

FRESHWATER REPORTER

A fresh approach to storytelling in Manistee and Mason counties...and a bit beyond.

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Earthwork musicians in concert. Courtesy photo.

Ludington to host Earthwork tour

By CARMELITTA TIFFANY

“There is healing work to be done. We’re here to help.” -Seth Bernard

LUDINGTON — All an-star line-up of 18 musicians will take the stage at Ludington Center for the Arts, 101 S. Harrison St., beginning at 4 p.m., April 23, as part of the “Earthwork Spring Tour”.

Earthwork began 22 years ago with a fall music festival called Earthwork Harvest Gathering founded by Seth Bernard on his family’s farm in Lake City. The music collective of independent musicians also created its own label.

“Earthwork music (collective) member Ben Traverse approached us as a stop on their tour,” said LACA Executive Director Andrew Skinner, “and I jumped at the opportunity to have this amazing group of artists perform at LACA.”

Besides Traverse, Earthwork featured artists include songwriters and musicians Dede Alder, Seth Bernard, Ralston Bowles, Sari Brown, Sarah Cohen (The Antivillains),

Samantha Cooper, Chris Good, Jordan Hamilton, Amber Hasan, Josh Holcomb, Audra Kubat, Elisabeth Pixley-Fink, Dan Rickabus (The Crane Wives), Vince Russo (The Appleseed Collective), Mike Savina (The Go Rounds), Jo Serrapere (Stella!) and Nicholas James Thomasma.

Seth Bernard is looking forward to bringing his vision out of the doldrums of the recent pandemic.

Calling the series of concerts “the most ambitious collective tour to date,” the Earthwork press release also stated that its members will be performing songs and telling their stories, weaving their musical styles and backing each other vocally and instrumentally.

“We love to do tours where we can share our art, lift each other up, and share that uplifting community spirit with audiences as well,” Bernard said, adding,

“...over the years we have done a great deal of work supporting youth education, local food and farms, and causes and campaigns supporting social justice and the environment.”

Musicians Ben Traverse, Amber Hasan, and Nicholas James Thomasma are excited to be a part of the Earthwork Spring Tour.

“It’s hard to pin down one thing that I most enjoy about being a part of the collective,” Traverse said. “I love the collaboration-over-competition mentality. I love the people. I love the work we do, and the art collective members create, to make that work happen. It’s rare to find a group of people so dedicated to community, equity, art, and education that follow through with it in a tangible way.”

Amber Hasan got involved with Earthwork after meeting Bernard at a

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AREA EVENTS
CALENDAR
ON PAGE 7

NORTHWOODS
SAUCE
BOSS

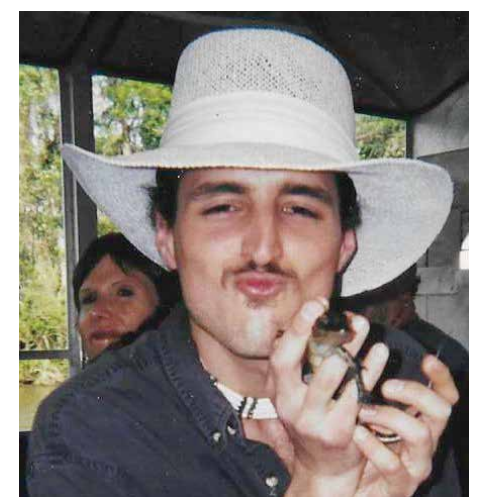


Some Like It Hot!!!

Story and photos by JOSHUA ELIE

Since I’ve traveled so much, I’m often asked what the most “wonderful” place in the world is. My answer is always home, as in northwest Michigan, though if I didn’t love winter so much and if I enjoyed hot temperatures, I would have to say the French Quarter, New Orleans, Louisiana.

You might conjure up the idea of Mardi Gras, and that is great if you are a kid and what you are looking for is the crazy, wild party. For the uninitiated, “Mardi Gras” is French for Fat Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday and the final day of New Orleans’ Mardi Gras celebrations. The partying typically begins on Twelfth Night (Epiphany) and culminates in a colorful parade of the loud, outrageous and fanciful.

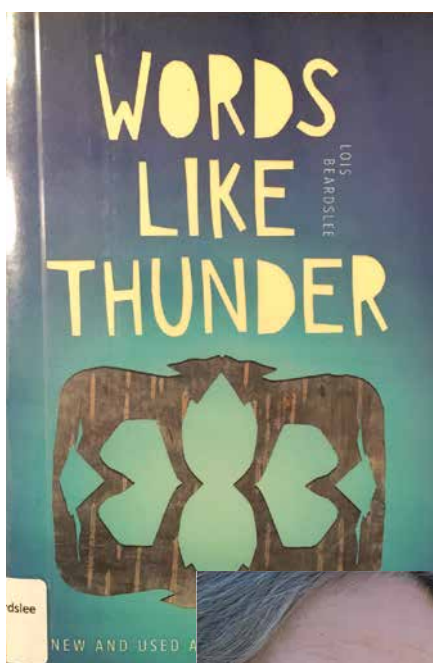


Love me some gator tail.

But if you want to experience the real atmosphere of amazing music, friendly and relaxed people — and, of course, some of the greatest Cajun and Creole food in the world — the best time to visit is before and after the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, held late April into May. That’s when you get the best of every music genre, and it’s easy to find a seat in all the clubs and restaurants.

When I would visit New Orleans, a typical day for me was waking up at the Decatur Inn. The sound of jazz ensembles already playing was my clue I was too late (again) for the continental breakfast

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Award-winning Native American author Lois Beardslee and the cover of her Michigan Notable Book. Courtesy photos.



She Has Words Like Thunder

By VALERIE CHANDLER. Photos courtesy of the author.

Living in quiet Maple City, Michigan is multiple award-winning Native American author Lois Beardslee. A Lacondon/Ojibwe teacher, artist, illustrator and former cherry farmer, Beardslee will speak about socioeconomic perspectives as an Anishinaabe author at 7 p.m., April 13, in Milliken Auditorium at Dennon Museum Center on the Northwestern Michigan College campus in Traverse City.

“I plan to show images of my artwork, to show how I’ve been able to use traditional art forms, like the (birch) bark cut-outs, in contemporary venues,” Beardslee said. “Because the Grand Traverse region grew so quickly in the first decades of the 21st century, local indigenous artwork was buried in the art forms and culture of a changing cultural norm.”

She will read from a variety of her works, including her most recent book, “Words Like Thunder: New and Used Anishinaabe Prayers” (Wayne State University Press,

2020), which won the 2021 Michigan Notable Book Award and a silver medal in the 2021 Midwest Independent Book Awards. With added distinction, she’s the first Native American to be awarded the Michigan Notable Book Award.

“In presentations, I often read pieces that haven’t been published yet,” she explained. “What I read and talk about depends upon my interaction with the audience. Audience interaction and participation (are) very important to me.”

“I think that I surprise my audiences sometimes, because people show up expecting something that represents their stereotypes about Native American people, but I usually turn those stereotypes upside-down, showing how our traditional stories are fluid, pragmatic, and adaptable. We have many versions of any one story, to meet the needs of the audience or the storyteller at any given time ...

“We have stories about everything from

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Manistee to host events

Dark Sky Week raises awareness

Story and photo by **PAT STINSON**

Dark Sky advocate Susan Schankin warns others about the deadly effects of light pollution on billions of migrating birds who fly at night, a problem the National Audubon Society has tried to raise awareness about with its March 15 to May 31 Lights Out campaign held annually. Birds aren't the only inhabitants of planet Earth affected by excessive or inappropriate lighting, according to Schankin and the International Dark Sky Association (IDA).



During International Dark Sky Week, April 15-22 this year, Schankin and members of dark sky groups around the world will organize special events to encourage an appreciation of the night sky and raise awareness about a myriad of problems caused by light pollution.

In Manistee, a Dark Sky/Star Party will be held, with an 8:30 p.m. gathering time, on April 21 at Orchard Beach State Park, 2064 Lakeshore Road. If skies are clear, NASA/JPL Solar System Ambassador Brooke Edwards will bring her telescope and discuss visible stars and planets. A dark sky presentation is also planned at the Shelter House. The event is sponsored by Friends of Orchard Beach State Park. A state park pass is required for vehicle entry to the park, and attendees are encouraged to bring chairs, blankets and binoculars.

In Arcadia, artist Jason Care will offer a Van Gogh Starry Night painting class to children 4-12 years old beginning at 1 p.m. on April 22 at the Pleasant Valley Community Center, 3586 Glovers Lake Road. Dark Skies-Manistee will provide children's binoculars to attendees. Care's inspiration for the event was Gov. Whitmer's proclamation celebrating Dark Sky Week in Michigan. To register for the class, which is limited to 30 students, text 231-383-0631 or email Care at: jcare61076@hotmail.com.

According to IDA, light pollution affects human health as well as the health and/or life cycles of other mammals, aquatic creatures, insects and plant life. From anxiety, daytime sleepiness and cancer in humans, to trees that bloom too soon and keep their leaves too long, to disruption in night-time pollination, light pollution affects every living thing on the planet, according to a power-point presentation Schankin made in December to members of the City of Manistee Planning Commission. Her discussion also included brightly lit urban areas and environmental justice, dark-sky tourism, our cultural right to dark skies, and scientific advancements made possible by astronomers and other

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Lois Beardslee

continued from Page 1

domestic violence and gender issues to basic coping mechanisms for daily issues, like getting kids to share their toys or eat their vegetables. While our characters and stories are mnemonic devices for compressing knowledge into formats that capture people's attention and entertain, they are not frozen in time and place, as they often appear when our stories are told by cultural outsiders. I take a very strong stance on the issue of cultural appropriation and 'faux Native American literature' told by cultural outsiders."

Beardslee grew up in the Traverse City area and traveled to remote family bush camps in northern Ontario. Her childhood experiences included hunting and fishing the shores of Lake Superior and logging and farming in northern Michigan. She and her family of nine siblings lost their parents at a young age, but they were provided for, and cultural traditions were still passed on to them. During our conversation, she recalled that her grandmother taught her and her mother how to make sweetgrass baskets, but the thread they used is becoming harder to find.

She received an associate's degree in Fine Arts from Northwestern Michigan College and bachelor's and master's degrees in the History of Native American Art from Oberlin College and the University of New Mexico, respectively. She also earned educational certification from the University of New Mexico and has completed educational coursework from Ferris State University.



Birch bark cut-out "Wawauzhukgesh gi Mukwaa" (Deer & Bear), by L. Beardslee

While relevant to Native Americans of the Great Lakes region, Beardslee's topics and literary works are modernized and observe no boundaries. She entices readers with traditions and cultural stories while emphasizing important and critical current topics such as climate change, institutionalized racism, stereotypes in literature and education, as well as inequalities and the impacts upon Native American communities. Her work also praises and acknowledges her strong ethnic identity and the Indigenous people's traditions, culture, strength and endurance.

Her writing is considered pioneering and a bit edgy; her published work tends to be well-known among Native American scholars. One of the "Words Like Thunder" poems, "Fiction Versus Nonfiction", was featured in the New York Times Sunday Magazine for National Poetry Month in 2020.

She has written both fiction and non-fiction; her best-known work is "The Women's Warrior Society", (University of Arizona Press, 2008). This work and an excerpt from one of her other books called "F-ed by the V-Monologues" were



"Potty Training on Dixon Island" painting by Beardslee is currently on display at Dennos Museum Center, Traverse City.

published in News From Indian Country that sparked debates and perceptions about women of color in the feminist movement. As a result, Beardslee was branded as a feminist Indian writer, which she admits can make her nervous at times. We live in an age when it's scary for minorities: some fear retaliation, some fear being kidnapped or murdered. For a number of families and communities, this is their everyday reality. Beardslee told me several of her written works have been on pause, just waiting for the right time to be released because the world may not always be ready for what she has to say.

Her other books include "Not Far Away, The Real Life Adventures of Ima Pipiig", (AltaMira, 2007); "Rachel's Children, Stories from a Contemporary Native American Woman", (AltaMira, 2005); and "Lies to Live By", (Michigan State University Press, 2003). She has a considerable number of other poems, short stories, and contributing works in literary journals and media.

Through the years, she has received a multitude of awards from news media, museums and literary publications and organizations.

"The award that means the most to me is the 2007 Wordcraft Native Writers' Circle Writer of the Year, (for 'Not Far Away, the Real Life Adventures of Ima Pipiig' which is about the impact of post-Brown Decision white-flight on Native Americans north of the Rust Belts of Detroit and Chicago). It's the only award given by Native American authors to one of their own. Receiving it meant to me that I was successful in meeting the needs of an Indigenous audience. I was able to circumvent what African American author, Toni Morrison, referred to as 'the white gaze.' As a Native author, I'm writing for multiple audiences. The market requires me to write for the expectations of cultural outsiders, yet I feel an obligation to write for a Native American audience because we are the only ones who can tell our stories accurately, without bowing to stereotypes."

Beardslee has also been awarded multiple scholarships and fellowships.

"I also really, REALLY enjoyed the work I did at the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1989, when I was recruited by NASA and received fellowships from both NASA and the U.S. Space Foundation," she commented in an email. "I was allowed to absolutely revel in my capacity as a math nerd, to enjoy myself learning about and creating math curriculum for distribution in the nation's public schools. It was the only time my career wasn't dominated by my ethnicity."

She and her husband are blessed with one daughter and one son. Besides her reputation as an author, poet and essayist,

she is known for having been a prolific artist, creating many baskets, pieces of jewelry, and intricate birch bark cut-outs and bitings. Her work is in museums and private collections around the world.

Beardslee has another book planned for publication in 2024 by Wayne State University Press. "We Live Here: Poems for an Ojibwe Calendar Year" will feature poetry for young adults based on a traditional Ojibwe 13-month calendar and will feature her traditional paintings. The objective is to produce an Anishinaabe-based work that inspires Indigenous youth and helps guide them through the public-school experience because, as she explained, there is nothing like this in publication right now.



"Crusted Snow Moon" painting by L. Beardslee will appear in her 2024 book, "We Live Here: Poems for an Ojibwe Calendar Year".

Lois Beardslee speaks with passion about her writings and the topics she covers. As a fellow Anishinaabe woman, I found our connection to be strong; we could relate without all of the spoken words. I told her I admire that she is blazing a path for the rest of us. She truly speaks "words like thunder."

Her presentation is free, but advanced registration (dennosmuseum.org) is required due to limited seating. A reception will take place immediately following her talk. Milliken Auditorium is located near the college campus entrance at 1410 College Dr., Traverse City. Call the box office at 231-995-1055.

Valerie Chandler lives in Wellston with her husband Matthew and their border collie/Australian shepherd. She is a citizen and employee of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. She is also a cancer survivor, loves to spend time with her family and has many interests.



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'2040' film: climate solutions possible now

By **STEWART A. MCFERRAN**

Strategies to reverse climate change are already within our grasp, is the message of Australian filmmaker Damon Gameau in his inspiring 2019 documentary "2040". Area environmental organizations invite everyone to hear the film's message of hope and resilience during a 7 p.m., April 25 free showing at the Vogue Theatre in Manistee.

The filmmaker interviews children as well as adults during his journey, one The Hollywood Reporter calls "uplifting and entertaining."

Citizens' Climate Lobby's Manistee organizer Chris Riley said he "never knows what to expect," but the last time the group hosted a film at the Vogue (an October 2022 showing of "Kiss the Ground"), staff told him it was the largest audience they had ever seated for one of their Port City documentaries.

After the screening, audience members will hear from climate activists and local experts and will have the opportunity to engage in discussion. Leading the conversation will be Gene Lagerquist of Spirit of the Woods Conservation Club and Jamie Vaughan of Trout Unlimited-Great Lakes.

A retired fisheries biologist himself, Chris Riley said that he and others in his field have looked at long-term data sets for weather and precipitation, and there has been an obvious increase in temperature in the last 100 years. The fact that the Great Lakes don't ice over as much as they used to has led to all kinds of ecosystem cascades, he added.

Climate change is becoming increasingly real for U.S. residents, from condo owners whose buildings washed off the beach in Florida to cherry farmers in Western Michigan. The effects of climate change are so numerous, they can be difficult to wrap your mind around. Bear Lake area farmer Bernie Ware may be able to help participants do just that during this event.

After the movie, Jamie Vaughan will highlight Trout Unlimited-Great Lakes' efforts to protect the terrestrial and aquatic habitats where the famous fish swim in and under.

"Our cold-water resources are threatened because of the change in climate and rising temperatures, Vaughan said. "There are things that any citizen can do to help their watershed be more climate resilient. We will be talking about some of those strategies in our presentation."

Nick Sanchez of the Old-Growth Forest Network will offer a new look at our nation's oldest living trees, some of them found in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science will be represented by Madeline "Maddy" Baroli who works to help cities and other units of government plan for climate change. She says attendees "can count on an optimistic, solutions-oriented film and conversation."

Vaughan explained that this is the first time Trout Unlimited has worked with Citizens' Climate Lobby, and the organization is excited for the partnership. She said she is looking forward to meeting community members in Manistee.



"We are giving away a shagbark hickory tree to anyone who attends the show," she added. "The shagbark hickory is expected to be a climate resilient tree."

The event is sponsored by the Spirit of the Woods Conservation Club, the Citizens' Climate Lobby, Trout Unlimited-Great Lakes and Old-Growth Forest Network.

The Vogue Theatre is located at 383 River Street. For more about the Vogue, visit: vogue theatremanistee.org. For more about the movie, go to: documentaryaustralia.com.au/project/2040/.

Stewart A. McFerran illuminates current environmental issues in a historic context. He hopes readers will gain an understanding of and insight into ways people interact with their environment.

EARTH DAY EVENTS & CELEBRATIONS

Great Lakes Environmental Festival

April 21-23, Downtown Manistee
glef.org

A Few Friends for the Environment

April 22, United Methodist Church of Ludington, 5810 E. Bryant Rd.
affew.org

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Shannon Watts and the Moms

By **STEWART A. MCFERRAN**

Editor's note: We asked our contributors to write about women they admire for this issue. Stewart McFerran and Brooke Edwards submitted their stories, found here and on the following page.

Claire Bongiorno, a Michigan State University sophomore, was on lockdown during the February 13 gun violence on campus.

"Me and my friends were in the dining hall when the first email went out about shots fired," she said. "There were nonstop sirens and, eventually, we heard helicopters."

Claire told me she and her friends barricaded the dorm room door with a dresser, turned out the lights, and sheltered in place all that night.

"It is difficult to be back on campus—just because it doesn't feel the same as it did before," she said. "It's still really fresh and in the back of everyone's minds. They have started locking all the buildings after 6 p.m. You need your MSU I.D. to get into the buildings after six."

In addition to the victims and their families, Claire, her friends, and everyone on the MSU campus that day can be counted as survivors of gun violence.

Meet Moms Demand Action

It has been a little more than 10 years since Shannon Watts founded a Facebook group and enlisted other moms who were compelled to do something about gun violence. Watts' idea for Moms Demand Action (For Gun Sense in America) was born after the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. Since then, members of the grassroots organization have taken actions to reduce gun violence, promote gun safety and challenge the gun lobby. They met and discussed common sense ways to approach this catastrophic problem that has been killing far too many across our country. They found ways to stand up for survivors of gun violence and give them a voice.

Shannon Watts and her organization do not exist to take anyone's guns. The goal of Moms Demand Action is to keep children and families safe from unintentional shootings and other forms of gun violence. The organization now has chapters in all 50 states and the District of Columbia and has more members than the National Rifle Association, according to Celeste Kanpurwala, a volunteer with MDA's Michigan chapter.

Kanpurwala has been involved in Moms Demand Action for seven years.

"We are a nation of survivors," she said. "The mass shootings make up a small percent of the gun deaths in this country, but they make up a huge percent of the



Celeste Kanpurwala and Shannon Watts at Michigan State University.



A group of Traverse City Moms demanding action at a recent event.

nationwide trauma that is taking place. So many folks are affected in these mass shootings. The ripple effect of this gun violence is astronomical."

I had asked Claire, the MSU student, via a text message before we talked, if she had heard of Shannon Watts and MDA. During the interview, I asked her again about guns and Moms Demand Action. She had Googled Shannon and MDA.

"I know for sure you are not allowed to have guns in the dorms," she replied. "We didn't talk about guns. That was never brought up in any of my classes. I am pretty sure professors were instructed to have a debrief with their students (after the shootings) and also offer a safe space to talk about whatever they needed to talk about. They shared counseling resources that were available."

Gun violence includes all the ways guns affect the lives of Americans: unintentional shootings, injuries by bullets from guns, murder using guns, suicide,

and mass shootings such as those recently experienced at MSU and Oxford High School. Shannon Watts and her Moms Demand Action organization define the issue and stay focused on solutions at all levels of government, all across the country.

Common sense solutions that save lives have been identified.

One common sense action gun owners can take is to lock their guns in a secure place. This action alone saves lives. Background checks into those purchasing firearms have reduced gun violence in states that require them. Red flag laws give law enforcement officials the tools they need to assist families with a member in crisis. Also called extreme protection measures, they can keep citizens safe by removing firearms from volatile people. A ban on weapons of war, aka assault weapons, has been shown to make citizens safer. There are currently laws proposed to do just that. These measures are not only effective, they have the support of many people in Michigan, including those of us who own guns.

Actions for a safer society

Megan Wick is a volunteer contact person for the Traverse City Mom's Demand Action group. She told me about upcoming events that promote gun safety and advocate for victims of gun violence. (See the accompanying list.)

The Be Smart program teaches adults how to **S**afely store firearms, **M**odel responsible behavior around guns, **A**sk about the presence of unsecured guns in other homes, **R**ecognize the role of guns in suicide and **T**ell your peers to Be Smart.

Students Demand Action was founded after the Parkland shootings. Students are encouraged to take action and create events and rallies. Sophomore Saylor Reinders is the volunteer spokesperson of the Students Demand Action chapter at Michigan State University. She recently spoke at a rally at the capital in Lansing.

A package of 11 gun safety bills passed the Michigan Senate on March 16, and on March 22 the bills addressing safe gun storage passed the Michigan House. The bills address the safe storage of guns, universal background checks and extreme protection situations in which people are in crisis. These are public safety measures shown to keep citizens safe. Moms Demand Action continue to urge the Michigan legislature to enact laws that offer the above.

Gun Safety/Violence Prevention Advocacy Activities

March 29, 8:30 p.m.

There will be a Zoom meeting of the Gun Sense Action Network, giving an overview of the priorities to prevent gun violence.

April 13, 9 a.m.

Michigan Advocacy Day at the state capital in Lansing with speakers and a rally. In attendance will be Governor Whitmer and Shannon Watts. The "Demand Action App" can be used to sign up for this event.

June 2, Wear Orange Day

According to the Everytown For Gun Safety organization, this tradition was begun in 2015 by friends of Hadiya Pendleton, killed by gun violence on a playground shortly after she marched in the second inaugural parade for President Obama. June 2, 2015 would have been her 18th birthday.

June 3-4

Wear Orange Weekend, always observed during the first weekend in June. Orange was chosen because hunters wear bright orange to keep from being shot by other hunters.

Guns are now the number one killer of children in America. Shannon Watts gives me hope that we can reduce these avoidable deaths. She has given me a way to think about gun violence and contemplate a solution. I urge you to learn about Shannon Watts and the moms who are demanding action on gun violence. They will lead us to a solution and make communities safer for all of us here in America.

For more about Moms Demand Action, go to: **momsdemandaction.org**. For more about Every Town For Gun Safety, go to: **everytown.org**.

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Step aside, Buzz Lightyear

By **BROOKE EDWARDS**

More than 600 people have flown to space, yet less than 80 are female. This statistic mirrors how women are viewed by society, as well as themselves. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Today, science and technology roles are still considered by many to be a "man's job".

Reflecting on Women's History Month, I felt the need to research women who have contributed greatly to astronomy or space exploration. A lot of what I found surprised me, especially one historic event few know about that happened right here in Michigan.

Vera Rubin was born in Philadelphia in 1928 and had a thirst for knowledge about the stars from an early age. When she was 14, Vera's father helped her build her first telescope. She went on to become an astronomer. Her work on galaxy rotation rates provided the first evidence for the existence of dark matter. She published her research on the subject in the 1970s. Scientists today are still working to decode the mystery of dark matter, an invisible substance that makes up a significant percentage of the universe. The answers might be found by astronomers at an observatory currently being built in Chile. The Vera C. Rubin Observatory is expected to be fully operational by October 2024 and will feature a 3.2-gigapixel digital camera, the largest ever constructed. It will be used to study dark energy and dark matter, map the Milky Way and near-Earth asteroids, and detect transient astronomical events such as novae, supernovae, gamma-ray bursts, quasars and gravitational lensing.

Jeannette Piccard became, in 1934, the first female balloon pilot to reach the stratosphere. The rarely-talked-about event happened right here in Michigan. Jeannette and her scientist husband took off from then Ford Airport in Dearborn, Michigan. In their pressurized gondola, the couple reached an altitude of more than 57,000 feet — an unheard-of altitude at that time. Jeannette faced many difficulties finding sponsors for the flight, as not many believed in sending a female on such a heroic and scientific journey. It was thanks to Henry Ford's futuristic mindset that the flight was sponsored and took off from Michigan. For years, Jeannette was considered "the first woman in space." She



never flew again but became a consultant for NASA.

Katherine Johnson began working as a mathematician for NASA in 1953. She calculated flight paths and orbital mechanics, from the first crewed spaceflights through the Apollo missions. Every single mathematical detail of the flights had Johnson and her team behind it. Think of NASA at the time — mostly white males. Being a female would have been intimidating, but a Black female? Her bravery, intelligence and skill were rewarded in 2015, when President Obama awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom. In 2019, the United States Congress awarded Johnson the Congressional Gold Medal. She was portrayed by Taraji P. Henson in the film "Hidden Figures" in 2016.

Valentina Tereshkova, a woman with a passion for skydiving, never imaged what life had in store for her. Valentina was selected as a Russian cosmonaut, becoming the first and youngest woman in space. In 1963, she flew the Vostok 6, orbiting Earth 48 times, and is still the only woman to have been on a solo space mission.

Frances "Poppy" Northcutt was the first female engineer to work in technical mission control at NASA. She and her team designed the trajectory that the Apollo 8 crew flew from the Moon to Earth. The second crewed Apollo mission and the first to leave Earth orbit, Apollo 8 orbited

the Moon and returned to Earth in 1968. She and her team computed the maneuvers used to return Apollo 13 safely, after one of their oxygen tanks had exploded. At the time, her team received no recognition as the focus was on the three astronauts and flight director Gene Kranz. Northcutt and the Mission Operations Team were later honored with the Presidential Medal of Freedom Team Award for their work.

Margaret Hamilton, a computer scientist in her early 30s, was hired by NASA as the lead developer for Apollo flight software. In 1965, she became the director of the Software Engineering Division. She led the team that developed the software for the Apollo 11 mission. During it, three minutes before reaching the Moon's surface, several computer alarms went off. Margaret's ultra-reliable software design allowed Mission Control to understand the problem and proceed, saving the Apollo 11 moon landing. She was also awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2016.

Svetlana Savitskaya, a Russian cosmonaut, became the second woman in space in 1982 aboard Soyuz T-7, almost 20 years after Valentina flew. She was the first woman to fly to space twice and the first to perform a spacewalk in 1984. There is an asteroid named after her.

Sally Ride was on track to become a tennis player when she fell in love with physics. Her fight to study physics

eventually led to her acceptance into the NASA astronaut class of 1978. This was the first class that accepted female candidates. In 1983, 20 years after Valentina flew to space, Sally became the first American woman in space.

Mae Jemison had the honor of becoming the first Black female to fly to space in 1992, only 31 years ago. She is an engineer and a physician. She served as a mission specialist on NASA's STS-47 mission aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavour, which orbited the Earth for almost eight days. She is the recipient of numerous honors and awards.

Eileen Collins, a United States Air Force colonel, became the first female to pilot and command a space shuttle mission, STS-93, in July 1999. She flew on four shuttle missions. These missions included rendezvousing with the Russian space station Mir; docking with Mir and bringing astronaut Michael Foale for a four-month stay while returning astronaut Jerry Linenger, now retired and living in northern Michigan, back to Earth; deploying the Chandra X-ray Observatory; and docking with the International Space Station (ISS).

Jessica Meir and Christina Koch, NASA astronauts and best friends, performed the first all-female spacewalk in October 2019. During the seven-plus-hour spacewalk, they replaced a controller that regulates the batteries storing solar power for the ISS. They hope to be chosen for NASA's Artemis mission that will land on the Moon.

Most of these women have earned too many honors and awards to list here. These are only some of the amazing women who have pioneered humanity's efforts to understand the Universe and our place in it. Many more are sure to follow.

Sources: NASA and the Smithsonian Women's History Museum, Women of Apollo.

Brooke Edwards is a NASA/JPL Solar System Ambassador. She lives in Manistee and has given area presentations and hosted night-sky viewings. Her next Star Party takes place at 8:30 p.m., April 21, at Orchard Beach State Park in Manistee. Follow her on Instagram at [brooke_of_stars](https://www.instagram.com/brooke_of_stars)



Preservation Hall.



Steps of St Louis Cathedral, Jackson Square.

Like It Hot

continued from Page 1

down by the pool. Instead, I moseyed down below the inn and into the Voodoo Lounge for a beer and a shot of bourbon. Watching the people strolling past encouraged me to make my way across the street and up to the balcony of the French Market for brunch. I never thought this possible, but from there I could listen to three jazz ensembles performing at the same time. Even though they were playing different songs, it was somehow all harmonious.

After that, I just followed my ears. Musicians and ensembles lined every street. I remember making my way to the end of Decatur Street and stopping to listen for a bit here and there. I would pick up a Po-Boy or Muffaletta sandwich and a beer on my way to the church steps of Jackson

Square, where a large group of jazz players performed on one side and on the other side a Zydeco band. I stopped into a couple clubs as I made my way to Jazz Preservation Hall, an intimate club, where only the best in the world get to play.

As the sun set, the music would be door to door. Inside almost every door on Bourbon Street is a different club, and together the clubs offer every kind of music you can imagine. When morning dawned, I would make my way back to the inn as crews were literally cleaning the sidewalks and streets, mopping them with soap and water.

Every day in the French Quarter is another party. The celebration of life never ends there, and they have parades for everything — even funerals. I haven't been back since Hurricane Katrina. Some say it is different, some say it is the same.

Shrimp Étouffée

(Étouffée is a Cajun stew of shellfish served on rice.)

Serves 4

Ingredients:

- 6 Tbsp salted butter
- 1/4 cup flour
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1/2 cup chopped green pepper
- 1/2 cup chopped celery
- 1 Tbsp finely minced garlic
- 1 1/2 lbs. shelled shrimp
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) cold salted butter
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp freshly ground black pepper
- 1/4 tsp cayenne
- 1 tsp fresh lemon juice
- 1/3 cup thinly sliced green shallot tops
- 1 Tbsp finely minced fresh parsley
- 1 cup cold water
- Steamed or boiled rice for 4

Making sure you have everything prepped and measured before you start is vital to this recipe's success. In a 5- to 6-quart pot or kettle, melt the 6 tablespoons of butter over low heat. Gradually add the flour, stirring constantly. Cook over low heat until medium brown, about 15-20 minutes. This creates what is called a "roux," pronounced "roo."

Quickly add the onion, green pepper, celery, and garlic and continue to cook, stirring frequently, until the vegetables are glazed and tender (about 20 minutes). Add the shrimp, cold butter, salt, black pepper, cayenne, lemon juice, shallot tops and parsley. Mix well. Add 1 cup of cold water and start your rice while bringing the étouffée to a boil. Lower the heat on the étouffée and simmer for 12 minutes, or until the shrimp are just tender, stirring frequently.

Serve in bowls. Pairs well with Dixieland jazz and hot sauce because some like it HOT!!!

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Joshua Elie is a musician and retired building contractor. He now enjoys life as a homesteader.



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Praise Poem for Earth (EVERY)Day

Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced. — James Baldwin

Earth is easing her winter grip.
In every town, city,
isolated farm, tiny village,
may we hope to love gently
yet strong like the vulnerable
shoots of flowers pressing
through tough soil.

May spring come again and again,
renew and renew, within us.

May our care for the world
and each other
spring from kindness
to bloom in the embrace
of earth and sky.

May there be space
in our struggles
as between thorns
on roses whose stems
are strong,
the mature fragrance
so delicious,
even the fallen petals
sustain fragile beauty.

May the seeds of our old pods,
as we age, carry a legacy
of wisdom and grace
to fall like the precious silk
of our autumn milkweed
upon those who are young
and growing

who will cultivate old dirt
humanize our stubborn nature,
our fears,
and fertilize our gifts,
seek our survival,
rescue our planet.

This is our prayer
and praise poem
for us,
for our Earth.

~Earth Day, April 22, 2023~
By Louisa Loveridge Gallas

Dark Skies

continued from Page 1

scientists studying the night sky.

The December presentation was just one of several appearances Schankin has made in her hometown of Rochester Hills, as well as in her part-time community near Bear Lake, to talk about lighting.

Her interest in dark skies stems in part from her 20 years in the residential remodeling business, which included consulting about lighting. She said she was also inspired by a trip to northern Maine where she witnessed the Perseid meteor shower, an August night-sky display known for fast, frequent meteors and fireballs.

She said she's a "concerned citizen" who became more focused on dark skies as she noticed increasing light pollution around Rochester. As a result, she began making lighting recommendations for proposed projects, based on IDA guidelines, not only in the Rochester area but also in Manistee

County. In fact, she created and maintains a Facebook page called Dark Skies-Manistee.

"My husband and I have been in the Bear Lake area (part-time) since 2014," she said. "We've seen changes locally in the community of Pleasanton and are becoming more aware of it throughout the county and state."

She attended a Pleasanton Township meeting in July 2022.

"During the summer, we were having many discussions with Pleasanton Township about the light ordinance and people not abiding by it. (I) went out and talked to a lot of people (and) got a lot of support about getting a more defined ordinance for the township."

Schankin said the Pleasanton Township supervisor Carol Merrill worked with the project engineers on lighting at May Buell Park on the north shore of Bear Lake. Citizens voiced security concerns and the need to illuminate the park's eight parking spaces. Schankin did some research about

the need for residential lighting. A lower-height, special fixture was installed.

She also wrote a letter to the Manistee Township planning commission in January to comment about the importance of proper lighting for a new storage facility.

Schankin maintains that the mention of numerous dark sky areas in the county's 2022 recreation plan (Appendix C) is an important "win" for the community, but "it won't (come to pass) if we don't support it by having appropriate lighting or no lighting."

"It needs to be appropriate," she said. "Light the path, not the sky."

To learn more about proper outdoor lighting, see guidelines on page 8.

For bird migration maps: birdcast.info. For more about dark skies: darksky.org. More about turning off lights, March-May at: audubon.org/lights-out-program

Pat Stinson helped coordinate Traverse City's first Midwest Space Fest in 2013 and will drive miles to find dark skies.



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Earthwork

continued from Page 1

Water Justice Symposium in Flint in 2018. He invited her to participate in the Earthwork Harvest Gathering, a music festival, later that year. She has been active ever since.

“What I enjoy most about being involved is having the support and collaboration of a diverse group of artists from different musical genres,” Hasan wrote in an email. “I am a Muslim mother, wife, Traditional Folk Medicine Practitioner, community organizer, Author, and Exploratory Hip-Hop Artist. My music is Hip-Hop fused with ... any other genre to help tell an authentic narrative of being and becoming from my perspective as a black woman.”

Nicholas James Thomasma started attending the Earthwork Harvest Gathering after meeting Seth Bernard in 2005-2006. As an annual volunteer for the festival, he came to know a lot of the Earthwork crew and officially joined the collective in 2016 when his band, Nicholas James and the Bandwagon, released their album, “Tall, Tall Tales”.



“Being a part of a collective has its challenges, especially when it comes to organizing and scheduling, but anytime we get together it is pure magic,” Thomasma said. “Earthwork Music is composed of some of the nicest humans on the planet who also happen to be some of the most humble and accomplished musicians. We have

created a culture of mutual admiration and respect within the collective and when we are together the joy is boundless and the music is otherworldly.”

Bernard summed up the Earthwork vision.

“We believe in the intrinsic power of music to raise both community and self-awareness. We encourage cooperation and collaboration. We use music as a tool to serve, heal, inspire and empower. We believe that coming together as a community is more important now than ever.”

Additional Earthwork Spring Tour stops and dates include: The Dormouse Theatre, Kalamazoo, 4/19; 20 Front Street, Lake Orion, 4/20; Midtown, Grand Rapids, 4/21; and The Alluvion, Traverse City, 4/22.

Tickets to the Ludington performance are \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door, and are available online at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/549646917727> or in LACA’s art shop during normal business hours.

Carmelitta Tiffany resides in Mason County, where she spent the last 30-some years enjoying the blessings of rural life. She is a semi-retired journalist who serves those needing “wordy” advice through her business, West MI Editorial Services.

FRESHWATER REPORTER

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IDA Guidelines for Outdoor Lighting

For light bulbs in porch lights and decorative fixtures:

40 watts, 400-450 lumens, 2700K.

Wattage equals the energy that is used, lumens refer to the brightness, and K or Kelvin is the color appearance. 2700K is a warmer tone that avoids harmful effects of blue light found in 4000K and above lights. Schankin suggests that those needing more illumination use two 40-watt bulbs with the above specifications.

“These are LED (Light Emitting Diode) and can be found at most large retail centers,” she said. “LEDs have changed our whole nighttime environment. They’re cheaper to use, but they’re brighter. People don’t understand the intensity of them.”