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Magical Moments

by Connie Kuzydym



Maria Mercedes Diaz Garcia congratulates the musicians during the LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra concert. All photos by Bob Wellinski

Entering the Holdcraft Performing Arts Center, the brilliance of the day gave way to a darkened auditorium, where a sizeable crowd awaited LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra and the “Bravo Maestro!” search’s second guest conductor.

Maria Mercedes Diaz Garcia stepped onto the podium. At the

drop of her baton, Leonard Bernstein’s vivacious “Overture to Candide” filled the room. Within the first few bars, Diaz Garcia knew she could relax, feeling the orchestra’s energy and hearing its sound.

The March 10 concert, “Made in America,” highlighted American composers: Bernstein, George Gershwin’s dreamy “Lullaby for Strings,” Duke Ellington’s jazzy “It Don’t Mean a Thing If It Ain’t Got That Swing” and Antonin Dvorák’s late romantic

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“Symphony No. 9, Opus 26, “The New World.” The program was a joint effort between Diaz Garcia and Interim Music Director Chuck Steck.

Throughout the performance, there were many magical moments, with Diaz Garcia crediting the orchestra’s level of awareness for inspiring them.

Prior to her arrival, weeks of preparation had begun with Steck and Pete Collins, an LCSO string member, working with the musicians. At her first rehearsal, Diaz Garcia sensed their nervousness, their reservations of how it might go. But within the first 10 minutes, a transformation occurred. She asked, they gave. Tension gave way to an incredible energy that followed through to the last note in the concert.

Establishing this type of a connection amid unfamiliarity, for Diaz Garcia, is done through verbal *and* non-verbal communication. She sings, for instance, to convey what she wants musically. When the orchestra understands her physical conducting style, coupled with what she verbally expresses and sings, a connection is made.

“They did everything I wanted. Every idea I had about the music, they responded completely to that, they were so giving,” Diaz Garcia said. “As a conductor, when you feel that kind of trust, and you feel that kind of engagement from the orchestra is very powerful.”

The road to becoming a conductor started when

she was young. At 3, she began taking ballet lessons, which she never quite liked. By 7, her mother gave her a choice: ballet or music. She chose music, learning how to play piano and oboe, thus setting a path towards her future.

Like food for the soul, the instruments she plays and the music she conducts nourish her.

“With the piano, I like all the complexity of all the voices,” Diaz Garcia said. “And with the oboe, you have the color of the sound, you know, the beautiful sound. And with the orchestra, you have everything. You have the complexity of the music, and you have all the different colors of the instruments. So, for me it’s very compelling. And then you have also the connection with the people, which I also enjoy...It’s part of my personality to want to connect with people. So, conducting an orchestra, I have everything.”

Pursuing her career as an oboist and pianist, Diaz Garcia received advanced degrees in both instruments, playing in orchestras in Spain, Germany and England and recording as soloist for Spanish television. She was awarded a tenured position from the Ministry of Education to teach oboe in National Conservatories in Spain and held professorships in Murcia and Madrid.

She has conducted orchestras in North America, South America and Europe. She has received conducting degrees from Bard College, New York, and University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.

Diaz Garcia currently serves as conducting fellow/assistant conductor of orchestras at Bowling



Maria Mercedes Diaz Garcia, at the conductor’s podium.

Green State University, where she also conducts the New Music Ensemble. She is the music director and founder of VIVE! Ensemble. As a doctoral candidate, she is writing a dissertation that focuses on aspects of time in contemporary music. She plans on completing her doctorate by this December.

In the week leading up to the performance, Diaz Garcia immensely enjoyed working with the LaPorte High School Orchestra, New Buffalo Band and Valparaiso High School Orchestra. She was impressed with the level of musical ability among the students and was pleased to see the number of students engaged in their school's music program.

If chosen as the next maestro, she would like to extend opportunities for area students to become engaged with the LCSO.

"One thing I suggested is to do auditions for a couple concerts a year for young students from the area that are playing orchestra," Diaz Garcia said. "Give them the opportunity to play in a professional orchestra a couple of times...have more presence in the high schools and colleges as well so we have the connection with them for the future.



Maria Mercedes Diaz Garcia leads LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra during the March 10 concert.

"We have to also think of ourselves as an educational organization, because we are educating, too," she continued. "We are educating audiences as well. We are showing this music they already know, but some they don't...we are bringing that experience to them.

"But, we have a commitment with younger musicians, too. First of all, to offer the place where they can grow when they finish college. They have a local orchestra that they can audition to. It's part of their community. But it makes the orchestra more open as well if you invite those young musicians. On one hand, the musicians in the orchestra can mentor younger musicians. They have the experience, they

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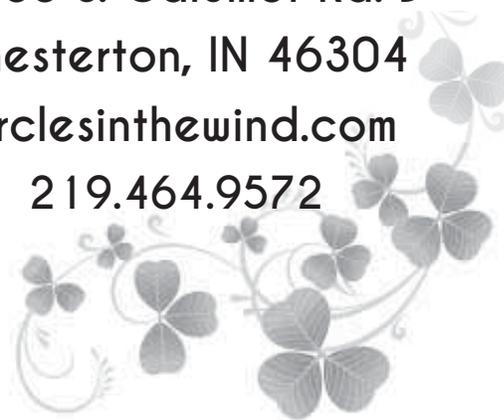
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can help them, and the young musicians bring the eagerness to do something.”

Diaz Garcia also enjoyed speaking to Women in Leadership of LaPorte County, an organization that helps women grow and respond to challenges faced by women.

She is mindful of the fact that the majority of orchestra conductors are male, but does not allow this to stop her from pursuing that passion.

“I don’t think about that. I’m just me, I’m just myself,” Diaz Garcia said. “I just do my work, which I love, which I’m passionate about, which I think I’m good at. And I let others to worry about their own prejudices if anyone has them. It’s their own problem, not mine...I just think about the music and the work I’m going to do, I have to do.”

What advice would Diaz Garcia offer to anyone interested in conducting?

“Think about the music, how you can improve,” she says. “How you can make the orchestra, the group you work with improve, do a more beautiful performance, a more exciting, a more transcendental performance. How can I be better every time? Let other people worry about that nonsense...My work is to do a very good performance and bring out the best in the musicians I’m working with. I think

if they have any doubt, they forget when they focus on the music.”

Diaz Garcia considers herself a multi-faceted conductor, working with orchestras and smaller ensembles. She enjoys creating programs that are interesting and presenting them in ways that engage audiences and musicians.

If chosen as the LCSO maestro, she would like to continue with the foundation she established during her week here.

“I think I can bring the orchestra to a different level, musically,” Diaz Garcia said. “I think they are ready. I think everything is there. They are very open for that. They showed a kind of givingness this week that shows me that everything is there, that we could be a good partner.”

Once she raises the conductor’s baton, Diaz Garcia can be quite demanding and has high expectations, which she demonstrates in a positive manner. She is pragmatic and understands working with the orchestra is a partnership.

“They (the orchestra) are not inferior, they are not less than I am,” Diaz Garcia said. “I am also a musician, first of all. I’m a conductor, but a musician like they are. So, we are all musicians doing beauty together. So, I want to have that kind of respectful relationship while being demanding because it’s also my job, because I want to bring the best from them.”

Diaz Garcia Earns High Praise from LCSO Officials

by Andrew Tallackson



Concertgoers enjoyed meeting Maria Mercedes Diaz Garcia and speaking with her after the performance.

Tim King has a simple test to gauge how well an audience responds to a conductor.

“You know it’s an audience-pleaser of a concert if people stick around after,” LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra’s interim executive director says. “People really wanted to meet Maria (Mercedes Diaz Garcia), and she was very gracious about that.”

Garcia was the second candidate in LCSO’s “Bravo, Maestro!” series in which guest conductors “au-

dition” for the music director position by leading the symphony in performance.

The concert, “Made in America,” was March 10 at Michigan City’s Holdcraft Performing Arts Center and included four works of considerable range and diversity: Leonard Bernstein’s “Overture to Candide”; George Gershwin’s “Lullaby for Strings”; Duke Ellington’s “It Don’t Mean a Thing if It Ain’t Got That Swing”; and Antonin Dvorák’s much-be-



Interim Music Director Charles Steck is photographed with Maria Mercedes Diaz Garcia.

loved "Symphony No. 9, Opus 26," or "The New World" symphony.

"She showed us she can conduct different kinds of music, and with what I thought was considerable ease," Charles Steck said. "It was an outstanding performance. The orchestra operated at an extremely high level and was feeding off her energy and positivity."

tivity."

As LCSO's interim music director, Steck prepares the orchestra for the guest conductor's arrival. Diaz Garcia had three rehearsals with the musicians before the March 10 performance, but Steck describes her as a "quick study," assessing each section of musicians and guiding them "quietly, patiently and expressively."

Watching her at work, King adds, especially during the actual performance, was "grace in motion."

Steck also admires the way the concert was structured, opening with a high-energy piece like

"Candide," then settling down for Gershwin's "Lullaby" before embracing the jazzy groove of the Ellington classic.

"We started with so much high energy: a great roller-coaster ride of a piece," Steck said. "Then, we end with 'New World,' with

four diverse movements. It's a great, well-known, chestnut of a piece, and by then, the orchestra was riding high!"



Next up in the "Bravo, Maestro!" series is candidate Alexander Platt, who conducts "An Evening of Rodgers and Hammerstein" at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 4, at LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St.

The lineup includes selections from "Carousel," "Oklahoma," "South Pacific," "The King and I," "Flower Drum Song" and "The Sound of Music."

Visit www.lcso.net for details.



Interim LCSO Executive Director Tim King is photographed with Maria Mercedes Diaz Garcia



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With “Us,” Jordan Peele Delivers One Whopper of a Thriller

by Andrew Tallackson

“Us” confirms Jordan Peele is the real deal: bold, brazen, unapologetically outrageous.

What he does, first with the Oscar-winning “Get Out” (2017) and now this film, is use the horror genre to hold up a mirror to society, forcing us to examine where we are and where we should be headed. In doing so, the scares take on the weight of metaphors. “Get Out” was the Trump era’s answer to “The Stepford Wives.” As writer, director and producer, Peele explored the way blacks feel powerless by a society that tries to control them, the film itself a sly package that balanced paranoia with social satire.

“Us,” by comparison, is full-throttle horror on an apocalyptically ambitious scale, channeling the queasy dread of “Invasion of the Body Snatchers” while below the surface — in this story, literally and as allegory — dissecting the unwelcome surge in violence by groups using issues of race and class as justification for their vitriol.

Like “Get Out,” Peele’s new film exists on two levels. At its core, it embraces a classic horror trope: the family vacation gone terribly wrong.

Adelaide (Oscar-winner Lupita Nyong’o) and Gabe (Winston Duke) are your typical family: successful, loving, with two bright, tech-savvy children, Zora (Shahadi Wright Joseph) and Jason (Evan Alex). Their vacation home dots the landscape surrounding a gorgeous California lake, but Winston would rather head to the nearby beaches. Adelaide has good reason to suggest they stay close to home. Peele provides Adelaide with a tricky back story, revealed in fragments, that show how, as a child, she was traumatized by a girl looking uncomfortably like her. A *lot* like her.

Later that night, four shadowy figures appear in the family’s driveway. Still. Silent. Dressed in red,

brandishing scissors the size of crowbars. The closer they get, the more they appear to be their doppelgängers.

These early passages carefully establish the family’s tight bond, and the unstable nature of their aggressors. It calls to mind 2008’s “The Strangers,” that grubby little movie where Liv Tyler and Scott Speedman are terrorized by thugs in their home. We’re not sure where Peele is headed...until Adelaide asks of her unwanted guests, “Who are you people?” Their response: “We’re Americans.”

Now, we get it. It’s tricky, though, describing what follows without unleashing spoilers. What can be said is this: the family isn’t the only ones under attack. Peele’s film is a direct reply to those who’ve asked, what gave rise to all this recent anger and violence? His answer: It’s been here all along, simmering, plotting in the shadows, waiting for the right moment to surface.

That may not be the answer mainstream America wants to hear, but it is the argument that drives “Us” to an insanely intense second act that sees each actor playing double: the family and the outsiders who resemble them. Nyong’o, in particular, is electrifying in a performance that

is raw, physical and emotionally precarious. She is balanced out by Duke, who provides much-needed comic relief, while Joseph and Alex, as the children, avoid the trappings of creating children too precocious to be likable.

The end of “Us” contains a “Twilight Zone”-style twist that some may view as a crafty surprise, others an unfair cheat. Whatever your take, you cannot deny Peele this: his film taps into our deepest fears about family, home and country. It’s darn near brilliant.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com



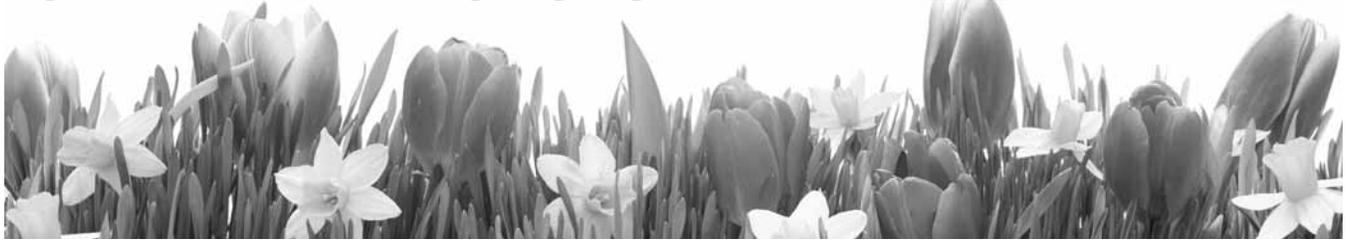
Oscar-winner Lupita Nyong’o is electrifying in Jordan Peele’s “Us.”



“Us”

Running time: 116 minutes. Rated R
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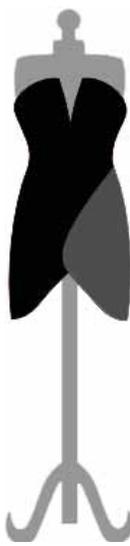


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Local Student GeoBee Semifinalist

Charles Harris, a Barker Middle School eighth-grader, is a semifinalist in the 2019 National Geographic GeoBee Indiana State Competition.

The event is March 29 at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.



Harris

This is the second level of the National Geographic GeoBee competition, now in its 31st year. School GeoBees were held in schools with fourth- through eighth-graders throughout the state to determine champions. Those students then took an online qualifying test submitted to the National Geographic Society. That agency has invited up to 100 of the top-scoring students in each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Department of Defense Dependents Schools and U.S. territories to compete in the State GeoBees.

State champions receive a medal, \$1,000 and other prizes, as well as a trip to Washington, D.C., to represent their state in the national championship held May 19-22 at National Geographic Society headquarters. Students that come in second and third place receive cash awards of \$300 and \$100, respectively.

Each state champion advances to the national championship and competes for cash awards and college scholarships. In 2019, the national champion receives a \$25,000 college scholarship, \$1,000 in cash, a lifetime membership in the National Geographic Society and an all-expenses-paid expedition to the Galápagos Islands. Second place receives a \$10,000 college scholarship and \$1,000 in cash. Third place receives a \$5,000 college scholarship and \$1,000 in cash. Seven runners-up receive \$1,000 in cash each.



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Midwest Museum of American Art

The following exhibits are on display at Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St., Elkhart:

- **Youth Art 2019 through Sunday, April 7.**
This year marks the 40th year an exhibit featuring student artwork has been shown. Selected by art educators from five area high schools, 135 students were selected to exhibit 180 works in all media from Concord, Elkhart Area Career Center, Elkhart Central & Memorial and Northridge. The students are in grades 9-12.
- **Mid-Century Modernism: A Spotlight Exhibit through April 7.**
The exhibit features paintings, prints, ceramics and drawings from the permanent collection, along with vintage furniture, tableware and toys. Included are an Eames chair and toy pedal car reflecting the period's industrial aesthetic.
- **Applying Pressure: Prints in the 21st Century through April 7.**
Illustrated by contemporary prints from the museum's permanent collection, the spotlight exhibit of 10 works explores the nature of how traditional forms of printmaking have evolved in the 21st century. Included are works by contemporary American artists such as Ed Ruscha, Kiki Smith and William Wegman.
- **Prints & Drawings from the Permanent Collection through Sept. 29.**

The spotlight exhibit features 30 works from the museum's permanent collection.

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

Lunch & Learn

The free "Lunch & Learn: Education Programs for Caregivers of Older Adults" series continues from noon to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 2, at Rittenhouse Village at Michigan City, 4300 Cleveland Ave.

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Firefly Ball

Washington Park Zoological Society will host The Firefly Ball from 7 to 11 p.m. Saturday, April 6, at Michigan City Senior Center in Washington Park.

The 21-and-older event, which benefits the zoo and its educational outreach programs, includes music, dancing and a cash bar. Patrick's Grille will serve specialty creations, such as edible candied Hibiscus and cheese flowers.

Proceeds help acquire new animals, such as a wallaby, armadillo and paca.

Also, a portion of the zoo's residents are misplaced pets or confiscated because they are illegally owned. Others have suffered injuries that would make life in the wild impossible. As such, they require a specific diet and personalized veterinary care plan.

Tickets are available at Patrick's Grille, 4125 Franklin St., for \$30, or at firefly2019.eventbrite.com for \$35.



An armadillo is among the animals Washington Park Zoo staff hope to acquire.

LaPorte County Public Library

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

• **Nerds and Nachos, 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, March 28, at El Bracero LaPorte, 927 Pine Lake Ave.**

The adult, off-site discussion group celebrates different fandoms. The focus this month is "Game of Thrones."

• **Tinker Tuesdays, 3 to 7 p.m. Tuesdays.**

Teens and adults can use the Cricut Maker, the complete Adobe Creative Cloud, including Photoshop, Illustrator, Spark and Lightroom, and the 3-D printer.

• **Stories & More, 10 to 10:30 a.m. Fridays.**

Children ages 3-5 with their caregivers experience stories, songs, crafts and activities that include using iPads to build early literacy skills.

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

• **Virtual Vacation Day, 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 30.**

With Google Expeditions VR glasses and a green screen, participants can see Buckingham Palace's changing of the guard, explore South American rain forests or scuba the Great Barrier Reef.

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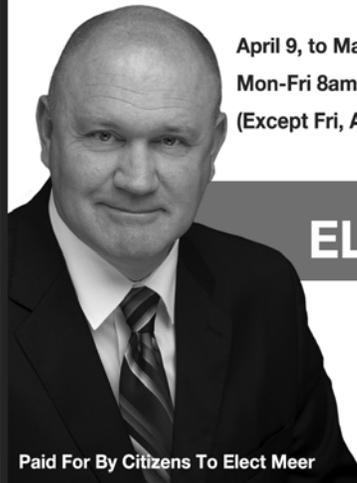
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State of the County Luncheon

Business and community members are invited to the State of the County Luncheon on Friday, April 12, at Purdue University Northwest's James B. Dworkin Student Services and Activities Complex.

The event is presented by Michigan City Chamber of Commerce, LaPorte Economic Advancement Partnership and Westville Area Chamber of Commerce. Check-in begins at 11 a.m., followed by lunch and the program from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Vidya Kora, Sheila Brillson Matias and Richard Mrozinski from The LaPorte County Board of Commissioners will share 2018 accomplishments and 2019 goals, followed by Q&A. Richard Rupp, Purdue Northwest chief of staff, will give the welcome.

Registration is required. The cost, which includes a buffet lunch, is \$25 for Chamber members and \$30 for non-members. Pre-payment is required.

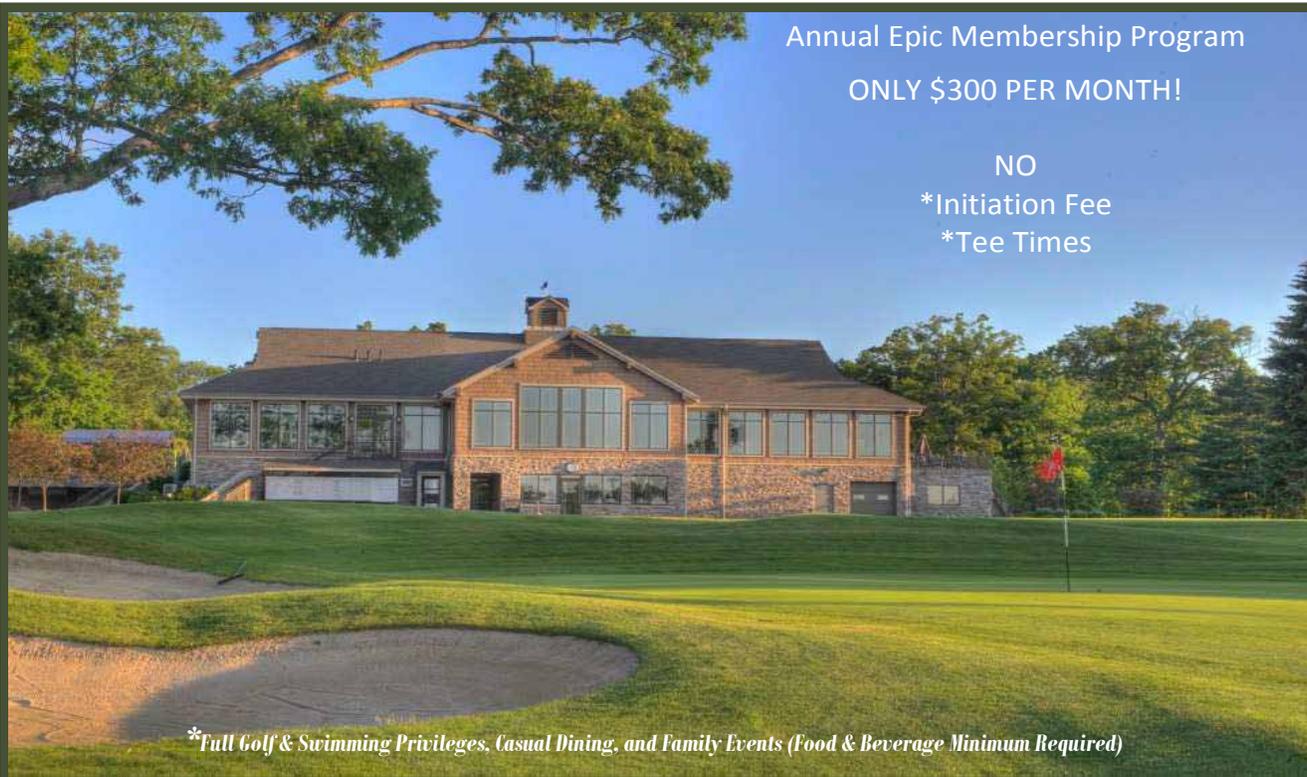
Visit MichiganCityChamber.com to register or call (219) 874-6221.

Dancing Feet Yoga

Free community Yoga is from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. EDT Tuesdays through April 30 at Dancing Feet Yoga, 19131 U.S. 12, New Buffalo, Mich.

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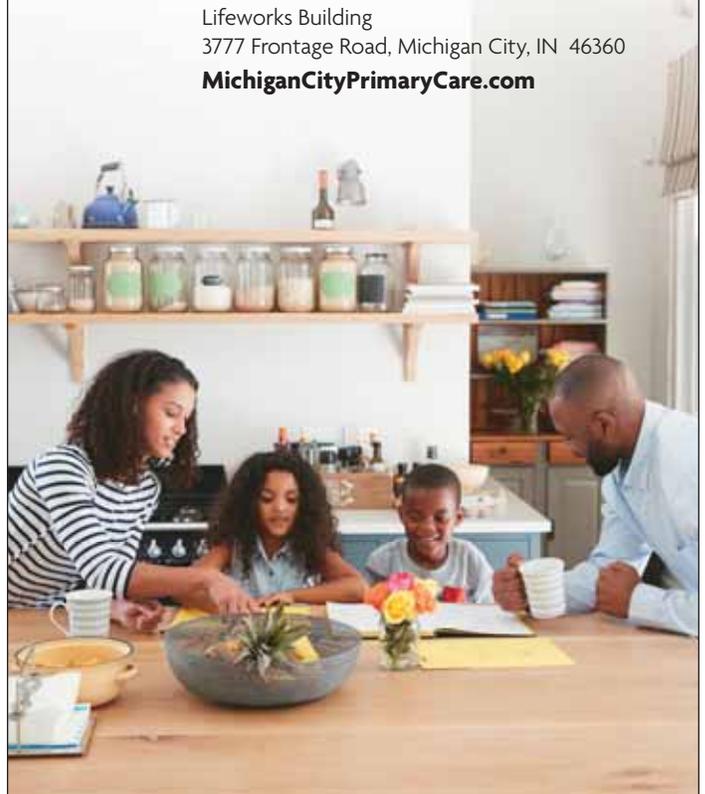
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Our specialty is the authentic Naples Style Pizza prepared and cooked just as it was over 170 years ago in a wood fired hearth oven. This style pizza is as much a method of rich tradition as it is a food.

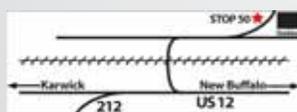
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Michigan City Public Library

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 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.

• **Improvplayhouse Presents at 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 2.**

“The Reluctant Dragon” is a family oriented, interactive “puppet” show.

• **Sand Art at 10 a.m. Wednesday, April 3.**

The craft is appropriate for youth ages 6-17. Children 10 and younger must be accompanied by an adult.

• **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.

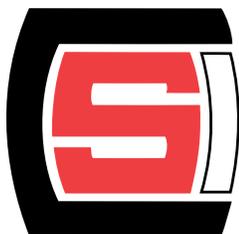


Contact Robin Kohn at (219) 873-3049 for more information on library programming.

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How would your Spring look like if you didn't have to deal with your pain and injury, or your balance and unsteadiness?

**FREE Natural Healing Health Fair
All Day Event in LaPorte
Saturday, March 30, 2019 • 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM**

Dear NW Indiana Neighbor,

It was a sunlit day in mid-spring and the sky held a soft blue glow. Green grass everywhere with specks of color from flowers like tulips, crocuses, and daffodils. Robins chirping and tweeting filled the air. And the unmistakable smell of the fresh spring air. Spring was surely a great time for you last year.



But that was last year...this year is looking to be different. Something else is on your mind, something worrying you...

...your back pain
...your unsteadiness, your dizziness, your fear of falling
...your shoulder issues ...you ordeal with pain and injury

And what's worse, there's something deeper that concerns you...

...what if you keep missing out on family activities.
...in the process disappointing your spouse, your kids, or grandkids.
...you start gaining weight as you can't be as active as you were.
...you start taking more pain pills than you care to admit just to get by.

And therein lies another problem...

...you've tried all kinds of solutions to no avail...
...multiple medications, maybe even injections...
...and now you're entertaining thoughts of surgery.
And you find yourself screaming in your head...

...NO not surgery!

...enough with the pain pills!

..."I just want to handle this naturally and get back to normal!"

The above story is an all too frequent story we encounter with our patients every day. We understand how difficult it can be...especially when you read stories like this from our patients.

continued ...

"When I started therapy for my sciatica, I could barely walk and was taking Prednisone and 2400 mg of Ibuprofen daily. I could barely do the exercises. I am now off all medication and mostly pain-free. I am able to work on doing most of my former activities."

– E.C., Valparaiso

CALL 219-380-0809 TODAY TO ATTEND!

continued ...

These are the topics that will be covered during the all-day event.

- How to conquer lower back and sciatica naturally without relying on medications, injections, or surgery.
- Top exercise tips for the back, the core, neck, shoulders, hips, knees, and foot.
- Balance and Fall Prevention including top exercises to get you steady on your feet
- How to heal naturally from rotator cuff tears and get rid of your shoulder pain for good
- How LASER helps injured tissues heal naturally
- And much more...

Venue for the Event: **LAPORTE: Call 219-380-0809**
Orthopedic and Balance Therapy Specialists (LaPorte Office)
 1405 E. Lincolnway Suite B (across Route 2 from Walmart)

So what's the RISK you're taking on for not attending?

1. Long-term side effects of pain-killers and medications
2. Unnecessary surgery
3. Loss of mobility and independence
4. Remain "grouchy"
5. Wasted Spring, even Summer, and maybe the rest of 2019

Be the Super Grandma or Grandpa you've always been! Your family deserves to get back that fun person like you used to be!

So call now to reserve your spot for The FREE Natural Healing Health Fair All Day Event. Limited to only 70 badges for each class. You may attend more than one class.

Call 219-380-0809 for the LaPorte FREE Natural Healing Health Fair

- Tell our phone reps you want to register for the Health Fair
- Our phone representatives will ask you what classes you want to attend
- You will then get a confirmation email and a confirmation letter in the mail.

See you at the Health Fair!

Sincerely,



Dr. Arlan Alburo, PT, DPT, MTC
 Orthopedic and Balance Therapy Specialists



**Orthopedic & Balance
 Therapy Specialists**

PS – Call **219-380-0809** to hold your spot for The FREE Natural Healing Health Fair All Day Event in La Porte. Call and let us know what classes you want to attend.

PSS – Bonus door prizes, and FREE food and healthy snacks for the event.

How Much Is It to Attend?
This Health Fair is absolutely FREE...but call 219-380-0809 now to register as we are taking only 70 attendees for each class.

**SCHEDULE...
 SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 2019**

9:00 AM — Defy Aging Through Exercises
 Presented by Jimmy Triezenberg, Fitness Coach

10:00 AM — How to Heal Naturally from the Top 3 Causes of Low Back Pain Presented by Dr. Arlan Alburo, PT, DPT, MTC

11:00 AM — Understanding Good Joint Alignment in Helping Your Pain Presented by Dr. Timothy Gurrola, DC

12:00 NOON — Refreshment Break

12:30 — Don't Fall in 2019...Simple Techniques to Strengthen the 3 Components of Balance Control Presented by Dr. Arlan Alburo, PT, DPT, MTC

1:30 PM — The Gift of Healthy Shoulders: Top 3 Tips for Natural Healing Presented by Jane Alburo, PT, MTC, and Dr. Diane Rich, PT, DPT

2:30 PM — Understanding CBD Oil by Marcia Henning from the Natural Life Health Food Store

CALL 219-380-0809 TODAY TO ATTEND!

“Art is not what you see, but what you make others see.”

Edgar Degas

The year 1979 seems so long ago now: a lifetime, really, in so many ways. That was when I finally graduated from college, our second son was born and I became involved in forming a new and exciting organization: Area Artists Association, which hosts its 40-year celebration in 2020 with a January-February exhibit at Lubeznik Center for the Arts.

Even while attending school, and well before my pregnancy and the AAA, I was active in another regional art organization: Chesterton’s Duneland Weavers Guild. In fact, I served as its president when I received a phone call inviting me to a meeting in Michigan City at the old Eighth Street library, now renamed the John G. Blank Center for the Arts. I remember meeting in a nearly empty space with the new director, Vincent “Enzo” Mangione, and several other artists I did not know at the time, and I believe were representatives from the Michigan City Art League and Dunes Art Foundation (I represented Duneland Weavers Guild). We all enthusiastically agreed to the concept of forming an artist club/group, and the importance of the arts



The poster for a 1981 group exhibit.

40 Years & Counting: The Beginning

by Linda Weigel

Editor’s note — This is the first in an ongoing series about Area Artists Association’s 40th anniversary.

and the new art center to the future of the area. I also recall meeting once or twice at Peg and Dale Landsman’s home for further discussions concerning this new group for serious artists interested in the exchange of ideas, critiques and mutual support.

By December 1980, the Area Artists Association was up and running with an elected board, scheduled monthly meetings and upstairs gallery space dedicated to exhibiting 27 members’ work on a rotating monthly basis. That year saw our first group exhibit open Dec. 5 and close a month later. One year later, the membership had grown to 38.

From 1981 to 1983, I served as the AAA’s recording secretary. By 1983, I was elected president, and my first order of business was to fulfill James Fleming’s goal of a sales and rental gallery to feature works by AAA members. The new Blank Center director, Kevin O’Brien, agreed and soon a partial wall was built in the upstairs AAA gallery space to accommodate the new venue.

Getting the sales and rental gallery up and running required considerable preliminary research and work. I was directed by a board member to speak with a tax attorney concerning how to apply for a nonprofit status for the AAA to run the new space. After that, there were many complicated forms to complete and mail, hoping with fingers crossed they were processed without any complications – which they were, thank goodness. I also made arrangements to visit the South Bend Regional Museum of Art to speak with the director of its sales and rental gallery, as well as visits to Fort Wayne and West Lafayette.

Everyone I spoke with was very accommodating, offering me copies of their artist and rental agreement contracts. From there, I was able to distill new forms for our soon-to-be AAA sales and rental gallery. Bobbe Brownsey Gull, our first AAA president, was an accomplished designer experienced in advertising. She worked with me to develop an ad program announcing our new gallery, also making suggestions on how to recruit members. Everything was set up and ready to launch by May 1983.



You are cordially invited to attend the opening of the Area Artists Association gallery
Art will be for sale. Refreshments will be served.
6:30–8:30 P.M.
Friday, December 5, 1980
Community Center for the Arts
East 8th Street

Exhibiting Members:

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| Florence Armour | Pat Mershon |
| Sherry Bartzchett | Colleen Kelly Mertes |
| Dave Dabbert | Jody Miller |
| Pat Dabbert | Skiff Peterson |
| Kevin Firme | Elizabeth Puglisi |
| Elizabeth Fleming | Phyllis Sass |
| Colette Golightly | Mary Schmitt |
| Bobbe Brownsey Gull | Pat Short |
| Gertrude Harbart | Barbara Martin Smith |
| Connie Kassal | Billy Van Etten |
| Joyce Keane | Karl Warren |
| Dale Landsman | Linda Weigel |
| Peg Landsman | Gertrude Wittke |
| Thelma LaHayne | Exhibit continues through Jan. 9, 1981 |

The 1980 invitation for the official opening of the Area Artists Association gallery.

“Art is something that makes you breathe with a different kind of happiness.”

Anni Albers

One of the primary draws for AAA membership was exhibit opportunities in their gallery.

In May 1981, I was part of a four-person show alongside Gull, Florence Armour and Elizabeth Fleming. Two years later, Pat Short, a fiber artist and fellow Duneland Weavers Guild member, shared the space with me.

By 1985, I opened a one-person show, “Mixed Media & Woven Constructions,” that ran June 9-July 14 in the AAA gallery: a personal milestone as my work had begun to evolve from woven wool tapestries to a series of handwoven scrolls and wall-mounted woven mixed-media screens. I had never had gallery space all to myself and worked hard for a year to produce enough pieces to fill it.

“Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time.”

Thomas Merton
No Man Is An Island

Thinking back, I was especially proud of the regional juried art exhibits sponsored by the AAA from 1986 into the 1990s. I participated in quite a few and appreciated all the hard work it took to pull them off, especially the outreach to secure sponsorships for awards, etc.

For example, the 1987 Area Artists Association Juried Exhibit had 58 participating artists, 76 works and \$750 in awards. In only two years, those numbers rose to 67 artists, 84 works and \$3,150 in awards. These juried shows, as well as other monthly exhibits in the AAA gallery, provided real opportunities for local and regional artists to showcase their work and build a resume. For those artists just getting started on a career, the experience of exhibiting their work would be crucial to their professional development and confidence. The AAA and gallery, as well as the art center, provided those opportunities.



“Tree Line” (1981), a handwoven wool tapestry.

I continued to participate in AAA and art center invitational, juried, group and one-person shows, gradually pulling back as time passed and family demands took precedence. In August 1984, I had been hired part time to teach art. By the following school year, my classes had expanded and I was on my way to a highly rewarding, eventually full-time and immersive teaching career at La Lumiere School, making it impossible to remain an active member after 1994. It was only after retiring that I had to time to rejoin.

Interestingly, 40 years later, four of the founding members are still active in the organization: Kevin Firme, Connie Kassal, Patty Mershon-Schaefer and me. Other founding members still retain strong ties to the area, such as:

- Local artist Clifford Peterson, co-owner of Taleamor Park in the Rolling Prairie area with his wife, Lisa.
- Toni Clem, who served more than 30 years on the Chesterton Art Center board, is past president of Michigan City Art League and was active in the





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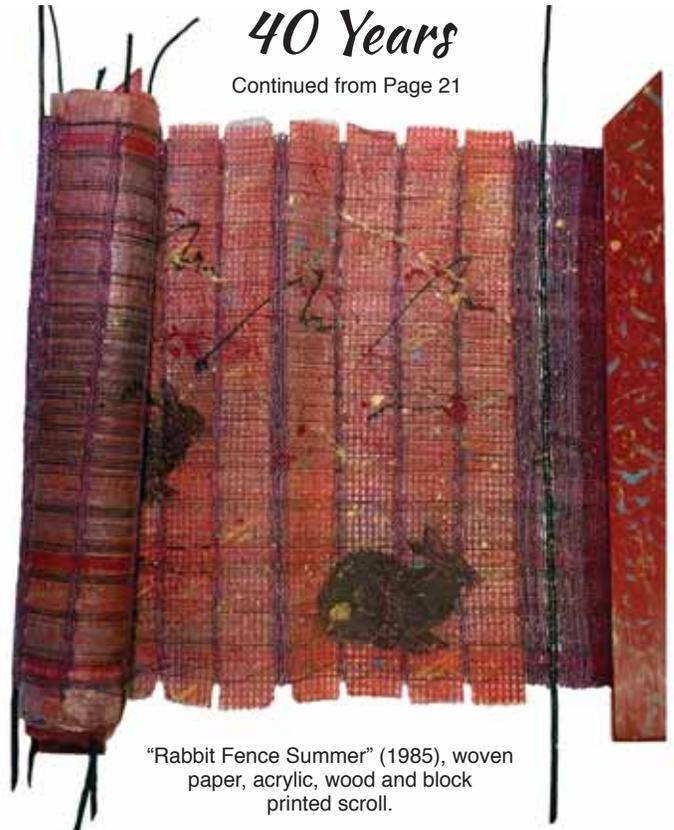
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40 Years

Continued from Page 21



"Rabbit Fence Summer" (1985), woven paper, acrylic, wood and block printed scroll.

early formation of the art center.

- Pat and Dave Dabbert, who live in Sarasota, Fla., operating the highly successful Dabbert Gallery.



Today, the AAA has 38 members. Exhibition opportunities mostly lie in outside venues, as the group no longer has a year-round, large, fully dedicated space. Currently, it is exhibiting member work at the Hammond Visitor Center, 7770 Corinne Drive, Hammond (exit Interstate 94 at Kennedy Avenue South), closing April 23.

Beginning this month and running every other month ending in November, I will continue the 40th anniversary theme by featuring past and present AAA members, starting with Kevin Firme of Beverly Shores.

Visit www.areaartistsassociation.org for additional information and dates on upcoming shows, including the commemorative 40th Anniversary AAA exhibit.



"To be an artist is to believe in life."

Henri Moore

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



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Indiana Dunes National Park

The following programs are planned:

• **“Badass Women of the Dunes Bus Tour”**
from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, March 30,
at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.

Learn about the legacies of women such as Marie Bailly, Alice Mabel Gray, May Watts, Bess Sheehan and others by exploring their haunts. Participants hike trails, and discuss the roles these women played in shaping what is now the national and state parks. Everyone on the tour is encouraged to share stories about women who are their heroes.

Lunch is provided. Dress for the weather. The cost is \$35, with pre-registration required at www.duneslearningcenter.org/events

• **Where to Fish in the National Lakeshore**
from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday,
March 30-31, at The Paul H. Douglas Center
for Environmental Education.

Ryan Koepke, a park ranger and local fishing expert, will discuss some of the best fishing locations in the national park and surrounding area.

• **Miller Woods Hike from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.**
Sundays through May 26 at Paul H. Douglas
Center.

The ranger-led stroll explores a rare black oak savanna, and offers views of Lake Michigan and Chicago.

• **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.

Circus Program @ History Museum

“Insights in History” will focus on circuses at 1:30 p.m. EDT Wednesday, April 3, at The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St., South Bend.

Museum registrar Kristi Kuntzman will focus on circuses that came through northern Indiana in the early 1900s. She also will discuss Peru, Ind., which is home to the International Circus Hall of Fame and was the winter headquarters for several circuses, including Ringling Brothers and Buffalo Bill's Wild West.

Admission is \$3, or \$1 for members. Reservations are required by April 1. A tour of the exhibit “Circus: A History of the Circus” will be offered.

Visit www.historymuseumSB.org or call (574) 235-9664 for more details.

La Porte County Parks



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

Meditation

Classes, which include guided meditation, are from 6 to 7 p.m. April 1 and 8 at Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West.

The cost is \$15 per class. Payment and registration are due no later than one week in advance at the Red Mill office.

Nature's Tiny Tots

Designed for parents and grandparents, explore nature with toddlers and preschoolers. Enjoy music, dancing, storytelling and, weather permitting, hiking.

The free program is from 10 to 11 a.m. April 1, 15 and 22, June 3 and 17, July 1, 15 and 29, and Aug. 12 and 26 at Luhr County Park. Call (219) 325-8315 at least one week in advance to register.

Healthy Lifestyles

The free social club that emphasizes quality of life meets from 9 to 10 a.m. Wednesdays at Luhr County Park Nature Center.

Programs focus on health trends, gardening, medical information and balancing active lifestyles. Call at least one week in advance to sign up (the maximum allowed is 30). The schedule is:

- April 3 — Spring cleaning, container gardening and recycling, Sacha Gee-Burns of LaPorte County Solid Waste District.
- May — no class.
- June 5 — "A Journey into Health: a Plant Based Path," Marcy Daily.
- July 3 — "Three Habits of a Happy Confident Life," Wendy Taddeucci.

Make and Take Craft Weekends

The free program is from 1 to 4 p.m. April 20, May 25 and 26, June 8 and 9, July 20 and 21, and Aug. 17 and 18 at Luhr Park Nature Center.

No pre-registration is required. All ages are welcome, but children must be accompanied by an adult. Crafts are available while supplies last.

Family Fishing Night

The free program is from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 30, at Luhr County Park.

A limited number of poles and bait are provided. No fishing licenses are required. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration is required at least one week in advance.

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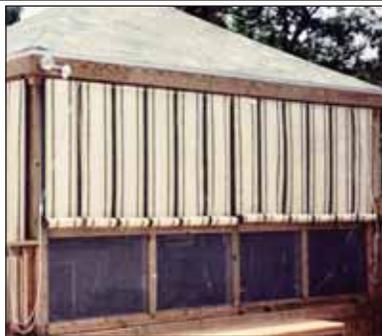
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Harbor Country Hikers

Harbor Country Hikers will explore forgotten skills used by Native Americans to survive Michigan winters during a hike through Warren Dunes State Park at 10 a.m. EDT Saturday, March 30.

The two-hour, two-mile hike is of moderate difficulty, with a good chance of dunes along the way. Also, HCH Vice President Stacey LaRocco and President Pat Fisher will give a brief presentation.

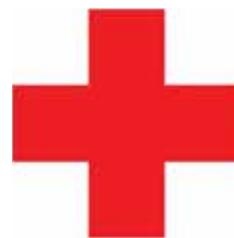
Warren Dunes in Berrien County is one of Michigan's busiest parks, averaging more than 1 million visitors annually. The route chosen depends on the weather.



A hiking trail in Warren Dunes State Park.

From the main entrance on Red Arrow Highway, take the first right after the gate. Cars without a Michigan Recreation Passport license plate are required to visit the Pass Kiosk in the roundabout left of the gate. Those with a pass are encouraged to share a ride.

Membership is encouraged; however, events are open to adults and children if accompanied by an adult. Membership costs \$20 for individuals or \$30 for families. Visit harborcountryhikers.com for more information.



American Red Cross

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

- La Lumiere School, 6801 N. Wilhelm Road, LaPorte, 1-5 p.m. Thursday, March 28.
- Purdue University Northwest, Library Student Faculty Building, Room 144, 1401 S. U.S. 421, Westville, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday, March 28.
- St. John's United Church of Christ, 101 St. John Road, noon-6 p.m. Tuesday, April 2.

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.

LONG BEACH WOMEN'S BOWLING



March 19, 2019

TEAM STANDING

	WON	LOST
1. Alley Katz	29	15
2. Gutter Busters	27.5	16.5
3. Lady Strikers	26.5	17.5

HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES

	SCORE
1. Cindy Beck	211
2. Mary Lou McFadden	171
3. Polly Fletcher	165
4. Nancy Kubath	163
5. Diana Holt	158
6. Susan OConor	157
7. Donna Vilser	152
8. Sue Labovitz (series)	418

SPLITS

Susan Kieffer	1-3-7
Kathy Angelo	5-6-10, 3-10, 5-10
Linda Neulieb	5-7
Mary Lou McFadden	5-6 (2)
Ginny Hogan	4-5-7

STRIKES

Cindy Beck — 4
 Cindy Beck, Barb Macudzinski — 3



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

Reins of Life Volunteer Training

Reins of Life Inc. will offer volunteer training from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, April 4, at its Michigan City facility, 9375 W. County Road 300 North.

Serving more than 200 children and adults with disabilities weekly, volunteers assist with feeding horses, facility maintenance and participating in programs.

Volunteers must be at least 13, and previous experience with horses is not required. After training, volunteers are prepared to assist in most programs. Hours are available during days, evenings and weekends, as well as at special events.

If feeding horses is more appealing, Reins of Life has a continual need for new feeders ages 16 and older. Separate training is available.

RSVP by calling Marilyn at (219) 877-7719. Visit reinsoflife.org or facebook for more information.

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Chesterton Art Center

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

• **A new five-week session of Monday Night Ceramics starts from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. April 1.**

Beginning students develop fundamental wheel-throwing techniques, while returning students refine techniques to create more complex forms.

Instructor Tom Cernius will perform short demonstrations while assisting students to improve throwing skills. Hand-building and sculpture are encouraged. Students can try slab-building, pinch-pot hand-building and basic sculptural techniques, including figurine/small statue construction. All pieces will be glazed during the final class.

The cost is \$135, with members receiving a \$25 discount. Clay costs an additional \$15, payable to the instructor on the first day of class. All other supplies are included.

• **Local painter Mark VanderVinne will host Critique Night at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 3.**

Artists can take a piece at any stage, from conception to the final version, with all ability levels and styles invited.

Guests may simply listen; however, participation is encouraged. While being a safe environment, it is a critique involving advice and insight into the effectiveness of the work or artistic concept.

• **Dick Church will teach a six-week Beginning/Intermediate Watercolor Class starting from 10 a.m. to noon Friday, April 5.**

Church will lead students through a variety of watercolor techniques. The cost is \$95, with members receiving a \$20 discount. Supplies are not included. Church will discuss supplies with all beginners to start the class.

(Call the center at (219) 926-4711 or visit www.chestertonart.com for details.)

Harbor Country Book Club

Harbor Country Book Club meets at 6:30 p.m. EDT Thursday, March 28, at New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St.

The selection is Karen Dionne's "The Marsh King's Daughter." The April 25 selection is "The Water Will Come: Rising Seas, Sinking Cities and the Remaking of the Civilized World." That meeting starts at 4 p.m. EDT.

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Paper Airplane STEM Challenge

Barker Middle School held its third quarterly "STEM Community Challenge" on Friday, Feb. 22, the project being to design a paper airplane that would fly the farthest distance.

Students on several Barker teams took on teams from elementary schools, area businesses and organizations.

The winners were:

- **First Place (tie):** Barker teachers, Mariah Pol's and Kenneth Callaway's IMPACT groups.
- **Second Place:** Barker teacher, Mr. Trotter's IMPACT group.
- **Third Place:** Cool-spring Elementary sixth-grade "Apex Legends."



The first place teams designed a plane that traveled the entire distance of the school gym, hitting the wall each time in a three-round "fly-off finale."

The final STEM Community Challenge of the 2018-2019 school year is Friday, May 17, at Ames Field. Community businesses and organizations interested in entering should contact Barker STEM Coordinator Amy Hamann at ahamann@mcas.k12.in.us or (219) 873-2057.

Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs are offered:

- **Spring Saunter at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 30.**

Meet a naturalist at the Nature Center for a hike exploring the first signs of spring.

- **Bird Window Bingo from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 30.**

Prizes will be awarded during a bird-theme version of the game.

- **It's "Owl" Good at 10 a.m. Sunday, March 31.**

Meet a naturalist at the Nature Center auditorium for a look at common owls of the Dunes.

- **History Hike to the Governor's Cottage at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 31.**

Join a naturalist at the Nature Center for a moderate hike to explore the remains of Gov. Jackson's cottage near the lakeshore.



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

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“Krueger Reaches Out” Project Connects Kids, Community

Four area organizations benefited from 10 or 20 additional pairs of hands Friday, March 8, as Krueger Middle School students spread across the community for “Krueger Reaches Out.”

Students spent the morning volunteering at Fried’s Cat Shelter, LaPorte Family YMCA Elston Branch, Washington Park Zoo and the Macedonian Missionary Baptist Church soup kitchen.

Sixty Krueger students were selected for the opportunity by a committee of Krueger teachers based on an application and essay. More than 100 applied.

“We chose students who had thought about why they wanted to serve these organizations, what they could contribute and what they could learn,” teacher Shirley Allen said in a press release.

For a few, it was their first exposure to community service.

At Fried’s Cat Shelter, students and their teacher, Kathy Bair, kept busy cleaning windows, washing walls and equipment, decorating cat play areas and scooping litter. Assistant Director Traci Lindborg worked directly with a few students, showing them how to check cats for ear mites and administer medications.

Eighth-grader Briana Perry used a microchip reader to help staff identify animals and log medicines that were administered.

“This really made me want to go back and help them again,” she said.

Gilberto Guadalajara also helped at Fried’s. He said he hopes to pursue a career in medicine one day — specifically in neurology — and was fascinated by the experience.

“Some of the cats there had weakened immune systems,” he said in a press release. “I was surprised to learn that they were given some of the same medications as humans, just in much smaller doses.”

The YMCA crew was told to “dress for a car wash” according to teacher Kate Triemstra. Their task? Power washing and scrubbing down locker rooms, showers and bathrooms, and cleaning bleachers in

the Red Devil gym.

Eighth-grader Sarah Achy said she and her friends made the cleaning task into a race, and although she was sore from all the scrubbing, she had a lot of fun.

Washington Park Zoo kept students busy with a variety of tasks: clearing brush from the alligator exhibit, cleaning out a storage closet, chopping fruits and vegetables for the tamarins and a skunk, and sifting debris from beach sand so it could be

used in exhibits for kestrels, fennec foxes and red-crested turacos.

Breanna Cornelison was assigned the task of cleaning windows and artificial plants outside the boa constrictor exhibit.

“I even got to wash a tortoise’s shell!” she said in a press release.

Zoo Education Curator Kaley Gibson said the extra help from Krueger students came at the perfect time since the zoo opens for the season April 1. She met with students after they completed their tasks, sharing her background in animal and wildlife science at Purdue University.

Students volun-

teering at Macedonian Missionary Baptist soup kitchen helped clean shelves, restock items and unpack deliveries.

“I wasn’t expecting how much heavy lifting there would be,” seventh-grader Thomas Ferrell said in a press release. “It made me appreciate that the people who run the soup kitchen have to do that all the time.”

Afterward, all 60 Krueger students gathered at the YMCA for lunch, sharing their feedback about the experience.

“Instead of talking about their weekend plans, they were telling each other stories about what they had done and the important work these organizations do in our community,” teacher Dorothea Holley said in a press release.



A Krueger student helps administer medicine to a cat at Fried’s Cat Shelter.

“Becoming More Visible”

PFLAG will host a viewing of “Becoming More Visible” at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 28, in the seventh-floor community room at Artspace Uptown Artist Lofts, 717 Franklin St.

The film, which introduces four young transgender adults, is held in place of the regular meeting by PFLAG, or Parents, Family, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays Michigan City and LaPorte County Chapter. A discussion follows



Anything discussed during the meetings remains confidential. Attendees should be 18 and older. Call (219) 561-0948 or mcpflag@gmail.com for more details.

Parking Sticker Distribution

Starting Monday, April 1, Washington Park’s 2019 parking stickers will be issued at North Pointe Pavilion, 6 on the Lake.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (excluding holidays) Monday through Friday. May 4-July 27, they also are from 9 a.m. to noon Saturdays.

Stickers will be available at Michigan City Senior Center during its annual Trash & Treasure Sale from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 30. The sale continues until 1 p.m.

Take a current vehicle registration; a paper certificate of registration will not be accepted. If owning property in the civil city, but living outside those limits, take a utility bill or tax bill (the name on the bill must match the name on the vehicle registration) for the property, along with current vehicle registration, and the fee will be waived:

- Free — Civil City residents.
- \$25 — LaPorte County residents.
- \$40 — Indiana residents.
- \$100 — Out of state.
- \$23 — Senior Center member (must show current membership card).

Call (219) 873-1506 for more information.



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Activities to Explore

In the Area:

March 28 — Harbor Country Book Club, Karen Dionne's "The Marsh King's Daughter," 6:30 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St.

March 28 — Nerds & Nachos (LaPorte County Public Library adults group), 7-8 p.m., El Bracero LaPorte, 927 Pine Lake Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

March 29-April 1 — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. *Now showing:* "Cold War." Rated R. In Polish, French, German, Russian, Italian and Croatian with English subtitles. Times: 6:15 p.m. Fri.-Mon. Also: "On the Basis of Sex." Rated PG-13. Times: 3 & 9 p.m. Sat./3 p.m. Sun. All times Eastern. Info: vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

March 30 — Trash 'N Treasure Sale, 8 a.m.-noon, Michigan City Senior Center, Washington Park. Info: (219) 873-1504.

March 30 — "Badass Women of the Dunes Bus Tour," 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Cost: \$35. Registration: www.duneslearningcenter.org/events

March 30 — Spring Saunter, 10 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

March 30 — Virtual Vacation Day, 1-3 p.m., Cool-spring Library, 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

March 30 — Free concert, blues musician Keith Scott, 7 p.m., The Nest, 803 Franklin St. Info: (219) 262-5200.

March 30 — Kim Richey (opener Ernie Hendrickson), 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn Theater, 107 Generation Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$25. Reservations: (269) 756-3879, acornlive.org

March 31 — History Hike to the Governor's Cottage, 2 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

April 1 — Washington Park Zoo opens for season.

April 1 — Popular Books, Min Jin Lee's "Pachinko," 2 p.m., Westchester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

April 2 — Old Lighthouse Museum, Washington Park, opens for season.

April 2 — Improvplayhouse Presents, 10 a.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

April 3 — Sand Art, 10 a.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

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 30 — Harbor Country Hikers, 10 a.m.

EDT, Warren Dunes State Park, Berrien County, Mich. Info: harborcountryhikers.com

March 30-31 — Where to Fish in the National Lakeshore, 1:30-2:30 p.m., Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, Lake Street, north of U.S. 12, Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882.

April 3 — "Insights in History," 1:30 p.m. EDT, The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St., South Bend. Admission: \$3 (\$1/members). Reservations due April 1. Info: www.historymuseumSB.org, (574) 235-9664.

Sundays through May 26 — Miller Woods Hike, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, Lake Street, north of U.S. 12, Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882.

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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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.

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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

On March 28, 1797, New Hampshire's Nathaniel Briggs was granted a patent for an agitator type washing machine.

On March 28, 1858, Chicago's first YMCA was organized.

On March 28, 1925, *The Chicago Tribune* moved into the newly completed Tribune Tower.

On March 28, 1944, New York City's radio station WQXR banned singing commercials.

On March 28, 1979, the nation's worst commercial nuclear accident occurred when a cooling system malfunctioned at Pennsylvania's Three Mile Island power plant.

On March 29, 1812, the first White House wedding took place when Lucy Payne Washington, sister-in-law of President James Madison, married supreme Court Justice Thomas Todd.

On March 29, 1848, mighty Niagara Falls stopped falling when an ice jam on Lake Erie blocked the flow of water to the Niagara River. It was 30 hours before the ice broke, and the falls were once more the delight of honeymooners.

On March 29, 1943, World War II rationing of meat, butter and cheese began.

On March 29, 1962, Jack Paar hosted NBC's "Tonight" show for the final time.

On March 30, 1675, Father Jacques Marquette, along with his party, left their cabin on the south branch of the Chicago River, having spent the winter there.

On March 30, 1858, Philadelphia's Hyman Lipman was granted a patent for a pencil equipped with an eraser.

On March 30, 1923, the British liner SS Laconia, flagship of the Cunard Line, became the first passenger ship to circumnavigate the world, arriving in New York City after 130 days.

On March 30, 1953, Albert Einstein announced he was revising his "Unified Field Theory."

On March 30, 1970, Secretariat, the racehorse who would go on to win the Triple Crown in 1973, was born.

On March 30, 1992, the Cubs acquired Sammy Sosa in a trade with the White Sox for George Bell.

On March 30, 2003, Mayor Richard Daley sent bulldozers to Meigs Field and had the runway torn up.

On March 31, 1831, Jonathan Bailey was appointed by President Andrew Jackson to serve as Chicago's first postmaster.

On March 31, 1870, in Perth Amboy, N.J., Thomas Peterson Mundy cast a ballot in a municipal election, becoming the first black to vote following ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment.

On March 31, 1880, Wabash, Ind., became the first town to be completely illuminated by electricity.

On March 31, 1889, the Eiffel Tower officially opened in Paris.

On March 31, 1918, Daylight Savings Time went into effect in the United States.

On April 1, 1789, the United States House of Representatives held its first full meeting in New York City and elected Frederick Muhlenberg of Pennsylvania as the first Speaker of the House.

On April 1, 1853, Cincinnati became the first city in the U.S. to pay its firefighters a regular salary.

On April 1, 1872, the Chicago Public Library was created.

On April 1, 1963, the daytime soap opera "General Hospital" premiered on ABC-TV.

On April 2, 1792, Congress authorized establishment of the U.S. Mint, at the same time enacted legislation fixing the price of gold at \$19.39 an ounce.

On April 2, 1917, saying, "The world must be made safe for democracy," President Woodrow Wilson asked Congress to declare war against Germany.

On April 2, 1932, as a ransom for his infant kidnapped son, Charles Lindberg turned over \$50,000 to an unidentified man.

On April 2, 1956, the long running soap operas, "As The World Turns," and "The Edge of Night" premiered on CBS-TV.

On April 2, 1984, Georgetown University's John Thompson became the first black coach to win a NCAA men's basketball championship.

On April 3, 1848, the Chicago Board of Trade held its first official session.

On April 3, 1860, the legendary "Pony Express" began service between St. Joseph and Sacramento, a distance of 1,966 miles. The service would last for only about 18 months, being replaced by the transcontinental telegraph.

On April 3, 1882, notorious American outlaw Jesse James was shot to death in St. Joseph. He was killed by Robert Ford, a member of James' own gang who was seeking to claim reward money. James was 36.

On April 3, 1924, actor Marlon Brando was born in Omaha and actress Doris Day in Cincinnati.

On April 3, 1968, fewer than 24 hours before he was assassinated, Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his "mountaintop" speech to a rally of striking sanitation workers.

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Sheridan Beach, 1BR, off-street parking, laundry room. Year lease, no pets. Utilities incl. \$650/mo. Call (219) 879-2195 or (219) 873-5220.

FOR RENT: 306 Sunset, Michiana Shores. 3BR/3BA, three blocks to the lake. 3-car garage. \$1,800/mo long term. May consider short term. Call (219) 872-8345.

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**Prayer to the
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(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

The Silent Patient by Alex Michaelides
(hardcover, \$26.99 retail in bookstores and online;
also available as an eBook. 323 pages.)

“We’re all crazy, I believe, just in different ways.”

Oh Alicia, what have you done? The sound of gunshots coming from your house prompts your neighbor to call the police.

You are covered in blood — holding a knife — the gun on the floor and your husband, Gabriel, tied to a chair. Gabriel has five shots through his head, bullet six landing in the ceiling.

The blood on you is from the slashes on your wrists when you try to commit suicide after Gabriel is dispatched to heaven...or wherever.

Why did you lose your voice, Alicia? Was the reality of what happened just too much for you to handle? Which naturally begs the question: Why did you do it?

Problem is, Alicia never speaks a word from the time the police arrive. Through interrogation and a trial, not one sound leaves her mouth.

What makes the whole thing unbelievable is the Berensons’ fine lifestyle: She is an artist of some renown and Gabriel a magazine photographer, also well-known. They live in a high-class neighborhood in northwest London and seem to have the perfect life...obviously not.

There is one thing though, while she is under house arrest awaiting trial. Alicia paints a new picture, obsessively, not eating or drinking until it is complete. It is a disturbing self-portrait. In the corner, she writes in Greek lettering — *Alcestis*.

She is found guilty by reason of insanity and sent to a hospital psychiatric center called the Grove. She languishes there, not speaking, but sometimes exhibiting violent behavior toward other inmates and two attempts at slitting her wrists, for which the doctors then medicate her beyond reason. She soon melts into the background, becoming invisible to everyone and especially herself.

The scene now fades to Theo Faber, 42 years old and a psychotherapist. He’s married to Kathy, a stage actress. Theo’s been following the Berenson murder in the media and is intrigued by Alicia’s condition. Can he break through her silence? He believes he can and would certainly like to try. A job opening at the Grove comes up and Theo applies. He thinks this will cement his career.

“There was no time to waste. Alicia was lost. She

was missing. And I intended to find her.”

Theo gets the art therapist to give Alicia her own painting supplies and space to paint, thinking this might help. Theo saw the self-portrait she painted and knows it is key to breaking through to her. He finds out that *Alcestis* was a Greek heroine who sacrificed her life in exchange for her husband’s. There’s a meaning there to Alicia, but what is it?

Theo talks to people who know Alicia to discover some bit of information that can help him. Here’s some of what he gets: Aunt Lydia Rose (raised her after the death of her mother) — *“She’s a little bitch. She always was, even as a child.”* From her brother-in-law Max Berenson — *“She was just mad. Mood swings. Rages. Violent fits. She’d break things, smash stuff up.”* From cousin Paul Rose — *“She wasn’t a violent person.”*

So there is Alicia. Angel or devil? Seems it’s hard to tell.

Theo keeps working at Alicia slowly, trying to bring out something that provokes her to speak. At the same time, he is having marital troubles with Kathy. She’s more distant lately. Can Theo manage his relationship with two different women? — one he lives with, and one who lives in her own private world? He can’t seem to get through to either one.

There’s more to this cast of interesting, sometimes bizarre characters, like Jean-Felix Martin. He owns the gallery where Alicia’s paintings are on display. Since the murder, her work has become in big demand, and talking to him, Theo senses there is something about Alicia he is holding back.

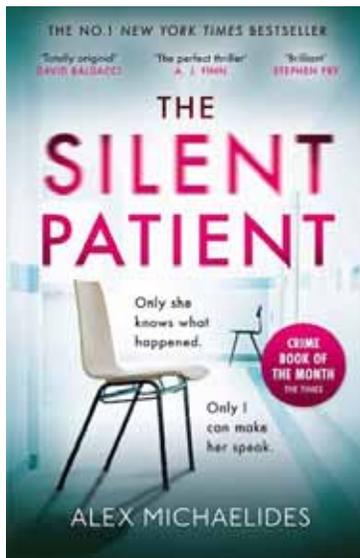
Max Berenson, Alicia’s brother-in-law and solicitor, is another strange man. Theo believes he is not being truthful about Alicia, especially his true feelings about her. The hospital director, the head nurse and other personnel round out the cast of characters Theo doesn’t know whether to trust or avoid.

This is true Alfred Hitchcock style: a psychological study with a twisty ending. The story floats along, Theo makes strides with Alicia, not so much with his wife, and you wonder where all this is leading. Prepare for the bombshell ending!

And, for the record, this book is Hollywood bound...can’t wait to see who the actors will be.

Michaelides was born in Cyprus to a Greek-Cypriot father and English mother. He studied English literature at Cambridge and received a master’s degree in screenwriting from the American Film Institute in Los Angeles.

Till next time, happy reading!





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