



## Miller Message for March 2016

### Rockin' sockin' dance party!

The Rotary Club of Gary and the Miller Business Association are holding a fundraising event at the Gardner Center on Lake Street, on **Saturday, March 19 from 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm**. The **Corey Dennison Band** will provide live entertainment, along with snacks, a cash bar, and a silent auction. Tickets are \$30 in advance or \$40 at the door. They can be purchased at Ayers Realtors and the Lake Street Gallery. Call 219-938-4566 for additional information.

### A Nelson Algren birthday party

Sue Rutsen and the **Nelson Algren Society** will present a program on **Sunday, March 20 at 3:00 pm** celebrating Algren's 107th birthday. The event will include a dramatic reading of his 1934 short story, "Forgive Them, Lord", along with reminiscences by Miller residents, views of Algren's homes in Miller, and other drama-tizations. There will also be a cake and dedication of the "Paris Room." Admission is \$10 with a cash bar. This is the third in this winter's series of "Talk Theater" events and is a fund-raiser for the Aquarium.

Looking ahead, there will be an Algren festival on Lake Street on **June 24 and 25**, with an Algren biographical movie, speakers, and music by the Frankie Machine Blues Band.

# Reviving the Miller Prom

From 1980 until the Marquette Park Pavilion was closed for renovation in 2010, the annual MCC Valentine's Day Dance, which came to be known as the "Miller Prom" was a highlight of the winter season. **The MCC wants to resume the annual events**, because they are fun, they perform their intended function of bringing all sorts of Miller people together., and they give local residents a deserved opportunity to enjoy the splendidly restored pavilion. **However, use of the pavilion is not free, and it has been difficult to put together a dance package which people can reasonably afford.**

Anyway, the MCC has established an **Events Committee**, to develop a workable plan for the revived "Prom". The Pavilion manager is helping by giving significant price concessions for this particular community event. We are planning to return the dance to the original Valentines Day schedule — in this case, **Saturday, February 11, 2017. Mark that date on your calendar!** We want this to be a 'dressy' affair, but it will probably not involve a traditional sit-down dinner. Instead, we will likely have hors d'oeuvres to be passed around, with small tables and stools that encourage people to circulate and talk. The cost of the ticket will cover music and food, but drinks will be purchased from a cash bar.

**If you have ideas about the MCC Dance that you would like to share, or if you would like to join the committee and help make the event happen, contact the event co-ordinator, Carolina Camisa ([tuppham@peoplepc.com](mailto:tuppham@peoplepc.com)) and join one of the upcoming planning sessions.**

## Miller Beach greets spring

### GARDEN CLUB BEGINS SEASON

You can tell that spring has arrived, since the **Miller Garden Club** will hold its first general meeting of the year on **Saturday, March 19, starting at 10:00 am.**

As usual, the meeting will take place at the Aquarium in Marquette Park. The

public is invited to attend, enjoy socializing, and take in an informative presentation by master gardener **Darryl Dorton**, who will discuss a subject dear to the heart of every gardener: “**how to identify weeds and destroy them.**” Dorton has been a master gardener since 2004, and has personal experience combatting weeds as a home owner and gardener.

**Everybody is welcome to attend the monthly Garden Club meetings at the Aquatorium, at 10:00 am on the third Saturday of each month, from March to October.** There is no charge, and there will be coffee and sweets to accompany the business meeting and the informative presentations.

## **SHORELINE COMMITTEE ROLLS**

The MCC Shoreline Committee has resumed its public meetings and has set a schedule for regular monthly meetings the rest of the year. The **usual evening meet-ings** will be held at the **Gardner Center on Lake Street** on the **third Thursday of the month from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. EXCEPT** the very next upcoming meeting, on March 17, will be held at **10:00 am** instead, to avoid conflict with the celebration of St. Patrick’s Day. Each month there will also be an alternative Shoreline Committee meeting on the **second Thursday** of the month at **10:00 am**, with variable meeting locations. This is to accommodate city employees, like the Park Superintendent and Police and Fire representatives, who find it much easier to attend during regular working hours. The Shoreline Committee has a very full agenda covering beach safety and park maintenance, which will be discussed more fully in the April Miller Message.

## **Gardner Center presentations**

### **A PHOTO EXHIBIT BY THE PROS**

The Miller Beach Arts and Creative District (MBACD) will present “**Straight Shooters**”, an exhibit of about 100 photos by **Larry Lapidus and Bob Palmieri**, both of whom had long careers as professional photographers in New York and Chicago. The photos in the show represent the 20th Century aesthetic known as **Straight Photography**, which seeks to establish an instant

connection with the viewer based on the instant impression recorded by the photographer.

The **Straight Shooters Photo Exhibit** will be on display from **March 4 to 20** at the Marshall J. Gardner Center for the Arts, 540 S. Lake St. Gallery hours are: **Fridays & Saturdays 6-9 p.m.; Sundays 1-4 p.m.** There will be an Opening Night Reception on **Friday, March 4 from 6-9 p.m.** with beer, wine, and refreshments. Rick Quarles will be performing jazz interpretations from the *American Song Book* on electronic keyboard. The exhibit and reception are free and open to the public.

For more information, visit [millerbeacharts.org](http://millerbeacharts.org) or “Miller Beach Arts & Creative District” on Facebook.

## **JEFF MANES BOOK SIGNING**

Columnist and author Jeff Manes will have a book signing for “All Worth Their Salt”, a compendium of columns he wrote interviewing ordinary people in the Region. The event will take place at the Gardner Center on **Friday, March 18 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm.**

## **SAVING THE DUNES DISCUSSION**

Representatives of the Indiana Dunes National Lake-shore and the Save-the-Dunes Council will lead a discussion on **what makes our ecosystem unique and what we can do to protect it.** The public is invited to attend and to bring their questions, concerns, ideas and dunes stories. The program will take place at the Gardner Center on **Thursday, March 24, from 6:00 to 7:30 pm.**

## **NEXT, AN APRIL FOOLS’ POP-UP**

The Arts District will present a **Spring Artisan Fair** at the Gardner Center on the evening of **Friday, April 1 from 5:00 to 9:00 and the afternoon of Saturday, April 2 from 11:00 to 3:00.** Vendors will be offering jewelry, art works, clothing, handbags and other items. A cafe will be serving wine, beer, and food items. The shops on Lake Street will also be offering specials.

## **Miller students earn cheers**

With all the complaints about the poor quality of Gary schools, we tend to forget that two schools which happen to be located in Miller - Wirt/Emerson Academy for the Performing Arts and Banneker School - are significantly better than the average, both in test performance and graduation rates.

As its name suggests, the curriculum at Wirt/Emerson emphasizes training in the visual and performing arts, and **the work of its students has recently been recognized in regional exhibits and competitions.**

Arthur Lemme, Lawrence Kitchen, Emanuel Williams and Raymar Brunson had their works displayed in the **Museum of Science and Industry Black Creativity Juried Art Exhibit**. Williams received a Best in Digital Media award, Kitchen received a Best in Mixed Media, and Brunson received a Third Place (all around). Then in the **National Scholastics Regional Art Exhibit**, Lawrence Kitchen received two honorable mentions and Raymar Brunson received a silver medal. Kayla Green received a 1st place in the **Hammond Wolf Lake Initiative poster contest**. China Williams received a first place in the **Valparaiso Dr. Martin Luther King Art Exhibit** and will be exhibited in the IUN high School Student Biennial. Congratulations to all of these students.

## Duly noted . . .

**COMMUNITY MEETING SLATED.** Our new First District Councilwoman, **Rebecca Wyatt**, is holding a community meeting on **Thursday, March 3 at 6:00 pm** in the downstairs lounge of the **Marquette Park Pavilion**, to discuss current community concerns. Everyone is welcome.

**A NEW CAFE OPENING.** **Miller's Charter House** is opening next door to St Mary of the Lake Church, in the space formerly occupied by the Baker's House. Chef Angela Macrovitz will be back in the kitchen, turning out pastry, lunch and dinner treats. Hours of operation will be from **10:30 am to 6:00 pm**, and the menu will feature items from brunch to dinner. The new operation will have a 'soft' opening on **Friday, March 5** starting early, and a 'grand' opening

on **Monday, March 7.**

**FOOD PANTRY IN OPERATION.** The recently-established food pantry at **St. Mary of the Lake Church** will continue to hold its monthly distribution of non-perishable food and other household necessities on the **third Monday of the month** - this time **Monday, March 21 from 10:00 am to noon.** **The food pantry serves anyone who is in need.**

**JAZZ PRESENTATIONS CONTINUE.** Carmella's Stage on Shelby St., next to the Beach Cafe, will continue to offer live music performances on Saturday evenings, usually beginning at 8:00 pm. Admission is \$10 or \$30 for four people.

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY AT THE LEGION.** The American Legion Miller Dunes Post 279 on Old Hobart Road is holding an Open House beginning at **noon on Saturday, March 12,** in honor **St. Patrick's Day.** The public is invited to stop in.

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## **MARCH 2016 MCC MEETING**

### **THE NEXT MEETING OF THE MCC**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL BE VERY LATE THIS MONTH, -- MONDAY, MARCH 14, AT 7:30 PM, IN THE MEETING ROOM OF THE MARQUETTE PARK UNITED METHOD-IST CHURCH ON GRAND BLVD. MCC members are invited to attend and participate.**

Contact the MCC between meetings at P.O.Box 2645, Gary, IN 46403, or e-mail [mcceaton@aol.com](mailto:mcceaton@aol.com). You can also visit the MCC website, [www.millercitizenscorp.org](http://www.millercitizenscorp.org).

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**PEACE AND JUSTICE SEDER.** Everyone is invited as Temple Israel on

Montgomery St. presents its annual community passover meal and service, recalling a history of oppression, exile, and liberation. This year's event will take place on **Friday, April 29** with the service starting at **6:30 pm** and the dinner to follow. Cost is \$20 for adults and \$10 for students, with a choice of brisket, chicken, or vegetarian meal. Make reservations by April 19. For more information, call 938-5232 or e-mail [templeisraelmiller@gmail-com](mailto:templeisraelmiller@gmail-com).

## Douglas Center activities continue

The Douglas Center on Lake Street will continue its **Find Your Park Film Series**, which celebrates the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service and the 50th anniversary of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. The films last about an hour and are shown at **2:00 pm every Saturday**. The subject of this week's show, on **March 5**, is the **Arches National Park**.

On **Saturday, March 26 at 1:30**, the Douglas Center will present a talk by **Professor Bob Brodman** from St. Joseph College, who will discuss the declining number of amphibians in our world and will suggest amphibian-friendly farming practices to reverse this trend.

We are not asking for more snow, but if snow comes, the Douglas Center will continue to **lend out cross-country skis and snowshoes** on **Saturdays** during their regular **9:00 am to 4:00 pm** hours.

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Visit us at [www.MillerCitizensCorp.org](http://www.MillerCitizensCorp.org)

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