



She's Got the Music in Her

A pianist's life comes full circle

By Kelly Ottinger

Current Contributor

"Every time you perform, you never know who is in the audience. They may be sad about something going on in their life, and it's your responsibility to provide what they need through your music."—Nozomi Khudiyev

At the age of four, Nozomi Khudiyev began taking piano lessons in her native Japan after literally begging for them. But by age six, after a change to an instructor with whom she did not click, Khudiyev had sworn off the instrument. As many children do, Khudiyev told her mother that she hated the piano and would never touch it again.

That just simply was not the case.

Now she is a professional collaborative



Nozomi Khudiyev (left) is the piano accompanist for the Benzie County Community Chorus. Dinah Haag (right) is director.

pianist—one who has performed at Carnegie Hall, The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center. Fortunately for us here in Northern Michigan, Khudiyev is a piano instructor at Interlochen Arts Academy and the accompanist for the Benzie County Community Chorus.

At the time when Khudiyev swore off piano, she could not have cared less; she was ready to move on to sports. She had been swimming since age three, so she continued with that and also added competitive badminton to her sports platform.

"In Japan, children are encouraged to pick one extracurricular activity and work hard to perfect that," she explains. "It's not like in the [United] States, where kids are encouraged to try a variety of things that interest them."

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Rainy Day Activities for Kids

Benzie County has more than just beaches

By Nicole Bates

Current Contributor

Summer has been good to us this year. Plenty of warm days and lots of sunshine have made for great beach days and comfortable water temperatures. If you are anything like me, the floor of your vehicle now has enough sand to fill a decent-sized sandbox. This area is known for its white sand beaches and water sports, but what do you do when everyone is sunburned, waterlogged, or your beach plans simply get rained out? We have some ideas!

Visit a Nearby Library

Our local libraries work hard to provide a kid-friendly atmosphere, as well as child-centered activities, on a weekly basis. The **Benzie Shores District Library** in downtown Frankfort offers a weekly Circle Time for infants and toddlers and their caregivers on Mondays,

as well as a preschool playtime on Fridays. The **Darcy Library of Beulah** offers a great variety of activities for toddlers to teens: Teen book and movie clubs, Minecraft Club, Writing Club, and two different family story time options. The **Benzonia Public Library**, hosts a variety of events like Baby Play Time with Miss Mary Kay, in addition to performances by the hilarious puppets, followed by hands-on creative and learning activities. The **Mills Community House**, which houses BPL, also allows you to host your own event, with the option of renting their great basement space. The **Almira Township Library** in Lake Ann is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The **Betsie Valley District Library** in



Crystal Lake Alpaca Farm and Boutique. Photo by Stephanie Ong.

Thompsonville offers a summer story and activity hour on Wednesdays through August 3. All of Benzie County's libraries offer summer reading programs to keep kids engaged and learning. (Details of youth programming and other offerings can be found on each library's website: BenzieShoresLibrary.org, DarcyLibraryOfBeulah.org, BenzoniaLibrary.org, AlmiraTownship.org/Library, and BetsieValleyDistrictLibrary.org.)

Get Historical

The **Benzie Area Historical Museum** is another great option, with tours from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. every Tuesday through Saturday and family-friendly events such as "Pirates in Benzie" and "I was the only 4th Grader," which includes stories and photos from former stu-

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Nation of Immigrants

Sleeping Bear naturalization ceremony rises above caustic political debate

By Jacob Wheeler

Current Editor

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore and the nation's 142 national parks have 20 new stewards. They are not rangers or park superintendents. They do not clear trails or check entrance passes. They do not even wear uniforms. They are 20 new U.S. citizens, recently naturalized at a celebratory and educational ceremony on July 21 at the Philip A. Hart Visitor Center in Empire. (The ceremony was scheduled to be held at the Sleeping Bear Point Coast Guard Station at Glen Haven, but an impending storm forced park staff to move indoors.)

The 20 new Americans hail from 15 different countries, such as Cuba, India, Mexico, the Philippines, Russia, and Vietnam. They include: Cecilia Molina Espinoza, a Mexico



Twenty immigrants were naturalized as American citizens during at July 21 ceremony at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Photo by Jacob Wheeler.

City native who immigrated a decade ago to attend eighth grade in Bloomington, Minnesota, (home of the Mall of America) and who now works for a company in Kalamazoo; Asdrubal Cabeza, a Havana native who came to Michigan five years ago and is now a truck driver near Grand Rapids; and Gurdeep Singh, from India, an engineer who worked for four years at Stryker Corporation in Kalamazoo and then started his own business two years ago.

Many of the new Americans brought spouses, parents, and young children with them to the ceremony. They are white, black, and brown; the religions of their native countries are Muslim, Protestant, and Catholic. Like American immigrants for the last 240 years, they are hardworking, creative, and devoted to their new nation.

And by reciting the pledge of allegiance

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Kids

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dents and teachers of historical one-room schoolhouses.

The **Hale Auto Museum** in Frankfort is an automotive gem that is tucked away in the backstreets of Frankfort. Three adjacent barns house a treasure trove of classic General Motors cars, vintage Ford models, and other assorted brands. This collection of 50-plus cars belongs to Larry Hale and his family, who live on nearby Crystal Lake. Larry's son, Jeff, manages the collection and works on restoring the cars, acquiring new models, and related hobbies when he is not at his regular marketing job with a Traverse City publishing company. Part of the charm of the Hale barns is the automotive paraphernalia that adorns the walls and hangs from the rafters. As well as numerous dealer signs, advertising banners, and other car-related visual material, the Hales fill some of the spaces around the cars with vintage pinball machines and miniature wooden bowling alleys. A large collection of Texaco model cars also takes up the wall space in one of the buildings. And in case visitors are into boats, the Hales have six classic hydroplane racers that can be found amidst the cars. (The Hale car collection at 395 Park View Lane is not normally open to the public, but visitors are welcomed by arrangement. 231-352-7720)

Semi-guided and self-guided tours are available at **Point Betsie Lighthouse**, located on the shores of Lake Michigan, just off M-22, between the Congregational Summer Assembly and Crystal Downs Country Club. On stormy days when the rain pierces like daggers and an angry wind whips the coastline, you can look out into the darkness and imagine a ship running aground just off the shore of Point Betsie as a crew lashes themselves to the bobbing wreckage and prays that their cries for help will reach human ears. Though the light still beams 15 miles into Lake Michigan, the lifesaving crews have long since left Point Betsie. The Lighthouse no longer saves lives, but it still shines in a new role: to illuminate Great Lakes maritime history and enlighten visitors about the importance of lighthouses to trade and commerce throughout early American history. This particular lighthouse was built in 1858 and added a foghorn in 1891. There is a new exhibit room and a gift shop in the Boat House, which opened in July 2014, that recount the dramatic rescues but also the tranquil, everyday scenes from the community who once lived there. (Maps to the Lighthouse, times for tours, and prices can be found at PointBetsie.org.)

Popcorn and a Movie

The **Garden Theater** in Frankfort, built in 1923, has seen ongoing renovations to its art-deco decor over the past decade, and it is really looking beautiful! The Garden provides sheltered entertainment every day of the week with a double feature on Saturdays and Sundays. Ask for "real butter" added to your popcorn: a special treat!

Indoor Swimming Option

If the kids are begging to swim, but there are thunderstorms at the beach, try the Best Western in Beulah! The pool is open to the

public for \$8 per person.

Crystal Mountain

You mean the ski hill? Yes, the ski hill! During the summer, Crystal Mountain Resort in Thompsonville offers an incredible variety of summer activities, including The Crystal Coaster (a slide down the ski hill), The Park at Water's Edge, the Edge Adventure ropes course, mountain biking, paintball, disc golf, and a climbing wall.

Additionally, there is the **Michigan Legacy Art Park**, featuring more than 45 sculptures and 30 poetry stones along its nearly two-mile hiking trail in a 30-acre preserve. Opening in September 1995, the Art Park has art ranging in style from stark to whimsical and black to colorful, all by artists from Michigan or with ties to Michigan. Patrons to the Art Park will witness the unique and intended evolution of a sculpture and how nature contributes to and creates art all its own. Go for a hike through the park and check out the art—you are even allowed to touch and interact with it! (Learn more at CrystalMountain.com and MichiganLegacyArtPark.org.)

Get Artsy

The **Oliver Art Center** in Frankfort is another great, recently renovated space. The building dates back to 1934 and was used as the Coast Guard station until they consolidated and moved into the building across the street. You can check out the upstairs, where the classrooms now are, to pretend that you were a Coastie living in the building. You can also participate twice a week: open art studio on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with a \$2 a donation, and open clay studio on Thursdays from 3-6 p.m. with \$60 fees covering one adult and one child for four visits (a total of 12 hours, used as you like). It can be as fun or focused as each student prefers, and all skill levels should consider taking part!

Take a Drive Down River Road

For your first stop, turn into the **Crystal Lake Alpaca Farm** at 4907 River Road to see adorable adult and baby alpacas grazing on lush green grass or relaxing in the shade of their barn. Make sure to step inside the Alpaca Boutique to admire the beautiful products, made from incredibly soft alpaca fur.

Next, take a right out of the farm and drive 4.5 miles, until you see signs for **Gwen Frostic Prints**, the former home of the world-renowned artist at 5140 River Road. There is a "living roof" with moss and other plants on the building's exterior, and the inside has working fountains. My son calls it "the hobbit house," and if you visit, you will see why. Make sure to check out the print shop, where there are often people working on vintage machines that church out the beautiful nature-inspired stationery that you can purchase to write to a pen pal or an overseas grandma. Browse the bird carvings displayed throughout the store.

Continue your drive for 1.2 miles further and then turn right at 6289 River Road to visit **BeeDazzled** for some organic, hand-made soaps, candles, and natural body care products. The complex is the brainchild of Kirk and Sharon Jones, one of their three Benzie businesses dedicated to bees. Sharon raises bees on site, and she grows a garden of bee-preferred flowers that you can tour. (Learn more at CrystalLakeAlpacaFarm.com, CrystalLakeAlpacaBoutique.com, GwenFrostic.com, and BeeDazzled.com.)

A Different Kind of Airshow

On August 27, you can join the **Benzie Area Radio Control Club** for their 19th an-

nual air show! From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Thompsonville Airport, the club will be flying radio-controlled model aircraft including fixed-wing, helicopters, warbirds, and jets. Hot dogs and refreshments will be provided, and there is a special candy drop for the kids! (Find out more at BenziareARC.com.)

Falling Up

Have you ever had the sensation of rolling uphill backwards? You can do that by visiting a spot that is known to Benzie County locals as "gravity hill." Throw your car into neutral at a certain spot along Putney Road, near the Blaine Christian Church, and experience this strange sensation for yourself!

Some claim that a spiritual magnet pulls sinners back towards the church along the road, but the more scientific explanation says visitors experience an optical illusion that causes them to believe they are rolling uphill and backwards when they actually roll down a slight grade. This hilly section of road has a slightly obscured horizon, making it difficult to judge slopes, because there is not a reliable reference point, and people often overestimate the degree of a grade. Trees that are not exactly vertical can also help to trick visitors into thinking that they are going uphill when they are really going downhill. (The illusion is similar to the Ames room, in which balls can also appear to roll against gravity.)

To get to gravity hill, turn south on Putney Road from Joyfield Road and drive about 100 yards to what appears to be a slight dip at the bottom of a gentle downhill grade. This spot is just before a curve in the road and near a stand of pine trees. Stop the car, put it into neutral, take your foot off of the gas pedal, and you will most likely feel like you are rolling uphill backwards—just remember that it is all an optical illusion! (Note: Wikipedia says that there are hundreds of recognized gravity hills around the world, but only two in Michigan—Blaine Township and Rose City.)

Stop and Smell the Lilies

For the garden lovers, there are some wonderful options. The **Betsie River Centennial Lily Farm**, located at 17745 Moore Road in Thompsonville, offers group tours to admire hundreds of varieties of lilies. Keep an eye out for glass and steel garden art, made right on the farm!

Crystal Gardens, located at 1299 Pilgrim Highway just a few miles outside of Frankfort, provides entertainment for the whole family. Not only your one-stop shop for all of your gardening and landscaping needs, they have expanded to include a nature exhibit, rock shop, and an antique and gift shop called Barn Swallow. Take a stroll through the sun-lovers section and the shade plants, and visit the fairy garden in the nature exhibit. Keep an eye out for the three peacocks who live on site! (Learn more at BetsieRiverLilyFarm.com and CrystalGardensM22.com.)

Nature and the National Park

Operated by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the **Platte River State Fish Hatchery** is located four miles northeast of Honor, just across from Jodi's Tangled Antler, at the corner of US-31 and 669 (Maple City Highway). There is a facility that raises Coho and Chinook salmon; it is the main egg-taking station for Coho in the Upper Great Lakes. Renovated in 2005 after its establishment in 1928 as a satellite rearing

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Gabriel Brass Band

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Maker Movement Comes to Benzie

An ode to entrepreneurs

By Jimmy McLaren

Current Contributor

From the basic wheel to the automobile, from Ayurveda to penicillin, from the telegram to the World Wide Web, new inventions and concepts have changed the way that we look at the world. Throughout history, inventors have not always been praised for their work during their own lifetime—Tesla and DaVinci underappreciated, Van Gogh and Melville unknown and penniless—but the world is changing. Now, we try harder than ever to celebrate the creators, the architects, the designers,

community center offering classes and workshops that are consistent with the maker ideals, and the nonprofit is always looking for more ways to provide educational opportunities to the public. For instance, their after-school program, Hive Minded, offers safe learning spaces for kids at Benzie Central High School to work with their hands and explore their individual creativity—including woodworking, gardening, and culinary projects.

In addition to the August 8 meet-and-greet event at Grow Benzie, the library is just wrapping up its hugely popular “Building Up S.T.E.A.M.” Summer Reading Program and is gearing up for a three-day

find out more information. This is just the first step that we’re taking to organize the vast amount of maker talent we have here. In Benzie County, the opportunities are endless.”

What Is The Maker Movement?

Making is a source of innovation. New technologies present new opportunities to makers, inspiring them to push the boundaries of the intended purposes that were set out by the product manufacturers.

But the Maker Movement is not only about high-tech gadgetry; traditional handicrafts, basic construction, artistic endeavors, agricultural and culinary sciences, and sewing all play a part in the Maker Space. Even the most ancient skills offer a source of awe and discovery with new application. Out of the whole process, new ideas emerge, which may lead to real-world applications or new business ventures. The possibilities are endless.

“This seems a perfect fit for Benzie County,” says Amanda McLaren, director of the Benzonia Public Library. “We are known throughout the region and the state for our large population of artists and artisans. We have always had amazing engineers and contractors who are building our industry and our homes. Not to mention that we have this grand history of pioneers, and their do-it-yourself spirit is still felt everywhere.”

This maker programming is meant to help people who are interested in S.T.E.A.M. to focus that creativity. Most people find a great deal of pride and self worth in the ability to create something with their own two hands. Sometimes people just need a little encouragement to kindle that creative spark, and so many young people are growing up without real hands-on experiences. Just the opportunity to take something apart and build something new out of it can develop so many positive things—a new hobby or maybe a career path.

Who will be the next Marie Curie, the next Thomas Edison, the next Georgia O’Keefe? Will it be you?

Jimmy McLaren is married to Amanda McLaren, BPL director, who also contributed to this reporting. For more information about the meet-and-greet event on August 8 at 6 p.m. or about the free three-day Maker Space training program, contact the Benzonia Public Library at 231-882-4111 or benzonia.library@gmail.com. Local makers and other interested people may also register online for the free workshop at: MakingLibraries.SI.UMich.Edu/Road-Trip.



The Benzonia Public Library is just wrapping up its hugely popular “Building Up S.T.E.A.M. Summer Reading Program, which allowed kids of all ages to play with gizmos like Makey Makey. Photo by Michele Leines.

the makers; to encourage both the young and the old to begin making, for it is never too late to create.

The Maker Movement is gaining momentum worldwide. Its focus is to bring like-minded people together in experimental play and tinkering with science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics (S.T.E.A.M.). At the hub of the movement are Maker Spaces: local places where makers can meet, work together, and share ideas. Additionally, these spaces allow makers to share resources, tools, and technology that might be too expensive to own individually.

That is why two of Benzie County’s popular institutions, Grow Benzie and the Benzonia Public Library (BPL), are teaming up to pique the community’s interest in the Maker Movement at an informal meet-and-greet and brainstorming session at Grow Benzie on Monday, August 8. The shared vision of the two organizations is to bring all of the area makers—artists, builders, engineers, scientists, hobbyists of all ages—together to share their skills and to explore new ideas.

Grow Benzie is a Benzonia-based com-

professional learning opportunity for the maker culture. From Tuesday, August 16, to Thursday, August 18, BPL will host trainers from the University of Michigan’s School of Information—as well as local librarians, educators, civic leaders, daycare providers, employees at cultural institutions, makers, artists, and more—to explore how maker culture can support our community’s personal and economic needs. (Continuing Education credits will be available to educators that attend.) On Wednesday, August 17, there will be a family-friendly, hands-on event that is open to the community from 6-8 p.m. featuring fashion hacking, glass etching, 3D printing, LEGO, circuit building, and Makey Makey. (You do not need to register for this evening event.)

“Our goal is to assemble the makers of Benzie County under one roof where they can discuss their interests and ideas around a local Maker Movement,” says Josh Stoltz, executive director of Grow Benzie. “Maybe they only want to volunteer at the [August 8] event, or they have tools to donate, or maybe they’re interested in leading workshops or starting a club. Everyone is welcome—even folks who just want to

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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Mondays

Pilates with Anna at the Oliver Art Center in Frankfort. Email annamallien@gmail.com if interested. 9-10am.

Circle Time for infants and toddlers at the Benzie Shores District Library at 630 Main Street in Frankfort. Infants and toddlers (+ their parents/caregivers) will have fun rhyming and moving with Miss Char, as well as a focus on repetition. Each week, children build their repertoire of rhymes, both old and new. There is an informal playgroup following Circle Time. 10-11am.

Yoga class for seniors led at no charge by Michelle Leines at The Gathering Place Senior Center, 10579 Main Street in the Honor Plaza. 231-525-0601. 10-11am.

Yoga + Pilates + Strength = Fitness Fusion at Oliver Art Center. 10:30-11:30 am. Call Beth at 770-235-9306.

Cards at The Gathering Place. We have a dedicated group of card sharks who play Pinochle weekly during lunch, but we aren't limited to Pinochle: join us for euchre, cribbage, and rummy, too! 12-1pm.

Zumba at The Gathering Place. Your first class is free, and then it's only \$3! All ability levels are welcome. 2:30pm.

Grow Benzie Farmers' Market at 5885 Frankfort Highway (M-115) in Benzonia. 3-7pm.

Tuesdays

Stretch and tone with Jean at Oliver Art Center. 9-10am.

Honor Farmers' & Flea Market in Maley Park. Across from the shopping plaza and senior center with plenty of off-road parking. 9am-3pm.

Benzie Shores District Library offers technology assistance. Learn to download ebooks, audiobooks, and magazines to your personal devices. 10am-12pm.

Music by the Melody Makers at The Gathering Place. 10:30am-12pm.

Knitting Group at Benzonia Public Library. A "knit-along" project for those who want to work on the same project, or bring your own project if you prefer. Call Michele at 231-383-5716 with any questions. 1-3pm.

Chair Yoga class for \$5 at The Gathering Place. 3:30-4:30pm.

Zumba at The Gathering Place. 6pm.

Yoga with Kari at Pleasant Valley Community Center in Arcadia. Call 231-383-1883 if interested. 6-7:30pm.

Wednesdays

Zumba at The Gathering Place. 8:30am.

Stay Fit with Doris at The Gathering Place. 10-11am.

Open art studio at the Oliver Art Center. Participants are strongly encouraged to become members and to contribute a donation of \$2 per visit. 10am-4pm.

Bingo at The Gathering Place. Cost is \$1.00 per card or bring a prize. 12:30-1:30pm.

Matter of Balance with the Benzie Council on Aging at Honor Township Hall. 1-3pm.

Local computer whiz Dustin Wolpoff will be on hand after lunch to help navigate your computer, tablet, or smartphone. He will meet with everyone individually for a 15-minute appointment, so sign up at The Gathering Place in advance. A donation of \$2 is appreciated. 1:15pm.

Yoga with Kari at the Oliver Art Center in Frankfort. 231-383-1883. 5:30-7pm.

Steven Fernand, 20th century "Ballads a la Bossa." Cold Creek Inn, Beulah, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays.

Thursdays

Elberta Farmers' Market at the Elberta Pavilion Park. 8am-12:30pm.

Stretch and tone with Jean at Oliver Art Center. 9-10am.

Bible Study at The Gathering Place. 10-11am.

Bunco at The Gathering Place. 1-2pm.

Computers with Carol at the Darcy Library at 7238 Commercial Street in Beulah. Ask Carol computer-related questions. Read to Rosie, the cute little dog! 1-5pm.

Quilting at Darcy Library. 2:30-5:30pm.

Storytime for preschoolers at the Benzonia Public Library in the Children's Room. Miss Amanda will lead us through an informal time to socialize, make new friends, and hear great stories, followed by a craft or whimsical coloring sheets. 3-4pm.

Everyone is welcome to attend Open Clay Studio at the Oliver Art Center, including families! Per 4-visit block (12 hours total, used how you like), \$60 fees cover one adult or one adult and child pair. It can be as fun or focused as a student prefers, and all skill levels should consider taking part. 3-6pm.

Yoga with Kari at the Ware Farm of Bear Lake. 231-383-1883. 3-4:30pm.

Storytime with Kris at Darcy Library. 4:30pm.

Coloring & Creativity Club for Adults at Darcy Library. 5:30-7pm.

Fridays

Bunco at The Gathering Place. 9:30-10:30am.

Fun Fridays at Benzie Shores District Library: Kids and their parents/caregivers are invited to join us! Programs are free and targeted at preschool children, though kids of all ages are welcome. For the parents, are you tired of technology? Coloring for Grown-ups is a stress-free hour of coloring while the kids play. Everyone welcome. All materials supplied by the library. 10-11am.

Fridays with Britt: Drop in for a garden tour, ask questions, and learn tips from Grow Benzie's greenhouse manager about soil health, seed starting, and garden planning. Free, donations accepted. 10am-12pm.

Wii Bowling at The Gathering Place. 1-2pm.

Family Storytime: Gather 'round for stories, rhymes, and songs with Ashley at the Darcy Library. Storytime is designed for children ages 2-5, but all are welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult, and be sure to sign up for a library card so you can borrow our books to read at home! 3-3:45pm.

Crystal Mountain Farmers' Market in Thompsonville. 3-6pm.

Saturdays

Frankfort Farmers' Market at Open Space Park on Main Street, between 7th and 9th streets, along the waterfront. 9am-1pm.

Yoga + Pilates + Strength = Fitness Fusion at Oliver Art Center. 10:30-11:30 am. Call Beth at 770-235-9306.

Farmers' Market and Flea Market at the Interlochen Eagles #3503 at 20724 Honor Highway/US-131, three miles west of

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Sundays

Integrative Yoga with Jessica at the Oliver Art Center. Young or old, novice or seasoned practitioner, yoga is for everyone! Explore yoga on your own terms and discover all that it can do for you. Adult drop-in fee is \$15, student/senior drop-in fee is \$10. Call 231-620-3528 if interested. 10:30-11:30am.

ON DECK

Thursday, August 4

Not Your Mother's Book Club at Darcy Library of Beulah. Join us for a book club meant to challenge the way that you think about the world. Unlike traditional book groups, we'll be exploring a topical theme over the course of the year. First up is feminism and Islam (August 2016-July 2017). 6-7pm.

Thursday August 4

Paul Oliver Memorial Auxillary's 34th annual Tour of Interesting Places will feature six homes in Elberta, Frankfort, and Beulah. Refreshments during the tour will be available at the Oliver Art Center. Call Shary at 818-681-7924. All proceeds from this event go to Paul Oliver Memorial Hospital. 10am-4pm.

Thursday & Friday, August 4 & 5

Lakeside Shakespeare Theatre. *The Winter's Tale* by William Shakespeare on August 4th. *The Rivals* by Richard Brinsley Sheridan on August 5th. Rain or Shine. Audience is encouraged to bring weather-appropriate clothing, blankets or low beach chairs, and a picnic dinner. \$15 suggested donation. 188 Park St in the Tank Hill Park of Frankfort. 7pm.

Friday, August 5

Joshua Davis—Summer Sounds Concert at Michigan Legacy Art Park of Crystal Mountain. A Northern Michigan hero returns to our amphitheater stage to bring his uncanny gift for connecting with audiences across generations through his music. Deeply rooted in the folk tradition, while incorporating elements from a wide range of genres, Joshua Davis has a passion for creating music that brings people together in community. The last concert with Joshua sold out very fast. Reserve your tickets today: bit.ly/2aqG83x 7-9pm.

Friday & Saturday, August 5 & 6

Annual Friends Book Sale. Pick up some gently used books, audiobooks, CDs, and DVDs to help support Darcy Library of Beulah. And if you have time to help set up on Thursday or tear-down on Saturday, please call 231- 882-4037. 10am-4pm.

Saturday, August 6

Port Oneida Heritage Run—5K and 10K Run/Walk for the Farms! Kids Schoolhouse Dash; Tiller's 10K Run, and a hilly 5K. Run in one of the most beautiful places in Michigan and raise money for historic preservation in the National Park. Information and registration at PHSB.org/Programs-Events/Sleeping-Bear-Dunes-Port-Oneida-Run. We depend on volunteers to help with this fundraiser! Please sign up on our volunteer page PHSB.org/Volunteer/Volunteer/ to help with food, registration, or be on the course. \$33 fee. 7-10am.

Saturday, August 6

Benzie Home Health Care's Local Motion event. What could be better than fresh air, family and friends, and fun with a focus? Walk, run, bike, or skate along six miles of Crystal Lake's South Shore and then enjoy a delicious full brunch with family and friends while supporting the seniors in Benzie

County at the 35th Annual Local Motion (formerly known as Walk-A-Thon). Registration between 7:30-9am. Call 2310715-3234 or email info@BenzieHomeHealthCare.org for more information or to pledge.

Saturday, August 6

Take a guided hiking tour through the Michigan Legacy Art Park to learn about Michigan history, the environment, and sculpture as you go—a fun activity for adults and families Riding tours are available to guests who may be unable to hike the hilly trails beyond the new accessible trail, so explore the beauty of art and nature from the comfort of an all-terrain golf cart! Because seating is limited to five passengers, advanced registration is required for riding tours. Suggested \$5 donation. 10-11:45am.

Saturday, August 6

Strings and Cords at Mills Community House. Enjoy an evening of beautiful classical music performed by the highly acclaimed Strings and Cords duo. Mark Stachofsky and Daniel Quinn will perform a program of songs by Lorca, Schubert, Faure, Caccini, Pergolese, Dowland, and Lehrer. Solo guitar works by Sor and Sato. Admission is \$20 at the door. MillsCommHouse.org. 7pm.

Saturday, August 6

Frankfort Rotary Club's 54th annual Chicken & Pulled Pork BBQ in Frankfort's Mineral Springs Park, featuring dinners with menu choice of BBQ half-chickens, basted with "secret Rotary sauce," or pulled pork sandwich with BBQ sauce. Dinners come with full complement of sides and dessert. Proceeds raise funds for college scholarships for Benzie Central and Frankfort high school students. 11.30am-6pm.

Saturday, August 6

An artist reception for award-winning artist Ellie Harold at her Frankfort Studio & Gallery. Featuring new artwork. The public is invited to attend. In "Summer Scapes: Pleasure in Paint" Harold, known for colorful oil paintings of Northern Michigan-inspired structures and landscapes, combines both in large-format paintings. She says that her paintings celebrate the locale in a new way. Her newer work depart from the realism that is typically a hallmark of her work. 402 Forest Avenue, Frankfort, at the corner of 4th St and Forest Avenue. 3-6 pm.

Sunday, August 7

3rd annual Ice Cream Social to support the Benzonia Public Library. Price is \$5.50 at the door or \$5 for pre-event tickets, available at BPL. Includes two scoops of Hill Top Soda Shoppe ice cream or sorbet, plus toppings bar. Relax and enjoy your ice cream while listening to live music, provided by Uncle Ted's Crawlers, a popular Benzie County acoustical group. 1:30-4pm.

Wednesday, August 10

Wizardsing Level 1 classes at Benzonia Public Library. Come explore the Wonderful Wizarding World of Harry Potter. Join Professor Pittinos for this two-part session as she guides you through your Ordinary Wizarding Level 1 classes. Be amazed during spells, experiment in potions, and create delicious concoctions in herbology. All classes have been created with the limitations of muggles in mind. Take home the Elixir of Life and the recipe for a rejuvenation tonic. Learn the spell to balance a robot on your finger. All ingredients for potions (including the rare dragon tears, liquid sky, and ground bezoar) will be provided. Come with an open mind, imagination and a sense of fun. Two-part session, but you can attend either OR both sessions, different lessons each week. No wands needed. Mills Community House, Benzonia. 5:30-7:00 pm.

Thursday, August 11

Universally Accessible Trail Hike at Arcadia

Dunes with the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy. An informational hike along the soon-to-be-built, universally accessible Overlook Trail. Hikers are encouraged to bring questions that they might have about the new path. This is a short, one-mile hike through beautiful coastal woodlands, terminating in a gorgeous bluff view of Lake Michigan. Please bring water and comfortable shoes. To RSVP, please visit GTRLC.org. Directions to Baldy Parking Area: goo.gl/flJ2kn 10am-12pm.

Saturday, August 13

The Crystal Lake Team Marathon starts in downtown Beulah, with an awards ceremony after. Five teammates each run five miles (the last does 6.2 miles) as the course goes around Crystal Lake and ends back in Beulah. 8am-12pm.

Saturday, August 13

Grow Benzie's second annual Bayou on the Bay: Blues & Zydeco Picnic in the Park. This one-day festival celebrates the cultural connections that Louisiana and Michigan share through music, food, and community leisure. The 10-piece Gabriel Brass Band (Detroit) and Luke Winslow-King (New Orleans) will be performing, and of course our hometown heroes, K. Jones & the Benzie Playboys! We'll have plenty of food this year—Louisiana cuisine made with Michigan ingredients, including jambalaya, barbecue pork, blackened chicken kabobs, and a returning favorite from Hotel Frankfort: a cajun boil with andouille sausage, shrimp, crayfish, mussels, corn, and redskin potatoes. All funds raised will benefit Grow Benzie's community center and farmstead. Purchase tickets at squ.re/2aqGGGO. Frankfort's Open Space Park. 3-11:30pm.

Wednesday, August 17

Native Plant Strategies to Attract Great Insects with Peter Carrington, assistant curator at the W. J. Beale Botanic Gardens at Michigan State University, who will discuss plants for pollinators—a key element in building Michigan native plant communities. Free. Trinity Lutheran Church Hall, Frankfort. 7pm-9pm.

Thursday, August 18

The Milky Way Galaxy at the Center: A Talk Summary by David G. Penney, Ph.D. at the Betsie Valley District Library. In this presentation, Dr. Penney will talk mainly about the core of the Milky Way and how it can affect us. The core is contained in the central bulge, at the center of our galaxy. This structure is found in millions of other galaxies. Thankfully, we are 25-28,000 lightyears away from our core. It cannot be seen by the naked eye or even by visible light with the most powerful telescopes. This is because of the distance, the gas and dust clouds in the way, our perspective, and the fact that we are inside of our galaxy. The core has low surface brightness, so a night sky must be very dark for details of the Milky Way to be seen. The core is a place totally unlike our own. At our stage of science it is a mysterious place. It is highly congested by stars, large and small, old and young.

In the core, instead of the sky being dark as it is at night on earth, it is ablaze as if it were daytime, with millions of stars shining brightly. The levels of radiation of all types, magnetic fields, stray particles, star debris, etc., and danger in general, is very much higher. Lurking at the center of the galactic core is a supermassive black hole (SMBH), equal in mass to 4.1 million suns. This black hole is capable of "eating" stars - even hundreds of stars. Library located at 14744 Thompson Ave., Thompsonville. Questions, please call 231-378-2716 or visit BetsieValleyDistrictLibrary.org. 7pm.

Friday & Saturday, August 19 & 20

40th annual Frankfort Art Fair is the largest two-day art fair in Frankfort. More than 175 artists. Market Square Park.

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Dispatch from the City of Brotherly Love

A Benzie dame at the Democratic National Convention

By Susan Koenig

Current Contributor

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania—Attending a political convention is not for the faint-hearted, nor the squeamish, nor the impatient. Sleep is elusive and infrequent, and nightly attendance at the Event Venue requires early arrival and late departure, sitting for a minimum of six hours in very steep bleachers, and sharing space with 50,000 of your new best friends.

In the three days that I attended, I had no real sit-down meal, not even a Philadelphia cheesesteak! Volunteers are treated well, however, and there are sandwiches, chips, cookies, coffee, and soda available all day long, plus identifying t-shirts and those sought-after credentials (if you are lucky) to attend the nightly main events.

This was not my first convention. In 2012, I went to Charlotte, North Carolina, for the second nomination of President Barack Obama. One of about 10,000 volunteers, my duties there were to meet, greet, and verify people who were coming in to claim their credentials for the events and to escort VIPs. This time around, our duties were similar, but with increased security. We did not escort anyone—except perhaps to the restrooms! We had to take buses, each with its own Secret Service person, to the Wells Fargo Arena, rather far from city center, whereas in Charlotte, we could walk to and from the main venue.

To attend a convention, you provide your own transportation and housing, this time in the form of an Air B&B in a fourth-floor walk-up that was shared by eight women, a baby, and various couch surfers (although there was no couch). A bonding experience indeed!

But the City of Brotherly Love rolled out the red carpet, warm and welcoming. The police and security forces were relaxed and helpful—absolutely no tension around the city, which was clean, friendly, and, of course, historical. Hooray for Uber, an easy and inexpensive way to get around, especially in the pervasive summer heat and humidity.

You might have some sort of connection—however tenuous—to get your foot in the door, but there were also online invitations to join the cadres of volunteers, numbering in the thousands. Whether or not you can gain entry into the main event venue is the tricky part. In my case, my childhood best friend has a daughter-in-law who is part of the Democratic National Convention organization, and she was able to acquire positions for us, as she did in 2012 in Charlotte. This time around, one needed a background check and approved documentation.

There was also some dissension in the ranks with the presence of the very vocal Bernie Sanders supporters. A few minor aggressions occurred, nothing of a violent nature, but still another reason for increased security. For example, activist actors Susan Sarandon and Danny Glover were on hand, protesting what they perceived to be the “silencing” of Senator Sanders; they did manage to close the Press Tent for a while. President Obama, orator par excellence, complimented the protesters on their zeal and passion but suggested that they “not boo, just vote.” (I, for one, will sorely miss his eloquence and gravitas.)

The staging at the Wells Fargo Arena was amazing, not to mention the maneuvering of the masses of attendees. The party of “we” put on a great show, impeccably choreographed, often inspiring, and certainly touching, juxtaposing speeches and entertainment,

keeping the action going. There were many speeches, some a bit dull, others electrifying, interspersed with entertainment or video collages on the large screen behind the speakers. The message and/or themes were optimism and inclusion: “stronger together” and “we are not alone.” My sometimes-cynical friend, Diana, commented; “It was exhilarating, energizing, and gave me hope for the future of this country.”

In sharp contrast to our bucolic life here in Benzie County, there was a rainbow of diversity in race, gender, religion, ethnicity, vocation, you name it. There was, for example, Dr. William Barber II, a preacher and head

“one of the most catastrophically wounded survivors of 9/11,” and Erica Smegielski, whose mother was the principal at Sandy Hook Elementary School. Undocumented migrants, jobless Americans, ordinary students, disabled Americans—the speakers ran the gamut, for sure.

Imagine my pleasant surprise on Tuesday evening when, while returning to my seat (pretty high up in the rafters), whom should I almost climb over but Michigan’s own former governor, Jennifer Granholm, charming and vivacious as ever, sitting with the regular folks. On Thursday evening, she brought a cheering crowd to its feet when she spoke to the crowd.

Permit me to quote myself from the *Benzie County Record-Patriot* in 2012 after the convention in Charlotte: “Jennifer Granholm was a huge crowd pleaser, punctuating her bullet points with her fists, shouting positive job statistics, winning the wild appreciation and standing ovation of the entire Arena.”

Fabulous in red, she set the Philadelphia crowd on fire, as well, receiving another standing ovation.

Mrs. Jill Biden and her husband, Vice President Joe Biden, were also crowd-pleasers, and everyone raved about the First Lady’s speech about living in a “house built by slaves.” President Bill Clinton did not disappoint, nor did the gracious and lovely Chelsea Clinton, visibly moved by love for and pride in her famous mother.

Garrison Keillor, host until recently of National Public Radio’s *A Prairie Home Companion*, dedicated his 2004 book, *Homegrown Democrat*,

“to the men and women across our country who one day decided that, despite all sensible reasons not to do it, they would, in good faith, out of gratitude, run for public office.” His America is a “mystical union of souls, tied each to the other by invisible bonds, by rhythm and twang, a love of corn, a belief in equality.”

Whatever your political persuasions, you can not help but feel proud to be part of the democratic election process and the American “exceptionalism” as you ride the wave of this giant pep rally, feeling at one with a dazzling panoply of humanity, unimaginable to our forefathers.

Yet it was here, in Philadelphia, that they wrote the Constitution of the United States of America, and for that, I think, we can all be grateful.

Editor’s Note: In publishing this article, The Betsie Current does not endorse any candidate or political party. Rather, the paper’s editors found this story to be a fun window into a world that few Benzie County residents get to see in person.



Susan Koenig runs into former Michigan governor, Jennifer Granholm, at the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia.

of the North Carolina NAACP, who called himself a “theologically conservative, liberal, evangelical biblicist,” reminding us that Jesus was a “brown-skinned Palestinian Jew.”

“Hallelujah, hallelujah, we must shock this nation with the power of love,” he exhorted us, just as a defibrillator shocks the heart. He brought down the house.

There were Khizr Khan and his wife, mourning parents of a fallen Muslim soldier; Sean Patrick Mahoney, the first openly gay person elected to public office in the state of New York; and Sarah McBride, the first transgender person to speak at a national convention. We heard from Dolores Huerta, Hispanic worker activist; Tammy Duckworth, shot down and gravely wounded in a military helicopter; Karen Weaver, the mayor of Flint, accompanied by a video of the water crisis; the inimitable Gabby Giffords, introduced by her astronaut husband, Mark. The former congresswoman walked, unaided, onto the stage and spoke compellingly about gun control. (Four years ago, she was not able to do so, because of her injuries.) There were the families of gun victims, mass shootings, and terrorist attacks, including Lauren Manning,

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Pianist

Continued from page 1

But a big cultural shift would happen in Khudiyev's life just a few years later. When she was 14, Khudiyev's father accepted a job in the United States, moving the entire family (father, mother, brother, sister, and Nozomi Khudiyev herself) to Chicago.

Finding Piano Again

Her first year was difficult—her English was poor, and she had to adjust to an entirely different culture in American public schools. In Japan, Khudiyev explains, the culture of the classroom is quiet and respectful, with students bowing to teachers upon entering the room. During her first day of school in Chicago, however, the math teacher entered the classroom, hopped up onto his desk, and began the introduction to his class from there, with loud speech and wild gestures. (Picture Robin Williams in *Dead Poets Society*, a la "Captain, my captain.")

"He ended up being an excellent teacher, and I really liked him," Khudiyev laughs. "But that day, it was a shock."

While living in Chicago, Khudiyev became close with a neighboring lady who played the piano. She developed a pattern of visiting this neighbor, with whom she eventually grew close enough to call her "second mom," and—with this woman's encouragement—Khudiyev began playing the piano again.

"It was completely different this time," she says. "We were just playing for fun and the love of music—there was no strictness and rigid practice schedule."

Before her junior year, Khudiyev's father returned to work in Japan, along with the rest of the family. Learning that she would have to make up two years of academic study if she also returned, Khudiyev decided to obtain a student visa and remain in the United States on her own. She researched and found a boarding school where she could study music and finish high school—Interlochen Arts Academy. Khudiyev's 'second mom' knew of Interlochen and was astounded.

"You want to attend Interlochen?" she asked, somewhat incredulous. "Then you'd better start getting serious about your practicing!"

Even though Khudiyev had less than three months to prepare her audition repertoire, she was able to secure a spot as an Interlochen student for her junior and senior years of high school. An early assignment from the school to perform in a trio with a clarinet and a cello led to meeting her future husband, Emil Khudiyev, a clarinetist from Turkmenistan.

After graduating from Interlochen, the couple maintained a long-distance relationship while furthering their educations through undergraduate and graduate schools. She attended the University of Michigan on a full-tuition merit scholarship and then received her Master of Music degree in collaborative piano at Julliard. He completed his undergraduate work in clarinet performance at the Cleveland Institute of Music, received his Master of Music in clarinet performance from Yale, and then went on to obtain a postgraduate diploma from the Colburn School.

After graduate school, the couple married, and their combined employment opportunities led them all over the United States and overseas, allowing them to work with prestigious instrumentalists and vocalists in Tokyo, New York, Boston,

Cleveland, Chicago, Los Angeles, Naples, and Paris. When the couple found out that they were expecting daughter Adelina (now two), Nozomi followed Emil to Missouri where he was playing with the Kansas City Orchestra. The plan was to put down roots very soon.

"My schedule has always been more flexible than Emil's, and it was important to me that—after all those years apart—we prioritize our family being together," she says.

Finding Northern Michigan Again

After Kansas City, he was offered a faculty position as a clarinet instructor at Interlochen. So the family moved back to Northern Michigan with Adelina, and now Nozomi Khudiyev also works at Interlochen; she is a piano instructor and accompanist at the school where she once was a student.

"We are so happy to be back here and to have come full circle in this way," she says of their return.

Although she has perfect vocal pitch, Khudiyev insists that she will never be a singer.

"It's just too hard, with so many things to remember," she says. "Tone, breathing, dynamics, notes, lyrics, pronunciation, pitch—too much!"

Although not familiar with much of today's radio music, Khudiyev does admit to listening to some jazz and some Russian pop, in addition to the classics. However, when asked which composers and pieces influence her most, the classics definitely rise to the top as she quickly gives nod to Rachmaninoff's *Cello Sonata* and Ravel's *Piano Trio*. Although piano will always be her mainstay, she allows that one day she would not mind learning to play the cello.

"The sound that comes from a cello—the tone—is just so beautiful," she says.

Khudiyev is also happy to now be living relatively close to her mother, a visual artist—her painting of a cherubic Adelina adorns the wall of Khudiyev's family room—who has moved to a Japanese community in Chicago. Speaking of her family, Khudiyev says that she is the only member who has musical ability.

"My siblings learned basic instruments during elementary school but did not stay with music," she says.

She notices, however, that Adelina seems to enjoy music; the toddler will fall asleep to her father humming Tchaikovsky's *1st Piano Concerto*.

For a household full of such talent, there is also an easy-going atmosphere that is filled with fun and laughter. Asked if Adelina will be encouraged to follow the musical footsteps of her parents, Khudiyev quickly says, "Sure, but only if she is interested. There will be no pressure from us."

In her spare time, Khudiyev continues to enjoy participating in sports, and she also loves to bake.


"I love to bake, so—of course—I also love to eat," she laughs.

Beyond prioritizing her family, Khudiyev's goal as a musician is relatively simple.

"I just want to keep sharing music with more people," she says. If the warm, enthusiastic endorsements from members of the Benzie County Community Chorus are any indication, she is doing just that—and doing so in a way that will charm audiences for years to come.

Nozomi Khudiyev is currently on tour, prior to the start of Interlochen Arts Academy this fall. To hear her accompany the Benzie County Community Chorus, watch for the announcement of the 2016 holiday concert series later this year.

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Tangled Up in Antlers

A decade with Jodi at the crossroads

By Jordan Bates

Current Editor

The stalwart stuffed fox sits in a well-lit corner of the otherwise dim restaurant. Sunglasses shade his glassy, dilated eyes from the neon Labatt's sign that sits adjacent to his perch. Foxy presides over the talent of open mic night and the cacophonous melodies of karaoke night with equality, never uttering a yelp or a growl, instead only offering stoic ambivalence.

The restaurant is Jodi's Tangled Antler on the tangled intersection of US-31 and 669 (Maple City Highway to the south and Thompsonville Highway to the north). Tourists and newbies park in front, everyone else parks in the back.

It is more than a bar, if that is what you are looking for; if not, it is just a bar. The walls are adorned with tangled antlers, of course, but also vintage beer signs, sports posters, mood-inducing lamps with shades, hand-written signs, Keno, liquor, and all sorts of odds and ends. Only the moose antlers at the entrance and the ram's horns above the pool table belong to Jodi's—the rest of the antlers and mounts, including Foxy, belong to the customers.

Soft, camo-covered chairs sit at the bar, not far from tables and booths, but between are two opposing—and/or complementary—forces: the ATM and the cigarette machine.

Bell's Oberon and Two Hearted IPA on draft, as well as Perrin's Grapefruit IPA, the ever-growing-in-popularity Rainmaker Ale from Stormcloud, and the obligatory Horny Monk from Petoskey Brewing Company. (Oh, the thrill of ordering a Horny Monk!) Also, Miller Lite. The draft selection changes with the season. (In the winter, you are likely to find CEO Stout by Right Brain, for instance.)

The menu is American. Michigan. Multipurpose, perhaps. Steak. Variety

of appetizers. Burgers. Entrees. Fish fry Fridays. Mexican fare. Pizza.

I went with the ribeye. Medium rare. Side of fries. Side salad. I was on assignment, so I also had two Oberons. No sprig of parsley for garnish, nor half-ripe strawberry, nor slice of orange. (That was saved for my Oberons.) No; for garnish, the steak was topped with two perfectly fried beer-battered onion rings. I am not sure if they were trying to butter me up, but when a side of buttered carrot slices showed up, I did not complain.

Jodi's has Alfredo on open mic nights, usually. Not the dish. The band: Alfredo Improvisational Quartet. The product of singer/percussionist Al Pityo and guitarist Frederik Stig-Nielsen's improvisational



Foxy the stalwart stuffed fox sits in a well-lit corner, holding court over open mic night at Jodi's Tangled Antler. Photo by Jordan Bates.

dreams, the band has grown slowly over time to include bass player Chris Kuykendahl and drummer/vocalist extraordinaire Bill Frary. They play frequently in the area at St. Ambrose Cellars and the Cabbage Shed, as well. If they feel so inclined—the members of Alfredo have decided, whether tacitly or not, never to take themselves too seriously. You shouldn't either.

More Than A Bar

Jodi Dilts bought Danny's Bar 10 years ago this past May, and she has worked hard to turn it into a bar and a restaurant—not just a bar.

"I was a bartender for 25 years at different places, but I always wanted to make my own place," she says. "It was time to do it for myself, or find something else to do."

The former bar was at a busy crossroad, but also kind of in the middle of nowhere. It did not always attract the kind of customers who wanted good food, though that is changing. The ambiance was not always so kid friendly, though that has also changed. And Jodi, as she may tell you, does not put up with a lot of crap.

"I really call us the mature crowd here," she says. "In the past few years, my food numbers have started to exceed my beer and liquor sales. I've worked really hard on the menu. It's a great atmosphere, and everyone is happy and having a great time. I want people to enjoy themselves. People work hard for their money, and I want them to come to Jodi's to eat, relax, and enjoy themselves."

What does working hard on a menu mean? Glad I asked.

"All my meat comes from Honor Family Market," Jodi explains. "Pat [Schneider] does an amazing job and has a great meat department. The Black Angus is top of the line. They make my burger buns and sub buns, too, and those are the only buns that I use—all made fresh, baked in the store. I truly believe in buying as much local as I possibly can."

In the long term, Jodi sees the bigger picture: more seating and a bigger venue for music.

"I have a patio license and the property to do it. I really want to make a nice area with a band-stand."

Foxy would like that, as long as he still gets to hold court.

Jodi's Tangled Antler is open Mondays through Saturdays beginning at 11 a.m.; Sundays at 2 p.m. In the summer, Jodi's is open late late, usually. In the winter, not so late. Daily lunch and dinner specials. Thursdays are open mic night and Fridays are karaoke night. Both start at 9 p.m. and go until whenever.

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Oliver Art Center Hosts Neil W. Ahrens

Oliver Art Center is pleased to exhibit the work of Neil W. Ahrens from August 12 through September 9. We will host an opening reception, free and open to the public, on Friday, August 12, from 5-7 p.m. Ahrens will present an Artist Talk on Sunday, August 28, at 2 p.m. which is also free and open to the public.

Ahrens is an artist living within 500 feet of Lake Michigan. He summered in Northern Michigan in his early years, then earned his BFA at Michigan State University and his MFA at Cranbrook Academy of Art. All of the compulsions and obsessions of his art-making are tied into the natural world surrounding him.

Lake Michigan, and the lakes of Northern Michigan in general, have had a great influence on his artwork. The horizon line of a lake or a land feature shows up as a design thread throughout his work. It plays into his work with thoughts on life/death, yours/mine, above/below, drawing & composition, and other dualities. For this

exhibit, he will be completing canvasses that are among the largest that he has ever worked on. He will be pushing to a new level of ex-



perimentation to fully take advantage of the space available to him at Oliver Art Center.

Ahrens did a tour with the Navy in his early 20s. While on board a ship in the Mediterranean as a Boatswain's Mate Third Class

Petty Officer, he was part of a historic covert mission called "Operation Goldenrod" that took place on the *USS Butte (AE-27)* in 1987.

"Operation Goldenrod is a legal linchpin in the war on terror, and the first use of 'Rendition' that is the cause for detainees at Guantanamo Bay today," Ahrens says. "I enjoy the fact of the history of the facility at Oliver Art Center; I will be exhibiting my work in halls where other Petty Officers once walked!"

Parking at Oliver Art Center is limited. Overflow parking can be found along the east side of Second Street, which leads to Oliver Art Center, as well as on Main Street. Parking is prohibited in the adjacent lots of Harbor Lights, the United States Coast Guard Station, and at other condominiums.

This exhibit is sponsored by Cooley Contracting of Traverse City. The Oliver Art Center exhibit is open to the public Mondays through Fridays from 10 a.m. -4:30 p.m., Saturdays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and Sundays from 12-4 p.m. Please visit OliverArtCenterFrankfort.org or contact 231-352-4151 for more information.

(Our First) Letter to the Editor

I am writing to you today in regards to the July 21, 2016, article entitled "Booze Cruise: Animal House on the River" in *The Betsie Current*. I am glad that you brought attention to such an important issue within our community. It is something that we all, residents and vacationers, need to be aware of and dialogue about.

However, I do have concern with one of the labels that you put on the problem type of people. In the first paragraph, you reference the "... armada of inebriated college students..."

My concern is that you associate bad behavior with the assumption that these problem-creating adults are, in fact, college students. I believe that this is an unfair assumption and could be considered poor form. Why label them as college students, as if that is a problem in itself? Why not say "young adults" or even just say an "armada of inebriated people." Your use of the words "college students" could be considered derogatory and inflammatory.

I believe that it is important to encour-

age young adults to better themselves with education and help them to understand the importance of responsible behavior, instead of just labeling them as problems because they may or may not go to college.

I am asking you to take this into account for future articles.

Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,
Sarah Delavan, local resident

The Secret Life of Barns

An artist reception for new works by award-winning artist Ellie Harold at her Frankfort Studio & Gallery on Saturday, August 6.

In "Summer Scapes: Pleasure in Paint," Harold—known for colorful oil paintings of Northern Michigan-inspired structures and landscapes—combines both in large-format paintings. She says that her latest paintings celebrate the locale in a new way.

"As a beginning landscape painter, I painted small works that could be completed in one session, on location." These paintings, Harold explains, were "representational studies that depicted scenes in a realistic way." The newer works, however, depart from realism.

"I love the freedom I'm experiencing now to interpret what I've become so familiar with over the seven years I've painted in Michigan."

Harold's "Summer Scapes" measure as large as 5 feet by 7 feet and require that she use space in her garage to complete them.

"Instead of focusing on specific details, the large canvas allows me the room to use paint to convey the spirit of the place with simplified forms, loose mark-making, and unexpected color choices," Harold says.

One of these large paintings, "The Secret Life of Barns" emerged months after Harold first discovered the subject near Cedar.

"I'd had it in mind to go back and paint the scene but never found the time." Then, working on a 60-inch-by-72-inch canvas that had been previously painted on by students in one of her Open Studio Workshops, Harold painted it from memory. Much of the underpainting is covered, but in some places the first marks are revealed.

The effect of what the artist calls "color surprises" creates a playful visual adventure. One online viewer of this work remarked, "This painting makes my eyes happy!"

Another of Ellie's paintings, "Beach Daze," will also be included in "Summer Scapes" and has recently been selected by the Benzie County Chamber of Commerce for the cover of the 2016-17 Visitor's Map and Directory.

"Summer Scapes: Pleasure in Paint" is open to the public on Saturday, August 6, from 3-6 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. All are welcome. Work may be previewed by appointment on August 5. The show remains for viewing on August 7. Location: 402 Forest Avenue, Frankfort, at the corner of 4th Street and Forest Avenue. EllieHarold.com.

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One Year After the Megastorm

Stories of catharsis, altruism, and changed property values

By Jacob Wheeler
Current Editor

Where were you when the storm arrived?

Leelanau County residents and those visiting our shores a year ago definitely know the answer to that question. Where they took shelter, what they saw, and how they helped others in the minutes, hours, and days after the megastorm pummeled Glen Arbor and the Sleeping Bear Dunes

outside world was severed. The storm made Dunn's Farm Road and Northwood Drive impassible, so the marina sent boats to ferry people between their cottages and the Narrows Bridge.

"We spread the word on Facebook to let people know we had boats that could shuttle them," says Marcie Ferris, former owner of On The Narrows, who managed the marina last summer for the McCahill family. "We were also the only source of gasoline for people needing to fill up their chainsaws. People just came together. This has always been the safe port in a storm."

suffered a significant loss of trees.

"But our returning guests have all commented on how bright and airy the place feels now, with more room to park cars and boat trailers," Arendale says. "So not all bad news. Life goes on, and you make the best of it."

Despite the storm, business is booming, particularly for Rob Serbin, who closed on six sales in one week during the typically quiet month of December. Ron Raymond, his colleague at Serbin Real Estate, is on track for his best year ever. Ditto at LVR Realty.



The megastorm on August 2, 2015, brought winds in excess of 100 miles per hour that leveled thousands of hardwood trees in and around Glen Arbor and the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Caught in the middle of its tourism, Glen Arbor took a week to recover from "the storm of the century." Photo courtesy of the Glen Arbor Sun.

just minutes after 4 p.m. on August 2, 2015—these stories are now part of our personal narrative.

We will share the stories with grandchildren, with co-workers, and with strangers at cocktail parties, along with the dramatic facts: the 100 mile-per-hour "wind shear," which was at first mistaken for a tornado, leveled thousands of hardwood trees, nearly killed people (but did not), blocked most roads to Glen Arbor, and closed portions of the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore and Glen Arbor's business district for almost a week—during the height of the tourism season, no less.

For some, the aftermath of the storm—and the massacre of trees that it caused—prompted an existential crisis.

Debbie Rettke, who owns Duneswood Resort on M-109 near the Sleeping Bear Dune Climb, says she was heartbroken after losing more than 200 beloved, mature trees on her property—including those adored by her late mother, Joanne.

"We were all connected to those trees," says Rettke, who admits that she considered selling the resort after the storm. "It was like losing part of the family, or losing a way of life."

Amazingly, Rettke's Peace Pole near the bonfire circle survived, though trees fell all around it. She also found solace when she realized the favorite swing that her mother had hung between two hardwood trees was untouched and now is visible from the motel.

"Now we have an amazing view of the sand dunes," she says. "And we can see the stars at night."

For others, the storm turned a typical busy August workday into an opportunity to help others in need. On The Narrows Marina became a point of transit for more than a dozen suitcase-toting residents of Big Glen Lake whose road access to the

One Colorado man who was wounded when a tree fell on his car on Dunn's Farm Road was taken by stretcher and pontoon boat to the marina, where an ambulance met him and took him to Munson Medical Center in Traverse City.

In Glen Arbor, chef Randy Chamberlain closed Blu and donated his gourmet food to stranded people who were over-nighting in the Township Hall, acting as the town's emergency shelter.

Meanwhile, for the local real estate market, the storm presented both hurdles and opportunities. Some property owners in the storm's path who had wanted to sell now needed to put their plans on the backburner for many weeks, take their homes off the market, and deal with dozens of fallen trees on their houses, automobiles, and yards. (To the chagrin of many, insurance did not cover the latter.)

"People who had out-of-pocket money to clean up [their yards] are in good shape now," says realtor John Martin. "But for others, it's a hardship."

The storm took some properties off the market that have not yet returned, and Martin hypothesizes that the smaller supply could increase home values. But, in general, he does not think that the decimation of trees has hurt property values.

"Some property owners think their value diminished because of lack of trees, but we haven't seen that," Martin says. "If you own a lot in Glen Arbor, the storm came through and dropped root balls and trees. You're gonna have to clean it up and make the property look nicer. Some of these properties were over-treed anyway, and now they have sunlight. In the big picture, the storm won't have a significant economic impact on real estate."

Other realtors echo a similar sentiment. According to Jody Arendale, one of Century 21 Northland Vacation Rentals's rental properties on Northwood Drive

"Things are jamming," Serbin says. "The storm, while devastating, has not dampened interest in the area."

The storm definitely changed the scenery and listing price for one house that was on the market last August 2.

Cynthia Buit, who owned the "round house" near the Foothills Motel & Café on Dunn's Farm Road in Burdickville, lost 38 mature trees on her property; they destroyed the back of her garage and one corner of her house and damaged her Cadillac. Only three trees remained standing after the storm. The maelstrom caused \$100,000 in total damage, only 60 percent of which was covered by her insurance company. Luckily, Buit had the money to pay the other \$40,000 out of pocket. She took her house off the market in August, added a new roof, planted six evergreen trees along the roadside, and relisted it in March 2016 for \$259,900—\$15,000 less than its value in October 2014. As of press time, the round house was under contract to sell in late July.

It is unclear whether the storm directly affected the home's market value. Buit, who is 68, says that she accepted a slightly lower price because she is tired of Michigan winters and wants to move to the Texas hill country. She thinks that the new roof, the manicured lawn, and the fresh landscaping may actually help the long-term value of this home—to say nothing of the new views of Big Glen Lake.

"It's not a house in the woods anymore," Buit says. "Now we can see Big Glen Lake and neighboring houses. Before you couldn't."

It is possible that, for those who had the financial wherewithal after the storm to clean up their properties and to make the necessary improvements, the colossal event on August 2 may have actually helped real estate values.



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Kids

Continued from page 2

station, the hatchery is a great place to learn about fish biology and conservation. The grounds are open to the public at no charge from dawn to dusk, and the hatchery itself is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Mondays through Fridays. Self-guided tour maps and interpretive signs are provided for you to use along the “bluefish” pathway as you explore. This is one of the most significant tourist attractions in Benzie County, and it’s free! You can see indoor rearing tanks and learn about the process of egg collection, hatching, growing, and releasing salmon. This activity is great for kids of all ages. (231-325-4611.)

The **Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore** offers a variety of indoor and outdoor spots to visit on any summer day, whether or not it’s a good beach day.

Glen Haven’s **Maritime Museum** (alias the “Coast Guard station”) has been restored to resemble what it was about 100 years ago, so you can pretend that you lived there as a sailor. Then go outside and witness a lifesaving demonstration—complete with firing a real cannon—called “Heroes of the Storm,” which takes place daily at 3 p.m. Half of a mile to the east is the restored village of Glen Haven, including a pictorial museum, the boathouse, and a blacksmith’s shop—all with Park volunteers, happy to tell you about the way things were and how things worked way back when.

Head south on M-109 past the **Dune Climb** (if you can do that without the obligatory stop) to the Village of Empire, where you will hang a left onto M-72 and then another left into the parking lot of the **Philip A. Hart Visitor Center**, where you can obtain park passes, maps, and brochures. See lifelike displays of natural fauna and geological forms from our area. Watch fascinating movies and videos, such as one about how the dunes and lakes were formed by the glaciers. Enroll your kids in the Junior Ranger Program; if they complete enough of the prescribed activities, they become junior rangers and earn a badge and/or a patch.

You can also attend ranger-guided kayak trips, bike rides, and hikes, but call ahead for a reservation. Evening programs occur every night at 8 p.m. at the **Platte and D. H. Day campgrounds** or, in the case of rain, at the **D. H. Day log cabin**—the 45-minute presentations are provided by rangers who speak on a variety of topics, from lighthouses and maritime history to cultural history and natural history.

There are also **evening hikes at the different trailheads**, as well as various other outings. A monthly **solar viewing** occurs from 4 to 6 p.m. followed by “star parties” from 9 to 11 p.m. for those who can stay up late. Check the Visitor Center for a schedule of the week’s activities.

(Visit NPS.gov/slbe/Learn/KidsYouth/index.htm for more information and a schedule of events. Or call the Visitor Center at 231-326-4700.)

Staying Home

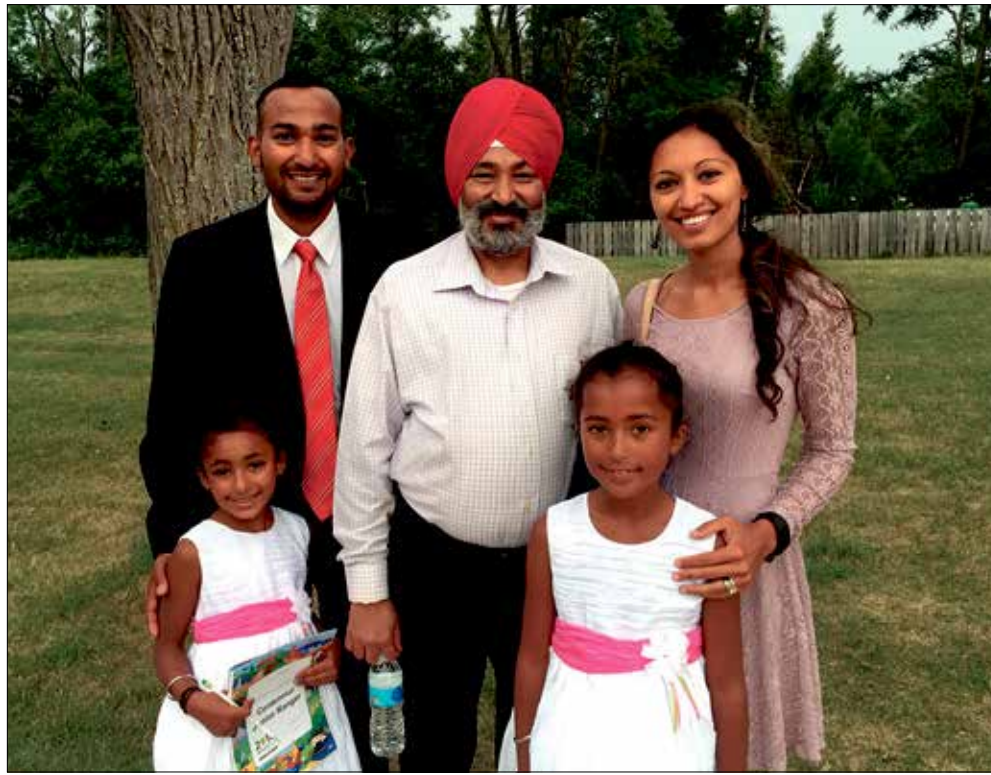
If you are in the mood to just stay home but still need some ideas to keep the kids entertained, I asked members of one of our local playgroups for their favorite rainy day activities. Answers included a family talent show, fort building, family game or puzzle day, and watercolor paints on the driveway!

I know some days as a parent feel more like the postman’s creed, “Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night” shall keep you from being called upon by multiple energetic and enthusiastic people to provide food, as well as entertainment. Hopefully, this will help!

Naturals

Continued from page 1

to the Stars and Stripes in a ceremony held by a Marine Corps color guard from Traverse City, they transcended the caustic political debate that has engulfed our current presidential election. These naturalized citizens—all of whom live in Michigan—listened as U.S. Magistrate



Gurdeep Singh (back left) and his family await his naturalization ceremony. Singh, a native of India, is now an engineer in Kalamazoo. Photo by Jacob Wheeler.

Judge Phillip J. Green read the preamble to the Declaration of Independence, the words of which remain as radical and subversive as they were in 1776.

Green used the allegory of the Ojibwe “Legend of Sleeping Bear” about the mother bear and two baby bears who escaped a forest fire across Lake Michi-

Cecilia Molina Espinoza from Mexico City articulated why she was proud to call herself an American.

“My family has always dreamed of becoming U.S. citizens,” she said. “It’s the land of the free. This country has given me the opportunities I dreamed of—to study what I want and have the job I want.”

After the naturalization ceremony, Espinoza and the new Americans embarked to fulfill their “pursuit of happi-

ness” along with thousands of July tourists. The Singh family headed for Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive. Others checked out the Sleeping Bear Dune Climb. One family had lunch at the Good Harbor Grill in Glen Arbor.

Scott Tucker, the National Lakeshore’s new superintendent, offered

As part of the National Park Service’s centennial celebration, the Park and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services department are holding 100 immigrant-naturalization ceremonies in 100 different parks nationwide in order to invite a new generation of Americans to experience their national treasures.

“I can’t think of places more appropriate to welcome a new generation of American citizens than national parks,” Jonathan B. Jarvis, National Park Service director, said in a press release. “These parks, which are owned by all Americans, are not only places of stunning natural beauty and abundant wildlife, but across this country more than 400 national parks preserve our nation’s fascinating history and protect our rich cultural heritage. From the Aztec Ruins National Monument in New Mexico to Ellis Island in New York City, national parks ensure our nation’s artifacts and records are protected for generations to come.”

gan and became the Sleeping Bear sand dunes and the Manitou Islands, making their eternal mark on their new home.

“You are the future of America. You are the promise of America,” Green said.

Mick Dedvukaj, the district director of the Detroit District of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, explained how U.S. citizenship is unique in that this right is not based on bloodline or ancestry but “requires only loyalty to her.” Conceding that the topic of immigration is currently a political football, Dedvukaj added, “This swearing in of new citizens is not controversial; it is the most American thing we do.”

each new American a complimentary one-year pass to visit the Sleeping Bear Dunes, as well as a commemorative “passport” to the nation’s 142 national parks—what he called “America’s best idea,” referring to the Ken Burns documentary on our national parks.

“You are now part of the story of Sleeping Bear,” Tucker told the new Americans, most of whom were visiting this park for the first time. “Two hundred years from now, your family can come here and know that right here is where their journey as Americans officially began.”

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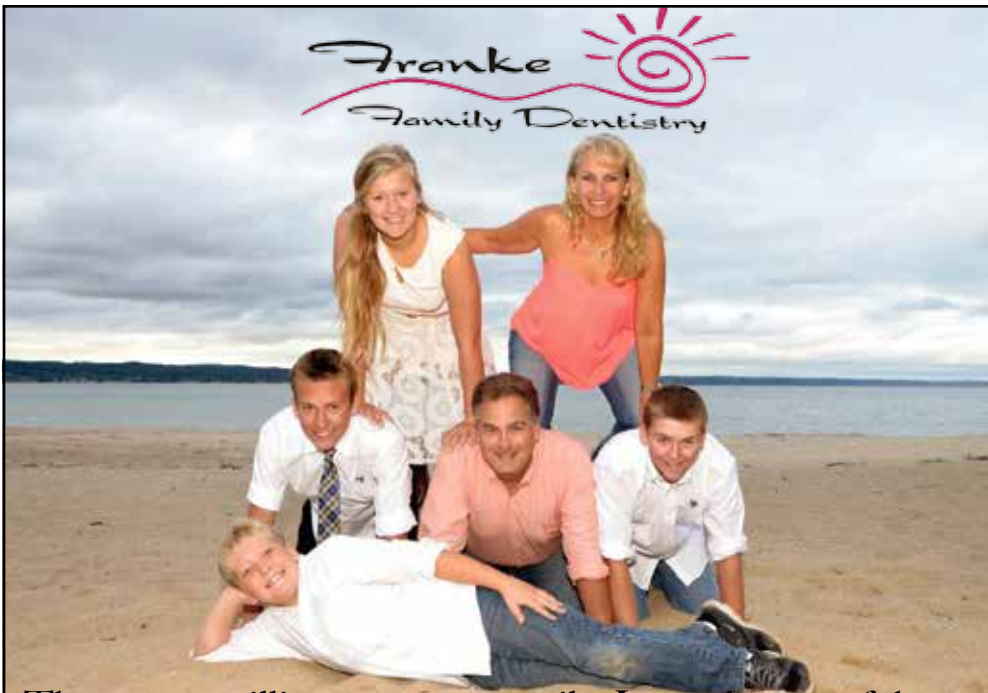


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