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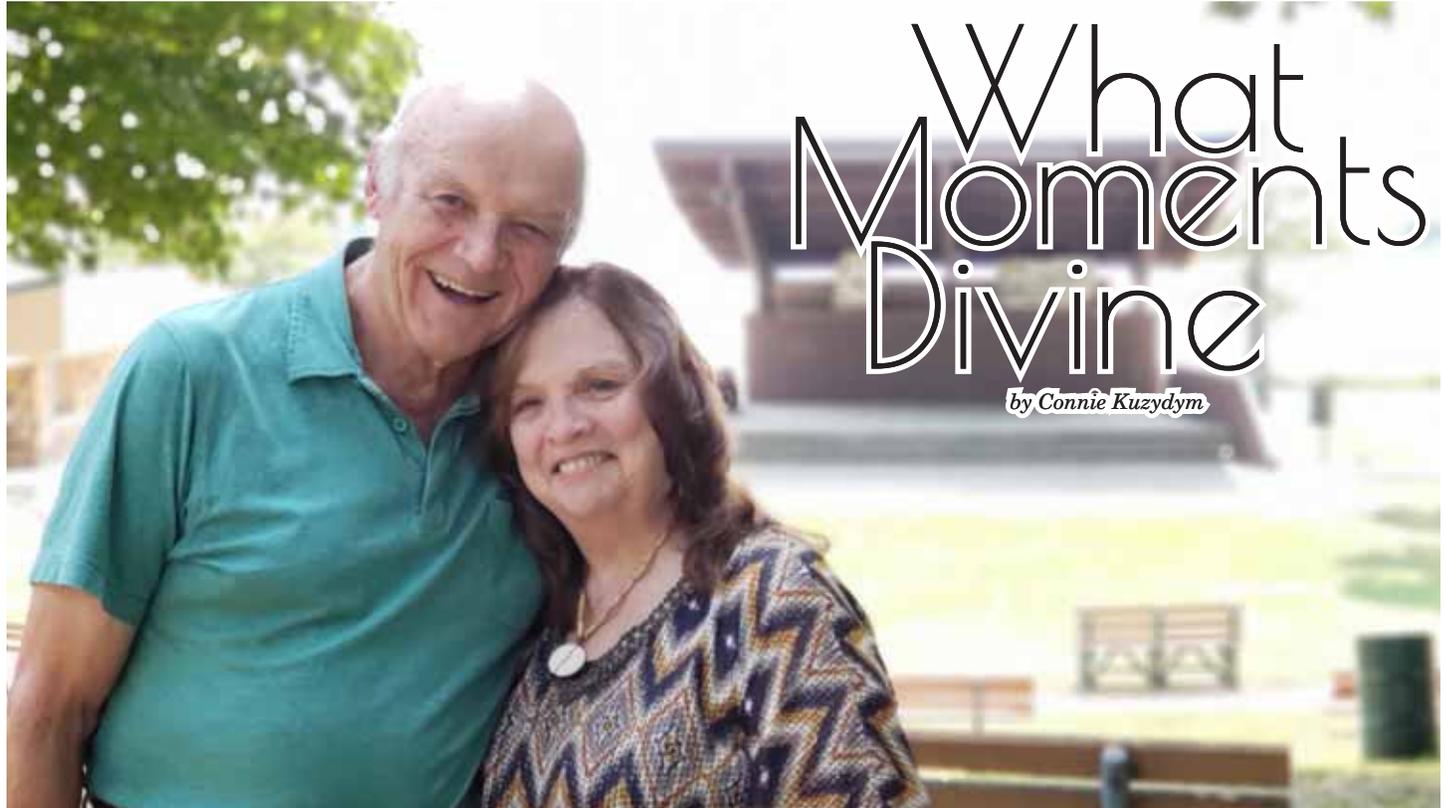
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About the Cover

Beacher photographer Paul Kemiell captured this festive holiday image off of Small Road in LaPorte County.

Holiday HoursThe Beacher will be closed Thursday and Friday,
Nov. 26-27, for Thanksgiving.
Regular office hours resume Monday, Nov. 30.

What Moments Divine

by *Connie Kuzdym*Tom and Fran Milo are photographed by *The Beacher's* Bob Wellinski at LaPorte's Fox Park, home to performances by the LaPorte City Band, which has special meaning for them.

One summer evening long ago, two young musicians met while playing in the LaPorte City Band. From there, music, and a business, intertwined two separate lives into one.

The story of Tom and Fran Milo is like a soothing, melodious tune that leaves you smiling long after the final note. Throughout their 45-year marriage, they have worked together, musically with The Tom Milo Big Band and The Beachcombers, and in business, running Milo Enterprises in their hometown of LaPorte. They also raised two successful children: Jason and Blair, the former mayor of LaPorte.

Tom is a masterful storyteller. There is a twinkle in his eyes as he recalls a story to be told. Fran complements him. They weave in and out of each other's sentences. Tom jokingly says Fran has his stories numbered, she knows them so well.

Asked about the key to working together, growing together, remaining together and not killing each other, their hearty laughter supplies a good portion of the answer. They will attest to having trying mo-

ments, but by working together, they have navigated the bumps in the road.

"It can be tricky business because everything is intertwined," Fran said. "From the moment you get up until when you go to bed. It's not like somebody went off to do another job or you bring that diversity in from something else. It's all together. And at the same time, you're raising a family."

Tom added, "Fortunately for us on most decisions about most things, not just music or business, but both of those and kids, we were on the same track."

They both came from families with a similar set of ethics, and both were raised in Christian homes.

"When you get those kinds of roots," Fran said, "it makes you have the same set of standards, the same way you operate, and I think we are very similar in our interests."

With a bit of an age difference between them, it seems there was a grander plan, leaving them destined to be together.

Tom and Fran's love of music is part of their fiber.

There was an expectation in Fran's family that she and her two sisters play the piano. Likewise, Tom took piano lessons. His mom, a piano player, strongly believed in the importance of music in someone's life.

"If you lived in our house, you took piano lessons and practiced...I didn't like that at all," Tom said. "Didn't matter to my mother. You live here, you play the piano here. It was just that simple."

Fran added his mother actually chased him around the living room to get him back on the piano bench to finish practicing.

"She thought it was that important," Tom said. "In hindsight, she was absolutely correct."

Fran played the flute in the high school band and orchestra, sang in the choir and swing choir. During her junior year, Fran's choir director, Eddie Burke, saw her musical potential and inquired about her life plan. Fran's immediate response: She wanted to be an ambassador to France. He questioned if she thought of teaching music.

Burke planted a seed, one that eventually blossomed. Mulling it over with family and friends, she realized music was an immense part of her life. Fran ultimately received a choral-music teaching degree from Indiana University School of Music.

A few years earlier, Guy Foreman, the LaPorte High School band director, nurtured Tom's love of music. The music department was extremely active, affording students numerous chances to play and improve their skill set. As a teenager, there were countless opportunities to see and hear professional musicians in the area. He also was playing the drums with many area professional bands at clubs, even before he was old enough to legally do so.



This photo of The Tom Milo Band was taken while Tom was a junior in high school.

Tom's first experience with a live big band was the Stan Kenton Orchestra at South Bend's Morris Civic Auditorium. He recalls being blown away by what he heard. His experiences as a young adult ignited his enthusiasm for music. He fell in love with the big band sound. Today, he is a big band aficionado.

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What Moments Divine Continued from Page 3

He started The Tom Milo Big Band in 1963 during his sophomore year at VanderCook College of Music in Chicago. It was there he understood and appreciated his mother's insistence on learning to play the piano. VanderCook required incoming students to learn a new instrument. By playing the piano, he learned how to read both musical clefs, allowing him to solely focus on learning how to play the instrument.

"I wasn't very good," Tom said, laughing. "It gave you the experience of what it was like to do a totally different thing than you had come to school knowing...That's the idea of music education, because you're going to come across all the different instruments, so they wanted you to have firsthand knowledge..."

Upon graduating, Tom moved to Los Angeles to delve into the music scene. He had gigs with a variety of bands. He eventually went on the road with The Entourage, a Las Vegas-style lounge act consisting of a four-piece band with two singers. They took their act to Tropicana Las Vegas, then on to the Britannia Hotel on Paradise Island in the Bahamas — a playground for the rich and famous. During the day, through connections of one of their singers, the band members became extras on the set of the movie "The Happy Ending" (1969) starring Jean Simmons, John Forsythe, Shirley Jones, Lloyd Bridges and Teresa Wright.

Once that magical experience ended, the band came back to the states and toured throughout the country. Tom eventually left the band, heading to Lima, Peru, for three months. Upon his return to LaPorte, he eventually joined the Bobbie Mercer Roadshow.

Years before Tom met Fran, Hallmark moments were occurring for them. The setting, a small town where the families know of each other. Both families have a love of music. Tom is seven years older than Fran. He is touring the country. Fran is in high school, giving flute lessons. One of her students is Tom's younger sister, Peggy. At each lesson, Peggy would talk about her musician brother, and how Fran needed to meet him. Each time, Fran dis-

missed her comments, thinking "yeah, OK thanks." Why take it seriously? He was out in the world. She was still in high school.

It's as if you can see Santa standing in the corner, his eyes twinkling, shaking his head, knowing what is to come. That summer after Tom came back from Peru, a cute flautist in the city band caught his eye. The band director told him her name, he approached her...and so began their love story.

"We meet and start dating. We get more serious as time goes on," Tom said. "Being on the road with bands and being married, the two don't really mix very well...My experience, that's a good way to become unmarried. So, I decided maybe I should do something with this degree I got once upon a time."

Tom became the Michigan City Elston Junior High School band director in the '70s. Meanwhile, Fran returned from a year of teaching music in Cincinnati, teaching kindergarten through eighth-grade music and swing choir at South Central. She also was working towards a Master of Business Administration, fulfilling the requirement of having a master's degree within five years of teaching.

Not long into their teaching careers, Tom and Fran left their positions.

"I think we both found that we both have joy in doing music; performing or

participating in music, actually playing, singing, doing it," Fran said. "For both of us, the teaching did not nurture ourselves musically. It was a place where, you know I love music and if I continue to do this, I may not love music nearly as well."

Although they chose to redirect their professional careers to investment properties and a laundromat via Milo Enterprises, music remained their passion.

The story of how they became The Beachcombers feels like a scene from a movie. The setting is The Red Lantern Restaurant, a popular eatery on the shores of Lake Michigan in Beverly Shores that housed a quartet band for years. The band initially was started by the piano player and featured a clarinet, bass and drummer, who was Tom.

The scene begins with Fran and Tom collectively telling the story of an eventful start to the Labor Day weekend in their first year of marriage.

The story begins...

It was a very busy time for the restaurant due to



The five-member Beachcombers in 1984.

its proximity to Lake Michigan. The band was in the middle of the song when the piano player gets up, leaves the restaurant and starts walking down the beach. The bass player went after him and asked what's up. He said this (the song) reminds me of my ex-wife and I just can't play anymore, I'm done. I can't come back and play. He kept walking down the beach. Tom and the clarinet player continued playing the gig.

I come home and say to Fran, oh my gosh, we don't have a piano player for tomorrow night. The next day he is calling everybody he knows. To no avail. I said to Fran, you gotta help us out. Very reluctantly, I get drafted into being the piano player in the band. I had not accompanied anyone since jazz band in high school, and I'm typically a read-it-by-note player. I'm a legit player, and music like the band was performing was definitely illegit music. My biggest fear, I was just totally going to totally embarrass myself. I wasn't happy with this, but on the other hand, he needs help.

That Saturday night, Fran brought her books



The Tom Milo Big Band plays in Evanston for a wedding reception in the mid-1980s.

and placed them on the piano. From that point on, she became the piano player. Although it was a foreign concept, she figured out how to make music on a more casual basis, where people improvise solos. Somewhere along the line, the owners dubbed the band The Beachcombers.

“At some point, we decided it really makes sense that my strength is in the singing, not in the piano playing. So why don't we try that to add some va-

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What Moments Divine Continued from Page 5

riety,” Fran said. “It began...me doing vocals, the four-piece group changed clarinet to saxophone, then we added a guitar player and finally added a trumpet player so that we had six players.”

Eventually, The Beachcombers, which was the Milos’ bread-and-butter group in the ’70s through the mid-’90s, began playing outside of the Red Lantern, booking weddings, parties and the like.

During those years, The Tom Milo Big Band also had bookings. Having two bands kept them extremely busy. The Big Band sound surged in popularity in the mid ’80s until the early 2000s due to the recognition of great singers from that era like Frank Sinatra and Tony Bennett, and bands such as The Tommy Dorsey Band. Newcomers Harry Connick Jr. and Michael Bublé then brought Big Band Swing Music to the next generation.

Opportunities abounded to play at venues throughout northern Indiana and Southwest Michigan. The band also played numerous times on two cruise ships, Holland America and Costa Cruise Line.



The Tom Milo Big Band in the late 1970s, when Fran was still playing piano.

The most memorable moment musically for Fran, which was surreal, was on their first cruise. They were in the Queen’s Lounge of the Westerdam, a Holland America ship.

“We started to play, the room filled up and there were dancers everywhere,” Fran said. “We looked around and said, we’re playing this gig and we’re on a ship and this is just incredible. And it was.”

For Tom, it was the night they played in the main showroom on the Maasdam, another Holland America cruising ship.

“We were going through the Panama Canal. It was one of those nights it really came together,” Tom said. “One of the girls that was singing on the ship...was a headliner. She came in and sang with the band. It was just great. It was one of those nights where it all came together — musically, the audience, the whole nine yards.”

The Big Band has slowed down considerably these days: some by happenstance, some by choice. The



Tom and his son, Jason, during a performance. Photo by Bob Wellinski.

Beachcombers were absorbed into the Big Band in 2005. At this point in their lives, they choose bookings that interest them, and those with whom they have formed a relationship.

Fran is still serving on a wide variety of boards in LaPorte, her most recent appointment being LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra. Tom is still playing with the LaPorte City Band after more than 60 years. They love bicycling, traveling, concerts and trying new things.

It’s hard for them to look back to the time when they might not have had the same interest. They recognize and respect the strengths the other brings to the relationship.

Their life flows like the notes they play. One is the treble clef, the other the bass clef, mostly complementing each other and on occasion hitting an unharmonious chord.

“Marriage is something you gotta work at. You gotta want it,” Fran said. “It’s worth it, to work at it and to understand that it’s not always going to be easy. I’m a pretty tough person at times, and God bless it, he gets through those rough moments and he goes, ‘hah, she’ll be done soon.’”

Laughing, Tom says you can only image how great Fran was when it came to managing tenants.

Witnessing such happiness within a couple, it is natural to ask one final question, and for their answer to be intertwined. Is laughter the key?

“Part of it,” Tom said.

“Truly,” Fran said. “Because if you laugh at things, you don’t put quite the pressure on yourself to be serious all the time. And it’s really important to laugh at yourself sometimes, because we are not perfect people. We do stupid things at times, and you better be able to own up to it and just laugh about it.”



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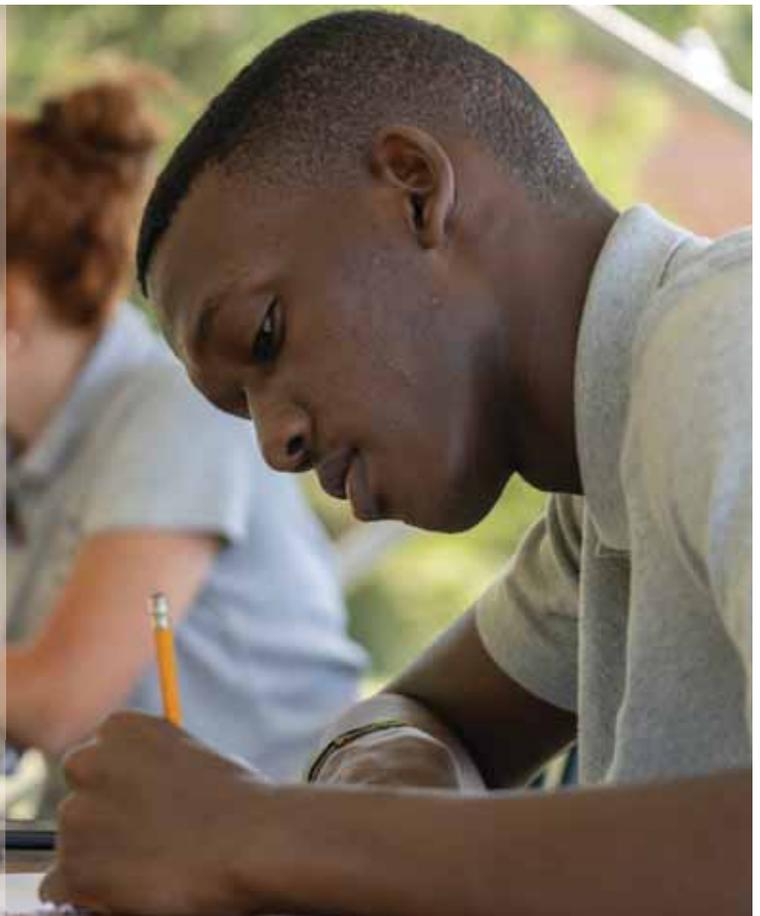


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Portion of Proceeds from Mask Sales Benefits Elston Fund

by Andrew Tallackson



Kathleen Pahs-Rhodes (left) presents her donation to Jamie Miller, Unity Foundation of LaPorte County development officer.

One local woman's attempt to help out during COVID-19 not only has produced more than 1,600 face masks, but also a \$400 donation to Unity Foundation of LaPorte County's Elston Education Support Fund.

Kathleen Pahs-Rhodes began making face masks in early March after her daughter Laura, a Cleveland Clinic nurse practitioner, asked her to help out a friend who works at The University of Chicago Hospital, which was running out of Personal Protective Equipment.

"I took action and made 42 masks for UOC," she said, "and it snowballed from there."

Pahs-Rhodes subsequently donated masks to local shelters and out-of-town/out-of-state hospitals. Another project involved her daughter-in-law, a teacher at Bowen Elementary School in Louisville, Ky., where her granddaughters, Hollis and Harper, attend. She made "Bowen Bee" masks for the staff.

Then, she discovered a website where she could print fabric off photos.

"That's when I decided to order the Elston Devils, Rogers Raiders, current MC and the Marquette school logos," she said. "I thought since I was using those logos that it would be fitting to donate 20 percent of the sale of those masks to the Elston Education Fund through the Unity Foundation."

Elston graduates created the fund in 2018 to benefit Michigan City Area Schools administrators, teachers and students. It makes supplemental financial resources available for educational materials, supplies, equipment and special programs not included in annual budgets.

"We are so proud of our community members for supporting Unity and the empowerment of education," Jamie Miller, Unity Foundation of LaPorte County development officer, told *The Beacher*.

It is worth noting, Pahs-Rhodes has created her masks using a 1969 Sears Kenmore graduation gift she received from her parents. Anyone interested in placing orders can contact her at PahsRhodes@comcast.net



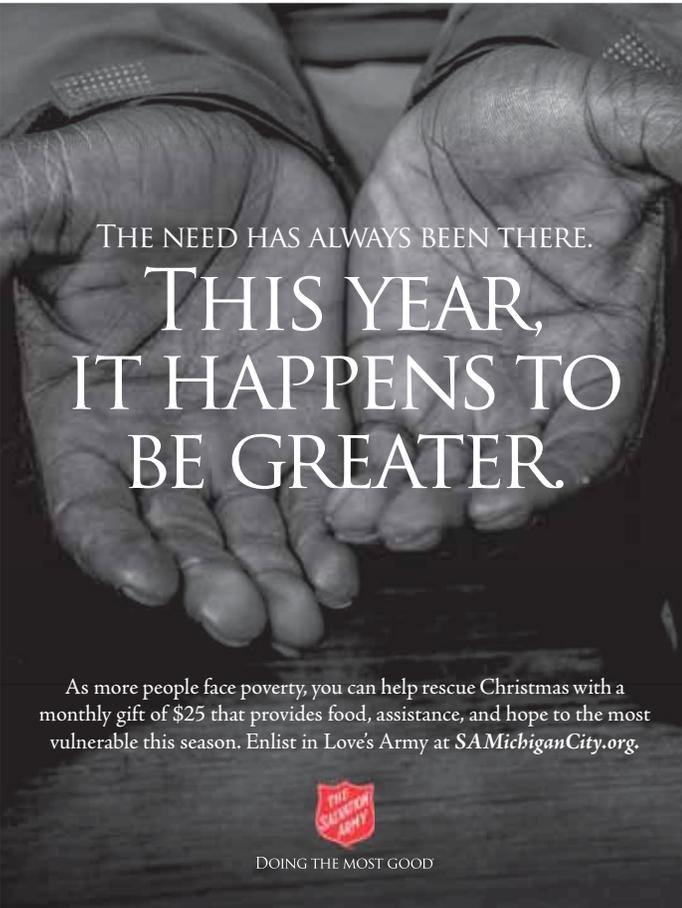


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Netflix's "The Queen's Gambit"



Anya Taylor-Joy stars as an orphan who becomes a chess prodigy in Netflix's "The Queen's Gambit."

Can we all just agree "The Queen's Gambit" is the most entertaining series of the year?

Sorry if that comes across a tad defensive. I feel a bit protective of Netflix's word-of-mouth smash. In a peculiar year where pandemic-induced isolation saw us binge everything from train-wreck trash ("Tiger King") to highbrow literary adaptations ("Little Fires Everywhere"), "The Queen's Gambit" stands tall as 2020's most memorable. That's because it actually is about something. It has something to say. About women. About race. About family. About genius and addiction. About our place in the world. All of it wrapped up in an orphan-makes-good story that would have made Dickens proud.

I am not familiar with Walter Tevis' fictional 1983 novel upon which the seven-episode series is based, but the director and writer is Scott Frank, a screenwriter whose credits include "Logan," "Minority Report," "Out of Sight" and "Get Shorty." "The Queen's Gambit" is only his second time behind the camera, but he shows tremendous skill, juicing up a potentially dry subject through a dynamite cast, intriguing visuals and a story that is one emotional roller

coaster after another.

The series begins in the mid-1950s. Beth Harmon (Isla Johnston) ends up in a girls orphanage after a tragic car accident takes her mother's life. Had the accident not occurred, Beth would still be perceived as an odd bird. Her mind is brilliant, her ability to gel with others clunky at best. Two people, however, chip through that hardened exterior. One is Jolene (scene-stealer Moses Ingram), a fellow orphan, and Mr. Shaibel (Bill Camp), the custodian. Jolene is the opposite of the orphanage girls: vibrant, determined, defiant. The only one who makes an effort to know Beth. As for Mr. Shaibel, his respite from daily duties is the basement, where the children bang out chalk dust from erasers. Here, Beth observes him mulling chess moves. With a mind for mathematical calculations, the game fascinates her, Mr. Shaibel becoming her reluctant mentor.

Chess does not necessarily bring Beth out of her protective shell, but it does shift her life into focus. The game affords her a purpose, to learn everything about chess through Mr. Shaibel, books and magazines. And it is here "The Queen's Gambit" introduc-

is TV at its Absolute Best

by Andrew Tallackson

es its most dazzling thematic visual: Beth, in bed or at the chess board, looking to the ceiling, chess pieces coming to life above her, aiding her mind's keen ability to explore her next move. Chess, as a game, could have yielded static, dull images of people seated at tables. But by opening up these moments into brilliantly cinematic glimpses into Beth's mind, we realize, we're being prepped for an extraordinary journey.

By her early teen years, Beth is adopted. Now played by Anya Taylor-Joy, her new parents are a dud of a father, who exits the family quickly, and a lonely, boozy mother, Alma, played by actress-turned director Marielle Heller ("A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood," "Can You Ever Forgive Me?"). Beth and Alma — talk about a fascinating duo. They don't exactly exist as mother



The most fascinating and complex relationship involves Beth (Anya Taylor-Joy, right) and her adoptive mother, Alma (Marielle Heller).

and daughter. It is more a mutual understanding. A deepening friendship in which Alma, who once had potential as a pianist, realizes there is money to be made in Beth's chess matches. And Beth, who still can't connect with girls her own age, prefers life on the road, engaging in her one true love of chess. Heller plays Alma as a woman who delights in the fringe benefits of Beth's success — drinks, dining — but as time goes by savors her bond with Beth. In light of the cruel hand life dealt her as a pianist, Alma respects what her adopted daughter achieves.

Up until "The Queen's Gambit," I wasn't sure what to make of Taylor-Joy. In films like "The Witch," "Split," "Glass" and "Emma," she's efficient, but icy. But that persona works to the benefit of "The Queen's Gambit," and we realize, this is an actress who was itching for the right material to come along. That distant, calculating demeanor helps introduce Beth, but the actress adds layers of complexity to the character. Beth is an innocent cast into the world, with no inkling of the finer details. Watch her during the early chess matches, where people fill her in on what she needs to know. Taylor-Joy presents Beth as designed to impress. Intimidate. Then, each time, she backtracks, sheepishly asking followup questions. These moments are lovely bits of subtle acting that add shading to the character. We realize how little Beth knows of the world, and how what she gleans from it comes from the people

who show kindness to her

Equally fascinating is how "The Queen's Gambit" introduces the community of chess players. Initially frosty to Beth — she is, after all, a young woman in a male-dominated arena — their opinions change once witnessing her in action. They not only admire her, but welcome her into their family of players. They *want* her to succeed, not in any patronizing

manner, but because she is the best...and they know it. We meet key players, Harry Beltik (Harry Melling), Benny Watts (Thomas Brodie-Sangster) and Townes (Jacob Fortune-Lloyd), two of whom show romantic interest in her. Ultimately, though, "The Queen's Gambit" is not interested in finding a man for Beth, but in inching her closer to facing off against the best: Russian grandmaster Vasily Borgov (Marcin

Dorocinski).

Beth's journey, like so many tales about chess prodigies, explores the links between genius, madness and addiction. Her reliance on tranquilizers starts early, through the orphanage, and expands into drugs and alcohol. Her addictions nearly destroy her, and we fear "The Queen's Gambit" is headed toward the inevitable: Beth's ruin at her own hands.

Then, a visitor from Beth's past arrives, and your heart leaps for joy. We realize, "The Queen's Gambit" has the courage, the tenacity, to see Beth's journey through to the end. We are moved, incredibly so, not just by this reunion, but also by the "family" of chess players that lends its support, people who have weaved in and out of Beth's life from the start.

Does Beth pull off the big win at the end? I wouldn't dream of spoiling that, but what stays with me more, what lingers in my thoughts, is not the climactic game, but the final scene. We have followed Beth from the earliest, tragic stages of her life to this moment, which isn't about matches or winning, but about where she is in terms of her own happiness.

I cannot sing the praises of "The Queen's Gambit" enough. The best thing I've seen all year. Period.

□

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

“Jingle Jangle” Has the Makings



Jeronimus Jangle (Forest Whitaker) is moved by his granddaughter, Journey (Madalen Mills), to rediscover his creative spark in “Jingle Jangle: A Christmas Journey,” now streaming on Netflix.

David E. Talbert has achieved something special with Netflix’s “Jingle Jangle: A Christmas Journey.” Remarkable, really. In interviews, he’s emphasized how children of color need to see people who look like them on the big screen. It secures a strong, positive sense of identity. And by casting black actors in the lead roles, he has done precisely that.

But someone must have sprinkled magic pixie dust over the cast and crew during the filming of “Jingle Jangle.” There is so much energy and talent crammed into this production, the sensory overload of it may require multiple viewings to take it all in at once. This is a universal tale for all audiences, with the right message for children and presented as a full-blooded musical that could hold its own on Broadway.

Then again, why *not* give everything you’ve got? Why *not* afford the cast — one that spans all races, yet never allows color to define them — top-flight production values? It took Talbert 22 years to get “Jingle Jangle” made — shame on Hollywood for that — and you can feel the joy, the thrill, of everyone involved bursting forth across the screen.

“Jingle Jangle” fuses elements of “The Greatest Showman,” “Hugo” and “E.T.” into a vibrant tale whose wraparound story has the great Phylicia Rashad telling her grandchildren the story of toymaker Jeronimus Jangle. The color schemes by cinematog-



“Jingle Jangle: A Christmas Journey”

Running time: 122 minutes. Streaming on Netflix.
Rated PG for some thematic elements and peril

rapher Remi Adefarasin (“Fred Claus,” “Me Before You”) pop with reds and greens before the action blends into a Victorian setting where the musical number “This Day” is a wow of an opener: scads of extras, elaborate costumes and exuberant choreography by Ashley Wallen (“The Greatest Showman”). *This*, my friends, is how you open a movie.

Talbert has structured “Jingle Jangle” as classical musical theater, with songs that advance the story, key musical themes that are reprised, show-stopping ballads (many courtesy of EGOT John Legend) and lush orchestrations by Oscar-nominee John Debney (“The Passion of the Christ”).

The story then reveals how Jeronimus Jangle, played by Oscar-winner Forest Whitaker (“The Last King of Scotland”), was once swindled out of a marvelous creation — a matador doll that comes to life and voiced, no less, by Ricky Martin — by his apprentice Gustafson, played as an older adult by Keegan-Michael Key. The deception ruined Jeroni-

of a Holiday Classic

by Andrew Tallackson



Phylicia Rashad plays a woman who tells her grandchildren the story of Jeronimus Jangle.

cus: his wife dying, his daughter leaving and his toy shop collapsing.

Now a pawnbroker, Jeronimus is on the verge of losing his shop to a banker, Mr. Delacroix (“Downtown Abbey” alumnus Hugh Bonneville)...until his granddaughter Journey arrives. She’s exceptionally smart, cute as a button, with a sizable heart to boot. Played by newcomer Madalen Mills, who boasts a hefty set of lungs, she gets a power ballad, “Square Root of Possible,” that rivals “Let It Go.” She is the key to melting Jeronimus’ heart, thus getting the creative juices flowing.

Anika Noni Rose turns up as Jessica, Jeronimus’ daughter, now grown up and yearning for reconciliation with her father. Rose, whose credits include

“Dreamgirls” and “The Princess and the Frog,” showcases her powerhouse talent with the dynamite “Mark It Work.” We also get comic relief from West End stage marvel Lisa Davina Phillip as Ms. Johnston, the feisty letter carrier with her sights set on Jeronimus.

The stop-motion and CGI effects to create the matador doll, and a robotic contraption that calls to mind Pixar’s Wall-E, are astonishingly lifelike, holding their own against any “Star Wars” spectacle.

But for all the technical wizardry, the story ultimately boils down to a message of hope. “*Never be afraid when people*

can’t see what you see,” Jeronimus tells his granddaughter, “*only be afraid when you no longer see it.*”

And with that wisdom, Talbert, as writer and director, achieves an empowering message for all children. “Netflix didn’t buy a black movie,” he told reporters. “They bought a movie.” That’s what he has achieved. One with the makings of a classic.



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thanksgiving

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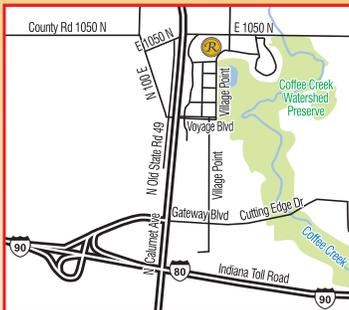
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How to Cook a Turkey



Stories from Notre Dame Elementary School third-graders on how to cook a turkey are a Thanksgiving tradition at *The Beacher*. They never fail to make us smile: A perfect start to the holiday season. Thanks to teacher Meg Kearton for sharing the stories with us. Enjoy!

This is how you prepare a turkey. First, you need to go to the store, get a turkey, then go home. Take the turkey and put it on the table. Net, turn the oven to 350 degrees. Then put the turkey in the oven for 20 minutes. Then take it out. Now, how to make stuffing. You put salt and pepper too, add to that two eggs and put it in the turkey. How to make jello. So first, you have to cut up grapes and bananas. Then, you add whipped up Cool Whip to it. And all the people what are coming are my great grandma, grandpa, mom and grandma. And what I do after is eat leftover jello. Then go to bed. And that's my Thanksgiving dinner.

Isabelle Bruce

Chapter 1 Getting the Turkey

Have you ever wanted fresh turkey? Well, I have! First, you have to hunt the turkey or buy it from the store. First, get a gun or another weapon. (Don't use pepper spray.) Go out to the woods or a place with turkeys that will let you have weapons. I suggest you bring family or friends.

Load up your weapon, aim at the turkey, and BAM! Shoot it. If you missed, try again, but your turkey will probably be running by now.

Chapter 2 Preparing the Turkey

Second, rip the guts out, take out the heart or you can eat it! Take the bones out or don't. It's your turkey; do whatever you like.

Third, preheat the oven to 500 degrees F. While you're waiting, make other yummy stuff like pie, cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes, and potatoes. After your oven has preheated, put the turkey in. Play with family and friends. Set a time for the turkey. About 2 hours.

Chapter 3 Eating!

Finally, enjoy that delectable meal! Enjoy!



Emily Conn

Today I'm going to tell you how to make a turkey. First, you get in your car and go to Al's. Then when you're at Al's, go to the meat section to get the turkey. Then check out.

Next, drive home. It's time to season the turkey. You can use lots of butter and salt. Now stuff the turkey with whatever you stuff a turkey with. Next, put it in the oven or the grill. Ask your mom or dad to put it in the oven or the grill. Keep the turkey in for four hours. Then take it out. Serve with rolls, cranberries, gravy, stuffing, and pie.

Have a nice dinner with family and friends.

Enjoy!

Delaney Dwyer

Cooking a Turkey

- Step 1. Shoot the turkey.
- Step 2. Take the bullet out of the turkey.
- Step 3. Pluck the feathers off the turkey.
- Step 4. Chop the head off the turkey.
- Step 5. Rip the guts out of the turkey.
- Step 6. Put the turkey in the oven.
- Step 7. Take the turkey out.
- Step 8. Put stuffing in the turkey then Bon Appetit!

Emmett Ebbesen

Step 1. Find a turkey. Get pepper spray. Spray the turkey's eyeballs.

Step 2. Take out the guts and heart and liver and spice it. Stuff it with stuffing.

Step 3. Cook the turkey for 3 hours at a temperature of 350 degrees F. and have family come.

What we have is, well, obviously, turkey ham, cranberry juice, apple pie, pumpkin pie. We have potatoes, cherry pie, and last but not least, corn on the cob.

Constantine Fegaras

First get a BB gun and find a turkey. Then try to shoot the turkey. Cut off the head and pluck the feathers. Second take out the guts and that's it. Third, put it in the boiler. Then take it out after 4 hours and it should smell like cooked turkey because it is. Then Bon Appetit! That is how you cook a turkey. Now, what you eat with it. Well, corn, potatoes, stuffing, bread, jam, and cranberry dip and that is what you eat with a turkey. Now drinks. I would say apple juice, cider, orange juice, and Sprite. Also wine and of course, water. That's all.

P.S. If you want the turkey burnt, put it in boiler for 5 hours at 1000 degrees F.

Jackson Gregg

Thanksgiving Dinner

First, go buy a turkey from the store. Next, you prepare it for cooking with pepper and all the seasonings. Then put it in the oven or on the grill for at least an hour. Finally, you take out the turkey and eat it with stuffing, cranberries, squash, and beans. And share it with family members.

Logan Hassett



This is how you get a turkey. You go to the woods and bring a gun. When you see one, shoot it, then drag it to your house. Then pluck the feathers off of it. Then take out the heart. It looks nasty so then you pull out the eyes. Then cook it. Then take it out of the oven. With it you can have cranberries and stuffing and sometimes jello and bacon and tomatoes. Also apples and apple pie and shrimp. The drinks we had are fruit punch, Sprite, root beer, and my parents had wine, beer, cocoa, and Mountain Dew. I had two Sprites, three cocoas, and four Mountain Dews. That's the Thanksgiving I had. What kind did you have?

Oakland Kereszturi

Turkey Story

On a nice Thanksgiving Day you need to go get a turkey. You have multiple options. You can get in your car and go to the store to pick the fattest. Or you can grab a gun and go hunting for the best one.

When you bring the turkey home, you go to the oven and set it for 400 degrees Fahrenheit and for an hour long. Then an hour later you open the oven and you have a turkey.

Then you need to get cranberries and potatoes. You get figgy pudding and pumpkin pie. There are so many other things to eat. When you get all the food, then you can dig in.

Declan McKee

This is how you cook a turkey. First you hunt a turkey and kill it. Then you chop off its head and rip the guts and heart out. You will need a sharp knife to cut it. Next, you put it in a pan. If you want, you can put seasoning on it. Then put it in the oven at 400 degrees F. Set a time for 30 minutes. Now wait 30 minutes... then, well,

VOILA!

A PERFECT TURKEY!

If you want, for Thanksgiving you can have sides like cranberries, mashed potatoes and gravy, jello, marshmallows, ham, apple cider, and pie. You may not have as many people at your Thanksgiving party. But still have a great Thanksgiving! I'm sorry---a PERFECT THANKSGIVING!

Caleb Sadowski

This is how you make a turkey. I'm a kid, so I won't know all the things to make a turkey.

First, go to a store and buy a turkey. Types of turkeys: fat and big for a lot of food.

Second, make sure the turkey has no guts. If it does, take them out.

Third, season the turkey with salt.

Four, I hope you don't skip this step. Cook the turkey for about four hour at four hundred degrees.

Fifth, get a knife and cut the turkey and then eat with your family. I hope you enjoy the turkey.

Sides: Cranberries, stuffing, gravy, apple pie, pumpkin pie, and potatoes.

Drinks: If you are a kid, you will want juice or apple cider.

And that is how you cook a turkey.

Bella Salmon

On a Nice Thanksgiving Day

When you wake up, you look on your calendar. You see that it is Thanksgiving. So you grab your shotgun and head out the door and find a turkey and FIRE! Go get the turkey, throw it in the back trunk, and drive home. Pluck the turkey, then throw it in the boiler, and put it in for 3 hours. Start to cook the stuffing. Go to the store, buy the stuffing, and cook the stuffing. The turkey should be done so take it out of the boiler. Get plates ready. Take out the stuffing, cut the turkey, and sit down to enjoy Thanksgiving dinner with your family.

Lilliana Stiffler



Happy Thanksgiving





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Charitable Group Makes First Grant to Harbert Church

The new charitable group Michiana Arts Foundation awarded its first grant to The Episcopal Church of the Mediator in Harbert, Mich., which used the gift to acquire a baby grand piano.

A 1929 Apollo parlor grand, the instrument originally was owned by Andrew and Margaret Cooper of Lakeside, Mich. When they decided not to keep it, Margaret Cooper spoke to her friend, Lolly Roberts, who spoke to her friend, Tom Flint. Roberts and Flint both live in Three Oaks, where they are board members with The School of American Music.

Flint went to SAM Executive Director Donna Mitchell, who reached out to her programming partner, Linda Anderson of the Episcopal church. SAM presents "Free Family Concerts" there.

"Oh course, we'll take a baby grand!" Anderson said when Mitchell approached her. Church members were eager to accept a piano to match the acoustics of the church: a vaulted stone building constructed in 2010. But the church hadn't been budgeting for a new piano, and the expenses for mi-



The Rev. Darlene Kuhn (left), of Church of the Mediator, and Donna Mitchell, The School of American Music executive director, are photographed with the 1929 Apollo parlor grand piano.

nor repairs, professional tuning and a dolly to safely move the piano were not major, but still prohibitive.

Garth Taylor, SAM's president and founder, heard about the dilemma. He tapped the Michiana Arts Foundation and through its grant, Mediator was able to meet all expenses.

The piano moved to its new home in October.

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Gobble Gobble Turkey Walk



Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12, will host its annual free "Gobble Gobble Turkey Walk" from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 26. Children can embark on a turkey count scavenger hunt throughout the gardens and nature trails, winning a prize for finding paper turkeys. They also can check out the ArcelorMittal Children's Garden, which features interactive, natural play experiences. Visit www.friendshipgardens.org or call (219) 878-9885 for more details. *Beacher 2019 file photo by Paul Kemiel.*

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Unity Foundation Announces \$150,000 in Community Grants

Unity Foundation of LaPorte County's latest round of Power for Good grants, totaling nearly \$150,000, aided nearly 75 local projects.

The applications were evaluated by a committee with members from throughout LaPorte County. The money comes from donors who left unrestricted funds to Unity Foundation and established in the following names: AAUW LaPorte; Backer Family Fund; Fred and Helen Brust; Petrea Clark; John P. and Anne H. Daley; Ernest and Mildred Delco; Pauline M. Dent; Randy and Jane Dorman; Charles T. and Pauline Dye; Mark E. Essling; Sanford Z. Friedman; David C. Gardner; Kabelin Family; Ruth W. Pollingue; Purdue Federal Credit Union; Scott and Marianne Rice Family; Tom and Judy Ringo; Ruth C. Sabin; Phillip A. Sprague; Thomas C. and Blanch G. Stokes; Tower/Oktoberfest; Unity Foundation Power for Good Fund; John and Jean Vail; and Sandra L. Young.

Funding assistance also was provided by the Benz Family Advised Fund, John A. and Dorothy Sieb Carstens Fund, Barry C. Dulyea Arts Fund for Children, Kay Franklin Commemorative Fund, Glick Foundation Fund, LaPorte County Disaster Relief & Recovery Fund, LaPorte County Educational Advancement Fund, LaPorte County Mental Health Fund, Lorraine Gehrke Orłowski Fund and Unity Foundation Literacy Fund.

The recipients include:

- Advancing Christ's Kingdom Ministries-Michigan City Food Bank, ThanksGIVING Turkeys.
- Arts in the Park, Arts in the Park Concerts 2020.
- Barker Middle School, STEM Class Mega Project.
- Boys & Girls Club of Michigan City Inc., Cleaning/Sanitation for 2020-2021 Year.
- Boys & Girls Club of Michigan City Inc., Marketing Support.
- Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Gary, Rent and Mortgage Assistance.
- Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Gary, Utility Assistance Program.
- Center Township Trustee's Office, Crock Pot Friday Classes/Food for Little Pantries.
- Center Township Trustee's Office, Hotel Vouchers for the Homeless.
- Citizens Concerned for the Homeless Inc., Keys to Hope Education on Appearance, Behavior and Change.
- Citizens Concerned for the Homeless Inc., CCH Food Rescue Initiative.
- Citizens Concerned for the Homeless Inc., Grace Learning Center New Program for Self Sufficiency.
- City of LaPorte, Clean-up LaPorte Continuation Program.

- City of LaPorte Parks and Recreation Department, Comprehensive Inventory of Trees.
- City of LaPorte Parks and Recreation Department, Kesling/Rumley Parks & Construction of New Court at Allesee Park.
- City of LaPorte, Bike Route Stenciling and Wayfinding Signage.
- Community Food Pantry of Galena, Hudson, Kankakee, Wills Townships Inc., Emergency Food/Nutrition/Resources.
- Community Reserve, Furniture Bank Helping Those in Emergency Need.



Unity Foundation
of LaPorte County

- Dunebrook Inc., Therapist Support for Children of Suspected Abuse.
- Dunebrook Inc., Child Abuse Prevention/Education Programming.
- Family Advocates Inc., Racial Bias Public Training.
- First Congressional Church of Michigan City, Trash Pickup Support Program.
- Friendship Botanic Gardens, Eco-Adventures Series of Free Educational Events.
- Girls on the Run of Northwest Indiana, Inspire the Girls of Michigan City.
- Hanna Lions Club, Hanna Lions Club Park Basketball Court.
- HealthLinc Inc., Virtual Care Kits for COVID-19 Positive Patients.
- Healthy Communities of LaPorte County, Suicide Prevention and Education.
- Independent Cat Society, Let's Fix This 2020 Spay/Neuter/Care Program.
- Interfaith Community PADS Inc., Interfaith Community PADS Inc. Operational Support.
- LaPorte Area Lake Association, Weed Treatment Program.
- LaPorte County Habitat for Humanity, City of LaPorte Home Build.
- LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra, 32nd Annual Drayton Family Children's Educational Program.
- Leadership LaPorte County Inc., Adult Scholarship Support.
- LOK Wishing Tree Foundation, LOK Young Artist Expo Program Support.
- Michigan City Area Schools, MCAS "Future Wolves" Elementary Sports Program.
- Michigan City Main Street Association, Celebrating Naomi Anderson Community Engagement Program Support.
- North Central Community Action Agencies Inc., Health and Hygiene for Youth.
- Open Door Community Alliance Inc., Open Door

Community Alliance Medication Assistance Program.

- Open Door Community Alliance Inc., Adolescent Health Center.
- Paladin Inc., Group Home Mattresses.
- Pine Lake Land Owners' Association, Pine Lake Shoreline Restoration Project.
- READ LaPorte County Inc., Learning Disability Program Support.
- Reins of Life Inc., Equine-assisted Program for Veterans.
- Save the Dunes Conservation Fund, Biodiversity through Pollinator Habitat-Style Gardens.
- Sacred Heart Food Pantry (St. Francis Ministry), Food Pantry Program.
- Social and Learning Institute Inc., Science & Nature Exploration Program.
- Soul Steppers Drill Team Inc., Soul Steppers Program Support/History Integration.
- South Central Jr. Sr. High School, Vex Robotics Program Upgrade.
- South Shore Skipping Stones, Online Prenatal and Infant Oral Health Class Support.
- Stepping Stone Shelter for Women Inc., Shelter Food.
- Stepping Stone Shelter for Women Inc., Anti-Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Program
- The Intrepid Phoenix Inc., Support for Those in Recovery from Substance Abuse.
- The Jack & Shirley Lubeznik Center for the Arts Inc., LCA Community Program Support.
- The Jack & Shirley Lubeznik Center for the Arts Inc., LCA Scholarship Program Support.
- The Salvation Army of Michigan City, Pathway of Hope Program Support.
- The Salvation Army of Michigan City, Emergency Services.
- Trinity Episcopal Church, Trinity Church Food Pantry.
- United Way of LaPorte County, VITA Program Support.
- Washington Park Zoo, Renovation of North American Raptor Exhibit.
- Washington Park Zoo, Water Foundation & Bottle Refilling Station/Signage.
- Westville -New Durham Township Public Library, Project LIT Westville Book Club.
- Westville Police Department, 21st Century Policing Webinar Series.
- Youth Service Bureau of LaPorte County, School Buddies.
- Youth Service Bureau of LaPorte County Inc., Kids on the Block.



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Your Community Connection

Gift Helps Memorialize Lituania Park



Celebrating the donation are (from left) Carl Reed, Audra McManus, Ellen Hundt, Linda Wagner and Monique Rub.

Editor's note — The following article was submitted by Linda Wagner and Monique Rub.

When Audra McManus was sorting through the belongings in her deceased parents' home, she called the Friends of Beverly Shores to donate many items to the annual Friends of Beverly Shores Estate Sale.

One item was a watercolor of Lituania Park painted by her father, Vytautas Peseckas, a longtime resident. The Friends knew immediately the painting was special and destined for an honored place, donating it to the Town of Beverly Shores for display in the administration building.

The Lituania was a Bellanca CH-300 Pacemaker airplane flown from Floyd Bennett Field, N.Y., non-stop across the Atlantic Ocean by Lithuanian pilots Stephonas Darius and Stasys Girenas in July 1933. After successfully flying more than 4,000 miles, it crashed due to undetermined circumstances in Soldin, Germany, 404 miles from its destination, Kaunas, the provisional capital of Lithuania.

This event is memorialized in many American and European cities. In 1968, the American Lithuanian Club successfully petitioned town trustees in Beverly Shores to have the town park renamed Lituania Park. To honor the pilots, "Lituania," a large, modern Cor-ten steel sculpture by Toronto sculptor Juozas Bakis was placed in the park's pond in July 1971. One of the park's prime movers was architect Erdivilas Masiulis, who spent a year planning and doing survey work.

Peseckas was a Lithuanian-American aviator, architect, artist and poet. Born in 1923 in Kaunas, he immigrated to Germany in 1945, where he studied journalism, economics and architecture. He immigrated to Canada in 1947, then to the United States in 1958, where he settled in Chicago and established the architectural firm of V. Peseckas & Associates, specializing in restaurant design. In 1967, he founded the American Lithuanian AeroClub. From 1969-1974, he co-published an aviation yearbook called "Steel Wings." He died in 2015.



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Michigan City Public Library

The library is open, but with restrictions in place. Until further notice, hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Saturday. There is no public seating. The library also follows LaPorte County Health Department's Public Health Order Face Covering Mandate by requiring masks inside the building. Every individual must wear a face covering over his/her nose and mouth at indoor areas open to the public. The circulation and reference desks will have masks available for \$1.

The following services have been temporarily suspended: public programs and meetings; literacy tutoring; MakerSpace/3-D printing; study rooms; home-bound service; interlibrary loan; puppets; puzzles; blocks and children's AWE computers in Youth Services; Ellison die cut machine; public faxing; microfilm use; magazine/book sale; and acceptance of donations.

Access is limited to the computer lab: One session (up to one hour) per person per day is allowed. Due to social-distancing guidelines, only one person at a station at a time. Children are not allowed in the computer lab with parents/guardians.

One computer is reserved for genealogy research, with time limited to one hour per person per day.

Four charging tables allow a limit of 30 minutes per use (no seating is available at these stations).

WiFi is available throughout the building and exterior/parking lot.

The library is closed Thursday for Thanksgiving. The following virtual programming is scheduled:

- **Storytime and Crafts to Go at 10 a.m. Wednesdays.** A new storytime video, aimed at children through age 5, will be posted on the website at 10 a.m. Wednesdays. Each video is available for two weeks at the following link: www.mclib.org/parents/story-time/. New take-home crafts are available Wednesdays to accompany the virtual storytimes. Visit the Youth Services desk to get them. Contact the Youth Services department at (219) 873-3045 for more details.

Michigan City Public Library is located at 100 E. Fourth St. Visit www.mclib.org for more details.



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Friday & Saturday: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.



Harbor Country Hikers

Harbor Country Hikers has two upcoming events planned, from a hike to a Zoom presentation.

As an alternative to Black Friday shopping, a two-hour "Green Friday!" hike is at 2 p.m. EST Nov. 27 at Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich. Leading the trek is Steve Bornell, Fernwood's facility and grounds keeper. Hikers should dress for the weather, be prepared for muddy areas depending on the weather and take insect repellent and water. HCH observes social distancing, and face masks are required.

The Zoom presentation at 7 p.m. EST Thursday, Dec. 3, explores strategies by animals and plants to survive winter in Michigan. The techniques include long migrations, months of hibernation and unique ways to cope with harsh conditions. The presenter is Wendy Jones, a naturalist who has lived in Michiana since 1991 and worked at Fernwood Botanical Gardens and Nature Preserve.

Visit www.harborcountryhikers.com/events for more details.

Jackie's Cafe Fudge-Raiser

The annual Jackie's Cafe fundraiser is under way in which all proceeds from fudge sales benefit the non-profit Meals on Wheels of Southwest Michigan.

The cost is \$14 per pound. Meals on Wheels also receives 100 percent in matching funds from The Larry Bubb Endowment, Nora Duffy and Jackie and Kenny Brady.

Orders and pickup are at the cafe, 801 W. Buffalo St., New Buffalo, Mich. Call (269) 469-1800 for more information.

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THANK YOU!

We at Stop 50 would like to thank all our guests for your support throughout this crazy year. Our 14th season ends on Sunday, November 29th.

We wish each of you and your families a blessed, safe and healthy Holiday.

We look forward to seeing everyone again when we reopen in March 2021 to what we hope to be a less turbulent year.

THANKSGIVING HOURS

Wednesday, November 25

5 pm - 10 pm

Friday

11 am - 10 pm

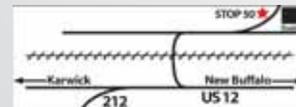
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Sunday

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Michigan City Police Department, Michigan City Fire Department and Michigan City Area Schools joined forces Nov. 16 to benefit United Way, but this time, with a COVID twist. Instead of the traditional car wash, a “waterless” event was held. Donors were encouraged to contribute online or take donations to Ames Field. Pictured are MCAS Superintendent Barbara Eason-Watkins and Police Chief Dion Campbell.

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Krasl Art Center to Briefly Close

Taking the public's health into consideration, Krasl Art Center has decided to temporarily close, limiting access to the shop and current exhibits by appointment.

Public hours resume Friday, Dec. 11. Updates are available at www.krasl.org, facebook.com/Kraslartcenter.fb and Instagram @kraslartcenter. The limited in-person times may be scheduled by email at curatorial@krasl.org

All in-person events move to a virtual platform. Families are invited to explore "Artists as Influencers: Pathways in Glass" and "Shelter-in-Place" through Nov. 29.

All in-person events associated with the upcoming "2020 Members' Show: Inspired By..." will be virtual. The Dec. 4 opening celebration is canceled. Artists proposing work for the show will receive further instructions by email.

The center is located at 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Call (269) 983-0271 for more details.

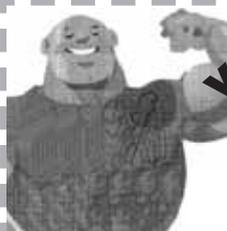
LaPorte Santa Parade

The LaPorte Santa Parade kicks off at 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 28, in downtown LaPorte.

The format is drive-through style, with all parade entries lined up on either side of State Street. Patrons enter State Street through Jackson Street and drive west to Michigan Avenue. Families can take a right turn onto Michigan and proceed to the train depot at 809 Washington St., where Santa and Mrs. Claus will wait in their chalet to take COVID-safe photos with children and receive Letters to Santa in an outside mailbox. A "25 Deals of Christmas" brochure is available at the chalet or any participating downtown business.

The event is organized by LaPorte Economic Advancement Partnership volunteers.

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Prayer to the Blessed Virgin
 (Never known to fail.)
 Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the 'Sea, help me and show me, herein you are my mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth! I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my mother. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3x). Holy Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3x). Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in Eternal Glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. The person must say this prayer 3 consecutive days. After 3 days, the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor is granted.

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Activities to Explore

In the Area:

Nov. 26 — HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Nov. 26 — Annual free “Gobble Gobble Turkey Walk,” 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12. Info: www.friendshipgardens.org, (219) 878-9885.

Nov. 27 — Opt Outside Hike, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Nov. 28 — Beach Glass Wire-Wrapping Workshops, Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Session 1: 10:30 a.m.-noon; Session 2: 1-2:30 p.m. Cost: \$7/workshop. Registration: (219) 926-1390.

Nov. 28 — LaPorte Santa Parade, 11 a.m. Drive-through style/parade entries lined up on State Street. Enter State Street through Jackson Street, drive west to Michigan Avenue.

Nov. 30 — Dunes Learning Center webinar series, “Indigenous Perspectives for a Sustainable Environment,” 6:30-8 p.m. Cost: \$10. Registration: tinyurl.com/y4onxf7v

Through Dec. 31 — New exhibit, “New Views,” Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays/11 a.m.-4 p.m. weekends. Closed Tuesdays. Info: www.lubeznikcenter.org, (219) 874-4900.

Through Jan. 4, 2021 — Works by Jamie McNeil, Queen of All Saints Catholic Church Legacy Center, 1719 E. Barker Ave. Gallery hours: 6 a.m.-8 p.m. Info: jessicar@qas.org.

In the Region

Nov. 27 — Fall Yoga, 10-11:15 a.m. EST, Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich. Registration: <https://spore-studios.com/yoga/>

Nov. 27 — Harbor Country Hikers “Green Friday!” hike, 2-4 p.m. EST, Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich. Info: www.harborcountryhikers.com/events

Dec. 3 — Harbor Country Hikers Zoom presentation, 7 p.m. EST. Topic: how animals and plants survive winter in Michigan. Info: www.harborcountryhikers.com/events

Dec. 3 — Acorn Watch Party: The Bergamot’s Holiday Concert, 8 p.m. EST. Free. Info: www.acornlive.org

Through Nov. 28 — Five-women exhibit, Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Hours: noon-4 p.m. EST Fri.-Sun. Info: (269) 983-3688.

Through Dec. 20 — Elkhart Juried Regional Art Exhibition, Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St., Elkhart. Hours (all times Eastern): 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tues.-Fri., 1-4 p.m. Sat.-Sun. Info: info@midwestmuseum.us, (574) 293-6660.

Through Jan. 3, 2021 — “A Christmas Story’ Comes Home Exhibit,” Hammond’s Indiana Welcome Center, 7770 Corinne Drive. Center hours: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. daily. Info: www.achristmasstorycomes-homes.com

Through Jan. 13, 2021 — Members Art Show, Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. Regular business hours: 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sat. Info: www.chestertonart.com, (219) 926-4711.

Indiana Dunes National Park

The National Park Service will target about 897 acres with four prescribed fires this fall at Indiana Dunes National Park.

“Prescribed fire maintains the natural and cultural landscape, while reducing the threat from wildfires,” Dan Plath, IDNP chief of resource management, said in a press release. “Managing the smoke impact on our neighbors during these burns is very important to us.”

Two fires are planned in the park’s west end:

- North of the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education and west of North Lake Street in Gary — a 158-acre area of Black Oak Savannah.
- Along the south side of U.S. 12, from the Lake-Porter County Line Road, east towards Ogden Dunes and Stagecoach Road — the 562-acre Tolleston-East area.

In the east half of the park, the prescribed fires are:

- Around the Indiana Dunes Environmental Learning Center in Porter — about 167 acres south of Oak Hill Road and west of Howe Road.
- In Beverly Shores, about 10 acres immediately surrounding the Central Beach parking lot. A map of the prescribed areas is available at <http://bit.ly/INDUFall2020>

Clear management goals and objectives are in place for each area. A designated set of conditions must exist, including ideal wind speed and direction, and relative humidity. Weather conditions will be monitored to ensure the fire is completed safely.

Porter County residents can receive free prescribed fire notifications through Porter County’s “Alert Porter County” system. The information can arrive through text, email or voice message. Visit <http://www.portercounty911.org> to sign up. Updates also are posted on the park’s Facebook page, www.facebook.com/IndianaDunesNPS



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

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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

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

On November 26, 1825, students at Union College (in Schenectady, N.Y.) organized Kappa Alpha, America's first collegiate social fraternity.

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

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

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

On November 27, 1889, Curtis Bradley received the first permit to drive an automobile through Central Park. The permit was issued on the condition that Bradley pledge to "exert the greatest care to avoid frightening horses."

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

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

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

On November 27, 1939, the play "Key Largo" by Maxwell Anderson opened in New York.

On November 28, 1520, Portuguese navigator Ferdinand Magellan reached the Pacific Ocean, passing through the South American "Strait of Magellan" that bears his name.

On November 28, 1839, Thanksgiving was observed for the first time in Chicago.

On November 28, 1843, Britain and France recognized the independence of Hawaii.

On November 28, 1990, Queen Elizabeth II appointed John Major as Britain's prime minister after the resignation of Margaret Thatcher.

On November 28, 1999, Hsing-Hsing, the giant panda who had arrived at Washington's National Zoo in 1972 as a symbol of U.S.-China détente, was

euthanized after his health deteriorated.

On November 29, 1825, Rossini's "Barber of Seville," the first Italian opera to be performed in the United States, opened in New York City.

On November 29, 1886, Chicago's first fireboat, the \$39,000 "Geyser," was commissioned on the Chicago River.

On November 29, 1890, the first Army-Navy football game was held at West Point, N.Y. Navy won 24-0.

On November 29, 1898, C.S. Lewis, who created the "Chronicles of Narnia" children's books, was born in Belfast, Ireland.

On November 29, 1929, Navy Lt. Commander Richard E. Byrd flew over the South Pole in his trimotored Fokker plane, becoming the only person to have flown over both the North and South Poles.

On November 30, 1782, representatives of the United States and Britain met in Paris to sign peace articles that would end the Revolutionary War.

On November 30, 1835, Samuel Langhorne Clemens, better known as Mark Twain, was born in Florida, Mo. Among other works, he wrote The Adventures of Tom Sawyer and The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.

On November 30, 1887, the first reported game of softball, a game invented by George Hancock, was played at Chicago's Farragut Boat Club.

On November 30, 1900, at 46, Irish author Oscar Wilde died in Paris. His last remark, a comment concerning his distaste for the wallpaper in his room, was, "One of us has to go."

On December 1, 1824, the presidential election was turned over to the House of Representatives to break a four-way deadlock between John Quincy Adams, Andrew Jackson, William Crawford and Henry Clay. Adams was declared the victor.

On December 1, 1880, the first telephone was installed in the White House.

On December 1, 1909, the first Christmas Club payment was made to the Carlisle (Pa.) Trust Co.

On December 1, 1913, in Pittsburg, the Gulf Refining Co. opened the world's first drive-in gasoline station. Motorists, up until that time, were accustomed to buying gas in garages and livery stables.

On December 2, 1804, Napoleon Bonaparte crowned himself emperor of France.

On December 2, 1816, the first savings bank to operate in the United States opened under the name of the Philadelphia Savings Fund Society.

On December 2, 1834, the Chicago Lyceum, the forerunner of Chicago's library system, was formed by a group of book intellectuals.

On December 2, 1942, below the football stadium at the University of Chicago, a group of scientists, led by Enrico Fermi, for the first time demonstrated a self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction.

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A Notice to Our Readers

The Beacher has begun
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Mon.-Thurs.: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

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

The Beacher, 911 Franklin St. • (219) 879-0088 • beacher@thebeacher.com

CLASSIFIED**CLASSIFIED RATES - (For First 2 Lines.)**

1-3 ads - \$8 ea. • 4 or more ads - \$6.50 ea. (Additional lines- \$1 ea.)

PHONE: (219) 879-0088 • Email: classads@thebeacher.com**CLASSIFIED ADS MUST BE RECEIVED BY****10 a.m. FRIDAY PRIOR TO THE WEEK OF PUBLICATION****PERSONAL****Looking for home — black female cat**

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(219) 733-2403 • www.bookwormwanatah.com**Reprographic Arts Inc.** Signs, banners, posters, custom T-shirts, decals, presentation boards, lamination, vehicle graphics, vinyl lettering, embroidery. Founded in 1970. Locally owned and operated.**www.reprographicarts.com****ALL THINGS GOLF! Lost a club? Broke a Club? Hate a club?****Call Lefty for a replacement or other options at (219) 873-0858.**Adams, Bridgestone, Callaway, Cleveland, Cobra, Mizuno, Ping, Srixon, Spalding, Taylormade, Titleist, Tour Edge, Wilson and more. Starter sets with bag starting at \$30. If I don't have it, you don't need it! Play safe, stay safe. Lefty's Pro Shop. We have met the enemy — *It is us.* POGO**HOME HEALTH – CAREGIVERS****COMFORT KEEPERS****Providing Comforting Solutions For In-Home Care**

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American Red Cross

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

- Northwest Health LaPorte, 1007 W. Lincolnway, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Friday, Nov. 27.
- Hamon Gray, American Legion Post 83, 228 E. Lincolnway, LaPorte, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 28.
- Springfield Elementary School, 3054 W. County Road 800 North, noon-6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 1.
- St. John's United Church of Christ, 101 St. John Road, Michigan City, noon-6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 1.
- Sacred Heart Church, 201 Bach St., LaPorte, 12:30-5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 2.
- LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 W. Indiana 2, LaPorte, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 2.

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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For more than 35 years, The Beacher has existed as a **free** newspaper, and it will **continue** to do so.

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to make a contribution



Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

The Book of Lost Friends by Lisa Wingate (hardcover, \$28 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook. 375 pages.)

"We make no charge for publishing these letters from subscribers. All others will be charged fifty cents. Pastors will please read the requests published below from their pulpits, and report any case where friends are brought together by means of letters in the SOUTHWESTERN."

Lost Friends advertisements like the above actually ran in the Methodist newspaper, *The Southwestern*, after the end of the Civil War. Slaves were separated from their families and sold to various plantations across the South. Trying to reconnect with loved ones became a lifelong mission as these letters, some of which were published as late as the 1890s, show how people never gave up.

This historical novel by the author of *Before We Were Yours* is my offering for this season of thanksgiving, and love of friends and family. A story that proves, as Alexander Pope said, "hope springs eternal in the human breast."

Historical novels arise from various sources. I love the author's notes at the end of these books. I'm fascinated by how a particular person, place or happening provide that spark of interest bringing it to life through novelization, not as cold statistics in some history book.

Wingate has taken some of these Lost Friends letters and scattered them throughout the book. They will touch your heart as they did hers, as one of these letters in particular gave her the seeds for this amazing story.

The story starts out in 1987 in Augustine, La., with Benedetta (Bennie) Silva arriving at her first assignment as English teacher at the local public school. There's another school across the lake, but that's for kids of the city's movers and shakers.

Bennie discovers early on the teachers have divided the white students into three categories: swamp rats, hicks or hood. They sit on one side of the room, the black kids on the other side, with the middle occupied by the "others" — Native American, Asian, punk rockers and a nerd or two. They all come from the poor side of town, and don't have any desire or help from family to learn. How to get their attention?

Bennie meets Granny T, the unofficial matriarch of this side of town. She's...*"part nurturer, part mob boss..."*

Through much persuasion, Bennie gets her to come to school and talk about the history of Augustine and how the Colored Carnegie Library got started. The kids pass around photos Granny brought and listen intently to her story. They begin to realize that most of their families go back many generations in the area, and a germ of an idea comes to Bennie...let's use the library to research each child's family. How do you think that's going to go over with the town's school board? Bennie might be putting her job on the line.

Bennie learns the house she's renting is part of the Goswood Grove plantation property. Wait till she meets the Gossett relative who owns the property now...he's not what she expects at all. Will he help her in her endeavor to bring change to the school curriculum? Only time, and Bennie's perseverance, will tell.

Meanwhile, alternating chapters take us to 1875 Augustine and an 18-year-old former slave girl named Hannie Gossett. The former slave family she grew up with is now sharecroppers on the Goswood plantation owned by the Gossett family. Slaves many times took the last name of their owners. These people are not her real family. No, her real family were sold off, one by one, and scattered from Louisiana to Texas. Of course, Hannie

dreams of reuniting with them someday.

Through a series of events, Hannie finds herself headed to Texas with two Gossett daughters: Lavinia, Mr. Gossett's legal daughter, and Juneau June, daughter by his mistress, a mulatto he keeps in New Orleans. It will prove to be a very rocky road...

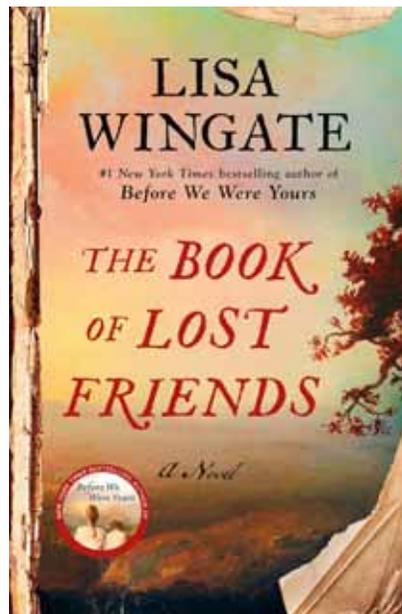
This story is rich with so many themes and possibilities. Three young girls in 1875 have no way of knowing their decisions in life will go down the decades to reach the lives of a group of school children a hundred years later.

Bennie believes knowing who your ancestors were, seeing their photos and reading about their lives can help determine what direction you take in life. She left me with an interesting thought:

"I ponder how we can put a man on the moon, fly shuttles back and forth to outer space, send probes to Mars, and yet we can't traverse the boundaries in the human heart, fix what's wrong."

Something to ponder, indeed.

Blessings to you and yours, and my hope for a healing 2021. Till next time, Happy Thanksgiving and happy reading!



thankful for love

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