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for the new year

Senior Living

The Helm expands offerings
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On the Cover

**A view of Grosse Pointe
Yacht Club as Lake St.
Clair begins to ice over
in January**

Photo by Maurice Hogan,
31 and Up Media

Where in the Pointes?



Where in the Pointes is this? On Monday, Jan. 22, we will ask this question on our Facebook wall. The first person to comment with the correct answer will win a gift card to a local restaurant. Participants **MUST** wait for the question to be posted by Pointe Magazine. Good luck! (Last issue: The Great Frame Up)

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, another new year! Observant readers will notice on page 6, this issue of *Pointe Magazine* is labeled “Volume 15, No. 1.” That means this is our 15th year in publication, making us the longest running general circulation glossy magazine in the Pointes. The Grosse Pointe Yacht Club’s *Grosse Pointer* is the oldest publication I am aware of in the Pointes. Did you know the *Grosse Pointe News*, founded in November 1940, was to be called the *Grosse Pointer*? That is until the yacht club got wind of it and put the kibosh on using their publication’s name.

Something similar happened to us on the eve of our first issue in May 2010, which was slated to be called *Pointe Magazine*. As we were preparing to go to press, we received a cease and desist letter from an attorney on the Avenue of the Americas (Sixth Avenue) in New York City telling us *Pointe Magazine* was his client’s registered name and that we could not use it — or anything similar to it. While our intellectual property attorney, Doug Sprinkle, assured as we could in fact use *Pointe Magazine* as our title since the New York publication was a dance (“pointe”) magazine, we compromised and went with *Grosse Pointe Magazine*. We still call ourselves *Pointe Magazine* for short and, we have found, many of our loyal readers simply call us *The Pointer*.

We don’t care what you call us as long as you think of us!

So we hope you enjoy this issue of *Pointe Magazine* ushering in the new year. We wish you a happy, healthy, prosperous 2024 and, as always, remember to patronize our many loyal advertisers, without whom this magazine would not be possible. Be sure to tell them you saw them in *Pointe Magazine*!

See you around the Pointe in 2024! ☺

John

When Rufus McGaugh informed me that he was publishing his final book about his worldwide travels, I couldn’t believe it. Over the course of six years, I have chatted with him about each of his four installments.

If you haven’t had the pleasure of hearing Rufus speak as a guest speaker in your school or running into him in the community, you are missing out and I urge you to buy his latest book, *Travels, Treasures, and Tales of a Nomad*. His stories, infused with such humor and insight into the nitty gritty of getting from Point A to Point B (and C and D...), can belong only to someone who has traveled to every country in the world.

One of the smoother ordeals was the time he credited his “Irish gift for gab” with getting him into Libya. He literally talked and talked and talked until the border agents let him exit the airport.

A *Detroit Free Press* article was titled ‘McGaugh Turns His Classroom into a Real Trip’ and that is how a conversation with Rufus goes. His book reads the same.

He holds no punches, poking fun at world leaders and past presidents.

When asked the ubiquitous question, “what is your favorite place you’ve visited?,” Rufus always has the same answer — the Russian town where he and Monica adopted their first son. They would later adopt a second boy.

As I prepare for the new year — can you believe it is 2024? — I won’t make a resolution. I will, however, be more conscious about adding certain qualities to my daily life, starting with a more Rufus-like sense of humor.

I hope you have a very happy New Year! ☺

Lauren



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Meet Gretchen



Name	Gretchen Van Dam
Age	69
City	Grosse Pointe
Occupation	Retired Circuit Librarian, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit

Gretchen's Favorites

Season

Fall

Book

Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy by John le Carre

Spot in Grosse Pointe

So many! Every branch of the Grosse Pointe Public Library, Ford House, Neff Park

Movie

Meet Me in St. Louis

Vacation

London

Restaurant

Mack Avenue Grille

Musical Artist

I enjoy all genres. Some favorites are Chicago, Enya, Bach, Motown artists.

Interests

Reading, estate sales hunting, British mystery shows

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

I once worked security for the artist Prince at Crisler Arena in Ann Arbor.

What is the best trip you've ever taken?

Multi-week trip around Europe — visited Italy, Austria, France, Germany, the Netherlands and the U.K.

What is the most historic day in your lifetime?

Two: the assassination of President Kennedy and the election of President Obama

What accomplishment makes you proudest?

Teaching. For over 20 years I taught Legal Research & Writing to first year law students at Chicago-Kent College of Law, Loyola Law School of Chicago, and the John Marshall Law School. I also taught master's degree students in Library Science at Dominican University. Those students went on to become successful practicing attorneys and some of the best law librarians in the country.

Words to live by?

"All that is gold does not glitter. Not all those who wander are lost."

About Gretchen

"I grew up on Detroit's east side and went to Lutheran East. I graduated from the University of Michigan and went to Wayne State for my Master of Legal Studies and Juris Doctor. I lived in Grosse Pointe Park as a grad student and interned with the U.A.W. right after law school.

I started my law librarian career in academic law libraries at the Detroit College of Law and the Chicago-Kent College of Law and moved to an executive position with the U.S. Courts in 2000.

As Circuit Librarian, I had responsibility for the libraries and research databases serving all federal judges (appellate, district, magistrate and bankruptcy) in the states of Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin. Retirement has brought me back to Grosse Pointe to be closer to family and friends!"

Medical ramifications of loneliness

By Jonathan Boos

With the growth and popularity of social media, our society has become increasingly connected. However, those connections are often more superficial than genuine. The lack of meaningful relationship building is creating more isolationism and loneliness among all people. The demographic that seem to be hit the hardest by this trend are the elderly.



A University of California, San Francisco study found that seniors who reported feeling lonely had a decreased ability to perform activities of daily living (ADLs) and an increased need for long term medical care. Loneliness is also a precursor to more serious physical and mental problems. It can raise levels of stress, cause high blood pressure, reduce immunity, contribute to heart disease, Alzheimer's and even certain cancers. Basically, loneliness among seniors may have the greatest impact on their overall quality of life.

What can you do to help? The best gift you can give an elderly person battling loneliness is your time. Even 30 minutes spent listening to old stories, playing cards or drinking a cup of coffee together can make a world of difference.

If you or a loved one are struggling with loneliness, it may be a good time to contact a home care provider like Nursing Unlimited. They can provide not only assistance with ADLs but also valuable face-to-face companionship and interaction; something that social media will never truly provide.

For more information, please contact Nursing Unlimited Inc. at (586) 285-0300 or visit our website at www.nursingunlimitedonline.com. Article provided by Jonathan Boos, Director of Business Development for Nursing Unlimited Inc.

Thinking about your retirement? Let's talk about retirement planning solutions and advice.



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Souvenir by souvenir, a final book by world traveler and beloved storyteller

Rufus McGaugh

By Lauren McGregor

For someone who has been to *every* country in the world, it is hard to believe that *Travels, Treasures, and Tales of a Nomad* will “probably be the last book.”

Retired Grosse Pointe Public Schools teacher and world traveler, Rufus McGaugh published his fourth book in September. And what a way to wrap up his series of travel books. “It’s about double in size and has three times as many photos,” he says.

Each book always formatted in a unique way, this one is organized by the souvenir exhibits in his basement. A sort of museum for his travels, Rufus’s basement boasts everything from political memorabilia to coasters to barf bags.

“I can look at each souvenir and

it would bring up a remembrance.” Not just any memories, but ones colored with the kind of humor Rufus is known for.

Take, for example, the vignette titled ‘Parachuting Exhibit.’ The souvenir to

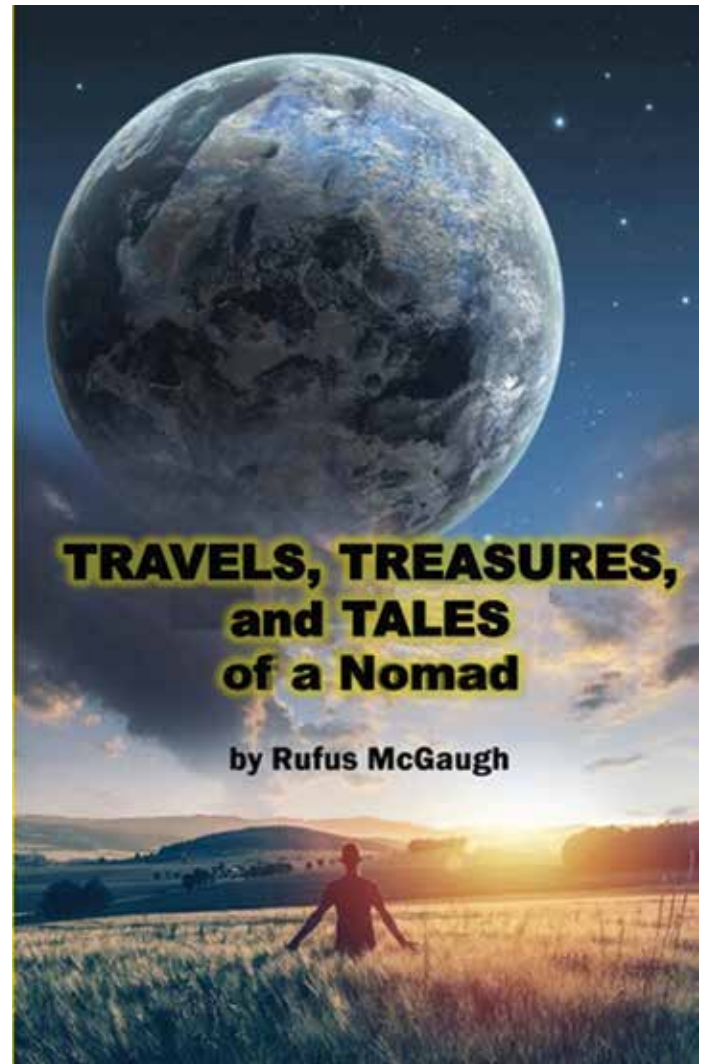
inspire the memory was a ‘First Jump’ certificate for McGaugh’s first jump from an airplane. Just one hitch — his parachute failed to release. Obviously McGaugh lived to tell the tale, but that’s a (hilarious) nailbiter well worth the read.

Souvenirs like the ‘First Jump’ certificate, his

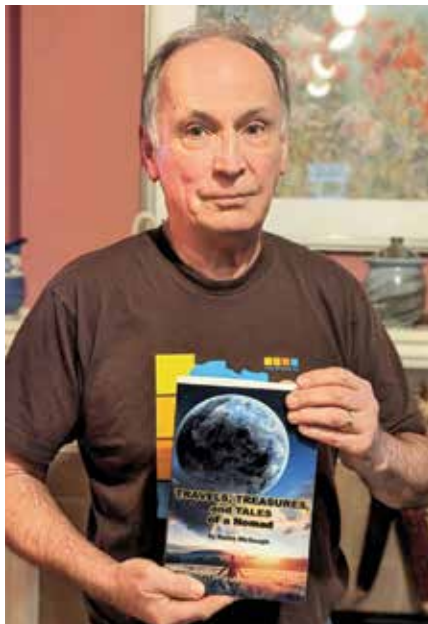
impressive hat collection and even a voodoo doll, were almost lost in a recent basement flood.

“The marriage license was lost, but nothing crucial like my collection of 400 barf bags,” he laughs. Those 400 barf bags, which the Brownell Middle School audience was especially fond of, are catalogued in the book.

McGaugh is masterful at balancing the levity of barf bag collecting with stories as weighty as war, and in particular, flashbacks of his service in Vietnam.



“The marriage license was lost, but nothing crucial like my collection of 400 barf bags.”



One memory: “I had a C-Ration can in my cargo pants when I was shot at,” says McGaugh, a veteran of the Marines. “The round hit the can first. The can might have been the only thing that kept me from losing my left leg.

“I’m surprised by how much people love the parts about Vietnam,” he adds. Quite unlike any other writings on the Vietnam War, readers connect with the, sometimes dark, humor McGaugh is known for.

His stories are so vividly recounted, one can’t help but wonder how.

“When you’re not only interested,

but passionate about travel,” he says, you can remember a remarkable amount.

One of his favorite stories to tell, which appears in the book under ‘The Libya Visa Exhibit — Or How I Became Chinese!’, is that of his entry into his very last country on the list, Libya.

“That taxi driver saved my life.”

“I flew on a small plane from Tunisia and got into Libya late with a passport and visa application. It stated that I was a Chinese engineer,” says McGaugh. “I don’t look Chinese at all. I just kept talking and talking and I couldn’t believe it, but they let me in.”

Speaking of China, McGaugh says that two or three years after getting home from Vietnam, he was traveling through China with Wayne State University when his cheek kept bloating larger and larger.

“People kept telling me to get it checked. So, later, in Hong Kong, I see a doctor, who opens the wound and tells me to keep it clean.”

The universe has a sense of humor to match McGaugh’s. While in the next country, Burma, the toilet flooded the room of the floor he was sleeping

on. “I recleaned the wound after that!”

By the time he got to the Philippines, the cheek looked worse than ever. Upon landing, McGaugh asked the taxi driver where the best hospital was.

“He told me to go to the VA,” he says. “That taxi driver saved my life.”

McGaugh had no idea there was a veteran’s hospital in Manila. In fact, the VA Manila Outpatient Clinic is the only VA health care facility outside of the United States.

“That doctor said it was badly infected. In the end, I needed 26 stitches and antibiotics.” All of that came from shrapnel after being shot at during the Vietnam War. Other pieces remain throughout his body.

“That’s probably why I didn’t get married until I was 44,” the husband and father of two manages to inject humor even into his war wounds.

Still, McGaugh can’t bring himself back to Vietnam and he wishes his combat experiences upon no one.

It was, however, these horrific trials that first motivated McGaugh to see the world. Because he had survived, because so many hadn’t, he decided he needed to see the world. “Because I could.”

Travels, Treasures, and Tales of a Nomad illustrates the humor that can be found in just about any situation and the inspiring passion to see all there is to see. It will not only make you laugh out loud, but transport you across the world during these wintry months.

Purchase *Travels, Treasures, and Tales of a Nomad* on Amazon. [P](#)



Just a sample of McGaugh’s barf bag collection

THE HELM AT THE BOLL LIFE CENTER

*expanded offerings and
a senior services millage*

By Lauren McGregor



Photos courtesy of The Helm at the Boll Life Center

It is incredible what \$60 a year can get you. Well, perhaps not in most places. But at The Helm at the Boll Life Center, a \$60 annual membership covers use of its fitness center, exercise classes and discounted pricing on countless activities.

“Other than use of the fitness center, you don’t have to be a member to have access to all of these wonderful things,” says Executive Director Krista Siddall. “A lot of what we do here is free, like the medical loan closet, technology training, support groups, but membership gives you discounted pricing on exercise classes, parties and other programming.”

A recent addition to membership perks is a personal trainer who helps members modify fitness routines to their specific

needs.

“We are partnering with health care systems to expand our offerings,” says Siddall. “For example, with Corewell Health, we will have an eight-week hypertension management and prevention program.”

The importance of a place like The Helm cannot be understated, especially during the isolating winter months. Aside from the essential services like Meals on Wheels and wellness checks, The Helm serves as a warm and welcoming center buzzing with activity.

For just \$1, Pointe Area Assisted Transportation Service bus will transport area

“We understand you’re the same person and soul in this body that you need to care for in new ways.”

Day breakfast,” says Siddall.

Happening soon are a Valentine’s Day Luncheon on Feb. 14 and St. Patrick’s Day Lunch and Karaoke on March 15.

Other popular offerings are field trips, Friday movies and a wide range of emotional support groups like Alzheimer’s and grief support groups.

The Helm also invites the public to make use of its free Medicare and Medicaid enrollment help.

“It’s totally free,” says Siddall. “We had 275 appointments in November alone

and saved people thousands of dollars by helping them pick the right plan.”

But how does The Helm do it all? “Half of our budget is from our annual gala,” says

Siddall. “That’s a precarious situation.”

To ensure a healthy future for The Helm and the residents it helps, she is relying on voters to approve a senior services millage that will appear on the August or November ballot in each Grosse Pointe community.

An enormous 72 out of 83 counties in Michigan have a senior millage, says Siddall. Shockingly, Wayne County is not one of them.

“It’s important for people to realize as the senior population grows, so does the need for our senior services.”

She invites all to take a tour and see the deep value in an organization like The Helm.

“We understand you’re the same person and soul in this body that you need to care for in new ways,” says Siddall. “Everybody can benefit from what we have to offer.” ☐



Top, Active Fit and Yoga classes; above left, St. Patrick’s Day Lunch; above right, Valentine’s Day Luncheon

residents from their home to The Helm.

“PAATS enables members to see their friends, go out to lunch, go on a day trip, do things they might not do on their own,” says Siddall. “Here, you have access to support, friendship and something to look forward to.”

Year-round celebrations are a hit. “Most of our members love parties. We recently had a super successful Thanksgiving meal and a huge Veteran’s



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happily ever after

a 52-year marriage of
'celebrating each other
always'

By Lauren McGregor

*G*eorge and Anita Serra, of Grosse Pointe Park, have been married nearly 52 years and have quite the love story.

"My mother's family all had arranged marriages. She said she wouldn't do that with me. She gave my grandparents one chance to get the match right. When she saw my father from the top of the stairs, she said her heart skipped a beat," says Anita. "That's something my mom and I share. When I saw George for the first

time, my heart skipped a beat."

The difference, though, was that Anita and George were set up on a blind date by a mutual friend. Following hours of conversation on the phone, Anita finally agreed to meet.

"Our first date was to a friend's college

"I proposed with a gift at the restaurant," says George. "It was a ring on an electric toothbrush. I said, 'Will you share your toothbrush with me?'" It was a sweet nod to Anita's love of being a dental hygienist.

Anita is Greek and George is Italian and Lebanese. "Greeks married Greeks. Luckily, her family was very accepting."

Her family was so accepting, in fact, that George was taken aback by her father's response to asking for Anita's hand in marriage.

"His only question was 'are you going to take the dog?'" George laughs. Perhaps to her father's chagrin, the couple did not take the dog.

"Our whole life is family," says George. "Part of the connection that Anita and I have had is family and our ethnicities. Greeks have lots of extended family and lots of parties. I was able to fit in well. As did Anita with my family. We love each other's families."

"His cousins are now my cousins," Anita says. "We sought that value out in a mate."

Anita wrote additional values into their marriage contract. "I added three rules to the end of our marriage contract, which we have upheld every day: One, you have to open the door for me. Two, you always have to hold my hand. Three, we have to kiss every morning and night."

graduation party. He opened the car door for me, and in the backseat, I see this beautiful girl with long hair."

George laughs, "It was my friend's wife. She needed a ride to the party."

It was smooth sailing after that. The couple was engaged within six months and married on April 29, 1972, less than a year after meeting.



Top, Anita, 79, and George, 78, at The Helm, where they like to spend some of their free time. Anita is active in the fitness programs and George in the Poker group; above, Anita and George Serra at their 1972 wedding at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, then located in Detroit

Top photos by Lauren McGregor



“It’s about communication and compromise,” says George. “You have to be invested in each other.”

“If you want love, you have to give love,” says Anita. “Even when you’re mad at each other.”

“We don’t hold grudges,” says George. “She’s easy to love.”

They even compromise when it comes to faith.

“A big part of marriage is sharing everything,” says George. “Including religion.”

“I am Greek Orthodox and George is Catholic. We brought the children up in both religions and attended two churches, Assumption and St. Ambrose, alternating weekends,” says Anita. The couple still attends both today.

They also shared the family business for several years.

“I left Ford after 20 years in finance, to open a coffee franchise,” says George. “We had two locations at Lakeside Mall and one at Southland. Moving into the

coffee business gave me the freedom to watch my kids grow up.”

“I started working at the Coffee Beanery and ended up loving it,” says Anita. “I went back and forth between dental hygiene and the Coffee Beanery,

“When I saw George for the first time, my heart skipped a beat.”

until we sold the business in 2006.”

Over time, their duties evolved to those of caregiving. First, for their aging mothers, and then babysitting for their grandchildren.

All three children, Stephanie, Paul and Georgianna, have remained in or returned to the Pointes.

“I hope they have what we have,” says Anita, of her children and their spouses.

“I think I have the best life. I continue to have that in Grosse Pointe.”

In March, they will celebrate 50 years of living in their Grosse Pointe Park house.

“Our wants were never that great,” says George. “We spend time with our seven grandchildren. We have done a lot of traveling together, which meant more than clothing or housing.”

The couple took a European cruise this past summer, with stops in Spain, France and Italy. “Just the two of us,” says Anita.

Christmas 2023 they will spend in Mexico with all 15 family members. It’s a belated 50th wedding anniversary trip for the whole family, one that has long been delayed due to the pandemic.

When asked how they will celebrate Valentine’s Day, Anita says, “We treat each other like Valentines every day. We celebrate each other always. I thank God he put us where we were at the right time.” ☺

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FUSION INTEGRATED TRAINING fundraises for Alzheimer's and ALS research in Grand Canyon run



On Sept. 30 and Oct. 1, 2023, a group of 14 athletes from Grosse Pointe participated in the Run2Revive Rim2Rim2Rim Trail Run, a challenging 46-mile round-trip crossing of the Grand Canyon. PJ and Nick Vlahantones, co-founders of Fusion Integrated Training, partnered with Run2Revive and organized a fundraising team to not only push their physical and mental limits but also to support the prevention and cure of two devastating neurodegenerative diseases, Alzheimer's and ALS. Throughout the training period, the team exceeded their goal and raised \$43,875.

"I try to do one major, defining event every year. In 2022, I stumbled upon this run. The fact that it was also a fundraiser for Alzheimer's and ALS was amazing," says PJ Vlahantones. "It was personal to us. Our grandmother

suffered from Alzheimer's."

This year, their second year participating in the event, the Fusion brothers and co-founders recruited a group that included 14 Fusion members from the Pointes.

"We started our days at 5 a.m. with headlamps to maximize daylight because the run can take anywhere from around eight to 12 hours," says Nick Vlahantones. "Once you are in the depths of the Grand Canyon, the



Clockwise from top left, descending to the Colorado River; Nick and PJ Vlahantones; PJ Vlahantones and JT Mestdagh; all team members who crossed the finish line

only way out is by foot or emergency helicopter. We are grateful everyone made it out safely with no serious injury."

Over the course of two days, the team



descended down the South Rim of the Grand Canyon, across the Colorado River, climbed to the top of the North Rim and back. Faced with 11,443 feet in elevation gain, the team trained both physically and mentally for months and overcame many personal challenges for a cause much greater than themselves.

A major lesson Nick learned in running two of these events was, “Consistency. If you are consistent, you can achieve your goal — in the canyon, in the gym, in life.”

“Conquering the greatest

challenge of my lifetime made me even more aware of how our mind and body work together to go beyond our limits and see the incredible gifts inside us,” says Danielly Noecker, Fusion athlete and Grosse Pointe Park resident. “This amazing experience was the hardest thing I have ever done.”

Researchers increasingly believe that neurodegenerative diseases such as ALS and Alzheimer’s share important features. Advancing our understanding of one disease may aid in the prevention, treatment, and cure of the other. The Fusion team ran for those who have had their minds or bodies taken from them.

“Teamwork is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results. I couldn’t be prouder of Team Fusion for their unwavering dedication,

relentless training and remarkable achievement,” says PJ. “Their unity and determination serve as a testament to the power of collaboration and the heights we can reach when we work as one.”

Nick adds, “Sharing this experience bonded us all for a lifetime.” ☎

Fusion fundraising team members who crossed the Grand Canyon: PJ Vlahantones, Nick Vlahantones, JT Mestdagh, Diego Reyes, Liz Kim, John Fauster, Sophia Melhem, Carla Haladjian, Raz Haladjian, Cengiz Arici, Danielly Noecker, Beth Cunnane, Rick Siegrist, John Toigo, Chris Cornell, Zach Ahee, Karina Pereira

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Improve your mental health in 2024

The Family Center's trusted expert explains how *intention* is the key

By Alex Szwarc

Frank Wilberding, LMSW, says a good New Year's mental health resolution is to be intentional. The licensed clinical social worker and a certified advanced alcohol and drug counselor based in Grosse Pointe Park is also a trusted resource of The Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods.

"Start every day by saying 'these are my intentions for the day' and at the end of the day be able to answer 'how much of my day was reactive and how much was intentional?'"

Wilberding says. "If I were making a New Year's resolution, it would be to maximize being in the present as much as possible during the day."

A way folks can do that, he says, is examining how intentional you have been in the past to determine what areas need more intention moving forward.

"The first thing is balance and




structure. Well-being starts with the basics. Sleep hygiene is the basis for all mental health."

He adds that going to sleep at a consistent hour each day and having meals at a similar time lead to an intentional structure.

"Once you are mindful about eating, exercising and sleeping right, then ask if you are intentional about your relationships," Wilberding says.

All of these elements are especially important in the winter for us metro Detroiters. Seasonal affective disorder impacts many, especially with the lack of sun and activity.

"It is easy to get isolated," he warns. It is vital, then, to keep up exercise programs and connecting with others. 



"Well-being starts with the basics. Sleep hygiene is the basis for all mental health."





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New year, new you

By Ken Welch

Did you make a New Year's resolution? Did it have to do with a fitness objective? If so, how are you planning on sticking to it?

Life can overwhelm the best intentions. Before you know it, goals and ambitions can fade away as the days get busier and more complicated.

It's frustrating and guilt inducing. Maybe this year, before making resolutions, you take this first step instead.

Develop your own, personal motto. Something you can say to yourself to feel inspired and motivated, especially during those times when you're feeling down and apathetic about exercise. Create an identity of someone with purpose and determination.

At this writing we don't know how the Detroit Lions will finish the season. They've had their ups and downs as they continue to rebuild into a consistently winning team. Their motto since training camp has been one word, "GRIT." No matter what, they'll take on whatever comes at them because they identify with that one word. That's who they are. It sums up their work ethic, determination and willingness to do what's necessary to be successful.

They refer to it constantly.

We all know Nike's "Just Do It!" No excuses, just make it happen. There's also the great Star War's philosopher, Yoda, who said, "Do or do not do, there is no try."

Use your motto as a psychological tool to overcome the obstacles that get in the way of your fitness goals. A simple word or phrase you repeat to yourself to keep you focused and on track. It might be as simple as saying to yourself, "make it happen," or "progress, not perfection."

Keep it short and true.

Motivate your movement with meaningful words. The power of your thoughts can fuel your fitness success.

Ken Welch is owner and trainer at Pointe Fitness on Harper south of Allard. Online: pointefitness.com.



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Implant dentures?

By Dr. Horatio Falcón

Embarking on the journey to restore a confident smile can be a transformative experience, and choosing the right solution requires careful consideration. In the realm of tooth replacement, the debate often centers around traditional dentures and their modern counterpart, implant dentures.

Traditional dentures have long been a stalwart in the realm of dental prosthetics. Offering a non-invasive and more affordable option, they provide a functional and aesthetic replacement for missing teeth. However, wearers may encounter challenges with stability, as traditional dentures can occasionally shift, impacting speech and eating. Additionally, maintenance involves daily removal and cleaning.

In recent years, implant dentures have emerged as a revolutionary alternative. Anchored securely to dental implants surgically placed in the jawbone, implant dentures provide unparalleled stability. This not only enhances functionality but also stimulates the jawbone, preventing deterioration over time. Implant dentures offer a natural feel, mimicking the appearance and performance of real teeth.

Deciding between traditional dentures and implant dentures is a personal journey, influenced by factors such as budget, oral health and lifestyle. Traditional dentures offer a time-tested solution, while implant dentures present a cutting-edge option with long-term benefits.

Ultimately, the decision rests on individual preferences, medical history and finances. Whichever path one chooses, Dr. Falcon and his team are here to help in your journey.

Dr. Horacio E. Falcón, DDS, of the Falcon Dental Group, 20690 Vernier Road (at the I-94 service drive) may be reached at (313) 884-3050.



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Qualified Charitable Distributions

By Lina Bowman

Would you like to reduce your taxes for 2024? Do you make charitable contributions but can't take the deduction because of the increased standard deductions? There's good news if you are 70½ or older and have IRAs! You can utilize a strategy called Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs). QCDs can offer many tax advantages but must be processed properly.



By making charitable contributions directly from your traditional (or inherited) IRAs, the distributions are excluded from taxable income and won't count towards your adjusted gross income (AGI). Keeping your AGI lower, in turn, may reduce the taxation on Social Security benefits and potentially reduce your Medicare Part B and Part D premiums. A lower AGI can also limit the impact on certain deductions and credits tied to AGI thresholds.

If you are subject to Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from your IRAs, QCDs can be used to satisfy these requirements.

There are a few rules to keep in mind. The check from your IRA must be made payable to the charity. The charitable recipient must be a 501(c)(3) charity. Nonoperating private foundations and donor-advised funds do not qualify. The donation is also limited to \$100,000 per person.

You'll want to discuss your specific circumstances and goals with your financial advisor and your tax professional before you take your RMD this year. QCDs let you do good while also potentially reducing your tax burden. If you have any questions, please contact us at (313) 343-0800 or Lina@BowmanAsset.com.

Wishing you a prosperous new year!

Lina Bowman is a financial adviser in Grosse Pointe.



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Can't let go? Rent it out instead

By Anna Bartolotta

*D*o you want to purchase a new home but don't want to sell your current home?

Sometimes people are so attached to their home, for whatever reason, that they just cannot let it go. Buy that new home and rent the property you live in now. It may seem like a dream, but if your credit and finances are proper, it is absolutely possible.



If you have a mortgage on your current home, imagine that your new tenants would be paying their rent to you. You would then, in turn, pay for that home's mortgage principle, interest, taxes, insurance, etc. Sounds like a win-win situation right? Well, it can be.

When executed properly, this simple idea can allow homeowners to purchase that new larger home without the heartache of having to sell a home you love or where your family was raised. If that future rental does not have a mortgage, that rent can simply be passive income.

But, please, always make sure to have funds available and ready for problems that may arise at your new rental property. Problems at any level will always happen. Make sure to do your homework and know what you are getting into. Follow Michigan law for rentals and speak to the city for their rental requirements.

Speak with your real estate agent. They can offer information, knowledge and assistance moving forward. Or contact Grosse Pointe Apartments for a rental evaluation. At the end of the day, it is all about what works best for you and your family's future.

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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Winter at Valade

Detroit Riverfront Conservancy is celebrating the completion of the East Riverfront with a jam-packed winter schedule. Most notably, the popular Winter at Robert C. Valade Park series. This year, the presenting sponsor is Friends of the Robert C. Valade Park.

“Every weekend throughout the winter, people can come down and enjoy something special at Valade Park,” says DRFC Director of Communications Marc Pasco.

Winter programming will take place Fridays, 4-9 p.m., Saturdays, 12-9 p.m., and Sundays, 12-7 p.m. and feature giant fires, sledding, winter games, hot seasonal drinks, marshmallow roasters and free activities.

This year’s special events include:

Motown Magic, Jan. 19-21, will be a

celebration of everything you love about Detroit, from your favorite music to food and local vendors.

Mardi Gras at Valade, Feb. 9-11, will feature the best of

Caribbean Carnival and a New Orleans style Mardi Gras with Carnival outfits, Big Heads, bands, second line parades and more.

Lunar New Year, Feb. 23-25, will celebrate the Lunar New Year with a Lunar New Year Parade, festive food, craft activities and live music.

Detroit Riverfront Conservancy will also host **Fireside Fridays**, Jan. 5 through Feb. 23. The evenings will feature open mic nights, board game events, trivia, special workshops and more!

Self Care Sundays will take place Jan. 7 through Feb. 25 and feature winter wellness programming like Polar Power Walks, Winter Hustle classes and more.

Valade Park is located at 2670 Atwater St. in Detroit.

For updates and more information, visit detroitriverfront.org.

Photos by Keith Tolman and Nadir Ali, courtesy of Detroit Riverfront Conservancy



Adult Learn to Sail

By Ted Everingham

Sailing has been such a large part of my life that people are surprised that I did not take up the sport until I was nearly 30 years old, when I found a crumpled brochure in a wastebasket at work. It described a family camp in northern Michigan that seemed perfect for my wife Marcia, me and our three young children. We went for a one-week vacation that led to a lifetime adventure for all of us.



I’d grown up fishing on inland lakes. I loved being on the water and was fascinated by sailboats, but I’d never had a chance to sail. This camp had sailboats for use by adult campers after only the most basic instruction. That week, I sailed every time I could, rushing to the waterfront each day to claim my spot.

When we came home, I was head-over-heels in love with sailing, but barely understood the language and had only the foggiest notion of how properly to sail a boat. My enthusiasm came to the attention of a coworker who took me sailing at the Detroit Yacht Club in something called a “Flying Scot.” Hooked before that afternoon ended, I joined the club for the sole purpose of taking the club’s Adult Learn to Sail (ALTS) class.

Marcia took the ALTS class the next year, and in good time, the kids were into junior sailing. It has been our life.

You can start sailing at any age and keep sailing into your golden years, and you don’t have to rummage through the trash (as I did) to get started.

Go to the Detroit Regional Yacht-Racing Association website (www.drya.org), click on “Membership” and scroll down to “Member Clubs.” At least nine of the listed clubs offer ALTS instruction, often to non-members, and others also may have such programs.

Use these dark months to plan your summer...and a lifetime...of sailing.

Welcome aboard!

Ted Everingham is past commodore of Bayview Yacht Club and is on the board of the Grosse Pointe Youth Nautical Education Foundation.

Pet trusts

By Jon B. Gandelot

*P*ets hold a cherished place in our hearts, yet their well-being after our deaths often goes unaddressed in estate plans. Estate planning for pets has gained attention as pet owners seek to secure a future for their beloved companions. This process involves careful consideration and legally binding measures to ensure their ongoing care.

The first step is designating a caregiver or establishing a pet trust. Selecting a trusted individual willing to take responsibility for your pet is paramount. The chosen caregiver should be someone who understands your pet's needs, lifestyle and temperament.



Creating a pet trust — a legal arrangement providing for the care and maintenance of your pet — ensures financial support for their lifetime needs. Funding this trust with assets or a specified amount of money safeguards your pet's future, covering expenses like veterinary care, food, grooming and other necessities.

Clear instructions within your will or trust regarding your pet's routines, medical history, dietary needs and preferences assist the caregiver in providing consistent care. Including a letter of intent or a document outlining your pet's habits, likes and dislikes may further aid in its' transition.

Regularly reviewing and updating these plans is essential, accounting for any changes in your pet's circumstances or your own life. This includes adjusting financial provisions or changing designated caregivers if necessary.

Seeking professional legal counsel experienced in estate planning for pets is important. They can offer tailored advice, draft legally binding documents, and ensure your wishes regarding your pet's care are fulfilled.

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

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at home *in the Pointes*



Photos by John D'Angelo,
courtesy of Maple & Mill

By Susan Bollinger

“The Maple & Mill team had such great sense and vision. They opened doorways and archways, brought in views of the back yard and pool, and created a true family home.”

After 25 years in their Grosse Pointe City home, Cathie and Bob Halso decided to tackle a kitchen renovation. “Painters told me they couldn’t put any more paint on the cabinetry,” recalls Cathie. “We started with plans for a kitchen renovation, then the project grew to a first-floor laundry room, mud room and bathroom, and continued upstairs with bathroom upgrades and a new upstairs laundry.”

The couple aims to remain independent as they grow older, and wanted their house to function for their unique needs with extended family.

The Halsos turned to Maple & Mill. “We are so grateful we did,” says Cathie. “They made our house livable and timeless.”

Working closely with Jamie Mertz and Gene Casazza at Maple & Mill, they made mobility and safety priorities. At the same time, they incorporated features to wrap the home around their extended family. The Halsos’ daughter, her husband and their daughter live right next door, and get together for meals, play time and story time at any hour.

“The Maple & Mill team had such great sense and vision,” says Cathie. “They opened doorways and archways, brought in views of the back yard and pool, and created a true family home.”


The new kitchen design also moved the stove to a low-traffic area and added a picturesque wall of neat cupboards and a Subzero refrigerator.

The couple gained a laundry room on



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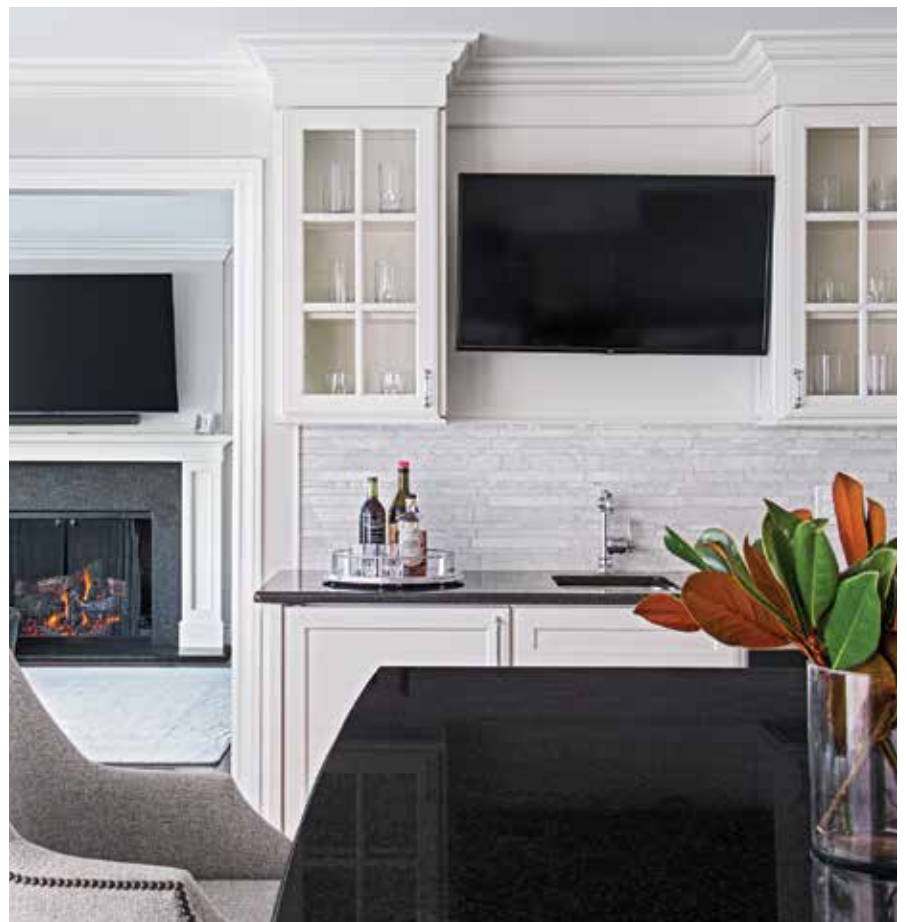


the second floor by converting a long hallway of closets. “It’s beautiful and functional, with a granite countertop, sink, upper and lower cupboards, an Asko washer and dryer and handy hanging rod,” adds Cathie.

While every part of the renovation is “wonderful,” Cathie says her favorite parts are “small things I didn’t expect would make such an impact, like two microwaves hidden in drawers and the expanded archway from the kitchen to the family room, creating such a feeling of connection.”

Prior to renovating, the couple wished they had a space where their loved ones could all be together. Now, when family and friends visit, everyone can gather around the expansive kitchen table. “It’s what we always wanted, and the way the house should have been,” says Cathie.

Learn more about Maple & Mill at mapleandmill.com. [P](#)



Photos by John D’Angelo,
courtesy of Maple & Mill



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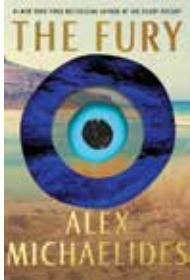


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By Librarian Kathleen Gallagher

It's never too late to be what you might have been."
George Eliot



The Fury

By Alex Michaelides

Who would pass up a chance to escape the chilly English weather for a luxurious trip to a private Greek Island? Especially when the island is owned by Lana

Farrar, a reclusive ex-movie star. Not this group of friends, even if the past is full of concealed hatred and a thirst for revenge. Told in flashbacks, with brilliant narration and terrific pacing, this novel combines mystery and romance with psychological suspense in a class of its own. Coming Jan. 16, 2024



The Heiress

By Rachel Hawkins

Ruby McTavish was not a woman with whom to be trifled. A survivor of a childhood kidnapping, four-time widow and sole heiress of her family

fortune, she ruled over the tiny town of Tavistock from her family home of Ashby, high in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Upon her death, her massive fortune and complicated family legacy passes to her adopted son, Camden. To everyone's shock, Camden wants nothing to do with the fortune or his family. Ten years after

his mother's passing, an uncle's untimely death drags Camden and his wife, Jules, back to Ashby. Ruby's past comes to light, and the puzzle surrounding her childhood kidnapping and mysterious death of four husbands leads to more questions than answers. Coming Jan. 9, 2024

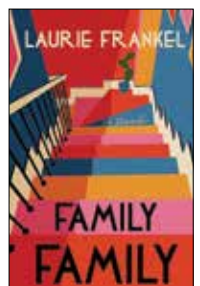


Argylle

By Elly Conway

As an intelligent, brave young man with a promising future, Argylle becomes embroiled in the CIA when his compassion and resourcefulness

rescues two agents trapped in a foreign land. Now an adult with a troubled past, Argylle is recruited by the CIA's finest spymaster. Their mission is to stop a Russian madman from taking political power. Perhaps the most intriguing thoughts about the book are the identity of the author. Is Elly Conway a pen name? Is it the same person who left her old (argyle) cardigan under someone's bed? Perhaps we will find out when the novel-inspired movie of the same name hits theaters in February. Coming Jan. 9, 2024



Family Family

By Laurie Frankel

As an adoptive mother, Inda Allwood takes great pride and joy in her 10-year-old

twins. As an actress she is frustrated by the portrayal of adoption in the media. Why are all the adoption stories full of pain and regret? Her new movie is just that, a premier film focused on an adoption tragedy. India wants the world to know that her family is more than what is portrayed on the screen, so she tells a journalist her honest belief: the film is a bad movie. What follows is a media storm. Her children know they need help, and who better to call in a time of crisis than family? That is when the real mess begins. The more we learn about India the more we realize family is more than blood and always complicated. Coming Jan. 23, 2024



The Women

By Kristin Hannah

Francis "Frankie" McGrath has always prided herself on pleasing her conservative parents and doing the right thing. Enrolled in

nursing school, she imagines making the world a better place. However, it is 1965 and the world is rapidly changing. When her brother is sent to Vietnam, she realizes her life may take a different path. Frankie joins the Army Nurse Corps and soon finds herself overseas as well. The real struggle begins when Frankie returns home to a divided America. Her story is a tribute to all the young women whose sacrifice to their country is often forgotten. Coming Feb. 6, 2024

Top photo by The Portrait Place

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In 2017, then Executive Chef Guy Pelino decided to revitalize the property but continued the tradition of Roma and re-opened as Amore da Roma. It is a rich tradition of family and friends combined with delicious food and great wines. Enjoy the experience. We can't wait to see you. 🌸 

COME IN AND TRY OUR HOUSE-MADE SPECIALS!

Hours: Tue-Thu 11:30am-8pm; Fri-Sat 11:30am-9pm

Website: amoredaroma.com



Executive Chef
Guy Pelino

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.

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Hours: 8am-8pm daily



Blufin Sushi ... FULL-SERVICE BAR!

18584 Mack Avenue, Grosse Pointe Farms • (313) 332-0050

Blufin is located on Mack just south of Moross. We have a great atmosphere in a cozy setting. At Blufin, we offer fresh, healthy foods using only the finest ingredients. We offer a wide variety of sushi, including our signature rolls like the California, Las Vegas and Grosse Pointer made with only the freshest Alaskan King Crab. All our rolls are plated with amazing artistry. Also on our menu are entrees such as Teriyaki Chicken, Pan Seared Scallops, Mongolian Beef, fried rice and tempura vegetable. Blufin Sushi has so many items to choose from we can't list them all. We also offer salads, soups, sliders, desserts and a kids menu consisting of chicken fingers, grilled chicken, Kids Sushi, etc. We have a full-service bar serving sake, wine, beer and cocktails. 

Web: WWW.BLUFINSUSHI.COM



The Bricks Pizzeria

15201 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Park • (313) 209-4229

Located in the heart of the Park, The Bricks serves up hand-tossed and wood-fired Neapolitan Style pizzas alongside Italian fare. House-made pastas are a real fan favorite, in addition to weekly features and desserts. An impressive beverage program boasts an extensive, worldly wine list with house cocktails, local beer, and more. With a spacious dining room, all season patio, and legendary arcade, what's not to love? It's always lit at The Bricks!

BRING THE BRICKS TO YOU! OUR MOBILE PIZZA OVEN IS AVAILABLE TO BOOK FOR ALL OF YOUR PARTIES AND EVENTS. VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS.

Hours: Tue-Sat 5-9pm; closed Sun & Mon

Web: thebrickspizzeria.com



Champs Rotisserie & Seafood

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

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 55 years since it was the BBQ House of Grosse Pointe. We also offer an exquisite variety of seafood, salad entrees, sandwiches, appetizers and a full children's menu. We also offer daily specials that we have become known for. For those warm nights, enjoy our patio with a big screen TV or you may choose to stay inside and snuggle by our beautiful fireplace. With this unique atmosphere, comes a full-service bar to make your dining experience complete. Call ahead on those busy days for a carry-out. Our specially designed carry-out boxes will ensure your food gets home fresh and hot. We will cater your next event. Call and speak to one of our catering specialists. Order off our catering menu or create your own.



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Hours: Sun-Thu 3-9pm; Fri-Sat 3-10pm

Web: www.ChampsRotisserie.com



Da Edoardo - Grosse Pointe

19767 Mack Avenue, Grosse Pointe Woods • (313) 881-8540

Da Edoardo Grosse Pointe has been a place for families to gather since 1978. Enjoy traditional Northern Italian Cuisine and quickly become family at Da Edoardo. For over forty years the Barbieri family has taken great pride in the fact that they have cared for generations of families. Children that once came in are now bringing their children to dine at Da Edoardo. Customers quickly become family here and they are treated as such. Nestled in Grosse Pointe Woods, the décor truly makes guests feel that they are dining at a true Italian restaurant. The booths are wrapped in deep mahogany, leather and the wooden beamed ceilings make the space cozy and comfortable. Eclectic Italian art adorns the rustic brick walls while fireside booths provide a romantic and intimate setting. During the warmer months the restaurant's patio is perfect for enjoying a meal al fresco.



Dinner for Two with Bottle of Wine \$65.95*

*Mon-Thu see menu for details

Hours: Mon closed; Tue-Thu 4-9pm; Fri-Sat 4-10pm; Sun 4-8pm;

Live Music Fri 6-9pm

Website: daedoardo.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 **43 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!**



Grosse Pointe News



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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 53 years for great 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, Ellen, Tony Jr. and Jack are keeping up the tradition of serving the "Best Burgers on the Eastside." So stop in, they would love to serve you! 

Lunch Specials \$9.95

Tues-Fri Noon - 3pm

Happy Hour Tues-Fri 3pm - 6pm

Hours: Tue-Sat Noon-10pm


Web: www.littletonyslounge.com



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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



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



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Thank you, Grosse Pointers,
for another great season!

See you back here

April 2, 2024!

Your host, Mike LeFevre



Stay tuned: www.mikesonthewater.com 



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LOVE IS IN THE AIR

Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-8pm; Sat 10am-8pm; Sun 10am-2pm

Website: www.nothingbundtcakes.com



The Pepperoni Bar and Grille

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

As its name implies, Pepperoni Grille is a cheerful spot set in a welcome, casual atmosphere. The eatery features a small bar and dining room on one side of the central open kitchen, and a second dining room on the other side. It offers notable pizza along with a number of popular dishes from Calamari and Chicken Picatta to Filet Mignon and New York Strip Steaks. The staff is friendly and courteous. The full bar offers wine, liquor and beer. **Tuesday is half-off pizza all day**, dine in or carry out. **Come see our remodel and have dinner! We are so excited! Make TONIGHT date night!** (Reservations recommended.) 

WEDNESDAY PASTA NIGHT FOR 2 — \$54.99*

Your choice of 2 pasta dishes and a bottle of our house Chardonnay, Cabernet, Merlot or Pinot Grigio. All pasta dishes are cooked to order and served with a house salad or a cup of soup.

*Subject to change.

Hours: Sun-Mon-Closed; Tue-Thu 4-9pm; Fri-Sat 4-10pm

Web: www.pepperonigrillescs.com



Sidecar Slider Bar/Shift Kitchen & Cocktails

17051 Kercheval Ave., Grosse Pointe

— The Village

Sidecar Slider Bar: You will always feel welcome from the second you sit down. Sidecar's menu is simple yet tasteful — focusing on quality custom sliders, hot dogs and sides. Simply put, Sidecar is your neighborhood watering-hole with good beer, good food and good people.

Shift Kitchen & Cocktails: "Meet us at the Bar." Shift is a romantic lounge focused on craft cocktails, thoughtfully arranged small plates, and an impressive wine by the glass list. Join us for daily happy hour!



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Hours: Sidecar Slider Bar: Mon-Sun 11am-2am

Shift Kitchen & Cocktails: Check website for current hours of operation

Web: www.sidecarsliderbar.com/grosse-pointe
www.shiftbirmingham.com



Telly's Place — Celebrating 40+ Years!

20791 Mack Ave., Grosse Pointe Woods • (313) 881-3985

As a staple of the Grosse Pointe Woods neighborhood since 1982, Telly's isn't your normal bar and grill. Walk in off Mack and you'll instantly notice that with 40+ years of history, a sense of warmth, friendliness and contemporary atmosphere abounds. Everyone is welcome at Telly's. Everyone is family at Telly's. Owners and native Grosse Pointers Ty and Jimmy are committed to bringing you the atmosphere, quality and service that has made Telly's an institution.



Monday - \$6 Margaritas
Wednesday - \$8 Martinis
Lunch Specials \$9.95

Hours: Mon-Sat 11am-Close; Sun Noon-Close;

Kitchen closes at 10pm

Web: tellysplace.com



The Continental at Ford House

1100 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Shores • (313) 884-4222

Experience the lakeside restaurant at the historic estate of Edsel and Eleanor Ford, with gorgeous views of Ford Cove on Lake St. Clair. The food is as extraordinary as the setting, featuring a modern twist on classic American fare. The menu features classics like the Maurice Salad and baskets of popovers, as well as fresh seasonal entrees and salads. A full bar is available, and we serve lunch, dinner, and Sunday brunch. Take a meal to go from The Speedster counter and enjoy a picnic on the estate. **Ford House members receive a 20% discount on all food purchases.**



Reservations recommended.

Hours: Lunch: Tue-Sat: 11am-3pm; Dinner: Thu-Sat: 4-8pm; Brunch: Sun: 10am-4pm
(Closed Mondays)

Web: www.fordhouse.org



Watermark Bar & Grille @ Jefferson Beach Marina

24420 Jefferson Ave., St. Clair Shores • (586) 777-3677

Watermark's extensive menu and hand crafted premium cocktails make it your year-round waterfront destination. Enjoy the signature lobster mac and cheese in our dining room or a shrimp po' boy by the water on the largest patio on the nautical mile! Live entertainment returns on Thursdays with other nights coming soon. Host your next event at the Watermark! Our banquet room boasts a glass wall allowing for a picturesque waterfront view for your wedding, corporate events, or any other special occasion. Whether you're hosting 50 or 150, we do it all to make your event a success. Located in the heart of the Nautical Mile in St. Clair Shores, Watermark is open 6 days a week for lunch and dinner along with **Breakfast Sunday morning.**

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Hours: Closed Mondays. Tue-Sat Noon-10pm; Sun 9am-9pm

Web: www.watermarkbarandgrille.com



The Whiskey Six — Under New Ownership!

646 St. Clair Ave., Grosse Pointe • (313) 939-2403

Located in The Village of Grosse Pointe, The Whiskey Six is a family friendly gastropub that serves great food alongside classic cocktails, craft beer and boasts a well provisioned wine cellar. The name and establishment pay homage to a day when Detroit was the nation's rum-running port. Under new owner Dino Ropotos, the emphasis is on not just fine whiskey, wine and craft beers, but also on a friendly, family environment with great menu items — including amazing Salads and Shareables (Butter Board, Caprese Bites, Lettuce Wraps) Burgers and Tacos (including the crowd-pleasing Smokehouse Burger), Pastas, Pizzas and unforgettable Entrees, including Filet Mignon, Atlantic Salmon, Pork Chop Marsala, Fish and Chips, Kabobs, Octopus Char Grilled, Chicken Milanese and Hunan Shrimp. Menu prices range from \$10-\$39. Keeping with the emphasis on families with a menu for kids as well. Clearly, there is something for everyone at The Whiskey Six, including the atmosphere!



Hours: Closed Mondays. Tue-Sun 4-10pm

Web: www.thewhiskeysix.com



Chamber taking applications for Annual Breakfast awards and readying for Restaurant Week!

By Anne Erickson

Annual Breakfast

GROSSE POINTE
Chamber of Commerce

2024

The Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce will be busy at the end of February! First, the Chamber's Annual Breakfast & Awards is set for Feb. 29, 2024 at 8 a.m. at The War Memorial. This will be the first year the annual meeting and awards is celebrated at breakfast rather than dinner.

"We're always looking to try new things!" says Membership and Events Coordinator Abigail Turnbull. "Over the course of 2023, our morning programming proved to

"Hearing their stories and successes while being in high school inspired everyone in attendance," Turnbull says.

Also, at the Annual Breakfast and new for 2024, the Chamber will be awarding a small business grant. Businesses can apply by creating a 30-second video showcasing what makes their business outstanding. A written piece is also required to share details on how the grant from the Chamber will allow for their business to continue to grow and a success story of how the Chamber community has supported their business. Applicants must have less than 50 employees and be current Chamber members. They must also show

In keeping with the 'Passport to the Pointes' theme, participating restaurants will have passport postcards and stickers to mark off for visiting patrons. At the end of the event, those passports can be turned into the Chamber for a chance to win numerous prizes.

In 2023, the Chamber had 25 participating restaurants.

"We've seen an increase in restaurants in Grosse Pointe over the course of the year and hope to see at least 30 this year," says Turnbull. "Restaurant week is a great promotion for restaurants to get their name out there, and we look for restaurants that are looking to increase traffic and welcome new patrons, which is everyone. We know the challenges of running a business and want to

work with the restaurants so that they can offer specials or promotions that work with them rather than requiring that they do something majorly out of the ordinary."

Last year's

Restaurant Week was a huge success.

"We changed the premise by introducing the Passport to the Pointes and received great feedback on that," Turnbull says. "At the end of the week, it was so fun to see where people dined and then have the opportunity to reward them, in a sense, with the raffle items."

For information on the Annual Breakfast, Restaurant Week and more, visit grossepointechamber.com. 



be very successful. We also want to be cognizant of how busy evening obligations can be."

This year, young entrepreneurs can apply for the Young Entrepreneur Scholarship Award, an award for high school students who have started a business that aligns with a passion of theirs. The application requires a business plan and a video from the student talking about their business. This award started in 2023 and was awarded to three South students.

active involvement in the community. Upon receiving all applications, the Annual Breakfast will host live voting to determine a winner by the attendees.

The applications detail additional requirements, and the deadline is Feb. 1.

Just four days after the Annual Breakfast, the Chamber of Commerce will kick off its annual Grosse Pointe Restaurant Week starting March 3 and running through March 9.



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big boy™

Grosse Pointe Woods

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GROSSE POINTE

Chamber of Commerce



‘Have a Ball in Grosse Pointe’ street art project is rolling along!

By Anne Erickson



A sneak peek of a sphere in production

The Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce (GPCC) is making major progress on its newest street art project, “Have a Ball in Grosse Pointe.”

Expect to see “a ball like never before, with larger-than-life spheres creatively painted by local artists,” says GPCC President Jenny Boettcher. “The Chamber is bouncing with excitement, calling all artists and sponsors to be a part of this fun, interactive community project!”

Local artists are encouraged to participate in the fun by downloading the sphere template from the Chamber’s website or by stopping by the Chamber office at 106 Kercheval for a hard copy. “Decorate it, then drop the original artwork off at the Chamber office,” says Boettcher. “All designs will be placed in the Book of Spheres.”

“Sponsors will have the opportunity to explore the Book of Spheres and pick their favorite artist and design to paint their sponsored sphere,” says Boettcher. “All artists chosen by a sponsor will receive a stipend for their work of art!”

“Have a Ball in Grosse Pointe” does more than just display cool art.

“The Chamber’s street art projects celebrate the joy of art, culture and camaraderie while showcasing our beautiful community and supporting our local businesses,” says Boettcher.

Expect to see the spheres from June to September 2024. Before the cold settles in, select spheres will be auctioned off at the Auction of Spheres. The proceeds from the exciting event (more details later this year!) will be reinvested back into the community, fueling commerce, education, economic growth, events and activities.

For more information, visit www.grossepointechamber.com or call (313) 881-4722. 

JANUARY | FEBRUARY 2024

LIVE INSPIRED MAGAZINE
A PUBLICATION OF THE WAR MEMORIAL

WM 75



THE WAR MEMORIAL 75TH ANNIVERSARY

A legacy of patriotism, culture, and community

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AT THE WAR MEMORIAL.

Looking good at 75: War Memorial embarks on diamond anniversary

The year was 1949. Gas was about \$0.27 a gallon, a new home could be purchased for less than \$8,000, a new car sold for under \$1,500, and on the shores of Lake St. Clair in Grosse Pointe Farms, a priceless community asset – the Grosse Pointe War Memorial Association – was established.

For three-quarters of a century, The War Memorial has proudly stood as a symbol of unity, celebrating the rich tapestry of our community and enhancing the lives of those who visit our campus. From honoring our veterans to educational and enriching activities, to embrace the diversity that defines us, our mission has been to strengthen the bonds that tie our community together.

Speaking of our history, the place that The War Memorial calls home was built in 1910 – an Italian Renaissance-style house and gardens named The Moorings – for Russell A. Alger Jr. and his family. After Russell's death, the family decided to donate the campus to the community, and it first became a branch of the Detroit Institute of Arts from 1936 to 1948. Then in 1949, it was dedicated as the newly formed Grosse Pointe War Memorial Association to be a perpetual tool of remembrance of Grosse Pointe residents who served and died in World War II, while serving as a center for continuing educational and cultural activities.

Since our inception we've refined our mission to be **a patriotic, cultural, and community leader**, and have made many improvements and additions to preserve the beauty of the house and grounds. Most recently, these updates include *Les Braves II: At Water's Edge*, and the

Fred M. Alger Center. The next phase of improvements will be restoring the house. Beginning this year, we will focus on the newly established Alger Historic House Fund, created with the intention to restore and repair the 1910 Alger home.

With our commemoration of history and mission in 2024 comes a year of celebrations! To kick off the festivities, a Chili Cook-Off is set for Thursday, January 25. The evening includes chili, beer, friends, and veterans. The following

month, a winter formal dance for adults is planned for Friday, February 9. This event is a throwback to the youth dances of old at The War Memorial. Other events in 2024 include the return of War Memorial classics like tea parties, Winter Brunches and Summerfest, and a few twists on old favorites.



The Alger House prior to being a DIA branch circa 1936.

As part of our 75th anniversary initiative, we are looking to hear from our community members about the impact and experiences they have had at The War Memorial. Whether that memory is having your wedding here, attending a concert, or taking a class, we want to know how The War Memorial has enriched your life. Please visit our website to fill out our form and share your story with us.

Reaching 75 years as a nonprofit organization is no small feat, navigating the constant complexities of change, whether economic or societal, but one thing has always stood firm – our commitment to our community and the betterment of their lives. We invite you to join us in commemorating our past, celebrating the present, and envisioning a future filled with continued growth and shared success. Stay tuned for more details about the upcoming festivities.

WAR MEMORIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPOTLIGHT

JODIE RAPPE

Age: 49

City: Grosse Pointe Farms

Current job: Chief Medical Officer at Corewell Health

First job: Hostess at a family-owned Mexican restaurant in Garland, Texas

Favorite TV show: Young Sheldon

Family: Husband Brian Dimmer, daughter Hayden, and son Cameron

Assessing her first several months on the board, Jodie Rappe said it's been wonderful.

"Living in the community, I knew what The War Memorial did, but I had no idea of the extent of the activities and services they offer," she said, seated in front of *Les Braves II: At Water's Edge* shortly after The War Memorial's Veterans Day Breakfast. "I've enjoyed getting involved on the board and attending my first strategy meeting, seeing where we're going to offer even

more services to the community and veterans."

In July, Rappe began her time on The War Memorial Board of Directors along with Richard Swaine, Jessica Taub, Terence Thomas, and Aaron Turk.

Jodie and her family have lived in Grosse Pointe Farms since 2018. Prior to moving to the community, they resided near Tokyo, Japan because of her military service.

In response to why she wanted to be part of the board, Rappe said The War Memorial is an area institution, and upon leaving the Navy, she wanted to put down roots and be part of a community.

"This is a key place to do it," she said. "I have the pleasure of knowing Donna Hoban who was my predecessor as chief medical officer at the hospital and so when she knew I wanted to get involved, she extended the offer that this might be a good fit and I think it was."



Dr. Hoban is the chair of the The War Memorial Board of Directors.

Speaking about what skills she can bring to the board, Rappe said she hopes that with a military background, she can do even more veteran outreach.

"This isn't just a staunch War Memorial, Grosse Pointe thing, but for the whole community," she said. "I think my medical background helps me recognize some of the social services and needs of the community and what we can offer them."

Rappe served in the military from 2002-2018. Her first four years were in the Air Force, followed by over a decade in the Navy. She was stationed in places like Washington D.C., California, and Japan. She is not the first in her family to serve, her grandfather was a Marine Corps colonel, while her father is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland and retired as a Navy commander.

HISTORY CORNER

Winters at The Moorings proved to be an imaginative landscape with new possibilities that weren't available other times of the year. One legend says that on a cold winter morning Russell Alger Jr., who had been known as a bit of a rabble rouser, decided he wanted to go for a drive. While there were many fine destinations close by to choose from, he was after something far more fun and daring. Russell thought it would be exciting to head across our northern border

and visit our Canadian friends, so he did just that.

While all of that seems unremarkable since we currently have multiple local pathways between the countries, he did things a bit differently and decided to drive across the frozen Lake St. Clair! While Russell's activities on that day in the great white north are unknown, he eventually made his way safely back across the lake and right to the landing of The Moorings.



At almost 100, World War II veteran remains active in gatherings at The War Memorial

It's been 80 years since Larry Bennett was drafted into the Army, yet the World War II veteran still remembers, in great detail, stories from his time in the service.



Inducted into the Army in March 1943 shortly after his high school graduation, Bennett's basic training was at Camp Robinson in North Little

Rock, Arkansas. In October 1943, he and fellow members of the 3rd Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, departed for Italy. His first combat situation took place north of Naples, Italy as a rifleman.

"I remember getting into position at night and early the next morning we would attack by going up a mountain to take a town," he said. "Then it was hiding from the shells and bullets. The terrain we were in was mountainous,

so it was treacherous going from one height to another. The Germans always controlled the high ground, so we were at a disadvantage."

In January 1944, he took part in the amphibious landing of Anzio, Italy.

"We didn't have much opposition when we first landed, but as days went by, we had more opposition against us," he said. "We were there for four months. We extended our lines as far as we could and couldn't go any farther. Then the Germans regrouped and kept us in that position for four months. I spent that time in a fox hole."

His second amphibious landing came in August 1944, west of Marseille, France, while a short few months later, on Oct. 30, 1944, Bennett was wounded in action while in France.

"We advanced and were at Saint Dyé in France. We were on a mountain, preparing to take this town," he said. "The Germans threw some shells at us."

Bennett was struck in his left thigh from what he believes was a shell from an



88mm German anti-tank artillery gun.

"It was a sharp pain that felt like it was on fire and all of a sudden, I couldn't walk," he shared.

Bennett was sent to an evacuation hospital, was operated on, then transported on a hospital train. He spent four months hospitalized, recovering from his injuries. Upon discharge from the hospital, Bennett returned to the 3rd Infantry Division. He crossed the Rhine River into Germany in March 1945.

Bennett recalled the story from April 1945 when the division assembled in Zeppelinfeld, a Nazi rally grounds, when the American flag was raised over the Nazi swastika.

"That represented that the Nazi's had been defeated," he said.

Bennett remained in Europe through December 1945, and was discharged from the Army the day after Christmas as a staff sergeant. Some honors he received from his military service are the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and the World War II Victory Medal.

A regular attendee of The War Memorial's Veterans Day Breakfast, and a member of both the Grosse Pointe Veterans Club and the Men's Club of Grosse Pointe, the 99-year-old Bennett has resided in Grosse Pointe Woods since 1951. His wife of 74 years, Betty Bennett, sadly passed away in 2021. He has two children, five grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.



Wings of Hope – Our New Monthly Sustainer Program

Your sustaining donation is a testament to the courage embodied by our sculpture *Les Braves II* – a symbol that resonates with the heart of our mission. When you join Wings of Hope, you enable us to foster a legacy of courage, sacrifice, and the noble pursuit of a better world.

Donors to this program will receive invitations and exclusive VIP access to special donor events, and a 25% discount for an event rental.

For more information, and to be part of the monthly sustainer program, visit www.warmemorial.org/wingsofhope or scan the QR code.



Learn more about each of these events at www.warmemorial.org/eventcalendar

ARTS AND CULTURE

UPCOMING EXPERIENCES

Winter Brunch Series

Our Winter Brunch Series unveils a harmonious collaboration between culinary mastery and exceptional musical performances. This immersive experience invites you to indulge in a symphony for the senses, where the art of brunch and live performance meet.



JAZZ PIANO AND VOICE
Scott Gwinnell
and **Emma Aboukasm**
Sunday, January 21



JAZZ DRUMMER
Sean Dobbins
Sunday, February 25



CHAMBER MUSIC
Chamber Soloists of Detroit
Sunday, March 10



JAZZ CLARINET
Dave Bennett
Sunday, April 21



Chefs for Vets: A Chili Cook-Off for a Cause

Chili, beer, friends, veterans – what could be better? Having all of them in the same place at the same time for a great cause!

We'll be kicking off our 75th anniversary year as a patriotic, cultural, and community leader with a good ol' Chili Cook-off. Join us for a sizzling showdown of top chefs, as they ladle out their finest chili creations in a flavorful competition. The celebration includes beer samples from local breweries and a cash bar for all to enjoy. A panel of judges comprised of veterans will determine the overall winner.

Proceeds from this event go to expanding and furthering veterans initiatives at The War Memorial.

Date Thursday, January 25

Time 5:30pm Doors open – 7:30 Winning Chili Announced

Dance through the Decades

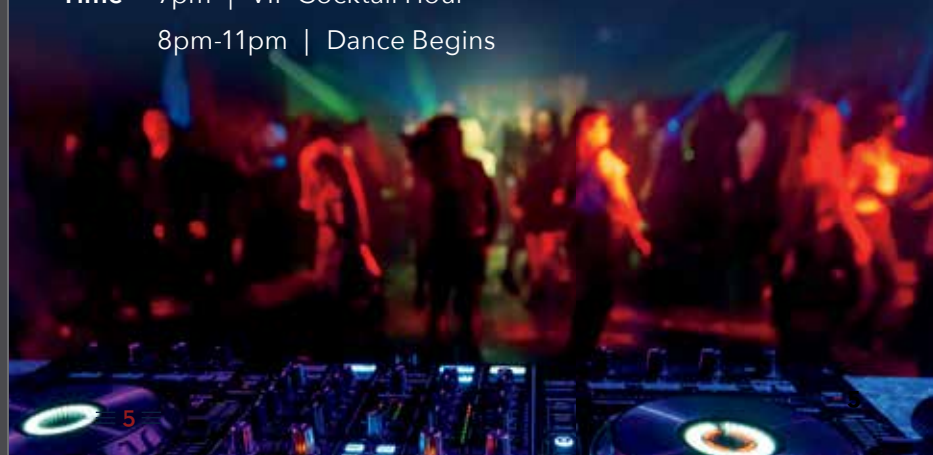
A Winter Sweetheart Dance

This Valentine's season grab your sweetheart or "galentine" and join us for Dance Through the Decades. Relive those glory days of high school dances (hopefully less awkward) at this winter semi-formal! Enjoy food, dancing, cocktails, entertainment, and more! This evening is for 21+ only so leave the kids at home and let the grownups show them how it's done.

Date Friday, February 9

Time 7pm | VIP Cocktail Hour

8pm-11pm | Dance Begins



Dueling Pianos: Dinner and Concert

Experience an exquisite evening of culinary delights paired with the entertainment of dueling pianos, as maestros Cliff Monear and Pierre Fracalanza transform the night into a mesmerizing journey of improvisation and musical entertainment.

Date Friday, February 2

Time 6:30pm



FOR FULL DETAILS ON THE CLASSES AND ACTIVITIES LISTED ON THIS PAGE,
PLEASE VISIT WWW.WARMEMORIAL.ORG/CLASSES OR CALL 313.881.7511

CLASSES & ACTIVITIES



The War Memorial's classes and activities are open to the public! Everyone is welcome – membership or residency 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 calendar.

SPORTS AND DANCE

FENCING SESSIONS

January 8 – February 12 (Omit 1/15)
February 26 – March 25
April 1 – April 29

BEGINNER FENCING
Mondays, 6-6:45pm

INTERMEDIATE FENCING
Mondays, 6:50-7:35pm

ADULT FENCING
Mondays, 7:40-8:25pm

BALLROOM DANCING SESSIONS

January 11 – February 15
February 29 – April 11 (Omit 3/28)

BEGINNER BALLROOM BASICS
Thursdays, 7-7:50

INTERMEDIATE BALLROOM BASICS
Thursdays, 8-8:50

BELLYDANCE FOR EVERYBODY

Tuesdays, 7-8:00pm
January 9 – February 13
February 27 – April 2

LINE DANCING

Tuesdays, 7-8:00pm
January 17 – February 21
March 6 – April 10

GROSSE POINTE DRIVING SCHOOL

Classes run year-round – please visit
www.war memorial.org/drivertraining
for a full list of sessions and
attendance requirements.

ARTS, CRAFTS, & HOBBIES

NEW CLASS

NOURISH & SAVOR COOKING CLASS WITH MICHELLE BOMMARITO

Saturday, January 20 | 11-2pm
Saturday, February 10 | 11-2pm

LEARN TO PAINT LIKE BOB ROSS

Saturday, January 20 | 1-4pm
Friday, February 16 | 6-9pm
Saturday, March 23 | 1-4pm
Friday, April 19 | 6-9pm

WATERCOLOR PAINTING

Wednesdays, 6:30-8:00pm
January 10 – February 14

NEW CLASS

INTRO TO DRAWING

Mondays, 6:30-8:00pm
January 8 – February 12

IPHONE PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

Thursday, March 7 | 6-8pm

FUSED GLASS WORKSHOPS

8" FUSED GLASS PLATE, BOWL,
OR VOTIVE HOLDER
Thursday, January 30 | 6-8pm

FUSED GLASS WIND CHIMES
Thursday, March 7 | 6-8:30pm

FUSED GLASS CHARCUTERIE BOARDS
Thursday, April 25 | 6-8:30pm

VALENTINE'S DAY COOKIE DECORATING

KID'S COOKIE ROOKIES
Sunday, February 11 | 11am-1pm

ADULT COOKIE ROOKIES
Sunday, February 11 | 2-4pm

BASIC BIKE MAINTENANCE WITH B3

Thursday, April 11 | 6:30 – 8:30pm
Thursday, May 30 | 6:30 – 8:30pm

YOUTH AND FAMILY

NEW CLASS

GROWING GOURMETS COOKING CLASS WITH RATA2EE

Sunday, 11am-1pm
January 28
Sunday, 11am-1pm
March 3

NEW CLASS

VALENTINE'S SEWING WORKSHOP

Saturday, 1-4pm
February 10

NEW CLASS

EXPLORING 2D ART: DRAWING & PAINTING

Mondays, 5:30 – 6:30pm
January 22 – February 12

TUMBLEBUNNIES BALLET (AGES 3 – 5)

Wednesdays, 5:30 – 6:00pm
January 24 – March 13
April 10 – May 29

TUMBLEBUNNIES GYMNASTICS (WEDNESDAYS)

January 24 – March 13
April 10 – May 29
AGES 18mo – 3 | 6 – 6:30pm
AGES 3 – 5 | 6:35 – 7:05pm
AGES 5 – 7 | 7:10 – 7:40pm

ARTS AND CULTURE *continued*



Sing to Love

Valentine's Day Dinner and Concert with Detroit Opera

Join us for an unforgettable evening including a curated gourmet dinner followed by an entrancing concert of music from the opera and Broadway stages. Detroit Opera Resident Artists soprano Melanie Spector, mezzo-soprano Lisa Marie Rogali, tenor River Guard, baritones Ben Reisinger and Rolf Dauz will be joined by collaborative pianist, Nathalie Doucet.

DATE VALENTINE'S DAY, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

TIME Cocktail hour at 6:30pm
Dinner at 7pm | Concert at 8pm

NEW SERIES

Mini Maestros: Family Music Series

Get ready to embark on an adventure that celebrates the magic of musical exploration and imagination. Each concert scheduled at 11am is geared for ages 3-8 and is sure to get families dancing, singing, and making fun musical memories!



**Miss Paula and
The Candy Bandits**
Saturday, January 27



Six Mile Strings
Saturday, March 16



**Stop, Bop,
and Roll! with Sean
Dobbins and Friends**
Saturday, February 24



**Earth Day Celebration
with Joe O'Reilly
and Friends**
Saturday, April 20

Learn more about each of these events at
www.warmemorial.org/eventcalendar

New classes are added and updated on a continual basis. For full details for every class and activity, please visit www.warmemorial.org or call 313.881.7511

TUMBLEBUNNIES GYMNASTICS (THURSDAYS)

January 25 - March 14
April 11 - May 30
AGES 18mo - 3 | 5:30 - 6:00pm
AGES 3 - 5 | 6:05 - 6:35pm
AGES 5 - 7 | 6:40 - 7:10pm
AGES 8 - 10 | 7:15 - 7:45pm

TINKERGARTEN FREE TRIAL DAY

Wednesday, 10:30 - 11:30am
January 10

WINTER SERIES

Wednesdays, 10:30 - 11:30am
January 17 - March 13

NEW CLASS

EXPLORING MIXED MEDIA: KIDS ART WORKSHOPS

FRIDAY NIGHT OUT ART WORKSHOP
Friday, 6-8pm
January 26

VALENTINE'S ART WORKSHOP

Sunday, 1-3pm
February 11

ST. PATRICK'S DAY ART WORKSHOP

Sunday, 11am-1pm
March 17

CERTIFIED BABYSITTER TRAINING

Sunday, March 17

CERTIFIED BABYSITTER/CPR/FIRST AID
9:00am - 3:00pm

PET SITTER ADD-ON
(OPTIONAL)
3:00 - 4:00pm

Your Old MANSION



JAN 14

*Recalling Our Past and
Exploring Our Future*
GPAA – YOUR
OLD MANSION

JAN 21

Winter Brunch Series
SCOTT GWINNELL AND
EMMA ABOUKASM

JAN 25

**CHEFS FOR VETS:
A CHILI COOK-OFF
FOR A CAUSE**

JAN 27

Family Music Series
MISS PAULA AND
THE CANDY BANDITS



FEB 2

Arts and Culture
**DUELING PIANOS:
DINNER AND
CONCERT**

UPCOMING EVENTS

AT THE WAR MEMORIAL

Information and tickets are available online!
www.warmemorial.org



FEB 8

FEVER

Candlelight Concert



FEB 9

**DANCING THROUGH
THE DECADES**
*A War Memorial
Tradition Returns*



FEB 14

*Valentine's Day Dinner
and Concert*
SING TO LOVE



FEB 15

American Red Cross
BLOOD DRIVE



FEB 18

**GROSSE POINTE
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA**



FEB 24

Family Music Series
**STOP, BOP, AND
ROLL WITH
SEAN DOBBINS**



FEB 25

Winter Brunch Series
SEAN DOBBINS



FEB 28

The Family Center
**SPECIAL NEEDS
RESOURCE FAIR**



MAR 2

**SOCIAL
CONNECTION:
WHISKEY CLASSIC**



MAR 16

Family Music Series
SIX MILE STRINGS



MAR 22

**ONE FOR
THE FOXES**



MAR 24

*A War Memorial Tradition
Returns*
BUNNY BRUNCH



APR 20

Earth Day Celebration
**JOE O'REILLY
AND FRIENDS**

blufin

SUSHI

*Happy Hour:
Mon-Thur 2:30-5:30 pm*



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Grosse Pointe *70 years* Symphony Orchestra

By Alex Szwarc



Since its first rehearsal in January 1954 to now, the Grosse Pointe Symphony Orchestra's (GPSO) mission has been the same — to maintain a symphony orchestra in the Grosse Pointes as a community project.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the local musical group, conducted by Joseph Striplin.

"The story goes that a couple of friends who were playing string quartets and wanted to have an orchestra in Grosse Pointe got together," says GPSO Board

President Bill Hulsker. "They thought the city should have one, so they formed a board and created an orchestra."

Hulsker has been in that role for over a decade. His first involvement with the roughly 65-member orchestra came in 1965.

"I'm proud of the high quality of the orchestra and that we are community-based," he says. "The community can participate in two ways — they can play with us, or listen to us. That's one of the reasons I moved to Grosse Pointe 30 years ago, because they had an

orchestra."

Part of its mission is also to promote music appreciation in people of all ages. The Dec. 10 concert at Our Lady Star of the Sea was a perfect example of that. Children were given handy sheets explaining the story of Peter and the Wolf with a game to match the instruments to the characters.

Prior to the performance of Peter and the Wolf, a past recipient of the orchestra's Nester Scholarship, Ben Graham, performed on viola. GPSO is dedicated to awarding the Nester Scholarship in perpetuity.

"We have a very loyal audience that comes back year after year and we have a regular set of donors," says Hulsker. "Most importantly, we have a core of dedicated players." Among them are local professionals and accomplished amateurs.

The idea for the orchestra was born in 1953, with rehearsal taking place the following January at what is now Pierce Middle School in Grosse Pointe Park. The first concert took place on March 7, 1954 with Wayne Dunlap as first music director.

Upcoming concerts are set for Sunday, Feb. 18 and Sunday, April 14 at 3 p.m. at The War Memorial.


For tickets and more information, visit gpsymphony.org. 

Photo by Lauren McGregor

Grosse Pointe Symphony Orchestra with Ben Graham on viola and conductor Joseph Striplin





The Grosse Pointe Symphony Orchestra

Joe Striplin, Music Director and Conductor

2024 SEASON

FEBRUARY 18, 2024, 3 p.m.*

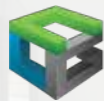
Grosse Pointe War Memorial
Marcy Chanteaux plays Sainte-Saëns'
Cello Concerto

APRIL 14, 2024, 3 p.m.*

Grosse Pointe War Memorial
Jiamin Wang (DSO) plays
Brahms Violin Concerto

Details and tickets available online at gpsymphony.org

*Pre-concert talks at 2:15 p.m.



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anchor & olive

By Lauren McGregor

Visit Anchor & Olive at
15005 Kercheval Ave., on
Facebook, Instagram and
at anchorandolivegp.com.

Anchor & Olive, the chic new gift shop in Grosse Pointe Park, hosted a grand opening on Oct. 6, the culmination of a lifelong dream for owner April Allard.

"I have wanted to open a store for as long as I can remember," says Allard. "It's been my dream all my life."

Allard knew it was time to take the leap the moment she toured the space. "I was so nervous I wasn't going to get it," she says of the multiple proposals to rent the space. Ultimately, the landlord said a shop like Anchor & Olive was exactly what he was hoping for.

Allard describes the inventory as colorful, coastal fun and chinoiserie chic. The store's most popular brands include Clairebella, Fable England, Shiraleah, Laura Park Designs and Meri Meri.

"The mission is to bring joy into people's lives. I want these gifts to brighten someone's day."

Some of Allard's favorite gift picks for Valentine's Day and Mother's Day are, "platters by Laura Park, frames, spa gifts, hand-painted organic cotton robes, jewelry and scarves," to name a few.

Allard, a Kalamazoo native, started in the retail industry in high school, working with her mother. She majored in textiles at Western Michigan University before moving to New York City and working at Henri Bendel and then in wholesale fashion.

After 12 years in the Big Apple, Allard decided it was time to move home. "I missed my family." One year later she met her husband, Devon.

"We moved to Grosse Pointe, where Devon is from," says Allard. "It's been my favorite place I've ever lived." The Grosse Pointe Woods couple are parents to daughter, Ainsley, 4.

"The other businesses in the Park have been so supportive and send people over," says Allard. "When someone comes in and says 'this is so cute!' – that makes my day."

Allard adds, "Pursuing my passion and achieving my goal has been a dream come true." ☺



"The mission is to bring joy into people's lives."



Photos by Lauren McGregor; exterior photo
by 31 and Up Media

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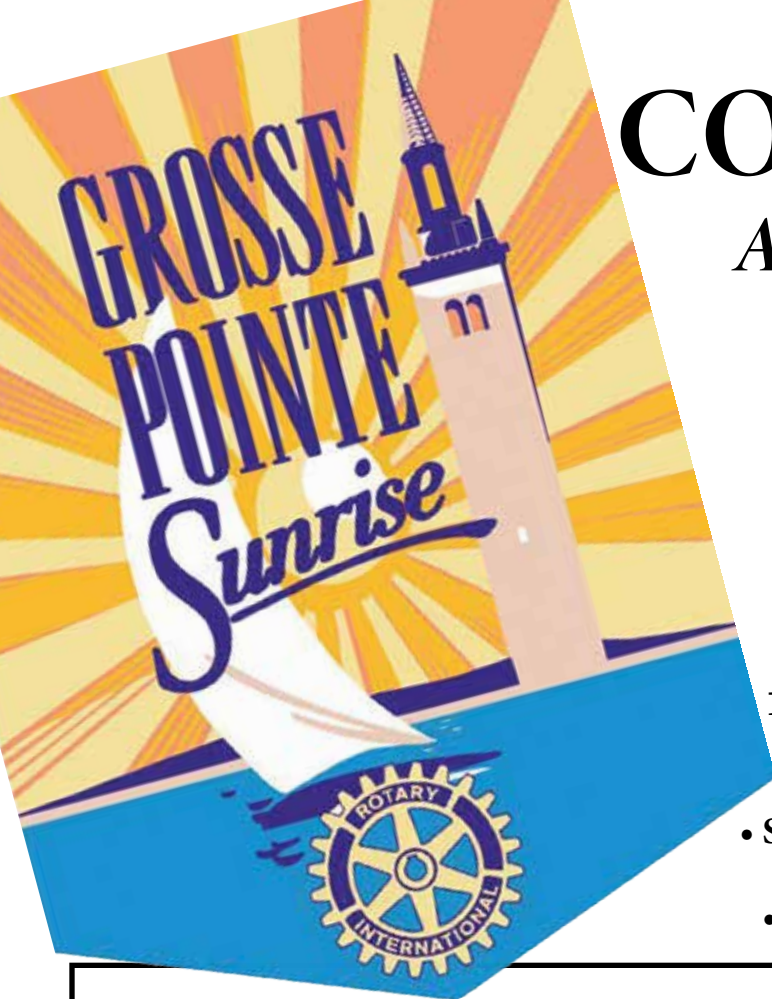


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The 2023 William E. Lacey College Scholarship Recipients



Adam Prysyczewski
DeLaSalle High School



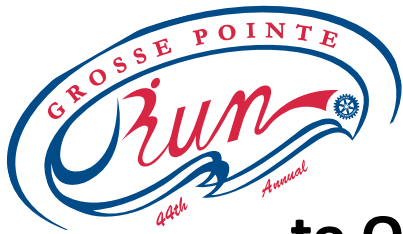
Austin Enoex
University of Detroit Jesuit High School



Elizabeth Cwiklinski
Regina High School

A special thank you to Connie Lacey for years of support to the Scholarship Program in honor of her late husband and GP Sunrise Rotarian, Bill Lacey.

Make a Difference



THANK YOU!

Sunrise Rotary

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The Campus Shop
The Chanty Scholarship-Patricia Wyrod
The City of Grosse Pointe Farms
The Cheese Shoppe
The Chocolate Bar Café
The Family of George R. McMullen, Jr.
The Great Frame Up
The Grosse Pointe Yacht Club
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A special thank you to Rotarian John Minnis
and Pointe Magazine for your continued support
and contribution to the Grosse Pointe Run.
YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE!



Meet Beppo

Name: **Beppo Mazzara**

Age: **6**

City: **Grosse Pointe Woods**

Parents: **Joe & Erica Mazzara**

Siblings: **Charlie, 1**

School: **Mason Elementary**

Favorites

Game

Keepy Uppy

Food

Pizza

School Subject

Math

Family Activity

Reading books

Vacation

Niagara Falls

Outdoor Activity

Riding bikes

Book

"Interrupting Chicken and the Elephant of Surprise"

What do you want to be when you grow up?

Movie Director

What is your favorite thing about going to school?

Playing with my friends and learning new things

Who is your hero and why?

My mom and dad because they take care of us and look out for other people.

About Beppo

"I like to decorate. I enjoy sharing snacks and having parties. I like writing stories and making movies. I'm a sports guy — I've done gymnastics, baseball, soccer, tennis, flag football, basketball."

Meet Charlie



Name:

Charlie Mazzara

City:

Grosse Pointe Woods

Birthday:

April 30, 2022

Parents:

Joe & Erica Mazzara

Sibling:

Beppo, 6

Cute Fact

He calls every sport "base-a ball"

First Words

Ball, choo-choo, dog, car

Favorite Activity

Dancing

About Charlie

Charlie is the happiest guy! He greets everyone he meets, especially the dogs! Some people call him "Cheesy Charlie" because he loves to make people laugh and put on a show. His two most commonly used nicknames, "Pizza" and "Charmie," were given to him by his brother. He can be a bit of a trickster, with fake high fives and playing peek-a-boo. He enjoys taking care of his baby dolls, playing trains, reading books, and cooking in his play kitchen. He's very active and loves to climb everything. He adores his big brother and loves picking him up from school each day.



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Meet Charlotte



Name	Charlotte Glasser
Age	16
City	Grosse Pointe Park
School	Grosse Pointe South
Parents	Sarah and Troy Glasser

Charlotte's Favorites

School Subject

Biology and math

Book

A Little Princess

Movie

The Parent Trap

Musical Artist

Declan McKenna, but changes often

Vacation

Paris

Extracurricular Activity

The Tower Newspaper

Teacher

Freshman year biology teacher, Mr. Soo

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

1. To be able to see my sister any time I wanted
2. For my dog to live forever
3. A white Christmas every year

What accomplishment are you most proud of?

When I was three years old, I (accidentally) skied the Wall at Otsego up north—a triple black diamond. Safe to say I made it out alive.

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

I play the piano, which I feel like is a lot more unique now than it used to be. My ultimate goal in life is to be fluent in French because I would love to be bilingual.

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

I would love to visit Paris. I went over the summer with my family and fell in love with it. Since I'm studying French in school, I hope to be able to live there one day. It's such a beautiful city, unlike anything in the U.S.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

In five years, I hope to be attending a good university and studying something that really interests me. I'm not sure exactly what that will be, but most likely something in the math or science departments. I would also love to be able to spend time in college abroad, so hopefully around this time in five years, I'll be preparing for that.

About Charlotte

"I've lived in Grosse Pointe my whole life. We have a dog named Oscar who is 13 years old and now one of my best friends since my siblings, Madeleine and William, have both moved out. My brother goes to the University of Michigan and my sister lives in Chicago. She and I are super close, so I go visit her any chance I get. Ever since she's moved there, I fly out on my own the weekend before Thanksgiving and we then come home together for the holiday.

I try to be as involved as possible at school and participate in student government, designing pages and writing stories for The Tower Newspaper, and being French Club President. Outside of school, I have played the piano since I was six years old. I used to hate it, but now I really love to play and I'm glad my parents made me do it. It's made me love music a lot.

I love to spend time with friends and family, and one of my favorite things to do is a simple movie night. We also have dinner with my grandparents who live in Grosse Pointe every Sunday night. I love that because it makes me feel super close to them. I know not many people are lucky to know their grandparents as well as I do."

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Star Lights

Our Lady Star of the Sea's new enrichment program offers students the opportunity to shine

By Lauren McGregor

Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic School in Grosse Pointe Woods has started an after-school enrichment program designed to make all students shine bright.

Star Lights, which boasts an impressive variety of offerings, "is inspired by the concept of educating the whole child and helping them to realize their whole potential," says PTO Enrichment Coordinator Rose Farley.

"We were just coming out of the pandemic and I loved the idea of an after-school enrichment program," says Farley. "I had seen it work in private and public schools across the country. There is a huge benefit for students and parents."

The Star Lights program provides a seamless transition at dismissal, with students immediately escorted to their program and provided the all-important after school snack. Each program is six to eight weeks and has ranged from \$60 to \$165, including all materials and snacks.

"Everyone has traditional clubs and sports," says Principal Brian Barker. "This enrichment program is unique, especially for this age range of preschool to eighth grade."

"As two busy working parents, we love that Star offers after-school enrichment that extends learning in fun and unique ways," write Jenny and Nathan Ryan, parents of three students who have participated in Star Lights. "The school makes an effort to bring programs that are out of the box so our kids can try new things without a lot of pressure or long-time commitment. And they can have

fun with their friends while doing it."

Popular classes since its 2022 inception have been Creative Movement, Beginning Guitar: A Musical Journey, Intro to Sign Language and Art is Alive: 3D Paper Mache Super Sculptures.

Instructors are experts in their field, recruited from the local community, and even Star's own art program.

"Our art teacher, Jennifer Flanagan, believes every child is an artist," says Farley. "She unlocks their potential."



From top right, paper mache super sculptures; Calvin Roberson teaching Westley Farley knife skills; Mackenzie Mok rolling sushi

“There are a lot of kids out there looking to find their place outside of sports and academics. Star Lights offers them that space.”

At the end of the program, students held an art show where their creations were on display for a full weekend in the vestibule of Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church.

The upcoming Star Lights spring session will include gymnastics, musical theater dance and FIRST LEGO League teams.

“We are also absorbing Forensics into this program and getting the teams assembled now,” says Farley.

Each semester, four to five programs will be offered and Farley hopes to have a catalogue of 20 rotating classes in the future.

Calvin Roberson’s cooking class, Dinner is Served!: Intro to Cooking, is one that will return in the spring following a lengthy waitlist for the fall 2023 program.

Once Executive Chef of Columbia Yacht Club in Chicago, Roberson married wife Sara, who works in the automotive industry. Her work brought them to Grosse Pointe Shores five years ago. Today, his company, Stockpot Cuisine, offers cooking classes and just launched SPC Blends, a spice line.

Throughout the pandemic on Zoom and in-person today, Roberson has offered cooking classes for all ages.

“I knew if I cooked with my children, I could get them to eat more,” he says. “They are excited about what they are making.

“Cooking is a life skill,” he adds.

“Students work on motor skills and knife use. From learning the Julienne cut to rolling sushi to using kid-friendly reusable chopsticks.”


For knife skills, Roberson uses Twinny, a children’s chef knife.

The Star Lights chefs, all first through third graders, made ravioli, sushi, pear tarts, puff pastry pizzas and chicken nuggets with real chicken. Roberson uses only local, seasonal produce and meat.

To celebrate the completion of the program, Roberson gave the kids an apron and chef’s hat.

At the end of each Star Lights program, parents are invited to the last session and students showcase what they have learned or created.

“There are a lot of kids out there looking to find their place outside of sports and academics,” says Farley. “Star Lights offers them that space.”

To learn more about Star Lights, contact Rose Farley at irose75@me.com or (310) 717-3005 or visit Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic School Open House on Sunday, Jan. 28, 11:30 to 2:30 p.m. 

If you’re not here, you’re not getting the 



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Star in ...
Wonderland
Auction 2024

By Susan Bollinger

Don't be late and save this very important date for Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic School's annual auction: Saturday, March 9, at The War Memorial. The theme, "Star in Wonderland," will transport guests to a wonderland experience reminiscent of Alice's adventures in the 1865 Lewis Carroll novel. Funds raised at the event support all areas of the school's curriculum.


The evening begins with browsing and bidding on silent auction items, cocktails and socializing. Guests will enjoy a plated dinner followed by a dessert party that's sure to satisfy your

sweet tooth. The live auction will be filled with exciting items, experiences and surprises, with bidding as entertaining and amusing as the Mad Hatter himself.

Individuals, businesses and families can get involved through an array of sponsorships. New this year are family sponsorships at multiple levels. Sponsorships include a host of benefits, ranging from tickets and ads to premiere seating and an invitation to the VIP reception. Business sponsors will be acknowledged in all pre-auction promotion and recognized at the event and on school property. Another way to take part is by placing a family or

business ad in the auction catalog. Ads will also be displayed at the event.

Silent and live auction donations are a meaningful way to support Star of the Sea School and generate competitive and lively bidding. Complete the online form to donate an item or service. Donors can even request donation pickup by auction organizers. If you can't attend, you can still be part of the event through web-based auction bidding.

Join in the madness today. Visit <https://olsosauction.org> to learn more, make a donation, purchase a sponsorship or tickets, or donate an auction item. 





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Going once, going twice, sold! St. Paul Auction set to be an enchanted time

By Alex Szwarc



St. Paul on the Lake Catholic School Auction, the school's largest annual fundraiser, is set for Feb. 3 at Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, beginning at 6 p.m., with a VIP reception at 5 p.m. The theme of the 37th auction is Enchanted Garden.

"From the moment you walk in, you will experience an enchanted evening in an enchanted garden," says Co-Chair Carolyn Wujek. "It's a wonderful excuse for parents and parishioners to get dressed up and support the school."

Other co-chairs are Alicia LaBeau and Sean Schotthoefer.

"This auction wouldn't be possible without the overwhelming generosity of sponsors and donors," Wujek says. "There will be hundreds of guests in attendance to enjoy dinner, spend time with friends and family and bid

on many live and silent auction items. All proceeds go to the students at St. Paul."


Some items that will be auctioned off include jewelry from Edmund T. AHEE jewelers, a three-course dinner for six by Chef Calvin Roberson of Stockpot Cuisine and a tour of Woodward Sports Network headquarters in Birmingham, which

includes appearing in a 10-minute segment.

"The goal of this year's auction is to raise money to elevate and renovate the Canfield Center, which is located in the heart of our school and provides a home for many academic, enrichment and parish-based events," says Wujek.

The center is named after Monsignor Francis X. Canfield, the pastor at St. Paul from 1971 to 1991.

Individual auction tickets are \$200 per person and include appetizers, dinner and drinks.

Sponsorship opportunities and tickets are available at stpaulschoolauction.com. 

"The goal of this year's auction is to raise money to elevate and renovate the Canfield Center, which is located in the heart of our school and provides a home for many academic, enrichment and parish-based events."

St. Paul on the Lake Catholic School



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STRETCH LAB

Stretch into a safer, more comfortable life

By Lauren McGregor



Lead Flexologist Taylor demonstrates a typical stretch on General Manager Alka Fossee.

Photo by Lauren McGregor

“You should be able to jump out of bed, ready to start the day. Not feel that common tightness in your back.”

People, whether athletic or not, tend to underestimate the importance of stretching, and more importantly, stretching effectively. StretchLab, in Grosse Pointe Woods, wants to change that.

“Even those who constantly work out,” says Lead Flexologist Taylor Schafer. “As they flex in and out and overuse the muscles, they actually lose flexibility and mobility. Their performance is hindered by not stretching properly.”

StretchLab’s mission is to improve the way the community feels in their day-to-day activities.

“You should be able to jump out of bed, ready to start the day,” says Schafer. “Not feel that common tightness in your back.”

By working strictly with muscles and tendons, StretchLab flexologists improve the quality of life for clients.

StretchLab Grosse Pointe Woods General Manager Alka Fossee says, “All of our sessions are one-on-one assisted stretching.”


“We do an intro stretch,” says Schafer. “A flexologist will identify any issues.”

The most common conditions StretchLab addresses are “lower back pain, cramping in the legs, poor posture,” says Schafer, “especially from being hunched over and looking at technology all day.”

Though they can greatly improve these issues, Schafer stresses, “We focus on preventative care. Stretching prevents injury, prevents future back pain.”

Winter is an especially important time to stretch. “Stretching increases muscle reaction time and improves balance,” says Schafer. “You can catch yourself on the ice quicker. You are less likely to hurt your back shoveling snow.”

Book a 50-minute intro stretch for only \$49. To learn more, call (313) 635-4242 stop in the studio at 19853 Mack Ave. in Grosse Pointe Woods.

“The reaction from the community has been great,” says Fossee. “They’re loving it and we’re busy!” 



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STRETCHLAB!



Grosse Pointe Theatre
presents iconic musical



Photo by Maria La Rose

By Anne Erickson

Grosse Pointe Theatre is bringing *9 to 5: The Musical* to life starting Friday, Jan. 26 at Pierce Auditorium.

The musical, based on the 1980 movie by the same name, follows three women as they navigate the workplace and break glass ceilings to earn respect and dignity.

Rachel Settlege of Grosse Pointe Park is director and co-choreographer of the show, along with co-choreographer Noah Hanahan. The show stars Meg Berger as Violet, Jennifer Dewey as Doralee, Kimberly Elliott as Judy and Ron Bernas as Franklin Hart.

Settlege has been with Grosse Pointe Theatre for 12 years, starting out as an actress and choreographer and then directing.

"I love directing because I get to have a vision for the entire show," says Settlege, who directed for many years in Washington, D.C. "With choreography, you are dealing with just pieces, and with acting, it's certain scenes. I always had strong opinions about the entire show and love being able to pull together the whole vision."


Settlege saw the movie *9 to 5* in the theater when she was a kid.

"I loved the feminist themes, even as a kid," she says. "I spent my whole life doing women's rights work and international human

rights for my day job, so I love shows that have strong female leads and really explore those issues of empowerment and equality and freedom for women," she adds. "This has all of that, plus it's really funny!"

So, what makes the musical so iconic? Dolly Parton. "Dolly Parton wrote all the music, and that's why it's so good," Settlege says. "It's also very difficult music, because Dolly wrote it, but it's amazing and fun and she brings her entire spirit and joy of life and love into the musical."

"I think she can touch a nerve with people and really make people feel things in her songwriting. Even the song '9 to 5' really gets at everybody's frustration and angst with going to work and wanting to get ahead. But you look at some of her other iconic songs, and they all make you feel something and speak to the human experience."

Performances of *9 to 5* are Jan. 26-28, Jan. 31 and Feb. 1-4. Other upcoming shows include *The Play that Goes Wrong* and Disney's *Newsies*. For tickets, visit <https://gpt.org/ninetofive> or call (313) 881-4004. 

Above, Kimberly Elliott as Judy, Meg Berger as Violet, Ron Bernas as Franklin Hart and Jennifer Dewey as Doralee



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Take the Helm Gala* Oct. 12 @ Grosse Pointe Yacht Club

Photos by Christine M.J. Hathaway

*The Helm at the Boll Life Center



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An Evening Under the Stars* Nov. 2 @ Roostertail

Photos by Christine M.J. Hathaway

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New Year Insurance Checkup

*I*t's easy to forget about updating our insurance policies to include all the newly acquired or updated items in our lives.

Update your home inventory list.

This is a list you keep of all the items of value in your home. If you don't have one, make one. It's important that your policy stay up to date so that your coverage is as accurate as possible. Keeping a good record of all your belongings will help resolve claims more smoothly.

Review your policy limits. Every insurance policy has an allocated limit when it comes to covering your valuables. Make sure to update this amount if you need to.

Stay on top of maintenance. Just as you and your family get routine checkups at the doctor, it's important you do the same for your home. Getting regular maintenance checks for your heating and cooling, roof, plumbing, and electrical systems can be a lifesaver in troubleshooting an issue before it turns into major damage.

Tell your agent about renovations and home improvements. Saving money is always a smart idea. If you have put in a new roof, built an addition to your home, or added any other updates, these major overhauls need to be recorded.

Bundle up. If you have separate car and home insurance policies, talk to your agent about bundling your insurance policies, as this usually offers attractive discounts.

Know your policy. It's important, now that you've completed the checklist, to review your policy. It takes a small amount of time to sit down and think through what's valuable to you and make sure it is covered in case of any unforeseen circumstances.

In preparation for the upcoming year, investing some time to review your insurance policy is a gift that will truly keep on giving into the New Year.

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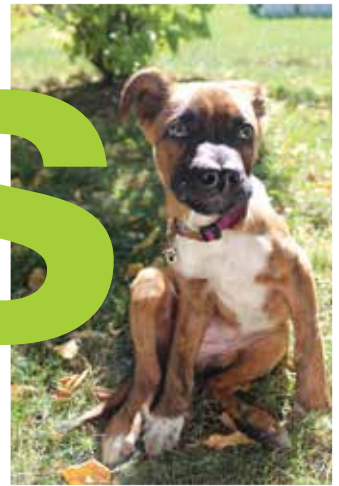
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pets

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In Memory of Lola

Lola was 19 years young when she passed away. "I adopted her and her foster sister, Gigi, when they were 6 weeks old," says Rene Garkinos. Lola was affectionate, talked a lot and greeted people when they walked in. "I loved when she would comb my hair with her paw," says Garkinos. "They both would love when I would bring home a cooked chicken for them. Gigi and I miss Lola so much."



Buckley

Buckley loves dressing up and living life with Kellie Finger!



Charlie

Charlie loves living with the McGaughns in Grosse Pointe. He says, "Buy my dad's book, *Travels, Treasures, and Tales of a Nomad!*"



Hank

GPAAS - Adopt Hank, 5-year-old male Shepherd/Labrador mix
View adoptable pets at gpaas.org.



Harley

Harley is a 7-month-old Portuguese Water Dog who loves the outdoors. She lives in Grosse Pointe Farms and is training to be a service dog.

Ear infections

Dr. Rae Quimby

One of the most common and often overlooked illnesses in our furry companions is sitting on top of their heads. Ear infections can cause anywhere from mild sensitivity to great discomfort for your pets, and if left untreated, can lead to early onset hearing loss and neurological issues.

Causes of ear infections can vary. Allergies can lead to scratching that causes injury to the skin and opens it up to infection. Moisture can create an environment that allows bacteria and yeast to thrive, so it is important to gently dry the ears after swimming or using ear cleaners at home. Some breeds may have thick, curly hair or long, heavy ears that can trap debris and hold on to infection.

Signs to look for include head shaking, ear scratching, and changes to the appearance of the inner ear flaps, including redness, swelling and yellow to dark brown debris or "wax." A small amount of debris in the ear can be normal, but paired with the other listed signs points to an infection. If you recognize these signs, it is time to reach out to your veterinarian.

In order to find out what kind of infection is brewing in your pet's ears, your veterinarian will likely collect some swabs to examine under the microscope. Once the culprit is identified, your veterinarian can target therapy and provide you with some ear drops that will treat the identified infection.

Dr. Rae Quimby is a graduate of Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Quimby joined the Harper Woods team in July of 2023.



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WINTER 2024 | ISSUE 13

SCHOOL POINTES

Good news from the Grosse Pointe Public School System



Enroll today for Kindergarten and Young Fives



Pierce- Staff vs. Students Flag Football



South- Show Choir



Richard- Primary Source Project

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

This winter, we would like to thank our wonderful teachers and staff for their continued dedication to providing our students with exciting, educational opportunities. Our commitment to providing the educational experience each student needs will always be our top priority, and we welcome you to explore The Grosse Pointe Public School System!

Our youngest learners enjoy art, music, literacy targeted to their level, hands-on math and science, and social studies lessons that develop school and community leaders. Our middle school students have a solid foundation in the basics, a variety of electives, and dozens of clubs. Our wide range of high school course offerings is enviable, ensuring all students have opportunities to find and pursue their passion.

Please join us at our Parent Info Nights if you are interested in learning more about our amazing district. We are happy to announce our Kindergarten and Young Fives enrollment for the 2024-25 school year begins January 12 through April 8. For more information, please visit www.gpschools.org/enrollment.

In the last Pointe Magazine, we updated you on the bond projects designed to keep students safe, warm, dry and connected. If you would like more information on the bond projects, please contact the Superintendent's Office at 313-432-3003.

This time, we will be showcasing some of the wonderful opportunities and programs our schools have to offer. We also include key points you can share with others about our continued excellence, and opportunities to help us recruit students to GPPSS.

Thank you for your commitment to learning and growing together.

- Christian A. Fenton, Interim Superintendent
- Dr. Roy Bishop, Jr., Deputy Superintendent

POINTES OF PRIDE

- 2 Grammy Winning Music Programs
- 2 Spartan Award Student Newspapers
- 27 Advanced Placement Courses
- 7 Career & Technical Ed (CTE) programs
- A+ Niche grade for teachers, academics, college prep and sports
- 30 Varsity sports, 120 teams
- 18:1 student-to-teacher ratio
- 1123 Average SAT score (122 above state)
- 70 Grads at a top 50 college/university
- 15 Grads attending Trade School
- 33 Grads committed to a college team
- 88% teachers with Master's degree or higher

POINTES OF PRIDE BY GRADE LEVEL

GPPSS ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS OFFER

- Leader In Me
 - teaching LEADERSHIP to all students
 - creating a CULTURE of student empowerment where they feel loved, safe and important
 - aligning systems to drive results in ACADEMICS
- Interactive and hands-on science
- Social Studies focused on preparing responsible citizens
- Gifted and talented programming
- Positive Behavior Intervention & Support
- Engaging specials curriculum



Monteith- STEAM Learning

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- Updated science curriculum aligned with next generation standards
- Wide array of electives including Coding, Innovation and Design, Broadcasting and the Arts
- Wide support network to equip students with study skills and prepare them for success

GPPSS HIGH SCHOOLS OFFER

- Unparalleled Program of Studies providing a breadth of course offerings
- 27 Advanced Placement Classes
- 30 sports, 120 teams - 60% participate
- Hundreds of student-initiated clubs
- Grammy-award winning music programs
- State and nationally recognized student newspapers
- GPPSS artists excel in regional and national competitions



North- The SpongeBob Musical

SAVE THE DATE

Parent Info Nights at 6:30PM:

- 1/8 Rising 5th Grade
- 1/10 Rising Freshmen
- 1/11 Young 5/Kindergarten

attend at your neighborhood school

Calendar Items:

- 1/15 MLK Day, No School
- 1/19 Career Day
- 1/25-26 Parcells Musical
- 1/31 South Choir Winter Spectacular
- 2/7 Pierce/South Band Concert
- 2/8-9 Brownell Musical
- 2/12 Pierce/South Orchestra
- 2/14 Parcells/North Orchestra
- 2/14-15 South Drama One Acts
- 2/15 Parcells/North Band
- 2/19-23 Midwinter Break
- 3/7 International Festival
- 3/25-29 Spring Break
- 5/27 Memorial Day, No School
- 6/3 North Graduation
- 6/5 South Graduation
- 6/14 Last Day of School

For times, locations and ticket information, visit gpschools.org and click Calendar.

THANK YOU

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

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WATCH A MEETING

- Comcast Channel 20/902
- Wow Channel 15
- livestream.com/accounts/3685210
- www.gpschools.org - School Board - Watch the Meeting

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Review: Christmas Concert Joy

By Leona Forbes, Grosse Pointe Symphony Orchestra Board Member

Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite No.1: Excerpts, opened the Grosse Pointe Symphony Orchestra concert on Dec. 10, 2023. Sounds of the orchestra moving with the sounds of Brittany DeYoung's harp made good on the anticipated joy for the concert.

Next, Ben Graham gave a grand performance of the first movement of Walton's Viola Concerto, known for its 'avant garde' qualities of dissonance

reflecting our times. Graham was well prepared, exhibiting a beautifully deep, full searching tone.

Third came Peter and the Wolf by Prokofiev, a delightful symphonic fairy tale narrated by Msgr. Gary Smetanka. The various instrumental representations of the animals created a vibrant story picture. A most captivating performance by orchestra and narrator!

The organ and orchestra's performance of Guilman's Symphony

No. 1 was masterful. It was meant to be heard in this 'magnificent sanctuary.' The organist, Aaron Kaleniecki, gave a remarkable and memorable performance.

The evening concluded with A Christmas Festival by Leroy Anderson. The vintage carols embodied true Christmas spirit.

As the audience left I could hear whisperings of, "Good will toward all men and women, peace on earth." ☧

Photo by Lauren McGregor

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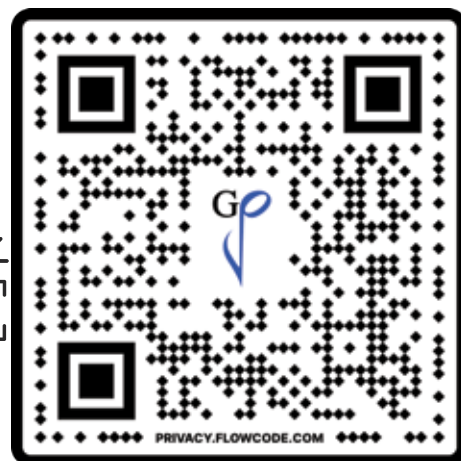


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