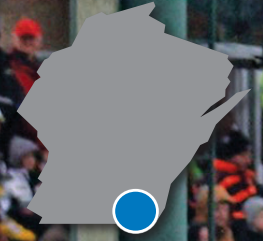




# THE SPIRIT of Geneva Lakes



Vol. 27 No. 3

COMPLIMENTARY COPY • Since 1989

MARCH 2015

## INSIDE ~

- Harley-Davidson dreamin'
- Revenge of the geeks
- Sorgs – they have the meat



## HANG ON FOR A WILD RIDE!

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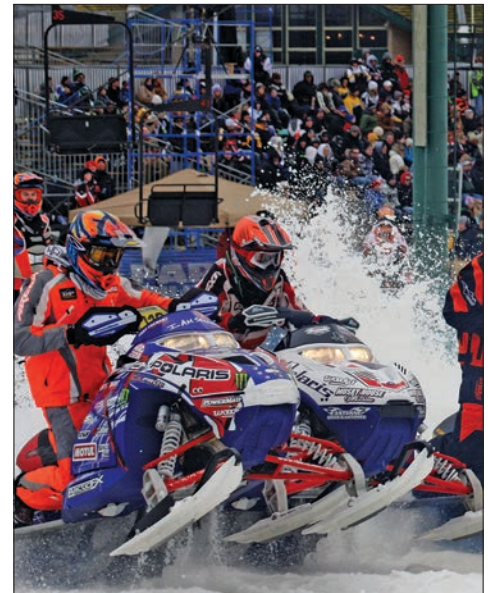
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## Seat-of-your-pants excitement

When it comes to the pure thrill of seat-of-your-pants racing, there’s nothing to compare with the sport of snowcross.

People throughout the area will get a chance to experience thundering starts, breathtaking jumps and photo finishes March 13-15 when the AMSOIL Championship Snocross Series Nielsens Grand Finale comes to the Grand Geneva Resort. See page 15 for a full story and schedule of race weekend events.





# IT'S COMIN' UP

## MARCH EVENTS

**1 Bridal Show at Lake Lawn Resort** – 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Meet with more than 30 wedding and event vendors and look at invitations, cakes, bridal houses, wedding dresses, photographers, videographers, DJ's, Florists, wedding accessories. Admission is free. For more information call (262) 728-7950 or visit [www.lakelawnresort.com](http://www.lakelawnresort.com). Lake Lawn Resort, 2400 E. Geneva St. (Highway 50), Delavan.

**4 Music @ the Mansion** – Join others at the beautiful Maxwell Mansion from 8 to 11 p.m. for an evening of music and libations. Features the area's most talented musicians led by Adriane Bedrosian in a fire-lit ballroom. Upright piano available for use. For additional information visit [www.maxwellmansion1857.com](http://www.maxwellmansion1857.com).

**13-15 Nielsen Enterprises Grand Finale of the National Championship SnoCross Series** – The thrill of one of the most exciting X-Games sports is the final stop on the World Power Sports Association's World Snowmobile Tour at Grand Geneva Resort in Lake Geneva. The annual stop promises plenty of up close, high-flying snowmobile action. The track is laid out on Grand Geneva's Mountain Top ski hill and allows for both indoor viewing and outdoor seating in the grandstands. All the major snowmobile manufacturers will have displays of the newest models and equipment. Grand Geneva Resort, Lake Geneva, (262) 248-8811, for details visit: [www.grandgeneva.com](http://www.grandgeneva.com) or [www.isocracing.com](http://www.isocracing.com) (see page 15 for more).

**14 Paint N' Sip event at The Abbey** – Enjoy a glass of wine as a professional artist guides you through the creation of an original piece of art in a relaxed atmosphere with music and friends. At the end of the session you'll take home a 16-by-20 canvas with the class-themed painting. 4 to 6:30 p.m. with a cost of \$45 per person. Reserve a spot by calling (800) 709-1323. The Abbey Resort, 269 Fontana Blvd., Fontana (262) 275-9000; [www.theabbeyresort.com](http://www.theabbeyresort.com)

**20-29 "The Living Passion" at Chapel on the Hill** – The Christian Arts Centre of Chapel on the Hill presents "The Living Passion" on Friday, March 20, Saturday, March 21st, and Friday, March 27 at 7:30 p.m. Also, Sunday

performances on March 22 and March 29 are at 3 p.m. All tickets are \$10 and may be purchased on [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com) or at the door. For more information visit [www.chapelonthehill.net](http://www.chapelonthehill.net) or call (262) 245-9122. The Christian Arts Centre is three miles west of Lake Geneva, on Highway 50 at Cisco Road.

**21 Burlington Chamber of Commerce Home and Garden Show** – Annual event features vendors, demonstrations, a craft fair and the Chocolate Extravaganza baking contest. Whether it's a simple paint job or a major renovation, an interior redecorating project or adding some curb appeal, the Burlington Home Expo is a great place to improve what's probably your greatest asset – your home. Plus, learn powerful tips from the seminars Scheduled throughout the day. At Burlington High School from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call (262) 763-6044 or visit [www.burlingtonchamber.org](http://www.burlingtonchamber.org) for additional information.

**22 "Manya: A Visit with Marie Curie" featuring Susan Marie Frontczak** – Travel back in time and meet one of the world's greatest scientists in this one-woman theatrical drama highlighting the origins of scientific discoveries. Madame Marie Curie changed the world through her discovery of radium and radioactivity and opened the doors of science to women. Presented at 4 p.m. by George Williams College of Aurora University, this "Sundays at 4" event is part of the 2015 series of free concerts, presentations and lectures. George Williams College, Williams Bay.

**28 Lake Geneva Symphony Orchestra Presents Beethoven, Mozart and Higdon** – The LGSO continues its tribute to the monuments of the music world, both past and present, in a concert at Badger High School. LGSO will present Beethoven's Third, the "Eroica" Symphony. Mozart's Overture to *Così fan tutte* will open also be featured. The orchestra will also perform "blue cathedral" by Jennifer Higdon. Admission: adults \$12, students K-12, free. 7:30 p.m. at the Badger High School auditorium.

*Although we make every attempt to provide accurate information regarding area events, dates and times may change or events may be cancelled. We suggest you verify before you finalize your travel plans.*

# THE SPIRIT

IS A PUBLICATION OF



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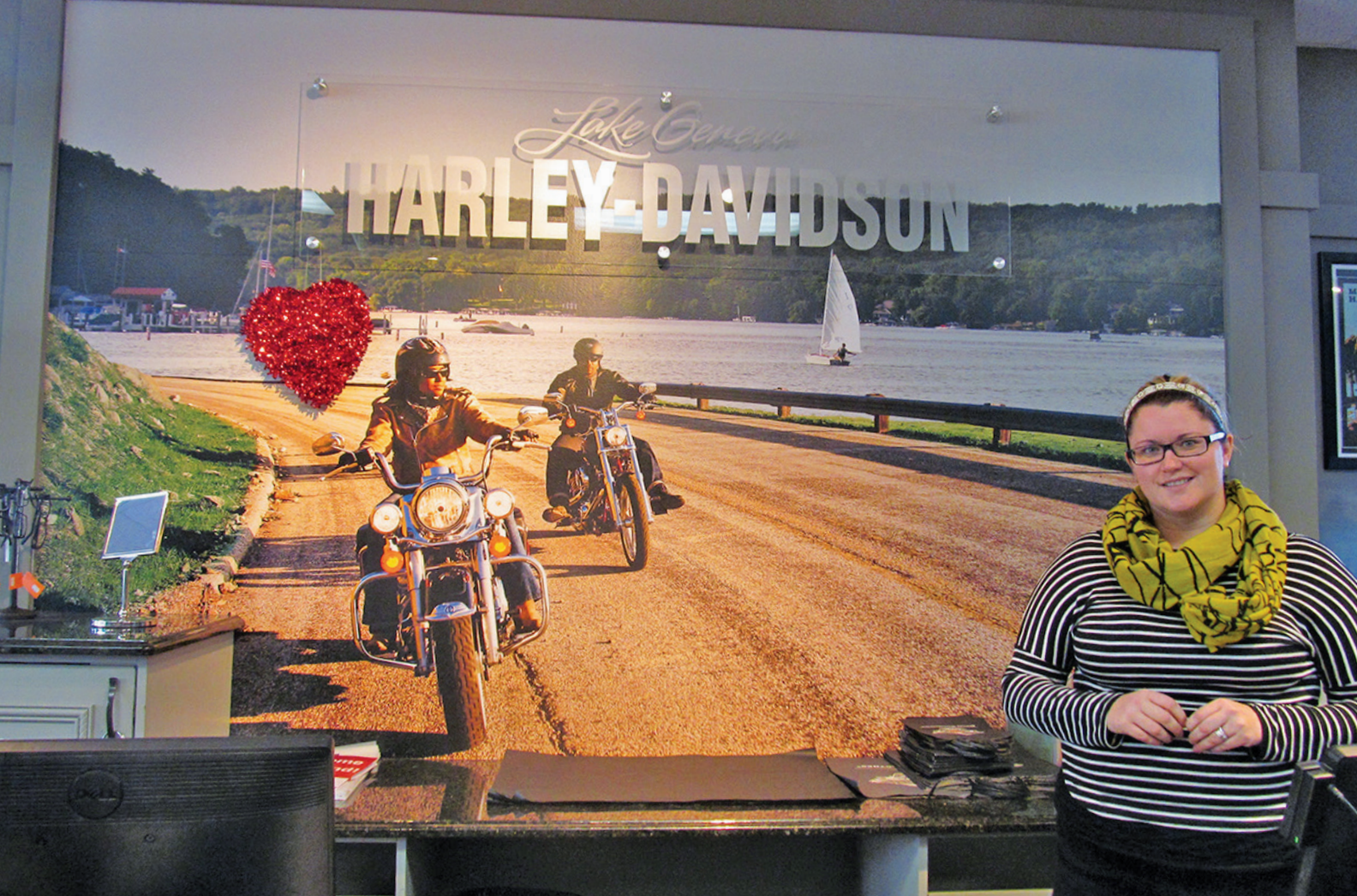
# THE SPIRIT

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SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Store manager Jeanna Jackson stands in front of a mural of Harley riders with Geneva Lake in the background. The Lake Geneva store specializes in clothing and accessories while the motorcycles are sold at dealerships in McHenry and Woodstock, Ill.

# Hear that **RUMBLE?**

IT'S THE  
SOUND OF  
THE LOCAL  
HARLEY-  
DAVIDSON  
STORE  
CALLING  
YOU

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**

CORRESPONDENT

As spring rolls around, thoughts turn to hitting the road. There is no better way to embrace the fresh, open air than on a Harley-Davidson motorcycle.

With trees beginning to awaken after the long winter and flowers peeking out of the ground and beginning to burst into color, it is definitely time to be on the road feeling the wind and taking in the aroma of the fresh spring air experiencing the freedom of the road.

Unfortunately, jumping on the Harley and hitting the road takes some preparation and it is not too soon to start.

And where better to begin the journey than with a visit to the Harley-Davidson store on Main Street in downtown Lake Geneva.

The Lake Geneva store opened in May 2014

and has been a popular place for Harley-Davidson enthusiasts to stop in and peruse the latest in Harley accessories and clothing.

With a wide variety of shirts and jackets in many colors for men, women and even children, there is sure to be the one or perhaps several that you can't wait to take home and wear. Don't forget to check out the sleepwear, jewelry and accessories. There are even items for pets.

Jeanna Jackson, the Lake Geneva store manager, and her husband, Dan, work for the Harley-Davidson franchise that owns the Lake Geneva store and the McHenry and Woodstock Harley-Davidson dealerships as one company.

## **Dressing the part**

An important preparation for any ride on a Harley is to be dressed appropriately. First there are the leather jackets, riding boots and helmets.



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SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Top: Lake Geneva Harley-Davidson offers home furnishings like this high top table and black stools with a leather look. Above: This studded bracelet with the skull embellishing it is a favorite among Harley riders.

These can be ordered through the Harley-Davidson store in Lake Geneva or online. Jeanna also pointed out that there is a jacket for use in winter that is heated. It can be plugged into the bike or heated through the use of a battery pack.

Jeanna said the customers who come into the Lake Geneva store are probably different from those who enter the dealerships.

"Many of our customers are tourists many of whom have never been in a Harley-Davidson store. They are more comfortable coming into this store even if they have never had a Harley," Jeanna said.

She went on to explain the store is more of a personal boutique but is unique from other boutiques in the area because everything in the store carries the Harley logo. Many of the customers are those who dream of owning a Harley in the future but for now are content to wear the Harley logo on their clothing, or to design their family room around Harley furniture, glasses, cups, pictures, or posters.

"People come back because of the high quality of the items," Jeanna said. "Harley is an iconic brand and the company provides



# “Harley is an iconic brand and the company provides the same high quality in their branded items as they do in their motorcycles.”

the same high quality in their branded items as they do in their motorcycles.”

She explained how Harley stands by its products, “If a zipper breaks, they replace it. They want to keep their customers happy.”

## Service is available

While motorcycles aren’t sold at this location, there is a Harley-Davidson Street 500 motorcycle on display at the front of the store. This lower-end bike is a perfect choice for those on a limited budget or for someone who is purchasing their first bike. Having it on display here in the store attracts many visitors who dream of owning a Harley-Davidson.

For Harley owners in the Lake Geneva area, service is available because many of the technicians who work in the Woodstock or McHenry locations live in the Lake Geneva area. Parts needed or new accessories ordered can be delivered to the Lake Geneva Store.

“A member of the service department will come up to service if a bike breaks down,” Jeanna stated.

One of the unique items found in the store is a case displaying small silver bells. As I wondered why they would sell these small bells, I was directed to a small sign explaining the purpose of the bells. They are the Guardian Bells and their legend is as follows:

Since the first motorcycles began to roam the country, evil spirits have been known to latch onto motorcycles and can be responsible for bad luck or mechanical problems to the motorcycle.

The legend continues that if a small bell is attached to the motorcycle, the evil spirits will get caught in the bell until the

constant ringing causes them to let go of the bell and fall off the motorcycle. According to the legend, the bell is even more powerful if given to a friend for his or her bike.

Maybe it is time to stop into the Harley-Davidson store and purchase one for your favorite motorcycle owner.

## A long history

The Harley-Davidson Company was founded by William S. Harley and Arthur Davidson of Milwaukee in 1903 and has grown from a company that originally produced three motorized bicycles in a small garage, to become the premier motorcycle company in the world.

The first dealership opened in Chicago in 1904 and sold one of those first three bikes manufactured in 1903. It would go on to sell many more over the years. The first motorcycles sold to a police department occurred in 1908 and went to the City of Detroit.

As the company grew and expanded its line of motorcycles and Harley became synonymous with quality, the company expanded its products and included the many accessories for both their bikes and riders while still maintaining high standards.

So once a visit has been made to the Lake Geneva store, the next stop is to ride to the McHenry or Woodstock dealerships to view the motorcycles on display.

The McHenry store is on Highway 120 about one block east of Chapel Hill Road. The large, open building has a retail store for Harley, but as you move back into the showroom, the sight of hundreds of brand new Harleys in various sizes and colors meets the eye.



SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*





SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

T-shirts for women and other accessories – like this belt buckle (above) – come in a wide variety of styles giving people a chance to pick their favorite color and logo.

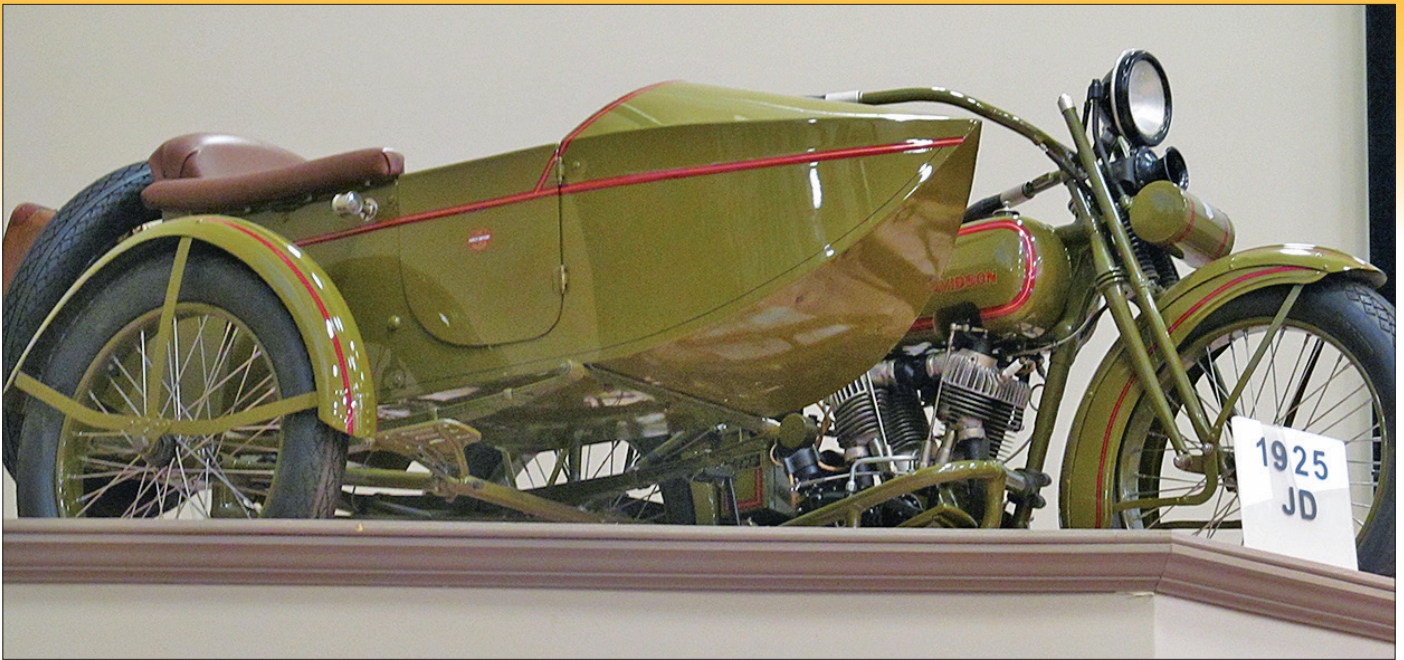
On a ledge along the top of the walls are many old time Harley-Davidson motorcycles from the early and mid 1900s. They have certainly changed over the years, becoming sleeker more colorful (although black is still the favorite color) and much more powerful than the early models.

### Who rides a Harley?

I was greeted by Dan Jackson and other members of the Harley-Davidson team, who began to enlighten me about the care of Harleys.

Most riders in the Midwest tend to ride beginning in late March





SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

This 1925 edition of a Harley-Davidson with sidecar has a much different look than today's sleekly styled motorcycle

and continue until the winter weather sets in.

Care of the bike is very similar to the care of an automobile. Regular service on the engine, and checking for wear and tear on a regular basis especially before starting to ride for the season are important to keep a bike running safely.

Each winter about 1,750 to 2,000 bikes are stored at the Woodstock facility. During that time there is a free inspection. Winter is a good time for service as coupons and discounts are offered keep the price down. Payment for the services is not due until the motorcycle is picked up in spring.

Before heading out on a new or used motorcycle, staff recommends that a rider complete a safety course.

They are offered at the Woodstock location and include both classroom lecture and range practice.

So who rides a motorcycle? For many years most thought of motorcycle riders as single males not yet tied down with the responsibilities of home and family. Today that could not be farther from the truth.

Motorcycles are ridden by both men and women. Among those who ride, 81 percent are married and many ride with their spouses.

Most of the riders (91 percent) are male. Many riders are over the age of 40 and return to their love of motorcycles once the kids are grown.

Motorcycle groups and clubs are active in charity work. For the past 28 years the Little Angels ride has benefited a home for children with disabilities. This year the ride will be held on May 27 and will leave from the Woodstock store.

Money raised will go directly to the Little Angels organization. The ride will be

between 75 to 100 miles.

Contact the Woodstock store for details of the ride.

So now it is time to take to the road to feel the experience of being one with nature as you glide along the highways for

destinations unknown.

For more information visit Lake Geneva Harley-Davidson, 704 Main Street, Lake Geneva. The phone number is (262) 729-4078 or visit them online at [LakeGenevaHarley.com](http://LakeGenevaHarley.com).

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# The thrill of the hunt

## LOCAL RESALE SHOPS OFFER UPSCALE ITEMS AT BARGAIN PRICES

Though many people discover resale shopping for economic reasons, they often become devoted resale shoppers due to the quality of the merchandise and the thrill of the hunt.

Unlike long-ago predecessors, consignment and resale shops of today are selective in their merchandise and most will only carry items in "like new" or "near new" condition. Some are very specialized and cater to a specific subset, while others try to carry a little something for everyone.

While some of our area consignment shops have been around a long time, new and interesting establishments blossom into existence every year with new and exciting offerings.

Much like the retail market for new merchandise, resale shop offerings are consumer-driven. As shoppers are brand conscious, especially in regards to clothing, many shops prefer to accept mainly well-known and sought-after brands for their stores.

Oftentimes items are brought to consignment shops that have never been worn or used. Perhaps bought in a wrong size, received as a gift or other reason, these brand new items are some of a shopper's favorite finds.

For those who adore great resale and consignment shopping, here is an overview of several great shops that serve the Geneva Lakes



FILE PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lake

Sandy Lenz, owner of Sandy's Upscale Consignment Shop, models one of the classic dresses and accessories that are common at her store in the Village of Walworth.

### *Posh Threads*

*Women's Consignment Boutique*



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area – each offering its own style and variety of merchandise.

### Encore Consignments

Encore Consignments, Lake Geneva, specializes in gently used furnishings, but there is so much more to this 2,000-square-foot store. Among the things shoppers will find here are artwork, lamps, pillows, rugs, linens, jewelry and lots of decor from antique to modern and everything in between.

Encore prices items well below retail with all the furniture and accessories placed in settings to take the guess work out of what coordinates with your decor.

Owner Heidi Sue Signorella likes to keep a mix of price and style to cater to a wide variety of tastes, whether you're starting from scratch or finding that unique piece that tops off a home's decor.

Those who have items they'd like to sell at Encore should call to set up an appointment. The store is 1.5 miles north of downtown Lake Geneva with plenty of free parking

at N3241 Highway H. Check them out on Facebook or call (262) 248- 2009. Store hours are Tuesday through Friday 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### Geneva Upscale Consignment and Furs

This Lake Geneva shop offers designer wear without the high-end price. Shoppers will find a nice selection of upscale apparel including new and gently worn clothing for women and juniors, formals, dresses, jewelry, shoes, purses and a large Harley-Davidson clothing selection.

Gorgeous furs ranging from new to vintage in full length, strollers, jackets, hats are available to view for purchase online at [www.lakegenevafurs.com](http://www.lakegenevafurs.com).

The store offers free evaluations along with fur repairs, storage, cleaning and restyling of new and old furs. Consignors are welcome.

The shop is at 253 Center Street, Suite 400, Lake Geneva (across from the US Bank and behind City Hall). The phone number is



FILE PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lake

Offering designer labels, Posh Threads of Fontana carries a wide variety of clothing styles from casual to formal.

(262) 248-3777. The shop is open seven days a week and offers free parking right next to the store.

### Inspiration Place Resale Shop

Inspiration Place Resale Shop (on the grounds of Inspiration Ministries) will celebrate its 10th anniversary in March. Tourists and locals alike will find bargains and inspiration among the treasures at the shop.

The shop offers an array of gently used home furnishings in a clean, organized environment. Along with an always-changing inventory, shoppers will find a knowledgeable, customer-oriented staff.

The store's manager and volunteers create exciting visual displays of seasonal items, furniture and decorative household items.

Store staff tests everything that comes in to be sure it works. The store's merchandise is entirely donated and tax deductible.

Donations range from furniture to household items, to knick-knacks and



FILE PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lake

Home décor, including furniture, artwork, lighting and accessories is a specialty at Encore Consignments in Lake Geneva.

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FILE PHOTO *Spirit of Geneva Lake*

High-end clothing, including furs, jewelry and footwear can be found at Geneva Upscale Consignment and Furs in Lake Geneva.

everything in between. A truck is available to pick up larger furniture donations by calling (262) 275-2264.

Proceeds from the store assist the residents who live at Inspiration Ministries. The store is at the corner of Highways 67 and F between Fontana and Williams Bay. Store hours are 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The telephone number is (262) 275- 2264.

### *Posh Threads Consignment Boutique*

Posh Threads Consignment Boutique opened in Fontana in 2004. Proprietor Jessie Saunders has worked to make her shop the success that 10 years in the business brings. With over 600 consignors, the store is a roomy 1,000 square feet with an array of tastefully displayed women's clothing including juniors, misses and plus sizes.

From classic styles to fashion-forward trends, the boutique features designer labels from department stores and specialty shops at a fraction of their retail cost. Some favorite designers Saunders carries are Ralph Lauren, St. John, Chico's, Brighton, Coach, Eileen Fisher, Dansko, Born and Oh My Gauze. A large assortment of sterling, costume and vintage jewelry is also available.

Posh Threads is "never the same place twice," according to Saunders, who touts the boutique's pressure-free shopping experience.

"It's not unusual for someone to spend hours here," she said.

Saunders added that her experience helps her choose what's in high demand and price it fairly, keeping consignors and customers happy.

New consignments are welcome by appointment please. Unsold items are donated to Clothing Outreach in Williams Bay.

Posh Threads is at 148 Fontana Blvd., Fontana, (across from The

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 36



# Snocross grand finale invades Grand Geneva



DAVE BAKER Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Reid Runkel of Burlington competes in the junior novice division at the 2013 ISOC Snowcross Championships at Grand Geneva Resort and Spa.

The top professional snocross racers on the planet will invade Grand Geneva for Nielsen Enterprises Grand Finale of the AMSOIL Championship Snocross Series, March 13-15.

Snocross is an exciting, fan-friendly form of snowmobile racing. It combines the big-air jumps and exciting action of motocross with the crisp winter environment. The action happens on challenging, professionally designed and graded tracks.

AMSOIL Championship Snocross is the featured national series within International Series of Champions Racing. The series brings together the top professional and amateur racers in the sport at fan-friendly U.S. venues.

Those interested in watching the entire event may purchase a three-day weekend pass for \$40. Regular tickets are \$25 per day. Children six and younger are admitted free of charge.

There will be a \$5 parking fee per vehicle.

Racing begins at 10:40 a.m. and continues until 9:50 p.m. on Friday, March 13. Racing is scheduled from 9:40 a.m. to 10:10 p.m. Saturday and 8:05 a.m. to 2:35 p.m. Sunday.

For more information, visit [snowcross.com](http://snowcross.com)

The Grand Geneva Resort and spa is at 7036 Grand Geneva Way, Lake Geneva.





# Hot racing on the snow at Grand Geneva

Here are scenes from the 2013 ISOC Snowcross Championship event at Grand Geneva Resort and Spa. The event returns to the resort March 13-15.



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# MEATS

Sorgs is the place where prime cuts are served by friendly people

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**

CORRESPONDENT

When Andrew and Anna Sorg moved to the farm on Highway 14 about half mile south of Highway 11 outside Delavan in 1942 and began to sell eggs and chickens at a small roadside stand in front of the family's farm, they most likely did not imagine where things would be 73 years later.

Today Sorgs Quality Meats and Sausages is one of the most popular places in the area to purchase high-quality, freshly butchered meats. And that same stretch of road is home to three Sorg farms.

From that simple roadside stand the business has grown to a large retail outlet that carries Sorgs quality meats, local cheeses, and various homemade jams, jellies, and barbecue sauces. It is a business still run by the Sorg family with Andrew and Anna's sons, Andrew Jr. and John, along with their wives, Barb and Shirley, now the current owners who continue the friendly service that has been a tradition since the beginning.

A visit to Sorgs is an experience that meat lovers will remember and will keep them coming back for more. At first glance it is a very impressive meat market with long display cases filled with a variety of fresh steaks, roasts,



John (left) and Andy Sorg stand in front of their meat display case. Providing the finest in fresh, locally butchered meat has been a goal of the Sorg family through three generations.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*





SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ Spirit of Geneva Lakes

**Sauces and relishes, produced by Sorg family members and other local residents, are offered on the counter at Sorgs Quality Meats and Sausages.**

pork chops, sausages, beef jerky and at one end a large selection of Wisconsin cheeses.

Freezers hold packages of frozen meats, brats, and hot dogs and not just your everyday variety, but many varieties of each. After all, bratwursts aren't just brats but come in a variety of flavors, which we will discuss a little later.

### MEAT FOR ALL OCCASIONS

For many of us meat is the foundation of our meals and our main source of protein. Each holiday seems to have its own special cut of meat and we wouldn't consider the holiday complete without preparing it as the centerpiece of the celebration.

Andy Jr., Barb, John, and Steven – and various other Sorg family members and employees who dropped in – discussed the special meats that people look forward to eating at different seasons of the year.

Coming up this month is St. Patrick's Day – a day when everyone is Irish. Who could celebrate St. Patrick's Day without corned beef? At Sorgs they usually prepare 400 to 500 pounds of corned beef and still will run out. John and Andy explained that they make two types of corned beef, the brisket and the rounds.

"The briskets are the traditional kinds of corned beef. They

contain more fat and therefore are tastier. The rounds are leaner but because of the lack of fat are a bit drier than the briskets," explained John.

This group prefers the briskets, but for those who don't want as much fat or need to reduce fat intake, the rounds are the logical choice.

Whether cooking the corned beef with cabbage, potatoes and carrots, or going straight to the corned beef sandwich, customers will find the right cut at Sorgs.

### EASTER GOES WITH HAM

Easter is another time when tradition runs high. For many, the typical Easter dinner is centered on the ham. In other families it is lamb, especially leg of lamb, that is a favorite. Some come from families where both are served and enjoyed. Once again it is important to get your order in early.

Summertime is that time of year when the living, if not exactly easy, is more laid back. The grill is brought out and fired up. Cooking moves from the kitchen to the grill and what wonderful choices are available from Sorgs.

First there is the traditional hamburger. No, that's not right. Hamburger from Sorgs is not your ordinary burger. The patty

itself is made from fresh, high-quality beef. Customers can choose from a plain burger or one of the specialty burgers. Each week a different burger is created to cater to a variety of tastes. Check the calendar for each week's specialty burger.

Andy III is the sausage master. Yes that is a third Andy in the Sorgs line. Andy is not content with the traditional bratwurst that most of us consider the standard but he likes to create new and different brats – chili brats, taco flavored brats, beer brats, Philly style, hot olives and one that you may think twice about serving. It is known as "the Gasser" because it contains everything that they can think of that causes gas. That includes beer, onions, sauerkraut.

Hot dogs, too, are created with new and different flavors, like adding onion to the hot dog during its creation.

### RIBS SAY 'SUMMER'

A summer can't go by without some ribs on the grill. Ribs from Sorgs are fresh and high quality, and the staff is more than happy to offer preparation tips. The knowledgeable people behind the counter, many of them



SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ Spirit of Geneva Lakes

**Cheese, cheese, and more cheese? Whatever your favorite, you'll likely find it at Sorgs.**



members of the Sorgs family, will be glad to recommend some of the fine rubs and sauces available. Luke's Plan B Sauces and Seasonings are among Sorgs favorites for seasoning ribs.

Can you think of a better way to prepare a steak than on the grill? And if it is one of the fresh steaks from Sorgs there isn't a better meal. Father's Day is often the time when steaks on the grill appear as it is often dad's favorite meal.

As we move into the fall and toward the holiday season we see cooking return to the kitchen and more oven-prepared meals appear. Need meat for stew or a beef or pork roast? Or how about a chicken to roast or fry? Sorgs is the place to find them.

Thanksgiving all of a sudden is on the horizon. We begin to think of the aroma of roasting turkey and realize we need to order a turkey. Why not try a fresh turkey this year? It will be much more flavorful than a frozen one. Sorgs carries fresh Amish turkeys from Iowa. Generic frozen turkeys just don't measure up.

Christmas is a time of tradition, but there are many traditions about what is the perfect



SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

**The original Sorg Farm was purchased by Andrew Sr. and Anna Sorg in 1942. They began their retail business by selling eggs and chickens at the roadside.**



**Sorgs, which is on Highway 14 about half mile south of Highway 11 in Darien, provides freshly butchered high-quality local meats.**





In addition to the fresh meats, Wisconsin cheeses – many produced locally – are sold under the vast display case at Sorgs Quality Meats and Sausages in Darien.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAU Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Christmas meal. Prime rib is one of the leading choices, along with ham and tenderloins, according to the Sorg family.

### FRESHNESS IS THE KEY

One of the differences between purchasing meat at your supermarket and purchasing it at Sorgs is that the meat is butchered right there, making it very fresh. Beef is aged 10 to 14 days for optimal quality, tenderness, and flavor. Lamb and bison are aged one week and pork is aged for 24 hours.

The Sorgs began preparing their own meat and that of other local farmers in 1957 when they built their own slaughterhouse. Processing the meat on site gives them total control of the quality of the product sold to the consumer.

While it might seem unusual that customers would head out of town on Highway 14 to purchase meat, those who spend a little time at Sorgs are often surprised not only at the number of customers who make the trip but also at the amount that each purchases.

Many of their customers come from a distance because once they and their families get used to the taste of this high-quality meat, it is hard to go back to that found in retail food stores.

To the Sorgs all of their employees are family. It is hard to distinguish between those who are actually Sorg family members and those who have worked here for many years. "They are like family. We have watched each other's kids grow up," said Barb.

Customers are also considered friends. Many have been coming for years and now there are some families that have several generations shopping here regularly. Service is also top notch. Everything is freezer wrapped so you don't have to do it at home.

Recently Sorgs has added homemade potpies filled with chicken, beef, or bison. These pies are bursting with flavor and make a quick dinner as all that's required is a hot oven. Those fortunate enough to get to Sorgs before they run out for the day should try Luke's Zesty Jambalaya, which is also made fresh on site.

Sorgs is the place to experience old-fashioned quality, service, and top value.

Market hours are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.. Sorgs can be reached by phone at (262) 724-5554. The store is at N4290 Highway 14, Darien, just west of Delavan a half mile south of Highway 11.



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Participants engage in some deep thinking regarding the correct move during an intense game of "Aliens" at GaryCon.



# A CALL TO ADVENTURE

Role-playing gamers to gather for GaryCon VII

by **Janet Deaver-Pack**

CORRESPONDENT

**S**outhern Wisconsin's weather in March is unpredictable at best. During some years, sunshine and balmy temperatures prevail. Other years are encrusted in snow and ice. Either way, the weather does not concern the people who gather yearly at an unusual convention held at the Geneva Ridge Resort during the last week in March.

In the words of the late Gary Gygax, the man honored and remembered at this convention as the father of role-playing games, it is "a call to adventure."

Gygax was the Lake Geneva resident who in 1973-74 co-created, published, and marketed role-playing games, thereby starting a worldwide phenomenon and a new industry in hobby gaming.

This convention's 700 attendees take over the entire resort to

play, talk to famous designers, writers, and artists, and investigate new games. Some gamers travel from as far away as England, Italy and even Iraq.

Former employees of Gygax's company, TSR, gather at the convention to renew friendships. This group assembles in the resort's bar for an evening to trade stories about the wildly creative company they once worked for. Although the convention is scheduled for four days, a few attendees always arrive early, spending the entire week pursuing their favorite avocation in private until GaryCon opens.

## ■ It's not child's play

Although this seems a rather childish pursuit to some, games have been an important part of all civilizations since before recorded history. They were used not only as recreation, but also



for developing important mental skills such as strategic thinking.

Proficiency in the Chinese game known to Western civilizations as Go was once used to qualify candidates for bureaucratic work. Certain games have been used by some cultures to pass on important concepts to younger generations.

Games were an important pillar of diplomacy throughout the world in the past. Time was set aside for visiting dignitaries to play, and beautiful inlaid boards with pieces carved of ivory and stone were sometimes given as presents to influential envoys. The social interaction provided by games has proved an enduring and necessary aspect throughout human history.

Gygax loved war games and played them often. Players command armies or military units, and dice rolls resolve combat. Top brass depicted in the simulated battles have personalities inspired by historical figures like Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar, or famous World War II generals, vastly simplified for the game. The focus is on the victory of one large group of warriors over another.

## ■ Personality in the battle

In analyzing what would make war games more intriguing to a greater number of people, Gygax and his Minnesota gaming buddy, Dave Arneson, focused on something different. The two changed the player's viewpoint from commanding faceless army units to impersonating individual heroes with distinct personalities, skills, and equipment. The participants role-play the traits of fictional characters, like actors in a movie.

This peculiar game gives players the opportunity to use their creativity and become someone else for a few hours. It requires different realms of thinking from war games, especially if the player is fundamentally different from his or her character, such as a small-framed woman role-playing a muscular barbarian fighter.

The imaginary heroes work together, combining wit, swordplay, and magic, often adventuring in a fantasy medieval setting. They battle monsters, evade traps, thwart hidden dangers and unveil



SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

**Gaming is not reserved for male geeks anymore as women of many ages enjoy games at GaryCon.**

mysteries and treasures led by a Dungeon Master, an impartial referee guiding the story and handling game mechanics. No two adventures are ever alike. They are not only challenging, they're downright fun.

This product of Gary's and Dave's imaginations was called the Dungeons & Dragons game, and became immensely popular at hobby gaming conventions.

Intrigued, new players clamored for additional material beyond the original boxed set. After he wrote follow-up books such as *The Player's Handbook* and *The Dungeon Master's Guide*, Gary's business expanded from the basement of his modest residence at 330 Center Street in Lake Geneva to larger quarters in the resort town.

"Dad wrote (the game) in 1973, and it was published in 1974," said Gary's son Luke, who, with siblings Ernie, Elise, Heidi, Cindy, and Alex, began the first GaryCon as a memorial to their father. "I first played D&D when I was four. It was magical."

## ■ Admiring son


Gary himself usually led the family's weekly game. According to Luke, he was a great storyteller. "I never wanted to leave to go to bed when we played," Luke said. "Five more minutes, please, I'd beg. 'Just five more!'"

Interest in D&D spread like wildfire. Gygax found himself so busy he had to hire people to help him write new material. Tom Wham and James M. Ward were two locals who joined the infant business Gary called TSR, which stood for Tactical Studies Rules.

Lake Geneva became a hub for creative people, eventually attracting Tom Moldvay, John Eric Holmes, Dave Cook, Larry Elmore, Jean Blashfield Black, Clyde Caldwell, Tracy Hickman, Margaret Weis, Jeff Easley, Douglas Niles, Keith Parkinson, and many others.

Luke remembers sitting in Gary's study while his father wrote books to

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“I never wanted to leave to go to bed when we played. ‘Five more minutes, please,’ I’d beg. ‘Just five more!’”

support the game. He would be curled up in a corner leafing through one of the first supplements called *The Monster Manual*.

“He was my best friend,” Luke said. “He used me as a player-ter for several modules (adventures).

“He turned everything into a game, even mowing the lawn,” Luke added. “We used to race the riding lawn mowers. It was a unique time.”

Gary was always willing to make time for people with interests like his own. “He offered to lend a hand to others a lot, like giving advice to editors as well as gamers,” Luke said. “He loved mentoring, loved to see his hobby grow.”

Of course Luke and his siblings wanted to do something special to commemorate their father’s memory when he died in early March 2008. The Gygax family could think of nothing more appropriate than holding a gathering for gaming at Lake Geneva’s American Legion Hall after Gary’s funeral.

About 150 people arrived for the one-day event. During the same hours, role-playing gamers all over the world sat down to games played in Gary’s memory. This was called GaryCon 0.

## ■ Going strong at 6

The convention has now thrived for six years, growing as Luke

describes in a local newspaper “...an intimate event...reminiscent of the formative years of the gaming industry.”

The convention quickly outgrew Lake Geneva’s American Legion Hall. Luke discovered that the Geneva Ridge Resort was seeking off-season business, and contacted them. GaryCon has been housed there ever since.

Luke, who is a major in the California Army National Guard, lives with his wife and three daughters in Monterey. He somehow organizes GaryCon long-distance.

“Running a convention is lots of work,” he said. “I’m lucky I have lots of friends who help.”

The convention literally takes over the entire resort to focus on “Old School Renaissance” gaming, in particular featuring adventures written by TSR icons during its heyday. Board games and most other types of games are welcome, but role-playing predominates.

In the parking lot, car license plates proclaim gamers have arrived from across the United States and Canada. Those who travel farthest come from England, Italy, Norway, and Iraq. For die-hard players who don’t need much sleep, games are run until the wee hours. Some tables offer “open gaming,” for which no reservations are required. Others, especially the most popular



SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

GaryCon attendees manipulate a science fiction diorama with intricacies that encourage room-by-room investigation by all players involved.





Here's a close-up of the painted miniatures and complex board used as part of the "Aliens" game, a favorite at GaryCon.

contests, have sign-up lists available on the GaryCon website.

Some participants dress for their events – tunics and tights with knee-high boots and capes are common, as are floor-length medieval gowns, Highland kilts, hats and robes worn by wizards. Oriental armor, European armor for both males and females, and an occasional Middle Eastern-style belly dancer flounced with coins, baubles, and chiffon are also seen.

A bard playing a lute often appears in the halls, the bar, and the lobby, singing period songs and filking, which is folk music with original words written to reflect some details of science fiction or fantasy genres, including gaming. These songs are often hilarious.

## ■ Rubbing elbows

Attendees are often amazed to discover world-famous game designers, authors, and artists at GaryCon. Many designers run the adventures they wrote, such as Merle Rasmussen and "Top Secret," James M. Ward and "Metamorphosis Alpha," Tom Wham (as usual wearing his grizzled chest-length beard and old-fashioned railroad engineer's cap and overalls) with an armful of his games, and Mike Carr with "Don't Give Up the Ship" and "Giant Le Mans."

Luke will serve as a Dungeon Master, along with Jon Johnson, for several events. The guest list this year features nearly 40 personalities in the gaming industry, including Lester Smith, Harold "Wisconsin" Johnson, Ernie Gyax, Jeff Easley, Peter Adkison, Margaret Weis, Steven D. Sullivan, Frank Mentzer, and Bruce Heard, among others. The intimate nature of GaryCon makes approaching these stars of the gaming, art, and literary worlds surprisingly easy – the atmosphere is always relaxed and friendly.

Luke calls GaryCon "The best-kept secret in gaming." Its dedicated group shows gentle growth year to year, but it has not



SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

This is a simulation of a battle using "Chainmail" rules at GaryCon, a game invented by Gary Gyax prior to the development of Dungeons and Dragons.

gained the fame and overwhelming sprawl of either GenCon in Indianapolis or DragonCon in Atlanta.

That's a good thing, according to Luke. GaryCon is still very much focused on honoring the memory and contributions of the father of role-playing games, Gary Gyax.

It's a chance to embrace Gyax's "Call to adventure."

Access information about GaryCon at [www.GaryCon.com](http://www.GaryCon.com). Some games require tickets, which often sell out before the convention begins. One-day passes are available, as are badges for the entire four days.

The Geneva Ridge Resort is at W4240 Highway 50, 10 minutes west of Lake Geneva. Contact the reservations desk at [www.genevanationalresort.com](http://www.genevanationalresort.com), or (800) 225-5558. The resort takes reservations for GaryCon early, so Geneva Ridge is often booked well before the convention opens. Satellite hotels available in downtown Lake Geneva offer shuttle service for gamers.



A woman with blonde hair tied back, wearing a red t-shirt, is smiling as she paints the white frame of a window with a brush. The background shows a bright outdoor scene with a brick building.

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## SIMPLE WAYS TO LIMIT WEEDS

Weed growth in a garden cannot only prove unsightly, but also ultimately harmful to plants and vegetables. When weeds appear in a garden, they have already begun to steal nutrients and water from surrounding plants, and if allowed to grow tall, they can also block sunlight from reaching the plants.

Gardeners can take several steps to limit the growth of weeds so the plants in their gardens can grow strong:

### Work the soil regularly

When weed roots are removed from the soil, weeds die. But just because you hoed or tilled the soil last month does not mean new weeds won't grow in and start robbing your plants of essential nutrients and minerals this month.

The garden should be cultivated regularly, and you should pay particular attention to the soil after the garden has been watered.

### Use mulch

Mulch can serve multiple benefits in a garden. Many people find mulch aesthetically appealing, but mulch serves more practical purposes as well.

Mulch made of organic materials, such as bark chips or grass clippings, is often too heavy for weeds to push through, making it difficult, if not impossible, for weeds to sprout in the garden.

### Proper spacing

The more space between plants, the more room weeds have to grow. So decreasing the space between plants can limit weed growth.

Spacing recommendations will likely be included on packaging when buying seeds, but reducing those recommendations by an inch or two may allow the plants to grow in strong while limiting weed growth at the same time.

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# The helix connection

## Spiral staircases spring to life in Genoa City shop

by **Janet Deaver-Pack**

CORRESPONDENT

Spirals are a common part of life. They exist in fossils, conch and nautilus shells, ferns, jewelry, tattoos, and ancient religious symbolism. Philosophers define a spiral as a representation of human evolution. It is a basic and popular pattern in architecture as well as art. In the English language, a spiral is often used to describe the upward or downward trends of life. Mandalas, used for meditation, are spirals.

Spiral staircases (which are actually helixes because a spiral is a flat shape) are not a new idea to builders. Solomon's Temple is described in the Bible as having a pair of spiral staircases giving access to a sacrificial altar. In Selinunte, Sicily stands an ancient ruin known as Temple A that was built between 480-470 BC, and features the remains of two internal spiral staircases.

This venerable style is popular in modern architecture. Helix stairs require about half the area of a normal staircase, and are safer because both the center pole and the outside rail halt downward motion within a very short distance. They also make a dramatic statement inside or outside a home or business.

They're conversation pieces. A helix stairway means judicious planning, a good use of space, and a touch of uncommon elegance.

### Custom solutions

To the building trade and to homeowners, Wells-Osborne Spiral Stairs in Genoa City offers custom-crafted helix staircases manufactured to exacting standards that provide an array of choices making each flight unique.

Bill Osborn started the business in 1949 as a welding and repair shop. He had received training in welding when he joined the Navy just after the United States entered the fray of World War II. Osborn was assigned to work on Liberty ships.

Developed by the British to transport much-needed wartime goods across the Atlantic, Liberty ships were rushed into production. Other types of freighters were converted. Likely because of the swift pace of their construction, several broke apart and sank during their first few weeks of use.

"Those ships needed repair every time they fired their gun," Osborn said. A few actually made it through the war, kept together by constant repairs while at sea. This need continually challenged Osborn's innovation and self-reliance.

Osborn worked in the Great Lakes shipyards in the Sturgeon Bay



BRUCE HEARD *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

From the top down, a Wells-Osborn interior spiral staircase shows a space-saving helical design appropriate for most homes.

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Two elegant one-story helix stairs featuring carpeted treads for indoor use are on display in Wells-Osborn's showroom. The balusters are very different, giving the visitor a hint of the options available.

area after his discharge from the Navy, and then moved back home to Genoa City between 1947-48. He found his welding skills were in demand, so he opened a shop specializing in that and repairs.

### Beginning of an era

"He built his first spiral stair in 1967," said Ed Adams, a tall, affable, mustachioed man who has worked 43 years for the company's three owners. "It looked a lot like that red one outside the shop. Bill used to show a spiral stair model from a booth at county fairs and trade shows. They sell themselves. Build one, and everyone who sees it wants one."

When asked what kind of person Osborn was, Adams shook his head and grinned.

"He was a great guy, a real character," Adams said. "He could teach anybody to do anything."

Osborn taught Adams to weld after he walked into the shop in 1970 and asked for a job. The owner gave the new hire a short time to settle in while he assessed his abilities. Osborn then instructed Adams in building helix stairs, starting with painting and grinding. Demonstrating his command of

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each lesson led Adams to another, and another. He has always liked the variety offered by the shop's custom work, and the creativity.

One of the best things about Osborn was his ability to listen to what a customer wanted, and doodle an intriguing design while that person talked.

"He loved challenges," Adams said. "He also knew exactly what was available in the shop, from bolts to metal sheets, and what would and wouldn't work in the product."

By the time the customer finished the description, Osborn was ready with a preliminary design. More often than not, Osborn's doodle was just what the client envisioned.

### Specialized equipment

Another unusual talent Osborn had was the ability to build his own equipment to produce stair treads, curled railings, or whatever he didn't have. In 1967, there were no machines dedicated to design spiral staircases.

Osborn set his mind toward whatever would work, for instance buying a transmission from a Model T Ford for a

"picket twister" that makes decorative balusters to set between the top and bottom rails of a staircase.

"You can run this through the gears," Adams said, grabbing the bar that once served the Model T as a stick shift and gently yanking it different directions. "You just do this and this, and come out with one of these."

He picked up a square bar of metal with a decorative multiple twist midway as an example. That element adds a dimension of elegance to plain balusters.

Most of the machines Osborn cobbled together to make helix stairs are still in use at the shop, such as one that bends a whole piece of rail at one time without cracking the metal. He also devised other equipment for rolling handrails, and for rolling "braided" pipe.

"That was interesting," Adams said, pointing to several pieces of dark metal twisted into one thick strand. "We made that braided pipe for a bar (foot) rail. It's made from exhaust pipes."



BRUCE HEARD Spirit of Geneva Lakes

This is an example of the detail found in the custom work on balusters awaiting assembly in the shop. The flat metal is first stamped in one machine, then curved in another. Bill Osborn made many of the custom metal-bending machines in the factory, most of which are still in use.



BRUCE HEARD Spirit of Geneva Lakes

This is one of the original helix stairs on display outside the Wells-Osborn Spiral Stairs showroom and factory just west of Highway 12 in Genoa City.

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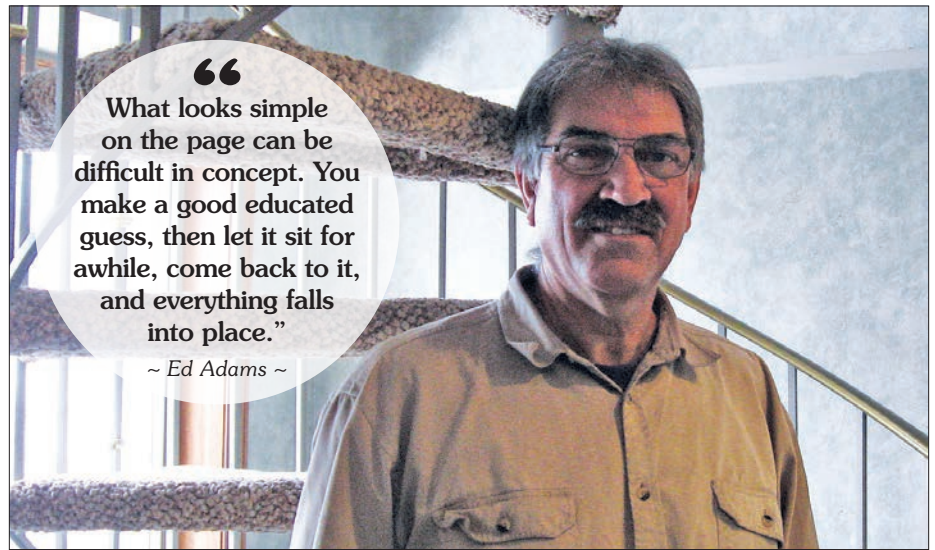
## Every job a challenge

Custom is the operative word at this business. No two jobs are ever alike. The “run” and “rise” (how many treads are required, how far apart they need to be, and how steep) are always different from project to project. The consistent differences are what Osborn wanted from his vocation, and they’re what have kept Adams here for more than four decades.

There are no computer aided design programs running in the background, chewing numbers. All the stairways and special orders manufactured in this facility are done old school, with pencil and paper – figured out by eye, by brain, and by years of invaluable firsthand knowledge.

“The longer you work with machines, the better you get with them,” Ed says. “It’s experience. Sometimes you go home talking to yourself (about a job). What looks simple on the page can be difficult in concept. You make a good educated guess, then let it sit for awhile, come back to it, and everything falls into place.”

Osborn had a business relationship with Ralph Wells of Wells & Associates, who owned foundries in Chicago, Richmond (Ill.), Waukegan (Ill.), and Mexico. Osborn taught Wells welding. When he decided to retire, Osborn offered to sell his company to Wells, who was intrigued by spiral stair building. He desired to keep Osborn’s name in the business, and so expanded it to Wells-Osborn Spiral Stairs. After Wells retired, his



“  
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into place.”

~ Ed Adams ~

son Steve Wells took over and is the current owner. The little company lists three full-time employees.

“We can call in others if we need them during the busy season,” Adams said. That’s during the warm months when home and business building is at its height.

Wells-Osborn sells custom-designed helix staircases throughout the United States. “We take the measurements, build the spiral, paint it, put it on a truck, and ship it to the destination,” Adams said.

A development named Vacation Village in Fox Lake, Ill., ordered spiral stairways for

hundreds of small getaway units. “They were tiny spirals. We built them all.”

Wells-Osborn does not sell helix stairways in a kit box, as do some other brands. These spirals arrive fully assembled, including Osborn’s specially designed bottom rail, which gives more strength and stability to the helix.

A spiral staircase from a kit is a tremendous puzzle for some home or business owners, and can take a fair amount of time to erect. They are also put together with bolts instead of the more stable welded central column and treads.



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BRUCE HEARD Spirit of Geneva Lakes

This is one of the custom-built machines developed by original owner Bill Osborn. Still in use, it makes elegant spirals from plain metal rods.

### Quality intact

When a Wells-Osborn spiral arrives, everything is intact, making installation easy. The builder or the homeowner can simply set it in place and anchor it. Custom colors are available. Adams said they use a special paint with a rust inhibitor on both inside and outside installations.

Osborn used to claim “90 days or 90 feet, whichever comes first” as a tongue-in-cheek guarantee on his work. These staircases are so strong and stable they may outlast both the owner and the house where they’re installed.

One of the most unusual spirals built and installed by Osborn featured a telephone pole. It became the center of the helix with metal treads and rails surrounding it. This staircase commanded attention from the middle of the residence, and provided the owners of the house with quite a conversation piece.

Other types of custom metal work are also created in the company’s shop. Adams just finished an entertainment center for a patron in Lake Geneva who wanted the doorframes filled with metal spirals.

“We monkeyed around until we found the right sizes of spirals,” he said, pulling some formed metal off a shelf and setting them within wooden templates the same dimensions as the doors. “They fit like this, and like this. Sometimes there’s lots of trial and error—it’s the difference between

science and art.”

The beautiful helix staircases and other custom products designed and manufactured by Wells-Osborn are an excellent combination of both.

To learn more, visit the company’s website at [www.metalspirals.com](http://www.metalspirals.com) or drop by their showroom and manufacturing center at 162 Walworth Street, Genoa City. The company’s email address is [spirals@metalspirals.com](mailto:spirals@metalspirals.com).



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# HOW TO REPAIR DEAD GRASS

A patch of dead grass on an otherwise lush lawn can be a frustrating eyesore for homeowners.

But as unsightly as dead grass can be, addressing it and restoring the dead patches can be somewhat simple. Before you can restore grass, however, you must first identify the source of the problem. Grass often dies because of urine damage, which is typically characterized by a dead spot surrounded by otherwise green grass.

Grub infestation might be at fault when dead grass appears, and such an infestation often produces patches of light brown grass that are scattered throughout the lawn. It's also possible that dead grass is a result of human error. If your lawn was over fertilized, then patches of gray-green grass may appear. Fungal disease is another common culprit behind dead grass, and such disease can manifest itself in different ways.

Once you have identified why the grass is dead, which may require the help of a professional, then you can begin to treat your lawn.

## Urine damage

Urine damage is often limited to a

particular area of the grass where your family pet routinely relieves itself.

Once a particular patch of grass has worn down, the pet may move on to another spot. But if you quickly notice a dead spot due to urine damage, you can train the animal to urinate elsewhere, limiting the damage it causes.

When repairing the grass, dig a hole that's roughly four inches deep and fill it with fresh soil until it's level with the soil surrounding the dead patch. Then you can sprinkle seed on top of the freshly laid soil and water the spot. Grass should grow in and stay green so long as you prevent further urine damage.

## Insect damage

Addressing dead spots caused by insect damage can be a little more complicated, and some homeowners may prefer to hire a professional. If you want to handle the problem on your own, apply pesticide to the affected areas so the insects behind the problem are killed. Once the insects are no more, cut the grass, raking the affected area to remove the dead grass and any additional debris. Scatter grass seed over the affected areas and then apply an appropriate fertilizer

and water immediately. Professionals may know just the right fertilizer for your lawn, so even if you want to go it alone, visit a local lawn care center to ask for advice about addressing your particular problem.

## Fertilizer damage

Fertilizer damage can also prove difficult to address, as applying fresh seeds too soon can kill any freshly growing seedlings. So grass that has been damaged by over fertilization must first be allowed to fully die.

Once that has happened, the grass can be cut and any remaining debris or dead grass can be removed. Seed can then be scattered, and you can even add some additional soil before laying down an appropriate amount of fertilizer and watering the lawn immediately.

If you don't trust yourself to use fertilizer correctly, then hire a professional to do the job for you. This will cost a little more, but you likely won't wake up to more dead patches of grass down the road.

Dead grass can be unsightly and turn an otherwise lush lawn into a patchy eyesore. But addressing dead grass can be easy and can quickly restore a lawn to its green grandeur.

(METRO CREATIVE)



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# Six hot home design trends for spring

Does the change of seasons have you itching to refresh a tired, lackluster room? Or maybe you're looking for some small ways to make a big impact on your home's style?

Whatever the case, here are some of this season's most buzzed-about trends and how you can incorporate them into your next project.

## Wood is the new neutral

This season's strong trend toward wood textures pairs the warmth, richness and texture of real wood with limitless design flexibility. Think wood-textured textiles, tree-printed wallpapers and embossed soaps that look like wood.

Installing engineered wood ceilings and wainscoting can bring the unique look of reclaimed wood into any environment – an easy do-it-yourself project with striking results.

## Ode to the elements

Mother Nature is inspiring design in a big way this year and homeowners are finding unique ways to incorporate rocks, minerals and other natural elements into their home's design.

Try replacing a common-place item like an alarm clock with one encased within a multi-colored agate.

Bring this look to the kitchen with a stainless steel backsplash, or swap out run-of-the-mill hardware with mineral-inspired drawer pulls and knobs.

## Shore thing

Homeowners, inspired by the calm, care-free attitude of coastal living are all about bringing the beach inside this season. Beach-inspired design elements are popping up throughout the home.

Weathered and white-washed wood ceilings are a subtle but stunning on-trend addition – especially when finished with interior accents like decorative shells, drift wood furniture and marine-themed prints.

## Contrast in texture

Step aside, Pantone. Texture is spring's hottest new color. Homeowners are putting down their paintbrushes and adding interest with texture through high-gloss finishes, metallics, sequins and mirrors.



SUBMITTED PHOTO *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

**Wood textures bring warmth, richness and texture to a room of any style.**

A textured tile wall brings visual and tactile interest, especially when paired with contrasting high-gloss lacquer or low-gloss matte accessories.

## Visual punch

Reawaken the senses this spring by incorporating a striking visual element to the home. Multi-dimensional surface treatments in pearl, metallic and gold/silver combinations add panache as a coating used for hardwood, or can be applied to wallpaper, furniture or decorative accessories.

And don't forget to look up. Coffered ceilings bring a striking je ne sais quoi to any room.

## Manipulated metals

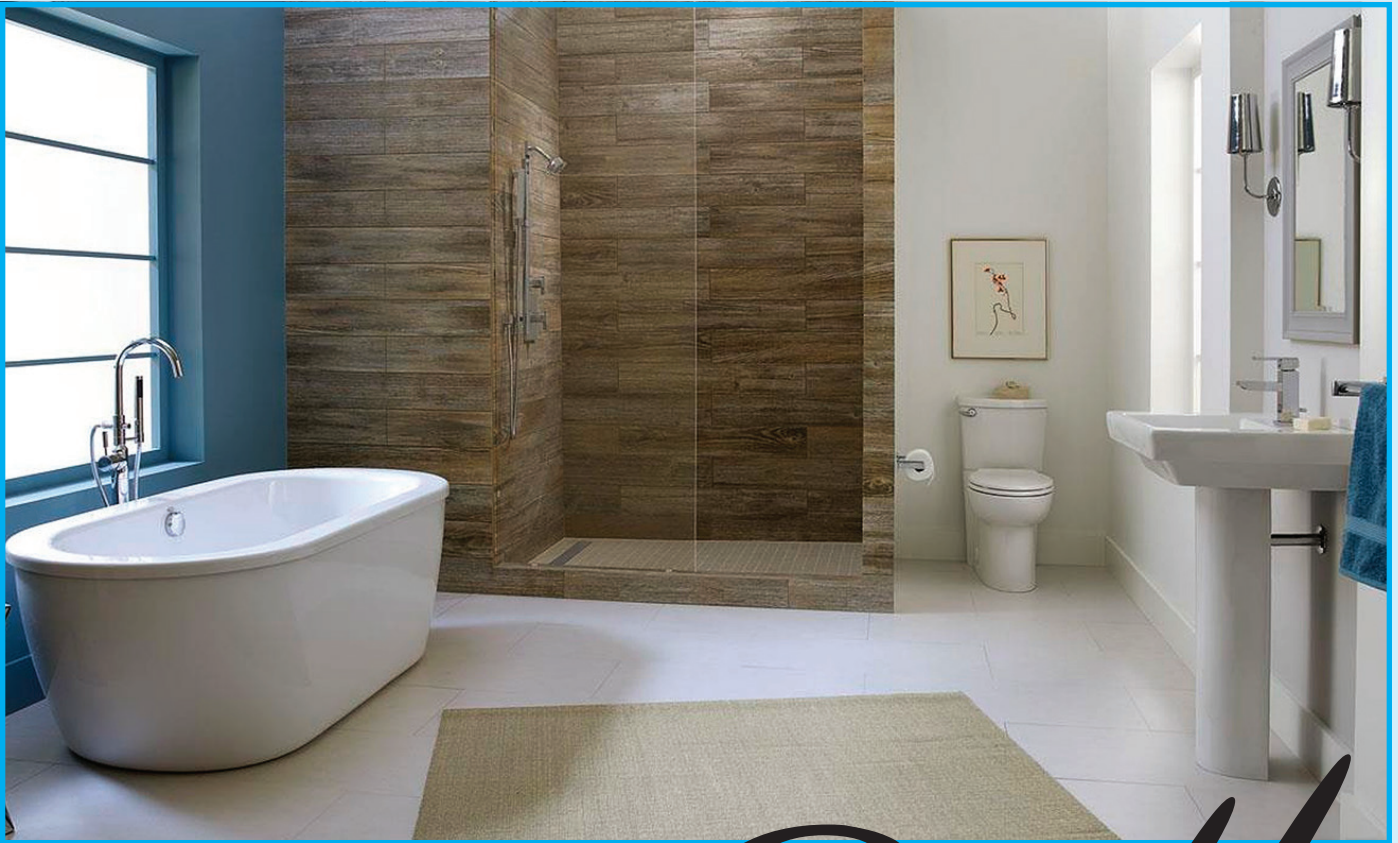
The versatility of manipulated metal makes it a great addition to any style home – from hand-crafted artisan to contemporary high gloss.

Copper, pewter and nickel are getting in on the action and can be styled in a variety of ways, including hammered metal sink basins, tin-look ceiling tiles, antiqued copper light fixtures and brushed stainless steel cabinet hardware.

If you'd benefit from a little windfall to help finance your fabulous spring home improvement projects (and who wouldn't?), consider checking with your favorite vendors, many of which are running seasonal promotions.

(BPT)





# BANISH A BORING Bath

*Fast and fabulous fixes to create your home sanctuary*

The best bathrooms are more than just functional areas – they’re sanctuaries where you can escape, reset and recharge. And as one of the smallest and most-used rooms in the home, that’s likely why they’ve become the most popular remodeling project (78 percent), according to the National Association of Home Builders.

Luckily, simple updates can breathe new life into this small space. Transform your boring bath by incorporating these fast, fresh updates that don’t cost a fortune.

#### Create a focal point with updated faucets

It’s a focal point, one of the most frequently used items in the bath, so it’s important that your vanity incorporates a

fabulous faucet.

If you prefer more traditional styling, the Moen Wetherly bathroom faucet offers a refreshed, old-world design that’s guaranteed to add a touch of luxury. Or if you like a more industrial, yet elegant look, Gibson bathroom faucets feature an edgy, square-shaped high-arc spout and sleek lever handles. And to keep your new fixtures looking flawless, both are available at Lowe’s in Spot Resist Brushed Nickel finish, which resists fingerprints and water spots, maintaining the brilliance of the faucet.

In addition to the beautiful styling, you’ll feel good about your update, since each bathroom faucet has been certified to meet WaterSense criteria, meaning

the fixtures meet the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) guidelines as an environmentally responsible and efficient product.

#### Add beauty with bath hardware

Once you’ve upgraded your faucet, look to the other metallic accents in the room for a subtle, yet effective way to pull together the design. Coordinating bath hardware, such as towel bars, rings, robe hooks, shelves, knobs and pulls, will instantly add a functional and fashionable impact.

#### Let there be light

Assess your current lighting to ensure it offers the look and feel you want for your bath. Too dark? Add new decorative fixtures





that complement your faucets and hardware. There are many styles that feature multiple lamps for added illumination. Too bright? Add a dimmer switch to your lighting to soften the mood when you're looking to relax.

#### Set the mood with color

According to Freshome architecture and design blog, room color affects our moods and thoughts – so choose wisely. Add a splash of color to the walls with a fresh coat of high-gloss paint to give the space an instant facelift.

Create a zen retreat by enhancing your bath with shades of yellow, which are energizing and uplifting; or soft blues, which are calming, relaxing and serene.

Next, add coordinating textiles; a fabric shower curtain, plush bath towels, rugs and bath mat can add a finishing designer touch.

#### Shower sanctuary

A quality showerhead can dramatically improve your daily showering experience. Take your shower from lackluster to luxurious with the new

Moen Halo rainshower. The pivoting, double-ring design offers up to 60 percent more coverage than standard rainshowers and features three consumer-preferred spray settings – all presented in a clean, modern design to make a style statement in any bath.

Replacing a showerhead can be a quick and inexpensive project, simply unscrew the old showerhead and attach the new one to the shower arm.

#### Add a finishing touch with furniture

No matter the size of your bathroom, we all want more storage. Look around your home for unused accents, such as a small shelf, chest – or even a cupboard or armoire. The extra drawer space will come in handy to keep your clutter under control – while also adding a bit of style, warmth and pizzazz to your newly updated room.

Don't think that fix-ups have to be long, drawn-out projects. By following these fast updates, you'll be surprised how quickly and easily you can take your bathroom from boring to a spa-like sanctuary.

**Photo on facing page: Popular for creating a clean, modern look in today's bathroom remodels are this American Standard Cadet freestanding tub, sleek Cadet 3 concealed trapway toilet and striking Boulevard pedestal sink, all accented with a contemporary Times Square single handle faucet and matching shower system.**

**Above: New fixtures are a quick and easy way to update a bathroom. Look for unique features such as brush-nickel finishes, which resist fingerprints and water spots.**

(BPT)

SUBMITTED PHOTOS  
Spirit of Geneva Lakes



Abbey Resort). Call (262) 275-2707 or visit [www.poshtreads.net](http://www.poshtreads.net). Store hours are Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### Sandy's Upscale Consignment

Sandy's Upscale Consignment has been providing fine designer fashions for today's savvy woman, at reasonable prices since 1997. The shop began in a small corner location on the Walworth Square, where Sandy Lenz quickly differentiated herself with a strong emphasis on quality.

In 2005, Lenz purchased the building at 212 N. Main Street and quickly filled the 1,500 square feet with quality consignments and four large fitting rooms.

The shop has an elegant touch and merchandise is attractively displayed. A nice selection of easy listening music is always in the background and Sandy and her staff are quick to welcome shoppers and assist in their every need.

"We have an outstanding selection of jeans and also carry a large selection of purses and shoes," Lenz said. "Bringing quality fashions at a reasonable price has always been my focus, and as our client base continues to grow, we are always on the lookout for the finer things that are unique and affordable for our customers."

Lenz also stresses that consignment shopping is an eco-friendly alternative. "Shop Green and Dress Like a Queen," she advises.

Lenz strives to bring in new fashions so frequent customers can expect to find new treasures.

Sandy's Upscale Consignment is at 212 N. Main St., Walworth. The store can be contacted at (262) 275-8221 or online at [sandysupscaleconsignment.com](http://sandysupscaleconsignment.com).

### St. Vincent de Paul Boutique

This operation can be found in Slades Corners and offers a boutique and gift shop, furniture barn as well as a thrift store-donation center, all housed in three adjacent buildings.



FILE PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lake

Impressive furniture groups like this one are on display at Inspiration Place resale shop on the grounds of Inspiration Ministries in Williams Bay.

The boutique and gift shop once was a woodworker's showroom. It has many windows, giving it a light and airy feel. Here shoppers will find jewelry, antiques and collectibles, housewares, decorating accessories, artwork, lamps and more.

Just behind the boutique is the thrift store and donation center where housewares, clothing, accessories and a wide variety of miscellaneous items can be found. The furniture barn has all kinds of furniture and also houses seasonal items. The merchandise is hand-selected from the many items donated to St. Vincent. Donations are welcome and they help the St. Vincent de Paul mission to assist the poor.

Store hours are Wednesday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Thursday 4 to 7 p.m., Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The store is at 39515 60th Street.

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# 'Gatsby' comes to Young Auditorium

Young Auditorium at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater enters the home stretch of its 2014-2015 season this month with a pair of blockbuster shows.

The Tony Award-winning Broadway musical "Million Dollar Quartet" – which relives the story of the famous recording session that brought together legends Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins and Johnny Cash – is slated for a performance on March 2.

"The Great Gatsby," comes to the stage at Young Auditorium on March 18.

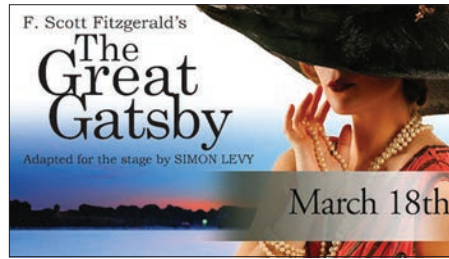
Other remaining shows include "Church Basement Ladies – The Last (Potluck) Supper" on April 11, the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra on April 19, and "Philobolus," a triumph of athleticism and choreography.

Tickets for any show can be purchased online, by calling the box office at (262) 472-2222, or in person. New this year, tickets that are purchased online can also be printed at home.

The Greenhill Center of the Arts box office is inside the Center of the Arts building near Barnett Theatre on the UW-Whitewater Campus, 930 West Main St., Whitewater. The Young Auditorium is adjacent to this building, also located at 930 West Main Street in Whitewater, and parking is always free at the venue.

Highlights of the remaining shows follow:

• **March 2 – "Million Dollar Quartet"** This Tony award-winning touring Broadway musical is making a stop for one night at Young Auditorium, retelling its famous story about a famed recording



session that brought together rock n' roll icons Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins and Johnny Cash together for one night in the recording studio. Tickets less than \$50 dining available. Sponsored by Commercial Bank

• **March 18 – "The Great Gatsby"**

This classic literary work is now brought to the stage with this compelling production by Montana Repertory Theatre. With themes from the Roaring Twenties that resonate with current times, this show brings the beauty and poetry of the original masterpiece to life. Tickets less than \$33.

• **April 11 – "Church Basement Ladies - The Last (Potluck) Supper"**

Don't miss your chance to see the fifth and final installment of the hilarious Church Basement Ladies series! Tickets for less than \$37. Sponsored by Fairhaven.

• **April 19 – Brahms Requiem Wisconsin Chamber choir with full orchestra.** Artistic director, Robert Gehrenbeck, leads this 40 member Wisconsin Chamber Choir, joined by the UW-Whitewater Chamber Choir, with their a cappella choral singing and professional

orchestral accompaniment comprised of members of the Madison Symphony Orchestra and the Milwaukee Ballet Orchestra. Tickets less than \$21.

• **April 29 – "Pilobolus"** Pilobolus performances are characterized by a strong element of physical interaction between the bodies of the performers and exaggerations or contortions of the human form, requiring extreme strength, flexibility and athleticism.

For more information about the shows, ticket options, or to review an interactive season brochure online, visit [www.uww.edu/youngauditorium/season](http://www.uww.edu/youngauditorium/season) to learn more.

All season sponsors can be viewed on the website as well. The Young Auditorium serves as a presenting organization for the performing arts and as an educational and cultural center enriching the lives of regional communities, offering a full season of world-class performing arts presentations.

The theater features 1,300 seats and a 44 square foot stage that hosts dozens of Broadway touring productions, national and international music acts, world-renowned dance troupes, family-friendly events, classical touring more-theatre companies, and several University of Wisconsin-Whitewater events each year.



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# Readeasy delves into Fitzgerald's book

This is fifth consecutive year of Young Auditorium Outreach's community reading project. The book selection for 2015 is F. Scott Fitzgerald's "The Great Gatsby," which drives the campaign's Readeasy theme.

Fitzgerald's "Gatsby" is the inspiration for a variety of arts and literature integration events ranging from book club discussions, to 1920s dance workshops, author speaking engagements, and culminating with Montana Repertory Theatre's performance of "The Great Gatsby" at Young Auditorium on March 18, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. in Whitewater.

The goal of the Readeasy is to provide an opportunity for the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater campus and community at large to participate in activities and engage in discussion related to a common read, increasing awareness about the joy and importance of reading.

Why Gatsby? Fitzgerald's novel is arguably the most popular classic in modern American fiction. Published in 1925, the masterpiece captures the grandeur and opulence of the Roaring 20's and juxtaposes that with challenges of the human condition.

The story of Jay Gatsby touches on universal themes such as desire, unrequited love, the importance of honesty, the temptation of wealth, and the struggle to escape the past. It is perhaps because these

themes speak to us on a very basic level of human understanding that this novel has become a hallmark for generations of readers and writers.

Why "Readeasy?" According to Director of Education and Outreach for Young Auditorium, Shannon Dozoryst, "Readeasy is a play on the term speakeasy. A speakeasy was an establishment that illegally sold alcoholic beverages (during Prohibition). There are numerous references to Prohibition, speakeasy establishments, and bootlegging in Fitzgerald's Gatsby.

"This year, Young Auditorium is taking the initiative to independently program a common read, so we thought this name fitting," Dozoryst added.

## Special events

Among the events scheduled to coincide with the Readeasy are:

- R. Clifton Spargo, the author of "Beautiful Fools: The Last Affair of Zelda and Scott Fitzgerald," will make several speaking appearances on Friday, March 6. He will be speaking about the process of writing his book and the parallels between the lives of Zelda and F. Scott Fitzgerald in his story with Daisy Buchanan and Jay



Gatsby.

He will appear as part of the Fairhaven Lecture Series in the Fellowship Hall of Fairhaven Retirement Community, 435 W. Starin Rd., Whitewater from 2 to 3 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. No registration required. "Beautiful Fools" will be available for sale and signing.

Spargo is also scheduled to appear at the Lake Geneva Public Library from 5 to 6 p.m. The event will be held in the library, 918 W. Main Street in downtown Lake Geneva.

- "The Great Gatsby" Stage Performance at Young Auditorium on the campus of UW-Whitewater.

Montana Repertory Theatre reinvigorates this moving story with Simon Levy's stage adaptation of the classic novel. With themes from the Roaring Twenties that resonate with the current times, this show brings the beauty and poetry of the original masterpiece to life. The performance is set for Wednesday, March 18, at 7:30 p.m. Visit [www.uww.edu/youngauditorium](http://www.uww.edu/youngauditorium) for more information or to purchase tickets online. Tickets can also be purchased through the box office at (262) 472-2222.

The 2015 Readeasy Project is sponsored by a donation from American Family Insurance. More information about the Readeasy project can be found at [www.youngauditorium.wordpress.com](http://www.youngauditorium.wordpress.com).



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# Fish on!

Fitzgerald's Genoa Junction turns fish boils into works of culinary art



A spectacular flame shoots skyward as another fish boil is complete at Fitzgerald's Genoa Junction. The Door County favorite is a specialty of the restaurant – with a few flavorful changes.

FILE PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

**F**itzgerald's Genoa Junction has been serving fish boils since 1990 when the family-run restaurant moved from a resort on Lake Elizabeth in Twin Lakes to a historic octagon house in Genoa City.

According to Kevin Fitzgerald, who manages the restaurant, the choice of a fish boil developed after a visit by his parents to Door County where they had their first experience with the famous local specialty. At their resort in Twin Lakes they often catered special events and private parties and did their best to offer interesting and different menus.

When the local snowmobile club spoke with Sue Fitzgerald, Kevin's mother, about a menu for their gala, she suggested a fish boil. And thus began the fish boil tradition for the Fitzgerald family business.

At Fitzgerald's Genoa Junction they use North Atlantic cod rather than whitefish. Cod does not have small bones or skin to deal with and is a rich and flavorful fish – especially with melted butter. Some compare the taste of cod to that of lobster because it is a firmer fish, which has a sweet and mild taste.

With a good response from this first fish boil, they purchased the large kettles needed to cook the meal and began to offer the fish boil more frequently.

One of the things that will surprise you as you look at the menu is its brevity.

"First we began to serve the fish boil on Friday," Kevin Fitzgerald said. "Then we served it on Saturday also. There was always someone in a group who claimed not to like fish, so we added the grilled chicken and then the ribs."

The pork ribs are grilled to perfection and seasoned with Fitzgerald's own special barbecue sauce.

## The octagon

This historic house was purchased by Sue and Jack Fitzgerald in 1988 and renovated to bring the home back to its original beauty and to meet current codes. They managed to turn the building into a warm and welcoming restaurant while still maintaining the ambience of the original home.

The dining rooms are light and airy, transporting visitors to the 1800s – a time when life was less hurried.

At Genoa Junction there is no stove because all the food is cooked in kettles or on the grill. The kitchen, Kevin explained,

**While fish boil is the specialty, diners can also request grilled chicken and ribs with a secret Fitzgerald sauce.**





A historic octagon house that dates to the post-Civil War era is home to Fitzgerald's Genoa Junction restaurant. The building features a deck and second-floor dining areas that offer views of the nearby woods.



FILE PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

## Fitzgerald's Genoa Junction

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is basically a preparation area.

The fish is the center of all food served at Genoa Junction. Of course if you really dislike fish you can choose to eat only the chicken or ribs.

But on the days that Sue Fitzgerald is working, very few people leave without at least trying a bite of the fish. She encourages everyone to step out of their respective comfort zones and taste the fish.

Many people who start out saying they dislike the fish or just don't want to try it will succumb to Sue's prodding and end up loving the fish. Sue, who raised seven children is good at convincing children to try the fish. Often after their first taste, they will respond, "It was awesome!"

The complete dinner includes the boiled North Atlantic cod, served with potatoes and onions, all cooked outdoors over a wood fire. Coleslaw and fresh-baked salted rye bread complete the main course.

The service is buffet style and there is a serving table on each floor. A cocktail waitress is available to take drink orders. The beautiful wood bar is small in size but has a complete selection of spirits.

It is not only the food that brings in repeat customers but the friendly spirit of the employees. Most have had a long-term relationship with the restaurant. Many of the faces you see are family. Kevin and Tina's son, Adam, their niece Anna and, on some days, his mother Sue is there reminding everyone to try the fish.

### Building history

The building itself has an interesting history. The land where the house and parking lot are now located was purchased by Welcome J. Miller in the late 1830s. After spending some time in Kenosha, Miller returned to Genoa City and started W. J. Miller & Sons Carriage and Wagon Company. By all reports it was successful until it is believed to have burned around 1870. After that the company worked mostly on repairs and then expanded into well drilling.

Amos Miller, Welcome's brother planned to build a house on the land where the Octagon House now stands. He purchased materials for the house, but then the Civil War interfered.

While serving his country he received a "Dear John" letter from his fiancé and never married, although the Octagon House was completed after the war. Members of the Miller family, and then their descendants, lived in the house until it was purchased from the descendants by the Fitzgerald family in 1988.

If you eat on the second floor, there is a great view of the wooded areas and gardens located to the rear of the building. In the nicer weather, many customers choose to eat on the deck. From here they overlook the outdoor kitchen where all the food is cooked and enjoy the aroma of the wood fire.



FILE PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Kevin and Tina Fitzgerald are second-generation managers of the restaurant that was purchased and developed by Kevin's family in 1988.



FILE PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Anna (left), who represents a third generation of the Fitzgerald family to be involved at the restaurant, works alongside CeCe, a longtime employee.



The Fitzgeralds are always interested in getting a personal reaction from customers.

According to Kevin, "We enjoy hearing from you. We want to know what you like and if there is anything you don't like, we need to know that too. Remember, we welcome you and the house welcomes you."

Fitzgerald's Genoa Junction is approximately 10 minutes south of Lake Geneva and two minutes northwest of Richmond, Ill., at 727 Main St. (Highway B), Genoa City.

Winter hours are Thursday 5 to 8:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 5 to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 3 to 7 p.m. Summer hours begin in May with the addition of Wednesday to the schedule. Private parties and daytime luncheon groups are welcome by prior arrangement. Genoa Junction can be reached at (262) 279-5200 or on the web at [www.fitzgeraldsfishboil.com](http://www.fitzgeraldsfishboil.com).



The main dining room at Fitzgerald's Genoa Junction features a light and airy atmosphere with lace curtains and bistro-style chairs. The family offers chicken and ribs to go along with their signature fish boil.

FILE PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

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JUDY GRASSER *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Few milkweed plants in Wisconsin have meant fewer monarch butterflies here. Monarch caterpillars eat the plants which, in turn, are crucial to the survival of the butterfly, according to Judy Grasser of Salem

# ~ A CHAMPION FOR THE ~ MONARCHS

AREA WOMAN  
WORKS TO  
PROVIDE A SAFE  
HAVEN FOR  
DWINDLING  
BUTTERFLIES

by **Gail Peckler-Dziki**  
CORRESPONDENT

Though the area is still in the icy grip of winter for much of March, now is a good time to think warmer thoughts and consider the plight of the monarch butterfly.

If you suspect you see fewer monarch butterflies now than you did some years ago, you're probably right.

The solution lies not, however, with the butterflies but with what many consider weeds. Milkweed, to be specific, since milkweed is the only host plant for monarch caterpillars.

Milkweed is named for its milky sap and there are about 140 known species. The monarch uses several species native to the Midwest as a host plant for caterpillars. They are the orange *Asclepias tuberosa* or butterfly weed, the pink to purple *Asclepias incarnata* or swamp milkweed and *Asclepias syriaca* or common milkweed and the white *Asclepias verticillata* or whorled milkweed.

Without these plants in proliferation, there will be no monarch butterflies since these plants are what the caterpillars eat. The No. 1 problem is pesticides, according to Judy Grasser, of





GAIL PECKLER-DZIKI *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Judy Grasser holds a sign that signifies a monarch butterfly waystation. Grasser recently assisted an Eagle Scout's effort to build a waystation in western Kenosha County.

Salem in western Kenosha County.

"Farmers spray and we spray pesticides. While we might spray for aphids, the pesticides will kill everything," she explained.

### KEEPING AN EYE OUT

Grasser watches for ways to protect the butterflies, and notices changes. Milkweed also grows along streets and roads. When grass cutting is done, milkweed goes with it.

"Last year there was a lot of milkweed growing along Highway 50," Grasser said. "I saw it one day and when I drove by the next, it was all gone. Monarchs need the milkweed. They lay eggs on it and when the eggs hatch, the caterpillars eat the leaves."

The host plants are good for the eggs and caterpillars, but a butterfly garden needs nectar plants also. The butterflies drink that nectar. A successful butterfly garden should have perennial plants, which come back year after year but flower for a short time and annual plants. Those must be planted every year but will bloom for an entire season.

If the eggs escape the pesticide, there are many other predators that eat the eggs like dragonflies, ants, ladybugs and the praying mantis. That's one big reason to capture the eggs and bring them inside to hatch and pupate, Grasser said.

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## MONARCH LIFE CYCLE

Butterfly eggs are tiny and the female attaches them to the leaves of the host plant, Grasser explained. These hatch into caterpillars. Monarch caterpillars molt four times.

Each time the caterpillar grows; it sheds its skin. The chrysalis is the stage where the transformation from caterpillar into butterfly occurs.

There are four generations of monarchs each season. The butterflies one sees in the spring have returned from the great migration to Mexico. The butterflies of this generation live nearly a year. They lay eggs and when those eggs hatch, they become monarchs that live for about four weeks.

That generation hatches another crop of monarchs that also live for about four weeks. The monarchs that hatch from that group migrate to Mexico in the fall and return the following spring.

## EARLY INTEREST

Grasser started her butterfly hobby in 1968 when she and a junior high school friend made forays into the fields across from their homes in Shiller Park, Ill. Grasser still has her collection of more than 20 different butterflies and moths that they discovered there.

“This was before the Internet, of course,” Grasser said. “So we would get on our bikes and ride to the public library to find out just what we were discovering.”

That early interest remained dormant until 2005 when Grasser became interested again – this time in black swallowtail butterflies. She noticed them flitting through various plants outside her home. The species likes parsley, dill and Queen Anne’s lace. Grasser found eggs and took them inside. She ended up with six black swallowtail butterflies.

In 2014, Grasser said she was painting outside and noticed a monarch female flitting and she found the eggs. She brought them inside and put them in a clear “critter keeper” and raised 16 butterflies.

## HOW TO MAKE A MONARCH WAYSTATION

Monarch waystations are popping up across the United States and you could have one.

All you need is a 10-by-10-foot plot with access to water and some small warming areas for butterflies. For more information, visit <http://monarchwatch.org/waystations/>

The application cost for certification is \$16. Last year, Grasser helped Evan Kirsch with his Eagle Scout project of developing a Monarch waystation at the Salem Community Park as well as developing a waystation in her own back yard.



JUDY GRASSER *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

**Few milkweed plants in Wisconsin have meant fewer monarch butterflies here. Monarch caterpillars eat the plants which, in turn, are crucial to the survival of the butterfly, according to Judy Grasser of Salem.**

“Butterflies have their own personalities,” Grasser said, “and the black swallowtails take off as soon as you release them. My first Monarch was a male and they are territorial.”

“Male butterflies have a small dark spot on their wings, which is where the pheromones are located. When I released that first butterfly, he stayed on my garden and he attracted females,” she said. “He chased off other insects like dragonflies.”

## WHAT A MONARCH NEEDS

A good butterfly garden will have a source of water close by, either natural or man-made shallow puddles or other moist areas.

A warming surface such as a flat rock or exposed soil or grasses allow the butterfly to capture the sun’s rays to warm their bodies.

Trees and shrubs provide shelter and resting places for butterflies. While Monarchs migrate to Mexico for the winter, many butterflies need a wood or leaf pile to overwinter.

## THE PLANTS

The host plant for the monarch is the milkweed, but there are other plants that host other butterflies, Grasser said.

Dill and fennel host the black swallowtail, Hollyhocks host the painted lady and the gray hairstreak and willows host the mourning cloak, the tiger swallowtail and the viceroy. And more information is available at your library and on the World Wide Web.

Some proven perennial nectar flowers are liatris or blazing star, coreopsis, Echinacea or purple coneflower, bee balm, goldenrod, ironweed and joe pye weed.

Annuals – which bloom for a much longer time than the perennials and keep luring those butterflies to the garden – are zinnias, cosmos, marigolds and tithonia or Mexican sunflowers.

Grasser has had great luck with her 15-by-five-foot plot. She plans to plant more this year and says it’s best to plant as many as possible.

Milkweed seeds can be harvested prior to the stage where they are released from the pod. “Just before they harden to spilt,” she explained, “you open the pod while the white silk is still lying flat and take them out, remove the dark brown seeds and then throw the silk away.”

This is a good way to keep control of the garden. The plants will still multiply by rhizomes, but this is a much longer process and they will stay in the same area.



# Abbey garners national buzz

## Resort listed among best for winter getaways

The Abbey Resort, Fontana, was featured twice during the month of January as a prime destination for winter travel by national publication USA Today. The outdoor skating rink overlooking Abbey Harbor was selected as one of the country's "silver linings" to winter along with celebrated venues such as the rinks at Rockefeller Center and Yosemite National Park. Less than a week later, a second USA Today article included The Abbey Resort as one of "10 best summer beach resorts for winter getaways," featured among nine other resorts in desirable travel locations such as Nantucket, Mass., Newport, R.I., and Montauk, N.Y.

During winter months, The Abbey Resort offers outdoor activities such as skating, hiking and bonfires, with additional activities like snowshoeing, ice boating, and skiing nearby.

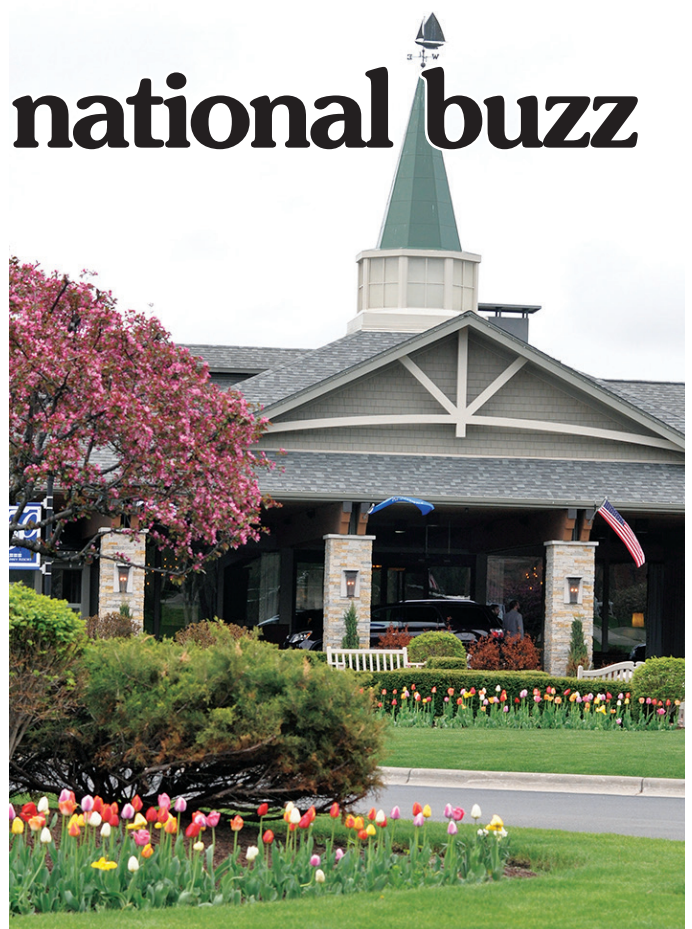
Guests looking to get out of the wintery weather can enjoy a meal at one of the resort's on-site restaurants, be pampered at the Avani Spa and indoor pool atrium, or take part in a wine- or spa-themed weekend.

Rates for a winter stay at The Abbey Resort begin at \$99 per night. For more information visit [theabbeyresort.com](http://theabbeyresort.com) or call (800) 709-1323.

The Abbey Resort and Avani Spa is the only full-service resort on the shores of Geneva Lake. The resort celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 2013 with the completion of a multi-million dollar renovation of the exterior, meeting space and common areas. The resort is set on 90 manicured acres with award-winning dining and banquet facilities.

The 35,000 square-foot Avani Spa enhances the resort experience with innovative spa treatments and modern luxuries.

The Abbey Resort and Avani Spa are managed and operated by Hostmark Hospitality Group of Schaumburg, Ill.



ED NADOLSKI Spirit of Geneva Lakes

The Abbey Resort in Fontana has been named one of the 10 best summer resorts for winter getaways by the national newspaper USA Today.



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THEIR WEDDING WAS RAISED UP ON

# Voices for Christ

## Proposal sparks relationship with Gospel singers

by **Vicky Wedig**

STAFF WRITER

When Mark McAuliffe's girlfriend threw him a 50th birthday party at their church with his grade-school friends on the guest list, he knew he wanted her to be his wife.

"That day, I decided I was going to get married," McAuliffe said of the April 10 celebration his girlfriend of six years, Rebecca, organized at the new Immanuel Lutheran Church in Lake Geneva.

About a week after his birthday, Rebecca's daughter, Kimberly Duckworth, asked the couple if they wanted to go to a gospel revival at the House of Blues in Chicago.

They jumped at the chance, and McAuliffe decided he was going to propose that weekend.

He bought a ring, and kept it in the backpack he carried around while the couple toured Chicago the day before the Sunday concert. McAuliffe said he was nervous about finding the opportune moment to pop the question, and his fiancée-to-be became suspicious.

"She knew I was acting weird," he said. "She was trying to get in my backpack."

The couple had a moment sitting on a park bench on Rush Street when McAuliffe gazed at Rebecca with a certain look in his eyes, and she thought the time had arrived.

"He had been acting weird for days, and I was looking at him going, 'What's up with you?'" Rebecca said.

When that moment passed without "the question," Rebecca said, she thought it wasn't going to happen.

"At that point, I had resigned myself to the fact that he wasn't ready," she said.

So, the next day, when the couple was running late for the performance of William Smith Jr. and The Renewed Voices For Christ, Rebecca was no longer suspicious.

### Popping the question

McAuliffe said the couple entered Chicago's famed House of Blues, and the place was packed. Amid the bustle, he handed the tickets to the guy at the counter and wondered how he would pull it off.

"I was nervous," he said.



REBECCA AND MARK McAULIFFE are flanked by William Smith Jr. and members of The Renewed Voices for Christ, who sang at the couple's Oct. 4 wedding at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Lake Geneva.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes



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Rebecca went to get some food, and he wondered if he should ask the sound guy about helping him set up a proposal while she was gone. Rebecca came back, and spilled her coffee, and before he knew it, the curtain was coming up.

"I said, 'I blew it,'" McAuliffe said. "I don't know how I'm going to do it now."

William Smith Jr. and The Renewed Voices For Christ sang but then began calling out names of people having birthdays and inviting them to the stage.

The announcer called a woman's name first and then asked for "Eric" to come forward.

"I said, 'There's my in,'" McAuliffe said.

He rushed to the stage, beating "Eric" there and leaving Rebecca asking, "Where is he going?"

Rebecca said she didn't think much of McAuliffe's rush to the stage since he'd just had a birthday, but, at that point, the announcer was calling people by name.

"Mark made a beeline up there when they were calling specific people," she said.

When McAuliffe got to the stage, he encountered the group's host Cedric Nunley, who asked, "Are you Eric?"

When McAuliffe pulled Nunley aside and said he wasn't Eric but wanted to propose to his girlfriend, Nunley got wide-eyed and said, "Ooooh."

He told McAuliffe to stand to the side of the stage next to a speaker, but then McAuliffe realized he forgot the ring and ran back to his seat to retrieve it.

When he knelt down to get the ring out of his backpack, Duckworth, who suspected the pending proposal, made eye contact with McAuliffe and began to cry.

Rebecca said she'd seen McAuliffe talking to Nunley on stage, then standing to the side, and, when he returned to the table, she thought he was done with whatever he was doing on stage.

The backpacks were behind her, so she didn't see him rifling around in his.

"But then he makes a beeline back to the stage, and I looked at my daughter, and said, 'Do you know what's going on?'" Rebecca said.

She said Duckworth slowly nodded with tears in her eyes then darted away to videotape what was about to happen.

"So they left me sitting at that table by myself, and I am literally panicking," she said. "Is he going to tell them to make me sing ... all kinds of things going through my head."

McAuliffe realized when he returned to the stage that word had spread about his plan among the gospel singers. He noticed the women of The Renewed Voices for Christ smiling at him as he removed the oversized boxes from the ring and slipped it on his pinky finger.

Then Nunley called McAuliffe over.

"I'm in the middle of the stage," McAuliffe said. "There's like 500 people."

Nunley summoned Rebecca down, and



SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

**Mark and Rebecca McAuliffe on their wedding day at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Lake Geneva. After Mark proposed at a performance of William Smith Jr. and The Renewed Voices of Christ, the group sang at the couple's wedding.**

she danced her way to the stage. McAuliffe popped the question, and Rebecca turned her face and pointed to her cheek for a kiss.

She said yes, and the crowd went wild.

### The first verse

After the gospel concert, The Renewed Voices of Christ member Richard Douglas approached McAuliffe and said his was the first proposal the group – which has been together for 25 years – had had during a performance. He invited McAuliffe, Rebecca and Duckworth to tour the House of Blues, gave them a bottle of champagne and asked them to have their picture taken with the group.

The couple obliged, and asked if the group would sing at Immanuel Lutheran in Lake Geneva. When the group agreed, McAuliffe asked, "How about a wedding?"

On Oct. 4, William Smith Jr. and The Renewed Voices For Christ – a group from community churches in Chicago who began singing together as teenagers – performed at the nuptials of Mark and Rebecca McAuliffe.

Group member Christopher Hall said the Chicago-area group had not sung in Wisconsin before but didn't hesitate to accept the invitation.

"Whoever beckons us, we always come," he said.

Mark McAuliffe kept the visiting performers a secret from his wedding guests. Duckworth's video of McAuliffe's House of Blues proposal played on the church's big screen as guests became suspicious of the rustling of people they heard in the sanctuary. When the Rev. MaryAnn Moller-Gunderson proclaimed, "Let the celebration begin," the booming a capella sound of the gospel singers let loose.

"They were just so cool," McAuliffe said. "I can't say enough how cool they were."

And, Immanuel Lutheran Church

welcomed them with open arms, he said.

"Everybody really loved them," said Rebecca McAuliffe. "Immanuel really came through for us. It's not a very diverse area, and we weren't sure how well they'd be received."

The group stayed to play at the McAuliffe's reception – held in the hall attached to the new church at 700 N. Bloomfield Road, and then stayed overnight to sing at Immanuel Lutheran's services Sunday morning.

"They got a five-minute standing ovation," McAuliffe said. "They just blew it away."

"We came for the wedding, and we had such a great time," Hall said. "Everybody enjoyed us so much, they asked us to stay over for the service."

### An encore

The McAuliffes have stayed in touch with members of the group and attended a service at one of their neighborhood churches in Chicago around Christmas.

"You want to talk about killing it," Mark McAuliffe said. "I mean, I had chills just listening to it."

On Feb. 21 – the day after Mark McAuliffe's 10-year anniversary of sobriety – The Renewed Voices For Christ presided over a Gospel revival at Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Rebecca McAuliffe said the group's performance – a celebration of 25 years together – is very personal for her and her husband, and a testament to the warmth of Immanuel Lutheran's congregation.

"It's amazing," she said.

Hall said the group was excited to return to Lake Geneva as a featured act at Immanuel Lutheran.

"I have been to a million churches in my lifetime, and I can by far say this is one of the most loving, most welcoming," he said.



## Hang in there, it's coming...

Sometime in March – about the time the snow disappears and the temperature starts to rise – thoughts turn to summer with its sunny skies and sparkling waters. In case you forgot what that looks like, here's a little reminder captured last June at the Abbey Marina in Fontana.



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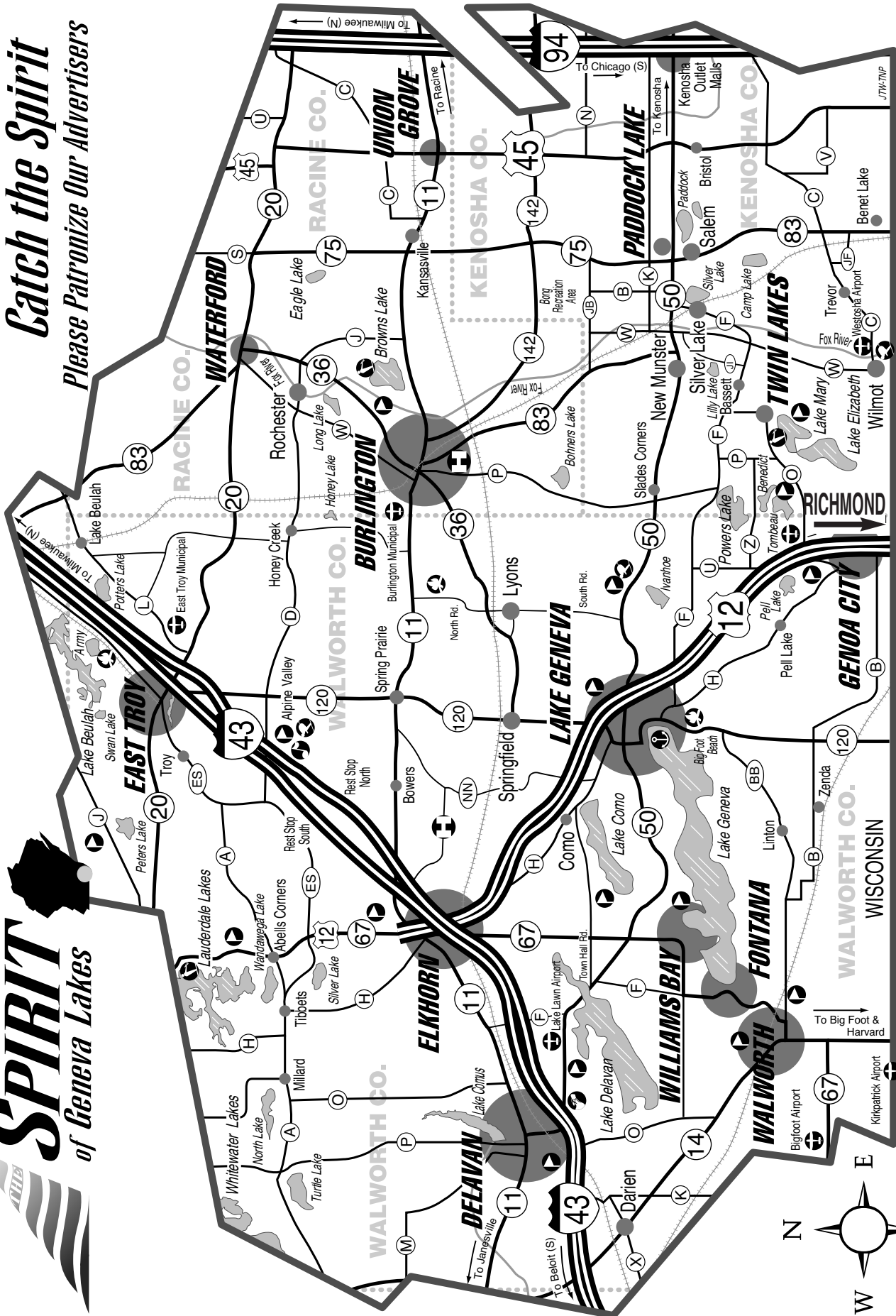


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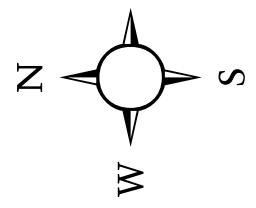


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