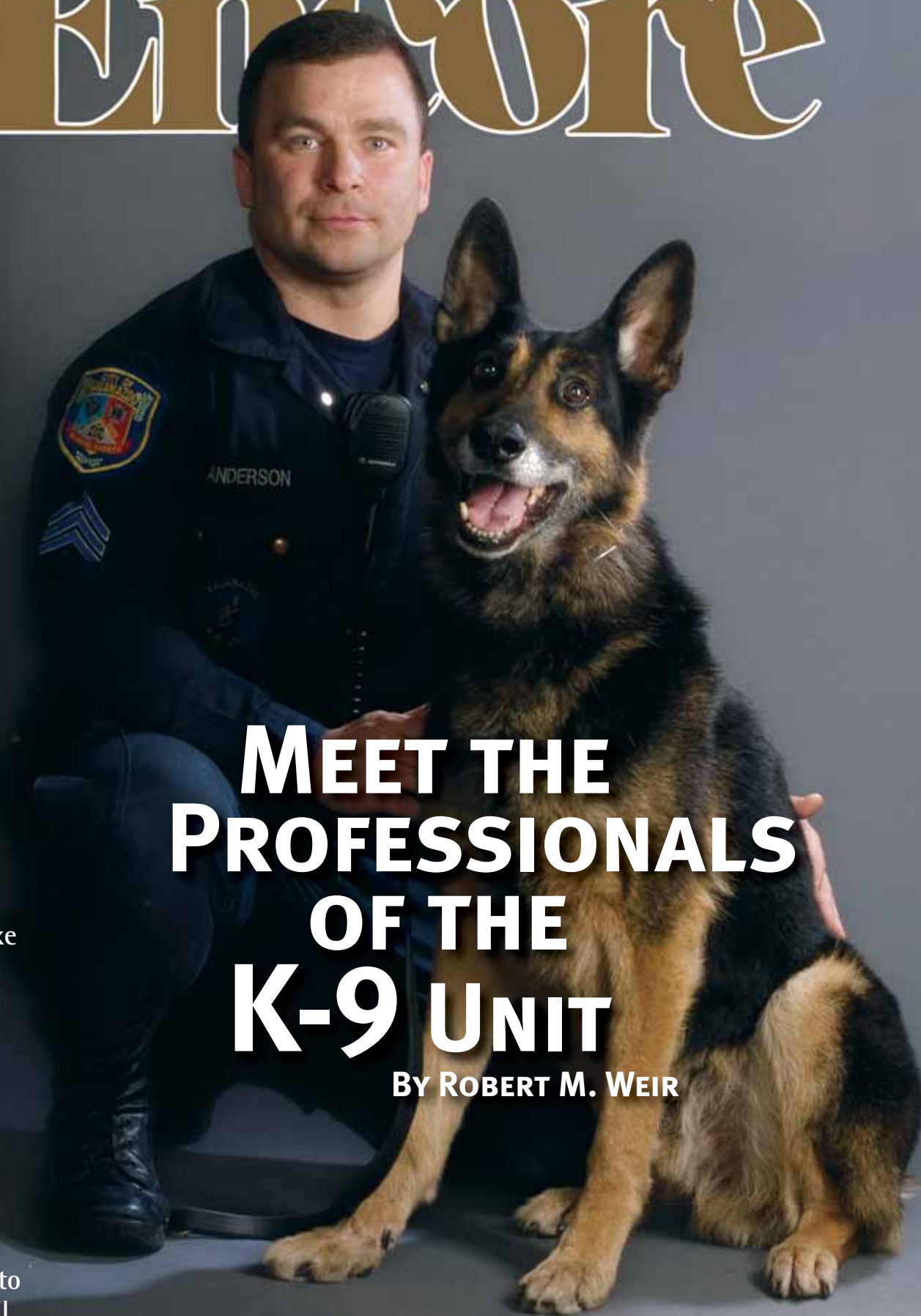


Enquire



MEET THE PROFESSIONALS OF THE K-9 UNIT

BY ROBERT M. WEIR

Philosophies
Unite to Make
a Team

A Case Is
Made for
Global
Warming

A Lady of
Many Masks

On the Path to
a Longer Trail



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FROM THE PUBLISHER

LAST MONTH quite a number of readers commented on the interesting stories that were in Encore. I didn't find that at all unusual or unexpected because it is common for me to hear such comments. The remarks are appreciated because we work hard to find interesting stories with great variety, and this month is no different.



Rick Briscoe

The cover story about the canine members of the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety and their handlers delves into the complexity of having a canine unit. The whole matter of adding dogs to a police department brings up a myriad of issues that most of us would never imagine. Yet, Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety took a leadership role by adding this important crime-fighting tool to their department and making the dogs and their handlers available to every police department in Kalamazoo County.

The story of friendship and collegiality between Drs. Azzam Kanaan and Mark Shaman is quite unique considering such differences as age and medical specialty of the two men. More interesting, though, are their individual stories. While Shaman is a native Michigander, his parents emigrated from Iraq where, as Chaldean Catholics, they were in a very small minority. And, Azzam Kanaan shares his life from childhood in Nablus, Palestine, to medical school in Egypt to adulthood in Kalamazoo. While his is but one story from this troubled part of the world, it is one more piece for all of us to read with the hope of understanding the situation there.

As if the Middle East wasn't a challenging enough topic for this month, we have a Bill Krasean-written piece that explores some of the scientific work being done locally to study global warming. While this is a subject that stirs emotions with many people, what we have found is that there is serious scientific study on global warming going on right here at Western Michigan University. This article is not intended to be the definitive work on the subject but will, hopefully, give our readers a little more information — on a local level — about a complex and pressing topic.

The rest of this issue lightens up a bit but with no less interesting reading. Larry Massie shares another of his tales from Michigan's history. Did you know that modern grain farming is possible because of a harvester invented in Kalamazoo County back in the early part of the 1800s? And you will enjoy learning about the art that is known as mask making. Yes, there really is a local artist who specializes in making intricate masks from natural materials. Finally, you will be able to learn more about two dedicated people who have devoted untold hours to expand the trailway system throughout Kalamazoo County — hoping to one day connect Lake Michigan and Lake Huron with a continuous, improved trailway.

I hope you find these stories as interesting and informative as I think you will. And, as always, we want to hear your opinions and ideas for others.

Rick Briscoe
Publisher

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Publisher

Richard Briscoe

Editor

Penny Briscoe

Copy Editor

Cherri Glowce

Assistant to the Publisher

Ronald Dundon

Contributing Writers

Diane Herder
Bill Krasean
Larry B. Massie
Patrice L. Mindock
Theresa Coty O'Neil
Dan Pettee
Robert M. Weir

Poetry Editor

Theresa Coty O'Neil

Contributing Poets

Marie Bahlke
Joseph Heywood

Cartoonist

Craig Bishop

Featured Photographer

John Gilroy

Designer

Brakeman

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8

The Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety's **CANINE UNIT** has served the greater Kalamazoo community since 1987.



Photo: Robert Weir

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For **DR. AZZAM KANAAN**, the road to success is paved in quality.



Photo: Penny Briscoe

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The **GLOBAL WARMING** issue has local researchers on their toes.

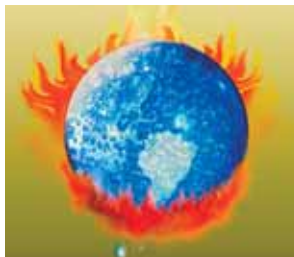


Photo: Gino Santa Maria

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Feathers are art for **BECKALYN HANSMANN**.



Photo: Patrice L. Mindock

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Expanding the **KALAMAZOO RIVER VALLEY TRAILWAY** has become a reality.



Photo: Robert M. Weir

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Cover and Guess Who Photos by John Gilroy.



Canine officer Billy proudly poses with the five kilos of cocaine he uncovered. Members of the Canine Unit have recovered nearly \$5 million worth of narcotics over the past 20 years.



Officer Peter Hoyt and K-9 Q pose outside unit headquarters at Riverview and Gull roads with one type of leash on Q and Officer Hoyt holding a harness. The type of leash and harness will tell the dog what type of search the team will be conducting.

THE WORKING DOGS OF THE

“I want the ball. Give me the ball. Yes, I’ll find the missing child and sniff out the narcotics. Yes,

“**T**HE BALL IS the reward for which a police dog works,” says Sgt. Scott Sanderson, who is in charge of Kalamazoo Public Safety’s nine-member, nine-dog K-9 Unit.

Officer Peter Hoyt, with nine years of experience as a canine handler, calls the ball, or in some cases a rubber squeeze toy, the dog’s “paycheck.” “The ball makes the dog want to track — then track the next time even better. The dog thinks, ‘If I catch this guy, I’m going to get my paycheck, the reward,’” he says.

Officer Lisa Moore adds, “We always carry the dog’s toy in our pocket, and we make a big deal of giving it to the dog. When my dog, K-9 Ori, made

his first capture, I threw his toy to Officer Hoyt, who was with me. Then when he went behind the bad guy to put handcuffs on him, he threw the toy back to Ori. That way, he associates catching the bad guy with getting his toy.”

Officer Hoyt continues: “We’re reinforcing the end result, which is catching the guy we’re tracking. The dog has gone to the end of the track, he’s found the guy he’s supposed to find, and so he says, ‘Where’s my ball? Let’s go!’ He expects it to be there. It’s all about the ball, the toy, the paycheck.”

“Ball drive’ or ‘hunt drive’ is inherent,” Sgt. Sanderson says. “That’s why most dogs want to play fetch. Some dogs

have only a little ball drive; if you throw a ball into a field and they don’t find it right away, they’ll run back as if to say, ‘Hey, have you got another one?’ No. That’s not what we want. We want a dog that stays out there and continues and continues until he finds what he’s looking for. So, we get dogs that really have ball drive because then we can train them to do anything.”

This attention to the ball or toy is evident in the weekly group-training sessions conducted by K-9 handlers at Fire Station No. 3 at the corner of Gull Road and Riverview Drive. Stepping through their paces, each handler holds his or her dog’s ball near the left shoulder, clearly visible to the dog, which



Photo: Courtesy Kalamazoo Public Safety

Kalamazoo Public Safety canines attract much attention from young people at the many public events they attend. Here K-9 Gero enjoys the attention while his handler, Officer Ted Green, looks on.

CANINE UNIT

BY ROBERT M. WEIR

I'll catch the bad guy. Just give me the ball."

always walks on the handler's left side, sometimes with a leash and sometimes without. The dog's focus is on the ball, with head turned up and neck bent — in what appears to be an ungainly position. Each dog steps high, almost prancing, to avoid stumbling over an object that might lie in its path.

Sgt. Sanderson says, "The dog knows that if they look away to see where they're walking, they might miss the ball if it should drop. So we train them to focus completely on the handler holding the ball."

The six-hour group practice session in which all dogs and handlers participate includes outdoor tracking simulations as well as exercises in which each

dog walks in lockstep with his handler and learns to heed commands — given either verbally or with hand signals — to stand, sit, lie down and stay. During frequent reward periods, all the dogs chew on their toys while receiving their own handler's vocal praise as well as loving pats to the head and firm petting of the flanks.

Officer Jeff Deblecourt, whose dog, K-9 Rokko, is considered to be "phenomenal" because of the numerous suspects he has apprehended, says he's very fortunate to have such a successful dog, but he notes: "It requires a lot of training."

While "bad guy" or "suspect" are commonly used to define the subject of

a track, Sgt. Sanderson is quick to point out that KPS K-9s are equally adept at finding missing children, errant elderly, lost articles and narcotics. Through training, the dogs associate the nature of the track to a specific style of harness and length of leash attached to them. For narcotics searches, the cue is a small white towel to sniff at the outset.

To search for a lost article — wallet, keys, cell phone, etc. — the dog is taken to the search area and instructed to sniff out any recent human scent, which may result in the recovery of multiple lost articles beyond the scope of the search. When looking for a missing person, the dog is taken to the person's last known location and presented with

an article of clothing that still carries that person's scent. Then the hunt is on, sometimes lasting for miles and hours through urban areas or rural terrain, day or night, in any kind of weather.

Narcotics searches involve leading investigative officers to the exact location of a stash. "In a building where marijuana is hidden, the dog might find the odor right away because it permeates," Sgt. Sanderson explains. "But we train the dogs to work to the source. When he finds the place with the strongest odor, he scratches. Then we remove floorboards or whatever, find the drugs, and the dog gets the towel, which is the reward."

Dogs are, by nature, pack animals with dominant and subservient members. But all KPS dogs possess a leader-of-the-pack

alpha personality, which is necessary in adverse, confrontational situations with large, intimidating suspects. It also means the handlers keep the dogs a respectful distance from each other during practice sessions and while working a call. "We allow them to be pack animals only so much," says Sgt. Sanderson.

Therefore, although multiple dogs and handlers may be on duty each shift, generally, only one will work a track. A long track of many miles and hours is an exception in which one team will work until tired and be replaced by a fresh team. A track of multiple subjects who split up will also warrant the presence of additional dogs, each going in different directions. Crime-scene investigations, such as breaking and entering cases or searches in buildings with

multiple doors, may require dogs working in unison, each entering the building from a separate entrance.

While the KPS canines are formidable German shepherds — all male, weighing between 60 and 95 pounds — they are not infallible to the dangers of their tasks. "They do get beat up," says Officer Jim Doerr, the handler for K-9 Sagus. "We have them climbing and jumping over six-foot fences. One of our dogs came upon a wall while on a track at night. It was a short wall, but on the other side, he fell into a 10- or 12-foot drop off and hit another wall when he landed. He hurt his leg but continued the track for another mile or so, but when we got done, it was obvious that he was hurt."

Other tracking misfortunes involve dogs falling into a mechanics pit,



Officer Jeff Crouse and K-9 Maverick have been together since April 2006 as a working team. When off duty, Maverick enjoys his role as a family pet, including adventures like visiting northern Michigan with young Jackson Crouse (below).



Photo: Courtesy Kalamazoo Public Safety

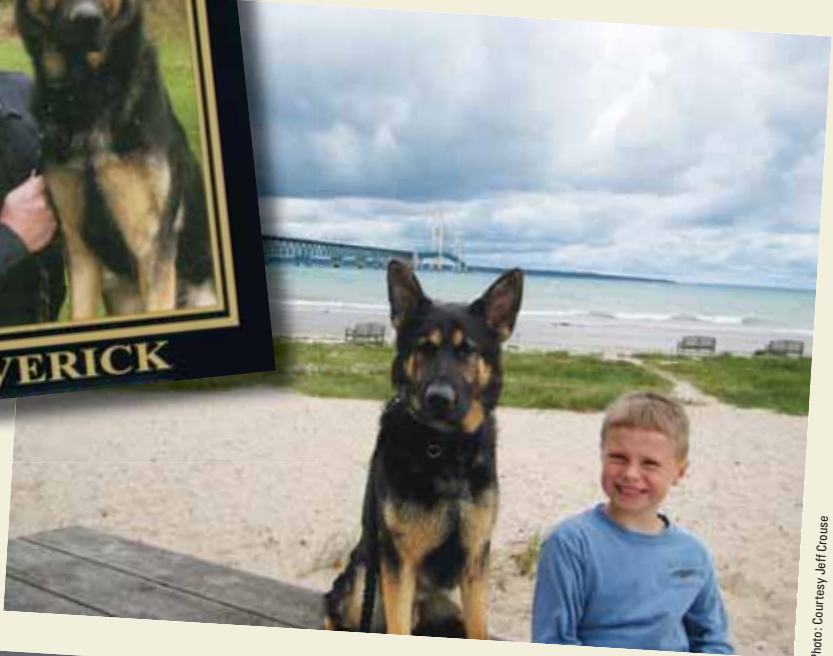


Photo: Courtesy Jeff Crouse

Many young hands vie to pet K-9 Ori at the Westnedge Hill block party in July 2007. Ori's attention is focused on his chew toy, which is being held by his handler, Officer Lisa Moore.

getting into fights with other dogs, and being hit over the head with a two-by-four, resulting in injuries that required veterinary treatment and close monitoring for the next 24 hours.

Displaying remarkable personalities, the KPS canines are also a beautiful blend of business and benignity.

For example, they are taught, at the end of a track, to “bark and hold.” That is, when the subject is found, the dog will bark until support officers arrive to assist the dog’s handler. If the subject attempts to resist or run away, the dog will hold the suspect’s arm until backup arrives. “Most people won’t run from our dogs. They just stand there and say, ‘Okay. I give up.’ And that’s the end of it,” says Sgt. Sanderson. “But if the person tries to run away and the handler sends the dog, the dog will bite. Fortunately for us and everybody else, in most cases, it’s no movement, no bite.”

On the docile side, these animals are also house pets and bona fide members of the officers’ families. Sgt. Sanderson assigns each dog to the handler he feels is best suited in personality and temperament to the animal. “I don’t know if I know much about psychology,” he says, “but if I have a handler who needs a dog or we add a new handler to the unit, I ask: ‘What kind of person is this? Laid back or high strung?’ Then I try to pair dogs with handlers accordingly. That’s the best way to get a good relationship between the dog and the handler,” he says.

Living with the handler and his or her family creates the opportunity for daily obedience training that pays off both when tracking and while on patrol among the general public. When a dog gets too old to be of service, usually after six or seven years, the City of Kalamazoo will sell the dog to the officer for \$1, allowing the animal to live the rest of its life with the persons it has come to know best.

All of the officers in the K-9 Unit are animal lovers, all have owned dogs previously, only a few have owned



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a German shepherd, and none have trained a dog to be a service dog prior to joining the unit. "The only other training I've done with a dog is sit and shake and that fun stuff," says Officer Moore. "It's great to see how intelligent these dogs are. They figure out what's going on really quick."

All but one officer are parents, and each defines his or her German shepherd as an additional child. Sgt. Sanderson, who has three sons, refers to

his dog, K-9 Rex, as a fourth child. "We take him on vacation. I feed and water him. I make sure his kennel is clean. I train him. I work with him every day. I teach Rex the same things I teach my boys," he says.

Officer Jeff Crouse, the father of two children and handler of K-9 Maverick, draws similar parallels. "With my youngsters, when they have successes, it's an indescribable feeling of how proud I

am to see them excel, whether learning to read or doing well in school. I embrace those successes. Likewise with Maverick, I shower him with praise for his successes and, just as quickly, correct the behaviors I want to turn back."

But of these animals are also more than pets and four-legged family members; they are on-the-job partners. Officer Marc Rifenberg



Photo: Courtesy Kalamazoo Public Safety

In what has become a nationally famous photo, Officer Peter Hoyt and his partner lead the way in making entry to a house after a Portage detective had been shot and the suspect was hiding inside.



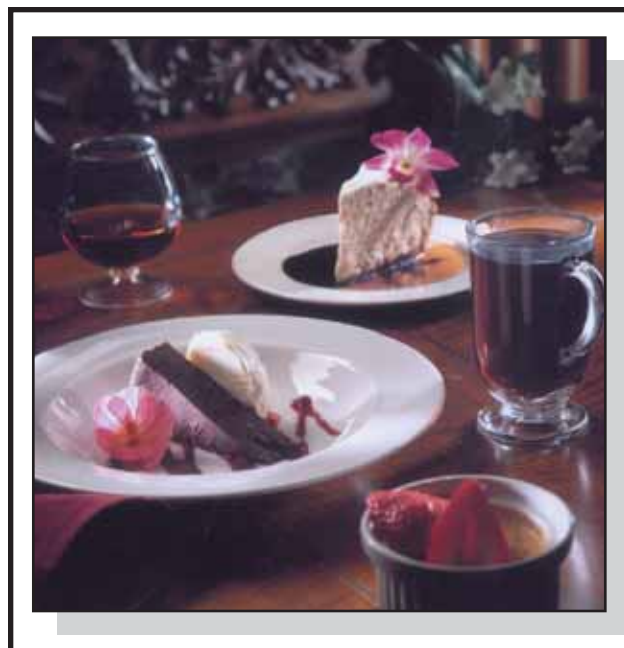
Photo: Robert Weir

Sgt. Scott Sanderson motions for K-9 Rex to exit a K-9 patrol car that is specially designed to have a full-length, padded kennel where the rear seat would be in most vehicles.



Photo: Courtesy Kalamazoo Public Safety

Now retired officer Kirk Spence accepts bites on a heavily padded arm during part of the ongoing training conducted by the K-9 Unit.



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claims that his dog, K-9 Ranger, knows that when he is at home, he is off duty. "He learns this from going to and from work with me every day," he says.

The business day for K-9 public service officers begins with feeding their dogs at home and making sure the animals are ready for work. Wearing civilian clothes, the officers arrive at Fire Station No. 3 where their uniforms, badges, weapons, communications systems, and other gear are stowed in a locker. They dress, move their dogs from a kennel within their personal vehicles to the kennel within their assigned patrol cars, put their K-9 equipment and fire paraphernalia (they are also first responders on fire calls) in the trunk, and attend a briefing that begins at 7 a.m. for dayshift employees and 7 p.m. for nightshift workers. Then, they begin 12 hours of on-duty patrol. Their canines ride along every mile in a kennel that occupies what would otherwise be the rear seat of a normal automobile.

In addition, KPS K-9 officers proudly participate with their dogs — often off-duty and at their own expense — in out-of-city training/certification sessions and competitions with K-9 units from other communities as well

as local parades, neighborhood block parties, school fire awareness days and public demonstrations. Here, the dogs, accustomed to the attention of the children with whom they live, exhibit total

domesticity. With great patience — and often chewing on their toy or eyeing it in the hand of their handler — the dogs accept the presence of many young hands that want to caress their coats.

THE K-9 UNIT

The K-9 Unit within Kalamazoo's Public Safety Department originated in 1987 when dogs first became prevalent in law enforcement. Since then, the K-9 Unit has handled 20,000 calls, apprehended 3,300 suspects, found over \$400,000 in lost articles, recovered \$2.3 million in drug money, and found \$4.6 million worth of illegal drugs — demonstrating they are, as many officers state, "The greatest tool we have in law enforcement."

The unit started with four officers and four dogs who received their initial training, lasting a full month, in Ohio. Soon thereafter, the Kalamazoo unit, the largest and most organized in the area, became trainers for other K-9 handlers in west Michigan.

Initially, the dogs were trained only to sniff out drugs but are now cross

trained to also locate suspects, missing persons and lost items and to assist at crime scenes. At least one dog and handler is on duty at all times.

Currently, the KPS K-9 Unit has nine dogs, all male German shepherds with an alpha personality. They weigh 60 to 95 pounds and range in age from 2 to 9. Their nine handlers range in age from 29 to 40 and collectively have 39 years of experience within the K-9 Unit and 79 years as Kalamazoo Public Safety officers. They are Sgt. Scott Sanderson and K-9 Rex, Officer Jeff Crouse and K-9 Maverick, Officer Jeff Deblecourt and K-9 Rokko, Officer Jim Doerr and K-9 Sagus, Officer Anthony Evans and K-9 Veddo, Officer Ted Green and K-9 Gero, Officer Peter Hoyt and K-9 Q, Officer Lisa Moore and K-9 Ori, and Officer Marc Rifenberg and K-9 Ranger. 🐾



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K-9

In any situation, the KPS K-9s are tuned in to their handlers, and vice versa. “Dogs learn from repetition and exposure,” says Officer Doerr. “We expose them to as many people as possible, as many times as possible, on the job and elsewhere. The more exposure and repetition they get, the more they understand how to read a situation and whether to be gentle or on alert.”

“Suspects are nervous and dogs read that,” Officer Hoyt explains further. “But kids and people in general do not exhibit a fear factor that’s common to a crime situation. The dogs learn the difference.”

Sgt. Sanderson adds, “When you look across a room, you can see a person’s demeanor. The dogs pay attention to us. They notice how we are reacting to people around us.”

“Dogs have a sixth sense that also helps us pay more attention and notice things,” Officer Crouse contributes. “Like when we walk a mall, K-9 Maverick is exceptionally friendly to people who are glad to interact with him. But other people who may have had a bad experience with a dog or may be up to mischief will be guarded and standoffish, and Maverick will pick up on that. So he helps me be more aware, too.”

This unspoken, extra-sensory interaction between the handlers and their canines, as well as their 24/7/365 work/home relationship, creates a bond akin to that between business partners, spouses, and parents and children. Therefore, even a promotion out of the K-9 Unit is a life-altering experience. “Typically, when you’re promoted to another department, your dog is re-assigned,” Sgt. Sanderson states. “When I got promoted from an officer within the K-9 Unit to sergeant of regular patrol, the first day I came to work, I wanted to say, ‘C’mon. Are you ready, buddy?’ Then I would realize there’s no dog riding with me. I’ve got a back seat now. It was a different feeling not having my co-pilot back there.”

Fortunately, for Sgt. Sanderson, that dogless experience lasted only two months and ended happily when, in June of 2002, his commanding officer accepted his application to return, as sergeant, to the K-9 Unit

Likewise, a dog’s retirement from active duty is a sad experience, worthy of empathy for the animal, as Officer Doerr projects. “Imagine, if you went to work with the same person and worked together day in and



Retired Chief Dan Weston created the first canine unit in 1987. The four-member team included officers Larry Leach, Joe Taylor, Rick Ives and Bob Rickard.

day out, and you helped each other and trained together and went home together and did all those things you have in common, and then there came a day when you take your dog home and you get up the next morning and go to work and the dog stays there, and the dog wonders: "Where is Dad going? Why is he leaving me here?"

Even worse is putting a dog to sleep, as Officer Hoyt, the only KPS handler to have that experience, explains. "It was the worst day that I can remember very vividly. I thought I could make it in to work. Fortunately, the department took very good care of me and gave me the day off because I was a wreck. K-9 Billy was my dog for nine years, with me day in and day out. And one day I had to take him for a ride to the vet. And that's it. It's over."

Officer Hoyt, the oldest officer in the K-9 Unit at 40, is now working with his second dog, K-9 Q. Sgt. Sanderson acknowledges that, while KPS does not have a mandatory retirement age for K-9 handlers, there is a physical agility test, which all the officers, most of them in their late 20s or early 30s, must pass. In regard to assigning K-9 Q to Officer Hoyt, Sgt. Sanderson states, "I made the decision to go to my captain and ask that Officer Hoyt have another canine based on the amount of time and work he put into his first dog and into the team."

Officer Anthony Evans, having been with the unit only four months, represents a new presence. His dog, K-9 Veddo, had been previously assigned to another officer who was promoted out of the unit, so Officer Evans and K-9 Veddo invest extra practice time getting to know and understand each other. "I've always owned a dog and at one time wanted to be a veterinarian, but I've come to learn that a working dog is different than having a house pet," he says.

Officer Ted Green, a five-year veteran to the unit, sees many benefits to working with his dog, K-9 Gero. "It's the personal satisfaction," he says. "You



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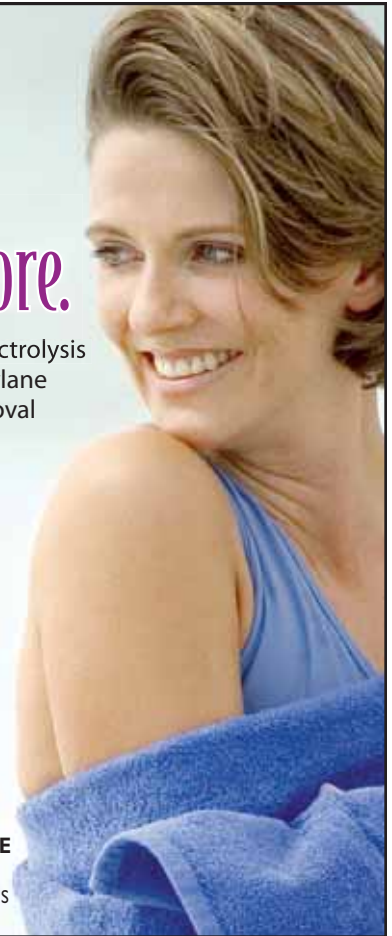
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Sitting in a hotel overlooking
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An old man tells me
How his father used to get
His brothers and him up
The morning after a snowstorm,
Showshoe them all into the bush
Looking for mounds of snow
With steam tendrils,
There being deer at rest beneath
The snow.
Shot eight one morning, he says,
Had to clean the blood trails
In case the game warden come along, eh?
He knocked back a rye whiskey
Went back to his granddaughter's
Wedding reception.

By Joseph Heywood

Joseph, 64, novelist, poet, painter, and brook-trout chaser, is a 1965 graduate of Michigan State University (bachelor's in journalism) and attended graduate school (English literature) at WMU. He is a United States Air Force and Vietnam veteran and spends a great amount of time in the Upper Peninsula where he relishes both the scenery and the unique people he encounters, both in the bush and occasionally in towns.

K-9

get a young dog with a little knowledge, mold him and grow with him. Then everything that dog does reflects on you. Everything becomes one: your friendship with the dog, your love for the dog. Officer Green and K-9 Gero are one. We mold as one.”

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Office Moore adds, “Officers in other units might take an initial



photo by Ashley Ampersee

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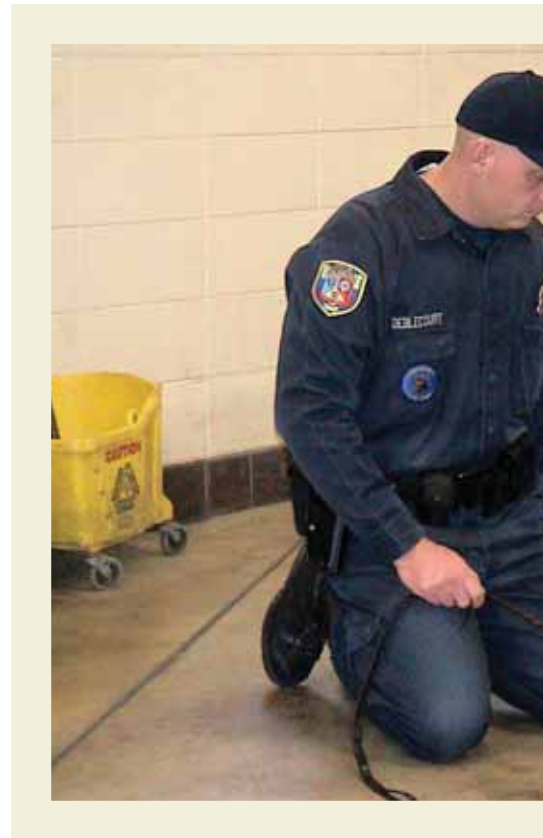
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complaint and then turn it over to the investigation department and might not learn the end result. But with the dog team, we come to the end of a track and we see the result of our work. We come to a point of conclusion.”

Not specifically stated but certainly evident — through comments, tone of voice, facial expressions and the demeanor of calm confidence exhibited by both the handlers and their animals — is the satisfaction that comes from performing a professional job well. As Sgt. Sanderson says, “I’ll go on record and say this as sergeant of this team: We go through our highs and lows, but as far as I’m concerned, this unit is one of the best in the state, if not the best. These officers work hard and train hard. They’re successful at competitions. And the majority of the time, I’ve got a pretty easy job.” 🐾



Photo: Robert Weir

Officer Jeff Deblecourt and K-9 Rokko take a break during a weekly obedience-training session held at Public Safety Station 3, which is the canine unit headquarters.

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Dr. Azzam Kanaan, whose specialty is in cardiology, has been the guiding force behind KNI since its inception in 1982.



Photo: Courtesy Borgess Medical Center

Dr. Mark Shaman, radiologist and president of Premier Radiology, is a business associate and close friend of KNI's Azzam Kanaan. According to Shaman, the two share both personal and business philosophies.

Doctors for Good — A

EXPERIENCE AND YOUTH. Neurology and radiology. Islam and Christianity. These three dissimilarities have the potential to prevent continuity and cooperation. But in the case of Dr. Azzam Kanaan and Dr. Mark Shaman, both prominent Kalamazoo-area medical doctors, these differences have added both a little spice and some additional flavor to a partnership that many would say is unlikely.

Kanaan, age 68, is the Executive Director of KNI/Southwest Michigan Imaging. He has been the guiding force behind the company's continued growth and success since it began operation in 1982. His visionary leadership and commitment to excellence has helped keep patient care in the forefront throughout their many medical advances in the last 25 years.

Shaman, age 37, heads Premier Radiology, which offers both diagnostic and interventional radiology services. Though a relative newcomer to the profession and the area, Shaman has played a leadership role in advancing the practice of radiology. He and his team have worked collaboratively with various other medical disciplines, including

KNI/Southwest Michigan Imaging.

As is true of age and religious differences, some medical practitioners can be somewhat "territorial" when it comes to their specialties. Historically, neurologists and radiologists have had their share of "turf battles." How-

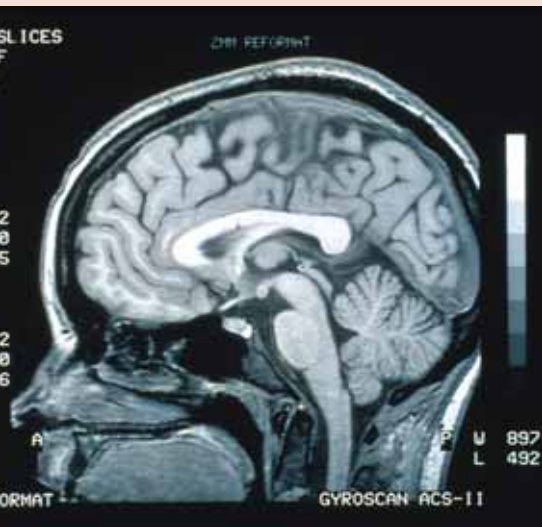
**Two local doctors
aspire to provide a high
level of patient care
by putting quality,
collaboration, and values
at the forefront.**

ever, Drs. Kanaan and Shaman have proven that working together toward a common good is an excellent way to enhance the level of patient care in all areas. Their teamwork approach has already achieved positive results, and there is the sense that the best is yet to come — in large part due to the close personal relationship of Kanaan and Shaman, who explains it this way: "We

are business associates, and we are close friends."

How did it happen that a 68-year old Palestinian Muslim approaching the conclusion of a long and storied medical career in neurology and a 37-year old son of immigrant Iraqi Chaldean Catholic parents with a blossoming career in radiology joined forces to provide a higher level of patient care? Therein lies a tale well worth telling.

For Kanaan, the story begins in the Palestinian town of Nablus, where he was born and raised, with education there at the primary and secondary school level. He graduated from Ain Shams University Medical School in Cairo, Egypt, in 1970 and first stepped onto American soil in 1971, just prior to interning at Borgess Hospital in 1971–72 and then serving a residency in neurology at Indiana University Medical Center in Indianapolis from 1972–75. Reflecting back on the challenges he faced then, he says: "It was easier to immigrate to the U.S. when you had relatives here, and my brother, Adli, had preceded me. He was teaching chemistry at WMU at the time."



An early KNI SouthWest Michigan image used to diagnose a patient's condition.



KNI, founded 25 years ago, has been a leader in magnetic resonance imaging, with facilities that now include two fixed-imaging centers and eight mobile units that operate throughout the state. KNI and its physicians utilize partnerships with Borgess Medical Center, Kalamazoo Neurology, Premier Radiology and the NeuroInstitute of SouthWest Michigan.

Neurology, simply put, is the study of the nervous system, especially illnesses or injuries relating to the brain and spine. Until the 1970s, X-rays were the main means of evaluating neurological problems. By passing low-dose radiation beams through the body, X-ray technicians create films that are read by the physician. Radiation from X-rays can be harmful, and their accuracy early on was limited.

In the mid-1970s, thanks to rapid advances in computer technology, CT (Computed Tomography) scanners combined X-ray technology with new computer capabilities to provide quick, accurate analysis for treatment. The first CT scanners could create an image of only a single “slice” of the body at a time. Today, multi-slice scanners read up to 64 slices at a time. “Dr. Mohnney was involved in the introduction of CT scanners to the Kalamazoo area, says Kanaan. “I was lucky to be involved with him.”

Advances continued, and by the early 1980s full-body scanners were common. Kanaan and his colleagues opened Kalamazoo Neurological Institute in 1982 (it became KNI/Southwest Michigan Imaging in 1987) with just two pieces of equipment, one of which was a CT scanner. Advancements continued, and KNI was at the forefront of the next imaging revolution: Magnetic Resonance Imaging, or MRIs. “The first installed in the area was at KNI in 1985 with just three others in the state,” says Kanaan.

Magnetic Resonance Imaging was also propelled by advances in computer technology. “MRI is a noninvasive method of producing detailed images of the internal organs and tissues. The patient is placed in a magnetic field that makes the hydrogen protons in the body spin at a pre-determined speed. Radio waves are then transmitted into the patient to cause hydrogen protons in the body to reciprocate by sending a signal back from the organs and tissues of interest. A computer then pieces together a picture,” explains Kanaan. He says another positive

(Continued on page 27)

Special Friendship

In fact, Kanaan says, the 1971 trip from Palestine to the United States wasn't all business. He and wife Shadia married in Palestine in April 1971, shortly before they arrived. “Not only did I come to start my professional career,” Kanaan says, “but we were on our honeymoon, too!”

After completing his residency in 1975, he joined Kalamazoo Neurology, where he worked with Dr. Russell Mohnney, whom Kanaan describes as a pioneer in the field in the Kalamazoo area. “Dr. Mohnney was a mentor to me, and I cherish the experience I had with him. Changes were occurring in the field of neurology then, and I learned a lot from him,” says Kanaan.

Eager to give historical credit to others, he reflects on the contributions and leadership of the late Dr. Ilydio Polachini, a local neurologist who died in 2001 at the age of 47. “He was instrumental in putting together the basic elements of the KNI program using his vast knowledge of MRI,” says Kanaan. “His sudden death was a huge loss to the medical profession and the community, and as a result of his knowledge, dedication, and hard work, we owe him a debt of gratitude.”

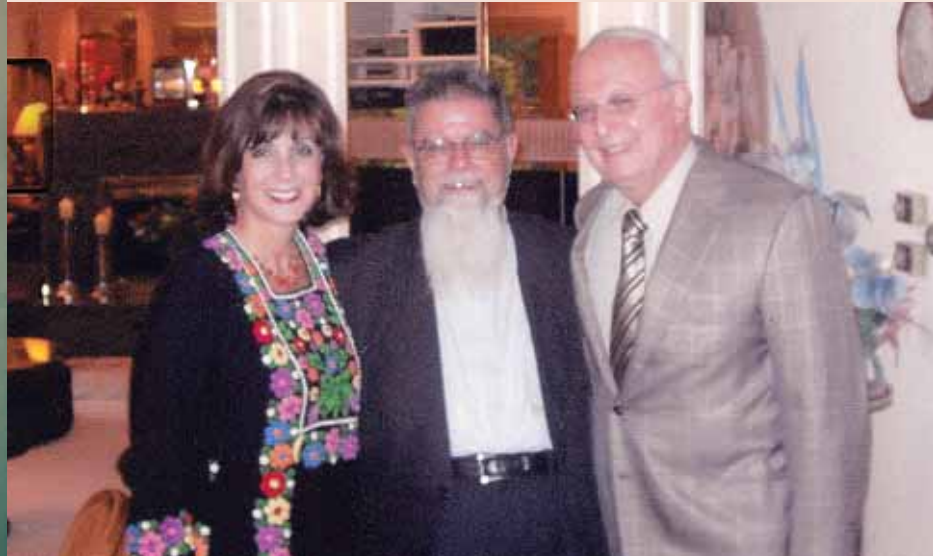
Mark Shaman was born in Detroit, Mich., on December 25, 1970, grew up in Sterling Heights, and attended De La Salle High School. He played lacrosse there, and his love of the game had some influence on his college choice. “I decided to attend Michigan State University, particularly because they had a varsity lacrosse team, where I played for four years.” He graduated from MSU in 1993 with a degree in zoology.

Clearly, however, his interests went well beyond sports. “I had always wanted to become a doctor. I am compassionate by nature, and always wanted to help people, so it was a natural transition for me.” He attended Wayne State University School of Medicine, graduating in 1998, interned in general surgery at Wayne State University/The Detroit Medical Center, and then served a residency in diagnostic radiology at the same institution.

While Shaman was growing up and preparing for his life's work, Kanaan was focused on providing top-notch, cutting-edge care in neurology to folks in Kalamazoo, who had welcomed him and given him a fresh start halfway around the world.



Shadia and Azzam Kanaan are good friends of Elias Chacour (center), a Palestinian Melkite Catholic priest who has been active in advocating peace and relieving the plight of his people in Palestine. His autobiography, "Blood Brothers," is a telling account of life in a country torn by politics.



Reflections on Palestine

By Penny Briscoe

AZZAM KANAAN spent his childhood in the Old City of Nablus, Palestine, cocooned comfortably by the support of a loving, close-knit family and a community that, from his recollections, peacefully and harmoniously accepted the diversity of the people who lived there. He was blessed with a fine primary and secondary education in local, integrated schools and took religious freedom largely for granted.

But by the time Azzam was 10, his world had begun to change. This contentedly growing Palestinian lad could never have imagined the results of the Palestine partitioning resolution passed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1947 as the British announced the exodus of their colonial presence from Palestine. Historical Palestine was divided forcibly and the state of Israel was created. As Nablus was part of the 22 percent that remained, he and his family were not rendered refugees like hundreds of thousands of others, although the area fell under Israeli occupation after the six-day war in June 1967.

Nablus is more than five-thousand years old and strategically located in a fertile valley just north of Jerusalem. It has religious significance to all three Abrahamic

religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam. This ancient city where Azzam grew up is one of the largest in the West Bank, with a population of over 130,000. The historic conflicts between its citizens had waned by the time he was born, and he describes a childhood of peaceful co-existence in which, as a Muslim, he attended the same schools as the Christians and Samaritans (Palestinian Jews).

"I still have many friends from when we went to school together," he says. "I never really questioned whether they were Christian, Jewish or Muslim. In school we shared the same classroom. Religious conflict is really a new issue that some politicians are trying to bring to the surface. Palestinians have always been united in their aspirations for a free homeland where they can live in dignity and peace."

Azzam explains that Palestinian Christians are, like Palestinian Muslims, oppressed by the occupation. He cites the experiences of his friend, Father Elias Chacour, a Christian Palestinian who became a Melkite Catholic priest and has devoted his life to relieving the misery of Palestinians. In his book, "Blood Brothers," he describes his father as a refugee in his own country. Chacour, nominated for

a Nobel Peace prize, heads the Catholic Church in Palestine and has been elected the Archbishop. His work in establishing schools and a university in Israel has benefited all people — Christians, Muslims and Jewish alike. He is devoted to a peaceful resolution to the Palestine/Israel conflict and to education of the plight of the Palestinian people.

As for the Samaritans who have lived in Nablus throughout its history, they too are suffering. Their religion is based on the Torah, which predates the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem, and they consider themselves to be the descendants of the authentic ancient Israelites. Most live on the holy Mount Gerizim, which embraces Nablus from the South, and they number fewer than 1,000 because their intent has been to preserve their pure blood. They identify themselves as Palestinian Jews, not Israelis, and their tribal affinity with the people in Nablus crosses all boundaries of religion and ethnicity. Until recently, they went to the same schools in Nablus. In fact, one of the chief leaders of the tribe was Azzam's classmate, and they remain close friends. Benefits for Samaritans under Israeli occupation administration include Israeli license plates, which, Az-

zam says, "facilitates our travel when we go back to visit Nablus. They are not subjected to the same rough treatment as the Palestinian Arabs. One of them comes to the border to give us a ride and we avoid the multiple checkpoints on the road."

So how did Azzam end up an American? His story, while interesting, is not unlike that of hundreds of thousands of other immigrants.

The death of Azzam's father when Azzam was 2 had little negative impact on the boy. Surrounded by loving and nurturing extended family with his mother at the center of his life, he excelled in Nablus schools and was one of five Palestinians admitted annually into the prestigious Egyptian medical schools in Cairo.

When he chose to leave Palestine, he became one of many who were prevented by Israeli occupation law from returning home without special permission. After much effort, he received that permission toward the end of his medical schooling, in which he graduated number one amongst all medical school graduates in Cairo. During this visit, he met and became engaged to his future wife, Shadia. When he requested a second pass to attend their wedding, he was denied — but, undaunted, the wedding took place without him, and his new bride met him across the border with Jordan. Having a brother already in Kalamazoo, Dr. Adli Kanaan, who was teaching chemistry at WMU at the time, Azzam and Shadia found their way to southwest Michigan and, eventually, United States citizenship.

That citizenship has provided the couple with more than a new home in the United States. It has also given them relatively easy access to family and friends in their homeland — and the couple have returned frequently. Azzam offers a scenario of when they fly into Amman, Jordan, and cross the borders to go to Nablus:

"For ordinary Palestinians who are entering the West Bank, it will take

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Kanaan

them a whole day to get there. For me and my family as Americans, we have what you call a special status; yet it is not so special because I am of Palestinian descent. So I try to have VIP services from the border in Jordan. I have to pay more to have a special car take me across the bridge to the Israeli side. There I am met by an Israeli security agent who will put me in an air-conditioned room while my papers are processed. The security process starts and takes between one and two hours of waiting in that room to check my documents while they make calls to the intelligence service. I am interrogated ... and I have to present them with my return ticket to the U.S. A trip that shouldn't take more than an hour and 15 minutes driving ends up between four and five hours at best.

"A year ago at Thanksgiving, two of our children went with us to visit, and we were held at the border for about six hours. The Israeli security said the reason is because we had young men with us. They were checked thoroughly and interrogated more than once before we were allowed to leave and meet our Samaritan driver who made the rest of the trip easier by avoiding the many checkpoints, especially the horrible one at the entrance to Nablus."

Azzam has built a successful medical practice as a neurologist in Kalamazoo after additional medical training

at Borgess Medical Center and Indiana University. He credits Dr. Ronald Springate, who was then director of medical education at Borgess, and Dr. Russell Mohny among others who helped him complete his training. He says his special friendship with Dr. Mohny "opened the many doors to his professional success." They became partners and were pioneers in the advancement of neurology service in Kalamazoo.

Consequently, Kanaan has had the financial means to send money to family in Palestine who refuse to leave despite the limited opportunities there. "I try to do my share and alleviate some of the burdens of my family there. I feel a real sense of hopelessness and defeat, but when I go, I come back with a different impression. Those people are going to stay; they are good to each other. I've never seen that kind of relationship in a community — where people share. Everybody shares."

In 2000 Azzam and Shadia built a home just outside Nablus near the Samaritan village on land owned by Shadia's family. They spent four enjoyable months in it that summer, entertaining family and friends. However, that September an uprising by Palestinian resistance prompted the Israelis to erect a checkpoint directly in front of the entrance to their home. Azzam believes

it was erected because there is an Israeli military base in the area as well as two Jewish settlements. He and his wife have not stayed in that home since. "It's there, I maintain it, I am proud of that house; I love it. It has beautiful grounds and is beautiful inside, with valuable memories. But I cannot use it now."

Shadia, who attended a Quaker boarding school and a Catholic prep school, holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Jordan and a master's degree in political science from WMU, believes her greatest contribution to her adopted country is her children. Local educator Olga Bonfiglio quotes Shadia in her recent book, "Heroes of a Different Stripe": "I have been in the United States for 33 years, she says. "I feel I've earned my place and paid my dues. I have gifted this country four sons: One is a heart surgeon, one is a neurosurgeon, and the other two are successful businessmen in this community."

In this reciprocal relationship, the couple love to quote Khalil Jobran's poem: "The Fountain," in which the Lebanese poet says:

And in this lies my honor and
my reward.

That whenever I come to the fountain to drink,

I find the living waters itself thirsty,
and it drinks me while I drink it."



Azzam Kanaan is pictured in front of his family home as a child. Note the tree in the background. The second photo shows home (and tree) as life became more difficult in the region. The third photo shows the destruction and plight of the symbolic tree after his family home was destroyed in the wake of an Israeli bombing. Currently the area has been cleared and appears as an empty lot.



Azzam and Shadia cannot occupy the home they built on a hilltop just outside of their hometown of Nablus, Palestine. Despite the fact that Jews, Muslims, and Christians have peacefully co-existed there for centuries, difficulties have arisen related to strict Israeli checkpoints.

Shadia is the founder of Women in Black locally, an extension of the international movement started by Palestinian and Israeli women to protest the violence in their region. The movement's purpose has broadened to promote peace worldwide, and as part of that philosophy of caring, she, with Azzam, willingly send financial resources to Nablus

hospitals and schools.

The couple has first-hand knowledge of the attacks on their native city. Nablus is famous for its olive-oil soap production, and one plant owned by Shadia's family and situated near Azzam's 600-year-old ancestral home was bombed, taking the soap factory and house with it. Azzam explains: "My sis-

ters lived in the old house. Shortly before the Israeli incursion, my nephew moved them, predicting this kind of act because the Old City was a target for Israeli air strikes and heavy artillery. Nothing remains of the historic structure — but at least the family was saved."

Moving toward his golden years now, and with a hint of melancholy but no bitterness in his voice, Dr. Azzam Kanaan says he is proud of his contributions to the Kalamazoo community. "When I didn't have a place to go, I came here, and I have spent more than half of my life here. My children were bom here, grew up here, and this is my home, my country.

"We are all children of God; we are equal in His vision. We are fortunate and should defend the right of everybody for a decent life. I am a human before being an American or a Palestinian. And if we all feel that humanity in us, then the world will be a better place." 🐾



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An American Tale

By Penny Briscoe

YOUNG MARK SHAMAN, at 37, is a force to be reckoned with in the world of radiology. He is the founder and president of Premier Radiology, has already benefited his young family through his hard work, and has made his parents proud. But he's not even close to being done!

"I think my goals come as time goes on. Whatever success I've reached, it's because I have worked very hard at it. I have wanted to be very good at it," he calmly reveals, discounting out-of-the-ordinary intelligence in favor of sweat and determination, which he says has always been his personality, even as a child.

A medical doctor whose specialty is radiology, Mark grew up in Sterling Heights, the son of Iraqi immigrants. A Chaldean Catholic, he attended Catholic schools, which is where he discovered his love for lacrosse — but his interests didn't stop there. "I had always wanted to become a doctor. I am compassionate by nature, and always wanted to help people, so it was a natural transition for me," he explains.

Despite the fact that he is a first-generation American with roots in the

Middle East, Mark says he has not experienced discrimination. In fact, he admits that his striking, deep-blue eyes have made it easy for him to blend into the diverse culture of the United States.

"I love this country, and my parents love this country, and I don't consider myself anything other than American," he says with a touch of emotion.

Now a Richland, Mich., family man with three youngsters — sons Christian (5) and Dylan (4), and daughter Lauren (almost 1), he and wife Tanya, a pharmacist-turned-stay-at-home-mother whom he met at a Detroit-area hospital in which they both worked, have a rich ethnic and family history to pass along. Both Chaldean Catholics with an Iraqi heritage, their children will grow up with knowledge of their storied past, thanks to relatives who have kept the history alive.

Chaldean Catholicism, so named for its origin in Chaldea near Baghdad, is an ancient Eastern rite established in 1553, and now united with Roman Catholicism. Chaldeans, who number about 1.5 million worldwide, recognize the authority of the pope, but their

Mark Shaman played lacrosse in high school and at Michigan State University.

church is autonomous from Rome, having an independent liturgy and leadership. Most live in the Middle East, with an estimated half million living in Iraq. They represent about 3 percent of that country's population and suffer, along with other religious minorities, from episodes of sectarian violence and ethnic cleansing.

Christianity was the faith of the majority of native Iraqis between the 1st and 7th century. Then the Arab Muslims defeated the Persians and took possession of Iraq, causing the beginning of the retreat of Christians and Christianity there, especially depleting the country of the educated and skilled.

These episodes of conflict have inspired many to emigrate to places like the United States, with estimates of 800,000–100,000 now living in metropolitan Detroit.

Mark Shaman enjoys a boat ride with his oldest son, Christian.

Such is the case with the families of Mark and Tanya Shaman, and Mark's father, Najib Shaman, sheds light on his particular family story:

Najib, a retired mechanical engineer after nearly 40 years at DaimlerChrysler Corporation, followed several family members to the United States who, since 1898, had varying degrees of success in staying permanently.

"The first few Christians from Iraq that could gain entry to the United States arrived before and after World War I, and were motivated by economic and freedom opportunities," says Najib. "Detroit, then, was a magnet for foreign workers attracted by demand for labor and high wages offered by Ford Motor Company."

Najib immigrated in 1957 on a student visa. Mark's mother, Natalie, came in 1968 to visit family, but she stayed, having met and eventually marrying Najib.

Najib (who now works for the United States Department of Justice) explains that many of the Iraqi Christians who came were originally farmers or had skills in cottage industries. Many gave up the automotive jobs to start small grocery stores due to greater future potential and independence, despite the long, daily hours and seven-day work weeks.

"In 1965 a new immigration law distributed visas to future immigrants on an equal basis of about 20,000 per country, canceling favored status for Western/Northern Europeans and Latin Americans," explains Najib.

He shares some lore of the period: "A good-natured, humorous by-product of this initial large wave that brought many with high school and college degrees was that the old timers with very little schooling would make fun of the new arrivals with sheep skins, which they said were on sale in the book stores in Baghdad for a dime each, but that they couldn't get a good job without further study in the United States. The new arrivals with degrees made fun of the illiterate old timers with money who were working seven days a week."

More recently, he adds, additional



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2/24 - *Michigan Asylum for the Insane*

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Kalamazoo filmmaker Dhera Strauss presents her documentary about local band *Los Bandits*, in conjunction with 2008's book selection, *Animal Dreams* by Barbara Kingsolver.

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2/14 - *The Royal Garden Trio* (Jazz, Ann Arbor)

Artist To Icon Film Series

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2/21 - *A Hard Day's Night* (1964)



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Shaman

Iraqis, both Christian and Muslim, have come to the United States due to deteriorating conditions from the 1980s Iraq-Iran War, the 1991 Gulf War, and the 2003 U.S. invasion.

According to Najib, Chaldean Christians in the Detroit area are, due to education and other opportunities and intermarriage, more integrated within the larger American society than any other group from the Middle East.

Najib, a long-time U.S. citizen who continues to make valuable contributions to American society, reminds others that Iraq has a proud past. He mentions the extensive libraries written on clay tablets in Mesopotamia/Babylonia. He lists other noteworthy accomplishments: They excelled in astronomy and mathematics and developed extensive tables for financial transactions and compound interest; divided the circle into 360 degrees, the day into hours, and the hour into minutes; recorded extensively the eclipses of the sun and moon; and devised the code of Hammurabi, the first-ever recorded legal system, which exists to this day. In addition, the story of creation, the first human, and the flood were recorded by the Babylonians.

Mark Shaman, Kalamazoo's young radiologist, is now far removed from his history, just as are most Americans who have grown up in the culture of the United States — and his young children are even more so.

But he hopes to pass on to his youngsters the respect he has for others. "It doesn't matter what religion you are," he says, "as long as you follow your faith and behave with integrity and fairness. I always look at my patients and ask myself: 'How would I want another doctor to treat my family?'"

Mark has no close relatives left in Iraq, but in keeping with Chaldean tradition, he tries to maintain a close family relationship with his extended family in the United States. He and his wife could easily have stayed near them in the Detroit area, but as is typical in the world today, they relocated to seek opportunity elsewhere.

"My wife really wanted to come back to Michigan (after the fellowship in Boston), particularly Detroit. I was not fond of the radiology job market in Detroit," Mark explains. "I knew very little about Kalamazoo, except that it was between Detroit and Chicago. It seemed like a very nice place to live, so I came to visit. I liked Borgess Hospital, and it was close enough to home so that our parents could easily come visit or we could go back there.

"The life style here is fantastic, people here are wonderful, and I like the slower pace. There are lots of outdoor activities. I love it here. It is very, very nice."

For the residents of Detroit, perhaps a little sadly, their loss is certainly South-west Michigan's gain. 📺



Najib Shaman (left), young Mark, and his mother, Natalie, enjoy a summer's day relaxing. Najib and Natalie emigrated from Iraq to the United States when they were young adults and have been instrumental in maintaining the storied family histories of their families.

Friendship

(Continued from page 19)

aspect of MRI is that the magnetic field and radio waves used to produce the MRI pictures are harmless compared to X-ray. The pictures are also unequaled by other imaging technologies because they can be acquired in any direction or plane without changing the patient's position within the MRI scanner.

MRIs are defined by their magnetic field strength measure in tesla units. KNI/Southwest Michigan Imaging has always had the highest magnet field strength available in the area. "Our first MRI unit was a .6 tesla," says Kanaan. "In the late 1980s, we obtained a state-of-the-art, 1.5 tesla unit. In 2003 we had the first 3.0 tesla unit on the west side of Michigan. Brain scans have shown remarkable overall performance improvement over 1.5 tesla images."

KNI now has two 3.0 tesla units — one at their Gull Road location and the other at the Neuroinstitute of Southwest Michigan on the Borgess campus. "KNI offers the most comprehensive imaging services in the region," says Kanaan. This includes 3.0 tesla high-field, cylindrical MRI units and 1.0 tesla high-field open MRI units at each of their two facilities. The high field open MRI units utilize a horseshoe-type design that allows claustrophobic or large patients to fit comfortably in an open setting. KNI was also the first imaging center in Michigan to provide referring physicians with internet MRI images, according to Kanaan.

KNI also offers mobile service through MMDI (Midwest Mobile Diagnostic Imaging). "We wanted to bring MRI capability to areas in west Michigan that didn't have them," Kanaan explains. "At one time we served up to 20 hospitals. We'll soon have mobile operations at Borgess Woodbridge Hills campus and the Westside Medical Center campus. Our goal remains the same: to offer the best possible service to our patients."

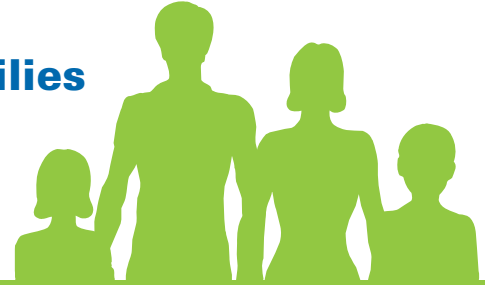
In fact, commitment to patients is what has ultimately driven Dr. Kanaan. His group works in partnership with Borgess Medical Center, Kalamazoo



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Friendship

Neurology, the Neuroinstitute of Southwest Michigan — and the more unlikely Premier Radiology team headed up by Mark Shaman.

Kanaan says a major goal is to enhance the working relationships between neurology and radiology. “In the past, relationships between the two medical specialties locally weren’t always as effective as one might wish,” he says. “Doctors can become protective of their territory, and that doesn’t always benefit the patient. We wanted to improve that relationship and enhance patient care — which is why we started working with Premier Radiology.”

This improbable partnership was driven by the strong relationship that had developed between Kanaan and Shaman. Kanaan says, “Dr. Shaman is a man of character, vision and leadership. I had a vision of what I want to do here, and I believe Dr. Shaman has a similar vision and mission — to be the best we can be, to deliver the best possible care to our clients.”

Shaman agrees: “I was fortunate to meet Dr. Kanaan shortly after arriving in Kalamazoo, and we instantly took a liking to each other. He is a very smart, humble and charming man. He is a business visionary and has helped me considerably in my young career.”

The clearly mutual admiration is based on a similarity in philosophical and ethical principles, both professionally and personally. “You live by principle, are honest, take care of your family, and treat others like you would like to be treated,” says Shaman. “Everyone needs a mentor in life, and Dr. Kanaan has given me considerable insight from his 30-plus years of practice.”

Shaman’s current practice, Premier Radiology, of which he is the president, has 11 members with plans to grow to about 15 — but he has been challenged by its progression. When Shaman completed his residency at Wayne State University/The Detroit Medical Center in 2003, he then accepted a fellowship in Vascular and Interventional Radiology at the Mas-

sachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School in Boston, but by 2004 he was practicing in Kalamazoo, having taken a position with Western Michigan Radiology, which disbanded soon thereafter. Without skipping a beat, Shaman formed a new radiology group.

Shaman says, “The future of radiology is bright. Diagnostic imaging has grown by 10–20 percent through the years as imaging has become a first line in the evaluation and diagnosis of patient illnesses.”

With growth, however, comes competition. He says, “Radiology is becoming commoditized; there are large national groups of radiologists forming to provide remote services for hospitals. I think this is likely the future of how radiology will be practiced, and those radiology groups that don’t realize this may be in for a surprise. This is part of the reason we stress to our radiologists that providing top-notch service to our patients and referring physicians is vital. We need to be the best, because if we become complacent and feel entitled to what we do, we might just be one of these groups that gets displaced by the large national groups.”

Excited about the future of radiology, Shaman says: “Some of the most intriguing and exciting aspects of diagnostic radiology lie in the field of cardiovascular

To show her support of and respect for KNI in its early years, Sister Eugene, Borgess Hospital Executive Director at the time, hangs a plaque that reads: Service, teamwork, compassion and understanding means quality care.



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imaging, particularly cardiac CT, which allows the noninvasive imaging of the coronary arteries to assess for coronary artery disease, and cardiac MRI, which allows superb evaluation of the viability and functionality of the heart tissue as well as evaluation of cardiac morphology.

“Virtual colonoscopy, another noninvasive technique, will likely some day replace conventional colonoscopy for the evaluation of the colon for malignancy,” he says. “At some point, radiology will move on to molecular imaging and functional imaging. With these techniques we will be able to look at the cellular level of tissues and the function of cells.

“Hopefully we will be able to diagnose the precancerous state in which therapy will be of most benefit and cures will be greatly enhanced, rather than diagnosing an already established cancer. I am glad I am young enough to see these technologies come to fruition and will hopefully be in the forefront of bringing these technologies to Kalamazoo when they are ready.”

Shaman is particularly excited about one technological advance recently brought to the Kalamazoo area, specifically to Kanaan’s KNI/Southwest Michigan Imaging: MRI-guided Focused Ultrasound Ablation. “It was,” he says, “the vision of Dr. Kanaan, and we’re one of only three centers in the Midwest and one of only about 15 centers nationally with this technology, which is specifically used to noninvasively treat uterine fibroids.

“It’s a virtually painless alternative to surgery. Patients feel little if any discomfort during the procedure and are usually able to return to normal activities immediately. In some cases, results are immediate; in others it might take up to six months to see maximum benefit.”

Both doctors are excited about possible future uses of this imaging technology, which could be used to treat breast, liver, prostate, brain and other cancers. “It’s truly revolutionary technology,” says Shaman.

As he talks about the future, he says, “We are not here for the money. We are here to build a grand vision of a radiology practice, to take care of our patients and our referring physicians and, furthermore, to help our hospital and our community. It takes time to build this vision, a lot of hard work, dedication and perseverance. Our goal is to provide the best service we can.”

As Dr. Kanaan eases toward retirement and Dr. Shaman continues to fulfill his professional vision, the warm relationship between these two dedicated individuals is undoubtedly going to continue. About retirement, Kanaan smiles and says: “Well, I’m supposed to be retired, but I’m still very active in the business.

“To me, retirement simply means a time when you can do what you really enjoy doing. In addition to spending time with my wife, Shadia, and my family here and abroad, and with close friends like Mark, it means continuing to provide the best patient care all the time, every time, for as long as we possibly can. 🐶



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Another Michigan Outdoor Adventure

By Theresa Coty O'Neil

NOVELISTS WILL TELL you that their characters often take on a life of their own, so consider how life-like a character in a series might become.

For Joseph Heywood, Portage resident and author of the Woods Cop mystery series, one of his main characters,



Joseph Heywood

Conservation Officer Grady Service, is as real as the next guy. After six novels with Grady, and as many years spent tagging along with Department of Natural Resources officers out in the field, Heywood will sometimes speak of his characters as though they're close friends, as he did recently with his daughter, who responded, "Dad, they're not real."

His comeback was, "In your mind."

Grady is "an amalgam of people I've met and historical events that have happened to these people," said Heywood. "Virtually everything in the series has happened to a DNR officer in the state."

Heywood, who retired as vice president of worldwide public relations at Pharmacia-Upjohn in 2000, wears many hats. Like Grady, he's a Vietnam veteran who loves the outdoors. In addition to his Woods Cop series, the fifth and latest of which is "Strike Dog" (September 2007), Heywood has written four other novels, published several columns in fishing magazines, and written poetry. He's also a painter, mostly of natural scenes from the Upper Peninsula, and of things he's witnessed while working with DNR officers.

Grady Service came on the scene in 2000 as a minor character in Heywood's fourth novel, the acclaimed "Snowfly." Arbitrarily, Heywood made Grady a game warden, and then realized he wasn't really sure what game wardens actually do. So, being the enterprising man he is, he called the Plainwell Department of Natural Resources office. A long-running friendship was sparked with then Lt. (now Capt.) Tom Courchaine.

Since then, Heywood spends up to a month a year on patrols with DNR officers both in the Upper Peninsula and BTB (Below the Bridge). And the ideas keep coming. "Death Roe," the sixth book in

the series, will come out next year. He's currently working on the seventh, "Hard Green Violets." Heywood's goal for the series is 10 books.

Not a fan of outlines, Heywood writes all of his first drafts in longhand and then puts them onto the computer the following day. "I'm not the kind of person who plots everything out," he said. "I think people who do probably don't get themselves into as many corners, but corners are part of the fun."

In 2003 Heywood came out with a memoir, "Covered Waters: Diary of a Nomadic Trout." He had been writing bits and pieces of the memoir for years, but when Sandy, his wife of 37 years and mother of their five children, died suddenly in 2002, he decided it was time to pull the book together. "It's about the spaces between fishing," he said. It's also about military service, origins, and family.

"I can never finish a project without having another one started," Heywood said, admitting he sometimes delays the finish of a book in order to "trick" himself into starting a new one. "I think I was born to write things as a reporter and storyteller." ❧



A (Fiber Optic) Stitch In Time Saves . . . 9

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The Healthy Side of Chocolate

By Diane Herder

#1 Put Yourself First

NOW THAT THE New Year is here and resolutions have been made, you may be wondering what to get significant others for Valentine's Day. Chocolate would not be part of their resolution, or even yours for that matter — but wait just one minute. Chocolate is actually good for you!

Part of the myth surrounding chocolate is that if it tastes so good, it must be bad for your health. But that is wrong thinking, as cacao, the source of chocolate, contains antibacterial agents that fight tooth decay (of course counteracted by the high sugar content of milk chocolate). The smell of chocolate, which contains phenyl ethylamine, a mild mood elevator, may increase theta brain waves, resulting in relaxation — and drinking a cup of hot chocolate before meals may actually diminish appetite. The cocoa butter in chocolate contains oleic acid, a mono-unsaturated fat that may raise good cholesterol, and, statistically, men who eat chocolate live a year longer than those who don't. Chocolate increases antioxidant levels in the blood, and Mexican healers even use chocolate to treat bronchitis and insect bites.

On top of all the "good" things choco-

late does for you, there are many things that chocolate doesn't do for you. Studies show that chocolate is not a causative factor in acne, and while cacao contains the stimulants caffeine and bromine, the small quantities don't cause nervous excitability. Chocolate is not addictive — and it doesn't make you "high." You'd need to eat about 25 pounds at one sitting to feel any noticeable effect. Finally, chocolate contains stearic acid, a neutral fat that doesn't raise bad cholesterol.

Since we also know that Valentine's Day is the "heart" holiday, you should know about the effects of chocolate on your heart. One study found that a substance in cocoa helps the body process nitric oxide (NO), a compound critical for healthy blood flow and blood pressure. Another study showed that flavonols in cocoa prevent fat-like substances in the bloodstream from oxidizing and clogging the arteries, and make blood platelets less likely to stick together and cause clots. Flavonoids are plant compounds with potent antioxidant properties; so far, scientists have found more than 4,000 kinds. Cocoa beans — like red wine, tea, cranberries, peanuts, strawberries, apples and many

other fruits and vegetables — contain large quantities of flavonoids.

Traditionally a very special treat especially on Valentine's Day, chocolate is the perfect gift to lift someone's spirits, say thank you, or get you out of the doghouse. So this year for Valentine's Day surprise your special someone or spoil yourself with some healthy chocolate treats. Heilman's has all sorts from which to choose, from specially-flavored dessert truffles to creams to cherry cordials to various shapes and sizes of molded chocolate that can be custom made for you. Or enjoy chocolate-covered nuts, chocolate-flavored coffee, or even dark- or milk-chocolate dipped pretzels, Oreos, and graham crackers! And for those people who can't have all that sugar, try sugar-free chocolates that are just as tasty. 🍫



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CLUES

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- This Mad Hatter's tea parties are always well-planned events.
- We are glad our Guess Who wasn't a teacup dropper.

ANSWER ON PAGE 62.

Photography by John Gilroy.

Costume and makeup by Tony Gerard, The Timid Rabbit Costume Shop.

Performing Arts

Plays

“Seven Passages: The Stories of Gay Christians” — A stark and important look at one of the deepest conflicts in contemporary culture; the true stories of gay Christians seeking a path to reconciliation. Feb. 7–9 & 14–16, 8 p.m., Feb. 17, 2 p.m. York Arena Theatre, WMU. 387-6222.

“Shakespeare in Hollywood” — This fantastical farce tells of Oberon and Puck magically transported to Hollywood where hilarity ensues. Feb. 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23, 8 p.m., Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m., Feb. 17, 2 p.m. Civic Theatre, 329 S. Park St. 343-1313.

“Slush” — This comedy looks at the world of publishing and perhaps a meeting with an otherworldly editor. Feb. 8, 9, 15 & 16, 11 p.m. Whole Art Studio, 246 N. Kalamazoo Mall. 345-7529.

“Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolfe” — Edward Albee’s play is filled with verbal dueling, brilliant dialogue and the unsettling candor of George and Martha. Feb. 14, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29 & Mar. 1, 8 p.m. Whole Art Theatre, Epic Theater, 359 S. Kalamazoo Mall. 345-7529.

“Almost, Maine” — The remote, mythical town of Almost, Maine is the setting for this delightful midwinter night’s dream of a play. Feb. 15, 16, 22, 23, 29 & Mar. 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 8:30 p.m. New Vic

Theatre, 134 E. Vine St. 381-3328.

“Well” — A special co-production of Kalamazoo College and Whole Art Theatre, the play is an exploration of issues of health and illness both in an individual and a community penned by New York actress/playwright and K-College alumna Lisa Kron. Feb. 28, 29 & Mar. 1, 8 p.m., Mar. 2, 2 p.m. K-College Festival Playhouse. 337-7130.

“Love is the master key which opens the gates of happiness.”

Oliver Wendell Holmes

Musicals & Opera

“Cosi Fan Tutte” — Mozart’s finest comic opera featuring one of his richest and most inventive scores will be presented by the WMU School of Music and the WMU Theatre Department. Feb. 21–23, 8 p.m., Feb. 24, 2 p.m. Shaw Theatre, WMU. 387-6222.

“Mamma Mia!” — This enchanting tale of love, laughter, family and friendship is set to the music of ABBA and has become a world-wide hit. Feb. 26–28 & Mar. 2, 7:30 p.m., Feb. 29 & Mar. 1, 8 p.m., Mar. 1 & 2, 2 p.m. Miller Auditorium, WMU. 387-2300.

Dance

Winter Concert of Dance — The WMU Department of Dance will feature Dark Elegies by Antony Tudor and Strict Love by Doug Varone and choreography by faculty, students and alumni. Feb. 8, 8 p.m. & Feb. 9, 2 & 8 p.m. Chenery Auditorium, 714 S. Westnedge. 387-2300.

Dance Forum — Wellspring presents this juried event featuring original and experimental choreography by guest artists, including college/university dance students, faculty and highly acclaimed dancers from the regional community. Feb. 15 & 16, 8 p.m., Feb. 17, 2 p.m. Wellspring Theater, 359 S. Kalamazoo Mall. 342-4354.

Symphony

University Symphony Orchestra — The WMU University Symphony Orchestra led by Bruce Uchimura presents a free concert. Feb. 3, 3 p.m. Miller Auditorium, WMU. 387-2300.

“The Legend of Faust” — The KSO is joined by the WMU Men’s Chorus and the Portage Northern High School Men’s Chorus to present this symphonic poem from the Hungarian-born Franz Liszt’s Faust Symphony. Feb. 15, 8 p.m. Miller Auditorium, WMU. 387-2300.

Chamber, Jazz, Orchestra & Bands

Winter Evenings — The Burdick-Thorne String Quartet presents an evening of great music in an intimate setting. Feb. 1 & 2, 8 p.m. Epic Theatre, 359 S. Kalamazoo Mall. 349-7759.

Faculty Artist Series — Featuring the Western Wind Quintet. Feb. 5, 8:15 p.m. Dalton Center Recital Hall, WMU. 387-2300.

Jazz Concert — Featuring music from the University Jazz Orchestra, Scott Cowan, director, and the University Jazz Lab Band, Tom Knific, director. Feb. 6, 8:15 p.m. Dalton Center Recital Hall, WMU. 387-2300.

“A Valentine’s Day Concert — From Bach to Broadway” — The Bach Festival Chorus will be joined by soprano Diane Penning for an evening of light music guaranteed to delight the ears and warm the heart. Feb. 9, 8 p.m. Light Fine Arts Building, Kalamazoo College. 337-7407.

“Josephine Baker: A Life of Le Jazz Hot!” — Fontana Chamber Arts presents a musical tribute to Josephine Baker featuring the acclaimed Imani Winds with special guests vocalist Rene Marie and percussionist Joseph Tompkins. Feb. 13, 8 p.m. Chenery Auditorium, 714 S. Westnedge. 382-7774.

“Road Trip” — The Kalamazoo Concert Band is joined by the West Michigan Concert Winds for this program. Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m. Miller Auditorium, WMU. 387-2300.

University Symphonic Band — David Montgomery will conduct. Feb. 17, 3 p.m. Miller Auditorium, WMU. 387-2300.

University Concert Band — Conductor John Lychner will lead this free concert. Feb. 19, 8:15 p.m. Miller Auditorium, WMU. 387-2300.

Canadian Brass — This exciting brass quintet plays everything from contemporary to classic jazz, from Mozart to Gershwin. Feb. 23, 8 p.m. Miller Auditorium, WMU. 387-2300.

Faculty Artist Series — The Western Brass Quintet will entertain. Feb. 24, 3 p.m. Dalton Center Recital Hall, WMU. 387-2300.

Vocal

Taylor Swift — See and hear country music's hottest young star singing songs from her hit debut CD. Feb. 2, 8 p.m. Miller Auditorium, WMU. 387-2300.

"Over the Rainbow and Beyond: The Music of Harold Arlen" — The Kalamazoo Singers will feature songs from the Wizard of Oz and many other titles. Feb. 3, 3 p.m. Dalton Center Recital Hall, WMU. 373-1769 or 387-2300.

"The Best of Gold Company: The 30th Anniversary Show" — This award-winning jazz vocal ensemble takes you on a ride through three decades of music and humor. Feb. 9, 2 & 8 p.m. Miller Auditorium, WMU. 387-2300.

"A Renaissance Feaste" — The Bach Collegium presents their 3rd annual Feaste with processions, music and a 3-course dinner. Feb. 9, 7 p.m. Cityscape Event Center. 387-2300.

Choral Showcase — The WMU University Chorale, Women's Chorus and Collegiate Singers will perform. Feb. 10, 3 p.m. Dalton Center Recital Hall, WMU. 387-2300.

Miscellaneous

"BLAST!" — Brass, percussion and visual performers will dazzle you with a unique explosion of music and theater. Feb. 1, 8 p.m. Miller Auditorium, WMU. 387-2300.

"The River to Cross" — This story of happiness, intrigue, and danger takes place in 1849 as William Bright Connor and his entire family travel to the American North to escape the ravages of southern slavery. All Ears Theatre, Feb. 9, 6 p.m. First Baptist Church, 315 W. Michigan Ave.

"Dead Air" — Rhoda's husband is an avid ham radio operator, and she is shocked when she discovers he's been shot while broadcasting. But why would someone shoot him, and more importantly, who did it? All Ears Theatre, Feb. 23, 6 p.m. First Baptist Church, 315 W. Michigan Ave.

STEPPING BACK WITH THE ARTS

Harriet Tubman is one of the most inspirational figures in American history. Born into slavery in Maryland, she escaped her bondage in 1845 and followed the Underground Railroad, a series of routes and safe houses maintained by abolitionists, eventually finding her way to Philadelphia. Tubman then returned south to bring her sister and two children back to freedom. She eventually made 19 trips and brought over 300 people to the north, mostly traveling at night, using spiritual songs for code words, threatening tired travelers with a gun, and quieting babies with opium. Her courage was unmatched — and her results were amazing. Even after



the Emancipation Proclamation, Tubman continued to show heroism by acting as a nurse for wounded soldiers, spying and scouting for the Union armies, and raising money for the education of former slaves. She also founded the Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged where she died at the age of 93.

Peking Acrobats — You will be spellbound by the graceful presentation of the ancient folk art of acrobatics as presented by this elite group of athletes from the People's Republic of China. Feb. 22, 7:30 p.m. Miller Auditorium, WMU. 387-2300.

Visual Arts

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts 349-7775:

Jacob Lawrence — A collection of works from one of the most influential artists to emerge from the Harlem Renaissance era, containing nearly 100 lively colorful prints including 36 individual pieces plus three narrative series. Through April 20.

Faculty Show — See recent work by faculty members of the KIA's Kirk Newman Art School. Each participant will exhibit two works side by side that are different in size, color, subject matter or medium. Feb. 2–Mar. 16.

ARTbreak — Enjoy free lectures and presentations on art-related topics. "Jewelry at the KIA and Beyond," Feb. 5, "Jacob Lawrence: An Intimate Portrait" and "The Glory of Expression," Feb. 12, "Women in Art," Feb. 19, "Masterpiece of Forgery? The Story of Elymir de Hory," Feb. 26. Bring a lunch to these 12:15 p.m. sessions.

Art & All That Jazz — The KIA's popular second-Friday series combines great art with live music and free refreshments. Join musical guests Zion Lion. Feb. 8, 5–7 p.m.

Fifth Annual Teen Filmmaker Festival — See work from the area's best young filmmakers as the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, Kalamazoo Public Library and Community Access Center present the fifth annual Teen Filmmaker Festival. Feb. 29, 7–9 p.m.

WMU Richmond Center for Visual Arts (RCVA) 387-2455

Sculptural Concepts: 1962–2007 — The exhibition will focus on an historical survey of three dimensional art practices and revolutionary changes that occurred over the last half of the 20th century and into the 21st. Artists include: Vito Acconci, Sol Lewit, Lawrence Weiner, Dan Flavin, Wade Guyton and others. Through Feb. 16.

(Continued on page 60)

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Massie's



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The Moore-Hascall Dream Machine

By Larry Massie

A monstrous apparatus, the Moore-Hascall harvester (a Michigan-made wonder) cut a swath 15-foot wide and threshed, cleaned and bagged the grain in one operation.



This is the only-known image of the Moore-Hascall thresher in operation.

IT ALL STARTED with a dream. Within the little pioneer log cabin on Genesee Prairie in what would become Oshtemo Township, the straw-filled tick stretched across the ponderous rope bed crackled throughout the night as Mary Hascall thrashed and twitched in her sleep. Husband John had inspired her dream the day before with talk of the riches that awaited someone who could figure out a way to efficiently harvest grain from the vast, fertile, flat and treeless terrain known as Prairie Ronde in Schoolcraft Township.

In 1830 the Hascalls had fled Genesee County, N.Y., over some political troubles in which John had gotten himself enmeshed. Traveling by Erie Canal boat, Lake Erie steamer and ox-drawn wagon, they made their way to the prom-

ising town Titus Bronson had founded and named after himself the year before. Hascall hung out his shingle as a lawyer, but with frontier legal suits few and far between, he soon left his law books to take up the plow and spade of a farmer.

It was about 1832 that Mary had her dream. The next morning she described her vision of “a large machine going over the prairie, drawn by horses and harvesting wheat, and described its motion and appearance.” Hascall, of an inventive frame of mind who had earlier conceived the spring balance or weighing scales for a portable flour mill, wasted little time in discussing his wife’s dream with Hiram Moore who had emigrated from New Hampshire to Climax Prairie in 1831 and who also dabbled as an inventor.

A third pioneer to become involved in the project, Andrew Y. Moore, an unrelated neighbor of Hiram’s who went on to become one of the founders of what ultimately became Michigan State University, recalled what ensued:

“Hiram asked how he would have it operate, Mr. Hascall replied, holding out his hand with fingers extended, he would run it through the grain, and with the other hand drawn over backwards, he would cut it like that.”

In the 1830s, the harvesting of grain remained a labor-intensive bottleneck that prevented full-scale development of the nation’s lush, agricultural land. Contemporary techniques differed little from those practiced by the ancient Egyptians. Farmers harvested ripe grain with a sickle or the slightly more efficient cradle

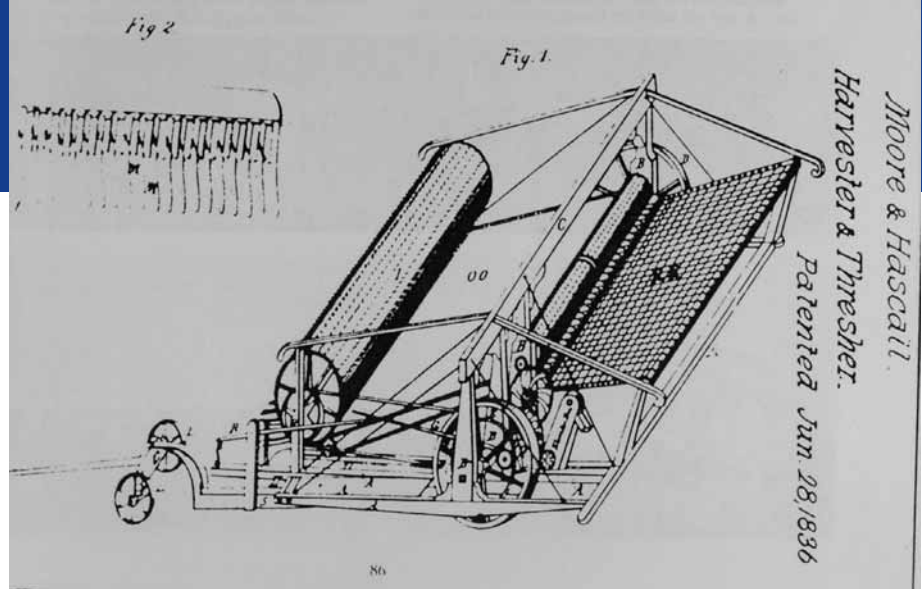
scythe. Binders laboriously scooped up the cut stalks and tied them into sheaves and at day's end stacked them into shocks that would shed rain. Later, the grain was threshed from the straw by beating it with a flail. Many subsequent hours of winnowing separated the chaff from grain. During this period it took an average of 373 man hours of hard labor to produce 100 bushels of wheat.

Suitable weather and optimum ripeness also proved critical factors in grain harvesting. In the 1830s, a family with three able laborers dared not plant over 30 acres of wheat. Could Mary Hascall's dream machine provide the breakthrough that would produce an "American agricultural revolution?"

Hiram Moore initially did not intend to become involved in the project, but Mary's dream as related by Hascall "troubled his mind" for six months until he decided to focus his inventive skills seriously on the venture. By 1834 he had constructed a miniature model that he demonstrated to the personnel of the U.S. Patent Office in Washington. Two years later he and Hascall were jointly granted a patent for their "Improvement in Harvesting Machines for Mowing, Thrashing and Winnowing Grain in One Operation."

Despite the patent, much work remained to perfect the machine. During a trial of the first full-sized combine at Flowerfield Township in 1834, the contraption broke down after 30 feet. According to Andrew Moore, Hiram remarked that day: "I see the shore afar off and it will take a long time to get there, but I will succeed in time."

Hiram Moore continued tinkering with what had become an obsession, ultimately experimenting with five improved versions of the machine. In need of financial backing, Moore convinced Lucius Lyon — a land speculator, surveyor, one of Michigan's first senators and a man who repeatedly sought to hit the jackpot through a variety of ill-fated ventures — to invest in the project. Lyon's infusion of funds allowed Moore



An 1836 patent drawing of the harvester & thresher invented by Hiram Moore.

to order two enhanced machines built in Rochester, N.Y., in 1837 and shipped to Kalamazoo County the following year.

By November 1839, Lyon could jubilantly report: "There is no longer any doubt of the success of the Moore and Hascall harvesting machine. Mr. Moore has had a machine in the field on Prairie Ronde during the past summer, which harvested and threshed

63 acres of wheat in a very superior style and could have harvested 250 acres with greatest ease, at the rate of 20 acres per day ..."

A monstrous apparatus, the Moore-Hascall harvester cut a swath 15-feet wide and threshed, cleaned and bagged the grain in one operation. Sixteen horses requiring four drivers pulled the ponderous machine, and three other laborers, including one who tied knots

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to close the full grain bags, attended the mechanism.

E. Lakin Brown, who had pioneered in Schoolcraft in 1831, saw 600 bushels of his wheat cut, threshed and bagged in one day by the machine. Known as the “Bard of Schoolcraft, Brown later described the harvester in action on Prairie Ronde:

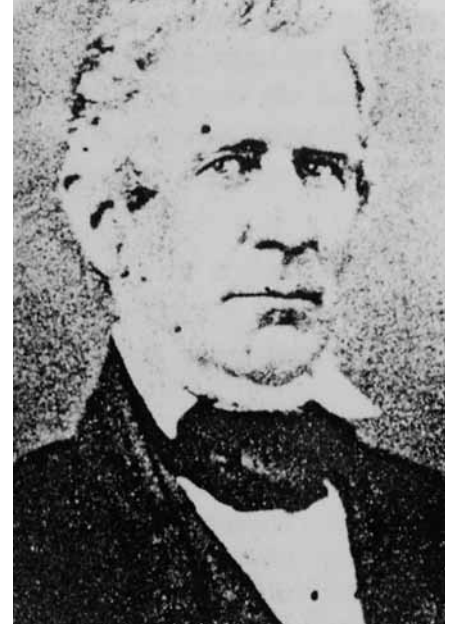
“But yonder lo! What huge machine?
 Drawn by steeds at least sixteen.
 Two by two in lengthening line
 With even step their strength combine
 Four mounted drivers guide their course
 And win from each an equal force.”

By the 1840s, the “Mammoth Machine” was receiving widespread publicity. The Michigan Farmer and Western Agriculturalist of June 15, 1844, carried

an article about the machine’s success on Prairie Ronde, describing it as a “noisy, voracious monster, as he clatters along the plain, his flag waving in triumph above, as he crosses the bending heads of wheat with his iron teeth, scatters the straw in seeming wantonness around him and hurls the chaff upwards in clouds while a man stands behind to put out the bags of clean wheat, all ready for the miller.”

The New York Farmer and Mechanic of October 10, 1844, and the September 1845 issue of the Genesee Farmer of Rochester, N.Y., printed similar glowing testimonials to the big machine’s success. Those accounts, most probably, formed the basis of James Fennimore Cooper’s description of the Moore-Hascall machine in his 1848 novel set in Michigan, Oak Openings, since he performed little if any on-site research in Kalamazoo County.

Moore continued to experiment



The inventor of the Moore-Hascall thresher, Hiram Moore, in about 1852.

with improvements on the harvester. In 1841 he added an angle-edged sickle that could last the entire harvest season without regrinding. That same year Hascall sold his interest in the invention to Lyon for a pittance. Lyon enthusiastically sought additional inventors in order to go into full-scale production of the harvester. Unfortunately, Lyon lost most of his fortune through embezzlement by an Iowa land agent, and he reluctantly bailed out of the harvester venture.

Hiram Moore moved to Louisiana in 1845 for health reasons. Recuperated, he returned to Kalamazoo and represented the county in the State Legislature of 1850. That year Moore and Hascall’s original patent expired. Despite petition by Governor Epaphroditus Ransom from Kalamazoo and spirited debate in Congress, an attempt to pass a bill to extend the patent failed. Moore emigrated to Wisconsin in 1852 and continued to tinker with his harvester and numerous other inventions until his death in 1875.

In the meantime, A.Y. Moore had built a Moore-Hascall pattern harvester in 1844 and reputedly used it successfully for 10 seasons near Climax. The final chapter in the harvester saga

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The family of Andrew Y. Moore (middle), an unrelated neighbor of inventor Hiram Moore. Andrew was also involved in the thresher project. Andrew ultimately became one of the founders of Michigan State University.

began in 1854 when Moore shipped his machine from Climax around Cape Horn to San Francisco. His son, Oliver, and a partner herded six champion horses overland. Reunited with the big machine, they threshed 600 acres of wheat that season near Mission San Jose. Unfortunately, the following year an ungreased bearing overheated, and the machine and the wheat field it was in burned up — and Oliver Moore made his way back overland to Michigan.

John Hascall died in 1853. Typical of the times, history failed to note the passing of Mary. But by that time their son, Volney, had begun carving out a notable career in Michigan politics, as a local public benefactor, and long time editor of the Kalamazoo Gazette.

The Moore-Hascall machine focused national attention on Kalamazoo County's agricultural endeavors and won a secure niche in history as a prototypical attempt to solve the problems of mechanical harvesting. And while it ultimately failed to enrich its advocates, Mary Hascall's dream had provided quite an exciting ride for a number of them — which is more than can be said for most dreams. 📖

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A Local Look at Global Warming

Story and Photos by Bill Krasean

IMAGINE SOUTHWEST Michigan a century from now when winters are similar to those experienced by people who currently live in Kentucky and summers are as hot and humid as Arkansas is today.

Arkansas — where the higher year-round temperatures hinder the success of many familiar tree species. Far less common there are the syrup-yielding sugar maple trees, the American beech, paper birch, balsam fir, aspen and white cedar.

Instead, there are the thin loblolly pine forests common in Georgia and Alabama today and the frequent fires that sweep through these forests as nature clears away the underbrush to make way for new growth.

Diminished in numbers, too, are many familiar birds. Populations of 19 of the state's bird species, including the common loon, junco, evening grosbeak and red-breasted nuthatch, could decline

by 80 to 100 percent.

It is a time when people enjoying the warmer waters of the Great Lakes see levels that are one to five feet lower than now.

This particular picture of a future southwest Michigan is painted by David Karowe, associate professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at Western Michigan University, and is based on computer-model predictions that if temperatures continue to rise globally at the current rate, some of the worldwide impacts may be felt locally.

In this scenario, the changes here would be triggered by a rise in average annual global temperatures of 4 degrees Celsius, or about 7.2 degrees Fahrenheit, by the end of this century.

There is a caveat about local impacts of global climate change, he said. Although computer models used to predict changes in climate are now detailed enough to include an area as small as 20

miles by 20 miles, very few predictions that small are published and consequently remain unknown. What are published are predictions in regions where catastrophic changes are likely, such as the southwestern United States where severe droughts are expected.

"Most published models predict on a much larger scale," Karowe said.

Still, "those models have led to a scientific consensus that global climate is changing and that human activity is almost exclusively the driver. The models predict a change in average global temperatures of from 2 to 4 degrees C (3.6 to 7.2 degrees F) if nothing is done to slow human influence."

And while those few degrees may seem minor, relatively small changes can have significant impacts. "When what is now the United States had average temperatures 4 degrees C cooler 18,000 years ago, Michigan was covered with a ice sheet almost one mile thick," he said.

Josephine Tucker, manager of the Western Michigan University student Biodiesel Co-op of Kalamazoo (BCK), works in the campus biodiesel lab as Steve Bertman, WMU professor of chemistry, observes. The ongoing BCK project focuses on increasing awareness of biofuels in southwest Michigan, producing biodiesel, and conducting research on the use of new production techniques.

“And the end of the century is not the end of the change,” Karowe said of the predictions for the year 2100. “Climate changes would continue until human behavior changes. Heat-stress related deaths could increase 5 to 10 fold, and we would have five to 10 times as many days each summer when the temperature is above 97 F.

“If temperatures rise by 4 degrees C by 2100, we could see a 60 percent extinction rate of many larger species.”

On the global scale, heat from a 4-degree C rise would warm and expand the oceans and provide extra energy to power more potent hurricanes, he said. There would be flooding in places where it is not now common and droughts in parts of the United States and many other population- and agricultural-centers worldwide, creating 100- to 200-million environmental refugees.

Many diseases that are borne by mosquitoes and other warm-weather insects could spread north.

“By 2100, global productivity could decrease by 5 percent to 10 percent,” Karowe said.

“It’s not, in general, good news.”

Some changes linked to global climate issues may already be underway. Jeffrey Andresen, an associate professor in the Department of Geography at Michigan State University, said that since 1980, mean year-round temperatures across the state have risen by 2 degrees F, the biggest rise for any comparable period since 1900.

While that increase seems insignificant, much of it has been concentrated and, as a result, more consequential. Temperatures during the period have remained essentially steady in the summer and fall, with minor increases in spring temperatures, he said. Winter nights, however, have warmed significantly, likely linked at least in part to more overnight cloud cover.

In some northern sections of the Michigan, he said, winter minimum temperatures have risen by as much as 5

degrees F.

Andresen said another result of the warmer winter temperatures has been a decrease in both the extent of ice on the Great Lakes and the thickness of the ice. “The Great Lakes play a major role in moderating temperatures in Michigan,” he said.

Warmer temperatures are also affecting both natural vegetation and crops. Andresen said that trees and other perennial plants are coming out of winter dormancy an estimated 7 to 10 days earlier than in 1980. So, too, are fruit

“The computer models are the best tool that we have at this point, but there is still a fair amount of uncertainty in the projections. Still, we need to be concerned.”

trees, a worrisome trend for those who make a living selling apples, cherries, peaches and other fruit.

“These crops are especially sensitive to cold once they have come out of dormancy, so if there is a subsequent cold spell, it can ruin a crop,” he said.

Andresen said that computer-model simulations of climate projected for later this century across the Great Lakes region suggest that there may be increased precipitation during winter and spring, but less in the summer when it is critical for crop success. And anticipated, warmer, summertime temperatures would increase the need for precipitation for thirsty crops.

“These predictions are educated guesses,” he said. “The computer models are the best tool that we have at this point, but there is still a fair amount of uncertainty in the projections. Still, we

need to be concerned.”

Michigan, of course, is a very small portion of a globe that sits at the perfect distance from a star that provides just the right amount of energy for water to mostly remain a liquid and support an enormous variety of carbon-based life.

Across the globe even now there are dramatic temperature extremes. The lowest temperature ever recorded was minus-129 F at Vostok, Antarctica, on July 21, 1983, and the highest ever was 136 F on Sept. 13, 1922, at El Azizia, Libya — a 265-degree difference. Average global temperatures, fortunately, remain well within the range for water at most places on Earth.

It hasn’t always been that way.

During Earth’s 4.6-billion year history, temperatures have ranged widely. At the chilly end is the so-called Snowball Earth, a time some 700-million years ago when, scientists estimate, that most of Earth was covered with ice.

Various analyses used to reconstruct the globe’s long climate history suggest that over most of the last one-billion years, however, global temperatures appear to have been 8- to 15-degrees C (14.4 F to 27 F) warmer than now. Those warm epochs have been punctuated with periods of extreme cooling that produced glacial periods starting at 925 million, 800 million, 680 million, 450 million, 330 million, and 2 million years ago.

During the last in the series of advancing glaciers, thick sheets of ice covered most of Canada and extended south to near the Missouri and Ohio rivers and east to New York City. In Europe, ice covered all of Iceland and most of the British Isles as well as most of Northern Europe.

In South America, ice ranged as far north as parts of Chile and western Argentina to about halfway from the South Pole to the equator.

This last Ice Age peaked about 18,000 years ago and ended in Michigan

Global Warming

a geologic eye-blink of 10,000 years ago.

All this to say that the Earth's climate has varied widely over the long history of time. This wide variation is often cited by skeptics who question the extent of the influence of human activity on rising temperatures.

A large majority of climate scientists worldwide, however, contend that human activity is indeed a major contributor to warming temperatures. They argue that while global climate has seen wild swings in temperatures, never before have the changes occurred so quickly as over the 160-plus years since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution.

Leading the list of suspects in human-induced global climate change is the burning of rain forests and the fossil fuels oil, gas, and coal, which release billions of tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere each year.

Since the 1800s, the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has risen from about 280 parts per million (ppm) to 380 ppm, a level that is thought to be the highest in 650,000 years.

Atmospheric carbon dioxide — critical to life on Earth — is a so-called greenhouse gas that allows solar energy to reach the Earth's surface but prevents some of the resulting heat from rising



WMU chemistry professor Steve Bertman adjusts equipment used for experimentation in the campus biodiesel laboratory.

and cooling the surface. Many scientists contend that this trapped heat is contributing to warmer temperatures around the world, but especially in northern regions (and far southern regions in the Southern Hemisphere).

A number of studies in recent decades have found evidence of a jump in global average temperatures that neatly parallels the rise in the percentage of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

R.V. Krishnamurthy, professor of Geosciences at WMU, has studied past climate records as recorded in sediments here and in the Himalayas. He and his students have uncovered both warming and cooling periods since the end of the last Ice Age approximately 10,000 years ago. Some of the changes, he said, happened abruptly, well before humans

started contributing to atmospheric greenhouse gasses in any way.

Yet, he said, "human influence on climate has not been small." The post-Industrial-Revolution rise in the levels of carbon dioxide is well above what appears to have been a "background" level of 290 ppm over the last 120,000 years. That rise, he said, "is bound to have some impact."

Kishnamurthy said that computer models of climate have shortcomings because of the enormous complexity of the factors that contribute to short- and long-term weather patterns. "We can predict tomorrow's weather with 80 percent to 90 percent accuracy, but three or four days out we can be only 30-percent accurate," he said.

"But while we certainly can't predict



Associate professor David Karowe of WMU's Department of Biological Sciences is involved in the study of the impact of atmospheric carbon dioxide levels on plants.

ago by the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), shared this year's Nobel Peace Prize with former U.S. Vice President Al Gore. Since it was established, the IPCC has issued major reports in 1990, 1995, 2001 and 2007.

In the latest report, the group predicts that, during the 21st century, surface air warming could range from 1.8 degrees C to 6.4 degrees C (3.2 F to 11.5 F), with a likely range of 1.8 to 2.9 degrees C (3.2 to 5.2 F).

They predict that it is more than 90 percent certain that there will be frequent warm spells, heat waves and heavy rainfall, and more than 66 percent certain that there will be an increase in droughts, intensity of tropical cyclones (which include hurricanes and typhoons) and extreme high tides.

Their predictions are based on a number of observations, including:

- Carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide, all greenhouse gases, have increased markedly as a result of human activities since 1750 and now far exceed pre-industrial values.
- The amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere in 2005 (379 ppm) exceeds the natural range of the last

650,000 years (180 to 300 parts per million, or ppm).

- The amount of methane in the atmosphere in 2005 (1,774 parts per billion, or ppb) exceeds the natural range of the last 650,000 years (320 to 790 ppb).
- The primary source of the increase in carbon dioxide is fossil fuel use, but land-use changes also make a contribution.
- The primary source of the increase in methane is very likely to have been a combination of human agricultural activities and fossil fuel use; how much each contributes is not well determined.
- Nitrous-oxide concentrations have risen from a pre-industrial value of 270 ppb to a 2005 value of 319 ppb, with more than a third of this rise due to human activity, primarily agriculture.

As a result, they report, it is "unequivocal" that global warming is occurring and that the probability that the warming is caused by natural climatic processes is less than 5 percent; the probability that warming is caused by human emissions of greenhouse gases is more than 90 percent.

They also report that:

- Cold days, cold nights, and frost events

exactly what will happen over the very long term, we can predict trends. We can also say that we can influence the environment more than any other life form in such a short time.

"That's alarming. That's something to be worried about," he says.

Perhaps the most widely recognized warning concerning human-caused climate change has come from the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which recently issued its fourth report on the predicted impact of climate change over the next century. The report was produced by about 600 authors from 40 countries, and reviewed by over 620 experts and governments.

The IPCC, jointly launched 20 years



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A sleeve that does tricks.

What is that worth?

The tan corduroy.

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you told me on the bus

To Gubbio. Your coat

of many pockets, you'd laugh,

playing Joseph all over

Europe. The “lecherous

Old man coat” you'd

never put on,

Full value for that?

Buried under all,

Scottish caps, Norwegian

hat like the King's.

Red-checked, you claimed

it powered your skis

up Kellogg Forest hills

“Receipt, lady?”

For this travelogue?

This messy heap

about to reshape itself

while you sit where you are, quiet,

a little lunch

left on your lip,

belt buckled in the back.

By Marie Bahlke

Marie was a frustrated writer until about a dozen years ago. Now, at 88, poetry has become her way of considering and coming to terms with a lifetime's gathering of experience and memory. Her book of poetry, “One Oar: A Journey with Alzheimer's,” won a Writer's Digest International Self-Published Book Award in 2004.

Global Warming

have become less frequent; hot days, hot nights, and heat waves have become more frequent.

- Eleven of the 12 years in the period 1995–2006 rank among the top 12 warmest years in the instrumental record (since 1850).
- Warming in the last 100 years has caused about a 0.74 degree C increase in global average temperature; this is up from the 0.6 degrees C increase in the 100 years prior to the turn of the 21st century.
- Observations since 1961 show that the ocean has been absorbing more than 80 percent of the heat added to the climate system, and that ocean temperatures have increased to depths of at least 9,800 feet (3,000 meters).
- Average Arctic temperatures increased at almost twice the global average rate in the past 100 years.
- Average Northern Hemisphere temperatures during the second half of the 20th century were very likely higher than during any other 50-year period in the last 500 years and likely the highest in at least the past 1,300 years.

If current trends continue, they predict that:

- Sea levels will rise anywhere from 7 to 23 inches.
- Sea ice will shrink in both the Arctic and Antarctic; in some projections, Arctic late-summer sea ice will disappear almost entirely by the latter part of the 21st century.

Very few people still question the reality of rising average global temperatures. Still, a number of scientists have criticized the IPCC report, contending that its conclusions are alarmist and overstate the negative impacts of rising temperatures while ignoring some positive impacts such as longer growing seasons.

One of the IPCC contributors and a skeptic is John Cristy, University of Alabama professor of Atmospheric Science. Writing for the BBC, Cristy said he does

not deny that the globe is warming, only that predictions are based on computer models that are at best questionable.

“Mother Nature is incredibly complex,” he wrote, “and to think that we mortals are so clever and so perceptive that we can create a computer code that accurately reproduces the millions of processes that determine climate is hubris.”

Cristy said that the IPCC report is in part a political process and that scientists are “mere mortals casting their gaze on a system so complex we cannot precisely predict its future state even five days ahead.”

On the flip side, the best-known spokesman for the potential harm from a warmer planet is Al Gore, whose documentary, “An Inconvenient Truth,” won an Oscar and other awards and was a principal reason he shared the Nobel Prize. In “An Inconvenient Truth,” Gore cites worrisome changes afoot that could lead to the collapse of a major ice sheet in Greenland or in West Antarctica, either of which could raise ocean levels as much as 20 feet, flooding low-lying areas and creating 100 million refugees.

(Melting sea ice would not raise sea levels since ice is less dense than water. It's the same reason that ice cubes melting in a full glass of water do not cause the water to spill over the side of the



Past climate records as recorded in sediments here and in the Himalayas are the basis for a global-warming study by R.V. Krishnamurthy, professor of geosciences at WMU.

glass. Sea levels would only be affected by ice currently on landmasses such as Greenland.)

Gore calls on nations to take action soon to reduce dramatically the levels of human-generated carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

Calls for quick action are compounded by a harsh reality: If we suddenly, through some miracle, stopped burning all fossil fuel immediately, the warming trend would continue for some time.

WMU's Karowe cited one model that predicts, given a total stop in fossil-fuel consumption instantly, a temperature rise of .6 to .8 degrees C by 2100 — the same rise that we have seen since the start of the Industrial Revolution.

"We've experienced only half the warming that we've caused," Karowe said.

Tom Wigley, a senior scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colo., has written that his computer models suggest that global warming would initially speed up if fossil-fuel consumption stopped suddenly. Fossil-fuel consumption produces a number of gasses, including sulfur dioxide, which has a cooling effect. Without that cooling effect, temperatures would continue to rise, he said.

Wigley told the radio science program *Earth & Sky* that global average temperatures would rise about 1 degree F for the next 20 years until atmospheric sulfur dioxide breaks down. At that point, according to his computer models, Earth's average global temperatures would begin to decline, reaching the current level in about 200 years.

Given that knowledge, and the reality that fossil-fuel emissions won't stop for many years let alone instantly, climate experts say that something must be done to greatly reduce the production of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases as soon as possible.

Steve Bertman, professor of chemistry

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Global Warming

at WMU, said that humans have to stop gorging at the fossil-fuel feast soon to help mitigate the potential harm from global warming.

Reducing the use of fossil fuels is step number one.

Step number two, he said, is to begin capturing carbon dioxide as it's produced to prevent it from adding to what is already in the atmosphere. One method gaining in popularity is the removal of carbon dioxide from the waste gas generated in power plants — a major source of CO₂ — and burying it deep underground

in old oil fields or briny aquifers. It is, however, an expensive process.

More significant, Bertman said, is a greater reliance on alternative technologies that capture the energy of the sun, wind, water, geothermal heat and the burning of plant matter, called biomass.

Wind turbines are sprouting up in windy regions around the world — including land immediately south of the Mackinaw Bridge and on WMU's campus on South Drake Road and U.S. 131. Bertman said that the generation capacity of the wind turbines in Mackinaw City is

significantly higher than the one on the WMU campus and takes advantage of breezes off the big lake.

Michigan, he said, has the third largest wind resource in the United States.

Further energy savings and carbon dioxide reduction can come from hybrid automobiles and trucks that are now available commercially and have significantly better mileage than the current generation of vehicles. They also generate less toxic emissions. Car manufacturers are churning out new hybrid models every year and plug-in electric cars may

Ray Hackman's Spin on Weather Change

FEBRUARY 1936, the year that Ray Hackman was born, saw one of the snowiest periods in Michigan's recorded history.

In some places in the state, snow drifts were 20 feet high, almost double the biggest drifts of that horrific winter of 1977–78. In June — the month Hackman was born — it snowed in nearby Traverse City.

A month later, on July 13, 1936, the thermometer peaked at 109 degrees, one of eight consecutive days when the temperature rose above 100 degrees. That same week was one of the hottest ever recorded in the entire United States.

Hackman, of course, was too young to remember any of this, his memory fortified by his parents' recollections and weather records. But with that kind of introduction to variable climate, is it any wonder that Hackman is a weather addict whose carefully compiled logs give details of weather conditions for every day in Kalamazoo for more than 50 years?

While his logs give precise details, there are plenty of statistics in his brain as well. "I don't need a computer," said Hackman on a warm October day a few months ago. "I've got this," he said, pointing to his head.

On this particular day, Hackman, who is self-trained in meteorology and calls himself a "weather expert," is talking about global climate change, confessing that he is a skeptic about the degree of influence that human activity is having on global climate.

"I take a lot of the talk about global warming with a grain of salt," he said. "It's overplayed. Throughout history the climate is always changing."

And while he may be in a shrinking minority of weather watchers who doubt the substantial influence of human activity on global climate change, he does know about as much as anyone about the climate of Southwest Michigan over the last half-century.

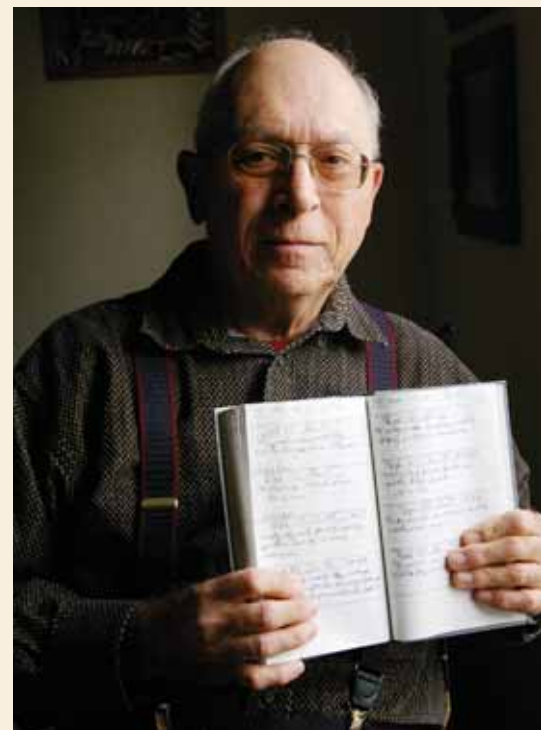
His log books since 1954 contain records of high and low temperatures, daily changes in barometric readings, wind direction and approximate speed, and a description of conditions — rain, snow, sunshine. At the end of each year he calculates the average annual temperature — the sum of each day divided by 365 days — and has seen very little change.

"In the '50s and '60s and '70s the average annual temperature in the Kalamazoo area varies between 47 degrees and 50 degrees and that's still the case today," he said. "In my 54 years I have not seen

a significant trend in either direction, up or down. The only time there was a departure was in the late '70s, and that was a slight cooling trend."

While there are very minor changes in average annual temperatures in Southwest Michigan, there are wide swings in temperatures on any given day in different years. On this particular October day

(Continued on page 48)



Kalamazoo's Ray Hackman has been logging local weather conditions for more than 50 years.

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Global Warming

be available in the near term.

Further emission reductions can come from the use of biomass, a category that includes wood, waste and liquid biofuels, Bertman said. "Taken together, biomass is the largest single component of renewables in the United States," he said. "Wood is the largest of the three, although the use of liquid biofuels is the fastest growing.

"Biomass is not a panacea, but it's easy to grow and cheaper than wind and solar."

Cost remains a concern in most — but not all — forms of alternative energy. The California Energy Commission recently reported that one gallon of gasoline produces about 115,000 Btu's of energy and costs in the \$3 range. Producing the same amount of energy from solar equipment would cost \$14.40, from wind \$1.66, from nuclear energy \$3.75, from hydropower 91 cents, from geothermal \$1.69, and from natural gas \$5.37.

"The use of alternative energy sources is pretty straightforward," Bertman said. "What's not simple is how to grow the alternative energy industry in a way that uses resources most efficiently and develops our long-term energy potential." ❧

Bill Krasean, the writer of this issue's global-warming stories, can be reached for additional data, questions, or comments at krasean@sbcglobal.net

Hackman

(Continued from page 46)

as he thumbs through his log books, he notes that the highest temperature for an Oct. 26 was in 1963 when the thermometer topped out at a record 81 degrees. October 1963 was the warmest October in his 54-year-long record book.


Yet one year earlier, Oct. 26, 1962, saw a record low of 21 degrees.

This last summer may have seemed particularly hot and dry, with 17 days when the high temperature was 90 degrees or more. One three-day stretch saw temperatures of 95 degrees, 94 degrees and 96 degrees.

Yet 2007 was practically balmy when compared to 1988, he said, when there were 39 days of 90 degrees or hotter and 22 days of 95 degrees or hotter.

Want extremes? In early July 1995, he said, the low temperature was 47 degrees. Barely a week later, on July 14, the high was 100 degrees and the dew point 82 degrees, producing a heat index of 124 degrees. "That was the hottest-feeling day we've ever had," he said.

"I'm not saying that there can't be climate changes underway," said the skeptic Hackman. "I am saying that the climate is always changing. During the age of dinosaurs there wasn't any ice on Earth, and in more recent times the Sahara Desert has gone from a wet, marshy region to a desert — all before people had any impact on the climate." ❧



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MOVIN' OUT

Performing at Miller Auditorium, April 8-10

With hits that include "It's Still Rock 'n' Roll to Me," "Big Shot," and "Uptown Girl," the songs of Billy Joel have flown through the pop culture bloodstream for more than a generation. He has earned just about every honor, from the Grammy® Legend Award to a place in the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. In a word: Icon.

The innovative choreographer and director Twyla Tharp has won three Emmy® Awards for bringing dance into the living rooms of millions of Americans. Her work has been showcased at the Paris Opera Ballet, the Royal Ballet and the American Ballet Theatre. She brought modern dance to Broadway in *When We Were Young* in 1980 and staged the production of *Singin' in the Rain* in 1985. And in the films of director Milos Forman's, *Amadeus* and *Hair*, her distinctive style reached millions.

These two dynamic figures joined forces for the energetic production, *MOVIN' OUT*, a show that defies simple classification.

Like *Mamma Mia*, *MOVIN' OUT* takes the popular hits of an artist (or group) and connects them through narrative. Like *Contact*, the narrative is expressed in dance. And, like a rock concert, a rousing band bangs out familiar favorites, live and onstage.

The story built around Joel's songs is a an Americana saga. Six young Long Islanders (much like the ones Joel grew up with) hang out together, fall in love, experience the traumas of Vietnam and its sex, drugs and rock'n'roll aftermath. In the end, they move from alienation to rekindled hope, love and friendship. It's all familiar, but just right for Joel's emotionally powerful songs and the pulsating choreography of Twyla Tharp.

MOVIN' OUT makes its Kalamazoo debut at Miller Auditorium April 8-10. Tickets are available now at (269) 387-2300 or at millerauditorium.com.

Photos of Touring Cast: (c) Joan Marcot



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This Green Man XX is one of a series of 21 "Green Man" inspired masks. It was created using primarily rooster-tail and male ring-necked pheasant feathers.

BECKALYN HANSMANN is a mask maker, using feathers as the primary medium to create unusual works of wearable art. When she was 8 years old, Beckalyn had her first up-close-and-personal experience with feathers, when she helped her best friend pluck 200 chickens at a family farm in Lawrence.

A chore most foul indeed, but necessary since these fowl were destined to become someone's dinner. "The feathers were so pretty, and we just threw them away," Hansmann remembers.

In 1991 Beckalyn made her first mask for an office Halloween party. Using a pig skull and papier-mâché, she created a somewhat Oriental-influenced dragon with a feathered mane. "I put on my mask, a robe and some furs and then went to work at Cablevision — and no one knew who I was," she laughs. "I won first prize in the costume contest."

Hansmann is self-taught in the art of mask making. It became her personal form of artistic expression when she began creating her own molds and distinctive designs. The first one that passed her own muster was donated to an auction for the American Cancer Society — and in 1998 Beckalyn's Masquerade was born.

"The wearing of masks has always appealed to a certain part of the human psyche, and masks have been incorporated into rituals for many cultures," Hansmann notes. "When someone puts on a mask, it is actually another face, so they may be expressing a facet of their personality that is usually kept hidden. Or it can be merely fun, like acting the part of a wolf, cat or bird. The person inside the mask also gets the enjoyment of seeing the reactions of other people to their unusual guise."

The Beckalyn's Masquerade studio is located in the basement of Hansmann's home in Kalamazoo. Partially-finished masks peer from various corners, and wall-to-wall shelves are stacked with clear boxes containing a myriad of feathers, different shades

Beckalyn's Masquerade

"These are not cheap, mass-produced, cardboard masks made in China. They feature aspects of sculpture, mosaic and pointillism and are designed by hand every step of the way."

—Beckalyn Hansmann

Story and Photos by Patrice Mindock

of leather, ribbons, lamp-work beads created by her husband Chuck, pots of glue, and other accoutrements. Beckalyn works on a wide range of feathery expressions, from traditional Mardi Gras-style face masks to huge, head-covering creatures. She also makes tiny, tufted, hair adornments, jewelry, and elegant Elizabethan-style feather fans for historical re-enactment.

During the past decade, Beckalyn's work has appeared in the annual Kalamazoo Institute of Arts-sponsored

Bronson Park Art Fair and at numerous outdoor shows and events in Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin and Louisiana.

"I have faced a constant struggle to overcome the traditional art circle mindset that mask making is not true art," Hansmann says. "It seems to be part of the ongoing debate recognizing traditional mediums such as sculpture and oil painting but negating more modern, mixed or unusual mediums."

Hansmann does not consider her masks mere crafts. "These are not

cheap, mass-produced, cardboard masks made in China," she states. They feature aspects of sculpture, mosaic and pointillism and are designed by hand every step of the way. From the base of plaster cloth on a celluclay mold or leather to the choice of feathers, no two are ever alike. A full head mask can take from 15 to 50 hours, from building the base structure to the drying time in between layers.

Because she grew tired of the constant debate, Beckalyn no longer ap-

Les Masques de Mardi Gras (The Masks of Mardi Gras)

The mere mention of Mardi Gras in New Orleans evokes images of mask-wearing, inebriated party-goers and rowdy parades. Hidden underneath the very public mask of this ebullient annual festival is a religious face. Mardi Gras is French for "Fat Tuesday" and is the day-long celebration and culmination of what is referred to as "Carnivale" in Europe. The name comes from the tradition of slaughtering and feasting upon a fattened calf.

The season begins with the Christian observance of Epiphany, also known as Twelfth Night, which falls on January 6, 12 days after Christmas. The date celebrates the purported visit of the three kings bearing gifts for the infant Jesus. Thus, Epiphany kicks off a series of parties leading up to Mardi Gras. While the festival also has nature-based, pre-Christian seasonal origins — a welcome to the coming of spring — the Roman Catholic Church eventually adopted the concept as a brief respite prior to the penitential, somber Lent. As early as the middle of the second century, the Romans observed a fast of 40 days, which was preceded by a season of feasting, costumes and merrymaking. Carnival comes from the Latin *carne vale*, meaning "farewell to the flesh."

Some of the first small Mardi Gras

events in North America were reported in the late 1600s as French explorers encamped along the Mississippi River. In the mid-1700s, the Spanish banned the celebrations. After the U.S. government acquired the delta land, the traditions were resumed. Over the ensuing years, the celebration of Mardi Gras expanded to include masked balls and street parties in the cities of Mobile, Ala., and New Orleans. As the capital of French Louisiana, Mobile marked the first Carnival celebrations in America in the early 1700s. By the 1820s, people often donned masks *a la plume* (adorned with feathers) to parade along the streets or to ride *un déguisement* (in disguise) in elaborately decorated carriages. The first historically documented "parade" procession took place in New Orleans in 1837. There is a good-natured war of words (and historical claims) between Alabama and Louisiana on which site should be considered the "official" capital of Mardi Gras in the United States.

The carnival tradition is also still extensively celebrated around the world, in cities like Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and Venice, Italy. The donning of masks has always been an integral part of the seasonal tradition.

The official Mardi Gras slogan down South in "Nawlins" is "Let the

Good Times Roll!" Much to the horror of those who are fluent in French, this has been loosely translated into "*Laissez les bons temps rouler!*" It has become a battle cry of sorts from the masked throngs of revelers in the streets.

Celebrate Mardi Gras 2008 on February 5, Fat Tuesday, with paczki from your favorite local bakery. 🍩



A young lady poses with one of Hansmann's Mardi Gras-style masks at the 2007 Silver Leaf Renaissance Faire.

Hansmann

Beckalyn Hansmann has found a niche market for her masks at medieval-themed re-enactment events and sells her art from booths such as this one at the Silver Leaf Renaissance Faire in Battle Creek.

plies solely to fine-arts fairs to display her masks. While she may place some masks or fans on consignment in retail shops, “The niche market for my work has really been in the re-enactment world of medieval-themed events, Renaissance Faires or Pagan-oriented festivals all across the Midwest,” she says. She has patrons who commission her work for special masquerade events nationwide, and her specialty fans have been requested from as far away as Japan. “A female patron wore one of my masks for Carnivale in Italy, and several were commissioned specifically for Mardi Gras in New Orleans,” she recalls.

Hansmann has shared her love of masks by conducting workshops or teaching classes, including several at the Interlochen Arts Academy. She also has consulted with local theaters and for the Gull Lake High School Performing Arts troupe.

The biggest feather in her cap recently (pun very much intended) was a commission to make a pair of masks to be worn at an autumn Fairy Festival in Pennsylvania, hosted by internationally known fantasy-artist Brian Froud. Froud was the mastermind behind many of the unusual creatures and costumes in the Jim Henson films “Labyrinth” and “Dark Crystal.” He worked on the 1986 “Labyrinth” fantasy (starring rock icon David Bowie) in conjunction with Henson and George Lucas, who directed the film. “I was thrilled to know that this fantasy artist I admire actually saw my work,” Hansmann says. “He is truly a major artistic influence for me. In addition, my Web-site gallery (beckalynsamasquerade.com) was linked to the main Brian Froud site as one of six featured artists in November.”

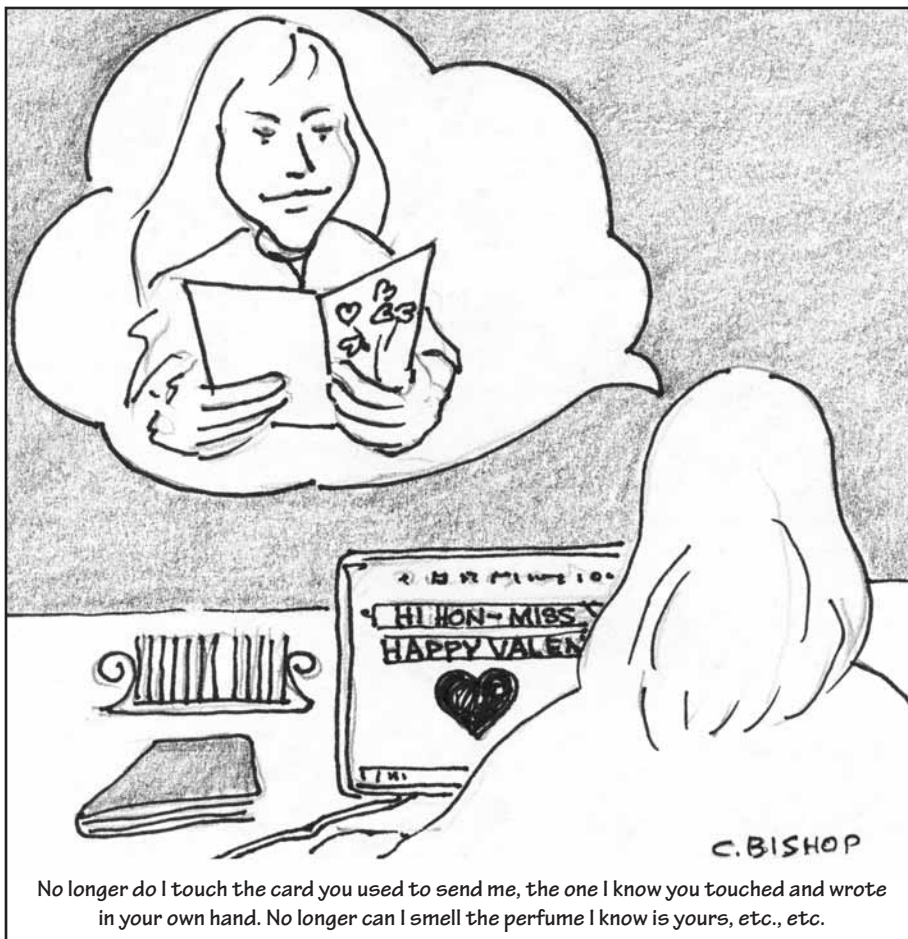
It can get messy in the studio with all the bits of feathers floating around



from the sorting and shaping process. Beckalyn still plucks a chicken from time to time, particularly when someone donates one to the cause. “All of the feathers I use are naturally colored, legal and ethically obtained,” she stresses. Most are domestic poultry or nonendangered exotic breeds. “I use no dyed feathers to create my masks. All the plumage is exactly the way it appears in nature. Layering the feathers onto the base of the mask adds natural color and texture to give the mask its innate energy,” she adds.

Hansmann now obtains large quantities of colorful feathers from various suppliers, and friends who hunt will often provide her with a pheasant or two. “My husband also hunts the elusive grouse, so partridge feathers make their way into my work,” she says. “However, I will never kill a bird just for its feathers. I have always lived close to the land, so I know from where my food and meat come. If I must kill a bird, it becomes nourishment for my family, including my two sons Jeremy and Kenry. Sometimes I will be gifted with the feathers from a peacock or an unusual breed of chicken that has died on a friend’s farm.”

As with most creative pursuits, Hansmann says masks can be created in



a frenzy of passionate work, or sit half-finished for years. "They have their own timing," she stresses. "There's an inspirational muse involved in the creation process. At times I seem to get into a zone where the mask almost appears to create itself. The names pop into my head, too, as if I am giving a concrete form to some nebulous being that whispers its name in my ear. But the mask doesn't really 'live' until its intended wearer puts it on. It's amazing when people see one of my displays and walk right up to a mask and say, 'That one is supposed to be for me.' It's magic."

The mask names have included Jonquil the Sad Troll, Tiramisu the White Dragon and Schussiro the Siamese Cat. Hansmann says when she makes feathered masks, she feels as if she is honoring nature and the creatures that gave their lives to feed her family. "It's similar to the tale of the Phoenix reborn," she states. "The bird can also come back with another identity, a different guise. I truly enjoy the irony of making a fox mask out of chicken feathers." 🐾



This fox mask, named Malichi, was created, ironically, using Rhode Island Red chicken feathers and white turkey feathers.



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Volunteer leaders Jerry Albertson and Toni Thompson enjoy a few minutes on a wooden section of the Kalamazoo Valley River Trailway that borders the river.

Through grassroots efforts of people like Jerry Albertson and Toni Thompson, and partnerships with local governments, an accessible system of public trails is getting broader every year.



Connecting the Spokes to Trailway Access

Story and photos by Robert M. Weir

THE KALAMAZOO River Valley Trailway is a wheel — a big wheel. Its hub is Kalamazoo’s Rose Park Veterans Memorial at the convergence of East Kalamazoo Avenue, King Highway and the Kalamazoo River. And its spokes are present or proposed paved pathways for pedestrians and nonmotorized vehicles that extend to existing parks and trails within Kalamazoo County, across Michigan, and into the Great Plains to the west and New England to the east.

The organizations driving this wheel are the Friends of the Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway and the Parks Foundation of Kalamazoo County, whose efforts lead into the halls of community and state government, into the chambers of financial foundations, and onto platforms in public forums.

The people turning this wheel are Toni Thompson and Jerry Albertson,

who are also the levers and grease that keep the trailway project in motion and moving smoothly.

Toni Thompson is president of Friends and vice president of the Parks Foundation. She describes herself as “a city girl turned office country.” The “city” is Oshkosh, Wisc., where she was born in 1944. The “office” refers to her 35-year career in banking, starting as a teller in Arizona and then Kalamazoo, and finally retiring as an assistant vice president in 1999. The “country” is the 200-acre farm near the northwest corner of D Avenue and Riverview Drive where she cares for a menagerie of horses, cattle, sheep, dogs, cats and a llama.

“I value green space,” Toni states. “On the days when banking wasn’t easy, I would go home and weed the garden, walk and relax. My deceased husband, Jon, used to say, ‘We never have to hire a psychiatrist; the farm is that for us.’”

Jerry Albertson is president of the Parks Foundation. Born in Kalamazoo in 1963, he earned a master’s degree in student personnel administration from Western Michigan University and works in community relations for Disability Network of Southwest Michigan. There, he talks with individuals and groups to, as he says, “help break down physical and attitudinal barriers that don’t need to be there.” Jerry conveys his message from personal experience, having had diabetes since age 6 and multiple sclerosis since 23. “Disability is a natural part of life,” says Jerry who, riding a motorized, three-wheel scooter, has learned to deal with conditions that affect his body.

This duo, of the ages to be mother and son, bring diverse yet apropos perspectives to the Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway project: feet and wheels. “What’s the greatest invention in the world?” Jerry asks. “The wheel. A wheel-

The Kalamazoo River Trailway links with the Kal-Haven Trail via this tunnel under U.S. 131 near 10th Street in northern Kalamazoo County.

chair means freedom. Think about it. How did we get to work today? We drove a vehicle with tires. I had driven a car and motorcycle before I had MS, then when I learned to drive again, with hand controls, it was liberating.”

Toni mentions her stepson who broke his neck but, thanks to getting around in a wheelchair, earned a master’s degree. “Somebody in his study program was blind and needed help getting to class,” she says. “He felt good about being able to guide her, yet the only way he could move that chair was with a control stick and one hand because, when he broke his neck, that made him a quadriplegic.”

“No,” Jerry interrupts, “He was *not* a quadriplegic. He *had* quadriplegia. There’s a difference.” Emphasizing the cornerstone of his belief about illnesses and ailments, Jerry explains, “I *have* the physical characteristics of diabetes and MS, but I *am not* a diabetic, and I *am not* a multiple sclerotic. That’s an important distinction. I am not ‘afflicted by,’ ‘stricken with,’ or ‘suffering from’ anything. Diabetes and MS are merely my buds (buddies) — I don’t go anywhere without them — but ultimately, I am in charge of my body.”

Toni laughs. “See? We learn from each other. Jerry helps me see things in new ways. I learned throughout my banking career, there is always change. If people can adapt and go forward, then they learn what’s important in life. I try to understand the younger generation because the philosophy I grew up with is not the same as theirs. That learning is not always easy, but it’s important.”

“And I really appreciate Toni for being open to change,” Jerry says. “She also puts me in my place when I need that.”

“Jerry and I might not always agree,” Toni adds, “but I respect Jerry for his ideas.”

In the last eight years, Toni and Jerry have made dozens of presentations in arenas that neither imagined when they started walking and wheeling



their trailway path together in 1999.

Toni’s involvement began in 1991 when she attended a meeting at the Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds, hosted by the Forum of Greater Kalamazoo, which, at the time, was facilitating public awareness and cleanup projects for the Kalamazoo River and Davis Creek. “They had a River Partners program that included creation of a trailway along the Kalamazoo River,” Toni explains. On her way home from the meeting, Toni told her husband, “Jon, I could sink my teeth into that trailway project,” and he replied, encouragingly, “I bet you could.”

In 1994 and 1995, the Forum, which included Toni and many others, approached communities about the feasibility of placing a trailway within their jurisdictions. “This was an all-volunteer, grassroots effort,” Toni says. “It was not a situation where we came into a community and said, ‘This is where we’re going to put your trail.’ No. We said, ‘We have this vision for a trail. Would you consider looking at it, forming a team, and telling us where you want it to be in your community?’”

That question resulted in the formation of five teams populated by representatives from Comstock; Galesburg; Cooper Township, Kalamazoo Township and Parchment; the City of Kalamazoo and Oshtemo Township; and Augusta in conjunction with the Michigan Depart-

ment of Natural Resources, which has jurisdiction over Fort Custer Recreation Area.

Together, these teams began to write a master plan for the trailway, seeking federal funds distributed by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) for nonmotorized transportation. At the same time, the City of Kalamazoo was developing a nonmotorized transportation plan, and MDOT asked the two entities to combine their efforts, which they did, starting in 1996 and completing their collaborative tasks in 1998.

The money from MDOT, \$50,000, was dependent on matching funds that Toni says “came 100 percent from municipalities along the trail. It didn’t make any difference that some gave more than others; the key thing is that they *all* gave.”

With excitement, Toni continues: “Once the master plan was completed, we knew we had to go forward. So, out of the River Partners, we evolved the Friends of the Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway. Then, we had to find an entity that could help us with fundraising, and that’s when we sought a partnership with the Parks Foundation.”

Jerry was a member of the Parks Foundation, which formed in the 1980s to preserve the potential recreational value of what would become Kalamazoo

Trailway

County's Markin Glen Park. In 1970, the City of Kalamazoo acquired that property, between Douglas Avenue and the Kalamazoo River, from the Markin family — and named it Maple Glen Park because of a prominent stand of mature maples that, from their higher western elevation, overlooks the glen to the east.

In 1988, lacking money to maintain the park, the city sold it to Kalamazoo County for \$10. While that fee was nominal, the county also found itself in the same dilemma of lacking necessary operational funds. "Citizens were concerned that that awesome land would be sold to a private developer," Jerry says, "so they got together and formed the Parks Foundation to raise money to design,

engineer and construct a site that would retain the park's natural beauty." Jerry became involved in 1995 when he was asked to advise the group about accessibility for all users.

Jerry says the timing of the Friends' first presentation to the Parks Foundation in 1999 was excellent. "The Markin Glen campaign was far enough along that we agreed to meet with them. They had ideas that made sense to us, so we decided to take the trailway project on."

"Our relationship developed over the next three or four years," Toni states. "We had determined that Kalamazoo County would, one day, take over authority for the trailway, making it the sixth county park. That's why there was such a natural fit."

"It's been a very positive progression," Jerry adds, "but I remember, early on, being concerned about the scope of the project. Having gone through years of the campaign for Markin Glen, I knew how challenging that was. Markin Glen is big — 165 acres — but it's a finite space, and yet it cost nearly \$6 million to construct and maintain the property as a park facility. In contrast, the trailway is much larger and more complex. It's 40 miles through multiple communities, neighborhoods and landscapes, and it



This red caboose marks the east end of the Kal-Haven Trail, which connects to the Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway. When completed, the trails will be part of a network that will lead from Lake Michigan to Lake Huron.

was going to cost \$16 million for construction and an operations endowment.

"The Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway is not a rails-to-trails environment," Toni concludes. "Only about six miles will be on old railroad beds. So for 34 miles, we had to talk to a lot of municipalities and property owners to get connectivity from point A to point B."

The first "spoke" of the trailway "wheel" to be completed is a "demonstration project," exclusively on public land adjacent to the Kalamazoo River from the east side of Rose Park, under the Michigan Avenue Bridge, through Red Arrow Golf Course, across Mills Street, and through Mayors' Riverfront Park to a cul-de-sac on the east side of Homer Stryker Field that's marked by totem-like structures of red clay and wood.

Other parts of the spokes have been built in pieces and parcels, often with the grace of good fortune and cooperative agreements.

For example, thanks to an easement, the trailway will go through the Kalamazoo Nature Center, providing a more scenic view for people who walk and wheel there. This, in turn, helps the Nature Center preserve a fragile ecosystem that might have been adversely impacted if the project to widen North Westnedge Avenue would have included a roadside pathway.

When the D Avenue Bridge was reconstructed in 2004, MDOT intended to rebuild it one lane at a time and allocated \$275,000 for a timed signal



A man exercises on the trailway near Rose Park Veterans Memorial in downtown Kalamazoo.

An advertisement for Heilmans Nuts & Confections. It features a green background with various nuts and chocolates. The text reads: "Heilmans NUTS & CONFECTIONS kind of nutty, but in a good way! 1804 South Westnedge Ave • 269-383-1188 • www.nuts2you.com".

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light to facilitate traffic flow. But the Friends suggested that MDOT close the bridge completely and spend the signal money, instead, on a wider bridge that would include a safe pedestrian/pedalers pathway. To facilitate that, Richland Township agreed to provide emergency and fire service to the section of Cooper Township east of the Kalamazoo River during the reconstruction period.

A year later, MDOT offered a proposal that saved the Friends \$1 million. "Our dream, according to the master plan, was to have a bridge over U.S. 131 that would connect to the Kal-Haven Trail," Toni says. "But MDOT came to us and said, 'We're going to repave the highway. Since our equipment will be there anyway, we'll put a tunnel under 131 for you if you raise money for materials and labor.'" Toni recalls thinking, "Wow, these dreams are coming true. We thought these bridges and underpasses would come at the end of our project, but they're happening at the beginning."

The Friends' goal is to complete the trailway in 2010 or 2011. Projects in 2008 will connect the Jack Coombs Trail to Mosel Avenue, and downtown Kalamazoo with the Kal-Haven Trail at 10th Street. Sections for 2009 will extend from Mayors' Riverfront Park to 35th Street in Galesburg, and from Mosel Avenue through Markin Glen Park and the Kalamazoo Nature Center to D Avenue.

"People might think the trailway is only for recreation — and that's a major purpose — but we're also creating connectivity because the Trailway will be an alternative transportation route for many people," Toni says. "I met someone on a bike, which seemed to be his only transportation, and he said to me, 'Someday, I'm going to be able to ride to Battle Creek.' That brings tears to my eyes, thinking that our goal can help people get around with greater independence — whether they are on a bike or in a wheelchair. And with gas prices going up, even people with cars can exercise and save money by using



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Trailway

the trailway.”

As primary segments are completed, Toni and Jerry expect subdivisions, neighborhoods, schools systems and senior residences to construct feeder trails. They expect the trailway to attract outdoor recreationists, which will enhance the community’s economy.

“The Friends of the Kalamazoo River Trailway is the straw that stirs the drink,” Jerry adds. “We connect people to people on a personal level in the communities, the county and the state. We build connections between our funding sources: Kalamazoo County, the City of Kalamazoo, MDOT, the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, the Arcus Foundation, the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation, the Kalamazoo Community Foundation, the Dorothy U. Dalton Foundation, plus multiple individuals and companies. And the Parks Foundation. We’re all rolling down this path together.”

Toni praises the City of Kalamazoo



The section of the trailway under East Michigan Avenue features a wood-and-fence railing and a platform that provides a close-up view of the Kalamazoo River.

and the County Road Commission for financially connecting the Friends with MDOT. “Those are the only ‘authorized’ government agencies in our area that can obtain the federal nonmotorized transportation funds,” she says. “When we started out, we dovetailed with the city. Now that the trailway will go beyond the city, we work with the Road Commission, which is applying their road-building

guidance and expertise to the project.”

“And,” Jerry emphasizes, “the trail is going to be accessible. Paved within Kalamazoo County, it’s everybody’s trail: walkers, bikers, joggers, babies in strollers, and people who ride on two, three or four wheels. We want the trail to connect people to nature: fresh air, green trees, colorful flowers, crickets at night.”

Jerry then offers five reasons why



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The Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway

From Rose Park Veterans Memorial, the spokes of the Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway will extend in five directions:

- South, through Upjohn Park, and then along Portage Creek to Portage’s trail system, the Bicentennial Park and Celery Flats.
- North, a loop that begins along the Jack Coombs Trail to Gull Road, through Verburg Park, over the Patterson Avenue Bridge to Parchment, and then across the Mosel Avenue Bridge, through Markin Glen Park and the Kalamazoo Nature Center, across the D Avenue Bridge, and back to Parchment.
- Northwest, through Verburg Park and Spring Valley Park to an existing trail along Gull Road and on to Richland.
- West, through Kalamazoo’s town center and Versluis Park to the Kal-Haven Trail and South Haven.
- East, through Mayors’ Riverfront Park and then along the north side of the Kalamazoo River to the Comstock Township Nature Center, River Villa Preserve, Morrow Lake, River Oaks Park, Galesburg, Augusta, the Fort Custer Recreation Area, and the Battle Creek Linear Park.
- Beyond, an important link in the Airline Trail from Lake Huron to Lake Michigan.
- Far beyond, a connection in Augusta with the 4,600-mile North Country Trail from eastern New York to central North Dakota. 📍



Cooperation among Cooper Township, Richland Township and the Michigan Department of Transportation made possible this safe, peddler/pedestrian crossing of the Kalamazoo River at D Avenue and allows for a loop of the Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway on both sides of the river.

this trailway project is happening. "First, it's the right thing to do because it gives people an opportunity to get into nature. Second, we will complete the missing link between three great trails in southwest Michigan: the Portage Bicentennial, the Kal-Haven and the Battle Creek Linear."

"The trailway has regional value because it will connect Calhoun and Van Buren counties," Toni adds.

"Third," Jerry continues, "through raising local matching funds, we have gained a very significant amount of public grant money ..."

"... which the federal government specifically earmarks for nonmotorized transportation and related enhancements, so we're not taking tax dollars from roadways or other public services," Toni interjects.

"Fourth," Jerry states, "because of a grant from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, we will be able to develop and implement programs to increase awareness and usage of the trailway. Fifth, we have an endowment invested at the Kalamazoo Community Foundation to take care of the trail into the future. I like to tell people that each of these reasons alone is not enough, but together, they are compelling."

"Can you tell we're passionate about this?" Toni asks. "I think about a lot of things, but if someone wants to listen, this trailway is one of my favorite subjects." 📺

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Events of Note

(Continued from page 35)

Fiber Face — Cross Cultural Batik Collaborations — From Indonesia comes the work of Nia Filam and Agus Ismoyo Isnugroho, artists-in-residence at WMU. Through Mar. 21.

Visiting Artist/Scholar Series — Japanese artist Sadashi Inuzuka's installations explore the intersection of human society and the natural world, as well as art and science. The work explores a range of subjects – ecological imbalance, the impact of invasive non-native species, and water consumption and conservation. Feb. 28, 5:30 p.m. RCVA Lecture Hall, 2nd floor.

Park Trades Center 345-3311

Saniwax Gallery — “Western Michigan University BFA and MFA Student Exhibition” Opening reception, Feb. 1, 5–9 p.m. during the Art Hop. 326 West Kalamazoo Ave, Suite 209. Through Feb. 21.

Miscellaneous

Art Hop — View the works of local artists at venues/galleries in downtown Kalamazoo. Feb. 1, 5 p.m. 342-5059.

West Michigan Cancer Center — “The Healing Power of Nature” an exhibition of wildlife photography by Jonathan H. Morgan. Opening reception Feb. 1, 5–9 p.m. during Art Hop. 200 N. Park St. Through May 31.

Literary Events

Kalamazoo Public Library 553-7809:

Writing Your Life Stories — Author Bonnie Jo Campbell will discuss how to choose good subjects, shape interesting stories, and reveal strategies to keep you writing for years. Feb. 9, 1–4 p.m. Eastwood Branch Library, 1112 Gayle Ave. Registration required. 553-7810.

An African American Women's Writing Group — What's in a Name? — Explore memories, history, and funny tales with popular local storyteller “Miss Nettie” Martin. Feb. 13, 6–8 p.m. Powell Branch Library, 1000 W. Paterson St., Registration required. 553-7960.

Family History Workshop — Ronne Hartfield, the author of *Another Way Home: The Tangled Roots of Race in One Chicago Family*, will describe how family history can illustrate the broader arena of all human experience. Co-sponsored by the Southwest Michigan Black Heritage Society. Feb. 15, 4–6 p.m. Central Library, 315 S Rose St. 553-7808.

Poetry Feast: Artificatory — Celebrate things Kalamazoo in poetry! Area poets from all walks of life read works inspired by local artifacts, memories, and history. Feb. 24, 1:30 p.m. Kalamazoo Valley Museum. 553-7809.

This Old Building: The Marlborough — Many local notables have called the Marlborough Apartment building home. Hear about its history, architect, builder, and its new lease on life, from historian and Marlborough resident Pam O'Connor. Feb. 28, 7 p.m. Central Library, 315 S Rose St. 553-7808.

Museums

Kalamazoo Valley Museum 373-7990:

Raise the Roof — Explore the secret life of building through engaging activities in this show from the Science Museum of Minnesota. Learn how a house stays warm, and why Mongolians live in gers, and how skyscrapers stay tall, along with much more. Feb. 16–June 1.

Fantastic Science — Join Woodward Elementary Science students in a science-filled day, from experiments, to demonstrations and art. Feb. 2, 1–4 p.m.

A House Is A House — Create a variety of homes from around the world out of sticks, paper, and more. Feb. 16, 1–4 p.m.

Air Zoo 382-6555:

Open Cockpit Days — The Air Zoo will open the cockpit of several aircraft for close inspections. AH-IJ Sea Cobra helicopter, Feb. 2; B-25 Mitchell bomber, Feb. 9; Grumman F-14 Tomcat, Feb. 16; Grumman Mallard. Feb. 23.

Super Science Saturday — “Ancient Science” will teach us with fun, hands-on activities how many of the things that we use every day were developed by our ancient ancestors. These half-hour activities will occur at various times throughout the day. Feb. 23.

Nature

Kalamazoo Nature Center 381-1574

Owl Prowl — For a happy Valentine's Day, bring your sweetheart for an evening of exploring the woods after dark and listening for owl activity. Feb. 14, 6–7:30 p.m.

Connecting Women & Nature: Skiing by Moonlight — Bring your cross country skis and enjoy the KNC trails by the light of the moon. Feb. 20, 6–9 p.m.

Boomers and Beyond: Pioneer Maple Sugaring — Dress warm, we'll walk to the Pioneer sugar shack to see the old-fashioned process. We'll finish inside the DeLano house with maple treats and warm discussion. Bring your lunch and a friend, Feb. 26, 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

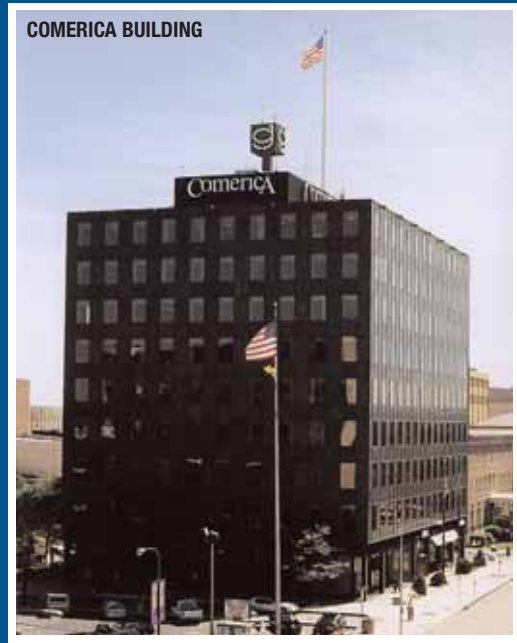
Poetry anyone? How about sharing your verse with Kalamazoo-area readers? Please submit a short personal profile to accompany it.

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Answer To Guess WHO?

Deb Droppers The Event Company

Deborah “Deb” Droppers is probably the most organized person in Kalamazoo. Her skill at planning and executing events led her to begin The Event Company, a consulting firm that organizes and executes more than 60 events every year.

Born in Holland, Mich., Deb came to Kalamazoo in 1967 when her parents took positions at Western Michigan University. While attending Kalamazoo Central High School and Hope College, she organized proms, sorority fundraisers and social events. She received her master’s in public administration from WMU.

Deb’s professional career includes working for Metro Transit, the City of Kalamazoo and the YMCA Corporate Olympics. Currently she is employed as an instructor at WMU, teaching in the School of Public Affairs.

Having begun The Event Company in 1995, one of her major clients is currently Downtown Kalamazoo, Inc. for whom she plans dozens of events, including Mixers on the Mall, Art Hops, Summer Sidewalk Sales, Bronco Bash, the DooDah and



Costume and makeup by Tony Gerard, The Timid Rabbit Costume Shop.

Holiday parades and others. She also lists Ribfest, Roofsit and New Year’s Fest as clients.

In addition to her work as an event planner, Deb also serves the community on the boards of the Kalamazoo County Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Portage Public Schools District Advisory Council, and she is president of the Portage Northern Boosters Club.

She and husband, Kurt, have three sons. Jacob is a senior at Hope College, Josh is a freshman at WMU, and Joe is in his first year at Portage Northern High School.

The next time you attend a downtown event and see Deb working to make everything just right, take a second to tell her “thanks” — because without her, our hometown events wouldn’t be nearly as organized.

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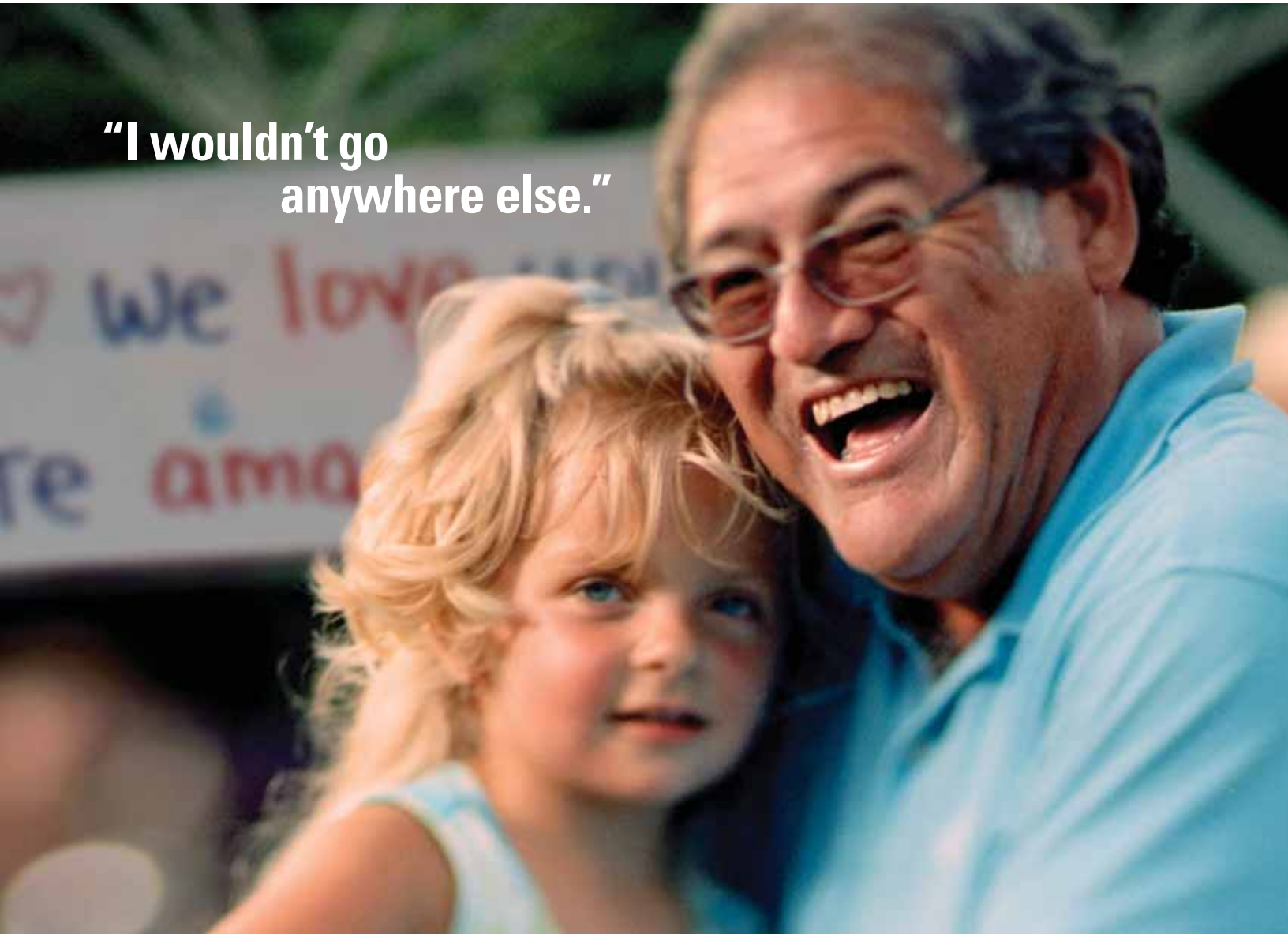
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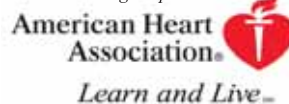
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