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People Person

by Kim Nowatzke

Robin Kohn is photographed by *The Beacher's* Kim Nowatzke with library director Don Glossinger, the friendship between the two spanning nearly 50 years.

Spend a few minutes with Robin Kohn, Michigan City Public Library's public relations and programming coordinator, and it won't take long to realize that she's a people person.

After 35 years of serving as the library's spokesperson, ambassador and behind-the-scenes, jack-of-all-trades PR rep, she's retiring, knowing it will be the connections – both in the community and in-house — that will be the hardest to leave.

"I look at myself as the ambassador," the 67-year-old Kohn said. "I love going out in the community and meeting people. I love interacting with people."

Kohn is a self-proclaimed "talker." With her signature smile and infectious laugh, she shares that

starting in first grade, her report card conveyed that "she talks too much."

Kohn's likability, though, is one of her greatest assets.

"She's the best I've seen with dealing with people," library director Don Glossinger said. "She has been a wonderful employee. She's done some great things for Michigan City Public Library."

Remarkably, Glossinger has known Kohn for nearly 50 years, since 1976 when they both took classes at Purdue University-North Central (now Purdue University Northwest).

"We've been friends all this time," he said.

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People Person

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It is because of Glossinger that Kohn ended up where she is today. New to his position as director in 1990, he knew that Kohn, who opted to stay home with her young son, Brett, was interested in part-time employment. She began in the library circulation department and, five years later, started assisting Public Relations Director Kay Franklin. When Franklin experienced health issues, Kohn temporarily took over her responsibilities.

Unfortunately, Franklin's health worsened, and she passed away in October 1996. In December, Kohn became the full-time public relations director. Eventually, her title was adjusted to public relations and programming coordinator to better identify her responsibilities.

A 1975 Rogers High School graduate, Kohn lived most of her life in Trail Creek. She earned a bachelor's degree in communications from Purdue University, having attended classes for the first two years at the Westville campus, then the remaining two at West Lafayette.

Beginning in 1979, she worked at WEFM for 10 years, first in on-air programming, then as program director. Her employment also included a year with Glenhaven Management Co., which operates local McDonald's sites, before her son was born.

Ask Kohn for a job description, and she'll quip with a laugh, "I do everything no one else wants to do at the library."

She added, "It's a joke around here that I'm really never at my desk. I 'free range' around the library, touching base with staff and patrons, in addition to attending outside events as an ambassador for the library."

A more formal job description reads: "*Engage in promoting and creating goodwill for*

the library. Prepare written publicity material and release it through various media. Plan and direct development and communication of programs designed to attract the public. Write and select favorable publicity material."

At the time of *The Beacher* interview, the library just wrapped the busy season of its popular eight-week Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, which began more than 30 years ago. It provides free assistance with electronic filing of simple tax forms by IRS-certified volunteers for qualified individuals. It's the most challenging and intense program she manages, with more than 479 people serviced this past tax season.

"We work with a lot of people from different backgrounds and situations," she explained. "I feel that this program taught me more than anything else in my job. I feel I have helped people save money from what I've learned."

Not surprisingly, Kohn's optimistic outlook allows her to recognize the good that came out of COVID, as it necessitated VITA transforming into more of

a drop-off program, where even more individuals can be serviced. After an initial pause in VITA that spring of 2020, when the tax deadline was extended to July, tax services resumed at the library. All the volunteers returned.

The pandemic did shut down in-person programming (with the exception of VITA) for an entire year.

"It was a hard time because of all that was placed on hold," she shared. "The use of the library went down, but it went back up."

She recalled the disappointment of seeing the library's then six-month-old meeting rooms vacant.

"Now, our meeting rooms are used daily," she said, "sometimes by multiple groups and multiple people."

Kohn handles a wide variety of music, poetry, author, dance and other programming. A self-



Kohn takes a moment to enjoy the library's courtyard while sitting in a butterfly chair donated by Friends of the Library. Photo by Kim Nowatzke.



Robin Kohn is photographed with her husband, Dan (left), and son, Brett (right), during a May 2024 trip to Disney World. Provided photo.

proclaimed non-crafter, she organizes and publicizes crafty events, but leaves the hands-on experience to other staffers more gifted in that area. Any children's programming is through Youth Services.

One of Kohn's favorite programs is the "Writing Out Loud" author series, held every fall for the past 40 years. Begun by Long Beach's David Hoppe with an Indiana Humanities grant and supported with funds by the Patrons of Writing Out Loud, Michigan City Public Library Endowment Fund and The Friends of the Library, it has featured more than 140 authors.

"Writing Out Loud authors that stick out for me personally include: Angeline Bouley, author of *Firekeeper's Daughter*, poet Elise Paschen, David Hoppe, author/poet/activist Haki Madhubuti, Canadian author Hugh Brewster and Joyce Carol Oates, who appeared in celebration of the library's 100th anniversary my first year in this position," she said. "We've had so many that I've been impressed with that it seems almost unfair to name individuals."

Artwork on display is another library feature.

"We try to have the artist give a program about their event," she said.

Kohn is proud of the library's involvement with the recent Naomi Anderson project, as she advised on the proposal for the Preserving Women's Legacy Grant. A project of Michigan City Mainstreet Association, the local NAACP chapter, Lubeznik Center for the Arts and Unity Foundation of LaPorte County, it celebrated the noted 19th century African-American suffragist, civil rights activist and writer from Michigan City. Through the project, a large narrative sculpture created by noted artist Bernard Williams was unveiled in March 2024 at Charles R. Westcott Park.

"I think it's one of the coolest programs Michigan City has ever done," Kohn said. "Being on the fringe of that was really exciting."

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When deciding which programs are best for the library, Kohn asks herself, "Would the community benefit from this?"

With Michigan City being relatively near PNW, Valparaiso University and The University of Notre Dame, there are a "hotbed" of authors and people who present programs to libraries, she said.

"We are unique in that we are so close to Chicago, which has supported us and helped us get programming," she said. "We're so close to many different avenues of possibilities."

On average, the library offers 10 regular adult programs each month, representatives for many having reached out to her first.

"Usually," she explained, "they walk in the front door and offer to me to have their programs here."

Over the years, Kohn has seen changes in her position and its responsibilities.

"I think our program stands out here. We really are a cultural center and community center," she said. "There's been a shift with libraries...It's not as much what you can check out at the library, but what you can do at the library."

Another program Kohn mentions is Great Decisions, a non-partisan foreign-policy discussion program that runs twice monthly February-May. Sponsored by the Foreign Policy Association, reading materials are provided for free.

"This has taught me a lot – the ins and outs of foreign policy in this country," Kohn said. "It never really occurred to me before, we are more focused on domestic policy. Foreign policy is very important and affects us in ways that we don't realize. It's very complex. Climate change is a big discussion – what countries are doing. We discuss NATO a lot."

She said there's a following of about 10-15 indi-

viduals who regularly attend.

Perhaps Kohn will miss the work she does outside the library's walls just as well.

"I love meeting people in the community. I call it my perks – going to the mix-and-mingle events," she said. "I used to go to schools and read to students."

Kohn has fond memories of visiting groups in the community, speaking to organizations such as the local Rotary or Kiwanis clubs.

"I love going out in the community and talking about Michigan City Public Library," she said. "I love this building. I think it's amazing."

The library opened in 1897, and an annual birthday celebration event always is fun, Kohn says. Construction on the current building began in 1976. It opened in June 1977.

"It's a part of the architecture of downtown," Kohn said. "Just the fact that Michigan City has a building designed by Helmut Jahn, who was considered one of the best architects in the world, by such a renowned architect, is a feather in our cap."

And, Kohn isn't the library's only fan: "Visitors tell me, 'We go all over the world, and this is one of the coolest libraries we've even seen.'"

Kohn brings her passion for Michigan City into her volunteer work. She's been a member of Michigan City Public Art Committee since its inception in 2013, serving three of those as its chair. The committee requires one mayoral appointment from the library, so that will be fulfilled by her replacement. In the future, though, she's not ruling out an at-large position filled by a community member.

"I've learned so much about art and community art," she said. "I think we've done so much for our community: murals, sculptures, some exciting events coming up. What they are doing is really important for the community."

Kohn was on the Junior Achievement of Northern Indiana/LaPorte County for about 15 years, and the



Robin Kohn is part of the trivia group The Educated Guessers. On March 1, they participated in a Michigan City High School baseball fundraiser at Disabled American Veterans Chapter 23, winning first place out of 22 teams. Pictured are (from left) Paul Brooks, Chad Schroll, Lora Brooks (front), Scott Kohn (back), Becky Martin (back), Robin (front), Dan Kohn and Brett Kohn. Provided photo.

board of Indiana Council on World Affairs (ICWA), which is the state chapter of the Foreign Policy Association. She was invited to participate because of the library's Great Discussions program.

Once retired, Kohn plans to continue her involvement with VITA, but as a volunteer. There are other organizations, such as Michigan City Historical Society, that she wants to join as well.

"I've lived in the Michigan City community all my life," she said. "I know a lot about the community and am eager to learn more."

Because "her hobby right now is my job," Kohn admits she doesn't have a lot of outside interests. She does make time for exercise and has enjoyed a weekly get-together on Saturdays with three friends. They call themselves "The Coffee Girls." She also enjoys participating with family and friends on a team called "The Educated Guessers" that participates in local trivia contests, many of which are fundraisers.

She looks forward to traveling more with her retired husband, Dan. The two already have plans to travel to Philadelphia, North Carolina and Tennessee this summer. She especially hopes to make it to Alaska, which she's always wanted to see.

"I don't have a 'bucket list,' but would love to go to Ireland," she said. "I found out I have some ancestry there through ancestry.com."

Hands down, it's people Kohn will miss the most,



Beginning during COVID, Robin (front right) has enjoyed a Saturday morning get-together with "The Coffee Girls": Dorothy Palmer (back right), Nancy Eaton (front left) and Kathy Weber (back right). Provided photo.

including her library family.

"We're one big family," she said. "I laugh every day here. We have so much fun. They are so much fun. Some people have been here 40-plus years – longer than me."

Kohn also will miss library patrons, some of whom have been stopping by her office to say goodbye and wish her well.

"I have such good friends that I've met here over the years," she said. "I love that part of my job – meeting people and them becoming friends."

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“Thunderbolts*” is a Return to Form for Marvel

by Andrew Tallackson

in
Theatres



“Thunderbolts*” is back-to-basics Marvel that succeeds *because* it’s back-to basics Marvel.

Maybe it’s me...but enough with the whole multiverse plot. Characters leaping through timelines, repairing timelines, altering timelines. Seriously, Marvel has milked that cow dry.

“Thunderbolts*” wants to be a scrapper version of “The Avengers,” where B-list superheroes get their 15 minutes. It is not as inspired as James Gunn’s “Suicide Squad” (the 2021 DC reboot), which dared to be crude, but it does remind us why we fell in love with Marvel back when Tony Stark introduced us to Iron Man. It’s about defying what others expect.

Credit director Jake Schreier (2012’s little-seen gem “Robot & Frank”) and writers Eric Pearson and Joanna Calo for taking the right approach through a batch of relatively new faces.

Here, CIA director Valentina Allegra de Fontaine (Julia Louis-Dreyfus), facing threats of impeachment, decides to scrap loose ends and introduce a new superhero to wow Congress. And by loose ends, she means Yelena Belova (Florence Pugh), Bucky Barnes (Sebastian Stan), John Walker (Wyatt Russell), Antonia Dreykov (Olga Kurylenko) and Red Guardian (David Harbour). Her solution: dump them together and let them kill each other. Instead, they band together, largely through an unassuming guy named Bob, played by Lewis Pullman (“Lessons in Chemistry”) with the air of a wounded puppy.

We think we have “Thunderbolts*” figured out. We’ll get plenty of odd-couple “banter” before everyone gets their act together to defeat Valentina. That *is* what we get. But the journey there contains wel-



“Thunderbolts*”

Running time: 126 minutes. In theaters. Rated PG-13 for strong violence, language, thematic elements and some suggestive and drug references.

come detours.

Schreier, as director, is not concerned with wall-to-wall action and effects. He’s more interested in spending time with these characters. I especially appreciate the performances by Louis-Dreyfus and Pugh. Valentina, for all intents and purposes, is the villain, but Louis-Dreyfus never plays her as such. Instead, she proceeds with brisk snark, as if she’s still on “Seinfeld.” Pugh still enjoys Yelena as a character, figuring out where she wants to take her. She has instant likability. She’s more grounded than any other Marvel character.

By the time “Thunderbolts*” arrives at the big finish, huge objects drop from the sky, terrified masses fleeing below. We’ve seen this before. But Schreier pulls back, reins in the effects. Instead, the movie becomes a metaphor for how trauma and mental illness can be exploited to ill effect. Schreier creates a visually intriguing journey through a mental landscape of anguish, loneliness and, in the end, hope. The payoff to “Thunderbolts*” isn’t in-your-face action, but healing.

Many people are writing Marvel off, that the glory days are over. Not true. “Thunderbolts*” is proof.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com



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Pianist Headlines Chamber Music Fundraiser Preview

Pianist and educator Jasmin Arakawa will headline the annual "Special Afternoon," a prelude to Michigan City Chamber Music Festival, from 3-5 p.m. Sunday, May 18, at Barbara Bankoff's Edgewood home.

The fundraiser, now in its 10th year, supports MCCMF and includes heavy hors d'oeuvres, refreshments and dessert.

Arakawa will be joined by violinist and festival co-founder Nic Orbovich. Arakawa, chair of the University of Florida Piano Department, has performed in South America, Europe, her native Japan and throughout America, where she has appeared at Carnegie Hall. She also is the director of the University of Florida International Piano Competition.

"The chamber festival audiences here are floored by both her power and grace in contemporary and classical works," Orbovich said in a press release.

Tickets are \$100. Contact Mary Geiseman at (312) 560-5733 or maryg1000@comcast.net. Due to limited seating, RSVPs are required by May 13.


This year's festival is Aug. 9-17. Visit www.mccmf.org or MCCMF on Facebook and YouTube for additional information.



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Registration Under Way for Lubeznik Summer Offerings

Registration has begun for summer art classes, workshops and camps for children, teens and adults at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St.

Adult classes include: Abstract Painting I & II; Expressions with Mixed Media; Sandcastle Writers; and Gardens in Contemporary Art. Youth classes include: Beaches & Brushes; Figure Drawing; Teen Fashion Design; and the new Tiny Tunes. Designed for young children and their parent or guardian, Tiny Tunes provides a sensory-rich environment to explore music, movement and social interaction.

The four new workshops for all ages are: Gouache Abstract Landscapes; Strange Animals: A Prose Poem; Live Figure Drawing; and Botanical Illustrations. Open to ages 16 and older, Botanical Illustrations has teens and adults creating detailed drawings inspired by real plant

specimens. Using observational techniques and guided sketches, participants will work in watercolors.

Summer art camps for ages 7-14 include: Fashion Week; Campers in Neverland; and Mythical Monsters.

LCA members receive 10 percent off all classes, workshops and camps. Visit www.LubeznikCenter.org/Membership for more details. Full class descriptions and registration are available at www.LubeznikCenter.org/Learning or by calling (219) 874-4900.

In addition, LCA's Teen Arts Council for teens ages 13-18 meets from 4:30-6 p.m. June 26 and July 24. Free to all teens, register by emailing Nelsy Marcano at nmarcano@lubeznikcenter.org

Scholarships for children and adults are available for all classes, workshops and camps thanks to support from LCA's Dolly Fund. Visit www.LubeznikCenter.org/Scholarships for details.



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Dash for the Dunes

Race registration is under way for Save the Dunes' annual Dunes Dash fundraiser, a 5K Run/Walk and Kids Fun Run, on Saturday, May 31, at West Beach.

All funds raised support Save the Dunes' mission to enhance and protect the biodiversity of natural spaces. This year's sponsors are Cleveland Cliffs, Northwest Indiana Green Drinks, Michigan City Sustainability Commission, Castle Subaru and WIMS Radio.

Register at <https://shorturl.at/QcZVX>. An Indiana Dunes National Park pass is required to enter the parking lot. One can be purchased at the gate, in advance on the registration page or at the office, 444 Barker Road.

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Basketball Hall of Fame

LaPorte County residents Megan Boguslawski and Matt Werner are the latest Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame honorees.

Boguslawski, LaPorte, is the first woman from LaPorte County inducted into the hall of fame. An Elston High School graduate, she scored 1,088 points as an Elston Red Devil, grabbing nearly 1,000 rebounds and winning three sectional titles. She then played at Western Michigan University, where she set the school record for career field goal accuracy (.596) and was named first-team all-Mid-American Conference in 1996.

Werner, Union Mills, received the President's Distinguished Service Award for his work on the hall of fame's new display dedicated to the history of girls basketball. His research and knowledge helped the hall of fame present new history to the public. He has written five books that cover local history, including Season of Upsets, The Patch Players and Dispatches from a Northern Hoosier.

New Buffalo Township Library

- **Mother's Day Story Time.** The program is at 10 a.m. Monday, May 12.
- **Harbor Country Film Group with Eve Moran.** The program is at 6 p.m. Monday, May 12.
- **The Spring Sky with Mike Latus.** The program is at 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 13.

Weekly programs

- Story Time at 10 a.m. Mondays.
- Read to a Dog Sessions for all ages from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesday and 4-4:45 p.m. Wednesday.
- Pajama Story Time at 6 p.m. Tuesdays.
- Craft Time from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Wednesdays while supplies last.
- Teen Maker Space from 3:30-7:30 p.m. Thursdays.
- Chess Club from 4-6 p.m. Thursdays.
- Spanish Story Time at 10 a.m. Fridays.
- Essentrics Exercise for Seniors (gentle) at 10 a.m. Fridays. The intermediate program is at 11 a.m. *No programs are planned May 9 and 16.*
- Lego Club from 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Saturdays.

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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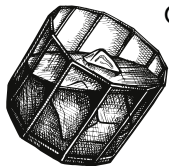
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MACU Scholarship Winners

Members Advantage Credit Union has announced the winners of its annual Leona Bruno and Gail Walker Memorial scholarships.

Winning the Leona Bruno Scholarship is Ryan Lipsett, Westville High School, who will attend Indiana University Indianapolis to pursue a degree in dental hygiene. She was chosen for her strong academic record, having completed multiple advanced placement and honors courses, as well as active involvement in extracurricular activities.



Lipsett

Winning the Gail Walker Memorial Scholarship is Emeline Attar, Michigan City High School, who will attend Purdue University Northwest this fall to study zoology and animation. She was chosen for her work ethic and involvement in after-school activities, including Japanese Club, choir, National Honor Society and E-Sports.



Attar

The scholarships were open to high school seniors and students in their first or second year of college.

Art Barn School of Art

A "Barrel-Fired Ceramic Workshop" for individuals 18 and older is from noon-4 p.m. Saturday, May 10, at Valparaiso's Art Barn School of Art, 695 N. County Road 400 East.

Barrel firing is an alternative ceramics technique similar to pit firing. It is a low-temperature decorative process that does not fully seal the clay, so it should not be used for dinnerware or vessels that hold liquids.

Workshop participants will learn how to prepare bisqueware with Terra siglatta, explore the use of organic materials and oxides, and the use of foil and clay saggars to create localized reduction. The firing process lasts three to four hours, but the work must cool overnight. Finished work can be picked up the week after the workshop.

Participants can take up to three pieces of bisqueware for firing (no more than 8" tall)

Call (219) 462-9009 or visit www.artbarnschool.org for more details.

Free Mother's Day Entry at FBG

Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12, will offer free admission to mothers on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 11.

The welcome cabin will offer teacups for potting succulent plants free to the first 25 moms, then \$10 per teacup afterward. Free carnations will be offered. FBG hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday.

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“The World Will Tremble” is a Shattering Tribute to Hope and Courage

by Andrew Tallackson

On
Demand



Oliver Jackson-Cohen (left) and Jeremy Neumark Jones star as two men who escape the Chelmno extermination camp in “The World Will Tremble.”

“The Zone of Interest” (2023), despite its Oscar wins, struck me more as a technical achievement than anything else.

The puzzle it introduced was, how can people live next to unspeakable horrors, yet go about their lives? Told in an entirely experimental approach, there was no clearly defined beginning, middle or end. Instead, we witnessed the Auschwitz commandant and his family, living directly outside the Nazi death camp, engaged in daily rituals — cooking, farming, playing — all while the sound design allowed a chorus of screams and gunfire to pierce the air. As a sensory experience, there were times when waves of nausea roiled through me. But the cumulative effect rang hollow. What were we supposed to make of these people? That monsters, despite their actions, are human beings, too?

“The World Will Tremble,” by comparison, is square, old-fashioned storytelling...yet it affected me more than “The Zone of Interest.” Israeli-American writer-director Lior Geller, in researching the Chelmno extermination camp for 10 years, proves there are still pockets of history within the Holocaust that warrant telling. His film is accurate, compact, powerful storytelling. The experience is exhausting.

Geller tells the true story of Solomon Wiener



“The World Will Tremble”

Running time: 109 minutes. View on Demand. Not Rated, but containing disturbing thematic content.

(Oliver Jackson-Cohen) and Michael Podchlebnik (Jeremy Neumark Jones), who escaped the Chelmno camp — cited as the first known extermination camp — providing the first eyewitness account of the atrocities committed there.

The movie opens in January 1942 as Solomon and Michael are part of the camp’s work detail, burying the remains of those perishing there. This is before gas chambers become an integral part of Nazi death camps. What we see, and what I’ve never seen depicted on screen before, is how Jews are herded into trucks and gassed *on the way* to mass graves. With Solomon, Michael and their crew forced to trail behind the trucks on foot, we do not see the individuals inside the trucks. We *hear* them: the fear, the cries for help...then the unearthly stillness. That scene devours whole the entire 1-hour, 45-minute experience of “The Zone of Interest.” Unbearable and horrifying as it recreates the crushing sense of feeling powerless for Michael and Solomon.

It is then that these two speak of escape. To let

the world know what is happening. Conversations with the crew linger on unavoidable truths: that escape is rarely successful; worse, those who remain are punished by death as conspirators. But as someone within the group argues, "We must stop being afraid if we want to live." Geller, in a scene of tremendous power, shows Michael and Solomon as they create a list, each crew member offering not only their names, but the names of loved ones who died at the camp, the idea being, if the two reach safety, their lives are not forgotten.

How Michael and Solomon escape from a moving truck, I will not reveal. Suffice it to say, the act reflects solidarity within the crew. It's interesting, too, how Geller stages the ensuing rush on foot through the forest. The score by Erez Koskas feels like it's pulling, reaching, brilliantly underscoring the sense that these two men are inching toward something greater. The effect is galvanizing.

From there, Geller does not treat Michael and Solomon's journey as an adventure. Doing so would chip away at the harrowing authenticity of the death camp scenes. Instead, Geller relies on silence for tension. Looks from people who might be Nazi sympathizers or unexpected allies. The approach is far more effective than transforming Solomon and Michael into men of supernatural wits and strength.

Jackson-Cohen, in particular, does his best work. After years of exploiting toxic masculinity on film



David Kross is chilling as a Nazi commandant.

("The Invisible Man") and TV ("Surface," pick your Mike Flanagan series), the actor creates a soul hollowed out by inhumanity. A bag of bones whose eyes blaze with fear, anger and courage.

Courage, indeed, is what you take away from "The World Will Tremble." Geller allows for a happy ending, but with tragic footnotes. As the end credits roll, we hear the first BBC broadcast airing the reports of Nazi death camp atrocities...and we are overwhelmed. We know how the BBC came about its information. Jews who refused to stay put and stay silent. We are humbled into admiration for them.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com



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Awesome Young Talent

The winners of Monday Musicales's 2025 Student Awards Competition were honored during an April 27 concert at Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Students in grades 4-12 performed their qualifying selections and received certificates, ribbons, engraved plaques and scholarships totaling \$3,300. A group photo of the students is on Page 22. All photos by Bob Wellinski.



Continued on Page 22



Pictured are:

Front Row (from left):

- Samuel Burden – Junior Division Piano, Junior Division Instrumental (Clarinet) and Joy Carson Memorial Award.
- Vocalist Eleanor Crane – Past Presidents' Award.
- Vocalist Theodora Karst – Mildred Bowman Memorial Award.
- Vocalist Ireland White – Junior Division Musical Theater.
- Flutist Mya Moore – George Maslankowski Memorial Award.

- Vocalist Kairah Ohime – Dr. LaTourette Stockwell Memorial Scholarship.

- Selah Branco – Junior Division Voice.

The back row (from left):

- Pianist Elizabeth Giuliani – First Congregational Church Award.
- Vocalist Katelyn Ast – Monday Musicale Award.
- Flutist Mazy Redhead – Marilyn Whiten Memorial Award.
- Pianist Maren Rishaug – Organ Lesson Grant and Joy Carson Memorial Award.



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All About: Bees

The program is from 5-6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 14, at Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte.

Learn about what makes bees unique and how to help them thrive, then either make a craft and read a story with a ranger, or take a hike with a chief naturalist.

Nature's Tiny Tots

Designed for parents and grandparents, explore nature with toddlers and preschoolers. Enjoy music, dancing, storytelling and, weather permitting, hiking. The free program is from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 27, at Luhr County Park.

A Brush with Madness

The all-ages program is from 5-7 p.m. Wednesday, May 28, at Luhr County Park.

Participants follow easy painting directions, with all supplies provided. No experience is necessary. The cost is \$8 per person.

Drum Fit

The all-ages exercise program with music is from 10-11 a.m. Thursday, May 29, at Luhr County Park.

Drum on yoga balls to the beat of the music. Instruction, drum sticks and yoga balls are provided.

Animals on the Loose

The program at all county parks runs through May 31. Follow picture clues on the parks' Facebook page to find the animals, then post a selfie with each one on the event page for a chance to win a prize.

Chesterton Art Center

"Material Truths: Heidi Bailey + Liz Roetzel" is on display through May 31, with a Third Friday reception from 4-7 p.m. May 16.

Bailey and Roetzel use assemblage and collage to explore craft and décor, reframing materials traditionally associated with "women's work." Both transform and layer materials into conceptual pieces that examine connections to memory, nature and one another.

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

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Inspired Action in “Havoc” Gets Overwhelmed By Extreme Carnage

by Andrew Tallackson



Mayoral candidate Lawrence Beaumont (Forest Whitaker, right) pressures Patrick Walker (Tom Hardy) to sneak his son out of the city in “Havoc.”

“Havoc” is the most aptly titled movie of the year. It’s like Quentin Tarantino hijacked a “John Wick” sequel. The violence is so bonkers, so persistently extreme, any hint of reality is obliterated.

Does that mean the new No. 1 Netflix film is solid? It ain’t dull, that’s for sure. Writer-director Gareth Evans (“The Raid” franchise, AMC’s “Gangs of London”) gets so juiced up choreographing a fight sequence, it is like a ballet...if the ballet dancers were slathered in bloodsoaked mayhem.

My wife calls flicks like this “boy movies.” Short on logic, heavy on guns and gunplay, not to mention car chases, explosions and slow-motion combat. “Havoc” has all the subtlety of a road crew blasting through concrete...but Evans is so relentless, and individual moments so choice in their payoffs, you’re hooked despite hating yourself for it.

This is one of those crime thrillers where the characters all ditched their moral compass decades ago. Everyone has blood on their hands, even the guy who’s technically the hero: homicide detective Patrick Walker (Tom Hardy). He’s in cahoots with crooked real-estate tycoon/mayoral candidate Lawrence Beaumont (Oscar-winner Forest Whitaker). Patrick, having helped Lawrence dodge a corruption arrest, now has to bail out Lawrence’s son, Charlie (Justin Cornwell). Charlie has the misfortune of be-

★ ★ 1/2

“Havoc”

Running time: 107 minutes. Netflix. Rated TV-MA
for strong violent content and language.

ing at a Chinese Mafia hideout when assailants arrive with guns blazing. Charlie escapes, but with everyone placing the blame on him for the attack. So, Lawrence wants more favor from Patrick: sneak Charlie out of the city.

Hardy (the “Venom” franchise), as an actor, fascinates me. He’s a Brit who plays American lowlifes better than most Americans. You never get the sense you’re watching a British actor inhabit an American role. More, like he popped out of the womb branded by doctors as instant American scum.

In “Havoc,” Patrick’s only redeeming quality is his 11th hour stab at redeeming himself. What Hardy brings to the role, in his own bulldog way, is a commendable drive to commit one honorable act before the past catches up with him.

There are some clever twists elsewhere. The head of the Chinese Mafia is a woman (Yeo Yann Yann, dynamite). When Timothy Olyphant turns up as Patrick’s colleague, you know he’s up to no good.



Jessie Mei Li (Netflix's "Shadow and Bone"), seen here with Tom Hardy, is the sole bright spot of "Havoc."

Save for "Deadwood" and "Santa Clarita Diet," this guy is the acting poster child for slimy creeps.

To his credit, Evans, as a director, knows how to stage killer action. The violence gives you a rush, frequently staged with kinetic fury. My favorite is in stalled traffic as an assassin leaps from a motorcycle and takes out most of Lawrence's bodyguards. You laugh out of shock, then marvel at how tightly executed the sequence is.

Movies like this, though, where several parties enter the chaos, have a way of losing you. Because character is not the main emphasis, it's tough to recall who is who, who is with which group, who can be trusted. Characters exist not because they are essential to the plot, but so they can either be sprayed with bullets or hacked to pieces.

Evans, as in the "John Wick" pictures, has his characters rely on whatever is around them to defend themselves. Because of that, the gore turns extreme, with every rusty, sharp object known to man finding its way into every orifice of the human body.

By that point, though, "Havoc" has lost its mind entirely. The saving grace is Jessie Mei Li, of Netflix's wrongly canceled "Shadow and Bone," as Patrick's partner, and the only individual with a legit notion of right and wrong.

She's wonderful. The rest of the movie? Nuts.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com

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Hidden Detroit

Growing up on Chicago's South Side, I thought of Detroit merely as the provider of my home teams' rivals: the Red Wings in hockey, baseball's Tigers and the roaring Lions of football fame. I always, always wanted my Blackhawks to check the Red Wings into the boards, the White Sox to outthit the Tigers and the Bears to gobble up the Lions when they met Thanksgiving Day for the best football game of the season.

We had no family or friends in Detroit, so we never went there. The Motor City was just another industrial Midwestern city where they made our cars and produced some amazing sports teams. Oh, did I forget to mention the NBA's Pistons that I never, ever want to see outshoot my Bulls?

So Detroit pretty much came to us.

That was until my first visit to Motown in November 1967. I flew there for a big-deal Boy Scout dinner honoring my so-called "Host Corps" troop from the World Jamboree 1967 in Idaho.

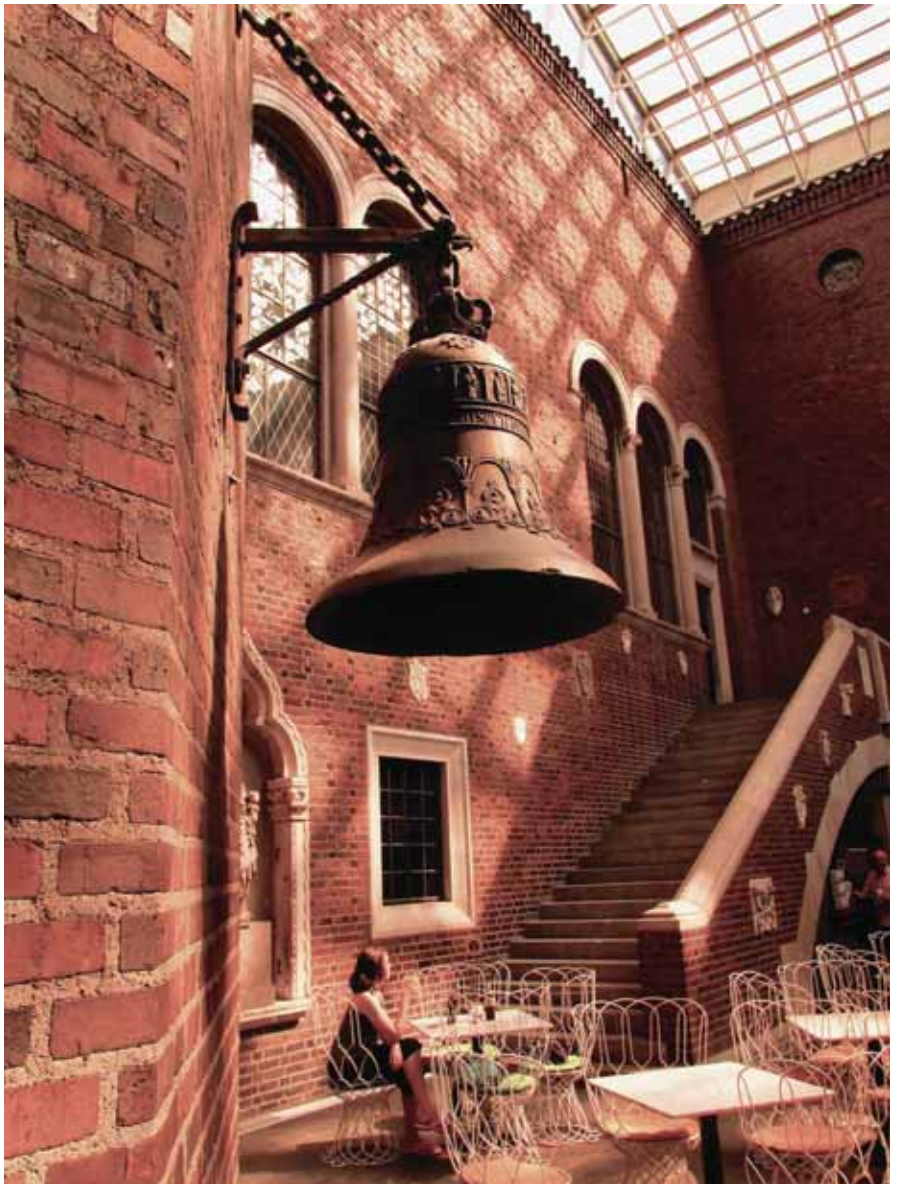
(We were Scouts from Michigan, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin selected by our various home councils to host troops from abroad at the jamboree. Because of my passing knowledge of German, I got the nod to host a troop from what was then West Germany. Some of them spoke little or no English, so I had to step up my game, thus learning *viel Deutsch* in the process.)

So it was great getting back together with my Host Corps comrades in The Motor City, but we didn't get a chance to see any of Detroit itself because the police basically confined us to quarters, stressing that the mean streets of 1967 Detroit were simply too dangerous for a troop of energetic teenagers. Oh well. We did peer out from our hotel and guessed from what we could see that the streets were not so mean after all.

I did not return to Detroit until 1975, when a friend and I went for a weekend visit to the Detroit area. We stayed with friends in Dearborn and got a deluxe tour of the whole shebang, including a drive over the Ambassador Bridge to Windsor, Canada, where we found way more nightlife than we had just seen in downtown Detroit. What we had seen in Detroit, in fact, were police cruisers with two or more officers tricked out for, well, combat. Yes, to our eyes, downtown Detroit was devoid of people and illuminated with eerie orange lights, the kind used to eliminate shade and shadows. A high crime area, in

Life With Charley

Charles McKelvy



Why travel to Italy when you can dine at Detroit Institute of Arts' Kresge Court?

other words, and one where we dared not linger.

So far, so bad.

Detroit, in my mind, was living up to its dismal reputation from its various disturbances of the 1960s.

A good place to avoid at all costs.

But then Natalie and I moved to Michigan in 1987, and although Detroit was all the way across the state, we looked east and began planning day

trips to Motown. We had been hearing glowing reports about Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA), so we wanted to see for ourselves if it truly was on a par with our beloved Art Institute in Chicago. The DIA, so you know, is located at the heart of Detroit's cultural corridor at 5200 Woodward Ave., and easily accessible from Interstate 94.

(Visit <https://dia.org> before you visit.)

We figured that out years ago, and thus launched ourselves on a day trip to DIA from Harbert, Mich.

Expecting to find some so-so collection of second-class art, we were immediately blown away by their in-depth collection of African, African-American, European, Islamic, Indigenous American and just generally amazing art. We found, on our first visit, a self-portrait by Vincent Van Gogh. That was at a time DIA was struggling to keep its doors open and, to our shock and horror, a visitor actually touched the painting with her fingernails.

"That's a lot of paint," she said to the child she held in her arms.

I cleared my throat and suggested such a priceless masterpiece was best enjoyed from a safe distance. Thankfully, she heeded my suggestion and backed away from poor Vincent's visage in oil on board.

We loved everything we saw that first visit, but we were absolutely determined to come back

for much more after we climbed to Level 2 in the central wing and stepped into the Detroit Industry Murals by Diego M. Rivera. When I say "stepped into," I mean exactly that, because the Mexican muralist spent a good part of 1932 and 1933 festooning the walls of the great hall with his impressions of American industry, as presented at Ford Motor Co.'s massive Rouge complex. An avowed socialist, Rivera presented the workers as heroes of the modern age. Not so much the capitalists who owned and managed the plant. Rivera's work was controversial from the start, and strong voices demanded that it be scrubbed from the walls. But cooler heads prevailed, and the Detroit Industrial Murals have been designated a National Historic Landmark, with a 2014 plaque to prove it.

And then, as we longed to get off our feet and take

a seat with some tea and cookies, we retreated to Kresge Court, which for all the world, appears to be an Italian Renaissance courtyard fit for the Medicis and McKelvys.

Well, we sure fit right in, and immediately began figuring out when we could return to Detroit to discover its other hidden treasures.

That was way back in 1987 after we first moved to Michigan. We have returned to Detroit countless times, both by car and train. We went with a friend in 2016 for a two-night stay. Our learned friend took us on a two-day tour of the Detroit area, focusing



A ballpark with a view: Comerica Park in downtown Detroit. Home of the Tigers.

on off-the-beaten-path neighborhoods, and architectural gems such as buildings named Ford, Fischer, Penobscot and Guardian. We had a tasty luncheon at an eatery in the Eastern Market district, traveled to the Middle East for a feast in Dearborn and found a funky bagel place not far from Cork Town.

So much to discover and delight in, over there in Detroit. We know the way, and we will return soon enough for more, especially at Comerica Park where the Tigers play some serious baseball in a ballpark with a dramatic view of the Detroit skyline.

Please join us to make your own delightful discoveries. But don't take our word for it; check out Tripadvisor at www.tripadvisor.com and consider its list of the 15 best things to do in Detroit. You know how to head east on I-94, so what are you waiting for?

High School Students Attend Leadership Program



The latest Leadership LaPorte County group to participate in the high school program.

Leadership LaPorte County recently held its annual high school leadership program for students.

Each school nominated five students for the program held over four full-day sessions. Schools included: LaPorte, La Lumiere, Marquette Catholic, Michigan City, New Prairie, South Central, Tri-Township and Westville. The program was at no cost to schools, parents or students thanks to a Unity Foundation of LaPorte County community grant.

Leading the program were Executive Director Monica Komaskinski and Youth Coordinator Delaney Scheller. Board President Terry Greetham, Michigan City Special Events director, played a volunteer role at each session and was joined by several other board members throughout the sessions.

Students also heard from community leaders such as Harrison Holtkamp, director of Nest Community Shelter, and Lisa Pierzakowski of Center Township Food Pantry, both of whom shared stories of serving under-resourced individuals here. Students also heard from Sgt. Kyle Shiparski, the LaPorte County Drug Task Force commander.

During the final session, a panel of young professionals shared their leadership journey and advice: Erik Nelson, LEAP Workforce Development coordi-

ator; Caitlyn Kalisik, City of LaPorte Police Department social worker; and Eric Williams, Michigan City assistant director of Special Events.

J.B. Glossinger, a local author, entrepreneur and creator of the "Morning Coach" podcast, provided the keynote program.

Student leaders assisting with this year's program were: Malachi Washington (LaPorte); Mark Wert (Westville); Lupita Osornio (Tri Township); Christian Lake (La Lumiere); Enrico Ortega Chick (Marquette); and Alyssa Workman (Michigan City). Students engaged in hands-on activities designed to strengthen leadership skills, including communication, problem-solving, team building, collaboration and decision-making. They also completed community service projects.

As the session ended, students set goals to pursue over the next year. Student leaders selected by their peers to assist with next year's program include: Jack Vanderveen (La Lumiere); Natalie McGhee (LaPorte); Olivia Hazzard (Marquette); Camden Hernandez and Loreli Perez (Michigan City); Alia Nix (New Prairie); Grace Shukitis (South Central); Jewlee Pryor (Tri Township); and Wyatt Oberle (Westville)

An advertisement for Horizon Bank. On the left is a portrait of Robyn Graffenius, a woman with blonde hair wearing a green top. To the right of the portrait is the Horizon Bank logo, which includes the text 'HORIZON BANK' and 'Beyond ordinary banking'. Below the logo is the slogan 'Home sweet home starts here'. At the bottom, it lists 'Robyn Graffenius Mortgage Advisor' with contact information: 'NMLS# 877903' and '269-208-1760'. The Horizon Bank logo and slogan are repeated at the bottom right of the ad.

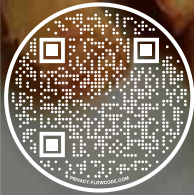
An advertisement for Jeanne Ann Cannon, LCSW. The top part features her name 'Jeanne Ann Cannon, LCSW' in a large, elegant script font, with 'Counseling, Coaching & Beyond' in a smaller, sans-serif font below it. At the bottom, it says 'It's time to lead the life you were meant to live!' followed by the phone number '219-878-0322', the website 'www.jeanneanncannon.com', and the email 'jeanneanncannon@comcast.net'.

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Dunes Spring Soiree

Dunes Arts Summer Theatre will host its donor's circle Spring Soiree from 4-7 p.m. CDT Saturday, May 17, at Alexander DeHilster and Michael Jevent's home.

The evening includes cocktails, appetizers and a performance from the "She Loves Me" cast.

To join the donor's circle, pay online, by check at the event or mail to Dunes Arts Foundation, P.O. Box 384, Michigan City, IN 46361. Reservations are required with the number of guests by May 15 to Elise Kermani at contact@dunesARTS.org

Visit www.dunesarts.org for details.

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Barker Mansion

- **Mother's Day Tea from 1-4 p.m. Saturday, May 10.** The program includes music, teas, finger sandwiches, pastries and scones. Tickets are \$50. Make reservations online.
- **The Mothers of the Mansion at noon Sunday, May 11.** The program honors women who shaped the Barker family's legacy. The cost either is \$20 and includes a self-guided tour, or \$25 and includes a guided mansion tour.

Barker Mansion is located at 631 Washington St. Visit www.barkermansion.org for more details.

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Dune Ecosystem Program

Jack Pizzo, principal of The Pizzo Group, will discuss "The Dune Ecosystem: Challenges, Opportunities & More" on Saturday, May 31, at Long Beach Public Safety Building, 2400 Oriole Trail.

The program is at 9 a.m., followed by stewardship from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Spots are limited, so register at WeRestoreNature.com

Pizzo will talk about how dune areas thrive, and how to tackle issues like phragmites invasions. The hands-on stewardship effort involves an invasive species-removal project.

Artisan Fair Vendors Sought

Organizers of the annual Spring Artisan Fair seek vendors for the event from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, June 7, at LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave.

The fair is the same day as the old tractor show. Interested vendors should contact Museum Director Danielle Adams at director@laportecountyhistory.org



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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:

- **Craft Swap Donation Drop Off! from 3-6 p.m. Thursday, May 8, in the Literacy Department.** Yarn, art supplies, beads, paper crafts and fabric in usable shape are accepted for the swap, which is from 1-5 p.m. Friday-Saturday, May 9-10. Contact Jessica at (219) 873-3043 for more details.
- **Duneland Stamp Club at 4 p.m. Thursday, May 8.** The club meets the second Thursday of each month. New members are invited.
- **Needle Arts Club to Warm Up America Joining Night from 5:30-7 p.m. Thursdays.** 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.
- **Genealogy Help with Pat Harris from 1-4 p.m. Tuesdays in May.** Harris can offer tips and

advice on how to research a family tree or find genealogical record

- **Creative Tech Activities (ages 6-17) from 3:30-5 p.m. Tuesdays.** Create with LEGO WeDo, Micro:bits, paper circuits, Ozobots and 3-D pens. Children 12 and younger must have a parent or guardian attend with them.
- **Cozy Time Puzzles and Coloring for Adults from 5-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 13.** Do a jigsaw puzzle or color while paired with relaxing audio.
- **Dungeons & Dragons (ages 13-17) from 4-6 p.m. Wednesday, May 14.** Supplies and characters are provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Email Miss Dana at dewolf@mclib.org for details.
- **May Scavenger Hunt.** Four "Bluey" characters are hidden in Youth Services. Children can win a 3-D printed prize.
- **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.
- **Learning Center volunteers needed for children and adults.** Areas include reading, math, high school equivalency and English as a Second Language. All supplies and training are provided. Volunteers are needed two hours a week. Contact Jessica Hoffmaster at (219) 873-3043 or stop by the Learning Center for more details.

Michigan City Public Library is located at 100 E. Fourth St. Visit www.mclib.org or call (219) 873-3049 for more details.



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"Art as Resistance"

The Resistance Artists of America will present "Art as Resistance," a pop-up exhibit by artists responding to the current political climate, from 3-6 p.m. Saturday, May 10, at Millennium Plaza in Washington Park.

Email artistjane11@gmail.com for more details.



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American Red Cross

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

- American Legion Skwiat Post 451, 121 Skwiat Legion Ave., 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, May 10.
- First Church of God, 2020 E. Lincolnway, LaPorte, noon-6 p.m. Monday, May 12.

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.

Spring Craft Bazaar

The annual Spring Craft Bazaar is from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Friday-Saturday, May 9-10, at Paladin Michigan City, 4315 E. Michigan Blvd.

All handcrafted artwork, crafts and treats are by artists from Paladin's programs for individuals with developmental disabilities. Half the proceeds go to the artist, the other half to sustain Paladin's art program.

Call (219) 874-4288 for more details.

Ellen Firme Gallery

Ellen Firme Gallery, 92 W. U.S. 12, Beverly Shores, will hold an opening reception for Art Garcia's abstract paintings and sculptures from 5-7 p.m. Friday, May 9.

The event coincides with the debut of the "5x5" exhibit at The Beverly Shores Depot.

CALL FOR ARTISTS!

Michiana Shores Park Boosters is seeking donations of original art to support the first Art For Parks' Sake fundraiser July 5, 2025!

We are looking for donations in any medium: fiber art, jewelry, sculpture, painting, with a maximum size of 48" tall or wide! Accepting donations from now through June 1, 2025, please contact Kathleen Flanagan at kflan11@comcast.net

ART



FOR PARKS' SAKE

All submitted artwork will be showcased at Dunes Summer Theater and featured in a silent auction, accompanied by live music, hors d'oeuvres and a selection of beverages for purchase as part of a special reception to honor and thank our generous local artists! All proceeds from silent auction will benefit our local parks and beaches within the community.

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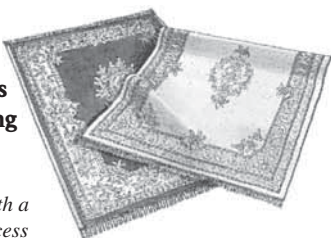


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In the Area

May 8 — Duneland Stamp Club, 4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

May 8 — All Things True Crime Book Club, 5:30-6:30 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

May 9 — Opening reception, Art Garcia's abstract paintings & sculptures, 5-7 p.m., Ellen Firme Gallery, 92 W. U.S. 12, Beverly Shores.

May 9 — The "5x5 Show & Sale" reception, 5-7 p.m., The Beverly Shores Depot Museum & Art Gallery, 525 S. Broadway. Show continues May 16-18 & 23-25. Info: www.bsdepot.com, (708) 256-8414.

May 9-10 — Spring Craft Bazaar, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Paladin Michigan City, 4315 E. Michigan Blvd. Info: (219) 874-4288.

May 9-10 — Craft Swap, 1-5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3043.

May 10 — Fairytale Tea Party, 10 a.m.-noon, LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

May 10 — Mother's Day Tea, 1-4 p.m., Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St. Tickets: \$50. Reservations: www.barkermansion.org

May 10 — Pop-up exhibit, "Art as Resistance," 3-6 p.m., Millennium Plaza, Washington Park. Info: artistjane11@gmail.com

May 10-11, 24-25 — "Uptown Artistry: Spring," 1-5 p.m., Artspace Uptown Artist Lofts, 717 Franklin St.

May 11 — Happy Mother's Day.

May 11 — The Mothers of the Mansion, noon, Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St. Cost: \$20/self-guided tour, \$25/guided tour. Reservations: www.barkermansion.org

May 12 — Tai Chi Easy for Health and Relaxation, 9:30-10:30 a.m./6-7 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

May 12 — Family Storytime, noon-12:30 p.m., Coolspring Branch Library, 6925 W. County Road 400 North/5-5:30 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

May 13 — Page Turners Book Club, noon-1 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

May 13 — Cozy Time Puzzles and Coloring for Adults, 5-7:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3043.

May 14 — Exploring Watercolors for Older Adults, 1-3 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

May 14 — Dungeons & Dragons (ages 13-17), 4-6 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: dwolf@mclib.org

May 14 — All About: Bees, 5-6:30 p.m., Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. Info: www.laportecountyparks.org, (219) 325-8315.

May 14 — Virtual Author Talk with Liann Zhang, 6-7 p.m., through LaPorte County Public Library. Registration: www.laportelibrary.org

Through June 15 — "Ordinary Wonders," Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. *Upcoming event:* Family Day/1-3 p.m. May 24. Info: (219) 874-4900, www.lubeznikcenter.org

Through June — Mosaic artist Gladys Cook, The Legacy Center Gallery at 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. Info: lucia@qas.org

Through October — Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12. Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tue.-Sun. Info: www.FriendshipBotanicGardens.org, (219) 878-9885.

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 Michigan City — Adult Children of Alcoholic and Family Dysfunction (ACA), 6 p.m., Trinity Episcopal Church, 600 Franklin St. Info: (219) 801-1296.

First Monday of the Month (February, April, June, August, October, December) — Cancer Support Group, 5-6 p.m., Franciscan Health Woodland Cancer Center Community Room, 8955 W. County Road 400 North, Michigan City. Info/registration: (219) 861-5820.

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

Tuesdays in May — Genealogy Help with Pat Harris, 1-4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Tuesdays — Creative Tech Activities (ages 6-17), 3:30-5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Tuesdays — Bingo, St. Stanislaus Kostka Catholic Church, 1506 Washington St. Doors open: 4 p.m. Bingo: 6 p.m. \$30 entrance fee (includes specials except Winner Takes All & Jackpot). Info:

(219) 336-3099.

Wednesdays — Al-Anon meeting for Friends/Family of Alcoholics, 6 p.m., Trinity Episcopal Church, 600 Franklin Square. Enter at Sixth Street Barker Hall side. Info: Candy at (708) 927-5287.

Thursdays — 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.

Fridays — Overeaters Anonymous, 9:30 a.m. Info: Jan at (219) 241-8757, Paula at (219) 588-3127, www.oa.org

Second Tuesday of the Month — Stroke Support Group for Survivors and Caregivers, 2 p.m., Mother Maria Theresia Room, Franciscan Health Michigan City, 3500 Franciscan Way. Info: Kelly Wise at Kelly.wise@franciscanalliance.org

In the Region

May 9 — Chicago Farmer & The Fieldnotes, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$25 + \$4.50 convenience fee, \$55 + \$4.50 convenience fee (reserved). Reservations: www.acornlive.org

May 10 — Project 1966: Hike Every Trail in the Park, 8-11 a.m., Great Marsh Trail trailhead, 1336 County Road 600 East, Beverly Shores. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

May 10 — Chellberg Farm Gardening, 9 a.m., Bailly Homestead/Chellberg Farm, 618 N. Mineral Springs Road, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

May 10 — Dunes Lion Safari, 10 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

May 10 — Art in the National Park, 1-3 p.m., Paul H. Douglas Center, 100 N. Lake St., Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Cost: \$25. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

May 10 — Amazing Amphibians, 2 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

May 10 — Martha Wainwright with Haley Blais, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$30 + \$5 convenience fee, \$60 + \$5 convenience fee (reserved). Reservations: www.acornlive.org

May 11 — Mother's Day Wildflower Hike, 9-11 a.m./1-3 p.m., Heron Rookery, County Road 600 East, Michigan City. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

May 11 — Crafts with Mom, 1-3 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

May 11 — Full Moon Hike, 8 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

May 12 — Mother's Day Story Time, 10 a.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933.

May 12 — Harbor Country Film Group with Eve

Moran, 6 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933.

May 13 — The Spring Sky with Mike Latus, 6 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933.

May 14 — New Buffalo Service League meeting, 6:30 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Yacht Club, 500 W. Water St. Buffet dinner: \$25. Info: email: nbpinkladies@msn.com

Through May 31 — "Material Truths: Heidi Bailey + Liz Roetzel," Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. *Third Friday reception:* 4-7 p.m. May 16. Info: (219) 926-4711, www.chestertonart.org

Through June 5 — 31st annual juried art exhibit, Valparaiso's Art Barn School of Art, 695 N. County Road 400 East. Info: (219) 462-9009, www.artbarnschool.org

Through June 6 — Area Artists Association's 45th anniversary exhibit, Marshall J. Gardner Center for the Arts, 540 S. Lake St., Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: www.areaartistsassociation.org

Through July 27 — "Generation to Generation: Conversing with Kindred Technologies," Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Info: www.krasl.org, 269) 983-0271.

Through Aug. 10 — "Lifting the Roof: The World of Dollhouses," South Bend's The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St. Museum hours (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: www.historymuseumSB.org, (574) 235-9664, Ext. 6256.

Through October — New Buffalo Railroad Museum, 530 S. Whittaker St. Hours (Eastern): noon-5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. Info: (269) 820-1504, (202) 669-4423, ask@new-buffalo-railroad-museum.org

Through October — The Region of Three Oaks Museum, 5 Featherbone Ave. Hours: noon-5 p.m. EDT Fri.-Sun.

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 May — Chellberg Farm Open House, 1-3 p.m., Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12/20, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Saturdays in Chesterton through October — Chesterton European Market, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., 220 Broadway, Chesterton. Info: tinyurl.com/3wvav7pw

Vickers Theatre — *Now Showing:* "Grumpy Old Men." Rated PG-13. Time: 7 p.m. May 8. *Also:* "When Fall Is Coming." Not Rated. Times: 7 p.m. May 9, 4 p.m. May 10, 1 p.m. May 11, 7 p.m. May 13. *Also:* "The Penguin Lessons." Rated PG-13. Times: 4 p.m. May 9, 7 p.m. May 10, 4 p.m. May 11. All times Eastern. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

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The Oligarch's Daughter by Joseph Finder
(hardcover \$30; also available as an eBook or audiobook. 436 pages.)

"Until that day, Grant had never killed anyone."

So starts this part-love/part-spy/part-political thriller. Is anyone here who they say they are? You have to get to the very last page to find out. But don't peek!

Starting out in the present, you meet Grant Anderson, boatbuilder in Derryfield, a small New Hampshire town. His girlfriend, Sarah, is a teacher at the elementary school. Would she be surprised to learn Grant Anderson is not his real name?

One morning, Capt. Lyle asks Grant to take a tourist on a fishing trip since he doesn't feel well.

Grant figures he owed the man a favor, so the next morning, he meets Frederick Newman and the pair head out. So far, so good. It doesn't take long before Newman (is that his real name?) says, "You must have known this day would come, Paul." Paul?! Grant/Paul asks if Berzin sent him. Who's that? Sounds Russian to me.

He calls Grant Paul Brightman. Soon, a fight ensues. Grant/Paul gets lucky and kills the man — by accident, actually — dumping the body overboard. Then, he pukes. No lie, he really hasn't killed anyone before...

Grant/Paul knows it's time to move on — quickly — and soon grabs his to-go bag, but not before he calls Sarah and tells her to leave town for awhile. Someone will come after her, too. Sarah has questions, but hears the fear in his voice, that he doesn't have time for answers.

Grant/Paul races off into the forest as the story fades back six years.

Grant's real name is Paul Brightman. He was a hedge fund manager on Wall Street. He's made for the job: great instincts, a top researcher for whether an investment is good or not.

At a gala one night, he meets a beautiful waitress. At least, he thinks she is. He is embarrassed to learn her name is Tatyana and the daughter of a Russian oligarch, Arkady Galkin. A more-than filthy rich Russian oligarch. However, Tatyana lives in the East Village in a simple apartment, trying to make a living by selling her photographs of interesting people on the streets of New York. She tells Paul she doesn't really care for her father's over-the-top, extravagant lifestyle. Yup, he's in love — and soon the pair are talking marriage. Galkin offers Paul a job with his investment company, AGF Limited, af-

Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter



ter Paul's present company goes under...isn't that a little too convenient? His job will be portfolio manager for U.S. equities.

Wedding plans are in the air: caterers, champagne, open bar, flowers, dresses, even who will provide entertainment: Beyonce or The Rolling Stones? The affair is not to be planned by Tatyana and Paul, but by Galkin and his second-wife, Polina.

Galkin even will renovate the apartment they pick out. Paul is not happy, but Tatyana seems OK with it. After all, she reminds Paul that she is still daddy's little girl. He should have realized at the time that was a red flag.

Things at the office begin to look very shady. Paul is given money to buy controlling interest in a deal he knows is not a good investment, but Galkin makes it clear he will not question his decisions. Then one day, Paul learns another employee has committed suicide. Seems it was a drug overdose. Problem with that — the man was a strict Mormon who didn't even drink alcohol. Is this the price for working for Galkin when you make a mistake?

Now, you keep reading, waiting for the other shoe to fall. It's a situation made for disaster — Russian oligarch's beautiful daughter meets American hedge-fund manager. He

also meets FBI and CIA agents. What do they want from him? It's a lot like Churchill's description of Russia: *It is a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma*. What the Americans want from him is something more valuable than money. It's a whole lot more than just what meets the eye.

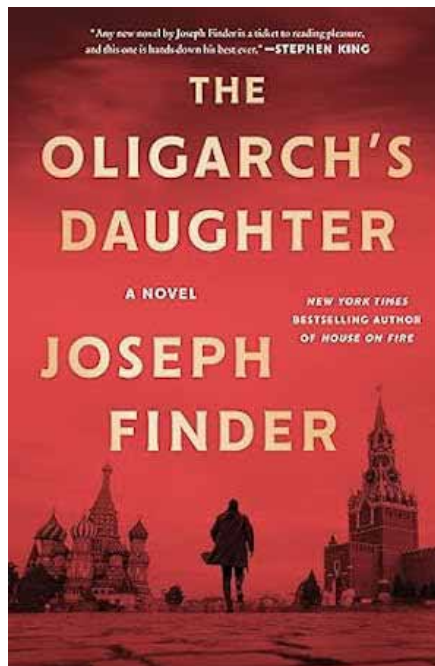
Any mistakes Paul makes could end his future with Tatyana, even his life.

As time alternates between past and present, you see the layering of events that can complicate or break a man's life. Will Tatyana's love for Paul override her love for her father? Paul is sure his love for her and her love for him can overcome any obstacle.

Foolish man...

The final word: If you're looking for an intelligent read, short chapters that always leave you in suspense and a plot that emphasizes it's almost impossible to disappear in today's climate, then this is the book for you. It may start out slow, but before long, you realize Finder is setting up a fascinating story of how things can go horribly wrong in a relatively short time.

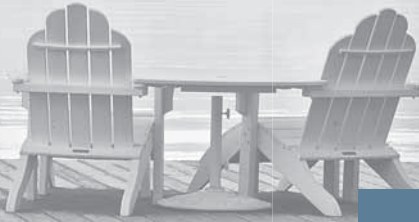
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