

# GROSSE POINTE MAGAZINE

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2023

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## *Safe crossing*

Crossing guards, our unsung heroes

## *The War Memorial*

An inside look at the highly anticipated  
Fred M. Alger Center

INSIDE



**LIVE INSPIRED MAGAZINE**  
A PUBLICATION OF THE WAR MEMORIAL  
JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2023



JANUARY 2023 | ISSUE 8

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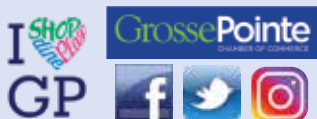
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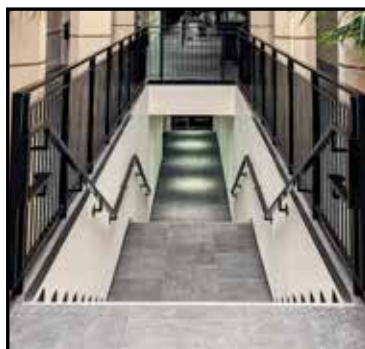
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**On the Cover**  
**The bridge to Bird**  
**Island on Ford House**  
**grounds**

Photo by Lauren McGregor

## Where in the Pointes?



Where in the Pointes is this object?  
On Monday, Jan. 23, we will ask this question on our Facebook wall. The first person to comment with the correct answer will win a Little Tony's gift card. Participants MUST wait for the question to be posted by Pointe Magazine. Good luck! (Last issue: Capricious)

To find us on Facebook, search "Grosse Pointe Magazine"

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**John Minnis**  
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# POINTE MAGAZINE



**Lauren McGregor**  
Editor

## Happy New Year!

Wow. A new year has begun. What will 2023 bring? It would not be a stretch to say we've been put through the wringer the past couple of years due to the pandemic, and this winter looks like it may be a doozy health wise. Already, we are seeing colds and flu along with COVID.

But we stress the positive at *Pointe Magazine*, so let's look at the bright side. We are fortunate that most of us have been twice vaccinated and boosted, and a flu shot is always a good idea. If we can stay at home when not feeling well and mask when necessary, we should make it through to warmer weather in good shape.

Now is the time to prepare ourselves for spring and summer. After all, that is what New Year resolutions are all about. I know I need a little less holiday cheer and more exercise. Fortunately, I have a standing membership at Pointe Fitness, the longest running exercise gym, owned and operated by a Grosse Pointer, Ken Welch. I am looking forward to my three mornings a week working out.

I also want to work on my golf game. As a member at Lochmoor, that won't be difficult since the club added the simulators, bunker, artificial turf and putting green in its large activities center. I can also join friends in playing the best golf courses from around the world thanks to the simulators. Sounds like a game plan to me.

Everyone keeps asking us why we aren't at our place in Florida. That's because we don't have a place in Florida ... yet. As I've often mentioned in this space, our ultimate goal is to get a house in The Villages, south of Ocala, Fla., for the winter months and stay here in Grosse Pointe for the summer. The Pointes are too lovely to give up entirely!

Besides, we have *Pointe Magazine* to publish six times a year — which we have been doing for 14 years — along with the annual *Insider's Guide to the Pointes* with the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce. So we have enough to keep us busy right here in the Pointes!

As always, be sure to visit our many fine businesses, advertisers and institutions without which living, working and recreating in the Pointes would not be so sweet. And be sure to tell them you saw them in *Pointe Magazine*!

Happy New Year and see you around the Pointe! ☺

*John*

For this issue, I had the joy of meeting up with the three crossing guards I see every weekday on our walk to and from school, Lori Huguenin, Karen Kaled and Jeani Segodnia. They're superstars, always greeting us with the biggest smile, no matter the hour or the weather.

Back in September, I was shocked by how quickly they learned my son's name and had to embarrassingly ask for theirs much later.

Then, while trick-or-treating last Halloween, "Miss Karen," our crossing guard at Mack Avenue, immediately recognized my son and, holding up her trusty stop sign, was immediately recognizable to him. These interactions make me treasure the friendly and safe community that we've decided to make our home.

To sit down and discuss the experiences of a crossing guard, in a school district which greatly relies upon them, was eye opening. Some experiences were upsetting — cars flying through stop signs, the occasional verbal assault. But most were heartwarming — cookies gifted, high schoolers returned to say hello, children opening their hearts (and worries) to the steadfast guardians of their mornings and afternoons.

I'm so grateful for their dedication, positivity, and, of course, protection.

They're humble about the safety they provide and were quick to nominate other crossing guards to be featured. I hope I hear from parents about their beloved crossing guards so we can feature more in the future!

Be sure to thank a crossing guard this winter. They're doing their best to keep our children safe — and smiling — through some hazardous weather.

With a kindergartner and a toddler in tow, I told myself that I would do my best to walk to school every day. When I wake up on some frosty mornings this January and February and immediately imagine driving, the dedication of our crossing guards will inspire me to make the walk. Some days, at least.

Have a happy and healthy New Year! ☺

*Lauren*



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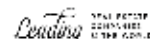
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# Meet Brittney



<b>Name</b>	Brittney Smith
<b>Age</b>	44
<b>City</b>	Grosse Pointe Woods
<b>Occupation</b>	Executive Assistant, Zero Emissions - Navistar

## Brittney's Favorites

### Season

Summer

### Book

*Winter Garden* by Kristen Hannah

### Movie

*The Princess Bride*

### Musical Artist

Depends on my mood — Aerosmith, Elton John, Awolnation

### Spot in Grosse Pointe

My front porch. Day in and day out.

### Outdoor Activity

Boating or riding my bike

### Restaurant

Rochester Chop House and Bucci

### Sports Team

MSU Spartans (my alma mater)

### Rainy Day Activity

Sitting on my front porch and hanging out with friends

### What is your favorite thing about living here?

Being near the water and having close friends live nearby.

### What is the best trip you've ever taken?

I loved Barbados because we were with friends and family and we were able to swim with the sea turtles!

### What are two of your best personality traits?

I'm very hospitable by nature and love to be social. I think most people would say I'm pretty fun to hang out with.

### What is at the top of your bucket list?

Retire with enough money to move some place tropical and young enough to enjoy it.

### What is one thing not many people know about you?

I almost drowned when I was a baby (18 months old). I had to receive CPR from a firefighter to revive me.

### What accomplishment are you most proud of?

Being a good mom to my dog, Finn. We rescued him two years ago and I love that I am able to give him a better life than he would have had stuck in a shelter.

### Favorite quotation?

"Comparison is the thief of joy."

## About Brittney

"I have been a Michigander my whole life and grew up in Lake Orion. I moved to Grosse Pointe about eight years ago when I moved in with my fiancé, Bryan.

I love being close enough to the water to ride my bike down to the boat or just hang out at the marina and enjoy the lovely view.

When I am not hanging out with friends, I am working on my pickleball skills or sweating through Vinyasa 2 at Full Lotus Yoga."



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## A New Year Mission for Nutrition

# Feta Roasted Salmon & Tomatoes

By Marcia Stanley, MS, RDN  
Family Features

Setting out on a New Year mission to eat healthier starts with creating goals and working to achieve them with those you love. To help make nutritious eating more manageable, call together your family and work with one another to create a menu everyone can enjoy while staying on track. A great place to start is with this crowd-pleasing feta roasted salmon and tomatoes.

The ingredients in this meal are a good source of calcium, protein, vitamin B12 and more, for healthy brain and nerve cell development and bone and muscle health.

### *Feta Roasted Salmon & Tomatoes*

Prep time: 15 minutes

Cook time: 15 minutes

Servings: 4

### *Ingredients*

Nonstick cooking spray

**3 cups** halved cherry tomatoes

**2 teaspoons** olive oil

**1 teaspoon** minced garlic

**1/2 teaspoon** dried oregano or dried dill weed

**1/4 teaspoon** salt

**1/2 teaspoon** coarsely ground black pepper, divided

**1 1/2 pounds** salmon or halibut fillets, cut into four serving-size pieces

**1 cup (4 ounces)** crumbled feta cheese

### *Directions*

1. Preheat oven to 425 F. Line 18 x 13 x 1-inch baking pan with foil. Lightly spray foil with nonstick cooking spray. Set aside.
2. In medium bowl, toss tomatoes, olive oil, garlic, oregano or dill weed, salt and 1/4 teaspoon pepper.
3. Place fish pieces, skin side down, on one side of prepared pan. Sprinkle with remaining pepper. Lightly press feta cheese on top of fish. Pour tomato mixture on other side of prepared pan. Bake, uncovered, 12-15 minutes, or until fish flakes easily with fork.
4. Place salmon on serving plates. Spoon tomato mixture over top.







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## The New Year: Are you ready?

By Ken Welch

If you want this year to be different and not fall off the workout wagon, I have two suggestions for you.

I want to repeat some advice I wrote about a few years ago that are still my golden rules for being consistent and staying healthy.

One: Make a commitment, not a resolution. A commitment is more than giving something a try. Make a firm decision that no matter what you're going to commit to a workout routine

and stay with it. We believe in honoring our commitments. For the sake of yourself and those who love you, commit to be fit.

Two: The workout philosophy that's kept me working out my whole life through busy and tightly scheduled times; the 7-day rule.

It's the "resolution solution."

You'll read that we should all workout vigorously an hour a day, 7 days a week. In a perfect world, sure, but the demands of life constantly get in the way.

The 7-day rule says be sure to workout at least twice a week, but with this twist. Think of a week as not a calendar week but as just seven days in a row.

If you work out on a Tuesday, the 7-day rule says you need to work out, "one more time" before the following Tuesday. Let's say you get to work out the upcoming Saturday. Now Saturday becomes the first day of the next 7 days. Keep track on a calendar to keep yourself on track. Whatever your workout day is, it starts the next 7 days.

Allowing yourself this flexibility eliminates the all or nothing mentality that unravels many a good start and dismantles consistency. You might even work out more often because now you've created a plan for steady results.

Is today the day?

Ken Welch is owner and trainer at Pointe Fitness on Harper south of Allard. Online: [pointefitness.com](http://pointefitness.com).



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# Vitamin B12

By Dr. Saima A. Khan

As people's diets change due to a desire to get healthier or intolerance of certain foods, vitamin deficiencies are possible. Vitamin B12 deficiency is one example.

Vitamin B12 is very important for our blood and our nerves. It is present in most animal products, such as meat, dairy and eggs. The highest concentration of vitamin B12 is in clams and liver.

Most of the absorption of this vitamin takes place in the acidic stomach. Those with vitamin B12 deficiency may feel weak and tired, their vision may be affected and their memory less sharp such that they often appear confused. They could complain of numbness and tingling in their hands and feet that could affect their walking. They may have a decreased appetite and lose weight. They may complain of a sore tongue or mouth or even feel depressed and irritable.

By the time symptoms appear, the deficiency may have been going on for years.

People over 70 years of age are at a slightly increased risk of the deficiency, but so are those who don't eat meat or meat products, have digestive disorders such as Celiac Disease or Crohn's Disease, regularly take certain medications such as acid reducers for heartburn or Metformin for Diabetes, have had certain types of weight loss surgery, and those with an autoimmune disease called Pernicious Anemia.

A simple blood test can reveal the deficiency that is easily fixed with an over the counter supplement.

*Dr. Saima A. Khan, MD, MPH grew up in Grosse Pointe Farms and lives in the Woods with her husband and three daughters. She practices internal medicine in Warren, 28351 Schoenherr, (586) 393-6500.*



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# Meet John



<b>Name</b>	John Prost
<b>Age</b>	86
<b>City</b>	Grosse Pointe Park
<b>Occupation</b>	Branch Manager, Pacific Life (retired)

## John's Favorites

### Season

Summer

### Spot in Grosse Pointe

The Park

### Movie

*It's a Wonderful Life*

### Vacation

Marco Island, Fla.

### Restaurant

Sindbad's

### Musical Artist

The Four Freshmen

### Food

Italian

### Outdoor Activity

Boating

### Hobbies

Singing with The Grunyons and hosting a Grosse Pointe cable show for 30 years

### What was your first job?

As a purchasing agent for Hupp Corp.  
And at 16, I was first mate on a 54' yacht.

### What is one thing most people don't know about you?

I hosted the Detroit Athletic Club Father Daughter party for 50 years.

### What is the best trip you've ever taken?

River cruise in Egypt

### What is the most historical day in your lifetime?

When I was elected to the presidency of the Detroit Athletic Club

### What accomplishment makes you proudest?

Election to the Michigan Insurance Hall of Fame

### What unique skill do you possess and what would you like to learn?

Meeting with people/How to do it better

### Words to live by?

Treat everyone equally.

## About John

John grew up on Chalmers in Detroit and graduated from Southeastern High School and Michigan State University.

"I worked in the insurance industry for 60 years, have sung first tenor with The Grunyons for 59 years, owned the boat 'The Office' for 40 years, and recently moved from Pemberton to Pointe Park Place."

John has been married to his high school sweetheart, Lucinda, for 63 years. They have two daughters, Kathryne and Beth, and four grandchildren.

Today, John is "still singing!"



# Risks of hiring private caregivers

By Jonathan Boos

As our population ages, more and more people are requiring in-home care. Some people choose to hire an “independent” or “private” caregiver via popular websites. Although this may work in some instances, there are many risks and pitfalls associated with it.

The majority of these caregivers do not hold or maintain any Liability or Workers Compensation insurance. That means if something happens to them in your home, you are fully responsible for the legal and medical ramifications.

You are also responsible and required to deduct any and all applicable taxes when you pay them. If not, you can face fines and penalties from the state and also the IRS.

One other important factor to understand is people will always have illnesses, car trouble and personal issues. That means last-minute cancellations for you and your family to deal with. If the “private” caregiver calls and cancels at 1 a.m., you will be forced to handle the fallout.

The wiser decision is to hire a legitimate, experienced home care company like Nursing Unlimited Inc. We bond and insure all our employees. We also pay them direct and handle all payroll taxes. If one of our employees cancels, we’re on-call 24 hours a day, seven days a week to handle it. Our home care services take away the stress of aging, not add to it.

If you or your loved one has questions about home care, please contact Nursing Unlimited Inc. at (586) 285-0300 or visit our website at [www.nursingunlimitedonline.com](http://www.nursingunlimitedonline.com).

Article provided by Jonathan Boos, Director of Business Development for Nursing Unlimited Inc.



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# Programming at **THE HELM** can help fight the winter blues

By Karen Pope

AT THE BOLL LIFE CENTER

Things are hopping at The Helm, devoted to helping seniors in the Pointes and Harper Woods live healthy and fulfilled lives. Renovations on the lower level are complete, providing more space for more activities.

"We were maxed out in our old space," explains The Helm Executive Director Peggy Hayes. "This additional space allows us to add more programming and serve more seniors."

A Wayne County Community Development Block Grant to the Pointes and Harper Woods helped pay for the expansion. A Ralph C. Wilson Legacy Fund grant provided the furnishings.

Program Coordinators Margaret Cooper and Jackie Thomas have put every new square foot to use. There are

watercolor classes, knitting, crocheting and no-sew blanket making.

The refurbished computer lab has four stations where seniors can explore new ways to use technology and get their questions answered by a team of patient, knowledgeable volunteers.

While socializing is a hallmark of The Helm's programming, it also offers many opportunities to further your knowledge. For instance, in February award-winning science educator

Gary Abud Jr. will offer a class for kids and their grandparents on the physics of sailing. "Our

members are emphatically telling us, they are ready to put COVID in their rearview mirrors and get back to parties, trips, crafts," Hayes continues.

There will be day trips to the Henry Ford College culinary school, the Somerset Collection and the Basilica of Ste. Anne de Detroit, founded by the French settlers in 1701. The Helm is also working with Premier World Discovery to offer tours to the Grand Canyon in April and Cape Cod in July.

Two Friday afternoons a month, snacks are served and movies shown on a big new screen. Throughout the week, there are fitness classes from yoga to drums alive. New to the mix is Reiki, a powerful, ancient healing method for reducing pain and inflammation.

Hayes urges everyone to go to [helmlife.org](http://helmlife.org) for a comprehensive list of opportunities.

On the home page is "The Helm Life Journal: January through March 2023." Click on it to discover all the possibilities available. When you decide on what interests you, go to "Register" in the menu at the top of the page, click and scroll to your chosen activities and register.

"If you are new to The Helm, you may have to create an account, but it's simple and we're here to help," Hayes adds. ☎



**From top, Poker; Drums Alive; Bingocize**

Photos courtesy of The Helm





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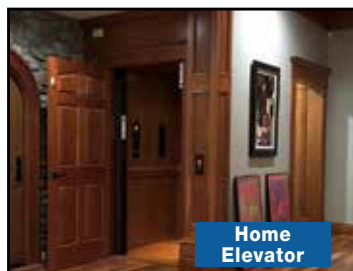
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## MyID bracelet for dementia

By John Minnis

Anyone who has or is caring for someone with the onset of dementia knows the fear of their patient or loved one wandering off and becoming lost. Now that fate can be alleviated somewhat by a new product being offered throughout Michigan by Miles for Memories, a nonprofit organization out of Calhoun County created to raise awareness of Alzheimer's Disease and dementia.

The organization began distributing personal ID bracelets, manufactured by MyID, to caregivers, family members and emergency responders, who are trained in how to program the devices. Comfortable, adjustable and waterproof, the bracelets contain a QR code that can be scanned by any smartphone. The code links the wearer's personal page that provides name, address and emergency contact information. The page can also include medications, medical history and conditions and any other pertinent data. Family members can limit the information to what they feel comfortable revealing.

The program was so successful in Calhoun County that Miles for Memories received a grant from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund to enlarge the program throughout Michigan and to train caregivers, health care professionals and emergency responders on the bracelets' use.

Carolyn Van Dorn, of Nursing Unlimited in Grosse Pointe Woods, received four hours training on the bracelet in August. "It is not a 'tracker,'" she explains. "It is designed to provide information if someone is found."

"If you have the ID (bracelet), you can scan the QR code with a cell phone camera and all available information will show. If not, you can go to the website [GetMYID.com](http://GetMYID.com) and enter the ID number and PIN and access that way."

When the QR code is scanned or accessed manually, emergency contacts are immediately notified of the bracelet wearer's whereabouts.

Upon completion of training, participants were given sample bracelets to pass out or use for demonstration purposes back home.

"I have a limited amount of free ones to offer in the community," Van Dorn says, "but even if purchased, they are inexpensive compared to others."

Van Dorn can be contacted at Nursing Unlimited at (313) 642-1122. For upcoming training sessions or more information, Miles for Memories can be found at [milesformemories.org](http://milesformemories.org) or by calling (269) 979-1412. 



**Carolyn Van Dorn at Nursing Unlimited, Grosse Pointe Woods, models the MyID bracelet for those with dementia**

Photos by John Minnis





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# The Grunyons

By Lauren  
McGregor



Left, The Grunyons performing at Christmas on Lakeshore; middle left, The Grunyons performing at Hollyfest at The War Memorial; middle right, The Grunyons performing at Spring Sing in Detroit, 2019, with leader Dr. Anthony Alcantara far right; bottom left, The Grunyons at Hollyfest 2022, John Prost fourth from right

Photos by Lauren McGregor; middle right photo courtesy of The Grunyons

On Dec. 12, The Grunyons, and their sister group, Noteworthy, drew a standing room audience at Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church. Guests packed the pews and lined the back wall for the highly anticipated return of the groups' annual holiday concert, Christmas on Lakeshore.

"It was fantastic," says John Prost, a longtime Grunyon. "A full house after a three-year hiatus."

During the pandemic, The Grunyons kept busy, rehearsing, and even releasing virtual choir projects. The longest active member is Prost, who has been with The Grunyons for 59 years.

"It's a fun loving group," he says. The a cappella group performs vocal jazz, composing innovative and fun arrangements that have kept audiences dancing in their seats for nearly 74 years.

Though The Grunyons originated in

1949 as a group of former Whiffenpoofs (Yale's famous a cappella group), today, singers come from several universities.

"Our music director, Dr. Anthony Alcantara was very active in U-M's glee club," says Prost, a proud Spartan. "He brought in several former U-M glee club members."

Alcantara has been a member of The Grunyons since 1995 and its music director since 2004.

"We are looking forward to 2023," says Alcantara. "Our guys have been working hard on new music for Spring Sing in Detroit."

On April 29 at the Gem Theatre, The Grunyons will host Spring Sing, an annual convention that brings together about a dozen a cappella groups from across the country. The location rotates among the vocal groups, all members of the American A Cappella Alliance.


"It's a chance to perform for each

other and enjoy each other's company," says Alcantara. "It's a free event. The public is welcome!"

Grunyons rehearsals are held every Tuesday at a member's house. While they get business done, they have a blast doing it. "We call ourselves a drinking group with a singing problem," laughs Prost. And they're looking for others (specifically a first tenor) to join the fun.

To ensure the group's legacy, Alcantara adds, "We are always looking for younger guys to join us." The age range is large, with members in their early 30s to 80s.

"It's a group of great guys who have a passion for singing," says Alcantara. "Others play golf together, or cards; we like to sing together and to bring happiness and enjoyment to the people that get to hear us."

For more information, visit [thegrunyons.com](http://thegrunyons.com). 





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# Early member reminisces upon Grosse Pointe Theatre's 75th season

By Lauren McGregor

Colleen McBride may be one of the oldest surviving members from Grosse Pointe Theatre's earliest seasons. With the 75th season in full swing, she reminisces on her time performing in and directing musicals with the beloved company.

Born in London and raised in Surrey, McBride's story begins across the pond.

"I completed four years at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama in London," she says. Following graduation, McBride visited an uncle and aunt in Grosse Pointe.

"I spent five days on the Queen Elizabeth II. My uncle and aunt met me in New York City. I always remembered the smell of the city, compared to London."

The Grosse Pointe relatives had planned to host her for a few weeks. She ended up staying indefinitely.

"At the time, it was several years after

World War II. Unlike America, England was still living on ration books," says McBride.

"No wonder I wanted to stay here," she laughs. With their only child settled abroad, McBride's parents followed her to the states one year later.

"I was quickly brought into Grosse Pointe Theatre by Phyllis Reeve," says McBride. "Phyllis and Mark Reeve were instrumental in Grosse Pointe Theatre."

"I would imagine there were about 50 people involved at the time," says McBride. Today, there are about 350 members. "In those days, we didn't have what they have today with instant communication. It was marvelous what we managed to do."

McBride's talent lay in an operatic voice and piano. "I can remember performing at Cannon in Detroit."

Cannon Recreational Center was attached to Finney High School and later demolished for a replacement school.

By the time McBride met husband, Bob, Grosse Pointe Theatre had moved to The War Memorial.


"I met him at an Our Lady Star of the Sea dance. I wasn't a member of Star, but my best friend was a member of the youth group there and had

invited me to tag along," says McBride. "The dance was in a member's Lake Shore home that was later demolished. He (Bob) danced every dance with me."

In the early days of their marriage, Bob encouraged her to continue with Grosse Pointe Theatre. Later, the responsibilities of raising three children prompted McBride to leave the stage.

"It was a wonderful outlet for me. Everybody worked so hard to make it a professional show. Cannon used to be packed with people for our performances," says McBride. "It's amazing that I'm around to see what has happened in Grosse Pointe Theatre since that time."

She says that same dedication and the support of loyal patrons has stood the test of time.

"Grosse Pointe Theatre members were the first people I met here," says McBride. And it made all the difference to the roots she ended up planting in the Pointes. 



**Mark and Phyllis Reeve, who introduced McBride to Grosse Pointe Theatre**

Top photo by Lauren McGregor, above photo courtesy of Grosse Pointe Theatre





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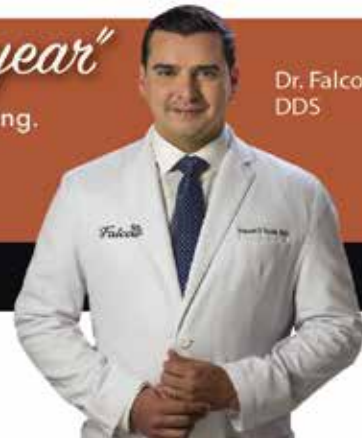
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# Happy New Year?

By Lina Bowman

His past year has been extremely volatile. Reacting to high inflation, the fast and steep increases in the Fed fund rate have affected every financial market. In one year, the 30-year fixed mortgage rate has more than doubled. Both the stock and bond markets have been hit hard and recession worries are growing. Money market and treasury rates have increased, but not enough to keep up with inflation.



With that said, this is no time to panic! In fact, emotional decisions (like selling everything and hiding it under your mattress) will only lock in losses and you'll miss any future recovery.

A new year calls for new resolutions! Think about your short and long-term goals. Create a plan, and remember, you don't have to do it alone. It may seem overwhelming, but once you decide to work towards your goals, the implementation is easy. A seasoned financial professional can help guide you along the way.

The key is to keep it easy: set up an automatic investment program. Live below your means and set aside at least 10% to 30% of your income to reach your goals. If you're still working, try to max out your retirement savings and remember that the limits on most plans have increased in 2023. If you're retired or close to retirement, you need to protect your portfolio while increasing your income.

Focus on your goals, and not the bumps along the road. Wishing you a healthy and prosperous 2023!

*Lina Bowman is a financial adviser in Grosse Pointe. She can be reached at (313) 343-0800 or [Lina@BowmanAsset.com](mailto:Lina@BowmanAsset.com).*



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# Keep calm ... and call a professional!

By Anna Bartolotta

Sticky situations may arise when leasing out your former residence or your investment property, but with the proper assistance and calmness on your part, it doesn't have to be extra super sticky.

An adorable Grosse Pointe Woods couple decided to rent out their former home. They found a tenant, possession was given early and, unfortunately, the rent and security deposit checks bounced. To make matters worse, they never received a Social Security number from their new tenants. This was a recipe for disaster, and it could have been had they not sought out a professional. After running a thorough background check, credit check, etc., the situation was resolved and everyone was breathing a little easier.



On another front, if your current tenant tells you they need to move out but they are in a lease for another six months, do you freak out because it's January and there isn't a chance of you finding a new tenant? Don't panic, because in all simple terms, you have an agreement. It is in the best interest of both parties (landlord and tenant) to get that unit filled ASAP. Try and work together.

There can be some bad tenant situations but keeping your cool or reaching out to a professional in your area will help to minimize or alleviate a lot of them. A real estate professional who knows the area, the market, the people and how to create/read a lease is always your best bet. YouTube is a great resource when you have water spraying all over your kitchen, but if you have never touched a shut off valve before, call a plumber.

Anna Bartolotta is owner of Grosse Pointe Apartments and Property Management, this area's original dedicated, full service, full time rental agency staffed with licensed agents.



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# at home in the Pointes

By Lauren McGregor

For young families, a nice basement is a must,” says Jennifer Barnes of Grosse Pointe Farms. “It’s somewhere the kids can hang out carefree.”

She, husband, Scott, and their children, Grace and Alexander, had long avoided the dreary basement of the home they’d purchased six years ago. Their wish list for a totally reimagined basement included a renovated laundry room, bathroom, a family room and a small space for exercising. And Barnes knew exactly who she wanted for the job — Maple & Mill.

“We had worked with Jamie Mertz, with Mertz|Casazza in 2018,” says Barnes. Mertz, owner of Maple & Mill, had designed an award-winning exterior



Above, the newly renovated basement family room; left, the new basement bathroom

renovation for the family, which will be featured in a future issue. She trusted Mertz’s Maple & Mill would be able to work the same magic.

“The laundry room layout made no sense,” says Barnes. “I also wanted storage and an extra work area.”

The addition of a desk transformed a once inefficient laundry room into a place for wrapping gifts, folding laundry, office work, and eventually homework for their two young children.

As for the exposed pipes that couldn’t be moved: “They built custom





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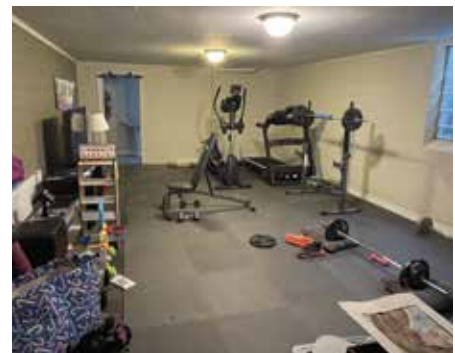
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**All right photos: the basement before renovation; top left, the renovated laundry room with extra work space and storage; left, the new basement living room**

After photos by John D'Angelo, courtesy of Maple & Mill

cabinets around what we couldn't move. They were so patient about options for the configuration. It was a total collaboration, moving the pieces together until I was happy," says Barnes. "It was perfect."

The superintendent, Christian, came every day to check the progress. "That's such a wonderful part of working with Maple & Mill. There is support the whole time."

While the laundry room was the most dramatic part of the basement renovation, Barnes raves about the new

bathroom.


"We moved the sink and lighting and added lighting," says Barnes. Becca Priestler, Interior Designer at Maple & Mill, was responsible for choosing the sconces, granite, paint, mirror and hardware in the renovation.

Throughout the basement, the ceiling had been drywalled. To open the space up, the drywall was removed and the ceiling was painted black, creating the illusion of height.

In the main living space, built-in cabinetry now surrounds a television.

A false start with too-large Arhaus furniture forced the family to switch to a Macy's sofa. "We needed a sectional that could be moved in small pieces" — a common problem in old Grosse Pointe homes.

Paige Loperfido of Décor & More Designs styled the rooms, including shelving décor, sofa selection, wallpaper and more.

Barnes couldn't be happier with the finished product. "The basement just feels like part of the home now — the same as the upstairs." 



# Pre-planning a funeral

By Jon B. Gandelot

A client of mine recently related what happened after her father died. My client and her mother were quite close. Both were estranged from my client's sister. When the father died, all three went to the funeral home to plan the arrangements. All three members of the family were nervous, fearing the estranged daughter would make things difficult.

When they met with the funeral director and after he had expressed his condolences, the first thing he did was show them the samples of the Thank You notes to be ordered. There were three different color choices: pink, green and purple. The deceased's favorite color was purple, so the choice was easy. Once they all agreed on the color, the funeral director stood up and said, "That's all you need to do."

Stunned, the family was told that the husband, many months before he died, had gone to the funeral home and made all of the arrangements for his funeral and paid for it in full. The father knew that his death would be an emotional time for his family. He did what he could to reduce the stress by taking care of the funeral prior to his death.

While most families do not have issues like the one in this story, planning a funeral in advance is a good idea. When a loved one dies, emotions run high on those left behind. Pre-planning a funeral takes away one of those stressors.

*Jon B. Gandelot is senior counsel at Trowbridge Law Firm, P.C., with offices in Detroit and Grosse Pointe.*



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## PRAISE FOR THE NEW FRED M. ALGER CENTER

By Karen Pope

*T*he Crystal Ballroom, it is SOOOOO beautiful,” Andrea Rivera Fleming texted her friends. “My daughter and I are here for a jazz concert.”

She attached several photos to illustrate her message. One was of the reflecting pool that greets guests as they enter the new Fred M. Alger Center at The War Memorial. It is a space of quiet intention set beneath a framed banner of an authentic Command Flag used in battle at Omaha Beach on D-Day, June 6, 1944.

The reflecting pool is constructed from black granite, like the National September 11 Memorial in New York City. Its place within the Reflection Room invites guests to pause for a moment of patriotism and gratitude for the service and sacrifice of our veterans.

The other photo was of the stunning colonnade that connects the new addition at the front of the building to the original ballroom space in the rear. Supported by 25-foot pillars wrapped in Indiana limestone and sheathed in floor-to-ceiling glass, the colonnade allows a view of the Alger House courtyard and carries attention forward to a glimpse of Lake St. Clair and things to come.

That glimpse of the lake turns into a panorama in the ballroom. The architects have wrapped the room in glass with only an occasional structural pole interrupting the view of Lake St. Clair.

“I cannot explain in writing just how beautiful the ballroom is with those stunning views,” wrote a bride whose wedding reception was one of the first hosted in the new ballroom under its

**Above, the new Fred M. Alger Center at The War Memorial; opposite top, the colonnade that connects the addition at the front to the original ballroom space; opposite bottom, the new reflecting pool**

Photos courtesy of The War Memorial





31 crystal chandeliers.

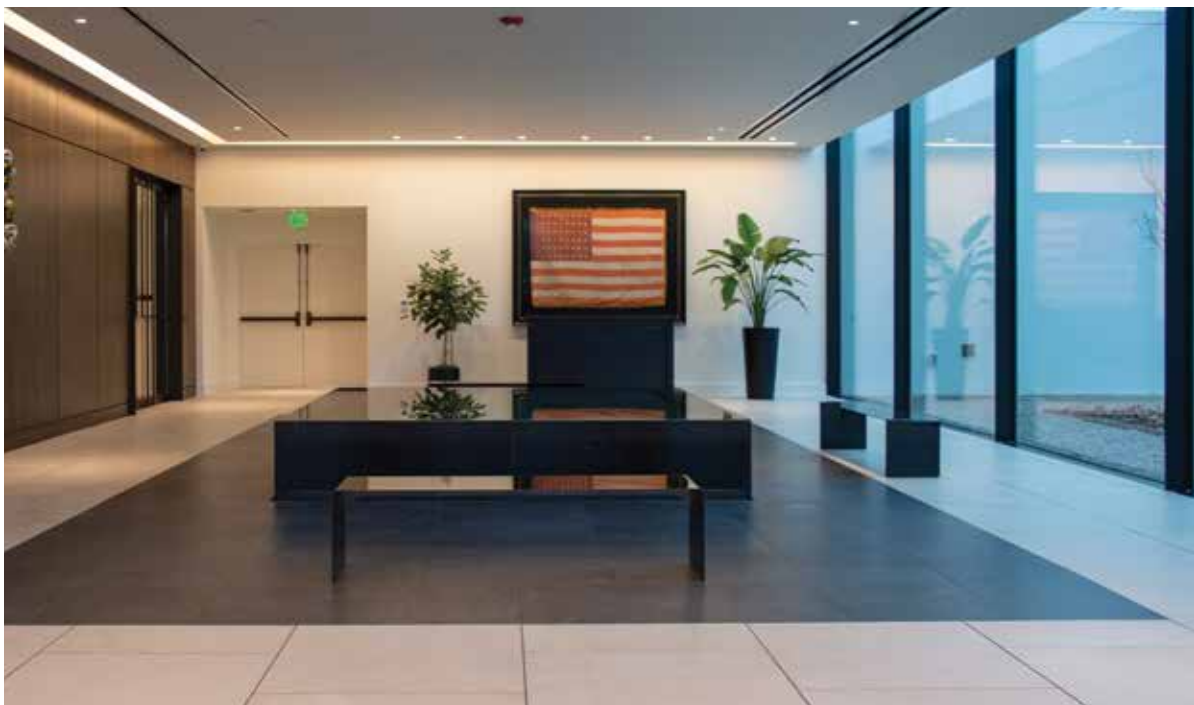
Since 1962, the ballroom has been a favorite with brides. Now with 25,000 square feet of space, it can host business conferences, community-wide meetings and bigger weddings. A series of folding walls and doors add flexibility, allowing the space to be configured to meet the needs of smaller groups like the Men's Club of Grosse Pointe, which resumed meeting at The War Memorial in November after spending the last couple of years like nomads because of COVID concerns and construction at The War Memorial.

"The new facilities are wonderful," says Men's

Club President Jim Hoekwater. "They don't disappoint and the hospitality is the same or better. The food is great. We're glad to be back."

The welcome mat is out to the

community to visit the new building and see for themselves, says The War Memorial President & CEO Charles Burke. Concierge Betsy Alexander will be available to answer your questions.



Clockwise from right, the exterior of the ballroom; a new second floor terrace with heated lamps outside of the ballroom; the new ballroom; a modern installation above desks overlooking the lake



For instance, she can tell you that there are 72,000 LED bulbs in the skylight that runs the length of the colonnade. They will bathe you in a warm welcome when you visit, and the player piano could be playing your favorite song.


The community can thank Fred Alger for donating \$20 million to reimagine the ballroom wing that was added to The

War Memorial in 1962. His largesse adds vitality to The War Memorial campus built around The Moorings, a 1910 mansion, that was home to the Russell Alger Family and later given to the community.

The new addition better allows The War Memorial to fulfill its mission of being a driver of arts, learning, patriotism, hospitality and connectivity. [Φ](#)



LIVE INSPIRED MAGAZINE  
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A man with short brown hair, wearing a black t-shirt and black pants, is sitting on a wooden chair and playing a black and gold Gretsch electric guitar. He is looking down at the guitar. In the background, a saxophone is standing on a wooden stand. The background is a light gray wall with large, stylized white letters 'W', 'M', and 'A' visible. The floor is covered with a patterned rug.

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LIVE INSPIRED MAGAZINE  
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2023 ISSUE

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LIVE INSPIRED MAGAZINE  
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TOP  
WORK  
PLACES  
2022

Detroit Free Press  
part of the USA TODAY network

*The War Memorial is named a*

# 2022 MICHIGAN TOP WORKPLACE!

The War Memorial was honored with a Top Workplaces award by the *Detroit Free Press* in November of 2022. The list is based solely on employee feedback gathered through a third-party survey administered by employee engagement technology partner Energage LLC. The confidential survey uniquely measures 15 culture drivers that are critical to the success of any organization.

"This is a direct reflection of the efforts put toward our culture and attracting, retaining and lifting up a passionate, hardworking team," said Charles Burke, president and CEO. "As leadership, I am humbled by the authentic joy our teammates have being part of this unique mission."

Michigan Top Places to Work is among the nation's most credible employer recognition programs which aims to help organizations of all sizes create work experiences that unlock potential and inspire performance.

"Earning a Top Workplaces award is a badge of honor for companies, especially because it comes authentically from their employees," said Eric Rubino, Energage CEO. "That's something to be proud of. In today's market, leaders must ensure they're allowing employees to have a voice and be heard. That's paramount. Top Workplaces do this, and it pays dividends."

With new programming and innovative leadership, The War Memorial is a unique, dynamic, and forward-thinking hub for southeast Michigan with a mission to be a contemporary patriotic, cultural, and community leader.

*"Earning a Top Workplaces award is a badge of honor for companies, especially because it comes authentically from their employees."*

Interested in joining The War Memorial team? Please send a resume and cover letter to Director of Human Resources and Culture Ericka Sobczak, at [esobczak@warmemorial.org](mailto:esobczak@warmemorial.org) or visit [www.warmemorial.org/employment](http://www.warmemorial.org/employment) to learn more.

## Congratulations to the War Memorial Team!







# A NEW BEGINNING

*The Fred M. Alger Center at The War Memorial*

Since it opened, the Fred M. Alger Center at The War Memorial has hosted events ranging from Veterans Day Breakfast to 250-person weddings.

Opened in November, the Fred. M. Alger Center at the War Memorial serves as a home for art, culture, and the humanities in Grosse Pointe Farms. The 25,000 square foot facility with sweeping views features a full restoration of the 1961 crystal ballroom, and a new Colonnade entrance. The Center also affords new spaces for patriotic reflection and community gathering, encouraging patrons to come and simply be. The center was made possible thanks in large part to financial gifts from Fred M. Alger, prominent member of the Alger Family and founder of the Wall Street firm, Alger Management.

Features of the center include a new Colonnade entryway, Reflection Room, Community Room and Pre-function Room. The Colonnade interior is filled with sunlight, allowing you to focus on the water at the far end, while, at the same time, keeping the historical house anchored to your left with the Ellen Biddle Shipman gardens and the Charles Platt Alger House facade. To the right of the Colonnade entrance is a reflection space for patrons to consider their personal patriotism. The Reflection Room is centered on a reflective pool and bathed in sunlight from the Pantheon-inspired oculus skylight, and features a framed banner of an authentic Command Flag that was used in battle at Omaha Beach on D-Day, June 6, 1944.

*Photography provided by Frank Rewold & Sons*



## Alger Center facts

- There are **6,200 individual pieces of crystal** hanging on each of the 31 chandeliers
- The **ceiling pattern in the Ballroom and Community Room echoes the famous Knot Garden landscape** architect Ellen Biddle Shipman installed for the Algers
- The Colonnade's glass panels are the **largest in southeast Michigan**, and were produced in Spain
- There are **72,000 LED bulbs** in the skylight
- The **Reflection Pool is of black granite**, like the National September 11 Memorial in New York City





# Community Connections SPOTLIGHT

## *Grosse Pointe Symphony Orchestra kicks off 2023 season in February*

**Without support from places like The War Memorial, Dick McClelland said the Grosse Pointe Symphony Orchestra wouldn't nearly be able to operate at its current level.**

McClelland is a board member, treasurer and trumpeter with the orchestra. He has been part of the group for about 20 years and also plays in the Motor City Brass Band.

For nearly 70 years, the Grosse Pointe Symphony Orchestra has been a community orchestra dedicated to providing live, classical symphonic music to the community while providing an opportunity for local professionals and accomplished amateurs to perform the classics. Its mission is to maintain a symphony orchestra in the Grosse Pointes as a community project; offer each year a full season of symphonic music with outstanding soloists; provide non-professional and professional musicians the opportunity to perform in

a community orchestra of high quality; and promote music appreciation in people of all ages.

"I absolutely love to play and the hardest gig to get is the symphony orchestra," McClelland said. "To have the opportunity to play orchestral music is great because it's rarer. It's nice to be able to play for a lifetime."

The orchestra, conducted by Joseph Striplin, has played in the former ballroom at The War Memorial. It held an outdoor concert in the summer during the COVID-19 pandemic and played here in 2021. The orchestra members vary in levels from professional to community musicians.

Upcoming performances include Feb. 26 at 3 p.m. and April 23 at 7 p.m. Both take place at Our Lady Star of the Sea in Grosse Pointe Woods. The February concert features Dr. Augustus Hill and Marina Stojanovska. Tickets can be purchased at [warmemorial.org/arts](http://warmemorial.org/arts).

## *Toys for Tots brought collection efforts to The War Memorial*

**Donna Satterfield saw it as a way to promote a great cause in an amazing new space.**

In November, the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program held a toy collection event at the Fred M. Alger Center at The War Memorial. Folks dropped off a new, unwrapped toy. This year's nationwide collection campaign marked the 75th anniversary. This was the 20th anniversary of the local collection event, typically held at The War Memorial.

Satterfield, Toys for Tots co-chair, said the number of toys collected was enough to fill a 25-foot moving van that goes to area children.

"The most rewarding part is seeing the generosity of our community and donating toys for these children who otherwise wouldn't have a very happy Christmas,"



she said. "The War Memorial looks beautiful, and everybody thought so. It was a really nice event."

The program's mission is to collect new, unwrapped toys during October, November and December each year, and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to less fortunate children in the community in which the campaign is conducted. Its primary goal is to deliver, through a new toy at Christmas, a message of hope to less fortunate youngsters that will assist them in becoming responsible, productive, patriotic citizens.

Last year in Wayne and Macomb counties, nearly 34,000 toys were distributed, and over 10,000 children were supported.





Welcoming Back the

# DAVE BENNETT

Winter Jazz  
Brunch Series



*Warm up this winter at The War Memorial with the return of the Dave Bennett Winter Jazz Brunch Series.*

The series includes three concerts - one by Bennett and his four-member jazz band on Feb. 5, jazz drummer Sean Dobbins on Jan. 22, and jazz pianist Cliff Monear on March 19. Brunch begins at 11 a.m. with the concert commencing at 12:15 p.m. and lasts until about 1:45 p.m.

"Cliff and Sean are some of the best musicians in the Michigan area and the country," Bennett said. "They've done the series before, and it's always been a great time and turnout. It's a nice mixture."

Bennett is a jazz clarinet player and a Mack Avenue Records artist. He fuses serious jazz improvisation with a host of modern pop influences.

"The new album is a little bit of a departure from what we've done before," Bennett said when asked what folks can expect from his February performance. "I don't do strictly jazz. I play piano, guitar and sing. It's a mixture of jazz-swing and a little bit of 1950s rockabilly. They will hear a lot of songs they like to hear, but also a lot of new stuff we've added to the show. There's a lot of joy in the show."

His most recent album, "Nowhere Fast," was released in June. Bennett said stylistically he writes jazz, "surf rock, Chris Isaak-Roy Orbison style." Bennett's other albums include "Don't Be That Way" and "Blood Moon."

The first brunch series at The War Memorial with Bennett came in January 2019.

"It was a wonderful thing and very honored that they asked me to help curate it," he said. "I've played Grosse Pointe for a number of years now when we're not on the road and there's a lot of love in the community and have treated us with much kindness. I'm glad to do it again."

Bennett has been a featured soloist at Carnegie Hall with The New York Pops in 2013, and has been featured with 35 other U.S. and Canadian orchestras including Nashville, Detroit, Omaha, Toronto, Calgary and Jacksonville. Some of his annual appearances include The Elkhart Jazz Festival, The Suncoast Classic Jazz Festival, and The Arizona Classic Jazz Festival.

Now 38, Bennett has been a professional musician since he was a teenager. In March 2022, he and his band performed to a sold-out audience at New York City's Birdland Theater.

"I'm the happiest when I am on stage," he said. "It's the greatest feeling in the world and when I see that we're making other people really happy, it keeps building. Every time we perform, we go away feeling very fulfilled."

For ticket information, visit [www.warmemorial.org/arts](http://www.warmemorial.org/arts)

The Dave Bennett

# WINTER JAZZ SERIES

We've partnered with Detroit jazz legend Dave Bennett for a full season of brunch concerts so hot they'll melt the snow! **Dave has curated a trifecta of incredible musicians, covering different facets of the jazz idiom from percussion to piano to clarinet.** You'll enjoy a gourmet brunch followed by the musical stylings of Detroit's inimitable jazz masters.

## JAZZ DRUMS SEAN DOBBINS

Sunday, January 22

## JAZZ CLARINET DAVE BENNETT

Sunday, February 5

## JAZZ PIANO CLIFF MONEAR

Sunday, March 19

**TIME** Brunch at 11am, served upon arrival  
 Concerts at 12:15pm

**COST** **VIP tickets including bottomless mimosas**  
 VIP brunch and concert \$80  
 VIP table of 8 \$595  
 VIP series subscription \$215

**General admission**  
 Cash mimosa bar  
 Brunch and concert \$65  
 Concert only \$40

Learn more at  
[www.warmemorial.org/arts](http://www.warmemorial.org/arts)

LIVE INSPIRED MAGAZINE

cmdetroit

# THE GRYPHON TRIO

with Patricia O'Callaghan, vocalist

DATE **FRIDAY, JANUARY 27**

Presented by our friends at The Chamber Music Society of Detroit, **charismatic vocalist Patricia O'Callaghan joins the Gryphon Trio with a new Americana program, "Moonshine Ballads and Various Charms,"** that evokes "open skies, dark tales and lazy afternoons" in our beautifully re-envisioned lakeside ballroom. It is a program that promises to continue to redefine chamber music as we know it, blurring the lines between traditional and contemporary, and classical and popular, lit with brilliant arrangements and superb performances.

TIME 8pm

COST Premium tickets \$75 / General admission \$40

Learn more at [www.warmemorial.org/arts](http://www.warmemorial.org/arts)

# ENGAGE. ASPIRE. TASTE.

The War Memorial has curated the perfect lineup of culinary adventures to keep you warm and toasty over these frosty months! From classic cocktails paired with board games and fireside chats to an evening with our executive chef, there is always room for you at our table!

Learn more at [www.warmemorial.org/eat](http://www.warmemorial.org/eat)

## Tammy's Tastings Cocktail Class

### ZERO-PROOF "MOCKTAILS"

WHEN January 11  
 TIME 7pm

### LOVE POTION #9

WHEN February 8  
 TIME 7pm

### KISS ME, I'M IRISH!

WHEN March 8  
 TIME 7pm

## Cocktails by Candlelight

This winter, The War Memorial is transforming the historic Alger House into a premiere cocktail lounge, right here in Grosse Pointe's backyard.

WHEN January 18  
 February 15  
 March 15



## Evening with Executive Chef Joe Paxton

At The War Memorial, we believe in the power of cuisine as art. Our Executive Chef Joe Paxton returns this February continuing this culinary series featuring adventures in food spanning a variety of cultures and flavors.

WHEN February 9  
 TIME 6:30pm



# CLASSES AND ACTIVITIES

## SPORTS

### FENCING SESSIONS

January 9–February 13  
February 20–March 20

### BEGINNER FENCING

Mondays, 6–6:45pm

### INTERMEDIATE FENCING

Mondays, 6:50–7:35pm

### ADULT FENCING

Mondays, 7:40–8:25pm

### CHESS WIZARDS

Wednesdays, 5:30–6:30pm  
January 25–March 29

## MUSIC AND DANCE

### BEGINNING BALLROOM DANCE

Thursdays, 7pm

### WALTZ AND RUMBA

January 5–February 9

### INTERMEDIATE BALLROOM DANCE

Thursdays, 8pm

### TANGO

January 5–February 9

### LINE DANCING

Wednesdays, 6–7pm  
January 4–February 8

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS

### TAI CHI AND QI DONG

Tuesdays, 6:30–7:30pm  
January 17–February 21

Wednesdays, 12–1pm

January 18–February 22

### WELLNESS YOGA AND MEDITATION SERIES\*\*

Tuesdays, 7–8pm  
March 7–April 25

## ARTS, CRAFTS, AND HOBBIES

### SENIORS DAY OUT\*

Tuesdays, 10:30am–12pm  
First and third  
Tuesday each month

### VETERANS ARTMAKING\*

Tuesdays, 6–8pm  
Second and fourth  
Tuesday each month

### ACRYLIC PAINTING THROUGH THICK AND THIN WITH VALERIE ALLEN\*

Saturday, 10am–4pm  
January 14

### LEARN TO PAINT LIKE BOB ROSS

Sunday, January 15 / 1–4pm  
Friday, February 17 / 6–9pm

### WATERCOLOR PAINTING

Mondays, 6–8pm  
Check website for dates



### CALLIGRAPHY: INTRO TO THE POINTED PEN

Saturday, 10am–3pm  
February 4

### COOKIE ROOKIES WITH KARA SHALL

Sunday, January 29  
Kids: 11am–1pm  
Adults: 2–4pm

### IMITATING THE MASTERS WITH DONALD CRONKHITE\*

Thursdays, 10am–2pm  
January 5–March 2

## YOUTH AND FAMILY

### PRESCHOOL PLAYGROUP\*\*

Wednesdays, 10:30–11:30am  
January 11–March 22

### BILINGUAL PLAYHOUSE: SPANISH IMMERSION

Wednesdays, 4:30–5:30pm  
January 11–March 1

### BILINGUAL PLAYHOUSE: TODDLER TIME SPANISH

Fridays, 10–10:45am  
January 13–March 3

### HUMMINGBIRDS MUSIC TOGETHER

Thursdays, 10am and 11am  
January 12–March 16

### TINKERGARTEN

Tuesdays, 10:30–11:30am  
January 17–March 14

### NEW CLASS

### CREATIVE NATURE AND DESIGN ART FOR KIDS

Sundays, 11am–12:30pm

### EARTH, WIND, AND FIRE, MIXED MEDIA CLASS

January 22–February 23

### MYTHICAL CREATURES

March 5–April 16

\* Offered by the Grosse Pointe Artists Association.  
To learn more visit  
[grossepointeartcenter.org](http://grossepointeartcenter.org)

\*\* Offered by the Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods.  
To learn more visit  
[familycenterweb.org](http://familycenterweb.org)

New classes are added on a continual basis. For full details on the classes and activities, please visit [www.warmemorial.org/classes](http://www.warmemorial.org/classes) or call 313.881.7511

**The War Memorial's classes, activities, and trips are open to the public!** Everyone is welcome – there are no residency requirements and membership is not necessary. We continue to offer new and engaging programming for all ages throughout the year. Be sure to visit our website for full details and schedule.

## AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

DATE Thursday, February 16  
TIME 11am–7pm

## GROSSE POINTE DRIVING SCHOOL

Classes run year-round. Please visit [www.warmemorial.org/drivertraining](http://www.warmemorial.org/drivertraining) for a full list of sessions and attendance requirements.

## Detroit Opera

## DETROIT OPERA: Resident Artist Recital Series

The Alger Center is thrilled to begin a new collaboration with Detroit Opera Resident Artists in a 3-part recital series. Our series rings in the new year beginning in January through the Spring. Concerts will feature members of the Resident Artists and Director of the Resident Artists program, Nathalie Doucet at the piano.

DATE Thursday, January 19,  
Friday, February 10,  
Thursday, April 20

TIME 7pm concert

For a full schedule of Arts and Culture events visit [warmemorial.org/arts](http://warmemorial.org/arts)

## Your Old MANSION

JAN 8

GPAA-This Old Mansion  
LOVEITDETROIT -  
CONNECTING ITALY  
AND DETROIT

JAN 11

Tammy's Tastings  
Cocktail Class  
ZERO-PROOF  
COCKTAILS

JAN 18

COCKTAILS BY  
CANDLELIGHT

JAN 22

Winter Jazz  
Brunch Series

SEAN DOBBINS,  
JAZZ DRUMS

# UPCOMING EVENTS

AT THE WAR MEMORIAL

Information and tickets available online!  
[www.warmemorial.org](http://www.warmemorial.org)

JAN 27

Chamber Music  
Society of Detroit  
GRYPHON TRIO WITH  
PATRICIA O'CALLAGHAN,  
VOCALIST

JAN 29

GPAA-This Old Mansion  
SCOTT HOCKING:  
DETROIT STORIES

FEB 5

Winter Jazz  
Brunch Series

DAVE BENNETT,  
JAZZ CLARINET

FEB 8

Tammy's Tastings  
Cocktail Class  
LOVE POTION #9

FEB 10

Detroit Opera  
RESIDENT  
ARTIST RECITAL

FEB 15

COCKTAILS BY  
CANDLELIGHT

FEB 16

American Red Cross  
BLOOD DRIVE

FEB 26

Grosse Pointe  
Symphony Orchestra  
CONCERT:  
BEETHOVEN, HILL AND  
VAUGHAN WILLIAMS

MAR 8

Tammy's Tastings  
Cocktail Class  
DRINK ME,  
I'M IRISH!

MAR 19

Winter Jazz  
Brunch Series

CLIFF MONEAR,  
JAZZ PIANO





## Amigos Street Tacos

22428 Greater Mack St Clair Shores • (586) 218-7247

Amigos Street Tacos has been a huge hit since it opened its doors in June 2022. Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner 7 days a week, Amigos has welcomed hungry eastside customers looking for authentic homemade Mexican favorites. The breakfast menu at \$5.00 each item features Huevos Rancheros (3 eggs, grilled onions, cilantro and tomatoes) plus 4 other favorites. Quesadillas come in 3 choices: Chicken, California and BBQ chicken. Of course, they have Tacos, Gourmet Tacos and Burritos (all 6 choices each!) and the popular Bowls (5 choices). The most popular dish is Birria tacos! All are made with the freshest of ingredients including homemade guacamole and corn chips made fresh daily in-house. Handmade Mexican smoothies, fresh tomatoes, beans, house-made salsas and rice all seasoned with authentic Mexican spices. And on top of all this are the 17 "AMIGO SPECIALS." 25-year restaurateur Jose Perez and his staff are friendly and will accommodate any special request, and make suggestions for dishes to try.

- Nacho Supreme 50% off from 3-6pm every day
- Taco Tuesday: \$2
- Wednesday: free chips and salsa with purchase
- Children 10 and under eat free on Saturday & Sunday



Hours: Mon-Sat 8am-10pm; Sun 8am-8pm



## Big Boy

20710 Mack Avenue, Grosse Pointe Woods (1 blk. N. of Vernier) • (313) 886-1991

42 years in business and same proud owner who has served this community with pride! We are newly remodeled and we have a completely NEW look inside and out. You can still get your signature sandwiches, such as the Double Deck Big Boy and the Original Slim Jim, but also breakfast is served all day, as well as soups, salads & appetizers. Our menu has many specialty sandwiches, entrees, seafood specials, desserts and more. We also serve our hand dipped shakes. We have a Senior Discount Program. Gift Cards are available.

- Dine in
- Carry out
- Curbside pickup
- Order online:



NEWLY REMODELED AND READY TO SERVE YOU!

Hours: 8am-8pm daily



## The Bricks Pizzeria

15201 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Park • (313) 925-3430

The Bricks is a wood fired pizzeria specializing in house-milled, ancient grains, grown on our farm in Metamora. Before you order one or more of our specialty Neapolitan style pizzas, Fox Hollow Farm, Italian, The Philosopher, or A Li' Pep in Your Step, you'll want to sample our great appetizers, including our Arancini Bites, Garlic Shrimp, and Whitefish Chowder. The Bricks also serves house-made, fresh, pastas alongside house-made sauces. Our Roman classic, Cacio e Pepe, has been a menu staple since day one. Top it all off with an impressive beverage program including house cocktails, an extensive wine list, and a curated selection of beers. Our indoor and outdoor dining is spacious, and smack dab in the middle of the Park's active Kercheval business district. The Bricks is ideal for family and friends, parties, social gatherings, business gatherings and, yes, we do cater!



JOIN US WEDNESDAYS FOR #WINEWEDNESDAY AND ENJOY 30% OFF ALL BOTTLES ENJOYED IN HOUSE!

Hours: Tue-Sat 5-10pm; closed Sun & Mon  
Web: thebrickspizzeria.com



## Champs Rotisserie & Seafood

20515 Mack Avenue, Grosse Pointe Woods (3 blks. S. of Vernier) • (313) 886-7755

### OUR PRE-COVID MENU HAS RETURNED!

The patio and dining room are now open. Outdoor seating is available along with indoor seating. A fantastic limited menu will be in place until we are capable of restoring our full menu. We are thrilled to open our doors to our loyal guests again. You can be assured that we will be keeping up to date with all of the latest developments to ensure the health and safety of our guests and staff. Champs is located on Mack just three streets south of Vernier. Our soups, sauces and dressings are housemade daily using only the freshest ingredients from Michigan companies when possible. Champs is known for its Rotisserie Ribs and Chicken, served with our homemade BBQ sauce for which Champs has been known for the past 52 years since it was the BBQ House of Grosse Pointe. And we do great carry-out or delivery!

**BOOKING PRIVATE PARTIES ON THE PATIO.**

**FROM OUR KITCHEN TO YOURS, WE CAN HANDLE ANY OF YOUR CATERING NEEDS!**

Hours: Mon-Sun 3-10pm

Web: [www.ChampsRotisserie.com](http://www.ChampsRotisserie.com)



## Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe!

97 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms • (313) 882-5299

**Upscale Dining and Jazz Favorites at Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe!** The dining room is open, and we have live entertainment Tuesday through Saturday. The Dirty Dog also offers private dining in their beautiful boardroom that is sure to make your event memorable. They also offer a catering menu for offsite events, go to [www.DirtyDogJazz.com](http://www.DirtyDogJazz.com) and click on the "Cuisine" tab to see the full catering menu.



Happy Hour Tue-Fri 3-5pm

Lunch Tue-Fri 11:30am-3pm

Reservations Highly Recommended ... please call for show times!

For Live Entertainment schedule and seatings, see our advertisement on page 3.

Web: [www.dirtydogjazz.com](http://www.dirtydogjazz.com)



## Irish Coffee Bar and Grill HOME OF THE ORIGINAL BAR BURGER!

18666 Mack Avenue, Grosse Pointe Farms • (313) 881-5675

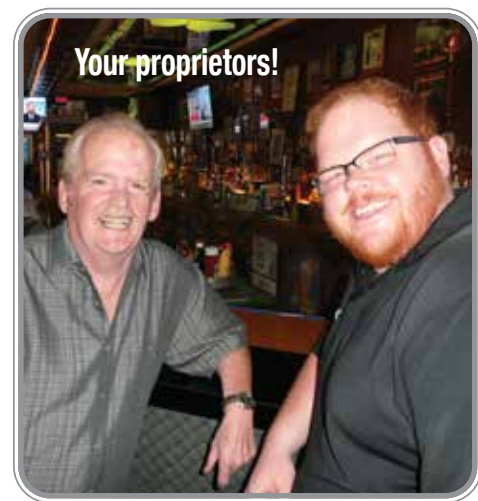
Irish Coffee Bar and Grill has been a staple on Mack Avenue in Grosse Pointe Farms for **42 YEARS**, notable for their fantastic bar burgers (1/3 lb ground rounds) and numerous coffee cocktails. Three high-definition TVs make this neighborhood bar a great place to watch the game. Swing by after the game or any entertainment event in the area, bring your ticket stub and your burger is only \$4.95 with purchase of a beverage! This family-owned restaurant is a great spot for young and old, and there is something on the menu for everyone. The homemade onion rings are a local favorite, and the fresh and hand-battered yellow-belly perch is particularly popular among seafood lovers. Corned-beef sandwiches top off the menu with a true, Irish flare, not to mention our crispy chicken and Philly sandwiches. **All our menu items are available for carry-out!**



### Burgers & Fries



Hours: 5-11pm daily





## Little Tony's Lounge

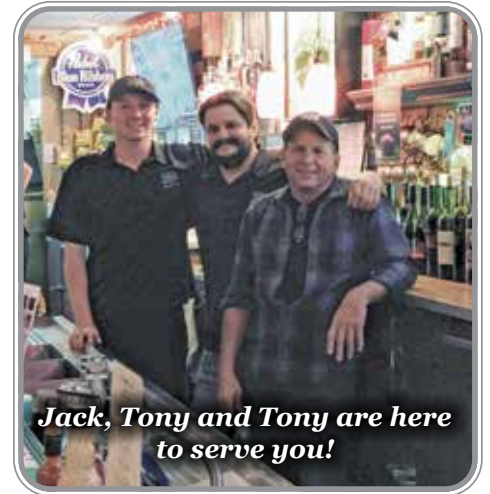
20513 Mack Avenue, Grosse Pointe Woods • (313) 885-8522

Little Tony's is Grosse Pointe's favorite Bar & Grill. A place where families and friends have gathered for over 50 years for good food and good cheer. Cozy, quaint and warm. A real neighborhood bar, where locals meet and everyone really does know your name. Serving only the freshest of Ground Rounds (never frozen), Little Tony's has made a name for itself as "the place" to go on the east side for Great Burgers. Cooked to order and served with an array of extras, you are sure to have your burger craving satisfied here. Our extensive bar is complemented by a great selection of beers, liquor and wines. Dine on our beautiful, open-air patio during the summer months. Tony and Ellen Alfonsi, who have owned and operated Print Xpress in Grosse Pointe Woods since 1981, are keeping up the tradition of serving the "Best Burgers on the Eastside." So stop in, they would love to introduce themselves!



**Lunch Specials \$9.95**  
**Tue-Fri Noon-3pm**  
**Happy Hour Tue-Fri 3-6pm**

**Hours:** Tue-Sat Noon-10pm  
**Web:** [www.littletonyslounge.com](http://www.littletonyslounge.com)



*Jack, Tony and Tony are here to serve you!*

## Luxe Bar & Grill

115 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms • (313) 924-5459 or (313) 821-4389

Now in our **10th year**, we are so grateful that we were able to be here for our community over this time and, of course, we are incredibly grateful that you were so supportive of us. We couldn't have made it through this time without you all! Now let's get back at it! We believe the character of a bar is its patrons, and we welcome all seeking food, company and friendly conversation to enjoy our charmed local bar. An eclectic menu features fantastic Prime Burgers on homemade brioche buns, as well as scratch soups, salads and entrées, including chicken, salmon, lamb chops and steaks in a variety of different daily preparations. Please be patient with us as we, and our loyal suppliers, continue to return to normal amid labor and supply challenges impacting all of us.



**Carryout and curbside pickup available.**

**Hours:** Daily Mon-Fri 11am-midnight; Sat 9am-midnight; Sun 9am-10pm  
**Brunch:** Sat & Sun 9am-2pm  
**Web:** [www.luxebarandgrill.com](http://www.luxebarandgrill.com)



## Mack Avenue Grille — It's a destination!

19841 Mack Avenue, Grosse Pointe Woods • (313) 886-0680

As the Mack Avenue Grille enters its 10th year by kicking things up a notch by offering premium beers premium wines by the glass — Caymus and Quilt to name but a couple — along with their full-service bar. And the highlights of their popular **brunches** are their unique **Bloody Marys** and, of course, **fresh squeezed Mimosas** available nowhere else on The Avenue! Mack Avenue Grille also offers a full-service bar, perfect for the holidays! Of course, they are not forgetting what made Mack Avenue Grille more than a diner. They will continue to offer three homemade soups du jour or freshly homemade chili daily, burgers and all manner of diner sandwiches, fresh-squeezed orange juice and three-egg, whipped omelets of all combinations. All ingredients are fresh — no frozen fish here! Mack Avenue Grille: It's so much more than a diner. It's a destination!




**ORDER ONLINE FOR CARRY OUT AND CURBSIDE PICKUP!**

**Hours:** Mon-Sat 9am-8pm, Sun 9am-3pm  
**Website:** [mackgrille.com](http://mackgrille.com)



## Pepperoni Grille

22411 Greater Mack, St. Clair Shores • (586) 774-3998

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\*Subject to change.




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Web: [www.pepperonigrillescs.com](http://www.pepperonigrillescs.com)



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Hours: Open Tue-Sun at 5pm; Closed on Mondays



Web: [www.sierrastationgp.com](http://www.sierrastationgp.com)



Photo by Donald Schulte

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Hours: Mon-Sat 11am-Close; Sun 4pm-Close;

Kitchen closes at 10 p.m.

Web: [tellysplace.com](http://tellysplace.com)





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Reservations recommended.

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**Hours:** Lunch: Tue-Sat 11am-3pm; Dinner: Thu-Sat 4-8pm; Brunch: Sun 10am-4 pm

(Closed Mondays)

**Web:** [www.fordhouse.org](http://www.fordhouse.org)



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# Grosse Pointe Theatre is *'Broadway Bound'*

By Anne Erickson

Neil Simon is one of the most prolific playwrights of all time, so the story of his life, of course, is fascinating.

"Broadway Bound" is a semi-autobiographical play by Neil Simon. The play rounds out his Eugene trilogy, which also features "Brighton Beach Memoirs" and "Biloxi Blues."

Grosse Pointe Theatre will present its production of "Broadway Bound" from Friday, Jan. 27, through Sunday, Feb. 5, at Parcels Middle School auditorium.

As Director Laura Ver Beek describes, this play is a must-see for any fan of Simon, especially if they've already seen "Brighton Beach Memoirs" and "Biloxi Blues."

"For those who love those plays and have seen the movies, this is the last in the series and really caps off the earlier two," she says. "It depicts the time when Neil Simon and his brother are in their young adulthood and first make it big as writers." But this show will be enjoyable for those unfamiliar with the first two plays, as well.

Ver Beek has been involved with Grosse Pointe Theatre for years, but this is her first main stage production as a director.

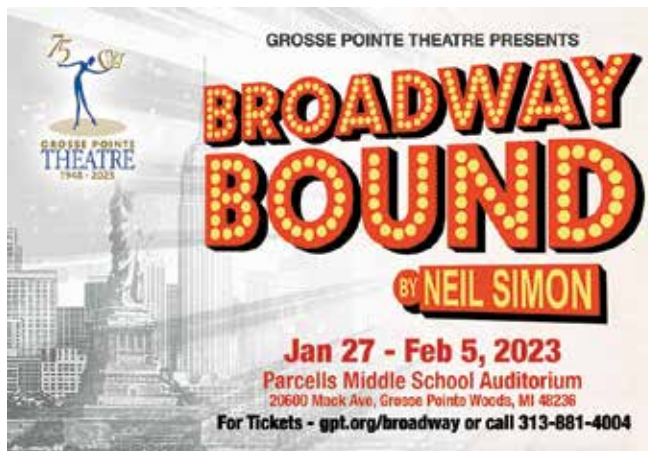
"I really enjoy working with actors on their characterizations to get a strong performance from them," she says. "It's really creative and exciting to be in charge of collaborating with everyone, from the actors to the technicians to the lights and sets. I'm enjoying that involvement."

Ver Beek says "Broadway Bound" is a great, complementary piece for Grosse Pointe Theatre's season.

"It's masterfully written," she says.



Top row, from left, Carl Ghafari, Jerry Nehr and Rebekah Sellers; seated, from left, Phil Potter, Robby Mullinger and Amy Choudhury Martin



"Neil Simon is such a good playwright. This is more of a dramedy, in that it's a bit of a departure from some of his outright comedies, but there's still a lot of humor in there, because he's such a witty writer. This play always really appealed to me. It tells the story of his life. It's a family story. It takes place in 1949, so it's also a good period piece."

What should the audience expect?

"Lots of laughs and maybe getting a little choked up, too," Ver Beek says. "They're going to experience some of the best playwriting that has ever been presented."

Ver Beek says she loves many aspects of being involved with Grosse Pointe

that's fun."

She's looking forward to opening night in a major way.

"I can't wait for the opening night, because I know the production will be amazing," Ver Beek says. "The cast is amazing and takes my direction so well. When the audience watches this play, it will be like they're just looking into this living room. That's how believable the actors are. There's no sense that they're acting. I'm so excited for the audience to see that."


For ticket information and more, visit <https://gpt.org/broadway>. 

Photo by Sophie Leszczynski





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# Meet Nathan



<b>Name</b>	Nathan Hicks
<b>Age</b>	17
<b>City</b>	Grosse Pointe Woods
<b>School</b>	Grosse Pointe North
<b>Parents</b>	Amy Hicks, Jeffrey Hicks

## Nathan's Favorites

### School Subject

Psychology

### Book

*Just Mercy*

### Movie

Bo Burnham's *Inside*

### Musical Artist

Tai Verdes

### Outdoor Activity

Basketball with my friends

### Food

Chicken tenders

### Vacation

The Pinery campsite

### Extracurricular Activity

Working with the kids at Hope House Detroit

### Teacher

Mrs. Pappas

### What unique skill do you possess and what skill would you like to learn?

I can juggle and I want to learn how to play the piano.

### If you could have three wishes granted, what would they be?

For everyone's needs to be met in the world.

To have more time to do what I want.

To have a family when I'm older.

### If you could visit anywhere in the world, where would you go?

I would visit New Zealand to see the islands and mountains.

### What accomplishment are you most proud of?

I am most proud of my varsity letter in cross country.

I learned a lot through running and how to commit myself to something I want.

### What is your favorite quality about yourself?

I like that I am good at organization, independent and hopeful.

### Where do you see yourself in five years?

I see myself looking for my lifelong job and exploring the opportunities I see after college.

## About Nathan

"I am an independent student with a commitment to my grades, job, family and friends. I value my personal relationships and am very lucky to have close friends that I have known my whole life, Dominik F. and Shayne K. I enjoy working with kids and spending time with my family, especially during the holidays. Although I try to work as hard as I can, I do need some time to have fun. I like to hang out with my peers and play video games when I have free time."

Nathan has three siblings: Isabella, 21, Hannah, 19, and Connor, 15. He recently received a Youth Appreciation award from Lakeshore Optimist Club of Grosse Pointe (pictured here).



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Crossing guard Jeani Segodnia safely crosses from left: Angel, Nicole and Adin Richard and Danielle Carlomusto, Marco, Amelia and Bill McAllister

## UNSUNG HEROES CROSSING GUARDS

By Lauren McGregor

In a school district that prides itself on walkability, crossing guards are the vital component making our school commutes not only safe, but possible. I chatted with the three crossing guards on our twice daily commute to learn the why and how of a job so valued in the Pointes.

"I was retired and I wanted to find something else to do," says Jeani Segodnia of Grosse Pointe Park. "I saw an ad in the Grosse Pointe News for a crossing guard position."

That was eight years ago. Ever since, the former nurse and Peace Corps member has been guiding students and

parents safely across Cook Rd.

"I quit my professional job when my kids were born. Now, they're grown up and gone. Being a crossing guard gets me up and going for the rest of my day," says Lori Huguenin of Grosse Pointe Woods.

"I like talking to everybody," she

adds. And while she is getting to know the regular walkers, she laughs, "I call it Karen's social hour."

Her friend

and neighbor, Karen Kaled, is the one who got Huguenin to apply for the job, which covers the crossing of busy Mack Ave. "My favorite part is the people," Kaled says. "I've developed friendships."

"You really get to know these people," agrees Segodnia.



Lori Huguenin and Karen Kaled



Jeani Segodnia crossing, from left, Kian O'Farrell, Justin and Clayton Owen; below, Karen Kaled crosses Joey Berti and Amber Pollack-Berti





**Crossing guard Lori Huguenin crosses  
Joey Berti and Amber Pollack-Berti  
across busy Mack Ave.**



Photos by Lauren McGregor

They also agree that it's not all about friendship though. "People go right through the stop sign. I have to do a lot of traffic control," says Segodnia. "It's a serious job," says Kaled. "I say a prayer for safety every day."

Beyond physical safety, the job often deals in mental health. "A kid told me he was being bullied. I immediately went and talked to the principal," says Segodnia.


"I'd like to be seen as security for them, as a constant in their life," says Kaled, who sees familiar faces several years later.

Children she once crossed return to visit her after high school. "It is about connection, community, about those precious years of elementary school," says Kaled.

Kaled will never forget the crossing guards in her own life. "Fred, my crossing guard at Maire Elementary, would put a kid on his shoulders every day."

Kaled graduated from Maire, Pierce and South, and then sent her children to Monteith, Brownell and

North. Huguenin has been her neighbor in the Woods since 1993, and also sent her children through Grosse Pointe Public Schools, relying also on the security of crossing guards. That they fulfill those roles today is a testament to the importance of the position.

If you would like to show your gratitude and nominate a crossing guard for a future feature, email Lauren@grossepointemagazine.com. 



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BY NEIL SIMON

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# Book Buzz

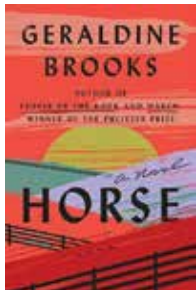


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By Mary Lynn Martin  
Central Branch Manager



*I* can no more remember the books I have read than the meals I have eaten, but they have made me.” Ralph Waldo Emerson

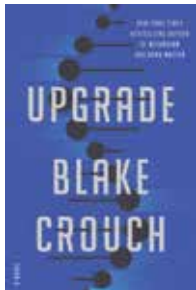


## Horse

By Geraldine Brooks

In her compelling way of blending historical elements with brilliant storytelling, this Pulitzer Prize winning author crafts the tale of a

famous 19th century racehorse and the thoughtbred's lifelong companion, a Black enslaved boy.



## Upgrade

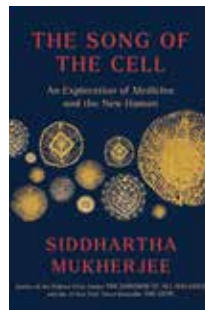
By Blake Crouch

Is this a science possibility or just an insouciant futuristic tome? You decide, for better or worse, if the next step in human evolution will surge or retreat from

our present-day reality of laboratory

gene editing.

Currently in development as a motion picture.



## The Song of the Cell

By Siddhartha Mukherjee

A historical primer, this book tells the story of how scientists discovered cells, began to understand them, and are now using that knowledge to not only revolutionize health care but, arguably, create new humans.



## The Good Left Undone

By Adriana Trigiani

Historical fiction fans will enjoy this multigenerational saga of a complex, conventional Italian family. Based

on a meticulously researched true story, the author's rich descriptions of characters alternate between the

present day and the WWII era.



## Reading the Glass: A Captain's View of Weather, Water, and Life on Ships

By Elliot Rappaport


Calling all mariners and earnest thalassophiles. You will be captivated by the science, deep wisdom and understanding of our planet gleaned from a life at sea. Part memoir with touches of wry humor. Just what you would hope and expect from an Old Salt.



## Call Me Chef, Dammit!

By Chef Andre Rush

Master Sergeant and celebrity chef, serving the White House under four United States Presidents, this story of grit and

fortitude is an inspiring memoir of overcoming poverty and 9/11 post traumatic stress. 





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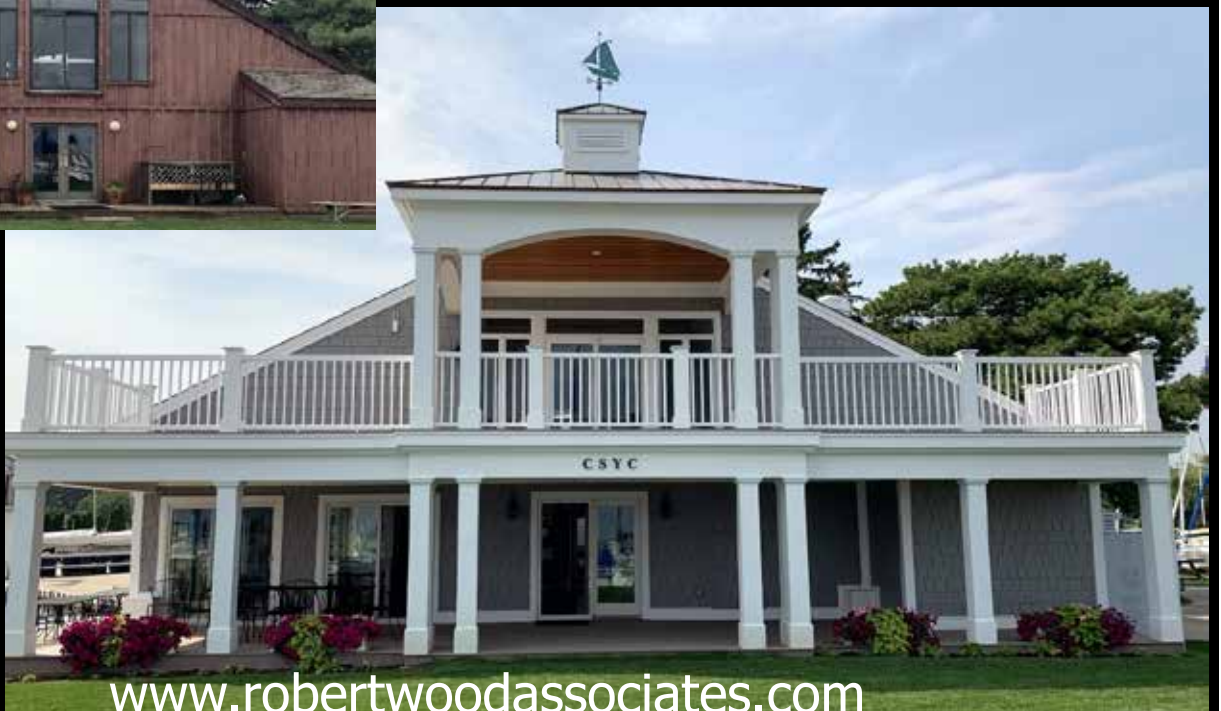
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By Karen Pope



From top, LovelItDetroit campaign; Scott Hocking: Detroit Stories; Hubert Massey sketch; Frederick K. Stearns house

Photos courtesy of Grosse Pointe Artists Association

Looking for something to do on your wintery Sunday afternoons? Add the Your Old Mansion lecture series to your calendar.

This is the seventh year that the Grosse Pointe Artists Association has hosted the lecture series, dedicated to bringing outstanding architects, artists, designers and community activists to talk about their projects.


On **Sunday, Jan. 8**, you can sit by the fireplaces in the historic Alger House at The War Memorial and listen as Italian Consul Allegra Baistrocchi and Daniela D'Amico Henderson of the Dante Alighieri Society of Michigan talk about their LoveItDetroit campaign, designed to create synergy between the creative communities in Detroit and Italy. When the idea debuted in Detroit Month of Design last year, it excited attention around the world.

On **Sunday, Jan. 29**, artist Scott Hocking will tell his Detroit Stories. He is considered a master of documenting the city's every-changing landscape. He captured international attention for a series of sculptures assembled in abandoned buildings. Cranbrook is currently hosting his first museum retrospective titled Scott Hocking: Detroit Stories and publishing a 344-page book by the same name.

On **Sunday, Feb. 19**, arts historian and activist Deborah Kawsky will lead a discussion of the contributions murals make to Detroit's economic and spiritual wellbeing. Joining her will be muralists Ijania Cortez, who won the Gilda Award in 2021 from Kresge Arts in Detroit, and Hubert Massey, who was recently commissioned by Stellantis to paint a mural on the sound barrier at the Jeep plant on Mack Ave., as part of a \$35 million community benefits agreement between the company, city and neighborhood residents.

The final lecture is on **Sunday, March 12**, when Eric and Rachel Mitchell will lead a discussion among a panel of craftsmen who helped them restore the Frederick K. Stearns house, an arts and crafts mansion in West Village. The house is now an inn with 10 guest suites, a ballroom, pub and other social gathering rooms. For series ticketholders, the couple offer a tour of the house at 8109 E. Jefferson, Detroit, and a drink in the pub following the lecture.

Each lecture begins at 2 p.m. All speakers donate their time. One hundred percent of the proceeds go to support the Artists Association's free programming for veterans and senior citizens.

You can reserve tickets at [grossepointeartcenter.org](https://grossepointeartcenter.org) or call the Association at (313) 881-3454. 



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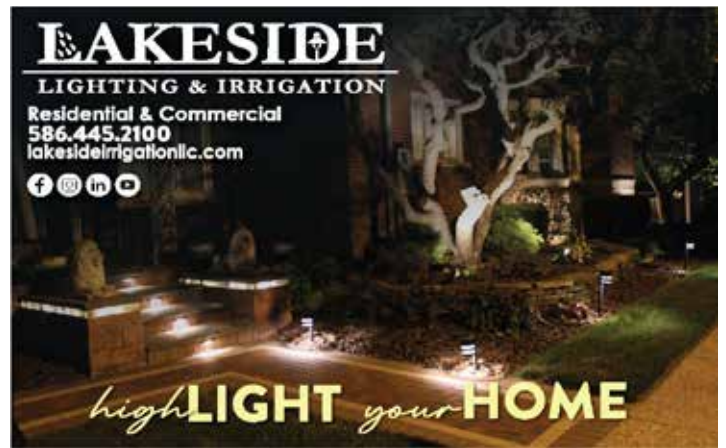
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Photos by Christine M.J. Hathaway



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**Pool & Lagoon Grand Opening** Aug. 1 @ Ford House

Photos by Lauren McGregor



**Edsel B. Ford II, Cynthia N. Ford, David Hempstead, Lynn Ford Alandt and Mark Heppner**



**Jody Ingle, Jon Dean, Christine Carter Conway, Mark Heppner and Cynthia Douglas**



**Jon Dean, Lynn Kurtz and Stephen Poloni**



**Nancy Finegood and Ron Koenig**



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\*Grosse Pointe Historical Society



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# pets

*Molly welcomes your hi-res Pointe Pets pictures at  
Lauren@grossepointemagazine.com.*



## In Memory of Ivan

"Ivan, you left us way too soon and we miss you." — Love, Jennifer, Mark, Emily, Hannah and your cat brother, Theo.



## Oslo & Beyla

Oslo and Beyla recently moved to Grosse Pointe Farms from Nashville, Tenn. They love exploring their new neighborhood.



## Inga

Inga, a four-month-old Irish Setter, comes from Captiva Kennels in Ontario, Canada. Her father is the No. 1 Irish Setter show dog in Canada. Owners Jeff and Debra Jay believe she might be the only Irish Setter in the Pointes!

*Photo by Sue Steiger*



## Fishbabies

"This is our 90-gallon fish tank. We love our fish as others love their cats and dogs. Fishbabies are all over 15 years old and make us smile every day." — Ruth Hummel



## Rico

Rico is a 12-year-old Chihuahua. He loves getting his hair done at Grosse Pointe Pet Salon. They make him look so dapper. He loves short walks and playing tug of war with his fox when he gets home.



## Byron

Byron came to live with Audrey in Grosse Pointe Woods while his family is serving in the Coast Guard.



# Dental care in pets

**Dr. Jennifer Khalifah**

Most people brush their teeth twice a day and go to the dentist twice a year. Do you brush your pet's teeth twice a day? Has your pet ever had a professional dental cleaning?



February is "Pet Dental Health Month" and the goal is to raise awareness about improving your pet's dental health. According to the American

Animal Hospital Association, most dogs and cats have some level of periodontal disease by three years of age.

Periodontal disease is caused by bacteria that are attracted to the tooth surface. Over time bacteria become mineralized and produce calculus (tartar). This leads to gingivitis (inflammation of the gum tissue), which can in turn lead to bone loss. One of the first signs of dental problems is bad breath.

Your veterinarian should do an oral exam at least once a year. If indicated, a professional dental cleaning may be recommended. This is an anesthetic procedure, which includes scaling of the teeth (to remove plaque buildup), polishing the teeth, and possible dental radiographs. If necessary, your pet may be referred to a board-certified veterinary dentist for advanced procedures, such as a root canal, in order to save a tooth.

Prevention is another step to better oral health for your pet. Daily brushing with pet safe toothpaste, dental chews, and other products recommended by the Veterinary Oral Health Council are tools that can lead to a healthier mouth.

Dr. Jennifer Khalifah graduated from Michigan State University in 1997. She joined Harper Woods Veterinary Hospital in 2016.

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JANUARY 2023 | ISSUE 8

# SCHOOL POINTES

Good news from the Grosse Pointe Public School System



GP North – New Gym Hall Entry



Pierce – Secured Vestibule



Kerby – New ADA Entry Ramp



Parcels – Auditorium

## SAFE • WARM • DRY • CONNECTED

In November 2018, voters overwhelmingly approved the \$111,040,000 GPPSS bond proposal to keep our students Safe, Warm, Dry and Connected. This investment in our beautiful buildings, many of which are nationally designated historic landmarks, helps attract and retain students and staff as we provide secure, updated and nurturing learning environments that reflect the importance our community places on education. The district provides regular updates on bond projects at their televised board meetings and our website, but here are a few highlights. If you missed our annual Open House, you can always schedule a personal tour by calling any of our building principals. Or take advantage of the events highlighted in the right hand column to see your commitment to our students brought to life.

## POINTES OF PRIDE

- Top 2% among all US school districts
- A+ Niche grade
- 27 Advanced Placement Courses
- 7 Career & Technical Ed programs
- 126-page Program of Studies
- 2 Spartan Award Student Newspapers
- 2 Grammy Winning Music Programs
- 30 Varsity sports, 120 teams
- 18:1 student-to-teacher ratio
- MI Social Studies Teacher of Year
- District Band Director of the Year
- 100% of core classes are taught by a highly qualified teacher



Brownell – Unit Ventilators



Monteith – Restroom



## SAFE



Richard – Fire Escape

## WARM



Maire - Hydronic Condensing Boilers

## SAVE THE DATE

### Parent Info Nights:

- 1/10/23 Rising 5th Grade
- 1 /11 Rising Freshmen
- 1 /12 Young 5/Kindergarten

### Calendar Items:

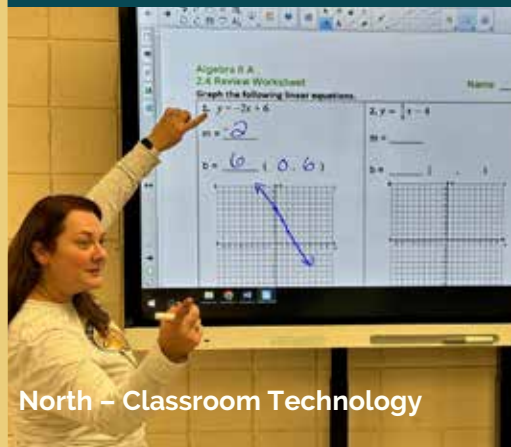
- 1/16 MLK Day, No School
- 1/27-28 Pierce Musical Matilda
- 2/2 South Choir Winter Spectacular
- 2/6 Pierce/South Band Concert
- 2/8 Pierce/South Orchestra
- 2/9-10 Brownell Lion King
- 2/15 Parcels/North Orchestra
- 2/15-16 South Drama One Acts
- 2/16 Parcels/North Band
- 2/20-24 Midwinter Break
- 2/28 Skilled Trades Night
- 3/8 Pierce Vocal Concert
- 3/9-11 North Drama
- 3/27-31 Spring Break
- 4/5 North Great Works Concert
- 4/7 Good Friday, No School
- 4/20-22 South - Mamma Mia!
- 5/29 Memorial Day, No School
- 6/5 South Graduation
- 6/7 North Graduation
- 6/16 Last Day of School

## DRY



Parcels - Roofing

## CONNECTED



North – Classroom Technology

Additional information on the bond is available on our district website.  
Click the Bond Updates icon under District News.



## BOND PROGRAM PHASING

### 2020 Projects:

- South High Phase I
- Parcels Middle
- Defer Elementary
- Ferry Elementary
- Monteith Elementary

### 2021 Projects:

- South High Phase II
- North High Phase I
- Brownell Middle Phase I
- Richard Elementary
- Maire Elementary

### 2022 Projects:

- North High Phase II
- Pierce Middle
- Brownell Middle Phase II
- Kerby Elementary
- Mason Elementary
- Barnes Pre-K

For times, locations and ticket information, visit [gpschools.org](https://gpschools.org) and click Calendar.

### WATCH A MEETING

- Comcast Channel 20/902
- Wow Channel 15
- [livestream.com/accounts/3685210](https://livestream.com/accounts/3685210)
- [www.gpschools.org](https://www.gpschools.org) - School Board - Watch the Meeting

### FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



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@GPSchools

## THANK YOU

Residents 60+ and GPPSS retirees may obtain a Gold Card for free/reduced price admission to home games, concerts and plays by calling 313-432-3003 or emailing [info@gpschools.org](mailto:info@gpschools.org). Attending events is also a great way to see your bond and sinking fund dollars at work.

School Pointes is a publication of the Grosse Pointe Public School System. To subscribe to a weekly email, or to submit story ideas or Pointes of Pride, email [info@gpschools.org](mailto:info@gpschools.org) or call 313-432-3003.

# "Over the Moon" auction to raise funds for Our Lady Star of the Sea

By Anne Erickson

Our Lady Star of the Sea's annual auction is set for Saturday, March 4, at The War Memorial. While the event is always special, this year, it's even more unique because of the renovated venue.

"We look forward to bringing the event to the newly renovated spaces at The War Memorial," Danielle Brousseau, event chair, says. "The enhancements made to the venue are truly beautiful and offer a wonderful new option for hosting events in our community."

This year's auction, dubbed "Over the Moon—an evening lit by the stars," adopts a celestial theme and promises all the sparkle of the stars and the glow of the moonlight. The evening will include a strolling dinner and spirits, raffles, and an "out of this world" silent and live auction.

"We have something for everyone in the silent and live auction," Tessa Ernst, event chair, says. "A few of the highlighted live packages are a Chef's Table experience for eight guests at Vertical Detroit with wine pairings, a 'stock your wine cellar' package, and a VIP Concierge Experience at Disney World."

The raffle prizes are incredible this year, to boot. The winner will have a choice between \$5,000 in cash or a trip to attend the American Music Awards. Other prizes include a collection of local restaurant gift cards and cash prizes. You don't need to be present to win. Tickets are available to order online at [www.olsosauktion.org](http://www.olsosauktion.org).

The funds raised by the annual auction are vital to continuing to provide a strong Catholic education. In past years, auction proceeds have afforded technology upgrades, a new computer lab, implementation of a robotics and STEM curriculum and a nature center.

This year, the auction will honor three women who are truly "stars": Joette Liamini, Cathy (Saracino) Kirsch and Linda Ascencio. Those ladies devoted their careers to Catholic education, with the majority of that time spent as teachers at OLSOS until the time they retired.

"They were third, fourth and fifth grade teachers. Personally, I will always be grateful for the years our daughter spent with them in their classrooms," Brousseau says. "I know I am not alone in this sentiment. These women provided the foundation of what is the Star education. They will always be considered as family by many."

All are welcome to attend the "Over the Moon" auction. Tickets are \$150 and are available for purchase at <http://www.OLSOSAuction.org>.

Those who can't attend can still participate in the silent auction from home. Simply visit the website and register as an at-home bidder. ☐



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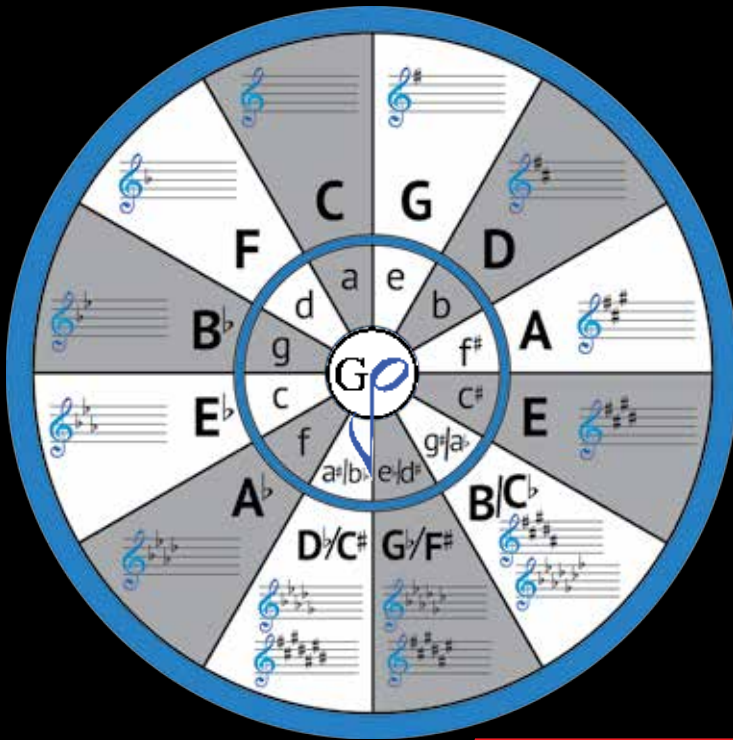
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