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ERIE READER

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Brian Graham & Adam Welsh

Managing Editor:

Nick Warren

Copy Editor:

Katie Christ

Contributing Editors:

Ben Spегgen

Jim Wertz

Contributors:

Maitham Basha-Agha

Ed Bernik

Mary Birdsong

Tracy Geibel

Lisa Gensheimer

Gregory Greenleaf-Knepp

Dan Schank

Tommy Shannon

Ryan Smith

Ti Sumner

Matt Swanseger

Bryan Toy

Cover Design:

Nick Warren

Photographers:

Maitham Basha-Agha

Ryan Smith

Brad Triana

Publisher's Assistant:

Emily Hanisek

Intern:

Angie Jeffery

1001 State St. Suite 901
Erie, Pa., 16501
contact@eriereader.com

The Erie Reader is the local voice for news, arts, and culture, and is Erie's only independent, alternative newspaper. Founded in 2010, the Reader has quickly become the region's award-winning source for arts coverage, a strong cultural compass, and a dynamic resource for news and opinion. With a dedication to long-form journalism and a commitment to provoking thoughtful discussion, the Reader tells the stories of the people and places making and shaping Erie, while highlighting the events and issues influencing life in northwestern Pennsylvania. The Erie Reader is published every other week and distributed at over 250 high foot-traffic locations in Pennsylvania from North East to Girard to Edinboro. In addition to appearing in print, Erie Reader adds new content daily at ErieReader.com as well social media sites. All rights reserved. All content © Flagship Multimedia, Inc, 1001 State St., Suite 901, Erie, Pa, 16501. No part of this publication may be reproduced without permission. The opinions of our columnists and contributors are their own and do not always reflect that of the editorial board or organization. Direct sales inquiries to 814.314.9364. For editorial inquiries, email contact@ErieReader.com.



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From the Editors

Some changes are hard to believe in.

Something's been going around lately. More and more, we've been hearing a similar admission from people: "I just can't read the news anymore."

Bizarrely enough, we empathize.

We'll admit it. When it comes to national news, things have been difficult to swallow. At every turn, choices are made that are harder and harder to agree with.

Inauguration Day falls two days after this issue hits the newsstands. We wish we could tell you that everything is going to get better, but it might not.

That feeling shared by millions of Americans was echoed by President Barack Obama (who still has a few hours left of his eight-year administration). On Jan. 10, he gave his official farewell address, and reasoned that "for every two steps forward, it often feels we take one step back. But the long sweep of America has been defined by forward motion, a constant widening of our founding creed to embrace all and not just some."

Change. Along with "hope," it was the other aspect of Obama's ideology that got him elected in 2008. A lot has changed over these last eight years, and much of it for the better.

But where do we go from here? As German philosopher Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel would be quick to point out, you begin with a thesis. That is refuted by an antithesis, then both are reconciled to form a new idea, a synthesis. Then the process goes on, the synthesis becoming the next thesis and the process beginning anew.

Things are moving toward another change soon. That new synthesis should result in us thinking of Erie first. On May 16, the city will hold its primary elections for (among dozens of other positions) our next mayor. Since 2006, Joe Sinnott has served as mayor of Erie. We all know that our city sits at a crossroads, where mismanagement and lack of vision will drive it further into peril and disrepair. With the city's electorate a Democratic majority, the primary will almost certainly prove to be more heated than the general election. It's time to pay attention. It's okay to read the news.

Let's know in our hearts that the good in people can change our city and the world for the better. That the bad news can inspire action, and that the foundation of our country is built on these noble ideas.

In the final words of his farewell address, Obama implored, "I am asking you to hold fast to that faith written into our founding documents; that idea whispered by slaves and abolitionists; that spirit sung by immigrants and homesteaders and those who marched for justice; that creed reaffirmed by those who planted flags from foreign battlefields to the surface of the moon; a creed at the core of every American whose story is not yet written: Yes, we can. Yes, we did. Yes, we can."

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Erie At Large

Red, wild, and blue



President-elect Donald Trump shortly after telling a protester "your mother is voting for Trump" during his Aug. 12 visit to the Erie Insurance Arena

In this election, Erie County experienced its second highest voter turnout since 2000. In 2008, more than 125,000 people voted in Erie County, but 60 percent of them voted for Barack Obama. This year, more than 120,000 people voted and a plurality of them cast their ballot for Donald Trump.

Trump garnered approximately 10,000 more votes than every Republican presidential candidate since 2000, including George W. Bush. Hillary Clinton, on the other hand, won fewer votes than every Democratic candidate during the same period. To make matters worse for the Democrats, Gary Johnson and Jill Stein collectively garnered nearly twice the votes that Ralph Nader received locally in 2000. Of the 149 electoral districts in Erie County, only those in the City of Erie and the Borough of Edinboro went blue. Trump took every other electoral district in the county but won by just 1.58 percent of the vote countywide. Without the City of Erie, however, Trump would have won Erie County by more than 12,000 votes, according to county voting records.

Perhaps most remarkable is the 10,000 vote swing from Obama voters in 2012 to Trump voters in 2016. Obama defeated Romney 68,036 to 49,025 in Erie County in 2012.

By: Jim Wertz

Here we sit. It's the eve of the presidential inauguration and still we search for explanations for the election that preceded it.

For the second time in 16 years, the Electoral College undermined the popular vote, and for the first time – in my lifetime, at least – the country has elected a candidate based not on his merits, but instead upon the disdain they held for his opponent, Hillary Clinton.

Many people believed that Erie County would remain a Democratic stronghold because of its allegiance to the Democratic Party. It didn't. The Clinton campaign believed that, too, and such a narrow-sighted view accounted, in part, for the slim loss Clinton/Kaine suffered here in northwest Pennsylvania. A drive across Pennsylvania in September should have been reason enough for the Clinton camp to reevaluate its strategy. It didn't. And Democrats nationwide assumed that affinities for Bill Clinton would

follow Mrs. Clinton into the electoral wild. It didn't.

Why Trump?

The 2016 presidential election defied statistical and non-statistical prediction models alike, and Erie became the headline because it went Republican for the first time since 1984. We're not alone, by the way. Our neighbors to the west in Ashtabula County, Ohio also pulled the Republican trigger for the first time since 1984, as did other counties across the Rust Belt and beyond.

The national media have fixated on this question for which there are all too many, and perhaps no adequate, answers. Reporters from *The*

New York Times, NPR, and elsewhere want to provide the American electorate with a dramatic narrative assessment that includes cycles of joblessness, including fewer jobs at economic anchors like GE Transportation, and rebound opportunities in industries with lower wages and less mobility.

But to surrender to this narrative does little to change the course for Erie or to properly explain what happened here this election cycle. Motivated voters turned out in mass opposition to a Democratic Party that is perceived by these voters to be responsible for the social and economic inequality that surrounds them.

Election	Democrat	Republican
2012	68,036 	49,025 
2016	58,112 	60,069 

These are mostly blue-collar or retired workers who were compelled to vote for Obama in 2008 and 2012, because they shared equal parts hope for the potential of his administration and disdain for his opponent, whose brand of smug elitism has been the poison in the Republican populist well since the party began courting blue-collar Democrats in the 1960s.

Today, those same voters who rejected Romney because he spoke with an oddly unplaceable affect and thought out-of-work laborers should replace their \$18 an hour job with two \$9 an hour jobs, rejected Hillary Clinton because they perceived her to be guilty

The 2016 presidential election defied statistical and non-statistical prediction models alike, and Erie became the headline because it went Republican for the first time since 1984.

of similar elitist misgivings. Those perceptions made it easy to cheer calls for her incarceration; those perceptions made it easy to blame her for international crises; and those perceptions made it easy to digest the narrative of a woman whose sole purpose in life was to slog her way to the presidency at any cost. Those perceptions made it easy to vote for Donald Trump.

Moreover, had she not had to compete in a Democratic primary, Hillary Clinton may have appeared as a candidate whose resolute concern for the American working class motivated her **[Cont. on Page 32]**

Just a Thought

‘See what gross inconsistency is tolerated.’



KATIE CHRIEST

By: Katie Chriest

I came into this world, not chiefly to make this a good place to live in, but to live in it, be it good or bad. A man has not everything to do, but something; and because he cannot do everything, it is not necessary that he should do something wrong. – Henry David Thoreau, “Civil Disobedience”

Henry Thoreau first presented a differently-titled version of his landmark essay “Civil Disobedience” at the Concord, Massachusetts Lyceum on Jan. 26, 1848. He’d refused to pay his poll tax, not wanting his own money to support slavery or the unjust Mexican War.

“I cannot for an instant recognize that political organization as *my* government which is the *slave’s* government also,” he wrote.

America was 72 years old. Old enough to know better, but still too young to care? Maybe that was it.

As a country, we’re now 168 years older than Thoreau’s America. So much better; but still a little immature, still trying to “find ourselves.” And hypocrisy – while not typically touted as an American value – remains an integral part of our personal and communal identities.

How human of us.

No wonder we’re so adept at recognizing contradiction in our leaders and institutions – and are so incensed by it. But as Jung said, “Everything that irri-

tates us about others can lead us to an understanding of ourselves.”

If we face it, that is.

We really want a thriving downtown, but we support the chains on upper Peach Street. We really want local artisans to enrich Erie, but we support Amazon. We really want strong, healthy bodies, but we devour an entire bag of Kettle Chips. (Surely I’m not the only one?)

Inconsistency can be like an illness: depleting, destructive, contagious. But

Inconsistency can be like an illness: depleting, destructive, contagious. But Thoreau offered a simple cure: “What I have to do is to see, at any rate, that I do not lend myself to the wrong which I condemn.”

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Thoreau influenced Gandhi, King, and countless other visionaries. His standards for himself were staggering.

But he knew better than to demand perfection from his fellow humans. He didn’t say that we must become para-

Two roads diverged in a yellow sunlight. This scene from rural Serbia is reminiscent of many everyday choices: appearing similar at the outset, they potentially lead to ends we never intended.

digm shifters in order to do some good. “It is not a man’s duty, as a matter of course, to devote himself to the eradication of any, even the most enormous, wrong; he may still properly have other concerns to engage him; but it is his duty, at least, to wash his hands of it, and if he gives it no thought longer, not to give it practically his support.”

Recently, on *Democracy Now!*, journalist Glenn Greenwald discussed the instability that accompanies transitions in government. He emphasized that during these periods, there is more potential for transformative movements – for better or worse.

Greenwald was obviously referring to the new administration in Washington, but 2017 will present similar circumstances for us locally as we choose a new Erie mayor. Of course, everything we decide to vote for, buy, support, or deny offers an opportunity to align our actions with our values.

“Action from principle, the perception and the performance of right, changes things and relations,” Thoreau summarized. “It is essentially revolutionary.”

Katie Chriest can be contacted at katie@ErieReader.com.

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Why I am Running For Mayor

'Considering the City's' Lisa Austin on her new campaign



Lisa Austin, surrounded by supporters during her mayoral announcement at Dovetail Gallery on Dec. 5, 2016.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By: Lisa Austin

Like many of you, I love Erie. For 20 years, I've walked and biked around the city and talked with residents. The same issues always surface: jobs, schools, taxes, blight, and violence.

Though I wasn't born in Pennsylvania, I've worked for years with volunteers to improve Erie. I ask questions, research, collaboratively envision solutions, and – when I hit a stumbling block – try another way.

Because this city needs an elected leader willing to challenge the entrenched status quo and get the job done, I'm running for mayor.

Jobs

Since 90 percent of new jobs are created by small businesses, I co-founded a competition back in 2008 that has helped a dozen residents manufacture new products. Our 2011 InnovationErie winner, Karen Rzepecki, is now the CEO of ReCAP Mason Jars, a thriving business with 10 full-time employees.

In the face of thousands of jobs lost at GE, 10 new ones may seem insignificant. But Erie's future lies in cultivating manufacturing, "eds and meds," tourism, arts and culture, and high-tech positions.

Penn State Behrend's new Innovation Commons, makerspaces, and other visionary initiatives like Radius CoWork at Tom Kennedy's Renaissance Centre help support entrepreneurs. Calculated investments – like Joel Deuterma's

Velocity Network – will empower the unemployed, retirees, graduates, and new Americans to create jobs.

Economic development will continue to be a top priority of mine.

Education

As mayor, I will support the United Way's Community Schools initiative and other programs that provide stability for our students and their families. I will address the funding crisis that drove Superintendent Jay Badams to propose closing all four high schools. Collaborating with other leaders, I will work to revoke the 25-year-old "hold harmless" clause that institutionalized inequity. We must reconsider the practice of using local real estate taxes to fund education (resulting in well-supported suburban and poorly-supported city schools.) This isn't fair to our kids.

Expanding vocational apprenticeships will help high school students who are not planning to go to college. In 2015, Penn State Behrend's Greg Dillon and I developed the Made in Erie Product Design Lab as a precursor to Erie County Library's Idea Lab, because we recognized that affordable design education is needed to spur economic development.

My own K-12 education (at a dozen public and parochial schools from Texas to Alaska) led me to Prince George's Community College in Maryland, then to Virginia Commonwealth University, and to graduate school at Yale University. I've taught seven years at a public high school and 23 years at three uni-

versities, where I learned the art of motivating people and navigating bureaucracies.

A community college changed my life. As mayor I will try to provide the same opportunity for Erie residents.

Safe, beautiful neighborhoods

Youth engagement, through summer jobs, Mothers Against Teen Violence, and the Police Athletic League help address violence and addiction. As mayor, I will support community policing, a citizens' advisory board and other effective programs. I will work to increase support for community centers, Wi-Fi access, public spaces, and transit to create opportunity and hope.

We must repopulate the city. Employer-assisted mortgages could encourage Hamot, Erie Insurance, and Gannon employees to buy a home downtown. Last year, Baltimore announced a tax-credit incentive to attract municipal employees, especially the police, to live in the city they serve. Why not

As mayor, I will meet with northwestern Pennsylvania leaders to collaboratively plan for our region.

here?

My years of experience on my neighborhood association, service on the Zoning Hearing Board and Downtown Improvement District, participation on the steering committee of Our West Bayfront, and roles co-founding Preservation Erie and ErieCPR will help me, as mayor, to collaborate with community and civic stakeholders.

Inclusivity, transparency

According to Kellogg School of Management, a diversity of people working on a problem creates a tension that actually fosters "a more careful" processing of information and better solutions. Thus, Erie would benefit from diverse decision-making groups. As mayor I will promote posting of board

vacancies and encourage self-nominations, replacing the current opaque nomination and appointment process.

Planning

Because Erie doesn't have a city planner, well-meaning engineers are permitted to make bad urban design decisions. Untrained in how cities work, they overlook place-making opportunities that would transform Erie into a more connected and thriving community. As mayor, I will build on Charles Buki's *Erie Refocused* plan, work with design professionals, and give residents a real voice in their city.

Thinking locally, regionally, and globally

As mayor, I will meet with northwestern Pennsylvania leaders to collaboratively plan for our region. I will work with local universities to find ways to retain alumni. I will reach out to Pittsburgh, Buffalo, and Cleveland and bring a larger percentage of their million-plus residents to visit downtown Erie. I will find a way to engage those who love Erie – but live elsewhere – to be part of this city's rebirth. I will expand existing projects, exchange programs, and residencies with our four sister cities in Mexico, Ireland, Poland, and China.

Do you believe in Erie?

Erie's best is yet to come. If you agree, please stop by my fundraiser (\$35) on Thursday, Jan. 26, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at Latino's Mexican Restaurant, 1315 Parade Street (580.8760). I would like to meet you and hear your ideas for Erie. (#Ideas4Erie)

For more information, please visit austinfoerie.com; check out the *Committee to Elect Lisa Austin's campaign Facebook page*; or send an email to campaign@austinfoerie.com or call 580.8760. As the co-founder of Civitas Erie, Austin initiated the creation of organizations working for improved transit (*All Aboard Erie*), economic development (*Innovation Erie*), urban planning (*Preservation Erie*), entrepreneurial support (*Made in Erie Marketplace*), industrial design education (*Made in Erie Product Design Lab*), and community engagement (*ErieCPR*). Austin also served for eight years on the city's Zoning Hearing Board.



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News of the Weird

From Curry aftertastes to deer vengeance

By Chuck Shepherd

Leading Economic Indicator

The salary the Golden State Warriors pay to basketball whiz Stephen Curry may be a bargain at \$12 million a year, but the economics is weirder about the prices Curry's fans pay on the street for one of his used mouthguards retrieved from the arena floor after a game. One used, sticky, saliva-encased teeth-protector went for \$3,190 at one August auction, and SCP Auctions of California is predicting \$25,000 for another, expelled during the NBA championship series last June. ESPN Magazine reported "at least" 35 Twitter accounts dedicated to Curry's mouthguard. [ESPN Magazine, 10-31-2016]

Cultural Diversity

In parts of Panama, some men still fight for access to women with the ferocity of rutting male elks. The indigenous Ngabe people mostly keep to themselves in rural areas but have surfaced in towns like Volcan, near the Costa Rican border, where in December a reporter witnessed two men fist-fighting to bloody exhaustion on the street in a typical "Mi Lucha" ("my struggle"), with the loser's wife following the winner home. As the custom loses its cachet, only about a third of the time does the wife now comply, according to the website Narratively. (Bonus: It's an often-easy "divorce" for the Ngabe for a fed-up wife to taunt her husband into a losing fight, or for a

fed-up husband to pick a fight and take a dive.) [Narrative.ly, 12-30-2016]

The Continuing Crisis

Over a six-year period (the latest measured), drug companies and pharmacies legally distributed 780 million pain pills in West Virginia averaging to 433 for every man, woman and child. Though rules require dispensers to investigate "suspicious" overprescribing, little was done, according to a recent Drug Enforcement Administration report obtained by the Gazette-Mail of Charleston even though half of the pills were supplied by the nation's "big three" drugmakers (whose CEOs' compensation is enriched enormously by pain pill production). Worse, year-by-year the strengths of the pills prescribed increase as users' tolerance demands. (West Virginia residents disproportionately suffer from unemployment, coal mining-related disabilities and poor health.) [Gazette-Mail, 12-17-2016]

University of Kentucky professor Buck Ryan disclosed in December that he had been punished recently (loss of travel funds and a "prestigious" award) by his dean for singing the Beach Boys classic "California Girls" for a lesson comparing American and Chinese cultures because of the song's "language of a sexual nature." The school's "coordinator" on sexual harassment issues made the ruling, apparently absent student complaints, for Ryan's lyric change of "Well, East Coast girls are hip" to "Well, Shanghai

girls are hip." [Lexington Herald-Leader, 12-17-2016]

Because the 2015 San Bernardino, California, terrorist attack that killed 14 and seriously wounded 22 was a "workplace" injury (in that the shooters fired only at fellow employees), any health insurance the victims had was superseded exclusively by coverage under the state's "workers' compensation" system a system largely designed for typical job injuries, such as back pain and slip-and-falls. Thus, for example, one San Bernardino victim with "hundreds of pieces of shrapnel" still in her body even after multiple surgeries and in constant pain, must nevertheless constantly argue her level of care with a bureaucrat pressured by budgetary issues and forced to massage sets of one-size-fits-all guidelines. [New York Times, 12-2-2016]

Wait, What?

The Las Vegas Sun reported in December that Nevada slot- and video-machine gamblers left almost \$12 million on the floor during 2012 (i.e., winning tickets that remain uncashed for six months, thus reverting to the state), running the five-year total to nearly \$35 million. (2) The pre-game injury report for college football's Dec. 31 Citrus Bowl included two University of Louisville linebackers, Henry Famurewa and James Hearn, who were out of action against Louisiana State because of "gunshot wounds." [Las Vegas Sun, 12-26-2016] [Sports Illustrated, 12-31-2016]

The Entrepreneurial Spirit!

Latest in Vending Machines: (1) Passengers awaiting trains in 35 sta-

tions in France now find kiosks dispensing short stories to pass the time. A wide range of selections (even poetry!), in suggested reading-time lengths of one, three and five minutes, can be printed out for free. (2) The only U.S. vending machine for champagne is now operational in the 23rd-floor lobby of the Mandarin Oriental hotel in Las Vegas. Moet and Chandon bubbly can be purchased with \$20 tokens sold at the front desk. [Daily Mail (London), 10-4-2016] [Las Vegas Review Journal, 12-28-2016]

New World Order

Recent Awkward Apps: (1) The Kerastase Hair Coach (a "smart" hairbrush with Wi-Fi, monitoring brush strokes "on three axes" to manage "frizziness, dryness, split ends and breakage"); (2) The still-in-prototype "Kissenger" (with a "meat-colored" rubbery dock for a smartphone that the user can kiss and have the sensation transmitted to a lover's receiving dock over the internet); (3) The Ozmo smart cup (to "effortlessly" "empower you with a platform for better hydration choices" in your water and coffee consumption with software for other drinks coming soon!) (Bonus: Old-school users can also just drink out of it.); (4) The Prophix toothbrush (with a video camera so you catch areas your brushing might have missed); (5) Spartan boxer briefs (stylishly protecting men's goods from Wi-Fi and cellphone radiation). [The Register (London), 1-4-2017]

Unclear on the Concept

In December the European Union's 28 nations reached what members

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called a historic agreement to thwart terrorists: a ban on private citizens' possessing semi-automatic weapons but exempted terrorists' firearm of choice, the Kalashnikov assault weapon. (Finland vetoed inclusion of the AK-47 because of concerns about training its reservists.) [Reuters, 12-28-2016]

Least Competent Criminals

A Georgia, police department's Facebook page chided a shoplifter still at large who had left his ID and fingerprints (and inadvertently posed for security cameras). The police, noting "how easy" the man had made their job, "begged" him to give them some sort of challenge: "Please at least try to hide." Suspect Dale Tice was soon in custody. [Gwinnett Daily Post, 12-28-2016]

Update

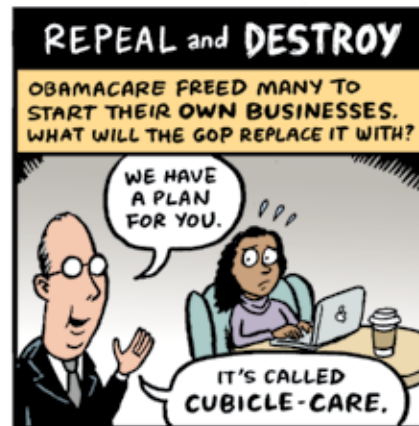
In January, tireless convicted fraudster Kevin Trudeau, who pitched magical remedies for countless ailments on late-night TV for almost 20 years (dodging investigations and lawsuits until the feds caught up with him in 2014) was turned down in what some legal experts believe might be his final judicial appeal. Still, he never gives up. From his cell at a federal prison in Al-

abama, he continued to solicit funding for appeals via his Facebook fans, promising donors that they could "double" their money. Also, he said he would soon share "two secrets" that would allow donors to "vibrate frequencies ... to create the life (they) want." [Chicago Tribune, 1-3-2017]

The Passing Parade

Steve Crow of Point Loma, California, near San Diego International Airport, told a reporter he had given up since no relief had come from the 20,068 complaints he made during 2016 about airport noise. (2) A six-point deer head-butted the owner of a fur company in Willmar, Minnesota, in November and broke into the building where thousands of recently harvested deer hides were being dried (and largely wrecked the place). The owner was slightly injured, and the vengeful buck escaped. [San Diego Union-Tribune, 1-1-2017] [Forum News Service, 11-18-2016]

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The Dirt on Jessica Harrington at Signature Landscapes

Cultivating a woman's spirit of entrepreneurship



(top) With snowplowing an integral part of a landscaper's duty, Jessica Harrington stands atop a freshly made snow mound. (bottom) Harrington smiles for a photo amidst laying down a section of outdoor stonework.

By: Marnie Mead

Some of us dig our jobs. Some feel like the work is nothing more than shoveling fertilizer all day long. Some feel like a lone woman toiling in a man's world.

Jessica Harrington's workplace is all of the above.

Harrington is the owner of Signature Landscapes, which she runs out of her home near Penn State Behrend. She's among the less than 2 percent of women who own landscaping businesses in the United States, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

She has been firmly planted in her job since the 1990s, when she cut grass in high school to help her sweetheart. She married him, went to college as an adult to become a teacher, but left school to help in the business, then called Harrington Landscaping. "It grew, and grew, and grew," she said.

By 2014, he wanted to quit and find a job with regular hours.

"I begged him to keep 25 lawns," she said. "I was relentless that he not sell everything."

Turns out, he wanted out of more than just the landscaping. The couple, who had two young daughters, split in 2014. "Thank the Lord for those 25 lawns," Harrington said during a recent interview. "I

have operated the business on my own [since] 2014."

Harrington's is among the 9.4 million firms, employing nearly 8 million people, that are owned by women, according to the National Association of Women Business Owners. They account for about 30 percent of privately held firms in the U.S.

Landscaping traditionally has been a male-dominated field, but women are making inroads as more people discover that it really is a beauty business.

Landscaping traditionally has been a male-dominated field, but women are making inroads as more people discover that it really is a beauty business. You transform dull and/or overgrown exteriors into a scent-sational home. It takes knowledge of the growing zone, soil quality, and horticulture to turn your basic overgrown ranch into a showplace.

Just ask Heidi Parr Kerner, who hired Harrington in the spring of 2016 to update her Fairview residence. "Jessica did a wonderful job for us. She worked with us to cre-

ate a completely new look for the front of our home, which included the removal of several truckloads of old bushes. Everything was completed on-time and on-budget. Plus, she gets right in there with her staff and did several of the plantings herself. I was 100 percent satisfied with her work, and would highly recommend her."

The two women met at the Coffee Club Divas, a women's networking group founded by Parr Kerner. "Heidi has really taught me a lot," Harrington said. The networking experience came at the same time her husband was leaving. "It taught me to put myself out there in ways I never had."

In addition, the experience connected her to like-minded entrepreneurial women.

Landscaping, of course, isn't all flowers. There's lighting, retaining walls, maintenance, excavating, lawn seeding, and snow plowing.

Here's where the story takes a fairytale turn. Months after her husband left, Harrington met Pat Twining. He has a varied background that includes roofing, tree cutting, and grass cutting, and working as an electrician and licensed inspection mechanic. "I'm actually very fortunate that I jumped from job to job," he said. And he loves snow, including plowing it.

Together they became certified Master Gardeners in 2016 at Penn State. "It really taught us a lot," Harrington said.

The business has doubled lawn-mowing accounts, and tripled its snow-plowing business. On the landscaping side, "we've done some really neat

stuff," she said.

"We're really branching out. We are more than just a lawn-mowing crew," she added.

On a personal front, Harrington's divorce planted the seed of another idea. "There are support groups for everything. For divorce, there are zero," she said. "I thought, 'OK, I am going to start one.'"

She has her life coach certification and is working on her master certification. But the real twist comes from horses, which have been used in therapeutic settings for years. There's the Therapeutic Riding Equestrian Center in Fairview, which uses equine-assisted recreational therapy for students and veterans.

During her divorce, Harrington took riding lessons with her two daughters, Kaylin and Madeline. "It was one day a week I looked forward to. It made me realize how strong I was. I guess horse therapy works for all types."

Harrington is looking to combine her coaching with horse therapy to create a program for people in the throes of divorce. "You don't teach horses," she said. "They teach you. Because I feel like they teach at a low point in your life, they really teach you. And I can't explain how they do that. My horses (Izzy and Bug) have always pulled me out of my funk. There is nothing more head clearing than to be in nature with your horse."

Harrington is working on cultivating the plan and expects to see it germinate in the spring.

"I feel I am finally at the point where I can help others," she said.

For more information about Signature Landscapes, call 897.7876 or visit signaturelandscapeserie.com.

Marnie Mead can be contacted at marnie@marniemeadmedia.com and you can follow her on Twitter @makeiterie.



Erie Philharmonic Coming Out of Its Shell

Warner upgrades highlight an optimistic outlook for 2017 and beyond.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By: Matt Swanseger

Ludwig van Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis*, a solemn mass in D major, is remarkable for its immensity, grandiosity, and ever-shifting dynamics. Even more remarkable was the fact that its composer scored the 80-minute behemoth for variously pitched strings, brass, woodwinds, and chorus without the benefit of hearing a single note. Here was a guy that had gone so deaf that by the time it was first performed (1824), he scarcely noticed the applause.

It stands as resounding proof that limitations can, in fact, be overcome. And although it may not always be clear, people will cheer one on so long as one's best effort is made.

No doubt about it, Erie has faced its share of obstacles over the years – but despite this, it has remained a place where arts and culture can still thrive. Although Erie (especially in January) will never be confused with a rapturous ascent to Paradise, it does parallel

the *Missa Solemnis* in one key regard – that multiple parts working in unison are capable of transformative beauty.

In his 10th season with the Erie Philharmonic, conductor Daniel Meyer has been in the foreground of the metamorphosis. The Cleveland-area native has witnessed “steady” growth in the Symphonic Series and “significant” growth in the Pop Series concerts

that comprise the Philharmonic season. Meanwhile, the Warner Theatre is poised for phase IV in its ongoing renovation program, slated to begin this summer. Unlike Beethoven, Meyer is hardly deaf to the enthusiasm surrounding his oeuvre.

“A large segment of people subscribe to both series. To me, that speaks to the fact that our audience knows we’re going to put on a great concert whether it’s [George] Gershwin, John Williams, or [Igor] Stravinsky,” says Meyer.

Meyer immersed himself in both the classical and popular forms growing up, parlaying his fondness for music into a career. Meyer’s mother started each of her four children off on piano in kindergarten before letting them select an orchestral instrument around the age of 10. Instead of watching TV after dinner, the family would gather around to play children’s songs and standards to lay a musical foundation. These sessions helped spark her eldest son’s imagination; Meyer soon began improvising countermelodies and eventually writing his own music in high school, including operettas based on the works of Geoffrey Chaucer and Bram Stoker’s *Dracula*.

“Music has always been part of the fabric of my life,” says Meyer.

It was during Meyer’s graduate and postgraduate career that he discovered his love of conducting – “deconstructing a score, figuring out how it was put together, and determining how it can be best represented.” Since then, he has held an assistant conductorship in Knoxville, Tennessee, a residency in Pittsburgh, and numerous guest conductorships throughout the United States and Europe. He currently heads the Erie Philharmonic and Asheville Symphony in North Carolina, which

This year, the Warner is finally ditching the hand-me-downs and outfitting itself with modern amenities.

he carefully treats as distinct and separate entities.

“The orchestras are very different; the audiences are very different; the acoustical stages are different. I cannot program the same thing because I have to tailor to facilities, audience, and the availability of guest artists,” Meyer explains.

What he most appreciates about Erie audiences is “their willingness to ex-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

(top) Daniel Meyer has served as conductor of the Erie Philharmonic since 2007. (bottom) Soprano Kate Neubert-Lechner (left) rehearses with the Erie Philharmonic for their 2016 Home for the Holidays concert. (opposite page) Flutist Demarre McGill (left) of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra served as featured soloist on the Nov. 12 “Classical Rivalries” performance.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

periment, to accept and enjoy the music we've decided to play them. We've built a degree of trust that when we take the stage, we believe in the music we're playing, that it has something to say, on an emotional, intellectual, or, at best, spiritual level, where you're lifted out of your seat and transported to some other realm."

Transcendence should be more consistently attainable once the Warner receives its final round of upgrades. The Art Deco and French Renaissance-styled theatre was never intended to host symphony orchestras; it was built in 1931 by Chicago architects Rapp and Rapp as a venue for vaudeville acts and movie screenings. Like a pullout couch bed or an inflatable air mattress, the Warner has been functional during Meyer's stay, but has not always offered the best support. For instance, the orchestra shell (the hard, curved surface behind the orchestra that funnels sound towards the audience) has outlived even its original donor, the Syria Mosque concert hall in Pittsburgh (demolished in 1991).

This year, the Warner is finally ditching the hand-me-downs and outfitting itself with modern amenities. Phase IV of the restoration project will add a new orchestra shell, a new orchestra pit, an enlarged, partially hydraulic concert stage, more generous lighting, climate- and humidity-controlled storage, and an optimized acoustics system. As listeners, concertgoers will awaken to a greater depth and quality of sound. As a concert programmer, Meyer has al-

ready awakened to a vastly expanded range of potential offerings, from powerful symphonies to intimate sonatas.

"Bring on the excavators," implores Meyer.

Together with the Philharmonic musicians (most of whom are locally-sourced from Erie County and the tri-state area), Meyer has already begun planning next season's menu, and it promises to be more diverse than ever. However, the remaining entries in the 2016-17 season should prove anything but bland – next month, the orchestra will perform the entire soundtrack of *Casablanca* in-sync with the motion picture. In March, world-renowned pianist Emmanuel Ax will sit in for performances of Beethoven's "Emperor" Concerto and Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 4. April will both uplift audiences with the music of Disney and shake them to the core with the sheer force of the organ – if they let it.

"Our art form asks for someone to listen for an hour-and-a-half and turn off their electronic devices. It's really hard [these days] to ... invest yourself in what's going on onstage ... and give yourself to the experience."

That would be more of a challenge if the Philharmonic wasn't so damned enjoyable to listen to. For now, Erie seems to be keeping its ears open to whatever the future may bring.

Matt Swanseger can be reached at mswanseger@eriereader.com. You can follow him on Twitter @SwazzySwagga.

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SAT 01/28
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Spotlight on Erie

January 18 – 31, 2017

Wednesday, Jan. 18

Erie Playhouse's First Shows Back for One Night



On Jan. 18, 1916, the Erie Playhouse held its first performance. Exactly 101 years later, the Playhouse, in collaboration with other local theaters, will perform the same three one-act plays - not at the Playhouse's 10th Street location, but at the Erie Art Museum.

These timeless tales, *Galatea of the Toy Shop*, *I'm Going*, and *Sunset*, were performed by the Playhouse at Erie's Reed Hotel on North Park Row and French Street. The hotel, which no longer exists, welcomed a crowd of 99 people.

These timeless tales, *Galatea of the Toy Shop*, *I'm Going*, and *Sunset*, were performed by the Playhouse at Erie's Reed Hotel on North Park Row and French Street.

Galatea of the Toyshop tells a story about a unique doll and the toymaker who created her, Oscar Schwartz (played by Bryan Toy). Unlike other dolls, Galatea (played by Amy Gilewicz) isn't only "brought to life" through the imaginations of young girls, she actually comes to life when Oscar kisses her. As audiences follow her journey of self-discovery, they will find themselves falling in love with the extraordinarily special doll.

I'm Going aims to keep audiences laughing. Both Henri (played by Steve Ropski) and Jeanne (played by Sue Ellen Wojciechowski), who are married, want to spend the day alone, but neither will admit it. Instead they attempt to outwit one another. Written by Triston Bernard, this play is a classic

comedic farce, where situations are incredibly exaggerated for the audience's amusement.

The final one-act play, *Sunset*, tells the story of two half-sisters who unknowingly fall in love with the same man. When Lois (played by Krista Rayne Reckner) introduces her summer lover to her sister Joan (played by Daisy Schaff), Joan must choose between her own desires and her sister's happiness. The comedic play is based upon Alfred, Lord Tennyson's poem, "The Sisters."

Directors for the plays are Mark Tanenbaum from Performing Artists Collective Alliance (PACA), Zack Flock from Dramashop, and David Mitchell and KC McCloskey from All an Act. - Tracy Geibel

7:30 p.m. // Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. // \$17.90 // erieplayhouse.org/shows/2016-17/evening-of-one-acts

Friday, Jan. 20

Unified Concert Blends Bands, Speakers, Peaceful Protest



THIS AMERICAN SONG

They say that political discontent breeds action. In the wake of Trump's election, events have popped up around the city as well as the entire country. If you're an Erieite who wants to put your focus on something else during inauguration day, Unified might be the event for you.

Organized by Larry Wheaton of This American Song and Daniel Doubet of Keystone Progress, Unified brings together music, discourse, and peaceful protest. While many of those involved share a background in the political activism of punk rock, the mindset is far from aggressive. Wheaton outlined the

event's mission, writing that "the goal is to put a diverse group of individuals into one place with one common goal: peace."

Taking place at the all-ages venue, Basement Transmissions, the event weaves together bands and speakers throughout the evening. One of the bands, This American Song, has been a fixture of the Erie music scene for years, bringing their distinct blend of alternative rock and Americana with punk roots. With the energetic presence of singer Jeff Phillips, creative expert musicianship, and a growing horn section, the band is sure to entertain.

Local quintet Planet Claire will give the show a biting sweet edge as well.

If you're an Erieite who wants to focus on something else during Inauguration Day, Unified might be the event for you.

The band, fronted by Sue Martin, delivers a lively twee punk sound. Using a simple formula combining driving rhythms and catchy melodies, the band has been a cult favorite for years.

Jovial Cacophony will close out the night, bringing their excellent brand of idiosyncratic tunes to the table. Mixing experimental folk with the adventurous tradition of lo-fi bedroom albums, singer Jack Rys creates a fantastic fusion that truly lives up to its name.

Blanket the Waters will open the show, featuring the acoustic songwriting of Jesse Guerrein of Gone for Six and Junk Shop Failure.

The event will also feature a variety of speakers throughout the evening. Be sure to check out talks from filmmaker John Lyons, community activist Daniel Doubet, entrepreneur and organizer Selena King, and Cindy Purvis, well versed in the fields of healthcare and renewable energy.

Wheaton went on to summarize Unified, noting that "we hope that this event will make us feel stronger together as we try to encourage our community and our country to continue moving in a peaceful direction." - Nick Warren

6 p.m. // Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. // Free // [facebook.com/events/943390372464258](https://www.facebook.com/events/943390372464258)

Friday, Jan. 20

Experience Erie's Music Community



GEM CITY REVIVAL

Erie has a sturdy local music scene. It's clear that artists from different bands support one another and have formed quite the warm, creative society. To delve into this sonically dynamic collective - or at least dip a toe in the pool of sound - head to the Kings Rook Club to see performances by Gem City Revival, Zack Orr, and The Honest Mistakes on Jan. 20.

Gem City Revival's Abby Badach explains that listeners will be treated to the warmth that comes from local musicians forging connections and enjoying gigs with one another. "We're playing with two groups we love on and offstage," she says, "Zack Orr (our

It's clear that artists from different bands support one another and have formed quite the warm, creative society.

first formal performance as Gem City Revival was in his 365 Days of Song concert last year), and The Honest Mistakes, who are great songwriters and newcomers to Erie, but we already feel like we've known them forever." Expect to hear some solid harmonies from her band. "If it's a two-part vocal song, we'll work our buns off to find that third harmony, and we love the challenge," she says, describing Gem City Revival's music as honest, rootsy, Americana music.

To hear additional evocative music, audiences should make a point to be present for The Honest Mistakes, who



ZACK ORR

Saturday, Jan. 21

Winter Soundscaping with the Erie Philharmonic



SOYEON KATE LEE

originally hailed from Baltimore. The outfit, who play “melodramatic” power pop and rock, most recently released their album *Get it Right* in 2015: an upbeat collection of rocking, guitar-driven tracks with strong vocals that sound a bit like Chrissie Hynde. The title track has a pleasant mellow vibe with vintage undertones and a touch of Britpop essence.

Zack Orr rounds out the bill with his blend of ambient folk rock. Check out his YouTube channel for excerpts from his 365 Days of Song project, in which Orr broadcasted a different song every day for a year. His melodic and light voice are sure to ring out at the gig, and provide evidence of the talent within Erie’s community of musicians. – Miriam Lamey

10 p.m. // Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. // 456.6439

It’s never too early to start landscap-ling – at least if the late composers Bedřich Smetana, Béla Bartók, and Jean Sibelius had anything to say about it.

However, unless you are possessed of a sizable chunk of European landmass and several geological epochs, it would be impractical to replicate landscape of their scale in your own backyard. Luckily, through miracles of musical ambition and ingenuity, the Erie Phil-

harmonic has condensed the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Finland into a tidy 90-minute program. And with tickets priced at just \$20, you’ll spend less money per country than on a bag of mulch.

The program begins with Smetana’s famous tone poem “The Moldau,” excerpted from *Má vlast* (My Country). It is a sonic interpretation of the River Moldau, trickling, rushing, and cascading through miles of Bohemian countryside. Frolicsome flutes evoke the lush forests, while ominous brass tones bring to mind sundering, choppy waters.

The Erie Philharmonic has condensed the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Finland into a tidy 90-minute program.

Next on the itinerary is Bartók’s Piano Concerto No. 3, featuring special guest pianist Soyeon Kate Lee. Astute ornithologists will hear the native birdcalls of Asheville, North Carolina (Bartók’s adopted home) cleverly transposed to instruments, interposed with melodies and rhythms of Hungarian folk music (i.e. Bartók’s homeland).

After the intermission, the program

concludes with Sibelius’s sprawling and panoramic Symphony No. 2, an ode to his native Finland. The score reflects the irregularities of the Finnish geography, including geysers, ice formations, and lakes and islands numbering in the hundreds of thousands. The result is a work of mysterious beauty and majesty for a country literally rising out of the sea.

If Finland can crawl out from under its glacier(s), you can surely crawl out from under yours for this one-of-kind symphonic event. – Matt Swanseger

8 p.m. // 811 State St. // eriephil.org/ january // prices range from \$20 to \$52

Wednesday, Jan. 25

Raw Emotion Takes Center Stage on Opening Night

There’s nothing quite like the films of John Cassavetes. They’re unabashedly emotional, but never sentimental. Artistically challenging, but rarely pretentious. Harsh, but also humane.

Unlike most of the great American directors of the sixties and seventies, Cassavetes didn’t leave a long list of wannabes in his wake. There are a million *Goodfellas* rip-offs, and plenty of second-rate takes on *Apocalypse Now*. But *Opening Night* – the appropriately titled 1977 feature that will kick off the new film series at the Erie Art Museum

MUSIC

Soyeon Kate Lee

Jan. 20 — noon to 1 p.m.
WQLN Studios, 8425 Peach St. wqln.org.

The Vendettas

Jan. 20 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Bullfrog Bar, 3866 Peach St. facebook.com/thevendettaserie.

Unified

Jan. 20 — 6 to 10 p.m.
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. facebook.com/pg/basement.transmissions.

Erie Stands Together A Show with a Cause

Jan. 20 — 8 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Sherlocks, 508 State St. facebook.com/pg/sherlocksparkplace.

The Division Street Machine

Jan. 20 — 9 p.m.
Presque Isle Downs, 8199 Perry Hwy.

presqueisledowns.com.

Paoello and Gone with special guest Jonathan Nolan

Jan. 20 — 9:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.
Darcy’s Pub, 3746 W. 12 St. facebook.com/Paoello-and-Gone-1848696605343500.

Gem City Revival, Zack Orr and The Honest Mistakes

Jan. 20 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com/kingsrookclub.

I Hate Heroes, Ford the River, SITM, Tear from Grace and BIF

Jan. 21 — 5:30 to 10 p.m.
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. facebook.com/gimpguyunderground.

Dave VanAmburg and Friends

Jan. 21 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Anchor In at Oasis Pub, 3122 W. Lake

Rd.jazzerie.com.

Frank Singer Trio ft. James Madden

Jan. 21 — 7 to 10 p.m.
814 Pub and Grill, 1325 State St. jazzerie.com.

Sibelius

Jan. 21 — 8 to 10 p.m.
Warner Theatre, 811 State St. eriephil.org.

Tyler Smilo

Jan. 21 — 9 p.m.
Molly Brannigans Irish Pub, 506 State St. mollybrannigans.com.

Geek Army

Jan. 21 — 9 p.m.
Presque Isle Downs, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

The Bees Trees

Jan. 21 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com/kingsrookclub.

SAS Acoustics

Jan. 22 — 1 to 4 p.m.
Arundel Cellars, 11727 E. Main Rd. arundelcellars.com.

Concerto/Aria Competition

Jan. 22 — 3 p.m.
Walker Recital Hall, 501 E. 38th St. mercyhurst.edu.

Tower Brass Quintet

Jan. 26 — 7:30 p.m.
Louis C. Cole Auditorium in Memorial Hall, 205 Meadville St. events.edinboro.edu.

Dave Callaghan Quartet

Jan. 27 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Wegman’s Cafeteria, 6143 Peach St. jazzerie.com.

The Breeze Band

Jan. 27 — 9 p.m.
Presque Isle Downs, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

Paoello & Gone

Jan. 27 — 9:30 p.m.

Bobby’s Place, 1202 W. 18th St. facebook.com/paoelloandgone.

Six Year Stretch plus Clair and Friends

Jan. 27 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com/kingsrookclub.

Riffriders

Jan. 28 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Anchor In at Oasis Pub, 3122 W. Lake Rd. jazzerie.com.

Man’s Room Band

Jan. 28 — 9 p.m.

Presque Isle Downs, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

Shwizz

Jan. 28 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com/kingsrookclub.

Rankin & Schell

Jan. 29 — 1 to 4 p.m.
Arundel Cellars, 11727 E. Main Rd.

arundelcellars.com.

Jurassic Skatepark EP Release Show

Jan. 29 — 5 to 10 p.m.
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. facebook.com/JurassicSkatepark.

DANCE

Champion Cheer Central Cheer and Dance Championships

Jan. 22
Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafra’s Pier erieevents.com.

FOOD & DRINK

Winter Wonderland: Wine Dinner

Jan. 19 — 7 to 11 p.m.
The Cork 1794, 17 W. Main St. cork1794.com.

Coffee and Consultation Day

Jan. 20 — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Radius CoWork Suite 907, 1001 State St. radiusco.work.

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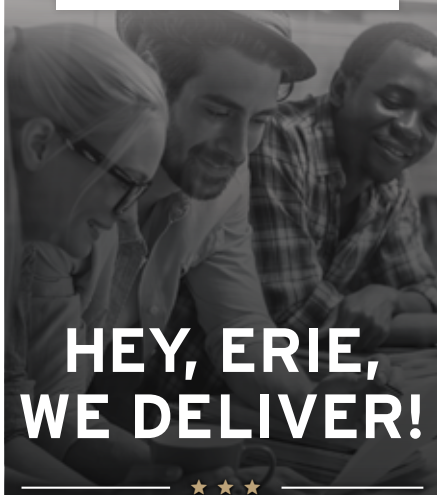
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Rachel Carson



January 24 at 8pm
on WQLN-TV 54.1

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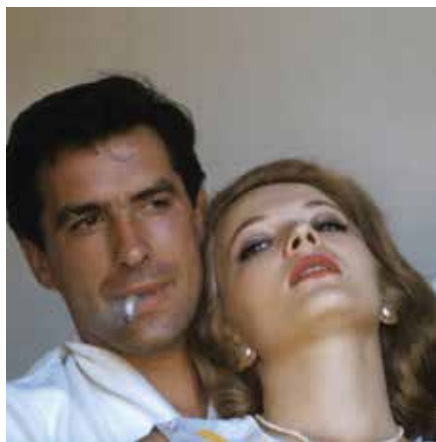
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— is still one of a kind.

It's nearly impossible to talk about Cassavetes without also mentioning his wife and closest collaborator, Gena Rowlands. Here she delivers a characteristically heartfelt performance as an aging Broadway actress who witnesses

Collaboration and intimacy were key ingredients for Cassavetes. In addition to casting members of his family, he typically chose to work with his closest friends.

a fatal accident prior to a show. This triggers an emotional meltdown that eventually erupts on stage, all deliv-

ered with unflinching dedication from one of Hollywood's most underrated actors.

Collaboration and intimacy were key ingredients for Cassavetes. In addition to casting members of his family, he typically chose to work with his closest friends (including people like Peter Falk and Ben Gazzara), encouraging them to offer suggestions and even take occasional turns directing. This gives his work a frantic and unpredictable energy. In a film like *Opening Night*, where the narrative unravels as violently as the performances, the chaos is contagious. — Dan Schank

7 p.m. // Erie Art Museum, 20 E. Fifth St. // erieartmuseum.org/events-film

Friday, Jan. 27

The Prescient Kingdom of Charles III

England's royal family has been an ever-present source of fascination in the U.S. cultural landscape. Despite the fact that most Americans can name several key members of the House of Windsor, the title *King Charles III* might take a minute to sink in. Mike Bartlett's play, which debuted overseas in 2014, envisions an alternate timeline for British monarchy. The story follows Charles, Prince of Wales, who at 68 is the longest-serving heir apparent in the entire history of the British Em-



pire. The play sees him ascend to the throne after the death of his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, becoming the titular Charles III, played by Joe Haas.

The play is written in blank verse, an unrhyming form that employs iambic pentameter (10 syllables per line), a longstanding feature of English poetry. Using the tools and traditions of old, Bartlett crafts a contemporary, engaging storyline. Freedom of the press is held in balance, with modern technology placing things at a key turning point. The real-life Prince Charles has had a long, conflicted relationship with news outlets, who played a major part in his 1996 divorce from Princess Diana, as well as her death a year later. The

play weaves together the lives of current royal family members, including William, Duke of Cambridge (Nicholas Emmanuele), Kate Middleton (Emily Olszewki), Prince Harry (Matthew Crays), and Camilla Parker Bowles (Betsey Butoryak).

Dramashop director Michael Haas described the play in his own words, saying that "it says a lot about privacy, about the role of tradition in our lives and what happens when we pull back the curtain on those things we hold as 'established' and begin to question 'why.' But more than that, it's about family."

Using the tools and traditions of old, Bartlett crafts a contemporary, engaging storyline. Freedom of the press is held in balance, with modern technology placing things at a key turning point.

The family connection is one that rings true in this particular production, as Haas-the-younger finds himself directing his father, Joe. Michael considers it a pleasure, joking that "it's been really rewarding and fun. It's funny when you notice acting habits that turn out to be genetic." But

Wood & Whiskey

Jan. 27 — 7 to 10 p.m.
The Brewerie at Union Station, 123 W. 14th St. brewerie.com.

Mind, Body, Beer, Brunch

Jan. 28 — 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Erie Ale Works, 416 W. 12th St. facebook.com/ErieAleWorks.

Erie's Best Wings Chicken Wing Cook-Off

Jan. 28 — 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Rainbow Gardens, 220 Waldameer Park Rd. classy100.com.

Chili Cook Off

Jan. 28 — noon to 4 p.m.
Peek'n Peak Resort, 1405 Olde Rd. pknpk.com.

Winter Wine and Dine

Jan. 29 — 4 to 8 p.m.
Nuova Aurora Club, 1518 Walnut St. facebook.com/

events/382351892114383.

Electric Pressure Cooker Demo

Jan. 30 — 6 to 8 p.m.
Whole Foods Co-op, 1341 W. 26th. vegancheers.com.

Mind, Body, Beer

Jan. 31 — 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.
Erie Ale Works, 416 W. 12th St. facebook.com/ErieAleWorks.

FILM

Walking With Dinosaurs: Prehistoric Planet

Ongoing through Mar. 3, 2017 — 11 a.m. & 1 & 3 p.m.
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. biggreenscreen.com.

Lewis & Clark: Great Journey West

Ongoing through Mar. 3, 2017 — noon & 4 p.m.
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. biggreenscreen.com.

Journey to Space

Ongoing through Mar. 3, 2017 — 2 & 5 p.m.
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. biggreenscreen.com.

Mercy Street

Jan. 19 — 6 p.m.
Compton Hall Room 107A, 210 E. Normal St. events.edinboro.edu.

Cosmos: War of the Planets (1977)

Jan. 19 — 8 to 11 p.m.
Erie Movie House, 3424 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse.

Met Live in HD: Romeo et Juliette

Jan. 21 — 12:55 p.m.
Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center, 501 E. 38th St. miac.mercyhurst.edu.

National Theatre Live: No Man's Land

Jan. 22 — 12:55 p.m.
Mary D'Angelo

Performing Arts Center, 501 E. 38th St. miac.mercyhurst.edu.

Opening Night

Jan. 25 — 7 p.m.
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

The Toxic Avenger (1984)

Jan. 27 — 8 to 11 p.m.
Erie Movie House, 3424 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse.

The Moon is Blue (1953)

Jan. 28 — 8 to 11 p.m.
Erie Movie House, 3424 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse.

Don't Think Twice

Feb. 1 — 7 p.m.
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

VISUAL ARTS

Repurposed by

Ronald Gonzalez and Richard Sadlier

Ongoing through Feb. 5 (Reception Jan. 19 — 5 to 7 p.m.)
Mercyhurst University Cummings Gallery, 501 E. 38th St. mercyhurst.edu.

Mood Swing Review: A solo exhibition by Ron Bayuzick

Ongoing through Feb. 11
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

Color and Possibility by Gail Beem

Ongoing through Feb. 14 (Reception Jan. 21 — 1 to 4 p.m.)
Glass Growers Gallery, 10 E. 5th St. glassgrowersgallery.com.

Sergei Isupov: Hidden Messages

Ongoing through Apr. 2
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

Earth Stories

Jan. 20 through June 11
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

Persuasion

Jan. 24 through Feb. 21 (Opening Reception Jan. 24 — 7 to 9 p.m.)
Allegheny College Doane Hall of Art, 520 N. Main St. allegheny.edu.

Kids As Curators 2017

Jan. 27 through Mar. 26
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

THEATRE

Evening of One Acts

Jan. 18 — 7:30 p.m.
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieplayhouse.org.

Disney On Ice Presents Dream Big

Jan. 19, 20 — 7 p.m. & Jan. 21 — 11 a.m. & 3 & 7 p.m. & Jan. 22 — 2 p.m.

CALENDAR

is this Brit-centric script for Anglophiles alone? Haas says absolutely not. With plenty to take away for the average American theatergoer, the director hopes audiences will see “the ever-changing dynamic of familiar relationships. Whether you’re a family in Erie or the British royal family, the problems are the same.” – Nick Warren

8 p.m. Jan. 27, 28 & Feb. 3, 4, 10, 11 // Dramashop, Renaissance Centre, 2nd Floor, 1001 State St. // \$5 opening weekend, \$12 online, \$15 at the door (\$5 with student ID) // dramashop.org

Saturday, Jan. 28

Shwizz Get Funky at the Kings Rook Club



Rook Club on Jan. 28. Progressive New York outfit Shwizz will bring their curious blend, which the band say sounds like the lovechild of Frank Zappa, Umphrey’s McGee, James Brown, Lotus, The Grateful Dead, Genesis, and Dream Theater. They play tunes with varying degrees of “musical complexity,” but audiences will have to define that for themselves.

For a taste of Shwizz’ psychedelic rock swirlings, take a listen to their latest release, *And Then There Were Trollz*. Kicking off the album is “Rude Shoes,”

Shwizz will bring their curious blend, which the band say sounds like the lovechild of Frank Zappa, Umphrey’s McGee, James Brown, Lotus, The Grateful Dead, Genesis, and Dream Theater.

where the vocals are pronounced, driven, and anything but dreamy and trippy. “Hog Thai” starts off with a blast of guitars that roll into a rocking, driven riff and slapping drums, presenting a bluesier feel, yet with Grateful Dead overtones. Finally, jump into “The Breach,” which deceptively starts off quietly with a lone, wavering, weaving guitar riff that is supported by rolling drums, tapping cymbals, and a Ride-esque feel that just screams rock and

roll. They’re sure to warm up any chilly winter evening, and give local music fans something new to appreciate. – Miriam Lamey

10 pm. // Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. // 456.6439

Sunday, Jan. 29

Jurassic Skatepark Release EP at Basement Transmissions



Erie’s own pop punk quartet, Jurassic Skatepark, are releasing their latest EP, *Dog Years*, on Jan. 29 at Basement Transmissions, alongside other local pop punk acts.

Jurassic Skatepark’s previous release from April 2016, *Temperament*, was both upbeat and pissed off, while musically taking heavy influence from “easycore” bands such as Four Year Strong, City Lights, and A Day to Remember. Ryan Rosenthal, who performs double duty on guitar and vocals, says the band will be mixing it up a little more on the six-song EP *Dog*

Years. “The EP itself has several styles in it,” Rosenthal said. “The two most prominent being classic pop punk, and a more alt/emo punk sound.”

Opening the show are other Erie locals, Well Below Average and Wasted Info, both pop punk, and The Standby, who expertly blend emo and shoegaze influences with pop punk stylings. Their song “Ladykiller” is a stellar example of how the band can capture intense emotion both musically and lyrically.

Two out-of-town bands from upstate New York round out the bill: The Search and Find, from Buffalo, and So Last Year, from Rochester. The Search and Find are a female-fronted pop punk and pop rock, as is apparent in differences between songs like “Doubts” and “Together.” So Last Year sticks strictly to their pop rock/indie sound. Check out the video to their incredibly catchy single “In the Light of Summer.”

In a city like Erie where metal seems to be the current dominant genre in the underground scene, pop punk is often overlooked. But bands like these show that all genres of music in Erie are still alive and kicking, so come out to the show and show these great local bands your support. – Tommy Shannon

5:30 p.m. // 145 W. 11th St. // \$5 pre-sale; \$8 at the door // facebook.com/events/1855918417956801

Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. erieevents.com.

The Lion King Jr

Jan. 20, 21, 27, 28 — 7 p.m. & Jan. 21, 22, 28, 29 — 2 p.m.

Erie Playhouse, 13 W. 10 St. erieplayhouse.org.

King Charles III by Mike Bartlett

Jan. 27, 28 & Feb. 3, 4, 10, 11 — 8 p.m.

Dramashop 2nd Floor Renaissance Centre, 1001 State St. dramashop.org.

COMMUNITY

Tinker the T-Rex Comes to the TREC

Ongoing through Feb 24 — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

The Imagination Expotarium

Jan. 18 — 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 to 5 p.m. & Jan. 19 — noon to 3 p.m.

Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier eriepromotions.com.

Outside the Window: Getting Little Feet Wet

Jan. 18 — 1 to 2 p.m.

Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Feed the Animals Trivia Bowl

Jan. 18 — 6 p.m.

Jr’s Last Laugh Comedy Club, 1402 State St. humansocietynwpa.com.

Dan Cummins

Jan. 19 — 7 p.m. & Jan. 20, 21 — 6:45 & 9:30 p.m.

Jr’s Last Laugh Comedy Club, 1402 State St. jrslastlaugh.net.

Presque Isle History Month: History of Winter Recreation

Jan. 19 — 7 to 8 p.m.

Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula

Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Storytime with Gretchen

Jan. 20 — 10 a.m.

The Family Shop, 2501 W. 12 St. facebook.com/ErieFamilyShop.

Art, Jewels and Jazz: A Tribute to Nina Simone

Jan. 20 — 6 to 11 p.m.

Erie Movie House, 3424 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse.

Cross Country Ski Clinics

Jan. 21 — 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org.

Erie March for Life

Jan. 21 — 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Perry Square, 568 State St. peopleforlife.org.

Reading Buddies with

the Erie Playhouse

Jan. 21 — 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. unitedwayerie.org.

Winter Bocce Classic

Jan. 21 — noon

The Brewerierie at Union Station, 123 W. 14th St. brewerierie.com.

Dinosaur Exhibit Tours

Jan. 21, 22, 28, 29 — noon to 2 p.m.

Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Ski Patroller Open House

Jan. 21 — 1 p.m.

Peek’n Peak Resort, 1405 Olde Rd. pknpk.com.

Winter Stroll in the Park: Graveyard Pond Trail

Jan. 21 — 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Perry Monument parking area in Presque Isle State Park, 301 Peninsula Dr.

events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Writing and Self Publishing Workshop

Jan. 21 — 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Lincoln Community Center Library, 1255 Manchester Rd. erielibrary.org.

Snowshoe Clinics

Jan. 21 — 1:30 to 3 p.m.

Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org.

Erie Women’s March

Jan. 21 — 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Erie County Courthouse, 140 W. 6th St. facebook.com/events/700269496799278.

Kids Dino Hour

Jan. 21, 22, 28, 29 — 3 to 4 p.m.

Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Juicy Dating

Jan. 21 — 7 to 9 p.m.

CALENDAR

Great Books: Sanding Down From Warrior to Civilian

Jan. 24, 31 & Feb. 7,
14, 21, 28 & Mar. 7, 14,
21 — 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Jefferson Educational
Society, 3207 State
St. jeserie.org.

Pranic Healing

Jan. 24 — 5 to 6:15 p.m.

Lincoln Community
Center Library, 1255
Manchester Rd.
erielibrary.org.

Presque Isle History Series: Engineering of Presque Isle

Jan. 24 — 6 to 7 p.m.

Tom Ridge Environmental
Center, 301 Peninsula
Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Erie Otters vs. Kitchener

Jan. 24 — 7 p.m.

Erie Insurance Arena, 809
French St. erieevents.com.

Outside the Window: Presque Isle History Past & Present Sailors

Jan. 25 — 10:30
to 11:30 a.m.

Tom Ridge Environmental
Center, 301 Peninsula
Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Iraq: From Cradle of Civilization to Center of Ethnic and Sectarian Conflict

Jan. 25 — 6 to 8:30 p.m.

Jefferson Educational
Society, 3207 State
St. jeserie.org.

Erie BayHawks vs. Fort Wayne

Jan. 25 — 7 p.m.

Erie Insurance Arena, 809
French St. erieevents.com.

Trivia Night with the Eerie Roller Girls

Jan. 25 — 7 to 9 p.m.

The Brewer at the
Union Station, 123
W. 14th St. facebook.com/eerierollergirls.

44th Annual March for Life Bus Trip

Jan. 26, 27, 28

People for Life, 1625 W.
26 St. peopleforlife.org.

Introduction Thermography

Jan. 26 — 1 to 1:45 p.m.

Lincoln Community
Center Library, 1255
Manchester Rd.
erielibrary.org.

American Short Stories

Jan. 26 & Feb. 2, 9,
16, 23 & Mar. 2, 9, 16,
23 — 4 to 6 p.m.

Jefferson Educational
Society, 3207 State
St. jeserie.org.

Fred Klett

Jan. 26 — 7 p.m. & Jan.
27, 28 — 6:45 & 9:30 p.m.

Jr's Last Laugh Comedy
Club, 1402 State St.
jrslastlaugh.net.

Erie BayHawks vs. Long Island

Jan. 27 — 7 p.m.

Erie Insurance Arena, 809
French St. erieevents.com.

Korean Unification and a U.S. Trump Presidency: Examining the Future of Southeast Asia

Jan. 26 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Jefferson Educational
Society, 3207 State
St. jeserie.org.

Evening Fireside Talk: Presque Isle's History & Lore

Jan. 27 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Rotary Pavilion in
Presque Isle State
Park, 301 Peninsula Dr.
events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Erie Kennel Club Dog Show

Jan. 28, 29 — 8
a.m. to 5 p.m.

Bayfront Convention
Center, 1 Sassafras
Pier erieevents.com.

Excel I

Jan. 28 & Mar. 14 &
May 19 & June 23
— 9 a.m. to noon

Blasco Memorial
Library, 160 E. Front
St. erielibrary.org.

Harborcreek Historical Society Annual Meeting

Jan. 28 — 10 a.m.

Harborcreek Municipal
Building, 5601 Buffalo Rd.
harborcreekhistory.org.

Erie Bluffs Trek

Jan. 28 — 10 a.m. to noon

Erie Bluffs State Park,
11122 W. Lake Rd.
events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Annual Meeting and Program

Jan. 28 — 10 a.m.
to 12:15 p.m.

Harborcreek Township
Municipal Building,
5601 Buffalo Rd.

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— 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Plasha Yoga Studio,
3330 W. 26th St.
plashayoga.com.

Owl Discovery

Jan. 28 — 1 to 2 p.m.

Tom Ridge Environmental
Center, 301 Peninsula
Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Master Builders: Create with Legos

Jan. 28 — 1 to 2 p.m.

Edinboro Branch
Library, 413 Plum St.
erielibrary.org.

Game On: Teen Board Game Night

Jan. 28 — 2 to 4 p.m.

Room 219 Blasco
Memorial Library, 160 E.
Front St. erielibrary.org.

LuLaRoe Pop-Up

Jan. 28 — 3 to 5 p.m.

The Family Shop, 2501
W. 12th St. facebook.com/ErieFamilyShop.

Erie Otters vs. Guelph

Jan. 28 — 7 p.m.

Erie Insurance Arena, 809
French St. erieevents.com.

7th Annual CVC Cornhole Tournament

Jan. 29 — noon to 7 p.m.

Maennerchor Club, 1607
State St. cvcerie.org.

Lake Erie Eagles

Jan. 29 — 1:30 p.m.

Erie Insurance Arena, 809
French St. erieevents.com.

Presque Isle History Series: Names of Presque Isle

Jan. 31 — 6 to 7 p.m.

Tom Ridge Environmental
Center, 301 Peninsula
Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Fireside Finger Crochet Infinity Scarf

Jan. 31 — 6 to 7 p.m.

Asbury Woods Nature
Center, 4105 Asbury Rd.
asburywoods.org.

Harlem Globetrotters

Jan. 31 — 7 p.m.

Erie Insurance Arena, 809
French St. erieevents.com.

Erie County in the Civil War

Jan. 31 -- 7 to 8:30 p.m.

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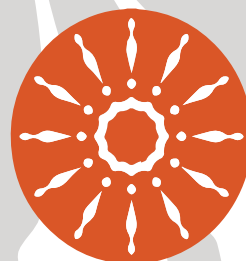
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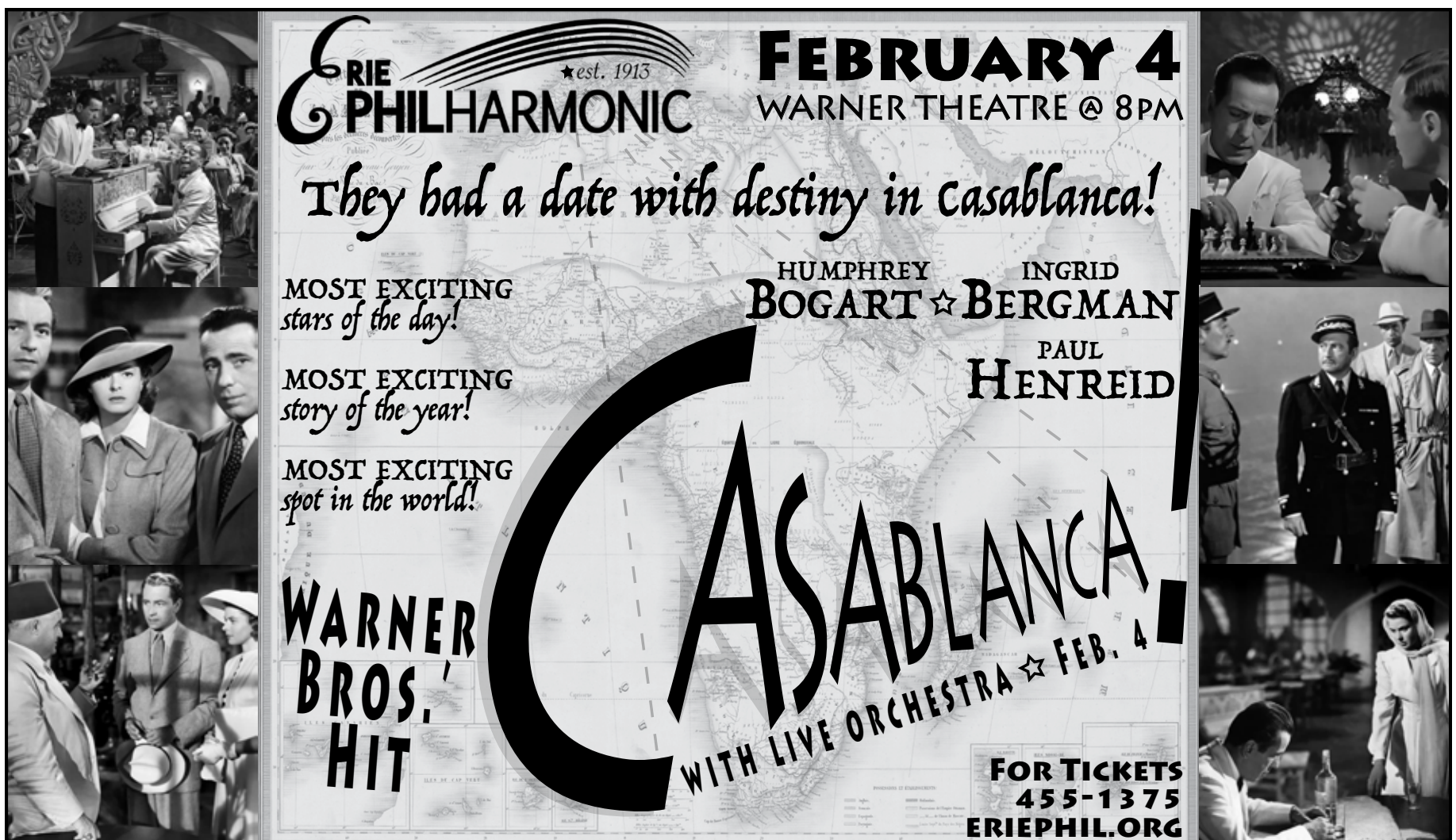
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'Rust Belt's New Americans' Showcases Erie's Refugee Population

THURSDAY, JAN. 26

Erie's population of new Americans is growing. As you walk down Parade Street, enter a hospital, or drive past a school, you will witness many cultures represented in Erie. From Halal Meat Market on 26th and Parade to the Islamic Mosque on 25th and Holland, this city's diversity is on the rise and truly worth appreciating.

Erie is home to thousands of new Americans who operate businesses and contribute to the local economy on a regular basis. Newer arrivals hold jobs in the manufacturing field, some going on to attend universities, or perhaps pursue careers in fields such as healthcare and education.

As the refugee population around the world reaches unprecedented levels, Erie continues to receive newcomers from the Congo, Somalia, Syria, and other war-torn countries, in a way recouping our diminishing population.

It's a lengthy process to be resettled in a city. Many of these individuals and their families were forced to leave their homeland due to war and persecution. Many have lived in multiple countries and refugee camps prior to making the snowy, Rust Belt city of Erie their new home. Here they are introduced to American culture; and taught how to drive, how to take the bus, and how to apply for a job.

On Thursday, Jan. 26 from 6 to 8 p.m., *Erie Reader* photojournalist Maitham Basha-Agha, and local photographer Erica Whiting, will showcase photos of 30 individuals along with a snippet of their stories.

This two-hour photo exhibition will take place at Bloom Collaborative.

6 p.m. // Bloom Collaborative, 138 E. 26th St. // For more information, please contact Maitham at maitham@eriereader or 218.3062



MAITHAM BASHA-AGHA

Erie Art Museum
The cure for mediocre cinema

OPENING NIGHT (1977)
An aging stage actress (Gena Rowlands) confronts the chaos and fears in her own life after witnessing the accidental death of a young fan.
Directed by John Cassavetes.
1/25 7pm

DON'T THINK TWICE (2016)
From the creator of "This American Life". A member of a popular NYC improv troupe gets a huge break leaving the others to question their chances.
2/1 7pm

AMERICAN HONEY (2016)
A teenage girl joins a traveling band of misfits, and gets caught up in a whirlwind of partying, crime, and love as she crosses the Midwest.
2/8 7pm

MOONLIGHT (2016)
with Erie's Voices Student Film & C. Brown.
This Golden Globe winner and Oscar nominee chronicles the struggles of a black man trying to find himself. Sponsored by the *Erie Reader* and Knox Legal Advisors LLC.
2/15 6pm \$10

THE NICE GUYS (2016)
In this dark comedy, a mismatched pair of private eyes investigate a missing girl and the death of a porn star. Starring Ryan Gosling and Russell Crowe.
2/22 7pm

HELL OR HIGH WATER (2016)
Two brothers come together after years divided to rob a bank threatening to foreclose on their family land. Drawing the attention of a Texas Ranger.
3/1 7pm

THE HANDMAIDEN (2016)
In this twisted adaptation from the director of "Oldboy" a woman is hired as a handmaiden to a Japanese heiress, but secretly she is involved in a plot to defraud her.
3/8 7pm

ELLE (2016)
A successful business-woman gets caught up in a game of cat and mouse as she tracks down the unknown man who raped her. Golden Globes winner for Best Actress and Best Foreign Language Film.
3/15 7pm

THINGS TO COME (2016)
A philosophy teacher must reinvent herself after losing her job, a cheating husband, and the death of her mother. Starring Isabelle Huppert.
3/22 7pm

Paint that Talks

Ron Bayuzick brings a grand gesture to the Erie Art Museum.



(left) "Three Blue Dots," Graphite and acrylic on paper. (bottom) "Boss Cuts." Acrylic paint, string, nails, t-shirt, paint palette and brush on paper mounted to board.

from, the world. Either way, it's an uncontained energy.

One can see the busy, hidden circuitry he mentions in "Boss Cuts," a mixed media wall assemblage made with paper, paint, cloth, string, nails, and wooden dowels. A fine incision in a vast field of green makes its way down into the belly of the piece, where its trajectory is picked up by a ball of string that eventually untangles itself, heading off in different directions. The line plunges and climbs, floats above the surface, falls and recovers, then splits into fragments making their own way. At points, nails hold it down. It could be the path of one's own life, a failing here, a victory there; a place where too many routes confuse; times when the world is crushing and, again, standing aside as you soar.

Bayuzick's paintings like

"Boss" are what capture this eye and heart. His small, assembled sculptures carry the same gestural lines and rough composition, but the elements never really sprint the same way they do in his paintings. One exception is "Puddle Jumper," a twisted construction of rusted wire rising in an arc from a dark base. The skeletal organic form is all energy and emergence, reaching its taut limit against an unseen force aiming to keep it down.

This energy and, indeed, exuberance is clear throughout the gallery. Bayuzick's abstraction may seem, at first glance, undecipherable or even reticent to share its knowledge. With careful study, though, a viewer will come away having had a meaningful dialogue. When Bayuzick tells me "I can make paint talk," I believe him.

Mary Birdsong can be contacted at mBirdsong@ErieReader.com, and you can follow her on Twitter @Mary_Birdsong.

By: Mary Birdsong

The lines in Ron Bayuzick's "Three Blue Dots" do not sit still. They dash horizontally and diagonally across the paper, spinning around a vertical spine of black paint like dervishes of frenzied color around a totem. They have much to tell. But to hear the stories in Bayuzick's *Mood Swings Review* in the Ronald E. Holstein Gallery at the Erie Art Museum, you only have until Feb. 11.

All 30 pieces in the show, both paintings and sculpture, begin with a scribble, says Bayuzick. "Then, I have to contain the scribble, work out the problem the scribble presents." What this means for him is reaching into his bag of artistic tricks to pull a piece together.

Although many would be tempted to seek out some semblance of reality in these abstract constructions, and the titles may lead a viewer in a particular direction, it's not fair to "see" something in his works: a watery horizon, say, or a building. Bayuzick's first instincts are to go with the abstract language he

has constructed. Each piece stands on its own merits and doesn't need to become something else. The viewers are, of course, invited to interpret for themselves.

Bayuzick's vocabulary is both simple and complex and clearly developed over years of practice. The strong diagonals that pull sides together, the upswells and blocks of color, compartments of contained energy, and the tendrils of paint connecting diverse elements. But his works are not just exercises in arranging formal components for their own sake. They represent the artist's thought process, the distillation of all he absorbs and then assembles with his hands.

In them, one can find "the underlayment of life," as he calls it. "There is a way down under of life," he tells me, "there is always something underneath." Bayuzick likes to bring all those unseen and wandering connections to the surface, perhaps revealing the network of our own disorderly cogitation, or the firing of synapses that connect us to, but also sever us



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Quintin B. Bullock, D.DS.

**The Future of Community Colleges: Their Role
and Impact in the Regions They Serve**

Thursday, Feb. 9 - 7 to 8:30 p.m.



LTG James Dubik, Retired

**Just War Reconsidered: Strategy, Ethics,
and Theory**

Friday, Feb. 10 - 7 to 8:30 p.m.



G. Terry Madonna, Ph.D.

**Out of the Blue & Into the Red: Pennsylvania's
Role in the 2016 Presidential Election**

Monday, Feb. 20 - 7 to 8:30 p.m.



John Hudak, Ph.D.

**Marijuana Policy in the U.S.: Past, Present,
and Future**

Thursday, Mar. 2 - 7 to 8:30 p.m.



Emanuel Ax

**Emanuel Ax Performs Beethoven:
A Performance and Conversation**

Wednesday, Mar. 8 - 7 to 8:30 p.m.

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Jovial Cacophony

Red Dirt, Yellow Snow
Teatime Records



Fuzzy, imaginative, and just a little demented, *Red Dirt, Yellow Snow* brings together a myriad of fantastic elements. Behind it all is multi-hyphenated mastermind Jack Rys, who previously led the area band Teatime for Three (as well as all its various monikers). The Erie native now attends NYU, having recently completed his feature length film *Paper Planes*. This album starts off with a "Duck and Cover" sample from the atomic age, giving way to a mournful chord organ refrain. Harmonic minor melodies are sung as a dirge through thick vocal distortion a la Tom Waits or Jack White. Rys plays a wide variety of instruments on the record, accompanied by trumpet, french horn, flute, and fiddle players blanketing the album with luscious textures. Tracks such as "Highway Run" and "Shave Your Head" put early-century folk songwriting to modern use against the buzz of banjos and kazoos, the former even name-checking various Erie roadways. The lo-fi garage sound is cranked up in tracks like "Bloody Nose." The last two tracks are pure gritty perfection. Their combined 13 minutes build slowly, psychedelic and beautiful.

– Nick Warren



Teddy Rankin

Dear Future Me
Self-released



Erie's Teddy Rankin has built a gorgeous record, beautifully crafted at every turn. *Dear Future Me* is a comparatively epic debut, its 12 tracks clocking in at almost 67 minutes. Rankin builds upon relatively simple songwriting, every shimmering delineation tracing a starry map in the listener's mind. Blending indie pop and electronica, the album employs subtle drum machines and unpretentious, effects-laden guitar rhythms, the overall sound light and delicate. Rankin's tenor voice is inviting, slightly reminiscent of Isaac Brock of Modest Mouse or Wayne Coyne of the Flaming Lips. The tracks take a slow and steady gait, a soft downtempo indie rock experience that can quickly become immersive. Showing a remarkable consistency and gift for understated melody, Rankin proves his songwriting chops. Building track by track, the album leads up the titular "Dear Future Me," a haunting, 13-minute self-referential monument that is quick to break the third wall. Moving and confessional, Rankin's songwriting shows immense ability, with plenty of potential for future him.

– Nick Warren



Various Artists

Ghost Ship Love Letters
Onomastic Records



It's experimental music for a good cause. Spearheaded by onewayness' Adam Holquist, the electroFLUX Experimental Music Series has helped foster some of the best and most wildly creative music in the region. On Dec. 2, 2016, a fire at the Ghost Ship, a DIY experimental music venue in Oakland, California tragically took the lives of 36 victims. The nation mourned for this terrible loss, and the worldwide community of like-minded musicians was forever moved. As a small and noble token of esteem, electroFLUX has assembled this monumental collection of local soundmakers, with all proceeds going to the Fire Relief, Recovery, and Resiliency Fund. Featuring 39 different artists, *Ghost Ship Love Letters* clocks in at nearly three hours. This compilation consists primarily of local artists, and is an utterly fantastic introduction to an often overlooked side of Erie music. With a majority of instrumental tracks, it's easy to lose yourself in the soundscapes showcased here, ranging from shoegaze to ambient to hip hop. It's available on onomastic.bandcamp.com; check it out to discover new sonic realms of charity.

– Nick Warren



Volbs

Yuri
Self-released



With slews of rich guitar parts right from the beginning, *Yuri* quickly establishes itself as an incredibly enjoyable record. Volbs is the solo venture of Erie native and recent McDowell graduate Ted Nelson. With an alternative rock spirit at home in the 1990s, Nelson is able to craft music that's dark without sacrificing its innocence. This is nighttime music, a bedroom album through and through. Layering on the guitar effects, the album's sound is most successful during its indie guitar sections heavy on the delay, as showcased in the opening track "Grey" and the syncopated intro to "1138." Occasionally, the heavier distorted sections fall victim to simple recording limitations, but its faults are immediately forgivable. The sincerity in Nelson's voice is a key ingredient that helps this unassuming album hit as well as it does. Never raising his voice above a slight belt, there's a mature level of restraint measured in each offering. *Yuri*, which is available at volbs.bandcamp.com, orbits the space it intends to, with many rewarding explorations along the way.

– Nick Warren



Tommy in Toon — by Tommy Link



A New Direction for Erie Dining

28 North takes the gastropub high road



NICK WARREN

By: Miriam Lamey

Tucked on the corner next to the noisy, typically college-aged crowd at Coconut Joe's is a unique place. It's a pub, a gathering spot – and one that serves innovative takes on familiar cuisine. With its quiet dignity and classic decor, 28 North Gastropub aims to take Erie drinking and dining to an entirely different level.

The owners are Erie "born and raised": Sarah and Jasen Schardt, who decided to stay in the area after graduating from Penn State Behrend. One of the activities the couple enjoy most is taking advantage of Erie's proximity to cities like Chicago, Cleveland, and Pittsburgh – the city nearest to Jasen's birthplace. Inspired by diverse fare available in certain restaurants they visited, Sarah and Jasen decided to open up their own restaurant. It helped that Jasen had previous restaurant experience.

"We picked up different ideas from all over the place," explains Sarah, "and wanted to open our own place – but a relaxed place, a neighborhood spot. Somewhere people can come for a relaxed, pub-style atmosphere with high-quality food."

28 North Gastropub, named for its location at 28 North Park Row right on Perry Square, makes most of its oft-overlooked menu items from scratch. That salsa served with the tacos? Homemade. The bruschetta? Homemade. The arancini balls? Also

homemade. Such attention to the little menu details makes for an elevated, yet totally affordable dining experience.

"We wanted to take our travel experiences and put a twist on them with our dishes," says Jasen, "but we also wanted to appeal to the older crowd – those in their later 20s and 30s. So you won't see your mom at the bar, necessarily," he jokes.

While many of the menu items have a familiar feel – and the upcoming winter menu will feature innovative "comfort food items" – 28 North's edibles are

"People like us are trying to change the food scene," Jasen says. "Erie's a nice little place, and there's a lot happening."

delectable and classy, not for kids only – although kids are most certainly welcome; the restaurant accommodates families, the couple explains. And for proof of 28 North's cuisine, just check out the restaurant's Instagram page: a colorful patchwork of juicy burgers, mouthwatering lunch wraps, dips, and appetizers just itching to be shared, and melty, fresh pizzas.

Coming soon, the couple promise, are special evenings like a taco night,

Early into the evening, 28 North Co-owner Jasen Schardt leans over the bar, anticipating a busy night on Dec. 31, 2016

different food specials, and – in the new year – beer-pairing dinners and wine-tasting evenings. For now, they like to change the menu seasonally to reflect not only patrons' desires but also the dining experience itself. With similar twists on the familiar, of course, although the couple are keeping their new dishes under wraps for now.

"People like us are trying to change the food scene," Jasen says. "Erie's a nice little place, and there's a lot happening." Just down the street, Alkeme, a Mediterranean cafe and restaurant, recently opened up, and it looks like a diner/eatery will be coming in on the opposite side of Coconut Joe's. In the same row are Catfish Kitchen, Khao Thai, and Tandoori Hut – and that's just on Perry Square.

Clearly, in the city and beyond, eating and drinking experiences have extended beyond the basic pub grub, and 28 North is proud to help lead the way by keeping its menus perpetually accessible, its cocktails creative, and its attention to the epicurean focused and real.

28 North Gastropub // 28 North Park Row // 28northerie.com or 455.4705

Miriam Lamey can be contacted at Miriam@eriereader.com.

[Cont. from Page 5] every proposal for a Clinton presidency. Clinton supporters believed in that idea of her. But cast against the proletarian ideology of Bernie Sanders, she appeared inauthentic in her appeal to working class concerns. As a result, many of the white, working-class men who supported Bernie Sanders in the Democratic primary went on to vote for Donald Trump in the general election, turning the electoral tide in all the right geographic places.

The exodus of white men from the Democratic party in this election cycle is notable. Trump secured the white vote, male and female, by a 20 percent margin, according to Pew Research Center. This is the same margin that Mitt Romney secured in his 2012 loss to Pres. Obama. In 2016, Trump garnered 53 percent of the male vote, 12 percent greater than Hillary Clinton, and more than Romney in 2012 and John McCain in 2008, who only received one percent more of the male vote than Barack Obama.

In short, this election – short on issues, as it was – became more about defeating Hillary Clinton than it was about electing Donald Trump. From May to November, the Republican Party reluctantly coalesced around Trump and made space for disaffected white male Sanders voters who only bore one concern: the economy.

Hillary Clinton may have been well served to repeat political strategist James Carville's mantra from the 1992 presidential race, when asked the most important issue facing then-candidate Bill Clinton: "The economy, stupid." Instead, she was forced to react to a litany of issues that Republicans had logged since 1993, many of which focused more on her character than on her plan for America.

It created an opening through which never-Trump-ers could become philosophically aligned with never-Her; it created a strange political moment in which we now find ourselves; and it provided the context to tell the story of when Erie went red.

Jim Wertz can be reached at jWertz@ErieReader.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @jim_wertz.

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Erie Faces

Erie

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Plasha

yoga teacher

Ed Bernik

photographer

"I always remind people the prerequisite for enlightenment is not flexibility. It's understanding your mind."

Ed Bernik: What catalyzed your journey into yoga?

Michael Plasha: The initial catalyst was being raised in a chaotic, tense household in Cincinnati. I began to look for ways to experience something other than distress. That took me outside into nature.

Around 1970, I was interested in meditation, didn't quite know how to do it, and I went down to the public library. I looked up meditation, and the only thing I could find was Marcus Aurelius's book, *The Great Stoic Philosophy on Meditations*. There was so much in there that spoke to me about taking responsibility for your thoughts and your life, and how the mind can affect how you experience life. This was really eye-opening for me because in my 20s, I tended to blame everybody and everything for my personal misery.

For me, the process is trying to wake up to how I've created my own buttons, take responsibility for them – and through that process, there are fewer and fewer buttons. I love one of the definitions of responsibility, which is the ability to respond consciously to life instead of

reacting unconsciously to life.

EB: Yoga has its roots in Hinduism. If you're a Christian, a Muslim, a Buddhist, can you practice yoga and still be true to your faith?

MP: You can practice postural yoga and enjoy any kind of faith. Some yoga teachers will say that yoga enhances your faith-based religion. There's a Christian type of yoga now, where they try to connect it to the teachings of Jesus. Then there are very non-devotional practices that an atheist would be comfortable with.

One of my teachers, Swami Satchidananda, was once asked, "Are you a Hindu?" He said, "No, I'm un-du," because, in traditional yoga, we're trying to undo all the things that we've already done to ourselves.

The approach I aspire to is to help you have not just an outer workout but an inner workout. The inner workout can come from self-inquiry or from contemplation and meditation.

EB: Somebody sitting on the fence who may wish to try yoga, like me, but fears that they may be too old, too out of shape, not spiritual enough – what would you say to have them embrace yoga?

MP: I would ask them a lot of questions not only to really find out their intentions, but also to assess any physical medical conditions that they might have.

One approach is to try to force your body into the form. Good luck with that. If you're stiff, tight, frail, unhealthy, out of shape, too thin, or too thick, you're going to struggle. I aspire toward the other approach: to adapt the form to the individual.

I've heard this from men especially, "I'm intimidated going into a class where there're all these young, flexible women. I'm going to stick out." I'm like, "Wait, look at me. I'm probably older than you. I'm not that flexible." I always remind people the prerequisite for enlightenment is not flexibility. It's understanding your mind.

EB: Do your seven children follow your path into yoga?

MP: Well, that's seven stories. How much time do you have?

Yes and no is the simple answer. I have one son that has a deep meditation practice, another son who has a devotional practice, a couple of them who do some postures, but it's not their main practice. My 13-year-old has been learning some breathing and meditation practices to help him with stress and anxiety.

My daughter, who's seven, is super flexible. She loves movement. She's a natural dancer, natural gymnast, and right now, I'm having fun just exploring movement with her. She's teaching me quite a bit related to movement.

Mass media often has pictures of younger women wearing the latest yoga clothes with air-blown hair doing physically challenging poses on the covers of magazines. If you have a fear button related to your body, that will probably get triggered, and you're going to say, "I can't do that. I'm outta here." I've had that same kind of feeling, but the good news is that, as long as you move to your range of motion, whatever that might be for you, then you'll receive all the benefit of the posture.

EB: You also write and play music. Do you still find time to pursue those endeavors?

MP: It's been challenging, especially raising a second family, but I do find time. In fact, I'm writing a book right now on my reflections of my journey in yoga for the last 45 years.

I play music a little bit. I don't have a band anymore. Sometimes I'll lead what's called a Kirtan, which is the yoga of chanting, call and response. It's very beautiful, very uplifting, and I'll typically play a drum to set the rhythm for it.

EB: What's one tip you might share for stress reduction?

MP: Here's a simple practice that comes from this tradition. It's called STOP. First, just stop and slow down. One of the goals of traditional yoga is slowing down. I really admire people who value slowing down because for some, it's uncomfortable. Do you know how many people have been traumatized in our country? The latest statistic says at least



one in four has had some experience of trauma, and that could be physical, emotional, sexual, or psychological trauma. Where does that go? We're carrying it around in our bodies – maybe in our subconscious or unconscious, but it's there. When we slow down, there's a potential for becoming more aware of that, which can be very uncomfortable. This is why some people choose to distract themselves by being busy, the dis-ease of busyness, which creates disease. Then people look for yoga classes because they're all stressed out.

One approach to yoga is sometimes called speed yoga. You go fast, and you're playing loud music, and it's a good way to distract yourself from what's going on inside. It's hard to slow down.

Sometimes I let people know that in some cases, advanced yoga involves slowing down in a big way, because that's where the potential for healing takes place, just stopping.

We have S-Stop. T-Take a deep breath. O-Observe what you're feeling in your mind and body with compassionate, nonjudgmental self-awareness. P-Proceed with the rest of your day, but with that sense of mindfulness.

My mission right now is to try to integrate it into organizations and schools. I've given seminars to teachers and service programs. I give a lot of workshops on meditation, and there's a real thirst for it. Every time I offer a meditation workshop at my studio, it fills up.

I've taught it at my kids' school, and many kids have come to me afterward and say, "You know, I sleep better now. I don't worry as much. I'm a lot less stressed. Thank you." I've had parents say the same thing, "What did you do to my child? They've become human again. They're easier to be with. What did you do?"

Michael Plasha:
plashayoga.com

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