

**THE**

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# *Beacher*<sup>TM</sup>

*Weekly Newspaper*

911 Franklin Street  
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**Memorial Day 2020**

THE  
Beacher

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## About Our Photographers

Amanda Tonagel took the photo on our Memorial Day edition cover, while the photo at the start of our color advertising section is by Paul Kemiell.

# Triumph of the Human Spirit

by Andrew Tallackson

In 2016, Mark Schoonaert spent Thanksgiving with family at their second home in the mountain resort city of Gatlinburg, Tenn. There were reports of a small fire at Great Smoky Mountains National Park, but Mark wasn't surprised. The region had experienced a persistent drought, one that deprived the area of rain since July.

By Sunday, Nov. 27, Mark's family had returned home. He, however, decided to stay a few days to take in some fishing. He awoke that morning to discover the sky streaked with strange colors, smoke visible. He drove to the hardware store, in part to pick up a few things, but also to find out what was afoot. A store employee said the national park fire had spread to an old orchard area behind Gatlinburg. Worse, it was now becoming difficult to breathe from all the smoke.

Mark headed out of town, to a fly-fishing shop to visit friends. He arrived back in town later that day, around 4 p.m. The



**Mark Schoonaert, photographed with Mike Buresh of Reach Out Worldwide in Berea, Ky.**

streets were deserted. The few individuals out and about were wearing face masks for protection. The smoke was far worse.

That was just the beginning. What became known as the 2016 Great Smoky Mountains wildfires claimed the lives of 14 people and injured 190. It is considered one of Tennessee's largest natural disasters ever. Fifteen square miles within the national park burned, another 6,000 acres elsewhere. Estimates put the number of residents and tourists evacuated at 14,000.

This, however, is not the story of someone who made it out in the nick of time. This is the story of a Michigan City man who stayed put, intent on helping any way he could. And who returned this past March when tornadoes touched down in middle and western Tennessee.

This is the story of selfless acts in the face of tragedy.

**M**ark Schoonaert has been a familiar face in the community for most of his life. He was born in Peru, Ind., but his family moved here when he was in the third grade. A 1971 Elston High School graduate, he's owned Naturally Wood Furniture since 1977. He also was a member of the Long Beach Volunteer Fire Department for 20 years, at one point serving as assistant chief.

Mark's second home in Gatlinburg, fortunately, was not one of the many destroyed by the 2016 wildfires. In fact, amid the earliest hours of the event, he remained at the house, clearing away brush and other debris. He was concerned, too, about his 82-year-old neighbor, a former police chief on dialysis living with his daughter.



Mark (right) and another volunteer, using chain saws to clear away debris.

At one point, Mark recalls sitting on the deck of his home, temperatures hovering at 70 degrees.

"I will never forget this...all of a sudden this wind hit the house," he said. "It was just like being slammed. Then, the power went out."

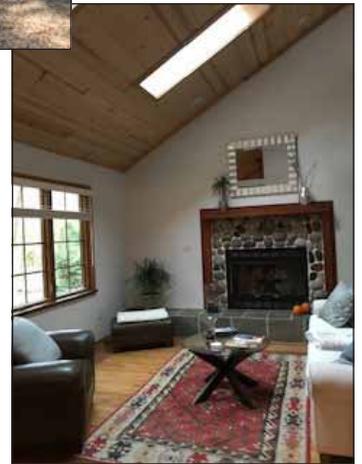
Continued on Page 4

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**Mon.-Thurs.: 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Friday: 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.**

*Thank you for your patience during the COVID-19 pandemic*

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## Triumph... Continued from Page 3

(Weather reports at the time indicated strong southerly winds, with gusts reaching 87 mph.)

Mark walked down his driveway, intent on keeping tabs on his neighbor. He could see the fire cresting the mountaintop to his right. He stopped to call a friend in Pennsylvania involved with a national search and rescue team. He asked his friend if he could tell where the fire was. His friend's response: "It's, like, *everywhere*."

Mark called 911, asking if a shelter was in place. Not yet, apparently. Trees and utility lines were down as well. The 911 employee told Mark rescue officials would try their best to reach him and his neighbor.



The wildfire damage caused along Greystone Heights Road leading up the mountain behind Gatlinburg's north side.

Eventually, they did arrive, clearing a path through the debris. Mark drove his neighbor to his son's house, then headed for the nearest evacuation center at a local high school. There, fire crews were arriving from all over the state. Doctors treated people for burns and smoke inhalation. With his volunteer fire experience, Mark wanted to help, but issues involving certification and insurance prevented that from happening.

He returned to his home, the next few days rid-



Mark (right) is photographed with volunteers (from left) Danielle Finney, a nurse from Nashville, Christy Treece, a social worker from Cookeville, a volunteer from Las Vegas and Mike Buresch. This is the home where the man's coin collection was found amid the rubble.

dled with uncertainty. He watched TV coverage. Contemplated what he might take with him if it appeared the wildfires would claim his home.

"When you have to leave and you don't know whether your house is going to burn down, I thought, 'What am I going to take with me?' Suddenly, nothing looks important," he said. "Here's what I put in my car: my medicine, my most valuable bourbon, my fishing gear and some clean underwear."

Mark then adds with a chuckle, "Later, my wife, Betsy, said, 'You didn't take any of my stuff?'"

Finally, Mark learned of volunteer rescue efforts centered in an empty theater in the nearby mountain-resort city of Pigeon Forge. He arrived at the theater, registered as a volunteer, received a tracking bracelet and signed the required waivers. The room was filled to the walls with computers, free pizza, clothing sorted by gender for people who needed it.

And that was how Mark met Sherry Buresh, director of U.S. response for All Hands, a Massachusetts-based group that works with local and state agencies to coordinate volunteer efforts. All Hands was affiliated with National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD), which shares resources and information amid disasters. Mark ultimately would become good friends with Sherry and her husband, Mike, who was involved with Reach Out Worldwide — founded by no less than the late

Paul Walker of the “Fast and the Furious” franchise — which brings first responders to disaster areas to aid relief efforts. The husband-and-wife team first asked Mark if he wanted to help establish safety parameters and prepare for the 8,000 rescue volunteers slated to arrive. Mark’s response: “Hell yes!”

Mark’s past experience with the Long Beach Volunteer Fire Department, and his ability to use a chain saw, made him a valuable asset. In some cases, he started cutting down trees, with Mike helping Mark hone skills in how to “drop” trees in danger of falling or causing more damage. He also went from home to home, speaking with owners, checking on their safety, identifying resources and helping search for valuables now buried beneath the rubble of their devastated homes. That involved a lot of digging, sifting through the ashes. One effort involved taking down a huge chimney. It took 90 minutes to secure a chain around it. Volunteers at the scene included a retired police officer helping direct traffic around the site. A retired contractor was present to discern how to apply the proper pressure to safely bring down the



The coin Mark received as a thank you from the man whose coin collection Mark helped recover.

chimney.

“You’re combining the knowledge of all these people from all over. A lot are retired, working with a lot of great young people from all over the country,” Mark said. “I was very, very impressed.”

The moment that impacted Mark the most arrived when he least expected it. It involved piercing through the remains of a man’s home, finding his prized coin collection in the process. Upon seeing the recovered treasure, the man burst into tears. He then said, “I cannot believe you folks are here to help me like this. You don’t know me, and I don’t know you. You’re dirty and digging, and you found my coin collection.”

The man subsequently gave the rescue crew, Mark included, a coin each from his collection. Mark still has it, safely secured in a case at his home.

“That is the gratification you get,” Mark says. “I feel like I’m doing something useful, and that’s the way everyone feels who is involved in that kind of work. You’re dirty and tired, but there is a spirit there. You meet people. You become like family.”

Continued on Page 6

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## Triumph... Continued from Page 5

**M**ark left Gatlinburg drained — mentally and physically. Some might say he'd witnessed enough devastation for one lifetime.

Then came the deadly tornado outbreak March 2-3 of this year in west and middle Tennessee. The National Centers for Environmental Information reported total damage at \$1.1 billion. Downtown Nashville and a portion of Cookeville were severely impacted. About 70,000 people lost power. The death toll hit 25 people, with 300 injuries reported.

Mark's wife, Betsy, received a call from Sherry Buresh, now with Inspiritus. Formerly known as Lutheran Services of Georgia and Lutheran Services of Tennessee, it supports families in times of crisis.

Mark did not hesitate to help. His destination was a church in Mount Juliet, a suburb of Nashville approximately 17 miles from the city's downtown area.



This photo was taken in a Mount Juliet housing area, where Mark's group was assigned.

By the time Mark arrived, VOAD already was on the scene, coordinating rescue and recovery efforts. A work board was erected within the church for teams to check each day for the latest task. A local Home Depot had donated \$1,300 in supplies. Young volunteers through the federally-supported AmeriCorps had arrived to assist. Rescue workers took the AmeriCorps crew to view the destruction caused by the tornadoes so they would know what to expect.

"It is a shock," Mark said. "It can be very unsettling. There was a mall and other big stores — completely crushed."

Mark, himself, admits there are times when the scope of the damage, the lives affected, takes its toll. How do you compensate for that?

"For me, I call it going 'into the mode,'" he said.



The tornado damage to Mount Juliet Christian Academy.

"You have to go back to all your previous training. You do what you need to do.

"You do feel bad, all these people," he continued. "Going into that mental mode doesn't mean it doesn't come out later. One time, I was driving out of town, and I burst into tears. I sobbed and cried all the way to Knoxville."

Mark noted that many AmeriCorps workers, ranged in age from 19 to 23. They had never been saddled with being in positions of authority, of guiding others in a crisis. So, Mark stepped in at one point with a bit of advice.

"They got around to me, and I said, 'I've been doing this for a long time. Here's one thing we need to pick up at Walmart. All team leaders, you need a clipboard. Brightly colored ones you can see far-away. That automatically bestows authority on you. That shows you are in charge.'"

Mark's skills with a chain saw again were put to use, and amid the cleanup efforts, he witnessed moments, miracles in a way, amid all the sadness:

- A 3-year-old girl, swept away by the strong winds, found two days later. Walking around. Unhurt. Reunited with her parents, they asked what happened to her. Her response: "The butterflies came and carried me away."
- A woman, married for 65 years, unhurt, but having lost everything she owned. The only item of concern: her wedding pictures. The photo album was found...50 miles away. The people who found it recognized the people in the photos.

Likely the most profound experience for Mark involved a veteran named Zach who owned a construction company. During combat, he'd suffered injuries to his discs and vertebrae, but was doing fine now.

At one point, he and Mark stood atop a hill, taking a breather after using chain saws to fell trees. They surveyed the ruin before them. Images, Mark says, that could crush the spirit.

"Zach looked at me and he said, 'You know, sometimes people ask, why does God let things like this happen. The only thing I can see is, it's to remind us of what we're supposed to be like. If you look here, we have people from every race, creed, color, nationality. All these different churches. Everyone



A lunch trailer to feed volunteers, and give them a chance to decompress. It was one of about four trailers provided food by Crosspointe Biker Church of Connersville, Ind. Pictured are a group of AmeriCorps workers.

is working together. It makes no difference who you are. I think, possibly, that's the good that comes out of this. It reminds you of what you're supposed to be."

What more could Mark say? Zach had encapsulated the triumph of the human spirit amid the unthinkable. It also embraced why he was by Zach's side.

"You are there to do a job and to uplift each other," he said. "You are there to do the job you are called to do."

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## Does Anyone Have a Cell Phone Charger?

Remember what everyday life was like before we heard of a place in China called Wuhan? A time when Costco had plenty of paper goods. The airports bustled. As travelers, our worst fear was a weather delay on flights for which we'd overpaid months earlier. Few of us obsessed over hand sanitizer and latex gloves. Most of us looked askance, not enviously, at the stray individual wearing a face mask. It's a time for which we all long for a speedy return.

Five months ago, the term COVID-19 had not yet been coined. It was mid-December and the big news story was New Year's Eve and the sparkling new decade ahead. The frenetic pace of the holidays presented us with different struggles than we have now. After spending the afternoon preparing appetizers or running to the mall for a last-minute gift, we greeted guests with a mug of eggnog or a flute of champagne. Those of us in airports over the holidays had gifts in our suitcases, ones we hadn't worried about wiping down or spraying with Lysol.

Given the current crises, I laugh at myself as I pen these next words. Outside of feeding and gifting my family, my biggest dilemma at Christmastime was how to keep my spouse and adult children from snatching my cell phone chargers.

For the last 15 years, we've travelled to Montana in December. Big Sky is a remote destination.

## That Girl, This Life

Julie Ryan McGue

There are a few mom-and-pop groceries, a handful of decent restaurants and a hardware store, but you won't find a dry cleaner or car wash. So, every year when we head out West, I overpack. Besides extra socks and thermal underwear, I layer my bag with gadgets galore. Scissors, tape, hooks for the Xmas tree, treasured ornaments so the tree looks homey, wine openers, a small sewing kit and packets of foot warmers. My family counts on me for that miscel-lany. This year, I realized my tendency to over pre-pare only enabled my family's forgetfulness.

When we arrived at the log cabin, I plugged my iPad into one of my chargers in the bedroom. The second one, I brought to the kitchen with my phone. During our first night cooking in, I watched my daughter unplug my phone and move both to an outlet by the sofa. When we turned on Netflix, the long white cord which I responsibly toted from Chicago was plugged into her cell phone, not mine. "I forgot mine," she said with a sweet smile. I responded, "I guess we can share." When the movie was over, I carried my cell phone to the bedroom. There, I discovered my iPad was untethered and in its place was my husband's cell phone.

The second day of vacation began with the same steal-mom's-chargers routine. The spirit of Christmas was being obliterated by the charger swapping mess. All of us being addicted to our devices wasn't the issue. The mountains are prone to hostile weather, and my kids are adventurous skiers. For my family's safety, we needed accessible, well-charged phones. The nearest spot to purchase USB cords meant a three-hour round-trip drive on a two-lane canyon road. On-line ordering was the obvious solution.

We struggled for a few days, but eventually I equipped the log home with several docking stations and enough USB cords to charge a football team. The ease with which we got up and running became integral to the success of our family vacation. Connectivity and a reliable supply chain were the answer to our family's dilemma during the holidays. Those same two factors play a significant role now as the country addresses what lies ahead.

I wish our nation had been in a better place to deal with this pandemic. What we lack regarding medical supplies and preparedness is more serious than not having enough cell phone chargers. It's easy to regret what one doesn't have. Yet, we have no other option than to make do. I don't believe we're ever as ready as a situation requires. It may be as simple as this: We cannot expect to be adequately prepared if we are blind to the choices of others.

Stay well, neighbors and friends.

*(Julie McGue is a Duneland Beach resident.)*

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## Family Rallies to Create, Donate Face Shields Amid Pandemic

by Andrew Tallackson

The wheels started turning as Deborah Beien watched a news piece in which hospitals sought people to help make face masks using 3-D printers.

The COVID-19 pandemic transformed such protective gear into priceless commodities, especially for the many front-line workers serving the public. Deborah's son, Richard, runs his own manufacturing business in Chicago, incorporating 3-D printers into the work. Surely, she figured, there had to be a way the Beien family could rally to the cause.

And they did.

Since March 23, Richard, Deborah and Jim Beien, along with neighbor Jennifer Blitz, have donated 19,000 face shields to hospitals, nursing homes, pantries and social-service agencies thanks to Richard's 3-D printer, friends and volunteers...and a whole lot of TLC.

"We are not the only ones in Chicagoland who are doing this," Deborah told *The Beachet*, "but we definitely made a dent in the crisis."

Deborah and Jim Beien divide their time between Chicago and Michigan City. Richard, working in Chicago, investigated through the Internet the types of protective gear people were making, and if they wouldn't mind sharing their print files.

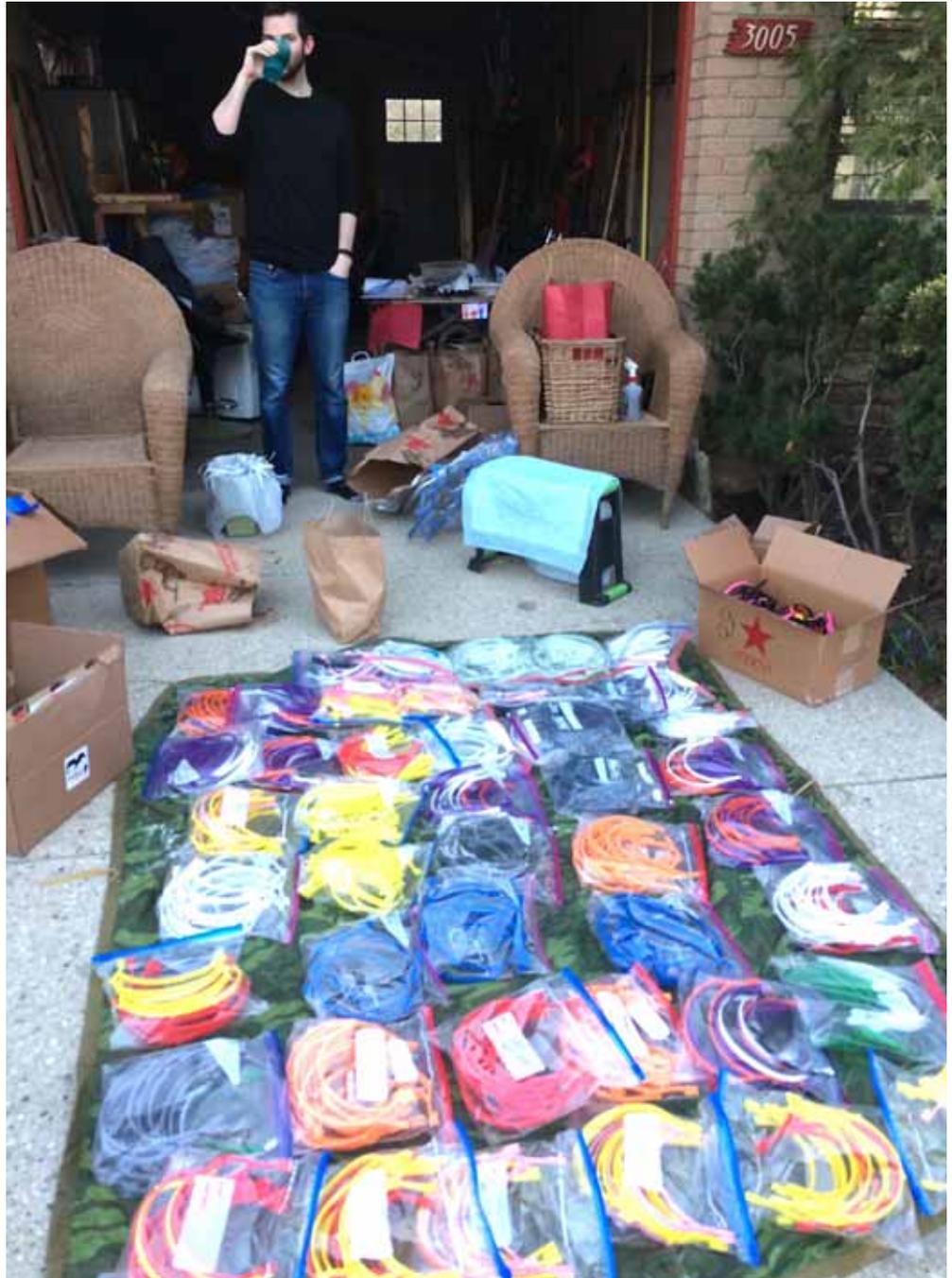
"So," Richard told *The Beachet*, "I took a bunch of these files and printed every one of them I could get my hands on."

The designs range from face masks to face shields. The 3-D printing community, Richard said, appeared to be exploring the best possible product to create. The shield, he continued, lends itself to the most simplistic means of 3-D printing.

The shield involves three components: the headpiece, created by the 3-D printer; an elastic band; and the plastic cover attached through a standard three-hole punch. The Beiens created a facebook page that invited the print community, with print-

ers in their homes, to help with the project. Deborah takes care of the paperwork.

In the first week, the family donated 750 face shields. The next two weeks about 2,500 each week. Another two weeks of 4,000 each week. Then, Rich-



Richard Beien surveys the many face shields created.

ard said, as the manufacturing community began catching up with increasing demands, the amount of donations started to taper off.

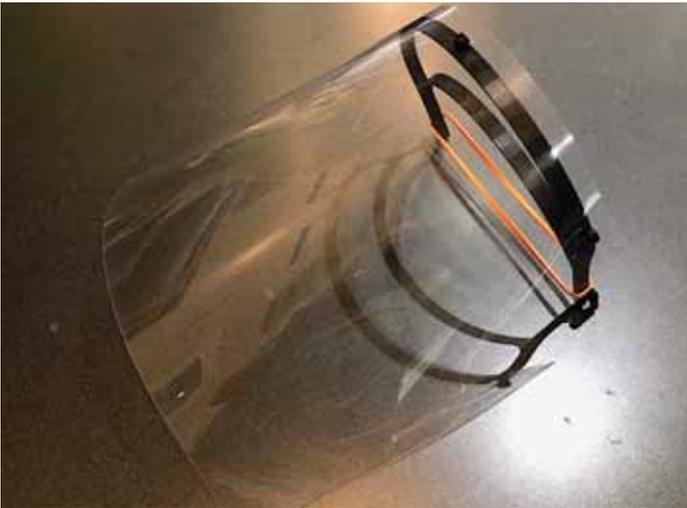
Entities that have benefited from the face-shield donations range from Norwegian American Hospital in Chicago and AMITA Health Saint Francis-



Deborah and Richard Beien, ready to donate a new batch of face shields. Hospital Evanston to Rittenhouse Senior Living and Indiana State Prison in Michigan City.

Efforts will continue for as long as the face shields are needed, Richard and Deborah say. Anyone interested can email richard@limitless.studio.

“One thing I’ve learned from living in Chicago and Michigan City is that you can accomplish so much more in Michigan City and make a bigger dent,” Deborah said. “I would be so much happier if we could make a dent in Michigan City and keep our people a little bit safer.”



The face shield relies on 3-D printers.

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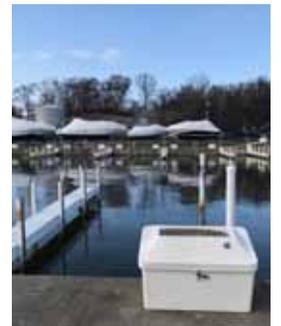
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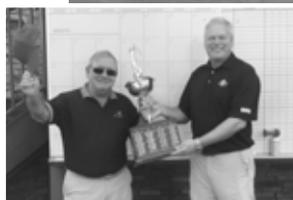
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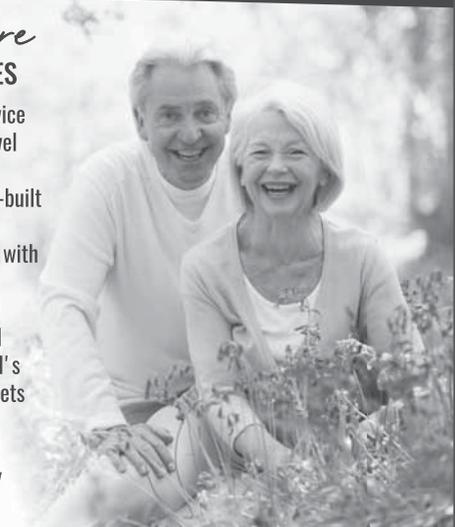
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# “Dead to Me” Season 2:

by Andrew Tallackson



Linda Cardellini (left) and Christina Applegate are at their best in Season 2 of “Dead to Me.”

No sophomore slump here. Season 2 of “Dead to Me,” now streaming on Netflix, devours the first season whole. Bolder, with a firmer grasp of the characters, it’s a runaway train of amped-up twists, wicked gallows humor and ferocious performances by Christina Applegate and Linda Cardellini that leaves you starving for more.

That is...if the show’s warped attitude hasn’t offended you somewhere down the line, to the point of calling it quits.

Death is a prickly subject for a comedy. Even a pitch-black concept like “Dead to Me,” where the characters risk being unlikable. But for those who tough out Season 1, Round 2 exposes the souls of its characters so we can finally say, yes, we do like these people. We care about what happens to them. And what happens to them is one wild ride.

“Dead to Me” was created by Liz Feldman, a former actress, writer and comedian who previously worked on shows like “2 Broke Girls” and Joel McHale’s short-lived “The Great Indoors.” This, however, is unlike anything she’s crafted. In fact, my fingers hover over my keyboard, uncertain how to proceed because of the show’s twisty and twisted nature.

Which is, Jen Harding (Applegate) is a California Realtor with two sons mourning the loss of her husband, who perished a few months back in a hit-and-run accident. Her coping mechanism: anger and resentment. That’s why Judy Hale (Cardellini) is the perfect foil. Sweet. Thoughtful. Earthy. Puts others before herself.

Jen and Judy meet at a grief-support group. Somehow, Judy chips through Jen’s impenetrable defenses, ingratiating herself not only into Jen’s life, but also her home and two sons, Charlie (Sam McCarthy) and Henry (Luke Roessler).

The first big twist, and it arrives at the end of the first episode, so no crippling spoiler there, is that Judy and her ex-fiance, Steve (James Marsden), were in the car that ran over, and killed, Jen’s husband. Jen doesn’t know that, but as an unexpected friendship between the two women deepens over the course of Season 1, Judy finds herself struggling with telling Jen the truth. Factor in Jen’s mother-in-law Lorna (Valerie Mahaffey), who delights in highlighting Jen’s flaws, the dynamite Diana-Maria Riva as Ana Perez, a cut-the-crap detective investigating the hit-and-run case, and Henry’s sweetly wacky musical performances with a church youth

# Funnier, Bolder, Better



James Marsden steals the show during Season 2 of "Dead to Me."

group...and you have pure chaos.

My beef with Season 1 is, you're never sure if you like Jen. Applegate's performance scored an Emmy nomination for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Comedy Series, and she deserved it, but the character is bracing. She drinks. Excessively. She's wound so tight, she shields herself with acidic verbal assaults. F bombs are her expletive of choice. At one point, during girl time with Judy, she fesses up to being an iffy mother, calling herself the one word you don't call a woman.

Season 2, however, corrects that misstep...but conveying the details is like stepping into a minefield of delicious twists. All that can be said is, Season 1 ended with a shocking death, so Season 2 details the subsequent fallout. Each new episode ends with a doozy of a twist. The world starts closing in on Jen and Judy, like hands wrapped around their necks in chokeholds. The tension is unnervingly claustrophobic. Applegate and Cardellini are like watching spinning tops on the verge of toppling over. Nerves frayed. Physical and emotional collapse seconds away.

But "Dead to Me" does something out of the blue in Season 2. It cracks through Jen's defenses. She softens. She rediscovers her maternal side, becoming a better mother. She owns up to her behavior. Finally, you realize, you *do* like Jen. Applegate, delivering the best work of her career, seamlessly blasts through caustic wit one second, tremulous emotion the next. And Cardellini achieves what we

always suspected, that Judy is a beautiful soul, wounded by the past, but forever seeing the good in people.

Marsden is a good actor who, in TV shows like "Westworld" and movies like "X-Men" or "Hairspray," can be upstaged by flashier actors. But in Season 2, he pops up as Steve's twin brother, Ben, and he frequently steals the show. Ben is the opposite of Steve, so Marsden achieves an entirely new creation, one with likable quirks that make him the show's most welcome addition.

I laughed a lot during Season 2 of "Dead to Me." Gaspd at each new devious twist. But by this season's last episode, I was surprisingly moved by the relationship between Jen and Judy.

These characters have been put through the ringer. They are not the same people they once were. *Far* from it. This is a genuine friendship. A friendship that will be put to the test in Season 3.

That's right. Season 2 concludes with one yowza of a cliffhanger.

Season 3, you cannot arrive soon enough.

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



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Rita Cochran's plans to retire at the end of this school year turned out quite differently than she expected due to COVID-19.

But through the challenging, even heartbreaking circumstances during her final months as a Michigan City Area Schools art teacher, Cochran found a heartwarming art project for her students that she — and they — will never forget.

"I was thinking, with everything that is going on right now, what could I do to help? What can one person do to make a difference? I knew that if I felt that way, surely my students did also," said Cochran, who teaches all ages at Coolspring Elementary School, as well as kindergarten and sixth grade at Marsh Elementary School. "I knew that all health-care workers, all hospital staff and first responders were having a very stressful time. I know how much better I feel when someone appreciates what I am doing and says thank you. These are two very powerful words."



Rita Cochran

Reminding her students of a past art project that involved creating cartoon super heroes, Cochran asked her classes to celebrate real heroes by drawing health-care workers and first responders.

"Through eLearning, I asked the students to help me bring this project to life. I knew that they could do this because they are so creative and their parents

are so supportive," Cochran said. "I gave them just a few examples of what they could do, but asked them to be creative so that all the pictures did not look the same. They did not disappoint."

Cochran estimates about 100 students participated in the project. Some worked individually, while others' siblings collaborated. Quite a few parents helped out.

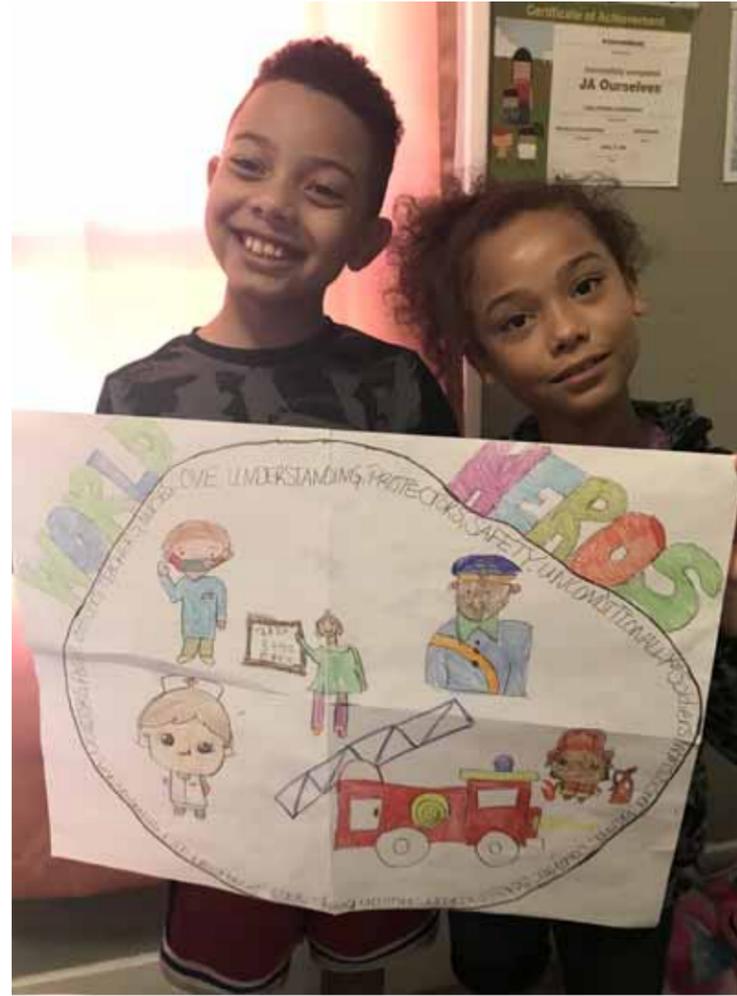
"I liked how creative they were," Cochran said. "One (art project) said, 'We Are Survivors.' One said, 'You're Great And Awesome Today!' Some said, 'You Rock,' and one student even used rocks on his driveway to spell out 'Thank You.' Some parents were courageous enough to use paints. One picture was as tall as the student who made it. One made a collage of hearts on their window. Two brothers used sidewalk chalk to send their message. One made a book. Some used their computer. Some were made of specially purchased glitter paper and beads and jewels."

Coolspring mom Erica Hollihan turned the project into a group effort created by her four kids: Ryan Smith, fourth grade; Geoffery Plunk, first grade; and Chloe Smith and Zoe Smith, kindergarten. Using YouTube tutorial videos on how to draw a stethoscope, nurse, heart and doctor, the students chose one or two of the pictures to draw on a poster and finished it with a "Thank You" across the top.

"The advantage to the kids working on a project together is that they learn patience," Hollihan explained. "Obviously, it is hard to get them to work at the same time, so they have to wait their turn. It also makes it easier on me because I am not helping them with four separate projects. They are so

# COOLSPRING ART TEACHER BRINGS CAREER TO A CLOSE WITH HEARTWARMING PROJECT

by Kim Nowatzke



Coolspring Elementary School siblings Jovanni Rodriguez and Elexia Rodriguez pose with a heartfelt message they created for area health-care workers and first responders.

encouraging of each other, and give each other positive feedback."

After the students' artwork was finished, parents took photos of them and sent them to Cochran. She printed them out and sent them to Franciscan Health Michigan City and LaPorte Hospital. One Marsh mom, Kristen Woodard, created a slide show of the artwork to be shown on Coolspring and Marsh's Facebook pages and on their websites.

Cochran said she received complimentary feedback on the project from parents who thought it was worthwhile, shared personal stories, even offered new ideas.

"I think the project is a great idea, and I was excited to begin working on it with the kids," said Hollihan, whose family has completed other appreciation projects, including painting a "Thank You All Essential Workers" on their front glass door as a message mainly to letter carriers and delivery drivers. They also are working on coloring pages and encouraging cards they plan to deliver to Hamilton Grove Senior Living.

"It's hard when you're stuck at home," she said. "You begin to feel isolated, and kids may forget that others are going through the same situation. It's given all of us a chance to think of others rather than ourselves."

Hollihan's own mother, Rhonda Hollihan, works in LaPorte Hospital's housekeeping department.

"We are so thankful for all of the essential workers," Erica said.

Woodard, mother of two Marsh students, first-grader Lucas Rouse and kindergartner Mila Rouse, was grateful her children participated in the project.

"It was a great opportunity to explain what the world is going through right now," she said, "and that not all people stay in their houses, and how they actually put themselves in danger to save lives."

Another Coolspring mom, Jhana Siegmund agreed.

"I think this was a wonderful project to do because it gives everyone something to smile about," she said. "It could give that nurse or doctor the extra strength they need to get through their shift as they walk past and see all of the beautiful art and smiling faces. It was also a great way to teach our kids that even when the world seems a little dark and scary, they have the power to brighten it up."

Her children are fourth-grader Emmett Siegmund and third-grader Eli Siegmund.

"I hope that these images make the people who see them smile and bring a little joy to them in the midst of these hard times," Cochran said. "A thank you goes a long way."

Cochran is retiring after 39 years as Coolspring's art teacher. During those years, she also taught at Niemann Elementary for 32 years and at Marsh for seven.

"I had so many planned lessons for the students this last grading period that were just not possible to do through eLearning. I miss my students so much. I am so sad that I will not be able to say goodbye in person. I am so proud of all the students I have," Cochran said.

"I have been lucky to have the best students in Michigan City. I have even taught long enough to have taught their parents also. My students are creative enough to rise to any challenge I give them and, of course, they did it again. I hope that I have taught my students well, and that they will take a little bit of me and the things I have taught them with them on their journey, because I will be taking a little bit of them with me on mine."



Coolspring students Zoey Smith, Geoffery Plunk, Ryan Smith and Chloe Smith proudly display a sign they made.

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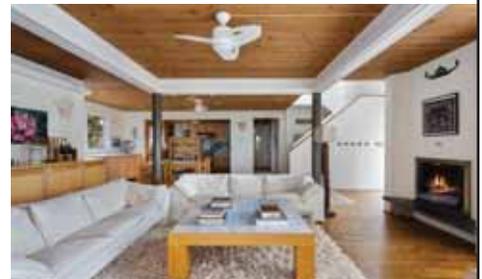
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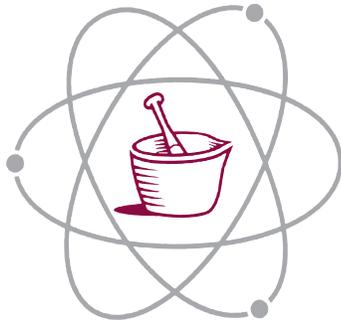


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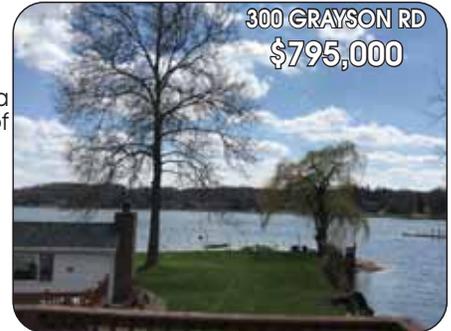


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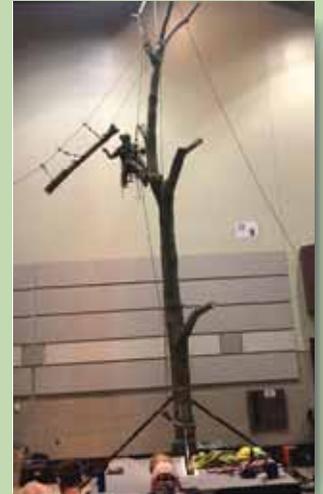
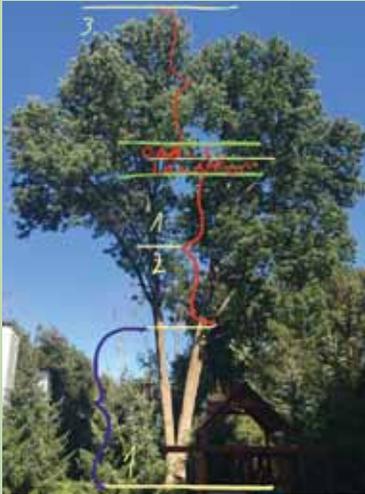


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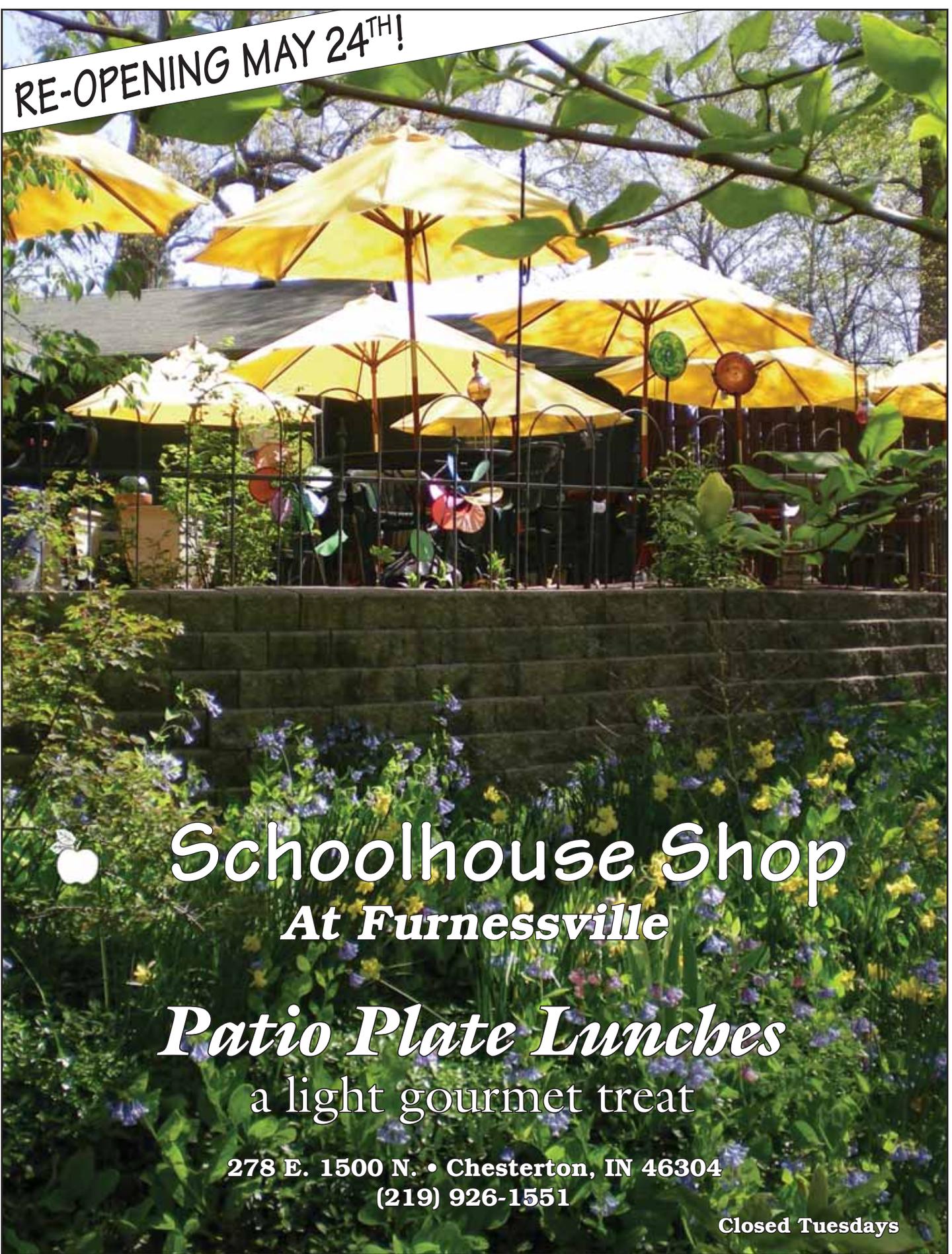
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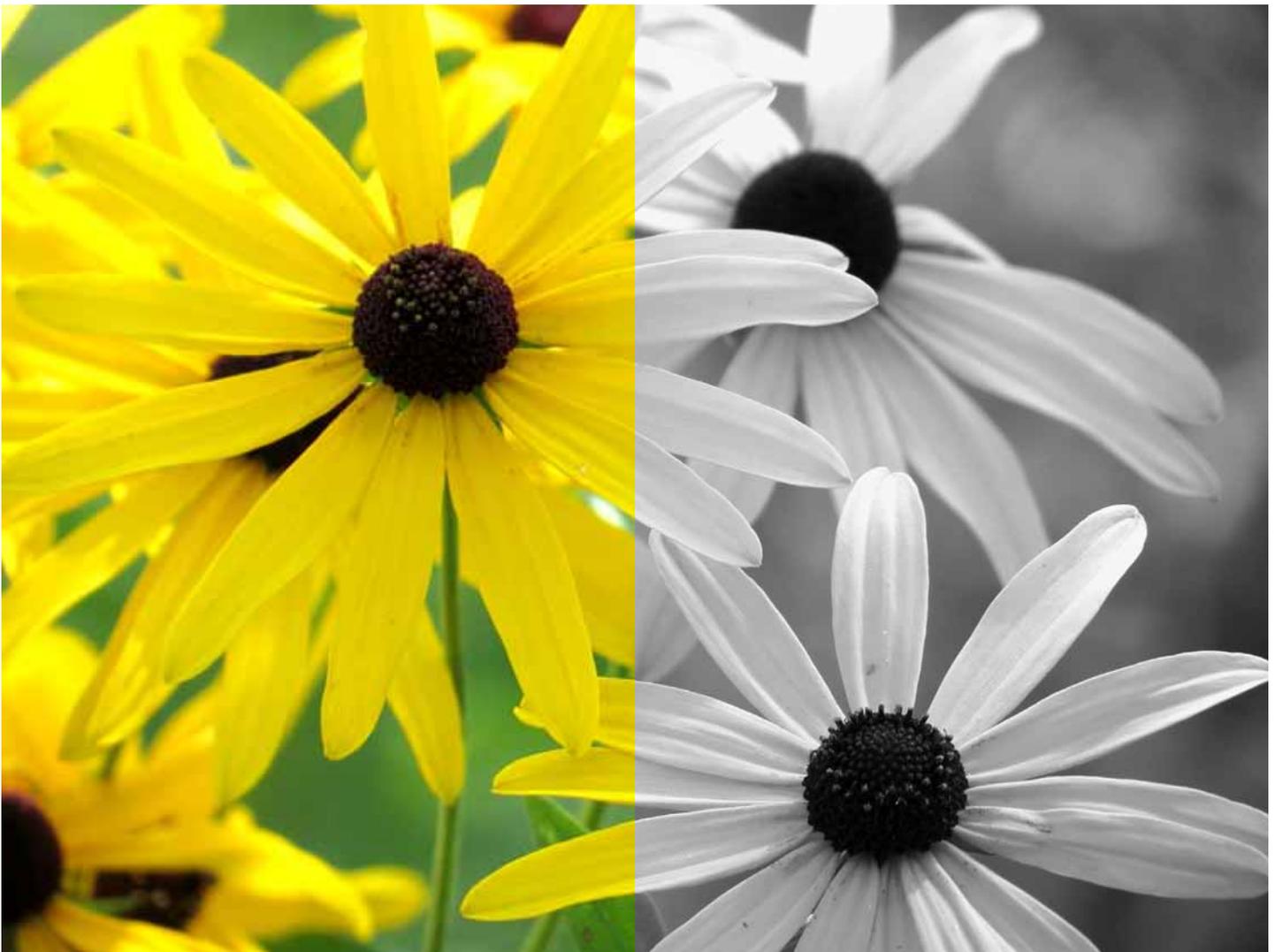
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## Photo of the Week Contest

### Help Us Capture Life Along the Beach!

Snap a high-resolution photo of a friend or family member, place, event...even the beautiful scenery. Include the day, time and location of the photo.

Submit the photo to The Beacher by 5 p.m. each Wednesday. We'll contact you by 5 p.m. Thursday if the photo is chosen to appear on our facebook page by noon Friday.



Email high-resolution photos to [drew@thebeacher.com](mailto:drew@thebeacher.com)

# WE WILL STEAM AGAIN



**HESSTON**  
STEAM MUSEUM

**WATCH FOR UPDATES ON OUR WEBSITE**  
Also — Join us on Facebook for Live STEM learning sessions!

Our volunteers remember our fallen heroes and hope you and your loved ones are healthy during these unprecedented times. The Hesston Steam Museum takes the safety of its guests and volunteers seriously and has delayed opening day for the first time in 64 years.

These dedicated volunteers are thankful, now more than ever for the support from these local businesses:

**Rowley and Company • Mid-West Metal Products • Ramsey's Sheet Metal • Alro Steel**  
**Big thank you to their newest supporter: XL Industrial Services of LaPorte.**

Hesston Steam Museum also appreciates the partnership of the  
LaPorte County Convention and Visitors' Bureau.



If you wish to support one of LaPorte County's premier non-profit educational attractions, visit [www.hesston.org](http://www.hesston.org) and click "donate" or if you would like to join these amazing companies in supporting the museum's mission and projects please email [ted.rita@hesston.org](mailto:ted.rita@hesston.org)

**The Hesston Steam Museum**  
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## Salvation Army Virtual 5K

In light of social-distance guidelines, The Salvation Army of Michigan City has turned its annual fall Red Shield Run 5K into a spring virtual 5K.



Maj. Dale Simmons of The Salvation Army said the COVID-19 outbreak has affected many of this year's fundraisers, including the annual dinner and auction.

"In order to keep all of our participants safe, healthy and socially distant, we like the concept of a virtual 5K," he said in a press release. "This way, folks can run a 5K on their own – in their own neighborhood, on trails, in a park or on the street – that way they can keep distance from other runners who are also taking part."

Runners who register for the 5K simply need to post a screenshot of their completed run and time to the Red Shield Run Facebook event page.

The event is under way and continues through the end of June. Those wishing to participate can register at [www.samichgiantcity.org](http://www.samichgiantcity.org) and post their time on the Facebook page by 11 p.m. June 30. Call (219) 874-6885 for more details.

Trophies will be presented to the top male, female and youth (16 and younger) finishers, but participation ribbons will be sent to everyone who competes. Run shirts (polyester, moisture-wicking shirts) are available for purchase with registration. The fee is \$25 without a shirt or \$30 with one.

Proceeds support Salvation Army programs and services, including the county's largest food pantry, a diaper bank, utility assistance, weekend backpack feeding program, Pathway of Hope case management, summer camp and school uniform program.

The event is sponsored by NIPSCO, which has supported it since its inception.



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### Attention all Sheridan Beachers!

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**Saturday, May 23, 2020 • 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**

(Virtual meeting link and details will be provided on SBHA's website closer to the meeting date.)

- Hear about local issues and area development projects
- Meet your Councilman and neighbors
- Get connected

Be sure to note our 2020 meeting dates:

May 23rd, July 11th and September 5th

*For more information visit: [www.sheridanbeachhomeowners.com](http://www.sheridanbeachhomeowners.com)*

# WE NEED YOUR HELP!

COVID-19 has significantly affected our ability to host our gala, weddings and events in 2020. These are our main revenue streams that are used to sustain our organization. We need individuals, families and organizations in our community to help keep our gates open to provide a respite, healthcare and peace in these very trying times. Won't you please make a donation and become a member, which can be safely done at [www.friendship-gardens.org](http://www.friendship-gardens.org). We can work together to get through these trying times!

Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,

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## Travel in the Time of COVID-19

Credit my ever-vigilant wife Natalie for imposing a travel ban on your faithful "Travels With Charley" correspondent when COVID-19 came a-calling.

"We're self-quarantining," she announced. "We can't be too paranoid. Stay away from gatherings of all size. No more swimming at the health club. We'll shop as needed and do so carefully. And we're joining the stay-the-(*expletive deleted*)-home movement."

Wow!

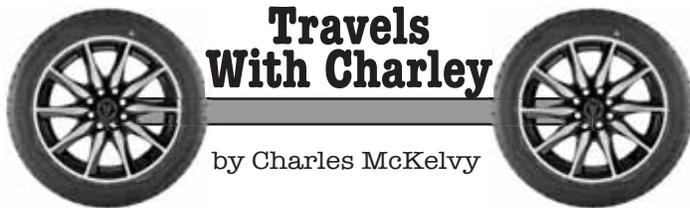
What was a travelin' Charley to do?

I am, if nothing else, a rover. I have been a confirmed traveler since early childhood when I flew on a DC-3 from Chicago to Philadelphia, and attempted to run away from our apartment in Chicago's eponymous South Shore neighborhood to Lincoln Park Zoo. My ever-alert mother caught me before I got to 71st Street, but I was not done wandering. Not by a long shot.

So, given my peripatetic nature, how was I to respond to Natalie's travel ban?

Well, I looked immediately for loopholes and, *voilà*, I found one: my trusty electric bicycle (e-bike) with the rechargeable battery.

Hey, I thought, bicycling is perfect for social distancing. No holding hands with other riders or



group hugs. And you're outdoors and away from gatherings large and small.

So, travel has continued in the time of COVID-19, albeit one on two wheels rather than the steel wheels on steel rails I much prefer. In fact, at Natalie's insistence, I canceled train trips to Lansing, Mich., Detroit and Chicago as the number of reported cases in this country began to increase.

Not easy for a choo-choo cuckoo like yours truly, but then I respect my wife's cautious nature. I erred on the safe side and have been remembering great train rides of yesteryear. And yes, I have ridden my e-bike to Three Oaks, Mich., where I gazed longingly at Amtrak's route between Chicago and Detroit. I kept repeating to myself: Obey Natalie's travel ban, and you will one day travel again.



This is as close to riding the rails as I'm going to get, for now.

I also went to Three Oaks to get more DVDs from the library to cure my cabin fever. That is, before Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's lockdown order. To date, I have watched all eight seasons of "24" with Kiefer Sutherland. I am now working my



A two-wheeled cure for cabin fever.



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way through "The 100." The former followed the exploits of special agent Jack Bauer. The latter concerns the kind of post-apocalyptic bebop I absolutely adore. At press time, Three Oaks Township Library is closed, so I ordered Season Three online and may order the remaining seasons if this Corona-cation continues as long as I think it will.

Who knew, right?

So, all that has helped. It helps me now as I pen these thoughts the day after President Trump declared a COVID-19 national emergency. The Southshore Concert Band, of which I am a rookie member, suspended all rehearsals until September at the earliest. Whitmer ordered all Michigan schools closed for the remainder of the school year as the state addresses the pandemic. That action canceled or delayed a scheduled program I had in River Valley schools in late March with The School of American Music in Three Oaks.

All right. I can do as the Southshore band's conductor, Dale Reuss, suggests and practice at home. My clarinet is always at the ready. I never share it with anyone, so why not crack out all the music I have to learn for our June outdoor concert series and do some learning? Oh, and with more than a little help from my teacher, Jason Gresl, I wrote a jazzy tune called "COVID-Ramble" that I would be pleased to play for you all when we are allowed to assemble again.



An ideal time to practice the clarinet.

Such are my thoughts as I pedal my old bag of bones around Southwest Michigan.

I am traveling far and wide on my pedal-assisted bicycle, and I have a loving wife and hyperactive new kitten, Flyboy, waiting for me at home. Yes, we anticipated this crisis and so stocked up on toilet

paper, canned goods and other essentials. We even bought 100 pounds of oatmeal and are prepared to live on it if it comes to that.

Who knows if it will.

We have the Internet to tell us how dire things are here, in Italy and Iran, and how they dealt with this crisis in China. We have an extensive opera library we inherited from our late friend, Julie Holmes. Before her death in 2009, Madam Holmes always said the best thing to do in any crisis is to pop an opera into the home-entertainment system, sit back and enjoy.

And so we have, during this COVID-19 national emergency, beginning with a week-long celebration of Richard Wagner's epic "Ring" cycle consisting of "Das Rheingold," "Die Walküre" "Siegfried" and "Götterdämmerung." That was a whole lot of the twilight of the gods, but we were able to enjoy the complete "Ring cycle" while the Lyric Opera in Chicago was canceling its entire "Ring" cycle due to the pandemic.

We have a home opera house thanks to Julie. We might even call it the Holmes Opera House in her honor? And why not? As a career civil servant for the U.S. State Department, Julie worked in embassies the world over, and she hosted "opera nights" for the local diplomatic corps. Rebels might be blowing up buildings near the embassy, but Julie always had her opera nights.



Our late friend Julie Holmes always said, "When in doubt, watch an opera."

So we have our opera nights, our e-bikes, a reliable car and wonderful local parks to explore, as well as piles of unread books.

I even have a play gathering dust on my desk. Time to dust it off and finish writing and editing it. I put that off due to lack of time, but thanks to the national emergency, I seem to have plenty of time.

I am famous for saying "all travel is local," so it's time for me to hearken to my own advice.

I can join Natalie in taking amazing voyages of discovery that seldom require us to leave our house. We have everything we need, right here.

We want to stay healthy and grow in wisdom.

Yes, I especially miss the social contact of which I am so accustomed. But as Natalie points out, we now have reliable phone service, email and the Internet. Contact with others is possible, necessary and safe.

And when the travel bug bites me, I have that trusty e-bike waiting for me in the storeroom.

I look forward to seeing you all again on the other side of this, and wish you and your families health and wisdom.

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### LaLu Senior Named Academic All-Star

The Indiana Association of School Principals named La Lumiere School senior Kaveh Jalinous, South Bend, a 2020 Indiana Academic All-Star.



Jalinous, who is set to attend Columbia University, is among the 40 high-school seniors throughout Indiana selected from 280 nominees from public and private accredited schools.

During the 2019-2020 academic year, Jalinous served as Head Prefect, the highest student leadership position on campus. As the school transitioned to remote learning in the spring semester, he continued to provide leadership and participate in community activities beyond the scope of classwork.

“Kaveh is an excellent and exceptional student, and it has been a privilege to work with him over these last three years,” La Lumiere art teacher Katie Wall said in a press release.

Wall was the teacher Jalinous wrote an essay about in terms of who he believed deserved the Influential Educator Award. The essay is a component of the application.

Each school may nominate one senior for the All-Star award. The selection committee reviews the nominees, choosing the regional winners and 40 Indiana Academic All-Stars. The evaluating criteria considers standardized test scores, seven-semester grade-point average, academic achievements, academic extracurriculars and community service.

### Singer Songwriter Competition

Saturday, May 30, is the submission deadline for The Acorn’s eighth annual Singer Songwriter Competition.

The event offers cash prizes, plus opportunities to perform at future events. Judges select finalists from entries received by the deadline. The top eight perform in the Aug. 13 finals. Check-in is at 4 p.m. EDT and the show at 8 p.m. EDT.

The submission fee is \$25 for three songs. Visit [acornlive.org](http://acornlive.org) to register or for more details. The Acorn is located at 107 Generation Drive, Three Oaks, Mich.

### “The Girls of Summer”

In the March 12 edition of *The Beacher*, we wrote about Director John Hancock screening his latest film, “The Girls of Summer,” to Marquette Catholic High School students.

The film is now streaming for free through Amazon Prime. It has a running time of 93 minutes.



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## They Will Not Be Forgotten

For the past five years, Joanne Janisch has been gathering the names of LaPorte County veterans who died during the past year.

Janisch is a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars

Auxiliary Post 1130 in LaPorte. Her sister-in-law, Jean Chlupacek, assembled the lists before her. The mission is to ensure these individuals, and how they served their country, are not forgotten.

Dr. Carl Golightly	2/1/19	Army	James Dry	7/19/19	WWII
Stanley Whitehead	3/29/19	Vietnam	Robert Taylor	7/23/19	Korea
Jack Waak	4/27/19	Army	Leocadia Napierala	7/27/19	Waves
Paul Miller	5/9/19	Army	John Klosinski	7/27/19	Navy
Harry "Sonny" Geltz	5/10/19	WWII	Robert Budak	7/27/19	Korea
Phillip Janik Sr.	5/10/19	Army	Eugene Satkoski	7/28/19	Army
Gerald Janoski	5/11/19	Army	Harold Arndt	7/29/19	WWII
Edward Papp Sr.	5/13/19	Korea	Boyd Griffith	7/30/19	Army
Gerald Talak	5/13/19	Marine	Allan Jones	7/31/19	Vietnam
Michael Kreighbaum	5/15/19	Army	Gilbert Blake	8/1/19	Korea
Billy Richardson	5/16/19	WWII	James "Al" Penny	8/2/19	Army,Air Force
Eugene Sheeley	5/18/19	Marine	George Johnson	8/12/19	Air Force
Donald Wilke	5/18/19	WWII	George Allesee	8/12/19	WWII
William Hildreth	5/18/19	IN Nat. Guard	Eugene Wiegand	8/12/19	WWII
Leonard Shebel	5/19/19	WWII	Charles Siedlecki	8/13/19	WWII
Curtis Niswonger	5/20/19	Army	Philip Bowman	8/13/19	WWII
Leonard Vincett	5/22/19	Vietnam	Roger Schlaak	8/14/19	WWII
Philip Thornburg	5/23/19	Vietnam	Elton Clark	8/15/19	Marine
Wade Kanney	5/24/19	WWII	Charles Yozman	8/16/19	Korea
James Gast II	5/25/19	Vietnam	Miriam Wheatley	8/16/19	WWII
Robert Clark	5/26/19	Army	David Cummings	8/18/19	Vietnam
June Schlegelmilch	5/27/19	Army	Clyde Zeek	8/19/19	Army
Carl Gorecki	5/30/19	Korea	Ronald VanDePutte	8/20/19	Navy
Harold Fackelman	5/31/19	WWII	Lloyd Nelson	8/21/19	Army
George Williams	6/1/19	Army	Dennis Eaglebarger	8/22/19	Army
Bert Mullins	6/3/19	Army	Doran Boudreau	8/22/19	Army
Dennis Kado	6/5/19	WWII	Eugene Shurte	8/27/19	Army
Timothy Brown	6/9/19	Korea	Ernest Serhal	8/28/19	Korea
Larry Padgett	6/9/19	Navy	Thomas Snyder	8/30/19	Korea
Thomas Forrester Sr.	6/9/19	Army	Paul Steinhiser	8/31/19	Vietnam
Ray Mercier	6/9/19	Army	Frank Dabbert	8/31/19	WWII
Thomas Malcer	6/10/19	Vietnam	William Baugher	9/2/19	Korea
Robert Madaras	6/10/19	Vietnam	William Harber	9/3/19	Korea
Richard Simon	6/11/19	Korea	Mark Tibbs	9/3/19	Nat. Guard
Donald Buis	6/14/19	Korea	Ted Keller	9/4/19	Korea
Jack Sturken	6/19/19	Vietnam	Charles Ryan	9/9/19	Marines
Mark McNally	6/23/19	Army	Roy Britney	9/11/19	Army Reserves
John Dornbrock	6/25/19	Army	William Desmond, Jr.	9/11/19	Vietnam
Hans Kunze	6/25/19	WWII	John Petrone	9/12/19	Army
Ann Troy	6/27/19	Waves	David Manthey	9/12/19	Army
James Keene	6/28/19	Navy	Terry Griner	9/12/19	Army
Gerald O'Keefe	6/29/19	Army	Donald Williamson	9/16/19	Korea
David Wasielewski	6/29/19	Army	Alfred Herbst	9/17/19	Army
Mathew Shawala	6/30/19	Korea	Harry "Hap" Bazemore	9/19/19	Vietnam
Joseph West	7/2/19	WWII	Thomas Petoskey	9/22/19	Air Force
Peter Jensen	7/4/19	Korea	William Perz Sr.	9/25/19	Marines
William Milner	7/6/19	Navy	Terrance Lord	9/25/19	Navy
Jeanette Leonard	7/13/19	Waves	William Ward	9/25/19	Army
Raymond Kaiser	7/16/19	Army	Joseph Konfirst	9/28/19	WWII
Harry Krug	7/17/19	Army	Leo Bulakowski	9/30/19	Vietnam
Philip Heminger	7/17/19	Air Force	George Baranowski	10/2/19	Army Reserve
Edward Pitrowski	7/18/19	Army	Calvin Trickler	10/3/19	Army

Alford Hughes	11/6/19	Army	Carl Zurcher	12/16/19	Air Nat. Guard
David Williams	10/7/19	Army	Mark Sanders	12/16/19	Army
Jimmy Hunt	10/11/19	Air Force	William Lambert	12/17/19	Vietnam
Merrill Deardorff	10/12/19	WWII	Charles Mitchell	12/18/19	WWII
Richard Saliwanchik	10/13/19	Korea	David Behan	12/21/19	Vietnam
Gerald Smith	10/13/19	Army	Bobby Hughes	12/23/19	Army
Jerome Kucharski	10/14/19	Navy	Charles Cummins	12/24/19	Vietnam
Eva Wolff	10/15/19	Waves	Lois Bond	12/25/19	Air Force
Louis Leja	10/16/19	Korea	James Bartholomew	12/25/19	Korea
Gregory Kahn	10/21/19	Vietnam	Robert Doud Sr.	12/26/19	Vietnam
Nicholas Venice	10/22/19	Korea	Jack Hyde	12/27/19	Army Air Corp
Roman Dickt	10/24/19	Army	Richard Reese	12/30/19	Navy
Anthony Bohlim	10/26/19	Korea	Charles Wright	1/1/20	Air Force
Henry "Hank" Birkholz	10/27/19	Korea	Francis Wiegand	1/2/20	Navy
Richard Hostetler	10/29/19	Army	Richard Rudolph	1/4/20	Korea
Norma Kniola	10/30/19	Korea	Cody Geddes	1/6/20	Air Force
James Merifield	10/31/19	Navy	Randy Jones	1/12/20	Vietnam
Wayne Ellinger	11/2/19	Army	Richard Neville	1/14/20	Korea
Russell Bohn	11/5/19	Army	Robert Cook Sr.	1/14/20	Army
Thomas Hines Sr.	11/9/19	Army	Robert Padgett	1/15/20	Army
Robert Cavanaugh	11/9/19	Army	Scott Shelton	1/15/20	WWII
Terrence Maddox	11/10/19	Army	Devon Crane	1/18/20	Navy
Jack Renfro	11/11/19	Korea	D. Sammelman Sr.	1/18/20	Marines
Ralph Woodruff	11/13/19	Marines	William Hager	1/19/20	Korea
Norman Levine	11/14/19	WWII	Francis Gallant	1/19/20	Air Force
Daniel DeKnight	11/15/19	Army	Robert Courington	1/22/20	Vietnam
Donald Hunter	11/18/19	Navy	Bruce Tanber	1/22/20	Air Force
John Benson	11/18/19	Vietnam	Duane Mertl	1/22/20	Army
Freddie Ames	11/19/19	Army	James "Hank" Wray	1/23/20	Vietnam
Karrie Worthington	11/20/19	Army	Arthur Michaels	1/25/20	Vietnam
Dr. John Luce	11/22/19	Navy	Daniel Stayback	1/26/20	Vietnam
James Patek	11/25/19	Navy	Henry Plis	1/27/20	Army
Marvin Nixon	11/27/19	Army	Robert Bente	1/28/20	Navy/Air Force
Carl Hubner	11/30/19	Army	John Wiora	1/29/20	Korea
Benjamin Penwell	12/1/19	Korea	Dr. George Backer	1/30/20	Navy
Daniel Tomkins	12/3/19	Marine	Norman Wagner	2/1/20	Navy
Robert Murray	12/3/19	Vietnam	Leonard Gonzales	2/1/20	Vietnam
John "Jack" Taylor	12/3/19	Korea	Jerry Snyder	2/6/20	Army
William "Dub" Dyer	12/4/19	WWII	Harry Skoczek	2/8/20	Korea
Donald Rosenow	12/5/19	Korea	Richard Kubica	2/10/20	Army Reserves
Thomas Lesley	12/6/19	Korea	Dr. Seth Philbrook	2/11/20	WWII
David Kolodziejski	12/11/19	Army	Douglas Leathem	2/13/20	Navy
David Moss	12/12/19	Korea	Michael Flanigan	2/13/20	Vietnam
Stanley Yagelski	12/14/19	Korea	Stephen Owen	2/16/20	Army N. Guard

Continued  
on Page 52

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Gerald Milcarek	2/21/20	Air Force
Robert Rehlander	2/24/20	Vietnam
Hubert Borg	2/27/20	Army
Robert Cooper	2/28/20	Korea
Charles Wilson	3/1/20	Vietnam
William Swedenberg	3/1/20	WWII
Frank Novy	3/3/20	Army N. Guard
William Malstaff	3/4/20	Navy
Joseph Meell	3/8/20	Air Force
George Cuma	3/8/20	Army Reserves
Ronald Neulieb	3/9/20	Vietnam
Gene Lee	3/11/20	Navy
Jerrold Worthington	3/13/20	Army
Anthony Adaschik	3/17/20	Navy
Craig Gloff	3/17/20	Vietnam
Floyd Tibbs	3/18/20	Korea
Mitchell Adams	3/18/20	Army
Charles Darr	3/22/20	Army
Susan Fries	3/22/20	Nat. Guard
Ronald Crane	3/22/20	WWII
Steven Staley	3/23/20	Army N. Guard
Dwight Wood	3/31/20	Vietnam
Stephen Arnett	3/31/20	Army Reserves
Margaret MacLeod	4/5/20	Army WAC
David Wellinski	4/5/20	Korea
Robert Priest	4/6/20	Army
Donald Olson	4/6/20	Army
Wilbur Stoewer	4/11/20	Army
Raymond Miller	4/13/20	Navy
Lewis Brooks	4/13/20	Air Force
Barry Bush	4/14/20	Army Reserves
Dewey Duff	4/20/20	Army
John Conners Jr.	4/21/20	Korea
Jerry Lambert	4/21/20	Army
Richard Houghtington	4/21/20	Army Reserves
Michael Smith	4/23/20	Army
Gerald Cramer	4/25/20	WWII
James Musgrave	4/26/20	Army
Steve Johnson	4/26/20	Army
Clem Sobieski	4/26/20	Air Force
William Samford	4/26/20	Vietnam
Michael Mikulski	4/27/20	Navy
William Feikes	5/2/20	Korea
John Blower	5/7/20	Army



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## A Memorial Day Message

by Sally Carpenter

I salute you.

I do not know your name, but your face is the face of youth; the face of promise of the future; of the endless summers to come. But too often, that summer never came; the promise lay unfulfilled. It died on the battlefield. A battlefield in America, in Europe, in the Far East, does it matter where?

I salute you. Along with my grandfather, who was in World War I, the "war to end all wars"; my father, who fought in Europe in World War II; and my brother-in-law, who went to Vietnam, a place no one had even heard of.

I raise my hand to my heart as the flag goes by and I salute you. Without all that you have sacrificed, where would any of us be today?

## Box Factory Online Exhibits

Box Factory for the Arts has debuted "The Series 1: 2020 Gallery Exhibitions," featuring Greg Constantine, Douglas Jones and Pete LaRouech, at [www.boxfactoryforthearts.org](http://www.boxfactoryforthearts.org)

Visitors can click on the gallery link to view the artwork. Gallery information, biographical details and artist statements are included.

Constantine taught painting, drawing and art history at Andrews University for 43 years while conducting 15 art-history summer sessions for students in Europe. He retired in 2006, but continues to create art and exhibit his work.

Jones recently retired from teaching writing and literature at Andrews University. He minored in art during his college years and, in retirement, has returned to painting. He works mostly in acrylic and watercolor, and with varied subject matter.

LaRouech, 73, started painting three years ago. He attended Western Michigan University, where he received degrees in Educational Leadership. When he left teaching, he began experimenting with abstract painting.

This is the first time in the Box Factory's 25-year history its exhibits are posted solely online. It is located at 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Email [galleries@boxfactoryforthearts.org](mailto:galleries@boxfactoryforthearts.org) for more details.



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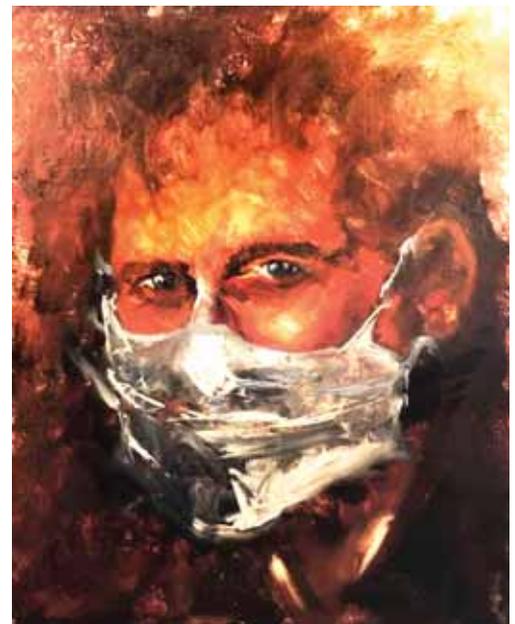
**Stay Healthy.**

**Stay Tuned.**

**We Care.**

### Honoring the Masters

by Andrew Tallackson



Those who know Jeffrey Baumgartner recognize him for his work as vice president and artistic director at Dunes Summer Theatre.

Baumgartner, however, also is an accomplished artist. During these months of self-isolation due to

the COVID-19 pandemic, he decided to put that talent to good use. He converted the art cabin up the hill from the Michiana Shores theater into a makeshift studio. He's doing what he calls a "master study series" for a show, slated as of now for late September, called "Vincent."

The range of works he's focused on also include Wyeth's "Christina's World" and Vermeer's "Girl With a Pearl Earring." He's also explored a few self-portraits.

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## Sanitized for Rider Safety Program

South Shore Line has introduced “Sanitized for Rider Safety,” a program that includes thorough sanitization procedures, safety recommendations and new resources like hand-sanitizing stations.

Riders should look for the “Sanitized for Rider Safety” seal in stations and train cars within the next several weeks. Sanitization procedures include disinfecting seats, windows, crash pads, handrails, door handles, head rests and grab handles. Each train car is mopped with a stringent disinfectant, and the SSL has purchased equipment that fogs train cars with disinfectant.

SSL recommends the following guidelines:

- Use hand-sanitization stations on each train car.
- Refrain from congregating in train vestibules.
- Avoid touching your mouth, nose or eyes while on a train.
- Wash hands frequently and follow CDC recommendations for handwashing.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or the inside of your elbow when coughing or sneezing.
- Respect personal space of all passengers to the best of your ability.
- Wear a mask or face covering while in stations and while on a train.

At this time, riders are required to wear face masks or face coverings while in stations and on the trains. Visit [mysouthshoreline.com/commuters/sanitized-for-rider-safety](https://mysouthshoreline.com/commuters/sanitized-for-rider-safety) for more details.

## Horizon Bank Aids COVID Relief

Horizon Bank has donated \$10,000 to Unity Foundation of LaPorte County’s LaPorte County Disaster Relief and Recovery Fund to aid those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Unity activated our Disaster Fund and made early grants to frontline organizations for food and supplies,” Unity President Maggi Spartz said in a press release. “We are grateful for Horizon’s support as we deploy funds at the right time to support those most vulnerable.”

Visit <https://ufc.net/la-porte-county-disaster-relief-and-recovery-fund/> to learn more about the fund or contribute to it. There are no additional fees, and the money is not endowed, meaning funds can be used immediately.

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## Chamber Music Festival

Michigan City Chamber Music Festival has canceled the remainder of its events this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

That includes:

- The spring “Afternoon of Music” program.
- The July choir camp for children.
- The August Beethoven Forever Festival.

Programs are being rescheduled for 2021.

In a letter to patrons, board members stated, “A great deal of effort has been invested in this important celebration, but we want it to occur under better circumstances for all.”

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

## Beacher Delivery

Any time you do not receive your *Beacher* or have issues with delivery, please contact us immediately so we can take care of the problem.

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## Become a Patron!

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 patron. This week, we thank an **anonymous** \$100 donor!



Visit [patreon.com/thebeacher](https://patreon.com/thebeacher)  
to make a contribution

## Jan Nona Environmental Award

D.C. Smith, a 2020 Michigan City High School graduate, is the recipient of the 2020 Jan Nona Environmental Stewardship Award.



D.C. Smith feels the suction of a sea lamprey at an environmental conference her team attended.

Smith, who also is class president, will attend Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis in the fall. She spent four years with the Wolves Environmental Restoration Team. Originally part of the Native Wetland Species Planting group, she transferred to the Public Relations group to help spread the word of environmentalism.

Smith plans to major in political science.

“D.C. is very deserving of this award because she is passionate about both the environment and her community,” MCHS Principal Kevin Goralczyk said in a press release.

The \$500 award honors Nona, who was a senior citizen inspired to act on behalf of her neighbors. Discovering in the early 2000s the local shallow aquifer — the source of drinking water for the Town of Pines — was poisoned by coal combustion waste, she worked relentlessly to help her neighbors. The result was voluntary funding by “potentially responsible parties” to provide most homeowners with municipal water from Michigan City.

## Michigan City Public Library

Library staff are working to secure all Personal Protective Equipment and cleaning supplies necessary to reopen according to CDC, ALA, state and local guidelines.

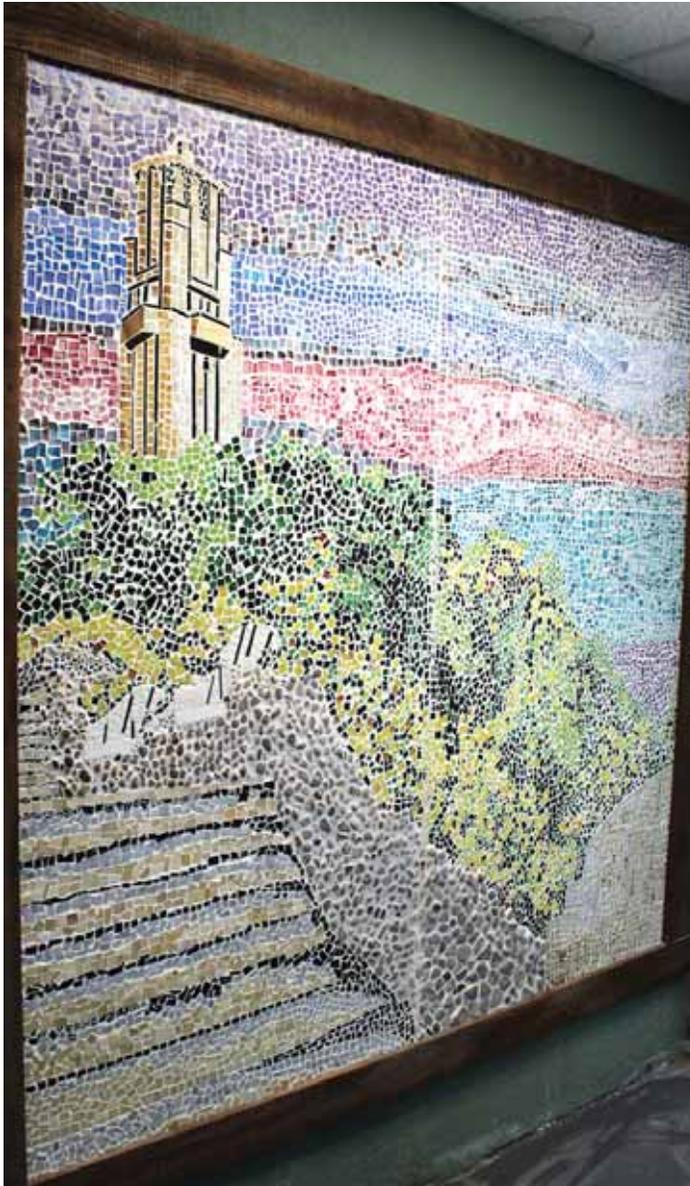
Until then, the library will remain closed. Visit [www.mclib.org](http://www.mclib.org) for online resources, as well as the Axis360 page for more information.

Staff will announce the library’s reopening date and services.



Michigan City Public Library is located at 100 E. Fourth St. Visit [www.mclib.org](http://www.mclib.org) for more details.

**Mosaic Mural**



Michigan City High School art students and teachers created a large mosaic mural that is now installed in Washington Park Zoo's Discovery Center. The project took more than six months to complete and involved more than 150 students, faculty and community members. The image came from a 1931 postcard of the observation tower. A Unity Foundation grant funded the project.



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

- LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St., 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Thursday, May 28.

*Donors must be in good general health and feeling well, at least 17 (16 with parental consent) and weigh at least 110 pounds. Call (800) 733-2767 or visit red-crossblood.org for more details. Visit rcblood.org/ together for more details.*

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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.

# Quitting!



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## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

**On May 21, 1852**, the first train on the Michigan Central Railroad arrived in Chicago.

**On May 21, 1881**, Clara Barton founded the American Red Cross, also serving as its first president.

**On May 21, 1927**, Charles Lindberg landed his plane (The Spirit of St. Louis) outside Paris, completing the first solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean. He had been in the air for 33-1/2 hours and covered a distance of 3,600 miles.

**On May 21, 1948**, President Harry Truman, in a special message to Congress, asked that statehood be conferred on Alaska.

**On May 21, 1959**, "Gypsy" opened on Broadway.

**On May 21, 1999**, Susan Lucci won a Daytime Emmy Award for Best Actress on her 19th try.

**On May 22, 1761**, the first life insurance policy in the United States was issued in Philadelphia.

**On May 22, 1868**, the Reno gang made off with \$96,000 in cash, gold and bonds in the Great Train Robbery near Seymour, Ind.

**On May 22, 1992**, after a reign of nearly 30 years, Johnny Carson stepped down as host of NBC's "Tonight" show.

**On May 23, 1455**, the Battle of St. Albans was fought in England's "War of the Roses."

**On May 23, 1785**, Benjamin Franklin mentioned in a letter that he had invented bifocal glasses.

**On May 23, 1911**, President William Howard Taft dedicated the New York Public Library.

**On May 23, 1984**, U.S. Surgeon General Everett Koop said "very solid evidence showed lung disease could result from nonsmokers' exposure to cigarette smoke."

**On May 23, 1994**, "Pulp Fiction" by Quentin Tarantino won the Palme d'Or or Golden Palm for best film at the 47th Cannes Film Festival.

**On May 24, 1830**, the first U.S. passenger railroad service, a 13-mile journey between Baltimore and Elliott's Mills, Md., began.

**On May 24, 1844**, Samuel Morse transmitted the first public message by telegraph, a short statement sent from Washington to Baltimore.

**On May 24, 1935**, the National League's Cincinnati Reds hosted the Philadelphia Phillies in the major league's first night baseball game.

**On May 24, 1941**, during World War II, 1,300 died when the German Battleship "Bismark" sank the

British Cruiser “Hood” in the North Atlantic.

**On May 24, 1958**, United Press International was formed through a merger of the United Press and the International News Service.

**On May 24, 1992**, Al Unser Jr. became the first second-generation winner of the Indianapolis 500.

**On May 25, 1844**, a reporter for *The Baltimore Patriot* became the first newsman to transmit a story by telegraph, reporting on a vote by the House of Representatives.

**On May 25, 1878**, Gilbert and Sullivan’s “HMS Pinafore” premiered in London.

**On May 25, 1935**, while playing for the Boston Braves, Babe Ruth hit his 714th (and last) home run as he ended a spectacular career. The game was played in Pittsburg’s Forbes Field.

**On May 25, 1935**, Jesse Owens, competing in four events in 45 minutes, sets three world records and ties a fourth.

**On May 25, 1973**, American astronauts Charles Conrad, Joseph Kerwin and Paul Weitz blasted off to become the first crew of the Skylab space station.

**On May 26, 1865**, the Civil War ended as the last Confederate troops surrendered at Shreveport, La.

**On May 26, 1940**, the evacuation of Allied troops from Dunkirk, France, began during World War II.

**On May 26, 1969**, the Apollo 10 astronauts returned to Earth after a successful eight-day dress rehearsal for the first manned moon landing.

**On May 26, 1978**, the first legal casino in the eastern United States opened in Atlantic City.

**On May 27, 1647**, the first recorded execution of a witch took place in Massachusetts. The victim was Achsah Young, and the method of death was by hanging. Burning at the stake was introduced later.

**On May 27, 1703**, Peter the Great founded the city of St. Petersburg, which would later become the new capital of Russia.

**On May 27, 1818**, Amelia Bloomer, who popularized the garment that bears her name — bloomers — was born in Homer, N.Y.

**On May 27, 1837**, legendary American gunfighter William “Wild Bill” Hickok was born in the Illinois town of Troy Grove.

**On May 27, 1933**, the “Century of Progress Exposition” opened on Chicago’s lakefront.

**On May 27, 1936**, the ocean-liner Queen Mary, flying the flag of the Cunard Line, left England on her maiden voyage.

**On May 27, 1937**, California’s Golden Gate Bridge, connecting San Francisco with Marin County, was officially opened.

**On May 27, 1995**, actor Christopher Reeve was paralyzed when he was thrown from his horse during a jumping event in Charlottesville, Va.

# B R O C H U R E S



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**LaPorte County Public Library**

Amid the COVID-19 crisis, LaPorte County Public Library is offering programs through the Internet.

Early Childhood Literacy classes have been adapted, with the virtual classes “Play & Learn” and “Stories & More” available through the calendar of events on Zoom, a video-conferencing software.

On YouTube, Miss Megan has created a series of videos explaining the Every Child Ready to Read program. Videos focus on reading, writing, talking, singing and playing.

Through Kanopy, patrons can use their library card to stream free movies. Click on “kanopy” to get started.

The online eBook club, Big Library Read, will host its next session through Zoom at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 9. The focus is comedian Michael McCreary’s memoir Funny, You Don’t Look Autistic: A Comedian’s Guide to Life on the Spectrum. The title is available through Overdrive in ebook and audiobook formats. Register at <https://bit.ly/3dquqGt>

*LaPorte County Public Library is located at 904 Indiana Ave. The Coolspring Branch is located at 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Visit [www.laportelibrary.org](http://www.laportelibrary.org) for more details.*

**National Park Trails Open**

Indiana Dunes National Park’s 50 miles of hiking trails remain open, providing safe space for exercise while social distancing and complying with the state’s Shelter-in-Place orders.

While all park buildings, including restrooms, are closed until further notice, hiking and biking trails, parking lots and most beaches remain open.

Law-enforcement rangers remain on patrol; however, visitors can help protect park resources. With most maintenance staff under shelter-in-place orders, visitors are asked to practice Leave No Trace principles, including: staying on trails, packing out your own trash and leaving the park as you found it. Violations can be reported at (800) Park-Tip.

The National Park Service is working with federal, state and local authorities to closely monitor COVID-19. The public will be notified when the park resumes full operations. Updates are posted at [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu), and social media channels such as [www.facebook.com/IndianaDunesNPS](https://www.facebook.com/IndianaDunesNPS)



## Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

**The Long Flight Home by Alan Hlad** (*paperback, \$15.95 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook. 370 pages*)

This week, I offer you a story about World War II, an American who wants to join the British Royal Air Force and a British girl who raises pigeons. Put them together and you get an inspiring story of faith, determination, loyalty and love at a time when they all seem hopeless. It's a novel, but based on a part of the war that often isn't explored — the British National Pigeon Service.

Bertie and his granddaughter, Susan, raise these homing pigeons on a farm in Epping north of London. Susan is at university studying zoology when she goes back to live with her aging grandfather. She loves the pigeons (don't call them just "birds") and has a favorite, Duchess. She rescued the egg from a dying mother and cared for it through hatching.

They aren't surprised when the call comes for them to offer up their pigeons for a dangerous experiment, code-named "Source Columbia." This is a major undertaking that will use thousands of pigeons, from many farmers, to fly across the English Channel and dropped into France.

Knowing these are homing pigeons, the government devises a plan whereby they have little tubes attached to their legs to carry a message. The information from the French would give the Brits intel on Nazi troop movement and planned airplane raids England knows is leading to an invasion of their island. The pigeons then fly home, the notes given to the military. That means all of Bertie and Susan's pigeons, except for the young and the nesting, could become the RAF's winged spies. These birds, while many are killed, turn out to be more successful than anyone thought.

London was bombed for 57 consecutive nights that year of 1940. Bertie and Susan live close enough to the city to hear the planes and bombs, see the smoke and fire, and race to their bomb shelter until the all-clear sirens are heard, usually not until the next morning.

Meanwhile, in September 1940 in Maine, a young man, Ollie Evans, forgoes college to help run the family farm after his father is crippled by an accident. Flying airplanes is Ollie's life's ambition, so crop dusting for extra money seems the closest he will get to being a fighter pilot. Ollie's ancestry is

British, and his dad always tells him, "*Our family may have lost our accent...But our blood is, and always will be, British.*" It upsets Ollie the U.S. is staying out of the war. He wants to go to England, join the RAF and fly bomber planes. His wish of going to England will soon come true, but not the way he envisioned...

In a freak auto accident, Ollie's parents are killed. He soon finds the farm, deep in debt, is foreclosed on and he has to move on...to where? Time to head to

England? He knows the only way to England is through Canada, so he heads up to Nova Scotia, but soon finds out it will be a rocky road to his destination. Finally arriving in England, he's on a train to join the RAF when he sees a soldier grabbing a young woman roughly, and he decks him. Boy, there's no break for Ollie as the man is Flight Lt. Clyde Boar of the RAF. The woman is Susan.

Boar wants him thrown in jail for assault, but Susan calls Bertie and a deal is struck with the authorities...

So far on his dream journey to pilot training, Ollie has managed to get robbed, stow away on a ship, punch an RAF pilot and get sentenced to taking care of pigeons. What did John Lennon say? "*Life is what happens to you while you're*

*busy making other plans.*"

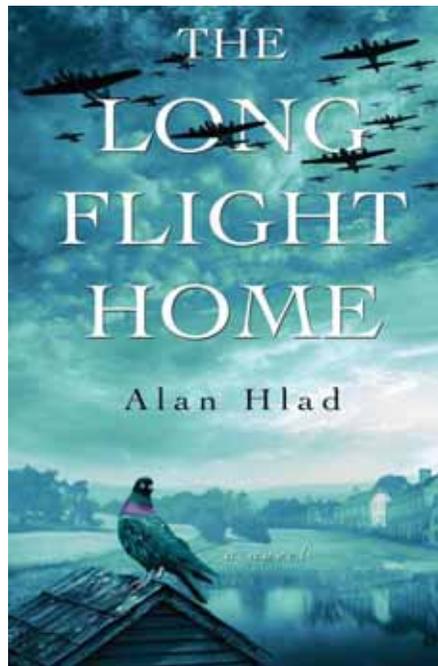
Fate will have more in store for Ollie and Susan as the pigeons are readied for transport, and Ollie gets trapped by mistake on one of the planes with Boar. The co-pilot and gunner are killed over France, and the plane crashes in a rural area after releasing the pigeons. Get ready for nail-biting, edge-of-your-seat, can't-put-down-the-book thrills.

Hlad offers a descriptive look at what the French Resistance and common people did to survive and thwart the enemy at every turn. The pair is taken in by a woman who hides them under her house and almost forfeits her own life caring for them.

Will Susan and Ollie ever see each other again? Yes and no. Fate is a fickle thing. This story shows all too realistically how the war separated people, made heroes out of the most unlikely of us and how maybe this wasn't a "they lived happily ever after" story. But in some ways, maybe it is. That's for the reader to decide.

A great selection for a book club read.

Till next time, happy reading and Happy Memorial Day weekend!



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**Thank you for your service, Dave!**

Our agent, Dave Troth, served in the U.S. Navy for 10 years, 1 month, and 1 day with his wife, Jari, by his side! He has since been medically retired and enjoys being "home matchmakers" with his wife!

**Dave & Jari Troth | 219-363-9203**



**"You need patience and the ability to see someone else's problems. You need to just enjoy people, I think. If you don't enjoy them, you won't put up with them."**

**- Proceeder, Phyllis Waters**

We listen to your needs and do our best to go above and beyond - just like MTM Long Beach Realty's proceeder, Phyllis Waters built the business on! Our agents have the patience, ethics, drive and connections to help with your real estate needs!

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