



Volume 35, Number 46 Thursday, November 21, 2019

Into the Groove

by Andrew Tallackson

Dmitri Shostakovich's "Suite for Variety Orchestra" is no simple feat. A masterful work in eight movements, it cavorts through genres spanning the march, polka and waltz. It also requires a bit of dexterity on behalf of the musicians, specifically when the tempos accelerate to pulse-pounding finishes.

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Carolyn Watson leads LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra during the Nov. 9 concert at LaPorte Civic Auditorium. All photos by Bob Wellinski

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The suite — cinephiles take note, its “Waltz 2” appeared in Stanley Kubrick’s “Eyes Wide Shut” (1999) — was not one LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra had tackled before, but such lack of familiarity bred no musical contempt Nov. 9, the night of the first concert in the 2019-2020 LCSO season: “Dance! A Tribute to Our Veterans.” The symphony during that piece was a well-oiled machine: crisp, tight, frequently light and playful.

Even amid the suite’s most dramatic moments, guest conductor Carolyn Watson remained the calm amid the musical storm. Grace under pressure. Precise in her guidance, her body locked in a posture of clear-headed control. The reaction was an enthusiastic round of applause from the LaPorte Civic Auditorium audience.

Watson’s appearance with LCSO kicked off the second half of its “Bravo, Maestro!” series, the concert following equally enthusiastic responses to conductor candidates Russell Ger, Maria Mercedes Garcia Diaz and Alexander Platt. Rounding out the search are Wilbur Lin in March 2020 and Christopher Fashun in May 2020.

In an interview just days after the performance, Watson told *The Beacher* she was “really happy” with how the evening turned out, the orchestra rising to the occasion on every piece.

“Every time you work with a new orchestra, it’s like being the new kid at a new school,” she said. “You’re not sure if the other kids will like you or play with you.

“I’m sure the orchestra feels the same way in that they obviously want to do their best, so there is that natural degree of, ‘Let’s see what this person is about.’ On both sides, (there is) nervous excitement, some apprehension. But it ended up being a good match.”

A native of Sydney, Australia, Watson has forged an impressive career as a conductor that has taken her throughout Europe, including the Brandenburg Symphony, BBC Concert Orchestra, North Czech

Philharmonic Orchestra, Kodály Philharmonic, Savaria Symphony Orchestra, Budapest Operetta Theatre, Bulgarian State Opera Bourgas and St. Petersburg Chamber Philharmonic in Russia.

Two years ago, she was one of six conductors selected for the Dallas Opera Institute for Women Conductors. In 2012, she was a major prize winner at the Emmerich Kálmán International Operetta Conducting Competition in Budapest.

Consider, too, that she was a resident at the Israeli National Opera in 2009, and received the Brian Stacey Award for emerging Australian conductors, among her many honors. Back home, where she earned a doctorate in performance (conducting) from the University of Sydney, she was assistant conductor for the inaugural Australian World Orchestra concert season, as well as associate conductor of the Tasmania Discovery Orchestra. She now serves as director of orchestral studies at The University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kan., while dabbling in freelance work throughout the U.S., Europe and Australia. Younger musicians should take note that from 2013-2015, she served as music director of the Interlochen Arts Academy Orchestra.



Carolyn Watson describes the conductor-orchestra relationship as a collaborative effort.

In the weeks leading up to the Nov. 9 performance in LaPorte, Watson kept in regular contact with Interim Music Director Chuck Steck. And with only three rehearsals before the concert, she got right down to business during that first practice.

“Three rehearsals for a concert, you have to work quite efficiently,” she said, adding with a laugh, “it was straight to work. Hello. Good evening. Let’s go.”

Watson admired the willingness of symphony musicians to work with her. In other scenarios, she stressed, that was not always the case.

“I guess it’s a very collaborative effort: always a two-week street,” she said of the conductor-musician relationship. “Obviously, I bring something to the table — thoughts and expectations — but in the same way, so does the orchestra. Every member, I always want to see what they bring, what their approach and their ideas are.



Carolyn is a native of Sydney, Australia, but now calls Lawrence, Kan., home, where she is the director of orchestral studies at The University of Kansas.

“I felt by the concert, we fell into a groove,” she continued. “It was very positive. I found they were open-minded and willing and adaptable to try things.”

Oboist Mary Steck, who has played with LCSO for 32 years, describes Watson as “a joy” to work with, her conducting style clear and expressive.

“She communicated with

the orchestra very well, using gestures and even facial expressions,” Steck told *The Beacher*. “Her eyes communicated well, signaling her emotions to the musicians. When we as orchestra members can see and feel those emotions, we are always lifted up and therefore play with more emotion and passion.”

In the days leading up to the performance, Watson conducted clinics at four area high schools: LaPorte, New Prairie, New Buffalo and Valparaiso. Before her conducting career took flight, she taught high school, so music education is one of her “core values.” The scheduled clinics were a return of sorts to her musical roots. Her experience at Interlochen was of particular interest to students, although a few took the opportunity to pose an off-the-wall question or two.

Continued on Page 4

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Carolyn's calm, precise demeanor guided the symphony through several difficult pieces.

"Everyone wants to know whether the animals do kill you in Australia," Watson said with a hearty laugh.

Watson also appreciates the fact that more women are taking to the podium in an arena dominated largely by men. She is not, after all, the only woman vying for the LCSO post, with Maria Mercedes Garcia Diaz having helmed the March 10 concert.

"Finally, everyone is kind of realizing that, hey, yeah, there are more and more opportunities for women, and more awareness about that fact..." she said.

What would Watson bring to the LCSO, were she to be chosen as its new conductor? The audience on Nov. 9 caught a glimpse of her playful side during the night's final selection, Arturo Márquez's "Danzón No. 2." A leading composer of contemporary Mexican art music, Márquez was the son of a mariachi

musician and the grandson of a Mexican folk singer. That influence was unmistakable throughout "Danzón No. 2," an invigorating, propulsive piece alive with Latin flavor. Toward the end, Watson stepped down from the podium, grooving to the music before leading the audience in rhythmic clapping that brought the piece to a knockout close. Shouts of "Wow" and "Bravo" erupted from the crowd, which leapt to its feet for a standing ovation.

More of that would be on tap from Watson, should she be named LCSO's new conductor.

"It would definitely be along the lines of what you saw Saturday night: a fun, energetic tenure as music director," she said. "I also would introduce the orchestra and the public to repertoire they might not have come across — some ideas and possibilities outside their comfort zone."

LCSO Officials: Watson Brings Calm, Humor to Performance

by Connie Kuzydym

Chuck Steck held two rehearsals with LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra before Carolyn Watson arrived. But, LCSO's interim music director says, the musicians were eager to meet the latest candidate in the "Bravo, Maestro!" series

"When she took over, they were ready for her and they were ready for her to put her spin on it," Steck said. "Her spin was wonderful and well-received. She's a violinist, and she was able to bring forward some great knowledge of the instrument, and some experience of being both a conductor and a player, and a different viewpoint that was very well received.

"She has a great demeanor: very calm and humorous when she needed to be. It was a good time.

A really good time."

The new pieces proved challenging. After their first rehearsal, members went home and worked on the music. Their efforts showed. The second rehearsal with Watson showed noticeable improvement.

The morning of the concert, rehearsal went so well, Watson felt they would peak that evening — the desired result.

That positivity, indeed, continued throughout the concert, from the way the music flowed, to the introduction of 97-year-old World War II survivor James Coros of Westville, to the audience's standing ovation, to the musicians stomping their feet, helping bring Watson back to the stage for an encore. Concertgoers left the Civic having heard new music, led

by a guest conductor who not only captivated the orchestra, but also the audience with her amiable demeanor, knowledge and conducting style.

“She has a very clear beat. Her stick technique is pretty awesome,” LCSO Executive Director Tim King said. “I don’t think any musician could complain that they couldn’t follow the conductor. Very concise. She’s fun to watch on the podium, but it’s not about her. She does what she does to make the orchestra sound better.”

Like all the previous candidates, Watson had a whirlwind week, meeting with various individuals and Friends of the Orchestra. She also visited music programs at four area high schools. During these visits, she was in her element, having taught high school music nine years in Australia.

King has researched Watson’s guest conducting appearances and observed she is asked to return.

“That tells me a lot as well. I always say, you can applaud all you want, ask me back,” King said.



Interim Music Director Chuck Steck (center) performs with the symphony.

“That’s the true compliment...a re-engagement. To me, it says you’ve not only appealed yourself to the audience, but you appealed yourself to the administration, too.”

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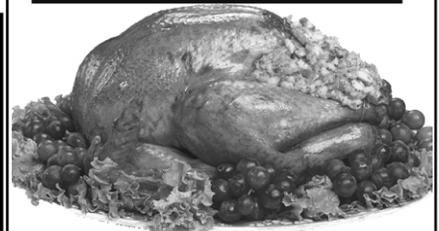
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Entering their final season of the “Bravo, Maestro!” search, King and Steck are pleased with the process. To date, they have met, worked with and spent time with four diverse candidates, all of whom have been wonderful. They acknowledge it has been a positive experience for the orchestra *and* the audience. They also agree the orchestra is sounding better with each concert, and those who have not heard the LCSO for a while will be delighted.

“From my personal standpoint, being hands-on with getting the orchestra going, I’m very pleased



Executive Director Tim King (center), assisted by Leigh Morris (right), honors Michael Drayton for his work with LCSO, specifically the annual children’s concerts, which are now officially renamed the “Drayton Family Children’s Educational Concerts.” Drayton helped create the concerts 31 years ago. They have been nationally recognized as one of the most successful children’s concerts by the American String Teachers Association and National School Orchestra Association.

with the personal and musical growth of the orchestra itself,” Steck said. “I think they respond very well to the differences of the conductor...This conductor had her own style, and the orchestra found it and embraced it. That’s what they’re doing more and more. It is an individual thing. The musicians go inside and find what they’re about and what they’re capable of doing, and then rise to the occasion and join forces with the conductor to make that happen.

“This orchestra is doing it so much better now, and they look forward to the challenges. Lots of smiles on the stage. Lots of smiles in the orchestra as we put all this together...excited to see how the story turns out.”

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“Ford v Ferrari” Takes Wildly Entertaining Look at Historic Race

by Andrew Tallackson

With “Ford v Ferrari,” James Mangold has crafted a wildly entertaining movie, one that is thrilling on the race track and equally fascinating off it, thanks to two actors clearly enjoying the eccentric real-life men they portray.

Mangold, an expert at applying polished visuals to old-school storytelling (“Walk the Line,” “3:10 to Yuma,” “Logan”), delivers the goods when “Ford v Ferrari” lets its spiffy vehicles take center stage, but what’s surprising is how that energy transfers so well to the more dramatic moments as two men, both in their 40s, struggle to maintain not just their own vitality, but that of America’s can-do spirit.

The movie reveals how Ford by 1963 was experiencing a massive sales slump, its pre-Chrysler vice president, Lee Iacocca (Jon Bernthal), pressing the company to purchase ailing Ferrari to boost revenue. When those discussions fall apart, Iacocca persuades company CEO Henry Ford II (Tracy Letts, hilariously bombastic) to hire Shelby Automobiles owner Carroll Shelby — himself a driver who won Le Mans in 1959 — to not only shepherd a new age for Ford in terms of racing, but also lure hot-headed Brit Ken Miles to drive the car at Le Mans, whooping some Ferrari butt in the process.

Miles is played by Oscar-winner Christian Bale (“The Fighter”) in another performance that is both a disappearing act and a dramatic revelation. The actor scaled back his weight, appearing lean, raw, ready for a fight. And his entire demeanor is a stark contrast to the Brits we’re accustomed to seeing on screen these days. This isn’t refined elegance prepping a country estate for the king and queen’s visit, but scrappy, working class resentment. We appreciate, too, his family. His wife (Caitriona Balfe, TV’s “Outlander”) and son (Noah Jupe, the wonderful young actor from “Wonder” and “A Quiet Place”) are 100 percent behind him, their knowledge of the sport on par with his.

Shelby is played by Matt Damon in a gum-chewing fury of Texas screw-you wisdom. He frequently appears bemused by Miles’ antics, staring at him like he’s a squashed bug, but he’s also savvy enough

to work his way through the corporate BS of Ford execs, particularly Leo Beebe (a bland Josh Lucas).

The last act of “Ford v Ferrari” restages the 1966 Le Mans race, complete with the door on Miles’ vehicle refusing to stay shut during the early laps. And it is here Mangold allows the film to simmer in a much deeper context. The race unfolds three years before we landed a man on the moon. It was



Matt Damon (left) stars as Carroll Shelby and Christian Bale as Ken Miles in “Ford v Ferrari.”

★ ★ ★ 1/2

“Ford v Ferrari”

Running time: 152 minutes.

Rated PG-13 for some language and peril

a time when America believed in itself, and its ability to prove its stealth among other nations. And through Miles and Shelby, we see two men likely past their prime, but with enough fight left in them to give the best they’ve got.

That 1966 race in Le Mans, by the way, may be the most expertly staged vision of race-car driving to date. The cutting-edge sound, editing, effects and especially Bale’s performance place you in the driver’s seat like few films before it. All of Mangold’s skills as a storyteller are on full display here. It’s breathtaking, actually.

Is “Ford v Ferrari” accurate? No idea. Don’t care. It captivated me from start to finish.

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Gratitude for the Game

I am grateful for baseball this Thanksgiving.

What?!?

You heard me. I am celebrating baseball on Turkey Day despite the endless football on TV.

Don't get me wrong, I am a lifelong Bears fan. I would not turn down a friend with a spare ticket to a Soldier Field home game this season.

But come Thanksgiving Day, I'll be counting down until Opening Day 2020, following all the winter trades, as well as baseball in Venezuela, Japan or wherever America's game is played: 24/7, 365 days a year.

Why?

Because I fell in love with baseball as a weeladie in the early 1950s in Chicago's South Shore neighborhood. I was born in the Windy City, but my parents were Philadelphia transplants. They believed if a team had "Chicago" in front of it, you support them. So I was taken to Sox and Cubs games as a bairn. I won't lie to you: old Comiskey Park frightened me as a lad, especially on hot nights when the heady odor of the nearby Union Stockyards wafted into the stands. I remember seeing an irate Sox fan pour a beer on Yankees Manager Casey Stengel's head as he emerged from the dugout, and I refrained from taking dates to see the White Sox after a fan poured beer on a date's head.

As rough and ready as old Comiskey Park was in the 1950s, Wrigley Field was all light and laughter. That certainly was my impression during my



Stu is the lively mascot for the South Bend Cubs.

first Cubs game in 1953 when I was all of 3.

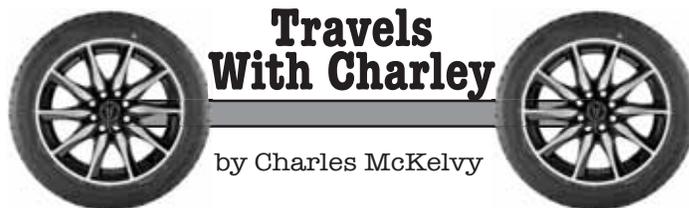
I can get behind these guys, I thought.

And I did, just as I got behind the White Sox, staying with both teams when we moved to Beverly. Speaking of which, I reached the pinnacle of my baseball career in the early 1960s when I pitched for the Red Legs in the Ridge Beverly Little League. My love of the game blossomed under the gentle tutelage of our coach, Charles Hamel, who made a point of letting everyone play in every game. We weren't the best team in the league, but we weren't the worst. We enjoyed every inning of every game, particularly

the one in which I threw a 1-0 shutout against the league-leading Dodgers.

What's not to like, right?

Then, in 1959, I was rocketed into the fourth dimension of existence when the White Sox won the American League pennant, giving the Dodgers a scare in the World Series. In 1969, my whole family was seriously bummed when we listened to the upstart New York Mets derail the Cubs. We were re



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turning from a vacation in Pennsylvania and nearly drove off the Indiana Toll Road, we were so upset. Ron Santo and company seemed so close to lifting the Cubs' curse, but it was not to be...until that story-book season of 2016.

And, yes, before we moved to Michigan in 1987, we lived in the so-called St. Ben's neighborhood, just west of Wrigley Field, on Waveland Avenue no less. I was freelancing for various business clients, and when I'd finish my work for the day, I'd hop on my made-in-Chicago Schwinn Cruiser and pedal over to Clark and Addison. I'd buy myself a front-row seat in the upper deck and enjoy the best day-baseball money could buy. In those days, it didn't cost all that much: there really weren't all that many fans present.

Which leads me to the following story: I was returning from Evanston one fine summer afternoon in 1983 when an official called to me from the right-field gate, asking if I'd like to see the rest of that day's Cubs/Cardinals game.

"How much?" I asked.

"Free. On the Cubs. We need some fans. Just sit with some other fans so the players will think there's a crowd."

So I became one of those fans that afternoon and, yes, the Cubs pulled victory out of the jaws of defeat and hoisted the now famous blue-on-white "W" flag.

How sweet it was, and how sweet baseball has been to me on and off the field. I could go on and on in this vein, citing great minor- and major-league games I've seen in South Bend, San Francisco, Milwaukee, Philadelphia, New York, St. Louis, Pitts-



Watching Lucas Giolito beat the Indians was my 2019 highlight.

burgh, Detroit and at those two Chicago ball-parks.

But I won't mention the time Natalie and I were in Boston in 1984 on a business trip, and I discovered the White Sox were in town to play the Red Sox. In fact, we could see Fenway Park from our hotel. I suggested we go to the Friday night game. Natalie said no, but added we'd certainly go next time we were in Boston.

We haven't been back to Bean Town since, and I doubt if we'll go back anytime soon, which means a ballgame at Fenway might never be checked off my bucket list.

So no Sox vs. Sox game at old storied Fenway Park to be grateful for this Thanksgiving, but I am grateful nonetheless to Natalie for actively supporting my baseball habit all these years.

Happy Thanksgiving, dear. Now, please pass the pitcher to the pitcher.



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

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Children 4 and older accompanied by an adult will make a Thanksgiving-inspired craft. All materials are provided. The child must be present to receive supplies.

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

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.

- **Graphic Novel Book Club for Teens at 5 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 21.**

The focus is Brandon Sanderson's "White Sand." The group is aimed at teens 13-18. Stop by Youth Services for more information.

- **Bookmarks: Margaret Atwood's "The Testaments" at 2 p.m. Friday, Nov. 22.**

Patricia Klewer is the reviewer.

- **Writing Out Loud: Poet Adrian Matejka at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 24, at The Nest, 803 Franklin St.**

Matejka was born in Nuremberg, Germany, and grew up in California and Indiana. He earned his Bachelor of Arts from Indiana University and a

Master of Fine Arts from Southern Illinois University Carbondale. His first collection of poems, "The Devil's Garden" (2003), won the 2002 New York/New England Award. His second collection, "Mixology" (2009), was a winner of the National Poetry Series and a finalist for a NAACP Image Award. "The Big Smoke" (2013), which focuses on the life of the boxer Jack Johnson, earned the 2014 Anisfield-Wolf Book Award and was a finalist for the National Book Award and Pulitzer Prize. His most recent book is "Map to the Stars" (2017). In 2018, he was appointed state poet laureate of Indiana. He teaches creative writing at Indiana University Bloomington.



- **Story Time at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., at 11 a.m. Monday, Nov. 25.**

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.

- **Story Time at 1 p.m. Tuesdays and 10 a.m. Wednesdays in November.**

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Indiana Dunes National Park

The following programs are planned:

- **Birding with the Indiana Audubon Society from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 23, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

Brad Bumgardner, birding expert and Indiana Audubon Society executive director, leads the program that is part of the monthly Indiana Dunes birding series. Meet at the Visitor Center and car pool to the birding spot. No experience is required. Take binoculars, and dress for the weather.

- **Science in the National Park from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 23, at Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.**

Marc Milne of the University of Indianapolis will discuss spiders of the dunes. The 45-minute presentation is followed by a short hike. Dress for the weather.

- **Stargazing from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 23, at the Kemil Beach parking area.**

Members from Chicago Astronomical Society, Michiana Astronomical Society and Calumet Astronomical Society will attend with telescopes. Dress for the weather. Take binoculars. The Kemil Beach parking lot is located at 27 N. East State Park Road, Chesterton.

- **Miller Woods Hike from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Sundays through Nov. 24 at Paul H. Douglas Center.**

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

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

Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs are offered:

- **Turkey Trek from 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 23.**

Join a naturalist, and take binoculars, for the easy walk to learn about the life of the turkey.

- **The J.D. Marshall Shipwreck from 2 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 23.**

Meet at the Nature Center to learn about the ship's sinking just offshore of the park.

- **Breakfast with the Birds from 10 to 11 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 24.**

Join naturalists at the Nature Center for coffee, hot chocolate and donuts, then help put out seeds for the birds.

- **Hibernate, Migrate or Get Fat! from 2 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 24.**

Learn more about the adaptations of Indiana Dunes wildlife to prepare for winter. Meet at the Nature Center Auditorium.

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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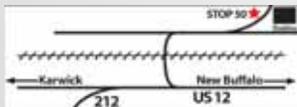
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Monday Musicale

Monday Musicale will present a casual evening of country and folk music at 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 25, at First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St.

Appointments are Howard Brenneman, program chairwoman Deb Campanella, Sara Miller, Dan Moser, Nancy Nichols, Sheila Pollock, Garth Taylor, Felicia Thomas and Lew Timberlake, as well as a few guest performers. Bev Griffith and Lee Meyer will provide piano accompaniment.

Vocal soloists, duos and small ensembles will perform traditional and contemporary styles of American folk and country music, some fittingly accompanied by acoustic guitar and banjo. In addition, Timberlake has prepared a handbell solo and Miller will play fiddle tunes.

Selections include "Crazy," "Hard Candy Christmas," "Islands in the Stream," "If Wishes Were Horses," "I've Got Friends in Low Places," "I Ain't Afraid," "I Wonder As I Wander," "More Wood" and "City of New Orleans."

After the program, social hour is in the church's Edith Boyd Lounge, with light refreshments served by Phyllis Nowatzke's hosting committee.

Free-will offerings to the group's scholarship fund are welcome. Call Ange Benz at (219) 874-3754 or Sue Cassler at (219) 362-1421 for details.

FUMC Madrigal Dinner

First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St., will host its 11th Annual Madrigal Dinner, a Renaissance feast like those held in England at Christmas, on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 6-7.

The church Community Room will house food, music, entertainment and pageantry. Dinner seating begins at 6 p.m., with festivities starting promptly at 6:30 p.m. The five-course dinner and program last approximately two hours.

Tickets, which must be purchased in advance, are \$35 per guest or \$240 per table of eight. Contact Sue Cassler at (219) 362-1421 for tickets, or visit www.mcindianaumc.org/2019/10/14/madrigal/ for more details.

Fall Holiday Bake Sale

The annual fall holiday bake sale, complete with traditional Greek pastries, is Friday through Sunday, Nov. 22-24, at the Annunciation and Agia Paraskevi Greek Orthodox Church Social Hall, 18000 Behner Road, New Buffalo, Mich.

The times are (all Eastern) noon to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday and noon to 3 p.m. Sunday.

Items available range from *baklava* and *kourambiedes* to *koulourakia* and *galaktobjreko*. Call (219) 241-2707 for more details.



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Senior Center “Fudge-Raiser”

River Valley Senior Center is the recipient of this year’s “Fudge-Raiser” through Jackie’s Café, 801 W. Buffalo St., New Buffalo, Mich.

The cost is \$14 per 1 pound box of fudge. The goal is 1,000 pounds, with the sale running through Dec. 31. The cafe will donate all proceeds to the non-profit center, along with 100 percent in matching funds from The Larry Bubb Endowment.

The money will support facility improvements and expansion of services and programs.

The center serves 11 communities, providing educational, recreational, social, transportation and referral services to those 60 and older.

Orders can be picked up after Thanksgiving at the cafe. Call (269) 469-4556 for details.

Westchester Public Library

The following programs are available:

• **Bits & Bytes series, How To Teach Yourself Pert’neer Anything, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 21, 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.

• **Bookmarks at the Museum at 2 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 21, at Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.**

Pat Klewer will review Margaret Atwood’s “The Testaments.”



“The Peanut Butter Falcon.”

• **WPL Movies in November: “The Peanut Butter Falcon” at 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 23, at The Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

The movie is rated PG-13. Free popcorn is served.

• **Space Trivia Night at the Museum from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 26, at Westchester Township History Museum.**

Doors open at 6:45 p.m. Teams of one to four people can vie for a prize. Refreshments will be served.

• **“Toys Through the Ages” exhibit through Feb. 16 at Westchester Township History Museum.**

The exhibit highlights how children’s toys developed, from the discovery of 4,500-year-old dolls to electronic games and gadgets. Several toys from the museum collection will be displayed, including a rocking horse, dolls and horse-drawn fire wagon. Modern versions of toys like train whistles, paper dolls and marbles are on display.



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“Living Architecture” is many things.

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Opening Oct. 30 at Lubeznik Center for Arts, 101 W. Second St., this show is exceedingly important. It originated in Chicago’s Edgewater neighborhood at 6018North, a gallery on North Kenmore. Located in an old mansion, 6018North is reflective of its ethnically, economically and racially diverse immigrant neighborhood. Originally co-curated by Tricia Van Eck and Teresa Silva with Nathan Abhalter Smith, “Living Architecture” is a multidisciplinary effort that reaches beyond its Chicago origins, expanding the immigrant experience to our region.

The exhibit first ran September 2018-March 2019 before traveling to the LCA. The title is based on a book written in 1930 by Chicago architect and first-generation German-American Arther Woltersdorf. Interestingly, he was commissioned to design the mansion by Max Eberhardt, a German-immigrant lawyer and municipal court judge who worked on immigrant issues. The very legacy of the building lends itself to the theme.



“Shotgun” (2015) by First Office.

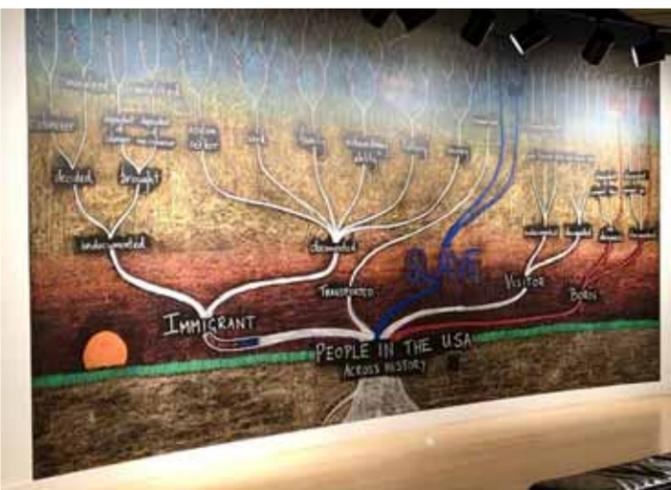
Entering the Hyndman Gallery, you may note the show features a lot of doors, as pointed out by Van Eck during the Nov. 9 Gallery Talk and curator-led tour. As we stopped in front of “Shotgun” designed by Andrew Atwood and Anna Neimark of First Office, Van Eck asked, “Does anyone know why doors might be in an immigration show?” After a few responses, she said, “They are portals to the way in and the way out. In some cases, we couldn’t bring all the different door pieces. But you do see we have doors over there, (pointing to) Albert Aguilar’s doors which are very precarious. In this case, this particular piece (“Shotgun”) is the only work in the show not by an immigrant; however, from the way

our house is set up...some of the works that are big like this are more expensive, more difficult to de-install. So, they (the artists) just leave it. The rule for this show was that if there was an artwork left and an immigrant artist responded to it, then we would keep it in the show. The artists wanted the doors (“Shotgun”) because they are so symbolic of the portal of entry or exit; the door can be literally open and shut.”

Physically, “Shotgun” is composed of 2x4’s, door frames, baseboard, chair rail, crown molding and doors that allow the viewer to move through the double-door structure in a path of seemingly interrupted motion as you open and close and open and close the doors. Marcel Duchamp developed the design in 1927, but First Office redesigned the piece to fit a standard, narrow, shotgun-style house.

My initial impression was one of surprise — surprised at the actual size and overall basic doorway design. Next, I thought about the work as a metaphor for various doorways or passageways, for the never-ending movement in and out of bureaucracy, for the hope when entering a new land, for those unfortunate enough to be revolved back/rejected, or for the transition from one identity to another as one takes on a new language, culture and society.

In those terms, the piece is blindingly powerful, leading you further into discovering the rest of the story scattered throughout the Hyndman and upstairs Brinka/Cross and Susan Block galleries.



“Sunset on the American Dream” by Eugenia Cheng.

Centered on the back wall is a large site-specific installation by Eugenia Cheng. She is a noted mathematician and Scientist in Residence at The School of the Art Institute, and author of several highly successful math books, including *How to Bake Pi* and *The Art of Logic*. She even has appeared on “The Stephen Colbert Show” and given TED talks.

LCA Exhibition Director Lora Fosberg explained how the piece was rendered.

“We painted a chalkboard wall for her. We gave her a dimension. She had a tiny little drawing. She put a grid on it. She got here and she said, ‘Yay! That’s bigger than I thought it was!’ and then we put the grid on the wall together.”

Cheng used chalks to create her large-scale drawing “Sunset on the American Dream.” Her statement reads, “Cheng applies mathematical analysis to depict the myriad of pathways that led to various populations living in the United States.”

As a viewer, you can begin at the bottom of the drawing, noting the five different ways people arrive on U.S. soil. Thereafter, the work branches upward, refining the classifications of how one arrives, demonstrating that with the exception of those who were exploited (Native Americans and those forced into slavery), we all owe our current status as American citizens to our immigrant ancestors. It’s really interesting to consider the breakdown of all the various pathways to immigration and relate it to one’s own family.



Two of three figures by Moises Salazar: crepe paper, papier-mâché and ceramic.

Who doesn’t love a piñata?

However, the piñata life-size sculptures of children filled sculptures are not the happy-go-lucky candy forms represent something much more serious and are a response to a 2018 photo from McAllen, Texas, an area close to the Rio Grande River and children in fenced cages.

Fosberg elaborated.

“This idea of the piñata, that was traditionally a deeply religious symbol, now has been transformed

into a toy that we use at kids birthday parties to break open and candy comes out,” she said. “Its meaning has been structurally changed by us as a society. And I think our ideas about incarceration and whatnot might be changed quite a bit as well.”

Van Eck commented, “So, these are two little brothers together trying to comfort themselves.”

This piece, with the faces of the children obscured by papier-mâché, left me stunned.



“Floor Piece” by Óscar I González Díaz.

Up stairs in the Susan Block Gallery, Óscar I González Díaz’s work, “Floor Piece,” lies centered on the floor. Made of hand-cast figurines, enamel and plastic cloth, the colorful patterning catches the eye before noting the entire piece is made of small toy figures: Mexican-style *luchadores* (wrestlers). You may walk on the piece, noting when you do so a sense of movement and instability. My thoughts strayed in two directions. First, the hard work of migrant Mexican men, women and children in the agricultural fields (even within La Porte County itself), the results of which benefited all of us who shopped and enjoyed the fruits of their labor. Secondly, the shaky sense when walking on the work reminded me of the erratic, unpredictable nature of immigration itself, despite the apparent linking together of multiple bodies to form a cohesive surface, there are no guarantees.

There is so much more to this exhibit. Other artists with their own unique vision and interpretation of the theme are there to be discovered. I would invite the viewer to render their individual insights. Be sure, too, to check out work by Michigan City German-American artist Richard Kiebdaj titled “*Tempus Fugit*” (time flies), a sculptural work executed in aluminum.

I was emotionally touched by this exhibit. It brought back memories of teaching art history, when I would caution my students to remember that artists are a product of their era, of the societal, cultural heritage and religious status existing at the time, and their works will reflect that. Contemporary artists are no different. Whatever events speak to their heart and mind may be expressed in a multitude of media in enumerable ways.

The exhibit closes Jan. 4. Call the LCA at (219) 874-4900 for more information.

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Fernwood Botanical Garden

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

• **Wine and Wreaths from 3 to 5 or 6 to 8 p.m. EST Friday, Nov. 22, and Sunday, Nov. 24.**

Participants create a custom 20-inch round wreath with help from Fernwood instructors. Wine and appetizers are included. Reservations can be made for block parties of six or more. The cost is \$48 per person.

• **Weather, Climate Change and the Environment of the Future from 10 to 11:30 a.m. EST Saturday, Nov. 23.**

The introductory workshop, aimed at adults, explores nature poems and poets through inspiration from the Fernwood landscape. The cost is \$30, or \$24 for members.

• **Wild Ones meeting from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. EST Sunday, Nov. 24.**

Get involved with restoring native plants, natural landscapes and pollinators to backyards and the community. Visit www.wildones.org or contact Heather Catania at [skaarcata@aol.com](mailto:skaarcat@aol.com) for details.

• **Holiday Greens Workshop from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. EST Saturday, Nov. 30.**

Continuing a tradition started by Fernwood founder Kay Boydston, participants create natural holiday decorations. The cost is \$75, or \$60 for members. Register by Nov. 25.

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

Holiday Marketplace

The Dunes Woman's Club will hold its 62nd annual Holiday Marketplace on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 23-24, at the Community House, 40 W. Service Ave., Beverly Shores.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday. The marketplace features:

- Mistletoe Market — gifts and decorations.
 - Holiday Bakery and Deli — baked goods, homemade soups and casseroles.
 - Holiday Greens Sale — fresh wreaths, garlands, centerpieces and swags.
- Drawing also are planned.



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Laura Zaknoun conducts a vision screening for Lake Hills Elementary School first-grader TraeLyn Washington.

Four optometrists and an ophthalmologist performed vision screenings at Knapp and Joy elementary schools for more than 500 first-graders.

The students came from public and private schools here.

“These are state-mandated vision tests that involve a more in-depth assessment than other vision checks our nurses perform at school,” Michigan City Area Schools Nursing Chairwoman Linda Bechinski said in a press release.

Ophthalmologist Stephen Kroczek conducted the screenings, along with optometrists Michael Bassett, Jon Bausback, Julie Dabkowski and Laura Zaknoun.

Sullair Honorees Christmas Party

The Sullair Disconnected Compressor Honorees Christmas Party is at 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 12, at Galveston Steakhouse, 10 Commerce Square.

The event includes a cash bar, appetizers and 50/50 drawing. There is a \$10 cover charge payable at the door. Spouses and guests are welcome.

For planning purposes, email sdch.reunion@gmail.com by Dec. 2 to let organizers know how many will attend.

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Michigan City Paper Box, MCAS Announce Partnership

Thanks to a new partnership between Michigan Paper Box Co. and Michigan City Area Schools, students in a Career Skills class at A.K. Smith Career Center will gain hand-on experience in the box-assembly process at the company's two local plants.

Company representatives stopped by A.K. Smith on Nov. 1 to demonstrate equipment and formalize the partnership. The company installed a complete assembly work station in an A.K. Smith classroom lab, including a conveyer belt, base machine, vacuum system, sorting table, packing tools and supplies.

The Career Skills class serves Michigan City High School students with special needs. Teacher Danielle Seibt says six juniors and seniors in the class have expressed interest in the program and begin training on the equipment this month. She expects additional students to become engaged as the school year continues. They will work in three-person teams, at their own pace, to



Michigan City Paper Box representatives and teacher Danielle Seibt demonstrate the assembly equipment in the A.K. Smith classroom lab.

learn the processes, striving toward increasing efficiency levels.

Seibt was trained this past summer at Michigan City Paper Box, working for a week with veteran Paper Box employees on an assembly line much like the one now in her classroom.

Field trips and Paper Box guest speakers also are aspects of the partnership. By the second semester, some students may qualify for internships at the company. Students trained through the program also could be employed in after-school or summer positions, and after graduation could be considered for full-time employment.

Michigan City Paper Box, which has manufactured packaging products since 1904, operates two plants in Michigan City: on Pine Street and Woodland Avenue. They

produce packaging for worldwide accounts such as Amazon, Walmart, Gap, U-Line, JTV, Banana Republic, Kohl's, Nordstrom, Macy's, Stitch Fix and Alex & Ani.

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Family Pop-Up Art Day

Lubeznik Center for the Arts will combine art, education and community with its Family Pop-Up Art Day from noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 23, at Macedonian Missionary Baptist Church, 3007 Ohio St.

Sponsored by American Licorice Co., the program emerged from a conversation with various community leaders wanting LCA to become a stronger community presence, Education Director Hannah Hammond-Hagman said in a press release.

Each Family Pop-Up Art Day is held in different Michigan City neighborhoods. Children and adults join LCA staff and volunteers for the free afternoon of artmaking. The first two were held at the Madeline & George Smrt Community Center and Emmett G. Wise Community Center, with more than 30 participants attending at each location.

"Seeing this program quickly progress from an idea to a reality has been very exciting for our team," LCA Development Director Michelle Shirk said in a press release.

At Macedonian Missionary Baptist Church, participants will create handmade books focused on the concept of gratitude.

The LCA is located at 101 W. Second St. Visit www.lubeznikcenter.org or call (219) 874-4900 for more details.

Rotary Summer Study Scholarships

Rotary International, Northern Indiana District 6540, is accepting applications for a \$7,000 summer study abroad scholarship.

Applicants must live in District 6540 (northern Indiana) and be sponsored by a local Rotary club. The scholarships provide for study in more than 60 countries where Rotary clubs are located. Those eligible must have completed at least two years of U.S. university/college study by summer 2020.

Rotary District 6540 scholars serve as "ambassadors of goodwill." Appearing before Rotary clubs and districts, schools, civic organizations and other forums, the scholars represent their homelands and work to further international understanding.

Each scholarship is for one summer abroad, up to \$7,000 each for travel, tuition and fees, room and board. The funds are paid directly to the U.S. educational institution offering the study or program.

Call (219) 980-6906 or (219) 322-4313 or email rkini@comcast.net for details, or download the form at www.rotary6540.org. Applications are due by Dec. 1.

Public Art Committee

The Michigan City Public Art Committee meets at 10 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 21, in the City Hall Mayor's Conference Room, 100 E Michigan Blvd.

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TEAM STANDING	WON	LOST
1. Queen Pins, Alley Katz	27	13
Pin Pals, Bitchin Bowlers		
HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES	SCORE	
1. Margie Midkiff	196	
2. Dottie Brinckman	190	
3. Linda Neulieb	163	
3. Peggy King	163	
4. Mary Lou McFadden	158	
5. Kim Stokes	156	
6. Sue Labovitz	155	
7. Holly Dres	152	
7. Ginny Hogan	152	
7. Susan Kieffer	152	
7. Jill Craig	152	
8. Ann Bogart (series)	429	
9. Tammy Nelmar (series)	412	
10. Carolyn Wiggins (series)	409	
11. Polly Fletcher (series)	408	
SPLITS		
Mary Lou McFadden	3-10, 9-1	
Peggy King	4-5	
Jill Craig	2-7	
STRIKES		
Margie Midkiff	4	
Peggy King, Margie Midkiff, Holly Dres	3	

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

Natural Holiday Decor Workshop

Make a nature-inspired wreath or centerpiece during a "Natural Holiday Decor Workshop," facilitated by Sharon Angelina, from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 26, at Dunes Learning Center, 700 Howe Road, Chesterton.

Angelina also will talk about the natural elements being used, and invasive species control, on the center campus. Light snacks will be served.

The program is limited to 20 people. The cost is \$35. Register at www.dlc.simpletix.com



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MCHS Honors Veterans

Michigan City High School conducted a Veterans Day ceremony Nov. 11, the participants including the high school band, choir and Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps.

State Rep. Pat Boy was the guest speaker. Many veterans attended along with MCHS students and staff. The ceremony, a modified military parade, included the march-on of the troops, an armed exhibition drill, the playing of the Armed Forces medley, the playing of Taps and the marching units executing pass in review.



Veterans stand as the band plays the Marines' hymn during the "Armed Forces Medley."

Prior to that event, the JROTC honored the U.S. Marine Corps by conducting a military ball to celebrate the Marine Corps' 244th birthday on Nov. 8 at LaPorte's Pine Grove Banquet Hall.

Cadets executed the same ceremony Marines around the world conduct on or near Nov. 10, the day the Marine Corps was founded as the nation prepared to go to war with Great Britain.

The cadets were to compete in a military drill meet Saturday, Nov. 16, at Benito Juarez High School in Chicago. They hope to build momentum to win the sectional championship Feb. 22 at Purdue University West Lafayette. If they do win that meet, they then compete for the Marine championship in Daytona Beach, Fla.

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LaPorte County Public Library

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

• **Maker Mondays from 3 to 5 p.m. Mondays.**

Each month highlights a different skill and lab equipment. November focuses on 2-D design and December on circuits.

• **STEAM Sandbox from 3-5 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday through Dec. 19.**

Students in third grade and older move up through levels, earning a certificate for each completed. They work independently and chart their progress as they complete hands-on projects that include web literacy, fixer skills, circuitry, game design and coding.

• **NaNoWriMo Come Write In! at all locations in November.**

The library is an official Come Write In! location during November's National Novel Writing Month. Those interested can use library space, with free high-speed WiFi, to work on a novel.

Visit nanowrimo.org for more info.

Visit www.laportelibrary.org for more details.

NB Library Community Forum

The World War II tale of Casey and the Flying Fortress has been rescheduled to 6 p.m. EST Tuesday, Nov. 26, at New Buffalo Public Library, 33 N. Thompson St.

The Friends of New Buffalo Library program was postponed from Veterans Day, Nov. 11, due to weather. Author Mark Farina will share the true story of Casey and the Flying Fortress: the pilot and crew of a World War II B-17 bomber. The story covers the assembling and training of the crew to its struggle after becoming prisoners of war. Farina also will share the discovery, some 60 years later, of details the pilot's surviving friends and crew members never knew.

The next program focuses on Southwest Michigan's rare ecosystems at 6 p.m. EST Tuesday, Dec. 3. The speaker is Chikaming Open Lands Director Ryan Postema. The final program, about the World War I Christmas truce, is by Jason Kuntz of River Valley Schools at 6 p.m. EST Monday, Dec. 9.

Email new.buffalo.FOL@gmail.com or follow the Facebook link at newbuffalotownshiplibrary.org for more details.



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Chesterton Art Center

A Holiday Jewelry Open Studio with Caroline Hatch is from noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 23, at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.

The event is open to adults and children 8 and older. Children must be accompanied by an adult.



Examples of the pieces adults and children will create.

The cost is \$15 for non-members and \$10 for members. There will be a sign-in page for participants at the event. Take money as well for the preferred project: child bracelet, \$6; adult bracelet, \$8; child necklace, \$8; and adult necklace, \$10.

The average item will take fewer than 30 minutes to create. Students can drop in any time to choose a kit and complete the project.

Visit www.chestertonart.com for details.

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La Porte County Parks



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

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. Nov. 25 and Dec. 2 and 16 at Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte.

Call at least one week in advance to register.

Parent & Child Discovery Days

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

The schedule is:

- Dec. 4: Oh Deer.
- Dec. 18: What's for Dinner?

Teachers-Groups-Scout Leaders

Free environmental education programs are offered to groups throughout the year. Programs last one hour or longer depending on the group size and age. Programs can be scheduled at Creek Ridge, Luhr, Bluhm or Red Mill parks. Call (219) 325-8315 for more information or to make a reservation.

Shelter and Hall Reservations

Call (219) 325-8315 to make reservations for one of many picnic shelters at any of the four county parks, or Pat Smith Hall at Red Mill County Park for a family function.



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

- LaPorte Hospital, 1007 W. Lincolnway, 7 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday, Nov. 22.
- Bethany Lutheran Church, 102 G St., LaPorte, 1-6 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 26.

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.

MCAS Teacher Honored

Courtney Barber, an Edgewood Elementary School fourth-grade teacher, has been named the Open Up Resources EL Education K-5 Language Arts Teacher of the Month for October.

The curriculum inspires a new way of teaching language arts by engaging students through real-world content.

Recently, Barber took students to a local retirement home where they shared poems they wrote during Module 1 of the curriculum with residents.



Edgewood Elementary School student Jackson Cross is photographed with a Silver Birch resident.

Wreaths Across America Day

Remembering Our Veterans Inc. will conduct a ceremony to honor veterans as part of the annual Wreaths Across America Day at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 14, at Greenwood Cemetery.

Seven ceremonial wreaths will be placed to remember all soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines. Local veterans of the Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Merchant Marines and POW/MIA will place the wreaths at the World War II Circle during a short program. Afterward, volunteers will place wreaths at the graves of local veterans, first in the World War I, World War II and Veterans of All Wars circles, as well as in the GAR area.

Remembering Our Veterans will honor grave-specific requests from sponsors at Greenwood Cemetery, St. Stanislaus Cemetery and Swan Lake Memorial Gardens.

The first event in 2016 resulted in about 75 wreaths sponsored and placed at veterans graves. That figure increased to more than 700 in 2018. This year's goal is 1,000.

The deadline to sponsor wreaths is Nov. 30. Forms are available by calling (219) 229-2389 or by emailing kharris@rememberingourveteransinc.com. Contact Keith Harris at (219) 229-2389 for more details.

Make & Take Class

A Make & Take Class in which participants make a candy cane centerpiece is from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 26, at LaPorte County Convention & Visitors Bureau, 4073 Franklin St.

Take \$10, a vase not much taller than candy canes, flowers/greenery to fill the vase and a matching ribbon. Call (219) 872-5055 for details.

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Activities to Explore

In the Area:

Nov. 21 — Thanksgiving Craft for Kids, 3:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Nov. 21 — Graphic Novel Book Club for Teens, Brandon Sanderson's "White Sand," 5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Nov. 22 — Bookmarks: Margaret Atwood's "The Testaments," 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Nov. 22-25 — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. *Now showing:* "Judy." Rated PG-13. Times: 6 p.m. Fri.-Mon. Also: "Give Me Liberty." Not Rated. In English and Russian with subtitles. Times: 9 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 3 p.m. Sat.-Sun. All times Eastern. Info: vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

Nov. 23 — Birding with the Indiana Audubon Society, 9-11 a.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

Nov. 23 — Lubeznik Center for the Arts Family Pop-Up Art Day, noon-2 p.m., Macedonian Missionary Baptist Church, 3007 Ohio St. Free. Info: (219) 874-4900, www.lubeznikcenter.org

Nov. 23 — Turkey Trek, 10-11 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Nov. 23 — WPL Movies in November: "The Peanut Butter Falcon," 3 p.m., The Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

Nov. 23 — Stargazing, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Kemil Beach parking area, 27 N. East State Park Road, Chesterton. Info: (219) 395-1882.

Nov. 23-24 — Dunes Woman's Club Holiday Marketplace, the Community House, 40 W. Service Ave., Beverly Shores. Hours: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Sat./10 a.m.-1 p.m. Sun.

Nov. 22-24 — Fall holiday bake sale, Annunciation and Agia Paraskevi Greek Orthodox Church Social Hall, 18000 Behner Road, New Buffalo, Mich. Times (Eastern): noon-5 p.m. Fri.-Sat./noon-3 p.m. Sun. Info: (219) 241-2707.

Nov. 24 — Writing Out Loud: Poet Adrian Matejka, 2 p.m., The Nest, 803 Franklin St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Nov. 24 — Hibernate, Migrate or Get Fat!, 2-3 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Nov. 24 — Cherie Currie and Brie Darling, 8 p.m. EST, The Acorn, 107 Generation Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$30. Info: acornlive.org

Nov. 25 — Monday Musicale, 7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St. Free-will donation. Info: (219) 874-3754, (219) 362-1421.

Nov. 26 — Make & Take Class (candy cane centerpiece), 5-6:30 p.m., LaPorte County Convention & Visitors Bureau, 4073 Franklin St. Cost: \$10.

Info: (219) 872-5055.

Nov. 26 — New Buffalo Library Community Forum (Casey and the Flying Fortress), 6 p.m. EST, New Buffalo Public Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Free. Info: new.buffalo.FOL@gmail.com

Nov. 26 — Space Trivia Night at the Museum, 7-8:30 p.m., Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

In the Region

Nov. 23 — “Weather, Climate Change and the Environment of the Future,” 10-11:30 a.m. EST, Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich. Cost: \$30, \$24/members. Info: www.fernwoodbotanical.org

Nov. 23 — Gemini in Concert with All God’s Children Community Choir, 7-9 p.m. EDT, The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Admission: \$10, children 12 & younger/\$5. Tickets @ door. Info: www.boxfactoryforthearts.org

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.

Thursdays — Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families, 6:15 p.m., Franciscan Health Michigan City, Maria Theresia Conference Room C, 3500 Franciscan Way. Info: (219) 801-1296.



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.

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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

On November 21, 1766, the first permanent theater building in the U.S., Philadelphia's Southwark, opened with a production of "The Gamester."

On November 21, 1871, New York's Moses Gale was granted the first patent for a cigar lighter.

On November 21, 1877, Thomas Edison announced the invention of the phonograph, which he described as a "talking machine."

On November 21, 1922, Georgia's Rebecca Felton was sworn in as the first woman to serve in the U.S. Senate. She was appointed to serve the remaining term of the late Sen. Thomas Watson, and served for just one day before his elected successor took office.

On November 21, 1964, the "Verrazano Narrows," linking the New York boroughs of Brooklyn and Staten Island — the world's longest suspension bridge at the time — officially opened to traffic.

On November 22, 1718, English pirate Edward Teach, usually referred to as "Blackbeard," was killed during a battle off the coast of Virginia.

On November 22, 1909, Helen Hayes made her stage debut in the play "In Old Dutch," which opened at New York's Herald Square Theatre.

On November 22, 1928, in Paris, Maurice Ravel's "Bolero" was first performed.

On November 22, 1930, Harvard defeated Yale 13-0 as mystified listeners of the British Broadcasting Corp. heard, for the first time, radio coverage of an American college football game.

On November 22, 1998, CBS News "60 Minutes" aired videotape of Dr. Jack Kevorkian administering lethal drugs to a terminally ill patient.

On November 23, 1876, three eastern colleges, Columbia, Princeton, and Harvard, joined to form the first intercollegiate football association.

On November 23, 1889, the jukebox made its debut in San Francisco at the Palais Royale saloon.

On November 23, 1911, Earl Ovington was sworn in as the first airmail pilot of the U.S. Post Office. His first assignment was to deliver mail, handed to him by the postmaster at Garden City, Long Island, to the postmaster of Mineola, six miles away. He flew a Bleriot monoplane, the Dragon Fly, in the first authorized airmail service.

On November 23, 1936, the first issue of *Life*, the picture magazine created by Henry Luce, was published in Chicago.

On November 24, 1869, women from 21 states

gathered in Cleveland to draw up plans for organizing the “American Women Suffrage Association.”

On November 24, 1874, Joseph Glidden, of De Kalb, Ill., was granted a patent for barbed wire.

On November 24, 1963, in Dallas, Lee Harvey Oswald, the accused assassin of President John Kennedy, was shot to death by Jack Ruby.

On November 24, 1971, a hijacker who went by the name “Dan Cooper” parachuted from a Boeing 727 over Washington state with \$200,000 in ransom money. Cooper, who is popularly — albeit incorrectly — referred to as “D.B. Cooper,” has not been heard from since.

On November 24, 1991, Freddie Mercury, lead singer of the rock band Queen, died in London of AIDS; he was 45.

On November 25, 1920, radio station WTAW, of College Station, Texas, broadcast the first play-by-play description of a college football game. It was between Texas A&M and the University of Texas.

On November 25, 1922, in Egypt, King Tutankhamen’s tomb was opened for the first time.

On November 25, 1952, Agatha Christie’s “The Mousetrap,” which would become the world’s longest running play, opened in London.

On November 26, 1789, President George Washington proclaimed the first national Thanksgiving Day in the United States. He asked the nation to observe the day as one of thanksgiving for the adoption of the U.S. Constitution.

On November 26, 1832, with the fare set at 12 1/2 cents, public streetcar service began in New York City. The streetcar was the horse drawn John Mason, publicly unveiled 12-days earlier.

On November 26, 1833, Chicago’s first newspaper, *The Chicago Democrat*, was published by John Calhoun, a printer from New York.

On November 26, 1925, many Americans looked forward to becoming “a motorist” when the price of the Ford “roadster” was lowered to \$260.

On November 26, 1942, the film “Casablanca,” starring Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman, had its world premiere in New York.

On November 27, 1889, Curtis Bradley received the first permit to drive a car through Central Park. It was issued on the condition Bradley pledge to “exert the greatest care to avoid frightening horses.”

On November 27, 1890, residents in Boston complained to police that it was unsafe to drive their horses on country lanes because of racing bicyclists.

On November 27, 1910, New York’s Pennsylvania Railroad Station was officially opened. It was, at the time, the world’s largest railway terminal.

On November 27, 1926, Chicago hosted its first Army-Navy football game, played at Soldiers Field, and which ended in a 21-21 tie.

BROCHURES



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Razzle Dazzle

Metamorphis Traveling Theatre will present a concert version of "Chicago" at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 26, at Rittenhouse Village at Michigan City, 4300 Cleveland Ave. Cast members include Dana Chartier, Judith Joseph, Helen Williams and Doug Moon. Joseph is artistic director and Janet Lustick the music director.

Call (219) 872-4813 for details.

Elves for Elders

REAL Services Inc. is seeking individuals, groups or organizations to adopt seniors for its holiday Elves for Elders program, which involves gifts for seniors without friends and family.

The commitment deadline is Nov. 27. Adoption includes buying gifts for a senior in need from their holiday "wish list" and delivering them to their home before Dec. 20. Adopters receive a senior's name, age and wish list, as well as details about the program specifics.

Elders are available in Kingsford Heights, La-Porte, Michigan City, Westville, Rolling Prairie and Union Mills. Contact the REAL Services Volunteer Department at (574) 284-7138, www.realservices.org or allen2@realservices.org for details.



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Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

Blue Moon by Lee Child (hardcover, \$28.99 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook. 356 pages.)

“The city looked small on a map of America... But up close and on the ground it had half a million people...And it was big enough that organized crime was split two separate ways. The west of the city was run by Ukrainians. The east was run by Albanians.”

This is book No. 25 in the continuing saga of Jack Reacher. All these novels have been *New York Times* best-sellers, with 14 reaching the No. 1 spot. That’s impressive, and not without merit. Also, all of these books have been optioned for major motion pictures. Two were made into movies with Tom Cruise in the lead — a big mistake. Reacher is described as tall and well built — I rest my case. But I still maintain, the excitement is in the books, not the movies!

Reacher is a West Point graduate, spent years in the Army police and now travels the country, always the loner. He’s quiet, pensive, calculating. He is a man’s man, and a woman’s dream lover.

This time, he’s on a bus and notices an old man several seats up and across the aisle. The envelope in his pocket, about to fall out, obviously contains a lot of money — and has not gone unnoticed by the younger man in front of Reacher.

When the old man reaches his stop in the city, the younger man follows him out, Reacher not far behind.

Reacher saves the man and his money, helping him home to his wife. They are Maria and Aaron Shevick, and they are in trouble: big trouble with a loan shark. They have sold everything of value and mortgaged their home to the hilt.

The reason for this horrible situation is their daughter, Meg. She landed a great job with a start-up company lead by a computer genius named Maxim Trulenko. The company started to fail in the second year, at the same time Meg was diagnosed with cancer. The diagnosis is bad, and now her only hope is experimental treatments. Then, she finds out her employee insurance is nonexistent — but not before some expensive treatments have begun. Then, the company goes belly-up. Meg now has no insurance, no money, and the Shevicks mistakenly sign papers taking responsibility for her bills. Big mistake. Now, they’re in to a loan shark for some \$22,000.

Always ready to right a wrong, Reacher says he will meet the loan shark and try to work out something. And, that’s when it all starts to go downhill...

Shevick doesn’t know the Albanian he is supposed to meet and pay has been replaced by a Ukrainian — turf wars are brutal! Luckily, maybe, this guy doesn’t know who Shevick is or even how much he owes. So, Reacher as Shevick persuades the Ukrainian he owes \$1,400, not \$22,000. Win, win.

But then another bill comes due from the hospital — payable now — to continue Meg’s treatments. And it’s more than the \$20,600 left over. So, Reacher as Shevick goes back to the Ukrainian for another loan — allowed, but this time due in seven days. That gives Reacher one week to find Trulenko and show him the error of his ways.

What will the Albanians think when they discover their “loan officer” is missing? That the Ukrainians took him out? Someone mentions a large man seen lurking around the Albanian, and soon someone named Shevick is being sought by them, and maybe it wouldn’t hurt to mess up some Ukrainians, too.

Bodies start piling up as fast as pizza orders on a Saturday night.

Two Albanians killed? Two Ukrainians are killed. All the while, both sides are chasing their tails as Reacher proves as elusive as Bigfoot.

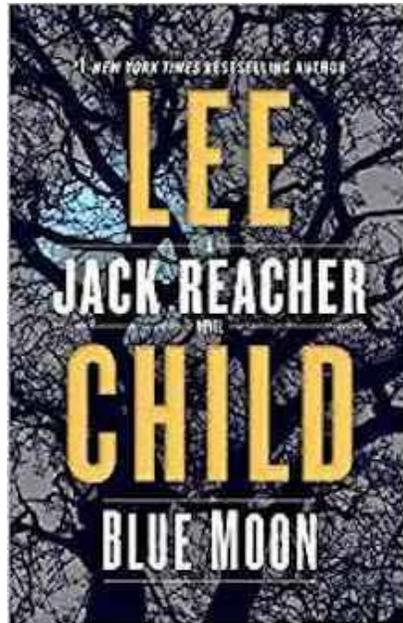
Reacher is driving everyone crazy. Of course, both sides work out that Reacher and Shevick are different people, and both warring factions want to know — who is he and what does he want? The Ukrainians are sure Reacher has been sent by the Russians — there’s no other reasonable explanation!

And so, the cat and mouse game begins. But Reacher’s endgame is to find Trulenko, probably with the Ukrainians now, and make him pay up for Meg’s medical bills.

It’s a violent story, so here’s a heads-up if that kind of reading is not your style. Lee Child is so good at what he does. It’s not just the setup, but the execution (pardon the pun) of the storyline, the intricacies of which keep you completely engaged. Reacher is a fleshed-out character, his actions deliberate and lasting, always with a psychological look at possibilities...and in this story, they are many.

Reachers says “*once in a blue moon things turn out right.*” Question is, is this one of those times?

Till next time, happy reading!



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