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An Architect for Change

by Linda Weigel

“One of the great beauties of architecture is that each time it is like life starting all over again.”

Renzo Piano



Matt Kubik is photographed in front of Rome's Trevi Fountain.

As a young architecture student at The University of Notre Dame, Matthew Kubik took advantage of its Rome study program, a decision that set him on a lifelong path of research, study and appreciation of ancient Roman architecture.

Kubik's passion found strength through his professors, particularly one in Rome who wrote what he calls a “classic” book on architecture, one that emphasized environics, holistic design and sustainability. An overseas experience through Notre Dame's study abroad program had an even greater impact.

“This was an intense immersion into the meaning and consequences of art, architectural and urban design decisions in the city created in nearly 3,000 years of habitation,” he said. “The lessons learned during that year in Rome have influenced all aspects of my life and creative work, calling me back to Rome to teach, study and learn over 30 times in the past 50 years.

“This is particularly true regarding the importance of the integration of art into the city and its effect on daily life.”

Tall, with an effervescent personality, Kubik is a hometown guy. His father, Dr. F.J. Kubik, was a well-known Michigan City physician and surgeon who served as chief of staff for St. An-

thony Hospital. His mother, Frances Kubik, was the first woman elected to the Michigan City Area Schools board and served as its first woman president.

Today, Matthew Kubik is a respected architect/designer/educator/author, still passionate about the classical roots of architecture, about sustainability and environmental impact.

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“I think I’m one of those guys that’s hard to describe,” he said. “Foremost, I consider myself an artist with the broad understanding that art encompasses all aspects of our lives. The range of my work includes drawing, sketching, painting, photography, sculpture, graphic design, interior design, theater set design, museum exhibition design, architecture and urban planning and design.”

Kubik graduated from Elston High School and attended St. Joseph’s College in Rensselaer for a year before transferring to Notre Dame. By the end of his sophomore year, he switched majors and was

accepted into its school of architecture, graduating with Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Architecture degrees.

While in Rome, Kubik took the time to study, to get to know the city well and complete many sketches. That first year in Rome was extraordinary, followed by three or four more visits while still a student. One interesting aspect involved transportation. At that time, students were sent overseas with no return tickets, so they were on their own to get home. Once in Rome, he would buy a round-trip ticket to fly home, then use the other half to return again during spring break.

After completing his undergraduate work, Kubik was accepted into graduate-level study at the



Matt's sketch of the Via dei Cappellari.



A sketch by Matt of the Pantheon.

Royal College of Art in London, “as one of the few American students studying in the school of environmental design,” he said. Kubik then continued his graduate studies at London’s Architectural Association School of Architecture. This afforded the opportunity to research urban energy flow through communities in Yorkshire, England. Such an experience led to an understanding of how the use and flow of energy is considered in buildings, and how that affects the environment: a key component of his future as an architect.



Matt, lecturing in front of the Roman Forum.



“The most important thing about Spaceship Earth – an instruction book didn’t come with it.”

R. Buckminster Fuller

A key moment for Kubik arrived when he met architect-inventor-holistic thinker R. Buckminster Fuller, who spoke at Sinai Forum. What an opportunity, as Fuller was internationally admired. A man who wore many hats — designer, inventor, author, visionary – he popularized terms such as synergetic, dymaxion and Spaceship Earth. His ground-breaking geodesic dome design was perhaps best realized in his 1967 work (now titled “Biosphere”) developed

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for the International and Universal Exposition in Montreal, Canada. The structure served as the U.S. pavilion for the World's Fair. Fuller's work in utilizing science and design strove to create a sustainable planet, clicking with Kubik's growing interest in the environmental impact of urban planning and design.

In the early 1990s, Kubik took his wife, Sharon, to Rome to experience the city. It occurred to him afterward he could do the same thing for his Purdue students. Consequently, he designed and implemented an intensive two-week course in Rome. Part of the classroom training in architecture involved urban sketching/drawing, a legacy that goes back to the Renaissance. Students studied, drew and measured architecture.



Kubik is a registered, practicing architect in Indiana. At the start of his career, he worked for several architectural firms, including Skidmore, Owings and Merrill in Chicago, later moving into an educational role beginning in 1983 as an assistant professor of architectural technology at Indiana University Purdue University Fort Wayne.

His passion for incorporating sustainability is central to his work as an architect. He feels the current global, economic and now global-health crises point the way to rethink and reimagine new solutions. At issue are the qualities of low impact on the environment and depletion of natural resources. Implementing the necessary protocols for long-term ecological balance is the highest priority. He describes sustainability in four points:

1. An understanding the Earth is a finite system
2. The need to achieve a balance of resource use, with the ability of systems to regenerate.
3. Reliance on natural energy flows.
4. Eliminate the concept of waste.

"Application of these principles has profound implications on all aspects of our economic, cultural

and social life," Kubik said, "ultimately changing the form and shape of our buildings and cities."

His passion for Rome as a keystone to his study of sustainability comes from the fact that as a civilization, ancient Rome presented a template worthy of future consideration.

"As the population of Rome contracted during the Dark Ages, it was reduced from over 1 million supported by the resources of the then entire known world," he said. "By the year 800, the estimated population had dropped to between 30,000 to 50,000 supported and in balance with the local and regional resources. It stayed at that level for the next 1,000 years until the expansion of the Industrial Age in the 1800s."

After 30 years as a teaching professional, now a Purdue professor emeritus, Kubik still loves to teach and lead summer excursions to Rome, sketchbook at hand and ready to share. This has led to a

number of solo art exhibits showcasing his drawings and sketches.

Never one to wear just one hat, Kubik has written numerous articles and published a book, [The Green Age: Transforming Your Life Choices for the 21st Century](#), that he cowrote with M. Regina Leffers and Patrick Ashton. Additionally, he has served as a script and technical consultant for the TV program "Life After People

– The Series" for The History Channel. Scholarly presentations, workshop participant and conference leader, recipient of architectural awards: The list goes on. He even is involved in translating a book from Italian to English.

Kubik could have settled anywhere in the world, but he chose his hometown after retiring from the university.

"Returning to Michigan City, my attention has been on applying the lessons of Rome to my local activities for improvement of the city I love," he said. "The expression and display of art is how a community expresses its cultural identity – and beside, that has significant proven social and economic benefits. Michigan City is definitely culturally alive with its galleries, theaters, music and art events."



A sketch by Matt of the Piazza Navonna.

Kubik continued.

“What is the quality of life in this new world?,” he asked. For him, the answer is that our civilization often can best express itself through art, music, literature and drama

“Our sustainable world will find expressions in all of these cultural expressions,” he said, “including the importance of public art.”

Kubik’s immersion into the social and art fabric of Michigan City has included his work as president of the Southern Shore Art Association, and serving on the artist review committee to select the first applicants for Artspace Uptown Artist Lofts in downtown Michigan City. He also has set up his studio and mini-gallery known as studioROMA in the FADA building at 617 Franklin St. He serves on Michigan City’s Public Art Committee, has been an invited speaker to Rotary Club, Barker Mansion “History on Tap,” Michigan City Public Library and most recently for the Michigan City Economic Development Corp. Neighborhood Leadership Academy.

Active in Rotary, he says, “My parents instilled in me the duty of public service, and I have embraced the motto of Rotary, Service Before Self.”

When you combine that sense of commitment to community, with a drive for environmental and sustainable living, you have an individual dedicated to applying lessons learned through years of careful study and research to the town and state he deeply loves. A true Renaissance man.

(Matt Kubik will post a “virtual gallery” of Rome Urban Sketching on his studioROMA Facebook page. Visit www.facebook.com/studioroma.design)



Matt doesn’t limit his art to sketches. This is a wall mural executed in grisaille and based on one of his Rome sketchbooks.



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“Lost Girls” Takes Unflinching Look at Long Island Serial Killer

by Andrew Tallackson

Amy Ryan deserves far more love than she accrues. And if, by reading this, your reaction was, “Who’s Amy Ryan?,” well, then, I rest my case.

Ben Affleck’s “Gone Baby Gone” (2007) should have made her a star. As the reckless parent of an abducted child, the actress, for my money, gave the best performance of 2007. Stripped of her natural beauty, she was raw, infuriating, devastating. The work scored a Best Supporting Actress nomination, but lost to Tilda Swinton for the wildly overpraised “Michael Clayton.”

Since then, Ryan delivered another powerhouse turn in Clint Eastwood’s “Changeling” (2008), was beautifully restrained in Steven Spielberg’s “Bridge of Spies” (2015) and proved her comedic chops not just in NBC’s “The Office,” but also 2016’s “Central Intelligence” — hilarious as a by-the-book agent tracking Dwayne Johnson and Kevin Hart’s arrested-development goofballs.

“Lost Girls,” a true story about unsolved murders linked to the Long Island serial killer, places Ryan center stage. Scene for scene, she carries this hard-edged thriller.

Now streaming on Netflix, the film is based on Robert Kolker’s non-fiction work of the same name. Unidentified to this date, the Long Island serial killer murdered anywhere from 10 to 16 people over 20 years. Most were women identified as prostitutes.

Victims were found within the Ocean Parkway, near isolated beach towns like Gilgo and Oak Beach.

Ryan stars as Mari Gilbert, whose 24-year-old daughter, Shannan, goes missing in May 2010, prompting her to hound area police. Mari is not a cut-and-dried parent. She relinquished Shannan to foster care when she was 12, unable to care for her when she began exhibiting signs of bipolar disorder. And at the time of her disappearance, Shannan was working as a prostitute, fitting the profile of the serial killer’s targets. When police suggest Shannan was on drugs at the time, Mari challenges the findings. In an unconventional move, she brings her younger daughters, Sherre (Thomasin McKenzie) and Sarra (Oona Laurence), with her as her police probe continues.

Directed by Liz Garbus, “Lost Girls” is unflinchingly unsentimental. No easy catharsis. Instead, all eyes are on Ryan, who never descends into cheap

theatrics. Instead, she is relentless, pitched at an exhaustive level that never wavers.

The find is McKenzie as Mari’s middle daughter. Last seen as a Jewish girl hiding in Nazi Germany in the Oscar-winning “Jojo Rabbit,” the New Zealand actress occasionally trips over her American accent, reverting to her native dialect, but the emotional trajectory of the performance is quietly heartbreaking. A daughter staring tragedy in the face and tapping into a reservoir of strength. This performance, more so than “Jojo Rabbit,” reveals McKenzie as an actress to watch out for.



Amy Ryan stars as a mother searching for answers in her daughter’s disappearance in “Lost Girls.”

★ ★ ★ 1/2

“Lost Girls”

Running time: 95 minutes. Rated R
for language throughout

“Lost Girls” does not have a happy ending. We know that from the start. But it stirs us as Mari finds comfort through survivors of those slain by the Long Island serial killer. Their brittle bond, particularly as they embrace while Mari addresses the media, is deeply moving. Sisterhood triggered by unfathomable grief. These women are still standing, by strength and courage alone, amid heartbreak.

And through it all, Ryan, a consummate actress, at the top of her game. A performance that should not be missed.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com



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Cincinnati Zoo Offers Lively Programs Daily on Facebook Page

by Andrew Tallackson



Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden kicked off its “Home Safari Facebook Lives” program with the hugely popular Fiona, a baby hippo born prematurely at the zoo. Photo by Kathy Newton.

To curb the spread of COVID-19, the staff at Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden made a smart move. If, by temporarily closing their doors, they could not bring people to admire their animals, then they’d bring their animals to the people.

After closing March 16, the zoo introduced “Home Safari Facebook Lives” at 2 p.m. CDT daily on its Facebook page, as well as through its website and on YouTube. The first one centered on Fiona, its famous hippo.

“We’re bringing the zoo to people who are stuck at home,” Zoo Director Thane Maynard said in a news release. “This zoo is so important to the community, and not being able to visit will create a void that we’re trying to fill. The goal with the daily live sessions is to provide fun and educational content to people who are stuck at home.”

The move paid off. After announcing the “Home Safari Facebook Lives” effort, the post reached 18 million people, with 283,000 shares. The Facebook page also drew 400,000 new followers.

Growing up with aunts, uncles and cousins in Cincinnati, the zoo was a regular stop whenever we visited them. Opening in 1875 on 65 acres, it is the country’s second oldest zoo. The original animal collection, according to the zoo’s website, featured eight monkeys, two bears, three deer, six raccoons,



two elk, a buffalo, hyena, tiger, alligator, circus elephant and more than 400 birds, including a talking crow. Today, it attracts more than 1.5 million people

annually. Its residents include more than 500 animal and 3,000 plant species.

The first "Home Safari Facebook Lives" program featured Fiona, the baby hippo born six weeks premature at the zoo. She's become a worldwide phenomenon, and the Facebook program on her is absolutely delightful.

All the programs are, with zoo staff keeping the discussions light and lively, the animals, themselves, frequently stealing the spotlight.

The zoo has crafted a daily series that is perfect for families, a welcome distraction from these days of social distancing. Check it out!

(Visit www.facebook.com/cincinnati_zoo to watch the daily programs.)

Kris the cheetah (below) and Seyla the rhino (right) are among the animals featured in "Home Safari Facebook Lives."



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“Spenser Confidential” Lays Groundwork For Promising Franchise

by Andrew Tallackson



Mark Wahlberg and Winston Duke play unlikely roommates in “Spenser Confidential.”

“Spenser Confidential” could signify a new franchise for Mark Wahlberg and company...if they play their cards right.

The film is loosely lifted from Ace Atkins’ “Wonderland,” which borrowed characters from the late crime writer Robert B. Parker. It has all the ingredients of modern gumshoe tales: quirky characters, offbeat humor, a mystery complicated enough to be marginally compelling. Nothing new, but the talent, the *potential*, is there.

Many a mystery opens at the end of the story, then reverts back in time, cobbling together the events that advanced toward it. “Spenser Confidential,” now streaming on Netflix, flips that formula the middle finger by opening with a foul-mouthed scuffle that *advances* the action five years later. Boston police officer Spenser (Wahlberg) investigates a domestic disturbance at the home of his superior, Captain Boylan (Michael Gaston), that leads to the two trading blows on his front steps. Spenser lands in prison, released five years later into the care of his mentor, Henry (Alan Arkin, droll as always), the same day Boylan is murdered in an execution-style killing. Soon after, a respected officer, Terrence Graham (Brandon Scales), is found dead in his SUV. Police call it a suicide, a desperate act after wiping out Boylan. Cut and dried? Not to Spenser. Despite no longer being in law enforcement, he decides to



“Spenser Confidential”

Running time: 111 minutes. Rated R for violence, language throughout and sexual content

investigate for himself.

“Spenser Confidential” marks the fifth collaboration between Wahlberg and Director Peter Berg, the others being “Lone Survivor,” “Deepwater Horizon,” “Patriots Day” and “Mile 22.” Berg does not make great movies. He makes good guy movies. Nothing outside-the-box original, but tight, action-oriented fare where lead characters never back off from a bare-fisted brawl and swear like sailors on meth.

The mystery of “Spenser Confidential” isn’t much of surprise. Dirty cops covering for each other. It’s the “getting there” that proves enjoyable. With Spenser being a former officer, he knows all the key players, their hangouts. The movie enjoys sifting through Boston’s working-class neighborhoods, where everyone has the street smarts to remain one step ahead of each other.

In the process, the movie affords Spenser a ragtag band of cohorts, the actors settling into roles that, if “Spenser” does continue from here, will become its

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selling point. We have Spenser's roommate, Hawk, a giant hulk of a man played by Winston Duke ("Us," Black Panther) with Teddy bear sweetness. There's also Cissy Davis, Spenser's on-again-off-again gal, hilariously played by Iliza Shlesinger as a loudmouthed *Baww-wstun* prima donna. Put these three together during the shoot-'em-out climax, with Arkin's what-me-worry antics in the periphery, and you have comic gold.



Iliza Shlesinger adds to the laughs at Spenser's sometimes girlfriend.

True, "Spenser Confidential" is not as funny or clever as it thinks it is. The screenplay by Sean O'Keefe and Oscar-winner Brian Helgeland ("L.A. Confidential") contains its share of funny lines, but not enough overall comic inspiration.

However, what we're seeing is three good actors — Wahlberg, Duke, Shlesinger — nicely settle into their roles. So when the door is left *wide* open for Spenser's next case, everyone appears game for more. We are, too.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

Transparency Sheets Needed

Donations of transparency sheets are needed for a project that involves making face shields for hospitals in LaPorte and Starke counties.

Making the shields are Safe Harbor's Michigan City Robotics Team and Project Lead the Way engineering students and teachers.

Students can make five shields per day on each of the 16 3-D printers. The transparency sheets will clip into the devices.

To maximize efforts, students are reaching out to anyone with transparency sheets to donate. Contact Michigan City High School Associate Principal Julie Fregien to schedule a pickup at (219) 588-1801 or jfregien@mcas.k12.in.us

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PAST IS PROLOGUE?

When COVID-19 shut me down March 24th, I reached for my computer to see what happened in the 2008 real-estate debacle. I wanted to guesstimate what is going to happen in the future based on what happened during that period.

Here are the numbers from March 1 through Feb. 28 beginning 2004-2005, including the past 12 months.

Yrs	Un its	Med Sold price	Med L ft	Med S ft	High Mil price	Tot Mil \$ Vol	Cu Da mk
4-5	122	340k	185	173	1.46	45.3	90
5-6	109	366k	206	190	2.85	47.7	115
6-7	91	355k	219	201	1.70	40.1	136
7-8	81	360k	196	188	1.33	32.0	97
8-9	70	425k	208	191	2.63	34.0	145
9-10	60	323k	178	167	1.00	21.5	178
10-11	76	291k	176	163	1.00	26.7	164
11-12	71	290k	171	150	1.60	27.7	133
12-13	92	270K	136	124	1.90	32.9	114
13-14	99	287K	144	132	2.20	39.1	153
19-20	139	360K	188	177	2.35	65.0	94

I am puzzled by the non-correlation between square-foot price and market activity, as well as the seemingly total disjunction between price and days on market. Buyers who ask about market time may be asking the wrong question? This data says, "Yes, time on market is the wrong question."

Here are my projections to be tested by reality over the next five years.

- We will go from 139 sales per year to circa 68 sales per year for the next 24 months.
- The \$Volume will drop from \$65 million per year to circa \$31 million per year for the next 24 months.
- Median Sale Price and \$ per square foot price will not change linearly and not relate to the first two projections. You may sell for more or less than the overall market predicts
- You will be able to sell quickly if you get the property priced correctly. See #5. Some sellers will lose money. More will do fine based on the price they paid to buy their property.
- It is going to be a great time to buy in the next two years because wealth status changes will generate motivated sellers, and interest rates will bounce between 3 and 4% for fixed 30-year loans with 20% down payments.
- Market will have totally recovered and moved forward by March 2025.

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Student to Join Choir at Carnegie Hall

Krueger Middle School student Joie Nichols has been selected for the 2020 Middle School Honors Performance Series, through which she'll perform with the Honors Junior Choir in late June at Carnegie Hall.



Nichols

Participation in one of the honors ensembles is limited to the highest-rated middle-school performers from across North America and select schools internationally. Nichols is a member of Krueger's Eighth Grade Chorus. She auditioned this past winter for the Honors Performance Series and was chosen after the Honors Selection Board reviewed her application and audition recording.

Junior finalists are scheduled to meet in New York City and perform June 28 at Carnegie Hall, working with conductors and other junior finalists.

At this time, no plans for canceling or rescheduling have been announced due to COVID-19; however, Nichols and her music teacher, Shirley Allen, realize this is a possibility, according to a press release. Carnegie Hall has announced it is canceling all events through May 10.

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4. Protect the roots out to the drip line from any activity other than foot traffic. The drip line is simply the outside edge of the canopy. On a mature open grown oak, it can be a circle of 60 feet in diameter.
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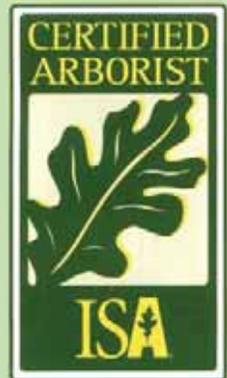
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Octavia Spencer is a Marvel

Ever since Octavia Spencer served a revenge pie laced with fecal garnish in “The Help,” audiences can’t get enough of her.

As an actress, she knows how to swipe the spotlight from her co-stars. In films like “Hidden Figures” and “The Shape of Water,” she doesn’t just chew the scenery. She begins succinctly at each corner of the set until little remains but her exuberant personality. Physically, she defies convention. She isn’t waif-thin, like scarfing a rice cookie blew her diet. She is pretty, but prefers period pieces where she goes without makeup. She plays women who stand their ground amid a society that tries to marginalize them.

Spencer flourishes in supporting roles, which is why “Self Made: Inspired by the Life of Madam C.J. Walker” is a treat. The actress is center stage in all four episodes of the Netflix miniseries, and she storms through it, like it’s the role she craved all her life.

More than likely, she has. “Self-Made,” a passion project for the actress, delves into the life of Sarah Breedlove, better known as Madam C.J. Walker, who become the country’s first black, self-made female millionaire by selling and marketing hair-care products to women of color.

This was a story crying out to be told, and while the miniseries lapses into soapy territory, with symbolic fantasy sequences that are more distraction than embellishment, Spencer is unstoppable, carrying each episode as only an Oscar winner can do.

Based on A’Lelia Bundles’ “On Her Own Ground,” “Self-Made” begins at the turn of the 20th century with Sarah Breedlove poor, washing clothes and quickly losing her hair when she meets Addie (Carmen Ejogo), whose miracle grow product not only covers all the bald spots on Sarah’s scalp, but over time restores her hair to its full length. Wanting to aid Addie by getting the word out, Addie shoots her down, saying no women will buy products from a woman who looks like her. Devastated, Sarah nonetheless turns the other cheek, improving on Addie’s product with her own creation and moving to Indianapolis with her husband, Charles James Walker

(Blair Underwood), and daughter, Lelia (Tiffany Haddish). From there, Sarah finds with every new success is another hurdle waiting to knock her down a peg or two.

Sarah’s journey from poor washer woman to millionaire explores issues of race rarely tackled on film or television. What drives Sarah, now as Madam C.J. Walker, is an understanding that black women are an untapped demographic in terms of beauty



Octavia Spencer is a force of nature in “Self Made: Inspired by the Life of Madam C.J. Walker.”

products. These women have money to spend, and better yet, definitions of beauty do *not* have to be defined by white standards. Black women, she shouts to surrounding crowds within marketplaces, are their own standard and level of beauty. So what “Self-Made” really is about is empowerment, about black women taking charge of their own appearance, bolstering their confidence in the process.

The irony of Madam C.J. Walker’s story, what makes the miniseries so bingeable, is that the threats to her success often come not from whites, but from within. White business owners, eager to make a profit, see “green” through her products and are eager to work with her. Turns out, attempts to sabotage her escalating success come from family and colleagues. A lazy son-in-law, John Robinson (J. Alphonse Nicholson), whose negligence leads to a factory fire, and who eventually spills secrets to Ad-

in Netflix's "Self-Made"

by Andrew Tallackson

die. And a husband who strays from the roost.

The relationship between Sarah and C.J., in fact, is the most distressing element in her life. The



Carmen Ejogo (above) and Blair Underwood (below), both pictured with Spencer, are exceptional in key supporting roles.



two begin side by side, C.J. supporting her at every turn. But as her success mounts, he gets left in the dust. Wrestling with being a black man eclipsed by his wife at a time when women were subservi-

ent to men, C.J. embarks on a dalliance with one of Sarah's saleswomen. Underwood is exceptional, especially in difficult scenes where husband and wife go head to head, but the obvious score by composer Larry Goldings treats these scenes like soap opera, often diluting their potency.

Another complex individual, Sarah's daughter Lelia, is done a considerable disservice by Haddish. Lelia, according to the miniseries, was a closeted lesbian who married to appease her mother, but met in secret with a female lover. This is a chance for Haddish, who delights in potty-mouthed class clowns, to flex some dramatic muscle. But Haddish simply does her Haddish shtick, which undermines the scenes with her female lover, and treats the scene where she dances a jig in front of her soon-to-be ex as disposable comedy.

We do admire, however, what Ejogo does with the thankless role of Addie. The role, in many ways, is unplayable. She's the villain of the piece, a relentless thorn in Sarah's side. But Ejogo, a British actress having done fine work in "Selma" and HBO's "True Detective," treats Addie as a study in contrasts, in self-loathing racism. The lighter-skinned Addie sees herself as superior on all levels to Sarah, mistaking beauty as carrying more weight than brains. That she's repeatedly trumped by Sarah leads to their final confrontation in Episode Four: a powerful exchange that places their petty struggles in the context of a society that lynches blacks without hesitation.

Spencer and Ejogo are fierce here. Then again, Spencer rarely slows down in "Self-Made." She plays Madam C.J. Walker as a woman who fears taking any respite will allow others to destroy her. The performance is pitched at an exhaustive level, and you can't take your eyes off of her.

The story of Madam C.J. Walker contains messages that are as relevant today as they were during the times she lived. Glass ceilings exist to be shattered by those bold enough to carry the sledgehammers. "Self Made" isn't perfect, especially those fantasy moments — boxing rings, vaudeville musicals — that belong somewhere else entirely. But more often than not, the miniseries does Madam C.J. Walker does justice. And, it offers proof of something we knew from the start.

Octavia Spencer is leading-lady material.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

Since the kids can't come to school, their school came to them.

Coolspring Elementary School teachers, staff and bus drivers put their creative hearts together in a "Coolspring Caravan" that drove through neighborhoods and down roads within the school's district Monday, March 23. The parade of sorts brought smiles and cheers from the kids and, yes, even tears from the adults as it showed the sweetest school spirit despite social distancing amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Within 24 hours, Third Grade Teacher Abby Vittatoe and School Secretary Kathy Schroll got the wheels in motion – literally.

"My friend tagged me in a video on Facebook of teachers from some other school district doing the caravan. I *knew* I had to do this either by myself or with anyone that would do it," Vittatoe said. "I contacted a few colleagues that were very enthusiastic about it. Then I contacted our CCA (Coolspring Community Association) group and Ms. Schroll to figure out a parade route of highly populated areas. Then we ran with it and got the word out there to the rest of our staff and parents."

Principal Kim Palmer said Coolspring teachers and staff consider themselves an "extended" family to students.

"We want to remind them that even though we can't see them at school every day, we are thinking about them while we're all at our own homes," she said. "Most of them don't understand what is happening in their community, let alone the entire United States and the world, so they may be experiencing stress and anxiety. We are hoping this gesture reminded them how much we care about them!"

Betsy Kohn, the Michigan City Area Schools communications director, agreed.

"This is a living example of how caring and cre-

Coolspring Elementary Students Feel the Love Through Staff Caravan

by Kim Nowatzke



The Coolspring Wildcat mascot was a key part of the caravan featuring Coolspring Elementary School staff.



Signs posted on cars offer support, and encourage continued e-Learning

ative our teachers and staff at Coolspring are," she said. "At all schools across the district, we've seen staff going above and beyond to keep students and families motivated and engaged. This is a time like no other, but our school family is truly an extended family, and we are taking care of one another!"

Schroll estimated about 25 cars participated, along with two school buses. She quickly developed an organized and efficient route that detailed to the minute where the caravan would be and when. Students whose homes weren't on the assigned route could greet the caravan at nearby Creek Ridge County Park. About 15 chose this option, waving from parked cars and sunroofs to the teachers, staff and

bus drivers. Adding more fun, Schroll wore oversized Mickey Mouse gloves her grandkids bought her on a family Disney trip. She noted how Coolspring alumni also came to the caravan route, and many supporters donned spirit-wear clothing. Stirring up even more school spirit was the Coolspring Wildcat mascot worn by Palmer's 14-year-old son, Nick, who rode along in her vehicle.

During the extended absence from school, MCAS teachers are working hard to stay virtually connected to students through daily e-Learning assignments until April 6. After spring break ends April 10, the students will continue e-Learning three days each week through May 1.

And, Palmer said Coolspring teach-

ers are using Screencastify videos, Google Classroom and Google Meet to have real-time interactions with their students; some are even conducting virtual field trips.

But despite these creative efforts to stay connected, teachers and students still miss the in-person interactions with their students.

"Teaching is so much more than just academics or pushing out assignments," Vittatoe said. "We are trying hard to maintain it, but the human aspect is such an integral part of teaching, and it's lacking without person-to-person interaction. I wanted the kids to know we are still here supporting them and not just academically. Also, it was somewhat self-serving, as we all really missed our students and needed to see them as much as we thought they might need to see us. I also think this might motivate kids to keep up with their e-Learning, knowing we care and want the best for them still. There's a real human piece to effectively teaching!"

"Teaching through this can be challenging," Vittatoe continued. "We've been creative and do Google Meet to play Kahoot!, use flash cards, read a chapter book together and even take virtual field trips. However, that doesn't meet everyone's needs. We, as teachers, know some kids need more help or more challenges. We are giving them a one-size-fits-all curriculum, and we know that's not what's best. We are learning how to balance everything and meet their needs while keeping it entertaining."

The Coolspring teachers were in agreement the caravan was just as necessary and rewarding for them as it was for the students.

"It has been a real struggle this past week. Things have been happening so fast and creating the new normal has been difficult," said Nikki Anthony, who teaches kindergarten at Coolspring. "Teachers have spent this year getting to know and forming

Continued on Page 18



Nikki Anthony's vehicle heads along the caravan route.

Coolspring Continued from Page 17

relationships with the students they see every day. The interruption in that routine, while necessary, is hard on both sides.

“So, being a part of the caravan yesterday gave us a little of that back. Getting to see those faces and showing them how much we miss them and care for them was so special. To be quite honest, it was emotional for a lot of us. It was the boost we needed to keep a positive attitude and hold on to hope that we will get to see them again soon.”

Kindergarten teacher Dawn Haines jumped at the chance to join the caravan.

“I wanted to participate because the thought of not seeing students for a month or even longer was heartbreaking,” she said. “I wouldn’t get those daily hugs I was used to. When we left on that Friday, it just didn’t seem real. When we were told we wouldn’t be allowed back in our building after Monday, it really sank in. Coolspring is my home away from home. The teachers and staff aren’t just colleagues — they’re friends.”

“Prior to the caravan, I was a roller coaster of emotions and thought for sure I would be bawling during the whole thing,” Haines continued. “While I was still teary-eyed, it really made me smile to see all the families come out waving and holding up signs. I was excited each time I saw one of my students, past and present.”

Vittatoe described the whole experience as “heartwarming, uplifting and like sunshine. There was finally a tangible piece to the passion that so many teachers possess. It was amazing seeing that passion pour out in a tangible way.”

Two bus drivers, Jamie Brasseur and Dee Wilusz, drive on routes containing Coolspring students and joined the special event.

“As soon as I saw the post on Facebook that Coolspring was doing this, I immediately messaged my boss to see if I could drive my bus in the caravan,” said Brasseur, who began driving Coolspring kids two years ago. “I enjoyed seeing the excitement on



Sixth-grader Allison Sydow and her brother Allen, a fifth-grader, sit in their SUV's hatchback trunk at Creek Ridge County Park.

all the kids’ faces. I couldn’t stop smiling, especially when I drove past ‘my kids.’ I’m thankful I was able to be a part of this, and I hope it showed the parents and the kids how much the kids means to their teachers *and* bus drivers.”

Wilusz, who has been driving a school bus for 22 years, said the caravan was a great way to let students know they are missed.

“Coolspring values community, and as bus drivers we are part of that community. Bus drivers are the first people to greet students and prepare them for the day and the last in the school community to say goodbye,” she said. “This is an unprecedented situation, and the entire MCAS community is being creative, selfless and hardworking to meet the needs of our students. I cried during the parade because I was so overwhelmed. I will always treasure that experience.”

Many students made signs to express their sentiments as the Coolspring Caravan wheeled by.

Sixth-grader Allison Sydow told her Coolspring family, “Hope To See You Soon,” through her sign as she and her brother Allen, a fifth-grader, sat in their SUV’s hatchback trunk at Creek Ridge.

“I’m blessed to be a part of a school that goes beyond the lesson plan, and when the teachers’ hearts break not seeing their students in the classroom, they throw a parade,” said their mother, Kim Sydow, who is the CCA treasurer.



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CCA President Amy Williams admitted the caravan lifted her spirits.

“I think the biggest thing it did for us was give the kids something positive to look forward to,” she said. “The kids have been home without going out, so this gave us something to do that was totally out of our new normal routine. I think this event was important because our children are experiencing some very uncertain times. I think they needed to feel like they still have people outside of their parents that care about them. The kids need to feel like they are worth the effort. Yesterday was definitely a great day to be part of the Wildcat family!”

Williams’ son, Nic, is in the fifth grade at Coolspring. His home-made sign contained a heart with “Wildcats” under it. His sister, Juliana, a former Coolspring student who is now in the eighth grade at Barker Middle School, held a sign she’d made that read, “We Miss You!”

Olivia DeMartinis, a fourth-grader at Coolspring, also worked hard on her signs for the caravan. They read, “You Guys Are The Best” and “I Miss You.”

Her mother, Tonya DeMartinis, is the CCA secretary.

“The love I have for these students is what fuels me to volunteer on the parent board for Coolspring,” she said. “Witnessing the love and caring that the staff also has for these wonderful students warmed my heart to the fullest. I feel incredibly lucky to have my daughter attend Coolspring Elementary. This staff has the biggest hearts.”

Ericka Kilbourne enjoyed watching the Coolspring Caravan with her kids: fourth-grader Hannah Kilbourne, along with Jerry Kilbourne and Anabelle Kilbourne, who are both in kindergarten. When she asked Jerry how he felt about seeing his teachers, his reply was, “Normal.”



Nic and Juliana Williams hold up their signs.

“I like his honesty. It made him feel normal to see his teacher,” Kilbourne said, adding, “the staff and teachers demonstrated that they understand that the children’s spirits are as important as their minds for education.”

Jerry, who was excited to see his teacher, Robert Bauer, also was happy to recognize Bauer’s daughter, who joined him on the caravan as she has visited the classroom before. Hannah enjoyed seeing Elizabeth Gast, the music teacher who serves Coolspring and other schools, and her resource teacher, Angela Dydo.

Coolspring mom Molly Koyama also joined her kids, second-grader Dylan Koyama and fourth-grader Layla Koyama, to watch the caravan.

“I know how much my kids miss their teachers and how much school is a part of their lives,” she said. “For them and for me – to see how much their teachers and the school staff miss them and were thinking of them – it meant the world to them and was exactly the boost they needed right now. I was in tears. It was such a strong act of love and community. It’s just another reason why we love our teachers and school so much.”



Coolspring fourth-grader Olivia DeMartinis works hard on her signs for the caravan.



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Keeping Busy Amid the COVID-19 Crisis

by Andrew Tallackson



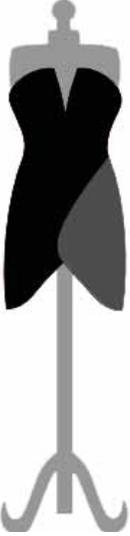
We asked...and you delivered.

In *The Beacher's* March 26 edition and on our Facebook page, we issued a call for readers to submit photos of how they're keeping busy, and sane, during the COVID-19 pandemic. This week, these three were our favorites.

The **top photo**, submitted by Katie Stack and taken by her brother-in-law, Kevin Coleman, features a "socially distant" birthday toast to Casey Allen on March 25 at the Stop 32 beach. The **right photo**, submitted by Kristin Lakin, shows her family playing "Hangman" at their Michigan City home. The **bottom photo**, taken by Amanda Tonagel, showcases family efforts to build a chicken coop at their LaPorte home. Tonagel, a photographer, also took the photo that will appear on the cover of our April 9 Easter edition.

Submit your photos to drew@thebeacher.com by noon each Thursday for consideration.





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Friendship Botanic Gardens Open Within Social Distancing Guidelines

Amid COVID-19 cautions, community members can take advantage of Friendship Botanic Gardens membership benefits while still following social distancing guidelines.

Situated on 105 acres at 2055 E. U.S. 12, the local attraction includes forested woodlands, open meadows and several cultivated gardens. Members can take a walk, hike or jog on three miles of trails.

Memberships, which are valid for one year from the date of purchase, allow members access to trout and salmon fishing on Trail Creek (with appropriate licenses and membership), reciprocal membership with special admission privileges and discounts to more than 200 American Horticultural Society Gardens nationwide.

Membership levels include rates for students, young adults, families and friends. For those who pay online, PayPal receipts may be used as temporary membership cards. Once a membership is purchased, contact the Gardens office to learn about how to access the grounds when the gates are closed to the public. Active duty military (with ID) receives free admission to the Gardens.

For more information, visit friendshipgardens.org/membership-benefits. Call (219) 878-9885 or email info@friendshipgardens.org for additional information.



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Area Cancellations and Updates

- The Annunciation and Agia Paraskevi Greek Orthodox Church in New Buffalo, Mich., has canceled its Spring Bake Sale and Presale.
- Footlight Players has closed its Franklin Street theater, 1705 Franklin St. The April 2 give-back night at Galveston Steakhouse is canceled, as is the April 24 Friday @ Footlight. The May production of "Steel Magnolias" is canceled as well.
- The LaPorte County Solid Waste District compost site, office and electronic waste dropoff are closed until further notice. No illegal dumping is allowed. Curbside recycling is running, and staff are available at (219) 326-0014, www.solidwaste-district.com or www.facebook.com/LPCoRecycling
- The League of Women Voters LaPorte County has canceled Dinner With the League, originally scheduled for 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 14.
- The Michigan City Chamber Music Festival canceled programs scheduled for April 6 and 7, April 18 and May 3 and 4. Visit mccmf.org and facebook.com/MCCMF for updates.
- The Michigan City Park Department has closed all city playgrounds until further notice, as well as Michigan City Municipal Golf Course, Washington Park Zoo, Michigan City Senior Center, Krueger Memorial Hall, the Oasis Splash Park, Guy Foreman Amphitheater, the old bandstand, all park programs and city picnic shelters.
- Michigan City Public Library — The Friends of the Library postponed the April 25 Collector's Corner Breakfast. Anyone who purchased tickets can request a refund from the person who sold them, or call (219) 873-3049. Leave a message and someone will return the call as soon as possible.
- The Purdue University Northwest May commencement ceremonies are canceled. PNW is exploring possible alternatives to honor graduates.



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A Guide to Area Restaurants Offering Carryout, Delivery Services

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, *The Beacher* looked into which restaurants in our area are still offering carryout.

A few restaurants also are offering delivery or curbside service, and that is noted as well. Please call ahead to confirm what is available.

By no means is this list a complete guide to local restaurants. Our staff tried to reach as many places as possible by phone, or by checking websites and facebook pages.

Michigan City Area

- A Slice of Heaven. (219) 380-8374.
- Albano's Villa. (219) 872-0571.
- Barker Pub. (219) 873-9306.
- Bartlett's Fish Camp. (219) 879-9544.
- Ben's Soft Pretzels (delivery available). (219) 879-5557.
- Biggby Coffee. (219) 809-9912
- Buffalo Wild Wings (delivery available). (219) 872-9464.
- Carlson's (regular services). (219) 872-0331.
- Chili's Grill & Bar (curbside, delivery available). (219) 872-2266.
- China One. (219) 872-7722.
- Cool Runnings Jamaican Restaurant. (219). 210-3885.
- Creekside Bar & Grill (curbside available). (219) 814-4041.
- Denny's (delivery available). (219) 879-1860.
- Domino's Pizza. (219) 879-8330.
- El Cajete. (219) 872-3333.
- El Cantarito (curbside, delivery available). (219) 243-7117.
- Fiddlehead (delivery available). (219) 210-3253.
- FLUID Coffeebar and Roasting Lab (ask about delivery). (219) 878-1800.
- Frosty Boy. (219) 874-3773.
- Galveston Steakhouse. (219) 879-5555.
- Gelsosomo's. (219) 872-3838.
- Hacienda Mexican Restaurants (curbside available). (219) 879-4404.
- Hammer's Restaurant. (219) 879-0760.
- Hokkaido Japanese Restaurant. (219) 814-4226.
- Holly's Restaurant. (219) 879-5124.
- India House Restaurant. (219) 874-5700.
- Jimmy John's. (219) 871-0850.
- Joe's Bar & Grill and Pizzeria. (219) 879-9336.
- Leeds Public House. (219) 814-4530.
- Lighthouse Restaurant (drive-through, curbside available). (219) 872-1900.
- Little Caesar's Pizza. (219) 879-3211.
- Little Giant Pizza. (219) 874-4268.
- Local Option (delivery available). (219). 874-3663
- Long John Silver's (drive-through). (219) 879-4193.
- Memo's House of Pancakes. (219) 871-1583.
- Miller Pizza by the Beach. (219) 878-9480.
- Mucho Mas Michigan City. (219) 221-6639.
- Olive Garden Italian Restaurant. (219) 879-6830
- Panda Express. (219) 879-1079.
- Panera Bread (drive-through available). (219) 879-5765.
- Panini Panini (free delivery through March 29). (219) 873-1720.
- Papa John's Pizza. (219) 872-7227.
- Patrick's Grille (curbside pickup). (219) 873-9401.
- Pita Express. (219) 210-3512.
- Polish Peasant (curbside). (219) 873-1788.
- Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen (drive-through available). (219) 210-3540.
- Red Lobster (delivery available). (219) 879-1328.
- Roma Pizza Michigan City. (219) 872-9123.
- Royale With Cheese. (219) 243-7106.
- Schoop's. (219) 872-0170.
- Shrimp Max of Michigan City. (219) 221-6485.
- Sophia's House of Pancakes. (219) 879-9999.
- Stadium Inn. (219) 879-9781.
- Station 801. (219) 872-4976.
- Stop 50. (219) 879-8777.
- Swingbelly's Restaurant. (219) 874-5718.
- Tap House (curbside). (219) 221-6099.
- Taverna Tonelli. (219) 243-7181.
- The Blind Pig (delivery available). (708) 243-0952.

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- Three Sheets Bar & Grill. (219) 878-9872.
- Wana Pizza. (219) 873-9262.
- Zorn Brew Works Co. (219) 243-7157.

Fast Food with Drive-Throughs

- Arby's. (219) 879-0500
- Burger King. (219) 879-0509
- Culver's. (219) 872-5065
- Dunkin Donuts. (219) 879-2922
- Hardee's. (219) 879-8025
- KFC. (219) 879-0343
- McDonalds. (219) 874-7772
- Rally's. (219) 221-6001
- Sonic. (219) 878-1950
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- Burger King. (219) 325-9000.
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- Dairy Queen Grill & Chill. (219) 325-0400.
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- KFC. (219) 326-7433.
- McDonald's (Boyd Boulevard). (219) 362-6717; Pine Lake Avenue. (219) 362-5819.
- Pizza Hut. (219) 324-5180.
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- Wendy's. (219) 362-1155.

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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.

Indiana Dunes State Park

According to the Indiana Dunes State Park website, outdoor activities, and travel to and from those event, are still permitted. This includes hiking, biking, fishing, hunting and camping. Social distancing is encouraged.

- **Wildflower Wander from 2 to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 4.**
Begin the easy discovery walk at the Nature Center to see which woodland spring wildflowers are blooming. A naturalist will share stories about the flowers.
- **Full Moon Hike from 7 to 10 p.m. Saturday, April 4.**
Meet at the Nature Center for a short presentation about the moon, followed by a hike to Lake Michigan and back.
- **Bird Window Bingo from 2 to 3 p.m. Sunday, April 5.**
Prizes will be awarded during a bird-theme version of the game.

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

- St. John's United Church of Christ, 101 St. John Road, noon-6 p.m. Tuesday, April 7.

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.

A Temporary Change in Office Hours

During the COVID-19 crisis, The Beacher will limit hours it is open to the public. The new hours are

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday
Phone first please (219) 879-0088

Editor Andrew Tallackson will be in the office regular hours throughout the week and can be reached at (219) 879-0088 or drew@thebeacher.com. The weekly deadline to submit ads for the ensuing week's publication remains the same: noon Thursday. The weekly deadline to submit press releases and community notices is noon Thursday as well.



We appreciate all of your patience and support, and we will announce in The Beacher and on Facebook when the office resumes regular hours to the public.



Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

***Lady Clementine* by Marie Benedict** (hardcover; \$26.99 retail in bookstores and online. Also available as an eBook. 310 pages)

He called her “Cat.” She called him “Pug.”

She is Lady Clementine. He is her husband, Winston Churchill. History has written much about him, his life and accomplishments, but not much about the woman who stood beside him through years of political service. Thankfully, Marie Benedict has looked into the rich history of this remarkable woman, adding that story to her growing repertoire of historical novels.

It’s sad to realize having a family and an ambitious husband can be a blessing and curse for a woman, especially one whose ambition matches her husband’s. As women, do we over-extend ourselves too often? We want it all — husband, children, career. And we want it all to work out beautifully and perfectly — no problems, just one big, happy, successful life. Then, we find out the vagaries of life step in to spoil our lofty plans.

Clementine meets Winston at a dinner party to which he arrives late, having left the chair next to her empty — a social faux pax at the time, to be sure. Finally arriving, excuses are made and conversation begins. Clementine, narrator of her own story, finds Winston a most interesting and intelligent man. No surprise they marry on Sept. 12, 1908.

The couple learns they have many things in common, chief of which is both had mothers — Jennie Randolph Churchill and Blanche Hozier — who were notorious for many affairs. In fact, Clementine learns Col. Henry Hozier, thought to be her father, probably isn’t, although the birth certificate acknowledges him. Both fathers were absent in their lives. They were brought up by nannies and tutors.

Clementine had a sister, Kitty, who died young of typhoid, and twin siblings, Nellie and Bill. Winston has one brother, Jack. Clementine was engaged twice and changes her mind twice before meeting Winston.

Those are the basics. Here is a peek at one of the most fascinating couples of the 20th century...

The Churchills have five children: in order of birth — Diana, Randolph, a miscarriage, Sarah, Marigold (died at 2) and Mary. As in most families, they grow up causing their parents love, laughter and some tears. Clementine admits she is not a mother in the strictest sense. She is off with Winston so much, it leaves little time for her children. They, too, grow up

mostly with nannies.

Winston’s political career begins in earnest when he is appointed home secretary, the youngest in 100 years. His political career enters the fast track when he is appointed first lord of the admiralty in 1911.

Clementine takes a deep interest in the suffragette movement, and a *Times* article written by her in 1912 is perhaps the beginning of her own crusades, being more to her husband than just wife and mother. She wants to be his true helpmate.

By the start of World War I in 1914, Winston is gliding along a smooth path until the disaster at the Dardanelles causes his downfall from the admiralty. It is Clementine’s idea for Winston to redeem himself by “volunteering your services for the front.” He does, and it works. But during this time, Clementine has to run a household and take care of the children with much less money...somehow, she always manages.

Joining the army proves a brilliant idea. Clementine knows Winston’s star is on the rise, and “*I am to lay the groundwork for his return to power.*”

Clementine joins groups to help with the war effort while promoting her husband’s political return.

By 1921, Clementine finally overdoes herself and suffers a nervous breakdown. She takes a boat cruise and meets an artist with whom some historians believe she had an affair, but Benedict gives us a different picture of what happened.

The years go by, and Winston finally gets his admiralty post back in 1939 — just in time for World War II. In 1940, King George VI invests Winston with the titles of prime minister and minister of defense — and the rest of Winston’s bio is history.

With the bombing of Britain, Clementine jumps into the fray and does everything from fire watcher to war-effort fund raiser, even walking bombed-out streets giving hope and encouragement to the people.

A perfect women? Of course not. She had her flaws like any of us, but Benedict, through extensive research, provides a fuller picture of a woman in love with a man and a country. Would Winston have been a success without her? We will never know. But a more intelligent woman for her time, outside of Eleanor Roosevelt, would be hard to find. She dealt the hand she was given, in good times and bad. She was a humanitarian, her husband’s constant confidante, and the people of Britain loved her. And she loved them.

Till next time, happy reading!





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Proposed New Constructions



1682 N Circle View Ln, La Porte
Be the first one! Built your choice and selection in under 160 days! 2 acre lot
MLS #452117



81 S Fieldstone Dr, La Porte
Buy new, have no worries! New proposed ranch in tranquil Fairfield Subdivision.
MLS #456874



W 150 N, La Porte
Build it new! New construction proposed on 14 acres with optional basement finish.
MLS #451744



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