betty Thomas. This is her third Christmas cover for us, the inspiration taken from a friend's photo that she used for a watercolor painting. "When I was asked to do The Beacher cover with Santa in it, I knew just what I would do," Thomas said. "Santa would be taking that sled ride. Couldn't resist putting in Mount Baldy and Lake Michigan in the background, and also the evening glow. I added the little evergreen tree in the meadow below to represent the peaceful feeling of Christmas in the dunes."



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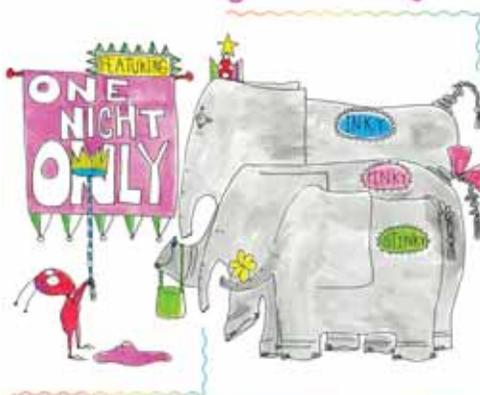
Straight From the Heart

by Andrew Tallackson



Elizabeth Burnham (right) and Sara Studer have a ball discussing their new series of children's books. The two are photographed by The Beacher's James A. Conlin at Lakeshore Coffee & Specialties.

One Night Only



2 Cozins | E. Burnham & S. Studer

Elizabeth Burnham and Sara Studer are more like sisters than cousins. The playful way they finish each other's sentences, or erupt with laughter when stories turn comical — the bond between them is tangible and indisputable.

As children, Elizabeth and Sara were inseparable, especially during the holidays and vacations. When their mothers wished for them and their siblings to drift off to sleep, Elizabeth's father took on the challenge. Robert Burnham was a Long Beach resident and third-generation family member to own Michigan City's Burnham Glove Co. To Sara, he was a surrogate parent — in the absence of her own father — who loved his



2 Cozins | E. Burnham & S. Studer

family like no other she'd met before.

Over the years, Robert made up bedtime stories that enraptured his captive audience. These tall tales often revolved around zoo animals. Sometimes, the creatures behaved. Other times, they did not, their mishaps wrapped around viable lessons, whether it be the importance of sharing, or eating as a family at the dinner table.

Elizabeth and Sara were 4 or 5 when these bedtime stories first emerged. Like most childhood memories, they were tucked away in the deepest recesses of their hearts as adults.



Sara (left) and Elizabeth hold copies of the first two books in their series, "One Night Only" and "Trash is Art...Imagine That."

Robert passed away in October 2015 at age 85. At the memorial service, stories circulated among friends celebrating what a "character" he was. Soon after, all the colorful stories he once told to his children flooded back to Elizabeth, stories, she realized, not passed down to nieces and nephews.

So, Elizabeth broached the idea of creating children's books based on Robert's stories to Sara, a gifted artist whose talents admittedly had languished over the years as work and family took precedence.

"We both are big readers, and we loved the idea of reading to children," Elizabeth said. "These were stories that came from the heart, and we didn't want them to become pedestrian. And Sara is such a great illustrator. She has a quirky aspect about her that really draws kids together."

Sara, in turn, could not wait to get started.

"We jumped right in," she said. "We weren't sure where we were headed...but I knew, just being with Liz would be the greatest opportunity. As the second act in our lives, we knew this is something we wanted to do.

"There's been no limit," she continued. "It's been great to pick up that pen and see where it takes you.

Continued on Page 4

Dear Darling Ladies,

Thank you for another great season. We are here through New Years Eve, and we would love to see you. Then we are off to find you a great spring wardrobe!

See you all in March-for our 7th season.



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Happy Holidays



Straight From the Heart Continued from Page 3

Oh my gosh, that has been wonderful.”

And, the works are flowing out of them.

The first two books in the series, “One Night Only” and “Trash is Art...Imagine That,” are available now. “Ducks and Doughnuts” is on the way. “PJs for Giants,” which stresses how to overcome being different, is in the second draft phase.

In development are:

- “Sing the Cake!,” which celebrates and embraces cultural differences.
- “The Gang of 8,” which centers on overcoming bullies.
- “The Long Swim,” which highlights working together as a family.
- “Snakes with Hats,” about trying new things as a way to find joy and happiness.

Like the beloved works of Richard Scarry and Dr. Seuss, each story revolves around animals with human-like qualities: elephants with names like Inky, Pinky and Stinky, or a wise raccoon whose name just happens to be Robert.

As dear as Elizabeth and Sara are to each other, it seems curious a collaboration between these two would be years in the making. Indeed, they ventured along similar paths early in their lives. Elizabeth was born and raised in Michigan City, Sara born in Fort Wayne, but raised in Michigan City. They both graduated from Elston High School and Indiana University.

Elizabeth, however, who was a member of Michi-



Sara intently listens as Elizabeth discusses the story behind her father's bedtime stories.

gan City's Dance Art Unlimited, studied ballet at IU before leaving to join Connecticut Ballet in New Haven, Conn., then returning a year later to complete her English degree. Professionally, her interests turned to marketing for corporations and nonprofits, including Chicago's Joffrey Ballet and South Bend Symphony. Today, she serves on the Michigan City Chamber Music Festival board.

Sara began creating picture stories at 14. She lives in South Bend, social services being her career focus. Save for designing the occasional greeting card, her skills as an illustrator have been on hold for a good 20 years. That's why collaborating with Elizabeth through the company they created, 2Coz-ins Publishing, has been such a joy.

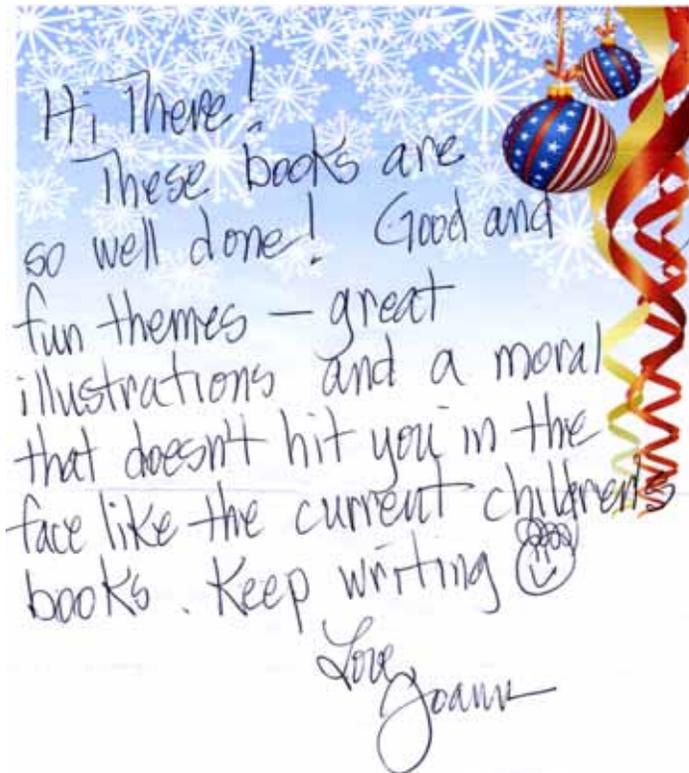
The two would meet on weekends. Elizabeth would present her ideas, affording Sara the freedom to be creative with her illustrations. Elizabeth's husband, Don Olson, served as the editor/manager/promoter, offering input as to what worked and what did not, “road testing” the material, as Don puts it, with the kindergartners in their grandchild's class. It was through them, for example, that Elizabeth and Sara learned the character of Atticus the ant was too small, and that they didn't like to see the characters in cages.

The two also solicited input from those attending the Indiana Division of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. There, a published author, Elizabeth said, described Sara's creations as whimsical, with considerable appeal for children. Of Elizabeth's writing, the author said she had “the voice of a child,” one youngsters can relate to.

Don stressed it was important to get feedback on a professional level, to see, he said, “if the outside world agrees with you.”

The books were assembled by Deb Handel, a graphic designer in the area Sara and Elizabeth say gave the books care and polish.

Indeed, Sara's fanciful watercolor drawings,

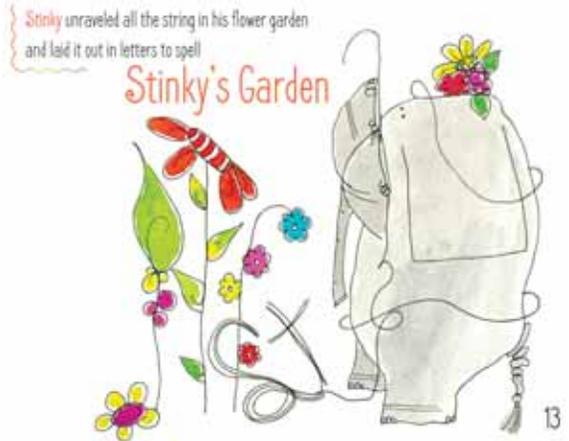


A thank-you letter the cousins received from Joann McCambridge, a resource teacher for first through fourth grades at Devine Infant, Westchester, Ill.

placed against a white background, pop out at you, beautifully accenting Elizabeth's kindhearted tales, inspired not only by her father's inventions, but also from the memories she and Sara share of growing up in the beach area, of afternoons taking in the sights at Washington Park Zoo.

In "One Night Only," for instance, all the animals learn through inventive means — leaves blowing across the ground, for instance — of a stage show planned later that night, once the zoo is closed. The performance, itself, is a whimsical escapade of dancing and juggling elephants. The message at the end conveys how to show proper appreciation after being sufficiently entertained.

In "Trash is Art...Imagine That," a robust wind stirs up trash throughout the zoo, in some cases plastering the animals themselves with rubbish. After observing two youthful volunteers discussing how to turn trash into art, the animals take it upon themselves to apply their own imaginations to the garbage problem. The flamingo, for instance, uses string, soda cans, newspaper and plastic bags



"Trash is Art...Imagine That" follows the zoo animals as they recycle garbage into works of art.

to make a kite. That theme of recycling could not be more "now," with upcycling a hot trend within today's art world.

Little inside family jokes abound throughout the books. Sandy the Snake, for instance, is named after Elizabeth's mother, an old joke Robert applied to his long-ago tall tales. Her mother, Elizabeth said, was a proper, "pulled together" woman unamused at the time by her husband's jest.

What would Robert think of the finished product, had he been alive to see them?

"He would love that his stories are going onward," Elizabeth said. "To bring these stories to life for my dad and pass them on, and to now be a published author, that is a great thing."

Sara couldn't agree more.

"This is a great time in our lives," she said, affectionately entwining her arm with Elizabeth's.

"I think I appreciate this more. When we started it, we said, we need to try. We really don't have anything to lose. And so, you appreciate it so much more. It feels so great."

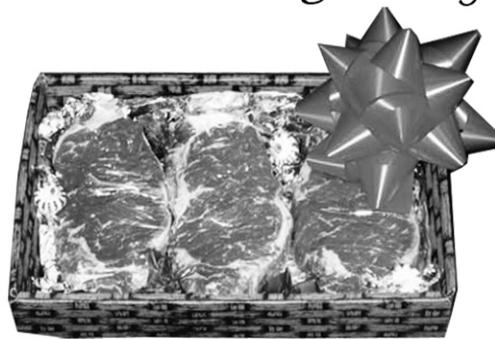
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Harbor Country Opera Returns with a Holiday Tradition

by Andrew Tallackson

Last December, Robert Swan was bracing for disaster. It had been a relatively mild winter, but now, just hours before “Christmas at the Acorn,” an ice storm descended on the area. Who, Swan conceded, would brave treacherous conditions simply for a holiday concert?

Turns out, plenty of people.

The Acorn Theater was packed, the audience eager for the show to begin.

“It was the warmest atmosphere,” Swan said, a smile spreading across his face. “They came because they love the show.”

Harbor Country Opera’s 13th annual “Christmas at the Acorn” is at 8 p.m. EST Saturday, Dec. 23, at The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Swan, the group’s founder, will be joined by the best of the best, including Martha Cares, Susan Nelson, Warren Moulton, Dominique Frigo, John Concepcion and Ramona Kim on harp.

Swan and crew take exceptional pride in fashioning a program that blends holiday favorites with

unfamiliar pieces, such as Concepcion’s rendition of “Balulalow,” accompanied by Kim on harp, and rarely heard medieval Christmas motets.

Last year, “Saturday Night Live” alum Nate Herman unveiled an original piece, “Global Warming Xmas,” amid, ironically, the year’s worst storm. Swan recalls its debut with a chuckle, saying Herman was a tad “embarrassed,” but Swan and crew

affectionately softened the blow, suggesting global warming night have instigated the ice storm’s intensity.

Sprinkled into the mix are classics like “Silent Night” and “White Christmas,” with Swan taking on “The Grinch” and “The Christmas Song (Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire).”

Such traditions,

Swan eagerly anticipates amid all the work that goes into a performance.

“It’s something I remind myself of when we’re doing everything that needs to be done to get ready for the show,” he said. “It’s kind of life-affirming, actually.”



“Christmas at the Acorn” consistently draws large audiences to The Acorn Theater.

If You Go

Tickets cost \$25 and are available by calling (269) 756-3879 or at www.acorntheater.com



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Prepare for a Mind-Blowing Experience in “The Last Jedi”

by Andrew Tallackson

To relish how “Star Wars” has become a collective experience for so many people, “Episode VIII: The Last Jedi” merits being seen in a packed theater.

I’m not speaking of the thunderous greeting with which audiences mark any new picture, specifically when “A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away...” splashes across the screen.

That is a given.

In “The Last Jedi,” it is the rapturous applause that trails scene after scene, moviegoers rallying behind these characters so vigorously, their heroics get under your skin. You’re moved, thrilled, overwhelmed — cheering like a kid who corralled every cookie from the elusive cookie jar.

Best thing Hollywood did was wrestle control of this saga away from its creator. George Lucas, with those regrettable prequels, was like the unwelcome prodigal child. He’d forgotten how to make these movies. But with longtime Spielberg collaborator Kathleen Kennedy taking over Lucasfilm, and tapping into fresh talent spoon-fed these films during their youth, the “Star Wars” universe has rediscovered its mojo.

That’s not to say “The Last Jedi” is perfect. Certain elements are curiously lackluster, but everything that is right about the movie is *so* right, particularly the explosive second half, you leave the theater dazed, trying to process it all.

For naysayers who argued J.J. Abrams’ “Episode VII: The Force Awakens” was just an elaborate remake of “A New Hope,” look no further than what writer-director Rian Johnson achieves during the opening battle sequence of “The Last Jedi.” The re-



Rey (Daisy Ridley) confronts Luke (Mark Hamill) about the resistance’s need for him to return.

sistance is on the run, in full survival mode. The First Order has developed technology that allows it to track the rebels whenever they jump to light speed. Where the resistance goes, the First Order is right behind them.

Johnson, whose “Looper” (2012) was one of the trippiest sci-fi pictures of the last 10 years, charges through the battle, the elaborate effects, like Christopher Nolan on steroids. It’s muscular, frantic, exhilarating...and punctuated by a refreshing sense of humor by Oscar Isaac’s still cheeky Poe Dameron.

And speaking of laughs, “The Force Awakens” ended with a final shot, bordering on mythical, that saw the plucky Rey (Daisy Ridley, ferociously owning the role) in the presence of Luke Skywalker. In “The Last Jedi,” Luke’s unexpected reaction to Rey, with lightsabre in hand, may be the most priceless

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shot of the entire franchise, with Hamill, steadily through “The Last Jedi,” giving the best performance of his entire career.

And yet, the eagerly awaited fellowship between Luke and Rey is the weakest element of “The Last Jedi.” Aware that Luke has become the story’s Yoda, Johnson keenly avoids drawing comparisons to “The Empire Strikes Back,” but he doesn’t concoct any gem moments between these vital characters.

Neither does a trip to an intergalactic casino by Finn (John Boyega, likable as ever) and Resistance maintenance worker Rose Tico (Kelly Marie Tran) succeed. Think about it. An intergalactic casino. It’s ripe for laughs, but comes across in the film as hum-drum, uninspired. It’s a total bust.



Carrie Fisher’s final performance as Leia lends a melancholy air to the film.

However, seeing Tran give a star-making performance as Rose, something struck me. Could it be that with Kennedy at the helm, more enlightened changes were inevitable? I believe so, because “The Force Awakens” and “The Last Jedi” contain the most empowering images of women...of all ages and skin colors. Women call the shots. There is a moment, a brief exchange between Leia (Carrie Fisher) and Vice Admiral Amilyn Holdo (Laura Dern), that is as much a celebration of sisterhood as it is the realistic consequences of warfare.

And let’s talk about Fisher and Dern. With Fisher’s untimely passing last year, a melancholy air lingers over “The Last Jedi.” We are witnessing her final performance. Whatever awkwardness plagued Fisher’s return to acting with “The Force Awakens” is nowhere present. She settled into the role like a finely aged wine, the fire in her eyes stirring. Johnson’s camera is like a gentle caress of her face. There are close-ups that reveal a woman whose beauty is timeless.



And Dern? The “Jurassic Park” veteran gives Amilyn Holdo a refreshing ambiguity. Is she in line with Leia, or out to sabotage the alliance? Revealing the truth would spoil one of the most gonzo, crowd-pleasing payoffs “The Last Jedi” has to offer.

The thrills are many, in fact, during the second half. Johnson’s greatest gift is the element of surprise. For a franchise that not only spawned sequels, but spinoffs, TV shows and video games, he somehow found a way to sneak in eye-opening twists. Scene after scene, as “The Last Jedi” marches onward to its unforgettable close, Johnson defies what we expect from these characters. Each act of heroism is met by the audience with euphoric reactions. It’s invigorating, really, being part of something like this.



Laura Dern is one of the most welcome additions to “The Last Jedi.”



Adam Driver’s Kylo Ren becomes an increasingly tricky character.

“The Last Jedi” warrants repeat viewings to absorb it all. A lot happens. Much of it still involves Kylo Ren (Adam Driver), whose character has become increasingly complex, tricky to decipher.

The overall running time is 2 1/2 hours, but for the most part, it flies by. How the franchise resolves itself come 2019, when Episode IX arrives in theaters, is a mystery, especially with the death of Fisher. But if Lucasfilm maintains this caliber of filmmaking, then we’re in for one helluva ride.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

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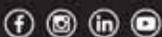
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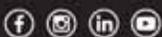
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“Holiday Memories” Concert at Footlight Theatre



Joe Stewart

“Holiday Memories,” a concert featuring The Footnotes and performer Joe Stewart, is at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 29, at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St.

The program will highlight traditional carols and other selections, including music from “Les Miserables.”

Stewart was a finalist in this past year’s “Hoosier Star” fundraiser for La Porte County Symphony Orchestra. He is a Michigan City resident who was heavily involved in music during high school, performed with Young People’s Theatre Company and held memberships in various bands and choirs at St. Joseph College, Rensselaer, before earning a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature.

He is an active member of Monday Musicales and a mem-

ber of First United Methodist Church. He works as a LaPorte Community Schools substitute teacher and as a Galveston Steakhouse server.

The Footnotes, which originated in 1999, performs carols in Victorian outfits, singing four-part harmony in a capella selections. This year, it has performed at Lighthouse Place-Premium Outlets, Al’s Grocery Store, Valparaiso’s Rehab and Health Care, Aperion Services and at private parties.

Tickets are \$10. Reservations are requested since seating is at a premium. They can be made by calling (219) 874-4035 or at www.footlightplayers.org. The group also is collecting non-perishable food items and toiletries for a food pantry.



The Footnotes



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9 BEDROOMS, 13 BATHS
\$3,950,000



2518 ORIOLE TRL
Long Beach, Indiana
5 BEDROOMS, 2.5 BATHS
\$499,000



106 MONTANA AVE
Beverly Shores, Indiana
3 BEDROOMS, 2.75 BATHS
\$585,000



3322 MARQUETTE TRL
Duneland Beach, Indiana
4 BEDROOMS, 2 BATHS
\$599,000



2410 LAKE SHORE DR
Long Beach, Indiana
4 BEDROOMS, 2 BATHS
\$1,295,000



2968 LAKE SHORE DR
Long Beach, Indiana
5 BEDROOMS, 4.5 BATHS
\$1,900,000



3777 LAKE SHORE DR
New Buffalo, Indiana
5 BEDROOMS, 4 BATHS
\$2,499,000



2060 LAKE SHORE DR
Long Beach, Indiana
6 BEDROOMS, 7.5 BATHS
\$3,850,000



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Rising Stars



Four Michigan City High School juniors are among the Indiana Association of School Principals "Rising Stars of Indiana" Class of 2019. Each Indiana high school was invited to recognize up to four students currently in the 11th grade, based on their academic achievement. Pictured are (from left) Gavin Buchanan, Evangelea Dabagia, MCHS Principal Candy Van Buskirk, Natalie Parker and Zennon Wilhelm.



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Dear Friends and Family,

It is one of our favorite times of the year! A time for friends and family to gather and celebrate. A time to reflect on the year and look forward to a new year of serving our community and Northwest Indiana neighbors.

2017 brought a shift to our real estate market. What had long been a buyer's market officially swung back to a seller's market. We saw an increase of multiple offers on residential homes, a decreased inventory of homes across the board, but stronger sales. In the thick of it, we have continued to be a Top 5 LaPorte County Agency. We cannot do it without you. Thank you for your support.

Jane Cooley, The Hat Lady, continues as a consistent Top Producer and Multi-Million Dollar Producer. Listing and Sales, The Hat Lady evokes trust in her clients by doing what she does best: Selling real estate. Cari Adams, Multi-Million Dollar Producer & Social Media Director, has had a banner year of 20+ sales and offers a niche Property Management program perfect for the beach vacation rental market.

Marge Skwiat-Gloy is our favorite go-to agent for the wild stories of real estate. She continues her streak as a Million Dollar Producer with 15+ sales and always going well above and beyond for her clients. Jane "Regie" Palella also is a Million Dollar Producer who sold along the lakeshore, as well as multiple in-town properties. Rose Pollock, experienced real estate veteran, has had a stellar real-estate year, selling in her home beach area and specializing in bank-owned properties.

Danelcy Patterson had another successful year in real estate, offering clients cutting-edge marketing and fluency in multiple languages. Diana Hirsch has had a great year in real estate spanning LaPorte and Porter counties, helping buyers and sellers achieve their real-estate goals. Denise O'Connor uses her proven pricing strategies for her sellers, as well as knowledge of our markets for her buyers to be a trusted name in real estate.

Cindy Hernandez works mostly from her home office, yet continues to make strides in the Michigan City area she has always called home. Betty Sams sold multiple homes this year through your referrals and is an office regular who has helped many of you walking in for information regarding beach, town or country listings. Joe Gazarkiewicz and Gail Mathews have had a vibrant real-estate year while also working full time in Northwest Indiana.

We have had two agents join our office for 2017: Erica Miller and Dale Maher. Erica also works at Long Beach Country Club and is a strong asset in real estate to all things Long Beach. Dale Maher is a real-estate broker with 20+ years real estate experience in the Chicagoland area. She has owned her home in Long Beach for over 20 years and recently became a full-time Long Beach resident. She loves networking at local events.

At our helm, Tricia Meyer, a Multi-Million Dollar Producer, continues to lead us through her professionalism, talent, vision and work ethic. We have grown into a team of dedicated real-estate brokers who support one another and our community. We are always looking for members to join our team atmosphere. If you have ever been interested in a real-estate career or are looking to grow your business, call us to learn the Merrion Realty difference.



Pictured: Jane Cooley (seated), Cari Adams (from left), Tricia Meyer, Danelcy Patterson, Dale Maher, Betty Sams @ LaPorte County Association of Realtors Deserving Children's Banquet

To 2018,
Your friends at Merrion & Associates

Christmas Chimes to Ring Out From Trinity Church Bell Tower

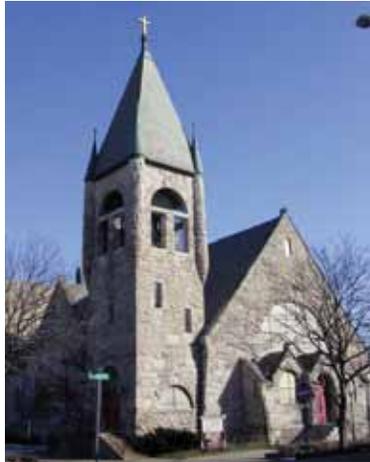
The bells of Christmas will ring out over Michigan City's Uptown Arts District during the seventh annual Christmas Chimes Concert at 1 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 24, at Trinity Episcopal Church, 600 Franklin St.

The concert will be played on the renovated Van Pelt Chimes hung in the Trinity bell tower. The chimes, donated by Harriet Van Pelt in 1930, have been described as a giant door-bell with 12 chimes, where the largest one is the size of a small telephone pole. The low E note chime is 12 feet long and 7 inches in diameter.

The concert will include the traditional Christmas hymns and carols: "Adeste Fideles," "Silent Night," "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear," "Joy to the World" and "While Shepherds Watched."

The chimes are loud enough that they can be heard throughout much of Michigan City. Parking in front of the church and benches along Franklin Street will provide outdoor seating, or the church will be open for those wishing to attend inside. Presenting the concert is Trinity organist George Karst.

"This is a unique and rare musical instrument,"



The Trinity Episcopal Church bell tower.

Karst said. "It is one of the last remaining operable church tower chimes in the United States."

The ongoing restoration effort is being supervised by master electrician Tom Orłowski, who is assisted by retired electrician Paul Townley and members of the Trinity Church property committee. The restoration includes maintenance of the mechanical switching device and rewiring electrical striking motors in the bell tower. S&W Electric, LaPorte, rebuilt the electric motors.

Repair and maintenance of the chimes require climbing to the top of the Romanesque Revival-style bell tower through a series of hatches and ladders. The chimes are hung from a heavy timber frame three stories above the street. Maintenance of the electrical components required an additional climb to the top of the chimes frame.

Karst will play the tubular bell chimes from a keyboard located next to the organ console. The striking mechanisms in the tower are coupled via electrical relays to the keyboard.

Visit TrinityEpiscopalMC.org for more details.



Jeff Remijas
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jeffrey.remijas@gmail.com



4121 S. Franklin St.
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1026 N. Karwick Rd.
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Rick Remijas
GRI, CRS
Cell 773-908-1969
rremijas@hotmail.com



Best wishes for a happy Holiday season and our sincere thanks for your business in 2017!

May the new year bring you peace and prosperity.

*Kind regards,
Rick and Jeff Remijas*



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It's Time to Get Started

by Kevin Scott of Anytime Fitness

The “getting started” is always the hardest part.

Whether it's a workout routine, a healthy meal plan, getting up early, starting a budget or anything different, getting going seems to take forever. However, once you see progress,

you get hooked.

What's the secret potion to getting results? Hard work and focus.

Looking at weight-loss goals, the same rules apply. By no means is it an easy journey, and by no means is it easy to start. However, I am reminded of the great quote on insanity by Albert Einstein: *“Insanity: doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.”* Much of the time, we set new goals and start just as we did last time. This typically yields the same results: a couple weeks of some progress, a couple weeks of less progress, then we quit.

So, whether it's your New Year's resolution to lose weight, get healthy or just get started toward any goal, check out these simple tips:

1. Move — and then move some more. Exercise routines are good. But if organizing the what, why and how of a traditional workout is preventing you from getting started, just start moving. Then, each week, move a little more.

Gym equipment doesn't magically make the weight loss happen. Using the equipment to create a balanced workout program, including strength, cardio, core and mobility, can certainly help speed up the process and, beyond weight loss, get you fit. But adding movement into your day is an excellent way to jump-start the journey. We get it — it's tough to get moving when you are driving, working and catching up on your favorite shows.

2. Eat, sleep and be merry. The truth is, abs aren't made solely in the gym or kitchen. Nutrition plays a big part, as I'm sure you're aware. But so does sleep — and joy! So, if it's the exercise that is off-putting or hard to commit to, start with the trifecta. No need to completely overhaul your diet out of the gates, but small swaps over time will certainly help.

Start by reviewing the Clean Eating Challenge and find a few ways you could “clean up” your fridge, pantry and menus. Then, improve your sleeping routine. Sleeping has a direct effect on your hunger and blood sugar, both which may affect your waistline. Finally, find joy in the journey. When you embrace the gym and trust that you don't have to be “good” to get it done, you will enjoy the process more. And, it will get easier!

3. Eliminate must-dos and celebrate can-dos. Seriously, there are no “rules” in fitness. OK, there's a method to the madness and perfect prescriptions for specific outcomes. But, when you're

getting started, avoid analysis paralysis. Go to the gym, pick a piece of cardio equipment and give it a go. Or, hit the gym and follow a circuit. Or, better yet, grab a trainer or jump in a group training session and let someone tell you what to do! Literally, anything is better than nothing.

4. Forget the chore and find the gift. The secret to sustainable weight loss is making exercise a gift, not a chore! To do that, you have to find things you enjoy doing and discover immediate benefits.

For example, if you like walking and chatting with a friend, do more of that. Be mindful before, during and afterward to discover all the things walking does for you. Does it give you energy, help your mental clarity, make you feel strong? The more you can provide immediate, positive feedback to your brain, the more likely you will continue!

5. Get rid of judgment and breathe in awareness. Here's my final, most important tip: If you're trying, you're doing more than most people. Sit with that for a minute. So what if you miss a day, don't follow the trendy workouts, don't eat Paleo... blah blah blah. You're trying and that's admirable. Approach each day as a scientist would an experiment. Observe, reflect, correct and move on. Every day offers you an opportunity to try again. The only way you fail is if you stop trying.

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New Photography Exhibit

“Here and There: Intimate and Large Scale Views in Photography” is the latest exhibit at Elkhart’s Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St.

Running through Feb. 25, the exhibit samples photographers who have worked or are now working in the United States. Loaned from a private collection and enhanced with works from the MMAA’s permanent collection, it features works by: Berenice Abbott (1898-1991), Bradford Washburn (1910-2007), Clyde Butcher, Nick Brandt, Adam Fuss and Jerry Uelsmann. Some works are as large as 40-by-60 inches, contrasted with small intimate images that must be viewed up close and personally.



This 1982 untitled work by Jerry Uelsmann is included with “Here and There: Intimate and Large Scale Views in Photography.”

Museum hours are (all times Eastern) 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Call (574) 293-6660 or visit www.MidwestMuseum.US for more details.

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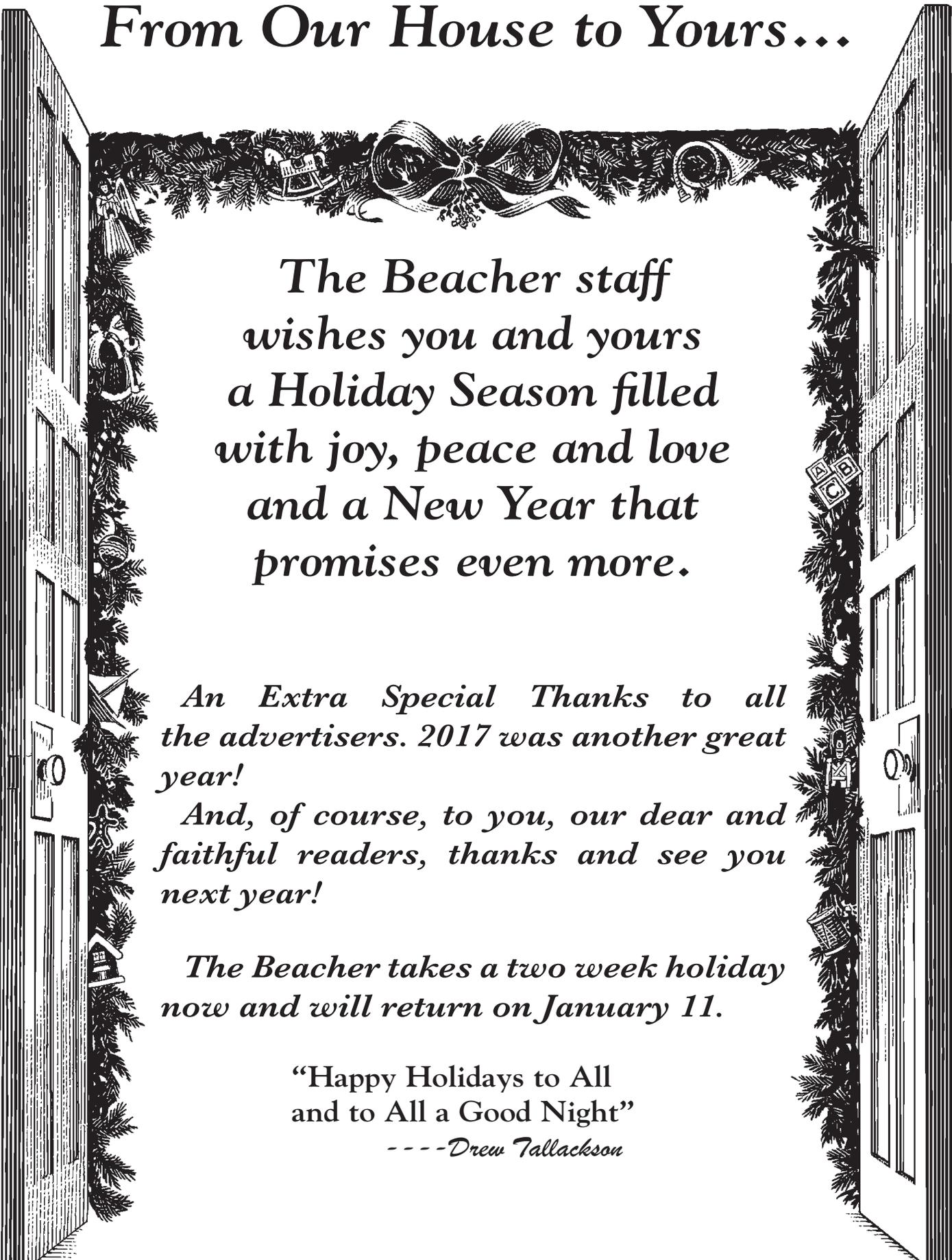
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*The Beacher staff
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a Holiday Season filled
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and a New Year that
promises even more.*

*An Extra Special Thanks to all
the advertisers. 2017 was another great
year!*

*And, of course, to you, our dear and
faithful readers, thanks and see you
next year!*

*The Beacher takes a two week holiday
now and will return on January 11.*

*“Happy Holidays to All
and to All a Good Night”*

----Drew Tallackson

A Visit From St. Nicholas

by Clement C. Moore

*T*was the night before Christmas, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.

*T*he children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of sugar-plums danced through their heads;
And mamma in her kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap,
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.

*A*way to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

*T*he moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow
Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below;
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer,
With a little old driver, so lively and quick
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick..

*M*ore rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name:
"Now Dasher! now, Dancer! now, Prancer! and Vixen!
On, Comet! on, Cupid! on, Donder and Blitzen!
To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!
Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!

*A*s dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky,
So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,
With the sleighful of toys, and St. Nicholas too.

*A*nd then in a twinkling, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.
As I drew in my head, and was turning around,
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.

*H*e was dressed all in fur from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot:
A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,
And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.



*H*is eyes, how they twinkled! his dimples, how merry!
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard on his chin was as white as the snow;
The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke, it encircled his head like a wreath.

*H*e had a broad face, and a little round belly
that shook, when he laughed like a bowl full of jelly.

*H*e was chubby and plump - a right jolly old elf -
And I laughed, when I saw him, in spite of myself;
A wink of his eye, and a twist of his head,
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.

*H*e spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,
And laying his finger aside of his nose,
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose.

*H*e sprang to his sleigh, to the team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew, like the down of a thistle,
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,
"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good-night!"

Dear Santa Claus

A beloved tradition returns to *The Beacher* with letters to Santa Claus from Notre Dame Elementary School second-graders, presented to you just as the children wrote them. Thanks to second-grade teacher Lindsay McFadden for helping us out. Enjoy!



Dear Santa,

My name is Jack. I am 7 years old. My school is Notre Dame Catholic School. Hope your having a good time. I try to be good. I always help my sister. Can I please have a bb-9E? Thanks I really hope that every body has a great Christmas. Santa, I think your cool. How do you fit down chinmes? Merry Christmas.

From,
Jack

Dear Santa,

Hello Santa! My name is Kallee. I am 8 years old. I go to school at Notre Dame Catholic School. I have bean trying to be good this year. But I fight with my brother. I want a sponge bob glov world. And I need cloths because I am growing out of them. Does Rodolphs nose really glow? How old are you?

Love,
Kallee

Dear Santa,

Hi Santa for Christmas I want toy Nerf guns and a Nutendo Switch and toy Dino Sors. I would all so like toys stuff animls for me and Clark. I wont Star Wars helmits please thank you. Merry Christmas.

From,
Rocky

Dear Santa,

My name is Max. I am 8. I try to be nice but my sister iratase me. I relly want a Nentendo Switch with Super Mario Oddesy plese. Thank you. Is Roduph real and dose his nose glow? Merry xmas.

Love,
Max
HOHO HO HO!

Dear Santa,

My name is A'Naria. I'm 8 years old. I tried to be good this year and most of the time I was this year. I was great at doing my best work at school. By the way I go to Noter Dame Cathlic School. This year I really want a Baby Alive thats not a real baby it a toy and I need new clothes. You are the most jolly person I know by way I think you are real.

Love,
A'Naria

Dear Santa,

My name is Ty. I am 7 yers old. I go to Nortter Dame Cathlic School. I have been vary nice at home. I pick up my toys at home. I am good at school sometimes. I wont a facke bebe gone for Christmas. When you got your Rodof was he smoll or big?

From,
Ty

Dear Santa,

Hi my name is Ja'Niyla. I am 7 years old. I go to Notre Dame Catholic School. I have been good all week. I have been good at home and at school. I told Chloey I was going to her skeating party. What I want for Christmas is a phone and a tablit and a mopad please and thank you. Mrs. Claws you are a nice lady. Do you help Santa? I love you guys! You are a nice man. How have the dear's been doing? And the elf's?

Love,
Ja'Niyla

Dear Santa,

Hello Santa I am 8 years old. My name is Finn. My school is Noter Dame Catholic School. I was good at school. I was sharing with my smelly markers and playing with my friends. I need a shark blanket and a doinsole flashlight that go on your head please thank you Santa. Do you ride a sled with a raindeer on it? Merry Christmas.

Love,
Finn



Dear Santa,

Hi Santa! My name is Nadia. I am 8 years old. I am a student at Notre Dame Catholic School. I help all the kids sometimes. I try to be cool and I am nice. I would like a real computer and a reall phone pleas and thank you! How is Roaldof? Merry Christmas!

*Love,
Nadia*

Dear Santa,

Hi I'm Aedan and I am 7 years old. I go to Nortre Dame Catholic School. I've binn trying to be good. But I've binn fighting with my brothers. I wish I could have a flying ranedeer and a sley and a harness that the ranedeer could wear and the harness attaches to the sley and a barn. I need new clothes and I need new boots. Is it true that Prancer got lost from the other ranedeer? Did he get back? Merry Cristmas.

*Love,
Aedan*

Dear Santa,

Hi Santa! I am Elias. I am 7 years old. I go to Notre Dame Cathlic School. I have been trying very hard to not fight with my brother. But I still keep my room clean. I really want a lot of nerf guns for Christmas. I need new clothes. Question: does Rodolf really have a red nose?

*From,
Elias*

Dear Santa,

Hi Santa my name is Marshall. I am 7 years old. I am a student at Notre Dame. I have tried my best to be good. And I cleand the floor. For x-mas I want a land searc, nerf regulator, robo trax, I don't know the rest but I am sending a letter to you at home. Just in case you forget. Please and thank you. Does Rouduphs nose really glow?

*Sincerely,
Marshall*

Dear Santa,

My name is Chloey. I'm 8 yeers old. I have ben gud at home. I helpt my mom with dishes. I have ben gud at scool. I wunt a Jojo bow. I need a math booc. Hou do you get all around the nashin in one nite? Merry Christmas Santa.

*From,
Chloey*

Dear Santa,

Hi, Santa! My name is Henry. I go to Notre Dame Catholic School. I am 7 and almost 8. I will turn 8 on January 25. I have been nice at home and school. I help with chores and don't complain about them. I really want Golden Snitch, Bearty Botts jelly beans, jelly slugs, and a new Harry Potter book set.

*Happy Holidays,
Henry L.*

Dear Santa,

My name is Vivian. I am 7 years old. I go to school at Notre Dame Catholic School. At home I'm vary good and somtimes bad. At school I'm vary good. I wish that all the famliys have a great holaday. I need a new paer of socks. How do you eat all the cookies in one night? Mary Crismas.

*Love,
Vivian*

Dear Santa,

My name is Ella. I like Animal Jam. It is my favoret game! My brother Evan taks it away from me. I get a short turn. Evan gets the long turns. It is dad's school comperter. I do not wont to break the comperter. I leave it.



*Love,
Ella*

Dear Santa,

Hi! My name is Henry! I am 8 years old. My school is Notre Dame Catholic School. Yes! I have been good this year. At home and at school! Because at school I always play with people. And at home I say yes to my big brother when he tells me to play Minecraft. I really want a lot of video games. I want a Nintendo 3DS to. Please can I have that and a lot of stuff on my Christmas list please. Thank you!

*Sincerely,
Henry M.*

Dear Santa,

Hi Santa it's George. I try to be nice to my sisters. But some times they are enoying. I would like a 3DS, bike, Xbox 1x. I need cloths, undeware, and socks. I also want yugioh cards, pokemon cards, and a tv.

*Love,
George*

Dear Santa,

Hi! My name is Za'Nia. I am 7 years old. I am a student in Notre Dame Cathlic School. I haved tryed to be good. I helped my friends, helped pick up the trash and cleaned up my room. I want a tree house, a brader, a Hatchamal, a jewlery kneklis maker and a Dream Tent. How old are you? Did you have kids? Merry Christmas!

*Love,
Za'Nia*



Dear Santa,

My name is Maeve. I am 7 yaers old. I go to Notre Dame Catholc School. Sometimes I hert my brothers. I am nice to every boddy. I would like a pupy that my brouther is ok with. Also I need noo underware and socks please and thank you! How do you go down the chimney? Me and my brouther are going to see you. Will you still give us presents? Does Roudoph's nose relly shine red? Was there relly a year with out Santa Close? Please write back.

*Love,
Maeve M.*

Dear Santa,

My name is Isabell and I am 8 years old. I go to school at Notre Dame Catholic School. I have been very good at home. I make lunch on Sanday by my self. I want some pude and quik sand and dools. I want shopckins. I need cloths dresses and socks ples and thank you.

*Love,
Isabell*

Dear Santa,

Hi Santa! My name is Genevieve. I am 8 years old. I am a 2nd grade student at Notre Dame Catholic School. I have tried to be as good as I could this year. I now love cleaning. I always say sorry and hug and kiss my sister after were done bickering. I would please like four things: The shoes with the weels on the bottom. The big plush Pikachu. The blue puppy Amarican Girl Doll pajamas. The real two-in-one ice cream macker. I need slippers. Does Rudalph's nose glow? And is it red? Is Vixin a baby still? Thank you! Merry Christmas!!!

*Love,
Genevieve*



The 2018 FREE Healthy “You” Health Fair All Day Event Saturday January 13, 2018 from 9 am to 5 PM

Dear La Porte County Neighbor,

Orthopedic and Balance Therapy Specialists is excited to announce our first ever FREE Healthy “You” Health Fair All Day Event in La Porte...and you are invited.

During the event, workshop-style classes and training will be delivered on the most requested topics based on our client surveys.

Here’s the schedule...Saturday January 13, 2018.

Time	Topic
9:00-9:50 AM	Knee Pain Workshop: How to Successfully Recover from Replacement Surgery
	3 Powerful Secrets to Ensure 29% Faster Recovery
10:00- 10:50	Find Out What’s Causing That Kink in Your Neck
	Top 3 Simple Do It Yourself Techniques To Loosen Up Your Neck (instructions provided)
11:00- 11:50	How to Heal Naturally from the Top 3 Causes of Low Back Pain
	Your 2 Main Core Muscles and How to Strengthen Them (exercise sheets provided)
12:00- 12:50	Top 5 Natural Vitamins and Supplements for Pain Relief, Better Sleep, and Higher Energy
1:00-1:50	Don’t Fall in 2018: Balance and Fall Prevention Workshop
	Simple Techniques to Strengthen The 3 Main Components of Balance Control (instruction sheets provided)
2:00-2:50	How to Fight the Effects of Osteoporosis and Naturally Increase Bone Density
	Top 5 Exercises for Osteoporosis (exercise sheets provided)
3:00-3:50	The Gift of Healthy Shoulders: Rotator Cuff and Shoulder Pain Workshop
	Top 3 Tips for Natural Healing (instructions provided)

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

4:00-4:50	Heel and Foot Pain Workshop: Top 2 Most Common Causes
	Top Tips for Proper Shoe Fit Plus Self-Help Techniques for Natural Healing

Here's What You Need to Do

Seating is limited to 20 attendees per class. Each attendee will receive a badge.

A badge will allow you to attend however many classes you want to attend BUT you do need to register for each class.

How do you register?

- Call Laura at **219-380-0809**
- Tell them you want to register for the Health Fair
- Our phone representatives will ask you what classes you want to attend
- You will then get a confirmation email and/or a confirmation letter in the mail.

Here's the venue for the event...

Orthopedic and Balance Therapy Specialists

(next to All Star Auto, same building as Hair Fitness)
1405 E. Lincolnway Suite B
La Porte IN 46350

Call now to reserve your spot for the FREE Healthy "You" Health Fair. Limited to only 20 badges for each class.

- Call Laura at **219-380-0809**

See you at the Health Fair!

Sincerely,



Dr. Michael Pfeifer, PT, DPT, ATC
Orthopedic and Balance Therapy Specialists

PS- Call 219-380-0809 to hold your spot for the Healthy "You" Health Fair All Day Event. Call and let us know what classes you want to attend. Limited to only 20 badges per class.

PPPS- Bonus door prizes, and FREE food and healthy snacks for the event.

A Visit With Jolly Old St. Nick



Plenty of children were eager to spend time with Santa when he visited Michigan City Public Library earlier this month. The library's Story Time Crew was on hand to help out. Families also could take photos of their children with Santa. Trish Smith designed and constructed Santa's sleigh. All photos taken by Paul Kemiell



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Festival of Lights

We've posted all of Paul Kemiell's photos from Washington Park's Festival of Lights on our facebook page. Visit "The Beacher Weekly Newspaper" on facebook and check them out.



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Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The following programs are available:

- **Winter Solstice Dune Ridge Trail Hike on Thursday, Dec. 21.**

Catch the sunset and views of the Great Marsh from atop Dune Ridge Trail. Park at the Kemil Beach lot, which is one mile north of U.S. 12 on East State Park Road (County Road 300 East).

- **Birding with the Indiana Audubon Society from 8 to 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 23, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

Birding expert and Indiana Audubon Society Executive Director Brad Bumgardner leads the program that carools to a birding spot. No experience is required. Take binoculars, and dress for the weather.

- **Christmas Bird Count from 8 to 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 29.**

The National Audubon Society and other organizations use data collected from the wildlife census to assess the health of bird populations and guide conservation. The event is free, but requires advance registration by Tuesday, Dec. 26. Register, and learn where and when to conduct the count, by contacting ranger Christine Gerlach at (219) 395-1885 or christine_gerlach@nps.gov

- **Free Movie Showing, "Everglades of the North: The Story of the Great Kankakee Marsh," from 2 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 7, at the visitor center's theater.**

The documentary sheds light on the demise of the Kankakee Marsh, which once covered more than a million acres in northern Indiana, and efforts to restore some of it.

- **Snowshoe Hike from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 7, at the visitor center.**

Join a ranger for a brief indoor program on winter and the use of snowshoes, then try snowshoes on a ranger-led hike through fields and woods surrounding the center. If there is not enough snow, a traditional hike is planned. A limited number of snowshoes are available for free, or take your own.

The Visitor Center is at 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. The Paul H. Douglas Center is at 100 N. Lake St. in Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Call (219) 395-1882 for more information.

Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs are offered:

- **Bird Window Bingo from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 23.**

Stop by the Nature Center to play Bingo by watching bird feeders. Binoculars, guides and a naturalist will be available.

- **High Dunes Hike from 2 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 23.**

Wear hiking shoes and meet at the Nature Center for a trek to the summit of the state's highest sand dune.

- **Christmas Eve Morning Stroll from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 24.**

Meet a naturalist at the nature center for the annual walk through dune forests. A campfire with treats and hot cocoa provided by the Friends of the Indiana Dunes is included.

- **New Year's Leapers from 10 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 30.**

Join a naturalist at the Nature Center to see how far toads and frogs can leap for their food.

- **Winter Wetland Wander from 2 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 30.**

Explore with a naturalist wetland habitats during the short hike.

- **First Day 3-Dune Challenge Hike from 10 to 11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 1.**

Wear hiking boots and meet naturalists at the nature center for a special 3-Dune Challenge covering 1.5 miles. Hikers explore the park landscapes and history from the three tallest dunes. At the end, park volunteers welcome hikers with snacks and a fire provided by the Friends of the Indiana Dunes.

- **Warm Coat Hike from 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 6.**

Join a naturalist at the nature center to search for signs of fur-bearing mammals active in winter.

- **Dunes Civilian Conservation Corps History from 2 to 2:45 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 6.**

Meet in the nature center auditorium to learn how the Civilian Conservation Corps helped build the park more than 80 years ago.

- **Photo Scavenger Hunt from 10 a.m. to noon Sunday, Jan. 7.**

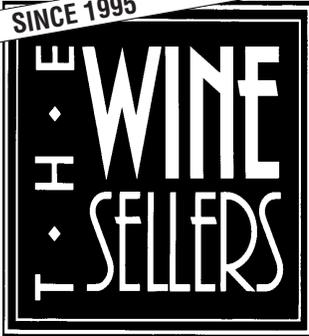
Stop by the nature center with a camera or phone to capture images from the list. Prizes will be awarded.

- **Owl Pellets! from 2 to 2:45 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 7.**

Meet at the nature center to dissect an owl pellet.

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

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Holiday Season Filled With Competitions, Community Service for JROTC

Michigan City High School's Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps earned numerous awards Dec. 2 at a military drill event at the University of Illinois-Chicago Physical Education Center.

The cadets earned first place in armed platoon, and second place in armed squad, color guard and personnel inspection. Eleven schools competed, including the largest JROTC in the world, East Aurora High School (700 cadets), and Zion-Benton High School (300 cadets). MCHS has 98 cadets.

"I am proud of the way our cadets competed," Maj. Tom McGrath, the senior Marine instructor, said.

"Actually, I am disappointed that two of our units, unarmed platoon and unarmed squad, did not place. Both of those commanders, Capt. James Steinhagen for platoon and Staff Sgt. Nienah Langford for squad, did outstanding in leading their units."

Cadets also earned first-place trophies at the Purdue University ROTC Military Drill Competition on Dec. 9 in West Lafayette.

The Wolves defeated East Aurora (Ill.), Ben Davis and Pike high schools (Indianapolis) in the Armed Platoon and Unarmed Platoon categories. The Armed Platoon was commanded by Lt. Tyler Stockley and the Unarmed Platoon by Steinhagen.

Also, cadets competed in the second round of Cyber Patriot, the national cyber security game. Cadets act as security managers of an organization's information system, defending against a cyber attack, then counterattacking to keep the system secure. Cadets from all four service JROTCs participate.

The next competition is in January. Cadets then will see if they proceed to the next elimination round in February. The final round is in March.

Besides drill-team activities, the cadets supported MCHS and the school district through the set-up, functioning and cleanup of the Dec. 14 "One City,



The drill team is photographed Dec. 9 with first-place trophies for Armed Platoon and Unarmed Platoon.



Capt. James Steinhagen presents the Unarmed Platoon on Dec. 2.

One Sound" Christmas concert. They also will support The Salvation Army in helping the needy and provide Color Guards for home basketball games.



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The Beacher Holiday Hours

This week's Christmas edition marks our final newspaper for 2017 before we take a two-week break, resuming publication Thursday, Jan. 11.

The office will be closed Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 25-26 and Jan. 1-2, for the holidays. Otherwise, normal business hours are planned, which are 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Any questions, call us at (219) 879-0088.

Brauer Museum of Art

Valparaiso University's Brauer Museum of Art will be closed through Dec. 31 for academic break.

**Support those who advertise in the Beacher!
Tell them you saw their Ad!**

Westchester Public Library

The following programs are available:

• **Knit Wits and Pearls of Wisdom at 9 a.m. Thursdays, Dec. 21 and 28, at Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.**

The weekly meeting is open to the skilled and novices, with no registration required.

• **Nearly New Year's Eve Party from 3 to 4:15 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 30, at Hageman Library.**

Children 6-12 can participate in activities, crafts, snacks and "toasting in" the New Year with root beer floats. Registration is required by visiting the library or calling (219) 926-9080.

• **Cupcakes and Canvas from 10 a.m. to noon and 2 to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 2, and 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday, Jan. 3, at Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.**

Children 6-12 can paint step-by-step with Museum Educator Susan Swarner. No art experience is necessary, and all supplies are provided. Participants should wear clothes that can get messy. A parent or guardian must accompany each child.

Registration is necessary because each class size is limited to 10 children. Parents may register by visiting the museum or calling (219) 983-9715 during museum hours.

• **Minecraft Meet-up from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 3 and 17, at Thomas Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

Registration is required and must be done in person. The WPL Gaming Policy and Rules of Conduct must be signed upon registration as well. Parents are welcome to attend, but required for youth 10 and younger.

• **Intro to the Ukulele from 2 to 3 p.m. Saturdays, Jan. 7, 14, 21 and 28, and Feb. 4 and 11, at the Thomas Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

Learn basic chords, rhythm and ukulele history. Ukuleles will be provided, although participants can take their own and should indicate so during registration. No experience is necessary, and space is limited. Register at the Thomas Branch Reference Department or by calling (219) 926-7696.

• **Popular Books at 2 p.m. Monday, Jan. 8, at the Thomas Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

The focus is Matthew Goodman's "Eighty-Days: Nellie Bly & Elizabeth Bisland's History-Making Race Around the World."

• **Holiday closings.**

Thomas and Hageman branches, The Baugher Center, Westchester Township History Museum, Chesterton Adult Learning Center and Westchester Township Trustee office will be closed Sunday and Monday, Dec. 24-25. Regular hours resume Tuesday, Dec. 26.

Library facilities also will be closed Sunday and Monday, Dec. 31-Jan. 1. Regular hours resume Tuesday, Jan. 2.

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New Buffalo Streetscape Project

New Buffalo, in partnership with the New Buffalo Downtown Development Authority, is in the final phase of making improvements to the community's downtown area.

The work will result in the much-needed replacement of water and sewer lines, as well as a new streetscape.

New Buffalo DDA staff provided this information with answers to specific questions about the project:

Q: Why is the North Whittaker Streetscape Plan important to New Buffalo?

Response: First, a town's main street has to thrive for the entire community to thrive. A decline in main street will result in an economic decline in the community. Second, public safety is a key element of this streetscape plan. For example, access for our seniors, people with disabilities and families with children are of primary focus.

Q: What does the North Whittaker Streetscape Plan include?

R: This plan will include replacement of the failing underground infrastructure, landscaping, sidewalks, lighting and streets. The streetscape part of the project will include public seating, artwork, signage, seasonal plants, trees and historical markers. An important consideration includes seasonal needs, including boat transport, snow and leaf removal and pedestrian safety, including those with disabilities. Important goals are improved non-motorized transportation usage, long-term cost and energy efficient maintenance and safe pedestrian pathways.

Tickets Available for Annual Tea

Tickets are available through Jan. 27 for New Buffalo Township Library's fourth annual afternoon tea, which is at 2 p.m. EST Sunday, Jan. 28, in the library's Pokagon Room, 33 N. Thompson St.

The \$8 cost includes teas, tea sandwiches, cookies and cakes. Door prizes are planned. Email Courtney at nbtlcreate@gmail.com for more details.

Steve Sass Receives Annual Douglas Award



Celebrating with Steve Sass (second from left) from Save the Dunes are (from left) Executive Director Natalie Johnson, Board Member Eve Wierzbicki and Project Coordinator Nathanael Pilla.

Save the Dunes bestowed the 2017 Paul H. Douglas Award – the organization's highest honor – to local advocate and volunteer Steve Sass during its annual meeting Dec. 7.

The award goes to those who demonstrate outstanding service to preserving and protecting the Indiana Dunes.

Sass is a lifelong northern Indiana resident, growing up in Michigan City overlooking the lake. He now works professionally as an electronic systems integrator, independently as a small business owner. He has been an advocate for the area's ecosystem for decades, even writing Congressman Pete Visclosky in the late 1980s regarding the importance of saving Crescent Dune from commercialization.

Sass emphasizes environmental education, grassroots activism and preservation, including the fight to save Elbel Park/Mud Lake and the permanent protection of Lydick Bog, one of northern Indiana's last remaining preserved bogs. His work with these properties has developed into a greater initiative to protect more habitat in the area. He also is working with government agencies and landowners to identify and create several conservation corridors in the western half of St. Joseph County.

Sass co-founded the north chapter of INPAWS in 2012, serving as its president until this year, when he shifted his focus to other ventures. He serves on the South Bend-Elkhart Audubon Society board, is an advisory council member for Shirley Heinze Land Trust and a Green Ribbon commissioner for South Bend. He also enjoys participating in numerous citizen science projects, and in 2016 co-founded the IN Nature social network group.

He regularly speaks to various gardening groups and land managers about native plants, to bird-watchers about backyard insects, and to young students about protecting the environment.

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Michigan City Public Library

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

- **Beginning German and Spanish Classes at 9:10 a.m. Saturdays, Dec. 23 and 30.**

Each class is eight weeks long. German starts at 9:10 a.m. and Spanish at 10:15 a.m. The German class will cover basic expressions, grammar and pronunciation. The Spanish class will cover greetings, words and phrases about family, home, hobbies, telling time and shopping. Call Al Tieken at (219) 878-8519 for details.

- **American Red Cross Blood Drive from 12:30 to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 26, in the meeting room.**

Make an appointment by calling (800) GiveLife. Walk-ins are welcome.



- **Film showing, “Despicable Me 3,” at 10 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 28, in the meeting room.**

The movie is Rated PG. Light refreshments are provided. Children 18 and younger who arrive by 10:30 a.m. have a chance to win a copy of the movie.

- **Holiday Closings.**

The library will close at noon Friday, Dec. 22. It will be open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 23, then be closed Sunday and Monday, Dec. 24-25. It also will be closed Sunday and Monday, Dec. 31-Jan. 1.

- **Mitten Tree and Food Drive.**

Library staff are collecting mittens, gloves, hats and scarves to decorate the holiday tree. Donations will be sent to The Salvation Army. Staff also are collecting non-perishable food items for the local food pantry. A box is located near the circulation desk through Jan. 5.

- **Volunteers Needed for VITA Tax Program.**

Volunteers are needed at least one day a week during the tax season (February-April) for the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. The IRS provides some training, and volunteers must pass the VITA test through the intermediate level. Testing and training are online.

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

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Patriot's Pen Winners



Veterans of Foreign Wars honored three Krueger Middle School students for essays in the VFW Patriot's Pen Essay contest. This year's theme was "America's Gift to My Generation," and students wrote essays of 300 to 400 words on the topic. Each student received a certificate and \$25. Pictured are (from left) Myah Vega, Autumn Reynolds and Caleb Austin.

Local DAR Adopts Shedd Cemetery

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, Rebecca Dewey Chapter, has united with the Three Oaks Township board to adopt Shedd Cemetery.

The small cemetery is located on the north side of Spring Creek Road, about a quarter mile past Three Oaks Road. There are six veterans buried there, with five from the Civil War and one from the War of 1812. This past fall, a grave marker was unearthed with a possible second War of 1812 veteran.

A Christmas wreath was placed on the entry gate Dec. 8. Township staff have, and will continue to, mow the grass and other tasks. Chapter members will coordinate with the Sexton to remap the graves' locations. Work was done this past fall on remapping Section 1. Research continues to discover who is buried where.

The DAR will compile a written history to be placed in the Three Oaks Township Library Genealogy Room, The Region of Three Oaks Museum and Three Oaks Township Hall. In the spring, members will clean the graves. It is hoped they can begin replacing or fixing the headstones, and provide the veteran marker for a Civil War veteran as well.

The Rebecca Dewey Chapter has assistance from the Miriam Benedict Chapter, NSDAR, LaPorte.

Anyone interested in assisting the project should email rebecca.deweyto@gmail.com

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Submit the photo to The Beacher by 5 p.m. each Wednesday. We'll contact you by 5 p.m. Thursday if the photo is chosen to appear on our facebook page by noon Friday.



Churches Unite to Present Benefit

Clergy from six Michigan City churches, community leaders and area musicians will unite to present "A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols" at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 22, at Trinity Episcopal Church, 600 Franklin St.

A free-will donation will be collected to benefit Michigan City's Keys to Hope Community Resource Center.

The program follows the form presented yearly at King's College, Cambridge, England. There are nine lessons, with each followed by a traditional Christmas hymn appropriate to the text. A reception is afterward in the Trinity Bishop's Mansion.

An interfaith choir assembled from members of participating churches will lead the singing of carols. Anyone wishing to join the choir should attend a 5:30 p.m. rehearsal at the church.

Readers include: the Rev. Charlene Arrington-Moore, Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church; the Rev. Joseph Tamborini Czolgosz, Trinity Episcopal Church; the Rev. Bill Fine, St. John's United Church of Christ; the Rev. Nancy Nichol, First United Methodist Church; the Rev. Erica Parkinson-Kilbourne, First Presbyterian Church; and the Rev. Mark Reshan, St. Paul Lutheran Church.

Participating community leaders include: Donald Przybylinski, Michigan City councilman; Paul Townley of Trinity Church; and Michael Kilbourne, of Keys to Hope.

Musicians will present original compositions or arrangements. Featured are George Karst, Michelle Alexander, Gayle Davis, Nicolas Orbovich and the Trinity Academy Children's Choir. Ensembles have been formed just for the event. Music selections range from the medieval to modern.

The Keys to Hope Community Resource Center serves the community's most disenfranchised members. Each year, more than 1,000 LaPorte County residents experience homelessness. More than 40 percent are children with their parents. Keys to Hope offers free showers and laundry amenities, access to computers and the Internet, classes, structure and case management.

Snowflake Break

Children 5-10 can make crafts, play games and have a snack during the free "Snowflake Break" from 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 28, at Luhr County Park Nature Center, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, La Porte.

Dress for the weather because some activities are outside. Parents are not required to participate or stay during the program.

A minimum of five children and maximum of 24 are required for the program. Call (219) 325-8315 if interested.



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Christmas Story Time at Mansion

Children are invited to Christmas story time at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 23, at Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St.

Cocoa and cookies will be served during the event held at the drawing room fireplace.

Heritage Interpreter Austin Pittman will share "Twas the Night Before Christmas." He chose Clement Moore's book for its historical roots. It was first published in 1837, one year after Michigan City was incorporated. Due to the story's popularity through the centuries, Pittman strongly suspects it would have been a Christmas-time favorite of heiress Catherine Barker.

"Not only will I be reading the familiar book during story time, but I will also weave in the history of the publication alongside tales of young Catherine Barker," Pittman said.

A cost of \$2 per child applies, and each accompanying adult is free. After the program, guests can attend the regularly scheduled 11 a.m. mansion tour for \$8 per adult and \$5 per youth/senior. However, this is not a requirement of attending story time.

Advance registration is appreciated through Eventbrite or by calling (219) 873-1520.

Nest-Cam Barn Owl Update

The barn owl pair on a Department of Natural Resources nest cam in southern Indiana is raising a second brood of chicks unusually late into the nesting season.

The bonus round of chicks is good news because barn owls are an endangered species in Indiana. In 2015, only 10 nests were reported statewide.

The mother owl laid this second clutch of eggs in late September, which is just within the standard barn owl breeding season from March to October. This year, however, was the first time this pair laid eggs that late while on the nest cam.

The webcam can be viewed anytime with an unlimited number of viewers at tinyurl.com/ybbrwqdf

Northwest Indiana Green Drinks

Northwest Indiana Green Drinks in Michigan City meets at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 21, at Shoreline Brewery, 208 Wabash St.

The program is "Habitat Restoration Around the Grand Calumet: Meaning for You and Wildlife." The speaker is Susan MiHalo, conservation coordinator of the Southern Lake Michigan Rim Project Office at The Nature Conservancy Indiana.

Meetings are sponsored by Save the Dunes and supported by 219 GreenConnect. The suggested donation is \$5, or \$2 for students. Call (219) 210-7513 for more details.

Michigan City Historical Society

Washington Park Zoo Director Jamie Huss presented a program during Michigan City Historical Society's annual meeting at Barker Mansion.

Society President James Retseck highlighted the 2017 season at Old Lighthouse Museum, outlining plans for the 2018 season. He also presented awards to Rita Bicek for her many years as a museum board member and docent. Rod Hoepfner received an award for his work on the museum's Coast Guard surf boat.

Anyone interested in becoming a museum docent can call the museum at (219) 872-6133.

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Genealogical Society

Dr. M. Barbara Backer is the 2017 recipient of LaPorte County Genealogical Society's Genealogist of the Year Award.

Society members met Dec. 12 at 'Round the Clock for the annual holiday dinner.

Chairwoman and Society President Dorothy Palmer said the award goes to a living individual who has promoted genealogy in LaPorte County by publications, programs and/or by assisting others in their search for source records. This includes someone who has abstracted, indexed and/or taught about source records or methodology.



M. Barbara Backer (center) is photographed with her award, celebrating with Dorothy Palmer (left) and Fern Eddy Schultz.

County Historian Fern Eddy Schultz said Backer has preserved and organized records of the medical community and La Porte County area physicians. Her efforts resulted in the consolidation of libraries at the former Holy Family Hospital and La Porte Community Hospital. Also, many historical and personal records have been added to the La Porte County Historical Society library collection.

The next meeting is at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 9, at the La Porte City Parks Department, 250 Pine Lake Ave. Members will share how holiday season family gatherings and traditions have helped them discover facts about their family history.

Visit tinyurl.com/ndooe7s for more details. Letters of inquiry may be addressed to La Porte County (IN) Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 365, LaPorte, IN 46352.



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Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

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

Ted Perzanowski, M.Div., B.A.



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Activities to Explore

In the Area:

Dec. 21 — Northwest Indiana Green Drinks in Michigan City, 6:30 p.m., Shoreline Brewery, 208 Wabash St. Info: (219) 210-7513. Suggested donation: \$5, \$2/students.

Dec. 22 — “A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols,” 7 p.m., Trinity Episcopal Church, 600 Franklin St. Free-will donation for Keys to Hope Community Resource Center.

Dec. 22-Jan. 7 — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. *Now showing:* “Lady Bird.” Rated R. Times: 6 p.m. Dec. 22-23 & 25-28. *Also:* “Wonderstruck.” Rated PG. Times: 9 p.m. Dec. 22-23, 3 p.m. Dec. 23, 26 and 28. The Dec. 23-28 showings have open captioning. *Also:* “Loving Vincent.” Rated PG-13. Times: 3 p.m. Dec. 27, Dec. 29 & Jan. 1, & 6:15 p.m. Jan. 5-7. All times Eastern. Info: vickerstheatre.com

Dec. 23 — Birding with the Indiana Audubon Society, 8-10 a.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

Dec. 23 — Christmas story time, 10 a.m., Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St. Cost: \$2/child, free/accompanying adult. Registration: Eventbrite, (219) 873-1520.

Dec. 23 — “Christmas at the Acorn,” 8 p.m. EST, The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$25. Reservations: (269) 756-3879, www.acorntheater.com

Dec. 24 — Christmas Eve Morning Stroll, 10-11:30 a.m., Nature Center @ Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Dec. 24 — Christmas Chimes Concert, 1 p.m., Trinity Episcopal Church, 600 Franklin St. Info: TrinityEpiscopalMC.org

Dec. 25 — CHRISTMAS.

Dec. 26 — KWANZAA, BOXING DAY.

Dec. 28 — Film showing, “Despicable Me 3,” 10 a.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Dec. 28 — “Snowflake Break,” 1-3 p.m., Luhr County Park Nature Center, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, La Porte. Free. Info: (219) 325-8315.

Dec. 29 — Christmas Bird Count, 8-10 a.m. Free. Registration: christine_gerlach@nps.gov, (219) 395-1885.

Dec. 29 — “Holiday Memories” concert, 7:30 p.m., Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Tickets: \$10. Reservations: www.footlightplayers.org, (219) 874-4035.

Dec. 30 — Nearly New Year’s Eve Party, 3-4:15 p.m., Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter. Registration: (219) 926-9080.

Dec. 30 — Glowing Lights Nights, 4-6 p.m., Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St. Cost: \$8/adult, \$5/seniors, youth 15 & younger. Info: www.BarkerMansion.com

Dec. 31 — “Best New Year’s Eve Party Ever! featuring Memphis Underground,” 8 p.m. EST, The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$30. Info: www.acorntheater.com, (269) 756-3879.

Jan. 1 — HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Jan. 1 — First Day 3-Dune Challenge Hike, 10-11 a.m., Nature Center @ Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Jan. 2 — Cupcakes and Canvas, 10 a.m.-noon & 2-4 p.m., Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton. Info: (219) 983-9715.

Jan. 5 — First Friday Art Walk, 5-8 p.m., Uptown Arts District (downtown Michigan City).

Jan. 5 — First Friday Open Mic, 5-8 p.m., Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: www.lubeznikcenter.org

Jan. 7 — Photo Scavenger Hunt, 10 a.m.-noon, Nature Center @ Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Jan. 7 — Free Movie Showing, “Everglades of the North: The Story of the Great Kankakee Marsh,” 2-3 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

Jan. 7 — Snowshoe Hike, 1-3 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

Jan. 8 — Popular Books, Matthew Goodman’s “Eighty-Days: Nellie Bly & Elizabeth Bisland’s History-Making Race Around the World,” 2 p.m., Westchester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

In the Region

Through Jan. 21 — Cracker Jack exhibit, “Toys Across Time,” Fernwood Botanical Garden & Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich. Info: www.fernwoodbotanical.org, (269) 695-6491.

Through Feb. 25 — “Here and There: Intimate and Large Scale Views in Photography,” Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St., Elkhart. Info: (574) 293-6660, www.MidwestMuseum.US

Support Groups

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

Mondays, Fridays — Overeaters Anonymous, 7 p.m. Mon./Franciscan St. Anthony Health, 301 W. Homer St., 9 a.m. Fri./First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St. Info: <https://oa.org>, (219) 879-0300.

Wednesdays — Alzheimer’s/Dementia Support Group for Caregivers, 2 p.m., third Wednesday of each month, Rittenhouse Senior Living, 4300 Cleveland Ave. Info: (888) 303-0180.

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



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On December 21, 1620, the Pilgrims, who crossed the ocean on the *Mayflower*, first set foot on American soil at what is now Plymouth, Mass. “Forefathers Day,” observed mainly in New England, is in commemoration of this landing.

On December 21, 1913, the Sunday supplement of *The New York World* contained the nation’s first crossword puzzle.

On December 21, 1914, the first feature-length silent film comedy, “Tilly’s Punctured Romance,” was released.

On December 21, 1937, Walt Disney’s animated cartoon, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, which was based on a Grimms’ fairy tale, was shown in Los Angeles for the first time.

On December 22, 1864, during the Civil War, Union Gen. William Sherman sent a message to President Lincoln from Georgia, saying, “I beg to present you as a Christmas gift the city of Savannah.”

On December 22, 1944, during the Battle of the Bulge, U.S. Brig. Gen. Anthony McAuliffe reportedly replied “Nuts!” when the Germans demanded Americans surrender in the World War II conflict.

On December 22, 2001, Richard Reid, a passenger on an American Airlines flight from Paris to Miami, tried to ignite explosives in his shoes, but was subdued by flight attendants and fellow passengers.

On December 22, 2005, astronomers announced the discovery of two more rings around Uranus, the first additions to the planet’s ring system in nearly two decades.

On December 23, 1823, *A Visit from St. Nicholas*, by Clement Clarke Moore, was published in *The Troy (New York) Sentinel*.

On December 23, 1928, the National Broadcasting Company established a permanent coast-to-coast radio hookup.

On December 24, 1814, the United States and Great Britain signed the Treaty of Ghent, ending the War of 1812. However, word of the treaty failed to reach British forces before their attack on New Orleans the next day — an attack that was repulsed by the Americans.

On December 24, 1818, Germany’s Franz Gruber of Oberndorf, Austria, composed the music for *Silent Night*. The words were written by Josef Mohr, and it was sung for the first time on Christmas Day.

On December 24, 1871, Verdi’s spectacular opera *Aida* had its world premiere in Cairo, Egypt. The Khedive of Egypt commissioned the composer to

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write the opera, which was to be part of the festivities celebrating the opening of the Suez Canal.

On December 24, 1951, the first opera written expressly for TV, "Amahl and the Night Visitors" by Gian Carlo Menotti, was performed on NBC.

On December 25, 336, the first recorded celebration of Christmas on Dec. 25 took place in Rome.

On December 25, 1818, "Silent Night" was performed for the first time at the Church of St. Nikolaus in Oberndorff, Austria.

On December 25, 1931, New York's Metropolitan Opera broadcast an entire opera over radio for the first time: "Hansel and Gretel" by Engelbert Humperdinck.

On December 25, 1998, British mogul Richard Branson, American millionaire Steve Fossett and Per Lindstrand of Sweden gave up on their attempt to make the first non-stop, round-the-world balloon flight seven days into their journey, ditching off Hawaii.

On December 26, 1776, during the Revolutionary War's "Battle of Trenton," the British suffered a major defeat when General George Washington's troops captured 1,000 Hessian soldiers.

On December 26, 1931, an enthusiastic audience was on hand at New York's Music Box Theatre for the opening of George Gershwin's musical *Of Thee I Sing*. Besides being a smash hit, this was the first musical to win a Pulitzer Prize for drama.

On December 26, 1941, Winston Churchill became the first British Prime Minister to address a joint meeting of the United States Congress.

On December 27, 1831, naturalist Charles Darwin set out on a voyage to the Pacific aboard the HMS "Beagle." Darwin's discoveries during the trip helped to form the basis of his theories on evolution.

On December 27, 1845, Chicago's first steam-powered press was set up in the office of the "Chicago Democrat."

On December 27, 1900, Carrie Nation staged her first (of many) raids on a saloon. She marched into the bar at the Carey Hotel, in Wichita, Kan., and smashed all of the liquor bottles in sight.

On December 27, 1903, in New York City, "Sweet Adeline," the all-time favorite with barbershop quartets, was sung for the first time. The song was composed by Henry Armstrong, to words written by Richard Gerard. The title was suggested to the composers when they saw the name of the great operatic soprano, Adelina Patti, on a theatre marquee.

On December 27, 1904, "Peter Pan," the play about a boy who refused to grow up, opened in London.

On December 27, 1932, Radio City Music Hall opened in New York City.

On December 27, 1947, the children's television program "Howdy Doody" made its debut on NBC.



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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Miller Pizza By the Beach, 1012 N. Karwick Road, is taking applications for employment. Apply within. No phone calls, please.

Marquette Catholic High School has immediate opening for part-time deli worker/food service, 9 a.m.-1p.m. daily. Salary: TBA.

Email Principal Jim White at jwhite@marquette-hs.org

School of American Music is seeking piano, guitar and American instrument teachers for private lessons. Visit schoolofamericanmusic.com.

Send inquiries to schoolofamericanmusic@gmail.com,
attn. Donna M. Mitchell.

FOR SALE

For sale: Conn organ, \$120 OBO.
Call (219) 874-4449.

GARAGE SALES, ESTATE SALES, ETC.

CHAD & NANCY ADDIE • MENDED HEARTS COLLECTIBLES
Thoughtful estate liquidation. We're glad to offer perspective, ideas on process. Call us at (219) 393-4609

WANT TO BUY

WANTED: I buy all types of antiques and collectibles, including toys, advertising, military items and more. Call Matt at (219) 794-6500.

WANT TO RENT/LEASE/SHARE

Quiet female schoolteacher needs room to rent for 6 months in Long Beach area or nearby. Call (503) 839-6901.

REAL ESTATE

COMMERCIAL – RENTALS/LEASE/SELL

Beachwalk Resort at STOP 7 has fully furnished homes, ranging from studio to 5 bedrooms available for monthly rent between Sept. 15 and May 15. Monthly rates \$800 to \$2,500, INCLUDES utilities, cable and internet. Please call (800) 814-7501
or email Julia@beachwalkresort.com for more information.

REAL ESTATE INVESTING

Investment property for sale in Michigan City. Owners past retirement age; motivated to sell. 4 occupied units, signed leases, yearly gross income \$30,000. (219) 879-2198 or text (219) 877-8177.

RENTALS INDIANA

Monthly rentals – Extended Stay!

Furnished, housekeeping, cable, WiFi, waterfront, at Pioneer Pier.
1BR with kitchenette, \$825.
2BR with kitchenette, \$1,025.
Call Pete at (219) 561-0066.

Dunescape Condo, 4th Floor, 2BR/2BA, available Nov.-May. \$1,100/mo + utilities. Call/text Cari @ Merrion Realty @ (219) 898-5412.

Furnished 1BR apartment over garage, quiet wooded setting among \$500K homes, granite, hardwood floors, shared pool, tennis, basketball. Kitchenette. Utilities included. \$800, 1-yr lease, no smoking, no pets. (312) 399-5341.

UPSCALE LOFT FOR RENT: 1 huge bedroom with walk-in closet, W/D, large deck, off-street parking, wood floors. Just steps from 11th Street South Shore station. \$650/mo. + utilities. Call (219) 872-9111.

Stop 39 3BR/2BA home, no smoking/no pets, references required. Sept. 15-May 15, 2018. \$1,200/mo.+utiities. Call (708) 254-2102.

RENTALS MICHIGAN

For rent: Furn. 1BR non-smoking apt. in quiet building. Downtown New Buffalo, walk to beach & shops. Rent incl. gas, elec., water & trash. Sec. dep. req. No pets. Yearly lease. \$750/mo. Call (312) 925-0753.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

130x200 wooded corner lot in Michiana Shores. Walking distance to beach. Access to city water/sewer. Call (219) 871-2101 for info.

CONDOMINIUM WITH UNIVERSAL APPEAL IN THE SHORES!
2BR/2.5BA/main-floor den, at 2210 Bayview Drive. \$224,500. Sale by owner. Household items, furniture items available by appointment.
(219) 393-4609.

Unified Community Giving Back



During the Nov. 28 Michigan City Area Schools board meeting, representatives of "Unified Community of La Porte County" presented a \$1,500 check to support three programs, including the Michigan City High School Marine Corps JROTC and La Porte County Career and Technical Education Criminal Justice and Fire Science programs. Pictured are (from left) Marty Corley, MCAS board member and UCLC representative, CTE Director Audra Peterson, Fire Science/EMT Instructor Tom Thode and UCLC representatives Hollie Mokrzycki, Cory Saunders and Julius Ellis.



American Red Cross

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

- Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St., 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 26.
- Franciscan St. Anthony Health-Michigan City, 301 W. Homer St., 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 29.
- St. John's United Church of Christ, 101 St. John Road, noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 2.
- St. Joseph Church, 109 C St., La Porte, noon to 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 4.
- Culver's Michigan City, 3967 Frontage Road North, 1 to 3 p.m. Friday, Jan. 5.
- Vanair, 10896 W. County Road 300 North, Michigan City, 8 to 11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 5.
- First Church of God, 2020 E. Lincolnway, La Porte, noon to 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 8.

Those who donate Dec. 21 through Jan. 7 receive a free long-sleeve Red Cross T-shirt while supplies last. 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 or visit redcrossblood.org for more details.

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Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

Hiddensee: A Tale of the Once and Future Nutcracker by Gregory Maguire (hardcover, \$26.99 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook)

“Once Upon a Time...” As a child, how many times did mom or dad start a story with those words? This week’s recommendation reveals how one of our favorite stories of Christmases past may have come to be.

Gregory Maguire, you may remember, gave us *Wicked*, the bestselling novel made into one of Broadway’s most beloved Tony-winning musicals. Maguire loves reinventing favorite tales — like the ugly stepsisters of *Cinderella* (did they get a bad rap?), or how about a new look at *Alice in Wonderland*? Point is, with each story, Maguire gives the reader a new way to consider old favorites.

“All paths lead to the same place, and that place is whatever comes next.”

Profound thinking from a young lad named Dirk. But I digress and must start at the beginning...

It’s the early part of the 19th century and Dirk lives with a woodcutter and his wife in the deep woods of Bavaria, Germany. They told him he was a foundling and gave him his name. However, he never knew their names.

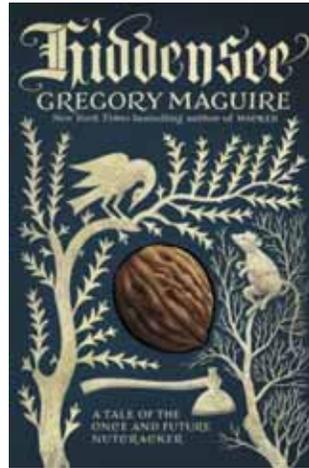
One day, when the boy had grown “*about as tall as a broom handle,*” the man takes Dirk into the woods to show him how to chop down trees. That’s what he says, but that’s not what he wants to do, which is kill him.

Several things happen that day: the woodsman gets the ax imbedded in his leg, and Dirk loses an eye to a falling tree. Do they both die? Yes and no. As in any good fairy tale, there might have been an intervention. Neither is permitted into the afterlife and is sent back to the cottage — the old man with a crutch and Dirk with an eye patch — much to the chagrin of the woman!

Realizing the old couple will only try to kill him again, Dirk runs away and follows his nose to a village, where he enters a church and the minister, Pfaffer Johannes Albrecht, takes him in, learns he has no parents and gives him the family name Droselmeier.

One day, the minister sends Dirk to Merrsburg to deliver a letter to a bishop. He doesn’t find the bishop, but instead the baron’s house where the bishop is visiting. Left cooling his heels, Dirk eventually is hired to work in the household.

As he grows to manhood in the house, he meets



Felix Stahlbaum, a university student and cello player who becomes his life-long friend. When a housemaid comes up pregnant, Dirk’s name is mentioned and he is off again, this time to another town to work for a papermaker, Herr Pfeiffer.

All this time, Dirk has been honing his skills as a wood carver, making little figures that delight Pfeiffer’s sons, Moritz and Franz. Pfeiffer’s wife, Nastaran, is a Persian beauty Dirk falls for, but fate once again intervenes, and he must move on.

So, Dirk has had a pretty eventful life up to now, but still wonders if his encounter in the woods with the woodsman and the Black Forest people really happened...

Years later, Dirk owns a toy shoppe, still carving out his imaginative figurines. He runs into his friend, Felix, who is now married and has two children, Klara and Fritz. He becomes Klara’s godfather and finds her to be an inquisitive child, though sickly. Dirk and Klara combine storytelling with the many skillfully carved figures he makes for her and her brother. Christmas Eve, he gives Klara a special nutcracker as a present. What happens that night proves to be a Christmas none of them anticipate.

Now, all this background is interesting and makes for fine fiction, but it is Maguire’s skillful writing that brings us to that fateful Christmas Eve that makes Dirk realize he has a purpose in life, and that everything that has happened to him has led to this moment in time.

At one point, Felix says to Dirk: “*I don’t know where childhood goes. Sometimes I remember... something. I wonder if you do.*” Thing is, when Felix played his cello, Dirk was whisked away to his dreams...were they real? Or merely a fantasy of sleep?

This story transfixed and transported me to a real place that exists even now, but at a time when strange things happened... and I believed.

So, I offer you this wondrous tale for the season, a tale that must be read to feel the full impact of its message of hope to all of us, whether we are lost in our dreams or lost in life...hope is the human will to move forward and never stop believing that life holds more in the days ahead.

Kirkus Reviews (starred review): “A delightful, mystical, mythical confection by zeitgeist whisperer Maguire...who likes nothing more than to work at the dark edges of a fairy tale.”

People: “Enchanting, mystical and filled with wonder, it’s the perfect holiday fairy tale for grown-ups.”

Till next time, have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, and happy reading!

Happy Holidays!

May the Spirit of the Holiday Season bring Joy to your Heart and Happiness to your Home. May your days be Merry & Bright.

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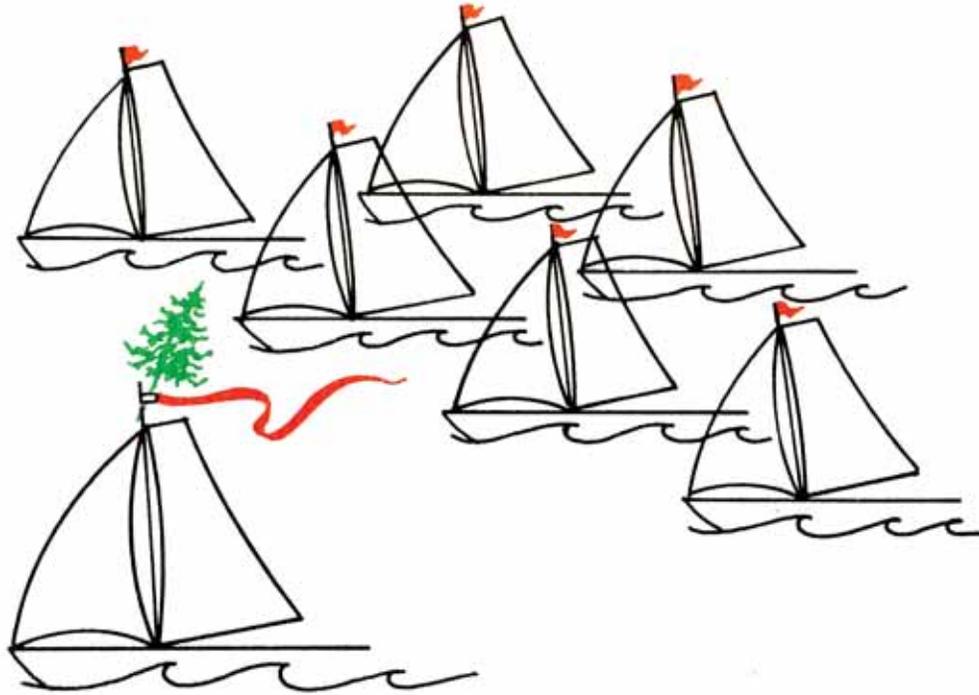


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