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SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

bv Edmund Lawler

Love it or hate it, a film sparks spirited conversation. Eve Moran, whose cinematic selections animate a new community film-discussion group, has got people talking.

The vivacious former student of legendary film critic Roger Ebert, Moran leads Harbor Country Film Group at New Buffalo Township Library. Stealing a page from the late Pulitzer Prize-winner's film classes at The University of Chicago, Moran selects the film and introduces her research on it.

Beyond that, she leads the discussion, but reserves judgment. That's up to the audience.

"I don't do that because people should see a film with fresh eyes," Moran says. "They shouldn't be tainted

Eve Moran is photographed in downtown New Buffalo.

with anyone's opinion. We each come from different backgrounds and have had different experiences. So, we may each experience a film differently, and that is a fine thing."

What's great about a movie, she says, is the element of surprise.

"It's where you don't know where it's going," she said. "Hopefully, the director isn't leaving too many clues along the way."

As her expressive brown eyes curiously scan the room at David's Delicatessen & Coffee in New Buffalo, Moran says she has many movies in mind for discussion.

"Some are older movies, not currently playing at a theater near you," she says. "They are classic, interesting films that didn't get a wide release. They are treasures that Roger showed in class. Or they are treasures that I picked along the way."

At the group's well-attended inaugural meeting on April 25, she showed "Gates of Heaven," a 1980

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SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

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documentary directed by Errol Morris, which Ebert described as a masterpiece. The movie challenged the audience to think hard about the mystery of life, Moran says.

So how did it play in New Buffalo?

"The audience was split," Moran confides. "Some enjoyed it, and some weren't quite sure what it was about and where it was going — or if it even had merit. And that's fine. I like that when we are not all of one mind because we are all bringing something

different to it. It makes for better conversation. We had a good conversation that evening in the name of new ideas and good fellowship."

Next up, the group meets at 6:30 p.m. EDT Monday, June 6, at the library, 33 N. Thompson St., to view and discuss the 2020 documentary "Roy's World: Barry Gifford's Chicago." Narrated by actors Willem Dafoe, Matt Dillon and Lili Taylor, blogger Michael Glover Smith described the film as "a fascinating and detailed portrait of a vanished Chicago from

the era immediately after World War II through the early years of Richard J. Daley's political machine."

The movie focuses on semi-autobiographical stories about growing up in Chicago by Hollywood screenwriter Barry Gifford, who co-wrote with director David Lynch critically acclaimed films such as "Lost Highway" and "Wild at Heart." Gifford penned a series of books about a character named Roy who came of age in Chicago in the 1950s-early 1960s.

The film about the "Roy" books was directed by Chicagoan Rob Christopher, who will introduce the film and lead the discussion with Moran on June 6.

"What's cool about the film is that the city of Chicago will be a character in this film," Moran says. The popcorn and admission are free.

Introducing films and leading discussion about them is a familiar role for Moran. Ten years ago, she launched a film-discussion group at The Cliff Dwellers, a Chicago nonprofit civic organization that celebrates the fine arts and performing arts. Members have included novelist Carl Sandburg and Hoosier poet James Whitcomb Riley. Moran was president of the club from 2018-2019 and now co-chairs its artists-in-residence program.

The idea for a film-discussion group in New Buffalo began with a recommendation from a local resident to Library Director Julie Grynwich. The resident told Grynwich that Moran and her husband

Jack were longtime second homeowners in New Buffalo, and that she had been a student of Ebert's.

Grynwich turned the tip over to Bob Mueller, who directs the library's community forum series. Mueller contacted Moran.

"It was very interesting to talk with her," he said. "I then talked about the idea of a filmdiscussion group with our community forum committee."

In the spirit of Ebert, the longtime *Chicago Sun-Times* columnist

Eve Moran, photographed at The Cliff Dwellers in Chicago

and co-host with the late Gene Siskel of "Sneak Previews," the committee gave the film-discussion group proposal a thumbs up.

"I see it as analogous to a book club," Mueller says, noting the community forum series regularly features book discussions and presentations by local authors.

If the group's inaugural meeting is any indication, there's a healthy appetite for talking about the movies. Mueller speculated the group would succeed if about a dozen people regularly attended.

"Thirty-seven people turned out the first night," he says. "It may not continue at that level, but it does demonstrate strong interest."

A film-discussion group is nothing new in Harbor

Country, Mueller points out. Until his retirement, Judd Chesler, a film professor at Columbia College Chicago, led discussions at Vickers Theatre in Three Oaks, Mich., where Ebert would occasionally watch a film.

Moran believes conversation has become so much more important since COVID-19.

"We haven't been talking to each other, and if we are, we're talking about COVID or about politics, which is not uniting anyone these days," she says. "It's wonderful to talk about something we have all seen together, which creates a sense of fellowship."

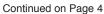
She first met Ebert in the early 1980s after a friend encouraged her to attend a non-credit, continuing-education night class at The University of Chicago taught by Ebert.

Moran, who had recently graduated from law school and was an attorney in the Cook County Public Defender's Office, was hooked.

"I signed up for one semester, and it turned into 22 years," Moran says. "He was amazing."



The banner of the late film critic Roger Ebert that hangs in the American Writers Museum in Chicago.





SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

Continued from Page 3

One of the most valuable lessons she learned from Ebert was, "It's not what a movie is about. It's how a movie goes about it. That was very profound and very correct," says Moran. She noted that students in the class would sometimes groan that they didn't want to see a movie about war or a movie about boxing. But Ebert would hear none of it. Their role was to appreciate how the movie was executed.

"In class, Roger would talk about the film's director, the music or the sound, or whatever struck his fancy," she says. "Or he would ignore all that and tell us about whatever books he read that week. He was truly a Renaissance Man."

Moran says she will model the New Buffalo film discussion group after Ebert's classes.

"We'd watch the film, and then we would discuss the film," she said. "It is the same basic format I'm trying to operate on here."

Moran also knew Ebert from The Cliff Dwellers, where he had been a member since the late 1970s. But when his health began to decline in the 2000s, he resigned from the club.

(The celebrated film critic died of cancer in 2013 at 70.)

Moran didn't want the beloved Ebert to leave without the club bestowing an honor on him. Ebert graciously declined any recognition. Instead, he requested a night of music. Moran recruited dozens of musicians and performers — ranging from an opera star to a jazz pianist to Irish folk singers — to put on a royal show for the king of film criticism. Ebert gave a hearty thumbs up to every act that bittersweet evening.



The inaugural gathering of Harbor Country Film Club in April at New Buffalo Township Library.

"We honored him without honoring him," Moran says with a sly grin.

In addition to sharing unique insights on movies with her, Ebert introduced Moran to Harbor Country. He owned a home in New Buffalo before buying another farther north in Harbert.

"We were talking after class one day and I told Roger that I was thinking of buying something in the area," Moran recalls. "He said, 'I'm having a New Year's Eve party in New Buffalo. Please come by."

Even though it was winter, Moran says she was smitten with Harbor Country.

"I fell in love with the area right then and there," she said. "I loved the people. Almost everyone I met was involved in the arts. There were just a lot of interesting people."

Moran was seduced by New Buffalo's small-town charm, an element sorely missing in her family's life in Chicago, where she and her husband were raising their son, Jamie. The family lives in an apartment above an Irish tavern they own. Called Dugan's, it is improbably located in Greektown, in the heart of Chicago.

"I thought it was important for Jamie to have a yard and some trees that you don't see at Halsted and Adams," Moran says.

Although she was raised by Polish-American parents on Chicago's northwest side, she would often spend summers at her grandparents' home in rural Pennsylvania. Seeking to replicate that small-town atmosphere, the Morans bought a second home in New Buffalo in 1988 and have owned it since. Jamie grew up, moved on and now lives in the Kansas City area. She describes New Buffalo as her "happy place." Some 34 years after buying a home

here, she's still thrilled to hop on an Amtrak train at Chicago's Union Station on a Friday afternoon for the short run through the steel mills and the sand dunes to New Buffalo.

"Once we hit the Indiana line," she says, "I can feel the adrenaline drain from body."

Back home in Greektown, Moran is a commissioner for the neighborhood's Special Service Area and chair of the Greektown Arts Committee.

The recently retired attorney who specialized in utility regulatory law is an artist herself. But she's primarily interested in promoting the vibrantly colored sculptures and other art pieces on the streets of Greektown as part of the tourist-friendly neighborhood's public art projects that began in 2017.

"It's important to put art on the street," she says. "You have to give people something to talk about."







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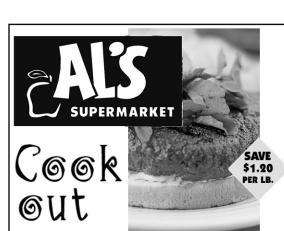


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"Next to Normal" Reveals Dunes Summer Theatre Taking Bold Risks

by Andrew Tallackson

Everything about Dunes Summer Theatre's production of "Next to Normal" is so remarkable, it eases the reality that the finale is kind of a downer.

Musicals, by their very nature, have us conditioned to expect happy endings. "Next to Normal," on the other hand, grapples with mental health, avoiding all the trappings that come with the topic, never sentimentalizing its characters, nor treating

them as magical saints. Its depiction of mental health is bold and honest.

The boldest move, in fact, is its open ending. You leave it not quite sure how to feel. Your admiration, though, for the Dunes production demands it be seen. The cast, crew and orchestra are firing on all cylinders.

At the center of "Next to Normal" is Diana Goodman (Jodi Gage), a suburban mother with bipolar disorder. Her family — husband Dan (Max DeTogne) and daughter Natalie (Mia Goodman) — wrestle with the emotional fallout: feelings of love, confusion, anger and resentment.

The songs embrace the approach of modern musicals, replacing dialogue. Where the characters interact, vent, express their hopes, dreams and frustrations through music.

Midway through the first act, a major twist arrives, and we realize tragedy is at the core of Diana's condition.

(The play also suggests overmedication, and misdiagnosis, are crippling factors.)

And it is with the show's twist that "Next to Nor-

Featured in "Next to Normal are (from left) Mia Goodman, Jodi Gage, Derek DeRoo and Max DeTogne.

Photo by Andrew Tallackson

— featured on stage — again led by the superlative Andrew Flasch as music director.

mal" starts unleashing its showstoppers: "I Am

the One," "Superboy and the Invisible Girl," "Better Than Before." The vocals soar. There is not

one weak link in the cast that also includes Ben Harmon as two different doctors. Derek DeRoo as

Diana and Dan's son Gabe and Peter Stielstra as

Henry, the boy who falls for Natalie at school. This is top-drawer talent backed by the best musicians

Director Steve Scott moves "Next to Normal" at lighting speed. There's rarely a lull, the songs propelling the story to what we expect will be an emotional finish. Diana, Dan and Natalie have lived a fragile existence for so long, they aren't quite prepared for the next step: healing.

However, the play, which won a Pulitzer Prize, saves its riskiest move for last. The journey isn't over for these characters. The next hurdle for them is beyond our grasp...beyond the play's grasp, in fact. Does the approach work? It's still swirling about in my thoughts.

By all means, see "Next to Normal." It's proof that Dunes Summer Theatre is at the top of its game. Just be prepared to leave the theater thinking, hmmm...

(See Activities on Page 38 for show times, dates and ticket prices).

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com





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Canterbury Summer Theatre Returns for 54th Season

Canterbury Summer Theatre's 54th season runs June 15-Aug. 6, drawing on talent from across the country to present shows at Canterbury Theatre, 807 Franklin St.

Ray Scott Crawford returns for his 37th season as artistic director. The director of theatre at Boss-

ier Parish Community College in Louisiana, he recently received the Kennedy Center Gold Medallion during the 54th Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival — the event's highest honor.

Canterbury Associate Artistic Director David Graham will helm "The Thin Place," a supernatural tale, to kick off the season. Crawford will direct "Streakin' Thru the '70s!," as well as the romantic-comedy "Sylvia," which debuts here before its performances in Louisiana.

Stephanie Murry, North Dakota Shakespeare Festival producing artistic director, joins Canterbury to stage the Kander and Ebb musical revue "The World Goes 'Round." Canterbury vet-

eran Lari Leber returns to direct the darkly comic musical-thriller "No Way to Treat a Lady," based on the best-selling novel. Leber previously directed Canterbury productions of "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change" and "Vanities: The Musical."

Seating is by general admission, and patrons will be safely social-distanced. Season ticketholders may

Anne Brown and Melanie Frasca appear in the 2021 Canterbury production of "Out of Love."

reserve specific seating, if the box office is notified in advance. The monitoring of, and adherence to, CDC and state guidelines regarding COVID remains.

Performances are at 2 p.m. Wednesdays-Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. Fridays and 6:30 p.m. Saturdays. Tickets, as well as season discount cards, can be

reserved by calling (219) 874-4269 or by email at info@canterburytheatre. org. Reduced ticket prices are available for seniors, groups and students. Visit www.canterburytheatre. org for more details.

The schedule is:

- "The Thin Place" by Hnath, Lucas June **15-18.** Linda commuprofessionally, nicates. with the dead, who are in the "thin place." She can make those who believe hear them, offering them peace, closure and meaning. Hilda, a keen listener and observer who's grappling with takes a great interest in Linda's abilities. She befriends the veteran medium, seeking answers.
- "Streakin' Thru The '70s!" by James A. Rocco and Albert Evans, June 22-July 2. The

musical features more than 40 hit songs, including "Play That Funky Music," "You Sexy Thing" and "Peace Train."

- "The World Goes 'Round," with music by John Kander and lyrics by Fred Ebb, July 6-16. The retrospective features music from "Cabaret," "Chicago," "Kiss of the Spider Woman" and "Curtains."
- "No Way To Treat A Lady," with book, music and lyrics by Douglas J. Cohen, July 20-30. The musical-comedy-thriller centers on a publicity-crazed actor-turned-killer and the detective who pursues him.
- "Sylvia" by A.R. Gurney, Aug. 4-6 (no Wednesday performance). Greg and Kate have moved to Manhattan after 22 years of child-raising in the suburbs. Greg brings home a dog he found in the park bearing only the name "Sylvia" on her nametag. The street-smart mixture of Lab and poodle, Sylvia becomes a major bone of contention between husband and wife.



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The inaugural Singing Sands Sand Sculpting Festival, whose professional sand sculptors will unleash their creations along Lake Michigan, is Friday-Sunday, June 3-5, at Washington Park.

The centerpiece professional sandsculpting exhibit and Bringcompetition. ing this art form to Indiana's lakefront has been a dream of Terry Greetham, Michigan City's director of special events. Growing up in Michigan City, he spent many days enjoying the beach and wanting to see more activity and large major events.

"Before joining the Michigan City team, I spent 25 years in professional motorsports, traveling all over the world," he said in a press release. "I had the chance

to see some of these incredible sand sculpting events and always wondered why Michigan City has never hosted an event like this."

Michigan City has partnered with The Sand Lovers LLC, a professional sand-sculpting and event-management company. Its events include the



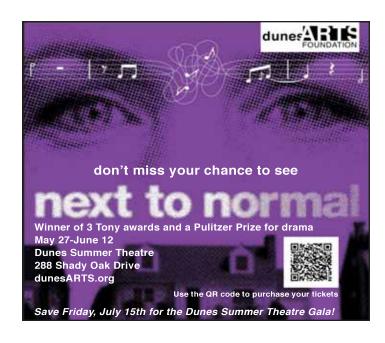
American Sand Sculpting Championship in Fort Myers Beach, Fla., and the Blue Water SandFest in Port Huron, Mich. From 2013-2019, it produced the first and only Master Level sand-sculpting competition in Michigan: the Michigan Sand Sculpting State Championship.

Local companies supporting the event include Barker Mansion, General Insurance Service, NIP-SCO, Michigan City Port Authority, LaPorte Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram and the City of Michigan City.

The festival includes Master, Semi-Pro and Amateur contests, sand-sculpting shows, food and craft vendors, live music and beach bar, and a kids zone. The festival opens daily at 10 a.m., with activities and live entertainment throughout the day. Tickets are available per day for \$8, or a three-day

pass for \$18. Michigan City residents can purchase discounted tickets per day for \$5, or a three-day pass for \$12. Children 6 and younger are free with a paying adult. All tickets are sold at the gate.

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Great Lakes Grand Prix Schedule Revealed



The 13th annual Great Lakes Grand Prix returns Aug. 3-7 to Michigan City's Washington Park.

Along with boat races, other highlights include the downtown Boat Parade and Block Party on Saturday night, and the Taste of Michigan City on Friday and Saturday. Throughout the weekend, guests can chat with owners, racers and team members. Live entertainment, food and souvenir vendors, and family activities round out the event.

The schedule includes Washington Park beach parties with live music, a vintage car show, a bags tournament and golf outing. Free parking is available Saturday and Sunday at Ames Field, 2501 Franklin St., with shuttle service provided. Overflow parking is available at 1501 Wabash St. (the

former St. Anthony Hospital parking lot). VIP events include an opening party at Sunset Grille on Thursday and brunch Saturday and Sunday at the VIP tent on the Washington Park Boardwalk.

The races are a stop on the Offshore Powerboat Association annual race circuit, in which powerboat crews fight for national and world championships. A new sponsor is Play Tradez, a New York-based trading company that shares its algorithmic formulas and trading strategies with subscribers through registered investment advisors.

Visit www.GreatLakesGrandPrix.com for more details. Also, the Michigan City AquaX Grand Prix is July 9-10 at Washington Park. The LaPorte Lake-Fest AquaX Grand Prix races are July 30-31.





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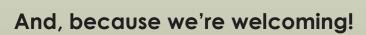
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Michigan City Lions Club Scholarship Presentation



Pictured are (back row, from left) Trevor Ackerman (Ed Payne Award, social studies), John Zaknoun (Ed Payne Award, math), Cindy Hall, Michigan City Lions Club scholarship chair, Cory Stevenson, Lions Club Memorial Scholarship awardee, Hannah Parker (Ed Payne Award, science), Matthew Wilson (Ed Payne Award, English), Irene Rosevear, Michigan City Lions Club president, and Davion Williams (Ed Payne Award, math). The bottom row is (from left) Maura Mack (Lions Club Memorial Scholarship awardee), Kori Ladd (Ed Payne Award, science), Morgan McCarthy (Ed Payne Award, social studies) and Nicole Schenzel (Ed Payne Award, English).

The Michigan City Lions Club on May 4 held its 2022 annual Scholarship Awards Meeting, which included not only club members, but also students, parents, grandparents, teachers, principals, counselors and friends.

Recognized from Michigan City High School were: Matthew Wilson, English; John Zaknoun, math; Hannah Parker, science; and Trevor Ackerman, social studies.

Recognized from Marquette High School were: Nicole Schenzel, English; Davion Williams, math; Kori Ladd, science; and Morgan McCarthy, social studies.

The Michigan City Lions Club Memorial Scholarship goes to one senior from Michigan City and one from Marquette. The student demonstrates



achievement in leadership, scholarship and service to school and community. It is a single-year, non-renewable scholarship to provide \$2,000 in assistance with college expenses. Local club members participate in fundraisers all year to help fund it.

The Marquette recipient, Maura Mack, has been involved in the Academic Quiz Bowl, American Red Cross, Salvation Army, Sacred Heart Food Pantry, Friendship Botanical Gardens, Reins of Life and other community activities and organizations. She will attend Boston College, having been accepted to its College of Arts and Science, and major in biology. Her long-term goal is to earn a doctorate to become an interventional radiologist.

The Michigan City recipient, Cory Stevenson, has been involved in German Club, Student Council, Indiana Athletic Leadership Council, golf, football and baseball. He also has volunteered for The First United Methodist Church Soup Kitchen, The Salvation Army Food Pantry, LaPorte County Public Library and other community activities. He will attend Indiana University-Bloomington, majoring in business (finance) in the Kelly School of Business. His long-term goal is to join a green consulting company and assist with sustainable projects in LaPorte County.

St. Stanislaus 5K Run and Walk

St. Stanislaus Kostka Catholic Church and the Town of Trail Creek will host the annual St. Stanislaus 5K (3.1 mile) run Saturday, June 4, at Trail Creek's Nelson Park.

Plaques go to eight age divisions for women, men and children, the top three overall female and male runners and top female and male walkers.

Entry forms are available at St. Stanislaus School, Robert Tylisz Appliance and local fitness gyms, or visit www.RunSignUp.com and enter "Trail Creek, In." Options to register in person include:

St. Stanislaus Church Hall from 4-6 p.m. Friday,
 June 3. The \$25 fee includes a T-shirt. The cost

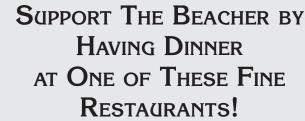
for children 13 and younger is \$20.

• Nelson Park from 6:30-7:30 a.m. the day of the event. The cost is \$30, but with no guarantee of a T-shirt.

The race is sponsored by Robert Tylisz Appliance, St. Andrews Products, GIS, Castle Ford/Lincoln, Larry Dalton Inc. Heating & Cooling, Snyder & Associates, Front Door Real Estate Team, St. Joseph Young Men's Society, Members Advantage Credit Union and Ott/Haverstock Funeral Chapel.

Contact St. Stanislaus Church at (219) 879-9281 or Race Director Patrick Kroehler at pjk226@yahoo. com for more information.





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Chesterton Art Center

The 70th Annual Chesterton Woman's Club Art Show runs June 4-30, with an awards reception from noon-2 p.m. Saturday, June 4, at Chesterton Art Center.

Works displayed cover a wide spectrum of media: oil, acrylic, watercolor paintings, sculpture, pastels, stained glass, ink, pencil, charcoal drawings, slumped, fused and blown glass, prints, mosaic, mixed media, three-dimensional fiber, color and black and white photography.

Olga Petryszyn has donated her oil painting "The Warm Glow AT The Dunes" to the show. A first-generation Ukrainian, she was 3 when she saw a painting in a farmhouse and knew then she wanted to be a painter. In the 1960-1970s, she studied at The Art Institute of Chicago, mostly through scholarships. She moved to Chesterton in the early 1980s and has been a Real Estate Broker for 39 years.

Petryszyn's love for the Indiana Dunes and natural landscapes has kept her painting.

Chesterton Art Center is offering summer art camps that highlight various techniques and media, and involve discussions on modern artists.

Each camp is taught by Jen Aitchison and offered to two age groups: ages 5-8 in the morning (8:30-11 a.m.) and 8 and older in the afternoon (noon-2:30 p.m.). The exception is "Creating with Clay," which is for ages 9-12 in the morning and 12 and older in the afternoon. That instructor is Liz Cowan.

Tuition ranges from \$100-\$140 per camp, and scholarships are available.

The schedule is:

- June 6-10 "Creating with Clay."
- June 13-16 "Duneland Animals."
- June 20-23 "In a Galaxy Far, Far Away."
- June 27-30 "Me, Myself & I."

The Beverly Shores Depot Second Friday Art Opening "Whimsey" by Steven Schwab June 10th, 5:00 - 7:00 pm

THEDEPOT SHOREUM & ART GALLERY WWW.bsdepot.org 525 S. Broadway Beverly Shores, Indiana



Olga Petryszyn has donated her oil painting "The Warm Glow AT The Dunes" to the Chesterton Woman's Club Art Show.

- July 11-14 "Impressions of the Lakeshore."
- July 18-21 "Fantastical Worlds & Beyond."

More information is available by calling (219) 926-4711 or at www.chestertonart.org/classes. Scholarships are available. Visit www.chestertonart.org/scholarships for more details.

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.









Five Tips for Taking Care of Your Trees

- 1. Don't prune ANY oaks from April 15th to September 30th. Oak wilt spreads readily during this time. Oak wilt will immediately kill any infected trees and will spread to your trees via root grafts if your neighbor prunes their oaks and they get infected. There is no treatment or cure for infected trees. Prevention is your Only choice.
- 2. Don't "spike" your trees. Spiking causes wounds that lead to infection and tree decline. Anyone who spikes trees is causing long-term damage to the trees.
- 3. Avoid damage to the roots. Large trucks cause soil compaction and digging up roots cause frayed wounds that can't heal and create access points for pathogens (fungi) that start root rot and weaken the trees structural stability. Lawn mowers can also cause damage to the root flares.
- 4. Keep a good amount of natural leaf litter and organic matter covering the roots under the canopy. Blowing leaves away from your trees can kill the fibrous roots by drying the exposed soil.
- 5. Consult an ISA Certified Arborist before doing anything to your tree.

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"The Innocents" is Quietly Unsettling Horror of the Highest Caliber

by Andrew Tallackson



Ida (Rakel Lenora Fløttum) and her new friends, including Ben (Sam Ashraf), discover they have psychic abilities in "The Innocents."

"The Innocents" is an eerie, unsettling little movie that feeds off our fears of what happens among children when adults aren't looking.

It is an exceptionally quiet horror movie, likely *too* quiet for some, but that's how it gets you, catches you unprepared for acts of violence that slash through the stillness.

The Norwegian film, now in limited release and View on Demand, was written and directed by Eskil Vogt, who snagged a Best Original Screenplay Oscar nod earlier this year for co-writing "The Worst Person in the World." The two pictures couldn't be more different. That was an intimate look at a 30(ish) woman untethered to any one person or profession, ending with a whisper of hope. "The Innocents" is a modern paraphrase of "Village of the Damned," where evil lurks within the cherubic faces of youth, the final scene suggesting certain horrors cannot be erased like a clean slate.

The story unfolds amid a warm Nordic summer. We meet Ida (Rakel Lenora Fløttum) seated in the back seat of her parents' vehicle. Unhappy. Her family is moving to a new community, right when families are away on vacation, which means making friends will be difficult. Fløttum has the most angelic face, but right away, we sense that, either

* * * *

"The Innocents"

Running time: 117 minutes. Limited release, View on Demand. Contains violence and brief disturbing images.

out of boredom or the thrill of misbehaving, she pinches her older sister seated next to her. Hard.

The sister, Anna (Alva Brynsmo Ramstad), is severely autistic. Barely speaking, seemingly oblivious to pain. Moaning to herself in a low, guttural hum. Ida, the movie hints, has been invisible for so long to her parents, with Anna taking top priority, these acts of rebellion invigorate her.

Once settled, Ida does make friends. Two youngsters equally lonely, the products of one-parent families. Ben (Sam Ashraf) and Aisha (Mina Yasmin Bremseth Asheim). What these four, including Anna, discover is that they have psychic abilities. They are linked together. Communicating without speaking loudly, often from considerable distances. In some cases, they move objects with their minds. Then, on a lazy day, one of Ida's new friends commits a horrific act, one that comes out of nowhere and rattles you in your seat.

It's no mistake many scenes involving the four

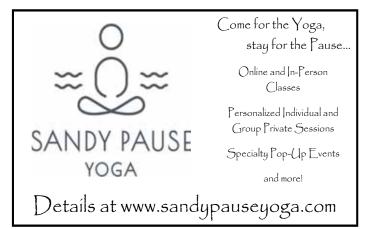
children are set in a nearby forest. Densely wooded areas have been breeding grounds for terror since the Grimm brothers began spinning stories. But what "The Innocents" explores is the precise moment when children develop a morality of their own. One not defined by their parents. Where they must discern right from wrong...and right those wrongs.

Had "The Innocents" been made in America, it would have been a gore-drenched bloodbath. A flimsy excuse to remake "Carrie" for the umpteenth time, with enough splatter to offend

just about everyone. But because the movie hails from abroad, it is more thoughtful. A little bloodletting, yes, but this is more about *the idea* of violence than the visualization of it.

I can see why the leisurely pace might turn off viewers. Vogt, as a storyteller, takes his time. He wants to disarm you, delicately recreate the way bonds form between children, then, *BAM*, out of nowhere, a shocking act. And in the calmer moments, there is the beautiful performance by Fløttum's reallife mother, Ellen Dorrit Petersen, as Ida's mother. Any parent of a child with a disability will connect with Petersen's performance. A woman trying to create the best life for her child. When the psychic connection between the four children allows Anna to speak to her mother, the way Petersen breaks down is powerful.

The climax of "The Innocents" hits a fever pitch as Ida tries to end the cycle of violence. This is one of the first movies, that I can recall at least, that effectively conveys the terror, the dread, of a child realizing no adult can save the day. And the fact that the epic confrontation unfolds amid a sea of fami-





Alva Brynsmo Ramstad (left) is exceptional as Ida's severely autistic older sister.

lies having returned from vacation only amplifies the stakes. That the movie, too, refuses to treat the targeted child in question as a soulless killer adds to the complexity of the tension.

"The Innocents" is not an easy movie to shake off. Certain scenes, images, stick with you. The heartbreak of it. Man, this movie leaves a mark.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com



"Operation Mincemeat" Takes Moving Look at War Deception Effort

by Andrew Tallackson



Much has been made about the fact that "Operation Mincemeat" stars two "Mr. Darcys" — Matthew Macfadyen (left) and Colin Firth.

It is immensely satisfying to arrive at a movie of which you know little about, only to discover you're in fully capable hands.

"Operation Mincemeat," now streaming through Netflix, is the latest film by John Madden. Not exactly a household name, true, but this guy can do just about anything. He can charm your socks off ("The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel," "Shakespeare in Love"). He knows his way around a period piece ("Mrs. Brown"). He can deliver a crackling thriller, like Jessica Chastain's 2010 Nazi war-criminal tale "The Debt."

"Operation Mincemeat" was the code name for British efforts to shield 1943's Allied invasion of Sicily from the Germans. The key to its deception? A corpse. Sounds preposterous, no doubt. Madden's film, however, is grand old-school storytelling. A good story told well, with a dream cast, peerless production values and a haunting score.

The particulars behind Operation Mincemeat were complicated, but the film, scripted by Michelle Ashford (HBO's "The Pacific") and lifted from Ben Macintyre's 2010 book, does an export job sorting through it. During World War II, Prime Minister Winston Churchill (Simon Russell Beale) has promised the U.S. its Allies will invade Sicily by July. Knowing Germany considers the area a target, Operation Mincemeat is born. The idea behind it is insane. Pack a corpse full of phony intel, let the body wash ashore in Spain and allow its bogus secrets to



"Operation Mincemeat"

Running time: 128 minutes. Netflix. Rated PG-13 for strong language, some sexual content, brief war violence, disturbing images and smoking

land in German hands.

My fear, at first, was that Madden would take an absurdist approach, going for awkward laughs, not to mention spy-movie cliches like hushed conversations and glancing-over-the-shoulder trips.

Instead, Madden, with Ashford's precise screenplay by his side, treats his subject as a character study. Much has been made about the fact that Madden cast two "Mr. Darcys" in the central roles: Colin Firth (the definitive 1995 BBC adaptation) as Jewish attorney Ewen Montagu and Matthew Macfadyen (Joe Wright's 2005 update) as Royal Air Force flight lieutenant Charles Cholmondeley. What strikes you is how varied the performances are. Firth seems more in command of himself, no longer Britain's answer to Woody Allen. His work here is persuasive, moving. Macfayden, on the other hand, creates an intriguing oddity: intellectually superior than most, yet terribly awkward socially. These two receive tremendous support from "Downton Abbey" alumna Penelope Wilton as Ewan's no-nonsense secretary, Hester Leggett, and the wonderful Scot



Kelly Macdonald is wonderful as a widowed secretary key to the deception operation.

tish actress Kelly Macdonald ("Boardwalk Empire," Pixar's "Brave") as Jean Leslie, a widowed secretary key to the operation. Both actresses play fiercely intelligent women, with Macdonald, whose Jean gets tossed into a fictional love triangle with Ewan and Charles, putting her heart and soul into the performance. You care for Jean deeply.

The movie is fascinating when depicting how these individuals concocted a fantasy persona for their corpse, right down to letters penned to a phony loved one. An added treat: witnessing a pre-"Bond" Ian Fleming (Johnny Flynn), who was a Naval intelligence officer at the time, his work during the war offering glimpses of things to come.

The look of the film is impeccable, particularly the staggering production design to convey World War II London. But it is the score by the great Thomas Newman ("The Shawshank Redemption," "1917," "Finding Nemo") that lovingly embellishes the story. Movie soundtracks can be grand and operatic – think John Williams – but what Newman achieves is the humanity within smaller moments. Consider, for example, the scene where Charles reads aloud Hester's fictional love letter for their corpse. With each sentence, the letter conveys the uncertainty of war, and Newman's delicate music is heartbreaking. Ditto the final scene between Ewan and Jean: an emotional moment made all the more melancholy by Newman's music.

"Operation Mincemeat" ends not with big special effects, but two men, seated side by side, reflecting on what they've achieved. That we have taken the journey with them to this point makes their conversation all the more meaningful. We are moved and inspired, our appreciation of them deepened by the way the film has told their story.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

dunes

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Group A "Matilda" Mon&Weds, 1-3 pm, Ages 8-12

Group B "Newsies"
Tues&Thurs, 1-3 pm, Ages 13-18

Performance 11am, Friday, July 1

Session 2: July 11- July 28 (3 weeks)



Group A "Seussical" Mon&Weds, 1-3 pm, Ages 8-12

Group B "The Addams Family" Tues&Thurs, 1-3 pm, Ages 13-18

Performance 11am, Friday, July 29

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For more information contact Education Coordinator dunestheatre@gmail.com www.dunesARTS.org Page 22 June 2, 2022 June 2, 2022 Beacher Page 23

PACE Helps Bring Wide Spectrum of Medical Care to Seniors

by Kim Nowatzke

Franciscan Health is keeping up the "pace" by meeting seniors' needs in the community, in many cases bringing care directly to them at home.

Franciscan Senior Health & Wellness, a Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), opened in January in the former Franciscan Health Michigan City hospital. According to www.fransicanhealth.org, it is a "community-based health care program created for people 55 or older who are eligible for nursing-home level care but prefer to receive their care in their own familiar surroundings."

PACE provides a wide range of services and benefits, including: primary medical and nursing care; occupational, physical and speech therapy; medications and durable medical equipment; laboratory and diagnostic services; all necessary prescription drugs; skilled home care and personal-care aides; hospitalization; skilled nursing facility care; care from medical specialists in cardiology, nephrology, ophthalmology, dermatology, orthopedics, surgery and podiatry; medically necessary transportation; and adult day care services and respite care.

To be eligible, participants must be: at least 55, eligible for nursing home level of care as defined by the state and able to live safely in the community when enrolling.

"We use the term participants because we want them to participate in their care," PACE center manager Melissa DeSutter explained.

In addition, eligibility requirements include living within an area served by Franciscan Health and Wellness. For Michigan City, this includes LaPorte County, most of Porter County and a small area of St. Joseph County.

Franciscan Senior Health & Wellness also operates PACE programs in Indianapolis and Dyer, which opened in 2015 and 2017 and contain more than 100 participants each. A fourth site should open this summer in Lafayette.

The Michigan City location is located in a 12,000-square-foot space that used to be Franscican St. Anthony Health's emergency room area. It's divided into several sub-areas, including a dining room, primary care clinic with four exam rooms and two shower rooms, a therapy rehabilitation gym and community room.

"They've (Franciscan) spent a tremendous amount of money to renovate this space," DeSutter said. "It was quite an investment in this space and this community."

The PACE concept, she says, takes on a more non-traditional framework of care for seniors.

"PACE is an alternative, innovative health care



Pictured are (from left) Clinic Manager Latoya Joyce, Social Worker Lawanda Parrett, Center Manager Melissa DeSutter, Quality Improvement Coordinator Marissa Martin, Intake Coordinator Katie Surowiec, Patient Care Assistant Jackie Flowers, Registered Nurse Mary Allen, Registered Nurse April Faitz, Occupational Therapist Ashley Martin, Home Care Coordinator Tricia Poort and Patient Care Assistant Brandi Anderson. Not pictured are Physical Therapist Nichole Matuszak, Registered Nurse Maria McKee and Geriatric Registered Nurse Sharon Friedrich.

model," she said. "In 'non-PACE-land,' you have a person with multiple doctors for multiple reasons. All of these are knowledgeable and very specific. However, there is no cross-collaboration between all the providers that a person sees, although they all are doing a great job focusing on a very specific area. In PACE, we are looking at the whole picture and the details within it."

DeSutter said the PACE program understands that most people want to stay in their homes as long as possible.

"We have a group of health-care professionals ensuring that all of that person's health-care needs are being met to help older adults live as independently as possible for as long as possible," she said.

The health-care professionals available might include a physical therapist, registered nurse, occupational therapist, primary care provider, dietitian, home-care coordinator, driver and personal care attendant.

Currently, 14 people are on staff in Michigan City, with plans to hire more. Anyone interested can visit

www.franciscanhealth.org for more information.

"The care team knows all meds, supply needs, equipment needs, the social dynamics and all the doctors being seen," DeSutter elaborated. "The care team is having conversations with the participant on changes that are needed. They help manage schedules, appointments and prescriptions."

DeSutter's background includes several years of experience working with PACE programs in Colorado Springs, Colo. The concept, she said, started in the 1970s in the San Franciscan Bay area by families and providers advocating for an alternative care model and looking for a more community-based program. Franciscan was the first organization to bring a PACE program to Indiana, she said, although other health-care entities now operate them in their designated areas.

"It's a very holistic look at the health-care picture," she continued. "It almost sounds too good to be true. I've seen how it truly changes the lives of the participants and their families. Caregiver burnout is very real. Families feel guilty, scared and un-



Participants in the Franciscan Senior Health & Wellness Program, PACE, show off their artwork made at the day center.

sure. Those are perfectly normal feelings. You can see the relief in their eyes when they understand how PACE works, and how we are going to help them."

Help is available through a 24/7 direct line to the local PACE care team – not a call center in a different state.

She noted it's not uncommon for a participant to spend 30-90 minutes with a health-care provider, and PACE works with all kinds: Franciscan providers, service lines and many that are not.

"We need to have lots of options for our folks to make sure that we are delivering the highest level of care always," DeSutter said.

For seniors who are either Medicaid eligible or Dual Eligible (both Medicare and Medicaid), the PACE program is available at no cost. For possible participants who are Medicare eligible, but not Medicaid eligible, they pay for the Medicaid and Medicare Part D of the program. And for older adults considered as self-pay, the participant pays for the cost "out of pocket."

"You can have any kind of insurance and be in this program," DeSutter said. "What you have determines what the enrollment process will look like."

Enrollments are only on the first day of each month.

"The PACE team answers all questions as it relates to your current insurance, be it private insurance, Medicare, Medicaid or a combination of

Continued on Page 24

Surprising **Calculations**

The first surprising statistic for me is the median house price nationwide — half the houses sold for more, half sold for less has gone from \$150,000 in 2000 to \$375,000 in 2022. That is a 250% increase in value over 21 years. Much of that has come since 2020 (increased from \$250,000-\$375,000, or 50%).

Owning a home has been a great investment in the first 21 years of the 21st century.

The second calculation compares the mortgage payment of a loan for the same house in 2022 to 2021. I am using the mortgage amount of \$400,000 in 2021 because I am copying Lawrence Yun's report to the National Association of Realtors in May.

First, the house has increased 20% in value, so the loan amount has increased from \$400,000 to \$480,000. Secondly, the interest rate has gone from 3% to 5.1%

So, if you bought the house in 2021, your mortgage of \$400,000 at 3% cost you \$1,686 per month. If you bought the same house in 2022, which now requires a mortgage of \$480,000 at 5.1%, your monthly cost is \$2,606. The combination of increase in loan amount and interest-rate change raises the monthly payment by \$920, or 55%.

Rough rule of thumb for loan approval is that the mortgage payment should not be more than 25% of your gross (before taxes and other deductions) monthly income.

So, vour gross monthly recommended to buy the house in 2020 was \$6,744, while in 2022 it should be \$10,424. In 2021, your annual income had to be \$81,000 to afford the house, while in 2022 it should be \$125,000.

If you have owned the same house for more than five years, you are in great financial shape. If you are trying to buy a house today, you need to be much more affluent.

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"The Sound of Music"

Footlight Players will present Rodgers and Hammerstein's beloved musical "The Sound of Music" on June 3-5, 10-12 and 17-19 at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St.

Directed by Debbie Bartholomew, with musical

direction by Lee Meyer, the cast includes Aubrienne Abele, Candace Archer, Gary Bartholomew, Rhonda Brennan, Noel Carlson, Al Dines, Savannah Holley, Adelynn Johnson, Lori Kleist, Chloey Landis, Adrianna LeDonne, Tom LeDonne, Kathy Lute, Foster Mc-Meen, Knowles McMeen, Delaney McMeen, Mason Ploszay, Ryan Otto, Lexi Passmore, Kalena Ramos, Ella Rucinski, Ali Simpson, Adam Wogomon and Lori Lubs Zylstra.



The cast includes Adrianna Le-Donne as Maria, Noel Carlson as The Captain and Alianna Simpson (left) and Addy Johnson (right) as Brigitta and Gretl, respectively.

Show times are 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday and

 $2\ \mathrm{p.m.}$ Sunday. Doors open $45\ \mathrm{minutes}$ before curtain. Tickets are \$15, or \$10 for children 12 and younger. Reservations can be made by calling the box office at (219) 874-4035 or online at www.footlightplayers.org

PACE Continued from Page 23

those," she said. "It's not a fast process to get into this program. We want to make sure the families understand what this model of care looks like before they join. There's a lot of assessment pieces involved."

DeSutter pointed out that a formal referral from a doctor or outside agency isn't necessary to see if PACE is the right fit.

"Anyone can access us directly and see if this is a good fit for them. Just because you're calling doesn't mean you're committed to it," she stressed. "Our team is very knowledgeable about senior options. A lot of families don't know where to start. If they realize that PACE isn't a right fit, we can suggest other options."

DeSutter said the PACE team is available to talk to groups, such as church congregations and workplace presentations, as a community outreach tool. For anyone interested in learning more about Franciscan Senior Health & Wellness, a PACE program, she urges them to contact her directly at melissa. desutter@franciscanalliance.org or call (219) 221-4206. More information about the PACE program is at www.franciscanalliance.org



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The Comfort of Place

When Audrey (not her real name) calls to invite me to a Girl's Night at her family's summer cottage in Palisades Park, Mich., a strange cocktail of apprehension, curiosity and excitement bubbles up inside of me. I haven't been back to Palisades since the spring of 2011. Not since my siblings and I completed the daunting task of helping our aging parents sell the summer home they'd owned for decades next door to Audrey's family.

A myriad of thoughts swirl as I listen to Audrey's offer.

Going back to Palisades means resurrecting and reliving a treasure trove of dusty family memories. Beautiful and satisfying recollections I think might still be too tender to extract from the shady spots in my mind. There is also the issue of seeing first-hand the significant changes the new owners made. Part of me wants to remember the cottage as it was when we sold it: an unheated three-bedroom plus two-bath bungalow with a sleeping porch and odd-shaped deck crafted to accommodate an old oak tree.

"What a lovely idea," I say to Audrey, "Are you thinking June or July?"

As Audrey rattles off potential dates, I scribble them down and scroll through the calendar on my phone. The significance of one date hits me. I swallow hard. Father's Day weekend. Since my folks sold





their cottage in 2011, both Audrey's father and my own have passed away. Nostalgia stings my heart.

Audrey's dad and mine were not just next-door summer neighbors. They were dear friends and like-minded souls. Both men put family and their well-being above all else. Sometimes, those efforts meant digging into pocketbooks or challenging longheld principles and beliefs. Our dads were people who thought nothing of inviting new friends they met on the beach up to our decks for a sunset cocktail. Sometimes, extra plates were added to already crowded picnic tables where corny jokes were retold and family legends rehashed for the umpteenth time. To Audrey's parents and mine, owning a summer cottage along Lake Michigan's shoreline - a spot close by where they could build a lifetime of memories with family and friends – meant they'd hit the jackpot in life.

On my notepad, I circle a couple of dates that work for me. "Who else have you invited," I ask Audrey.

"Your sisters..." Audrey's infectious giggle erases my previous qualms.

Her enthusiasm reminds me why the proposed rendezvous is more about celebration than sorrow.

Three years after the sale of my family's Palisades Park cottage, I was researching my closed adoption and discovered an uncanny link between Palisades, Audrey and her husband, and my twin sister and me (the story is detailed in my memoir, Twice a Daughter: A Search for Identity, Family, and Belonging). So as not to spoil the ending for those who have the book on their TBR (to-be-read) list, you will learn my relationship to Audrey is more meaningful than just "the girl next door."

Audrey's voice squeaks with excitement. "You know, we never have toasted our families' connection at Palisades Park itself."

"You're right!" I say, "Let's firm up a date with the others."

I hang up with Audrey and wander into the sunroom. I plop down into one of the wicker chairs and stare out over the Stop 35 dune. Audrey is right. Enough time has passed between the sale of our cottage, the deaths of our fathers and our it's-such-a-small-world discovery. I can't imagine why I've waited this long to return to a place I once treasured more than any spot in the world. This realization forces me to consider my own personal situation,

one that parallels my reluctance to visit Palisades.

A week ago, I returned to the Chicagoland area from a long winter away, during which my husband of 37 years passed away from cancer. When my flight left Sarasota, the temperature measured a balmy 85 degrees, and as the plane landed at O'Hare, the local temps matched Florida's. And just like the trepidations I'd mused about during the conversation with Audrey about returning to Palisades, I'd had similar misgivings about coming back home to Michiana this spring.

In the weeks preceding my return, I worried about how the lake house would sound without my husband's boisterous laugh to fill every room. How would I feel driving his truck and pulling it into his garage bay? And the more I thought about the things my husband used to handle, like running the flags up the flagpole, firing up the Big Green Egg and managing our ever-surging chipmunk population, the more my anxieties escalated. Much like my musings about going back to Palisades, I thought the memories that lurked in every corner of the lake house might prick too deeply and be too much to bear. For weeks before I boarded the flight to O'Hare, dread was my constant companion.

When I pulled into the driveway of our house on the dune, I stopped to take in the scene. I rolled down the windows and closed my eyes. My nose filled with the scent of dune grass, pine needles and fresh lake breezes. As I unlocked the door from the garage, I took in the unique aroma of my house, a familiar musty mix of candles, stale sneakers, sunscreen and old furniture. I'd thought that this moment would be debilitating. Instead, the scent of the house and the remembering of the lake house's role in my life made the homecoming more sweet than bitter. Healing even.

I toured every room in the house, evaluating everything like a new buyer might do. The familiarity of the rooms, the furnishings, the framed family photos and the paperbacks crowding the bookshelves served to vanquish my apprehensions and steady my mood. Just like the conversation with Audrey, curiosity and excitement took over. There were things to do to ready the house for summer. Plants to purchase, pots to set out, sprinklers to turn on. I determined that being back in Duneland Beach and living at the lake house would be OK. The house needed me just as much as I needed it.

Yes, it's often hard to return to an important place in your life, one that holds treasured times, especially when life has taken an unwelcome direction. And while we need people and experiences to build lifelong memories, often it's that "special place" that offers the most pleasing kind of comfort.

The Beacher: Your Community Connection!

Long Beach Summer Camp Applications available June 1, 2022!

Dates: June 20 - August 5 **Days:** Monday - Friday

Time: 9:00 - 11:30

Location: Long Beach Community Center

Ages: 3-11

Fee: Resident Full Camp: \$160.00

Non-Resident Full Camp: \$220.00

Resident Weekly: \$60.00 Non-Resident Weekly: \$80.00

Weekly Themes

Week 1: Great Outdoors

Week 2: Holidays, Hooray!

Week 3: Kaboom!

(No Camp July 4)

Week 4: Construction Chaos

Week 5: All Star Sports

Week 6: Shark Week Week 7: Superheroes

Registration forms are available at the Long Beach Town Hall, Long Beach Community

Any questions email longbeachsummercamp@gmail.com.

Center, and online at longbeachin.org.



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Michigan City Public Library

Michigan City Public Library's circulation/front lobby area is open to the public.

The front doors are open. Public seating is available, and the computer lab is open. Hours are: 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday-Saturday and closed Sundays.

The following programs are scheduled:

- Needle Arts Club from 5:30-7 p.m. Mondays in June (except June 20). Membership to the group, formerly known as the Knit Club, is open to anyone interested in needle arts such as crochet, needlepoint, cross-stitch, crewel, tatting and other hand stitching. All skill levels and ages are welcome.
- Makerspace: open lab hours from 3:30-5 p.m. Tuesdays in May. Youth ages 6-17 can create with LEGO WeDo, Micro Bits, paper circuits and Ozobots. Children 12 and younger must have a parent or guardian attend with them.
- Story Time at 10 a.m. Wednesdays. Children birth to age 5 and adults will enjoy stories, songs and crafts. Check out previous story time videos through the library's YouTube channel, Facebook page and website.
- Virtual Dungeons & Dragons from 4-6 p.m. Wednesday, June 8. Youth ages 12-18 can play through Zoom. Stop by Youth Services to pick up a free player's kit. Characters, dice, maps and notebooks are provided. Miss Dana can teach people how to play. Advance registration is required. Contact Dana in Youth Services at dwolf@mclib.org or (219) 873-3045, or visit https://bit.ly/33naKDf
- Virtual Story Time with Take-Home Craft. A new storytime video is posted at 10 a.m. Wednesdays on the library website and YouTube channel at www.mclib.org/parents/story-time/ Visit Youth Services to get the craft! The program is aimed at children through age 5. Contact the Youth Services department at (219) 873-3045 for more details.

Two new services are available:

- ComicsPlus offers unlimited access to thousands of digital comics, graphic novels and manga. Popular titles include <u>Avatar: The Last Airbender</u> & The Legend of Korra, <u>Big Nate</u>, <u>Bone</u>, <u>Disney Princesses</u>, <u>Geronimo Stilton</u>, <u>Stranger Things</u>, <u>Locke & Key</u> and <u>American Gods</u>. Patrons need a current library card and PIN.
- The app Library NewsStand includes 7,000 titles of digital magazines and newspapers in more than 60 language, including: Newsweek, Fast Company, Forbes, The New Yorker, Reader's Digest, Elle and Esquire. A library card is required.

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

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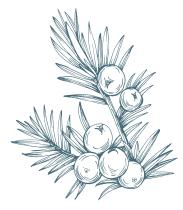


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Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series

The 21st season of the Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series continues at 12:15 p.m. Wednesday, June 8, at Christ Church, 531 Washington St.

The program is by Lee Meyer, who has a Master of Music from the American Conservatory, Chicago.

He served as organist and director of artistic outreach at the former First Congregational Church of Michigan City. He also is an instructor of piano and voice, the Michigan City Community Chorus director and was a preliminary auditions judge for Hoosier Star. He is the music director and keyboardist for Footlight Players' producupcoming tion of "The Sound



Meyer

of Music." He provides piano dinner music on Fridays and Saturdays at Froehlich's Kitchen & Pantry, Three Oaks, Mich., and is the organist at St. Francis Episcopal Church, Chesterton.

The June 8 program includes four vocalists performing oratorio arias and classical songs: Danielle Bilderback, Howard Brenneman, Frank Casorio and Kathi Jones.

The church is air-conditioned. Call (219) 608-5358 for more details about the concert series.

Bridgman Public Library

Bridgman (Mich.) Public Library will present the Zoom program <u>The Groundbreaking: An American City and Its Search for Justice</u> by author Scott Ellsworth at 6 p.m. EDT Tuesday, June 7.

The focus is the Tulsa race massacre in which, during the course of 24 hours in spring 1921, Tulsa's infamous Black Wall Street was wiped off the map... and erased from the history books.

The library is located at 4460 Lake St. The Zoom link is available at www.bridgmanlibrary.com

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Beverly Shores will host its Garden and Art Walk on Saturday, June 11, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. themed *Up on a Dune*. Five gardens with magnificent vistas are open to guests. Advance tickets are \$10 at www.absr.org, or \$15 the day of the walk, and include entry for an original watercolor raffle. Check in at The

Depot, 525 S. Broadway in Beverly Shores, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. for a map and a wristband for the free shuttle bus.

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Indiana Dunes National Park

 National Trails Day Photo Contest and Family Scavenger Hunt from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, June 4, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center. The annual event, hosted by the American Hiking Society, invites visitors to pick up trash bags and scavenger hunt sheets, then search for different types of wildlife and trash. The park fee is waived; temporary waivers will be issued as scavenger hunt sheets are distributed. Wear comfortable outdoor clothing and take sunscreen, bug spray and water. Submit up to three photos of a favorite trail to The Park Connection office at parkconnection@gmail.com. The winning photo will be featured on the IDNP Facebook page. Photo contest entries are not limited to scavenger hunt participants. The only submission requirement is that the photo be taken on any IDNP trail on National Trails Day.

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 or visit www.nps.gov/indu for details.

Indiana Dunes State Park

• Morning Mushroom Meander from 10-11:30 a.m. Saturday, June 4. As part of National Trails Day, meet local mycologist Rob Hallock at the Wilson Shelter for a slow walk to better identify fungi in season.

Indiana Dunes State Park is at 1600 N. County Road 25 East (the north end of Indiana 49), Chesterton. Call (219) 926-1390 to register for programs or for more information.

Art Barn Fundraiser

Art Barn School of Art will host "One To Grow On," it main fund-raiser, Saturday, June 4, at Valparaiso University's Center for the Arts.

The evening includes drinks, dinner and dancing, along with a program honoring the Art Barn's late founder and 50-year history.

Cocktails are at 6 p.m., followed by food stations at 7 p.m., the program at 8:10 p.m. and desserts and dancing at 8:30 p.m.

Visit tinyurl.com/mwj2rzrs for tickets.

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American Red Cross

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

- St. John's United Church of Christ, 101 St. John Road, noon-6 p.m. Tuesday, June 7.
- LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 W. Indiana 2, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesday, June 8.
- Northwest Health Heart and Vascular Building, 901 Lincolnway, LaPorte, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Thursday, June 9

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.

Voiceover Auditions

Sudden Productions of Northwest Indiana will hold voiceover auditions for "Belle!," a full-length musical animated feature.

The production, which, according to a press release, takes "an ironic look at the deeds of the notorious murderess," will have its premiere late this fall. Auditions are for singing and non-singing parts. Times and locations for auditions and recording sessions are flexible.

"Belle!" received developmental readings at Michigan City's Canterbury Theatre and Chicago's Porchlight Theatre. Recent animation from Sudden Productions includes "Pinocchio Unbound" and "The Last Days of Digger."

Email Belle@SuddenProductions.com or visit SuddenProductions.com/Belle for more details.

Public Input Sought

LaPorte County Park Board will seek public input during its board meeting at 5 p.m. Tuesday, June 7, at Bluhm County Park's Grove Shelter, 3855 S. County Road 1100 West, Westville.

Input is sought to help plan the future of county parks.



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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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North Course Monday League "Early Birdies" May 23, 2022 Event: Mark Your Ball + 50/50

A Flight:

Low Gross: Sandy Baldwin. Low Net: Sandy Baldwin.

Low Putts: Mary Lou Marshall, Jane Spang.

Event: Pat Czizek, Jane Spang.

B Flight:

Low Gross: Ev Cassin. Low Net: Ev Cassin. Low Putts: Ev Cassin.

Event: Carol Hullings, Florence Stokfisz, Carol Tylisz.

C Flight:

Low Gross: Cindee Schroll. Low Net: Cindee Schroll. Low Putts: Kathy Pagnano.

Event: Shirley McCarty, Mary Schlunz.

50/50: Beverly Szybala.

Event: (non-flighted) Kathy Nelson.

Necktie 5k Walk & Run

A Father's Day tradition returns to Beverly Shores with the Necktie 5K Walk & Run at 8 a.m. Saturday, June 18.

Participants are encouraged to wear neckties during the run in recognition of fathers. Prizes are awarded to participants with the most-creative neckties, as well as the first father-son and fatherdaughter teams to finish together.

Pre-registered participants may receive a commemorative race number and official race shirt. Registration is limited to 500 runners-walkers. Tshirts are not guaranteed after June 6. Groups of four or more receive a \$5 discount per entry when registering together through the website.

The race fee is \$20, then increases to \$25 after June 6. Visit https://runsignup.com/necktierun to register or for more details.



LBCC Women's Golf Leagues 9-Hole League



May 19, 2022 Event: Regular Golf

A FLIGHT

Low Net — Jeannie Muldowney.

 $Low\ Putts - J.\ Andreotti,\ D.\ Hennard,\ Muldowney.$

Birdies — N/A.

Sunken Approaches — Pat Kelley (No. 2).

B FLIGHT

Low Net — Joan Carey, Amanda Ferlmann.

Low Putts — J. Carey, Jean Guerin, A. Ferlmann

Birdies — N/A

Sunken Approaches — N/A

C FLIGHT

Low Net — Alison Kolb.

Low Putts — Ann Daley.

Birdies — N/A.

Sunken Approaches — N/A.

D FLIGHT

Low Net — Jeanne St. Peter.

Low Putts — Jeanne St. Peter.

Birdies — N/A.

Sunken Approaches — N/A.

18-Hole League

May 17, 2022 Low Net

A FLIGHT

First Place — Kathy Daly, Julie Doyle.

Second Place — Mariah Dell.

Third Place — Katy Lee, Cindy Levy, Ellen Magrini.

B FLIGHT

First Place — Nancy Trainor.

Second Place — Linda Wilson.

Third Place (tie) — Eileen Miller.

C FLIGHT

First Place — Amanda Ferlmann, Barb Hall.

Second Place — Diane Rubey, Allison Kolb.

Third Place — Nancy Reinert.

May 10, 2022 Regular Golf, Low Net

A FLIGHT

First Place — Janet Andreotti.

Second Place — Julie Doyle.

Third Place — Ellen Magrini.

B FLIGHT

First Place — Claudia Brennan, Mary Weithers.

Second Place — Linda Wilson.

Third Place (tie) — Jean Guerin.

C FLIGHT

First Place — Amanda Ferlmann.

Second Place — Diane Rubey.

Third Place — Jude Stahmer.

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Signing Day Marks Next Move for CTE Students



Six students from the Construction Technology program have signed agreements with the Indiana/Kentucky/Ohio Carpenters Union. Pictured are five of the students: Josiah Ross (from left), Reyes Steppe, Delaney Messer, Orion Bennett and Mikye Williams.

LaPorte County Career and Technical Education students were recognized during a recent "CTE Signing Day" event.

The program celebrated career tech students joining trade unions or directly entering the workforce after their A.K. Smith Career Center education.

Six students in the Construction Technology program signed agreements with the Indiana/Kentucky/Ohio Carpenters Union, including: Delaney Messer (LaPorte High School); Reyes Steppe (Westville High School); Josiah Ross (Michigan City High School); Nathan Jackson (Michigan City High School); Orion Bennett (Michigan City High School); and Mikye Williams (Michigan City High School).

Energy Academy students who signed with IBEW Local 531 are: Matthew Knight (South Central High School) and Lucas Clark (South Central

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High School). Also signing with IBEW Local 531 is Luke Osborn (South Central High School), who is completing the Automotive Technology program.

Four additional students from the Automotive Technology program signed commitments, including Osborn with IBEW Local 531, Ashten Bulger (Westville High School) with Auto Park Ford in LaPorte, Devyn Wehrly (Westville High School) with Michigan City Kia/Hyundai, and Ramona Dabney (Michigan City High School) with the U.S. Army Reserves.

The Modern Machine Technology program had two students joining local companies: Joshua Cummings (Michigan City High School) at Michigan City Tool and Die, and Conner Brandy (South Central High School) at KTR Corp. Culinary Arts student Cissaley Peer (South Central High School) signed a letter of commitment for Bare Bones Restaurant, where she is now employed. Also, culinary student Destiny Woods (Michigan City High School) signed a letter with Rios Restaurant for a management position.

The welding program had two students join trade unions, including A.J. Kentaft (LaPorte High School), who is joining Ironworkers 292, and Isaac Lamar (Michigan City High School), who is joining Boilermakers Local 374.

Cosmetology student Bianca Robles (LaPorte High School) signed with Love Her Beauty.





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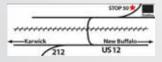
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In the Area

June 2 — Girls Who Code Club (Grades 5-8), 1-3 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

June 2 — Arts in the Park, LaPorte's Fox Park, Truesdell Avenue. 45 RPM (British Invasion tribute band)/7 p.m.; preconcert: 45 RPM/6 p.m. Info: contact@artsintheparklaporte.com

June 3 — Slow Stitchers Club (All Ages), 11 a.m.-1 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

June 3 — "Welcome to the Other Side" (Pride Month kickoff), 8-10 p.m., Uptown Social, 907 Franklin St. Tickets/info: www.uptownsocialmc.com/live-entertainment

June 3 — Husband-and-wife First Friday showings, 5-8 p.m. Nancy Natow-Cassidy/SFC Gallery, 607 Franklin St; Chris Cassidy/BlackRock Real Estate Services, 624 Franklin St. Info: dancinarts@gmail.com

June 3 — First Friday Open Studio Night, 5-8 p.m., St. Mary's Arts, 326 W. 10th St. Artists: Diane Grams, Tim Lace, Kuhn Hong, Jane Cowley, Edwin Shelton, Kei Constantinov, Sunny Gardner-Orbovich, Margaret Sullivan, Nick Orbovich.

June 3-5 — Singing Sands Sand Sculpting Festival, Washington Park. Tickets/details: tinyurl.com/yckrpa4r

June 3-5, 10-12 and 17-19 — "The Sound of Music," Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$15, \$10/children 12 & younger. Reservations: (219) 874-4035, www.footlightplayers.org

June 4 — St. Stanislaus Kostka Catholic Church/ Town of Trail Creek St. Stanislaus 5K (3.1 mile) run, Nelson Park. Info: www.RunSignUp.com, pjk226@ yahoo.com, (219) 879-9281.

June 4 — First Saturday Art Class, 10 a.m., Long Beach Community Center, Room 13, 2501 Oriole Trail. Advance registration required. Cost: \$10. Info/registration: longbeachactivities@gmail.com

June 8 — Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series, Lee Meyer, 12:15 p.m., Christ Church, 531 Washington St. Info: (219) 608-5358.

June 8 — Virtual Dungeons & Dragons, 4-6 p.m., through Michigan City Public Library. Info/registration: dwolf@mclib.org, (219) 873-3045, https://

bit.ly/33naKDf

Through June 12 — "Next to Normal," Dunes Summer Theatre, 288 Shady Oak Drive, Michiana Shores. Times: 7 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$20-\$25. Reservations: www.dunesARTS.org

Through June 30 — Local artist Elda Rundzaitis, The Legacy Center Gallery @ Queen of All Saints Catholic Church, 1719 E. Barker Ave. Legacy Center hours: 6 a.m.-8 p.m. Mon.-Thur., 6 a.m.-6 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 6 a.m.-3 p.m. Sun.

First and Third Mondays — Singing Sands Toastmasters Club, 6:30-8 p.m., Senior Health/Wellness Center (old hospital ER, Barker/Buffalo).

Mondays in June (except June 20) — Needle Arts Club, 5:30-7 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Tuesday in May — Makerspace: open lab hours, 3:30-5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Saturdays in Michigan City — Michigan City Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-noon, Eighth & Washington streets. Info: farmersmarketmichigancity@gmail.com

Saturdays in LaPorte — LaPorte Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Lincolnway parking lot next to Mucho Mas. Info: laportefarmermarket@gmail.com

Saturdays — Turn Up Dance Fitness with Stacy G., 8:30-9:30 a.m., Long Beach Community Center, 2501 Oriole Trail. Cost: \$5 paid at class.

In the Region

June 2 — The Common Concert Series, 7-9 p.m. EDT, Buchanan, Mich. Entertainment: The Chippewa Project. Info: The Common - Buchanan, MI on Facebook.

June 3 — Paws for Humanity Spring "Kick Off" Benefit, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$40/general, \$65/reserved. Reservations: www.acornlive.org

June 3-4 — "Starry Night: The Play," The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Time (Eastern): 7:30 p.m., doors open/6:30 p.m. Advance tickets/\$12, day-of/\$15. Reservations: tinyurl.com/5n79fz82

June 4 — 70th Annual Chesterton Woman's Club Art Show awards reception, noon-2 p.m., Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. Display through June 30. Info: www.chestertonart.org, (219) 926-4711.

June 4 — Krasl Art Center Summer Art Market on the Green, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. EDT, KAC, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Info: www.krasl.org/events/ art-market/

June 4 — Art Barn School of Art fundraiser, "One To Grow On," Valparaiso University's Center for the Arts. Cocktails/6 p.m., food stations/7 p.m., program/8:10 p.m., desserts & dancing/8:30 p.m. Tickets: tinyurl.com/mwj2rzrs

June 4 — National Trails Day Photo Contest and Family Scavenger Hunt, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

June 4 — Morning Mushroom Meander, 10-11:30 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

June 4 — "Club Rainbow" at The Acorn, 7 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$30/general, \$55/reserved. Reservations: www.acornlive.org

June 6 — Harbor Country Pride Movie Night + Wrap Party, 7 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$25/reserved. Reservations: www.acornlive.org

June 7 — Bridgman (Mich.) Public Library Zoom program, <u>The Groundbreaking: An American City and Its Search for Justice</u>, 6 p.m. EDT. Zoom link: www.bridgmanlibrary.com

June 7 — Pride Open Mic Night with Dylan Reed Leavitt, 7 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$25/reserved. Performer inquiries: openmic@acornlive.org

Through June 5 — Area Artists Association exhibit, "Emergence," Buchanan (Mich.) Art Center, 117 W. Front St. Info: (269) 697-4005.

Through July 3 — Michiana Annual Arts Competition, Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Info: https://boxfactoryforthearts.org, https://facebook.com/boxfactoryarts

Through Oct. 2 — "WIRED: The Rise (and Fall) of Electric Cars," The Studebaker National Museum, 201 Chapin St., South Bend. Hours (Eastern): 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat., noon-5 p.m. Sun. Admission: \$10/adults, \$8.50/seniors 60+, \$6/youth ages 6-18. Info: www.studebakermuseum.org, (574) 235-9714.

Through Oct. 30 — "The Avanti: America's Most Advanced Automobile," The Studebaker National Museum, The Studebaker National Museum, 201 Chapin St., South Bend. Hours (Eastern): 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat., noon-5 p.m. Sun. Admission: \$10/adults, \$8.50/seniors 60+, \$6/youth ages 6-18. Info: www.studebakermuseum.org, (574) 235-9714.

Thursdays in June — Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra 2022 Summer Pop Up Concert Series, 4 p.m. EDT, Maud Preston Palenske Memorial Library, 500 Market St., St. Joseph, Mich. June 2: The Iridescent Zeal Quartet. Info: www.smso.org

Saturdays in Chesterton — European Market, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Broadway & Third Street. Info: (219) 926-5513.

Vickers Theatre — *Now Showing*: "Peace By Chocolate." Not Rated. Times: 6 p.m. June 2. *Opens June 3*: "Downton Abbey: A New Era." Rated PG. Check website for specifics. All times Eastern. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

The weekly deadline to submit listings for Upcoming Events is noon Thursday



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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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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

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The Riveting Latest from the Author of "The Flight Attendant"

<u>The Lioness</u> by Chris Bohjalian (hardcover, \$28 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and an audiobook. 309 pages.)

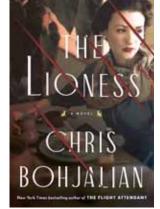
"We were all just people, and most of us had no idea what was happening...the mantra for most of us? Just stay alive..."

It's 1964, and Katie Barstow is the darling of Hollywood. Her movies make millions, and now, she's marrying David Hill. No actor, just the owner of a modern New York City art gallery. They have known each other most of their lives, David being best friends with Katie's brother, Billy Stepanov. He's a psychologist married to Margie, homemaker and mother-to-be.

Since money is no object, Katie and David decide

to honeymoon on an African safari. They also decide to take seven friends. The third married couple on the trip are Felix Demeter, screenwriter, and wife, Carmen Tedesco, actress. Three unmarried men include Terrance Dutton, actor, Reggie Stout, Katie's publicist, and Peter Merrick, Katie's agent.

A travel agent hooks them up with Charlie Patton, well-known big game hunter in the past, now a tourist



guide through the Serengeti. No taking of trophies on this trip, only photos of the animals and the lush scenery. He assures Katie not to worry about the politics of surrounding countries.

The trip starts out wonderfully. Charlie knows where to find the herds of elephants, wildebeest and other animals. Even a lioness and her cubs seem to pose for the clicking cameras.

Portable bathtubs are set up, there is an ice maker and no sleeping bags for these big spenders, but real beds. More like a home away from home. So much fun, until...

One morning, two jeeps head out with some of the Americans while the others stay in camp. Soon, gunshots from camp are heard. A Land Rover is heading toward the jeeps. A guide in one vehicle gets out, hands in the air and is immediately shot. Everyone is stunned. The second jeep takes off.

The shooters? A group of white men who speak English with a Russian accent. Now, the Americans are not only scared, but wondering what could possibly be happening? This doesn't seem like a political hit, but something more sinister. The leader ties them up and takes them back to camp. The captives are separated into several tents with no communication between them.

Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter



Now, Bohjalian does what he does best. He takes each American and goes back in time to reveal snippets of their lives, what makes them tick. Whether it's a painful childhood, indifferent parents or something else, we learn what to expect from them. But circumstances change people...will each one now show the independence and fearlessness that led to their success? Or will they fall to pieces and accept the death unfolding all around them? Will these Lions of Hollywood prove to be more than their magazine personas? Also, more clues come out to make you stop and think about two of the Americans in particular. Their stories seem to overlap...

The Serengeti may be full of dangerous animals, but they kill for food or to protect their young. The Russians' killing is done with no forethought or remorse, while they seem to have an agenda that includes something more insidious, more mercenary. Or maybe revenge? So many possibilities, so little time left before they could all be dead. It drives you a little mad to not have the Russians say what they are after. Bohjalian knows full well how to keep the suspense and the questions coming.

I kept asking myself, why should I care what happens to spoiled Americans on this overpriced vacay. But the plot and character developments are so well done, they keep you involved, but waiting for some twist you know is coming.

Yes, there are survivors, I will give you that much. But who? The prologue says it best — written by a survivor?: "Oh, I can't speak for the dead. And I won't speak for the missing. I can only tell you what I think happened. Others — the dead and the missing — would probably have their own versions. Blame, I can tell you firsthand, is every bit as subjective as truth."

Yes, it is.

Bohjalian's last two books, <u>The Flight Attendant</u> and <u>Hour of the Witch</u>, also were thrilling stories that had my hands glued to the covers, my eyes reading as fast as the speed of light and thoroughly exhausted by the last pages of each book — but in a good way!

That's what you can expect from a master storyteller, and Bohjalian hasn't disappointed me yet.

Caution: Killing scenes, both by humans and animals, are realistically described.

Till next time, happy reading!











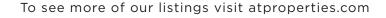


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