

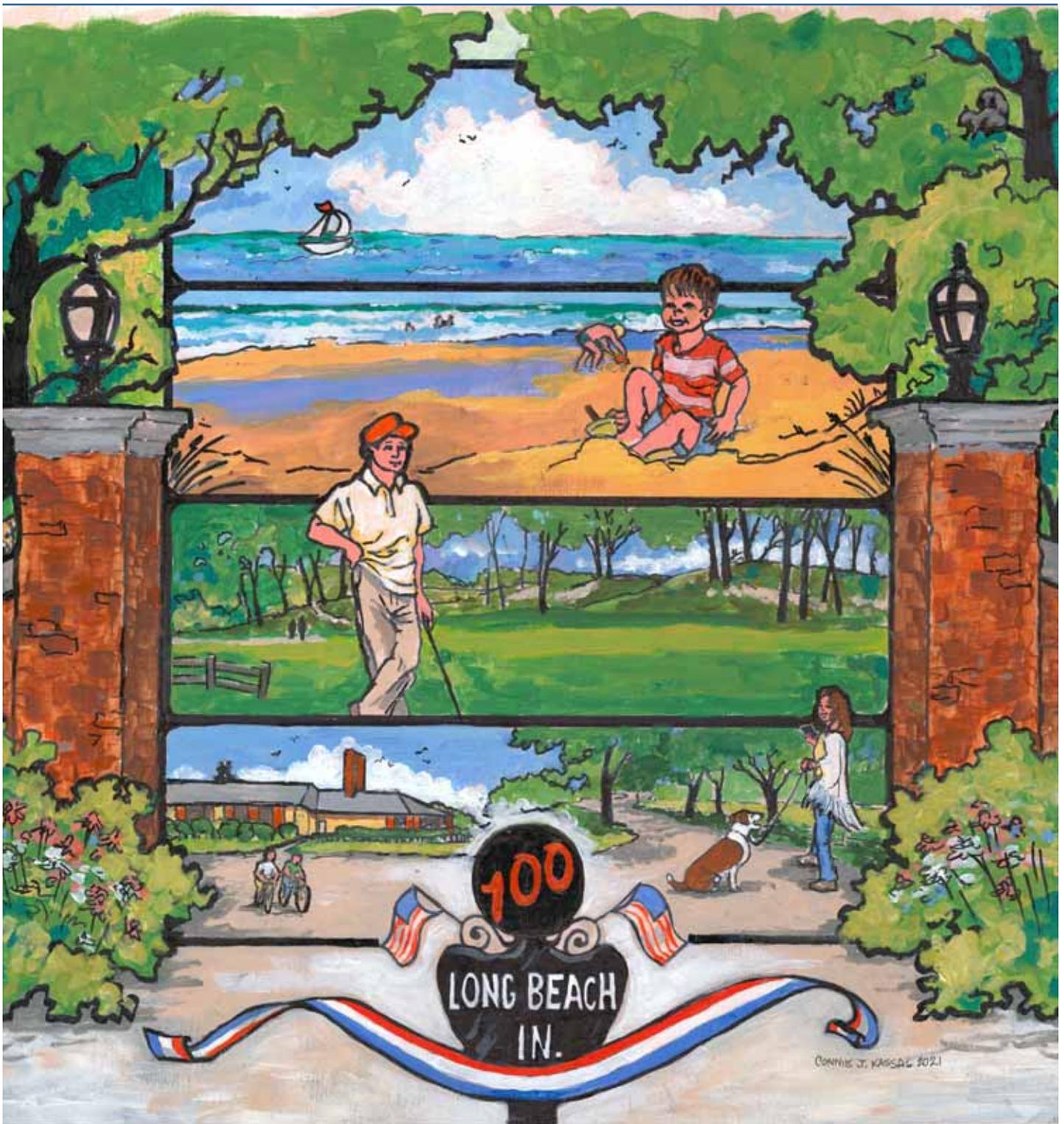
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PRESERVING & PROTECTING

by Edmund Lawler



Kristopher Krouse walks through a preserve with Brenda Scott-Henry, of the Calumet Collaborative, and Shirley Heinze Board Member Kelly Carmichael.

Take a walk in the woods with Kristopher Krouse through the gently rolling terrain of Meadowbrook Nature Preserve. Traverse the densely forested ravines, the meandering streams, the patches of prairie and the remnants of a former Girl Scout camp.

Like a house-proud homeowner, Krouse, executive director of Shirley Heinze Land Trust, passionately describes restoration of the nature preserve along the glacially sculpted Valparaiso Moraine.

“We have planted more than 30,000 trees,” he says. “Everyone at Shirley Heinze — staff, board, volunteers, donors — is excited about what we have accomplished to date at this conservation hub and the trajectory we are on.”

Trees are more than just lovely sentinels in the forest. They absorb planet-warming carbon dioxide from the air and provide refuge for birds migrating through a preserve’s natural ecosystem. More trees are on the way. Plans call for expansion of Meadowbrook’s acreage to more than 400, as well as the development of facilities and programming to enhance the visitor experience, Krouse says.

The community-centered nonprofit land conservation organization has preserved — and in some cases restored — the more than 2,700 acres it stewards in Northwest Indiana. SHLT, headquartered at Meadowbrook just north of Valparaiso, is marking its 40th anniversary this year.

The organization was founded in 1981 with a

\$30,000 endowment from a Chicago couple to honor the memory of their friend Shirley Heinze, a psychologist and active supporter of land protection in the Indiana Dunes. A nearly \$1 million bequest in 1995 from the estate of a former board member allowed SHLT to compete for large land purchases and secure grants from government organizations and foundations.

“In the early 2000s, we started developing a program to steward the properties we are protecting,” Krouse explains. “In the last decade, we have been making our properties more accessible to better engage the community. As we protected more unique places, we realized there was a big gap between our preserves and providing public access.”



A woodland trail at Meadowbrook Nature Preserve.

At Meadowbrook, for example, SHLT plans to build an outdoor pavilion, add parking and restore an open-air amphitheater it inherited from the Girl Scouts when it bought the former camp from them in 2013. Americans With Disabilities Act-accessible trails, boardwalks, bridges and washroom facilities are part of the grand design.

West of South Bend on U.S. 20 is Lydick Bog, a 178-acre tract featuring wetlands interspersed with high ridges and islands of upland forest. Considered a conservation hub or destination like Meadowbrook, Lydick Bog recently was outfitted with a new pavilion. Washrooms and a boardwalk to the bog will soon be built to accommodate visitors.

And then there are SHLT preserves that rarely see a visitor — either because the ecosystem is fragile or because it can only be accessed through private property. Admission to those smaller sites is available only through guided tours or special permission. But the preserves are out of harm’s way from industrial, residential or agricultural development.

Continued on Page 4



A True American Dream

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PRESERVING & PROTECTING Continued from Page 3

Northwest Indiana is notorious, of course, for the environmental degradation wrought by its steel mills, oil refineries, sand mines, power plants and other industrial facilities that have claimed large swaths of one of the most biodiverse regions of America. Some of the air and water in the region teems with pollutants.



The new pavilion at Lydick Bog Nature Preserve near South Bend.
Photo by Mark Blassage

Are the efforts of SHLT too little, too late? Krouse doesn't think so. The organization will continue to build its inventory of preserves and carefully manage the properties.

And SHLT is not the only organization working to preserve and improve Northwest Indiana's unique natural environment of coastal dunes, boreal forests and delicate wetlands, Krouse points out. Save the Dunes, The Nature Conservancy, Indiana Department of Natural Resources and Indiana Dunes National Park are among the organizations SHLT has partnered with in the name of conservation.

"All the tremendous progress Shirley Heinze has made over the years has been because of those partnerships, as well as working collectively with municipalities, even industry in the region," Krouse says. "Conservation does not happen in a vacuum."

"Our mission is getting people on to the land to actually experience nature. It has this ripple effect where more people are learning about the unique natural areas nestled throughout the region."

Krouse adds, "People have a misperception of Northwest Indiana. It is complex, but it also has so many unique attributes, including natural areas that make it a great place to live and work."

Michigan City is home to SHLT's largest preserve. Ambler Flatwoods on the northeastern edge of the city, near Freyer and Meer roads, is a dedicated Indiana state nature preserve: one of six SHLT manages. Once a preserve is dedicated, it is protected in perpetuity from development that could harm its natural character.

The 521-acre non-contiguous preserve soon will grow by an additional 93 acres thanks to a pending acquisition. Ambler Flatwoods is open to the public



An autumnal scene in Ambler Flatwoods. Photo by Susan Kirt

and features a four-mile hiking trail through a flat, forested terrain that often features vernal pools and rivulets in early spring.

The thick woods provide habitat for at least 39 state-listed plant species and many others considered rare in the Chicago region. Migratory birds find temporary shelter high in its trees, according to the SHLT guidebook to its nature preserves.

Within the city is Barker Woods, one of SHLT's smallest preserves at only 30 acres. Like Ambler, the preserve at Cleveland Avenue and Barker Road is a dedicated Indiana state nature preserve.

"The old-growth forest at Barker Woods is a place for quiet contemplation amidst a busy urban environment," according to the SHLT guidebook. Within the wooded sanctuary is the former home of the late owner of the property, Margery Barker, who was a member of one of Michigan City's leading industrialist families. She donated her home and property for conservation to the Nature Conservancy, which later transferred it to SHLT.

Krouse speaks with particular enthusiasm about the East Branch of the Little Calumet River Corridor Water Quality Project. The 22-mile East Branch originates in Red Mill County Park south of Michi-



Kayakers on the Little Calumet River in 2017.

gan City and flows west through northern Porter County ending at the Burns Waterway, where it empties into Lake Michigan.

“We started with the acquisition of a 42-acre parcel on the far east side of Chesterton,” he says. “Thanks to some visionary board members, we started thinking more holistically about that river corridor: not only how we might only protect the habitat, which is mostly flood plain forest, but also how to get people back on the river.

“The river was clogged with downed trees from the emerald ash borer,” Krouse continues. “The river had not been managed for activities like kayaking, but it is now navigable. We installed two canoe/kayak launches and did an extensive restoration of the flood plain forest.”

SHLT partnered with the Northwest Indiana Paddling Association, national park, DNR, Porter County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Nature, Krouse says, is not just for hikers, birders and paddlers in the region’s backwoods. SHLT engages urban residents in its 52-acre Ivanhoe South Nature Preserve in Gary. It offers programming for organizations such as the Urban League of Northwest Indiana, Indiana GEAR UP and the West Side Leadership Academy — the last remaining public high school in Gary.

“Through that kind of community conservation, we engage people who have historically not been involved in our work,” Krouse says. “We look for ways we can be relevant and active in parts of our geography where we have not been involved.”

When asked where the Shirley Heinze Land Trust will find itself a decade from now when it celebrates its 50th anniversary, Krouse paused while contemplating the question.

“Our overarching goal of being a community-based land trust with programming that is meaningful and relevant for the urban and rural communities of our six-county geography will be fully realized. And the brand of the Shirley Heinze Land Trust will be a household name for everyone who lives in the region and can serve as a model for conservation in other parts of the country.”

In the organization’s spring 2021 newsletter, Ron Trigg, former executive director and board member, writes: “*Shirley Heinze would undoubtedly be astonished to see all that has been accomplished in her name. But the best, Shirley, is yet to come!*”



Kristopher Krouse, executive director of the Shirley Heinze Land Trust.



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Mistakes and Forgiveness

I made a mistake the other day. One that every busy person does now and then when dealing with emails.

I received a confirmation from someone that was long overdue. The delay had been pricking at my sense of fairness, so I did what most of us do – shared my escalating irritation with a good friend. When the longed-for news appeared in my inbox, I was overcome with gloating. I tapped out a quick, pithy comment with the intent of sending it along with the original email to the friend who supported me. But, instead of selecting forward to, I inadvertently hit reply. Hours later, the sender of the original email brought the mistake to my attention. Even now, days later, the embarrassed flush in my cheeks is warmer than summer's first sunburn.

When I was a kid, our family rules were simple: Come home when the streetlights go on, don't hit your siblings, don't talk back to adults, finish all the food on your plate, don't swallow chewing gum and admit when you're wrong. While not necessarily in order of importance, what my parents expected of me and my five siblings was abundantly clear: do the right thing. And, what happened if we got caught screwing up also was predictable: Say you're sorry and do everything you can to make it right.

My twin sister and I were 11 or so when the neighbors who lived three houses down from us moved out of state. Their house had not been well-maintained; therefore, it didn't sell right away. Vacant for most of the summer, my sister and I and a friend began to use the abandoned property as our personal playground. We practiced cheerleading stunts and batted the volleyball around in the seclusion of their sideyard. One thing led to another as things tend to do with curious kids. We discovered an unlatched basement window on the south side of the house.

On a dare – no doubt with the promise of a prized treat like a yard of bubble gum or box of Lemonheads – one of us squeezed through the narrow casement window, dropped to the basement floor and began to explore. Initially, the other two re-

That Girl, This Life

Julie Ryan McGue

mained outdoors on lookout duty for the mailman, the Realtor or nosy neighbor one house to the north. The following day, it was a different one of us who braved skimming through the narrow window and sliding to the concrete floor.

By the following week, we threw caution to the wind. With no one on lookout, our trio cavorted through the vacated property, exploring every room on every floor. We peeked in dirty cupboards and dusty closets, noting the heaps of abandoned furnishings and belongings. We left everything as we found it. Our mission was one of curiosity, not destruction or thievery. We commended ourselves on our bravery. The experience was exhilarating.

In the process of crawling out the way we slithered in, one of us lost our footing and a shoe careened into the windowpane. To our horrified ears, the sound of shattering glass seemed to reverberate throughout the neighborhood.

We were huddled in the sideyard, mulling our options, when a sedan pulled into the driveway. With our escape route effectively cut off, we grabbed our cheer stuff and volleyball, then walked sheepishly towards the Realtor and the home's new owners. One of us offered the couple an apology for playing ball in their yard, and another pointed out the window we broke. We remained mute about our unsolicited explorations of their new house.

In the end, we fessed up to our parents, pooled our allowance money and paid for the broken glass. The recompense was a relief compared to the admission of wrongdoing. I suppose because we were honest and earnest, my sister and I were asked on numerous occasions to babysit for our new neighbor's children. To this day, my mother nurtures an ongoing friendship with those neighbors.

With respect to my inadvertent and errant email, I backtracked to my colleague. Over the course of several days, we traded emails. Much as I had done as a youth, the first thing I did was apologize for my mistake, then explained the circumstances. We shared our perspectives and cleared the air. Like the relationship with my old neighbors, I'm hopeful our exchange will result in a stronger relationship with my colleague.

But now that the email brouhaha has settled down, something else has surfaced: Forgiving myself for the careless deed. Why is it that it takes longer for us to forgive ourselves than it does for others to do so?

(Julie McGue is a Duneland Beach resident and the author of Twice a Daughter: A Search for Identity, Family, and Belonging.)

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Meet This Year's Long Beach Parade Marshals

by Kim Nowatzke



Kathy and Bob Angelo.
Photo by Kim Nowatzke

“It was a good decision when we landed here.”

That’s how Kathy Angelo feels about Long Beach. Her husband, Bob, echoes that sentiment. Their love for their community, and their commitment to Long Beach over the past 43 years, are the reasons Long Beach CIVIC Association chose them as this year’s Fourth of July Parade marshals.

Their “landing” took place in 1978 after Bob graduated from the Indiana University School of Dentistry and the couple searched for a place to start his practice. They soon found themselves enamored with Lake Michigan and encouraged by the welcoming locals.

“We came here, saw the lake, drove through Long Beach and thought, this is it,” Kathy recalled.

Bob added, “I saw the town of Pines on the map, and we drove up here to see that. We then decided to drive up farther on the beach. The lake was our whole reason for coming here.”

Bob began his career as a dentist with the late Dr. Tom Talaga at Karwick Dental, 1028 N. Karwick Road.

“Every place I went to here, it was, ‘You could come here,’” Bob explained. “I just happened to stop into Talaga’s office, and he had space.”

After 10 years, Bob left to begin practicing on his own for 31 years at Fourth and Pine streets under the practice name of Dr. Robert S. Angelo, DDS. Finally, he phased out his career with one year at Edgewood Dental, 3008 Franklin St., retiring com-

pletely in March 2020.

Indiana is Bob’s birthplace, as he was born while his parents attended Indiana University. He was raised in Buffalo, N.Y., and returned to Indiana to attend his parents’ alma mater. Before his career path included dentistry, he was a physical education teacher, specializing in swimming instruction in Delphi Community School Corp. while he lived in Kokomo.

Kathy was raised on a farm in Warren County near Lafayette. She met her husband while earning her bachelor’s degree, with a major in psychology and a minor in sociology, at the University of Indianapolis, while Bob was at Indiana University in Indianapolis. They met at the local YMCA, where he worked as a lifeguard and she supervising the children.

Kathy went on to earn her master’s degree in counseling at Indiana University-South Bend. She worked as an area school counselor for 28 years – three years at Marquette Catholic High School and 25 years with Michigan City Area Schools – before retiring in 2017. She continued to work for MCAS part time as a counselor through this past school year.

The couple celebrated their 49th wedding anniversary May 28. They have three children. The oldest, Lauren Angelo, is an associate professor for pharmacy practice and associate dean for academic affairs at the College of Pharmacy at Rosalind

Franklin University in North Chicago. Next in line, Benson Angelo is vice president of real estate development of the Opus Group in Wilmette, Ill. Their youngest, Kendra Angelo, works for New Buffalo Animal Hospital and lives nearby. Bob and Kathy are the proud grandparents to three granddaughters and one grandson.

Over the years, the Angelos have lived in four houses in Long Beach, including one at Stop 19 and their current one overlooking Lake Clare.

Kathy recalls “taking the kids to the beach all the time.” After the Angelos were established for a few years in the area, Bob said, “we made it a point to purchase a home near the beach. It’s nice having the lake right here.”

Kathy agreed.

“It’s a beautiful area – it’s a great place to raise children,” she said. “We have made a lot of friends here.”

She remembered how she met several people quickly through a community “Welcome Wagon.” Friendships formed are still strong today. Play groups started in years past for the children have evolved into the “Moms Play Group,” with mothers enjoying doing things such as lunch together.

Bob fondly recalls his longtime dream of someday owning a 30-foot sailboat with a fixed keel. Although he never fulfilled that dream, he has enjoyed owning about 20 boats through the years. He currently has a 13-foot 1968 Chrysler Lone Star Sailboat he dubbed “Lady Clare.” It’s actually just like the first one he had on Lake Freeman in Monticello when he and Kathy were first married. In fact, they used the money they received as wedding gifts to purchase it. When Bob and Kathy moved into their current home, he realized the best boat he could get to navigate Lake Clare would be one like their first. They were able to locate the antique on eBay.

Over the last four decades or so, Bob has served his community and beyond well as he volunteered for several organizations. This includes service as a volunteer firefighter for 20 years and as a first responder nearly as long for the Long Beach Volunteer Fire Department. He was a Long Beach Town Council member for 15 years, including time as its president.

Since 1984, Bob has held the title of treasurer for the LaPorte County Dental Society and fulfilled the role of its president. He has offered his dental skills and knowledge to Donated Dental Services, whereby today dental care is provided through a national network of more than 15,000 volunteer dentists and 3,400 volunteer laboratories. Operation Stand Down is another non-profit Bob supports. It was created by Dr. Daniel Fridh, DDS of LaPorte, in 2012 and was designed to offer veterans a free dental examination and free or reduced follow-up services.

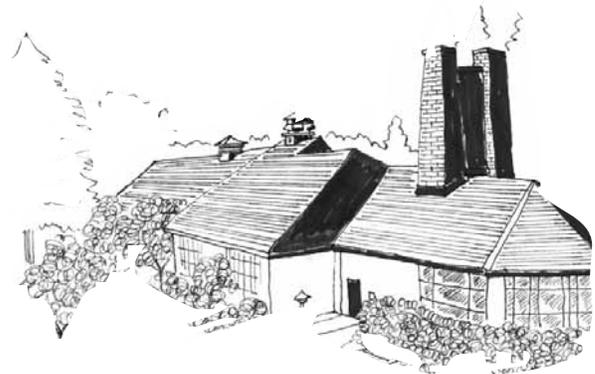
And, of course, there’s CIVIC, which Bob was in-

involved with for about two decades, including serving as its president for a year.

“Because we were in CIVIC, we know it is an honor,” Kathy said. “We were involved in the discussions all those years in the selection (of parade marshals). It’s humbling. We do realize what an honor it is to be asked. It makes it really special because it’s this year (because the 2020 parade was canceled due to COVID-19).

The two have fond memories of their three children participating in Long Beach’s parade, but have a hard time recalling actually being in it themselves. Even after they were no longer active CIVIC members, they still served as volunteers behind the scenes helping with all the Long Beach July 4th festivities. This year, they look forward to riding in the parade as they humbly and gratefully take on the roles of parade marshals.

Old School Run



Start the Fourth of July with a bang!

Run (or walk) 5 Kilometers (about 3 miles), beginning at 7:00 A.M. at the Old School. The 23rd annual event, a fun run, will follow a scenic course through Long Beach and Long Beach Cove.

No advance entry required. Just show up in your running gear ready to go!

The entry fee is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. Proceeds will benefit the Community Center & Town of Long Beach. This is a low-key event with no prizes, but everyone who finishes will receive an award certificate featuring the drawing of the Old School above and an Old School T-shirt.

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Art is Opening All Over!

by Linda Weigel

“Imagination is everything. It is the preview of life’s coming attractions.” Albert Einstein

Breathing a huge sigh of relief, we have reached a point at long last when the visual arts in our region can fully open up. Not only that, they provide a host of choices and attractions — a balm for the pandemic-weary soul. It’s like going from 20 to 60 all at once. Juried competitions, gallery openings, celebratory dedications and more mark our summer calendars, inviting us to get out and experience the range of subject matter and styles.

Fortunately, Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., managed to remain open during much of the past year. As “Lost and Looking” completed its run, June 14 saw the opening of “Bramson/Indiana/Lake.” Set in the Hyndman, Susan Block and Brinka/Cross galleries, the exhibit is contemporary, colorful, edgy, humorous and serious.

The Hyndman Gallery features work by Phyllis Bramson. She lives and works in Chicago, with a long list of impressive accomplishments, including being a recipient of numerous grants (three National Endowments, Senior Fulbright Scholar), participating in multiple group and solo shows and representation by some of the most prominent galleries.

“The Good Keeper of Animals and Birds,” a mixed media by Phyllis Bramson.

Several things greet you upon entering the LCA, including two informational statements concerning the three featured artists. Be sure to read them to better understand what you are about to encounter.

Notice, too, Mayumi Lake’s “Unison (Gate – You Were Here),” a photo stand-in constructed of pigment ink print, plastic, resins, fabric, bead, sequin, mirror, metal and wood. Take a selfie.

Also posted nearby is Bramson’s square mixed-media piece “Flaubert’s Collection, Madame Bovary’s Peach Wall by The Red Chinese Chair,” offering a further clue

as to what you will encounter in the Hyndman Gallery. Warm pastel tones float in a background with geometrically framed objects, each with their own unique subject, encircling the space.

Once you step inside, you will be greeted by a range of 2-D and 3-D works. One of my favorite, “The Good Keeper of All Living Things” (2016), is a stunningly colorful work, drawing you in to discover the richness of detail.

The artist statement reads, *“My work moves culturally. Sometimes my images will be embellished with Indian/Persian imagery. When I lecture about my paintings, I talk about Orientalism. It’s a real word used in art history, it’s there, and I am going to keep using it. I guess it is just my philosophy that the world is ambiguous, the world is troubled, the world is beautiful, people are great, people are not, words are dangerous, and sometimes they are not.”*

Her mixed-media sculptural piece “The Good Keeper of Animals and Birds” (2009-2016) is another dazzling example of combining objects, images and color. Reminiscent of an altar with altar cloth cascading down, the work is one of three sculptural pieces. Buddha sits atop a ceramic vessel flanked by two squirrels resting, all on a projecting shelf below, which a scroll with natural forms and images tumbles downward. The contrast between the heavier top half and the lighter scroll-like form, the images of the animals themselves and the color choices all make for an intriguing result.

To see such a fine range by a single artist in this particular space is enlightening, as it gives a better feel for the artist’s oeuvre, and that is always a bonus.

Upstairs in the Brinka/Cross and Susan Block galleries, you will discover wonderful posters by Robert Indiana and a stunning installation by Lake.

Indiana (Robert Clark, 1928-2018) was born in New Castle, Ind., served in the U.S. Army Air Force, studied at The Art Institute of Chicago and eventually settled in New York. He is famously known for



“Unison (Reverb),” a mixed media by Mayumi Lake.

A view of work by Mayumi Lake in the Susan Block Gallery.

his now iconic LOVE sculpture, one of which resides at the Indianapolis Museum of Art Newfields.

Fortunately for us, Indiana's series of serigraph prints (silk-screen prints) has a power unto themselves, and we can experience that power in the Brinka/Cross Gallery. His use of high value color, bold type and geometric forms vividly presents as singular statements, often political in nature. The fine examples showcased have not lost their impact decades later, their power to captivate.



"The Calumet," a serigraph by Robert Indiana.

"The Calumet," one of several from the "American Dream" portfolio series, immediately captured my attention. I was unfamiliar with this particular print, but couldn't forget it once I saw it. The outer circle reads: *On the Mountains of the Prairie Gitchie Manito the Mighty Called the Tribes of Men Together*. Inside the outer circle lies seven other circles naming various indigenous peoples. The name *Gitchie Manitou* means "Great Spirit" in several Algonquian languages, and once you know that, the print becomes even more powerful and thoughtful.

All seven serigraph posters are in excellent condition and ready for viewer appreciation. Afterward, move on to the Susan Block Gallery to experience Lake's installation. Born in Osaka, Japan, she now lives and works in Chicago. The art featured in this installation is complex, colorful and symbolic. At first glance, I thought each piece was composed of simple paper cutouts arranged in a predetermined pattern. I was wrong. In actuality, "Unison" is a series of sculptural photographic works with flowers made by scanning directly from vintage kimonos, cut by hand and then assembled. Some also include toy parts, sequins or plastic flowers. The amount of time it must have taken to arrange and secure just one of these finished works must have been tremendous. They are resplendently beautiful in their arrangement — each and every one.

Significantly, until I read the artist statement, I did not understand the importance of the flowers, of *Housouge* or of the kimono, and the link with

cultural heritage. Once I realized the deeper meaning imbued in each piece, the works took on greater relevance. Sometimes, just glancing at the surface beauty of things, you miss out on the deeper construct, unable to elevate the art experience.

Interestingly, Lake has a large version of her "Union" series in a permanent installation for Facebook Chicago offices. "Unison (Pangea)" is a massive work that runs across the front of one wall (17' x 10') and continues sweeping the corner, along a side wall (8' x 14'). I would really like to see that in person some time.

The exhibits end Oct. 15. Be sure to stop by soon to immerse yourself in these fine works while challenging yourself to appreciate something new and unusual for our region. □

"Life obliges me to do something, so I paint." Rene Magritte

And so it is with current works on display at SFC Gallery in Michigan City and The Depot in Beverly Shores, both showcasing regional watercolor artists inspired by and working from life.

SFC Gallery, 607 Franklin St., features paintings by artist Robin Maxon. Her realistic watercolor paintings boast strong, interesting composition in a variety of subject matter.

"Inspiration comes from different places and different seasons," according to the artist's statement. *"I continue to challenge myself with detailed subjects while trying to capture the play of light and the nuances of color in something common, natural or unexpected."*



"Bee-ing Busy," a watercolor by Robin Maxon.

One fine example out of many in Maxon's show is her painting "Bee-ing Busy." The cropped scene of a sunflower with well-positioned honey bee features strong composition, solid color, good light and a fine sense of space. I like the suppleness of the petals, the directionality and compaction of the seed head, the spiky leaves and, of course, the bee itself. Considering how endangered honeybees are becoming, it is a poignant reminder of the importance of saving and protecting the bees and their habitats.

Be sure to stop by and see this show before it ends June 30. □

The Depot Museum and Art Gallery, 525 S.

Art is Opening Continued from Page 13

Broadway, Beverly Shores, marked its grand 2021 reopening with a June 11 First Friday event featuring the watercolors of Kristina Knowski.



“Sandhill Crane Preening I” and “Sandhill Crane Preening II,” watercolors by Kristina Knowski.

A stunning illustrator of birds and an avid bird-watcher, Knowski knows her subjects intimately. Featured in the Aug. 20, 2020, issue of *The Beacher*, her rendering of birds, especially those of the dunes, are remarkable. Once again, she presents a brilliant collection of paintings, ranging from the more commonly spotted species to grand cranes resplendent in their detail and form.

Two of her latest pieces, “Sandhill Crane Preening I” and “Sandhill Crane Preening II,” are exceptional in their size (24”x48”), composition, color and

sheer beauty. Getting up close and personal reveals a sure hand and astute eye.

The Depot is only open on weekends. The show ends July 3.



Meanwhile, the Ellen Firme Gallery, 92 U.S. 12, Beverly Shores, presents paintings by Nancy Natow-Cassidy and sculptures of Kevin Firme.



“Anticipating Exuberance,” an acrylic on canvas by Nancy Natow-Cassidy.

Natow-Cassidy has titled her presentation “The Universe in Ecstatic Motion.” These large-scaled, often unframed works on canvas primarily feature abstracted/colorful space – a space shaped by vibrant motion and accelerated energy.

One exception to this is the first piece you encounter upon entering the gallery: “Anticipating Exuberance,” an acrylic on canvas. Of all the works in the show, this one stands out as the most recognizable, and one that gave me pause to stop. The sense of water, light and energetic brushwork stood out, and unlike her other paintings, although very loosely structured, it hadn’t quite made the leap into pure abstraction.

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“This past year of isolation has afforded her an extraordinary measure of time to study reflections and shadows of light on water and land, and the twisting and open shapes of forests, dunes, deserts and flowers,” according to a gallery statement.

Concurrently, Firme presents “A New World – So Wild a Place” featuring his forged-steel sculptures with blown glass. His organic steel forms, combined with hand-blown glass, are stunning, and together both artists present works that synchronize beautifully, complementing each other.

The exhibit continues into August.

Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St., hosts “The 69th Annual Chesterton Woman’s Club Art Show,” a juried event where more than \$2,000 in awards are handed out.



“West Beach Dune Walk,” an oil on canvas by Ginny Takacs.

Best of Show went to Ginny Takacs for her oil on canvas “West Beach Dune Walk”; first place to Doris Myers for her acrylic “The Pond #2”; second place to Jason Bowman for his oil “Sentinels”; and third place to Julia Holmaas for her watercolor “May Bouquet.”

There was a wide range of works, and the Best of Show was well-deserved. Takacs’ painting is just a jewel, one that signifies her growing reputation in the world of plein air art.

The exhibit closes June 29.



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“Serendipity” by Gerrie Govert at The Art Barn.

The show was juried by Randall Roberts, assistant curator for Midwest Museum of American Art in Elkhart, and included 59 artists and \$4,835 in awards. Best of Show went to Gerrie Govert for her painting “Serendipity.” Other top award winners include: Takacs, Kathy Los-Rathburn, Terry Niccoli, Herbert Helm and Holmaas.

Much like the Chesterton show, this one also features a wide range of work, subject matter, technique and media. It closes July 8.

Make it a day of art and visit as many of these fine galleries as you can. Celebrate the wide range of choices offered. You won’t be disappointed, and perhaps even excited to see more!

If You Go

- Lubeznik Center for the Arts hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday and Wednesday-Friday and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. It is closed Tuesday. Information: (219) 874-4900, www.lubeznikcenter.org
- SFC Gallery hours: 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday. It is closed Sunday and Monday. Information: (219) 877-4420, www.sfcgallery.com
- The Depot hours: 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday. Information: www.bs-depjt.org
- The Ellen Firme Gallery hours: 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday. Information: (219) 874-4003
- Chesterton Art Center hours: 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday. It is closed Sunday. Information: (219) 926-4711, www.chestertonart.org
- The Art Barn School of Art hours: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday. It is closed Sunday and Monday. Information: (219) 462-9009, www.art-barnschool.org

Travel by One by Train

I have traveled well by myself since childhood, when I would take flights of fancy on my made-in-Chicago Schwinn on Chicago's South Side.

I was rigged for night riding and would assume the role of a World War II Royal Air Force pilot. I would take off in the dark for a secret mission over France. I would drop supplies for the French Resistance, brave anti-aircraft fire, or AK-AK, then beat a hasty retreat back over the English Channel.

All by my lonesome.

And I was all by my lonesome earlier this year when I took a one-man mission to Chicago in search of peace and quiet at a monastery. Not that I don't get plenty of peace and quiet here in Harbert, Mich., but a change of venues is always good, right?

Right!

So I was right on time at the Amtrak station in St. Joseph, Mich., for the on-time arrival of the Pere Marquette from Grand Rapids. The train was powered by a sporty Charger locomotive and consisting of three gracefully aging Superliner coaches. The latter had been activated for winter service because they perform better in the snow than the single-level coaches normally assigned to the train.



Amtrak's Pere Marquette comes to collect me at the station in St. Joseph.



Travels With Charley

by Charles McKelvy

Three of us boarded at St. Joe, and we scrambled upstairs to find suitable seating. And, yes, there were more passengers aboard than I expected. Of course, we were all dutifully wearing our masks and maintaining social distance.

But that was the new norm, right?

As the Pere Marquette started on its swift course to Chicago, I got my e-ticket scanned and headed down to the cafe for a cup of killer Amtrak Joe. And when I say Joe, I am mindful of that cupful of sludge served to the protagonist in the Christmas-movie classic, "The Polar Express." As an aside, I recall that hobo sounding a whole lot like Tom Hanks.

Anyway, I had a brief, but delightful conversation with the cafe attendant, then made my way back to my seat on the starboard side of car two. I settled in for many minutes of quiet contemplation of the passing scenery, including my native Harbert.

Yes, I even got a photo of Harbert Road. I knew Natalie was waving as the engineer sounded the horn for our three crossings: Harbert Road, Prairie Road and Youngren Road. I waved back and blew Natalie a kiss; I resolved that she would be by my side for my next ride aboard the Pere Marquette, probably for my birthday in May.

I sipped my Amtrak coffee, or Joe, noshed the two cinnamon-raisin bagels I purchased in St. Joe and delighted in the device-driven silence. I mean, even before the COVID-clampdown, everybody was pretty much into his/her own device. Civil discourse was teetering then, and it's totally gone now, now that we're all being told daily to fear one another, to *greatly* fear one another.

That was fine with me on my travel-by-one day.

But I gotta say, it was downright weird in down

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town Chicago when the few people I encountered there were all wearing masks outside and steering as clear from me as the sidewalk width would allow.

There was one abandoned storefront after another. Even the Palmer House was “temporarily suspended,” as the sign on its door said.

And there were ominous messages on the electronic kiosks about some COVID-19 travel ban still being in effect.

But I was flying solo, so I kept on truckin’ and, wonder of wonders, found the good old post office at Adams and Dearborn to be open and happy to conduct an actual cash transaction. Sure, I kept my social distance and snugged up my mask, but I took the time to have an actual conversation with the clerk behind the counter. Contrary to the social norms of the day, we shared a chuckle or two.



CTA ridership was light during my visit to Chicago.

Then, I was off to ride the CTA’s Orange Line from the Loop to Halsted, where I hoofed on over to the Monastery of the Holy Cross at 31st and Aberdeen for my day of silent reflection. As I have done so many times in the past, I “cut through” Palmisano Park at 29th and Halsted, finding the footing on the footpaths to be absolutely treacherous. The snow was packed into an intractable icy glaze. I literally had to watch every step. I did, and thus emerged on the southwest side of the park in one piece. I thought to use “the facilities” in the fieldhouse at McGuane Park across the street but, alas, I found the fieldhouse to be under lock and key, ap-

parently in the interests of protecting public health.

So I told my old bladder to chill and trekked on to the monastery, where I rang the day bell and told Father Edward I was “a masked Oblate seeking sanctuary.” He laughed and bid me enter, and thus began a delightful day of reflection with the good Benedictines.

I broke bread, or rather rice, with them at mid-day and, in true Benedictine fashion, we ate in silence as one of the monks, the “reader of the week,” read from an edifying book. Something to do with the qualities of the abbot, and I do know Father Joseph’s garbanzo-bean stew over rice was absolutely yummy. But I couldn’t tell him, because, like I said, we were maintaining silence.

Then, I repaired to the guesthouse, or B&B, and spent a good part of the day reading Douglas Valentine’s The Hotel Tacloban. If you can find it, you should read it; it is the story of Valentine’s father’s experience as a POW of the Japanese during World War II. Spoiler alert: This is not a book for the faint of heart.

I worshipped quietly with the monks in their acoustically perfect church, then retraced my steps to the Orange Line, pausing in Palmisano Park long enough to take in the view of the nearby skyline from the top of the hill.



I got to Union Station way early, expecting to have to battle my way through the Friday rush-hour crowd of crazed and exhausted commuters. But the ocean had dried down to a trickle, and I pretty much

had the great hall to myself. I feasted on a bag of station-bought popcorn and a bottle of water, and boarded the Pere Marquette in plenty of time for a soothing ride through the dark back to Michigan.

There you have it, travel fans, travel by one.

One and done.

’Til next time, happy trails to you.

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About the Cover

by Andrew Tallackson

With 2021 marking Long Beach’s centennial celebration, I wanted to do something special for our Independence Day edition. Something to honor the community’s rich history and heritage, and crafted by a local artist with the skills to pull it off.

The first person who came to mind, the person I sincerely hoped would say yes, was Long Beach’s Connie Kasal. I’ve been an admirer of work by her and her photographer husband, George, for years. So when the moment of truth arrived, when Connie showed me the finished product, well, it was the equivalent of opening a gift on Christmas morning.

Connie, who has an upcoming exhibit at Lubeznik Center for the Arts in September, did not disappoint. She captured the spirit of what we wanted for the cover. I asked her to provide *The Beacher* with a description of the piece in her own words:

“I had been itching to paint about the beauty of this area for awhile. Having spent most of the first third of my life living on the ‘rich black dirt’ of farm

country in Illinois, I still find the Indiana Dunes and Lake Michigan totally fascinating after 46 years!

“I stacked up my favorite images and memories from living here: the lake when the wild north wind is blowing, going to the beach with our kids (and grandkids) on summer afternoons, walking a family dog on sun-dappled streets while visiting with friendly neighbors. And all the interesting variety of architecture in Long Beach! (A favorite view of mine is the golf course from the old Long Beach School — now the community center — designed by John Lloyd Wright.)

“I tucked a deer and squirrel into the woods portion of the painting. Recently, we saw a wild turkey stroll across our neighbor’s yard, and you have to regularly fight off the raccoons and woodchucks on your deck, but there was only so much room in the painting!

“As for the media of the painting, it is a mix of acrylic and marker on 14x14 inch illustration board.”

We couldn’t be more thrilled. We hope you enjoy it as much as we have.



Connie Kasal, photographed by her husband, George.

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Living in a Tourist Economy: Part Two

Last month, I tried to present my explanation of why there can be tensions in a beachfront community with a large percentage of second homes and a significant number of short-term rentals, along with full-time residents.

Some people took umbrage with my use of the term “tribes.” Others thought I denigrated the “locals.” I certainly did not intend to do that. Locals and Visitors are good because of who they are. But they are different from one another.

Last month, I interlaced my firm belief that a “Tourist Economy” is what is best for beachfront communities based on the area’s history from the Indiana beachfront to South Haven, Mich. We have looked for other economic bases without much success. And the tourist economy has been economically successful. It is what we do best.

My last article also was about how one group/tribe, which I now refer to as the “thesis” (yes, I seriously studied philosophy until I was 31), is different from another group I will now call “antithesis.” I talked about how these two groups/tribes do not initially mesh easily. There is friction because they start with different values. Neither side, in my mind, is good or bad. They are just different, and those differences can/do cause friction. That is what we are experiencing.

I describe the (thesis) in terms of small-town values of avoiding controversy and keeping friendships, vs. city values (antithesis) of charging ahead happy with change and aggression that values personal success. This is an oversimplification, but it captures the point I want to make.

This month, I want to talk about Synthesis. Synthesis is what results when the thesis and antithesis create a new reality that is different, but a combination of the two. Synthesis creates a new community that goes beyond what the previous groups ever thought about. The two groups create a new culture in which the two somewhat opposing groups understand they benefit from coming together if they are willing to make certain adjustments in their lifestyles.

I think the “Tourist Economy” thrives when there is successful “synthesis” of the two groups that start out not understanding one another, but eventually creating a very desirable place for both groups.

The Visitors benefit because the Tourist community is less aggressive, more friendly, less intense — a place where they can actually relax and be physically and psychologically separated from work and the intensity of their normal life. They are rejuvenated by their time in our communities, where they can “get away.” It becomes the place where they relax and enjoy.

The Locals benefit because they meet interesting people, enjoy good restaurants, have access to good grocery stores, attend world-class cinema and theater. These services and amenities all locate in our small-town atmosphere because these can enjoy support from outsiders on a regular basis. Property values go up. Salaries at local establishments go up. More jobs of every kind. And, in the case of New Buffalo, the schools are funded at three times the normal state funding and win awards for excellence and student success.

While the two groups must adjust, they must retain what is valuable. They just have to expand their cultures. The two groups enjoy their new world because they meet and spend time with people from a world unlike their own that enriches their lives.

That is why over 20% of short renters become second homeowners and second homeowners move or retire here full time. The synthesis of the two tribes and their worlds creates a new world that is better for those lucky enough to participate in the synthesis.

The Tourist Economy relies on both groups to exist. And usually the two groups have wonderful symbiotic relations that have only occasionally been disrupted by people who do not understand what a wonderful world a Tourist Economy is.

Right now, we are living with some tension. We need to get back to “synthesis” and enjoyment.

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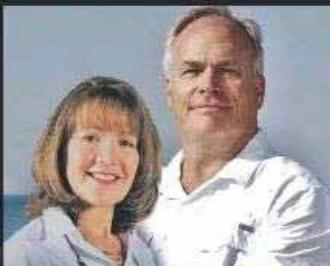
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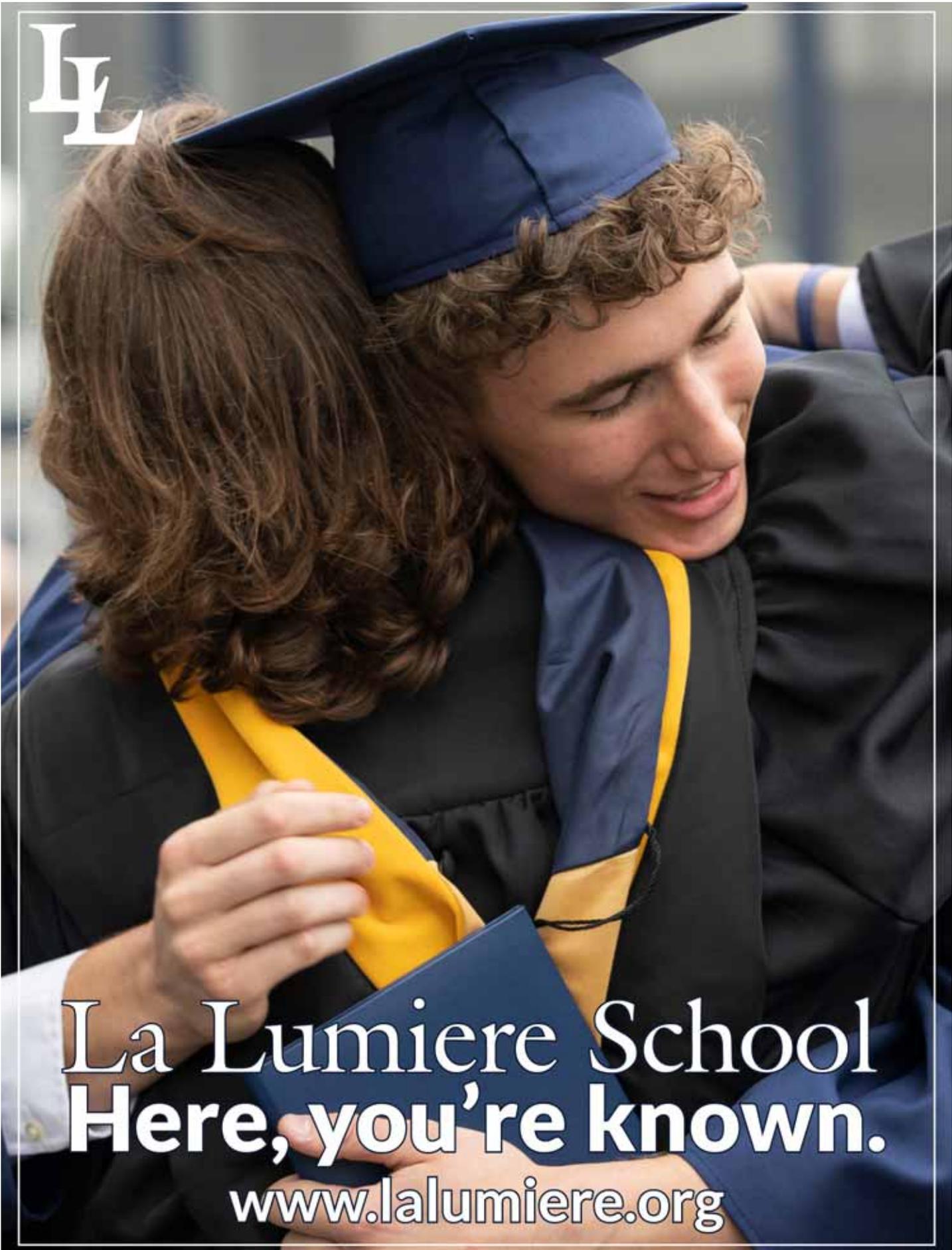
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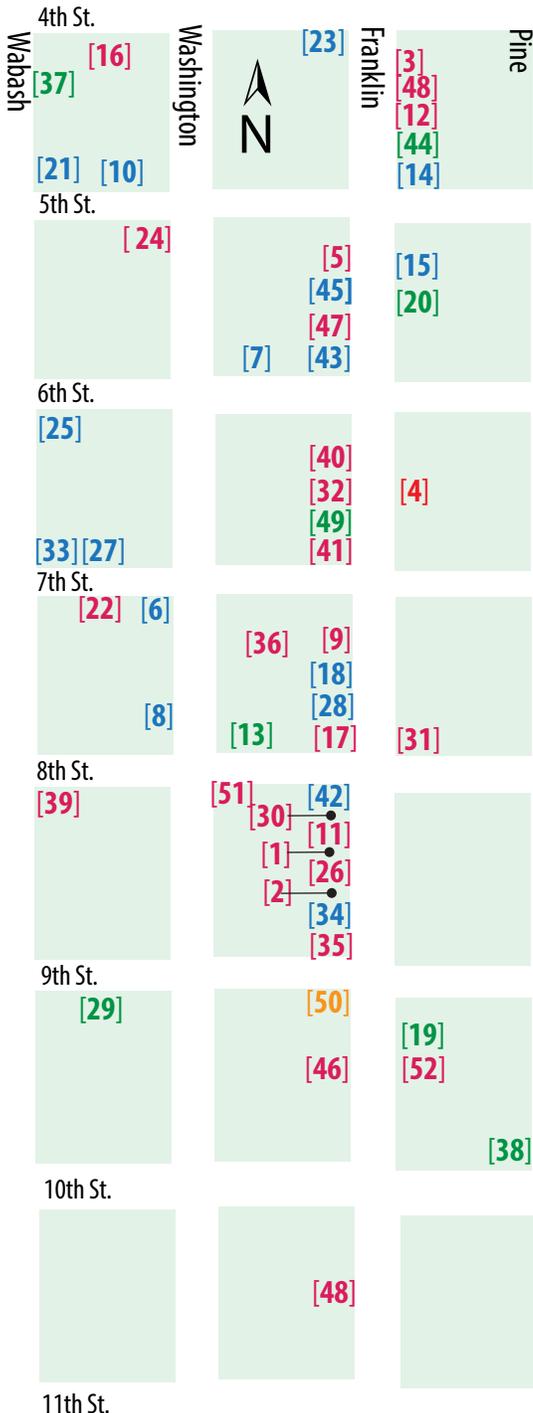
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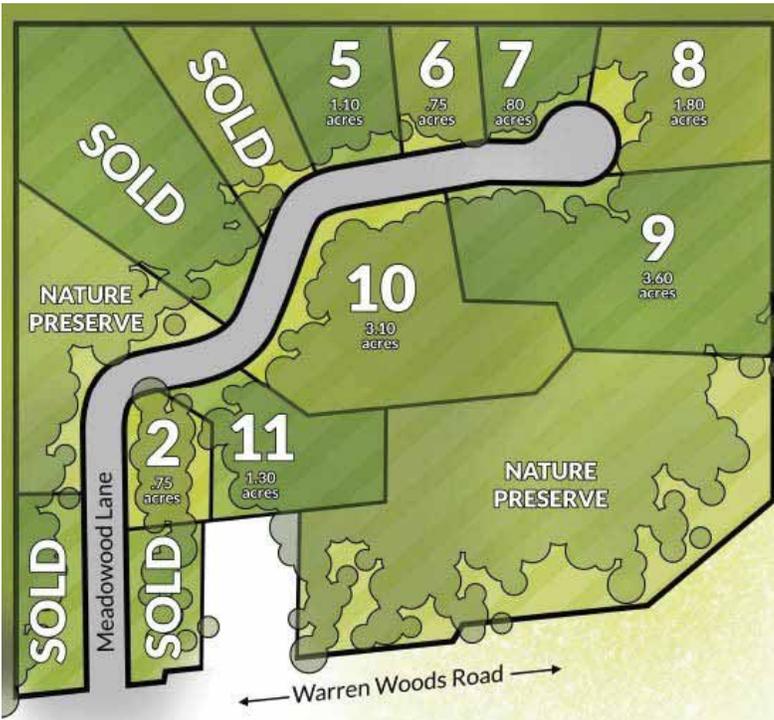


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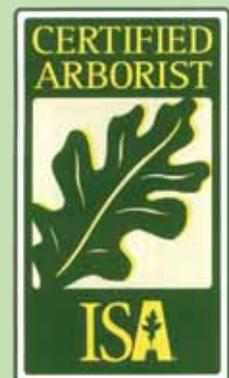
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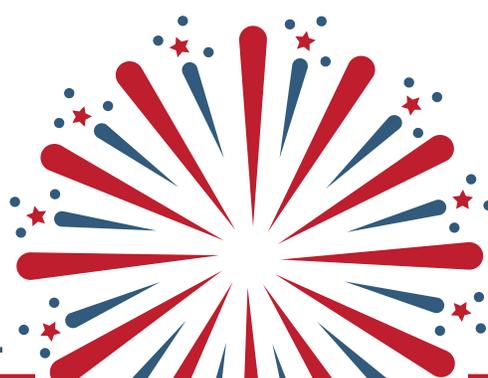
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 - Judges and Trophies
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“Luca” is a Slight, but Delightful Tale from Pixar

by Andrew Tallackson



Alberto Scorfano (voiced by Jack Dylan Grazer, left) and Luca Paguro (voiced by Jacob Tremblay) enjoy the simple pleasures of dry land in “Luca.”

We have become so conditioned to embrace each new Pixar movie as an animated classic, we almost don’t know how to act when the latest offering is just agreeably good.

Think about it. A Pixar triumph like “Up” (2009) exists on more than one level. It is not just about a grumpy old guy and a lonely Boy Scout. It is an achingly bittersweet fable about a man no longer joined at his side by the love of his life. Kids are wowed by the visuals. Adults exit the theater dabbing their eyes with Kleenex.

So when a Pixar movie comes along like “Luca” that’s about friendship — nothing more, nothing less — the effect almost feels slight. Lightweight. Then, you take into account how the film has charmed the socks off of you, and you appreciate just how crafty the wizards at Pixar can be.

Now streaming on Disney+, “Luca” is set in one of those charming seaside hamlets on the Italian Riviera. It has to be between the 1950s and 1960s, because we catch glimpses of a poster for the 1953 Gregory Peck-Audrey Hepburn gem “Roman Holiday.” That is just one example of why we savor a Pixar film. The attention to detail in these animated worlds is astonishing. In “Luca,” there is something warm and comforting about the visuals. The way the yellow glow of a lantern is contrasted against the dark night sky. The bright, cheery detail of the



“Luca”

Running time: 101 minutes. Disney+. Rated PG for rude humor, language, some thematic elements and brief violence.

village itself, from shirts flapping on a clothesline to the merriment at a local tavern — this is a fully realized world.

And into this world come two sea creatures — each on their own personal journey — who realize that once on land, they become human. Back in the water, or accidentally spritzed by a nearby fountain, the threat exists of revealing their true identities.

The boys, 13-year-old Luca Paguro (voiced by Jacob Tremblay, “Wonder”) and 14-year-old Alberto Scorfano (voiced by Jack Dylan Grazer, “It”), are intoxicated by the possibilities of dry land. They quickly form a bond with a girl, Giulia Marcovaldo (voiced by Emma Berman), and she’s a pistol. Mouthy. Determined. Vivacious. She’s also excited by the upcoming Portorosso Cup Triathlon, coercing the boys into participating.

Doing a little online reading about “Luca,” I stumbled across a blog where the writer suggests the movie is a metaphor for the LGBTQ+ community, of wanting to exist without living a lie. That the bond between Luca and Alberto draws gay parallels



Persuading the boys to participate in a local triathlon is the vivacious Giulia Marcovaldo (voiced by Emma Berman).

to another Italian tale, "Call Me By Your Name." I suppose you could run with that; however, director Enrico Casarosa has stated that is not his movie's intent, that it should be enjoyed solely as a tribute to friendship.

On those terms, "Luca" is a delight. What Casarosa conveys so beautifully is the moment when two strangers become friends, how that bond deepens and how different dreams and possibilities threaten to fracture that link. But Casarosa, making his feature debut, and his writers, Jesse Andrews and Mike Jones, want you comforted by the notion that close companions from our youth only grow stronger with the passing of time.

Down the road, will "Luca" be mentioned in the same breath as pictures like "Toy Story," "Coco" or "Inside Out"? Likely not. Does it leave you with a smile on your face? You bet.



Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com



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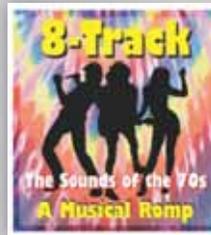
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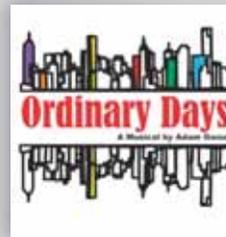
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The Season of Love!

Long-Lost “Amusement Park” Shows George Romero Crafting Bold Metaphors

by Andrew Tallackson



An elderly man (Lincoln Maazel) is unfairly harassed in a scene from “The Amusement Park.”

The late George Romero will forever be remembered as the guy who introduced us to the zombie as we know it. The recently deceased ghouls come back to life to feast on the living.

But Romero also was one who believed in the power of a good metaphor. That horror could stand for something, say something about human nature. Like racism (“Night of the Living Dead”). Consumerism (“Dawn of the Dead”). The haves and have-nots (“Land of the Dead”).

Now, thanks to the streaming service Shudder, we have a chance to experience a work by Romero shelved and thought lost. The metaphors may not be subtle, but they pack the intended punch.

“The Amusement Park” represents Romero’s only work-for-hire, meaning, save for directing the picture, the screenplay, and the intention behind it, were the inspiration of others. Specifically, it was a project through the Lutheran Service Society of Western Pennsylvania to denounce ageism and elder abuse. It was shot over three days in 1973 on a scant \$37,000 budget at the now-closed West View Park.

Plotless, the story takes on the shape of a relentless nightmare. An elderly man (Lincoln Maazel, who would go on to star in Romero’s “Martin”) arrives at a seemingly harmless amusement park, looking only to spend a leisurely afternoon outdoors.



“The Amusement Park”

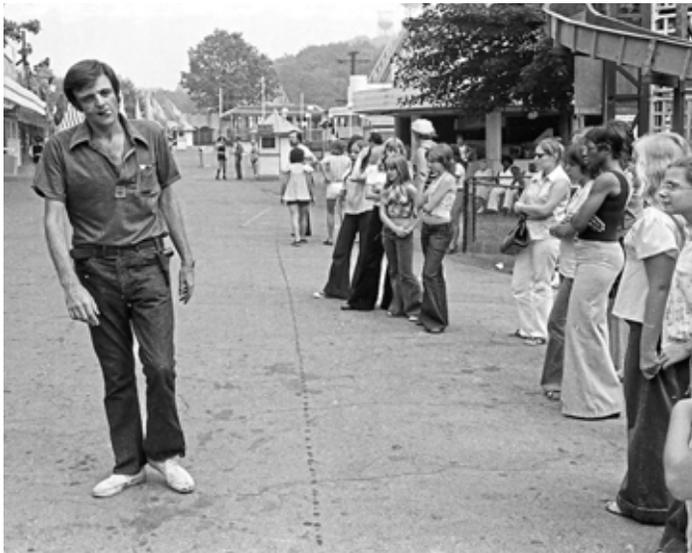
Running time: 53 minutes. Shudder.

Red flags that all is not right, that seniors are the target of unfair practices, become apparent.

Many rides, for instance, sport signs that ask for seniors to provide proof of income and medical reports that refute a diabetes diagnosis. Amid playful fun at the bumper cars, an elderly couple that slams into a younger rider gets treated like forgetful incompetents.

In numerous cases, those targeted by the park’s staff are black, suggesting racism is at play. But in one of the more unsettling visuals, the park’s “freak show” involves a veteran and a man in a motorized wheelchair. The most disturbing image? How those in a tent devoted to Judeo-Christian beliefs react to visitors.

You don’t have to be a rocket scientist to catch what Romero is saying. We, as a people, want nothing to do with our elderly. Now 48 years after it was produced, that message has not dimmed. Society prefers to cast away its elderly. To turn a blind eye to their needs, their physical and mental well-being. And the final image suggests this behavior isn’t



George Romero, photographed on location during filming of "The Amusement Park."

isolated, more like a revolving door. Life stuck in repeat mode, generation after generation.

Romero kept the story at a brisk 53 minutes. That includes footage of Maazel introducing the film and bidding viewers an omniscient farewell, so the core of the story is only about 50 minutes. If that.

The Lutheran Service Society of Western Pennsylvania did use "The Amusement Park," but quickly shelved it. In an interview, Romero's widow, Suzanne Desrocher-Romero, said she believes the finished product was too "edgy" and banished from public view.

Younger audiences, those unfamiliar with Romero's work, likely will view it as some cheap, cruddy relic. Fans of the director's work, however, appreciating how he thrived outside the Hollywood machine, will get what he was trying to do. This may be the man who made us fear the walking dead, but he also cared about who we were as a society: how we behave in the present and how that might affect what we become in the future.



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Onboard Education Programs Return to South Shore Line

After a 15-month pause due to COVID-19, Midwest Rail Rangers will resume its onboard educational programs aboard the South Shore Line starting Thursday, July 1.

The non-profit group has offered interpretive guides presenting historical talks on select South Shore trains between Chicago and South Bend since 2017. Highlights during the two-hour ride include Chicago trivia, viewing Northwest Indiana's steel-making area, Indiana Dunes state and national parks and the breadbasket region of LaPorte and St. Joseph counties.

Programs will be offered two to three times per month year-round on select Thursday, Saturday and Sunday off-peak trains. Upcoming dates include July 1, July 25, Aug. 12, Aug. 21, Aug. 29,



An interpretive guide shares details about the region during a ride with the Midwest Rail Rangers.

Sept. 2 and Sept. 19. Additional dates for October and November are listed online at www.railrangers.org.

The schedule is:

- Thursday Programs: Eastbound programs are aboard Train No. 7 that departs Chicago-Millennium Station at 8:45 a.m. CDT. Westbound programs are aboard Train No. 18 that departs South

Bend-Airport Station at 12:49 p.m. EDT.

- Saturday and Sunday Programs: Eastbound programs are aboard Train No. 503 that departs Chicago-Millennium Station at 8:40 a.m. CDT. Westbound programs are aboard Train No. 506 that departs South Bend-Airport Station at 1:05 p.m. EDT.

Narration can be heard in one car (usually toward the center of the train; look for yellow signs posted inside). The programs are provided at no additional cost for all passengers who buy a valid South Shore ticket or pass. Advanced reservations are not needed. Tickets can be purchased the day-of from a South Shore ticket agent or vending machine. Seating in the Rail Rangers Car is provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Passengers must follow all current COVID-19 protocols (including masks) as required by federal regulations and the South Shore.

Midwest Rail Rangers programs are presented in partnership with the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District and Indiana Dunes State Park.

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LaPorte County Public Library

LaPorte County Public Library has updated its curbside pickup service using meeScan.

New users can download the meeScan app through options such as Apple and Google Play. Then, place holds on items using a customer account. Once at the library, check in using the app and clicking Pickup from the bottom of the screen (or calling the library location). An appointment no longer is needed. Add the parking space on the app if picking up from the main location. Enter information in the instructions box if picking up holds placed on more than one account, or if needing additional assistance.

A staff member brings held items to the vehicle. Customers using the app receive updates as their requests are processed. Returns can be placed in book drops and be checked in within 24 to 72 hours. At this time, there is no limit to the number of items customers can reserve and pick up during curbside.

- Coolspring Branch: Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Main Library: Tuesday/Thursday (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) and Saturday (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.).

The following program are planned:

- **STEAM Sandbox from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, July 3, at the main library. Also from 4-6 p.m. Wednesday, July 7, at the Coolspring Branch.**

Children ages 6-18 can build real-world STEAM skills with self-paced STEAM challenges using the Mobile Maker cart.

- **Online class — Chef for a Day in the Wizardly World of Harry Potter from 3-4:15 p.m. Wednesday, July 7.**

Learn to make recipes inspired by the series. Register through the website.

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 for more details.

Disconnected Compressor Honorees

The Sullair Disconnected Compressor Honorees will host its annual meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday, July 15, at Galveston Steak House, 10 Commerce Square.

The group consists of former Sullair Corp. employees who have resigned, retired or were fired.

The annual meeting cost is \$10 at the door and includes appetizers. Donations and guests are welcome. To assist in the planning process, send an RSVP by email to SDCH.Reunion@gmail.com

Regular communications will be sent throughout the year, so those interested should send an email to the gmail address.

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La Porte County Parks



All registrations/questions go through the Red Mill County Park Administrative Office, 0185 S. Holmesville Road, LaPorte. Call (219) 325-8315 or visit www.laportecountyparks.org for more details.

Tuesday Treasures

The program aimed at 6- to 13-year-olds meets from 9 a.m. to noon Tuesdays at Luhr County Park, 178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte.

All programs include arts and crafts. Parents are not required to participate or stay. The cost is \$8 per person per program. Masks are required. Pre-registration and payment are required one week before each program. The schedule is:

- July 20 – “Bugg Off.” Learn about insects, bugs and spiders.
- July 27 – “Scat, Tracks and Other Mammal Facts.” Learn to identify animal scat and tracks.
- Aug. 3 – “Feathers, Feet, Nests and Beaks.” Birds are the topic of the hands-on program.

Healthy Lifestyles

The free social club that emphasizes quality of life meets from 9 to 10 a.m. Wednesdays at Luhr County Park Nature Center. Programs focus on

health trends, gardening, medical information and balancing active lifestyles. Call at least one week in advance to sign up (the maximum allowed is 30). The schedule is:

- July 14: Nutrition, food groups and labeling, Stephanie Thomas.
- Aug. 4: Sleep disorders and their health effects, by Mindi Whittaker, Northwest Health LaPorte.
- Sept. 1 — Fall garden cleanup and separating plants, Gee-Burns.
- Oct. 6 — Pulmonary health, Patti Solona, Northwest Health LaPorte.

Under the Shady Tree – Story Time

Children ages 2-11 can attend the free program at 9:30 a.m. Monday, July 19, at Luhr County Park.

Siblings are invited. Take a blanket to sit under the shady tree. Then, engage in self-guided play-time or take a snack for family time. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Make reservations at least one week before the program.

Parent & Child Discovery Days

The program includes arts and crafts, games and snacks. All activities are related to the topic. Programs are appropriate for children 3 to 8, with an adult required to participate. Times are from 6 to 7:15 p.m. at Luhr County Park. The cost is \$5 per child/per program. Pre-registration and payment are required at least one week in advance or until full, whichever comes first. The schedule is:

- July 21 — “Lonesome Dove.”
- July 28 — “Here, Fishy, Fishy.”
- Aug. 4 — “It’s a Great Blue Heron.”

Family Fishing Nights

The free, all-ages event is from 5-7:30 p.m. July 26 and Aug. 30 at Luhr County Park.

A limited number of poles and bait will be provided. No fishing licenses are required. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration is required.

Nature Stroll

Join a naturalist in front of the Nature Center for a relaxing stroll from 7:15-8 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 17, at Luhr County Park.

Learn about the park’s history, look for migrating birds, identify trees and hunt for native plants. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Call to reserve a free spot.

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LCSO in the Spotlight



Christina and John Baumann.

Editor's note — This weekly spotlight, provided by Tim King, LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra executive director, highlights its talented musicians.

Christina Baumann plays flute and piccolo with LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra. She also teaches with New Buffalo Area Schools, where she teaches sixth through 12th grade band and other music classes.

Originally from the metro Detroit area, she attended Western Michigan University, earned a bachelor's degree in music education and obtained her master's degree in instrumental conducting from the American Band College of Sam Houston State University.

Baumann is president of District VI of the Michigan School Band & Orchestra Association and has guest conducted LCSO. Her hobbies include scrapbooking, baking and cooking. She lives in Stevensville, Mich., with her husband, John, and two dogs, Riley and Ollie.

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SMSO Holiday Concert Returns

Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra will return to present its Independence Day concert after canceling it last year due to the pandemic.

The concert, appropriately titled "A (Re-) United States Celebration," is at 6:30 p.m. EDT Saturday, July 3, at Silver Beach County Park's Shadowland Pavilion. Gates open at 5:30 p.m. EDT. The rain location is The Mendel Center.



Harville

The program includes patriotic favorites such as "The Star-Spangled Banner," "America the Beautiful," "Armed Forces Salute," "Stars and Stripes," "The Washington Post March" and Copland's "Rodeo." Directing the performance is music director finalist Grant Harville. He is the music director and conductor for the Great Falls Symphony Association. Food and a bar will be available. COVID-19 safety requirements will be followed in accordance with Michigan state regulations.

Ticket costs are:

- \$30 for reserved seating.
- \$20 for lawn seats.
- \$10 for children 12 and younger, lawn seats only.
- \$350 for tables, includes 10 tickets and two parking passes.

The SMSO also offers "Summer Time Beach Passes" for \$65 each that allow entrance for one person to four shows. Tickets can be purchased at www.smso.org, from the SMSO office at (269) 982-4030 or at the event.

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What to Expect With Delivery of The Beacher After the Holiday

The Beacher will be closed Monday, July 5, as part of the Independence Day holiday. Normal office hours resume Tuesday, July 6. Delivery of the July 8 edition will begin Wednesday, July 7. Anyone who does not receive their copy by noon Friday should call us at (219) 879-0088.

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New Studio Space for Artists



Sunny Gardner-Orbovich is among the artists with space within the former St. Mary's Elementary.

St. Mary's Catholic Church has repurposed an old school building, St. Mary's Elementary, 326 W. 10th St., to serve as studio space for local artists.

Thirteen artists have taken studio residence, some of whom needed to move from other locations, others attracted to the location and camaraderie. They include:

- Sunny Gardner-Orbovich (Studio 17).
- Kei Constantinov, Janko Constantinov (Studio 9).
- David Abed (Studio 1).
- Margaret Sullivan (Studio 8).
- The Quilter's Apothecary (Studios 10, 12 and 2).
- Jane Cowley and Dan Baldwin (Studio 14).
- Carol Block (Studio 16).
- Kuhn Hong (Studio 13).
- Edwin Shelton (Studio 11).



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

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

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 www.redcrossblood.org for more details.



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Flight A

Low Gross — Vicki Hill.
 Low Net — Vicki Hill.
 Low Putts — Pat Kelley.

Flight B

Low Gross (Tied) — Eileen Miller, Gloria McMahon.
 Low Net — Gloria McMahon.
 Low Putts — Gloria McMahon.

Flight C

Low Gross — Catherine Kelly.
 Low Net — Catherine Kelly.
 Low Putts (Tied) — Catherine Kelly, Mary Weithers.

Flight D

Low Gross — Alison Kolb.
 Low Net — Alison Kolb.
 Low Putts — Sally Allen.
 Sunken Approaches — Jude Stahmer (No. 12), Jean Muldowney (No. 13).

Leadership Northwest Indiana

The Leadership Institute at Purdue Northwest will launch the 2021-2022 Leadership Northwest Indiana program in September.

The eight-month professional-development program, which runs through May 2022, uses a hybrid of in-person training and Zoom to identify growth areas so participants become stronger leaders.

Participants will meet for monthly (except December) half-day sessions. Visit www.pnw.edu/lni to apply, or call (219) 989-2800 or email leadershipinstitute@pnw.edu for more details.

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Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series

The 20th season of the Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series continues Wednesday, July 7, at Christ Church (the former First Congregationalist Church), 531 Washington St.

All performances are free and at 12:15 p.m. Wednesdays. Performing July 7 is Kent Jager, the organist at St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Oskaloosa, Iowa. He retired as director of music at



Jager

Queen of Angels Roman Catholic Parish in Chicago's Lincoln Square neighborhood in January. Prior to that post, he was the assistant organist at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago and at First Presbyterian in Evanston, Ill. He completed his graduate studies in church music at Northwestern

University, Evanston, and has an undergraduate degree in organ from Central College in Pella, Iowa.

The featured work July 7 is Charles-Marie Widor's "Symphony V." Widor was a French organist and composer working during the time the Roosevelt organ was built.

The season runs through Aug. 18. Call (219) 608-5358 for details.

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Chesterton Art Center



Examples of fused glass.

Mindy Milan will teach a “Warm Glass Fusing Class” from 1-4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 21.

Students will create jewelry-size pieces, small plates, garden stakes and other items using glass-forming techniques. Watch some glass melt in the kiln, and learn about the forms, colors and processes of fusing glass.

Masks are encouraged, but not mandatory. Hand sanitizer will be available. Social distancing will be practiced. The classroom will be cleaned and sanitized prior to students’ arrival. There is no make-up day due to COVID-19.

All materials are provided. The cost is \$45 for members and \$55 for non-members, plus a \$10 material/firing fee paid to the instructor at the start of class. Register through Eventbrite and search for Chesterton Art Center.

Chesterton Art Center is located at 115 S. Fourth St. Hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday. Call the center at (219) 926-4711 or visit www.chestertonart.org for more details.

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NB Library Community Forum

The Friends of New Buffalo Library continues its community forum with its first live presentation since the pandemic, a different twist on Al Capone, at 7 p.m. EDT Thursday, July 8, in the library's Pokagon Room, 33 N. Thompson St.

Author William Hazelgrove will highlight the 1933 Chicago World's Fair and the six millionaire businessmen — dubbed the "secret six" — who beat Capone at his own game. The tale includes the story of Rufus and Charles Dawes, who gave the fair a theme and found financing during the worst economic times the country had experienced.

Upcoming programs include: "Clara Barton: The Union Army's Angel of Mercy" on Tuesday, July 20, and "The Baillys: A Pioneer Family in the Dunes" on Thursday, Aug. 12.

Visit www.newbuffalotownshiplibrary.org for more details.

Fourth of July Parade

LaPorte's 75th Annual Fourth of July Parade is at 1 p.m. Sunday, July 4, along Lincolnway through downtown LaPorte.

Hosted by Kiwanis Club of LaPorte, the theme is "Bold Stripes, Bright Stars, Brave Hearts."



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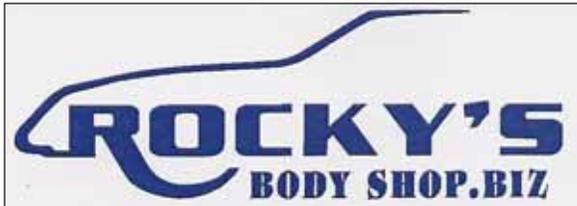
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To see about becoming part of Michiana's musical connection, please contact us at 269-409-1191 schoolofamericanmusic@gmail.com

Welcome to the Front Yards of Beverly Shores

July 10, 10 am-2pm. Self-guided tour of 15 yards with plein-air artists. Refreshments. \$10 tickets, includes raffle for original watercolor, at absr.org. Maps & tickets at The Depot, 525 Broadway, Beverly Shores, July 10, 10 am-noon.



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Activities to Explore

In the Area:

July 2-3 — “8-Track: The Sounds of the ’70s,” Canterbury Theatre, 807 Franklin St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Fri., 6:30 p.m. Sat. Tickets: \$16-\$17, discounts/seniors & students. Reservations: info@canterburytheatre.org, (219) 874-4269.

July 4 — INDEPENDENCE DAY.

July 4 — Long Beach July 4th parade, 10 a.m., Oriole Trail by Community Center. Trophies/11 a.m. Centennial poster unveiling/11 a.m.

July 4 — 75th Annual Fourth of July Parade, 1 p.m., Lincolnway through downtown LaPorte.

July 7 — Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series, Kent Jager, 12:15 p.m., Christ Church, 531 Washington St. Free. Info: (219) 608-5358.

July 7 — Online class, Chef for a Day in the Wizardly World of Harry Potter, 3-4:15 p.m., through LaPorte County Public Library. Registration: www.laportelibrary.org

July 7 — LaPorte City Band, 7 p.m., LaPorte’s Fox Park Dennis F. Smith Amphitheater. Free.

Though Aug. 12 — Michigan City Municipal Band, 7:30 p.m., Guy F. Foreman Bicentennial Amphitheater, Washington Park. Free. Parking @ Senior Center, lots closest to amphitheater.

Through Oct. 15 — Exhibit, “Bramson/Indiana/Lake,” Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Opening reception: 3-7 p.m. Friday, July 2. Info: www.lubeznikcenter.org

Wednesdays — Virtual Story Time, 10 a.m., through Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: www.mclib.org/parents/story-time/

Saturdays — Michigan City Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-noon, Eighth and Washington streets (Uptown Arts District).

Saturdays — LaPorte Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Lincolnway & Monroe (near Mucho Mas). Info: laportefarmermarket@gmail.com

Second Saturdays — Free sunset yoga w/ Laurelee Sikorski, 1 hour before sunset (specific time TBD), Long Beach Realty Stop 31 location. Limited parking. Updates: Long Beach Realty Facebook page.

In the Region

July 3 — Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra Independence Day concert, 6:30 p.m. EDT, Silver Beach County Park’s Shadowland Pavilion. Tickets/info: www.smsso.org, (269) 982-4030.

July 3-4 — Gallery show, The Art Loft Studio, 10232 Wilson Road, New Buffalo, Mich. Times: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. EDT.

Saturdays — Wetland Wonders, 10 a.m.-noon, The Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education/Miller Woods ponds, Lake Street north of U.S. 12, Gary’s Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Sundays — Bailly Chellberg History Hike, 1-3 p.m., Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 20/12,

Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Through July 25 — New exhibits, artists Abner Hershberger/Dick Lehman, Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St., Elkhart. Admission: \$10/adult, \$6/ages 8-12, \$8/13-18 & college students with ID. Hours: (Eastern) 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tue.-Fri., 1-4 p.m. Sat.-Sun. Info: (574) 293-6660, info@midwestmuseum.us

The Region of Three Oaks Museum — 5 Featherbone Ave., Three Oaks Mich. Free admission; donations accepted. Hours (Eastern): noon-5 p.m. Friday-Sunday through October.

Vickers Theatre — *Now showing:* "In the Heights." Rated PG-13. Times: 2:45 & 6 p.m. July 2-5. All times Eastern. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: (269) 756-3522, www.vickerstheatre.com

Summer Series

NWI Development Group and @properties are introducing their latest new home community with Terra Firma Social at Avanterra, a Friday night summer event series.

Events kicked off June 11 with food, local craft beer, live music, artisans and makers at Terra Firma Social at Avanterra, 6833 N. Fail Road, LaPorte. Upcoming dates are 4 to 8 p.m. July 2, July 16, Aug. 6, Aug. 20 and Sept. 3.

Vendors include:

- Wood's Edge Jewelry Studio – handmade jewelry.
- Staci's Beads & Jewelry – handmade jewelry.
- Fabulous Intentions Glass – glass art.
- Nest Number 4 – gifts and housewares.
- The Love Spell Boutique – women's fashion.
- Flagel's Sugar House.
- Mitzner Farms – meat and gifts.
- Sommerfeldt Farms – fruits and vegetables.
- The Outward Olive – gourmet olive oil/vinegar.
- Mother Hubbard Farms — fruits and vegetables.
- Bowler Man Confections.
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Visit www.liveatavanterra.com for more details.

Want your event listed in Activities?

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On July 1, 1847, the U.S. Post Office issued the nation's first adhesive postage stamps.

On July 1, 1859, Amherst beat Williams in what was reported to be the first intercollegiate baseball game.

On July 1, 1863, one of the world's most decisive battles, the Civil War's three day "Battle of Gettysburg," began.

On July 1, 1899, Judge Richard Tithill presided at the opening of the Juvenile Court of Cook County, Ill., the world's first court created exclusively for juveniles.

On July 1, 1910, 28,000 attended the official opening of Chicago's Comiskey Park, seeing the White Sox lose 2-0 to the St. Louis Browns.

On July 2, 1776, the Continental Congress passed a resolution saying, "These United Colonies are, and of right, ought to be, Free and Independent States."

On July 2, 1881, at a Washington railroad station, President James Garfield was shot by Charles Guiteau, a disappointed office seeker. The president died on Sept. 19.

On July 2, 1904, Chicago's "Riverview Park" was opened to the public.

On July 2, 1926, the Army Air Corps was created.

On July 2, 1937, aviator Amelia Earhart and her navigator, Fred Noonan, while attempting to make the first round-the-world flight at the equator, disappeared somewhere over the Pacific Ocean. No trace has ever been found of them.

On July 3, 1819, in New York, the Bank of Savings (the first savings bank in America), opened its doors. The bank had 80 customers on the first day, receiving total deposits of \$2,807.

On July 3, 1863, during the Civil War, the Battle of Gettysburg ended in a Confederate defeat. The Union Army, led by Gen. George Meade, inflicted heavy losses on Gen. George Pickett's Southern troops.

On July 3, 1971, pop singer Jim Morrison, of The Doors, died in Paris at 27.

On July 3, 1981, Chris Evert Lloyd won her third successive women's singles tennis championship at Wimbledon.

On July 3, 1984, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that states may require the Jaycees to admit women as full members.

On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress adopted

the Declaration of Independence.

On July 4, 1802, the U.S. Military Academy opened at West Point, N.Y.

On July 4, 1817, work began on the construction of the Erie Canal.

On July 4, 1900, jazz trumpeter Louis Armstrong was born in New Orleans.

On July 4, 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt opened the first cable connection between San Francisco and Manila.

On July 5, 1865, in London, William Booth founded The Salvation Army.

On July 5, 1894, a major fire destroyed several of the buildings left from Chicago's 1893 "Columbian Exposition."

On July 5, 1935, President Roosevelt signed the National Labor Relations Act, a law guaranteeing labor's right of collective bargaining.

On July 5, 1946, the bikini bathing suit made its debut at a fashion show in Paris.

On July 5, 1997, for the first time, a mechanism produced on Earth roamed the surface of Mars when a robot rover began creeping away from its mothership. The U.S. launched Pathfinder, which had landed on the planet the previous day.

On July 6, 1699, Scottish pirate William Kidd was arrested in Boston. He was later tried and hanged in England.

On July 6, 1854, the newly created Republican Party held its first state convention at Ripon, Wis.

On July 6, 1885, Louis Pasteur first successfully inoculated a human being against rabies.

On July 6, 1919, the first Atlantic crossing by an airship was completed when a British dirigible landed at New York's Roosevelt Field.

On July 6, 1933, the first all-star major league baseball game was played in Chicago's Comiskey Park. Herman "Babe" Ruth hit a home run, helping the American League beat the National League 4-2.

On July 7, 1754, King's College, which in 1784 changed its name to Columbia University, opened in New York.

On July 7, 1865, four of John Wilkes Booth's accomplices in the assassination of President Lincoln were hanged. They were Mary E. Surratt, David K. Herold, George A. Atzerodt and Lewis Payne.

On July 7, 1896, the Democratic National Convention opened in Chicago. It nominated William Jennings Bryan for president, but he would lose to William McKinley.

On July 7, 1898, Hawaii was annexed as a territory of the United States.

On July 7, 1930, construction began on Boulder Dam (now known as the Hoover Dam) on the Colorado River.

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Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

Revival Season: A Novel by Monica West (hardcover, \$26 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and audio CD. 285 pages.)

“All who have come to be healed, come to the altar for a touch from the Lord.”

The Rev. Samuel Horton repeats those words at the end of his tent revival, the long-awaited-for part of the evening that has heads straining to the raised pulpit to see what great wonders God allows that day. And Reverend Horton never disappoints...

He is the pastor of a black Baptist church in Texas. His wife, Joanne, and children load up the van and accompany him on his yearly summer revival tour that takes them east into Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi and other southern states. He always picks small, out-of-the-way towns with people eager for soul-searching sermons and toe-tapping music. And don't forget those baptisms and healings by the good reverend. A large tent is set up in the middle of a field, a raised pulpit is built at the far end of the tent, which leaves room for a choir or maybe a musician or two behind it.

It is a county fair atmosphere, only with soul-cleansing promises of salvation and healing.

Horton has a decent living in their east Texas town. His church is full every week, the coffers are always filled and they have a nice home. Teenagers Miriam and Caleb are joined by younger sister Hannah, who was born with cerebral palsy. It is always Horton's biggest disappointment that he couldn't heal his own daughter...or the stillborn son, Isaiah.

Horton was a prizefighter in his younger days, before he saw the light and became a Christian; however, his temper could flare if things didn't go his way. His voice was law, and no one disobeyed.

Yes, things are going pretty good for the Hortons, until that last summer of revival meetings...

Mom is in charge of the map that marks the towns they will visit that summer. The reverend carefully pours over the map earlier in the year, sending out letters to at least 11 different pastors asking if they wanted a tent revival. He is always well-received.

This summer, something goes horribly wrong...

A very pregnant teenager is hauled up to the reverend for the healing and, let's just say he handles her badly for reasons known only to him. Another time, he beats up a man who calls him a fraud. Has Horton's pride taken over his life? He seems to actually believe he is God's go-between, chosen by Him

to preach, teach and heal. I kept thinking about that saying— *“absolute power corrupts absolutely.”* Has the good reverend's ego taken over?

Told in her own voice, Miriam begins to see her father in a different light. Her brother refuses to say anything bad about him, and Joanne is Horton's one solid support, never disagreeing with him, always smoothing over explosive situations within the family.

After this disastrous revival season, Miriam begins to doubt her father and his healing ability.

Meanwhile, her best friend, Micah, has diabetes. Alone with Miriam one day, Micah has a seizure, and Miriam puts her hands on her and begins to pray. Several days later, Micah tells her that her diabetes is in remission. It only lasts a short while, but Micah is convinced that Miriam is a healer. Soon, another girlfriend comes to Miriam, and several more. She heals each of them, but is afraid to tell anyone, especially her father, what she has done. *“At the end of each healing, when I saw double and they reeled in front of me, I told them to say that Papa had done it if anyone asked.”*

Horton has made it very clear he knows God has made only men to be healers, never women.

The role of women in the southern Baptist movement is told clearly in the persons of Joanne and Miriam. They are to be subservient to their fathers and husbands, and listen closely to the Bible readings he chooses to give. But how long can Miriam hold herself in? What will it take for her to confront her father and tell him she now has the healing power?

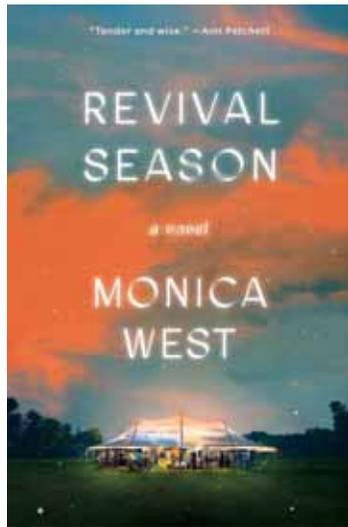
The following summer, the reverend learns word of his last revival season must have gotten around, as only a few churches invite him. They start out anyway, but does Horton really believe this year can be an improvement over the last?

Things continue to go downward as Joanne finds herself pregnant, even though advised by the doctor not to so soon after Isaiah, and Miriam tries to get her brother to see what is happening to their family.

A fascinating story on so many levels; it all comes together in an ending that leaves you, the reader, to decide. Can Miriam stand up to her father? Has love and reason completely left Samuel Horton in exchange for a need for total capitulation by his parishioners and his family? You want atmosphere? There's more than enough here!

This is West's first novel. Learn more at www.monicawestwrites.com

Till next time, happy reading!





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