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# The Road Home

by Edmund Lawler

Ignoring author Thomas Wolfe's famous admonition that you can't go home again, Don Bowman, landscape architect, U.S. Naval Academy master planner, designer and artist, did just that.

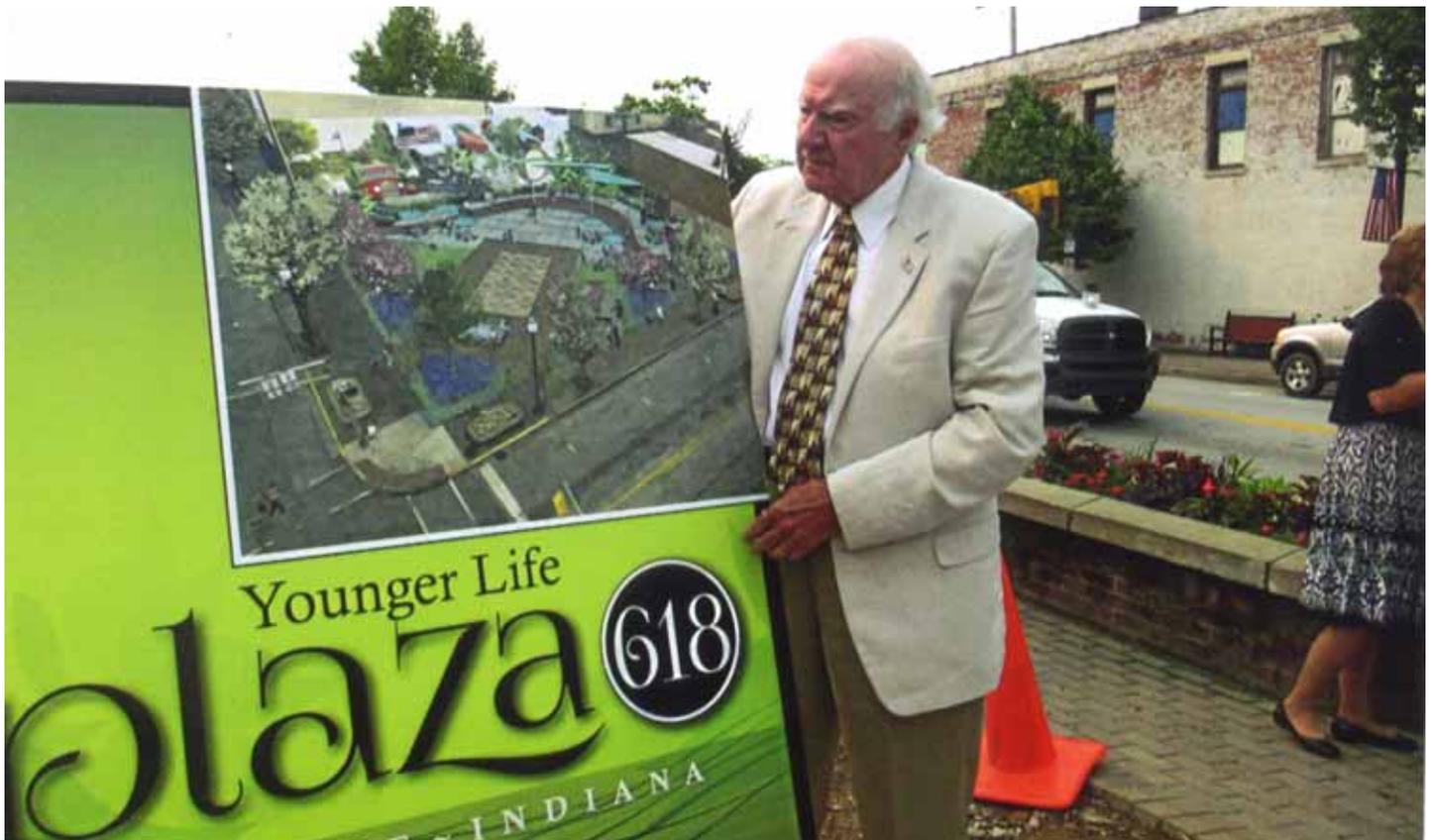
After a 42-year absence, Bowman returned home to live in the house his father built in 1937 atop a hill on a picturesque 10-acre plot on the western shoreline of LaPorte's Pine Lake. Born in 1928, Bowman played a small role in its construction.

"Dad was a rural mail carrier and gathered rocks from farmers' fields," Bowman, who was 9 at the time, recalled. "He taught me how to split the rocks that were used to build two fieldstone fireplaces in

our house."

Bowman lived happily in that house on the hill with his six older siblings until he joined the U.S. Army Air Forces in 1946 after graduating from high school. A year later, it became known as the U.S. Air Force. Bowman first was assigned to Andrews Air Force Base near Washington, D.C., and later Offutt Air Force Base near Omaha, Neb., headquarters of the Strategic Air Command. He rose to become head of SAC's analysis and presentation branch, serving on the staff of SAC Commander Gen. Curtis LeMay. It was at Offutt where he encountered the

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Don Bowman, photographed at the dedication of Plaza 618 in downtown LaPorte, which he designed.

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## The Road Home

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first of several of what he called “life’s crossroads.” Bowman was offered an officer’s commission if he agreed to remain in the Air Force, but his heart’s deepest wish was to become a landscape architect and urban planner.

He went with his heart and enrolled in Michigan State University’s landscape architecture and urban planning program, graduating in 1954. He landed his first job in the town of Okemos near the campus. But he realized he could not endure another bitter Michigan winter.

The Sun Belt beckoned.

“I quit and moved to Fort Lauderdale without a job,” Bowman said in a phone interview. “I quickly had to learn Florida plant materials because Michigan State doesn’t have many palm trees!”

He decided to go the entrepreneurial route and hung out his shingle in Fort Lauderdale, offering landscape architecture and planning services for resorts, commercial properties and private homes. He worked hard, and his business soon flourished.

In addition to his regular services, he employed his artist’s eye and developed a business in architectural scale models. Based on actual architectural drawings, he meticulously crafted more than 800 models over the years. Examples include the renowned Fountainbleu Hotel in Miami Beach and the University of Miami Student Union. Two of his models were included in Florida’s exhibit, which he helped design, for the 1964 World’s Fair in New York City.

The models of-

ten are used by architects and developers to promote a project, and help clients and prospective clients envision the finished product, he explained. Some clients, impressed with the detail he applied to the architectural models, asked him to design their landscaping as well.

Then in 1967, another of life’s crossroads. After successfully running his business for 12 years, he learned his building was to be razed for a redevelopment project. At about the same time, his alma mater, MSU, offered him an assistant professorship in landscape architecture and urban planning.

“I told myself that while I’m at this crossroad, I’ll look at different opportunities,” Bowman said. “I looked at 20 different federal agencies like Forestry or the Bureau of Land Management that employed landscape architects. Over the course of two days in Washington, I had 20 different interviews to determine what my options were.”

He was offered a job at the Department of Defense preparing master plans for naval installations all over the world. He declined MSU’s offer, shuttered his business in Florida and moved to the nation’s capital. Working with a team of three other planners, Bowman did the master plan for the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., first established



Among the many architectural models Don created over the years was of the Fountainbleu Hotel in Miami Beach, Fla.

in 1845. The new master plan would incorporate existing buildings and the scores of war memorials around the grounds with new buildings. The sophisticated plan included everything from underground utilities to plants and trees that would grace the storied campus. And unlike some master plans that linger in dry dock, the Naval Academy’s master plan was largely accepted and quickly put



Don is most proud of his work on the master plan for the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.

out to bid.

Bowman was delighted with the finished product and considers the academy's design one of his top career achievements. Among the other naval installations he helped through master plans was Naval Station Roosevelt Roads in Puerto Rico. Established in 1943, one of its intended purposes was to provide temporary residence to British royals and senior British military in the event Nazi Germany invaded England during World War II, Bowman noted. Fortunately, the Nazis never invaded, but Roosevelt Roads continued to operate as a naval installation until the early 21st century.



An aerial view of the Naval Station Roosevelt Roads in Puerto Rico, for which Don worked on the master plan.

It was Bowman's work on Roosevelt Roads that led to another planning position in the federal government. He had to coordinate some of the installation's planning with the Department of Transportation's Federal Aviation Administration because there were missile firings from the base, which could endanger aircraft.

"Overseas commercial flights in that area had to be carefully coordinated with the FAA on a daily basis," Bowman said. "The FAA inquired about my availability, and I transferred to the FAA."

Continued on Page 4

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## The Road Home Continued from Page 3

He spent the next 18 years with the FAA, specializing in airport noise abatement and land-use planning with the goal of making airports more functional and humane.

In 1981, he produced a 92-page book, *A Study of Airports: Design, Art & Architecture*. More than 25,000 copies were printed and then distributed to every library in the United States.

In 1988, at 60, he reached another crossroad. He retired from the FAA and returned to his boyhood home he bought from his parents, Paul and Annie Bowman.



Don created models of the Village of Three Oaks, Mich., that director John Hancock used for his Christmas classic "Prancer" (1989).

"When I was about 35, I first started thinking about where I wanted to retire," said Bowman, ever the master planner. "I thought about everything — from the south of France to the Caribbean to Florida. I knew I didn't want to live on a river because they sometimes flood, unlike a lake where the risk is much less. I thought about warm places, but I decided I didn't want to live where everyone is retired. And I thought about proximity to a big city like Chicago with art and music and high-quality medical facilities."

The arrow kept pointing toward home. But by the time he returned to LaPorte, many of his friends and family were gone. Some had died, some had moved elsewhere.

"I realized I had to regenerate a new group of friends," he said.



Don and his wife, Shirley, a former Michigan City resident. They've been married nearly 30 years.

So, he plunged headfirst into the LaPorte community, which he'd only occasionally visited over the past 40 years.

He joined the Area Artists Association. He became a LaPorte County Historical Society Museum trustee. He designed Plaza 618 in downtown LaPorte. He sketches the homes and other buildings featured in the visitor's guide for LaPorte's Candlelight Tour of Historic Homes.

Not long after retiring, he built a 16-foot-wide by 72-foot-long scale model of the Village of Three Oaks for John Hancock's "Prancer" (1989). In the final scene, Prancer flies over the model that's decked out in a mantle of snow.

"The experience of being a part of the movie was a lot of fun," said Bowman, an emeritus member of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Another big project not long after retiring from the FAA was creating a model of the flying machine crafted by Emanuel Swedenborg, a Swedish philosopher, inventor and designer who died in 1772. The model of the machine that anticipated manned flight of the 20th century was featured on the "Today" show, was displayed at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and now hangs in the Swedenborg Foundation near Philadelphia.

But by far his best move since returning to LaPorte was meeting a woman from Michigan City named Shirley who's now his wife of nearly 30 years.

"I would hate to think about what my life would be like without having met her early in my retirement," said Bowman, who was previously married.

Together, he and Shirley have taken annual trips to destinations near and far, remained active in the local arts community and enjoyed the homestead with a postcard-pretty view of Pine Lake that's been in the Bowman family for more than 80 years.

"I'm lucky to be alive with 92 years of good memories," he said. "I'm glad I came home."



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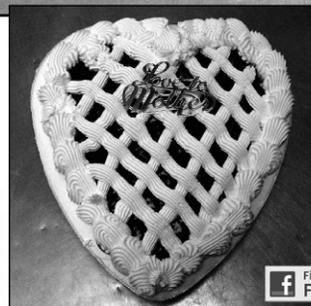
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Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12, opened to the public May 1.

The Gardens include forested woodlands, open meadows and cultivated gardens. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Daily admission is \$9, or \$7 for seniors; however, Thursday admission is \$5 for everyone. Children 12 and younger, and active duty military showing ID, are free. In honor of Mother's Day on Sunday, May 10, mothers and grandmothers are admitted for free.

Visitors must respect guidelines in light of COVID-19. Guests who pay daily admission must pay by credit or debit card only; no cash transactions are allowed. When arriving at the Welcome Cabin, call the office to make the transaction over the phone. Maps are available outside the Welcome Cabin or at the Gardens website.

Those walking main paths and wooded trails must practice social distancing. It also is recommended to take personal sanitary items, such as hand sanitizer and wipes. Avoid touching any objects (railings, signs) unless it is absolutely necessary.

Based on CDC recommendations, The Arcelor-Mittal Children's Garden and Healthcare Foundation of LaPorte Fitness Garden remain closed until further notice. Dogs on leashes are welcome; however, owners must pick up after them.



Visit [www.friendshipgardens.org](http://www.friendshipgardens.org) or call (219) 878-9885 for more details.

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## Artists Contribute to Lubeznik Center Coloring Book

by Andrew Tallackson

With its latest effort, Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., remains a creative force in reaching out to the community amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The project is a coloring book where all the art is designed and donated by individuals from LaPorte, Porter and Lake counties. The creative endeavor will be available as a free download through the LCA's website. On May 18, through a partnership with the Michigan City Area Schools food-services department, the coloring books are set to be handed out at Knapp Elementary School.

The entire project came together within three weeks, Lubeznik Center Education Director Hannah Hammond-Hagman told *The Beacher*.

"It's something to do to keep kids engaged at this time," she said.

Hammond-Hagman emailed friends and illustra-



Hammond-Hagman

### About the Coloring Pages

On the opposing page are four examples of works regional artists donated for inclusion in the Lubeznik Center for the Arts coloring book.

The artists are: 1. Melissa Washburn, top left. 2. Laurel Izard, top right. 3. Jessie Sexton, bottom left. 4. Ish Muhammad, bottom right.

tors, all of whom not only agreed to participate in the project, but also wanted to donate their work. LCA Marketing Coordinator Kyle Murphey is designing the layout.

The 12 individuals featured in the coloring book are: Lora Fosberg; Joseph Gonzalez; Dorothy Graden; Dori Huber; Laurel Izard; Lori Jackson; Casey King; Kelly Massei; Ish Muhammad; Jessie Sexton; Edwin Shelton; and Melissa Washburn. The results range from a beautiful bird on a native plant by Washburn to robots by Izard.

Hammond-Hagman issued no central theme to the artists.

"I told them it should be appropriate, and it should be whimsical and fun," she said, "and they all rose to the occasion."

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

# Landscapes & Gardens

By Kristi Clark

voice/text 219.210.0544

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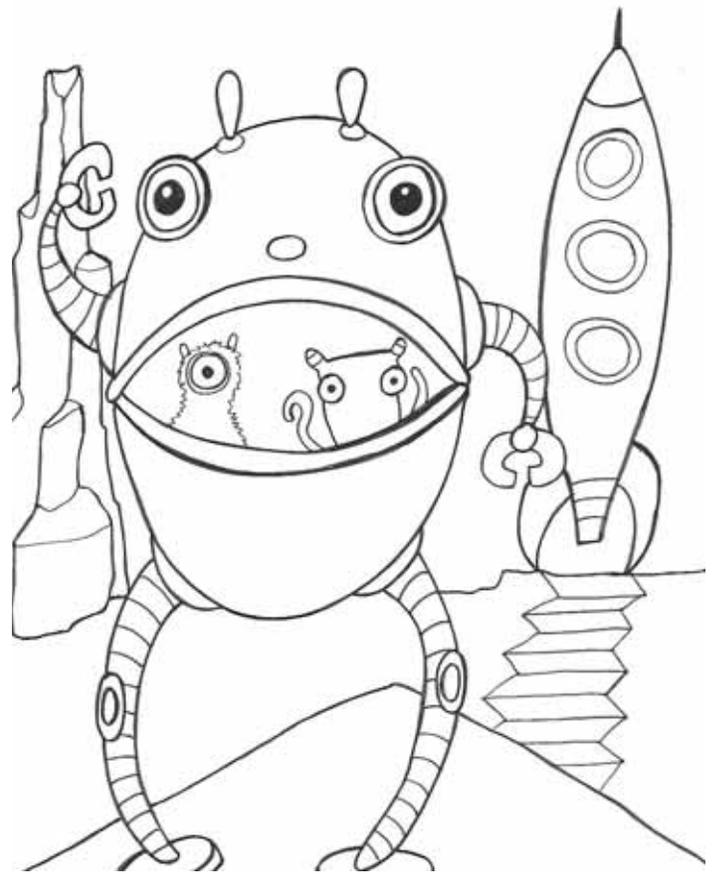
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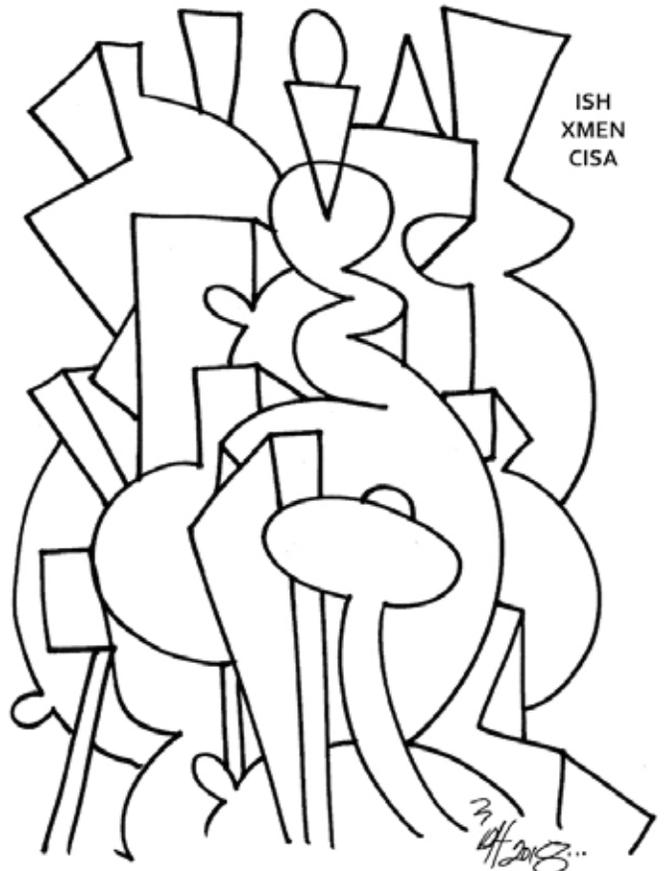
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## La Lumiere Community Adapts to Life Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic

Students at La Lumiere were on spring break when the COVID-19 pandemic began impacting schools across the country.

Within days after Indiana's first confirmed case in early March, LaLu administration adjusted to remote learning after spring break. Boarding students did not return to campus except for about a dozen international students unable to return to their home countries.

So, the school adapted all classes, which average 10 students per section, to remote ones. It also consulted health-care experts to put strict protocols in place to prevent its residential faculty and remaining boarding students from getting or spreading the virus.

The school's swift response drew praise from Nicole Guenin. She is the parent of two current students, with her third child slated to start this fall.

"They started online classes within days, running full schedules for some challenging academic loads,"

she said in a press release. "How would they replicate in a virtual environment what they have built with all students during countless hours of face-to-face interactions? By doing what La Lumiere does best, innovating."



Hoyt



Kronk

Andrew Hoyt, the academic dean and an assistant head of school, elaborated.

"While our teachers have used video-conferencing and online classroom tools effectively, we're also encouraging students to go for nature walks, write in a notebook, conduct experiments in the kitchen or the backyard and read books."

Adam Kronk, LaLu's head of school, said in a press release faculty and students have stepped up, from hosting trivia nights and virtual

open mics to continuing the "Heads Cup" competitions, a year-long contest with students divvied up into four teams named after the school's first four headmasters. A daily digital "dispatch" showcase work students are doing, and informs the LaLu community about events that can be shared remotely.

Local resident Line Mullins has a daughter who is a LaLu sophomore, following in the footsteps of her older sister, a 2019 grad. Everything the school has done, she said in a press release, has united the LaLu community.

"This whole experience from Day One has been amazing and is a true testimony to the Laker spirit, with teachers rallying the kids to still have a scheduled school day and structure," she said.

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One more stat from the entire Greater Northern Indiana Association of Realtors® MLS. Showings were down 31.9% the week of April 27 compared to the 2020 peak week of March 9. They were down 23.6% this year compared to 2019 for the week of April 27.

Many agents and sellers are loathe to let people into homes right now, so the MLS created a new status: "For Sale, but you cannot show at this time." There are ways to safely show most homes. Ask your listing agent how his/her office is creating safe showing practices.

What pains me are all the restaurants I frequent reduced to "Takeout only." This month, I ask all of us to support these local food places so they can survive.

Here are a few of my favorite haunts. I am sure you have your own. Do Take-Out from your favorite place today.

Timothy's is serving "takeout" from a tent, and they still have \$9 for a full slab of ribs on Wednesday. Road construction has not stopped their takeout.

Milda's offers takeout ordered ahead of time or ordered when you arrive. Soups, salads and sandwiches at very low prices. Approach from Lakeshore Drive via Townline/Union Pier Road.

Café Gulistan offers pretty much a full menu online, and the food is waiting hot for you when you call from your car to let them know you are outside.

David's delivers soup and other delights. Call or order online.

Jackie's has created "freezer goodies" that are extraordinary. Call or knock on the back door before 1:30 p.m. Michigan Time

Song brings the food out to your car when you order online or call.

Panera's still serves its full menu from drive-up.

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First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St., annually awards scholarships to students entering an accredited college or trade school.

It also targets individuals continuing or resuming their education, regardless of age. Some require church membership, but five scholarships are open to the community:

- The Jean Kruse Educational Scholarship, offered to a student pursuing an elementary education degree. Kruse was a longtime primary grade teacher in Michigan City.
- The Richard Presser Scholarship, named for the late local educator. It goes to a graduating senior from Michigan City High School or Marquette Catholic High School.
- The Mabel Rhoades Nursing Scholarship, open to those enrolled in a nursing program. It is in memory of the registered nurse and nursing instructor who established the first post-op recovery room in Indiana.
- The Swinehart/Bartholomew Scholarship, intended for an arts major living in LaPorte County. Applicants must have completed at least one year, studying vocal music, instrumental music, theater or visual arts. The Swinehart and Bartholomew families have been involved in local music and community theater for three generations.
- The Timberlake Scholarship, given in memory of Joan Thomas Timberlake and Diane Fike Timberlake., is open to a non-traditional student. The applicant must be a mother, at least 18 and an active member of any recognized church, synagogue or mosque. Residents of LaPorte, Porter and Berrien counties are eligible.

Contact Higher Education Committee Chairwoman Sue Cassler at [susan.cassler@comcast.net](mailto:susan.cassler@comcast.net) or (219) 362-1421 for details or to obtain an application. Forms also are available by emailing [firstunitedmethodistchurchmc@gmail.com](mailto:firstunitedmethodistchurchmc@gmail.com), or on the church website at [mcindianaumc.org](http://mcindianaumc.org).

The submission deadline is Thursday, May 28.

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# “Never Have I Ever” is Comedy

by Andrew Tallackson

Movies can't seem to figure out how to maximize the loopy charm of Mindy Kaling. Strangely enough, she doesn't seem to care. In star-studded efforts like “Ocean's 8” or “A Wrinkle in Time,” she's like the geek at the cool crew's table, content to be invited to the party.

But television? That is another story. TV lets her loose. The characters she creates, like in “The Mindy Project,” are free to say or do what they like, flipping political correctness the bird. For some, that is exasperating. Indeed, Kaling is an acquired taste. Her characters are often vain. Selfish. Prone to random acts of immaturity. The point is to repeatedly subject these characters to comic reality checks, inching them at a snail's pace toward adulthood.

If you are a Kaling fan, then Netflix's new 10-part series “Never Have I Ever” is like a gift: Not only the best new comedy on TV, but Kaling's most instantly gratifying project.

Simply put, it's my new favorite show.

If Kaling, with “The Mindy Project,” drew criticism for downplaying her Indian heritage, then “Never Have I Ever” embraces it in the context of a coming-of-age John Hughes tale.

In an astonishing breakout performance, Tamil Canadian actress Maitreyi Ramakrishnan stars as high-school sophomore Devi Vishwakumar. Eight months ago, her father died midway through her band concert. Traumatized, she couldn't walk for three months. Now meeting with a therapist (Niecy Nash, spicy as heck), yet at odds with her widowed mother, Nalini (Poorna Jagannathan, deadpan perfection), she declares this will be the year she becomes popular. *And* loses her virginity to Paxton Hall-Yoshida (Darren Barnet), the chiseled god who walks the halls of her school.

Standard teen fare, but Kaling — she's the producer and frequent writer — populates Devi's world with delicious supporting characters. Her two closest friends are theater nerd Eleanor (Ramona Young), whose mother may or may not be acting on a cruise ship, and the robot-obsessed Fabiola (Lee

Rodriguez), who is coming to terms with being gay. Devi's arch-enemy is Ben Gross (Jaren Lewison), who is just as competitive, but equally lonely and insecure. There's also Kamala (Richa Moorjani), Devi's crazy beautiful cousin — think the Indian equivalent of Eva Mendes — who is working on her doctorate, slated for an arranged marriage, but



Devi (Maitreyi Ramakrishnan, right) hangs out with pals Fabiola (Lee Rodriguez, left) and Eleanor (Ramona Young) in a scene from “Never Have I Ever.”

hides her college boyfriend from everyone.

Classic Kaling oddballs, their shenanigans narrated by John McEnroe — yes, *that* John McEnroe — for reasons that become evident by the close of the first episode.

If “The Mindy Project” took three seasons to forge a cast that finally clicked, everyone in “Never Have I Ever” gels from the word go. The series, sculpted by behind-the-scenes talent from “The Mindy Project,” barrels out of the gate with bold confidence, thanks in large part to Ramakrishnan. This is her first time acting, and it's like watching a teen Kaling. Caustic wit trapped in the body of a boy-crazy, pop-culture obsessed adolescent. Some have criticized the character, that Devi is unlikable because she's selfish, immature and reckless. Those who do miss the point. Teens at this age *are* selfish, immature and reckless. They live in a bubble, believing every crisis, every embarrassment or defeat is a sign for the forthcoming apocalypse. That's what Ramakrishnan captures. Teens will recognize ele-

# Perfection from Mindy Kaling

ments of themselves in her. Adults with smile at the histrionics. Devi is relentless: Her energy level is insane. Most things in life — Ben’s snark, her ethnic-



Devi’s love interests include Paxton Hall-Yoshida (Darren Barnet, top) and Ben Gross (Jaren Lewison, bottom).



ity — get the classic teen eye roll. The young actress presents Devi as someone who believes most others are beneath her, yet in private, she’s crying out for security and stability.

Young and Rodriguez are adorable as Devi’s gal pals, with Young (“Santa Clarita Diet”) a droll genius and Rodriguez gracefully handling Fabiola’s decision to come out to friends and family.

The show also sets the stage for a love triangle

between Devi, Paxton and Ben. Each is engaging in their own right. Paxton is the “Jake Ryan” type with flashes of depth, but Ben is the more engaging of the two. Like Ramakrishnan, Lewison is ferocious. Devi and Ben are like teen vipers circling each other as part of some twisted dance. How these two soften around each other is part of the show’s charm.

“Never Have I Ever” also dives headfirst into the ethnicity of Devi and her family. Her mother is a mix of tradition and reluctant acceptance of American free will. Devi is hellbent on not being “too Indian.” For her, being American requires a complete, utter rejection of her heritage. And yet, a gathering of the Indian community, at the high school, no less, is a comic gem: moments of ethnic pride, but ultimately, Devi and her mother exhausted by all the social-status harpies. Women dressed in *saris* and avoiding meat, but discussing their expense accounts and pricey automobiles.

As Devi’s unresolved feelings over her father’s untimely death subconsciously affect her behavior, “Never Have I Ever” advances toward to a surprisingly emotional finale. The cast earns it. The close also leaves the door open for Season 2, to see where the Devi-Paxton-Ben love triangle goes from here.

Whether we get more or this is it, Kaling should have no regrets. “Never Have I Ever” is perfection.

□

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# Superb Performances Invigorate Hulu's "Little Fires Everywhere"

by Andrew Tallackson

"Little Fires Everywhere," on the page and now in the Hulu miniseries, begins at the end. A fire. Raging through a stately home in the snow-globe community of Shaker Heights, Ohio.

Who set the fire? That is the mystery. What we know from the investigation is, there were "little fires everywhere," suggesting arson. As Celeste Ng intended with her 2017 best-seller, the title is literal and metaphorical, exploring escalating resentment within a "perfect" community, one that is a family squabble or two away from imploding.

The Hulu miniseries piles on one or two *more* fires than necessary, but it remains true to the spirit of Ng's book. It also features superb acting. The show is at its best, in fact, when letting Reese Witherspoon and Kerry Washington go head to head, asking tough questions that need to be asked.

In Ng's world, set in 1997, there is no clear-cut "winner." Everyone, from adults to teens, is scarred by their relationships. And by entering Shaker Heights, a community that polices its own, from grass height to the timing of trash placed by the curb, Ng explores something far more primal.

Motherhood.

Four mothers, to be precise, from all walks of life.

The queen bee is Elena Richardson (Witherspoon), whose entire existence seems designed to grace the cover of *Good Housekeeping* or *Midwest Living*. Of making the right impression. Perfect home. Ideal husband. Exceptional children. Her friend, Linda (Rosemarie DeWitt), is close to adopting a Chinese baby abandoned by her mother at the local fire station. Throwing a wrench into these plans is Mia (Washington), an artist who arrives in Shaker Heights with her daughter, Pearl (Lexi Underwood), everything they own packed in their tiny car. Pearl ingratiates herself into Elena's family, specifically her children: Lexie (Jade Pettyjohn), a college-bound, straight-A student; Trip (Jordan Elsass), a jock; Moody (Gavin Lewis), quiet and sensitive; and Izzy (Megan Stott), the rebellious black sheep. At one point, Mia works at a Chinese restaurant and as a housekeeper for Elena, which is how she learns of Linda's forthcoming adoption. Just so happens, Mia works with the baby's mother, who gave her away when times were tough, but now wants her back.

Sounds like a soap opera, and in a way, it is. The Hulu adaptation does not shy away from lavishing dramatic flourish on the story's explosive elements. However, soapy material would savor just the hysterical twists. "Little Fires Everywhere" probes deeper. It is more interested in the greater implications of race, gender and parental responsibility.

Unlike HBO's adaptation of Stephen King's "The



Reese Witherspoon (left) and Kerry Washington play mothers at considerable odds with each other in "Little Fires Everywhere."

Outsider," which expanded the author's vision by adding about three episodes of unnecessary material, the changes to "Little Fires Everywhere" dig into Elena's psyche. And if HBO's "Big Little Lies" featured Witherspoon flirting with immorality, then "Little Fires Everywhere" shows her diving head-first into crumbling virtues.

In Ng's book, motherhood had smothered Elena's ambition as a journalist. That element exists in the series, but it also introduces a former lover, Jamie (Luke Bracey), who became a *New York Times* foreign correspondent. When the reunion between the two inches into infidelity, the series has piled on another "fire" the story does not need.

In Ng's book, Elena's curt approach to Izzy was a fascinating attack on motherhood. Izzy was unplanned, and she quickly picked up on her mother's

resentment. That dynamic was fascinating, but the series literalizes the struggle by making Izzy a lesbian. There's nothing wrong with that, but again, the series is adding more "fires" to an already heated subject. Stott, however, is an actress to watch for, her cherubic face a roadmap of mounting indignation toward her mother.

On the page, Ng kept the race of Mia and Pearl vague. But casting black actresses does something unexpected: it chips away at Elena's phony white liberalism. Elena delights in sharing how her parents helped integrate Shaker Heights, or that her daughter's boyfriend is black, but it's a smoke-screen. Mia, in fact, calls Elena out on her behavior. "You made it about race," Mia says, "when you asked me to be your maid."

The exchanges between Washington and Witherspoon, indeed, are the acting highlights of "Little Fires Everywhere" because they force the characters to admit concealed truths. These actresses hold nothing back, but they know when to dial it down. There is a moment in Episode Three, for instance, when Mia learns through Elena that Linda's Chinese baby is the one abandoned by Bebe Chow



Above: The friendship between Pearl (Lexi Underwood) and Moody (Gavin Lewis) deteriorates over the course of "Little Fires Everywhere."  
Below: Megan Stott is outstanding as Izzy.





Pearl (Lexi Underwood) quickly ingratiates herself into Elena's family, which includes brothers Moody (Gavin Lewis, left) and Trip (Jordan Elsass).

Continued from Page 17

(Huang Lu), her coworker at the Chinese restaurant. The dawning realization on Washington's face, the heartbreak, then the attempt to "play dumb," may be Washington's finest piece of acting.

Washington has plenty of volatile moments with Pearl, and the relatively unknown Underwood is another firecracker. This a fierce young actress who holds her own, scene after scene, with Washington and Witherspoon.

When Bebe Chow, with Mia's help, takes Linda and her husband to court, hoping to reclaim custody of the child, "Little Fires Everywhere" examines in greater detail matters of race and motherhood, the issue being, who makes a better mother: the birth parent, or the person who is the better provider? If there is an innocent bystander in "Little Fires Everywhere," it is Linda, who repeatedly had trouble conceiving and only wants to be a mother. DeWitt,

one of my favorite actresses, achieve pitch-perfect heartbreak here, particularly in scenes where she curtly brushes aside Elena's limp comfort.

The most significant change to Ng's original story is its big twist. Who set that disastrous fire? Let's just say, the revelation has been tweaked. *However*, the series has done such an expert job exploring these individuals, you're OK with it. The change is satisfying. Quite, in fact.

Ng's book, and the miniseries, leave the story open to the possibility of more. Does it need a follow-up? Not exactly. Ng has dissected motherhood with the precision of a cardiac surgeon. But based on how beautifully the cast dissolves into these characters, another season of "Little Fires Everywhere" would not be unwelcome.

□

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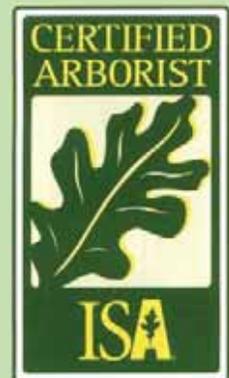
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## Three Oaks Museum

The Region of Three Oaks Museum, 5 Featherbone Ave., did not open as scheduled May 1 because of COVID-19 public-health directives.

However, by embracing the mission “bring history home,” the museum offers links to three short documentaries about local history on its website.

The films are: “E.K. Warren: Father of Featherbone”; “The Pokagon Band: More than Just a Casino”; and “Gridder, Grappler, Hustler, Spy: The Amazing Life of Joe Savoldi.” The films, which range from 13 to 24 minutes, are suitable for children and adults.

Visit [www.regionofthreeoaksmuseum.com](http://www.regionofthreeoaksmuseum.com) to access the links, along with museum updates. Email [trotommuseum@gmail.com](mailto:trotommuseum@gmail.com) for more details.

Also, the museum purchased Three Oaks’ oldest building: the Linden Street town hall built in 1866. The purpose is to ensure the building’s historic integrity is maintained and restored.

As such, museum staff seek public input on what to do with the building. So far, ideas include: hosting after-school programs; a performing arts venue; a visitors welcome center; and an event/party space.

Museum staff also seek donations to aid the building’s purchase, renovation and upkeep. TROTOM’s coffers, according to a press release, were “nearly emptied in order to save this historic building.”

Suggestions and donations can be sent to the museum at P.O. Box 121, Three Oaks, MI 49116.

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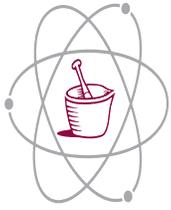
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**Beverly Shores Online Fundraiser**

The Beverly Shores Depot Museum and Art Gallery will host its annual season-opener and fundraiser online.

"5x5 at the Depot-Digital Edition" starts at 5 p.m. Friday, May 8. Local and regional artists donated work that measures 5x5, with each piece priced at \$55. Proceeds support the non-profit's ongoing programming. Now in its third year, the fundraiser typically is held at the Depot. Health restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in this year's change to an online version.

At 5 p.m. May 8, people can visit [www.bsdepot.com](http://www.bsdepot.com) and view the gallery of work. There are more than 100 works donated by more than 50 artists. Once a visitor makes a selection, he/she can put the item in the shopping cart, but it does not become theirs until paying for it at checkout.

Those living in the area may pick up their purchases curbside at the Depot, 525 S. Broadway, from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, June 12, or noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, June 13. For those outside the area, purchases can be shipped for a discounted postage fee of \$5 (for the entire order, whether it's one 5x5 or several). The shipping fee is added to the purchase price at checkout. There are no exchanges or refunds.

**Krasl Art Fair Canceled**

Krasl Art Center has canceled its 59th Krasl Art Fair on the Bluff scheduled for July 11-12 in St. Joseph, Mich.

KAC staff and volunteers plan and coordinate the event — its major fundraiser — year-round. This year, more than 800 artists applied and a panel of jurors scored applicants. All booth-rental fees paid by artists will be returned. Volunteers and staff are working to recognize the artists online, allowing patrons to view their artwork and connect with them.

Visit [www.krasl.org](http://www.krasl.org) regularly for updates and virtual opportunities. Currently, the 2019 art fair artists are featured.



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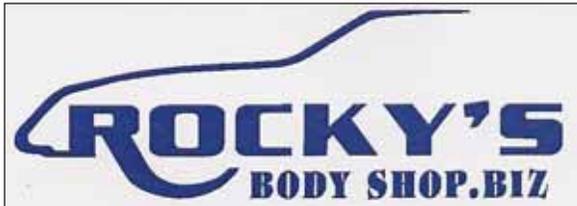
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As a thanks to medical personnel working during the COVID-19 pandemic, South Shore Line will offer free rides in May and June to doctors, nurses, EMTs, paramedics and other medical personnel.

To ride free, medical personnel must present a valid work ID to show he/she is employed at a hospital, doctor's office, medical facility or local fire department. Additionally, any medical personnel who purchased a paper monthly ticket for May can request a refund at [www.mysouthshoreline.com/contact](http://www.mysouthshoreline.com/contact). Those who have purchased a digital monthly ticket for May through the mobile app can request a refund by emailing App Support in the app menu and attaching a photo of a valid work ID.

SSL also invites frontline workers to participate in the #ssltothefrontline giveaway contest on Facebook for a chance to win tickets and a goodie bag. Frontline workers who are riding the train can post a picture while on the train, along with the hashtag #ssltothefrontline, and share something about themselves. All submissions will be featured on social media to allow the public to thank those providing critical services at this time.

SSL continues to monitor direction provided by the CDC and Indiana and Illinois officials as it pertains to the stay-at-home order.

## Meals to Heal Michigan City

Four Michigan City restaurants are partnering with local charities to provide meals for those in need during the COVID-19 crisis.

Patrick's Grille, Dune Billies Beach Café, Fish Camp and Fiddlehead Restaurant will work with United Way of LaPorte County on the project.

United Way will take contributions to support the effort. Visit [tinyurl.com/ybq8krna](http://tinyurl.com/ybq8krna) to donate. The restaurants currently will provide meals to Stepping Stone Shelter for Women, Sand Castle Shelter for Homeless Families and Interfaith Community PADS, but hope to include other organizations as funds become available. Additionally, meals will be distributed each Saturday at various locations to families and individuals.

Visit each restaurant's Facebook pages for more details.

## 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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**Footlight Players Nominations**

Footlight Players has announced the nominations for its 12th annual Footlight Players Awards.

No awards banquet is planned due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Winners will be announced by May 13. The nominees are:

- **Best Actor:** Dean Johanson.
- **Best Actress:** Caroline Rau and Brittney Urban.
- **Best Featured Actor:** Andrew Vendl, David Mikolajczyk and John "Jay" Swindell.
- **Best Featured Actress:** Laura Meyer, Diana Hirsch and Dee Piotrowski.
- **Best Director:** Tony Thomas, Robert Komendera and Laura Meyer.
- **Best Newcomer:** Lily Belle Nuest, Teagen Bennette and Danielle Bilderback.
- **Best Musical Director:** Lee Meyer.
- **Best Choreographer:** Laura Meyer.
- **Best Costume Design:** Sharon Kienitz (twice) and Laura Meyer.
- **Best Lighting Design:** Chris West, Michael Thomas and Tony Thomas.
- **Best Set Design:** Cassandra Redeagle and Floyd Colosky (twice).
- **Best Sound Design:** Alayna Lauritsen, Tony Thomas and Declan Rice.
- **Best Hair/Makeup Design:** Veronica Thomas and David Wilkes (twice).
- **Best Scenic Artist:** Joy Davidson and Chris Whybrew (twice).
- **Best Set Dresser:** David Mikolajczyk and Joy Davidson (twice).
- **Best Production:** "Doublewide, Texas," "Last of the Red Hot Lovers" and "Gypsy."

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Thank you.  
No better way exists to state our gratitude. Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, your continued support leaves us moved and humbled.  
Our advertisers, many of whom have been with us for a long time, remain loyal. That is something we do not take lightly. Readers have emailed encouraging thoughts, with one Long Beach resident stating, "The Beacher is more relevant and needed now in this crisis more than it has ever been in my 63 year lifetime."  
Again, we are moved by your words.

## Membership

For more than 35 years, The Beacher has existed as a **free** newspaper, and it will **continue** to do so. Amid the pandemic, however, small newspapers across the country are finding additional ways to financially support themselves. So, we've created a page where you can support us by becoming a Beacher member. We'll thank you with a weekly ad in The Beacher. If you prefer to remain anonymous, we can list you as such.



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# 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](mailto: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

**Three Hours in Paris by Cara Black** (hardcover, \$27.95 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook. 345 pages)

*“Concentrate on your target, keep escape in the back of your mind...”*

Cara Black is the bestselling author of 19 books in the Aimee LeDuc mystery series set in Paris. It is a series I have loved from the start because of Black’s intimate knowledge of the City of Lights and her enduring character, Aimee, who runs a cybersecurity business. So, I was apprehensive when I discovered her latest book is a standalone World War II historical novel, not about my favorite character. But it takes place in Paris, and my eyes widened and my jaw dropped as I discovered this story meets the expectation of anything written by Alan Furst or Joseph Kanon. Here’s why...

Black says two things set her on this literary journey of “*now for something completely different.*” It’s a fact that Hitler visited Paris, for only three hours, in June of 1940, but Albert Speer and Arno Breker, both with him that day, gave two different dates for this visit, never altering their statements. The Germans were very good with numbers and dates, so why disagree on this one? Second, during the war, more than 2,000 Russian women were trained as snipers assigned to the fight against Germany.

So, put those two things together and you have the makings of a “what if?” scenario combining actual facts with fascinating fictional ones.

It’s October of 1939 at a Naval base in the Orkney Islands, Scotland. Kate Rees is there with her English husband, a naval engineer and their year-old baby girl. Kate is from Oregon and grew up on a ranch with five brothers, learning to shoot and hunt as good, or better than, any man. She has awards to prove it. But now, she’s happily married and looking forward to a bright future...but we all know what happens to the “best laid plans”...

A surprise attack by the Germans one night causes an auto accident that kills Kate’s husband and daughter. She is devastated, but vows somehow to get revenge on the Nazis. Remember, America is still not in the war at this time.

One day, some eight months after her loss, an Englishman approaches Kate and offers her a job in Birmingham, England — *“It’s government work and*

*a bump in pay.”*

While Alfred Stepney doesn’t fully explain the job, it doesn’t matter. As long as it involves helping defeat the Nazis, Kate is in.

Stepney heads a group called Stepney’s Irregulars, a group of spies answerable only to Churchill himself. She is put in a rigorous training program that involves honing her shooting skills, parachute jumping, disguises and general spying techniques. Stepney teaches her well, the most important thing to remember: RADA — read, access, decide, act. Important words that could save her life. And the most important thing — trust no one. He should have included himself in that one...

Finally, her assignment: She will be parachuted into France, meet a contact and make her way to a rendezvous point in Paris, where an upper-window view across the street of a church Hitler is expected to visit will be the vantage point to take him out. Then, make it out again before the SS find her.

What Kate doesn’t know is that she is expendable. Hitler isn’t the target, her assignment is nothing more than a diversion. For what? She won’t find that out until later.

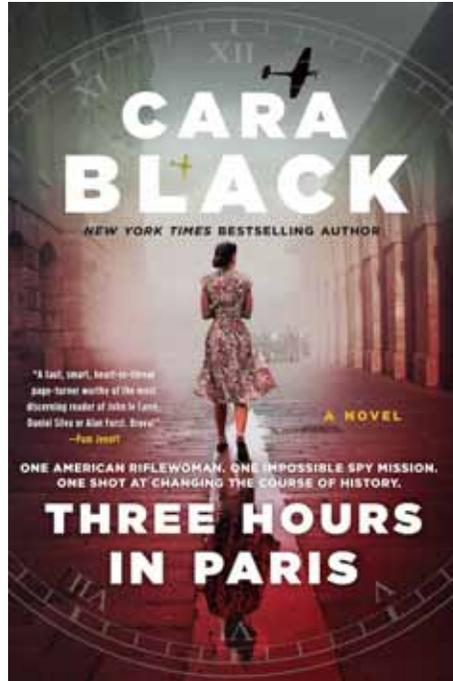
And, if she gets lucky and kills Hitler, well, all the better.

Her shot is compromised and takes out the naval commander instead of Hitler, and now Kate is on the run for her life. This is where Black excels — she keeps the action and suspense going at break-neck speed. You simply can’t put the book down — I tried. She is moved about by hidden messages left by the French Resistance, changing her costume and makeup to stay ahead of those who will capture and torture her before killing her. I was astounded at Black’s ability to make the reader feel how life was like in 1940s France, and the dangerous work the Resistance performed. The climax is as thrilling as any I have read.

The most important take from this book is the role women did play in World War II. While Kate is fictional, her story is the combination of many women who put their lives on the line for freedom.

If you are an aficionado of World War II literature, this one is for you. The book was chosen as an ABA Indie Next Pick for April 2020 and an Amazon Best of the Month Pick for April 2020.

Till next time, happy reading!



happy mother's day



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