



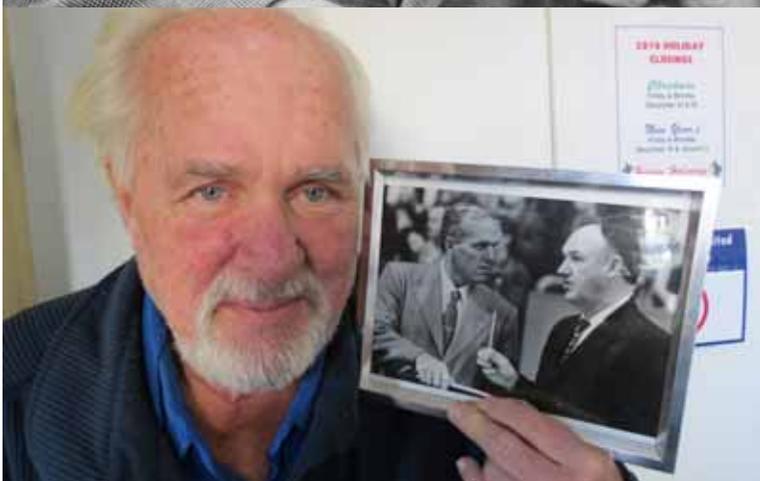
Volume 33, Number 1 Thursday, January 12, 2017

REMEMBERING “HOOSIERS”

by Andrew Tallackson



Robert Swan (left) appears as Rollin Butcher, assistant coach to Norman Dale (Gene Hackman), in “Hoosiers.”



Robert Swan today, posing next to the picture that features him with Hackman.
Photo by Andrew Tallackson

“**H**oosiers” is the kind of film whose mythic stature can reduce its disciples to a state of reverence. Take, for instance, Drew White, *The Beacher’s* print salesman. About a year ago, on a day as ordinary as they come, Robert Swan appeared at our front desk, that unmistakable, sonorous voice of his signifying his arrival. Sorting out the details of a Harbor Country Opera poster, he arranged for payment, then theatrically bid his farewell.

White, seated at his desk, briefly looked up

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REMEMBERING "HOOSIERS" Continued from Page 1

from his computer. "Who was that?" he asked.

"Bob Swan," Janet Baines replied. "From Harbor Country Opera."

"Wait a minute," White said. "He was in 'Hoosiers'." My colleague sat unusually still, as if awed into a frozen state.

A week later, Swan returned, eager to collect his finished posters. This time around, White wasted no time. Scrambling up to the front desk, he introduced himself to Swan, shook his hand, then remarked how "Hoosiers" is one of his favorite films.

"Would you do something for me?," White inquired. He handed Swan a piece of paper, then requested he re-enact his most celebrated moment in the film. Swan chuckled, then replied, "Let's do it." White took a step back, held up his phone, then hit the record button. Swan briefly slipped into character, shredding the paper, then defiantly exclaimed, "Coach Stays!"



Bob Swan's big scene in "Hoosiers," his line, "Coach stays," a favorite among fans.

Seconds later, the clip appeared on White's facebook page, confusing some, exciting others.

Swan is now accustomed to such behavior. For the 25th anniversary of "Hoosiers," the Rolling Prairie resident joined director David Anspaugh, writer Angelo Pizzo and others for a celebration in Knightstown, Ind., where much of the film was shot. At one point, Swan found himself seated in a convertible as a parade wound its way through town.

"Everyone knew my name," Swan said, smiling fondly at the memory. "They were all shouting, 'Hey,

Robert!'"

That's the effect "Hoosiers" has on people. The film whose star, two-time Oscar winner Gene Hackman, once feared might be a "career killer" is frequently heralded as the greatest sports film ever. Others, including writer Pizzo, say "Hoosiers" is *not* a sports picture, but a love story to the past, to America's David-and-Goliath spirit. American Film Institute ranked "Hoosiers" No. 13 on its list of the 100 most inspirational movies, while the U.S. National Film Registry through the Library of Congress selected it in 2001 as "culturally, historically or aesthetically significant."

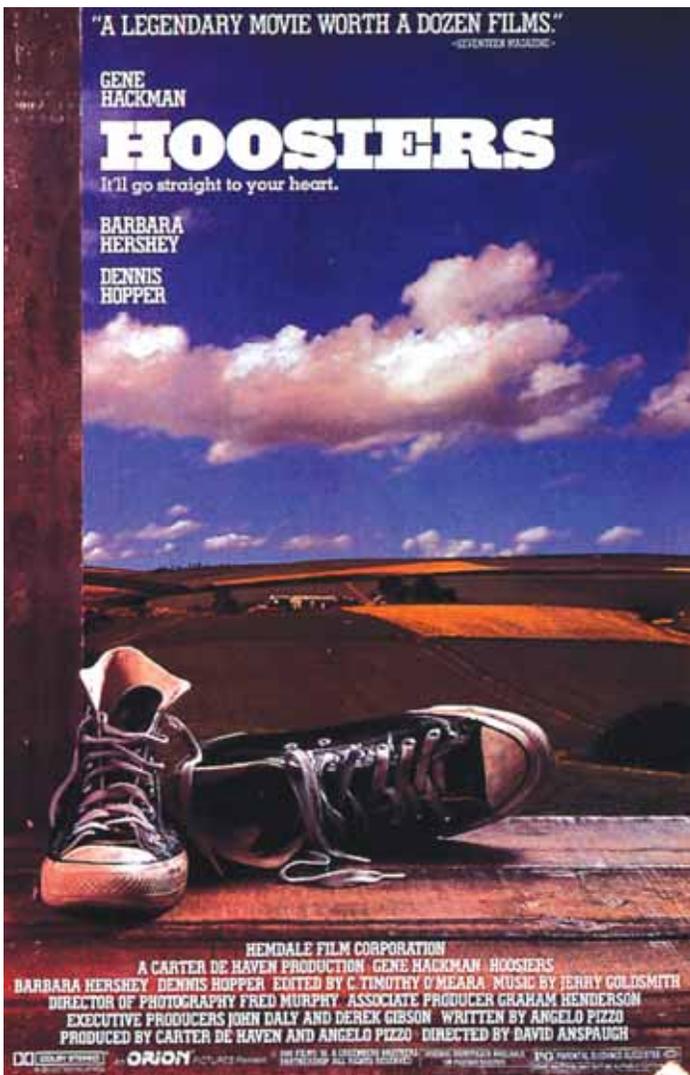
Director David Anspaugh (center) goes over a scene with his cast.

This past November, "Hoosiers" achieved another milestone. It turned 30. Hard to believe, indeed, but this modest, \$6 million picture has survived its own precarious hurdles to prevail as a cherished classic 30 years after its initial release.

And Bob Swan was right in the thick of it.

Cynics scoff at "Hoosiers," arguing it plays fast and loose with the facts in retelling the story of Milan High School's 1954 state champion victory. Indeed, Pizzo resculpted much of the details so his story of small-town underdogs embraced old-fashioned storytelling. Elements of the climactic state finals at Butler Fieldhouse, though, pay fastidious tribute to the game, right down to Bobby Plump's game-winning shot, filmed in nearly the same spot as when the athlete made it.

Pizzo also crafted "Hoosiers" as a tale of redemp-



One of the early posters for “Hoosiers.”

tion for Hackman’s Norman Dale, who arrives in the fictional Indiana town of Hickory to coach high school basketball, rattling everyone’s cages with a training regimen that speaks of his Navy background, and a style of playing on the court that emphasizes teamwork, specifically passing between players four times before making the shot.

What “Hoosiers” captures better than any other picture — 2004’s “Friday Night Lights” comes close — is the ebbs and flows of small-town life: the emphasis on high-school sports, the unflinching pressure placed on coaches, gossip and the can-do spirit within a farming community.

Anspaugh, a relatively untested director, and Pizzo, who grew up in Bloomington, Ind., attended Indiana University and after “Hoosiers” wrote another beloved sports picture for Anspaugh, 1993’s “Rudy,” shopped their story around for two years before it garnered studio interest. Released by Orion Pictures, the film became a small hit when it was released on Nov. 14, 1986, grossing more than \$28 million. It earned two Oscar nominations, one for Dennis Hopper’s career-reviving turn as Shooter,

Continued on Page 4

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the town drunk and basketball enthusiast, and another for Jerry Goldsmith's score. Subsequent viewings though television and home video cemented its status over the years among fans.

Shortly before filming began, Swan was 41 and living in Hyde Park, Ill., having forged a lucrative career for himself in voice-over work. His first film was 1980's Christopher Reeve time-traveling love story "Somewhere in Time," another picture that, like "Hoosiers," cultivated an unexpected afterlife, revered by fans who to this day celebrate it with festivals on Mackinac Island, where it was filmed.



The photo that appears at the film's end featuring Normal Dale and the players.

"I'm the guy who beat up Superman," Swan says, emitting a boisterous laugh as he recalls the scene where he attacks Reeve's character near the end.

Before "Hoosiers," Swan appeared in a few other movies, including "Take This Job and Shove It," which included future "Hoosiers" co-star Barbara Hershey, "Doctor Detroit," "Grandview USA" and "That Was Then...This is Now." His agent alerted him to the prospects of a role in an upcoming sports picture to be shot in Indiana. It was Hopper's role, in fact. Swan headed down to Indianapolis for an audition that lasted all of five minutes. No cold readings from the script. Nothing.

"They liked my look, so they cast me in the film," Swan said.

The late Hopper, whose exploits with drugs and women were notorious in Hollywood, had fallen off the radar for several years, but regained his footing in 1986 when he suddenly

became available for "Hoosiers," and appeared as Frank Booth in David Lynch's controversial "Blue Velvet."

Swan ultimately was cast as Rollin Butcher, one of the first townsfolk to rally behind Norman Dale, not only forcing his son to apologize after walking out of practice, but ultimately serving as Dale's assistant coach, placing Swan, as actor, in virtually every basketball sequence shot for the movie.

It was a role with which Swan could identify. His father worked on a farm in Missouri. "I knew guys like him," he said of the role. Swan's past ties to revered Chicago theaters also boosted his credibility among the cast's more well-known faces.

"Around that time, it became cool to hire actors from Chicago because of groups like Steppenwolf," Swan said. "We were in the Heartland, and we were 'real' to them."

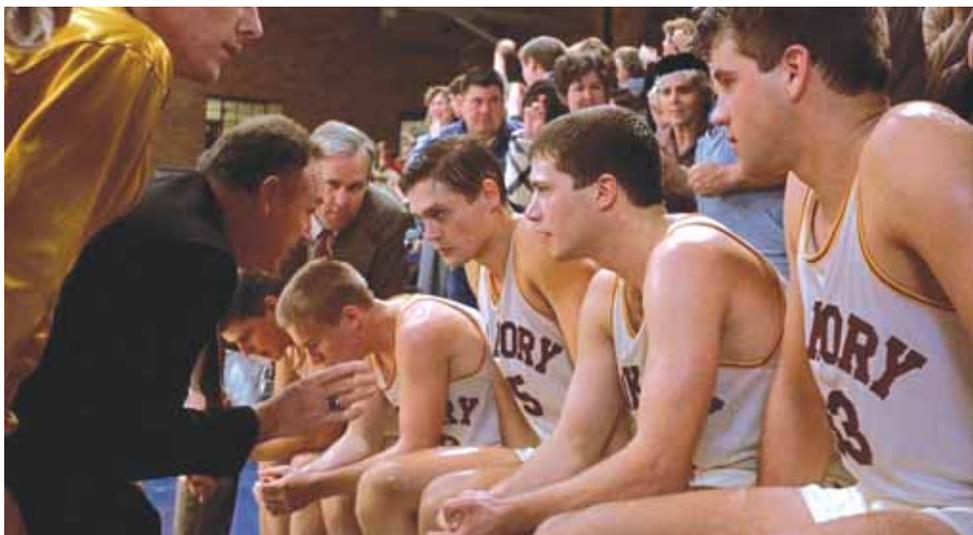
Being a low-budget picture, there was no rehearsal time for "Hoosiers," no weeks of sitting around reading the script together.

"You just had to get there on time and say your lines," Swan said.

Save for his big "Coach Stays" moment, Swan didn't have much dialogue, joking he spent much of the time cheering and looking as interested in the game as possible. A deleted scene, available on an anniversary release of the

film, one of which Swan remains proud, reveals the way Hickory rallies together during harvest time, with Swan's Butcher serving almost as Norman Dale's guide to the realities, and unflappable spirit, of the American farmer.

Swan calls Hackman a complicated individual,



Bob Swan, as Rollin Butcher, leans in to hear Norman Dale's advice to his players.

one who ran away from home when he was young and entered the Marines.

“When he first saw me, I resembled a close friend of his who was a banker,” Swan recalled. “So, there was this immediate, odd rapport between us. He grew to like to me.”

There was a hardness to him, Swan said, yet a refined element as well. He was an artist who could paint exceptionally well. He appreciated classical music. At one point during filming, Swan, Hackman and Hackman’s new girlfriend performed a Schubert piece together.

At one point, however, Swan tested a few of his ideas, specifically to beef up Rollin’s presence, on Hackman, whom Swan alleges walked away angry and irritated. Incensed, Swan fired back at him with words unprintable in a family newspaper. Swan believes Hackman respected him for standing his ground, because a few moments later, he eased up, relenting to Swan’s request and admitting it would work.

It was Swan, in fact, who suggested for the scene at Butler Fieldhouse — where Norman Dale has the players measure the height of the basketball hoop — that one of the team members hoist its shortest player onto his should-

ers to reach the basket.

Swan also says Hackman and Hopper were not kind to Anspaugh, whose career up until that point was largely in television.

“They’re gonna turn this picture into guitar picks,” Swan says Hackman told him during the film’s production, a reference to the fact that celluloid was used to make pics guitarists use when playing.

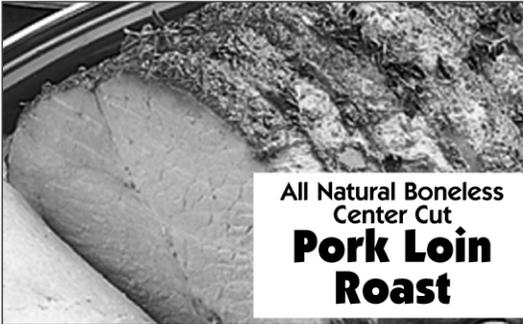
“I finally spoke up about it,” he said, cornering

Continued on Page 6



Bob Swan (from left) appears with Dennis Hopper and Gene Hackman in a scene from the film.

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REMEMBERING "HOOSIERS" Continued from Page 5

Hackman and Hopper. "I said, 'Guys, this really is not right.' They were just being bullies. But, I think they took me seriously."

Swan says he and Hopper worked well together, the two often playing poker, with Hopper sharing plenty of Hollywood trivia, choice nuggets like, "James Dean never made more than \$17,000 a picture. Whaddya ya think of that?"

The eight-week shoot unfolded in and around Knightstown, New Richmond and Nineveh, with scads of locals cast as extras, enduring long shooting days, especially the game scenes requiring points of view from numerous angles.

"The whole town was invested in it," Swan said.

He also enjoyed working with Hershey, an actress he called "a real sweetie, not at all sold on herself."

Upon the movie's release, it was embraced by critics, one of its greatest champions being the late, great Roger Ebert. In his review, he called it "a movie that is all heart." Swan says Hackman and Hopper eventually called Anspaugh to apologize for their on-set behavior, saying they were exceptionally proud of the picture.

It wasn't until a year or two after "Hoosiers" was released that Swan realized its gaining momentum. The movie aired repeatedly on TV, especially during the Final Four. It began airing near the top, if not at



Bob Swan says Gene Hackman came to admire "Hoosiers" after it was released and warmly embraced by critics and audiences.

the top, of lists ranking the best sports movies ever.

As an actor, Swan would reteam with Anspaugh for a tiny role in "Rudy." These days, he remains heavily involved with Harbor Country Opera, which in December entertained another packed house with its annual "Christmas at The Acorn." He and his wife of nearly 40 years have lived full time in Rolling Prairie since 2007. Prior to that, they owned a second home in Union Pier, Mich.

Fan recognition for "Hoosiers," though, has not dimmed. Swan says every time he steps into Lange's Old Fashion Meat Market in Michigan City, for instance, the proprietor, Pete Lange, shouts, "Coach Stays."

Indeed, of all the films and TV shows Swan has appeared in, "Hoosiers" and "The Untouchables" (1987) are the two people ask him about the most. Swan, himself, has watched the picture six or seven times. His nostalgia for it extends beyond the memories of filming it, but in the fact that his beloved dog appeared in it with him.

On another level, it is the movie's elegant simplicity that speaks to him much in the way it does to its legion of fans.

"It is a story of redemption. Hackman's character is trying to find himself again," Swan said. "But it's also a love story. It goes back to the past, and it is in love with American character, in believing in yourself."

"It is one of the sweetest films you can imagine."



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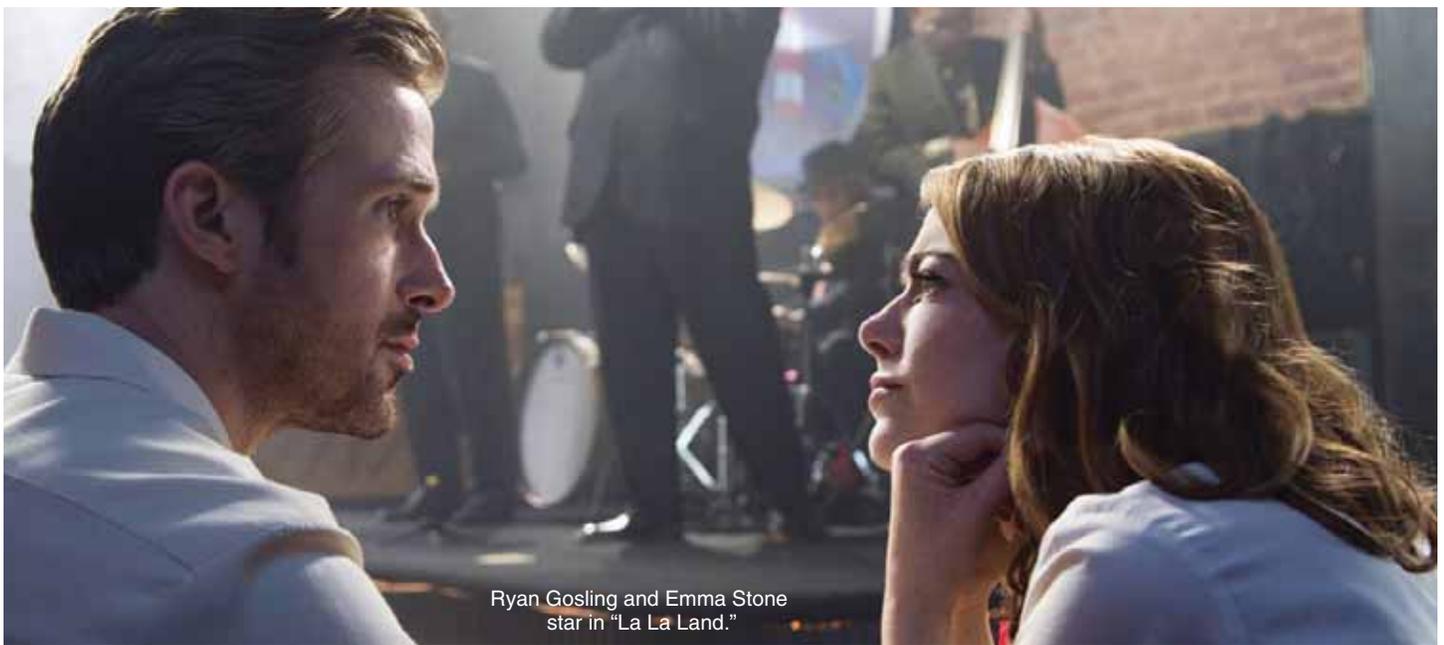
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Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone
star in "La La Land."

"La La Land" Has All the Makings of a Classic

by Andrew Tallackson

In one single shot, "La La Land" won my heart... and what a magnificent shot it is.

It's no less than the movie's opening sequence. A bored young woman, restless from the stalled L.A. traffic that confines her to her vehicle, blissfully emerges outside and begins to sing. The song is called "Another Day of Sun," and it prompts the other motorists to join her. They barrel along, and atop, the endless parade of vehicles. By the climax of the sequence, a large crowd has amassed, their arms raised to the sky in joyous adoration. Director Damien Chazelle captures it all in one single take. No editing. His camera fluidly moves through it all with the confidence of a master storyteller.

"La La Land" is the first movie in a long time that leaves you giddy, thankful Chazelle has created something that effortlessly makes you smile.

This is his first picture since 2014's Oscar-winning "Whiplash," and it confirms he is a major talent. He has achieved something tricky, paying tribute to the Technicolor musicals of the 1950s and 1960s, but never descending into camp or parody. What he captures is the *feeling* those movies achieved, yet in a modern setting. This is high-concept moviemaking that could have crashed and burned upon impact, but instead feels light on its feet.

When was the last time, too, that an Oscar contender produced that kind of reaction? Award-season movies are so somber and depressing. Filmmakers seem to believe if you don't leave the theater bummed out, they haven't done their job. "La La Land," by comparison, wants people to leave the theater on a high.

Its young couple in love represent two opposites of the struggling-artist spectrum. Ryan Gosling is Sebastian, a jazz pianist insistent on not selling

out. Mia (Emma Stone) is a waitress hellbent on becoming an actress. This is their third pairing after "Crazy Stupid Love" and "Gangster Squad," and their chemistry is more potent than ever. The two do their own singing and dancing, and the attraction between Sebastian and Mia is not instant. It blooms through song and dance. When the two stop by Griffith Observatory, levitating in the air as they dance, the movie's title is as much about the delirious state love can produce as it is a tribute to the trials and tribulations of surviving Los Angeles.

Moments like that one pop out at you in lush imagery and huge orchestral swells within the music. It's old-school storytelling with a level of sophistication absent from most modern cinema.

Chazelle, however, is savvy enough to know that relationships never permanently settle into a state of bliss. Reality has a way of stealing the bloom from the rose. We see this in the way Sebastian and Mia embrace the idea that love requires compromise. And sometimes, sacrifice brews regret and resentment. How these two handle the ripple effect of their choices — again through song and dance — is exhilarating and heartbreaking.

All of the songs in "La La Land" are original, in large part composed by Justin Hurwitz, Chazelle's college roommate, and "original" is an ideal description. They have the wit and grace of a 1950s classic like "Singin' in the Rain," yet feel contemporary in the freedom with which they afford the performers.

I suspect many people will leave "La La Land" with lumps in their throats. It is like nothing else in theaters. Its legacy, however, will extend far beyond its initial run in theaters. It has all the makings of a classic.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

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“Patriots Day” Imperfect, But Stirring Tribute to “Boston Strong”

by Andrew Tallackson

For those with enough grit to survive an ear-shattering blitz of F words, “Patriots Day” emerges as a stirring tribute to one community’s perseverance amid a vile act of terrorism.

That community, of course, is Boston, the event depicted the 2013 bombings at the Boston Marathon that took the lives of three people — an 8-year-old boy was among the fallen — and injured more than 260. One could argue director/co-writer Peter Berg (“Lone Survivor,” “Deepwater Horizon”), who specializes in adrenalized recreations of ripped-from-the-headlines tragedies, exploits the incident to create pure Hollywood hokum. To his credit, Berg can tell a gripping story, and he finds isolated moments that exist as a moving testament to courage.

Berg, working with co-writers Matt Cook and Joshua Zetumer, based the film not only on Casey Sherman and Dave Wedge’s “Boston Strong,” but also the manhunt led by Boston Police Commissioner Ed Davis. His camera takes a fly-on-the-wall approach to capturing the routines of a few individuals — their connections to the bombings random at first — before allowing the deadly events to unfold with chilling realism. Combining actual footage with meticulous recreations, Berg maneuvers through a queasy landscape of confusion, fear and chaos. The images are graphic and visceral — precisely as they should be.

Downright fascinating is the way police and FBI are depicted using technology to nail down the identities of the brothers believed responsible for the bombings. Cell phones, iPads and store security cameras provide minute-to-minute accounts of where the two headed before the explosions.

Now, I’m no prude when it comes to profanity. And, true, the good people of Boston love them some F words, but the movie’s use of them is so relentless, it does not feel authentic, but calculated and overbearing.

That’s not the picture’s only problem, however. Berg obviously wanted a star for his film, so he cast frequent collaborator and Boston native Mark Wahlberg (“Lone Survivor,” “Deepwater Horizon”)

as a fictional police sergeant. He’s joined by John Goodman as Davis, Kevin Bacon as FBI Special Agent Richard DesLauriers and J.K. Simmons as Watertown Police Sgt. Jeffrey Pugliese. These famous faces give the movie the unfortunate tone of a “Law & Order” crime procedural with surprise “guest stars.” We are reminded that, for all of Berg’s steely determination to achieve gritty realism, the movie, indeed, is just a movie.

(In all fairness, TV veteran Khandi Alexander is the show-stopper — fierce as a police interrogator who grills the wife of one of the bombers.)

Where “Patriots Day” hits home is in Berg’s decision to cast mostly unknowns as people affected by the bombings. A father separated by his 3-year-old son. A young couple, injured and taken to separate hospitals. The MIT police officer with a crush on a student. Their scenes have a natural, unaffected air that capture what Berg wants, that this act of terrorism unraveled not on the battlefield, but on the streets of a community populated by average people going about their daily lives.

Unsettling, too, is the depiction of the Tsarnaev brothers who planted the bombs. As played by Alex Wolff and Themo Melikidze, they’re spoiled brats: texting friends, arguing about who gets to drive which vehicle. But when they kidnap driver Dun Meng (Jimmy O. Yang), told in a sequence that

grows ever anxious by the minute, Melikidze and Wolff are terrifying: fanatical extremism spewed out in a torrent of bile and resentment.

The payoff to that scene, though, introduces the film’s theme of a community undeterred. Wahlberg has a speech late in the picture that, by all means, should have failed. Corny, manipulative...but Wahlberg delivers it so matter-of-factly, interspersed with images of the survivors starting anew, that you’d have to be an automaton to remain indifferent to it.

Berg has designed his film as a salute to the men and women who perished and prevailed that day, and interviews with the real individuals at the end confirm Berg got the job done. Subtle, he ain’t, but I was surprised by how moved I was by the picture. It works.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com



Mark Wahlberg stars in “Patriots Day.”



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PNW Plans King Celebrations

Purdue University Northwest will honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with free events in January, the theme being “Valuing Our Shared Humanity.”

The Westville campus will host the 22nd annual Martin Luther King Jr. Community Celebration Breakfast from 8 to 9:30 a.m. Monday, Jan. 16, in the James B. Dworkin Student Services and Activities Complex Great Hall. Doors open at 7:45 a.m. Reservations are not required. The theme is “We Shall Overcome.”

The keynote speaker is Garrard McClendon, Chicago State University assistant professor and researcher. A noted Chicago-area TV personality, he hosts the PBS program “CounterPoint,” and earned an Emmy for “Off 63rd with Garrard McClendon.” He also directed the anti-violence film “Forgiving Cain.”



McClendon

McClendon continues the legacy of his parents as executive director of the Milton and Ruby McClendon Educational Foundation. Additionally, he serves on the boards of the Sheila A. Doyle Foundation, Donda’s House Foundation and The Reporter’s Inc. He also is a published author.

The event emcee is Michigan City police officer Dion Campbell. The gospel dance group Judah Explosion of Michigan City will perform.

The Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority invites guests to take new or gently used hats, gloves, socks, scarves, coats, sweaters and other seasonal wraps for donation to local families in need.

After the breakfast, PNW students of Teacher’s Networking Together will lead activities for children 3-8 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Michigan

City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Books, crafts, building blocks and dramatic-play activities focusing on King’s life are planned.

On display Jan. 17-31 is “The Civil Rights Movement through Art,” which features pieces from the collection of Margaret Burroughs, co-founder of the Ebony Museum of Chicago (now the DuSable Museum of African American History). It will be displayed in the first-floor display case of the Library-Student-Faculty Building.

A Peace Jam Workshop and Competition, “Using Hip Hop to Unite,” is Jan. 24 and invites PNW students and middle- and high-school students in the College Bound Educational Talent Search program to explore how hip-hop can unite people across lines that sometime divide, such as race, gender, ethnicity and national origins.

Led by K-C Nat Turner, associate professor of Language, Literacy and Culture at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, students will develop an original hip-hop selection using solution-driven lyrics and verses that promote unity to celebrate differences, reject oppression and value all community members.

Participants will compete for a cash prize and the opportunity to perform at the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Convocation Jan. 26 at the Hammond Campus.

Contact Laura Odom, PNW associate director, Office of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion, at (219) 785-5545 or odoml@pnw.edu, or Roy Hamilton, assistant vice chancellor for Educational Opportunity Programs, at (219) 989-2779 or roy.hamilton@pnw.edu for more details.

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The following programs are available:

• **NorthShore Health Center free blood-pressure screenings from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 12, at Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter, and 10 a.m.-noon Wednesday, Jan. 18, 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 to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 12, at Westchester Township 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.

• **Family Coloring Friday Nights from 5 to 7 p.m. Fridays at Hageman Library.**

Materials are provided, but patrons can take their own. No registration is necessary.

• **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.

• **"Frozen Sing-A-Long" from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 14, at the Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

Children are invited to wear Ana, Elsa, Olaf and Sven outfits. They also will make a snow globe craft. Popcorn will be served during the movie.

• **Teen Movie Night: "Suicide Squad" at 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 14, at the Baugher Center.**

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

• **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.

• **Crochet Club from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 17, Feb. 7 and 21 at Thomas Library.**

Beginners and skilled crocheters 18 and older can join a skilled instructor.



• **"The Bill of Rights and You" Pop-up Exhibit through Feb. 28 at Thomas Library.**

The exhibit commemorates the 225th anniversary of the document's ratification, exploring the origins of the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution (collectively known as the Bill of Rights), illustrating how each amendment protects U.S. citizens and exploring how Americans exercise rights outlined in the amendments.

The library was selected by Indiana Humanities, as a result of a partnership with the National Archives and Records Administration, as one of 38 organizations around the state to receive the exhibit.

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Who Can Use the Beach Where? Gunderson Appeals Decision

The Appeals Court rendered a decision on December 7, 2016, re: the Gundersons' suit in which they claimed they own to the water's edge of Lake Michigan and therefore can prohibit the public from entering onto their land.

The Appeals Court has disagreed.

Public Trust Rights (*Jus Publicum*) are based on the concept that the King and now the USA and therefore Indiana who received its rights from the Fed cannot relinquish the water rights or shores next to the water's edge to exclusive use of private parties (*Jus Privatum*).

Therefore, the space between the OHWM and the edge of Lake Michigan cannot be owned by a private party unless it is subject to the higher rights of the public to use that area. Indiana must retain this space for the *Jus Publicum*, i.e. retain this area for use by the public as a whole.

Both Michigan and Indiana now say that even if a deed says you, a private person, own to the "edge of the water," the public still has the right to use the shore that is not covered by water but is lakeward of the OHWM.

But the Appeals Court has said that the DNR's 1995 decision to place the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) at 581.5 above sea level (1985 datum base) as the edge of the public rights is also wrong. "Therefore that portion of the Indian Administrative Code is invalid and the OHWM remains defined by Common Law."

So where is the OHWM? How far does the public's right to use the shore go?

To wherever the water's action has created a mark of some sort. Basically, you have to determine where the water has "left its mark" recently by seeing where there is detritus, a cut in the sand, vegetation recently destroyed or where there is litter. The public can use that part of the beach even if the Homeowner's deed says he owns to the water's edge.

Anyone sense more problems with this definition of the OHWM?

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Back in the day — in a past life, you might say — compiling a list of the year's top 10 films never rang true for me.

Readers love them. They afford the opportunity to say, I agree with that, or, more often than not, what the heck was he thinking?

For years, I operated under the assumption that, to be taken seriously, it is mandatory to include only Oscar bait on a top 10 list. You are not an intellectual, worthy of a column in newsprint if, let's say, you reap praise on a movie that stars a foul-mouthed super hero...or unfolds in a galaxy far, far away.

Were my ambitions still bathed in faux sophistication, heavy hitters like "Manchester by the Sea" and "Fences" would appear on this list. These are pictures admirable for the extraordinary work by their stars...but do they move me? Do they speak to me on a level that burrows through my brain and, more importantly, into my heart?

That is what a top 10 list should be: films that memorably imprint themselves on you for one reason or another.

Over the next several weeks, I'll be taking a more in-depth look at many of the films vying for Academy Awards. A few of those pictures, in fact, appear on this list. Consider it my "Road to Oscar," complete with the new tradition of our Oscar contest for Beacher readers.

So, without further ado, my picks for the top 10 films of 2016 are:

1. Sing Street



Writer-director John Carney is one of my favorite storytellers. With his Oscar-winning debut, "Once" (2007), then "Begin Again" (2014), and now "Sing Street," he captures the precise moment when the creative spark flickers to life. A musical number in one of his pictures is like a gift, and in "Sing Street," he tells the deceptively simple tale of Conor (newcomer Ferdia Walsh-Peelo), a bright teen living in south inner-city Dublin in 1985 whose parents force him to attend a free-state school to save money.



THE BEST FILMS OF 2016

by Andrew Tallackson

What Conor discovers is that music, through the band he forms with his new pals, is the path to freedom and, most of all, love. The story crescendos to an exuberant end that celebrates the bond, and willing sacrifice, of two brothers. You leave the film believing anything is possible.

2. La La Land



Damien Chazelle's follow-up to his Oscar-winning debut, 2014's "Whiplash," honors Technicolor musicals with an innocence that gradually reveals a wistful air when reality

finally intrudes. A magical film, with giddy images and pitch-perfect performances by Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone, who do their own singing and dancing.

3. Hidden Figures



The true story of three black women who contributed to NASA's space race is inspiring and moving without softening the racism and sexism they experienced. The movie is as much a commentary on civil rights as it is a telling portrait of men intimidated by female colleagues. The peerless cast includes Oscar-winner Octavia Spencer, Janelle Monáe, Kevin Costner, Kirsten Dunst, Jim Parsons and, in an Oscar-worthy performance, Taraji P. Henson, who literally bring the room to a hushed silence when she finally stands up for herself.

4. Jackie



Portman's astonishing ability to inhabit every fiber of this woman's being, we understand, and admire, Jackie Kennedy far more than we have up until now. Chilean filmmaker Pablo Larraín Matte takes an unusually candid approach, complete with uncomfortably tight close-ups, that strips the images of the gloss typical of such pictures. Fresh, unusual and unforgettable, it redefines the Hollywood biopic.

5. Rogue One



That's right. I did it. Put a "Star Wars" movie on a 10-best list. This was the year's most entertaining popcorn movie, unlike anything in the franchise, yet true to its spirit. The stand-alone story beautifully locks into the myth of the "Star Wars" universe, more so than George Lucas' regrettable prequels, with a knockout final 10 minutes made all the more meaningful by Carrie Fisher's untimely passing. Some have balked at the fate of the movie's heroes, but the "Star Wars" saga has always been about sacrifice for a greater good.

6. Born to be Blue

Ethan Hawke and Carmen Ejogo gave the year's most blistering performances as jazz great Chet



Baker and Jane Azuka, a fictional composite of the many women Baker knew...and devastated. Baker's life was ravaged by perpetual drug use, and "Born to be Blue" is a rare film where the portrait of addiction is psychologically complete. We understand, yet do not excuse, everything about Baker that made heroin an attractive option — personally and creatively. Writer-director Robert Budreau lets Hawke and Ejogo forge a remarkable love for each other before arriving at the heartbreaking final scene.

7. Florence Foster Jenkins



The great English director Stephen Frears ("The Queen") applies a sly hand to the wildly unconventional true story of New York City heiress and socialite Florence Foster Jenkins (Meryl Streep), who couldn't sing worth a lick, but insisted on performing at Carnegie Hall. Of course, Streep is wonderful, but the marvels are Hugh Grant as her devoted, long-suffering husband and scene-stealer Simon Helberg (TV's "The Big Bang Theory") as the pianist hired to accompany Florence. Helberg is like a giddy wind-up toy: always moving, always reacting to Florence's eccentricities in a way that becomes increasingly endearing.

8. The Wave

Norway's first crack at a disaster movie was the country's top grosser for 2015, yet didn't arrive in the U.S. until 2016. The story is bare bones: the tourist destination



Continued on Page 22

THE BEST FILMS

Continued from Page 21

of Geiranger exists on borrowed time because unstable mountains are destined to collapse, producing a tsunami that will reach town in 10 minutes. We've seen this before — director Roar Uthaug is a longtime fan of Hollywood disaster pictures — but the movie removes itself from cliché by introducing an extremely likable family struggling to survive amid catastrophe. When the wave strikes at the film's 40-minute mark, the result is a terrifying scramble for survival. Hollywood should take note: *This* is how you do a disaster movie.

9. Sully



Clint Eastwood's riveting account of the 2009 "Miracle on the Hudson" is aided immeasurably by Tom Hanks's quietly powerful embodiment of Capt. Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger. The actor is grace under unbelievable fire. The flight, itself, spread out through the course of the film, is told with harrowing accuracy.

10. Deadpool



Rude and crude, "Deadpool" deconstructed the Marvel comic-book myth with snarky abandon. The title credits, alone, are worth a look for how the movie pokes fun at itself, but it is Ryan Reynolds as the titular anti-hero who carries the whole show. This was *the* comic performance of the year, a marvel — for a lack of a better word — at how one actor can

maintain the same manic pitch from start to finish. The screenplay by Rhett Reese and Paul Wernick gives the cast one quotable zinger after another, so much so, the movie warrants multiple viewings to appreciate them all. Bring on the sequel!

Honorable Mentions

- "Arrival" — The year's most thought-provoking picture turned out to be this sci-fi parable about the consequence of choice.

- "Birth of a Nation" — Was the film slighted because of the controversy surrounding actor-writer-director Nate Parker...or is it that no one wants to see a movie about Nat Turner? Either way, the movie deserves a second chance now that it's on DVD.

- "Lion" — The incredible, heartbreaking true story of an Indian boy, separated from his family at 5 and adopted by an Australian couple, who decides to track down his family when he's almost 30. Try not to cry during the closing scenes. I dare you.

- "Loving" — An uncommonly quiet film whose power emerges from writer-director Jeff Nichols, who never sensationalizes a sensational topic, that of Richard and Mildred Loving's fight to validate in the eyes of their state, and ultimately the nation, their interracial marriage.

- "Zootopia" — A great year for animated films ("Finding Dory," "The Secret Life of Pets," "Moana," "Sing"), but "Zootopia" took the greatest risks, achieving a daring parable about fairness and acceptance.

Huh?



"The Lobster" earns this year's "huh?" award. What was that? Seriously. *What. Was. That?* Here is a film, labeled as a "dystopian black comedy," that earned rapturous praise...yet I didn't get it. The story unfolds in the near future, where single men and women have 45 days to secure a romantic partner...or be turned into the animal of their choice. Colin Farrell stars, and he remains an actor brave enough to take risks. Other than that, what are we supposed to take away from the picture? I suppose a second viewing is required, but is the movie worth the fuss? Email me at drew@thebeacher.com. Your input is greatly appreciated.

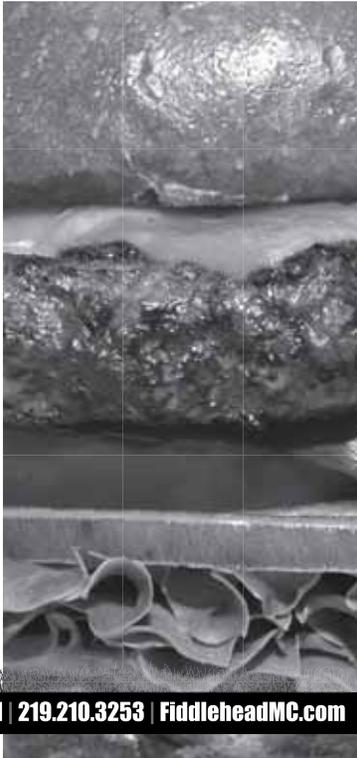
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Foundation Awards Grants to Teachers

The Michigan City Education Foundation recently awarded several small grants to teachers for innovative approaches in the classroom for the 2016-2017 school year.

The recipients teach in grades kindergarten through eighth in Michigan City area public and parochial schools. A total of 38 grants were awarded for \$11,479, benefiting 10 schools, 49 teachers and 3,281 students. Many of the grants funded items that can be used with classes in an ongoing basis.

The foundation, a component fund of the Unity Foundation of La Porte County, was formed in 1994 to encourage and recognize outstanding teacher projects. Three groups came together — the chamber of commerce, Burton and Jane Ruby, and Mary Lou Linnen. Each contributed funds to create a permanent endowment of more than \$150,000.

Since its inception more than 20 years ago, the endowment has awarded more than \$224,000 to benefit approximately 34,000 students. Tax-deductible contributions can be made by calling the Unity Foundation at (219) 879-0327, or by email at unity@uflc.net.

This year's recipients include:

Barker Middle School

- Tim Blekeney and Kathleen Gushrowski, Measuring Up, \$342.31.
- Kathleen Gushrowski, Math is a Cake Walk, \$128.66.
- Valerie Mecklenburg, Cell Growth: Identifying Normal and Abnormal Cell Growth, \$286.16.
- Mariah Pol, Historical Explorers Club, \$350.
- Kelly Tokoly-Rothermel, 21st Century Color, \$343.44.

Krueger Middle School

- Shirley Allen, Men sing Out!, \$350.
- Janine Peo, East Asian Immersion the Krueger Way, \$347.57.
- Kathryn Triemstra, Old School Gaming, \$269.11.

Edgewood Elementary School

- Courtney Barber, Seeing Yourself While Reading, \$300.
- Teresa Pavloff, Dream Big Arts and Drama, \$350.
- Sheri Tuesburg and Michelle Sickles, Third Grade Biography Wax Museum and Ambitious Authors, \$350.

Joy Elementary School

- Lauren Stacks, iPads for 5th, \$288.89.
- Samantha White, Amy Bartels and Andrew Dudeck, Family Fun Night, \$350.

Lake Hills STEM Magnet School

- Candace Archer, Instrument Supplements, \$138.90.
- Kelley Gertner, Early Engineers, \$338.92.
- Diane Grams, Learning Conflict Resolution Through Art, \$349.42.
- Renee Hall, Reaching the Second Step, \$350.
- Erin Lozano, Sizzling Science, \$162.23.
- Janis Mitchell and DeAnna Munoz, Creating Confident Citizens, \$350.
- DeAnna Munoz and Janis Mitchell, Cookies and Canvas, \$350.
- Sheri Wagner, Lap Pad Learning, \$350.
- Penny Will, Cookies and Canvas, \$350.

Marsh Elementary School

- Alisa Carlson, Growth Minded, \$341.66.
- Susan Shell, All Hands on Deck!, \$350.

Pine Magnet School

- Holy Beadles, Gluing Magic, \$282.43.
- Julie Schmidt, Holly Beadles, Samantha Lakin and Samantha Kubik, Acceptance Through Ugly Dolls, \$189.
- Elizabeth Schreeg, Tuning Up with Tablets, \$267.25.

Notre Dame Catholic School

- Trish Baczkiewicz, Joe Bobillo, Joanna Cate and Sandy Purcell, Brain Pop, \$220.
- Kathlene Bobillo & Natasha Magnuson, Chickens Go To School, \$350.
- Barbara Brandon and Jennifer Scriba, Boom and Ring, Then Let's Sing, \$279.
- Natasha Magnuson, Here Birdie Birdie, \$350.
- Angela Ruiz and Nancy Donoghue, Math for Fast Finishers, \$65.08.

Queen of All Saints Catholic School

- Laura Bennett, Giant Indiana Map, \$350.
- Andi Haas, Saints Among Us, \$350.
- Stephanie Kush, Challenger Learning Center Field Trip, \$350.
- Carla Neary, The "Wonder" Effect, \$350.

St. Paul Lutheran School

- Lexa Allison, Sight Word Scramble, \$239.12.
- Melissa Bushnell, STEAM Science Innovation, \$350.



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Photo of the Week Contest

Help Us Capture Life Along the Beach!

Snap a high-resolution photo of a friend or family member, place, event...even the beautiful scenery. Include the day, time and location of the photo.

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 in an upcoming edition.



A Day in the Life

Students in Michigan City Area Schools were quite busy in the days leading up to Christmas break. Here is a look back through pictures provided by MCAS.



Barker National Junior Honor Society celebrated the holiday season by making handcrafted blankets for La Porte County Meals on Wheels. NJHS also held a dance to raise funds for families in need. The Barker chapter is sponsored by seventh-grade math teacher Amy Harmon. Picture are (front row, from left) Micah Ruhe, Katelyn Halfarce, Aujunae Franks, Reese Attar, Haley Case and Nicole Hooper. The back row is Skyler Bailey (from left), Tahlia Daniels, Mia Taylor, William Mansfield, Talliyah Watson, Aviana Garner, Riley Eldridge, Javant Hodges, Ana Attar and Harmon.



Coolspring Elementary School's girls basketball team, along with girls teams from Marsh and Edgewood, will be recognized at the Michigan City vs. La Porte girls/boys doubleheader Friday, Jan. 20, which is "Future Wolves Night." All elementary and middle-school players wearing team shirts/jerseys will be admitted free to those games. MCHS also will recognize sponsors of the elementary athletics programs.



During Pine Elementary School's Student Council Holiday Spirit Week, students collected 162 clothing items and 1,537 food items to be donated to the Salvation Army. Council members are pictured with advisor Andrea Renner on "Pajama Day." The class that donated the most items (Craig Keson's class) had a pizza party Dec. 20.



Richard Leverett, AT&T Northern Indiana director of external affairs, presented a ceremonial check to Safe Harbor Coordinator Sherri Silcox during the Dec. 20 Michigan City Area Schools board meeting. The \$5,000 grant will support robotics programs and provide Chrome-books for use at Club Inspire, the after-school program at Michigan City High School.



The Michigan City Area Schools board honored Michigan City High School senior Noah Scherf on Dec. 20. In October, MCHS learned from the U.S. Olympic Committee that Scherf was named a 2016 U.S. Paralympic High School Track and Field All-American in the 1,500 meter and 5,000 meter events. Pictured are (from left) Superintendent Barbara Eason-Wakins, Board Member Beryle Burgwald, Scherf, parents Rhonda and Peter Scherf, and Associate Superintendent Wendel McCollum. Scherf, who has a visual impairment, is a multi-sport athlete, competing in boys swimming, track and cross country.



Junior Achievement Board Members Robin Kohn (left) and Chip Clausen (right) stopped by Coolspring Elementary School on Dec. 20 to collect a \$680.59 check from students Trenton Vittatoe, Juliana Williams and Destiny Meneweather. The money represented proceeds from a district-wide “Jeans for JA” day held in November, when students and staff at all eight MCAS elementary buildings could wear jeans by donating 50 cents. Junior Achievement is taught by volunteers at the elementary, middle and high school levels in Michigan City and across La Porte County.



Kathleen Gushrowski, Barker Middle School eighth-grade algebra and math teacher, and special needs teacher Timothy Blakeney wrote a Michigan City Education Foundation Small Grants for Teachers in October for the project “Measuring Up.” In December, her algebra students teamed up with special needs classes of Blakeney, Laurie Abbey and Sara Krachinski to complete the project. It was a hands-on collaboration with special needs and advanced students to practice measuring skills and precision by creating “Cookies-in-a-jar,” baking cookies and marketing some of the jars for sale. The project helps special needs students in learning measurement, precision, living skills and following procedures/directions.



Barker Middle School held its school-wide National Geography Bee in December. All students participated in the multiple-choice first-round test. The top 50 students advanced and competed in the short answer Round 2. The top 10 finalists competed in an oral competition that required students to verbally answer questions, record and show answers, and sometimes refer to a U.S. map. The top two students battled it out for eight rounds until the runner-up and school champion were announced. The runner-up was eighth-grader Deven Switzer and the school champion eighth-grader Alyssa Lisenko. Lisenko studied over winter break for the state qualifying exam in January to attempt to advance to the state geography bee in April.



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Northwest Indiana Green Drinks

Cathy Martin, Save the Dunes interim executive director and project manager, will speak at Northwest Indiana Green Drinks in Michigan City, which meets at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 19, at Shoreline Brewery, 208 Wabash St.



Cathy Martin

The program will help celebrate the group's fourth anniversary, and kick off its fifth year.

Martin will discuss various projects Save the Dunes spearheaded in 2016, as well as its 2017 plans. The presentation will include footage of the Dunes Blow Out celebration, a

preview of the newly funded Hobart Prairie Grove habitat restoration, public-use enhancements in cooperation with Shirley Heinze Land Trust, National Park Service and Northwest Indiana Paddling Association, and protecting equal beach access.

Kim Ferraro, Hoosier Environmental Council staff attorney, will discuss how to influence Indiana government to promote a healthy lifestyle and protect greenspaces.

Green Drinks events are sponsored by Save the Dunes and supported by 219 GreenConnect. The suggested donation is \$5, or \$2 for students. Call (219) 874-4076 for details.

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<http://www.thebeacher.com/>

New Troy Indoor Flea Market

New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road, will present its Indoor Flea Market from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. EST Saturdays, Jan. 14 and 21.

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.

Carole Stodder Exhibit

Artist Carole Stodder will exhibit acrylic-on-canvas wall hangings from her series, "Origins," in January at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St.

Stodder is a modernist painter, working in the classical abstract tradition. She has been part of the art community here and in Chicago for more than 30 years. She has exhibited her work in solo and juried shows throughout Northwest Indiana.

The exhibit is in the center's Area Artists Association gallery.

Decorative/Oriental Paper Show

Ellen Firme Art Gallery, 92 W. Dunes Highway, Beverly Shores, will host its Second Friday Opening from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 13.

The show, a retrospective on decorative and Oriental paper, continues through Feb. 8. Refreshments will be served.

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Michigan City Public Library

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

- **Tax Planning at 2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 12, and 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 17.**

The library has teamed with H&R Block to provide updated information for filing 2016 tax returns. Topics include filing and new tax laws.

- **Duneland Stamp Club at 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 12.**

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

- **Understanding Your Dreams at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 14.**

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

- **Steel Drum Concert Getaway at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 15.**

Kent Arnsbarger will present the Caribbean-flavored musical program.

- **Talk to a Lawyer for Free Day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Jan. 16.**

The Indiana State Bar Association, Northwest Indiana Volunteer Lawyers Inc., the Pro Bono Committee of the First Judicial District and local bar associations sponsor the walk-in site open to anyone who needs legal help, but can't afford an attorney. Volunteer attorneys will provide referral information if further legal assistance or social services are needed. No appointment is necessary. The project, now in its 15th year, honors the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.

- **Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration for Kids at 10:30 a.m. Monday, Jan. 16.**

Students and faculty from Purdue University Northwest will lead children in activities.

- **Story Time at 1 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 17, 24 and 31, and 10 a.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 18 and 25.**

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

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

Master Gardeners Series

The La Porte County Master Gardeners Brown Bag Series kicks off from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 18, at Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St.

Two 30-minute presentations are planned. Annette Van Dusen will show how to create shallow dish gardens, while Karren Coplen will demonstrate growing microgreens and sprouts

The cost is \$5. Contact Coplen at (219) 390-4118 or karrenc@comcast.net for details.

In Memoriam

Ellen (Ennis) Dearing, 63, died peacefully in her home Nov. 25, 2016, in Bridgeport, Texas.

Ellen was born Jan. 22, 1953, to Donald and Patricia Ennis. She grew up in Long Beach and attended Michigan State University, where she received her Bachelor of Arts in retailing, and became director of personnel for Neiman Marcus in San Francisco.

Ellen fought a courageous battle with cancer for more than 15 years. Despite these challenges, she always found the "glass half full," working to help others with the disease, and spreading her positive spirit and love for life to those who knew her.

Ellen was a devoted wife, friend and sister. She is survived by her husband of 25 years, Dennie Dearing, whom she loved dearly, her siblings, Connie (Paul) Shapiro, Richard (Cindy Husted) Ennis, Nancy (Tom) Tierney, and Andrew Ennis, and nieces and nephews, Lucas, Matthew, Allison and Patrick.

She was deeply loved by her husband and family, and she will be sorely missed.



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Rotary Club Funds School Exhibits

Rotary Club of Michigan City will fund the printing of 11 posters to create exhibits at Michigan City High School and Krueger and Barker middle schools.

The goal to inspire area teens to become active in social issues

The Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service has partnered with Facing History and Ourselves to develop the poster set based on a national initiative called "Choosing to Participate." Created primarily for middle and high schools, the exhibit is designed to encourage dialogue, engagement, respect and participation in communities.

The posters present the experiences of individuals and communities, explore the impact of cultural differences, encourage viewers to consider the consequences of everyday choices and make a difference in their own communities.

Visit tinyurl.com/gq6pl9x for more details.

Duneland Weavers Guild

Duneland Weavers Guild will meet at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 14, at Westchester Public Library's Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

After Show 'n Tell, member Margaret Jones will discuss the textured plain weave, offering examples and providing ideas and tips.

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Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The following programs are available at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore:

• **Dunes Learning Center, 700 Howe Road, Porter, will host a free open house from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 14.**

The event offers indoor/outdoor activities led by the center's team of naturalists, including guided hikes, crafts, nature games and live music, as well as opportunities to learn about winter ecology through hands-on education programs. Hot cocoa and cookies will be served.

There is no cost to attend, but pre-registration is required because space is limited. Visit Dunes-LearningCenter.org/events for details.

• **A snowshoe hike from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturdays, Jan. 14, 21 or 28, and Sunday, Jan. 15, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

Meet for a quick lesson, then hike through fields and woods surrounding the center. A regular hike will be offered if there is fewer than two inches of snow. A limited amount of equipment is available.

• **Martin Luther King Day – Preparing Seeds for Planting from 9 a.m. to noon Monday, Jan. 16, at the Paul H. Douglas Center.**

The seeds need to be scarified to encourage germination (scarifying is the process of wakening or roughening the seed's surface). Dress to be indoors.

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 program is offered at Indiana Dunes State Park:

• **The Flora of Indiana Dunes from 1 to 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 15, at the Nature Center.**

Guest speaker Noel Pavlovic will highlight the diversity of plant life in the dunes.

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.

Banned Books! Series

St. Luke United Lutheran Church, 2000 E. Cool-spring Ave., will present its "Banned Books!" series.

The club meets at 10 a.m. the third Thursday of the month. The schedule is:

- **January** — "The Bluest Eye."
 - **February** — "Naked Lunch."
 - **March** — "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings."
 - **April** — "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian."
 - **May** — "1984."
 - **June** — "The Sun Also Rises."
- Call the church at (219) 879-9415 for details.

JROTC Cadets Embrace Giving Spirit

With the commercialization of Christmas, the most important aspect of the holiday — the spirit of giving — often is lost.

The cadets of Michigan City High School’s Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps demonstrated unselfishness by giving of their time and talents to Michigan City Area Schools and the surrounding community.

Cadets helped set up, worked, then cleaned up for the “One City One Sound” concert Dec. 1, which involved every school in the district.

Although the Drill Team had a competition in Chicago on Dec. 3, some non-drill cadets helped The Salvation Army with its Stuff-A-Bus project. Many cadets returned to The Salvation Army on Saturday, Dec. 10, to ring bells at Michigan City stores.



The Color Guard stands behind the wreaths laid for each service.

The Color Guard participated in the Wreaths Across America ceremony Dec. 17 at Greenwood Cemetery. Afterward, wreaths were placed on veteran graves. The Color Guard also presented the colors at home basketball games Dec. 2, 3 and 15.

The Drill Team practiced over the Christmas break in preparation for its next competition at East Aurora (Ill.) High School on Jan. 14 and for its presentation to MCAS middle schools Jan. 25. The middle-school presentations are important because the Marine Corps requires that MCHS have a minimum enrollment of 100 or face disestablishment. The current enrollment is 114.

The cadets also will provide the Color Guards for all remaining home basketball games.

Chesterton Art Center

The following programs are available through Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.:

- **Life Drawing Open Studio from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Mondays.**

This is an open studio setting, with a fully clothed model, so artists should take supplies, and help clean up afterwards. There is no formal instruction. The cost per session is \$10, plus a tip for the model.

- **Jennifer Martin will host a holiday edition of Cookies and Canvas on Friday, Jan. 13.**

Children 3-7 can attend from 5 to 6:30 p.m. and youth 8-14 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The evening will include an 8x10 snow-themed, stretched-canvas painting, as well as cookies and juice. The cost is \$10 per child, or \$5 for members. Register by Jan. 12.

- **Jennifer Martin will showcase Spanish surrealist painter Salvadore Dali as the January artist in children’s classes.**

Youth will study Dali’s melting clocks and other images. Children 3-16 (including homeschoolers) can participate and may start classes at any point during the school year.

- **The Northwest Indiana Rug Hookers will exhibit their fiber creations in January.**

Center hours to view the exhibit are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays.

Call the center at (219) 926-4711 for reservations or more information.

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Brauer Museum Winter Exhibits

Valparaiso University's Brauer Museum of Art kicks off its winter series of exhibits with "Sand & Steel: Visions of Our Indiana Shore," with an opening reception set for 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 15.

Curated by Gregg Hertzlieb, and appearing in the Wehling and McGill galleries through April 2, the exhibit primarily draws from the museum's permanent collections and features representations of the Indiana Dunes, as well as the regional steel mills. It enjoyed a successful run at South Shore Arts, Munster, and returns home to further celebrate regional and statewide anniversaries.

In the Education Room, "The MARTIN Bell: A Commemoration to MLK in Form, Sound & Action" complements the university's annual MLK Celebration with a sculpture by Bill Jeter.

"American Byways: Selections from U.S. Highway 80" features photographs by Rebecca Nolan in Gallery 1212. Nolan is a photographer and educator who chronicled her travels across the United States in the series.

The popular Thursday Night Noir series returns Jan. 19 with the 1946 film "Black Angel." The film/lecture series offers screenings and discussions that explore the classic genre. Four iconic movies will be featured by Peter Aglinskias, Indiana University Northwest Performing Arts faculty member and lecture series creator. All events are free and open to the public.

The VU Art Student Exhibit returns in April, featuring students' original artwork, along with "Botanical Lore, Legend and Transformation: Works by Jon Hook and Andrea Peterson" and "The Art of Ernst Schwidder."

The summer exhibits include new acquisitions, as well as "Duneland on Display: Works by the Duneland Plein Air Painters."

Throughout the season, the museum will host additional coffee hours and gallery talks with artists, curators and art collectors.

The museum is located in the VU Center for the Arts, 1709 Chapel Drive, Valparaiso. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, noon to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and closed Monday. Visit valpo.edu/brauer-museum-of-art for more information.

Ice Skating Rink

Michigan City Park & Recreation Department's ice skating rink at Fifth and Pine streets is open daily from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Parking is available at Sixth and Pine streets. The rink is lit daily from dusk to 10 p.m. There is no charge, but guests must take their own skates.

Cross-country skiing is permitted in all parks; however, park officials recommend using Patriot and Gardena parks.

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Cover Art Contest

The Michigan City Area Chamber of Commerce is accepting submissions for the cover of its 2018 Centennial Member Directory.

The publication is a resource for local residents, businesses and visitors. The subject matter of the submitted artwork must depict unique aspects of local business activity or Michigan City's commercial heritage. While it should be business-oriented, artwork should not depict business logos in a way that could be interpreted as promotional.

Artists in all mediums are encouraged to participate (paintings, photographs, textiles). Entries must measure approximately 9" x 11" and be submitted in person to the Chamber office, 200 E. Michigan Blvd., during regular business hours. Entries will be reviewed by a task force of three former chamber board members.

The submission deadline is March 15. The artist with the winning entry receives a \$300 prize. The winning artwork also becomes chamber property. Contact Paula Trout at the chamber at (219) 874-6221 or ptrout@mcatchamber.com for more details.

Shelf Ice Warning

Michigan City's parks department issued a reminder that ice along the shore, or shelf ice, is unsafe.

Lightweight with air pockets, the ice was pushed onto and near the beach by wind and wave action, forming an attractive shoreline with deadly, invisible holes. That's why visitors are warned not to walk on shelf ice, nor walk along the lighthouse pier.

A person applying even a small amount of weight on shelf ice easily can fall through and into frigid water that can quickly kill. If falling through, hypothermia will quickly set in, and survival is unlikely. Because ice layers constantly shift, a person may not find the same hole he/she fell through to get out.

Also, the lighthouse pier is ice-covered, which can lead to slipping and falling.

Visit www.michigancityparks.com or call Park Superintendent Jeremy Kienitz at (219) 873-1506 for more details.

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Activities to Explore

In the Area:

Jan. 12 — Music at the Museum, 2-3:30 p.m., Westchester Township Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

Jan. 13 — Cookies and Canvas, Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. Children 3-7: 5-6:30 p.m./youth 8-14: 7-8:30 p.m. Registration: (219) 926-4711.

Jan. 13 — Second Friday Opening, 5-8 p.m., Ellen Firme Art Gallery, 92 W. Dunes Highway, Beverly Shores.

Jan. 14 — Duneland Weavers Guild, 10 a.m., Westchester Public Library's Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton. Info: dunelandweaversguild.org

Jan. 14 — Children's Movie: "Frozen Sing-Along," 10 a.m.-noon, Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

Jan. 14 — Winter open house, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Dunes Learning Center, 700 Howe Road, Chesterton. Free. Info/reservations: www.duneslearning-center.org/events

Jan. 14 — Teen Movie Night: "Suicide Squad," 5 p.m., Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

Jan. 14 — Open Mic Night with host James Neary and the Bevy Blue, 8 p.m. EST, The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. No cover. Info: www.acorntheater.com, (269) 756-3879.

Jan. 14-15 — Snowshoe hike, 1-3 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

Jan. 15 — The Flora of Indiana Dunes, 1-2 p.m., Nature Center @ Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Jan. 15 — Steel Drum Concert Getaway, 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Jan. 16 — **MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY.**

Jan. 16 — Martin Luther King Jr. Community Celebration Breakfast, 8-9:30 a.m., Purdue University Northwest, James B. Dworkin Student Services and Activities Complex Great Hall. Free. Info: (219) 785-5545, odoml@pnw.edu

Jan. 16 — Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration for Kids, 10:30 a.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Jan. 18 — La Porte County Master Gardeners Brown Bag Series, noon-1 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Cost: \$5. Info: (219) 390-4118, karrenc@comcast.net

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.

In the Region

Jan. 14, 21 — Indoor Flea Market, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. EST, New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road. Info: (773) 803-9773.

Jan. 15 — Opening reception, “Sand & Steel: Visions of Our Indiana Shore,” 2 p.m. EST, Valparaiso University’s Brauer Museum of Art, 1709 Chapel Drive. Info: valpo.edu/brauer-museum-of-art

Jan. 16 — Martin Luther King Day – Preparing Seeds for Planting, 9 a.m.-noon, Paul H. Douglas Center, Lake Street in Gary’s Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882.



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

- Kingsbury Elementary School, 802 W. County Road 400 South, La Porte, 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 13. Students who recruit one presenting donor receive a Red Cross flashlight while supplies last.
- St. John Kanty, 7012 N. County Road 600 East, Rolling Prairie, 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 16.
- Michiana Hematology Oncology, 1668 S. U.S. 421, Westville, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 17.

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.

Cabin Fever Readers

New Buffalo Township Library will present its Cabin Fever Readers winter adult reading challenge through Tuesday, Feb. 28.

Cardholders and consortium members (Three Oaks, etc.) may pick up packets at the library, 33 N. Thompson St., or download them at www.newbuffalotownshiplibrary.org.

Participants should read at least four books in given “challenge” categories, such as “twisty mystery” and “books with winter in the title.” Qualified readers will be entered into drawings for library gear and gift cards to local businesses.

Questions can be emailed to nbtlcreate@gmail.com, or call (269) 469-2933.

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What's going on in Town Government?www.longbeachviews.com**Need help shoveling snow? I'm available seven days a week. References available upon request. Call Tommy Parker at (219) 840-4949.****If you need help with buying and delivery of groceries, give me a call. Call Julie at (219) 879-6114.****WINTER WATCH PROGRAM**Let Duneland Home & Hardware watch your home when you are not able to. **Call (219) 878-1720 today for details.****BUSINESS SERVICES****Reprographic Arts Inc.** Signs, banners, posters, custom T-shirts, decals, presentation boards, lamination, vehicle graphics, vinyl lettering, embroidery. Founded in 1970. Locally owned and operated.www.reprographicarts.com**ART SUPPLY GIFT SETS FOR BUDDING ARTISTS - FIRME'S (2 Stores) 11th & Franklin streets, Michigan City - 219/874-3455 U.S. 12, Beverly Shores - Just West of Traffic Light - 219/874-4003.****8-10-12-15 & 20 yard dumpster rentals
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Email resume to rjrichardson@marquette-hs.org

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; 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

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Basic Handgun Class

Michigan City Rifle Club, 4801 E. U.S. 20, will host a six-hour National Rifle Association Basic Handgun Phase II Shooting Course at 9 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 21.

The course introduces students to the knowledge, skills and attitude necessary for safely owning and using a handgun. Students must complete the NRA Phase I Basic Pistol (<https://basicpistol.nra.org/>) at an additional cost prior to taking Phase II.

The \$125 cost includes light refreshments. Class size is limited, and preregistration with deposit is required. Students should take 200 rounds of ammunition appropriate for his/her firearm, as well as eye and hearing protection. Pre-registration and a \$75 deposit are required.

Email jotto32@gmail.com or call (219) 369-3577 for more details.

Krasl Winter Classes

Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich., is accepting registration for winter classes.

A variety of youth studio classes are available, including: Saturday Ceramics (ages 4-5 with an adult); Art Sampler (ages 5-12) and Video Production (ages 13-18). Adult studio classes include "Portrait and Figure Drawing," "Introduction to Acrylics," "Handbuilding and Wheelthrowing Basics" and "Darkroom Photography."

Unless noted, the registration deadline is 10 days prior to the start of class. Visit krasl.org to see the full class listings and register.



Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail.)

Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the 'Sea, help me and show me, herein you are my mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth! I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in

this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my mother. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3x). Holy Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3x). Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in Eternal Glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. The person must say this prayer 3 consecutive days. After 3 days, the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor is granted.



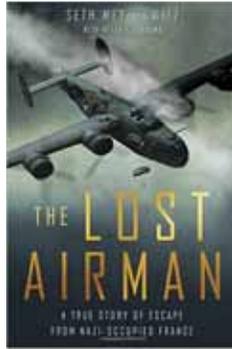
Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

Happy New Year!

It's 2017, and time to start on another year's promise of good reading to come. But first, Editor Andrew Tallackson suggested I write about my top 10 favorite books of last year. What?! Only 10! Impossible, I said. Possible, he said. So, for my personal *auld lang syne*, I herewith give you 10 of my personal favorite reads. I tried putting them in order of importance to me, but that proved useless — I love them all! In my mind, they're all No. 1. So here's a look back at some, repeat *some*, of my No. 1 reads...

The Lost Airman by Seth Meyerowitz with Peter F. Stevens. This is my non-fiction pick for the year. The author goes in search of the story of his grandfather — a downed pilot in Nazi-controlled France — in World War II. It's a breath-holding read of hiding in barns and basements, and sometimes in plain sight. It's also a heartwarming story of the French Resistance and the men who sacrificed much to fight the Nazis. Photos help bring this story to life.



The Woman in Cabin 10 by Ruth Ware is a nod to Agatha Christie and Alfred Hitchcock. The story is unadulterated adrenaline-fueled reading! This psychological thriller takes place on a cruise ship in the cold North Sea. A woman goes overboard, but the cabin she was in was unassigned. Crew and guests are all suspect. A read to keep you on the edge of your seat.

The Hatching by Ezekiel Boone is another kind of scary — science-fiction with a twist. It's not just the long dormant killer spiders that dominate this story. It's how scientists, the government community and everyday people react to the threat. This is not a screaming, towns blown up cinematic experience — it's far more creepy.

The Eagle Tree by Ned Hayes is simply a joy to read. Peter has a photographic memory...and he is autistic. His home town of Olympic, Wash., is full of the trees he loves, has all the facts about and climbs every day. His fight to save a particular tree will show his simple, but intelligent, mathematical approach to everything. This story will give you a new perspective on autism.

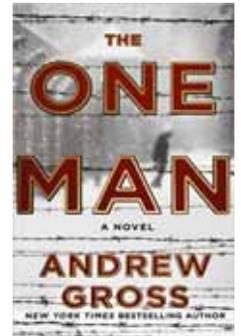
Heat & Light by Jennifer Haigh. The story is fiction, but the subject is as real as the weeds in your lawn. A coal mining town that has gone bust is now invaded by companies wanting rights to fracking for natural gas. They paint a pretty picture, but what's the real effect on the families involved? A great read for a book club.

Bull Mountain by Brian Panowich is a multi-generational story of a family on a mountain top in northern Georgia. The novel captures a way of life so well and so emotionally charged, I'm sure I was reading with my mouth wide open. Fiercely determined to keep their mountain, the Burroughs went from selling illegal booze to weed to meth, until one brother becomes a sheriff and tries to save his family from itself. A story as brutal as a northern Michigan winter.

The Muralist by B.A. Shapiro is a historical novel set in New York at the end of the 1930s. Alizee Benoit is a young Jewish girl who joined the arts program of the WPA and meets new abstract expressionist artists like Rothko and Pollock. She embraces her art and her life until war and anti-Semitism change everything forever. Shapiro is a master at making us consider how art can enter into all facets of life and make us think, love and act.

Sisi by Allison Pataki also is a historical novel. Sisi was the Empress Elisabeth, wife to Franz Joseph, the last Emperor of the Austro-Hungarian empire. She was the Princess Diana of her day, and the story shows how being royalty, rich and beautiful does not always make "happily ever after." Told with reality, but also compassion.

The One Man by Andrew Gross. This certainly was my most emotional read of the year. Taking place in World War II, it's the fictional story of a man breaking **into** Auschwitz to save a Polish physicist needed to help complete the Manhattan Project. It becomes a very emotional read as the story focuses on the people involved in the suicide mission. How much can people endure? How does it change our humanity? This is a read you won't soon forget.



Chains — Forge — Ashes by Laurie Halse Anderson. This is a trilogy, but I count them as one book because once you read the first one, you are compelled to continue the journey started by Isobel, a slave girl, in the dark days of the American Revolutionary War, starting out in New York state. These books should be compulsory reading in middle and high schools. Anderson shows us what life was really like for slaves of the Americans and the British: the promises, mostly broken, given by both sides, and the agonizing decisions this young girl makes to stay alive. Historical fiction brought brilliantly to life.

See you next week with my first pick of 2017. Until then, happy reading!



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1707 Wildomor • Long Beach
\$475,000

3 bedrooms, 2.75 baths. Hardwood floors, limestone fireplace and rec room. Rear patio with outdoor fireplace. Rear access, wooded privacy or potential private walking path to Lake Shore Drive. One of the most unique pieces of land in Long Beach, situated on over 20,000 sq ft lot, the possibilities are plentiful.



2756 Floral Trail • Long Beach
\$429,000

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