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Magazine

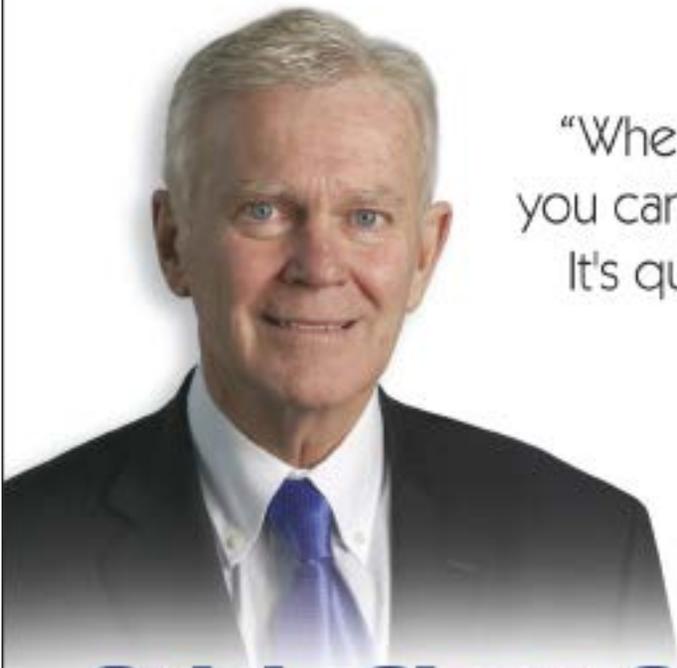


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March 2014

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contents



Cover Story

Fab Five

The Fox Cities is blessed with many nonprofit agencies working to make life better. We talk to five women leaders in this sector who may not be well known, but should be.

By Sean P. Johnson

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- Corey Chisel gets the symphonic treatment.
- Graffiti as Art.
- More great women helping our nonprofits.



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- ▶ **Expanded Calendar Listings** Our online events calendar is updated daily with concerts, classes, exhibits and more. Find out "What's Going On" every day of the week.
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- ▶ **Blog** Follow our staff blog for an inside look at Fox Cities' dining, arts and cultural happenings.
- ▶ **Downloadable Edition** Did you know FOX CITIES Magazine is available for download on our website? Click on the magazine cover!

features

Arts & Culture

Just do it

Dont' let this year's wild winter weather keep you confined to the couch. Now is the time to pursue a hobby or just attend a class you might be interested in. You'll meet new people and it will even help your mood until spring finally arrives.

By Sean P. Johnson



At Home

Level Best

Member of the Fox Valley chapter of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry show off their best work for the judges. We show off the winners.

By Sean P. Johnson



Dining

Tasty Irish

March means St. Patrick's day, when everyone wants to claim a piece of Irish ancestry. Perhaps it's because the traditional American dish to celebrate is corned beef and cabbage.

By Sean P. Johnson



departments



- 6 artist spotlight
- 8 not to be missed
- 16 showcase
- 28 ask Chef Jeff
- 29 where to dine
- 30 the place we call home
- 31 from our collection

On the Cover

Erin Wilkum, director of development and communications at CHAPS Academy. Photo by Tracy Van Zeeland of M.C. Kinney Photography, Appleton.

artist spotlight



It all started by learning to play the alto saxophone.

As Appleton-based musician Jon Schiedermayer now recalls, those lessons are what propelled him to a career in music, a career that reached another milestone with the recent release of “The Dead,” an album that is part of his Smalt Mine project.

Throughout his career, Schiedermayer has performed with several groups and collaborated with other artists. This album, however, is based on his solo work as a songwriter.

“‘The Dead’ is a collection of songs that I thought worked well together and were ready for release,” Schiedermayer says.

A lot has changed since the 10 year-old Schiedermayer took alto sax lessons, but music has become a central tenet of his life, particularly writing and recording his own songs.

“Maybe it’s easy to write a song, probably anyone can do it. But creating a unique piece of music that resonates with a listener and in some way interacts with her/his emotional or intellectual being seems so unlikely, like it would take magic or a miracle,” he says.

“The Dead,” culminated a busy year for Schiedermayer.

“Swum” is an album recorded with Jared Lopes, a musician from Seattle.

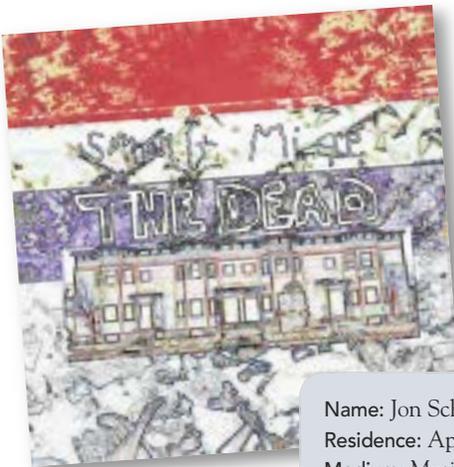
“The Order of Removal,” another of his recent projects, is an album based on a DNR article about tree farm management, proving the axiom that inspiration can come the most unlikely sources.

Schiedermayer clearly finds joy in his work. While the financial reward of a blockbuster album would be great, sales do not define his success.

“Hopefully, a listener will hear a song and want to listen to it again and again,”

Schiedermayer says. “I love working on music, whether it’s my own or any of my collaborators’. Love isn’t usually considered an achievement, but it kind of is, right?”

For fans who share a love of “The Dead,” Schiedermayer



Name: Jon Schiedermayer
 Residence: Appleton, WI
 Medium: Music
 Price range: Cheap to free

has already begun work on a follow-up album due to be released this spring or summer. He also has been working on another album with fellow musician Shannon Williams, of Mineral Point.

To experience “The Dead” download the album at bandcamp.com or pick up a physical copy at the Exclusive Company in Appleton.

— Nicole Dunbar

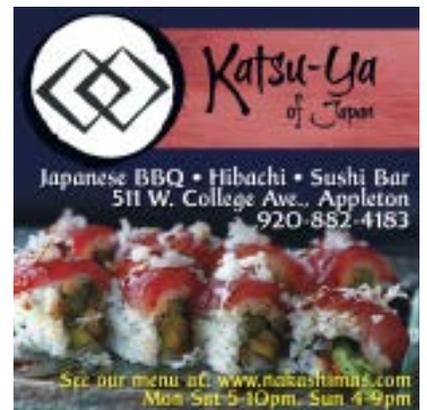
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Paine Art Center and Gardens, Rooms of Blooms
Design by Twigs Floral Gallery & Silhouettes
Photo by Weston Imaging Group

Rooms of Blooms colors remind us why we love spring

Spring will come.

That's one of the messages the color-popping arrangements comprising the Paine Art Center and Gardens Rooms of Blooms display will help to deliver when it debuts for a fifth year.

"The presentation began in 2010 and continues each March to bring the hope of spring and warm weather back to the area," says Kelli Marsicek, marketing coordinator at the Paine.

After weeks of high temperatures below freezing, reminders of spring should be welcome.

Running concurrent the exhibit "Ruth Grotenrath and Schomer Lichtner: A Vibrant Life of Love and Art," flowers in the exhibit hall complement the bold, colorful and whimsical paintings of the two artists, Marsicek says.

For the rest of the mansion, designers created displays inspired by the rooms themselves. Designers work in different rooms each year to ensure a different look each spring.

Rooms of Blooms displays is vibrant colors Feb. 27-March 2 and March 6-9.

— Nicole Dunbar

arts events

- 1 | **River Roots w/ Corey Chisel**
River Roots brings together 2 artists & their bands to support The Avenue mission of working together to build a community of generosity. 7:30pm. Meyer Theatre, Green Bay. 433-3343.
- 1 | **Gallery Walk**
Oshkosh galleries & businesses open their doors to feature artwork of all varieties & genres. 6-9pm. Downtown Oshkosh. 426-3232.
- 1-2 | **Wicked**
Sa, 2-5pm & 7:30-10:30pm; Su, 1-4pm & 6:30-9:30pm. Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, Appleton. 730-3760.
- 1, 2, 6-9 | **Rooms of Blooms**
Paine Art Center & Gardens, Oshkosh. 235-6903.
- 1-8 | **Tarzan**
Shipwrecked off the coast of Africa, the young son of an English couple is raised by a troop of gorillas to manhoods. Th & F, 7pm; Sa, 2pm & 7pm; Su, 2 pm. Perry Hall, Menasha. 832-2646.
- 2 | **The Temptations**
For more than 40 years, The Temptations have prospered w/ a series of smash hits including The Way You Do The Things You Do & My Girl. 8pm. Meyer Theatre, Green Bay. 433-3343.
- 5-6 | **Spunk! Harder-The Sequel**
Spunk! Harder picks up where the original left off, parodying not only Fifty Shades but also taking aim at a variety of women's pop culture. 7:30pm. Meyer Theatre, Green Bay. 433-3343.
- 6 | **Jump Rhythm Jazz Project**
Celebrates the communal core of jazz performance in rhythmically syncopated conversations to beat-driven sounds. 7pm. Door County Auditorium, Fish Creek. 868-2728.
- 7 | **Diavolo.**
Visually stunning & impossibly athletic, Diavolo redefines modern dance. 7:30-10pm. Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, Appleton. 730-3760.
- 7-9, 13-15 | **Hysterical Productions Presents Les Miserables**
Fr & Sa, 7:30pm; Su 2pm. Grand Opera House, Oshkosh. 424-2350.
- 7-9, 13-16 | **Shrek: The Musical**
Shrek tells the story of a swamp-dwelling ogre who goes on a life-changing adventure through a kingdom filled with fairytale misfits. Th & Fr, 7pm; Sa & Su, 1pm & 7pm. Appleton North High School. 997-3994.
- 8 | **Great Music from the Olde World**
Bach's Orchestral Suite No. 3 & Vivaldi's Four Seasons. Feat. Samantha George, violin soloist & conductor. 7:30-10pm. Weidner Center, Green Bay. 435-3465.
- 8 | **UW-Manitowoc Lakeshore Wind Ensemble**
Winds of March community service award presentation & music. 7:30-9:30pm. Capitol Civic Centre, Manitowoc. 683-2184.
- 8 | **Vic Ferrari Symphony on the Rocks**
A high-powered rock symphony show featuring the biggest hits of classic rock. 8pm. Meyer Theatre, Green Bay. 433-3343.
- 8 | **Cello Fury**
Three classically trained cellists & a rock drummer from PA perform high-energy original music 7:30-9:30pm. Cup O Joy, Green Bay. 435-3269.
- 8-9 | **Arti Gras**
Annual visual & performing arts festival featuring the works of 100 artists. 10am-5pm. Brown County Veterans Memorial Arena, Green Bay. 494-3401.
- 9 | **New Century Saxophone Quartet**
Brown County Civic Music Association hosts the performance of this innovative group. 2pm. Ralph Holter Auditorium. Green Bay. 338-1801.
- 9 | **Music @ the Library** 
Steven Arvid Anderson performing originals & covers of The Beatles, Neil Young & the folk era. 2-3pm. Appleton Public Library. 832-6173.
- 9 | **Tonic Sol-Fa**
Tonic Sol-fa has spent the past decade on the road carving their niche as the nation's top vocal group. 7pm. Meyer Theatre, Green Bay. 433-3343.
- 11 | **Tao: Phoenix Rising.**
Known worldwide for explosive rhythms, athleticism & jaw-dropping costumes, Tao continues the beat of a Japanese tradition into the 21st century. 7:30-9:30pm. Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, Appleton. 730-3760.
- 11, 13 | **Lucky Plush Productions, Dance Theater**
Lucky Plush Productions, The Better Half is a playful look at contemporary relationships. Tu, 6:30pm; Th, 7:30pm. John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan. 458-6144.
- 12 | **Gaelic Storm**
Gaelic Storm is "a whirlwind ruckus" combining influences from rock, bluegrass, Jamaican, African & Middle Eastern music. 8pm. Meyer Theatre, Green Bay. 433-3343.
- 13 | **The Reduced Shakespeare Company-The Complete World of Sports (abridged)**
It'll be a marathon of madness & mayhem as the world's great sporting events are shrunk down to theatrical size. 7:30pm. Weidner Center, Green Bay. 494-3401.
- 13 | **Men are From Mars, Women are From Venus**
Sexy & fast-paced, this show is definitely for adults, but will leave audiences laughing & giggling like little kids. 7:30pm. Meyer Theatre, Green Bay. 433-3343.
- 13-16 | **Cinderella**
The Dance Company performs the classic children's tale. Th-Sa, 7pm; Su, 2pm. Walter Theatre, St. Norbert College, De Pere. 800-SNC-BOXX.
- 14 | **Shamrocks & Shenanigans**
This revue consists of traditional Irish songs, both sung & instrumentals, as well as Irish dancing, poetry & folk tales. F, 7:30pm; Sa, 2:30pm & 7:30pm. Plymouth Arts Center. 892-8409.
- 14 | **UW-Fox Valley Concert Band**
UW/Fox presents the concert band's winter concert. 7:30pm. Perry Hall, UW/Fox. 832-2625.
- 14 | **H.M.S. Pinafore**
The Gilbert & Sullivan Players present this comedic opera as romantic sailors, sisters, cousins & aunts sing & dance their way across the deck of the fanciful British naval vessel w/ the improbable name. 8pm. Weidner Center for the Arts, Green Bay. 494-3401.
- 14 | **The Crossing**
Enjoy intricate arrangements of traditional & original Celtic tunes. 6:30 & 8:45pm. Cup O Joy, Green Bay. 435-3269.
- 14-16 | **Annie**
Annie tells the story of how a little orphan outsmarts the cruel Miss Hannigan, befriends the President & softens the heart of billionaire Oliver Warbucks. Fr & Sa, 6:30pm; Su, 2pm. Fox Valley Lutheran High School, Appleton. 739-4441.
- 15 | **Sidewalk Prophets**
A contemporary Christian music band from Nashville, TN. 6:30 & 8:45pm. Cup O Joy, Green Bay.
- 15 | **Celtic Woman.**
Featuring the Aontas Choir, championship Irish dancers, bagpipers & drums. 7:30pm. Weidner Center for the Arts, Green Bay. 494-3401.
- 15 | **Fox Valley Symphony & Cory Chisel Concert**
Cory Chisel & the Wandering Sons get the full symphonic treatment. 7:30-9:30pm. Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, Appleton. 730-3760.
- 15 | **Atlantic Steps**
The inspiring epic story of Ireland's oldest dance style, sean-nós. 7:30pm. Capitol Civic Center, Manitowoc. 683-2184.
- 16 | **Sunday Concert Series: Rakes of Mallow**
This Irish group from the Fox Valley features a dulcimer, guitar, fiddle, 12-string guitar, banjo, bass, whistle, drums & singers. 2-3pm. Neenah Public Library. 886-6315.
- 16 | **Fox Valley Symphony Youth Orchestras**
Concert featuring works of Tchaikovsky, Strauss, Dvorak, Beethoven & more. 4:30-6:30pm. Lawrence Memorial Chapel, Appleton. 968-0300.
- 16 | **Celebrations**
The Neenah Community Band presents its spring concert. 2pm. Perry Hall, Menasha.



Chisel Joins Symphony Orchestra for Magical Music Experience

Cory Chisel has a new sound.

On March 15, Chisel joins the Fox Valley Symphony Orchestra for what he describes as "a unique blending of classical music and storytelling that is sure to be a high point in the year for me."

Chisel and The Wondering Sons will perform their songs while accompanied by the orchestra, the first time Chisel's music will receive symphonic treatment. Chisel and the Wondering Sons will also perform without the orchestra.

In a final flourish, Chisel will perform one of his favorite symphonic works.

"Cory has never had his work done with an orchestra and never performed live with classical musicians on stage, so this is going to be a lot of fun for all of us," says Jamie LaFreniere, director of operations & marketing for the Fox Valley Symphony Orchestra.

The performers are already looking forward to the show.

"We are all digging deep to uncover something that has yet to be heard by a live audience," Chisel says.

— Nicole Dunbar

18-23 | Ghost-The Musical

Relive the Oscar-winning movie in a brand-new Broadway musical. Tu-Fri, 7:30-10pm; Sa, 2-4:30pm & 7:30-10pm; Su, 1-3:30pm & 6:30-9pm. Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, Appleton. 730-3760.

20 | Bobby Shew

Jazz at the Trout Season III presents Bobby Shew. Advance tickets recommended. 7:30-9pm. Trout Museum of Art, Appleton. 733-4089.

21 | Josh Cleveland

An acoustic mix of rock & soul, Cleveland is an evocative storyteller. 7:30-9:30pm. Cup O Joy, Green Bay. 435-3269.

22 | Academy Symphonic Band & Wind Ensemble

Concert. 7-9pm. Lawrence Memorial Chapel. 832-6632.

22 | Kings Countrymen Bluegrass

A bluegrass gospel group from Mondovi. 7:30-9:30pm. Cup O Joy, Green Bay. 435-3269.

22 | Academy String Orchestra & LAMP Orchestra

Members of the orchestra in grades 5-8 join w/ the Lawrence Adult Music Program in a spring concert. 3-5pm. Lawrence Memorial Chapel, Appleton. 832-6632.

22 | Makerspace: Make Something Entertaining

Join film students & faculty from Lawrence University to create stop-motion animated movies, flip books & thaumatropes. 10am-2pm. Neenah Public Library. 886-6315.

29 | Lawrence Academy of Music Girl Choir

2 & 7pm. Lawrence Memorial Chapel, Appleton. 832-6632.

29 | An Evening w/ Steve March-Tormé

Spend an evening captivated by March-Tormé's style & brand of pop-jazz, wit, charm & warmth. 7:30-9:30pm. Silver Lake College, Manitowoc. 683-2184.

29 | David Wilcox

David Wilcox's lyrical insight is matched by a smooth baritone voice, virtuosic guitar chops & creative open tunings. 7:30pm. Thrasher Opera House, Green Lake. 294-4279.

29 | The Gathering Space Talent Swap

The Rebel Alliance Theater is putting on a talent show. 7-9pm. The Gathering Space, Omro. 685-2094.

opening exhibits

Allen Priebe Gallery, UW Oshkosh. 424-0147

Honors Exhibition
Mar 5-25.

Annex Gallery, UW-Oshkosh. 424-0147

Divine Comedy
thru Mar 26. 100 prints commissioned in honor of Dalí's Dante's Inferno.

Appleton Public Library. 832-6173

Lee Mothes: Oceans & Dreams
Mar 3-Apr 30. Watercolors & acrylics.

ARTgarage. 448-6800

The Originals.
Mar 4-29. Original works of three of the original artists of the ARTgarage.

The Aylward Gallery, UWFox, Menasha. 832-2626

Charlotte Darling: Celebrating 55 Years in Stone
thru Mar 14. UWFox Scholar Series. Closing reception, Mar 14, 5pm.

Wine, Women & Art

Mar 20-23. Women's Fund for the Fox Valley exhibit. Reception, Mar 20, 5pm.

Frank & Lynn Zetzman: In the

Throes of Quarry
Mar-Apr 30. Clay & fiber. Reception, Apr 4, 5pm.

Baer Gallery at Bush Art Center, St. Norbert College, De Pere. 337-3181

Katie Ries: This Land is Your Land
thru Mar 14. Urban Land Scouts introduces the basics of ecoliteracy & land stewardship using the structure & ephemera of traditional scouting. Public reception, Feb 20, 5-7pm.

Senior Art Exhibition

Mar 31-May 3. The Senior Art Exhibition is the capstone experience for Senior Art & Design majors at St. Norbert College. Public reception, April 4, 5-7pm.

Bergstrom-Mahler Museum, Neenah. 751-4658

Fox Valley Area High School Glass Exhibition
thru Mar 31. See the work of more than 100 student artists from around the Fox Valley.

Founders Hall Art Gallery, UW-Manitowoc. 683-4735

The Steampunk Project
Mar 3-Apr 3. Interactive exhibit by Joan Sonnier Emmett features gadgetry & mixed media including the "Quivering Wack-a-Doodle", the "Ferro-Magnetic-Undulator", & several "Continuum Perpetuators".

Frank Juarez Gallery, Sheboygan. 559-7181

Variables
thru Mar 22. LJ Douglas & Gary Justis work in a process of free association. The key is to remain open to change & variation.

Retoiled

Mar 29-May 3. Dale Knaack has discovered new methods & materials to express himself through drawing & painting.

New London Public Museum. 982-8520

History & Science of the Pinewood Derby
Mar 17-Jun 23. Discover the history & science of the Pinewood Derby, the Cub Scouts annual race, through cars, photos & more.

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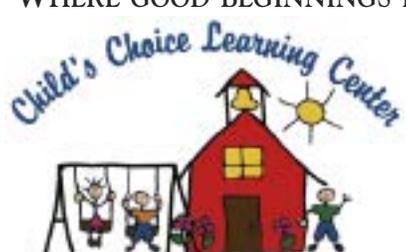
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Of the Earth
thru Mar 28. Lisa Lehmann w/ select WI Photographers

Wisconsin Maritime Museum, Riverside Gallery, Manitowoc. 684-0218.

Bells & Whistles, Flags & Flashes: Lost Languages of the Lakes thru Mar. While today's ships have modern communication rooms, 200 yrs ago sailors on the Great Lakes used bells, flags, whistles & flashes of light to send messages.

Wriston Art Center Galleries. Lawrence University, Appleton. 832-6621.

The Obsolescence of Artifacts thru Mar 16. Featuring research by Lawrence students on the "thingness" of art. Leech Gallery

Opposing Dysfunction thru Mar 16. Paintings by Leslie Smith III. Hoffmaster Gallery

My Eyes are Not Shut thru Mar 16. Photographs & video by Sandra Dyas. Kohler Gallery

Shawn Sheehy Mar 28–May 4. Book arts. Hoffmaster Gallery.

Carol Emmons Mar 28–May 4. Sculptural installation. Kohler Gallery.

community & cultural events

1 | Adopt-a-Bucket
Families, scout troops, youth groups, businesses & individuals are welcome to decorate a bucket to be hung in the Sugarbush. Gordon Bubolz Nature Preserve, Appleton. 11am–2pm. 731-6041.

1–2 | NE Wisconsin Orchid Society Spring Show
Orchids on display & for sale. Educational presentations both days. Sa, 10am–5pm; Su, 10am–4pm. Holiday Inn Neenah Riverwalk. 428-4595.

1–2 | EAA's Family Flight Fest
Kick off springtime by discovering the exciting world of aviation w/ an interactive, educational family experience. EAA AirVenture Museum, Oshkosh. 426-4815.

3, 10, 17, 24, 31 | Folk Dancers of Fox Valley
Watch or participate in traditional folk dancing every Monday. 7:30pm. Memorial Building, Menasha. 734-4029.

4 | Mardi Gras Night
Celebrate Fat Tuesday @ this Mardi Gras party, complete w/ a parade. 5:30–9pm. Grand Meridian, Appleton. 968-1742.

4 | Oshkosh Fine Arts Association
Monthly meeting, art demonstration & business meeting. 6:30pm. Oshkosh Senior Center. 233-8731.

5, 12, 19, 26 | Gaming @ the Library
Join the fun while playing contemporary & classic board games. Ages 18+. 2:30–4:30pm. Appleton Public Library. 832-6173.

7 | 1st Friday Concert Series
An annual performance showcasing the talent of Steven Paul Spears' voice studio. 2–3pm. Neenah Public Library. 886-6315.

7 | Swing-O-Matics
Press your zoot suit & shine those dance shoes as this popular band channels the swinging spirit of the '40s & '50s to the dance floor. Must be 21+. 6:30-9:30pm. John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan. 458-6144.

7–8 | Ikebana
The traditional Japanese art of floral arranging will be demonstrated & displayed by local practitioners. 9am–4pm. Green Bay Botanical Garden. 490-9457.

8 | Hops & Props
Sample more than 250 different beverages provided by micro-breweries & distributors from across the world & learn about the brewing process & history. 7–10pm. EAA AirVenture Museum, Oshkosh. 426-6281.

8 | 11th Annual Children's Tea Party & Fashion Show
The Arc Fox Cities presents this annual event, which involves both children w/ & without disabilities. 11am–1pm. Bridgewood Resort Hotel, Neenah. 725-0943.

13–16 | Home & Garden Show
Th, 4–8pm; F, 12–8pm; Sa, 10am–8pm; Su, 10am–4pm. Brown County Veterans Memorial Arena & ShopKo Hall, Green Bay. 494-3401.

14, 28 | Soup w/Substance
Hike, snowshoe or blaze your own trail at the Garden. Then come indoors to enjoy homemade soup, bread & dessert. A short garden topic will be featured & the evening will end w/ live music. 5:30–8pm. Green Bay Botanical Garden. 490-9457.

15 | Saturday Night Dance
Featuring Scott Sadro. Doors open @ 6pm. 7pm. Thompson Community Center, Appleton. 225-1700.

22 | De Pere Antique Show & Sale
The show features 65 select dealers from the Midwest. Come search, discover & have fun. 9am–5pm. St. Norbert College, De Pere. 355-5144.

22 | Annual Fox Valley Bike Swap
This event will feature new, used & vintage bicycles of all types. A variety of other cycling gear will be available. 9am–3pm. Sunnyview Expo Center, Oshkosh. 420-7580.

22 | Maple Syrup Saturday & Pancake Breakfast
Learn about harvesting sap and see the final processing for bottling. After the tour, enjoy a taste of fresh maple syrup served over ice cream. Pancake & Porkie Breakfast before the tour starting @ 9:30am. 10am–2pm. Gordon Bubolz Nature Preserve, Appleton. 731-6041.

24 | St. Pat's Lunch
St. Pat's Lunch featuring Bill Clancy. 12–2pm. Thompson Community Center, Appleton, WI. 225-1700.

28–29 | State Gardening Conference –Garden Expectations
Outagamie County Master Gardeners Association hosts this year's annual conference. F, 6–9:30pm; Sa, 8am–5pm. Radisson Paper Valley Hotel, Appleton. 739-9496.

28–30 | Sport & Home Extravaganza
The 40th Annual Home & Garden Show has been super-sized to include fabulous home & garden ideas & the latest for sporting enthusiasts. F, 3–8pm; Sa, 10am–6pm; Su, 10am–4pm. Fond du Lac Fairgrounds Expo Center. 922-9067.

29 | Saturday Night Dance
Featuring the Still Crusin Band. Doors open @ 6pm. 7–9:30pm. Thompson Community Center, Appleton. 225-1700.



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Combining for a great cause

It's a powerful combination for a powerful cause.

The Women's Fund for the Fox Valley Region's spring fundraiser combines wine and art to raise money to support women and girls throughout the Fox Cities.

Wine, Women & Art, set for March 20 in the Aylward Gallery at UW-Fox Valley, is one of the newest events on the Women's Fund calendar, but Executive Director Becky Boulanger says community interest in the event has grown rapidly.

"Women like to get together socially after work, and wine is often part of that equation," Boulanger says.

The event features works from several Fox Valley artists, providing the Women's Fund an opportunity to highlight the success of those women while raising money to fund education opportunities for others.

The Women's Fund, a nonprofit organization, holds fundraisers and educational events throughout the year to support women and girls in the Fox Valley. Since the fund began in 1997, \$775,000 in grants have been awarded, including \$45,000 in 2013.



— Nicole Dunbar

29 | **NNC Sporting Clay Shoot**
Clay shoot at J&H Game Farm to benefit Navarino Nature Center. 8am-3pm. Shiocton. 715-758-8134.

6 | **Let's Talk About...**
The Exxon Valdez: It's been 25 years. What have we learned from this & other environmental disasters? 10-11am. Appleton Public Library. 832-6392.

20 | **Women's History Month- Neenah Historical Society**
Neenah's first female mayor, Marigen Carpenter, speaks about her experiences. 6:30-8pm. Neenah Public Library. 886-6315.

lectures, readings, discussions & presentations

1 | **Outagamie County Master Gardeners**
Perennials, the old standbys & the new varieties. 10-11:30am. Appleton Public Library. 832-6392.

6 | **Maritime Speaker Series**
Lt. Commander John Kaser, supervisor of the US Coast Guard Marine Safety Detachment in Sturgeon Bay. 7pm. Door County Maritime Museum, Sturgeon Bay. 743-5958.

27 | **Creative Writing @ the Library**
Explore creative writing through exercises & free writing. Newcomers always welcome. Led by Sharrie Robinson. 10am-12pm. Appleton Public Library. 832-6392.

3 | **Poetry @ the Library**
Multi-generational open mic. For teens & adults. 4-5pm. Appleton Public Library. 832-6392.

10 | **Suburban Homesteading: Community Supported Agriculture**
A presentation by Jodi Lesli of Oakridge Farms, Neenah. 7-8:30pm. Neenah Public Library. 886-6315.

27 | **Walk a Mile in My Shoes**
The topic for discussion is bullying. 6:30-8pm. Appleton Public Library. 832-6173.

3 | **On the Road w/ Master Gardeners**
Travel to Austria, Germany & Italy w/ Bridget Staley. 7-8pm. Appleton Public Library. 832-6392.

13 | **Creative Writing @ the Library**
Explore creative writing through exercises & free writing. Newcomers always welcome. Led by Sharrie Robinson. 10am-12pm. Appleton Public Library. 832-6392.

28 | **Jillian Michaels: Maximize Your Life**
The health & wellness expert appears live at the Weidner for an evening of inspiration, information & motivation. 7:30pm. Weidner Center, Green Bay. 465-2726.

5 | **Downtown Book Club**
A Curious Man: The Strange & Brilliant Life of Robert "Believe It or Not" Ripley by Neal Thompson. Discussion led by Howard Porter. 12-1pm. Appleton Public Library. 832-6392.

17 | **Knit2Together**
Multi-generational knitting circle w/ a variety of skill levels. Led by Sharrie Robinson. 6:30-8pm. Appleton Public Library. 832-6392.

29 | **Antiques Appraisal w/ Mark Moran**
Bring in your antiques & collectibles to have them appraised by antiques expert Mark Moran. 12:30-3:30pm. Menasha Public Library. 967-3690.

☼ = Suitable for families with young children. ☎ = Reservation required.

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Photo by by Max Hermans of Thompson Photo Imagery, Oshkosh.

Take to the Streets

The barricades go up March 7.

That's the day the characters from Victor Hugo's timeless novel *Les Miserables* take to the stage of the Grand Opera House, the first ever staging of a Broadway musical by Hysterical Productions.

It's a major coming out for the Oshkosh-based, semi-professional performance company, which secured the rights to the iconic production less than one year ago.

"We have a handful of resident performers in our company," says Angela O'Donnell, the director for *Les Miserables* and one of the founders of Hysterical Productions. "Looking at them, and what they are capable of, only an emotional, rangy, intense show would give them the chance to flex their talent muscles for you."

Hysterical Productions was created four years ago to stage the "Spirits of the Grand" tours at the historic opera house, and is involved with interactive theatrical experiences such as tours, theme dinners and reenactments.

The Hysterical Productions performance of *Les Miserable* runs March 7-14.

— Sean P. Johnson

films

- 3 | **Monday Matinee** Join us for a movie & free popcorn. Title TBA. 2-4:30pm. Menasha Public Library. 967-3692.
- 4 | **Tuesday Night Movie: Ender's Game** Young Ender Wiggin is recruited by the International Military to lead the fight against the Formics, a genocidal alien race which nearly annihilated the human race in a previous invasion. PG-13. 6pm. Neenah Public Library. 886-6315.
- 6 | **Thursday Afternoon @ the Movies: Gravity** Dr. Ryan Stone is a brilliant medical engineer on her first shuttle mission w/ veteran astronaut Matt Kowalsky. The shuttle is destroyed, leaving Stone & Kowalsky spiraling out into the blackness. 4-6pm. Appleton Public Library. 832-6173.
- 8 | **Growing Up Irish** Tales from an Irish family growing up in Wisconsin. 10:30-11:30am. New London Public Museum. 982-8520.
- 10 | **Monday Matinee: Enough Said** A divorced woman who decides to pursue the man she's interested in learns he's her new friend's ex-husband. PG-13. 1pm. Neenah Public Library. 886-6315.
- 13 | **Thursday Night @ the Movies: Happy** Journey from the swamps of Louisiana to the slums of Kolkata in search of what really makes people happy. Documentary. Not rated. 6-8pm. Appleton Public Library. 832-6173.
- 118 | **Tuesday Night Movie: Book Thief** While subjected to the horrors of World War II Germany, young Liesel finds solace by stealing books & sharing them w/ others. Under the stairs in her home, a Jewish refugee is being sheltered by her adoptive parents. PG-13. 6pm. Neenah Public Library. 886-6315.
- 8 | **Children's Movie Night @ The Library** Movie TBA. Free popcorn. All

children must be accompanied by an adult for the entire movie. 6:30-8pm. Menasha Public Library. 967-3670.

- 27 | **Thursday Afternoon @ the Movies: 12 Years a Slave** The harrowing account of a black man, born free in New York State, who was drugged, kidnapped & sold into slavery in 1841. Rated R. 4-6pm. Appleton Public Library. 832-6173.

classes & workshops

- 1 | **Job Seeker Saturday** Presentations & workshops will be offered on a wide range of topics of interest, including barriers to employment, the job search process, resume writing & LinkedIn. 9am-4pm. Menasha Public Library. 967-3690.
- 1, 4, 7-8, 11, 14-15, 18, 21-22 | **Help w/ Healthcare** In-person assistants will be at the Menasha Public Library all day to help you w/ questions about the Affordable Care Act & signing up for health insurance. Tu, 9am-12pm; Fr, 8:30am-5pm; Sa, 8:30am-4:30pm. Menasha Public Library. 967-3690.
- 4 | **Legal Assistance Clinic** Get advice on how to represent yourself or get a referral to an attorney who can possibly represent you without a fee. There will be volunteer attorneys available to evaluate your problem. 4-6pm. Menasha Public Library. 967-3690.
- 4 | **Creative Journey** Quote Collage: Design a collage of your favorite short quote. Art supplies provided. 10am-12pm. Appleton Public Library. 832-6173.
- 8, 20 | **Bilingual Conversation Club** Practice your Spanish/English skills w/ engaging learning activities w/ our facilitator. Sa, 10-11:30am; Th, 6-8pm. Menasha Public Library. 967-3690.
- 8 | **Beaded Jewelry** Create your own set of earrings, necklace or bracelet. All materials are provided. 1:30-3:30pm. Menasha Public Library. 967-3690.
- 8 | **Healthy Lifestyle Cooking Demonstration** Debbie Guenterberg, registered dietitian for Prevea Health, will be out for National Nutrition Month. She will discuss cooking techniques for healthy eating on the go. 6-7pm. Navarino Nature Center, Shiocton. 715-758-6999.
- 10 | **Tech Talk Tuesday: Social Media Round-up** Become in-the-know & learn about Instagram, Tumblr, Twitter & more social networking sites. 1:30pm. Neenah Public Library. 886-6315.
- 11 | **Walking Stick Workshop** Create your own personalized walking stick, hand crafted & decorated. 9am. Navarino Nature Center, Shiocton. 758-6999.
- 11 | **Creative Journey** Travel Experiences: Share your travel experiences w/ us. 10am-12pm. Appleton Public Library. 832-6173.
- 15 | **Rain Barrel Workshop** Looking to add a rain barrel to water the flowers or garden? 9am. Navarino Nature Center, Shiocton. 758-6999.
- 15 | **Leopold Bench Workshop** Add a touch of Aldo Leopold to your garden or woods by building a Leopold Bench. 1pm. Navarino Nature Center, Shiocton. 758-6999.
- 18 | **Creative Journey** Celebrate "Spring" w/ Game Day & Potluck & bring your artist trading cards. 10am-12pm. Appleton Public Library. 832-6173.
- 18 | **Non-Fiction Book Club** Join us for serious & not so serious discussion of contemporary nonfiction. 2pm. Menasha Public Library. 967-3690.
- 22 | **Willow Workshop** Participants will have the choice to make either a willow trellis, plant stand or table. 9am. Navarino Nature Center, Shiocton. 758-6999.
- 22 | **Altered Art Collages & Bottles** See what you can do w/ book covers, magazine clippings, beads, quotations, family photos & maps. 1-4pm. Menasha Public Library. 967-3690.

= Suitable for families with young children. = Reservation required.



Wisconsin Young Artists Compete

The Final Forte

Broadcast live from Overture Hall
March 26 at 7 p.m.



Part of the **Young Performers Initiative**, celebrating Wisconsin's young performers and those who inspire them.

- 24 | **Suburban Homesteading – Making “Healthy” Home Made Soda**
This presentation will offer a discussion about fermented soda as well as a hands on demonstration. 6:30–8pm. Neenah Public Library. 866-6315.
- 25 | **Creative Journey**
Film: Bread & Tulips. 10am–12pm. Appleton Public Library. 832-6173.

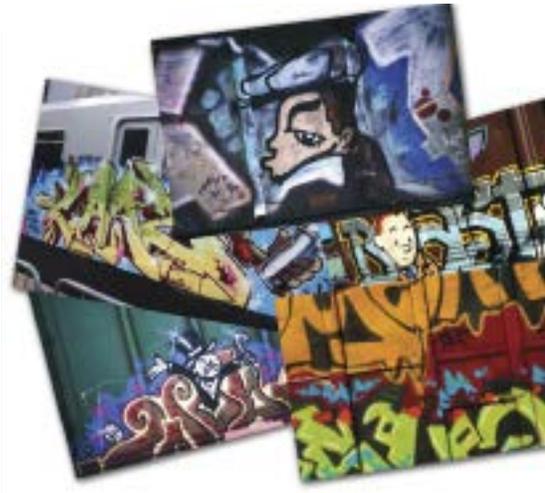
children’s events & classes

- 1 | **We’re Going on a Bear Hunt**
Michael Rosen’s award-winning book *We’re Going On A Bear Hunt* is brought vividly & noisily to the stage in this fun-filled adaptation. 11am. Weidner Center, Green Bay. 494-3401.
- 4 | **Dr. Seuss Party**
The Menasha Public Library Children’s Department will host a party for kids in grades K-5 to celebrate Dr. Seuss’s birthday. 6:30–7:15pm. Menasha Public Library. 967-3670
- 4, 7, 11, 14, 18, 21, 25, 28 | **Toddle Time**
Storytime for children 12–23 mo. old. 10:30am. Neenah Public Library. 866-6315.
- 4, 11, 18, 25 | **Evening Family Storytime**
2–6 y.o. storytime. 6:30pm. Neenah Public Library. 866-6315.
- 4, 11, 18, 25 | **Our Time**
3–5 y.o. storytime. 10:00am. Neenah Public Library. 866-6315.
- 5 | **Japanese Doll Festival**
Our program will feature Japanese doll crafts, simple origami, rice cakes & placing the dolls in the display case. 4–4:40pm. Menasha Public Library. 967-3670.
- 5, 12, 19, 26 | **Baby Time**
Storytime for children 0–11 mos. 9:15am. Neenah Public Library. 866-6315.
- 5, 12, 19, 26 | **Family Story Time**
Super stories await you. For preschoolers & parents/caregivers. 10:15–10:45am. Little Chute Public Library. 788-7825.
- 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, 27 | **Lapsit**
Storytime for 2 y.o. & young threes. 10am. Neenah Public Library. 866-6315.
- 6, 13, 20, 27 | **Toddle Time**
Storytime for children 12–23 mo. old. 9:15am. Neenah Public Library. 866-6315.
- 6, 13, 20, 27 | **Family Story Time**
Super stories await you. Perfect for preschoolers & their parents/caregivers. 10:15–10:45am. Kimberly Public Library. 788-7515.
- 6, 20 | **Book Groups—Page Turners**
8–11 y.o. book group. 3:45pm. Neenah Public Library. 866-6315.
- 6 | **Book Group—Girlfriends Read**
8 y.o. & up. 6:30pm. Neenah Public Library. 866-6315.
- 7 | **Splat the Cat Party**
We’ll read stories by Rob Scotton about *Splat That Crazy Cat*, do a craft & activities & have a treat. For preschoolers & caregivers. 10–10:30am. Menasha Public Library. 967-3670.
- 8 | **Pooches & Pages**
1st–5th grade kids reading to therapy dogs. 15 minute appointments. 10–11am. Neenah Public Library. 866-6315.
- 8 | **Art Activity Day**
Spring Madness & St. Patrick’s Day Fun, flowers, butterflies, shamrocks, rainbows, & gold coins w/ real gold leaf, all made out of glass. 10am–1pm. Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass. 751-4658.
- 12 | **Early Dismissal Movie**
Mary Poppins. Rated G. 1pm. Neenah Public Library. 866-6315.
- 13 | **Lego Mania** 📺
Come build w/ us! Each month we have a new theme. Legos provided. 3:45–4:30pm. New London Public Library. 982-8519.
- 15 | **Youth Activity Fair**
Enjoy a morning of fun w/ your family & get connected w/ your community. Learn about more than 20 youth organizations providing information. 9am–12pm. Boys & Girls Brigade, Neenah. 967-3670

- 15 | **Pooches & Pages** 📺
Kids in grades 1–5 are invited to sign up for a 15-minute time slot to read to a canine friend. 10am–12pm. Little Chute Public Library. 788-7825.
- 18 | **Turtle Tots Preschool Adventure—Windy Weather** *📺
Wind makes a difference to our weather & helps us fly our kites. Find out how wind bring the seasons. 9:30–11am. Heckrodt Wetland Reserve, Menasha. 720-9349
- 18 | **Birthday Party for the Animals**
Kids can come out & play games, see live animals & enjoy a party treat. Program is geared for kids 8 & under. 10am. Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary, Green Bay. 391-3671.
- 19 | **Earth’s Dinosaur Zoo**
Get up close & personal w/ an amazing array of creatures from bygone eras. 7pm. Weidner Center, Green Bay. 494-3401.
- 24–28 | **Break It Up**
A week of spring break fun: science, movie, crafts, birds & marble madness. 1pm. Neenah Public Library. 866-6315.
- 25 | **Laura Ingalls Wilder Pioneer Party**
Follow us out on the prairie to fun adventure & pioneer days at our Laura Ingalls Wilder party. Kids in grades K-5. 6:30–7:15pm. Menasha Public Library. 967-3670.
- 29 | **Science Discovery Day**
Discover something new at our free museum science days. Join us for an in-depth look at birds. 9:30–11:30am. New London Public Museum. 982-8520.

More on the Web

► **Expanded Calendar Listings**
Our online events calendar is updated daily with concerts, classes, exhibits and more. Find out “What’s Going On” every day of the week.



Graffiti art rolls into the limelight

Is it art? Is it vandalism? What does it all mean? These are questions probed in the newest exhibit at the National Railroad Museum, “From Big Boy to Boxcars: The Good & Bad of Railroad Graffiti.”

Featuring the photographs of Andrea Fuhrman and Tim Noll, the exhibit explores the graffiti often seen on railroad cars as both art and vandalism, and in both a social and historical context.

“We hope the community will use this exhibit as a place to both examine the fine art photography, but to also use it as a basis of social discourse about graffiti’s role in the community, as an art form, and the social and political issues it suggests,” said Jacqueline D. Frank, executive director of the museum.

It’s appearance may be controversial, but graffiti has become an accepted artistic style in major cities and within the art world as a whole, a topic the exhibit also explores.

The exhibit runs through 2015.

— Sean P. Johnson

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Get off the couch

By Sean P. Johnson

There's plenty to do to keep you active

To paraphrase the late George Harrison: it's been a long, cold Wisconsin winter.

It looks like it's sticking around, too.

Howard Porter knows how tough that can be on people. It's easy, he says, to stay inside, stay on the couch and wait for spring to finally show up. The problem is, that's the wrong approach.

"It just feeds into the depression they can experience," says Porter, an active retiree and a former psychologist. "It's important to get out, even if it's just for a while."

He follows his own advice.

Porter's active with a book club and regularly attends classes and events at the Appleton Public Library. He recently stopped by a program called Let's Talk, a one-hour session where folks gather to discuss current events and culture. Sometimes the topics are predetermined, sometimes not.

The important thing, Porter says, is it gives people a chance to get out of the house, interact and maybe even learn something along the way.

Scott Schuldes, a family nurse practitioner with ThedaCare Physicians-Hilbert, couldn't agree more.

"People are really struggling this year, not just with the length of winter, but the severity of it," he says. "We have to be inventive to find things we can do to stay active."

Whether it's a class to learn a new hobby, a chance to get the blood pumping or just an opportunity to socialize, Fox Cities residents have plenty of options to choose from.

The alternative is to go completely stir crazy by the Ides of March.

"We usually have between 20 to 25 programs a month," says Elizabeth Eisen, who handles adult programming at the Appleton Public Library. "We have everything from poetry to board games to programs where you can just get together and talk."

Event calendars for the region's libraries are packed with activities for the winter months. The Appleton Public Library, for example, offers a class on Tuesday's called Creative Journey which includes activities such as learning to decorate cakes.

At Neenah, the Makerspace program for March includes learning stop motion animation and creating flip books.

If the library's adult programs don't suit your

tastes, The YMCA of the Fox Cities has a full catalog of classes that can keep you active until Mother Nature gets around to a spring thaw.

It's not just exercise classes, either. From fine arts to computers to foreign languages, the YMCA's five locations offer a wealth of



opportunities to keep both mind and body active during the winter months.

Some classes meet for several weeks, others may be just a one-day event. Even just an hour can help.

Schuldes says he recently tried snowshoeing at

one of the region's nature centers—almost all of which are offering snowshoeing, cross country skiing or outdoor winter nature hikes.

He and several employees at the clinic are taking a yoga class during the lunch hour.

"It's important to take the time to take care of yourself," he says. "Not only will it help you, but it will help you be a better spouse and a better parent if you do."

People are creatures of habit, Schuldes says, and if the habit becomes sitting on the couch with a bowl of chips and your feet up, that can be really hard to break when the weather changes.

Keeping active is an important part of the many programs offered by the city of Appleton's Park and Recreation department. Courses include learning foreign languages, exercise and a series of luncheon's specifically designed to learn and socialize.



"For many of them, it's that social component," says Heidi Erickson, a recreation programmer with Appleton's Park and Recreation department. "They can have that conversation."

The winter months can be a great time to take a class to learn a new skill or try a hobby you've been thinking about. Many companies associated with hobbies such as woodworking or photography also offer introductory classes and seminars.

Not sure where to start? Fox Valley Technical College offers a wide range of adult education and enrichment classes, covering everything from computer programming to cooking to sewing and quilting.

If a class is not your forte, and it's just an opportunity to get out and socialize that you crave, there are opportunities to do that costing nothing more than your time and a little effort to get there.

The Fox River Mall, for example, opens its doors early to give people a chance to walk and socialize while sheltered from the elements.

"For many, it's a chance to get up, get out and socialize," Schuldes says. "They have a coffee klatch going and it's how they are effectively dealing with the long winter."

That's why Porter looks forward to his next outing. His book club will be discussing the latest book on the founder of Ripley's Believe it or Not.

"I haven't read it yet, but I'm looking forward to the discussion," he says. 

Looking for something to do?

Every month, FOX CITIES Magazine publishes a listing of classes, lectures, films and other events to keep you active (starting on page 8). Our online calendar is updated each day with new activities. Go to www.foxcitiesevent.com.

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FOX CITIES FAB FIVE

By Sean P. Johnson

The Reinforcer ►

Becky Boulanger's job is all about building a better future.

As the executive director of the Women's Fund for the Fox Valley Region, she spends the better part of each day working for the advancement of girls and women in the Fox Cities. She's a fundraiser, an organizer, a networker, a promoter and doer of just about every job you can associate with a small nonprofit.

There is always another task to accomplish, and not always enough time. But there is one thing she does on a daily basis she always enjoys—she tells women and girls how great they are and can be.

"I get to ask people if they know how awesome they really are," Boulanger says. "I love it when I can help people see themselves how others see them."

Boulanger joined the Women's Fund in 2005, starting out as a volunteer working just a few hours a week. She gradually took on more hours, and in 2009, became the agency's executive director, a position in which she celebrated five years in February.

Boulanger is responsible for safeguarding, growing and promoting the fund and its programs. The fund has delivered more than \$775,000 in grants, nearly \$45,000 in 2013.

Boulanger has helped create educational programs such as the recent breakfast focussing on older women and depression. The Fox Cities area has one of the highest number of depression assessments in the country. Older women are particularly vulnerable, as they tend to become isolated from family and friends as they age.

"We can provide the programs that can help the community learn and get the conversation going," she says.

Leadership is
the capacity to
translate vision
into reality.

—Warren Bennis

The Fox Cities is home to many individuals and agencies willing to help others in need.

Many work in nonprofit agencies where success can be directly attributed to the leadership they have in place. Many also are women, not surprising since women make up a majority of the nonprofit workforce, according to recent studies.

Those studies also note that on a national level, women are a distinct minority in leadership positions. Not so in the Fox Cities.

"We have so many talented and successful women in the community," says Kathi Seifert, a former executive vice president of Kimberly Clark who now owns her own consulting firm and serves on several corporate and nonprofit boards. "There are many nonprofits who could use that expertise."

Seifert has worked informally with others to link talented women with area nonprofits that need additional expertise, whether it's a board member, staff or just a volunteer to help with an event. It's often just a matter of making the connection.

For this year's Movers & Shakers, FOX CITIES Magazine searched for leaders delivering important services to the community who might not be well known—at least not yet.



The challenge of creating a list of Movers & Shakers in the Fox Cities is that there are always more people on the list than you can include in the magazine. Or, sometimes you get a few folks just don't quite fit the final profile. Be sure to check out foxcitiesmagazine.com to see other women who are making a difference in the Fox Cities's nonprofit sector.

The up and comer ►

Erin Wilkum admits to catching a few sideways glances.

She knows they aren't ill-intended, it's just that many folks don't expect to see a 25 year-old in the role of development director.

"I'm not what people think a development director should be," Wilkum says. "They get over it pretty quickly, though."

When Wilkum joined CHAPS Academy in 2010, her goal was a role as a direct service provider. She was finishing her human services degree at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. It helped that she knew a bit about horses—she used to ride competitively—and joined the staff of the Shiocton-based agency as an equine specialist, a role in which she worked with the horse to keep the therapist and the client safe.

"I thought I wanted to be a counselor," Wilkum says.

Roughly 280 hours later, she realized that direct service was not for her. But she discovered she had other talents CHAPS could use.

"I had some creative leadership skills that could be used to grow the agency," says Wilkum, who would eventually shift her role at CHAPS to case management and other administrative roles, until CHAPS created the position of director of development and community relations.

For Wilkum, it's a chance to use her skills to connect CHAPS to donors sharing the agency's vision. She forged relationships with ThedaCare and Appleton Medical Center that resulted in the largest grants CHAPS has ever received.

"I've helped us build, that's what my world is about," she says.





◀ The Concerned Parent

Harriett Redman never set out to build a nonprofit agency.

Indeed, she was doing quite well in her professional life, having risen to the position of director of marketing of Aid Association for Lutherans, now Thrivent. Events in her personal life steered her in a different direction.

In the early 1990s, her youngest son was diagnosed with developmental disabilities. While there were many resources available for him, she quickly noticed there was nothing in place for siblings and other family members.

Not one to take no for an answer, she created the Siblings Network for the Fox Valley.

“There was no ‘Googling’ in 1992,” Redman says, recalling her search just to find basic information for helping siblings. “There are programs in place that are well accepted, but none wanted to make siblings a priority. It made sense to start our own with a mission to support siblings.”

Fortunately for the Fox Valley, Redman has skills in this arena. She holds a master’s degree in family education and brings an unrivaled passion to researching and digesting information. As the founder, she served as a board member for several years and built the Siblings Network from serving a few families to an agency with more than 3,600 siblings in its database.

As the agency grew, so did its need for day-to-day leadership. Redman stepped in and agreed to take the executive director position, though she continues to work 20 hours a week as a volunteer. It’s been 10 years. She can’t see ever giving it up.

“The siblings role is uniquely critical, as they will have a longer relationship than anyone,” Redman says. “There are still challenges and I am energized there is a need and demand for what we do.”

The Serial Entrepreneur ▶

Mary Beth Leopold just can’t stop herself from taking on a challenge.

Having retired—more than once—from successful business enterprises, the Fox Cities resident had moved north to enjoy a slower pace at the lakehouse she and her husband own. She just couldn’t do it. The drive to lead and succeed was simply too great.

Leopold soon found herself back in Appleton taking on a new challenge, guiding Rebuilding Together Fox Valley.

“Even when I was a business owner, I was always involved with nonprofits and in helping to make the community I was in a better place,” Leopold says. “This is an opportunity for me to give back in a bigger way.”

Leopold is new to the position, having taken over in December of 2013, but needs no time to ease in. She’s already looking for ways she can apply her skills to help the agency grow.

“We may be nonprofit, but we need to make sure we run like a business,” Leopold says. “We are held to a higher standard. We have more than shareholders, we have heartholders.”

For RTFV, that means finding ways to help the elderly, veterans and disabled stay in their homes. RTFV helps repair and renovate their homes so they can stay longer, reducing the demand on other facilities.

Leopold draws on many best practices from her business career attract both funding and donors, and operate lean to stretch those dollars and provide for a better return.

“I want to make us a nonprofit that is able to help more people,” she says. “If I can help a person stay in their house—even for just one more year—that benefits the whole community they live in.”





▲ The Vocal Advocate

Caroline Lasecki has no problem raising her voice to draw attention to a problem.

“Sexual assault is the topic no one wants to talk about,” says Lasecki, who has served as executive director of the Sexual Assault Crisis Center since 2010. “There was a time when saying sexual assault would make people cringe, but the community has really wrapped its arms around us.”

Lasecki has helped to make that change.

Like many of her counterparts, Lasecki did not readily aspire to working in the nonprofit sector. She had success working as an executive recruiter.

In 2006, life presented an opportunity that would change her career path. Lasecki’s daughter graduated high school, and when she left for college, Lasecki had extra time on her hands. A letter looking for volunteers to join the board of SACC arrived about the same time.

“I thought I could help,” she said.

Lasecki joined the board and became increasingly active. She helped to create the “Shall We Dance” event, which is now the organization’s largest fundraiser. When the executive director left in 2010, she was part of the search team looking for a replacement.

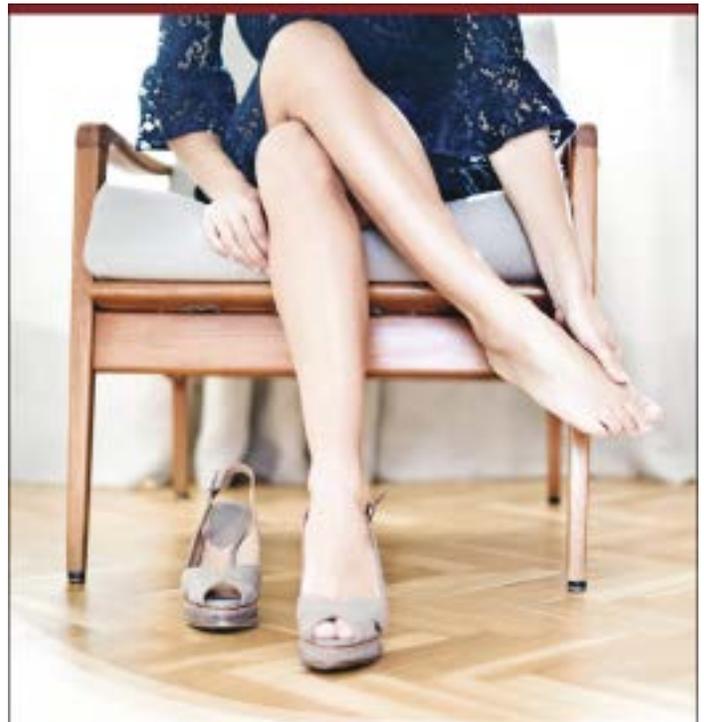
She realized she was attracted to the position.

“I could never get enough,” she said. “I always wanted to know what more we could do.”

She left the board and submitted her application as a candidate. After a nationwide search and several interviews, Lasecki was selected. It’s been her passion ever since.

Lasecki guides a staff of 16–20 trained advocates, and works with area police departments and hospital staff to increase their understanding and awareness when handling sexual assault cases.

“We are making progress,” she says. “I’m not going away.”



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~ C.S. Lewis

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2014 NARI LEVEL BEST AWARDS

By Sean P. Johnson

From total transformation to making the most of a small space, the National Association of the Remodeling Industry “Level Best” Awards celebrate the remodeling work local contractors perform to help homeowners realize a vision for their home.

This year, the judges singled out several award-worthy projects from members of the Fox Valley chapter of NARI. Selections range from the complete makeover of a summer home to reflecting a homeowner’s love for Hawaii in a bathroom remodel.

*Judging this year’s Level Best Awards: Bob McKinney, faculty member with the Interior Design Program at Fox Valley Technical College
Pete Weyenberg, senior associate with Coldwell Banker, The Real Estate Group, Inc.
Jody Kuhn, senior inside sales/design consultant with the Kitchen Design Center at Mid State Supply*



RESIDENTIAL ADDITION \$100,000 AND OVER Winner: Mosquito Creek Home Renovations

At first blush, it doesn’t even look like the same house.

In many ways, that’s the point. When the owners of this lakefront home approached Mosquito Creek Home Renovations, they asked for a complete transformation of their summer home to a year-round residence.

As the function changed, it’s no surprise the overall look would change as well.

To meet the owners vision, Mosquito Creek would need to add a second floor to what was constructed in 1985 as a single story dwelling. Fortunately, the original building’s construction made it a good candidate for a second story. A second story also allowed them to stay within the footprint of the original building, avoiding additional complications to an already detailed permitting process.

“An unbelievable, remarkable job,” McKinney says. “It’s difficult to even imagine the original, one-story origin.”

With the structure finalized, the rest of the project consisted of a complete remake of the home, including a stucco finish for the exterior and ceiling, room configuration, finish and millwork changes for the interior.

One of the greatest challenges was determining how best to connect the two floors with a staircase that did not exceed the original building footprint. Several options, including a spiral staircase were considered before the parties settled on an open straight run with an upper balcony and atrium.

“Wow,” Weyenberg says. “This appears to have been an extremely complicated project to complete with fantastic results. Well Done.”



RESIDENTIAL INTERIOR UNDER \$80,000

Winner: Mosquito Creek Home Renovations

When they built houses in the 1920s, they didn't take into account the needs of a growing family nearly a century later.

But that's what the craftsmen at Mosquito Creek faced when they tackled this Level Best winning interior renovation.

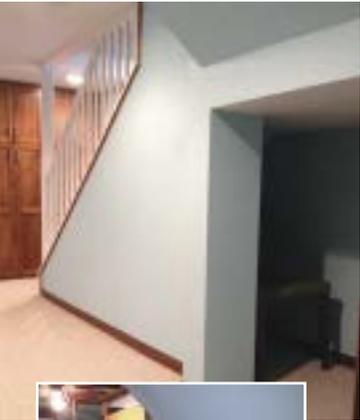
A growing family wanted to create more space for their children to play and for the family when they entertained. The space available in the 1920s-era house was a basement with low ceilings, plain cinderblock walls, small windows and a myriad of exposed wires and plumbing.

In addition to creating a more liveable space, the project also called for the addition of a bathroom/laundry room with a shower.

"They did a great job," says Weyenberg. "A lot of work and craftsmanship went into redesigning duct work and supporting structures."

By removing and relocating old wiring and plumbing, as well as using recessed lighting, additional headroom was created. Studded walls helped relocate plumbing and other infrastructure for the new bathroom/laundry room and interior wall openings were enlarged to create a singular, larger feel to the basement spaces.

"They enhanced a blah, unattractive 20s basement and it is now a warm, vital space for the family's children," says McKinney, who noted that budget constraints may have been the toughest obstacle for the project.



RESIDENTIAL KITCHEN UNDER \$50,000

Winner: Mosquito Creek Home Renovations

The kitchen has become a central gathering spot for many families.

But what if the design of your kitchen discourages more than two people from using it at one time?

That was the challenge Mosquito Creek faced with this project. The original U-shaped kitchen caused congestion, while a peninsula and cabinets closed the space off from the dining area.

The space simply did not fit their lifestyle.

To provide a better working space, a wall between the family room and kitchen was removed and the peninsula was scrapped. An L-shaped design with a kitchen island created a more open space with better traffic flow.

Cabinets and appliances were relocated, while builders used a specially crafted beam to replace the load bearing wall between the family room and kitchen, further opening the space.

"This renovation was worth every penny that was invested," says McKinney.

Builders updated much of the area's electrical, lighting and plumbing infrastructure. New sinks, countertops and a backsplash topped off the new look while remaining within a strict budget.

"The most important job the contractor had appears to be providing a quality job at a low cost," says Weyenberg. "These upgrades will increase the market value and the warm feel of the home."



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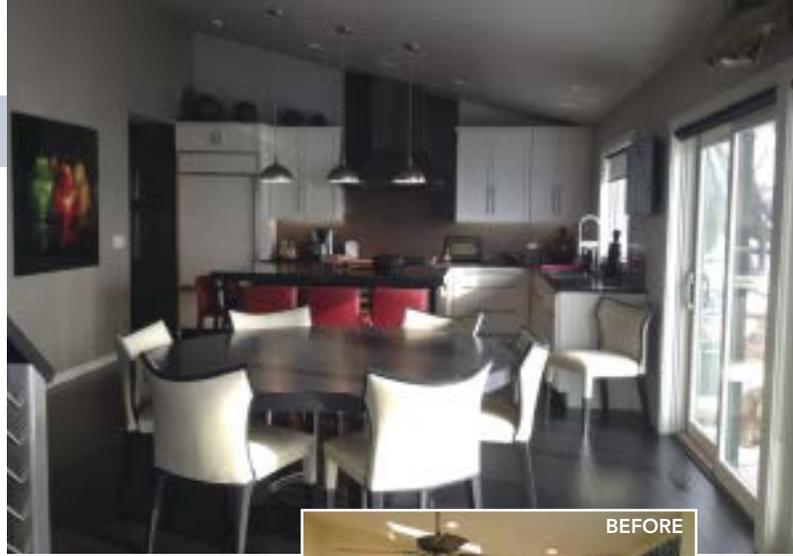
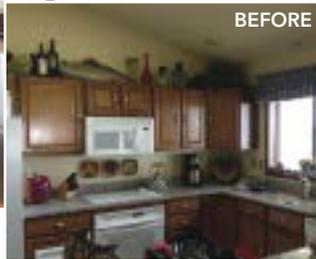
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KITCHEN REMODEL OVER \$50,000
Winner: Mosquito Creek Home Renovations

Sometimes a room just wears out its welcome.

That was the complaint when homeowners approached Mosquito Creek about giving their kitchen a modern day makeover. And while they were in there, could they fix the leaky skylight, relocate a garage entrance door and convert a hall closet to pantry storage?

The result was a contemporary kitchen with an island, hallway pantry and butler area that provides better traffic flow from the kitchen into the open dining room and living areas. The space fits the owner's entertaining style better by providing additional seating and making the kitchen an easy place for family and guests to gather.



"The contemporary feel seems to fit nicely and will increase the home's value immediately," says Weyenberg. "The customer should be well pleased with the finished project."

The leaking skylight was removed and the space sealed, while new appliances, countertops, sinks and a backsplash completed the new look. Entertaining guests is more easily accomplished with a six burner stove, sub-zero refrigerator and a wine cooler relocated for better access.

"The new mud room and the butler's pantry are great assets," says McKinney. "A really terrific remodel."

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RESIDENTIAL BATH \$20,000 AND OVER
Winner: Welhouse Construction Services

Working with a pre-1978 tri-level did not leave the builders at Welhouse Construction Services a lot of space to create the homeowner's vision for a luxury master bath with a Hawaiian theme.

The bath was not just small, it lacked ventilation, dual sinks and would require additional plumbing and wiring to be run up from the lowest level. Along with a long list of other challenges, much of the work needed to be completed while the owners were on vacation.

To create more space, the tub was replaced and a swinging door was converted to a pocket door, keeping the footprint the same but creating room for a walk-in shower.

A second sink was added to the vanity, along with a cabinet between them. A new toilet, new plumbing and a skylight were also added to the space.

"Working on multi-level homes can be very challenging, especially moving materials through the home without damage," says Weyenberg. "The use of glass and tile gives a nice modern feel and will certainly enhance the market value."

Complementing the new look is a shower mosaic that resembles palm trees.

"This remodel will definitely add dollars to the value of the home," says McKinney. "Dated baths are never a comfort point for those who live in the space and certainly a turnoff for future buyers." 



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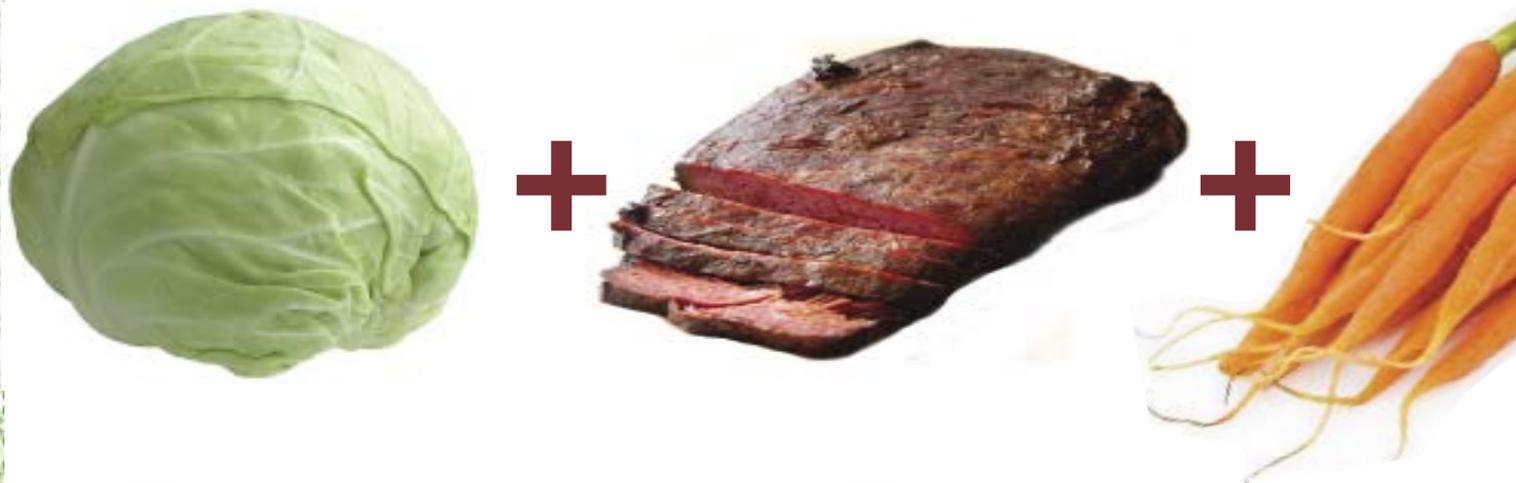
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Going Green

By Sean P. Johnson

Dining on corned beef and cabbage for St. Pat's

St. Patrick's Day brings out the Irish in everyone.

For one day, at least.

Every March 17, many of us claim a bit of the legend of St. Patrick by donning green, sharing a beverage or two and celebrating with what has become the traditional meal to mark the day: corned beef and cabbage.

With more than 34 million people in the US claiming Irish ancestry—seven times the population of Ireland—it's no wonder local restaurateurs get an early start prepping for that day's most demanded dish.

"It seems that more people are coming out every year," says Rhoda Steffel, general manager of Mark's East Side in Appleton. "We've been doing it on St. Pat's for more than 20 years and it really has become a fun day. Besides, corned beef is so tasty."

And popular.

In anticipation of St. Patrick's day, Mark's has ordered more than 1,500 pounds of corned beef and nearly 800 pounds of cabbage to meet diner's demands, Steffel says. They start serving on March 10th, stop for the weekend and start up bright and early on the 17th through the following day, she says.

"It's a slow cooking process where we start overnight and constantly adjust it until we get it just right," she says.

What makes the dish so popular? Certainly, folks seem to love the taste, says Jay VanHandel,

the bar manager for Greene's Pour House in Neenah, which expects to see good crowds throughout the weekend and through Monday.

He suspects the dish's limited availability is what drives the demand.

"It's one of those unique foods that is only widely available once a year," VanHandel says. "It's one of those holidays people keep to just one day a year."

They've seen the same trend at The Woods in Waupaca, where owner Don Johnson wasn't certain whether he would serve the weekend before, or just on St. Patrick's Day.

"It just seems to be more of a thing on that day," he says. "But, I will be cooking for it ahead of time and last year we did the whole weekend."

At Mark's East Side, Steffel says they have tried in the past to serve the dish at different times of year, particularly when it's halfway to St. Patrick's Day, but it was not a big draw.

"I just don't think it's the same when it's not on St. Patrick's Day," she says. "Like a Friday fish fry, there is just something special about it being that one time or one day."

There is a bit of irony that corned beef and

cabbage has become the signature dish of St. Patrick's Day. It's not a traditional dish in Ireland.

Raising cattle and curing beef date back to the 1600s in Ireland, but as a British colony, the industry was controlled by the British and much of the beef was shipped back to the British Isles. Beef was too expensive for the average Irish family, which would have more likely eaten pork with potatoes.



Yet, as the Irish immigrated to the U.S., they found the opposite. It was pork that was expensive, while beef was cheap and readily available, as was nutrient dense cabbage.



The two were paired up and corned beef and cabbage quickly became synonymous with being Irish and St. Patrick's Day, at least in the U.S.

While the tradition may be "Americanized," those involved take it no less seriously. Family recipes are an important part of the culinary tradition and are closely guarded.

At Spat's Food and Spirits in Appleton, the recipe used by Julie and Bill Neubert predates their ownership. It was handed down to them by the previous owner, and given its popularity, they have continued to use it, while also adding some family touches of their own to the overall meal.

"We've introduced an Irish stew using Guinness beer and a corned beef and cabbage dinner where we top the potatoes with the stew that has become really popular," Bill Neubert says. "My mother also comes into town for that week just to make her Irish torte."



At Spat's, the prep work is already well underway for the nearly 2,800 pounds of corned beef and 3,000 pounds of cabbage they expect to serve. There are also 800 pounds of potatoes and 300 pounds of carrots to peel and chop.

They will start serving up corned beef and cabbage dinners the week before and will keep the dish on the menu through the 18th.

Of course, they do get a bit of practice. Spat's has found success serving corned beef and cabbage outside of the St. Pat's holiday. They now serve it four times a year as a lead up.

"We know folks love it," Neubert says. "We get nearly four to five times more business during those weeks."



Want to get into the holiday by making corned beef and cabbage on your own? Our resident expert, Chef Jeff Igel, shares his recipe for the St. Patrick's Day treat:

Corned Beef and Cabbage

Serves 6

One 3-pound corned beef brisket (uncooked), in brine
 16 cups cold water
 2 bay leaves
 2 teaspoons black peppercorns
 4 whole allspice berries
 2 whole cloves
 1/2 large head green cabbage (about 2 pounds), cut into 8 wedges
 8 small new potatoes (about 1 1/4 pounds), halved
 Freshly ground black pepper to taste

Preheat the oven to 300 degrees F.

Place the corned beef in a colander in the sink and rinse well under cold running water.

Place the corned beef in a large Dutch oven with a tight-fitting lid, add the water, bay leaves, peppercorns, allspice and cloves. Bring to a boil, uncovered, and skim off any scum that rises to the surface. Cover and transfer pan to the oven, and braise until very tender, about 3 hours and 45 minutes.

Transfer the corned beef to a cutting board and cover tightly with foil to keep warm. Add the cabbage and potatoes to the cooking liquid and bring to a boil. Lower the heat and simmer until the vegetables are tender, about 20 minutes.

Using a slotted spoon, transfer the cabbage to a large platter. Slice the corned beef across the grain of the meat into thin slices. Lay the slices over the cabbage and surround it with the potatoes. Ladle some of the hot cooking liquid over the corned beef and season with pepper. Serve immediately with the mustard or horseradish sauce.

Serving suggestion: Whole-grain mustard or horseradish sauce (recipe follows)

Horseradish Sauce:

3/4 cup mayonnaise
 3/4 cup sour cream
 1/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons jarred grated horseradish (with liquid)
 1/2 teaspoon grated lemon zest
 2 teaspoons kosher salt
 Freshly ground black pepper

In a small bowl, mix together the mayonnaise, sour cream, horseradish, zest, and 2 teaspoons salt. Season generously with pepper to taste. Refrigerate the horseradish sauce for at least 30 minutes before serving.

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ask Chef Jeff

Have a culinary question? Send us an email or go to our website and click on Your Input.

Q. *What is the best way to prepare hot food for a crowd (10–50 people) in advance, and then how do you travel with it, and then serve it 4–6 hours after preparing it?* —Sheila Hansen, Appleton

A. Sheila,

This is a question and challenge that caterers ponder on a daily basis.

In our classes at Fox Valley Technical College, we strive to teach our students to remember that it doesn't matter how good your food is when you cook it—it's how good your food is when it is eaten that counts!



Some simple suggestions would include preparations that can be cooked when you get to your destination. Many foods can be pre-prepped and then cooked or heat-treated at the last minute. When considering foods that will be held for substantial period of time, the foods I think of first that will hold the best are foods that are moist and contain a sauce. Think of meatballs or braised beef tips that should hold

for a reasonable time without any degradation in quality.

Some foods do not hold well at all, especially fried foods. They tend to become soggy, greasy and gross. Fundamentally, it is very difficult to maintain food quality over long periods of time.

Of paramount concern when holding foods for future service is food safety. Typically we would not consider holding hot foods for more than four hours and even that is a stretch. It is good to remember the fundamental rule of safe food handling is to "keep hot foods hot (>135° F) and cold foods cold (<41° F)."



Chef Jeffrey Igel is the chair of the Culinary Arts & Hospitality Department at Fox Valley Technical College, Appleton. "Chef Jeff" has spent his entire career in the restaurant and hospitality industry, serving in many capacities.

DRINK OF THE MONTH

Recipe courtesy of:
Mojitos Mexican Grill & Bar by Sangria's

A tropical twist on a classic drink is just what we need to welcome spring to the Fox Cities. When Guava Nectar is added into a traditional mojito mixture of mint, sugar and lime, the result is a refreshing taste of the Caribbean in a glass. Remember, the secret is the shake — you can't do it too much.

GUAVA MOJITO

6 mint leaves, fresh 2 oz rum
1/2 tsp agave nectar 1 shot guava syrup
1/2 tsp sugar Soda Water
5 lime slices 7-Up

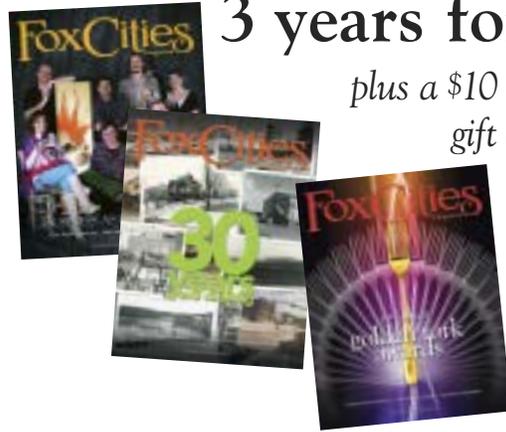
Squeeze the juice from the five lime slices, then muddle juice, sugar, nectar and hand-crushed mint leaves in a hurricane glass. Add rum and shake with ice. Add shot of guava syrup and shake again. Fill the remainder of the glass with a half-and-half mixture of soda water and 7-Up. Garnish with a lime slice and a mint leave.



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Authentic Italian cuisine in a European style setting with a lively atmosphere and welcoming staff. Enjoy pastas, entrees, appetizers, salads and sandwiches any time of day. Divine desserts are made in house and the wine list spotlights Italian wines. We offer a private dining area for small groups, and off-site catering. Winner of seven 2013 FOX CITIES Magazine Golden Fork Awards, including Best Overall. Su–Th, 11am–9pm; F & Sa, 11am–10pm. Reservations accepted for parties of 6 or more. carmellasbistro.com

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Mi Casa Mexican Grill

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Enjoy Mexican cuisine made using family recipes influenced by the Veracruz, Oaxaca & Puebla regions of Mexico, including homemade tamales and soups. The Mole sauce has been handed down for generations. Family run, we offer daily specials and the grill and smoker are always fired up and ready. Our full bar features homemade Tamarind & Jamaica margaritas. Enjoy a meal or drink on our patio. Open M, W–Su at 11am. Closed on Tuesdays. micasamexicangrill.com.

Osorio's Latin Fusion

1910 N. Casaloma Dr., Appleton. 955-3766.

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1395 W. American Dr., Menasha. 725-2215.

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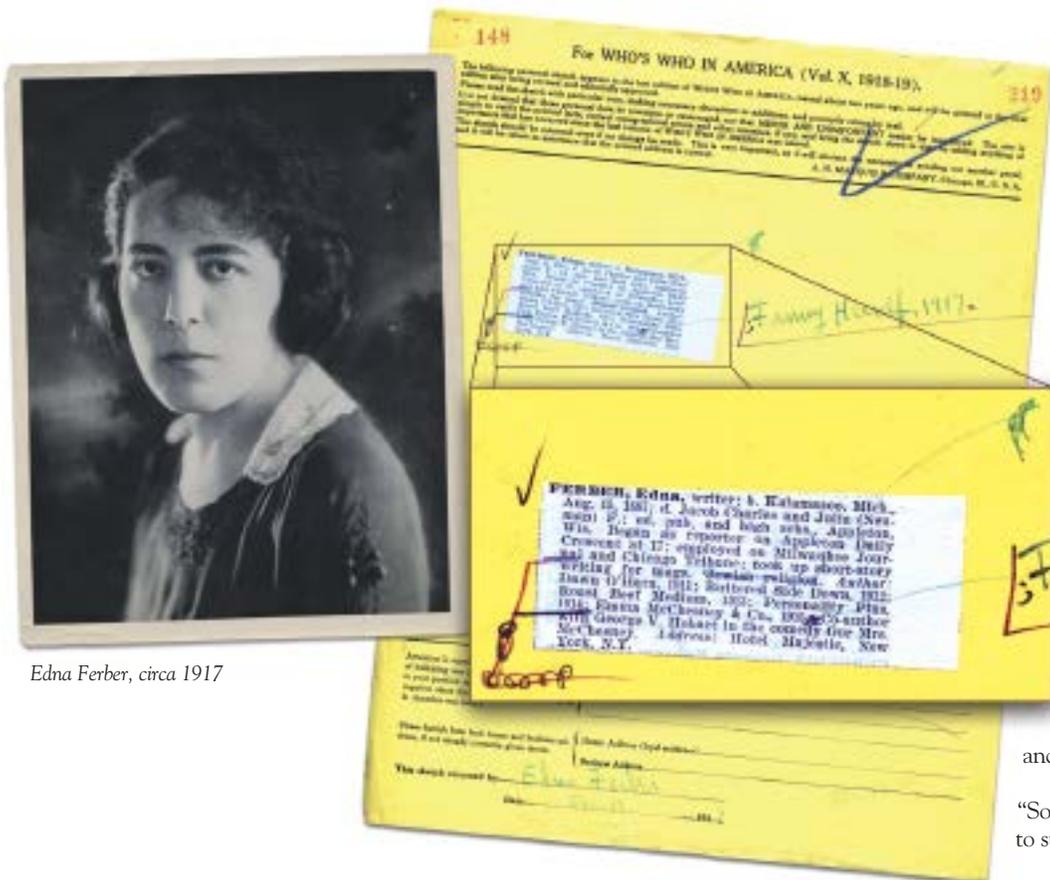
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Edna Ferber, circa 1917

The small clip belies the importance of the person making the edits. One-time Appleton resident Edna Ferber, a Pulitzer Prize winning novelist and short story writer, made the corrections to her Who's Who entry for the 1918–1919 edition. In green ink, Ferber adds the name of her latest book “Fanny Herself, 1917” and crosses out the reference to her religion.

The correction form is signed and dated Dec. 13, 1917.

Ferber began her career as a reporter for the Appleton Daily Crescent at the age of 17. She would write for the Milwaukee Journal and Chicago Tribune before she began publishing short stories and novels.

Having spent her childhood in Appleton, Ferber used the city as a setting for some of her early works such as “The Homely Heroine” and “A Bush League Hero.” Her best known works include “So Big,” “Show Boat,” “Cimarron,” “Giant” and “Ice Palace.”

Ferber won the Pulitzer Prize in 1924 for “So Big.” Many of her books were adapted to successful plays and movies.



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