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Laughter as the Best Medicine

by Andrew Tallackson



Ed Asner sits on stage, alone, his face distinctly aged by time, but no less recognizable, his stage presence energized to make an audience laugh.

The years have not dulled the seven-time Emmy winner's trademark growl, chiseled and fine-tuned over the course of 12 years by playing venerable journalist Lou Grant on television. No one else *but him*, to be honest, could pull off the outrageous dialogue that propels his one-man show, "A Man and His Prostate."

Consider the telephone conversation between Asner's character and his business manager, Neville, after being hospitalized.

"When they were wheeling me in," he shouts, "they were wheeling out this dead guy, and he looked better than I did."

Later, as Asner's character undergoes the unpleasantness of a prostate exam, photos of Asner's reactions flash across a screen, the expressions ranging from flummoxed to comically agitated.

"I groaned again," Asner says of being in the presence of his physician,

Screen shots of Ed Asner's face during a prostate exam fuel big laughs during "A Man and His Prostate."

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It's Time To Spring Ahead

Sunday, March 10th

Laughter Continued from Page 1

“not so much in pain, but just to let him know that this is *not* the sort of thing I get on a regular basis.”

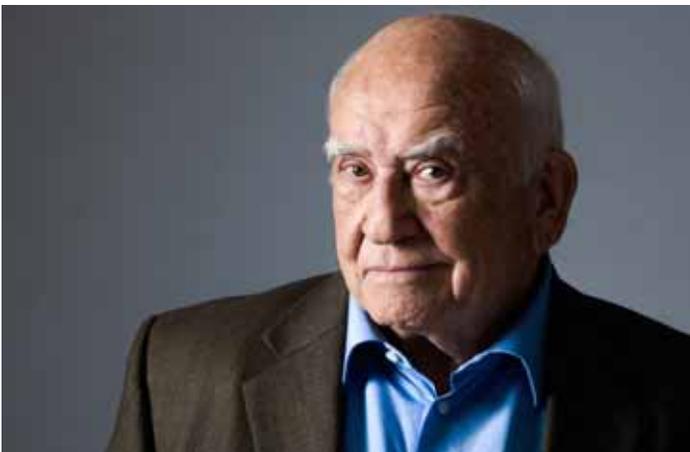
The uproarious audience reaction is a tribute to Asner, now 89, and playwright Ed Weinberger, that these two can induce laughter while exploring a subject that, for many, is no laughing matter.

Asner gave a brief phone interview with *The Beacher* about a week before his sold-out March 9 performance of “A Man and His Prostate” at The Acorn Theatre in Three Oaks, Mich.

Asner agreed to do the show because of the quality of the material, with little concern about whether the subject matter might turn some people off.

“I didn’t worry about it. I just wanted to do it,” he said. “It made me laugh. It’s beautifully put together. It’s a very funny show.”

Weinberger is the show’s creator and writer. The winner of three Golden Globes, a Peabody Award and Writers Guild of America Lifetime Achievement Award, he wrote stand-up material for Richard Pryor and Dick Gregory before being hired by “The Tonight Show starring Johnny Carson.” He was a contributing writer for Bob Hope, “The Dean Martin Variety Hour” and “The Cosby Show,” winning an Emmy for the classic sitcom “Taxi.” He also created the shows “Amen,” “Dear John,” “Baby Talk” and “Sparks.”



Ed Asner has won more Emmys than any other male actor.

It was while vacationing in Italy that Weinberger was hospitalized and prepped for prostate cancer surgery. That experience inspired him to create “A Man and His Prostate,” which he describes as being

about how “a man discovers his inner self in more ways than one.”

Amid the laughs, the show addresses a legitimate health issue, with Asner noting that every 16 minutes, a man in the U.S. dies from prostate cancer. Indeed, the figures are startling. According to the American Cancer Society, estimates for 2019 indicate the following:

- About 174,650 new cases of prostate cancer.
- About 31,620 deaths from prostate cancer.
- About one in nine men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer during his lifetime.
- Prostate cancer is diagnosed mostly in older men and in black men.
- More than 2.9 million U.S. men diagnosed with prostate cancer are still alive today.



Ed Asner, seen here in this promotional still, has been performing “A Man and His Prostate” for about two years.

Having Asner embrace the snarling, grumpy old man persona audiences enjoy, Weinberger has stated in interviews, complete with the actor’s gravelly voice, is what hooks the audience into the serious side of the show.

Asner agrees.

“I tell a joke to the audience,” he says, “and that allows me to stick with the subject matter.”

Touring across the country, “A Man and his Prostate” has met with positive critical and audience reaction.

Theatre critic Anna Allegra-Bennett wrote, “*It is a thoroughly enjoyable piece of theater with a nice balance of both comedic and more serious elements. Asner is a master of comedy, and charms with his personality and distinct voice.*”

Daryl Reilly of Theater Scene wrote, "Asner's appearance is a delightfully thrilling opportunity to experience his considerable talents. He lands every joke with monumental comic timing. In part a public service announcement for men to get prostate exams, 'A Man and His Prostate' is totally entertaining due to its superior writing and Ed Asner's great star performance."

Asner is delighted by the reviews, but it is the audience feedback after a show that is intensely gratifying.

"There is a certain proportion of those who had the operation and say to me, 'Yeah, I went through that, too'," Asner says. "Then, there are those who are unformed and learn a lot from it.

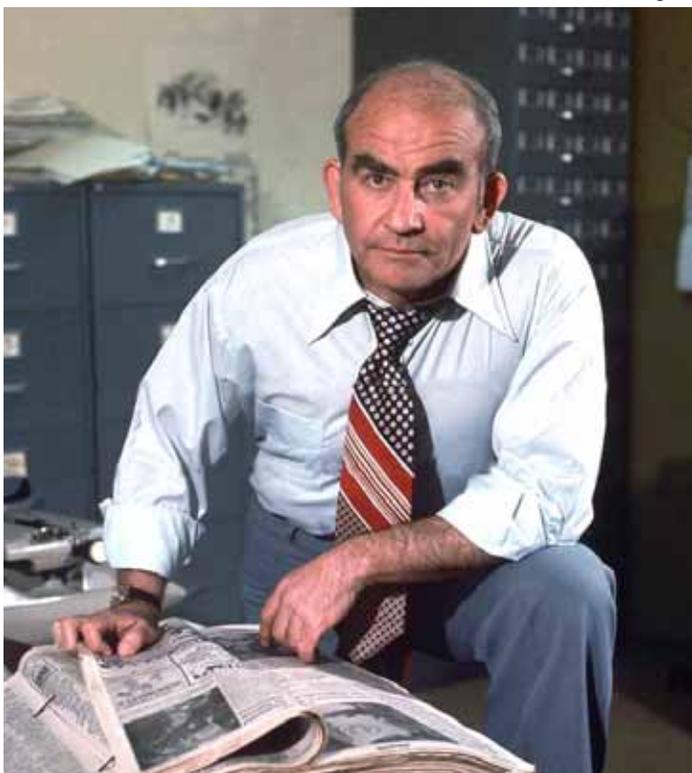
"The best compliment is how real it is."

Weinberger has said in interviews that Asner was born to play the role, and the playwright certainly could not have chosen a more accomplished actor.

Asner has won more Emmys than any other male actor. He won five for playing Lou Grant. The other two were for playing Captain Davies in the landmark TV mini-series "Roots" and as Axel Jordache in the wildly popular mini-series "Rich Man, Poor Man." He is one of only two actors to win an Emmy for a sitcom and a drama, having played Lou Grant in the classic sitcom "The Mary Tyler Moore Show," where Grant worked in television, then in the dramatic spinoff "Lou Grant," where the character now called the shots at a newspaper.

"I couldn't have been luckier," he says of playing Lou Grant. "They made him real comedically, and

Continued on Page 4



Ed Asner considers himself "lucky" to have played Lou Grant for so many years.

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INTERESTING LAKEFRONT BILL IN INDIANA LEGISLATURE

SB 581 introduced by Blake Doriot (R-Syracuse) is a bill that passed out of committee 8-0 and gives total control of the space between the OHWM referred to in Gunderson and the water's edge to the DNR. It provides that rules adopted by the Indiana Natural Resources Commission "supersede an ordinance of a unit of local government, including a zoning ordinance, that is inconsistent with the adopted rules."

The DNR Commission may adopt rules regarding "movements of sand through natural forces or otherwise" "flow of water, including water from a source on a privately owned lot," "permitting specification for any maintenance, construction, or another (sic) similar activity in the Lake Michigan Shore related to (A) beach grooming; (B) seawalls; (C) revetments; (D) secondary erosion control; and (E) retaining walls and (4) other matters relating to the use of Lake Michigan shore zones.

A "Shore Zone" is the area between the water and the OHWM. The OHWM is defined as "the natural line on the bank of Lake Michigan that is: (1) established by the fluctuations of water; and (2) indicated by certain physical characteristics, including one or more the following: (A) A clear and natural line impressed on the bank or shore. (B) Shelving. (C) Changes in the soil's character. (D) Absence of terrestrial vegetation. (E) The presence of litter or debris deposited by a natural process.

The Shore Zone also can be determined from neighboring property conditions or by "reference to a fixed elevation."

Frankly, this sort of legislation scares me because there are so many unclear terms about the definition of the "Shore Zone," and the creation of all the rules is left entirely up to the DNR with no limits.

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Laughter

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then for five years, they made him real dramatically."

Grant also has done considerable voice-over work, from "Hoggish Greedly on Captain Planet and the Planetears" (1990–1995), to Master Vrook from "Star Wars: Knights of the Old Republic" and its sequel, to Ed Wuncler on "The Boondocks" (2005–2014).

Amid these successes, more accolades emerged. In 1996, he was inducted into the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences Hall of Fame. Five years later, he received the Screen Actors Guild Life Achievement Award.

During the past 20 years, he has gained a following among younger audiences, playing Santa in the Christmas classic "Elf" (2003) and, most unforgettably, as the voice of Carl Fredricksen in Pixar's deeply moving, Oscar-winning "Up" (2009).



Asner remains proud of having voiced Carl Fredricksen in Pixar's Oscar-winning "Up" (2009).

Asner says he did not foresee the impact "Up" would have with audiences, particularly adults.

"When you're doing voice-over work, it is satisfying to be part of it," he says. "You have to find the right tone. You like what you're doing, but you have no idea how effective it will be.

"When I finally saw it, I had the broad feeling of contentment. There really is a sense of wonder. It moves people to tears, and you're not used to that in animation."

And during these turbulent times for the media, could the world use a few Lou Grants here and there?

Asner laughs.

"We could definitely use them," he says. "We could use a lot of them."

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com



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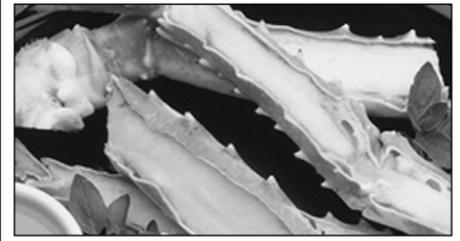
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Give Slow Moving “Boy Who Harnessed the Wind” a Chance

by Andrew Tallackson



Chiwetel Ejiofor and Maxwell Simba star in “The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind.”

“The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind” is a kindred soul to Alfonso Cuarón’s “Roma.” These Netflix films introduce families in turmoil on soil foreign to our own. Both inch along at a snail’s pace.

There’s just one difference.

“The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind,” based on the remarkable true story of William Kamkwamba, rewards your patience with a powerful conclusion. “Roma,” for all its technical mastery, is like watching 10 coats of paint dry.

The film marks the directorial debut of British actor Chiwetel Ejiofor. He’s one of those dependable actors who, despite a magnificent range (“American Gangster,” “2012,” “12 Years a Slave”), slips through the cracks. In “The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind,” he is exceptionally good behind the camera *and* in front of it, never sentimentalizing a story where the feel-good elements might have cheapened it.

Indeed, William’s story is the fodder for many an underdog Disney picture. Living in Malawi, specifically in Wimbe, he was a teen in the mid-2000s, watching famine destroy not just his village, but also his family, when he cobbled together a wind turbine out of junk yard scraps, bicycle parts, blue gum trees and electrical appliances. That turbine allowed his village to sow successful crops.

Cut-and-dried storytelling, right?

No so. Where the film dwells before its happy resolve is in the insurmountable hardships of William’s family and friends: villagers selling trees on



“The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind”

Running time: 113 minutes. TV-14 (the equivalent of PG-13 for brief violence and mature themes)

their land for profit, resulting in subsequent flooding, political unrest and violence, food shortages and stalled schooling when money falls short.

The unflinching approach makes for slow going. It is only human nature, as a moviegoer, to crave a little uplift after witnessing human suffering, and Ejiofor holds off as long as he can. Maybe *too* long.

But how William survived at all is a tribute to his family — Ejiofor and Aissa Maïga are heartbreakingly good as his parents — and to the power of reading and a good education. Here is a film where parents push learning at all costs, even as their own hopes and dreams are squashed. Maxwell Simba, as William, is exceptional, his eyes conveying a refusal to give up, even as his body sags, weary from repeated defeat.

When the big scene finally arrives — the moment of truth for William’s turbine — we are moved. We’ve been waiting for that release, and we get it. The movie has earned its emotional close.

Yes, “The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind” is slow. Believe me, though, the reward at the end is worth it.

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“The Secret Garden” Opens Friday at Marquette High School

Marquette Catholic High School’s Drama Department will present the musical “The Secret Garden” for a two-weekend run starting March 8 at the school’s Rudy Hart Theatre, 306 W. 10th St.

The play is based on Frances Hodgson Burnett’s classic novel.

Performances are at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, March 8-9 and 15-16, and 2 p.m. Sunday, March 10 and 17. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for students and seniors and \$5 for children 12 and younger.

Directed by Amy Crane, the cast includes:

- Lily Craven — Cassidy Downs.
- Mary Lennox — Molly Neary.
- Archibald Craven — Javante Blakely.
- Dr. Craven — Wil Crane.
- Mrs. Medlock — Kate Zien-



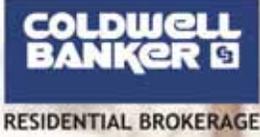
tarski.

- Martha — Quinn Larkin.
- Dickon — Sam Salyer.
- Ben — Joey Henrich.
- Colin Craven — Mary Cate Neary.
- Mrs. Winthrop — Scout Steinhiser.
- Jane (maid) — Ava Zientarski.
- Betsy (maid) — Annie Larkin.
- Ayah — Kenzie Losinski.
- Albert Lennox — Cal Larkin.
- Rose Lennox — Natalia Ruiz.
- Lt. Wright — Mason Hervey.
- Claire Wright — Grace Murphy.
- Lt. Shaw — Aaron White.
- Alice Shaw — Marissa Delgado.
- Mj. Holmes — Jake Zientarski.
- Mrs. Holmes — Kacey Marovic.
- Mj. Shelley — Cody LaRocco.
- Mrs. Shelley — Zoe Kolosci.
- Dreamers — Pam Keehn, Aurora Grott, Jordan Goodwin and Scout Steinhiser.
- Children’s Ghost Chorus — Elaina Baling, Rosalie Johnston, Livia Baling, Seph Kolosci, Ella Crane, Liam Neary, Mason Crowell, Ella Rucinski, Xander Henrich, Aine Rudzevicius, Ally Henrich, Ella Taylor, Remy Hernstrom and Rosemary Yurechko.

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(Thanks to Amy Crane for providing The Beacher with these photos.)

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Next Conductor Candidate to Lead LCSO Performance

LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra will host its second music director candidate, Maria Mercedes Diaz Garcia, at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 10, at The Holdcraft Center for the Performing Arts, 1200 Spring St.

Diaz Garcia will preside over the program "Coming to America," which features selections by Leonard Bernstein, Antonin Dvorak, Duke Ellington and George Gershwin. She is one of six finalists chosen to lead the orchestra over two seasons.

She also is the first women to conduct a full LCSO concert in 15 years.

After the final concert of the 2019-2020 season, a new music director will be named.

A native of Spain, Diaz Garcia has undergraduate degrees in piano and oboe, as well as conducting degrees, from Bard College in New York and the Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music. She is finishing her doctorate at Bowling Green State University

in Ohio. She serves as conducting fellow/assistant conductor of orchestras at BGSU, where she conducts the New Music Ensemble. She also is the music director and founder of VIVE! Ensemble that, since 2015, has performed standard literature and new works.

The March 10 program includes:

- Leonard Bernstein — "Overture to Candide."
- George Gershwin — "Lullaby."
- Duke Ellington — "It Don't Mean A Thing If It Ain't Got That Swing."
- Antonin Dvorak — "Symphony No. 9 (New World)."

Tickets, which are \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors and free for children/students, may be purchased at www.LCSO.net or by calling (219) 362-9020. They also are available at: LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St.; Roxy Music, 1012 Lincolnway, LaPorte; and Visit Michigan City LaPorte tourism bureau in Michigan City.



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Shirley Heinze Land Trust to Host Annual Educational Hike Series

Shirley Heinze Land Trust will highlight the region's natural beauty through its annual series of educational hikes.

Led by a variety of experts, this year's series includes four hikes at nature preserves across the region, including: Trillium Ravine Nature Sanctuary in Berrien County, Mich; Clark and Pine Nature Preserve in Lake County; Springfield Fen in LaPorte County; and Cowles Bog at Indiana Dunes National Park.

Botanist Scott Namestnik will lead the spring wildflower hike at Trillium Ravine, a 15-acre Michigan Nature Association preserve, from 9 a.m. to noon EDT Saturday, May 4. The property is home to spring wildflowers, especially trilliums, as well as sedges, ferns and other native plants. The hike will take place on an established trail on level ground.

From 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, June 22, Emily Stork will lead a hike at Clark and Pine Nature Preserve: a property not open to the public.

Stork is a regional ecologist for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Nature Preserves. The Clark and Pine preserve features dune and swale topography, one of Indiana's rarest habitat types. The site has no trails. Participants should be prepared to hike through vegetation and wet, uneven terrain. High waterproof boots are recommended.

From 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, July 13, Derek Nimetz will lead a hike at Springfield Fen Nature Preserve.

Nimetz is a regional ecologist for the Indiana DNR Division of Nature Preserves. The Fen preserve protects an upland forest community and numerous wetland habitats, including a high-quality calcareous wetland

known as a prairie fen. It harbors many rare plant and animal species. Participants should be prepared for uneven and muddy terrain.

The final hike in the series is from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Aug. 24. Mycologist Greg Mueller will lead hikers to seek and identify mushrooms at Cowles Bog.

Mueller is chief scientist and Negaunee Foundation vice president for science at the Chicago Botanic Garden.

Group size is limited to 15, and advance registration and payment are required. There is a \$25 fee per person for each hike. Visit www.heinze-trust.org/hike-program.html for more details. Call (219) 242-8558 or email Sarah Barnes at sbarnes@heinze-trust.org to register.

Since 1981, Shirley Heinze Land Trust has protected, restored and maintained Northwest Indiana's natural communities, including tallgrass prairie, high dune, oak savanna, boreal flatwoods, dune and swale, woodlands, marshes, swamps, ponds, fens, bogs and riparian habitat.



Scott Namestnik leads a hike at Warren Woods.

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- **LaPorte** Office: **March 19, Tuesday from 5-6 PM**, located at 1405 E. Lincolnway Suite B (in the same building as Hair Fitness).
- **Valparaiso** office: **March 21, Thursday from 6-7 PM**, located at 3125 Calumet Ave. Suite 8 (next to the YMCA).

This workshop is ABSOLUTELY FREE, but I am only taking 20 attendees for each location...so call **(219) 380-0809 in La Porte or (219) 386-4488 in Valparaiso** NOW to reserve your spot.

Sincerely,



Dr. Michael Pfeifer, DPT, ATC
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P.S. Call (219) 380-0809 in LaPorte or (219) 386-4488 in Valparaiso now to secure your spot for my Balance and Dizziness Workshop on **March 19, Tuesday, 5-6 PM in LaPorte and March 21, Thursday, 6-7 PM in Valparaiso.**

P.P.S. This workshop is ABSOLUTELY FREE, but I am only taking 20 attendees. Learn how to overcome dizziness, fear of falling, vertigo and unsteadiness in this must-attend-workshop!

Michigan City Public Library

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

- **Makerspace: open lab hours from 3 to 5 p.m. Thursdays in March.**

Youth ages 6-18 can create with LEGO WeDo, Micro Bits, paper circuits and Ozobots. Children 12 and younger must have a parent or guardian attend with them.

- **Needle Arts League at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, March 7, 14, 21 and 28.**

Membership to the group, formerly known as the Knit Club, is open to anyone interested in needle arts such as crochet, needlepoint, cross-stitch, crewel, tatting and other hand stitching. All skill levels and ages are welcome.

- **Coastline Children's Film Festival at 10 and 11:30 a.m. Saturday, March 9.**



The stop-motion short "Poles Apart" will be shown during the Coastline Children's Film Festival.

First up at 10 a.m. is "Kid Flicks 2." With a range of styles and themes, the collection from the New York International Children's Film Festival offers short films for children 8 and older, including the stop-motion short "Poles Apart" and the CG "Goku-

rosama." Light refreshments will be served.

The Young Filmmakers Competition at 11:30 a.m. features 20 short films by young directors from Michigan and Indiana. Awards are presented to the top three films and the Audience Favorite.

- **The Magic of Kalita at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 9.**

Matt Kalita returns for his annual magic show after the Michigan City St. Patrick's Day parade.

- **Story Time at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., at 11 a.m. Monday, March 11.**

The Story Time Crew presents stories, songs, activities and crafts. Arrive a few minutes early to receive your child's name tag. The program is appropriate for children birth-5 accompanied by an adult.

- **Great Decisions at 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 11.**

The foreign-policy discussion program returns for its 21st season. The discussion is nuclear negotiations. Reading material is available at the circulation desk.

- **St. Patrick's Day Craft at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 12.**

The craft is appropriate for children 4 and older accompanied by an adult. All materials are provided. Children must be present to receive supplies.

- **Story Time at 1 p.m. Tuesdays, March 12, 19 and 26, and 10 a.m. Wednesdays, March 13, 20 and 27.**

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

- **Registration is under way for the genealogy bus trip to Allen County Public Library.**

The annual trip, cosponsored by the library and LaPorte County Genealogical Society, is Wednesday, April 24. The center has an extensive collection of North American genealogy resources. The \$21 cost is due by April 1. Send a check payable to LaPorte County Genealogical Society, c/o Patricia Harris, 504 Greenwood Ave., Michigan City, IN 46360.

Pickup is at 7 a.m. at Marquette Mall by the former Marquette Theatre. It will arrive at Kabelein's Ace Hardware in LaPorte at 7:30 a.m. The bus leaves the library for the trip back at 4 p.m.

- **Learning Center Volunteers Needed**

The Learning Center needs volunteer tutors for children and adults. Students need assistance in: reading, math, high school equivalency and English as a Second Language. All supplies and training are provided. All that's required are two hours a week. Contact Jessica Hoffmaster at (219) 873-3043 or stop by the center for more information.



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

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Violist to Present Free Concert

Michigan City Chamber Music Festival will present violist Istvan Szabó in a free recital at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 10, at First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St.

The program, which features works by Paganini, Frescobaldi and Handel-Halvorsen, includes Jennifer Muñiz on piano and Nic Orbovich on violin.



Istvan Szabó

A Western Illinois University viola professor, Szabó is a graduate of the University of Illinois and the George Dima Academy of Music in Cluj, Romania, with a double major in viola performance and pedagogy. He also studied at the University of Illinois with MCCMF veteran Rudolf Haken.

As a chamber musician, Szabó has performed throughout Europe and the United States. He also participated in workshops with artists and teachers such as Hatto Beyerle (founding member of the Alban Berg String Quartet), Sandor Devich (founding member of the Bartok String Quartet), the Amadeus String Quartet, Schubert String Quartet and Pal Szabo, cellist of the Vegh String Quartet.

In June 2016, Szabo presented a lecture/recital at the American Viola Society Festival at Oberlin Conservatory, performing the second viola concerto composed by Boris Isaakovich Zeidman. He also is in demand as an adjudicator, having served at young artist and chamber music competitions in the Midwest.

A reception immediately follows the March 10 concert. Visit mccmf.org for more information.

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Lubeznik Arts Festival Registration

Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., invites artists to apply for its annual art festival set for Aug. 17-18.

Now in its 38th year, the Lubeznik Arts Festival features fine art and fine craft exhibitors alongside contemporary art galleries, food and interactive family activities. It is held on the LCA grounds to connect festivalgoers to center programming and exhibitions.

About 75 to 100 exhibitors are expected. All proceeds aid center programming and community outreach efforts.



Knowski

The selection process is juried by Kristina Knowski, a Northwest Indiana fine artist and illustrator. Since graduating as valedictorian from the American Academy of Art in Chicago in 2012, she has participated in numerous group and solo shows in Chicago, Northwest Indiana and surrounding states. Some of these include: "Animalier: The Animal in Contemporary Art;" "Apocalypse 2012: Genesis 2013;" "Facing Extinction;" and "Birds & Bees." Her most notable solo show was "Dreams of Martha" at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, held in remembrance of the 100-year anniversary of the extinction of the Passenger Pigeon. She manages SFC Gallery in Michigan City's Uptown Arts District.

Visit www.zapplication.org/event-info.php?ID=7438 to apply online. Applications must be accompanied by a \$35 fee and submitted by March 29.

Partnership Luncheon

Shirley Heinze Land Trust will host a Partnership Luncheon for its conservation partners and the public Friday, March 22, at The Gillespie Center, 53995 Indiana 933, South Bend.

The keynote speaker is Marge Riemenschneider, past president and treasurer of the South Bend-Elkhart Audubon Society, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary. She will speak about the importance of preserving land as habitat for birds and other wildlife.

Heinze Trust Executive Director Kristopher Krouse will speak about the trust's mission and work, and provide updates on public-access projects under way at Lydick Bog, a 178-acre nature preserve containing one of Indiana's last remaining bog habitats. The property was recently dedicated as an Indiana State Nature Preserve.

Registration begins at 11:30 a.m. EST, followed by the program at noon EST. Tickets and table sponsorships may be purchased at www.heinzetrust.org, or by contacting Bonnie Hawksworth at (219) 242-8558 or bhawksworth@heinzetrust.org. RSVPs are requested no later than Monday, March 18.

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A Night to Remember

by Andrew Tallackson



Adam Lambert (left), seen here with Queen lead guitarist Brian May, brought this year's Academy Awards to a dynamite start, an appropriate tribute to Freddie Mercury and "Bohemian Rhapsody."

Wow. What a night!

Whether you concur with Spike Lee, that the Best Picture win for "Green Book" was uncomfortably "safe," or mourned Olivia Colman's surprise Best Actress upset over Glenn Close, or gaped as Bradley Cooper and Lady Gaga appeared one notch away from spooning during their performance of "Shallow," the night was anything but dull.

In fact, so much of the 91st Academy Awards was on point, it made for a satisfying evening, the most enjoyable in years.

All that brouhaha about proceeding with a host-less spectacle was for naught. The evening flowed beautifully, shaving 30 minutes off a typically length-be-damned event. And by kicking off the festivities with Adam Lambert fronting Queen in a killer medley of the group's hits, the evening's "entertainment" was an appropriate tribute to "Bohemian Rhapsody," which turned out to be the night's big winner with four Oscars, including Rami Malek's much-deserved Best Actor win for his astonishing portrayal of Freddie Mercury.

Turns out, all the changes paid off. The telecast saw a spike in viewers — 3.1 million, to be exact — for a total of 29.6 million. It also helped that movies that actually clicked with mass audiences — "A Star is Born," "Black Panther," "Bohemian Rhapsody" — were among the eight Best Picture nominees.

And the winners, themselves?

Spike Lee, who finally scored his first Oscar for co-writing "BlackKklansman," reportedly threw up his hands in disgust and tried to leave the room when "Green Book" took the evening's top prize. His argument: It's "Driving Miss Daisy" all over again.

(Lee's seminal work, 1989's "Do the Right Thing," scored only two nominations, overshadowed by the more genteel "Driving Miss Daisy" during that year's Oscar telecast.)

I like "Green Book." A lot. As a character study and period piece, it's moving, exceedingly well-acted. But a friend of mine made this observation: Hollywood may be on a liberal uptick by honoring more diverse talent...but it's not ready for films like "Black Panther" or "BlackKklansman" to win Best Picture. A sad statement. We *should* be ready. We should have been ready a long time ago. I suppose the Oscars are in a baby steps phase, testing the growing pains amid their own rocky waters.

However, the fact that Marvel took home four Oscars — three for "Black Panther" and one for Best Animated Feature Film for "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse" — was an absolute step in the right direction. These are two films with no white leads, yet scored with critics *and* the box office. No Oscar win was better deserved than that of Ruth Carter for Best Costume Design. Now the first black woman in Oscar history honored in this category, her phenomenal work in "Black Panther" celebrated Africa with colors and designs unlike anything we've

seen in a popcorn movie.

And what to make of the biggest upset of the night — Colman's Best Actress win for "The Favourite" over Close's career high in "The Wife." My question is: who did Close piss off in the Academy that made her the Oscar's red-headed stepchild? Colman is a dynamite actress. Her acceptance speech was the evening's most delightful. Her gonzo performance in "The Favourite" is a sight to behold...but the actress, in the film, finds one note to play and doesn't stray from it. Close's work builds with a devastating crescendo. Did not enough people see "The Wife"? If they didn't, shame on them.

On the plus side, kudos to the Academy for recognizing "Free Solo" as Best Documentary Feature Film. Recounting Alex Honnold's June 2017 free-solo ascent at El Capitan in Yosemite National Park, the film was visual eye candy and emotionally con-

suming. And for those who've seen it, director Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi's acceptance speech also was the night's most moving when she thanked Honnold's girlfriend, Sanni McCandless, of whom she said "climbed her own mountain that day." See the film, and you'll understand, and appreciate, what she meant.

Congrats, as well, to the Academy for honoring "Bohemian Rhapsody" in the fields of editing, sound effects and sound editing. Few can say they were present that day Queen stole the show at Live Aid, but after this film, witnessing it in all its rock gods glory on the big screen, we got an agreeable taste. The film's climactic re-enactment is a sensory experience like no other: a brilliant mix of effects, camera trickery, archival footage and painstaking recreation that brings alive Queen's crowning achievement.

Speaking of achievements, is Jamie Edwards unbeatable?

This is the Michigan City resident's third year in a row winning *The Beacher's* annual "Beat the Editor" Oscar contest. She correctly guessed six of the eight categories, Best Actor and Actress proving the two fields that stumped her. Indeed, the anything goes nature of this year's nominees had her second-guessing herself. Ultimately, she went with Christian Bale for Best Actor and Close for Best Actress.



"I went with Close because I felt she needs it. It's her due. Her time," she said. "That's why I picked her, and I wish she would have gotten it."

As the winner, Edwards receives a \$25 gift certificate to Fiddlehead, our gracious contest sponsor, and a \$25 AMC gift card. She was the only one to correctly predict six of the eight winners.

I landed with five of the eight. Once "Roma" took home the prize for Best Foreign Film, it was a given the movie would not waltz away with Best Picture. And like most Oscarphiles, it seemed Close would take Best Actress, while "Green Book" obviously struck a chord with voters over my prediction of "The Favourite" for Best Original Screenplay.

(It should be noted, Michigan City's Bill Wild was the only reader in our contest who correctly predicted Colman would head home a happy woman.)

This year, we added a second-place prize — a \$25 AMC gift card — and three other readers also correctly predicted five of the winners. They were:

- Larry Arness, Porter.
- Bill Dorner, Indianapolis.
- Doug Robinson, Michigan City.

We put their names into a drawing, and Robinson came out the winner. A little about him: He grew up in Lakeside, Mich., but has lived many years in Michigan City. Semi-retired, he owns Lefty's Pro Shop on Wabash Street. He and his wife, Jeanne, are movie buffs.



Robinson appreciated the competitive nature of this year's Oscars, but says he was glad to see "Green Book" win Best Picture.

"It was believable," he said of the film. "I grew up in that time, and I lived in New Orleans when I was 18. I thought they did an excellent job of keeping things in context with the time it was set in."

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

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MCHS Teams Finish Among Top Five in Japanese Olympiad

Michigan City High School students showcased their Japanese language skills and knowledge at the recent Japanese Olympiad of Indiana, with all teams finishing among the top five in the state.

The day-long academic tournament is for high school students studying Japanese. More than 100 students from nine schools participated in the event held Feb. 23 at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. Schools included Avon, Bloomington North, Chesterton, Elkhart Central, Highland, Indiana Academy, Michigan City, Muncie Central and Penn.

The Olympiad featured separate competitions for Level 2, 3 and 4 students, depending on how many years of Japanese they have studied. They then competed in a playoff against other schools at the same level, with only the top three scoring teams advancing to the final.

The competition was judged by Japanese professors — all of whom are native speakers — from IU, IUPUI, Ball State, Purdue, DePauw and Earlham College.

At Level 3, the team of Trinity Clayton and Robert Lemon finished second in Indiana. In the playoffs, they tied with another City team of Parker Gouge, Megan Steinhiser and Olivia Leary.

“Only one team from any school could advance to the finals,” MCHS Japanese teacher Mike Tsugawa said in a press release. “It was near heartbreaking to watch these good friends and classmates face off against one another.”



Michigan City High School's competitors arrive at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.

Gouge, Steinhiser and Leary supported the winning team in the final round, finishing the competition in fourth place.

The Level 4 team of Natalie Parker and Kiara Stansil placed third. This marks the third straight year the two made the finals, which Tsugawa characterized as “an amazing feat.”

At Level 2 — the hardest level to break through since it has the biggest field — the two City teams of Reese Attar, Linda Will and Raven Stansil, and Erica Galindo, Aviana Garner and

Mia Taylor, scored well in the playoffs, taking fourth and fifth place.

During the competition, high school students learned about various aspects of Japanese culture. The program included a presentation of Minyo, a form of folk song and dance, by performer Molly Jeon and her teacher, Baisho Matsumoto.

The olympiad was sponsored by The East Asian Studies Center of Indiana University, the Japanese Studies Department of IUPUI, the Association of Indiana Teachers of Japanese and the Consulate General of Japan of Chicago, who attended and gave the opening remarks.

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Indiana Dunes National Park

The following programs are planned:

• **Migration Birding Hike from 8 to 10 a.m. Saturday, March 9, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

Brad Bumgardner, birding expert and Indiana Audubon Society executive director, leads the program that heads by carpool to the month's birding spot. Types of birds sighted can vary and are based on recent sightings of the previous week to determine what locations to visit. Take binoculars, and dress for the weather.



Bumgardner

• **Maple Sugar Time from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, March 9-10, at Chellberg Farm.**

The 41st annual Maple Sugar Time festival features one-hour tours that start every 20 minutes. Learn how American Indians first boiled maple sap into sugar, and how early settlers used large iron kettles to make syrup. Then, stand in the warm steam of the sugar shack, where sap is boiled the way the Chellbergs did in the 1930s.

Try drilling a tap hole, lugging heavy sap buckets using an old-fashioned yoke, and later sample a free taste of pure maple syrup.

Warm up in the farmhouse and collect recipes featuring maple syrup. Pure maple syrup and sugar, and related products such as maple-flavored popcorn and maple water, will be sold. Guests also can learn how to make maple syrup at home, and how modern maple sugar farmers use advanced technology to make syrup today.

Chellberg Farm is off Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 and 20, Porter.

• **Art in the National Park from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturdays through May 11 at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

Meet local artists who use the dunes as inspiration to take photos, paint, draw or write. Programs may be inside or outside.



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

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Westchester Public Library

The following programs are available:

- **Bits & Bytes series, Google Apps, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Thursday, March 7, in the Thomas Library Serials/Automation Department, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

Registration is required by visiting or calling the IT Department at (219) 926-7696, or registering at www.wpl.lib.in.us. Click on the Bits & Bytes link.

- **Lego Club from 4 to 5 p.m. Friday, March 8, 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.

- **WPL Movies in March: "A Star is Born" at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, March 10, at The Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

The film is Rated R. Free popcorn is available.

- **"Words Made Music" concert by Duo Sequenza at 6 p.m. Monday, March 11, at The Baugher Center.**

The free, 45-minute informal program honors Pulitzer Prize-winning composer (and diarist) Ned Rorem, who was born in Richmond and is now 95. The chosen music is his work for flute and classical guitar, "Romeo and Juliet," in which nine short movements are based on a particular line from Shakespeare's play.

- **"Indigenous Plants of Northwest Indiana" exhibit runs Wednesday, March 6, through Mother's Day, May 12, at Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.**

In 1999, Marshall D'Arcy used a new Olympus digital camera to take photos of plants he saw while growing up in Ogden Dunes. Along with a GPS, he recorded the location, plant genus and time of day for each photograph. He repeated this practice for 15 years, amassing more than 6,000 photos of 245 plant species.

- **Mad About Mysteries at 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 13, at Westchester Township History Museum.**

Basketball great Kareem Abdul-Jabbar teamed with scriptwriter Anna Waterhouse to write "Mycroft Holmes," a reimagining of Sherlock's older brother. Light refreshments will be served.

- **Baby Shark Bash from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 13, at Thomas Library.**

The program for children 4-6 includes shark tales, facts and songs, and making shark sensory bottles. Registration is required by calling call (219) 926-7696.

Have a story idea? Share it with us!

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A Collection of Reflections

Wheatfield painter Doris Myers will present "Trees, Rocks & Water: A Collection of Reflections" through April 10 at Valparaiso's The Village Gallery.



Doris Myers, at work painting images inspired by nature.

Over the years, Myers has explored a range of stylistic directions, from abstraction and pointillism to realism. Drawing inspiration from her environment, whether it be a backyard pond or a lush marsh in Savannah, she feels most at home drawing upon nature as subject matter.

After 17 years of marriage and being the mother of four children, Myers earned a Bachelor of Science at Valparaiso University, then a master's degree from Ball State University. Retiring after 23 years as a public schools art educator, she continued as a professional artist and educator, giving lectures, demonstrations and workshops in a variety of media, including painting, pottery and silk painting. She will celebrate her 98th birthday in November.

The non-profit Village Gallery is located in Pines Village Retirement Communities, 3303 Pines Village Circle. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call (219) 465-1591 for details.

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LaPorte County Public Library

The following programs are at the main branch of LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave.:

• **Dungeons & Dragons from 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday, March 7.**

A volunteer Dungeon Masters guide serves as the leader. Teens and adults should take their Fifth Edition character, or play as a quirky pre-made one. Register on the library website.

• **Drawstring Backpack Class from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 9.**

The class for youth 13 and older highlights the basic functions of a sewing machine, cutting simple patterns, making a straight hem and learning how to finish a backpack. Take one yard of cotton fabric. The machines, thread, drawstring cord and grommets will be supplied. Register on the library website.

• **Preschool and Family Fair from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 11.**

The event features preschools and organizations that provide services to families with young children. Attendees can meet with representatives from: Helping Hands; Discovery Days; St. Paul; YMCA Preschool & Child Care Center; Door to Explore; City of LaPorte Park and Recreation Department; LaPorte County Health Department; and Purdue Extension of LaPorte County — the Health & Sciences and 4-H divisions

• **Anime Club from 3 to 4 p.m. Tuesday, March 12.**

Meet other teen anime fans through the club.

The following program is at the Coolspring branch, 6925 W. County Road 400 North:

• **Pajama Time from 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 12.**

The program involves family storytime. Guests can wear pajamas.



Visit www.laportelibrary.org for more details.

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Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail.)

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

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



American Red Cross

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

• **First Church of God, 2020 E. Lincolnway, LaPorte, noon-6 p.m. Monday, March 11.**

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.

Dinner With the League

Laura Nirenberg, the Center for Wildlife Ethics' founding executive director and chief legal counsel, will speak at the next Dinner With the League.



Nirenberg

Presented by The League of Women Voters of LaPorte County, the program is at 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 12, at Patrick's Grille, 4125 Franklin St.

The non-profit CWE protects native wildlife and its habitats through targeting the judicial, legislative, regulatory and community arenas.

Nirenberg's efforts primarily focus on exposing political, corporate and economic interests harmful to wildlife. She is a member of the U.S. District Court, Northern District of Indiana and the Indiana Bar, and leads a team of attorneys and other advocates to further animal-protection efforts.

Attendees may buy dinner from the menu. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., and orders are taken as tables fill up. A donation is requested for non-members.

Email LWVLaPorte@gmail.com for more details.

New Troy Indoor Flea Market

Indoor flea markets are from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. EST Saturdays, March 9 and 16, at New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road.

Admission is free. The markets feature antiques, tools, crafts, books, memorabilia, housewares, toys and locally made or grown items.

The Salty Nag will serve a hot breakfast and lunch. The March 9 menu includes brats and chili dogs. The March 16 menu, inspired by St. Patrick's Day, offers Reuben sandwiches and Paddy Day Parfaits.

Proceeds from space rentals benefit the center, an all-volunteer facility run by the non-profit Friends of New Troy.

April marks the last markets of the season. Contact Donald at (773) 803-9773 to reserve a booth space or for more details.

Chef Night

David's Deli coproprietor Joe Lindsay will reveal how to prep corned beef during Chef Night at 6 p.m. EST Thursday, March 7, at the New Buffalo Public Library Pokagon Room, 33 N. Thompson St., New Buffalo, Mich.

Lindsay will provide a history of corned beef, tips and a brining recipe, as well as ideas for cooking the finished product. A small tasting will follow.

The cost is \$15 per person, with proceeds aiding the Friends of the New Buffalo Library. Only cash and checks will be accepted, with registration at the front desk.

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Irish Heritage Garden Fundraiser

The Irish Garden Committee will host a cocktail party fundraiser for its Irish Heritage Garden from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, March 14, at Long Beach Country Club, 2309 Larchmont Ave.

The project is slated at Friendship Botanic Gardens. Funds will aid a new landscape design created by Laura Bolton-Kalk of Beachside Gardens.

The fundraiser includes appetizers, a cash bar, Irish entertainment and an auction for two benches with dedication plaques.

Those who can't attend the event can donate at friendshipgardens.org/irish-garden/

Regional Science/Engineering Fair

Four Barker Middle School students participated in the 66th Annual Northwestern Indiana Science and Engineering Fair.

Presented by Valparaiso University and Arcelor-Mittal USA, the event was held Feb. 23 at VU.



Pictured are Kayla Campbell (from left), Kyra Krachinski, Madison Gresham and Ashley McKinney.

Seventh-grader Madison Gresham won several awards in the Junior Physical Science Division for her project, "Making Music with Bottles":

- First Place, Junior Physical Science Division (\$250 and a gold medal).
- Broadcom Masters Award, Outstanding Project (\$50 and an invitation to Broadcom's National Science Competition).
- Ford STEM Award Outstanding STEM Project (\$100).

Gresham advances to the Hoosier State Science & Engineering Fair on March 30 in Indianapolis.

Eighth-grader Kayla Campbell received an Honorable Mention in the same division for her project, "How Much Fat is in Your Food?" She received \$25, a medal and certificate.

Other students included Ashley McKinney with the project "Distance vs. Angles" and Kyra Krachinski with the project "Clean Cents."

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Sons of Norway



LaPorte's Bruce Johnson will present a slide show on his visit to Iceland during the potluck Sons of Norway meeting Friday, March 8, at The Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

The potluck is at 5:30 p.m., followed by the program at 7 p.m. The meeting is free and open to the public. Guests are encouraged to take a hot or cold dish and table service (picnic style).

Johnson taught in South Central schools and at Purdue University Northwest. He is active in theater and musical productions, and is the LaPorte County Historical Society president. He has toured extensively in Europe, Asia and Africa.

Call (219) 877-7097 for more details.

Call for Authors

Center of the World Woodshop, 13400 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert, Mich., is seeking local authors to participate in its Author! Author! Reception & Readings from 4 to 6 p.m. EDT Saturday, April 27.

Authors who have not participated before, or who have previously participated, but have a new book to share, are invited. The "fee" is a contribution to the appetizer and wine buffet, which is free to the public. Beyond that, the only request is that authors mingle with visitors and sign books. Authors handle their own sales and keep all proceeds.

Space is limited, so preference is given to those who register early by contacting Lorraine at (269) 469-5687 or info@centeroftheworld.net

QAS School Open House

Queen of All Saints School, 1715 E. Barker Ave., will have its annual open house/enrollment opportunities from noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 13.

The pre-kindergarten program welcomes students who turn 3 by Aug. 1, while kindergarten students must be 5 by Aug. 1.

The school serves students through eighth grade, and families may qualify for the Indiana Choice Scholarship. Call the school at (219) 872-4420 for more details.

St. Patrick's Day Parade

The Michigan City St. Patrick's Day Parade starts at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 9, in the Uptown Arts District. It commences from 10th Street, heading north on Franklin Street and ending at Fourth Street.



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3. Alley Katz	20	12

HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES	SCORE
1. Cindy Beck	189
2. Kathy Osborne	169
3. Carolyn Wiggins	162
4. Debbie Novak	160
5. Susan Kieffer	159
6. Kathleen Staninger	158
7. Lenore Hadaway	157
8. Susan OConor	156
8. Margie Midkiff	156
9. Sarah Blank	153
10. Sue Labovitz (series)	407
11. Dottie Brinckman (series)	404

SPLITS	
Jill Jankowski	5-6
Susan Kieffer	2-4-5-10

THREE STRIKES
 Dottie Brinckman, Kathy Osborne, Nancy Klausner

More bowlers are invited when teams meet at 12:30 p.m. Tuesdays at City Lanes.

Poetry Contest

The Center for Creative Solutions is celebrating World Creativity and Innovation Week 2019 by sponsoring its third annual poetry contest for high school, middle school and elementary students.

The center sponsors the celebration near the date of Leonardo da Vinci's birthday (April 15) to highlight the creativity of people from the region. This year's dates are April 15-21.

The poetry contest is at 3 p.m. Saturday, April 20, at The Nest, 803 Franklin St. A panel of judges will determine first-, second- and third-place winners. Prizes will be awarded. The theme should be experiences of growing up in LaPorte County and Michigan City.

Email the original works to thenestmichigancity@gmail.com. Include with the submission your full name, school, teacher's name, grade level and age. The information will not be shared with the judges. The submission deadline is midnight March 29. Winners will be notified in advance of April 20.

Songwriting also is viewed as a form of poetry. However, the same song or poem should not be submitted twice.

Contact William Halliar at William.halliar@gmail.com or call (219) 629-5853, or Ester at thenestmichigancity@gmail.com or (219) 262-5200 for more information.

Fundraiser Aids Boys & Girls Club



The Boys & Girls Club of Michigan City received an \$8,100 check raised through a New Year's Eve fundraiser at The Brewery Lodge, 5727 N. County Road 600 West. Sixty guests attended "A Night to Remember." Other sponsors included Zorn Brew Works, Shady Creek Winery and NIPSCO. Don Babcock, NIPSCO's director of economic development, chaired the event along with board member Kelly Mulchan. Pictured are (from left): John Van Prooyen, co-owner of The Brewery Lodge; Brandi Lewis, Boys & Girls Club executive director; Mulchan; and Babcock.

Harbor Country Hikers

Harbor Country Hikers, led by park interpreter Amal Farrough, heads to Bendix Woods in New Carlisle at 1 p.m. EST Saturday, March 9.

The 195-acre park, located on Timothy Road south of U.S. 20, includes a 27-acre State Dedicated Nature Preserve with wooded trails, ponds and fields. It also is home to the second highest point in the county and the historic Studebaker Clubhouse.

Programs are open to the community, although membership is encouraged. Children are welcome if accompanied by an adult. The cost is \$20 for individuals or \$30 for families.

Visit harborcountryhikers.com for details.

Pork Chop Dinner

St. Luke United Lutheran Church, 2000 E. Cool-spring Ave., will host a pork chop dinner from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Saturday, March 9.

The cost is \$10 per person. The menu includes pork chops, au gratin potatoes, green beans, applesauce, rolls and butter, lemonade, water, coffee and desserts (at an additional price).

Takeouts are available. Call (219) 879-9415 for tickets or more information.

Triviafest 2019

Teams of 8-10 people can compete in Triviafest 2019, which is at 7 p.m. Friday, March 8, at St. Joseph Young Men's Society, 2001 Franklin St.

Proceeds support Michigan City High School Marching Band, which is raising funds for new uniforms. Space is limited to 20 teams. Prizes, food and raffles round out the 21-and-older event.

Call (219) 362-4224 or email bkohn@educateMC.net to register.

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Activities to Explore

In the Area:

March 7 — Dungeons & Dragons, 4-7 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Registration: www.laportelibrary.org

March 7 — Chef Night, 6 p.m. EST, New Buffalo Public Library Pokagon Room, 33 N. Thompson St., New Buffalo, Mich. Cost: \$15. Registration: library front desk.

March 7-10 — “Arsenic and Old Lace,” Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Thur.-Sat./2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$15/adults, \$10/children 12 & younger, March 7 show. Reservations: (219) 874-4035, www.FootlightPlayers.org

March 8 — International Women’s Day celebration, 4-8 p.m., The Nest, 803 Franklin St. Free. (219) 262-5200.

March 8 — Triviafest 2019, 7 p.m., St. Joseph Young Men’s Society, 2001 Franklin St. Registration: (219) 362-4224, bkohn@educateMC.net

March 8 — United Way benefit, Lip Sync Battle LaPorte County, 6-10 p.m., Blue Chip Casino Hotel Spa. Info on facebook.

March 8-10 — “12 Incompetent Jurors,” LaPorte Little Theatre Club, 218 A St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$15/adults, \$12/students. Reservations: www.laportelittletheatreclub.com

March 8-11 — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. *Now showing:* “Vice.” Rated R. Times: 6 p.m. Fri.-Mon. *Also:* “The Favourite.” Rated R. Times: 3 & 9:15 p.m. Sat./3 p.m. Sun. All times Eastern. Info: vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

March 8-10, 15-17 — “The Secret Garden,” Marquette Catholic High School Rudy Hart Theatre, 306 W. 10th St. Times: 7 p.m. Fri.-Sat./2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$10/adults, \$8/students & seniors, \$5/children 12 & younger.

March 9 — Migration Birding Hike, 8-10 a.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

March 9 — Coastline Children’s Film Festival, 10 & 11:30 a.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

March 9 — Spa Day at the Park, 10 a.m.-noon, Red Mill County Park’s Pat Smith Hall, 0185 S. Holmesville Road, LaPorte. Info: (219) 325-8315.

March 9 — Michigan City St. Patrick’s Day Parade, 1 p.m., Uptown Arts District (downtown Michigan City).

March 9 — Drawstring Backpack Class, 1-3 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Registration: www.laportelibrary.org

March 9 — Harbor Country Hikers, 1 p.m. EST, Bendix Woods, New Carlisle. Info: harborcountry-hikers.com

March 9 — The Magic of Kalita, 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

March 9 — “Aladdin in Love,” video presentation with Dan Schaaf score, 2 p.m., The Nest, 803 Franklin St. Info: (219) 262-5200.

March 9 — Pork chop dinner, 4:30-6:30 p.m., St. Luke United Lutheran Church, 2000 E. Coolspring Ave. Cost: \$10. Tickets/info: (219) 879-9415.

March 9-10 — Maple Sugar Time, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Chellberg Farm, Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12/20, Porter. Free. Info: (219) 395-1882.

March 10 — WPL Movies in March: “A Star is Born,” 1:30 p.m., The Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

March 10 — LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra, “Coming to America,” 3 p.m., The Holdcraft Center for the Performing Arts, 1200 Spring St. Tickets: www.LCSO.net, (219) 362-9020.

March 10 — Michigan City Chamber Music Festival, violist Istvan Szabó, 3 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St. Free. Info: mccmf.org

March 11 — “Words Made Music” free concert, Duo Sequenza, 6 p.m., The Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

March 12 — St. Patrick’s Day Craft, 3:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

March 12 — Dinner With the League, 6 p.m., Patrick’s Grille, 4125 Franklin St. Donation requested from non-members. Info: LWVLaPorte@gmail.com

March 13, 20, 27 — Heritage interpreter presentations, 6 p.m., Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St. Free. Info: barkermansion.com, (219) 873-1520.

Through April 1 — Display, Great Lakes Museum of Military History memorabilia, Visit Michigan City LaPorte tourism bureau, Franklin Street next to Planet Fitness. Info: (219) 872-5055.

In the Region

March 9 — Reception, elementary art exhibit, noon-2 p.m. EST, The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Info: (269) 983-3688.

March 9, 16 — Indoor flea markets, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. EST, New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road. Free admission. Info: (773) 803-9773.

Support Groups

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

Mondays, Fridays — Overeaters Anonymous, 7 p.m. Mon./Franciscan Hospital Clair of Assisi Room, 3500 Franciscan Way; 9 a.m. Fri./First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St. Info: <https://oa.org>, (219) 879-0300.

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

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

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

Housekeepers Wanted!

Seeking experienced (must have housekeeping experience), proactive, self starters for summer rental season. Must work weekends (Friday, Saturday, Sunday), 10 a.m.-4 p.m. June- August. \$20-\$30/hr, plus end-of-season bonus, appreciation dinner and referral incentive up to \$600.

Call (269) 588-9600 for interview appointment.

City Pure Ice: Immediate opening for delivery driver and plant position. Job requires lifting and physical agility, and able to pass drug screening. Chauffeur's license required for drivers. Full and part time.

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Water Quality Educators Workshop

A workshop investigating educational activities dealing with water quality is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 16, at Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.

The workshop is open to educators, pre-service teachers, naturalists, interpreters, youth leaders and anyone working with middle- and high-school age youth. Participants learn about watersheds and water-quality issues. Teachers will discover how pharmaceuticals and personal-care products impact water, aquatic organisms and health. They also explore hands-on activities focused on water quality and the Great Lakes that can be used in the classroom or watershed. The training involves real monitoring equipment used by scientists in the field.

Educators completing the workshop receive a copy of the Healthy Water Healthy People Curriculum (produced by Project WET), and are eligible to borrow monitoring equipment for use with their respective youth. The equipment is loaned out through a program called Limno Loan, which is jointly run by Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant and the USEPA Great Lakes National Program Office.

Educators who agree to engage students in a watershed stewardship or water-quality monitoring project receive a \$300 stipend from Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant.

The workshop is co-sponsored by Indiana Dunes National Park, IL-IN Sea Grant, Indiana University Northwest, Dunes Learning Center, Indiana Department of Natural Resources and Great Lakes Research and Education Center.

There is a \$10 fee. Pre-registration is required and limited. Call (219) 395-9555 by March 8. The center is located on Lake Street north of U.S. 12 in Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood.

Students Win Big at History Contest

Four Barker Middle School students were finalists in the National History Day in Indiana northwest region contest Feb. 23 at Saint Mary's College.

Approximately 130 students participated, with all finalists advancing to the state contest Saturday, April 13, at the University of Indianapolis.

NHDI is a year-long program that enhances history education in Indiana's schools. Students in grades four through 12 explore a historical subject, then use research to create a documentary, exhibit, paper, performance or website.

To reach the state contest, students must qualify at one of six regional contests around Indiana.

The Barker students are:

- Junior Individual Documentary — Gabriel Penate, "Rise and Fall of Alexander IV."
- Junior Group Website — Jeremiah Allen, Dianna Lyon, Sonny Polk, "Samurai Arsenal Triumphs."

Friday Hours

The Beacher Weekly
Newspaper, 911 Franklin St.,
closes at 2 p.m. Fridays

Call us at (219) 879-0088 with questions



Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

Judgment by Joseph Finder (hardcover, \$28 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook. 388 pages.)

“When men make mistakes, the mistakes are forgotten. When a woman makes a mistake, the woman is forgotten.”

“Why do you think our robes are black? So they don’t show the dirt.”

“They picked the wrong woman. I will not be played.”

If those quotes don’t make you more than a little interested in this book, then move along, there’s nothing more for you to see here. But, if those three quotes pique your interest, then grab a nice glass of wine and get comfy in your favorite recliner for a stunning story by a proven author who understands the vagaries of the human mind.

Juliana Brody is a Superior Court judge in Massachusetts. She’s worked hard to get where she is, and her future to go further in the judicial system is bright. She is married to Duncan, a law professor, and they have two children: Ashley, living and working in Namibia, Africa, and Duncan, a high-schooler who is being a typical teenager — in other words, a pain in the neck.

It’s not enough he’s moody and uncommunicative, now he’s vaping! And his grades are suffering. But that’s not all that’s on his mother’s mind...

Attending a law conference in Chicago, she makes a big mistake and, having too much to drink, meets and falls in bed with Matias Sanchez, a businessman. It’s a one-night stand, she’s sure she will never see him again and returns to Boston.

Juliana now has a sexual-harassment suit land on her desk. A young, pretty lawyer for a company called Wheelz has claimed the CEO was hitting on her and fired her when she wouldn’t play ball with him. The case is to open, witnesses, lawyers and clients assemble in the courtroom — plus one Matias Sanchez, apparently a lawyer for the defense! Well, isn’t that a kick in the teeth. Obviously he lied to Juliana in Chicago, but why?

Juliana tries to recuse herself from the case, but is met with unusual opposition from her boss. Then, she runs into Matias that night, who tells her she will rule the Wheelz case in their favor, or...maybe

some damning information will appear on the Internet. Her husband, who knows nothing yet, will be devastated, and what will her children think?

Juliana seeks out her best friend, Martha Connolly, a retired State Judicial Court judge. She tells her what happened. Martha tells her she better think twice before pursuing what is going on with Wheelz and its questionable CEO. Juliana has a great judicial future ahead of her, and she shouldn’t blow it.

Juliana refuses to be intimidated — see Quote 3 above. But is that response just a false sense of power? Is Juliana stronger than others think she is? So, Juliana, what’s the next step? Martha puts her in touch with a private investigator, Philip Hersh, and the game is on.

Wheelz is in competition with Uber and Lyft and recently earned \$1 billion from an investment firm for 51 percent of the company. Who owns this firm? And why would they be interested in a failing limo service? One investment company is a front for another company, with money coming from another company with offshore accounts via a Russian subsidiary bank in Cyprus. Where is this leading?

As the day she must rule on the Wheelz case draws near, the game turns deadly, and Juliana wonders if she is doing the right thing after all.

The story accelerates as Juliana receives more veiled threats, some not-so veiled, and she is more determined to win this fight. But how far can a straight-laced judge, who never goes

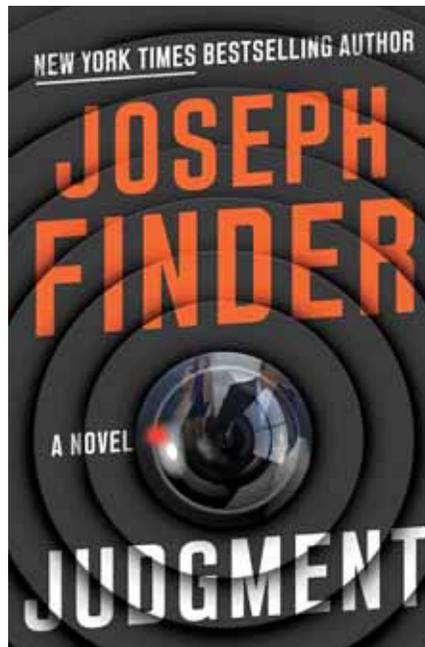
over the speed limit, bend her ethics to bring someone else to justice? It’s an interesting play between her bulldog tactics in going after information, and the battle she must win at home to keep her husband when he finds out about Matias, because that’s a secret Juliana can’t keep forever.

The further you get into this story, the more the hairs on your arm rise, a cool breeze runs across the back of your neck...It’s the knowing that you don’t know what’s coming next, but you know it can’t be good. Right?

Juliana discovers you have to start at the bottom to get to the apex of the dirty pyramid. That’s where the man behind the curtain is pushing all the buttons. The question becomes, can Juliana play the game as ruthlessly as those who would destroy her?

“I think you’ve become what circumstances made you.”

Till next time, happy reading!





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