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A Fitting Testament

by Edmund Lawler

Brandon Bernier has been gone 10 years. But with every twist of a wrench at a Chicago non-profit bike shop, his blithe spirit rides on.

Indeed, the world would be a brighter, smarter, more joyful place if Brandon was still a volunteer repairing donated bicycles for Working Bikes. But Brandon died in January 2013. He fell asleep at the wheel while driving home to San Francisco from a snowboarding trip in Lake Tahoe.

Twenty-five years old.

"He had a good heart," his father, Joe, says with a mix of pride and heartbroken resignation.

His mother, Carol, describes their beloved, youngest child as a talker, a little nerdy and ravenously curious – so curious that as a kid, he would take apart computers to see what made them click. Later, he would do the same with bicycles.

And, he had a strong distaste for phony people, Joe and Carol lightheartedly recalled while seated in the living room of their Michiana Shores home.

Brandon had a legion of friends growing up in the southern Chicago suburb of Flossmoor. They called him "Juice Box," a reference to a staple of the lunch he brought to middle school every day.

He developed a passion for bikes and rode them everywhere – from New Zealand to Iceland. He would ride from his apartment in Chicago's Loop to his parents' Michiana Shores home with a posse of friends. He once rode 500 miles across Iowa on a fixed-gear, or "fixie," bike, which is best suited for short-distance urban riding, not across flat, endless stretches of prairie.

"Brandon would sometimes say, 'I'm going on an adventure,'" Carol says. "And then, I would be very nervous."



Brandon Bernier hoists his bike after a ride. Provided photo.

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A Fitting Testament

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His well-muscled legs, thanks to the thousands of miles he pedaled, would be the envy of an NFL running back. When he wasn't on a bike, he was taking them apart and putting them back together.

To no one's surprise, he majored in computer science, earning a degree from the University of Illinois-Chicago. He became a network engineer in Chicago, later moving to San Francisco to work for PAC-12 Networks, the broadcast operation of the major West Coast athletic conference.

Before heading west, he regularly volunteered his mechanical skills and good cheer at Working Bikes' 19th-century warehouse at 24th Street and Western Avenue in Chicago's Little Village neighborhood. It's the epicenter of a community of bicyclists.

"Brandon had a reputation here for keeping his nose to the grindstone and getting the job done. He really enjoyed coming in and fixing bikes," Amy Little says. She's co-founder and treasurer of the 24-year-old organization that annually ships 7,000 donated bikes to impoverished countries in Africa and Central America where people are desperate for basic transportation.

Working Bikes also repairs and donates more



Brandon's Bike Shop, a multi-unit repair station at Working Bikes, is dedicated to the memory of Brandon Bernier. The sign is made of bicycle parts. Photo provided by Amy Little.

than 1,600 bikes to underserved children and adults in the Chicago area. Those were the bikes repaired by Brandon and other volunteers.

The organization annually receives nearly 11,000 bikes donated by individuals and organizations like police departments and universities, where abandoned bikes tend to collect.



Joe Bernier holds a rock inscribed with one of his son's favorite sayings: "Bring good people together. They'll know what to do."
Photo by Edmund Lawler.

Little, who co-founded Working Bikes with husband Lee Ravenscroft, says the shop has been able to donate tens of thousands of bikes over the years by repairing and selling about 1,600 of the bikes it's received. Ravenscroft, an electrical engineer by trade, began salvaging old bikes from Chicago junkyards because he liked to tinker with them, hating to see them flow into the overburdened waste stream.

"We fix up those bikes and sell them, and that covers about 85 percent of our costs at Working Bikes," Little says, adding the balance comes from financial donations.

Working Bikes sells refurbished rides from its storefront at the warehouse and its online webstore. Prices typically range from \$200 to \$400 for bikes that, if new, would retail for several times that much.

Little, a former Peace Corps volunteer in Guatemala, learned how empowering and life-changing bikes are in the developing world. They provide access to jobs, school, medical facilities and other resources.

Continued on Page 4

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Continued from Page 3

Working Bikes partners with international organizations that run bike shop programs – many women-owned – in rural communities. In the Chicago area, it partners with community groups, social-service agencies and schools that find people who will most benefit from the donation of refurbished bikes, but lack the resources to buy one.

Mountain bikes are the most common international donations because they are sturdy and have treaded tires capable of traversing any terrain in parts of the world where paved roads often are the exception. About once a month, Working Bikes volunteers load huge shipping containers that hold 400 to 500 bikes destined for countries in Africa and South America.



Working Bikes volunteers load a shipping container with bikes bound for the developing world. Provided photo



Lee Ravenscroft (from left), Amy Little, Carol Bernier and Joe Bernier are photographed at Zorn Brew Works. The couples got to know each other, and grew close after the dedication of, Brandon's Bike Shop in 2013. Photo provided by Amy Little.

One of Brandon's favorite volunteer activities at Working Bikes, according to his parents, was shipping parties when large groups of volunteers would gather about once a month to prep the bikes and pack them in a shipping container destined for impoverished international communities.

Upon Brandon's sudden death in 2013, his grief-stricken family and friends brainstormed ways to honor his legacy of volunteerism and adventure. Clark Bernier, Brandon's older brother who was a technology executive in San Francisco at the time, was thrilled he and Brandon once again were living in the same city. Sadly, their time together was brief – only about 10 months.

But in that time, Clark learned his younger brother had been a volunteer mechanic at Working

Bikes back in Chicago. Brandon spoke enthusiastically about the organization's remarkable work on behalf of the less fortunate. Clark suggested to his parents a generous donation to Working Bikes might be the best way to honor Brandon's memory. The Berniers also have a daughter, Nikki, who lives in northwest suburban Chicago.

As Joe, a retired financial services executive, explains, "Clark contacted Working Bikes about what they might need to help the organization out. At that time, they had three workstations where volunteers fixed donated bikes which are distributed to underserved areas in Chicago. With the donation, they expanded the workstations to 13, and the volunteer space took off. With our donations, Working Bikes allowed us to name the new shop area Brandon's Bike Shop."

Brandon's Bike Shop also is designed as a sort of classroom for amateur mechanics volunteering their time. Brandon enjoyed sharing his expertise on the art of bicycle maintenance with his fellow volunteers.

Joe says the benefit of having dedicated workstations is, specialized tools like Allen wrenches are color-coded for each station. The color-coded tools help prevent them from getting misplaced when volunteer wrenchers pitch in at Working Bikes. In the past, tools tended to drift from work bench to work bench, inconveniencing the dozen professional mechanics who ply their trade at Working Bikes.

Brandon's Bike Shop and its well-equipped workstations were dedicated on Aug. 31, 2013, about eight months after Brandon's death. Family, friends, volunteers and staff were there that bitter-sweet day to celebrate his vibrant spirit. Many of them will gather again later this summer to mark the 10th anniversary of Brandon's Bike Shop, and all the new volunteer opportunities it has created.



The Berniers on the front porch of their Michiana Shores home.
Photo by Edmund Lawler.

Carol looks forward to Saturday, Aug. 26, when family and friends gather in Brandon's Bike Shop to reflect on her son's short, but meaningful life, and acknowledge the contributions of Working Bikes.

"It will be an open house that day, and we're hoping that volunteers who once worked with Brandon will be able to come back," she says. "We're proud that some of the volunteers have since gone on to work as professional mechanics in Chicago-area bike stores."

Working Bikes' website makes note of the dedication in 2013: "*Brandon's friends, family and Working Bikes comrades were on hand to remember the dedicated volunteer and to hang the last few tools on our new workbenches. We hope that the space, named Brandon's Bike Shop, will be a joyful place of learning – and a fitting testament to Brandon's life.*"

More About Working Bikes

Got bikes? Working Bikes happily accepts bicycles that may be gathering dust.

According to its website: "*Do you own an unwanted bike? It could be a banana-seat bike your daughter outgrew 20 years ago; a BMX bike from your son's teenage years; a fun road bike bought on a whim; or a 'vintage' bike you haven't ridden in years but just can't quite get rid of. If this sounds like you, you're not alone! Countless bicycles are discarded or sit unused in garages across the United States. But these bikes still have life in them and could be put to good use.*"

Most of the donated bikes will be shipped to Africa or Central America; some will be donated locally; and some will be sold from Working Bikes' storefront or webstore.

In the Michigan City area, there is a drop-off spot in Michiana Shores and one in Beverly Shores. Visit www.workingbikes.org and click the Donate tab for more information on drop-off locations.

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School of American Music to Host Concert Fundraiser

The School of American Music will present its first house concert of 2023, "Piano and Violin Classics," 4 p.m. EDT Sunday, June 4, at a private home in Harbert, Mich.

The performers are Aglaja Petrova on piano and Carly Paris on violin.

A former SAM piano instructor, Petrova is a classically trained pianist and recent graduate of Indiana University Bloomington Jacobs School of Music. With an interest in arts administration, she has a summer internship at the Brevard Music Center in North Carolina. She has been accepted into the arts administration graduate program at IU.

Paris, born and raised in Concord, Mass., began playing violin at age 10. A senior at The Eastman School of Music, she recently performed in East-



Left: Carly Paris. Right: Aglaja Petrova.

man's Kodak Hall as concertmaster of the Eastman School Symphony Orchestra. In addition to performing, she has been teaching violin for six years.

The \$250 per-person tickets are tax deductible, and all receipts are fully matched by an anonymous donor. The concert address will be sent after purchasing tickets. All proceeds benefit the SAM Future Fund, which ensures music education for under-resourced communities and students. Tickets may be purchased at www.schoolofamericanmusic.com. Call (269) 409-1191 or email schoolofamericanmusic@gmail.com for more details.

NB Library Community Forum

A program on the life of escape artist Harry Houdini marks the next New Buffalo Library Community Forum at 6:30 p.m. EDT Tuesday, June 6, at the library, 33 N. Thompson St.

Tim Moore of Lake Michigan College is the speaker. Houdini, born Erik Weisz in Budapest, Hungary, became one of history's greatest showmen, determined to create one death-defying stunt after another.

The free forum is sponsored by the Friends of the New Buffalo Library.



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Expected Impressive Data Questions

Results here are for the Indiana lakefront from east of Miller Beach to the Michigan line for May 24-May 24 2018-2019 and the same period for 2022-2023. My rationale was to compare a pre- and post-COVID study of the area. Here are the numbers.

Year	Un	Med Price	CDOM	Sq Ft Price	Shared Sale
18-19	166	\$432k	96	\$185	64%
22-23	105	\$560k	40	\$264	69%
	37% Down	29% Up	59% Down	43% Up	5% up

Nothing surprising to anyone listing and selling properties in this marketplace. It certainly reflects a lack of inventory. It does not show a lack of buyers because market time has been shortened dramatically, while median price is up and square foot cost is way up.

Will the median price continue to rise at an average of 7% per year and the median square-foot price increase by 11% per year? I am not sure what is next. Short-term rentals are reported down. Will buyer demand drop?

Will people buy fewer second homes if they can vacation in Europe again? I am not sure. Airline traffic is way up. Every time I say we will see our buyers return to vacations in Europe, a house sells for more than asking price. But the multiple offers have slowed to a trickle.

I bought the same 8 foot long 2 3/4" board that I paid \$12 for in 2021 for \$3.28 last week at the lumber yard. So, materials to build are dramatically less expensive. But I still have to hustle to find workers.

Lots are selling, so people are thinking of building new.

One final plug for the MLS. Almost 7 out of every 10 residential sales were cooperative deals between two offices. Cooperation and compensation is working for buyers and sellers. Make sure your listing is put onto the public MLS right away.

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Art League Artwalk



An example of work by Michigan City Art League at Swingbelly's.

Michigan City Art League has partnered with area businesses to start Artwalk, an initiative where the community can view works by League members.

The effort actually started five years ago when the owners of Swingbelly's invited League members to display and sell art there. Now, locations include: RS Physical Therapy, 3710 Franklin St.; Unsalted, No Sharks, 523 Franklin St.; Base Camp Marina Cafe + Provisions in Washington Park; and Old Lighthouse Museum Shop in Washington Park. Lakeshore Coffee & Specialities, 444 Wabash St., will join the effort soon.

As Artwalk grows, pamphlets will be available at participating businesses so anyone interested can visit each location.

Campfire Sing-Along

Harbor Country Singers will lead a free Campfire Sing-Along at 6:30 p.m. EDT Tuesday, June 6, at Episcopal Church of the Mediator's outdoor campfire circle, 14280 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert, Mich.

School of American Music President Ron Spears will provide guitar accompaniment, while Harbor Country Singers members Jill Christie, Donna Mitchell, Diane Ruzevich and Pat Putnam are the song leaders. Selections include "Oh Shenandoah," "Home on the Range," "Down by the Riverside" and "Puff the Magic Dragon." Song books with music and lyrics are provided. Musicians can take instruments to play along. Logs will be available for seating, or take a chair or blanket. The event moves indoors in case of rain.

A food-item donation for Neighbor by Neighbor is requested. Contact SAM at (269) 409-1191 or schoolofamericanmusic@gmail.com, or visit <https://schoolofamericanmusic.com/> or School of American Music on Facebook for more details.

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Northwest Indiana Green Drinks

“Mount Baldy’s Holes Ten Years Later: What New Science Tells Us Now” is the topic of the next Northwest Indiana Green Drinks program at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, June 1, through Facebook Live or Zoom.

Dr. Erin Argyilan, Indiana University Northwest geology professor, will discuss how she views the miraculous recovery of Nathan Woessner, who became trapped in a hole on Mount Baldy, 10 years later. The event initiated the exploration of a new type of natural hazard in moving dunes named by her as a “dune decomposition chimney.”

Programs are sponsored by Save the Dunes, Michigan City Sustainability Commission and 219 GreenConnect. Email NancyforVision@gmail.com for more details.



Argyilan

LOK Young Artist Expo

Lubeznik Center for the Arts and the Lindsey O’Brien Kesling Wishing Tree Foundation will host the 10th annual LOK Young Artist Expo showcase from 5-8 p.m. Friday, June 2.

The event is part of free First Friday programming at LCA, 101 W. Second St. It showcases 39 youth (ages 7-17) in a wide range of media, including sculpture, textile arts, metal art, painting and drawing. Artists hail from Indiana, Illinois and Michigan. Work was chosen through individual portfolio review completed with LCA’s education director.

Entertainment kicks off at 6 p.m. South Shore Dance Alliance, Merrillville, a longtime partner with the LOK Wishing Tree Foundation, will perform. Serving as emcee, and performing, is Timmy Barron, a Second City of Chicago graduate and actor. Free appetizers and a cash bar are planned, and attendees can visit other LCA galleries. The showcase, held in the NIPSCO Art Education Studios, runs through July 8, with much of the work for sale.

The LOK YAE is an ongoing collaboration between LCA and the LOK Wishing Tree Foundation, a “living legacy to Lindsey O’Brien Kesling.” The dual mission is: carbon monoxide education and supporting young people.



Visit www.lubeznikcenter.org for more details.



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Monday Musicale Season Finale

Monday Musicale will conclude its 2022-2023 season, "Circle of Life," at 7 p.m. Monday, June 5, at First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St.

The free program is titled "End of Days," with program chair Laura Meyer dedicating the evening to her late husband, Lee. He laid the groundwork for the "Circle of Life" series shortly before his death in 2022.

Appointments include Howard Brenneman, Noel Carlson, Sue Cassler, Bev Griffith, Kathi Jones, Tom LeDonne, Joe Stewart and Felicia Thomas. Griffith and Jennifer Keeley are the accompanists.

Griffith will perform a newly-discovered composition by Lee Meyer, written while he attended the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago. A recording of Lee playing "His Eye Is on the Sparrow" will be shared.

Musical selections also include pop tunes "Turn, Turn, Turn" and "It Was a Very Good Year," "That's Your Funeral" from "Oliver!" and "Memory" from "Cats." The vocal trio of Cassler, Stewart and Thomas will perform folk and sacred numbers. The final selection, "Circle of Life" from "The Lion King," features the entire vocal ensemble.

The evening concludes with a social hour and light refreshments.

Anyone considering joining Monday Musicale as an active (by audition) or associate (non-performing) member may contact Ange Benz at (219) 874-3754.

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

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Visit www.lubeznikcenter.org for more details.

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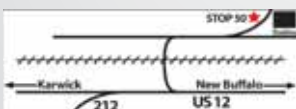
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Art of the Quilt Exhibit



"Intertwine: Stitches of the Soul," quilts by a National Museum of Mexican Art in Chicago-supported group, runs June 3-July 1 at The Beverly Shores Depot Museum & Art Gallery, 525 S. Broadway.

The group, which grew out of a 2008 workshop, meets weekly at the museum with support from Associate Curator Dolores Mercado. Through story quilts, participants share their experiences regarding subjects such as family celebrations, identity and daily life, as well as stories of immigration and violence against women and slavery.

The exhibit is presented in partnership with Goblin & The Grocer. A Second Friday reception, complete with music and refreshments, is from 5-7 p.m. Friday, June 9.

Also on display in June is "Quilts That Tell a Story," quilts and photos of quilts by Beverly Shores residents and their families that depict Beverly Shores heritage, town and families.

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Power Struggle

I wrangle the garden hose free of its unwieldy rack and yank it across the driveway to the fountain that needs a regular topping off during Florida's dry season. Out of the corner of my eye, I see two birds dart in and out of the lacy canopy of the banyan tree, their efforts charged and frenetic.

A spray of dainty leaves floats through the air like a light summer shower. I spy the perky tail feathers of a mockingbird as it dive-bombs a much larger bird perched in the crook of a sturdy branch. And then I hear it. The shrill call of a natural competitor: an osprey. As the mismatched pair squabble, I marvel at the moxie of the mockingbird. For such a small bird, it possesses such a large attitude.

I can't help but smirk. The birds' impassioned antics remind me of my 3- and 5-year-old grandsons. In the time it takes to say, "Good morning," the pair can shift from sharing a sublime Lego building session to shouting and swinging like hardened foes. Like the osprey in the mockingbird matchup, DJ, the older and larger boy, is the odds-on favorite. That is, unless his younger brother sneaks up and punches him without warning.

When this sort of mayhem escalates, my daughter intervenes with a crisp scolding. "Boys, stop! Use your words!"

Depending on how fatigued the boys are or how far over the line one of them crossed, the duo might not heed their mother's stern warning. If they do fail to "use their words," both rascals are put in timeout. While the separation of bodies diffuses the situation, there are always lingering hard feelings. But eventually, all is forgotten, and the brothers become cooperative playmates once again.

Unlike my grandsons, the birds are not from the same flock, nor the same species. And even though both have been using their calls to warn off the oth-

That Girl, This Life

Julie McGue



er, there is no outside force to intervene before one of the creatures is harmed. The battle, its outcome and the aftermath, are an unregulated test of resolve, strength and skill.

As I fill the last basin of the tiered fountain, the overhead squawking increases to an alarming pitch. The osprey's piercing peeps overshadow the mockingbird's trill. I puzzle what has caused this heated contest. The traditionally pesty mockingbird may have buzzed too close to the osprey's nest, or it may have tried to nibble at the larger bird's morning catch. Perhaps, like my youngest grandson, it bothered the osprey one too many times.

I strain to see the birds sheltered in the crown of the tree. When the ruckus settles down, my attention returns to the fountain. Instead of leaves, a few feathers flutter through the air. Then more and more. My head whips up. The osprey grips the mockingbird in its sharp talons. It pecks at its prey and more feathers drop. I redirect the garden hose and send a jet stream of water at the osprey. Undeterred, the large bird sidesteps to a branch outside the reach of my hose and resumes its kill of the mockingbird. Frustrated and sickened by my inability to make a difference in the outcome of nature's brutal scene, I turn off the hose and retreat indoors.

I slip off my shoes, wipe the sweat from my hairline and welcome the cool air conditioning upon my overheated body. My heart thrums as I wander into the family room where my daughter watches the evening news. I listen as a former politician takes questions from a female moderator at a town hall meeting.

When the moderator presses one particular issue, the politician erupts. Just like the battle between the birds in my yard, neither the moderator nor the former politician back down. A break for commercials gives both parties, and the audience and viewers like me, a sorely needed timeout. Unlike the test of wills that occurs between my grandsons, recent history has shown us that this contest is not likely to close without lingering hard feelings.

And as the commercials roll in, I think about how learning to use our words at a young age teaches us a critical skill for managing in a civilized society. But without an outside force intervening and adding structure to our dealings with one another, we risk being no better than the wildlife outside our doors, creatures who use brute force to control rivals in order to survive.



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With “A Small Light,” the Story of Anne Frank is Now Complete

by Andrew Tallackson



Miep Gies (Bel Powley, center) meets with the Frank family in hiding, including Anne (Billie Boulet, left), in “A Small Light.”

Why tell this story again?

That’s the hesitation with which you approach “A Small Light,” the eight-episode National Geographic series also streaming on Hulu and Disney+. Anne Frank’s story, captured in her own words through a diary of extraordinary hope and resilience, has moved millions, whether it be on the page, the big screen, the stage or television. Even the role Miep Gies played in hiding Anne, her family and friends hit television back in 1988 with “The Attic: The Hiding of Anne Frank” starring Oscar-winner Mary Steenburgen as Miep.

This story is so ingrained in our collective consciousness, we know it well. It inspires *and* wounds us, the memory of it like an unhealed scar.

So, again, why watch “A Small Light”? Because we’ve never seen the story told like this. From this perspective. From this broader sense of context. By how the actors approach their real-life inspirations. For the first time, the story of Anne Frank, but more so Miep and Jan Gies, feels complete.

Largely the work of the husband-and-wife team Tony Phelan and Joan Rater, the series achieves a stark, mounting dread within Amsterdam as Nazis tighten their grip. You feel it, with each passing episode. More homes raided. Families rounded up.

Less populous streets. The lack of carefree abandon as people move about publicly, always looking over their shoulder.

Miep, secretary to Otto Frank at his pectin and spice company Opekta, is played by British actress Bel Powley in a career-defining performance. She first caught my eye on Apple TV+’s “The Morning Show” as a staffer dating the news program’s much older weatherman. Here, she creates a fiercely original take on Miep. She’s not an instant symbol of heroism. As the series begins, she’s a tad scatterbrained. A young woman enjoying being a young woman. But when she agrees to hide Otto and seven others in the upstairs attic, including his wife and two daughters, Powley brilliantly shows the transition from secretary to unflappable leader. In Powley’s expressive face, we see Miep’s mind racing from one solution to the next. The refusal to accept no as an answer. Suddenly, this woman is barreling through one scary scenario after another. Nurturing to Anne and her sister Margot one minute, standing up to Nazi sympathizers the next.

Equally fascinating is Joe Cole as Jan Gies. He’s somewhat of a bookish recluse who succumbs to Miep consuming charms. What I did not know before “A Small Light” was the full extent of Jan’s re-

sistance work. At first, it is in secret, even to his wife, orchestrating new lodgings for Jewish children separated from their parents. And by sneaking off to meetings at gay taverns, "A Small Light" frames Jan's journey in the larger context of the gay community targeted by Nazis. Cole has a tougher job than Powley in that Jan rarely loses his composure. The actor has to reveal a feverish desperation within the framework of a guy who's basically a stiff. Cole, like Powley, is a marvel.

The individual stories of Anne, her family and those who hid with them in the attic were magnificently captured in the 1955 Pulitzer Prize-winning play and 1959 Oscar-winning big-screen adaptation. Every actor who's appeared in a production of this work clearly appreciates the gravity of the material, but the performances exist as somber case studies in borrowed time. The cast in "A Small Light," which includes Liev Schreiber as Otto and the extraordinary Billie Boulet as Anne, does not go that route. Instead, they focus on something altogether different.

Hope.

Moments of tension, yes, fearing for the worst, but also galvanized by the notion that the very act of hiding is a form of rebellion. There is joy to be had during news of the Allied invasion, a sense of the war drawing to a close. And because we know what *is* to come, the scenes that follow are all the more harrowing emotionally.

"A Small Light" also remembers that Anne — wise beyond her years in her diary — was a *teen*. Here, we see her as lively and jubilant, but also petty and selfish. As is true of any young girl on the cusp of womanhood.

Past retellings of Anne's story stage the arrival of Nazis to arrest the Franks as hurried and frenzied. Here, it's staged as a harrowing game of cat and mouse, with Powley achieving remarkable poise — her eyes telling another story — as officers inch closer to the stairway leading to the attic.

As the final episode of "A Small Light" draws to a close, the story dares to keep going. It shows Miep desperately trying to gain information on the



The story of Jan Gies (Joe Cole) is equally as compelling as that of his wife, Miep.

Franks. In remarkably understated and haunting visuals, trainloads of concentration camp survivors exit trains, hollowed-out souls in search of closure. And when the heartbreaking news arrives in full, that Otto is the only survivor of the camps, one of Miep's colleagues offers profound comfort: "*For the two years they were here, they knew that people cared for them. They knew they mattered.*"

My hope for "A Small Light" is not just that it wins Emmys. More, that it becomes mandatory viewing in schools. That ensuing generations are reminded of what true courage looks like amid the unthinkable. So they, like generations before them, never forget.

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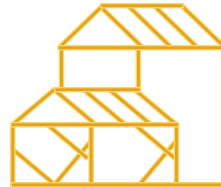


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The “Foundation” for the Future

by Edmund Lawler

On the evening of May 19, about 120 guests, including descendants of industrialist John Barker, seized a sneak peek of Barker Mansion’s meticulous, multimillion-dollar restoration.

Built in the early 20th century, the mansion has been mostly closed to visitors since the project began in 2021. But Michele Gustin, Barker Mansion program & operations manager, says by late fall the doors are scheduled to reopen to tour the national treasure at Washington and Sixth streets in downtown Michigan City.

“I’m sure my grandmother would be over the moon about this restoration,” says Danielle H. Moore, a granddaughter of Catherine Barker Hickox, who in turn was the granddaughter of rail car magnate John Barker. “The workmanship is incredible. It’s been a labor of love. I’m delighted that generations to come will get to enjoy it.”

Moore is president of the Barker Welfare Foundation, whose subsidiary – Barker Mansion LLC – oversees the mansion’s restoration, maintenance and operation. She’s also the mayor of Palm Beach, Fla., where she lives.

Family members credit Alex B. Ross, Catherine’s grandson and president of the Barker Welfare Foundation from 2019-2021, with instigating the restoration. Title to the mansion transferred back to the foundation from Michigan City, which had operated it as a civic center since 1968.

With a laugh, Alex Ross admits to what he calls “my crazy idea” to restore the home of his ancestors. He proudly describes the work over the past two years: “The entire building has been rewired for the first time since it was built 120 years ago. All 122 windows are being restored, with 70 percent now complete. The teak wood floors are being refinished.”

The mansion’s garden has been restored to its original 1910 design by renowned landscape architect Jens Jensen.

Sarane H. Ross, Catherine’s daughter, was not raised in the mansion, but on the East Coast. She recalls her only childhood visit here was with her parents when she was about 11.

Sarane was born in 1934, the year her 38-year-old mother established the Barker Welfare Foundation, which supports nonprofit organizations in Michigan City, New York City and Chicago.

Sarane, a director and president emerita of the foundation, is pleased with restoration of the mansion listed on the National Register of Historic Places. And she’s delighted a portrait of her mother now graces the mansion’s foyer.



Danielle Moore (from left), Sarane Ross and Alex Ross stand before a portrait of Catherine Barker Hickox. All photos by Priscilla Lawler.

She explains the painting of her mother, who died in 1970 at age 66, is by celebrated British portrait artist Simon Elwes. It remained in the possession of family members, but was recently donated to the mansion where it hangs in a place of prominence.

One of the main events May 12 was the presentation of the Barker Prize to a resident or business owner in LaPorte County that embodies the qualities of good citizenship, entrepreneurship, community service and philanthropy.

The winner was Paul Applegate, president of Applegate & Co. Certified Public Accountants, Michigan City. Applegate was visiting Germany, but his children, Blake and Megan, both CPAs at the firm,

accepted the award.

Also winning applause was Andy Skwiat, restoration project manager, and Brandon Purkal, site manager. Christopher Grohs and Nicole Sheaffer of Terrawood Design in Michigan City were recognized for their painstaking restoration of floors and woodwork.

Also saluted were students of Purdue University Northwest’s College of Technology for designing and fabricating a spectacular scale model of the Haskell & Barker Car Co. factory. It is the centerpiece of a new exhibit on the mansion’s lower level that pays tribute to the factory and its workers through state-of-the-art visual displays.



Blake Applegate displays the Barker Prize awarded to his father, Paul Applegate.

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Documentary Explores the Triumph and Tragedy of Little Richard

by Andrew Tallackson



On
Demand

"Little Richard: I Am Everything" relies on plenty of archival footage to highlight the performer's career.

"He spit on every rule of music."

□

"He was too much for everyone."

□

"Little Richard was danger."

□

"Everyone was afraid of me because I was unpredictable. They didn't know what I was going to do."

These observations in the brilliant new documentary "Little Richard: I Am Everything" hail either from the performer himself or by entertainers and music historians. And while there is joy to be had, especially when the singer's music takes center stage, the movie is a sad, blistering commentary on racism and homophobia.

This is a man repeatedly denied credit as a rock 'n' roll pioneer. At constant odds with his sexuality, never comfortable in his own skin, despite the flamboyant confidence he exuded in public.

The documentary, available through View on Demand, is a joint effort between CNN Films and HBO Max. All hail CNN Films. Seriously. It's the premier venue for cinematic journalism, telling dif-

★ ★ ★ ★

"Little Richard: I Am Everything"

Running time: 101 minutes. View on Demand. Not Rated, but containing frank dialogue on sex and drugs.

ficult stories about complex people. It just won the Best Documentary Oscar for "Navalny," a stirring look at the Russian opposition leader. Other films tackled Gabby Giffords, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Anthony Bourdain and Gilda Radner. Its singular triumph: 2018's "Three Identical Strangers," a harrowing look at three Jewish triplets separated at birth through a callous, clinical nature vs. nurture experiment.

"Little Richard: I Am Everything" is among its best.

The entertainer died in 2020, so director/producer Lisa Cortés turns to a generous sampling of archival material mixed with contemporary interviews. Pretty quickly, the film establishes the template for the performer's life. Coming from a religious family, he was too "outrageous" — translation: brash and effeminate — for the stern eye of his pastor father,

but loved nonetheless but a supportive mother. And so, as one member of the LGBTQ+ community notes, he spent the rest of his life “running back to God, but running away from his true self.”

We see Little Richard throughout his career, alternating between his electric stage presence and the repeated shift back to gospel music.

When the hits arrive, like “Tutti Frutti” and “Good Golly Miss Molly,” mainstream society didn’t know what to make of him, so it filtered his music, more successfully, through white entertainers like Elvis Presley and Pat Boone. You cringe at the scenes of Boone treating “Tutti Frutti” like barber-shop quartet material...but that, the movie emphasizes, was another theme in his life. A life denied its due. As one rock historian notes in the film, America still seems at odds with accepting the fact that the origins of rock ‘n’ roll started with black performers.

The movie’s most compelling insight is how Little Richard’s music defined 1950s teen rebellion. Wanna tick off your parents, one rock historian notes? Listen to music they despise. And that is precisely what the movie shows, how Little Richard’s music brought white and black teens together. Even more ironic is how, as the Civil Rights Movement heated up, Little Richard was deemed a rock god in the United Kingdom by The Beatles and The Rolling Stones. Again: a sign of rebellion that British rockers identified not with the sounds of their own country, but what was taking shape across the pond.

Members of the LGBTQ+ community factor heavily into interviews, and through that context, and by seeing entertainers inspired by Little Richard, from Elton John and David Bowie to Harry Styles and Lizzo, we realize, sadly, this man was born in the wrong time. Always ahead of his time. Billy Porter, in fact, notes he wouldn’t have a career today if Little Richard didn’t blaze a path for him.

So by the time “I Am Everything” shows a clip



Billy Porter admits in the film he would not have a career today if not for Little Richard.

from the 1997 American Music Awards, when Little Richard received the Lifetime Merit Award, we see the entertainer break down on stage as recognition is finally directed his way. It is extremely powerful. The documentary has so painstakingly charted this man’s life, we get it. We get what that moment meant to him. Even one of his band members, who was there that night, tries to discuss the award, yet breaks down sobbing.

“I Am Everything” succeeds on every front. As a time capsule piece on race and rock ‘n’ roll. As an exploration on sexuality in America. And where we, as a people, must head from here.

It is a triumph.

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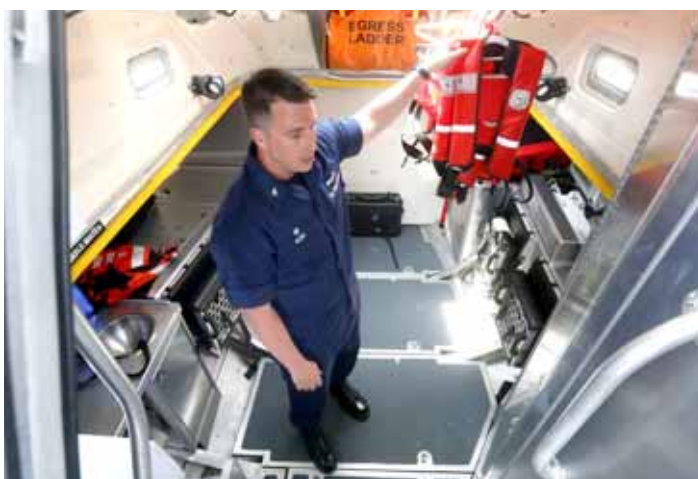
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National Safe Boating Week



Michigan City's U.S. Coast Guard Station, 10 On the Lake, hosted open-house activities to help promote National Safe Boating Week (May 20-26). Events included tours of the station and USCG vessels, drive up boating safety inspections in front of the station and boater safety discussions.

All photos by Bob Wellinski

SUMMER VOLLEYBALL CLASSES – YOUTH & JUNIORS**Long Beach Parks****VOLLEYKIDZ USA GRASS VOLLEYBALL CAMPS**

It's time to take your volleyball GAME OUTSIDE. A camp hosted by the EVP Academies of LaPorte, features all the latest drills and training techniques that build your skills for the next level. Lots of contests and games too, with fun and active instructors! The camp will concentrate on the fundamentals of passing, setting, serving and spiking. You will learn to overhand serve and play organized games. The lesson plan directs individual training that helps each student reach a new level. This four-day camp is for girls & boys ages 8-14yrs. Canceled classes are made up on Friday.

LOCATION: LB Park

MIN/MAX: 8/24 PER CLASS

4 Day-camp

Ages 8-10

6/19	6/22	1p-2:30p	8-10yrs	84
6/26	6/29	1p-2:30p	8-10yrs	84
7/10	7/13	1p-2:30p	8-10yrs	84
7/24	7/27	1p-2:30p	8-10yrs	84

**Ages 11-14**

6/19	6/22	230-4:30pm	11-14yrs	99
6/26	6/29	230-4:30pm	11-14yrs	99
7/10	7/13	230-4:30pm	11-14yrs	99
7/24	7/27	230-4:30pm	11-14yrs	99

VolleyKidz USA (8-10yrs)

Volleykidz is an introductory class for children 7yrs to 10yrs. The lesson plan introduces the pass, set and spike using a very light volleyball. Volleykidz will improve each child's hand/eye coordination and left/right coordination through the use of fun drills and games. Lesson plan also incorporates short educational drills including spelling, math & science.

LOCATION: LB Park

MIN/MAX: 8/24 PER CLASS

WEEKS: 4

PROGRAM #	DAY	DATE	TIME	AGE	COST
JUNE	Wednesdays	6/7-6/28	4:30-6pm	8-10yrs	\$99
JULY	Wednesdays	7/5-7/26	4:30-6pm	8-10yrs	\$99
AUG.	Wednesdays	8/2-8/23	4:30-6pm	8-10yrs	\$99

Jr. VolleyKidz USA (11-13yrs)

Improve your volleyball skills with 90 minutes of drills in setting, passing, overhand serving and spiking. The lesson plan directs the use of individual training, pairing drills and game situation development that help each student reach a new level. Instructors organize short games at the end of each class. The lesson plan also incorporates leadership and educational components.

LOCATION: LB Park

MIN/MAX: 8/24 PER CLASS

WEEKS: 4

PROGRAM #	DAY	DATE	TIME	AGE	COST
JUNE	Wednesdays	6/7-6/28	6-730pm	11-14yrs	\$84
JULY	Wednesdays	7/5-7/26	6-730pm	11-14yrs	\$84
AUG.	Wednesdays	8/2-8/23	6-730pm	11-14yrs	\$84

NEW! Youth Volleyball Summer League

This summer indoor volleyball league is perfect to keep your volleyball skills fresh for the upcoming grade school season. In this co-ed league you can request to play with a group of friends. Games are scheduled on Thursdays. The YOUTH league will have two levels; Blazers and Top Flight. You will overhand serve and play organized games. EVP Certified coaches. Game formats are based on skill-level of athletes and may include 6-person and 4-person teams. Two matches per week.

LOCATION: LB Park

MIN/MAX: 18/72 PER CLASS

WEEKS: 4

DATE (s)	DAY	PROGRAM #	TIME	Ages	COST
June	4-25	Sun	430-630p	10-13yrs	\$59
July	9-30	Sun	430-630p	10-13yrs	\$59
Aug.	6-27	Sun	430-630p	10-13yrs	\$59

REGISTER AT WWW.EVPACADEMIES.COM

Michigan City Public Library

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

- **Summer Reading Program: All Together Now! from June 5-July 22.** For every 10 hours a person reads, reads to someone else or listens to someone read, they have a chance to win a raffle item. Record reading hours and select the desired raffle prize for a chance to win.
- **Diamond Painting from 5-7 p.m. Tuesday, June 6.** Youth ages 10-17 can learn how to diamond paint. Registration through the website is required due to limited supplies.
- **Creative Tech Activities from 3:30-5 p.m. Tuesdays in June.** Children ages 6-17 can create with LEGO WeDo, Micro:bits, paper circuits, Ozobots and 3-D. Children 12 and younger must have a parent or guardian attend.
- **Needle Arts Club to Warm Up America Joining Night from 5:30-7 p.m. Thursdays in June.** Membership 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. Also, the group has organized a local chapter of the Warm Up America Foundation. Volunteers are knitting and crocheting handmade squares (7x9 inch) that will be joined together to make full-size afghans.
- **Virtual Dungeons & Dragons from 4-6 p.m. Wednesday, June 7.** Youth ages 12-18 can play through Zoom. Advance registration is required. Contact Dana in Youth Services at dwolf@mclib.org or (219) 873-3045 for more details.
- **Weekly Crafts for Kids & Teens weekly.** Each week offers a different project. Take-home craft kits are available, or create some in the Maker-space. Supplies are limited.
- **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.
- **Among Us Scavenger Hunt in June.** Visit Youth Services, find all the characters hiding there and win a prize.



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

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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 Pick-up 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.).



Patrons are no longer charged daily overdue fines. Customers only will be charged for items they damage, lose or never return.



The following programs are planned:

- **Coolspring Storytime from 1:30-2 p.m. Thursday, June 1, at the Coolspring Branch.** Each session, which includes stories and songs, is part of a themed six-week program, with a four-week break between sessions.
- **Stories & More from 10-10:30 a.m. Friday, June 2, at the main library.** Children ages 3-5 with their caregivers experience stories, songs, crafts and activities.
- **Summer Reading Block Party from 2-4 p.m. Saturday, June 3, at the main library.** The event includes walking a Readers' Red Carpet, stories and Eric Hill's Spot the Dog.
- **Family Pajama Storytime from 6-6:30 p.m. Monday, June 5, in the main library multipurpose room.** The program focuses on stories and songs. Guests can wear pajamas and take a favorite stuffed animal.
- **Virtual Author Talk with Mike Rucker (adults 19+) from 3-4 p.m. Wednesday, June 7.** Advance registration is required at <https://libraryc.org/laportelibrary/26885>
- **Cooking Kids from 4-5 p.m. Wednesday, June 7, in the main library multipurpose room.** Hear a story and create a recipe based on the reading.
- **Meet Libby, Hoopla and Kanopy (adults 19+) from 5:30-7 p.m. Wednesday, June 7, in the main library Meeting Room A.** Take a device for the event that explains how to use the programs.



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, including programming through the Exchange building.



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Neek



TU May 30 • 5-7p
Chris Burch



SU June 4 • 5-7p
St. James Band



TU June 6 • 5-7p
Shane Lindeman



TU June 13 • 5-7p
Steve & Mary

Live Music at the Lakefront

SU June 18 • 5-7p
Kasim Whiting

TU June 20 • 5-7p
Frank Ruvoli

SU June 25 • 5-7p
Kyla Web of "Skirt"

TU June 27 • 5-7p
Robert Barthel

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Long Beach Summer Camp

Applications available June 1, 2023!

Dates: June 19 – August 4

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: Outer Space

Week 2: Wild Weather

Week 3: Geographic Genius
(No Camp July 3 & 4)

Week 4: Inventors Workshop

Week 5: Splish Splash

Week 6: Safari

Week 7: International Sports

Registration forms are available at the Long Beach Town Hall, Long Beach Community Center, and online at longbeachin.org.

Any questions email
longbeachsummercamp@gmail.com.

Market on Main

The Westville Area Chamber of Commerce will host the Fifth Annual Market on Main from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, June 3, in downtown Westville.

Visitors can walk down Main Street to stop by more than 30 artisan/vintage vendors and local food. There is no admission cost.

Westville Cruise In Car Club will be present, while Burn 'Em Brewing will sponsor a beer tent. Donations from the club and a portion of proceeds from the tent will be donated to The Boys & Girls Club of LaPorte County Westville Chapter. Also, Ric Federighi from WIMS Radio will do a live remote from 10-11 a.m. The LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra brass quintet will play from 10-11:45 a.m., then the acoustical Americana band For Pete's Sake plays from noon-2 p.m.

New Buffalo Township Library

- **June 1, 6:30 p.m. — Vernal Pools with Pat Fisher (Hike 4).** Meet in the New Buffalo Elementary School parking lot, 12291 Lubke Road.
- **June 6, 6:30 p.m. — Program, The Greatest Showman on Earth: Harry Houdini and His Death-Defying Acts.**

Weekly programs:

- Craft Time from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Wednesday while supplies last.
- Read to a Dog Sessions for all ages from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesday and 4-4:45 p.m. Wednesday.
- Story Time at 5:30 p.m. Thursday.
- Lego Club from 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Saturday.

All times are Eastern. New Buffalo Township Library is located at 33 N. Thompson St. Call (269) 469-2933 for more details.

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Sunday Champagne Brunch | 9 A.M. - 1 P.M.

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Soup Du Jour

-

Bread Board

Choice of butter or heated olive oil and

Pimento cheese

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shishito peppers, toasted garlic, balsamic

glaze, lemon wedge

Goat Cheese Polenta & Kale

sauteed kale, polenta, goat cheese, cherry

tomato, balsamic

Whipped Feta

whipped feta, warm pita, cucumber,

kalamata olive

Crab Cake

lump crab, house remoulade, fresh spring

mix, lemon vinaigrette

-

Steamed Mussels

Chilean mussels, fennel broth, fresh baguette

Lodge House Salad

spring mix, cherry tomato, zed onion,

cucumber, creamy basil, cloutons, cheese

Beet Salad

roasted beet, gorgonzola crumble, candied

walnuts, balsamic

Oysters On the Half Shell

Choice of Raw or Steamed - house cocktail

sauce, lemon wedge, Tabasco

Oysters Rockefeller

creamed spinach, prosciutto, garlic, shallots

Pan-Roasted Chicken

chicken breast, garlic, mushrooms, shallots,

capers, pan sauce, roasted potatoes

The Elk Burger

1/2 lb elk patty, smoked cheddar, house-made

bacon jam, mayo, roasted potatoes

Cavatappi Alfredo

cavatappi, parmesan, cream, imported

pecorino cheese, shallot - add chicken

6 oz flat iron steak

Tapenade Salmon

olive crusted salmon, fresh spring mix, red

pepper anvil, goat cheese, asparagus

Bone-In Pork Chop

Frenched double bone pork chop, carrots,

maple bourbon glaze, roasted potatoes

*Filet & Caesar

6 oz Black Angus Filet, artisan romaine,

cherry tomato, cheese, house Caesar

*Filet

6 oz Black Angus Filet, chef's seasonal

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*Ribeye

16 oz Black Angus ribeye, asparagus, roasted

potatoes

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Harbor Country Hikers



Hikers visit Warren Dunes State Park during a 2020 hike.

Harbor Country Hikers will hike one of Warren Dunes State Park's famous sand dunes at 10 a.m. EDT Saturday, June 3.

In brief introductory comments, leader and HCH President Pat Fisher will explain how nature builds dunes and anchors them with plants. The first stretch of the hike is on mostly hard surfaces, with a view of Lake Michigan from the dune crest. The trail to the beach is loose sand and challenging. Participants should wear long pants, a sun hat, sturdy shoes or boots, and take insect repellent and water.

The hiking distance is two miles. Physical difficulty is moderate to difficult. The park is located at 12032 Red Arrow Highway, Sawyer, Mich.

Membership is preferred; however, the public is welcome. Visit www.harborcountryhikers.com or Harbor Country Hikers on Facebook for more details, including directions and parking instructions.

Art Barn Fundraiser

Tickets are available for "One to Grow On," Art Barn School of Art's premier fundraiser, from 6-10 p.m. Saturday, June 10, at Valparaiso University Center for the Arts, 1709 Chapel Drive.

Funds raised from the event boost the non-profit's educational arts programs. Tickets are \$135, or \$1,000 for tables. Attire is garden party cocktail. The evening includes drinks, dinner and art.

Visit tinyurl.com/mr2bxutp for reservations or more details.

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LBCC Women's Golf Leagues

9-Hole League

May 18, 2023

A Flight Low Net

First – Peg King.

Second – Sue Luegers.

Third – Janet Andreotti, Cindy Levy.

Low Putts – J. Andreotti, Donna Hennard, Peg King, Kathy Kenefick.

Birdie – Janet Andreotti (No. 13).

Sunken Approach – Peg King (No. 16).

B FLIGHT Low Net

First – June Salmon.

Second – Jean Guerin, Nancy Thill.

Third – Barb Hall.

Low Putts – Nancy Thill.

C FLIGHT Low Net

First – Ginny Hogan.

Second – Ann Daley, Tina Sonderby.

Third – Catherine Kelly, Kathi Mole, Gloria McMahon

Low Putts – Barb Beardslee.

Birdie – Ginny Hogan (No. 10).

D FLIGHT Low Net:

First – Sally McCarthy.

Second – Alison Kolb, Marge White.

Third – Kate Flores, Leslie Meyer.

Low Putts – Alison Kolb.

18-Hole League

May 15, 2023

A Flight

First – Janet Andreotti.

Second – Vicki Hill.

Third – Jill Craig, Cindy Levy, Sue Luegers.

B Flight

First – Kathy Kenefick.

Second – Pat Bailey, Jean Guerin.

Third – Susan Keeley.

C Flight

First – Kathie Mole, Meg Caplice.

Second – Carol Sullivan.

Third – Carol Lyons.

(Cindy Levy recently got a hole in one in league play and another hole in one outside of league play.)



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North Course, "Early Birdies,"
May 22, 2023
Event: Sum of Odd Numbered
Holes

A Flight

Low Gross: Jane Shuger.
Low Net: Barb Rumbuc.
Low Putts: Sandy Baldwin.
Event: Jane Shuger.

B Flight

Low Gross: Jane Spang.
Low Net: Jane Spang.
Low Putts: Paula Hutchinson.
Event: Paula Hutchinson.

C Flight

Low Gross: Sheila Brackin.
Low Net: Sheila Brackin.
Low Putts: Sheila Brackin.
Event: Sheila Brackin, Carol Hullings.

D Flight

Low Gross: Ann Batagianis.
Low Net: Ann Batagianis, Cindee Schroll.
Low Putts: Bev Nichols.
Event: Cindee Schroll.

Unglighted Event: Jill Kilowski.
Chip-Ins

Sandy Baldwin — No. 2.
Sandra Provan — No. 5.
Linda Sperling — No. 2.
Jill Kilowski — No. 3.

Two for Tuesday Promotion

A special promotion — buy one admission, get one free — is offered Tuesdays at LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave.

The promotion includes the public and Historical Society members. Call (219) 324-6767 for more details.

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United Way Golf Outing

United Way of LaPorte County's 19th annual golf outing is Saturday, July 22, at Beechwood Golf Course, 2222 Woodlawn Drive, LaPorte.

Registration opens at noon, with the shotgun tee time and box lunch at 1 p.m. The silent auction ends, with awards presented, at 5 p.m.

The event is 18 holes of golf with a cart. It also includes: a box lunch, open bar cart(s) on the course, games, a chance to win a new car, trophies for the winning team, free water and soft drinks, and free shots under the pavilion. Individuals cost \$125, while a foursome costs \$500.

In the event of rain, certificates for golf will be available, if requested, to use at a later date.

Visit www.unitedwaylpc.org for more details.

ArtBash Tickets

Tickets are available for "All You Need Is Love," Lubeznik Center for the Arts' 2023 ArtBash benefit, at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, June 24, at Blue Chip Casino Hotel Spa.

The evening includes: a buffet dinner, open bar, silent auction, a DJ and dancing, a paddle raise, treats and art experiences.

Tickets are \$150 per person. All proceeds support LCA programming. Visit tinyurl.com/mrx9eyn6 for reservations.



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American Red Cross

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

- St. John's United Church of Christ, 101 St. John Road, noon-6 p.m. Tuesday, June 6.
- Sacred Heart Church, 201 Bach St., LaPorte, noon-5 p.m. Wednesday, June 7.
- Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1237 E. Coolspring Ave., 2-6 p.m. Thursday, June 8.

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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In the Area

June 1 — LGBTQ+ Pride Month Begins.

June 1 — Coolspring Storytime, 1:30-2 p.m., Coolspring library branch, 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

June 1 — Arts in the Park, LaPorte's Fox Park. Preconcert: 6-6:45 p.m., main band: 7-8:30 p.m. June 1 — The Whistle Pigs. Wednesdays starting June 7: LaPorte City Band, 7 p.m.

June 1 — Northwest Indiana Green Drinks ("Mount Baldy's Holes Ten Years Later: What New Science Tells Us Now"), 6:30 p.m., Facebook Live or Zoom. Info: NancyforVision@gmail.com

June 1 — Music Under the Stars Presents Johnny V, 7-9 p.m., Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12. Tickets: \$15/members, \$20/non-members, free/children 12 & younger. Reservations: tinyurl.com/48m73tbz

June 1-18 — "Boeing Boeing," Dunes Summer Theatre, 288 Shady Oak Drive, Michiana Shores. Times: 7 p.m. Thur.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sunday. Reservations: tinyurl.com/4tp2kwud

June 2 — First Friday Open Studio Night, 5-8 p.m., St. Mary's Arts, 326 W. 10th St.

June 2 — 10th annual LOK Young Artist Expo showcase, 5-8 p.m., Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: www.lubeznikcenter.org

June 3 — St. Stanislaus 5K (3.1 mile) run, 8 a.m., Trail Creek's Nelson Park. Registration/info: (219) 879-9281, kmwozniak87@gmail.com

June 3 — Westville Area Chamber of Commerce Fifth Annual Market on Main, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., downtown Westville.

June 3-July 1 — "Intertwine: Stitches of the Soul," The Beverly Shores Depot Museum & Art Gallery, 525 S. Broadway. Second Friday reception: 5-7 p.m. June 9.

June 3 — Summer Reading Block Party, 2-4 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

June 5 — Family Pajama Storytime, 6-6:30 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

June 5 — Monday Musicale, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St. Info: (219) 874-3754.

June 6 — Diamond Painting, 5-7 p.m., Michigan

City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Registration: www.mclib.org

June 7 — Virtual Dungeons & Dragons, 4-6 p.m., through Michigan City Public Library. Info: dwolf@mclib.org, (219) 873-3045.

June 7 — Cooking Kids, 4-5 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Through June 30 — Artwork by the Rev. David Kime, the Rev. Roque Meraz, Dr. John Wilhelm, The Legacy Center Gallery at Queen of All Saints Catholic Church, 1719 E. Barker Ave. 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. Info: (219) 872-9196.

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

Mondays in Michigan City — Bingo, Moose Family Lodge 980, 2107 Welnetz Road. Doors open/8:30 a.m., early birds/9:30 a.m., regular Bingo/10 a.m.

Mondays in LaPorte — Weekly line dance lessons, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1130, 181 W. McClung Road. Cost: \$5. Beginner dance lessons, 2-3 p.m. Improver dance lessons, 3-4 p.m. Info: (219) 363-8301.

Tuesdays — Bingo, St. Stanislaus Kostka Catholic Church, 109 Ann St. Doors open: 3:30 p.m. Bingo: 6 p.m. \$45 entrance fee (includes all cards). Info: (219) 336-3099.

Tuesdays in June — Creative Tech Activities, 3:30-5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Thursdays in June — Needle Arts Club to Warm Up America Joining Night, 5:30-7 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Saturdays through Oct. 28 — Michigan City Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-noon, Eighth & Washington streets. Info: www.emichigancity.com

Sundays through Sept. 24 — Farmed & Forged Market (LaPorte Farmers Market), 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Monroe & Lincolnway.

In the Region

June 1 — Vernal Pools with Pat Fisher (Hike 4), 6:30 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Elementary School parking lot, 12291 Lubke Road. Info: (269) 469-2933.

June 1 — Cosmic Country Showcase-Harbor Country Pride Kickoff, 7 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$25 + \$4.50 convenience fee, \$50 + \$4.50 convenience fee (reserved). Info: www.acornlive.org

June 2 — Philip Gulley-American Writer and Storyteller, 7 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$30 + \$5 convenience fee, \$55 + \$5 convenience fee (reserved). Info: www.acornlive.org

June 3 — The Friends' 27th Annual Native Plant Sale, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Friends of Indiana Dunes office, 1000 W. Oak Hill Road, Porter. Free admission.

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

June 3 — Harbor Country Hikers, 10 a.m. EDT, Warren Dunes State Park, 12032 Red Arrow Highway, Sawyer, Mich. Info: www.harborcountryhikers.com, Harbor Country Hikers on Facebook.

June 3 — Blowout Bonanza, 10 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

June 3 — Beach Mysteries, 2 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

June 3 — Club Rainbow, 7 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$25 + \$4.50 convenience fee, \$50 + \$4.50 convenience fee (reserved). Info: www.acornlive.org

June 3 — Full Moon Hike, 9-10:30 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

June 4 — The School of American Music benefit house concert, "Piano and Violin Classics," 4 p.m. EDT, private home (location disclosed after purchasing ticket). Tickets: \$250. Reservations/info: www.schoolofamericanmusic.com, (269) 409-1191.

June 6 — Program: The Greatest Showman on Earth: Harry Houdini and His Death-Defying Acts, 6:30 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933.

June 6 — Harbor Country Singers free Campfire Sing-Along, 6:30 p.m. EDT, Episcopal Church of the Mediator outdoor campfire circle, 14280 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert, Mich. Info: (269) 409-1191, schoolofamericanmusic@gmail.com, <https://schoolofamericanmusic.com/>

June 6 — Out of the Box Open Mic, 7-9 p.m. EDT, Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Performer signup (free): OpenMic@boxfactoryforthearts.org. Admission: \$5, 12 & younger/free. Info: <https://boxfactoryforthearts.org/concerts-events>

June 7 — "Insights in History," 1:30 p.m. EDT, South Bend's The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St. Admission: \$3. Reservations by June 5: www.historymuseumSB.org, (574) 235-9664.

Through June 2 — "So Far: Nancy Hejna Artworks in Exhibit," Marshall J. Gardner Center for the Arts, 540 S. Lake St., Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 885-9114.

Through June 4 — Andy Sweet's "South Beach," Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Info: www.krasl.org/andy-sweets-south-beach

Through June 4 — "Fighting Fear: Pandemics Past and Present," The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St., South Bend. Museum hours (all times Eastern): 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat., noon-5 p.m. Sun. Admission: \$11/adults, \$9.50/seniors, \$7/youth 6-17, free/members. Info: (574) 235-9664, www.historymuseumSB.org

Through June — Acrylic painter Connie Kasal/photographer Carol Estes, The Courtyard Gal-

lery, 813 E. Buffalo St., New Buffalo, Mich. Hours (Eastern): 11 a.m.-5 p.m. daily, closed Tuesday. Info: gallery@courtyardfineart.com, (800) 291-9287.

Through July 6 — Works by Kuhn Hong, The Village Gallery at Pines Village Retirement Communities, 3303 Pines Village Circle, Valparaiso.

Through July 16 — "America the Beautiful: The Photographs of Clyde Butcher," "Ansel Adams: Selected Photographs from the Portfolios," Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St., Elkhart. Hours (Eastern): 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tue.-Fri., 1-4 p.m. Sat.-Sun. Admission: \$10/adults, \$6/8-12, \$8/13-18, \$8/college students with ID. Info: (574) 293-6660.

Through July 31 — "Budgie's Garden" Art Show, Front Street Crossing, 227 S. Front St., Dowagiac, Mich. Featured artist: Lisa Quinlan-Heibutzki (past collaborator with *Beacher* columnist Charley McKelvy).

Through October — "Ever Yours: Postcards From the Golden Age," Porter County Museum, 20 Indiana Ave., Valparaiso. Free admission. Hours: 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tues.-Sun. Info: www.pocomuse.org

Mondays — Pickleball, 5:30 p.m. EST, New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road. Free, donations welcome. Info: (269) 426-3909, friendsofnewtroy@yahoo.com

Saturdays in Chesterton — European Market, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Broadway & Third Street (next to Thomas Centennial Park). Info: <https://tinyurl.com/yc8z2utd>

Vickers Theatre — *Now Showing*: "You Hurt My Feelings." Rated R. Times: 4 p.m. June 2, 4:30 p.m. June 3, 3:30 p.m. June 4. *Also*: "Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse." Rated PG. Times: 7 p.m. June 2, 1 & 7 p.m. June 3, noon June 4. *Also*: Harbor Country Pride Comedy Show. Time: 7 p.m. June 4. All times Eastern. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

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Insights in History

National labor issues of the 1930s is the focus of the next "Insights in History" at 1:30 p.m. EDT Wednesday, June 7, at South Bend's The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St.

The speaker is Dan Graff, Higgins Labor Program director and Department of History professor at The University of Notre Dame. Also planned is a guided tour of "Dom Robotnika," the Polish Worker's Home.

Admission is \$3. Reservations are required by June 5. Visit www.historymuseumSB.org or call (574) 235-9664 for reservations or more details.

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Picture in the Sand by Peter Blauner (hard-cover \$27.99 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and an audiobook. 334 pages.)

I was 11 when my parents took me to see Cecil B. DeMille's "The Ten Commandments." I was overwhelmed by the whole production. It was a worldwide hit and the 1957 Oscar winner for Special Effects. DeMille lost Best Director to Delbert Mann for "Marty."

To say it was a disappointment to DeMille is a vast understatement. It was to be his finest and last movie before his death in 1959.

This semi-historical book looks at the time DeMille picked up his Hollywood crew and flew to Egypt to film parts of the movie. It's a mesmerizing look at the obstacles he overcame, both in putting together such a huge undertaking and dealing with the political changes in Egypt. The story, however, belongs mainly to a young Egyptian man, Ali Hassan. The result is a skillful blending of real and imagined characters who come together in a whirlwind of time and place.

Blauner is no novice. He's written for many different TV series like "Law and Order" and "Blue Bloods." He's also written eight other novels, among them Slow Motion Riot, which won an Edgar Award for Best First Novel in 1992.

Blauner is an amazing writer. Engaging story? I felt I was right there in Egypt, feeling the wind and sand in my face, the sights and sounds of the marketplace, the atmosphere of political upheaval and the ideological battle in the heart and head of one good man torn between his religion and his politics.

In an NPR interview, Blauner was asked what question, never asked, he would like his readers to ask. He replied, "What is the common thing that all your books are about?" His answer would be, "The struggle to be a decent person in the world, as it is."

The "decent person" in this story is not DeMille, but a young, bright, very naive Egyptian named Ali Hassan. Ali dreams of becoming a filmmaker and one day meeting his idol, Cecil B. DeMille.

Ali's story can't be told until a disturbing email in the present, from his grandson Alex, reminds him of his own past mistakes during those turbulent times in the 1950s...

It's 2014 in Brooklyn, where the Hassan family lives. Ali owns a gas station and his grandson, Alex, is set to enter an Ivy League college...until his mother receives that disturbing email from him, saying, in part...

Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter



"The world is what it is, a battlefield. And we must all choose sides...I choose to fight."

He's on his way to Syria to join "the struggle" by joining a group of Muslim extremists, much to his grandfather's great sadness. He also says he is to be called Abu Suror from now on, no more Alex.

Ali sends back an email telling Alex there is a story he has never told anyone. After his wife died, he started writing down what happened back in the 1950s. Maybe he will even tell about the "accident" that made him lose an eye?

In between emails sent to each other, Ali recounts his life in Egypt, where his family lived in a mud brick house across from a hotel where visiting actors stayed. Ali is enamored by movies and Cecil B. DeMille. Ali wants to be a filmmaker, too, but what chance does he have? It's the fall of 1954, and word has it DeMille is bringing a whole shooting crew to Egypt to do some filming for his next blockbuster, "The Ten Commandments."

A chance encounter with an actress leads him to a job as chauffeur for DeMille. He gets to see Charlton Heston and Yul Brenner up close and personal. The politics in Egypt also is explored as King Farouk is deposed. Eventually, DeMille finds himself having

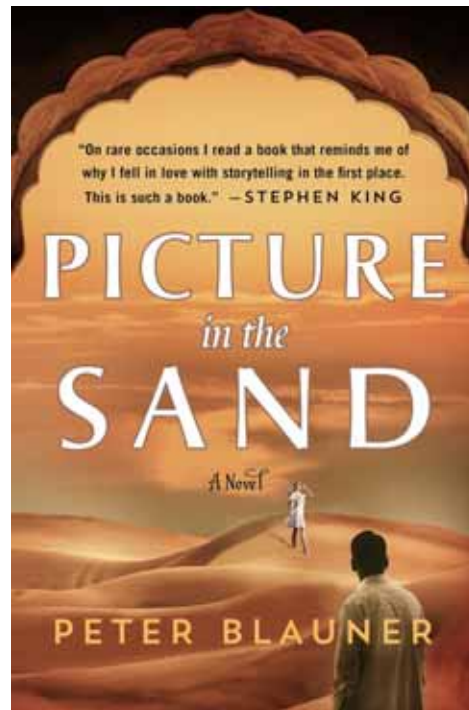
to please Gamal Abdul Nasser as the new leader of the country.

One day, driving down the wrong street, with DeMille and others in the car, Ali approaches a crowd of protestors. Unable to go forward or backward, Ali accidentally runs over a beloved religious man. Later, no one can identify the car or driver except Ali's friend, Sherif, who threatens to tell the police if Ali doesn't go along with his terrorist plans for DeMille and company. But what are those plans? Sherif won't tell him...just do what you're told, when you're told to do it.

Crammed with excitement in spades, religious wars, politics, a prison run by an ex-Nazi, torture, thousands of movie extras (human and animal), ego-geniuses, even love...and one man who has to save his grandson from himself. Wow. This is storytelling at the top of the list.

Make time to read this one, you won't be sorry.

Till next time, happy reading!



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Featured Agent Darlene Jesch

Congratulations to Darlene! She was our top producer for the month of April! Darlene has been an agent since 1995 specializing in all residential sales. She is also CRS (Certified Residential Specialist) and SRES (Senior Real Estate Specialist) Broker Associate certified.

You can reach Darlene at : 219-363-3277 or
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