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# No Business Like Show Business

by Kim Nowatzke

It all began with a newspaper ad.

“Wanted: Girl for skating act.”

Eleanor “Ellie” Benson had loved roller skating at local rinks since she put on her first pair at age 9. If she got the job, she certainly would miss her family, but she was ready to leave behind her hometown of Harvey, Ill. Growing up during the Great Depression, she’d experienced her share of hard times, including working on her hands and knees in the onion fields for 25 cents a bushel.

Benson, however, was ready for a change, never predicting she’d cross paths with so many unforgettable people and places.

Now 92 and living at Rittenhouse Village in Michigan City to be near family, Benson shared her story with *The Beacher*, flashing her movie-star smile as she recalled her days as a professional acrobatic roller skater.

The ad that started it all appeared in a Detroit newspaper. At the interview for the skating position, Benson was told she was too tall at 5 feet 8 inches, and too skinny, to get the job.

“I told them, ‘Please take me. I will do anything for you,’” she explained.



Michelle Sipich poses with her 92-year-old mother, Eleanor Benson, a resident of Rittenhouse Village.  
Photo by Kim Nowatzke

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## Show Business

Continued from Page 1

In her mid-teens, she also was too young for the job. Wanting it badly, she lied about her age.

Benson was given the chance to prove herself to a no-nonsense German trainer named Juanita with an act called "Juanita's Skating Champs." One of four girls in the group, Benson chose her stage name of "Skippy Lee." The prestigious William Morris Agency, considered the longest-running talent agency today, handled job bookings.

Before she was allowed to perform, Benson trained for about eight months, adhering to a stringent schedule of healthy eating, adequate sleep, no smoking, no dating and plenty of exercise.

"You had to stay a certain weight," Benson explained. "You had to be healthy – you were handling a human being."

Benson's daughter, Michelle Sipich, said, "Juanita was very strict with the girls. It was like being in the Army, from what she has told me. If you didn't obey the rules, you were out." Benson then added, "If people didn't follow the rules, they wouldn't be in it anymore."

Four hours a day were spent in intense physical training that included the use of two semi-truck tires tied together.

"I had to train with a full 10-pound bag of potatoes for hours and hours so I could get my muscles used to the girls," Benson said. "I was training and getting used to the weights so I could handle the

girls and not have them flying into the audience."

The girls also trained on a special 8-feet by 8-feet mat made out of 1-inch slats of wood connected together and backed by canvas so it could be rolled up and easily transported.

"It was real heavy," Benson said. "I trained on this so I wouldn't fall off the stages later."

Until she turned 18, Benson only could perform in circus acts, family events and other venues. Once she reached adult status, her performance circle widened and included nightclubs.

Benson remembers well her days traveling, mostly by train, with the Cole Brothers Circus. Its origins dated back to 1884 when William Washington Cole created "W.W. Cole's New Colossal Shows." Among its famous animal trainers in the 1930s were Clyde Beatty and Allen King. Another famous face by the time Benson arrived was future Oscar-winner Burt Lancaster ("From Here to Eternity," "Elmer Gantry"). He was a circus tightrope walker, and one of her cherished photographs is of the two of them after he took her to dinner and a spin in her Cadillac.

"He was very nice — a gentlemen," Benson said. "He was very easy to get along with. I enjoyed his company."

She also became friends with the Zucchini brothers, who became famous for their human cannonball act. Also trapeze artists, tumblers and wire walkers, they traveled with groups such as Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus.

"They once shot me out of a canon," she recalled of her experience with the Zucchini brothers.



Eleanor Benson cherishes this photo with Burt Lancaster during her days performing with the Cole Brothers Circus.



Eleanor Benson was one of four professional acrobatic skaters in "Juanita's Skating Champs." Benson, known by her stage name of "Skippy Lee," can be seen on the far right.



Eleanor "Ellie" Benson (left) and another professional acrobatic skater in "Juanita's Skating Champs" twirl an audience member as part of their act.

The Flying Wallendas, world famous for performing high-wire acts without safety nets, also were on the ticket during her days with the circus.

Benson remembers one 44-week stretch with the Cole Brothers Circus when she traveled all over the United States, Cuba and Panama. She remembers performing for Fulgencio Batista and Fidel Castro, even "ending up in jail for about three days before our papers were cleared. We were locked up because we were Americans."

She fondly reminisced about her animal encounters during her circus days. There was a "pet leopard" and a "pet lion."

"I took her potty everyday," Benson of the latter. "I called her Sheba."

Juanita's Skating Champs, however, didn't just perform with the circus. Benson had the honor of performing for President Dwight D. Eisenhower at the White House and on "The Ed Sullivan Show."



Eleanor calls performing before President Eisenhower the "thrill of a lifetime."

"It was a thrill of a lifetime," she said of appearing before the president. "I forgot about everything else that I was doing. It was wonderful."

Of Ed Sullivan, the experience, she says, was equally memorable.

"He was very charming and outstanding," she said of the show's venerable host.

Continued on Page 4

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## Show Business Continued from Page 3

Her roller-skating act was involved in skits with famous actors such as Morey Amsterdam (“The Dick Van Dyke Show”) and Eddie Albert (“Green Acres”). She did theater shows with well-known stars such as Jerry Lewis and Dean Martin. She performed with Vaughn Monroe and his orchestra, the Deep River Boys, a well-known gospel music group; and Gene Krupa, especially famous as a jazz drummer. And, her act was seen at Radio City Music Hall and Carnegie Hall.



Radio City Music Hall was an especially memorable performance venue for Eleanor.

Radio City Music Hall, she says, was particularly memorable.

“I got a nice feeling when I walked in,” she said. “I knew we were going to have a great audience. It was really beautiful, and I can’t say enough good about it.”

During World War II, Juanita’s Skating Champs performed for troops overseas with Bob Hope and others. This was often on military ships.

“After being on stage, we would go and talk to the servicemen,” Benson said.

In 1950, she gave up her show business career to marry and become a mother. She met her husband, Melvin Benson, while working as a hostess in the



Eleanor is photographed after her performance as a professional acrobatic skater for troops during World War II.

glamorous Chez Paree nightclub, and they lived in Chicago for 37 years.

“He kept coming in every day,” Sipich said with a smile.

Benson also worked as a waitress at exclusive restaurants, but mostly enjoyed life as a homemaker with her two daughters and one son.

What she liked best about her days as a professional acrobatic skater was making people happy simply by entertaining.

“We had to balance the stage, a platform or a table to make sure it was level,” Benson said. “Otherwise, the girls would fly out of my arms.

“We would have audience participation,” she continued. “We would ask for the heaviest man in the audience, and we would spin him around. He would get so dizzy.

“It was more fun than working. I still miss it — the excitement and the beautiful people. There’s no business like show business.”



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Trick-or-treaters at the 2017 Flame + Flair festival. Beacher file photo by Paul Kemiell

Families can trick or treat in the Uptown Arts District, while also experiencing Halloween-themed entertainment, during the "Flame + Flair" festival from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26.

The event includes a "Thriller" dance performed

by local youth, a haunted/themed house at Artspace Uptown Artist Lofts and a fire-dancing performance.

Costume contests for adults and children include a chance for adults to win \$50, while the young winner could receive a \$25 AMC gift card and treats.



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## FOCUSED ON POSITIVITY AND MOVING OUR COMMUNITY FORWARD, TOGETHER



### **Kathleen Beeler**

- 18-year resident of Long Beach with husband Doug, raised two children Maggie (20) and Dan (18) here; Grew up in Long Beach and parents moved here in 1972 and grandparents moved here in 1947
- Teacher at Marquette High School as theology teacher; previously taught for Catholic School system in Chicago and in East Chicago Public Schools
- Enjoys the beach, traveling, spending time with family and friends
- Experience in coordinating retreats, school trips and organizing volunteer activities for students



### **Bob LeMay**

- Moved to Long Beach in 1983 with wife, Doria; raised 3 children at Stop 22
- Retired after practicing medicine in Michigan City for 36 years
- Served as president of the medical staff for St Anthony and Memorial Hospitals, President of the Medical Group of Michigan City, Franciscan Alliance boards
- Enjoy windsurfing, paddle boarding, golfing in the summer, snowboarding in the winter and visiting my new grandson in Chicago year round
- Serve on Long Beach Town Council as Council President, president of the Advisory Plan Commission, and member of the Building Commission
- Great Lakes Coastal Advisory Board member



### **Nick Meyer**

- Moved to Long Beach in 2012 with wife Colleen who grew up in Long Beach; raising three children, Riley (8), Jack (6) and Nora (4)
- Currently Director of Communications for NIPSCO for past 12 years
- Serve on Long Beach Town Council, Advisory Plan Commission, Water Board and Police Commission
- Served on boards for Food Bank of NWI, Michigan City Parks Foundation, Indiana Energy Association, Edison Electric Institute, American Gas Association, Public Relations Society of America
- Top 20 Under 40 Professionals by the NWI Times and graduate of Leadership Northwest Indiana
- Enjoy time with family and friends, all things beach and water, hiking, snowboarding, camping, golf, exercising and home improvement projects

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## Anita Remijas

- 30 year resident of Long Beach
- Enjoy my front porch, walking my two border collies, spending time with friends and family and, of course, the beach
- Philanthropic experience with The Woman's Club of Evanston, past president 2014-2015; Ted Fund, sending kids to camp for 4 consecutive years 2nd thru 5th grades; Evanston Public Library Fund for Excellence, raising funds for books; Long Beach Civic Association; PTA president, Long Beach Advisory Plan Commission
- Worked as a paralegal, law office management for plaintiffs' litigation firm
- Worked for the Mayor's Office for the City of Chicago, Mayor Harold Washington, Mayor's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, pre-campaign election work, working with City Council, Washington DC and Springfield legislative branches, liaisons and lobbyists; Evanston City Council, Ald. Judy Fiske (1st Ward), including 3 election campaigns, treasurer



## John Wall

- Lived most of my life in Long Beach since 1965, and have been walking the streets and beaches since grade school
- Own our home at Stop 20, and raised our family there since 1986
- Married my high school sweetheart and will celebrate our 45 year anniversary this Fall
- Long Beach Volunteer Fireman for 40 years and currently serve as Fire Chief
- Long Beach Board of Zoning Appeals member
- Spent working life in Construction managing projects from inception to completion
- Enjoy singing, playing music, spending as much time with family and friends

### A POSITIVE PLATFORM

- Protect public beach from privatization
- Sound fiscal responsibility
- Foster continued community center usage
- Enhancement of natural open spaces

## Enough Laughs Exist to Bolster “Zombieland” Sequel

by Andrew Tallackson



Returning in “Zombieland: Double Tap” are Jesse Eisenberg (from left), Woody Harrelson, Abigail Breslin and Emma Stone.

“Zombieland: Double Tap” is not as funny or clever as the original film. Let’s be clear about that. Like many sequels, the magical pixie dust that gave rise to a comic gem is nowhere near as ballsy this time around.

Having said that, a pretty good “Zombieland” sequel is better than most comedies these days, with the same cast and crew from the original savoring every moment of their long-delayed reunion.

The first film arrived in 2009, one year before AMC debuted the somber zombie apocalypse standard with “The Walking Dead.” Before then, it was OK to laugh at these creatures, specifically by placing an OCD nerd (Jesse Eisenberg), with all his fears and phobias, in a world that puts his survival rules to outlandish tests. The film, penned by pre-“Deadpool” scribes Rhett Reese and Paul Wernick, was one laugh-out-loud one-liner after another, with Woody Harrelson, Emma Stone and Abigail Breslin in top comic form, and Bill Murray proving he can waltz through a comedy for only five minutes and *still* steal everyone’s thunder.

The challenge for these characters, in both films, is not so much the zombies themselves, but whether four utterly opposing individuals with strong personalities can behave like a family.

The laughs in “Double Tap” commence with a bang, right as that regal dame of the Columbia Pictures logo uses her torch to fend off attacking zombies. The story then finds Tallahassee (Harrelson), Columbus (Eisenberg), Wichita (Stone) and Little Rock (Breslin) taking refuge in the White House 10 years after the zombie apocalypse. You wish the screenplay devised better sight gags for this rowdy group while they inhabit the dilapidated Pennsylvania Avenue residence, and thankfully, they decide to venture outside, with Tallahassee and Columbus heading to the local mall, where they run into sexy Madison (Zoey Deutch), and where the film concocts one spectacularly deadpan, and spectacularly



### “Zombieland: Double Tap”

Running time: 99 minutes. Rated R for bloody violence, language throughout, some drug and sexual content

funny, visual gag of Columbus on a Segway, leaving Tallahassee to make the moves on Madison.

Deutch is one of the film’s most welcome additions, playing Madison — decked out in pink and speaking in OMG theatrics — like she’s Reese Witherspoon’s drunk sorority sister in “Legally Blonde.” The role is a cliché — the dumb, buxom blonde — but her cheery relentlessness is the perfect comic foil for Tallahassee and crew, all of whom are too smart for their own good.

Not so amusing? Luke Wilson and Thomas Middleditch as mirror personalities of Tallahassee and Columbus. The joke is that they behave exactly the same as each other, but once the payoff quickly reveals itself, the comic momentum sputters. Much better is scene-stealer Rosario Dawson as Nevada, a tough-talking sharpshooter who takes a liking to Tallahassee. If there ever is a “Zombieland 3,” more of her and Harrelson, please. These two have killer chemistry.

The big finish of “Double Tap” unravels at a hippie commune. Just the sound of it is a scream, but having a hippie strum “Kumbaya” before zombies attack is a joke that went stale 30 years ago. This could have been an outrageously funny close, and it’s not...but it is thrillingly staged by returning director Ruben Fleischer, and the way the four central actors spring into action is sheer perfection.

I laughed in “Double Tap,” enough to give it a mild recommendation. It’s good to see these four back together. If the studio greenlights another go-around, give them sharper material. Next time, I want to laugh my ass off.

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



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## Final Episode of AMC's "The Terror" is Superior Television

by Andrew Tallackson



The lives of Japanese-American families are uprooted when they are forced to live in internment camps in AMC's "The Terror: Infamy."

Up until now, I've subscribed to the belief that painful chapters in our collective history warrant no place in disposable popcorn fare.

It is not that I'm PC prudish or squeamish. More, it's the awkward disconnect that ensues when a storyteller considers human suffering acceptable fodder for light entertainment. The "Amistad 2" trailer in "Scary Movie" (2000), for instance, initiated more audience gasps than guffaws. And Magneto's Holocaust backstory in the first "X-Men" (2000) saw concentration camp barriers bending to his powers through visuals appropriately somber, yet treading a line uncomfortably pulpy for its grim setting.

What the United States did to Japanese Americans during World War II is a subject Hollywood avoids like the plague. As with slavery, those wounds run deep. We, as a country, prefer not to recall the

sins committed on our own soil.

That may explain the puzzling mystery as to why Jamie Ford's heartbreaking first novel, "Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet" (2009), has yet to arrive on the big screen. Or that when the subject does slip into theaters, it's either softened as soap-opera romance (1990's "Come See the Paradise") or courtroom drama (1999's "Snow Falling on Cedars"), although I have a soft spot for the latter because of David Guterson's gorgeous prose in the novel.

Season Two of AMC's "The Terror," subtitled "Infamy," wrapped Oct. 14. The idea behind the anthology series is to offer fictionalized spins on actual historical incidents. Season One, based on Dan Simmons' 2007 novel, centered on Sir John Franklin's lost Arctic expedition (1845-1848). The new season introduces several Japanese-American families living on Terminal Island when Japan bombs Pearl Harbor. They then are forced to abandon their homes — everything they own — for life in an internment camp.

Those soul-crushing years would be enough "terror" to warrant the series' title, but the show's creators introduce a figure from Japanese folklore, the *yurei*, to accentuate the tension...and that's when my internal warning bells began to sound.

Really? TV finally deals with this topic...and it's

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a ghost story?

A *yurei* essentially is a dead person's ghost, returned in human form, often to exact revenge. And for the characters in "Infamy," many believe the *yurei* that lurks within the camp's confines is the cause of their misfortune. Early in Season 2, this spectral figure, Yuko (Kiki Sukezane), looms in the peripheries. When *really* pissed, she rips out the tongue of one of her victims. Sukezane is hauntingly gorgeous, but Yuko, in these early episodes, adds *nothing* to a series that should explore, in far greater detail, the dispiriting, demoralizing nature of the internment camps. That element exists in the show, but it feels safe, like the show's creators approached the subject with kid's gloves.

Until the final episode.

We have seen on film, stage and television moments that capture the immediate aftermath of World War II's end. Passionate embraces. Patriotic parades. Streets filled with jubilant crowds. Our hearts swell each time, and rightfully so, at the triumph and sacrifice of the American spirit.

But consider the opening scene of "Infamy's" finale. "Star Trek" veteran George Takei, in beautifully-etched, career-capping work, plays a former fishing boat captain released from the internment camp. He dreams of seeing his childhood friend from Hiroshima: a solitary figure on a long, empty road, captured in stark sepia tones. The two friends smile, shed tears, thrilled to be in each other's presence. The camera then pans to the left, and we see three generations of the friend's family. Huddled together. Still. Faces locked in somber recognition. That poetic symbolism — the human casualties of Hiroshima — has haunted my thoughts, and likely will for some time. The scene does *not* ask us to slight the American sacrifice in World War II, but to consider that in war, there is no "winner."

We realize, too, that the show's slow burn approach has been intentional, that by carefully introducing each individual, by casting actors who inhabit each role with salt, vinegar and soul, we have spent 10 episodes following their plight, their perseverance, their crushing sense of loss. We care for them and what awaits them.

"Infamy" also does something unexpected with Yuko. I will try to avoid spoilers, but by providing Yuko late in the series with an all-too human backstory, we realize she is just as much a victim of circumstance as the families in the internment camps. By humanizing her, "Infamy" refuses to cast her away. Right when it appears the last 20 minutes are headed for a gore-splattered finish, direc-



Kiki Sukezane stars as Yuko, a ghost intent on revenge, in "The Terror: Infamy."

tor Frederick E.O. Toye backs off. Yuko can never have the happy finish she deserves, but she can return to that one "hopeful day." And it was that moment that I started to choke up, something that rarely happens when watching TV. Television likes happy endings. Easy, resolvable fixes. But "Infamy" one-ups that fate by giving Yuko, at the very least, melancholy closure.

The last few scenes of "Infamy" reveal the characters five years after the camps. Life has gone on, the pictures being taken conveying faces where smiles hide memories of deep sadness. As the entire cast then stands along a river, guiding luminaries into the water, the image dissolves into photos of the cast alongside pictures of their ancestors who survived the camps. The 82-year-old Takei, no less, was sent with his family to live in the camps when he was a child.

That final episode is superior television. The creators of "Infamy" somehow found a way to meld a traditional ghost story with a terrible chapter in American history, and in a manner that packs an incredible punch.

True, "Infamy" is not for everyone. Those who detest ghost stories may find its supernatural aspects alternately gruesome and tedious. But for those with daring spirits, the episodes are still running on AMC, or they can be viewed On Demand. Take a look. The final episode of "Infamy" is a potent reminder that we can never forget, nor cast away, the past. It defines who we are in the present, and where we are headed in the future.

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

## Non-Profits Invited to Decorate Barker Mansion for Christmas

Non-profit groups are invited to compete for a cash prize while decorating Barker Mansion this Christmas.

Each year, the 35,000-square-foot home, 631 Washington St., opens its doors for holiday tours and events. Local non-profits and volunteers are crucial to its extensive decorating.

As visitors tour throughout December, they can vote for the most festive room, the winning non-profit receiving a cash prize to further its mission. Rooms still available for decorating include: the library, which features velvet wall covering and Russian Walnut woodwork; the Morning Room, with stained-glass windows reminiscent of the Prairie Style movement; the Brides' Room, which overlooks the Italian garden; and the Ballroom with its ornate lighting fixtures.

Decorations are provided; groups should bring a team of at least four people. Decorating is held



The Marie Antionette Room in 2017, decorated by Marquette High School.

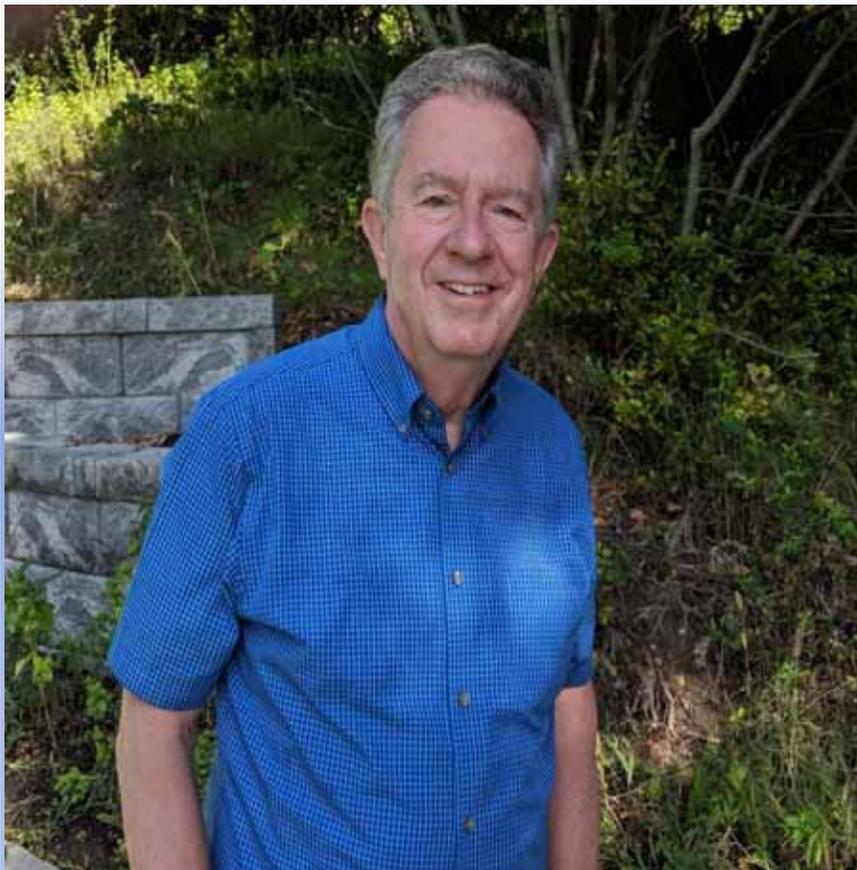
during the last half of November. Interested groups can contact Anthony Holt at [aholt@emichigancity.com](mailto:aholt@emichigancity.com) or (219) 873-1520.

Also at Barker, non-profit groups can secure free meeting space.

The home's lower level recently was renovated, and two rooms have been designated as community spaces. While both lower-level rooms are simple in décor, The Purdue Room features exhibits detailing the time period when the mansion was an extension campus. The capacity is 31. The Industrial Room features large-scale prints of Haskell and Barker Freight Car Factory workers. The capacity is 12.

The spaces are accessible for people with disabilities through a stair lift.

Non-profits wishing to use the mansion space can contact Holt.



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## Canterbury Theatre Opens Winter Series with “Spinning Into Butter”

Canterbury Theatre kicks off its 2019 Winter Arts Series, the first under new Winter Arts Director Jacob West, with Rebecca Gilman’s “Spinning Into Butter.”

Performances are at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Oct. 25-26, Nov. 1-2 and 9 at the theater, 807 Franklin St.

Directed by Tara Lonzo, the show explores the dangers of racism and political correctness. When one of the few black students at liberal Belmont College begins receiving hate mail, the campus erupts, first with shock, then with mutual recrimination as faculty and students alike try to prove their own tolerance by condemning one another. At the center is Dean of Students Sarah Daniels. As the adminis-



John Landecker and Nora Ryszka star in “Spinning Into Butter.”

tration sponsors public “race forums” and the students start their activist groups, Sarah is forced to explore her own feelings of racism.

The cast includes Nora Ryszka, Dan Beaver, Sandy Young, John Landecker, Robert Richter, Elena Miller and Ryan Liddell. Audiences are invited to stay after the show for a discussion

moderated by Lonzo and West.

Tickets are \$20 for general admission, \$18 for seniors and \$10 for students. Reservations can be made at [m.bpt.me/event/4410863](http://m.bpt.me/event/4410863), or call the box office at (219) 874-4269.

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\*Rebate requires purchase of qualifying items between September 2, 2019 to November 22, 2019. Qualifying items must be installed by November 29, 2019. Rebate claims (with proof of purchase) must be submitted (with proof of purchase) to [www.lennoxconsumerrebates.com](http://www.lennoxconsumerrebates.com) no later than December 14, 2019. Rebate is paid in the form of a Lennox Visa® prepaid debit card. Card is subject to terms and conditions found or referenced on card and expires 12 months after issuance. Conditions apply. See [www.lennox.com/terms-and-conditions](http://www.lennox.com/terms-and-conditions) for complete terms and conditions. \*\*Offer available September 2, 2019 to November 22, 2019. Offer based on a retail price of \$10,000. Requires purchase of qualifying system. Financing available to well-qualified buyers on approved credit. No down payment required. No monthly payment required and no interest is accrued during the 3 month deferral period. After deferral period, the loan is rolled into 6.99% APR for 120 Months with equal monthly payments of \$116 a month. Normal late charges apply. Cannot be combined with any other promotional offer. Minimum loan amount \$3,000. Maximum loan amount \$100,000. You may prepay your account at any time without penalty. Financing is subject to credit requirements and satisfactory completion of finance documents. Any finance terms advertised are estimates only. See Truth in Lending disclosures available from lender for more information.  
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## Friday Night at Footlight

Award-winning actress/entertainer Mary Kay Steele will host the open-mic venue Friday Night at Footlight at 7 p.m. Oct. 25 at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St.



Steele

Steele will be accompanied by Rose Marie Dure. On stage, she has appeared as Patsy Cline, Drowsy in "The Drowsy Chap-erone," Frau Blucher in "Young Franken-stein," Maria in "The Sound of Music," Ade-laide in "Guys & Dolls" and Annie in "Annie Get Your Gun." She also is the song stylist for Midwest Big Band, band leader of "Me and the Boys" and the praise-team leader at LaPorte's First United

Methodist Church.

The event is open seating. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. Surprise performers for the 15-minute slots, which cost \$2, are expected to fill up the remainder of both sets. A costume contest is planned, along with the monthly dinner/theater raffle and refreshments supplied by Footlight membership.

Those interested in performing should register at [www.footlightplayers.org](http://www.footlightplayers.org)

## Monday Musicale

Monday Musicale will present "A Night at the Opera," an evening of operatic music, at 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 28, at First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St.

Program chairwoman Candace Archer will be joined by vocalists Deborah Beien, Emma Blanchard, Howard Brenneman, Frank Casorio, Kathi Jones, Krystal Levi and Joe Stewart, and accompanied by Lee Meyer. They will share various operatic styles, from the 18th to the 21st century, including music from Mozart's "Don Giovanni" and "The Magic Flute," Verdi's "Rigoletto" and Puccini's "Madame Butterfly," as well as selections by Donizetti, Tchaikovsky, Leoncavallo and Menotti. Contemporary operas include selections from Jonathan Larson's "Rent," Elton John's "Aida" and Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Love Never Dies."

A social hour follows the program, with refreshments provided by Carmen Gondek's hosting committee. Donations to the group's scholarship fund are appreciated. Call Ange Benz at (219) 874-3754 or Sue Cassler at (219) 362-1421 for details.

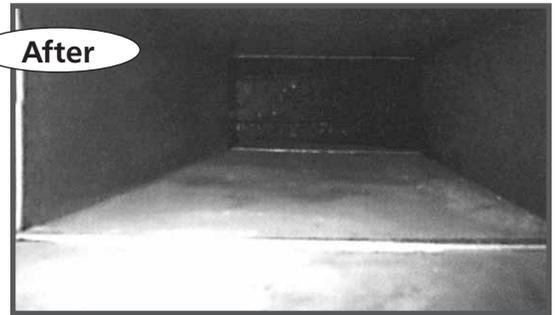
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## Indiana Dunes National Park

*The following programs are planned:*

- **Birding with the Indiana Audubon Society from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 26, 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.

- **Art in the National Park from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturdays through Nov. 9 at Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk, 100 Riverwalk Road.**

Learn how to paint the dunes. A canvas and paint are provided for the free class. Registration is required, and the class is limited to 20 adult painters. Be prepared to park in auxiliary sites during the summer due to parking congestion. Call (219) 395-1882 for more information and to register.

- **Science in the National Park from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

Brad Bumgardner, birding expert and Indiana Audubon Society executive director, will highlight owl research in the dunes through a one-hour presentation, followed by carpooling to a research station.

- **Halloween Hoopla from 1 to 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26, at Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.**

Learn about spiders and other animal-world residents with Field Museum entomologist Jim Louderman from 1 to 4 p.m. At 2 p.m., Kim Hoover of "Hoots to Howls" rehabilitation center will showcase live owls under its care. A short hike on the Douglas Trail is from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

- **Stargazing from 6 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26, 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.

- **Feed the Farm Animals at Chellberg Farm from 4:30 to 5 p.m. Sundays.**

The farm includes cows, pigs, goats, chickens and turkeys.

□

*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:*

- **Saw-Whet Owl Banding Demonstrations daily.**

The Indiana Audubon Society leads the saw-whet owl banding project. Visitors can see live owls during the process. The program is weather dependent.

*Saturday's programs celebrate Halloween:*

- **Batty for Bats from 10 to 10:40 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 26.**

Meet in the Nature Center auditorium to learn facts about the mammal.

- **Costumes with a Pro from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26.**

Jerry Jascoviak, Indiana Arts in the Park artist, will assist children with creating costumes and props with nature themes. Meet at the campground shelter next to campsite 113

- **Pumpkin Decorating from 2 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26.**

Meet at the campground shelter by campsite 113 for a pumpkin craft. Supplies are limited.

- **Hay Rides from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26.**

Tickets, which are \$2 per person (3 and younger are free), can be purchased at the campground gate. The rides head to the beach and back.

- **Owl Prowl from 8 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26.**

Join a naturalist to walk from the campground gate to try and call nearby owls.

- **Boo-tiful Birds from 10 to 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 27.**

Join naturalists in the Nature Center's bird feeding observation room for the program.

□

*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.*



# MAYOR RON MEER

## KEEP A GOOD THING GOING

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"I FULLY SUPPORT HIM AS THE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR OF MICHIGAN CITY"



### INDIANA STATE REPRESENTATIVE PAT BOY ENDORSES MAYOR RON MEER

Ron has done a lot for this city. He worked in many departments before his election to the Council position and he knows the jobs. Instead of doing extensive (and expensive) new studies, he combined the best parts of the plans that had already been done. His support both as Councilman and as Mayor for the Artspace building has helped revitalize the downtown. He has saved on the city's electric costs through his support of the energy updates approved by the Council. He brought the Promise Scholarship to the city.

He has initiated programs and followed through on existing ones. I believe he's done a good job for the city, and I fully support him as the Democratic candidate for Mayor of Michigan City in the general election this November.

Sincerely,

**Pat Boy**  
Indiana State Rep

#### Voting Schedule

**Early Voting** takes place at the Michigan City Courthouse at 300 Washington St.  
**Tuesday Oct. 8th 2019**- First day that a voter may vote early in the Michigan City Courthouse  
**Mon-Fri 8am-4pm** and the last two Saturdays  
**Mon Nov. 4th, 2019 DEADLINE** by noon, for a voter to vote early in the Michigan City Courthouse  
**Election Day:** November 5th, Vote at your polling place from 6am-6pm!

Paid For By Citizens To Elect Meer

"I FULLY ENDORSE RON MEER'S RE-ELECTION FOR MAYOR OF MICHIGAN CITY"



### U.S. CONGRESSMAN PETE VISCLOSKY ENDORSES RON MEER

His honesty and integrity are of immense benefit to Michigan City, and he has helped create lasting relationships with leaders throughout LaPorte County, Indianapolis, and our nation's capital.

Additionally, when Michigan City identified lead-based paint in their community, working with stakeholders, he successfully secured a \$2.3 million federal grant for Michigan City.

Ron Meer again demonstrated his ability to work with stakeholders to successfully secure a \$600,000 EPA Brownfield revitalization grant to identify sites for clean-up and economic investment.

Ron has proven his ability to create more economic opportunities for everyone and a brighter future for Michigan City.

Sincerely,

Pete Visclosky Member of Congress

#### Voting Schedule

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Paid For By Citizens To Elect Meer

## Wildflowers and Neon Lights, or A Tale of Two Detroits

Natalie doesn't buy my bromides about Detroit's rebirth. She says the so-called Detroit Renaissance is simply along a three-mile stretch of Woodward Avenue, which includes the world-class Detroit Institute of Arts. And, yes, for my May birthday, we took a day train trip to Detroit for the express purpose of perusing DIA's extensive collection.

Natalie noted we didn't visit the Other Detroit, the one omitted from the press releases and well-oiled hoopla touting the bold, new Detroit. But we did get a good look during a two-day visit to the Motor City in the fall of 2016 and were saddened to see block after block of abandoned houses.

In fact, when we drove back to our downtown hotel from an evening excursion to Dearborn for a Middle Eastern dinner, we were shocked by the darkness. We went from the festive, neon lights of Dearborn to the total darkness of Detroit. We could see the stark contrast as soon as we crossed the city line.

Block after block after block. No lights. Vacant lots. Abandoned houses.

"That's the real story here," Natalie said at the time.

I insisted the bright new core city was lifting the fringes on its gas and bubbles. That's what I wanted to believe, and that's what I still struggle to believe.

But then in May 2019, we visited that hidden-



An artistic vision of Detroit.

in-plain-view gem that sits right across the avenue from DIA: the Detroit Public Library. While gawking at the amazing architectural appointments of that shrine to reading, we chanced upon a free 2017 booklet: Detroit's 1967 Rebellion: The Fifty-Year Aftermath. The cover showed nervous, white National Guardsmen facing down an unseen black horde with a building burning in the background.

That, alone, made it worth adding to the Detroit section of my library, but then there was an eye-opening article inside by Gloria House, a professor emerita in humanities and African American Studies at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. House has credentials a paragraph long, and she writes with passion about her beloved Detroit. She turned me right around, especially when stating in the section titled "Wildflowers and Neon Lights":

*In the Detroit that developers have "let go," wilderness has laid claim to miles of land that once*

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An abandoned house in the "let go" Detroit.

formed the grid of tree-lined city blocks, a housing stock superior to that of most other American cities, well-tended lawns, corner stores, supermarkets and businesses supportive of a vital urban life. Now bright wildflowers embrace homes that have collapsed in ruin, or remain standing like relics of a forgotten era. The absence of neighborhoods reminds of tax foreclosures and homelessness. In short, the 'let go' Detroit is a place of profound dispossession and suffering.

By contrast, gentrification cuts a crusading, neon-lit path right through the heart of the historic City, offering an impressive array of cultural amenities and services to those who can afford them. This spirited city pulses along the Woodward corridor from Grand Boulevard south through the cultural center (past the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Detroit Main Library, Wayne State University), through the lively midtown hub of boutiques and restaurants, continuing to the downtown core, including the entertainment centers of the Fox Theater, Comerica Park, Campus Martius, and Hart Plaza on the Detroit River. Redesigned lofts, condos, upscale leisure attractions, along with financial incentives offered

by the city, are successfully coaxing individuals and families back into Detroit. In addition, young artists and entrepreneurs have been able to obtain grants and subsidies of various kinds to further their creative production or to start businesses. This upwardly mobile population constitutes the social anchor of downtown Detroit, from which people of color and the poor are conspicuously absent.

Can't argue with a single word, but I am still optimistic about Detroit.

The Democrats staged their debates at the Fox Theatre on Woodward, and the 2020 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous is July 2-5, 2020, in Detroit. That's saying something positive about a city that wasn't just on the ropes. It was outside the ring.

Now, Detroit is climbing back into the ring. I still say it is, despite the darker sides I have seen with Natalie. I will certainly see Detroit as Natalie sees Detroit whenever we return and, yes, I will try to persuade her to share my brighter vision of Motown.

Finally, you should know we recently bought memberships to the Detroit Institute of Arts, where we must return and continue our debate about Detroit.

Stay tuned.



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# BILL'S PICKS:



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DEMOCRAT



**Mike JOHNSTONE**  
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**Tom MCDONALD**  
REPUBLICAN



**Jim DEHNER**  
INDEPENDENT



## Interview with Bill DeFuniak Long Beach Town Clerk October 9, 2019

### Looking at our town from the inside out, what do you see?

There are a number of problems that have surfaced over the last 4 years with the current town council. One of the biggest issues is that many of the town residents feel neglected, disenfranchised. People are frustrated with the roadblocks they face when trying to work with the members of the town council. Many just shake their heads and walk away. Many say that our town has been torn apart. That may be an exaggeration but not by much.

Our relationships with neighboring towns and business providers are troubled. Long Beach hasn't gotten certain rulings from the DNR because the council operates with preconceived notions rather than a willingness to listen. We have a building commissioner who is an active builder in town, a clear conflict of interest which results in undermining competition. Some contractors simply cannot or will not do business in Long Beach and are waiting for the next town council.

### What is your view of the last 4 years?

I see that many of the proposed ordinances have not improved the quality of life for the resident taxpayers of Long Beach. The town council has "run roughshod over the community", something that has produced costly lawsuits and will put

at risk "dear resources" if it continues. These guys "don't play fair" and, in particular, seem to have targeted a small segment of the community. This council often takes an adversarial stance and, with the election of the Reunite Long Beach candidates, a sense of "let's work together" will be restored.

### What is most needed with the next town council?

We need "business chops", elected officials with experience in business and management. The candidates running on the Reunite Long Beach ticket, McFadden, Johnstone, McDonald, and Dehner, all have strong business backgrounds. The current checks and balances of running a government with a \$1.8m budget are weak, and we need to return the town to fiscal sanity. At a minimum, there is an "appearance of impropriety" when invoices are addressed to the homes of council members with little backup. Competitive bidding for town contracts is a thing of the past. Projects initiated by the council are started without permits. I could go on but "things are not running right".

### If you could say one thing to the voters, what would that be?

The Reunite Long Beach candidates will bring honesty and experience to town governance. I look forward to working in that environment again.

# VOTE FOR CHANGE NOV 5TH!

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## Michigan City Public Library

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

- **Graphic Novel Book Club for Teens at 4 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 24.**

The focus this month is "The Boys." The group is aimed at teens 13-18. Stop by Youth Services for more information.

- **Story Time at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., at 11 a.m. Monday, Oct. 28.**

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. Tuesday, Oct. 29, and 10 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 30.**

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

- **Story Time Costume Parade at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 30.**

Children through age 5, accompanied by an adult, can trick or treat around the library.

- **Learning Center Volunteers Needed.**

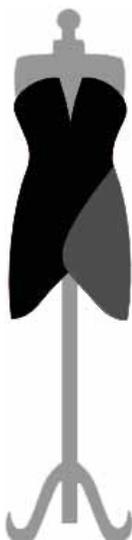
The Learning Center needs volunteer tutors for children and adults. Students need assistance in: reading, math, high school equivalency and English as a Second Language. All supplies and training are provided. All that's required are two hours a week. Contact Jessica Hoffmaster at (219) 873-3043 or stop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

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

## Black Cat Strut

The Black Cat Strut 5k trail run and non-competitive 5k Walk, which donates part of the proceeds to Independent Cat Society, is at 9 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 27, at Red Mill County Park, 0185 S. Holmesville Road, LaPorte.

Events start and finish at the Environmental Education Center. Visit [www.catsociety.org](http://www.catsociety.org) for details, call (219) 873-6296 or visit [raceroster.com/events/2019/21393/black-cat-strut-trail-5k-run-walk](http://raceroster.com/events/2019/21393/black-cat-strut-trail-5k-run-walk) to register or for more information.



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# LOVE LIGHTS *Shine Again*

**Sunday, December 1, 2019**

This touching ceremony will begin with prayers and Christmas carols and culminates with the lighting of the Love Lights.

Please gather in the hospital front lobby on Sunday, December 1, 2019 at 4:45PM.

Refreshments will be served by the Guild of Volunteers following the lighting ceremony.

Love Lights is sponsored by the Guild of Volunteers.

To honor a loved one, donations will be accepted at \$3 per person.

**Proceeds will benefit the Guild of Volunteers Scholarship Fund at Franciscan Health Michigan City.**

*Additional donations to the Scholarship Fund are accepted.*

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Do you want the following name(s) published in our "Love Lights" Tree Presentation which will appear in the Michigan City News Dispatch on a Sunday before Christmas?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Please send blank acknowledgement cards:

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ # needed \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to **Guild of Volunteers Love Lights**

Love Lights Name(s)	In Honor (Living)			In Memory		
	Adult	Child	Pet	Adult	Child	Pet

If you wish to have names printed in the News Dispatch, please complete this form and mail or return by **December 1, 2019** to Franciscan Health, 3500 Franciscan Way, Michigan City, IN 46360.





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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 3-5 p.m. Mondays through Oct. 28.**

Each month highlights a different skill and lab equipment. September focuses on video production and October 3-D modeling and printing.

- **STEAM Sandbox from 3-5 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday through Oct. 31.**

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.

- **Teen Coffee and Canvas: Bob Ross from 3 to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 29.**

Seating is limited to 24, and teens 13-18 can register at [laportelibrary.org](http://laportelibrary.org).

- **Restore and Digitize Your Memories from 10 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Oct. 29.**

Learn how to digitally archive old photos, slides and negatives using a flatbed scanner, and how to transfer VHS home movies to DVDs.

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

- **Caregiver University from 6-7 p.m. Tuesdays.**

The schedule is: Nov. 5 — Aging and the Law: Living Wills, Guardianships and More; and Nov. 19 — End of Life Care and Planning.



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

## Homeless Shelter Benefit

Knights of Columbus Council 12591 will host a seafood dinner to benefit the planned Sacred Heart Homeless Shelter from 4 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26, at the Queen of All Saints School cafeteria, 1715 E. Barker Ave.

The fish-and-shrimp combo dinner includes cole slaw, fries, bread and butter. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$10. All proceeds, and leftover food, will be donated to the shelter.

Transparency is important to voters, and not printing the 'paid for by the Long Beach Party' message on some campaign materials was not intentional. We apologize for any concern this may have caused and we are focused on a clean campaign by all those running for public office. Paid for and authorized by the Long Beach Party.

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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](http://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. Oct. 28, Nov. 18 and 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.

### Chalk Time for Differently-Abled

The program for children 4 and older is from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, Oct. 28, at Luhr County Park.

Design a super hero by picking a design and making a reusable vinyl transfer and chalk paste. The adult will make a 9x12 framed piece and the child a 5x7 two-sided one. A minimum of five and a maximum of 24 participants are required. The cost is \$25 per pair (adult and child) and \$5 for each additional child. Registration and payment are due at least one week in advance or until full, whichever comes first.

### 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:

- Nov. 6: Hooting Good Time.
- Nov. 20: Turkey Trouble.

### 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:

- Nov. 6 — What is your spine saying, and complimentary health/spinal screening, with Hicks Chiropractic Health Center.

### Nature Center Open House

The program for home-schoolers is from 9 a.m. to noon Wednesday, Nov. 13, at Luhr park. No registration is required. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

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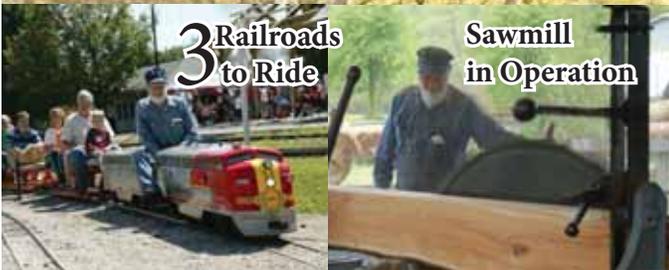
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## Westchester Public Library

The following programs are available:

• **Bits & Bytes series, Demystifying the Cloud, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 24, 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](http://www.wpl.lib.in.us). Click on the Bits & Bytes link.

• **Tricks or Treats at the Brown Mansion from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26, at the mansion, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.**

Participants will do a series of stations, including crafts, games, stories and treats. Children can dress in costume. Parents or guardians must accompany their children.

• **"Off the Hook" Kids Crochet, an eight-week program from 4 to 5 p.m. Tuesdays at the Thomas Branch Children's Department.**

Children ages 9-12 learn the basics of crocheting, including the five main stitches and pattern reading. Registration is required by calling (219) 926-7696.

• **Mel Brooks Trivia Night from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 29, at Westchester Township History Museum.**

Teams of 1-4 can vie for a prize. Doors open at 6:45 p.m. and remain open until the event is full. Refreshments will be served.

• **Zombie Barbie Bash from 6 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 30, in the Thomas Branch Children's Department.**

Children 6-11 can use a donated doll, or take one, to destroy with tempera paints. Take a plastic bag to place the doll in afterward. Halloween costumes are optional, but encouraged. Call (219) 926-7696 to register.

## Halloween Behind-the-Scenes Tour

The staff at Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St., will host a Halloween edition of its Behind-the-Scenes tour from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 30.

Guests can explore all 35,000 square feet of the mansion, including the boiler room, butler's room, archives and other spaces typically closed to the public. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for youth and seniors.

Visit [www.barkermansion.com](http://www.barkermansion.com) for details.

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### National Park Site Vendor Sought

Indiana Dunes National Park seeks one food-service vendor to operate the food-concession area in 2020 at Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk Pavilion.

At a minimum, the food service must operate Memorial Day thru Labor Day. The minimum required operation is 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday thru Sunday; however, extended hours and days are encouraged.

Federal regulations require any individuals or groups selling food or other items in a national park to obtain a Commercial Use Authorization permit. It will be issued specifically for the pavilion for the 2020 calendar year. Completed applications must include a \$100 payment to cover the processing costs, and a brief business plan that includes a proposed list of menu items with prices. Park staff will select a vendor based on: ability to meet operational requirements; business track record; and business plan, which should include a variety of offerings.

An open house is from noon to 3:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 1, to view the space and ask questions. Applications are due no later than noon Nov. 15, and the park expects to announce a selection no later than Nov. 30. The selected vendor is required to pay 3 percent of gross receipts minus the \$100 application fee at the end of the season. Additionally, vendors selling food must comply with county and Federal health regulations, and have responsibilities in guest-generated garbage cleanup.

Call Amber Siewin at (219) 395-1859 or email [amber\\_siewin@nps.gov](mailto:amber_siewin@nps.gov) for more details.

### The Holdcraft Players

Young People's Theatre Co. will host auditions for its new division, The Holdcraft Players, which is open to people 21 and older.

Auditions are from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 23-24, in The Holdcraft Performing Arts Center, 1200 Spring St. The first production is "It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play" based on the 1946 classic. The audition involves selections from the play for a cold reading.

The production is a collaborative effort sponsored by YPTC, Access LaPorte County and Canterbury Theatre. Stan Holdcraft and Mike Dempsey are the directors. Performances are Nov. 29-Dec. 1 and Dec. 13-15.

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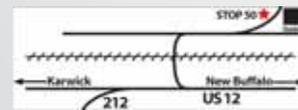
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### Unity Foundation Annual Luncheon

Unity Foundation will award more than \$150,000 in grants to 80 local nonprofit projects during its annual Update Luncheon on Wednesday, Oct. 30, at LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St.

Doors open at 11 a.m. for lunch. The program begins at 11:30 a.m. and ends promptly at 1 p.m. The cost is \$20. Registration is required at [uflc.net](http://uflc.net)

Unity will provide a brief 2019 update, conduct an interactive Community Conversation led by the Vibrant Communities team, and end with celebrating the 2019 Community Fund Grantees.

“Power for Good” grant applications were received in the areas of human services, youth development, community development, environment, food and nutrition, housing and shelter, health, education and literacy, arts and culture, animal care and employment services.

The goal of Vibrant Communities is to develop an action agenda that guides the future based on residents’ vision and shared goals. The project is co-chaired by Unity Foundation and the LaPorte County Convention & Visitor’s Bureau. More information is available at [vibrantlpcounty.org](http://vibrantlpcounty.org)




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### Chesterton Art Center

Deb Armstrong will teach a three-week Photoshop Elements class starting from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 5, at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.

Students will learn how to edit photos, as well as add borders, text layers and special effects. Sample projects include advertising layouts, digital scrapbooking and other types of composite images. Participants should take a laptop with Elements or a similar program to follow along, although it is not required. Armstrong will provide a detailed outline with links to online resources.

Class topics include:

- Work Flow — workspace, view, rulers and guides.
- File formats — image size and quality.
- Image adjustments — size, color, brightness, contrast, hue, saturation.
- Tools — selection, move, crop, clone (healing/patch), brushes, eraser, gradient, dodge and burn, blur, text, color picker, hand.
- Layers — why they are needed.

The cost is \$80, with members receiving a \$20 discount. The class size is limited to 12 students. Visit [www.chestertonart.com](http://www.chestertonart.com) for details.

### Harbor Country Book Club

Harbor Country Book Club meets at 6:30 p.m. EDT Thursday, Oct. 31, at New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St.

The book is Ocean Vuong’s On Earth We’re Briefly Gorgeous. The November selection is Lisa Wingate’s Before We Were Yours.

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



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• **Wild Ones meeting from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. EDT Sunday, Oct. 27.**

The chapter, new to Fernwood, restores native plants, natural landscapes and pollinators. More information is available at [www.wildones.org](http://www.wildones.org)

• **Vin-Nidra Yoga from 2 to 4 p.m. EDT Sunday, Oct. 27.**

Weather permitting, the first hour involves conscious Vinyasa Yoga in the gardens, the second hour a stroll to the river platform for Yoga Nidra (yogic sleep) and Pancha Maya Kosha. The cost is \$24, while members pay \$20.

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

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## American Red Cross

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

- Franciscan Health Michigan City, 3500 Franciscan Way, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday, Oct. 25.
- Michiana Hematology Oncology, 1668 S. U.S. 421, Westville, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday, Oct. 28.

Donors must be in good general health and feeling well, at least 17 (16 with parental consent) and weigh at least 110 pounds. Call (800) 733-2767 or visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) for more details.

## Long Beach News

Trick-or-treat hours in Long Beach are from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 31. Participating residents are asked to leave porch lights on during these hours.

Also, fall leaf pickup runs Monday, Oct. 28, through Friday, Dec. 6. Leaves should be raked to the street; not bagged, but in a pile.



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## Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail.)

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

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

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2. Queen Pins	16	8
3. Wine-ettes, Alley Katz,	14	10

Gutter Busters, Blue Shoes, Bitchin Bowlers

**HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES**

**SCORE**

1. Mary Lou McFadden	193
2. Cindy Beck	174
3. Margie Midkiff	173
4. Tammy Nelmar	169
5. Nancy Kubath	168
6. Dottie Brinckman	161
7. Sue Labovitz	156
7. Holly Dres	156
8. Polly Fletcher	155
8. Lisa Albers	155
9. June Salmon	153
10. Sarah Blank	152
11. Peggy King (series)	405

**SPLITS**

Diana Holt	5-10
Linda Sperling	2-8
Regina Bradley	5-10
Ginny Hogan	2-7
Peggy King	5-10
Janet Miernicki	3-10
Tina Sonderby	2-7-8
Sarah Blank	3-9-10

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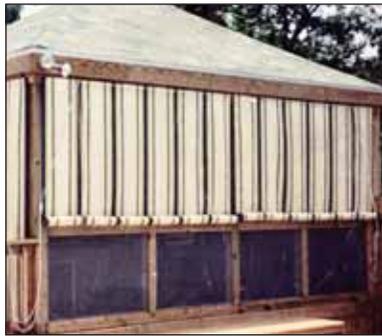




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## Activities to Explore

### In the Area:

**Oct. 24** — Graphic Novel Book Club for Teens, 4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**Oct. 25** — Heartless — The Midwest's Premier Tribute to Heart, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generation Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$30. Info: acornlive.org

**Oct. 25** — Open-mic venue, Friday Night at Footlight, 7 p.m., Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Admission: free. Performer signup: \$2. Registration: www.footlightplayers.org

**Oct. 25-28** — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. *Now showing:* "Official Secrets." Rated R. Times: 6 p.m. Fri.-Mon. *Also:* "Brittany Runs a Marathon." Rated R. Times: 9 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 3 p.m. Sat.-Sun. All times Eastern. Info: vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

**Oct. 25-26, Nov. 1-2, Nov. 9** — "Spinning Into Butter," 7 p.m., Canterbury Theatre, 807 Franklin St. Tickets: \$20/general admission, \$18/seniors, \$10/students. Reservations: m.bpt.me/event/4410863, (219) 874-4269

**Oct. 26** — Seafood dinner benefit (Sacred Heart Homeless Shelter), 4-7 p.m., Queen of All Saints School cafeteria, 1715 E. Barker Ave. Tickets @ door: \$10.

**Oct. 26** — "Flame + Flair" festival, 5:30-8:30 p.m., Uptown Arts District (downtown Michigan City).

**Oct. 26** — Hay Rides, 5:30-7 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**Oct. 26** — Stargazing, 6-8 p.m., Kemil Beach parking area, 27 N. East State Park Road, Chesterton. Info: (219) 395-1882.

**Oct. 26** — Eighth Annual HauseFest Benefit for Ronald McDonald House Charities, 7:30 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generation Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$60. Info: acornlive.org

**Oct. 26** — Owl Prowl, 8-9 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**Oct. 26-27** — Hesston Ghost Train/Fall Festival, noon-5 p.m., Hesston Steam Museum, 1201 E. County Road 1000 North, LaPorte. Fares: \$5/adults, \$3/children 3-12. Info: www.hesston.org

**Oct. 28** — Monday Musicale, "A Night at the Opera," 7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St. Scholarship fund donations requested. Info: (219) 874-3754, (219) 362-1421.

**Oct. 29** — Teen Coffee and Canvas: Bob Ross, 3-5 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Registration: laportelibrary.org

**Oct. 29** — Mel Brooks Trivia Night, 7-8:30 p.m., Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

**Oct. 30** — Story Time Costume Parade, 10 a.m.,

Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**Oct. 30** — Zombie Barbie Bash, 6-7 p.m., Westchester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton. Registration: (219) 926-7696.

**Oct. 30** — Halloween Behind-the-Scenes Tour, 7-9 p.m., Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St. Tickets: \$15/adults, \$10/youth & seniors. Info: www.barkermansion.com

**Saturdays through October** — Michigan City Mainstreet Association Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-noon, Eighth & Washington streets.

**Saturdays through Oct. 26** — LaPorte Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Lincolnway parking lot next to Mucho Mas.

**Through Oct. 30** — Indiana Historical Society traveling exhibit, "Endangered Heritage," LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Info: www.indianahistory.org

**In the Region**

**Oct. 25** — Fourth Friday, 7 p.m., Montague/Urschel Gallery @ Porter County Museum, 20 Indiana Ave., Valparaiso. Free. Info: www.valpovic.org

**Oct. 26** — Second Festival of Owls, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tickets: \$25/adults, \$10/child (8-14), 7 & younger/free. Tickets/locations: humaneindiana.org

**Oct. 26** — Halloween Hoopla, 1-5:30 p.m., Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, 100 N. Lake St., Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882.

**Oct. 26** — Fundraiser, Nightmare on Broad Street: Boos and Brews at the Box, 6-9 p.m. EDT, The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Tickets: \$20/advance, \$25/day of. Reservations: (269) 983-3688, 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 p.m., Franciscan Health Michigan City, Maria Theresia Conference Room C, 3500 Franciscan Way. Info: (219) 801-1296.

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## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

**On October 24, 1861**, a message from California Chief Justice Stephen Field to President Abraham Lincoln was the first telegram to be transmitted across the United States.

**On October 24, 1901**, to raise money to pay off a debt, Anna E. Taylor agreed to go over Niagara Falls in a barrel, becoming the first person to survive the plunge.

**On October 24, 1939**, in Wilmington, Del., the first nylon stockings went on sale.

**On October 24, 1940**, under the “Fair Labor Standards Act” of 1938, the 40-hour work week officially took effect.

**On October 24, 2003**, three Concorde swooped into London’s Heathrow Airport, joining in a spectacular finale to the era of luxury supersonic jet travel.

**On October 25, 1911**, after operating for 12 years, Chicago’s “Everleigh Club,” an opulent brothel at 2131 S. Dearborn St., was ordered closed by Mayor Carter Harrison.

**On October 25, 1940**, bushy-browed John L. Lewis, president of the Congress of Industrial Organization, vowed to resign if his archenemy Franklin Roosevelt should be elected president for a third term. Roosevelt was, and Lewis did.

**On October 25, 1954**, a meeting of the President’s Cabinet was televised for the first time.

**On October 25, 1955**, Tappan Stove Co. introduced the first electronic range designed for home use. It was priced at \$1,200, and could cook bacon in 90 seconds.

**On October 25, 1962**, writer John Steinbeck was awarded the Nobel Prize in literature.

**On October 26, 1774**, the First Continental Congress opened in Philadelphia.

**On October 26, 1785**, the first mules in the United States arrived from Spain, gifts to George Washington from King Charles III.

**On October 26, 1881**, in Tombstone, Ariz., Wyatt Earp, along with his two brothers and “Doc” Holliday, shot it out with Ike Clanton’s gang at the “OK Corral.” Both of Earp’s brothers were wounded, and three of the Clanton gang were killed.

**On October 26, 1958**, Pan American Airways flew its first Boeing 707 jetliner from New York to Paris. The trip took eight hours and 41 minutes.

**On October 27, 1858**, Theodore Roosevelt, who

would become the 26th president of the United States, was born in New York City.

**On October 27, 1904**, the New York subway (America's first) opened for business. It ran from the Brooklyn Bridge to downtown Manhattan.

**On October 27, 1947**, the radio show, "You Bet Your Life," starring Groucho Marx, premiered on ABC Radio. It later became an NBC television show.

**On October 27, 1997**, the Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 554 points, the largest point loss in history.

**On October 28, 1636**, Harvard College (now University), was founded in Cambridge, Mass.

**On October 28, 1776**, the crucial Revolutionary "Battle of White Plains" was fought.

**On October 28, 1793**, Eli Whitney applied for a patent for his cotton gin. It was granted six months later.

**On October 28, 1886**, the Statue of Liberty was dedicated in New York harbor.

**On October 28, 1919**, prohibition became a reality (at least on paper) with the passage, over President Wilson's veto, of the Volstead Prohibition Enforcement Act.

**On October 29, 1929**, the New York Stock Market crashed. Known as "Black Tuesday," it would take World War II to bring the nation out of the depression that followed.

**On October 29, 1940**, the United States began its first peace-time military draft.

**On October 29, 1964**, thieves made off with the Star of India and other gems from the American Museum of Natural History in New York. The Star and most of the other gems were recovered; three men were convicted in the case.

**On October 29, 1967**, the musical "Hair" opened off Broadway.

**On October 29, 1979**, Chicago's State Street Mall was officially dedicated.

**On October 30, 1912**, Vice President James Sherman, who was renominated for a second term, died a few days before the election.

**On October 30, 1929**, on the first day following the crash of Oct. 29, heavy buying by John D. Rockefeller, as well as by the "House of Morgan," failed to stem the rapid decline in stock prices.

**On October 30, 1938**, a national panic took place as Orson Wells did a radio dramatization of "The War of the Worlds," a novel by H. G. Wells. As he described the invasion of New Jersey by the Martians, thousands of listeners fled their homes, many heading for remote parts of the country.

**On October 30, 1975**, *The New York Daily News* ran the headline "Ford to City: Drop Dead" a day after President Gerald R. Ford said he would veto a proposed federal bailout of New York.

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## Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

**Motherless Brooklyn** by Jonathan Lethem (paperback, \$16.95 in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook. 311 pages)

*“There’s a lot of traffic in my head, and it’s two-way.”*

Tourette’s syndrome. It’s a tough life for those who suffer through this treatable, but incurable condition. A story where the narrator is a man with Tourette’s provides a unique look into his daily struggle, and how it affects his look at life.

This review is another book vs. movie debate. My editor, Andrew, will review the film when it’s released. Meanwhile, I have read the book: an amazing read I believe will not translate well onto the screen. I might add it received the prestigious National Book Critics Circle Award for fiction (1999).

The story begins with a murder, but that’s just something to file away for later inspection. The real story starts out at St. Vincent’s Home for Boys in Brooklyn in 1979. Lionel Esrog — he of the Tourette’s — and three of his fellow inmates are introduced one day to Frank Minna. The boys, Lionel, Gilbert Coney, Tony Vermonte and Danny Fantl, are 13 to 15 years old.

Minna takes them out to help load trucks at one location and unload at another. Easy job. One job takes them to an old and fading brownstone. They unload musical instruments, then Minna takes them in the house to introduce them to Mr. Matricardi and Mr. Rockaforte. Old as dirt and obviously some kind of Brooklyn royalty — no first names and no questions, you listen. What is that all about? Nothing more is said by Minna about the old men.

*“Minna’s Court Street was the old Brooklyn, a placid ageless surface alive underneath with talk... All was talk except for what mattered most, which were unspoken understandings.”*

Minna gives each boy a \$20 bill and a can of beer after they’re done, and business cards that say L&L Movers. Nice.

And so, the boys fall into a routine with Minna. But Lionel’s Tourette’s tics still make him the butt of jokes. He hides in the library, reading a lot to avoid the other boys who torment him constantly.

Minna makes fun of Lionel’s condition, too, but in a friendlier way. One day, he brings Lionel a book on Tourette’s — finally, Lionel can put a name to his tics. He goes to the school’s visiting nurse, who diagnoses and gets him meds: *“...only to discover*

*an absolute intolerance: The chemicals slowed my brain to a morose crawl, were a boot on my wheel of self.”* End of meds.

Obviously, Minna is some kind of small-time crook, working angles and looking for his big opening. He takes a shine to Lionel and realizes there is a brain behind all those shouts and touching. *“Minna loved my effect on his clients and associates, the way I’d unnerve them, disrupt some schmooze with an utterance, a head jerk...I was his special effect, a running joke embodied.”*

And then, Frank Minna disappears from their lives again, just as fast as he had appeared.

Fade to two years later. The boys are in high school, and Minna suddenly appears like the genie from the bottle. No explanation. He tells the boys to quit school, he’s starting a new business, L&L Car Service. Turns out to be more of a detective thing than a limo service. The boys never question, they believe and follow him mindlessly.

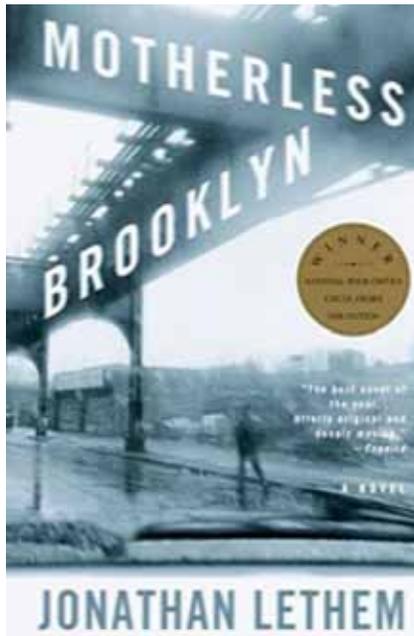
Lionel realizes the Tourette’s will never change, but he does a phenomenal job of working hard to control his tics. He...*“persistently swallowed language back like vomit. It burned as hotly.”* Sometimes, he tries to control the words by touching, but then the words come tumbling out anyway.

The next fade takes us to 15 years later and opens with Minna’s murder. Lionel is in the car when Minna goes into the building and comes out bleeding to death. He keeps in his mind all that he has just witnessed, and decides to find Minna’s killer.

The story, in itself, is a good murder mystery, shrouded by Brooklyn itself, almost the Kingdom of Brooklyn for all its subterfuge and dark dealings. But it is Lionel, himself, who is at the heart of this story. A young boy with Tourette’s, stuck in an orphanage, tormented by others: no wonder Frank Minna must have seemed like his salvation. But everyone underestimates the fact that part of his brain is capable of reason and deduction — as well as a fierce determination.

Getting into Lionel’s head is a fascinating and bittersweet experience. It makes me remember the saying, “walk a mile in my shoes.” In Lionel’s case, it’s “walk a mile in my head” — then you’ll understand what makes this story the book it was meant to be.

Till next, time happy reading.





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