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 Khudyev

At the age of four, Nozomi Khudyev 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, Khudyev had sworn off the instrument. As many children do, Khudyev 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 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, Khudyev is a piano instructor at Interlochen Arts Academy and the accompanist for the Benzie County Community Chorus.

At the time when Khudyev 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.”

Read the rest of this story on page 7.

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 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: BenzieShores.library.org, DarcyLibraryOfBeulah.org, Benzonia.library.org, AlmiraTownshipLibrary.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-

Please see Kids on page 2.

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 112 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 Espinosa, a Mexico 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

Please see Naturals on page 11.

Twenty immigrants were naturalized as American citizens during at July 21 ceremony at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Photo by Jacob Wheeler.
Bayou on the Bay: Blues & Zydeco Picnic August 13 @ 3pm

Frankfort Open Space Park Food, Drink & Leisure A Taste of Louisiana w/ Michigan Ingredients

K Jones & the Benzie Playboys
Gabriel Brass Band

$25 Admission
Teens: $10, Under 12: Free
231-352-7720
Bayou.on.the.bay.com
BlueOnTheBay.com

Tours are free, but also available at
224-352-7720, or at the Park Office.

The Art Park 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 donation, and open clay studio on Thursdays from 3-6 p.m. with $6 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 as focused as each student prefers, and all skill levels should consider taking part!

Take a Drive Down River Road
For the most picturesque view, 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 stop 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 Owen Frostic Prints, the former home of the world-renowned artist at 5440 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 I agree! If you have time, be 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, write a letter in an empty pen and an overseas grandma. Browse the bird carvings displayed throughout the store. Continue your drive for 1.2 miles further and then turn right at 6498 River Road to visit BeeDazzled for some organic, handmade 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, OwenFrostic.com, and BeeDazzled.com.)

A Different Kind of Airshow
On August 27, you can join the Benzie Area Radio Club for their 19th annual air show! From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Thompsonville Airport, the club will be flying radio-controlled model aircraft, including warbirds, helicopters, and jets. Hot dogs and refreshments will be provided, and there is a special candy drop for the kids! (Find more at BenzieRadioARC.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 among us will say visitors experience an optical illusion that causes them to believe they are rolling uphill and backwards when they actually roll downhill. 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 actually 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 Crystal 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 $2 donation, and open clay studio on Thursdays from 3-6 p.m. with $6 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 as focused as each student prefers, and all skill levels should consider taking part!

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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 telegraph 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—but the world is changing. Now, we try harder than ever to celebrate the creators, the architects, the designers, 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 all of the area makers—a shared vision of the two organizations is to bring all of the area makers—artists, engineers, and their do-it-yourself 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 take the community’s interest in the Maker Movement to 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 Benzie-based 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 Benzonia 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 hands-on event that is open to the community from 10 AM to dusk daily.

“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 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, BFL 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 231-482-4111 or benzoniaallibrary@gmail.com. Local makers and other interested people may also register online for the free workshop at: MakingLibraries.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.

Find out more information. This is just the first step that we’re taking to organize the vast amount of maker resources that are always 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 handcrafts, 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.”

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CONSTANTLY FLOWING

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 Benzonia 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 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.

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.

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

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, 6pm - 9:00p.m. Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays.

Thursdays
Elberta Farmers’ Market at the Elberta Pavilion Park. 9am-12:30pm.

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

Benzia 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 Benzie 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.

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.

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 aged 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.

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. 1-2pm.

Computers with Carol at the Darcy Library. 5:30-7pm.

Quilting at Darcy Library. 2-3:30pm.

Storytime for preschoolers at the Benzie 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), 860 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.

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

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

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.

Families! Per 4-visit block (12 hours total, used how you like), 860 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.

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ON DECK

Thursday, August 4
Not Your Mother’s Book Club at Darcy Libra-
y of your own terms and
n a full brunch with family and friends
y to help with this fundraiser!

t of cutting-edge technologies.

Friday, August 4 & 5

Friday, August 5
Joshua Davis—Summer Soundcs at Michigan Legacy Art Park of Crystal Moun-
tain. A Northern Michigan hero returns to our amphitheater stage to bring his uncan-
yn college scholarships for Benzie Central and Frankfort high school students.

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 Locar, Schubert, Faure, Caccini, Pergoleso, Dowland, and Lercher. Solo guitar works by excel.

Saturday, August 6
Paul Oliver Memorial Auxiliary’s 34th ann-
ual Tour of Interesting Places will feature six homes in Elberta, Frankfort, and Beulah.

Saturday, August 6
Take a guided biking tour through the Michi-
gan Legacy Art Park to learn about Michigan history, the environment, and as you pedal, enjoy the sights and sounds of the Park. 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 tours. Suggested $5 donation.

Saturday, August 6
Local Fish at 101 Main Street. Take a guided tour through 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 tours. Suggested $5 donation.

Saturday, August 6
Frankfort’s Open Space Park. 3-11:30pm.

Saturday, August 6
The Crystal Lake Team Marathon starts in downtown Beulah, with an awards ceremony held afterward. Five teams each run five miles (the last 6.2 miles) as part of the course going to Crystal Lake and ends back in the 16th. 8am-12pm.

Saturday, August 13
Grown Benzie’s second annual Bayou on the Bay: Blues & Zydeco Picnic in the Park. This one-day festival celebrates the cultural con-
junctures that Louisiana and Michigan share through music, food, and community leisure.

Sunday, August 7
The 10-piece Gabriel Brass Band (Detroit) will perform. Two-part session, but you can enjoy the show on your own. Films and refreshments will be available, and you can explore the town. 

Sunday, August 7
Sor and Sato. Admission is $20 at the door.

Sunday, August 14
A day-long celebration. The festival features a variety of musical and theatrical performances, as well as food, crafts, and games for children.

Monday, August 15
A drive-through parade featuring costumed characters and live music. 

Tuesday, August 16
The Crystal Lake Team Fun Run is a two-mile run/walk event with a costumed character finish line. 

Wednesday, August 17
A day-long celebration. The festival features a variety of musical and theatrical performances, as well as food, crafts, and games for children.

Wednesday, August 17
The 4th annual Ice Cream Social to support the Paul Oliver Memorial Auxiliary’s 34th annual Chicken & Pulled Pork BBQ in Frankfort’s Mineral Springs Park, featuring dinners with menu choices of BBQ chicken, basted with "secret Rotary sauce," or pulled pork sand-
wich 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.

Thursday, August 18
The W. J. Beale Botanic Gardens at Michigan State University, who will discuss pollinators—a key element in building Michi-

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Dispatch from the City of Brotherly Love

A Benzie dame at the Democratic National Convention

By Susan Koenig

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, 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 were to meet, greet, and verify people who were coming in to claim their credentials for the events and to escort them. This time around, our duties were similar, but with increased discretion. 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 Sanders 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 cadre 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 get on 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 of the North Carolina NAACP, who called himself a “theologically conservative, liberal, evangelical, biblicalist,” 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, a labor leader; Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; Hillary Clinton; President Joe Biden, “a working-class elephant who knows how to walk the tightrope” (pretty high up in the rafters), President Barack Obama, Vice President Kamala Harris, Democrat, and Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers, Democrat.

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.

Whatever your political persuasions, you can not help but feel proud to be part of the democratic election process and the American “exceptionalism.” Indeed, one wonders how 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.

SUSAN KOENIG

“one of the most catastrophically wounded survivors of 9/11,” and Erica Smegielski, whose mother was the principal of 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.

Imagine how proud you might have been if your name was Terese Koeppel, a St. Louis, Missouri, student who won an offer to attend this gathering. “It’s an honor to be here today and to contribute to the future of our state and our nation,” she said.

There were those on the fringes of the convention who were there because of personal reasons, such as one young person who sought the convention as a way to meet his hero, President Joe Biden, “as well as, receiving another standing ovation.

Mrs. Jill Biden and her bus band, 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, humbly moved by love for and pride in her famous mom, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.


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.”

In this 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.”

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

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President Joe Biden, “a working-class elephant who knows how to walk the tightrope” (pretty high up in the rafters), President Barack Obama, Vice President Kamala Harris, Democrat, and Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers, Democrat.
But a big cultural shift would happen in Khudyev's life just a few years later. When she was 14, Khudyev's father accepted a job in the United States, moving the entire family (father, mother, brother, sister, and Nonzomi Khudyev herself) to Chicago.

Finding Piano Again
Her first year was difficult—her English was poor, and she had to adjust to the language and cultural differences. Learning to communicate and find her place in a new environment was challenging. However, she remained determined.

Despite the initial difficulties, Khudyev found a way to pursue her love for music. She enrolled in a music program and began to study clarinet. This became her passion, and she excelled in her studies, eventually earning a postgraduate diploma from the Colburn School. She then pursued her Master of Music in clarinet performance from the Cleveland Institute of Music, receiving his degree in 2016.

Life in Chicago
Living in Chicago, Khudyev became close with a neighbor who played the piano. She developed a pattern of visiting this neighbor, with whom she eventually grew close enough to call her "second mom." This relationship became an important part of her life.

Despite the challenges of adjusting to a new country and culture, Khudyev remained passionate about music. She practiced diligently, and her hard work paid off. She eventually got a scholarship to attend Interlochen Arts Academy, a prestigious arts high school.

Khudyev's junior year marked a significant change in her life. She had to decide whether to return to Turkmenistan or remain in the United States. This decision was made easier when her father accepted a job in Michigan, allowing her to stay in the United States for her senior year.

After graduating from Interlochen, Khudyev continued her musical studies at the Cleveland Institute of Music, receiving her Master of Music in clarinet performance. She has since worked 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), Nonzomi followed Emil to Missouri where he was playing with the Kansas City Orchestra. The plan was to put down roots very soon.

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 Nonzomi 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, Khudyev 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, Khudyev 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 nods 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.

Khudyev 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 Khudyev's family room—who has moved to a Japanese community in Chicago. Speaking of her family, Khudyev 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 1812 Overture.

Khudyev 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, Khudyev'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.

Nonzomi Khudyev 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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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 14, 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 canvases that are among the largest that he has ever worked on. He will be pushing to a new level of experimentation 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 Constructing 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.

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.”

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 encourage 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.

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,” Harold says.

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

“It 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.
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.”

A few miles away in Glen Arbor, chef Randy Chamberlain, who manages the marina last summer for the McCahill family, says 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 on her property—including those trees on her property—including those 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

California man who was wounded 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 overnighting 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 back-burner 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.)

“We people 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 hypotheses 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 values diminished because of lack of trees, but we haven’t seen that,” Martin says. “If you own a lot in Glen Arbor, the storm brought a brand new sunlit and root ball and trees. You’re gonna have it clean 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

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 first week of December. Ron Raymond, his colleague at Serbin Real Estate, is on track for his best year ever. Ditto at LVR Realty.

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Raymond, his colleague at Serbin Real Estate, is on track for his best year every
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 9 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, 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 lifeguard demonstrating—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 do that without the obligatory stop to the Village of Empire, where you will hang a left on 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, lake 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 outdoor activities. 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.

Kids
Continued from page 2

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 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 happiness” 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 Judge Phillip I. 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 Michigan—"natives" 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.

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