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Why We Need Art Fairs — Now More Than Ever

by Linda Weigel

Picasso once said, “Inspiration does exist but it must find you working.”

That statement is rather profound, crossing barriers no matter what career it is. Visual artists, in particular, combine that sense of inspiration with thousands of hours of practice, of honing skills, then marketing them to an audience that may or may not truly perceive the depth of commitment and skill to produce a single piece of art.

Regardless, creating art is just the beginning.

Professional artists also are business people, and certainly those who work art fairs and festivals must wear more than one hat. Once a body of work is produced, the artist needs to market it. Online options may help, but many professional artists derive their primary income from sales at annual art fairs/festivals. Most, sadly, experienced a drastic loss in income when fairs were cancelled in 2020 and earlier this year due to the pandemic.

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Derrick Carter is photographed with his works.



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This summer’s outdoor art events not only represented a return to some sense of normal, but also for many ongoing financial recovery.

The beauty of art fairs — especially in these COVID times — is that they are outdoors and, more importantly, the artist/creator is on hand to showcase his/her work. Visiting an artist booth affords the chance to meet and talk directly with the artist, to discover more about them, how they get their ideas, what or who inspires them, how long they’ve been working. You might be surprised at the number of years it takes to achieve a high skill level. Such an opportunity to interact is golden. Furthermore, supporting and buying from the artist directly helps support their business.

This summer, I visited three regional art fairs: 2021 Krasl Art Fair on the Bluff (July 10-11); The 62nd annual Chesterton Art Fair (Aug. 7-8); and the Lubeznik Arts Festival (Aug. 21-22). Each has its own ambiance. Each differed in how they were sited or the number of artist participants or other amenities. After walking through each one, I chose at least one artist (in the case of the LCA several) to highlight.



Krasl’s fair always is one of the best in the region. Admission was \$5. Jurying must have taken considerable time because it remains one of the largest

fairs, with 155 participants in 2021 alone. This also was the first time it was gated and paced. Consequently, the crowds were moderated, and movement between the booths was easy and non-stressful. The high quality of contemporary art did not disappoint: trying to select a single artist to feature was no small feat. I did, eventually, settle on glass artist Sebastian Coleman of Mount Vernon, Ohio.

Why him? His booth was professionally organized, his glasswork unlike anything I’d ever seen (especially the surface treatment) and the artist, himself, was warm, inviting and interesting.

Coleman is the second generation in a family of glassblowers. His business, Patient Medicines Blown Glass, was started by his father, Robert Coleman, in the early 1970s. As a toddler, he attended shows with his parents, and by the time he was 3, he ground his first piece of glass while sitting on his dad’s lap. He told me that upon graduating college (The College of Wooster in 2004), he worked in the biotech industry doing clinical research. After his



Glass art by Sebastian Coleman



father passed away, he returned to the farm to continue the glassblowing tradition in the studio his father built in 1978.

His booth statement revealed the following: “My studio consists of a crystal glass tank, which holds about 125 lbs. of glass. I melt down recycled glass in order to obtain a crystal base, to which I then apply a variety of pow-

dered colors and frits to achieve coloration and texture. I then use a layering process to provide depth to the piece, which could include up to 6 layers of alternating clear glass and color. In addition to the furnace there is a glory hold, which I use for reheating purposes while working with the glass, and a fumer that is used to apply iridescence. The last few pieces of equipment include the gaffer's bench, where I work the glass, and an annealing oven, where the glass is slowly cooled."

A PBS video featuring Coleman is available on his website, revealing the raw source of his glass and more: "Our glass is reclaimed from one of the now defunct glass factories based out of Lancaster, Ohio. When they went out of business, we got about four dump truck loads of the glass that is in our barn, which is the stock that I use. It's called cullet."

(Cullet is recycled, broken or waste glass.)

Obviously, producing such exquisite art glass is not easy, involving a lot of practice and skill. No two pieces are alike. Appearing nearly diaphanous, surprisingly each piece felt considerably weighted when held due to the thicker bottom. His textures, balance, overall design sense, coloration and line are so well thought out.

"For design," he said, "I look to natural and biological processes, trying to reach an organic look with my forms that flows softly, and avoids straight lines."

Visit his website at www.patientmedicinesblown-glass.com or Instagram page. Visit www.krasl.org and click on "Art Fair" and click for more information.



"I am seeking. I am striving. I am in it with all my heart." Vincent van Gogh

Chesterton Art Fair, held in Dogwood Park, featured 65 artists. Admission was \$5. Saturday, Aug. 7, was hot, but that did not deter the crowds.

Over the decades, CAC has sponsored the event, becoming perhaps one of the most well-known locally by artists and non-artists. The variety of work was good; however, the show felt a bit smaller than previous years – a product, I'm sure, of these times



Mark Vander Vinne.

and traveling uncertainties. With music, food vendors and a kids tent, there was plenty to see.

One participant, Mark Vander Vinne, is an award-winning artist who is in it with all his heart, and whose work is synonymous with excellence. He also is noted for his plein air painting workshops.

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Shawn Mullins

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His booth at Chesterton Art Fair was filled with truly wonderful landscapes. I was struck by his use of color and light, his sense of composition, form and line. Based on what I saw, I can understand and appreciate the years of dedication it took to develop such skills.

His oil painting, "Wishing Tree," especially caught my eye not only for its incredible colors and sense of light, but also for the subject matter itself: a singular tree, the kind I've seen so often scattered along county roads and never really looked at as anything but a flash while driving by. Vander Vinne erases that, bringing our full attention to a subject worthy of elevation, of consideration, and does so beautifully.



"From This Place," an oil work by Mark Vander Vinne.

Born and raised in Eldridge, Iowa, Vander Vinne graduated from the American Academy of Art in Chicago. His website states, "After graduation he began a career in illustration and ended up as an art director/designer in the advertising industry. His love of the landscape comes from his love of the fields, farms and forests where he grew up, as well as the travels out West he took with his family to see the national parks and American landscapes."

Over time, he furthered his studies through workshops under other master artists such as Ken Auster, Marc Hanson, Scott Christensen and Kenn Backhaus. He passes on these lessons to those who take his various workshops offered through CAC, Art Barn School of Art in Valparaiso and Midwest Museum of American Art in Elkhart.

Vander Vinne lives in Porter. To learn more, visit www.vandervinnestudio.com. Visit www.chestertonart.org and view the list of artists from this year's fair and their web addresses. You might find an artist you'd like to follow in the future.



"The object isn't to make art, it's to be in that wonderful state which makes art inevitable." Robert Henri

When in the heat of the moment, creating, there appears in the mind of many artists a state of concentrated euphoria, one that carries them forward and onward, pushing them to evolve, explore and discover untapped possibilities. It's a sense that is nearly impossible to describe, but a necessity in the making of fine art.

My final outdoor fair for 2021 was the Lubeznik Arts Festival held on the LCA grounds. Admission was \$5, with a Sunday Free Family Day courtesy of McDonald's of LaPorte County.

With 55 artists outside and three featured artists inside (Ish Muhammed Nieves, Derrick Carter and the Harrison Center for the Arts out of Indianapolis), there was plenty of art to explore and enjoy. The festival was the smallest of the three, yet packed with many interesting and fine-art opportunities.

Artists competed for \$3,000 in awards, and the winners were selected by Juror Laura Cutler of LaPorte. Cutler co-owns Thaddeus C Gallery, serves on the Visual Arts Council and is a very busy city councilwoman in LaPorte. In addition, she is an associate faculty member at Indiana University-South Bend, teaching drawing, painting and artistic anatomy.

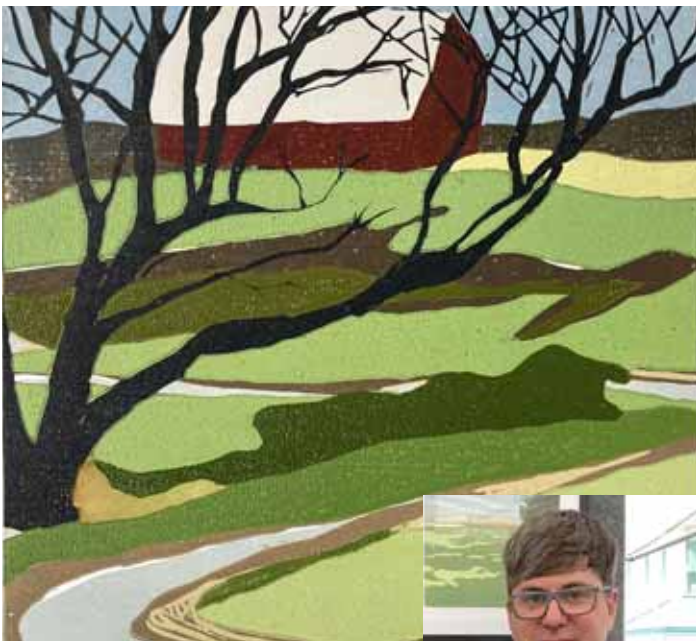
The \$1,000 Best of Show went to Kristina Knowski. A well-known artist/illustrator of birds, she was featured in the Aug. 20, 2020, edition of *The Beacher*. She continues to exhibit, most recently at The Depot Museum and Art Gallery in Beverly Shores in June. Knowski also likes to educate about her love of birds and art.



Kristina Knowski, the \$1,000 Best of Show winner.

She will sponsor a Live Owl Sketching Workshop on Sunday, Oct. 24, at LCA. Check www.lubeznikcenter.org for details

The \$500 First Place in Fine Arts went to Chris Plummer. A printmaker from Niagara, Ky., specializing in handmade reduction woodcuts, he was drawn to work with woodblock prints while studying at Northern Kentucky University, graduating with a degree in fine arts with an emphasis in printmaking.



Chris Plummer specializes in handmade reduction woodcuts.

Woodcut prints are one of the oldest forms of printmaking. The design for a reduction print is created as the artist carves into the wooden block's surface using special carving tools. The remaining raised areas hold the ink and then can be printed. The reduction woodcut uses a single wood



block for all the colors, and layers the inks from light to dark using one color at a time. Print a color, carve some more, print the next color creating a new layer and so forth. It is a complex system. There really is no room for correcting mistakes. Plummer's prints are fresh, beautifully executed and highly collectable.

The \$500 First Place in Fine Craft went to Samuel Yao. A basketmaker and craftsman from Ann Arbor, Mich., he



Baskets by Samuel Yao.



spends part of his year traveling south to his winter studio in Florida where, along the way, he gathers his raw materials: palm tree fronds and flower stalks (inflorescences) blown down by wind. Using traditional weaving techniques, Yao

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Art Fairs Continued from Page 5

manipulates those fronds and stalks to produce his beautifully shaped baskets, each incorporating a variety of textures and colors. The results are unique, exquisite baskets designed by a masterful artist.



A ceramic piece by Marco Fleseri.

The \$250 Juror Award went to Marco Fleseri. A ceramic and jewelry artist from Chicago, his ceramic sculptures and vessels “are inspired by biological flora and fauna from land and sea, interpreted in ways that often combine them in both Earthly and other-worldly fashion,” according to his artist statement. I would certainly agree. Many of his pieces feel somehow familiar, yet retain that bit of mystery as to where you might have seen such a shape before. I especially liked his pod-shaped forms with matte surface. The less-shiny surface enhances the overall form, making for a more elegant result.

The \$250 Juror Award went to Scott Jones. A fiber artist from Kokomo, his grandmother taught him to sew as a youngster. His website explains, “*This began my love of all things vintage and an appreciation for fine craft.*” Along the way, Jones became a screen printer, designing his own original images and later combining his prints with vintage textiles. He is especially drawn to mid-century modern design, combining his printed black-and-white images with mid-century fabric patterns. His original colorful designs are so unique and unusual, they put him in a wholly separate class of fiber art.

The \$250 Neil Kienitz Representational Award went to Janice Czerwinski. An oil painter from Aurora, Ill., she enjoys “*chasing light and movement in scenes that capture my heart through en plein air studies which develop into larger studio paintings,*” according to her artist statement. Her booth was filled with a range of subject matter from farms, gardens, boats and shoreline. She even executed a painting on site titled “Washington Park Beach.” I enjoyed her brushwork, composition, light and shading.

The \$250 Weigel Family Award went to William Steffen. An accomplished woodworker from Spencerville, his vases especially caught my eye. I found

them intriguing, interesting, beautifully formed and obviously representative of hours of long work. Some of his pieces were stained, others were not. Some included inlays, or “stitched” surface enhancements. The process by which he liberates the forms from a chunk of wood can be viewed through the July 1 posting on his Facebook page. Taking a rough-hewn blank to a final form is, I’m sure, time consuming, requiring a highly skilled and steady hand. Afterwards, dying, drying and a final polish complete the work. The vase form, itself, has been around for thousands of years, but in Steffen’s hands, it takes on an interesting, elegant and contemporary form.



William Steffen is photographed at the Lubeznik Arts Festival.

Meanwhile, downstairs in the LCA’s NIPSCO Art Education Studios, visitors found the works by Derrick Carter, Ish Muhammed Nieves and from the Harrison Center for the Arts in Indianapolis as represented by sculptor Quincy Owens.

Carter is a contemporary artist from Indianapolis who specializes in mixed-media paintings, and whose work is included in the permanent collection at Indiana State Museum.

As presented at the LCA, Carter’s paintings were large, bold, impactful and stunning. I was impressed with his work and look forward to seeing more.

Nieves maintains a studio in Gary, calling his style “post-graffiti abstract expressionism.” You may have seen his mural “A Lovely Day by the Lake” steps from the LCA on Washington Street near U.S. 12 in downtown Michigan City. He has shown his work nationally and internationally. As noted in the Lubeznik Arts Festival handout, “*...he recently completed commissions for Leeds Public House and Franciscan Health, both in Michigan City.*”

Owens represented the Harrison Center for the Arts. A retired art educator, he brought with him several contemporary sculptural works. Examples of the range of media included metal, wood and colored resin on wood pieces.

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Owens also is part of the team Owens + Crawley — producers of custom public art, light, sound and more. His studio can be found at the Harrison Center, a nonprofit, community-based organization located at 16th and Delaware streets in Indianapolis. The center is a three-story historic building with 65,000 square feet of space housing art galleries and artist studio space. I have driven past it many times, but never stopped. My next trip to Indy definitely will include a visit.



All of the highlighted artists have been inspired by others, are inspirational to others and know how to work. I deeply admire the skill, patience and time it takes to make everything by hand. I recognize,



Interaction between the artist and the public, seen here in a photo by Bob Wellinski at this year's Lubeznik Arts Festival, illustrates why such events are crucial to the lives of today's artists.

too, that by supporting artists, I am supporting individual entrepreneurs. I met so many interesting creatives this summer and will continue to follow many of them online.

I'm already looking forward to next year.



"A Lovely Day by the Lake" by Ish Muhammed Nieves.

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“Venom” Sequel is a Joyless Headache

by Andrew Tallackson

Martin Scorsese likes to rag on Marvel, saying it doesn't make movies, but empty amusement park rides. One might argue the revered director of “Raging Bull” and “The Irishman” is being a snob. Don't we go to the movies for a respite from reality? To see our imaginations take flight?

Now, had Scorsese based his observations solely on “Venom: Let There Be Carnage,” I might have agreed with him.

The “Venom” movies are the red-headed stepchild of the Marvel universe. We acknowledge they exist, but no one brags to claiming them. The 2018 film wasn't half-bad. Sure, it took a good hour to rev up, bogged down by endless backstory, but Tom Hardy in the title role was game for fun.

“Venom: Let There Be Carnage” is not fun. It thinks it is, but I found it to be a joyless, soulless headache. Stupid, but not in a good way. Dumb fun, I can handle. Like the “Fast and Furious” movies. This movie, though, is on autopilot. Brief by Marvel standards at only 97 minutes, but mechanical and lifeless.

The concept of these movies is clever, that Eddie Brock (Hardy) is a scuzzy journalist who becomes the anti-hero super-hero when an alien symbiote attaches itself to him. The creature, known as Venom, is like Eddie's dangerous id threatening to take over.

“Let There Be Carnage” now envisions Eddie and Venom as Marvel's answer to “The Odd Couple.” A tenuous relationship: the psychotic ying to the other's yang. Eddie can hear Venom dish out snark; no one else can. The banter between these two, fueled by Kelly Marcel's barely there screenplay, is little more than endless bickering. A quip or two make you smile, but a little of it goes a long, *long* way. By about the 20-minute mark, it becomes tiresome.

The villain, as teased by the post-credits sequence in the original, is Woody Harrelson's jailed serial killer Cletus Kasady, who after taking a bite out of Eddie's hand is infected by Venom. In turn, he transforms into Carnage right as he's receiving his lethal injection. Harrelson is one of my favorite actors. He can surprise you with a rich performance that comes out of nowhere, like in “The Edge of Seventeen” and “Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri.” Here, he backslides, offering a lazy riff on his “Natural Born Killers” role, but without Quentin Tarantino's snappy-wacko dialogue. He gets a sidekick-lover, Frances, whose deadly vocal chords earn her the nickname “Shriek.” She's played by “Moon-

light” Oscar-nominee Naomie Harris in a performance best described as slumming. A discolored eye is the only original stamp on the character. Fellow Oscar-nominee Michelle Williams (“Manchester By the Sea”) fares a tad better as Eddie's ex-girlfriend, Ann, but only because her flimsy character this time embraces Venom's naughty side.



Tom Hardy returns for
“Venom: Let There Be Carnage.”

★ 1/2

“Venom: Let There Be Carnage”

Running time: 97 minutes. Rated PG-13 for intense sequences of violence & action, some strong language, disturbing material and suggestive references.

The movie was directed by Andy Serkis, the celebrated motion-capture performer from the “Lord of the Rings” and “Planet of the Apes” franchises. His talent in front of the camera is absent here. The movie has a dark, drab look where nothing stands out. And by the last 20 minutes, “Let There Be Carnage” is all action, set largely in and around a church. Plenty of exploding rafters and scaffolding, but again, because the movie is so visually dull, none of it registers. The only payoff is a laugh-out-loud punchline delivered by Venom in the face of Harrelson's Carnage.

I like Hardy (“Inception,” “The Dark Knight Rises”) in this role. He typically plays the aggressor. The alpha male. Seeing him as the tormented buffoon is a nice twist.

Not enough, though, to lift “Let There Be Carnage” out of its depressing funk.

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Krasl Art Center to Host Juried Exhibit, LP Artist's Collaborative Effort

From Oct. 9-Nov. 28, Krasl Art Center will present The American Society of Marine Artists North Juried Regional Exhibition in the main galleries and “the butterfly, the flying fish and the hurricane,” featuring LaPorte’s Andrea Peterson, in the artlab.

A preview is Friday, Oct. 8. At 5:30 p.m. EDT, artists Peterson and Mary Uthuppuru (Bloomington) will share the collaborative process behind “the butterfly, the flying fish and the hurricane.” The preview party is from 6-8 p.m. EDT.

The American Society of Marine Artists and KAC united for the 2021 exhibition. The Society is a non-profit that promotes marine art and maritime history. Works are selected by three jurors — all fellows of The Society. They include 50 paintings/works on paper and 12 sculptures.

“the butterfly, the flying fish and the hurricane” explores a 20-foot-long accordion book telling the tale of a butterfly’s journey of forgotten beauty with an underlying evil. Reflecting a two-year collabo-



File photo of Andrea Peterson by Paul Kemiell.

ration between Peterson and Uthuppuru, every element of the book was rendered by hand, relaying a story in process and narrative of respect for the environment.

Planned in conjunction with the exhibits is:

- Virtual Coffee With the Curator” at noon EDT Thursday, Oct. 14, through Facebook Live. KAC Curator/Deputy Director Tami Miller leads the free virtual tour of the American Society of Marine Artists exhibit.

- Third Thursday Art Event with Carol Shahbaz and Randall Higdon at 7 p.m. EDT

Thursday, Oct. 21. The event is free, and advance registration is required.

- Third Thursday Art Event: Studio Tour with Peterson at 7 p.m. EDT Thursday, Nov. 18. The event is free, and advance registration is required.

□

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OPEN LETTER TO LONG BEACH RESIDENTS: OPPOSE PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION ON THE PUBLIC TRUST BEACH

On Monday, September 13, 2021, the Long Beach Town Council approved an amendment to the Town's Shoreline Preservation Ordinance that would allow construction of private stairs on the state-owned Public Trust beach lakeward of the "ordinary high water mark" (OHWM). In doing so, the Town Council ignored the bright line articulated by the Indiana Supreme Court and enacted by the Indiana General Assembly as the boundary of public and private property on the Lake Michigan shore. The Long Beach Community Alliance (LBCA) understands the need to balance the rights of Indiana citizens to use and enjoy the Public Trust beach with the rights of private property owners. Indeed, LBCA supports the rights of lakefront homeowners to build stairs on their own private property. But, on its face, the Town's adoption of an ordinance that "permits" private construction on the state-owned Public Trust beach is beyond the Town's jurisdiction and violates Indiana law.

LBCA, as one of the parties in the Gunderson case and a staunch advocate for the protection of the Public Trust Lake Michigan shore, stands in opposition to the Stair Amendment or any other local government ordinance that would purport to permit private construction on the Public Trust beach. The action taken by the Town Council is invalid as a matter of law and will only confuse people as to the legal boundary of private and public property on the Indiana Lake Michigan shore. While this illegal ordinance only addresses the construction of stairs, it violates the fundamental principle of the Public Trust Doctrine and will create a "slippery slope" for greater pressure on the Town and other local governments to "permit" illegal private construction on the Indiana Public Trust beach.

We urge the Town Council to reconsider its position on this matter as soon as possible. Citizens of the Town of Long Beach have a right to expect our Town Council Members will comply with Indiana law and only act within the legal boundaries of their jurisdiction. Sadly, instead of simply rejecting the adoption of Stair Amendment, as did the Town's Advisory Plan Commission when the same amendment was proposed before it, a majority of the Town Council chose to take an illegal, ultra vires action and by doing so have created confusion on an issue which both the Indiana Supreme Court and the General Assembly had put to rest.

This error must be corrected. LBCA has offered the Town Council alternative language which would once again align the Town's Shoreline Protection Ordinance with Gunderson and the General Assembly's intent. We urge all Long Beach residents to email Members of the Town Council to let them know that you expect that they will follow the law and demand that they repeal the Stair Amendment.

Go to the Long Beach Community Alliance webpage at www.lbcall.org for more information on this issue, how to email Town Council Members, and how to join LBCA in our mission to preserve good government in Long Beach.

Long Beach Community Alliance Board

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Legacy Center Gallery Debuts New Exhibit

Oil paintings by local artist Don Grott are on display through Dec. 31 at The Legacy Center Gallery located at Queen of All Saints Catholic Church, 1719 E. Barker Ave.

Grott's interest in oil painting began on what he calls a "lazy winter Sunday afternoon" at an Air Force base near Belleville, Ill.

"I simply decided to try painting and drove to town and bought a canvas, brushes and paint along with a wintery Christmas card (for inspiration)," he said in a press release. Since then, he has painted murals for homes and businesses, including every

building at an Air Force base in France while stationed there. He even took first place in a regional art show while stationed abroad. He donates many paintings to fundraisers for charitable organizations, such as the Special Olympics.

At The Legacy Center, his work includes nature scenes in all seasons. Viewing hours are 6 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 6 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday-Saturday and 6 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday. Enter through the doors off Esther Street.

Email Kadie O'Connor at kd3627@hotmail.com for more details.

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I've compared the past 12 months with the prior 12 months in the following table, and May 1, 2020, through the end of the year.

Year	Units	Median Price	\$Vol	Mkt Days
9/19-8/20`	174	\$410k	\$86.7 M	106
9/20-8-21	181	\$525k	\$102.1M	66
5/01-12/31	176	\$463k	\$94.2 M	97

The number of sales when we look at the last 12 months compared to September to the end of August last year has only increased by 7 units. But the median price is up 28% and the \$Volume up 18%. Average market days are down by 48%.

I had a feeling a lot of these sales occurred in the last seven months of 2020, so I ran the numbers for those months in 2020. My hunch was correct. In just seven months at the end of 2020, there were two more sales than in the 12-month period of September through August. The median price was up 28%, \$Volume was greater by 8%, but the time on market was down just a bit. I attribute that to the previously overpriced inventory being absorbed either because sellers lowered their prices or buyers were willing to pay more.

What I am experiencing and what I see from these statistics is that inventory is down. There are fewer properties for sale.

Because of the inventory limits and a gradual increase in travel options, I think 2021 will be a good year. But I am pretty sure the second half of 2021 will not match the second half of 2020. I shall report what happens.

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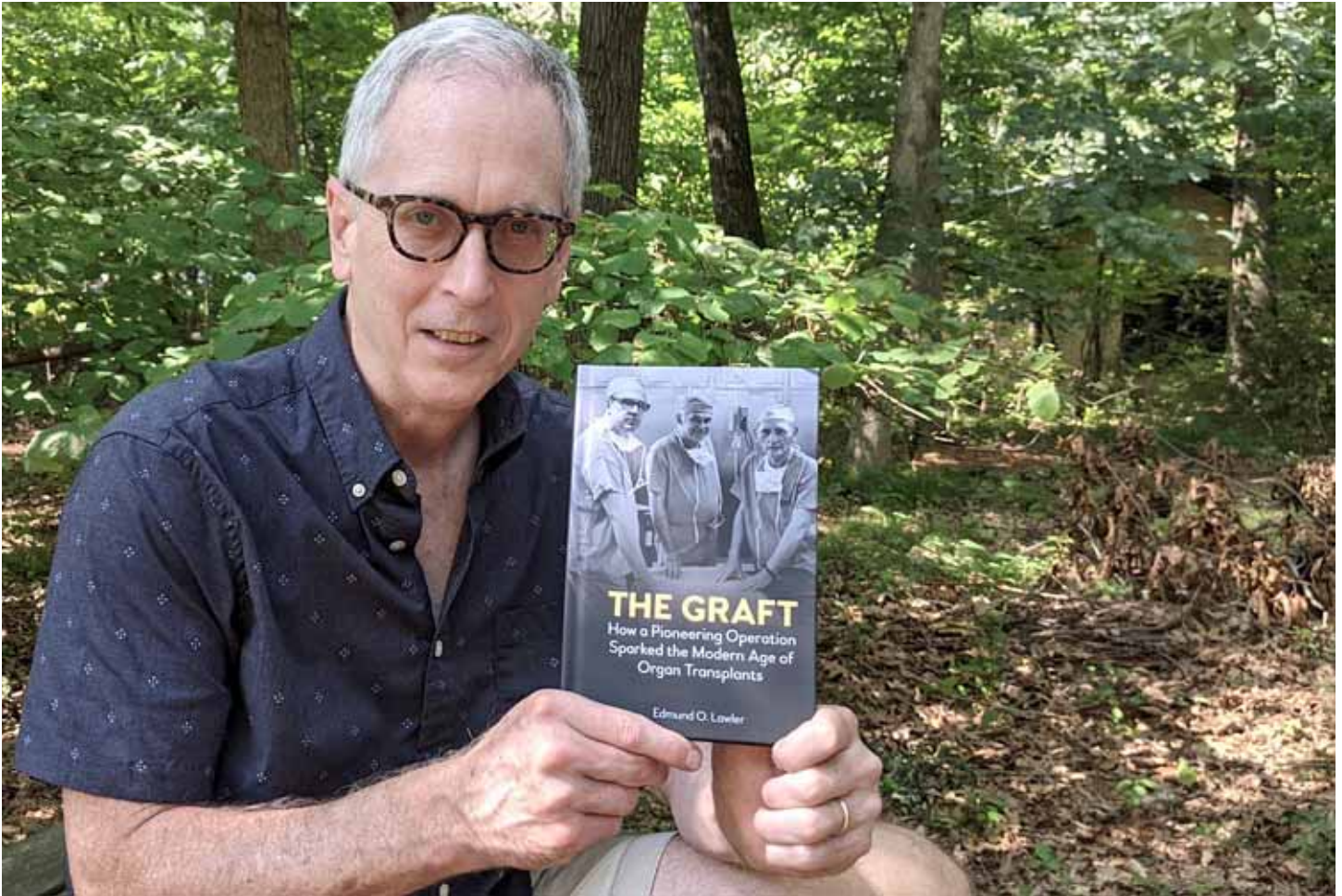


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“The Graft” Reinvigorates Legacy of First Successful Kidney Transplant

by Andrew Tallackson



Edmund Lawler is photographed by his wife, Priscilla, holding a copy of “The Graft.”

On June 17, 1950, Richard Lawler led the team at an Evergreen Park (Ill.) hospital that resulted in the first successful kidney transplant.

The patient: 44-year-old Ruth Tucker, who suffered from polycystic kidney disease, more commonly known as PKD. The genetic condition dealt a cruel hand to her family, taking the lives of three relatives while still relatively young.

At the time, Lawler was a urologist, surgeon and head of the new transplant team at Little Company of Mary Hospital. The donated kidney came from a woman who’d just died. Time was of the essence.

Transplants such as the one Lawler oversaw were in their infancy, especially when placing the donated organ *inside* the body, rather than externally, as was the practice.

Tucker lived for nearly five years after the procedure. She died on April 30, 1955, from an unrelated coronary issue. The transplant ultimately afforded her more time — more days, weeks and months — than she could have dreamed.

Do a Google search for “first kidney transplant,” and there’s a good chance Lawler’s name is *not* the first to turn up. As Edmund Lawler writes in his

exceptional new book, [The Graft: How a Pioneering Operation Sparked the Modern Age of Organ Transplants](#), “*the surgical team’s handiwork has been largely lost to history. The operation would come to be overshadowed by more successful kidney and other organ transplants performed at some of the world’s leading medical centers.*”

[The Graft](#), in many ways, rights that wrong, restoring the legacy of what Richard Lawler — Edmund’s great-uncle — and his team achieved.

“Richard Lawler’s patient lived for five years. The kidney existed as long as two months, perhaps as long as 10 months, and they eventually discovered it was no longer functioning,” he said. “I think he and his colleagues demonstrated that technically the operation could be done, and what was important about the operation was that it triggered the major academic medical institutions...to move ahead. I think this was sort of a hinge moment in medical science. It wasn’t the ultimate outcome, but it moved the ball ahead significantly.”

Lawler, a correspondent for *The Beacher* since 2018, will hold a book signing for [The Graft](#) from 2-4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 9, at Lakeshore Coffee &

Specialties, 444 Wabash St.

Lawler, who has written/co-written six books, teaches journalism at Chicago's DePaul University. He has been a writer or editor for several newspapers, a business magazine and *The Associated Press*.

You can tell The Graft is the work of an accomplished journalist. It is thorough, balanced and richly researched. Told almost in a conversational style that never gets bogged down in scientific or medical jargon. It profiles not only Richard Lawler, but other surgeons, the leadup to that 1950 transplant, followed by the ensuing controversy and backlash, not just by the faith community, but also by those in the medical profession. And, it explores where medical science is headed, in the process sharing stories from four people affected by transplants.

Ironically, Ed Lawler does not have many memories of his great-uncle. They met, of course, but Ed was a child at the time. He did not learn of his great-uncle's accomplishments until he was in middle school. Many members within his family tree served in the medical profession, but "family lore," he said, was that one relative was nominated for the Nobel Prize.

The idea to craft a book about Richard Lawler did not percolate until November 2012. Ed Lawler was teaching at DePaul when a colleague showed him *The Chicago Tribune* obituary for surgeon and Harvard Medical School Professor Joseph Murray. His successful transplant involved 23-year-old twin brothers. The colleague, Ed Lawler says, "brought it (the obituary) to my desk and said, 'I recalled that your great-uncle performed the first kidney transplant. There is no mention of your uncle here'."

Six years later, Lawler was attending a family wake when an aunt approached him. "Eddie," she said, "when are you going to write your story about your uncle Richard?"

Lawler did not have a background in writing about scientific material. He knew, too, "there was a mountain to be climbed" in researching it, but now, he was game for the challenge.

Thus began the extensive process of not only conducting interviews, but also of gathering data, research and sifting through old files and records. The process further invigorated him when he learned from Richard Lawler's daughter, Rosemary, of the controversy surrounding the 1950 transplant.

"She told me, 'You probably don't know that he

was castigated by the medical profession and clergy for doing this surgery,'" Ed shared. "I had just assumed he was honored and respected for what he did, but he was ostracized. Some doctors wouldn't talk to him for fear they could be contaminated by his presence."

The initial response from the faith community, specifically the Catholic church, essentially called the procedure an abomination, an affront to God's vision for humanity.

"I think when the Pope (later) came to the conclusion that this is for the benefit of mankind, that it extends life, it sustains life, which is what religion is about, the views changed," Lawler said. "Once the Pope gave organ transplants his blessing, it opened the floodgates to say, let's do whatever we can to support organ transplants.

"The irony today," he continued, "is that there are thousands of people waiting for kidney transplants."

Lawler, in The Graft, details the process for procuring viable kidneys, and what the waiting period is like for candidates. Also explored are potential breakthroughs, including the possibility of artificial kidneys. Ultimately, though, The Graft is about hope. About our progress over the decades to ensure life continues for the better.

And for Lawler, it is further validation of the work his great-uncle, and a dedicated team, achieved back in 1950.

"It's unfortunate that some of the pioneer stories get lost," he said. "They get wallpapered over, or lost to history. Time does a disservice to these pioneers because a generation comes along and it doesn't remember what happened.

"I thought it was an injustice my uncle's handiwork was overlooked. People like him, they take charge, and they deserve our respect."



Above: Richard Lawler.
Below: Ruth Tucker.



If You Go

The book signing for The Graft: How a Pioneering Operation Sparked the Modern Age of Organ Transplants is from 2-4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 9, at Lakeshore Coffee & Specialties, 444 Wabash St. Edmund Lawler will be available to sign copies. The book also is available through online options such as Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

LCSO Children's Concerts

LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra will present its 33rd annual Drayton Family Children's Educational Concerts on Wednesday, Oct. 13, at LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St.

Carolyn Watson will conduct her first concerts as LCSO music director. The three performances are at 9:30 a.m., 11:10 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. The program includes:



Watson

- "In the Hall of the Mountain King" from "Peer Gynt" by Edvard Grieg.
- "Swan Lake Suite" by Peter Tchaikovsky.
- "How the Birds Came into the World" by David Crowe, narrated by John Leinweber.
- "Hansel and Gretel Overture" by Engelbert Humperdinck.
- "Hedwig's Theme" from "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" by John Williams.
- "William Tell Overture" by Gioachino Rossini.

An educator guide, and more information, are available at www.lcsos.net

LCSO in the Spotlight



Danny Lopez (third from right), photographed with fellow musicians.

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

Danny Lopez is entering his third year as a trumpet player with LCSO. He has a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Stephen F. Austin State University and a Master of Music degree from The University of Arkansas.

He is the trumpet instructor at Southwestern Michigan College and The Citadel, and band director at Lake Michigan College. He is a member of Truth in Jazz Big Band, Jazz Assemblage Big Band, Elkhart Municipal Band and Calle Soul Salsa Band. He also is a professional brass instrument repair technician at Quinlan & Fabish Music Co., Mishawaka.

Lopez often can be found building his own instruments, listening to old records and spending time with coworkers.



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“Dear Evan Hansen” Isn’t *That* Bad

by Andrew Tallackson

Ben Platt, now 28 and reprising his Broadway role, has taken the most heat for “Dear Evan Hansen.”

Rarely has a movie arrived in theaters with the odious press of “Dear Evan Hansen.”

If we are to believe the buzz, then this adaptation of the 2015 Broadway musical is a steaming pile of excrement. That Ben Platt, in reprising his Tony-winning role, is a decade too old to play it. That his character is a creep and a liar. That the movie only intensifies the play’s central flaw.

Having not seen the Broadway musical, I can only concede that, yes, the plot of “Dear Evan Hansen” is, well, it’s a terrible idea. It takes a painful subject – teen suicide – and uses an uncomfortable act of deception to wring out tears from its audience.

But the movie is not the fiasco it’s been made out to be. The director, Stephen Chbosky, known for achingly honest portraits of teen alienation (“The Perks of Being a Wallflower,” “Wonder”), achieves quietly affecting moments that speak to anyone who has felt alone or yearned to belong. And he does so through beautiful performances by Amandla Stenberg (“The Hate U Give”), Kaitlyn Dever (“Booksmart”) and Oscar-winner Julianne Moore.

You have to wonder, though, why Steven Levenson, the screenwriter and brainchild behind the musical, based the arc of his tale around a cruel lie.

Evan Hansen (Platt) is a high-school senior who suffers from severe social anxiety. Excessively med-

★ ★ 1/2

“Dear Evan Hansen”

Running time: 137 minutes. In theaters. Rated PG-13 for thematic material involving suicide, brief strong language and some suggestive references

icated, he’s advised by his therapist to write daily affirmations to himself. After a particularly bad day, he dashes off a fairly honest account that starts with “Dear Evan Hansen,” prints it out, then sees it snatched up by Connor Murphy (Colton Ryan, reprising his Broadway role). He’s the guy at school no one likes. The moody outcast who, on the surface, is unfazed by high school BS. In a flippant act, he signs Evan’s cast, an injury resulting from falling out of a tree.

When Connor takes his own life, his parents (Amy Adams, Daniel Pino) find the “Dear Evan Hansen” letter in his pocket. Assuming the two were friends, they invite Evan over for dinner after the funeral.

The movie makes it *very* clear that Connor’s dysfunctional parents are so grief-stricken, they emotionally ambush Evan into reluctantly embracing the fantasy that their son had a friend. And Evan, desperate for normalcy – his father is gone, his mother (Moore) is a workaholic nurse – likes the

attention Connor's family lavishes on him.

That Evan does not tell the truth, that he keeps the lie in perpetual motion, makes him a creep. Showing Evan repeatedly consumed by nausea because of it is the film's way of affording him mercy, but it's not enough to reconcile his actions. It also dilutes the story's portrait of teen mental illness, stripping Evan of any sympathy.

My beef with Platt, as an actor, has nothing to do with age. Yes, he's 28, but for the most part, you accept him in the role. And he certainly has the pipes to belt out a showstopper. But he can't make you care about Evan because the story, itself, does not give him the tools to do so.

His shoulder-hunched presence is the definition of a one-note performance: He finds one note to play, and that's the only note he plays.

However, Stenberg, as high-school go-getter Alana, and Dever, as Connor's sister, Zoe, are lovely. Smart, emotionally brittle, with a heartbreaking resonance that speaks to the pain that gnaws away at their souls. They feel real. So does Moore as Evan's mother. Moore has been so good for so long, we take her for granted. Here, she is remarkably understated, many of her scenes involving a quiet recognition unfolding across her face.

Much of the music in "Dear Evan Hansen," crafted by the team behind "La La Land" and "The Greatest Showman," is repetitious. It all sounds the same. The actors don't so much as sing, but ramble. And the perky song "Sincerely, Me," in which Evan and a friend concoct phony emails between him and Connor, reiterates why the story has such a queasy effect. And strictly as a musical, the final scene lacks the appropriate closure — either emotionally or through song — to achieve a satisfying close.

The exception is "You Will Be Found," a stirring pop-rock anthem and the movie's emotional high point. You'd have to have a heart etched in stone not to be moved by it, by the way Chbosky shows the teen community rallying behind it through social media.

Would "Dear Evan Hansen" have succeeded if a relative unknown, closer in age to the actual character, was cast in the lead? Possibly. A truer observation is that someone should have monitored Lev-



Kaitlyn Dever as the sister of a boy who commits suicide is especially moving.

enson while he was crafting the Broadway musical. Make him rethink the relationship between Evan and Connor. Why not have had them actually be friends, Connor's death shedding light on loneliness and teen suicide?

The message of "Dear Evan Hansen," as invested into that song, "You Will Be Found," is that we are not alone. That there are people who get us, even when we feel lost or abandoned.

A message of hope sabotaged by a story that, more often than not, stinks.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com



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A Return to the Past



After being canceled last year due to COVID-19, Pioneer Days returned Sept. 25-26 to Creek Ridge County Park. The event allows families to experience life during pioneer times.

All photos by Bob Wellinski





Who is Your “I’ll Be Right Over Friend?”

I listen to a wide selection of radio stations when I drive. Car technology makes it easy to channel surf and still focus on the road. Bored with the current news cycle and wanting a little country music buzzing in my veins, I landed on The Highway, a popular country station. As I cruised down the road on various errands, a question posed by the radio host hooked me: “Who is your ‘I’ll be right over friend?’ Call in and share your stories.”

Before the radio host patched in the first caller’s response, I pulled into the grocery store parking lot. Meandering through the produce aisles, I was so consumed by the call-in question, I nearly forgot the asparagus for dinner. Internally, I quizzed myself: If I were to brave the radio show vetting process, who would I claim as my “I’ll be right over friend?” And which friend might say the same about me?

Because I had exited my vehicle within minutes of hearing the radio challenge, I missed the caveats. Were respondents to exclude family members? Were we only to highlight tales of hard-core friendship? As I studied a heap of ripening avocados, I argued with myself. Friends are not family, but many of us might consider a certain family member as our IBROF.

My first inclination was to claim my identical twin. My twin sister has always been my first phone call when troubling news needs sharing. She heard about my breast biopsy results within minutes of the nurse informing me I had dense tissue, not cancer. One cold and snowy night when my husband wouldn’t answer either his cell or our house phone, she drove over to my home. She verified his car was parked in the garage, and that he hadn’t slipped or conked out on our icy driveway. (He had, in fact, over-imbibed at a work dinner, left his cell phone in his coat pocket and put himself to bed early!)

As I lingered in the long checkout lane behind an older couple who complained about the escalating prices of coffee and fancy waters, I determined I would not claim my twin as an IBROF. She was family. It’s my experience family counts on family to go out of its way when the cry for help is issued. Because I’ve been so reliant on my sister over the years, I puzzled if I could come up with other candidates to claim as a “be right over friend.”

I was running through a mental shortlist of dear friends when the cashier reminded me I could remove my credit card from the card reader. Time to pay attention! I knew the dangers of pushing an unwieldy shopping cart through a grocery store parking lot on a Saturday afternoon. I sidelined all thoughts of the call-in question.

Just as my silver Tahoe came into sight, I heard a piercing scream two aisles over. I craned my neck and saw a young mom coaxing a tired preschooler out of his car seat and into a hot shopping cart. He was trying to remove his bright blue T-shirt. The

This Girl, That Life

Julie McGue



scene clicked a dusty memory into focus.

In August 1993, my family relocated to the Chicago suburbs. We were one week into a new house, new schools and new neighborhood. My two daughters had started grammar school, but my 4-year-old son’s preschool program wasn’t to start until after Labor Day. I had sliced open the tape on a moving carton and pulled out his Legos and Matchbox cars, then I left him to play quietly in his room while I unpacked boxes in the kitchen. A little later, I called up the back stairs to him. He didn’t answer.

I scrambled up the stairs. A quick glance in my son’s room informed me he’d wandered off. My stomach clenched as I scoured the house. I checked all the bedrooms and bathrooms, and peeked into the empty boxes crowding the detached garage. I shouted into the fenced-in yard and glared at the dog as if he could tell me where his little buddy had disappeared. Hands shaking, I combed through my purse for the names and numbers of two neighbors who’d welcomed me earlier in the week when our moving truck arrived. Both women promised to comb their yards and quiz their own children.

Before I called the police, I took one more screaming pass through the disorganized house. A bright blue cloth in the upstairs bathroom caught my eye... was that my son’s shirt? I followed a trail of clothes – khaki shorts, white socks and black Velcro sneakers – which led to the door of my son’s room. I bolted inside. A lock of mousy brown hair peeked out of the comforter covering his bed. He was home! He must have been tired and climbed into bed for a nap. With tears in my eyes, I called my neighbors to share the good news, and to thank them for their help.

Tucked back inside the Tahoe, I cruised out of the grocery store parking lot. I decided not to call in to the radio show and share my story about phoning neighbors for help. But recently, I relived this memory with my old neighbors, strangers who have become dear friends over time.

Sometimes when we need immediate help, the situation compels us to turn to people we don’t know. All of us can recall times when strangers magically arose to meet an emergency, just as my neighbors did on that hot day in August 1993. Yes, those ladies were my “be right over friends,” even though I barely knew them. Almost three decades later, they are still the friends I’d call to come over and lend a hand.

The Dunery Press

Here is the tale of how we founded our self-publishing venture, The Dunery Press, in 1988 on a napkin at a Chinese restaurant in Toronto.

I married a real literary star when I linked up with Natalie DeViney on Aug. 13, 1977. Not only was she a reporter for a Crain Communications publication, *Pensions & Investments*, but she also went on to write for the business section of *The Chicago Tribune*. She earned an MBA at her alma mater, The University of Chicago, while working as a reporter. Then she went on to write two books: *Pension Fund Investments in Real Estate*, published by Greenwood Press in 1983, then a novel, *Where's Ours?*, which Academy Chicago Publishers inked in 1987. That love of my life, I'm tellin' ya, was one smokin' writer.

Me?

Not so much.

Oh, I went to writers conferences and worked the connections made there. And I went to New York and pitched my wares to literary agents, publishers and magazine editors.

Nada.

I did secure the services of a leading literary agent. At her behest, I began writing a multi-generational saga set against the blazing backdrop of Chicago history...beginning, of course, with the famous fire of 1871. I hammered away on that monster on my aging Smith-Corona portable, sent off chapters and, well, got nowhere fast. The agent wasn't buying it, and she sure wasn't selling it.

Fizzle, fizzle.

And then, of course, I had a front-row seat to my wife's literary triumphs in



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Life With Charley

Charles McKelvy



non-fiction and fiction.

Was I jealous?

Yes, of course.

But my dear wife had to do almost all of the marketing for her two books. She enlisted my aid, and we managed to get both books the notice they needed to generate sales.

Not enough, apparently, because Natalie wasn't invited back to write more books. She was not a bestselling author, and her publishers knew it.

She was frustrated. I was furious.

Then, we took one of our winter train trips in 1987-1988 from Chicago to Quebec City and back. We rode some great trains, celebrated Christmas in Toronto and New Year's in Montreal and were enjoying a yummy dumpling dinner in Toronto's Chinatown on the last night of our trip when The Dunery Press was born.

Correct me if I'm wrong, Natalie, but this is how I remember it going down.

As we feasted on our steamed dumplings on a freezing Canadian night in early January 1988, we seized our literary destiny and put it all out there — on a napkin.

We had taken to calling our cottage in Harbert, Mich., "The Dunery" for



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World headquarters of The Dunery Press.

being nestled in the dunes of Lake Michigan. So we decided to call our self-publishing venture — drum roll — “The Dunery Press.” We worked out the numbers on that napkin and decided to publish our first book — Chicagoland, my collection of short novels and stories — that very year.

And we did.

You may vaguely recall reading all about it in *The Beacher* some years ago. For a snapshot of The Dunery Press, I would refer you to *The Beacher*'s archives, and to an article written about us by a former *Los Angeles Times* reporter, the late David Kinchen. Writing for his own publication, *Book Notes*, in 2012, he wrote:

“I received a letter from Natalie McKelvy the other day saying that The Dunery Press that she and her husband Charley McKelvy started in 1988 is still in business. It's in Harbert, Michigan, Berrien County, just down the highway from South Haven, Van Buren County, where I was born.

*“Why ‘Dunery?’ Because Harbert is smack dab in the middle of the gigantic sand dunes that run across the bottom of Lake Michigan from east of Gary, Indiana, all the way up past the Michigan line, almost to Benton Harbor...I met Natalie in Los Angeles in the 1980s when she was a freelance business journalist. She had just written a technical real estate tome (Pension Fund Investments in Real Estate). Since real estate was my beat at the *Los Angeles Times*, I reviewed it for the *Real Estate* section.”*

Kitchen gave Natalie's pension-fund book a glowing review. Then, then he wrote:

“Anyway, Natalie and Charley McKelvy, both born in 1950 in the Chicago area, are great writers. I've reviewed thousands of books over the past several years, and believe me, when I say they are great writers. I mean GREAT (sorry, Tony the Tiger!). The best writers in the world have come from Chicago. There's something in the water that produced people like Ernest Hemingway, Nelson Algren, Carl Sandburg, David Mamet — and Natalie and Charley!”

Well, thank you, Dave. We are so glad to have known you, and to have had the pleasure of your company at the newsroom of *The Los Angeles Times* when we took our Amtrak tour of the Wild West in

1989. You took us to lunch that day in downtown L.A. You said you would do all you could to promote our little Dunery Press. And you did. And, for that, we are most grateful.

We continued publishing our fiction after our meeting. In 2015, we veered into remembrances with recollections of my father, James McKelvy, titled Life with a Laryngectomee. Despite our mighty marketing efforts, that book, along with the rest of our books, did not leave the Earth's orbit.

Oh, we had some near misses, most notably Natalie's 1990 anthology of short fiction, Party Chicks & Other Works.

The popular book club known as Quality Paperback Book Club, or QPB, put Party Chicks in its catalog after an editor discovered it at a bookstore in a coastal town on the Atlantic. We reckoned we were on to a breakout bestseller when they wrote in their catalog: “Party Chicks and Other Works is a rare find for QPB — cutting-edge fiction from the small press that the author runs with her husband in Harbert, Michigan. The three novellas and one epic poem in the collection are marked by a gritty realism that stems from McKelvy's training as a *Chicago Tribune* reporter and the unpretentiousness of her roots in Middle America. The title story follows Mary Frances Barton on her dangerously sexual, calculating path from Kankakee, Illinois, to the heights of hairdresserdom in Chicago, L.A., and London.”

Thank you, QPB, and thank you for ordering more copies of Party Chicks in anticipation of sales.

Well, not so fast, Dunery Press, because our distributor in Texas refused to send QPB the books.

WHAT?!?

Oh, yes.

The Dunery Press



They gave us some mealy-mouthed reason for not filling the order, and that was the torpedo in the engine room. We listed to port and took on water. But our rudder still worked. We sailed slowly forward, publishing additional books and reaching out to a far-flung band of loyal readers.

We last published in 2015. Now, we have reverted to guerilla wordfare, meaning we email our latest literary efforts to a select online readership.

Some are suggesting we harness the vast powers of the Internet for a big rebirth of The Dunery Press.

Maybe.

But we're both 71 and tending more and more to rest on our literary laurels.

Stay tuned, and don't forget, we have a Remington Quiet-Riter manual typewriter on standby.

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Indiana Dunes National Park

- **Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. weekends through Oct. 15 at Paul H. Douglas Center.**

Visitors can make crafts that celebrate Hispanic heritage in the United States, and read about the Hispanic heritage of national park employees.

- **The ranger-led “Hike with your Hound” through Miller Woods from 10 a.m.-noon Fridays in October at the Paul Douglas Center for Environmental Education.**

All dogs must be on a lead. Make sure the pet can doing the two-mile hike over a moderately difficult trail, with some sandy and uneven surfaces. Much of the trail is in sun, adding to the difficulty on a hot day. Also, take water and waste bags.

Doing the hike qualifies a pet for a B.A.R.K Ranger dog tag. The program promotes responsible use of the park by pet owners by ensuring they bag their pet’s waste, use a leash, respect wildlife and know where pets are permitted. The tags are free thanks to the Friends of Indiana Dunes.

The Visitor Center is at 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. The Paul H. Douglas Center is at 100 N. Lake St. in Gary’s Miller Beach neighborhood. Call (219) 395-1882 or visit www.nps.gov/indu for details.

Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs will be offered:

- **High Dunes Hike at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 9.**

Meet a naturalist at the nature center for a hike to the summit of the state’s highest sand dune. Wear hiking shoes.

- **Spooky Snakes at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 9.**

Meet at the Nature Center to meet native snakes up close, learning about their survival adaptations.

- **Beach Mysteries Table from 10-11 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 10.**

Stop by the Nature Center to watch a naturalist explore items that wash up on beaches, and learn their natural and cultural stories.

- **Hibernate, Migrate or Get Fat! at 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 10.**

Meet at the Nature Center auditorium to learn about wildlife adaptations for winter.

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

Spooktacular Trick or Treat

The Downtown Spooktacular Trick or Treat, hosted by the LaPorte Small Business Coalition, is from 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 9.

The event is along Lincolnway and State Street between Indiana Avenue and Jackson Street.

LaPorte County Parks



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

Healthy Lifestyles

The free social club meets from 9 to 10 a.m. Wednesdays at Luhr County Park Nature Center, 178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. Programs focus on health trends, gardening, medical information and balancing active lifestyles. Call at least one week in advance to sign up (the maximum allowed is 30).

The schedule is:

- Nov. 3 — Understanding Medicare Parts A, B, C and D, and the upcoming annual enrollment period, Megan Rogers, State Health Insurance Assistance Program specialist.

Parent & Child Discovery Days

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

- Oct. 20 — Deer Crossing.
- Nov. 3 — What's For Dinner?
- Nov. 10 — Turkey Talk.
- Dec. 1 — Catch the Sun.
- Dec. 15 — Behind the Mask.

Nature's Tiny Tots

Designed for parents and grandparents, explore nature with toddlers and preschoolers through music, dancing, storytelling and, weather permitting, hiking.

The free program is from 10-11 a.m. Oct. 18 and 25, Nov. 8 and 22 and Dec. 6 and 20 at Luhr County Park. Masks are required for 3 and older. Call (219) 325-8315 at least one week in advance to register.

Plant Base Life

Marcy Daily leads the free program from 6-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 19, at Luhr County Park.

Learn tricks and substitute ingredients for everyday recipes, from what it is to where to find green items locally. Call by one week before to register.

Tails from the Trails

Park board member Rob Knickrehm will discuss his journey along the Appalachian Trail from 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 9, in the Luhr County Park Nature Center.

Call one week before the program to register.

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Lithuanian Heritage Festival



Celebrating Lithuanian Heritage Festival united seven Lithuanian organizations Sept. 12 to honor almost 500 years of service to the Lithuanian community in Michigan City, Michiana, Highland and Chicago.

The Lithuanian University Women's Association organized the event that revitalized and maintained the Lithuanian garden at Friendship Botanic Gardens. Two hundred people attended the festival that included singing, dancing and traditional food provided by Milda's Deli and Cavalier Inn. Michigan City High School's Junior ROTC helped out with the event.

Mayor Duane Perry attended as a guest and spoke of the Lithuanian community that has been part of Michigan City for many years. He was decorated with a traditional sash. Greetings were received from the consul general of Lithuania in Chicago and others, followed by performances from Vilija Kerelis and Agne Giedraityte. Paul Strolia and the Spinduly folk dance group performed. Vendors featured amber, woven linen clothing, scents of oils and authors.

The celebration ended with everyone joining hands to sing "Lithuania Our Land."

All photos provided

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PechaKucha

Ten new presenters will mark the return of PechaKucha, where presenters run 20 images for 20 seconds each, from 8:15-10 p.m. EDT Friday, Oct. 8, outside of GhostLight Theatre, 101 Hinkley St., Benton Harbor, Mich.

PechaKucha 20x20, conceived by Astrid Klein and Mark Dytham in Tokyo, is held annually in more than 1,000 cities around the world, and attended by more than 250,000 people. It has been described as the world's biggest physical social network.

The event here kicks off at 5:30 p.m. EDT at Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich., where guests can view a new exhibit, with a presentation by participating artists, an artmaking activity, live music and a cash bar.

Doors open at GhostLight Theatre at 7:30 p.m. EDT, with cocktails and socializing planned. Guests can select seats indoors or out when purchasing their tickets. Masks are required indoors regardless of vaccination status. All guests seated indoors (the maximum is 100 people) must have their temperature taken at the door and show proof of vaccination (scanned images may be shared in advance, with details shared on the ticket link).

All guests seated outdoors (the maximum is 200) must have their temperature taken at the door. Outdoor guests are asked to take chairs. Presenters will be stationed outdoors and simulcast to the indoor audience.

This year's presenters are: Denard Fenaud, Erick Fisher, Sharon Brown, Grace Kelmer, Debbie Boyersmith, Katie Remaly, August Garritano, Catherine Thomas, Mary Gayen and Darryl Reece.

Advance tickets cost \$10 (+\$1.90 fee) and are available at tinyurl.com/dr5zu8. Limited quantities may be available at the event.

In case of inclement weather, the first 135 tickets sold will experience the event indoors. All indoor guests must comply with COVID safety measures of remaining masked when not drinking, having your temperature taken and showing proof of a vaccination card.

Shirley Heinze Anniversary Event

Shirley Heinze Land Trust will host its 40th anniversary celebration, "Cheers to 40 Years," from 4-6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 14, at the William E. Urschel Pavilion in Valparaiso's Central Park Plaza.

The event is free. Aftermath Cidery and Running Vines Winery will offer free cider and wine tastings, with small bites prepared by Ivy's Bohemia House and Val's Cakes. Also planned are four musical performances by The Northwest Indiana Symphony Youth Orchestra.

Visit www.heinzetrust.org, call (219) 242-8558 or access the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/heinzetrust for more details.

Cocktails in the Garden

Friendship Botanic Gardens served as the backdrop for Dunebrook's "Cocktails in the Garden," which raised funds for its child abuse-prevention programs.

Underwritten in part by American Licorice and ADS/Acme Communications, the event included food from Social Q BBQ, Rolling Stonebaker and South Bend Chocolates and beverages from Patrick's Grille. An auction featured everything from fine wine and dining to sports collectibles



Above: Tim (from left), Natalie, Katy and Norah Gartland.
Below: Jeff (from left), Jennifer and Bob Nielsen.



Tim and Katy Gartland, along with their daughters, Norah and Natalie, received the 2020 Lester Radke Community Service Award, while Bob Nielsen and Jeff Nielsen received the 2021 award.

New this year, Dunebrook presented "Spirit of the Child" awards to volunteer Dave DeLau and Lakeshore Career Network for bringing awareness and support to Dunebrook as its Spotlight Organization in 2020 and 2021.

Proceeds from the evening support Dunebrook efforts like the Healthy Families Program, which provides home visitation to expectant and new parents.

Call (219) 874-0007 or visit www.dunebrook.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.).

The following programs are planned:

- **Page Turners Book Club from noon-1 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 12, in the main library Study Cafe.** Refreshments will not be served, but guests can take coffee or tea.
- **Pajama Time from 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 12, at the Coolspring Branch meeting room.** The library story time invites children ages 2-5 to wear pajamas during the program.

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.

Dunes Arts Foundation

Dunes Arts Foundation will host its fall 2021 Volunteer Cleanup Weekend from 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, Oct. 16, at Dunes Summer Theatre, 288 Shady Oak Drive, Michiana Shores.

Autumn refreshments will be served. Call (219) 879-7509, email contact@dunesarts.org or visit the Dunes Eventbrite page to register.

The DAF annual meeting is at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 19. All donors, patrons and the public are invited. RSVP at the Dunes Eventbrite page.

Duneland Weavers Guild

The Duneland Weavers Guild will meet from 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, Oct. 9, at Three Moons Fiberworks, 402 Broadway, Chesterton.

The focus is Kate Henry, who will demonstrate bobbin weaving. The public is invited.

Michigan City Public Library

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

The front doors are open. Remodeling of the front lobby is almost complete. 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 Friends of the Michigan City Public Library book sale is Oct. 21-23 at the library. Donations can be dropped off from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday at Visit Michigan City LaPorte tourism bureau, 4073 Franklin St. Donations can include magazines, children's books and puzzles.

Two new databases are available:

- Newspapers.com World Collection contains historical newspapers from the 1700s-2000s, including thousands of well-known regional, state and small local newspapers in the United States and other countries. Visit tinyurl.com/4f8kfo3v and log in with a library card number.
- Fold3, a military-records database powered by Ancestry.com. It provides access to military records, including stories, photos and personal documents. Visitors can combine records found there with personal effects to create an online memorial for someone who served. Visit tinyurl.com/58cnu2vn and log in with a library card number.

The following programs are scheduled:

- **Duneland Stamp Club at 4 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 14.** The club meets the second Thursday of each month. New members are invited.
- **Henri Matisse-Inspired Vase and Flower Drawing at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 14 through Zoom.** Learn how to draw a vase and flowers based on Matisse's artwork. Participants will use lines, shapes and angles to complete drawings using colored pencils or watercolor pencils. Call (219) 873-3049 to register or for more information.
- **Take-Home Craft for Kids & Teens.** Free take-home craft kits are available at the Youth Services desk while supplies last.
- **Virtual Story Time with Take-Home Craft.** A new storytime video is posted at 10 a.m. Wednesdays on the library website and YouTube channel at www.mclib.org/parents/story-time/ Visit Youth Services to get the craft! The program is aimed at children through age 5. Contact the Youth Services department at (219) 873-3045 for more details.

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

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American Red Cross

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

- Northwest Health LaPorte, 1007 W. Lincolnway, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 7, and 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 12.
- First Church of God, 2020 E. Lincolnway, LaPorte, noon-6 p.m. Monday, Oct. 11.

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.

Bridgman Public Library

Author William Hazelgrove will discuss via Zoom his latest book, One Hundred and Sixty Minutes: The Race to Save the RMS Titanic, at 6 p.m. EDT Tuesday, Oct. 12.

The book details the heroism and incompetence involved in the sinking of the most advanced ship of its time.

Visit www.bridgmanlibrary.org for the Zoom link.

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Park Department Seeks Input

The first public input session for Michigan City Parks and Recreation Department's 2022-2026 Master Plan will be in conjunction with the park board meeting at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 6, at the City Hall council chambers, 100 E. Michigan Blvd.

A press release states public input is vital to the planning process. A survey is available at www.emichigancity.com, or at the park office, city clerk's office, mayor's office, Michigan City Senior Center, Michigan City Public Library, Michigan City Municipal Golf Course, Washington Park Zoo and Visit Michigan City LaPorte visitors bureau.

Surveys are due by Oct. 29 to: Michigan City Parks and Recreation Department, 100 E. Michigan Blvd., Suite 2, Michigan City, IN 46360, or by email to season@emichigancity.com

PNW Pride Stride 5K

One of Purdue University Northwest's top campus traditions, the Pride Stride 5K color run/walk, makes an in-person return after going virtual last year due to COVID-19.

The public is invited to participate in the Oct. 7 event, which features an approximately 3.1-mile course at the Westville campus, 1401 S. U.S. 421. This year marks the fifth running of the event.

Registration is at www.pnw.edu/pride-stride. Check-in on race day starts at 4:30 p.m., followed by the race at 5:15 p.m. Participants can get food and earn giveaways during the event, which lasts until 7 p.m. Weather-permitting, a casual after-party and bonfire are scheduled. In case of inclement weather, the makeup date is Oct. 14.

Wine and Watercolors

The Art Loft Gallery, 10232 Wilson Road, New Buffalo, Mich., will present "Wine and Watercolors" as a 25th anniversary exhibit Friday-Sunday, Oct. 8-10.

The exhibit will showcase Dave Knoebber's range of watercolors. He researches the elements of art in his gardens and the surrounding area.

A reception is from 1-5 p.m. EDT Friday, Oct. 8. Regular hours are 1-4 p.m. EDT. Contact Dave on Facebook or at (630) 441-8976 for more details.

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2. Gutter Busters	7	5

HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES

	SCORE
1. Dottie Brinckman	189
2. Mary Lou McFadden	170
3. Barb Macudzinski	167
4. Pat Collado	166
5. June Salmon	156

SPLITS

Mary Lou McFadden	2-7, 5-6
Nancy Klausner	3-10, 3-9-10
Kathy Straninger	5-10
June Salmon	4-5

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Dottie Brinkman



More bowlers are invited when teams meet at 12:30 p.m. Tuesdays at City Lanes.

Grave Rededication

The Three Oaks Rebecca Dewey Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution will rededicate the American Patriot grave of James Selleck and his wife, Chloe.

The service is at 2 p.m. EDT Sunday, Oct. 10, at the Allen (Red Mill) Cemetery on Elm Street in Silver Creek Township near Dowagiac, Mich.

The Sellecks' graves were in disrepair. Chapter regent Kathleen Alton repaired the graves stones. Members also researched descendants and placed plantings of mums.

Slated to appear at the ceremony are DAR of Michigan officers, Sons of the American Revolution and Children of the American Revolution.

The public is invited. Email Rebecca.deweyto@gmail.com for more details.

A Notice to Our Readers

The Beacher's office hours are:

Monday-Thursday: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Friday: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Closed: Saturday & Sunday

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Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

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Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the 'Sea, help me and show me, herein you are my mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth! I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in

this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my mother. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3x). Holy Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3x). Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in Eternal Glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. The person must say this prayer 3 consecutive days. After 3 days, the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor is granted.

October Series



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Activities to Explore

In the Area:

Oct. 8 — Second Friday Art Opening, 5-7 p.m., The Beverly Shores Depot Museum & Art Gallery, 525 S. Broadway.

Oct. 8-10 — “Guys & Dolls,” LaPorte Little Theatre Club, 218 A St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Oct. 8-9, 2 p.m. Oct. 10. Tickets: \$17/adults, \$16/seniors, \$13/students. Reservations: www.laportelittletheatreclub.com

Oct. 9 — Walk to End Alzheimer’s, 9 a.m., Washington Park. Registration: www.alz.org/Indiana/walk. Info: (219) 472-1860, ktrizer@alz.org

Oct. 9 — Duneland Weavers Guild, 10 a.m.-noon, Three Moons Fiberworks, 402 Broadway, Chesterton.

Oct. 9 — High Dunes Hike, 10:30 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Oct. 9 — Downtown Spooktacular Trick or Treat, 1-3 p.m., Lincolnway & State Street b/w Indiana Avenue & Jackson Street, LaPorte.

Oct. 9 — Spooky Snakes, 2 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Oct. 10 — Beach Mysteries Table, 10-11 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Oct. 10 — Hibernate, Migrate or Get Fat!, 2 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Oct. 12 — Page Turners Book Club, noon-1 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library Study Cafe, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Oct. 12 — Pajama Time, 6-7 p.m., Coolspring Library Branch meeting room, 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Through Oct. 15 — Exhibit, “Bramson/Indiana/Lake,” Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: www.lubeznikcenter.org

Through Dec. 31 — Oil paintings by Don Grott, The Legacy Center Gallery @ Queen of All Saints Catholic Church, 1719 E. Barker Ave. 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: kd3627@hotmail.com

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

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

First and Third Mondays — Singing Sands Toastmasters Club, 6:30-8 p.m., Zoom. Info: <https://7269291.toastmastersclubs.org>.

Second Saturdays — Free sunset yoga w/ Lauralee Sikorski, Long Beach Realty Stop 31 location. Limited parking. Updates: Long Beach Realty Facebook page.

In the Region

Oct. 8 — Jefferson Starship lead singer Cathy Richardson, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generation Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: general admission/\$35, reserved seats/\$60 (include \$25 tax-deductible contribution). Reservations: www.acornlive.org/events

Oct. 8 — Preview party, The American Society of Marine Artists North Juried Regional Exhibition, “the butterfly, the flying fish and the hurricane,” 5:30 p.m. EDT, Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Free. Info: www.krasl.org

Oct. 8 — PechaKucha, 8:15-10 p.m. EDT, GhostLight Theatre, 101 Hinkley St., Benton Harbor, Mich. Advance tickets: \$10 (+\$1.90 fee). Reservations: tinyurl.com/dr5zu8

Oct. 8-10 — “Wine and Watercolors,” The Art Loft Gallery, 10232 Wilson Road, New Buffalo, Mich. Reception: 1-5 p.m. EDT Oct. 8. Regular hours: 1-4 p.m. EDT. Info: Facebook, (630) 441-8976.

Oct. 12 — Zoom presentation, William Hazelgrove’s One Hundred and Sixty Minutes: The Race to Save the RMS Titanic, 6 p.m. EDT. Zoom link: www.bridgmanlibrary.org

Through Oct. 15 — Celebrate Hispanic Heritage, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. weekends, Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, 100 N. Lake St., Gary’s Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Through Oct. 30 — Series 5 art exhibits, The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Featured: St. Joe Valley Watercolor Society, Bryce Culverhouse, Cameron Covert, Susan Sheldon, April Seybold. Artist reception: 5:30-7 p.m. EDT Oct. 16. Info: www.boxfactoryforthearts.org

Through Nov. 1 — Opportunity Enterprises student exhibit, Art Barn School of Art, 695 N. County Road 400 East, Valparaiso. Info: www.artbarnschool.org

Fridays in October — “Hike with your Hound,” 10 a.m.-noon, Paul Douglas Center for Environmental Education, 100 N. Lake St., Gary’s Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

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

Vickers Theatre — *Now showing*: “The Eyes of Tammy Faye.” Rated PG-13. Times: 3 p.m. Oct. 8, 2 p.m. Oct. 9, 3 p.m. Oct. 10, 6 p.m. Oct. 11. *Also*: “Blue Bayou.” Rated R. Times: 6 p.m. Oct. 8, 6:30 p.m. Oct. 9, 6 p.m. Oct. 10, 3 p.m. Oct. 11. All times Eastern. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

Land Trust Seeks Accreditation

Shirley Heinze Land Trust is applying to renew accreditation from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission.

The program recognizes land conservation organizations that meet national quality standards for protecting natural places and working lands. The commission invites public input through Oct. 2, accepting signed, written comments that must relate to how Shirley Heinze complies with national quality standards.

Visit www.landtrustaccreditation.org to submit a comment or email info@landtrustaccreditation.org. Comments also may be faxed or mailed to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attention Public Comments: (fax) 518-587-3183 or (mail) 36 Phila St., Suite 2, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866.

Visit tinyurl.com/p85bcrp3 for more details.

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BROCHURES



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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

On October 7, 1816, the Washington, the world's first double-decked steamboat, docked at New Orleans.

On October 7, 1916, in Atlanta, in the worst mismatch in the history of college football, Georgia Tech defeated Cumberland University 222-0.

On October 7, 1942, during World War II, with Denmark under Nazi occupation, Germany demanded legislation requiring Jews to wear the Star of David as identification. Denmark's King Christian X, attending a Copenhagen synagogue, told the assemblage, *"If the Jews are to wear the Star of David, then we shall all wear it. You are all Danes. You are all my people."*

On October 7, 1954, Marian Anderson became the first black singer hired by the New York Metropolitan Opera Company.

On October 8, 1871, one of America's worst forest fires started in Peshtigo, Wis. More than 1,500 lost their lives (dwarfing the loss in the more famous Chicago fire of the same date), as an estimated 1.28 million acres of timber was destroyed.

On October 8, 1871, the fire that destroyed Chicago began. The fire started (legend would have us believe) when a cow, owned by a Mrs. O'Leary, kicked over a lantern. The fire, which took more than 200 lives and destroyed 17,000 buildings, continued to burn for about 30 hours.

On October 8, 1904, on New York's Long Island, at a place called Hicksville, the first automobile race for the "Vanderbilt Cup" took place. Stretched over a 30-mile course, the race included five Mercedes, three Panhards, two Fiats, two Pops, one Renault, one Packard and one Simplex. A Mr. George Heath, driving a Packard, was the winner.

On October 9, 1776, a group of Spanish missionaries settled in present day San Francisco.

On October 9, 1855, I.M. Singer patented the first motorized sewing machine.

On October 9, 1930, Laura Ingalls became the first woman to fly across the United States. She completed a journey from Roosevelt Field, N.Y., to Glendale, Calif., making nine stops along the way.

On October 9, 1936, the first generator at Boulder (now Hoover) Dam began transmitting electricity to Los Angeles.

On October 9, 1946, the nation's first electric blanket was manufactured in Petersburg, Va.

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On October 10, 1845, the U.S. Naval Academy opened at Annapolis, Md.

On October 10, 1886, at New York's Tuxedo Club, a men's dress coat without tails, introduced from England, was worn in the United States for the first time. Many of the guests that evening were outraged at such cavalier dress, but the "tuxedo" soon became more popular in America than the coat with tails.

On October 10, 1935, the American opera "Porgy and Bess," with music by George and Ira Gershwin, opened on Broadway.

On October 10, 1964, the Summer Olympic Games opened in Tokyo, the first time they had been held in Asia.

On October 11, 1811, the first steam ferry (invented by John Stevens) commenced operation between New York City and Hoboken, N.J.

On October 11, 1868, Thomas Edison filed for a patent for his first invention, an electrical voice recorder to tabulate votes in Congress more quickly. Congress refused to use it.

On October 11, 1890, the national society of the Daughters of the American Revolution was organized in Washington, D.C. The Michigan City chapter is named after the Rev. Abijah Bigelow, who is buried in Greenwood Cemetery, and who is the only Revolutionary War veteran buried in LaPorte County.

On October 12, 1868, Marshall Field and Levi Leiter opened a department store at Chicago's State and Washington Streets.

On October 12, 1920, construction began on the Holland Tunnel (under the Hudson River) connecting New York City with Jersey City.

On October 12, 1928, the first respirator ("iron lung") was used at a Boston hospital.

On October 12, 1964, in the first space mission involving more than one person, the Soviet Union launched a space capsule carrying three men.

On October 12, 1971, the rock opera "Jesus Christ Superstar" opened on Broadway.

On October 13, 1775, the American Navy came into being when the Continental Congress ordered the construction of a naval fleet.

On October 13, 1843, B'nai B'rith, a Jewish organization, was founded in New York.

On October 13, 1860, the first aerial photograph in the United States was taken from a balloon flying over Boston.

On October 13, 1903, the Boston Pilgrims (now the Red Sox) won the first modern World Series, defeating the Pittsburgh Pirates five games to three.

On October 13, 1962, Edward Albee's play, "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?," opened on Broadway to rave reviews by New York critics.

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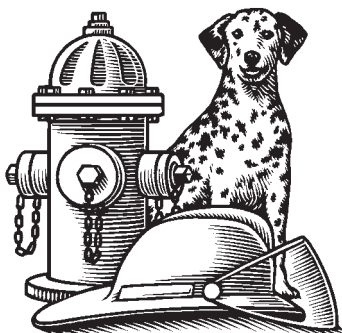
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Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

The Missing Hours by Julia Dahl (hardcover, \$25.99 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and an audiobook. 276 pages.)

“She started walking back toward town, past the Life is Worth Living sign. What did the rest of the girls do? She wondered. Where were the articles about the girls who lived with it? If life was worth living after this, where could she find out how?”

It always begins as a fun night on the town. For some, it just ends up with puking in the toilet. But for others, it ends up darker — too much alcohol, a lapse of memory and the morning after is darker than the darkest night.

Meet NYU’s Claudia Castro, the privileged daughter of wealth. She wakes up in a bed, her clothes in disarray, a black eye, split lip, eyelid swollen half shut. She has a splitting headache, and there’s blood between her legs. An ugly picture made uglier by the video sent to her the next day. A video of shame and bad judgement unlike the beautiful photos of her taken by fashion mags and the society page of newspapers.

You can’t help but feel Claudia’s pain and shame at what happened, even though she has no memory of the hours after sharing laughs and drinks with her friends. Her whole world is turned upside down in one horrible night.

Claudia’s mother is Michelle Whitehouse, a famous model born into a rich family. Her father, Gabe Castro, made his millions in the music industry. So Claudia is used to her photo being on social media. But what about this shameful video? Who else did anonymous send it to?

She knows the two guys in the video, but can’t remember how any of it happened. Alcohol blackout? Or maybe a drug slipped into her drink? She can’t let anyone see her like this, especially her family. Her sister, Edie, texts that her water broke, her first baby is coming. Remember, Claudia? You promised to be at the hospital with her and her husband, Nathan, for the birth. What to do? To start with, she doesn’t see the text because she does not know where her cell phone is. Even when she finds the phone, she can’t face anyone.

Embarrassment, anger, revenge. Claudia’s first reaction is embarrassment for herself, then anger at how this will affect her family. Then, the need for

revenge, the only way to redeem herself and prove no one messes with Claudia Castro. She can’t see herself going to the police and forever being defined as a victim. That’s not her style.

Claudia decides to stay low until at least her face heals. She finds an unexpected ally in Trevor Barber, a fellow student and somewhat naive individual. He finds out the hard way that the very rich are different. While Claudia gladly accepts his sincerity and help, it’s also obvious she expects his help. And, he goes along willingly, until...

Claudia lets him know revenge is necessary. She wants these two guys, Chad Drake and Jeremy, to suffer for what they did to her. Jeremy has a band...what if he lost the use of his hands? Bye, bye musical career. And Chad. Well, Chad is a special case. She wants something extra special for him. In Claudia’s privileged world, she would then come out not only avenged, but satisfied. Claudia, however, does not stop and think this whole revenge thing through. She leaps headfirst into the first scenario that comes to mind, and it’s not a very good idea.

Because, what at first seems like sweet revenge on the perpetrators is turned around, and they suddenly become the victims. Claudia can’t believe that, once again, Chad wins.

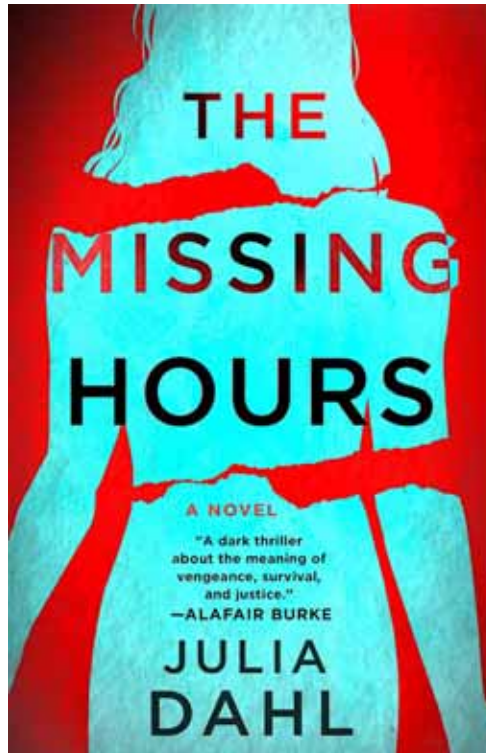
Chad’s father, Ridley, is a hotshot lawyer linked to Claudia’s family. Wow. You won’t believe that connection! He’s really upset about what Chad has done. Turns out, only three copies of the video are sent out: one to Claudia, one to Trevor and one to Claudia’s ex-boyfriend, Ben. He even contacts Trevor and Ben and offers them money, quite a bit of money, to give him their copies of the rape. What is Ridley afraid of?

When Claudia’s family can’t get her to answer their texts or calls, they begin a frantic search to find her. Although the family is somewhat disconnected, they make a combined, concerted effort to find her.

Told from the perspective of Claudia, Trevor and Edie, the approach gives the reader a look at how a rape affects more people than just the victim. This is a cautionary tale about the rippling effects that fan out to more than just the people in the video.

Two enthusiastic thumbs up.

Till next time, happy reading!





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