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Beacher

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## 50 Plus Years of Love

As Valentine's Day Nears, Long Beach Couples Celebrate Enduring Marriages

by Andrew Tallackson



Mike and Marty Riley (left) and Dick and Toni Coffee each will celebrate 53 years of marriage this year. All photos, and the cover photo featuring the Rileys and Coffees, by Paul Kemiell.

Toni Czarnecki was 15 when she met Dick Coffee. It was the summer of 1963. A lazy Long Beach afternoon with family in their summer home. Toni's best friend lived next door, and from her backyard arose the most inviting strains of guitar music.

Toni's mother, captivated, extended an invitation to the young man responsible for such inviting melodies. His name was Ted Gowin. A local boy, one who delivered *The Long Beacher*. He also sang with a folk trio from Stop 18 that performed the likes of Peter, Paul and Mary and The Kingston Trio.

Toni's mother issued a simple offer: "Come play at our house...and I will give you beer."

Undeniably enticed by the free brews, Ted brought his pals with him: Vic Malgren and Dick Coffee, who was 18 and had just graduated from Elston High School.

Turns out, the trio would sing for them every night that summer until 10 p.m., concluding with Edwin Pearce Christy's "Goodnight, Ladies."

Dick was immediately attracted to Toni. The feeling was mutual.



Dick and Toni Coffee smile as they recall the particulars of the day they met.

“The singing was fabulous,” Toni said of the trio, then, with a mischievous air about her, adds this about Dick, “He was cute, and his voice was so deep and sexy.”

Toni then erupts with laughter, a slightly embarrassed smile spreading across Dick’s face.

Within weeks, the two were dating. One year later, they were married. She was still in high school, attending a girls school at the time and switching to Elston to be with her husband.

Toni’s parents were none too pleased. She was their only child. A marriage at such a tender age was not a recipe for success. Toni threw a fit at their disapproval, stomping her feet and standing firm.

“I told them, ‘You’re going to let me get married’,” she recalled.

Marry, they did, although grumblings circulated throughout the reception, including from Toni’s own

Continued on Page 4



Dick and Toni Coffee celebrate on their wedding day.

The logo for Merrion &amp; Associates Realtors. It features a stylized sun with a yellow and orange gradient at the top. Below the sun, the text "MERRION &amp; ASSOCIATES" is written in a large, serif font, and "REALTORS" is written in a smaller, sans-serif font below it. At the bottom of the logo, there are blue and white wavy lines representing water or a beach, with a small green plant-like icon on the left.

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## Years of Love Continued from Page 3

grandmother, that the marriage would not last.

"I said to myself," Toni recalled, her voice resolute, as if briefly transported back in time to that moment of youthful defiance, "'I'll prove you wrong. We're going to make it work'."

On Nov. 28, Dick and Toni will celebrate their 53rd wedding anniversary. Their journey has endured trials and triumphs, moments when hurdles threatened to consume them.

"I would not recommend the way we did it based on what I know now about life," Dick said. "But I can't say I would do anything differently, because it *did* work for us."



Dick and Toni Coffee celebrate their 50th anniversary with family.

Dick and Toni's story is a galvanizing tribute to steadfast love. And, it is fitting they recalled their courtship and enduring marriage in the company of good friends Mike and Marty Riley.

The camaraderie between the couples is unmistakable, the bond defined by the comfortable dialogue emerging from them. They frequently finish each other's sentences, eager to convey the excitable bits of their lives with the right doses of humor and heart.

In fact, knowing their interview would appear in *The Beacher* just days before Valentine's Day, they came prepared, decked out in red, the Rileys sporting sweaters from their alma mater, Indiana University-Bloomington.

The stories they share spill forth in the living room of the Rileys' home, which overlooks Long Beach Community Center. An appropriate view for two couples who've made this lakefront community their home for decades, and whose children grew up together in the building across the street that one housed the town's cherished school.

The Rileys also will celebrate their 53rd anniversary this year, on July 11, to be precise. The story of their courtship is equally fascinating.

Marty was a member of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority at IU and Mike one of its waiters. Sorority members



Marty Riley recalls how she and Mike met at Indiana University-Bloomington.

were forbidden from dating the wait staff. Paid in food, these men were not to be distracted from the purpose of their work.

Mike and Marty, however, recall with sly humor the moment they first gazed at each other.

"I believe you noticed me when you asked me for more green beans," Mike says, an infectious grin spreading across his face. Marty belts out a hearty laugh, then steers the conversation back to a semi-serious nature.

"He was the best looking waiter there. And I had a blue Volkswagen. He liked Volkswagens."

The two dated in secret for several months before making their relationship public at a Christmas dance. The sorority house mother, however, confided in Marty at the dance she knew the two were dating, but kept the news to herself.

Mike and Marty were married while she was still at IU. Mike later attended law school at Valparaiso University, with Marty briefly teaching at a Valparaiso school before the two began having a family.

The path from there, much like what Dick and Toni experienced, reiterated how life is a test. Marriage is fraught with beauty, with love and joy, and with heartache. The ability to weather the storms defines a successful marriage.

Dick, for instance, knew being drafted was a possibility. Tensions were escalating in Vietnam, so at 19, he enlisted in the Naval Reserve, which sent him to Washington, D.C., to work as a computer operator. Later, he attended law school, graduating in 1979.

By 1981, he was working for National Steel and living at Stop 19. His company transferred him to Pittsburgh, buying his house as part of the move. One year later, he was transferred back, buying back their home from the company. Dick figured they'd remain in the area three to five years.

No such luck.

On New Year's Eve that year, Dick's boss called to say they needed him back in Pittsburgh to take on a labor-relations position. Toni put her foot down.

They were not moving the family again. She would stay here to raise the children. He would return home on weekends.

Six months later, Toni and the family joined him in Pittsburgh once school was out.

The conversation between Dick and Toni, as they recall that trying time in their lives, takes on the vigorous, back-and-forth tone of a ping-pong match.

Dick: "She didn't talk to me for four months."

Toni: "Yes I did."

Dick: "I sent her a lot of flowers."

Toni: "I had to have patience and forgiveness, because I loved him."

Dick (smiling, tongue firmly planted in cheek): "I didn't feel it at the time."

Toni: "Yeah, but I helped you through it."

Marty leaps into the conversation, stressing how she and Toni helped each other through tough times. They met through Notre Dame Parish, united by efforts to start a preschool there. Over time,



A photo taken of Mike and Marty Riley on their wedding day.

they became firmly entrenched in the community. Toni, in fact, was among the town's first three female First Responders, along with Virginia Zahrn and June Livinghouse.

The couples became good friends, watching their children grow up together with pals like Scott Pelath, Todd Zubler and Jay Bausback, and in a community they loved beyond compare.

"When I would come down Lake Shore Drive and stop where we lived, it was like, all of a sudden, it got quiet and peaceful," Dick said.

Toni echoed that sentiment.

"Whenever we came back here, we were home," she said. "This is home to me. I don't want to leave here. Ever."

The same holds true for the Rileys.

"We chose Long Beach because we had a desire to be in a safe, friendly environment," Mike said.

The school directly across from their home was another plus.

Continued on Page 6



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# Seafood Roadshow Sale

## Fri. Feb. 10, 10-6 & Sat. Feb. 11, 9-4

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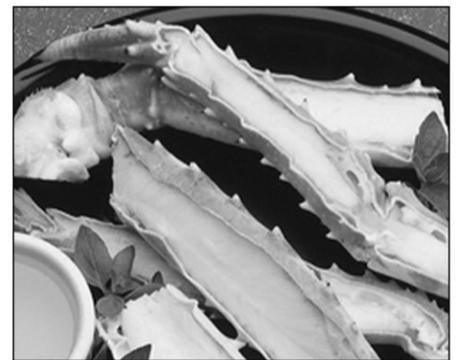


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# Years of Love

Continued from Page 5

"It was at full enrollment when our kids went there," Marty said. "It was awesome. It was full of love, and our kids went on to be successful."

Today, the Rileys have four children and 13 grandchildren. The Coffees have three children and nine grandchildren. Having spent the past hour sharing bits and pieces of their lives, they now sit closer together, arms entwined, their voices softening. Marty pulls out a piece of paper.



Mike and Marty Riley enjoy a day at the beach with their family in summer 2009.

"We made a list, because I knew you'd ask, about what the secrets are to a long-lasting marriage," Marty said. Her voice briefly trembles with emotion, then she proceeds with reading the list.

"Here it is. Have God in our lives. Always say goodbye. Remember to say I love you. Don't go to bed mad. Have patience. Have a dog (or cat) in our lives. Listen to the music. Help each other out. Stop to smell the roses (be aware of our community). Give each other space to do our own thing. Believe in each other. Be a team."

Mike smiles, nodding his head in agreement. So do Dick and Toni. "That's a good list," Toni observes. Dick smiles.

The interview comes to an end. The love between husband and wife in this room is unmistakable. Unbroken. Indestructible. Eternal.

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## Romantic Barker Mansion Tour



Katherine Barker in her wedding reception dress on Valentine's Day 1893.

Barker Mansion's Behind the Scenes Tour is getting a Valentine's Day twist at 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11.

The two-hour tour — offered intermittently throughout the year — focuses on areas off-limits during standard tours, including the newly remodeled basement, laundry room, former servant's quarters, archival storage areas, closets and kitchen.

Playing into the romantic theme, the Barker bedchambers will be highlighted.

Wedding photos from Mr. and Mrs. Barker, and their daughter Catherine's weddings, will be brought out of the archives.

"Mr. and Mrs. Barker were married on Valentine's Day in 1893," Director Jessica Rosier said. "We will share some photos, as well as a lace, tortoise shell and diamond fan. The fan was a wedding gift from husband to wife on that special day."

The cost is \$15 per adult and \$10 per senior or youth 15 and younger. Brownies and Barker Mansion tea will be served as a Valentine's Day treat. Tickets can be purchased on Eventbrite or by calling (219) 873-1520. The mansion is located at 631 Washington St.

## Duneland Weavers Guild

Duneland Weavers Guild meets at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 11, at Westchester Public Library's Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

Several guild members will show how they rose to a challenge, their weaves inspired by a Hubble telescope image.

Visit [dunelandweaversguild.org](http://dunelandweaversguild.org) for more details.

## Valentine Tea

The 67th Annual Valentine Tea is at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11, at First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St.

The church's United Methodist Women sponsors the free event. Betty Staples will give devotions, with entertainment by Bev Griffith and Joe Stewart. Fellowship and refreshments are afterward.

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## Sinatra Tribute Concert

Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra will present "Sinatra: The Ultimate Tribute Concert" at 7:30 p.m. EST Saturday, Feb. 11, at Lake Michigan College, Benton Harbor, Mich.

Starring Vegas headliner Brian Duprey, the show is the only one by a Sinatra tribute artist endorsed by Nancy Sinatra, who mistakenly thought it was her father singing on "Howard Stern Radio." As an actor in the hit show "The Rat Pack is Back," he spent 10 years perfecting his craft in Las Vegas, and in more than 200 performing arts centers and casinos across the country.

Selections featured in the concert include "Come Fly With Me," "I Get a Kick Out of You," "All the Way," "Luck Be A Lady," "The Way You Look Tonight" and "New York, New York."

Single tickets cost:

### Zone A

- Adult: \$37.
- Senior (65+): \$32.
- Student (full time 21 or younger): \$5.

### Zone B

- Adult: \$20.
- Senior (65+): \$20.
- Student (full time 21 or younger): \$5.

SMSO also has united with Plank's Tavern to provide a dinner/concert package, which includes wine and gratuity. The cost is: Zone A — \$60 per person; and Zone B — \$50 per person.

A pre-concert conversation with Music Director Robin Fountain and guest artists is one hour before the show.

The performance is in Grand Upton Hall in the back of the Mendel Center on campus. Call (269) 982-4030 or visit [www.smso.org](http://www.smso.org) for reservations.



Brian Duprey

## Reading Series/Open Stage

The monthly "Legit AF" literary reading series and open stage is from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, Feb. 13, in the lobby of Artspace Uptown Artist Lofts, 717 Franklin Square.

Free and open to the public, the event will continue the second Monday of each month. It was established last June by Michele McDannold, poet in residence and founder of The Literary Underground.

The first event featured a dozen small-press authors from across the nation sharing their work in person, over Skype and pre-recorded performances. Funds were raised that night and online to bring diverse voices in creative writing and independent music to the community, specifically to cover travel costs and a small stipend.

The Literary Underground through Legit AF has funded and featured live performances from authors traveling from Florida, California, Ohio and other parts of Indiana. Donations continue to be sought.

Typically, each month will feature one to two poet/author/performance artists after the open stage. All skill levels and creative pursuits that can be performed or presented before an audience are welcome. Subversive and marginalized voices are particularly appreciated.

The Magical Jeep Distributing Library, a curated collection of small-press books for lending, will be on hand.

The event is not suitable for children. Visit [www.facebook.com/legitafmc/](http://www.facebook.com/legitafmc/) or [theliteraryunderground.org](http://theliteraryunderground.org) for more details.

## New Troy Indoor Flea Market

New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road, will present its Indoor Flea Market from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. EST Saturdays, Feb. 11 and 18.

Admission is free. Antiques, tools, crafts, books, memorabilia, housewares, furniture and locally made or grown items will be available. A hot lunch will be served.

Vendor spaces are \$13 and include a table and chair. Proceeds from space rentals benefit the center, an all-volunteer facility run by the non-profit organization Friends of New Troy.

The market season continues the second and third Saturday of every month through March. Contact Donald at (773) 803-9773 for more details.

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## New DAF Artistic Director

Jeffrey Baumgartner is the new Dunes Summer Theatre artistic director and board member.

Dunes Arts Foundation made the recent announcement of his election to the position. Baumgartner has vast experience in stage acting, casting, directing and theater management, having performed at Chicago's Goodman Theatre and Steppenwolf, as well as numerous theaters around the nation.



The upcoming summer season will be announced at a fundraiser from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11, at The Speakeasy and Spa, 333 N. Mineral Springs Road, Porter. The cast from this summer's musical will perform songs and entertain guests. Hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar will be available.

Donations of \$30 for a single ticket or \$50 for two can be made at [lovedunes.bpt.me](http://lovedunes.bpt.me) or by calling (219) 879-7509.

## Book Club Series

William S. Burroughs' "Naked Lunch" is the next entry in the "Banned Books!" series at 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 16, at St. Luke United Lutheran Church, 2000 E. Coolspring Ave.



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## Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

*The following programs are available at  
Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore:*

• **Snowshoeing from 1-3 p.m. Saturdays, Feb. 11 and 18, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

Join a ranger for a brief indoor program on winter and the use of snowshoes, then try a pair on a ranger-led hike through fields and woods surrounding the center. A limited number of snowshoes are provided, or take your own. A traditional hike will be offered if there isn't enough snow.

• **Documentary, "Riding the Rails of History: The Story of the South Shore Line," from 1 to 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 12, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

The documentary tells the story of America's last interurban line.

• **Winter Fun from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays in February at Paul H. Douglas Center.**

If there's enough snow, borrow some of the center's cross-country skis or snowshoes and explore Miller Woods. Then, warm up inside the center with free hot chocolate, help feed the resident turtles and fish, or explore the indoor exhibits.

*The Visitor Center is at 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. The Paul H. Douglas Center is on Lake Street in Gary. Call (219) 395-1882 for more information.*

## Indiana Dunes State Park

*The following programs are offered  
at Indiana Dunes State Park:*

• **Snowshoe Shuffle from 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 11.**

Meet a park interpreter at the Nature Center for an introduction to the winter transportation, then try a pair for a short walk through the woods. A hike is planned if there isn't enough snow.

• **Dunes Winter Photography Workshop from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 12, at the Nature Center.**

Learn how to capture winter in the dunes with DNR photographer Frank Oliver. The workshop begins indoors with basic winter photography tips and techniques, followed by two hours of shooting time outside. A \$5 registration fee is due upon arrival, or visit [tinyurl.com/hlbzp4n](http://tinyurl.com/hlbzp4n)

*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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# My Way

## A Musical Tribute to Frank Sinatra

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Actors Eric Lewis, George Keating and Christine Mild, photo by Guy Rhodes

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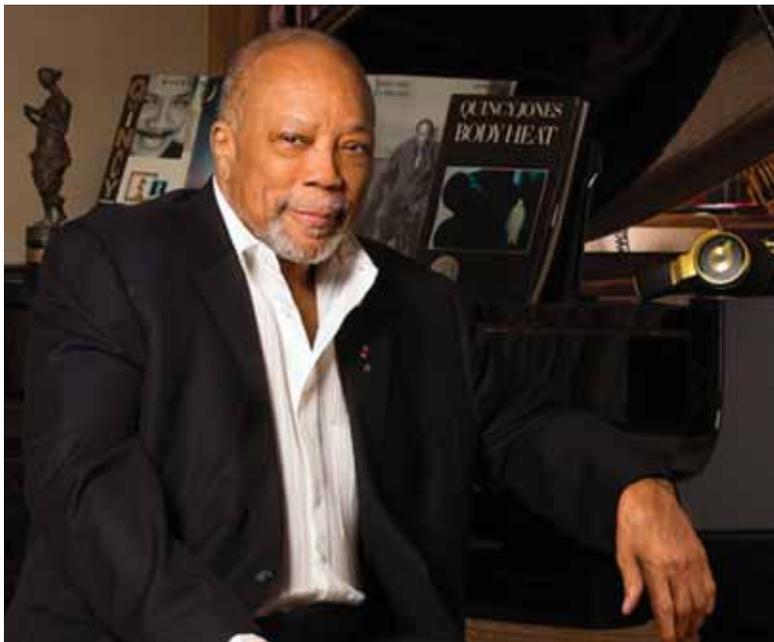
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Some of the 20th century's most famous recording artists, all linked by a common component.

Quincy Jones Jr. Delight

The legendary impresario (calling him a musician/arranger/conductor/composer/producer/mentor/media mogul would be as long winded as it is accurate) has worked with gods and goddess, and on the biggest stages in the world, from the Hollywood Bowl to Japan's Bu-



Quincy Jones has amassed 27 Grammys over the course of his career.

His perceived clairvoyance, when properly examined, is the product of open-mindedness, a sacred pursuit of knowledge and the willingness to help people be their best selves in the face of doubt and indifference amid the masses.

Known simply as "Q," Jones has a proven track record of finding new talent.

Patti Austin, one of Jones' go-to-vocalists ("Razzmatazz," "Baby, Come To Me"), was but a 3-year-old girl when Q saw her instantly memorizing

vocal takes of her Queen of the Blues godmother, Dinah Washington, in the 1950s. Leslie Gore was all of 16 when Mercury Records

presented her tapes to Q because they didn't know what to do with her – resulting in the 1963 No. 1 smash "It's My Party." When Tevin Campbell sang

on Jones' 1989 hit "Tomorrow (A Better You, Better Me)," he was only 12.

It was no surprise when Q took piano prodigy Emily Bear under his wings.

"She's been a composer since she was, like, 4 years old," Jones said. "I call her baby Mozart."

The majority of her 2013 debut album "Diversity" – produced by Jones

## Art+Times

where art and culture intersect

d o - kan Arena.

At 85, his work ethic and influence are as strong as ever. How did this trumpet player from Chicago get gigs writing movie scores for Sidney Lumet, TV-show themes like "Sanford & Son," arranging albums for Count Basie, producing anthems like "We Are The World" and



Jones began his career as a trumpet player before landing gigs in Hollywood.

carving diamonds-in-the-rough like The Brothers Johnson, Siedah Garrett and Tamia into bona-fide hit-makers?

"I don't know," Jones replied when asked by Art+Times. "I can't explain it, but I see it before they see it."



Jones calls child prodigy Emily Bear "Baby Mozart."

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

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– consists of incredibly dynamic, emotive and vivid songs she composed between 6 and 10.

Jones has an ear for young, prodigious pianists. He also has mentored and produced 31-year-old Alfredo Rodriguez, a pianist he contends creates music so amazing, it will “make you smack your grandpapa!” Rodriguez was classically trained in his native Cuba and impressed Jones at the Montreaux Jazz Festival in 2007 with his uncanny ability to fuse various influences into a performance and composition style unlike anything played today...or yesterday.

“I’ve never heard anything like that in my life before,” Jones gushes about Rodriguez. “He’ll outdo anybody on the planet, and I don’t care who it is. I’m not guessing. He practices 14 hours a day, orchestrates everything, you name it: jazz, salsa, anything. He’s a junkie. Nobody can touch him.”



Of pianist Alfredo Rodriguez, Jones says, “Nobody can touch him.”

Having collaborated with the greatest pianists who ever lived, including Chick Corea, George Duke and Greg Phillanganes, it’s safe to conclude that Jones isn’t just talking up his protégé for exposure. He believes that Bear, Rodriguez and a host of other young, worldly musicians are the key to the future, as they share a unifying trait with those aforemen-

tioned greats of the past and present.

“They do everything they’re supposed to do – they work hard and they feel hard, and (have) strong will to work,” Jones explained. “They can revolutionize the dumbing down that’s been happening the last few years. They can take that quality right back up.”

With 27 Grammy wins in more than 10 fields, Jones has harsh words about the music industry that has struggled to keep pace with the ways fans consume music. He attributes the lack of quality in music today to musicians more concerned with making money than “making great music.

“I’m more concerned about the record industry,” Jones revealed. “We have 98 percent piracy all over the world, and that’s a problem.”

While he is concerned about the unauthorized downloading and reproduction of music, he has defended music streaming services. After high profile artist such as Taylor Swift pulled their music from the streaming service Spotify, Jones wrote a message in support: “Spotify is not the enemy; piracy is the enemy. Spotify is paying out 70% of their revenue to musicians and rightsholders (sic). If I had to release Thriller today, you can be sure I’d want it on Spotify. The genie is not going back in the bottle friends; let’s work together to find solutions to the music industry’s problems.”

The icon’s music industry experience has not been conflict free. In 2013, Jones filed a breach-of-contract lawsuit against Sony Entertainment and MJJ Productions, a song company controlling Michael Jackson’s estate, in connection with projects released after the singer’s death. The producer claims master recordings he produced were wrongfully edited and remixed to deprive him of back-end profit participation. The lawsuit is set to go to trial Feb. 21.

Continued on Page 16

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## Quincy Jones Continued from Page 15

Jones has never been a believer in image over art. He's proven so by cultivating talents in individuals no one bothered to look for, not even the individuals, themselves.

Will Smith never would've become the lead in "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air" had it not been for the persistence of Jones, a seven-time Academy Award nominee. It was Jones who persuaded keyboardist James Ingram that his gruff singing voice would be an asset on career-defining songs "Just Once," "A Hundred Ways" and "Yah Mo Be There." Who else but Q could envision a Chicago news anchor in Oprah Winfrey as portraying Sophia in "The Color Purple"? When everyone else said no, Q said go.

"There's a power in being underestimated," Jones stated. "People get out of your way when you get underestimated. When I did 'The Color Purple,' people said, 'Steven Spielberg is a \$5 million a movie director. How is Quincy gonna get him to direct his first film?' But it happened."

One way Jones creates expectation-free environments for himself and his collaborators is consistently reacting to the writing on the wall.

Take today's emerging movement of jazz/hip-hop fusion spearheaded by musicians such as Robert Glasper, Jose James and Chris Dave. Their albums — an antidote to traditional jazz — have garnered praise by the public and press as revolutionary when, in fact, Jones created the template for this movement decades before. His 1989 "Back on the Block" album won six Grammys for juxtaposing jazz heavyweights such as Dizzy Gillespie, James Moody and Ella Fitzgerald with golden-era MCs Grandmaster Melle Mel, Ice-T, Kool Moe Dee and Big Daddy Kane. The seeds of this historical LP were sown by Jones in 1975 when enlisting spoken

word pioneers The Watts Prophets for Mellow Madness' "Beautiful Black Girl."

Jones contends a lingering disconnect of heritage in America is contributing to music's descent in quality and commerce.

"They don't even know when it started," Jones spoke of hip-hop's foundation. "I asked some very talented guys, 'What do you think is the beginning of rap?,' they'd say '1971 with Gil Scott-Heron.' We were doing rap in Chicago in 1939. It comes from Africa; mbunge and the griots."

Knowledge and respect of music's true origins is just one in a series of components that give Jones a telepathic sense of the future. The kind of crystal ball he operates doesn't consist of cloud-like images of the yet to come, but

a never-ending acquisition and application of technical smarts and historical wisdom. As he put it in his 2010 book "Q on Producing," it's all about finding the right balance of "soul and science."

"It's mathematics," Jones professed, "cause music and mathematics are married, man; God married them. Coltrane had that every time. In fact, he got 'Giant Steps' from an opening example of humming exertion. Every time I saw him, he did it. That's why it sounds like it's mechanical. When you read the binary and trinary numbers and you really know your s---, you'll see left brain, right brain, everything's music in motion."

Jones will continue to see the music in motion as he molds future legends, therefore making his list of collaborators all the more uncanny and praiseworthy.

"I've been around long enough to have worked with all of them (chuckles); Louis Armstrong, Billie Holiday at 14, grew up with Ray Charles. It's been a blessing."



Jones says he envisioned Oprah Winfrey in the role of Sophia in Steven Spielberg's "The Color Purple."

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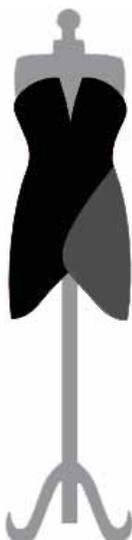
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## Oscar Watch: "Lion" and "Elle"

by Andrew Tallackson

**"L**ion" tells a story based on fact, yet Dickens himself could have spun it on the pages of his novels.

A 5-year-old boy follows his older brother to work. The boy falls asleep on a bench, awaiting his return. He awakens on a moving train, transported far from home, adopted by a kind family. Years later, as an adult, the quest begins to uncover his mother's whereabouts.

The fact that it did happen, though, much of it on the bleak streets of Calcutta, strips "Lion" of easy sentiment that could have dismissed it as too-good-to-be-true schmaltz.



Dev Patel

The film is based on the non-fiction book "A Long Way Home" by Saroo Brierley and Larry Buttrose, and its singular feat is that it never trivializes Saroo's journey as an adventure tale. Director Garth Davis, making his feature film debut, creates a stark sense of abandonment and alienation. Saroo's inability to speak Bengali yields brief acts of kindness that mask cruel

intentions, a world where profits come from selling orphaned Indian children to adoption agencies.

Through a series of events, Saroo ends up with an Australian couple, and they're played by David Wenham and, in a performance worthy of its Best Supporting Actress nomination, Nicole Kidman — deeply moving as a woman who cherishes every second of motherhood, even when it threatens to break her heart.

Equally fine is Best Supporting Actor nominee Dev Patel as the adult Saroo, finally living up to the promises of "Slumdog Millionaire." Frequently relegated to stereotype, that of the Indian comic relief, Patel shows tremendous range as a hollow shell of a man increasingly consumed by fleeting images of his past.

Having not read "A Long Way Home," I suspect Saroo's real journey was more complicated than what "Lion" depicts. The film's crucial turning point finds all the key puzzle pieces snapping into place suddenly...and a tad too conveniently.

In the end, though, little of that matters. When the big finish arrives, Spielberg himself couldn't have told it better. By respecting Saroo's journey, and that of his adoptive parents, "Lion" has earned the tears it so diligently aims to produce.

This was one of last year's best films.

**A**m I missing something?

How is it that trash like Paul Verhoeven's "Elle" reaps accolades? Had the director, who specializes in psychosexual sleaze ("Showgirls," "Basic Instinct") made the film in English, in America, it would have been dismissed as exploitation. But apparently, having dressed it up in subtitles and a French setting, it is considered "art."

The movie, based on Philippe Djian's "Oh..." is relentless in its violence directed at women.

In the opening scene, Elle — short for Michéle — is raped by an intruder. Rather than call police, she gathers herself, sweeps up the broken vase on the floor and heads to work. A day or so later, over dinner with her ex-husband and best friends, she confides in them about the assault, the revelation dropped casually, even dismissively, as if she's apologizing for having influenza.

Turns out, Michéle is damaged goods. Her father was a mass murderer. She presides over a video-game company



Isabelle Huppert

that churns out exceedingly violent fare. She's having an affair with her best friend's husband. To top that off, a devout Catholic couple lives across the street, so Michéle sets her sights on the husband.

Elle is played by the great Isabelle Huppert, who certainly gives a tough, gritty performance. And to screenwriter David Birke's credit, the film's portrait of Michéle is psychologically complete. Her world has been sculpted by violence from the get-go. Violence abhors *and* excites her. And by not backing down, Michéle carefully charts a course of revenge.

Are we to be invigorated by Huppert's icy portrayal of empowerment, that her willingness to be assaulted conveys a reservoir of strength? Consider this: Huppert is repeatedly slapped, punched and violated in the film. If that is someone's cup of girl-power tea, then by all means, have at it.

Could be that Huppert's Best Actress nomination is consolation for withstanding so much ugliness. But to reward such work with an Oscar is a great disservice to Natalie Portman's phenomenal performance in "Jackie."

Huppert is now 63. She has appeared in more than 100 films and TV shows. There is no question, she's earned an Oscar.

Just not for "Elle." Please. Anything but that.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at [drew@thebeacher.com](mailto:drew@thebeacher.com)

# And the Nominees Are...

**PICTURE**

- "Arrival"
- "Fences"
- "Hacksaw Ridge"
- "Hell or High Water"
- "Hidden Figures"
- "La La Land"
- "Manchester by the Sea"
- "Moonlight"

**ACTRESS**

- Isabelle Huppert, "Elle"
- Ruth Negga, "Loving"
- Natalie Portman, "Jackie"
- Emma Stone, "La La Land"
- Meryl Streep, "Florence Foster Jenkins"

**ADAPTED SCREENPLAY**

- "Arrival"
- "Fences"
- "Hidden Figures"
- "Lion"
- "Moonlight"

**SCREENPLAY**

- "Hell or High Water"
- "La La Land"
- "The Lobster"
- "Manchester by the Sea"
- "20th Century Women"

**DIRECTOR**

- Denis Villeneuve, "Arrival"
- Mel Gibson, "Hacksaw Ridge"
- Damien Chazelle, "La La Land"
- Kenneth Lonergan, "Manchester by the Sea"
- Barry Jenkins, "Moonlight"

**ACTOR**

- Casey Affleck, "Manchester by the Sea"
- Andrew Garfield, "Hacksaw Ridge"
- Ryan Gosling, "La La Land"
- Viggo Mortensen, "Captain Fantastic"
- Denzel Washington, "Fences"

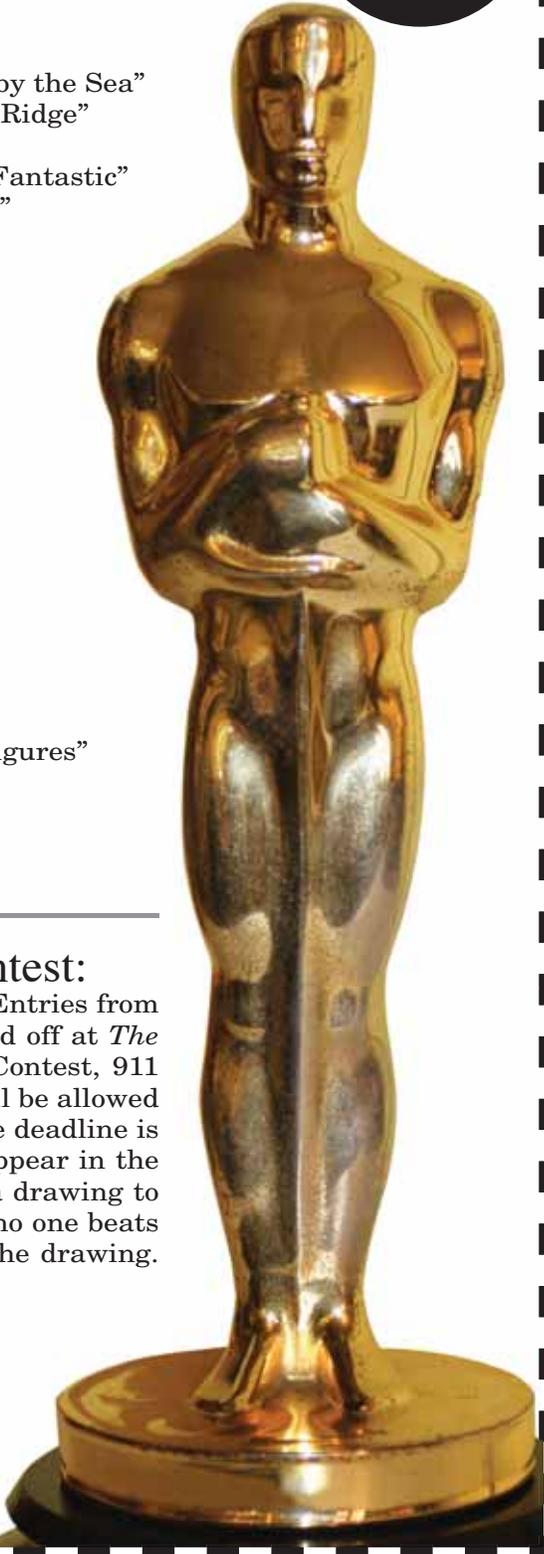
**SUPPORTING ACTOR**

- Mahershala Ali, "Moonlight"
- Jeff Bridges, "Hell or High Water"
- Lucas Hedges, "Manchester by the Sea"
- Dev Patel, "Lion"
- Michael Shannon, "Nocturnal Animals"

**SUPPORTING ACTRESS**

- Viola Davis, "Fences"
- Naomie Harris, "Moonlight"
- Nicole Kidman, "Lion"
- Octavia Spencer, "Hidden Figures"
- Michelle Williams, "Manchester by the Sea"

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**Rules for The Beacher's Beat the Editor Contest:**

Check one box in each category. Only one entry per person. Entries from *Beacher* employees will not be accepted. Forms can be dropped off at *The Beacher* or submitted by mail to: The Beacher, Attn: Oscar Contest, 911 Franklin St., Michigan City, IN 46360. Only scanned copies will be allowed by fax to (219) 879-8070 or email to [drew@thebeacher.com](mailto:drew@thebeacher.com). The deadline is noon Friday, Feb. 17. Editor Andrew Tallackson's picks will appear in the Feb. 23 edition. Those who beat his picks will be placed into a drawing to win a gift certificate to Fiddlehead and AMC movie passes. If no one beats him, readers with the most correct picks will be placed into the drawing. The winner will be revealed in the March 9 edition.

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## Westchester Public Library

The following programs are available:

• **NorthShore Health Center free blood-pressure screenings from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 9, at Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter, and 10 a.m.-noon Wednesday, Feb. 15, in the Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

Interested patrons also can receive help calculating Body Mass Index.

• **Music at the Museum from 2-3:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 9, at Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.**

The Flashbacks will perform. Members are: Suzanne Keldsen, playing guitar, recorders and fiddle; Julietta Raby, playing fiddle, mandolin and guitar; Nancy Cairns on dulcimer and ukulele; Paul Mache playing guitar and banjo; and Marti Pizzini on autoharp, dulcimer and guitar.

• **Lego Club from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 10, at the Thomas Library Children's Department.**

Children build around a different theme using the library's Legos. Registration is required by calling (219) 926-7696.

• **Make-N-Take Kids Craft Time all day Saturday, Feb. 11, in the Thomas Library Children's Department.**

Families can make (paper) conversation hearts, then link them together to create a wreath.

• **Poetry Reading & Workshop with Ryan Steinbeck from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11, in the Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

Steinbeck will give readings of his own works, and reveal how a poem is crafted. Participants can write poetry as well.

• **Pokemon League from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays at Thomas Library.**

The program is aimed at children in first grade and older. Attendees learn to make decks of 60 cards. They don't need to take anything unless wanting to take a starter pack of cards.



• **Teen Movie Night: "Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children" at 5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11, at the Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

The movie is Rated PG-13. Free popcorn will be available.

• **Bifocal Bookies at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14, at Hageman Library.**

The focus is Margaret Peterson Haddix's "Lila." Copies are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

• **Children's Crochet Club from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays in the Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

Aimed at children in third grade and older, attendees learn beginning crochet from Sadie Steciuch. Children should take a size G crochet hook and skein of medium weight yarn. Class size is limited, and registration is required by calling (219) 926-7696.

• **Minecraft Meet-up from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 15, at Thomas Library.**

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.

• **Un-Valentine's Day for Teens from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 15, in the Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

Make anti-Valentines for friends, decorate cupcakes and watch an unromantic movie.

• **Pizza Pajama Book Club for Teens from 7 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 15, in the Thomas Library Young Adult Room.**

Teens in grades 6-12 can discuss books they have read or are reading. The focus this month is Douglas Adams' "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy." Pizza will be provided. Registration is required.

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## What's New at Purdue University Northwest

Applying for college financial aid is not complex, and can be extremely beneficial.

That's the message of College Goal Sunday, a free, financial aid application-assistance program at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 12, at Purdue University Northwest. The program is scheduled in Room 265 of the Technology Building, 1401 S. U.S. 421.

University financial-aid experts and service organizational specialists will assist prospective fall 2017 college students and their parents to accurately complete the Free Application for Federal Student AID for submission to the federal processor.

New this year, the FAFSA can be completed and submitted by using 2015 tax information. The FAFSA submission deadline is March 10 for Indiana financial-aid consideration.



Students 23 or younger should attend College Goal Sunday with a parent(s) or guardian(s), and take their family's completed 2015 IRS 1040 tax return or a draft. Students who worked during 2015 also should take their income information. Students 24 or older may attend alone and take their own completed 2015 IRS 1040 tax return/draft. Students and parents are encouraged to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to obtain 2015 tax information.

Any student who attends College Goal Sunday and submits a completed evaluation form will be entered into a drawing for a scholarship.

Call (800) 992-2076 or visit [www.collegegoalsunday.org/](http://www.collegegoalsunday.org/) for more details. Financial-aid information also can be obtained by emailing the PNW Office of Financial Aid at [finaid@pnw.edu](mailto:finaid@pnw.edu) or calling (219) 785-5460.

## Spring Career Expo

Job seekers can attend the Purdue University Northwest Spring Career Expo from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 15, in the James B. Dworkin Student Services and Activities Complex Great Hall.

The free event will feature some 70 employers representing a range of industries who recruit college graduates or job candidates pursuing a degree for full-time and part-time employment opportunities, as well as internships.

The event is open to the public. PNW alumni and students can pre-register for VIP entry by logging onto their Pride Career Network, powered by Handshake account at [www.HirePNWPride.com](http://www.HirePNWPride.com). The public can learn more about it, including the list of employers and registration process, by visiting [tinyurl.com/z8nme9p](http://tinyurl.com/z8nme9p)

Additional information is available by calling the PNW Career Center at (219) 785-5451.

## Grant to Aid Early Childhood Program

The Charles J. Strosacker Foundation recently extended a partnership with Purdue University Northwest by awarding a \$150,000 grant to the Early Childhood Education baccalaureate program.

The grant will help fund initiatives such as an Early Childhood Leadership Symposium to equip community leaders, business people and legislators with information, tools and strategies to advocate for young children and families, as well as a research project to examine the impact of high quality

early learning.

The gift continues a relationship with the Midland, Mich.-based foundation, established by Dow Chemical Co. pioneer Charles Strosacker, initiated with PNW in 2007. The foundation's first gift helped launch an early childhood education conference that has become a national annual event, attracting more than 100 professionals and students to the Westville campus.



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### Credit Recovery Support



Steve Kring, Horizon Bank La Porte County market president, stopped by Michigan City High School on Wednesday, Feb. 1, to present a \$4,500 check to Michigan City Area Schools. Most of the funds will help purchase Chromebooks for students in the credit recovery program, along with \$500 to support elementary athletics. Pictured are (from left) Superintendent Barbara Eason-Watkins, MCAS Technology Director Kevin McGuire, MCHS Principal Bonnie Manuel and Kring.

### Michigan City Public Library

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

- **Angels Among Us: A Valentine Feeling at 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 9.**

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

- **Duneland Stamp Club at 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 9.**

The club meets the second Thursday of each month. New members are invited.

- **Cocoa & Coloring at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 12.**

The relaxing afternoon for adults only includes light refreshments. Coloring sheets and colored pencils will be provided.

- **STEAM Ahead Kids: Art à la Carte at 3:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 13.**

Children 4-10 accompanied by an adult can create a unique valentine. Children must be present to receive craft materials.

- **Great Decisions at 6:30 p.m. Mondays, Feb. 13 and 27.**

The foreign-policy discussion program returns for its 19th season. Discussions this month are "The Future of Europe" and "Trade and Politics." Reading material is available at the circulation desk.

- **Story Time at 1 p.m. Tuesdays, Feb. 14, 21 and 28, and 10 a.m. Wednesdays, Feb. 15 and 22.**

Children birth to age 5 and adults will enjoy stories, songs and crafts. Arrive a few minutes early to receive a name tag.

- **Tax Planning at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 15.**

H&R Block and the library have united to provide updated information for filing 2016 tax returns.

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

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## Community Spell Bowl

Read La Porte County Inc. invites organizations, business and individuals interested in supporting literacy programming to participate in its Community Spell Bowl.

Entry forms are being accepted for the event set for March 29 at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall, 181 W. McClung Road, La Porte.

Adult teams are comprised of up to four players, who confer and use paper and pencil in their deliberations. Teams compete against each other by accumulating points for each correctly spelled word. Word lists are available to study in preparation for competition. Teams also are encouraged to decorate their tables to win the Spirit Award.

Doors open at 6 p.m. for registration, with the tournament starting at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments and a cash bar for teams and their fans are planned.

Visit [www.readlaportecounty.org](http://www.readlaportecounty.org) for registration and sponsorship forms.

## Carden International Circus

Carden International Circus performs at 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 14-15, at La Porte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St. Call (219) 362-2325 for details.

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## Fernwood Botanical Garden

The following programs are available at Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich.:

• **Great Backyard Bird Count on Saturday, Feb. 18.**

Organized by the National Audubon Society and Cornell Lab of Ornithology, visitors can stop by the Nature Center to learn about feeding and identifying common winter birds as staff tally sightings for the day.

The event is free with paid Fernwood admission.

• **Botanical Wood Coasters from 3 to 4:30 p.m. EST Saturday, Feb. 18.**

Use wood slices and image transfers to create a set of four botanical coasters. All materials are provided. The cost is \$15, or \$12 for members.

• **Fernwood Book Group from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. EST Saturday, Feb. 18.**

The focus is Michael Frome's "Stranger in High Places: The Story of the Great Smoky Mountains."

The event is free with paid Fernwood admission.

• **Perennials: New Releases and Old Favorites from 2 to 3 p.m. EST Sunday, Feb. 19.**

Patty Steinhauser of Stonehouse Nursery will share images of new perennial cultivars and recommended old stalwarts.

The cost is \$12, or \$10 for members.

Call (269) 695-6491 or visit [www.fernwoodbotanical.org](http://www.fernwoodbotanical.org) for more information and to confirm the status of classes.

## Flow Camp Michiana

The first Flow Camp Michiana — focused play designed to achieve complete immersion in an activity — is at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 18.

The event, held on 10 acres at 8623 Kruger Road in Three Oaks, Mich., involves non-stop arts and focused activities, a short lunch break and a final debriefing and celebration.

Participants will work part time outside, so wear casual, warm, layered clothes, protective gear, a waterproof hat and comfortable shoes or boots. Take a journal, sketch pad, notebook, pen or pencil. Participants will be asked not to use a phone or tablet.

Register by sending an email to [greggfraley@gmail.com](mailto:greggfraley@gmail.com). A PayPal invoice for \$80 will be sent. Once paid, participants receive a confirmation note, directions and orientation information.

## AAUW Meeting

The next Michigan City American Association of University Women meeting is at 11:30 a.m. Friday, Feb. 10, at Bella Bistro, 3940 Franklin St.

Audra Peterson, A.K. Smith Career Center director, will speak about vocational education in La Porte County.

### Art Fair Jury Day

The Krasl Art Fair on the Bluff Jury Day is from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. EST Thursday, Feb. 16, with the public invited to observe the selection process.

Jurors will meet in the Mendel Center north training room at Lake Michigan College in Benton Township.

With more than 900 artists applying for the 2017 fair, a professional panel of jurors will score applicants. They are: clothing designer Catherine Doll, architect/interior designer Karen Garlanger, photographer Gray Lyons, art and design instructor Brandon Pierce and potter Steven Skinner.

As a fine art/fine craft event, Krasl Art Fair on the Bluff relies on the jury's expertise to provide an objective review process, ultimately selecting 200 artists. The annual event, now in its 56th year, is July 8-9. It continues to receive national acclaim, including No. 5 ranking in *Sunshine Artist*.

Visit [www.krasl.org](http://www.krasl.org) or call (269) 983-0271 for more details.

### Lunch With the League

Matt Kubik will discuss his work with the Michigan City Public Art Commission during the League of Women Voters of La Porte County Lunch With the League.

The program is at noon Tuesday, Feb. 14, at Patrick's Grille, 4125 Franklin St.

In 2016, Mayor Ron Meer appointed Kubik to serve on the Michigan City Public Art Commission. Internationally trained as an architect, he is an award-winning designer, educator, artist and author. He is a Purdue University professor emeritus, having taught courses in architecture, interior design and urban design. He is the Southern Shore Art Association president.

Reservations are not required for the program. Attendees may buy lunch from the menu. Doors open at 11:30 a.m., and orders will be taken as tables fill up, so arrive by noon for the presentation.

Email [LWVLaPorte@gmail.com](mailto:LWVLaPorte@gmail.com) for details.

### Genealogical Society

The La Porte County Genealogical Society will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14, at the La Porte Parks & Recreation building, 250 Pine Lake Ave., La Porte.

Carol Lloyd will present the program "Exploring Genealogy Through Hellinger Family Systemic Work." Trained in the process, she will discuss how the family morphic field works, and how genealogists can help achieve healing for families.

Guests are welcome. Visit [tinyurl.com/ndooe7s](http://tinyurl.com/ndooe7s) for more information.

### Recycled Art Show Entries

Porter County Recycling & Waste Reduction seeks entries for the third annual Re-Think Art Competition & Exhibition.

The contest challenges artists to submit works made from 100 percent recycled materials for juried and popular awards. The submission deadline for committee review is March 31.

Categories include: young adult, adult and youth. Works will be displayed for a popular vote at the April 22 Northwest Indiana Earth Day Celebration.

Details are available at [www.PorterCountyRecycling.org](http://www.PorterCountyRecycling.org) or by calling (219) 465-3815.



"Life's Dream" by Tyler Hill, Hebron, a 2016 juried award winner.

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## DNR launches CORRIDORS

Songbirds, gamebirds, butterflies and bees are among the many animals that will benefit from a new DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife program to improve grassland and pollinator habitat.

CORRIDORS is an acronym for Conservation on Rivers and Roadways Intended to Develop Opportunities for Resources and Species. It will focus on four areas: Indiana State Wildlife Action Plan Conservation Opportunity Areas; rights-of-way on interstates and state and federal highways; 100-year floodplains of rivers; and areas adjacent to a body of water.

Partners with DNR Fish & Wildlife include the Indiana Department of Transportation, U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service and Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever.

People who own land in a priority area can participate by establishing habitat on their property through the CORRIDORS program. Qualifying landowners are eligible for technical and financial assistance. Contact a DNR landscape or district wildlife biologist. A map with contact information is at [wildlife.IN.gov/2716.htm](http://wildlife.IN.gov/2716.htm)

Grassland and pollinator habitat is critical for the survival of many species, including monarch butterflies, bobwhite quail, ring-necked pheasants, Eastern meadowlarks, cottontail rabbits, native bees and the imperiled loggerhead shrike.

The DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife will provide technical assistance and, in some cases, incentive payments, and coordinate efforts among agencies. INDOT will establish native grasses and plants where possible along rights-of-way of Indiana highways, increasing wildlife habitat while reducing maintenance costs. The NRCS will provide technical and financial assistance to private landowners through its Environmental Quality Incentive Program, improving soil health and water quality. PF/QF will provide technical assistance through its Farm Bill biologists and promote the CORRIDORS program throughout the state.

Those who aren't landowners, but want to support the program, can buy licenses and a Gamebird Habitat Stamp. Visit [wildlife.IN.gov/9405.htm](http://wildlife.IN.gov/9405.htm) for more details.

## JROTC Visits Middle Schools

Michigan City High School's Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps visited Barker and Krueger middle schools to familiarize themselves to eighth-graders.

The Marine Corps requires MCHS have a minimum of 100 students enrolled. It has 103 cadets.



Cadet Lance Cpl. Bohlen Walker carries Cadet Conner Gresser in the Fireman's Carry.

The visit started with a course overview by Maj. Tom McGrath, the senior Marine instructor. The cadets then demonstrated two events of a military drill competition: armed basic drill and armed exhibition drill. They

also put on a mini military physical fitness competition, showing the tug-of-war, fireman's carry, stretch-relay and dizzy-izzy.

Cadet Capt. Arturo Moreno, the commanding officer, and Cadet 1st Lt. Pauline Lutton, the executive officer, told eighth-graders what JROTC means to them. Both emphasized the personal relationships they've developed during their time in the program.

The session ended with a question-and-answer period.

"When I look at these cadets, I know that every one of them will always have my back," Moreno said.

The JROTC closed out January by providing Color Guards for the home basketball game Jan. 28 and the La Porte County Veterans Court graduation Jan. 31. For the month, the JROTC will have done seven Color Guards and five other community service projects. Additionally, the drill team competed in a military drill meet in Aurora, Ill.

## Gallery Talk

In conjunction with the exhibit "Seeking Location: Mapping & Borders in Art," a curator-led gallery talk is from noon to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11, at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St.

From 1 to 2:30 p.m., families can participate in a hands-on workshop and gallery tour led by Education Director Hannah Hammond-Hagman.

Both events are free. Visit [lubeznikcenter.org](http://lubeznikcenter.org) or call (219) 874-4900 for more details.



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## La Porte County Parks



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

### Parent & Child Discovery Days

The program includes arts and crafts, games and snacks. All activities are related to the topic. Programs are appropriate for children 3 to 8, with an adult required to participate. Times are from 6 to 7:15 p.m. at Luhr County Park. The cost is \$5 per child/per program. Pre-registration and payment are required at least one week in advance or until full, whichever comes first. The next program is:

- Feb. 15 — Flying High.
- March 8 — Snakes Alive.
- March 22 — Spring Has Sprung.

### Nature's Tiny Tots

Designed for parents and grandparents, explore nature with toddlers and preschoolers. Enjoy music, dancing, storytelling and, weather permitting, hiking. The free program is from 10 to 11 a.m. March 6 and 20, and April 3 at Luhr County Park Nature Center, 3178 S. County Road 150 West. Call (219) 325-8315 at least one week in advance to register.

### Senior Lifestyles

Join the free 55+ Club, a social club designed for adults 55 and older to learn and explore various types of nature. Free coffee is served to participants. The group meets from 9 to 10 a.m. at Luhr County Park Nature Center. Call at least one week in advance to register. The schedule is:

- March 1 — How to be organized with Wendy Taddeucci of Simply Organized LLC.
- April 5 — "Birds and Their Adaptations" by Potawatomi Audubon Society.

### Spa Day at the Park

Booths with sample services and products are planned from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 11, at Red Mill County Park's Pat Smith Hall.

The first 50 present receive a goodie bag. Vendors include those spotlighting aromatherapy, make-up experts, chair massages, natural beauty care products and jewelry.

### Essential Oils and all the Buzz

The make-and-take program is from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, March 24, at Red Mill County Park.

Participants learn how to make immunity bath salt and bug spray to take home. The cost is \$10. Payment and registration are due no later than March 16.



## American Red Cross

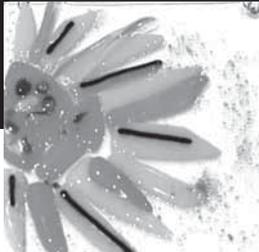
The American Red Cross La Porte County Chapter will sponsor the following bloodmobile:

- Conservation Club House, 1 Mill Pond Road, Union Mills, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 12.
- First Church of God, 2020 E. Lincolnway, La Porte, noon to 6 p.m. Monday, Feb. 13.
- South Central Junior-Senior High School, 9808 S. County Road 600 West, Union Mills, 8:30 to 5:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 13.
- First Trust Credit Union, 950 E. U.S. 20, Michigan City, 12:30 to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14.

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](http://redcrossblood.org) for more details.

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## Activities to Explore

### In the Area:

**Feb. 9** — Angels Among Us: A Valentine Feeling, 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**Feb. 9** — Music at the Museum, 2-3:30 p.m., Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

**Feb. 9-12** — "Deathtrap," Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Tickets: \$12/adults (2 for \$20 with coupon from footlightplayers.org), children 12 & younger/Thursday — \$10. Time: 7:30 p.m. Thur.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Info: (219) 874-4035.

**Feb. 10** — A "Music in the City" (Michigan City Area Schools athletic programs benefit), 8 p.m., Blue Chip Casino Stardust Event Center. Tickets: \$10 & \$25. Reservations: Ticketmaster.com, Blue Chip Gift Box.

**Feb. 11** — Duneland Weavers Guild, 10 a.m., Westchester Public Library's Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton. Info: dunelandweaversguild.org

**Feb. 11** — Snowshoe Shuffle, 10-11 a.m., Nature Center @ Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**Feb. 11** — Curator-led gallery talk, noon-1 p.m., Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Hands-on workshop/gallery tour: 1-2:30 p.m. Free. Info: lubeznikcenter.org, (219) 874-4900.

**Feb. 11** — Annual Valentine Tea, 1 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St. Free.

**Feb. 11** — Poetry Reading & Workshop with Ryan Steinbeck, 1-3 p.m., Westchester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

**Feb. 11** — Teen Movie Night: "Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children," 5 p.m., Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

**Feb. 11** — Dunes Summer Theatre fundraiser, 5-7 p.m., The Speakeasy and Spa, 333 N. Mineral Springs Road, Porter. Donations: \$30/single ticket, \$50/two. Reservations: lovedunes.bpt.me, (219) 879-7509.

**Feb. 11** — Romantic Barker Mansion Behind the Scenes Tour, 7 p.m., Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St. Cost: \$15/adult, \$10/seniors, youth 15 & younger. Reservations: Eventbrite, (219) 873-1520.

**Feb. 11** — James "Jimmy" Francis Homecoming featuring Mica Dominguez-Robinson, 7 p.m. EST, The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Cost: \$15. Info: www.acorntheater.com, (269) 756-3879.

**Feb. 11, 18** — Snowshoeing, 1-3 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

**Feb. 12** — LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY.

**Feb. 12** — Documentary, "Riding the Rails of History: The Story of the South Shore Line," 1-2 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

**Feb. 12** — Cocoa & Coloring, 1:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**Feb. 13** — STEAM Ahead Kids: Art à la Carte, 3:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**Feb. 13** — Great Decisions, 6:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**Feb. 13** — Legit AF™ literary reading series & open stage, 6-8 p.m., Artspace Uptown Artist Lofts, 717 Franklin Square. Free; donations accepted. Info: [www.facebook.com/legitafmc/](http://www.facebook.com/legitafmc/)

**Feb. 14 — VALENTINE'S DAY.**

**Feb. 14** — Lunch With the League, noon, Patrick's Grille, 4125 Franklin St. Info: [LWVLaPorte@gmail.com](mailto:LWVLaPorte@gmail.com)

**Feb. 14** — Bifocal Bookies, Margaret Peterson Haddix's "Lila," 1 p.m., Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.

**Feb. 14-15** — Carden International Circus, 4:30 & 7:30 p.m., La Porte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St. Info: (219) 362-2325.

**Feb. 15** — La Porte County Master Gardeners Brown Bag Series, "The Permaculture Gardener," noon-1 p.m., Purdue Extension – La Porte County office, 2857 W. Indiana 2, La Porte. Cost: \$5. Info: (219) 324-9407.

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

**Through Feb. 28** — "The Bill of Rights and You" Pop-up Exhibit, Westchester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

**Through February** — Vintage Valentine display, La Porte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., La Porte. Info: [www.laportecountyhistory.org](http://www.laportecountyhistory.org), (219) 324-6767.

**In the Region**

**Feb. 10** — Fundraiser/dinner, "The Great American Trailer Park Wingding," 6:30 p.m. EST, Antonio's Italian Ristorante, 1105 Goshen Ave., Elkhart. Cost: \$25. Reservations: [elkhartcivictheatre.org](http://elkhartcivictheatre.org), (574) 848-4116.

**Feb. 11** — Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra, "Sinatra: The Ultimate Tribute Concert," 7:30 p.m. EST, Lake Michigan College, Benton Harbor, Mich. Tickets/info: [www.smsso.org](http://www.smsso.org), (269) 982-4030.

**Feb. 11, 18** — Indoor Flea Market, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. EST, New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road. Free. Info: (773) 803-9773.

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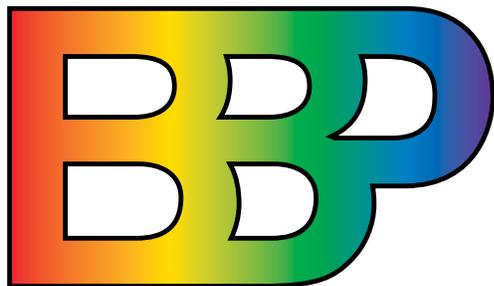
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## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



**On February 9, 1825**, after no candidate received a majority of electoral votes, the United States House of Representatives elected John Quincy Adams as president.

**On February 9, 1942**, daylight-saving “War Time” went into effect in the United States, with clocks turned one hour forward.

**On February 9, 1964**, the Beatles made their first live American TV appearance on “The Ed Sullivan Show” on CBS.

**On February 9, 2005**, a new postage stamp honoring President Ronald Reagan was issued.

**On February 10, 1763**, the French-Indian War ended with France, by the provisions of the “Treaty of Paris,” ceding Canada to England.

**On February 10, 1933**, the Postal Telegraph Company introduced the first “singing telegram” in New York.

**On February 10, 1949**, Arthur Miller’s long running play, “Death of a Salesman,” opened at New York’s Morosco Theater.

**On February 10, 1996**, world chess champion Garry Kasparov lost the first game of a match in Philadelphia against an IBM computer dubbed “Deep Blue.”

**On February 10, 2001**, the space shuttle *Atlantis*’ astronauts installed the \$1.4 billion Destiny lab on the International Space Station.

**On February 11, 1808**, in the Pennsylvania town of Wilkes Barre, hard coal was used for the first time as fuel for heating.

**On February 11, 1861**, President-elect Abraham Lincoln left his home in Springfield, Ill, for Washington, D.C.

**On February 11, 1869**, Chicago was host to the Midwest’s first women’s suffrage convention.

**On February 11, 1989**, in a Boston ceremony, Barbara Harris became the first woman to be installed as a bishop in the Episcopal Church.

**On February 11, 1990**, South African black activist Nelson Mandela was freed after 27 years in prison.

**On February 12, 1849**, the Chicago Gas Light and Coke Company (Chicago’s first gas company) received its charter from the Illinois legislature.

**On February 12, 1924**, in New York’s Aeolian Hall, Paul Whiteman conducted a program in which the highlight was the first public performance of *Rhapsody in Blue*, with George Gershwin at the

piano. The audience included such luminaries as John Philip Sousa, Walter Damrosch, Leopold Godowsky, Jascha Heifetz, Fritz Kreisler, Sergei Rachmaninoff, Leopold Stokowski, Mischa Elman and Igor Stravinsky.

**On February 12, 2008**, Uno became the first beagle named Westminster's best in show.

**On February 13, 1633**, Italian astronomer Galileo was arrested in Rome and charged with heresy.

**On February 13, 1719**, the first magazine published in America, *The American Weekly Mercury*, was printed in Philadelphia by Andrew Bradford.

**On February 13, 1914**, *Joseph in the Land of Egypt* opened with a new high for admission to a movie — 50 cents per person. Most of the nation's major newspapers headlined moviegoer complaints about such exorbitantly high prices.

**On February 14, 496**, Pope Gelasius changed the ancient Roman Lupercalia Festival (which was celebrated On Feb. 15) to Valentine's Day, and ordered that it be celebrated On Feb. 14. The name of the day is derived from any one of three Saint Valentines, each of whom — in one way or another — was associated with Feb. 14.

**On February 14, 1876**, Alexander Graham Bell and Elisha Gray both applied for patents relating to the telephone. The United States Supreme Court eventually ruled in favor of Bell.

**On February 14, 1895**, Oscar Wilde's final play, "The Importance of Being Earnest," opened in London.

**On February 14, 1920**, the League of Women Voters was founded in Chicago; its first president was Maude Wood Park.

**On February 14, 1929**, in what became known as Chicago's "St. Valentine's Day Massacre," seven rivals to the Al Capone gang were gunned down in a garage on North Clark Street.

**On February 14, 1931**, Bela Lugosi's first "Dracula" movie was released. Dracula's rather unusual drinking problem was the basis for more than 100 vampire films that were to follow.

**On February 14, 1962**, First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy conducted a televised tour of the White House.

**On February 15, 1842**, the first United States postage stamps with adhesive on the back were introduced by a private mail service in New York.

**On February 15, 1958**, the Michigan City area, was "clobbered" by the biggest recorded snowfall in history. A slow breeze, picking up moisture over the length of Lake Michigan, dumped its entire load on just a few square miles of land. Three to five feet of snow (depending on who did the measuring), paralyzed the area for several days.

**On February 15, 1997**, at 14, Tara Lipinski became the youngest person in history to win the women's U.S. Figure Skating Championship.

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Marquette Catholic High School seeks: Girls JV Basketball Coach; Boys Volleyball Coach; Girls Volleyball Coach. Teaching/staff positions available. Send resume to [katie.collignon@marquette-hs.org](mailto:katie.collignon@marquette-hs.org); [jwhite@marquette-hs.org](mailto:jwhite@marquette-hs.org)

Marquette Catholic High School seeks development/alumni coordinator. Proven experience in philanthropic endeavors. Degreed and/or appropriately certified in philanthropic work. Full-time w/benefits. Highlight experience in field. Resume to [jwhite@marquette-hs.org](mailto:jwhite@marquette-hs.org)

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Pass it on...

Long Beach Community Center, 2501 Oriole Trail, Long Beach.

Contact: [thegirlfriendsale@gmail.com](mailto:thegirlfriendsale@gmail.com)

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Call (219) 879-2195.

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Just one block from the lake! 3BR/1BA year-round apartment in Sheridan Beach. Lake facing deck, in-unit laundry, ample parking, A/C. \$800/mo. + utilities. Call Tom at (773) 339-8141.

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## Chesterton Art Center

The following programs are offered at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.:

• **Jennifer Martin will host a Valentine's edition of Cookies and Canvas on Friday, Feb. 10.**

Children 3-7 can attend from 5 to 6:30 p.m. and ages 8-14 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The evening includes an 8x10 Valentine's-themed stretched canvas painting, as well as cookies and juice.

The cost is \$10 per child, or \$5 for members. Register no later than Thursday, Feb. 9.

• **Dick Church will offer a six-week Beginning/Intermediate Watercolor Class starting from 10 a.m. to noon Friday, Feb. 17.**

Church will lead students through a variety of techniques.

The cost is \$80, with members receiving a \$5 discount. Supplies are not included. Church will discuss supplies with all beginners to start the class.

Contact the center at (219) 926-4711 to register or for more information.



## Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

**News of the World by Juliette Jiles** (hardcover, \$22.99 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook)

This is a perfect example of great things in small packages. At only 209 pages, it has more to offer than many stories of 400 pages or more. And, it was a National Book Award finalist — a large achievement for such a slim volume.

This is historical fiction at its best. The story revolves around the very real Capt. Jefferson Kyle Kidd, a “news reader” in the years following the Civil War. The story opens in 1870 in Wichita Falls, Texas, near the border of Indian Territory.

The captain is now 71 and moves around Texas, stopping at various towns, putting up posters to announce his appearance and collecting a dime from each person wishing to have read to them news from all over the United States and faraway places. This might sound like a strange occupation, but you must remember, news travelled slowly in the 19th century, and many people still didn't know how to read or write. Being a traveler, he also brings news on the state of roads, what bridges are washed out and other news they might not hear for weeks.

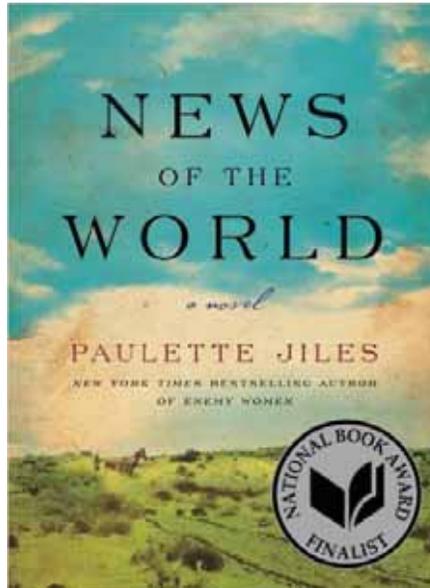
*“Captain Kidd read carefully and precisely...He had the appearance of wisdom and age and authority, which was why his readings were popular and the reason the dimes rang into the coffee can.”*

Jiles paints a picture of men, and maybe a few women, crowding into a meeting hall, church or store, some sitting, some standing, waiting patiently to hear news of the outside world. The captain always chooses his articles carefully, knowing just what the people like to hear about.

He came by the title of captain honestly through the Army, starting way back in the War of 1812 when he was only a teenager and through the war with Mexico. Later, he became a printer, owned his own shop, until he lost everything in the economic decline after the Civil War. He was married and had two daughters. After his wife's death, he took to the trails and became a news reader.

The author wisely takes time writing about the captain and his Army adventures because it sets up his character and sense of duty, something that will come into play soon.

In the winter of 1870, the West was still a dangerous place — feelings were still running high years after the Civil War. Roving bands of young men still assessed people by whether they were Yankee



or Reb; lawmen were few and far between, and the threat of Indian attacks was every day. Sometimes, the Indians took hostages back to their camps, where they were assimilated into the Indian way. Many, especially the young, forgot everything, even how to speak English, essentially becoming Indians.

One such child is Johanna Leonberger, taken four years earlier after the Indians killed her parents and sister. Now 10, she is rescued by the U.S. Army. Her aunt and uncle pay \$50 for someone to bring her to San Antonio from Wichita Falls, a long distance to travel by horse in those days.

Stopping in Wichita Falls, the captain runs into some friends. Britt Johnson is a black man who runs freight all over the state along with his brother and another man. He has a proposition for the captain. Johnson accepted the money to take Johanna back to her family, but soon realizes the trip will cost him more in lost freight than it's worth. Seeing his friend Capt. Kidd, he persuades him to take the job.

What follows is an amazing look at a scared girl taken from the only family she knows, given over to a strange white man and sent on a long, dangerous trip to relatives she can't remember. As the days and miles relentlessly march on, the captain comes to understand the little girl with the fierce demeanor. The book becomes an in-depth character study explained from both viewpoints. The pair must come to terms with each other and their situation if they are to survive. The trip is not only through an unforgiving landscape courtesy of Mother Nature, but also roving bands of men who want to rob them or buy Johanna, and Indians still preying on unsuspecting travelers.

Is the story over when they reach San Antonio? Of course not. There's still the Leonberger family to address...This is a story only the heart can appreciate.

From *Kirkus Reviews* (starred review): “Lyrical and affecting, the novel succeeds in skirting clichés through its empathy and through the depth of its major characters.”

From bestselling author Tracy Chevalier: “A stunning story that tore at my heart and my gut.”

Jiles is a poet, memoirist and bestselling novelist of five other books. She lives on a ranch near San Antonio, Texas. Visit her website at [www.paulettejiles.com](http://www.paulettejiles.com)

Till next time, happy reading!



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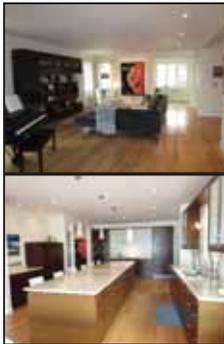


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**3317 Marquette Trail • Duneland Beach**  
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**202 Hoosier Drive • Michiana Area**  
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