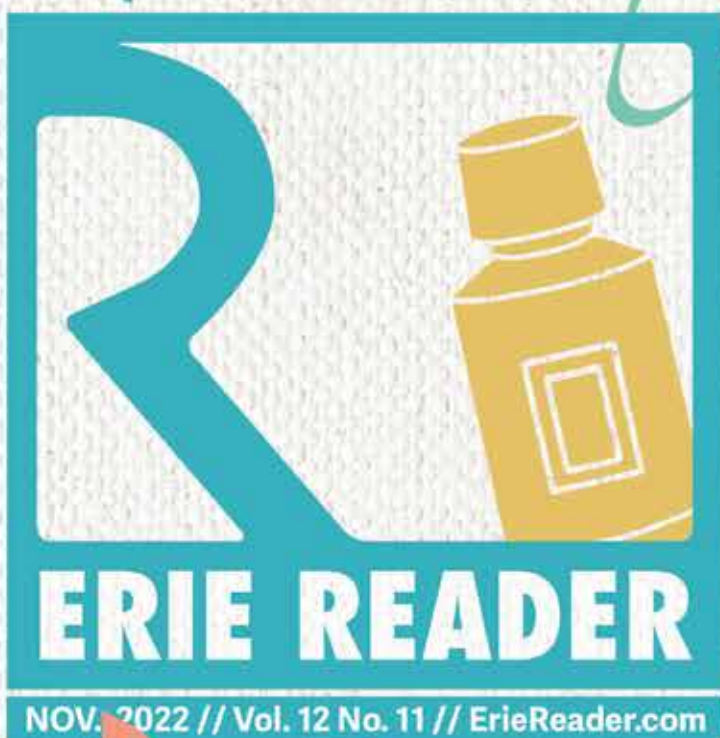


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**From the Editors**

**We have an idea**

My four favorite words are “I have an idea.” Whether they’re coming from myself, my children, my colleagues, my friends: there is nothing better than feeling or witnessing the spark of inspiration. Well, let me back up a minute. Hello. I’m Erin Phillips, the new managing editor here at the Erie Reader. I’ve been working, for the past month or so, at the heels (or, I suppose, at the messaging app) of Nick Warren, and learning what it takes to make an alt-weekly work (which is a lot. Thank you Nick, for being ever-available, patient, and super cool).

If you’ve been an avid reader of the Reader for a while, you *might* recognize my name, as I’ve been writing features for the past three years and I am excited to be more involved in continuing to make this paper one worth picking up. I’m also a mother to two young children as well as a champion (in my own way) for preserving Erie’s historic buildings. Among the things I love the most are reading, writing, and Erie. So here we are.

It feels very fitting, therefore, that the first issue for which I’ve come on board is Shop Local. This theme is my absolute jam. During my time at the Reader, I’ve pretty much written exclusively about local small businesses, especially those old, long-standing, generational businesses that have built Erie into what it is today and have given it the character of a place worth loving. This month, I’ve done it again with a look at the history of Urbaniak Brothers Quality Meats, but I have run the gamut on this subject over the years (including places like Books Galore, The Remnant Store, Larry’s Central Market, the Lawrence Park Dinor, etc).

So, back to those words: “I have an idea.” This year, for our Made in Erie Gift Guide (traditional to the November issue), we have decided to focus on the makers of Erie. Nearly everything included was created by a local artist or artisan: someone who has felt that spark of inspiration and run with it, getting ideas out of their heads and into the world. In addition to the gift guide, we have focused our features on local artists (like Anthony Carson, Curtis Waidley, and Grizz), reviewed local books and music, and provided a historic look at a new local restaurant, the only of its kind here in Erie.

I am thrilled/honored/humbled to get to be the first person to hear the ideas of some of Erie’s best writers and to share in their excitement of getting those ideas out of their heads, on to paper, and into the world. So, here’s my first go, and I think (hope) it will only get better from here.

## Erie at Large

### The silence of the good

By: Jim Wertz

At the time of this column's publication, many people will have voted early or are planning to head to the polls on November 8. It was my intent to conclude this election cycle by promoting the slate of Democratic candidates whose names reside on the ballot this year in Erie County. They are, in all honesty, the finest group of public servants we could present collectively in one election and I have not embraced that thought in a very long time.

But those kinder thoughts were replaced by another series of reminders that the quality of our candidates is just one part of the greater task at hand — to remain engaged and vigilant in the fight for our future.

The first reminder came on the morning of October 28 when we learned that Paul Pelosi, husband of Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, had been violently attacked in their home overnight in San Francisco. The Speaker was not home, but her husband required surgery for skull fractures and received treatment for defensive wounds to his hands and arms after being beaten with a hammer, brought by an intruder who had broken into the Pelosi home in search of the Speaker.

"Where is Nancy?" the intruder yelled as he made his way toward the master bedroom, according to police reports. That question "Where is Nancy?" rang through the halls of the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021 as a violent mob searched for members of Congress with military and law enforcement grade zip ties and tools after overpowering Capitol Police and breaching the locked doors of the Capitol building.

Like the violent mob of insurrectionists, Paul Pelosi's attacker — whom I have chosen not to feature by name in this column — also carried with him zip ties and duct tape that he intended to use on the Speaker if he had found her at home.

Nancy and Paul Pelosi are both 82 years old.

The attacker was taken into custody because Paul Pelosi had called 911 at some point and if not for the quick response of the San Francisco police, he may have been murdered.

It is fair to guess that had both Pelosis been home and the attacker had his way, they would have suffered an unimaginable trauma on their way to an untimely death.

While many Republicans have condemned the attack in the weekend following the incident, this is another example of mentally unwell people, who are caught up in the rabbit hole of right-wing conspiracy, attempting to resolve fictional grievances with the government through acts of intimidation and violence.

The second reminder came late Friday night a bit closer to home in Volant, Pennsylvania when trespassers set fire to large 4-by-8-foot campaign signs representing the Josh Shapiro for Governor and John Fetterman for United States Senate campaigns. The



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Late on the night of Friday, Oct. 28, trespassers in Volant, Pa. set fire to 4-by-8-foot campaign signs belonging to Rick Telesz, a farmer who had vied for the Democratic nomination for Pennsylvania's 16th congressional district this past spring.

signs belonged to Rick Telesz, who you may know as the man who became the face of American farmers on behalf of the Biden presidential campaign in 2020, and who earlier this year attempted to capture the Democratic nomination for Pennsylvania's 16th congressional district.

Ownership of the signs is important in this case be-

---

**We live in a moment when a sizable portion of the population is motivated by fear that is intentionally fed by misinformation and disinformation, and most of those people have rooted themselves in, and become a majority of, the Republican Party.**

---

cause Telesz has become a very prominent Democratic figure in an otherwise heavily Republican part of Western Pennsylvania. The destruction of his signs is as much of a warning to rural Democrats in that region as it is a metaphor for the intolerance that would motivate their execution of public policy if these anti-democratic forces were ever to seize power without the checks, balances, and integrity of the real public servants who would choose to remain in office.

Now, let's be clear. The attack on Paul Pelosi and the fire set to political signs on the Telesz farm are not one and the same. But the motivations behind these acts are symptoms of the same disease.

We live in a moment when a sizable portion of the population is motivated by fear that is intentionally fed by misinformation and disinformation, and most of those people have rooted themselves in, and be-

come a majority of, the Republican Party.

I've been criticized by some folks for painting Republicans with too broad of a brush. I'm often told that not all Republicans believe that the 2020 presidential election was stolen; they don't all believe that our election systems, locally and nationally, are fraught with structural insecurity; and many were appalled by what happened at the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

But the problem is that too few of these "good" Republicans are willing to say those things in public and almost none of them are willing to say those things to party leaders and the elected officials they continue to support, financially and with their vote. And in their silence grows hatred, violence, injustice, and the seeds of fascism that will soon rot the roots of democracy.

Martin Luther King Jr. said that "the ultimate tragedy is not the oppression and cruelty by the bad people, but the silence over that by the good people."

So until this silence is broken there is no room for intellectual discussions of policy and politics. There is only room for the defense of democracy and the support of our institutions that deserve to be protected and preserved, even if they appear in need of generational makeovers from time to time. And the only way to ensure this defense and to offer such support is to vote straight Democratic this year.

I look forward to a future of dispassionate debate and bipartisan resolve, but unfortunately, now, for us, those ideals continue to drown in silence.

*Jim Wertz is a contributing editor and the Chairman of the Erie County Democratic Party. He can be reached at [jWertz@ErieReader.com](mailto:jWertz@ErieReader.com), and you can follow him on Twitter @jim\_wertz.*



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# When Abortion is Center Stage

Erie native's play is in spotlight in New York City

By: Liz Allen

In 2017, Abbe Tanenbaum chose Erie for the debut of her play about the fraught, perilous choices women faced to seek an abortion before *Roe v. Wade*. Five years later, her play has a new name, a longer run, a tighter script, fewer actors, and a wider audience.

Tannenbaum, 35, credits her Erie family members, friends, teachers and theater colleagues with helping her play make the leap from Performing Arts Collective Alliance (PACA) on State Street, to the Carnegie Stage in Pittsburgh, and now to the cell theatre (stylized in all lowercase) in Chelsea, Manhattan's arts district.

The story about her play's evolution is also a narrative about how an artist can grow, thanks to hard work, devoted mentors, and places that nurture you to reach for the stars. *Committed Citizen*, the original title for Tanenbaum's play, came from Margaret Mead's wise and oft-quoted call to action: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." The play's new name is *What Kind of Woman* but the theme remains true to the storyline, which Tanenbaum explained in the playbill she wrote for *Committed Citizen* during its six-performance run at the Performing Artists Collective Alliance in April 2017.

The play depicts a political activist in New York City in the 1970s who hires a personal organizer to declutter her apartment. Among "mountains of untouched papers," the aging activist and the young organizer discover letters from desperate women seeking help from an underground abortion clinic. The women's letters plead: They are too poor to raise more children; too young to give birth; too fragile health-wise to risk pregnancy. They are trapped in abusive relationships; they suffer from depression; they will consider suicide if they can't arrange an abortion. There are also thank-you letters from women helped by the underground network.

"The play strives to shatter preconceived notions and stereotypes of the kinds of women that seek out abortions," Tanenbaum wrote in the

playbill. Tanenbaum's script, then and now, is dramatic yet also humorous as it introduces the audience to two characters who are genuine and relatable. Tanenbaum drew on her own experiences as an organizer for an abortion activist to write the play. "I wrote (the organizer) loosely based on myself. You take nuggets of truth and then you heighten them and other people's tidbits of stories," she said. "I feel like it's a patchwork quilt of my life."

In *Committed Citizen*, four actors read word-for-word from 15 letters as they were actually written. For *What Kind of Woman*, Tanenbaum synthesized those letters into a single letter. "I ended up writing one that is in the style of those letters in *What Kind of Woman* and referenced a couple of others," she said in a phone interview. The letters, she explained, "are still very much talked about as the catalyst for change in the play."

The revised play focuses on the relationship between Nora, the activist from the Women's Health and Abortion Project determined to straighten up her apartment and her life, and Anne, an aspiring actress dedicated to helping Nora with that daunting task.

After premiering at the Carnegie Stage in Pittsburgh on Sept. 23, the play opened Oct. 19 in New York City, where it will run through Nov. 19. Virginia Wall Gruenert discovered Tanenbaum's play online and brought it to off the WALL, her production company in Pittsburgh. She serves as the artistic director for the play and also co-stars as Nora. In New York, Tanenbaum plays Anne, as she did in Pittsburgh. Tanenbaum estimates that her original play required between seven to 10 drafts before it was ready for PACA. "Now I'm at draft 40," she said. "I hadn't learned how to write a play. I had to learn that skill, structural things, who is the main character, how the other characters support the main character," she said.

She also had to capture the right pacing for the play and figure out how to tackle the big-impact topic of abortion without making audiences turn numb. "These are heartbreaking themes," she said. "I wanted to have



Abbe Tanenbaum participates in the 2017 Women's March in New York City. Now living in Ireland, she has returned to New York to star in the two-woman play she wrote, *What Kind of Woman*.

humor in it. I wanted to make it as funny as I could. It's all about the ebb and the flow," she said. "If everything is heavy and low and dark, you kind of shut down as an audience member."

To hone her skills as a playwright, Tanenbaum read lots of plays, especially two-character plays and plays by female writers. "How do you keep it interesting for an hour and 20 minutes with just two people, and especially with two people who aren't family?" she asked herself. To polish her work, she turned to her friend and "dramaturg" Katie Mack. "She was my editor for the play," Tanenbaum said. "We would do calls every

Thursday for about a year and a half. I would have to write pages, then we would dissect them and rebuild them and rework them."

Because Mack has more experience in playwriting, she would walk Tanenbaum through the play's structure. "What is the climax? Can there be only one? What keeps (the characters) in the room together? What are the reveals? How do you show, not tell? Actors preparing for roles focus on the experience of their own characters. When you write a play, you have to look at how the characters interact with each other," Tanenbaum said.

Tanenbaum always wanted to be an



actor and credits her parents, Mark and Ellie Tanenbaum, with encouraging both her and her younger sister, Jenna Cohen, who works in advertising in California, to pursue their dreams. “My parents have totally set me up to be successful,” she said. In fact, her mom is staying with her in a Brooklyn AirBnB and serving as her “loving personal assistant” during the show’s run. Her dad, Mark, executive director of PACA, who traveled by train to New York to see the play at the end of October, applauds Erie’s many arts and theater offerings for enriching the lives of the Tanenbaum sisters and so many others.

When they were younger, the Tanenbaums would take their girls to art openings and theater events. Whether it was a play, a dance performance, or a gallery opening, “We would talk about the ideas brought forth,” Mark said. “How do we see this through the artist’s eyes? Can we hear it? What was the artist trying to convey? What was the musician trying to evoke?”

But in addition to her family, Abbe Tanenbaum also credits lots of Erie folks with encouraging her career path, including Ginny Rodgers, her English teacher at Erie Day School. Rodgers was one of those teachers “who changes your life,” she said. “We would read entire plays in her classroom. She had two big couches and we would read Shakespeare and *A Man for All Seasons*,” Tanenbaum recalled. Rodgers taught her students to study how the play was written, the language that was used, how the characters were motivated and what their journey was.

She and her classmates took trips to the Stratford Festival in Canada and, after Tanenbaum read *Oedipus Rex*, she persuaded Rodgers to organize a field trip to New York to see the play.

“So many of her teachings are now in my bones,” she said.

There are other Erie influences as well, including her friends from Collegiate Academy and the Erie Playhouse (and its Youtheatre). As a member of the Playhouse’s Showstoppers, she traveled to Ireland to perform in the *The Fantasticks*. Now she makes her home in Northern Ireland with her husband, Michael Quinn, and is working on another play in which one character is Irish and the other American. But that’s getting ahead of her story. For now, she wants to savor

the moment of having her play on stage in New York City, tackling an issue that is so pertinent and critical today.

“The choice to have an abortion doesn’t need to be shrouded in shame,” she said. “We as a society are able to change the narrative around this. The way to do this on a personal level is to be open about your experiences, to talk about them with someone you love,” she said. “Really, what the show boils down to is about making choices, even if you make the choice to have a child, which many people do,” she said. “Supporting the option of abortion is what being pro-choice is about. I can’t make that choice for you. I trust your decision,” she said.

When she began writing *Committed Citizen* in 2016, a year before it was performed at PACA, “I was in a rush,” she said. She assumed that the right to abortion was a given and would no longer be an issue. Now, the Supreme Court’s decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* makes the issue of abortion rights more timely than ever. “All of these things have lined up for this moment in time,” she said. “It’s been very therapeutic for me. It feels like I can funnel my rage and my desperation. It feels like it matters, to make a difference.”

*Liz Allen credits the play Committed Citizen with prompting her to truly listen to women’s lived experiences with abortion. You can reach her at [lizallenerie@gmail.com](mailto:lizallenerie@gmail.com).*

#### If you go:

*What Kind of Woman* plays through Nov. 19 at Nancy Manochurian’s cell theatre, 338 W. 23rd St., New York City.

A not-for-profit, the cell theatre, in a converted brownstone in the Chelsea neighborhood, focuses on developing emerging artists. The theater’s artistic director, Kira Simring, is also the director of *What Kind of Woman*, which stars Virginia “Ginny” Wall Gruenert as Nora and Abbe Tanenbaum as Anne. Wall Gruenert co-founded off the WALL Productions with her husband in Pittsburgh. Tanenbaum had uploaded her play to a website, where Wall Gruenert found it. “She emailed me, said, ‘I saw your play, would you mind getting on a Zoom with us?’ I thought it was a scam.” But the overture was very real. Tanenbaum was invited to workshop the play in Iceland, then put it on in Pittsburgh before its move to New York.

For more information, visit [thecelltheatre.org](http://thecelltheatre.org)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**Abbe Tanenbaum, who traces her introduction to theater to Erie, is now starring in *What Kind of Woman*, a play she has been writing and revising since 2016.**

#### Give and receive

Patrick Fisher, executive director of Erie Arts and Culture, has some ideas on how to shop local this holiday season. “When we envision gift-giving, often we imagine tangible objects. And certainly the tangible can be nice to both give and receive. Sometimes overlooked during the holiday season, however, is the gift of experience,” he said. “Tickets to a performing arts event, a subscription to a season, or a membership in a museum are some examples of experiential gifts. Gifts such as these are a great way to support the cultural organizations in your community and likely will be remembered by the gift recipient,” he said.

Fisher also pointed out that such gifts help stimulate the local economy. That’s the same point that Mark Tanenbaum, executive director of the Performing Arts Collective Alliance (PACA), makes when he advocates for Erie’s arts and

culture communities. “PACA couldn’t exist without the environment in which we live (in Erie),” he said. “We’re lucky. We have five full-time theaters,” in addition to great performances in high schools and at colleges. “We are so fortunate to live in a community where the arts are front and center,” he said.

As we continue to rebound from COVID-19, he said, it’s important to have people in the seats for performances. “We need a live audience,” Tanenbaum said. “It’s interactive. When you have 100 people looking at you, you bring them with you,” he said. Since this is also the season of giving, consider giving back by volunteering for arts and culture organizations. “Volunteering to pass out programs and working at the concession stand and being on the board of directors, all of that,” he added. By the way, Tanenbaum needs a treasurer for the PACA Board.



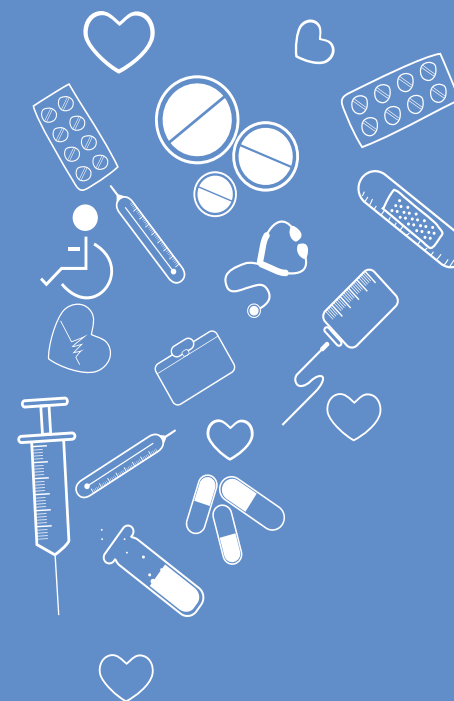
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# Urbaniak Brothers Keep the Fires Burning

Generations continue to shop small on 24th and German

By: Erin Phillips

Our sense of smell is a powerful memory trigger. Multiple scientific studies have shown that there is greater brain activity associated with olfactory stimuli than with visual stimuli. But anyone whose childhood included regular trips to Urbaniak Brothers Quality Meats, a generational meat market and deli at 24th and German, knows this fact intrinsically, without the need for empirical data. The scent of Urbaniak's woodsmoke, which they use to smoke sausages, bacon, salmon, and other meats in-house, permeates everything. It follows you home, and perfumes the air well after you've checked out.

Gerry Urbaniak, one of two Urbaniak brothers currently running the store, states that these shared memories are part of why their business continues to succeed: "Not only do people go out of their way to come here, people come here for generations. It's an intergenerational business. People make a point to come here, even from out of town. They make the effort to travel here because this is what they want, because they were raised on it. Then their kids and those kids' kids come here. It's very traditional."

Whether you were raised on Urbaniak's products for generations or



Gerry Urbaniak works at the deli counter, which appears nearly exactly the same as it was when his father, Chet, moved the business into this building at 24th and German in the late 1950s.

you're a newcomer, one thing is for certain: you can feel the tradition and the history of the building upon entry. The meat counter, the deli counter, the produce bay, and bakery are largely unchanged from when Gerry's father, Chet Urbaniak, moved the family business into this building in the late 1950s.

There is a note above the door of the original walk-in cooler, written on the wood, that shares their opening day: "December 4th, 1958."

"The Urbaniak family homestead was on East 11th Street, off of East Avenue. There were four boys and four girls and two cousins that lived in that house with my grandparents. The oldest brother, my Uncle Benny, started the business when he was 17. He was working in slaughterhouses and packing houses when he was younger (people started working a lot younger in those days), so then he started his own meat business in the old Market House on 12th and French, so that would have been around 1927." Urbaniak continues on about the history of the market, "About four or five years later, my dad, Chet, joined his brother and so instead of Urbaniak's Meats it became Urbaniak Brothers Meats."

After the 12th Street Market House burned down in 1951, the brothers moved their business into Erie's Central Market House at 16th and State. This was just south of the railroad overpass on the west side of State Street and occupied nearly the entire block. The Urbaniaks stayed there until the mid-1950s, when the Erie Redevelopment Authority decided to de-

molish the Market House in favor of building a centralized shopping mall. At that point, Chet decided to build his own market.

"So my dad and his brother Ted hired a consultant from New York City to figure out where the best place in Erie would be to build the market. He came to Erie and he surveyed everything and he said 24th and German is the population center of Erie. So they took his advice and bought all these properties around here and they built this market." Gerry continues, "And pretty much every day since that day, the population of Erie has steadily moved south of us. But they didn't know that was going to happen so that's why this building is here today."

The Urbaniaks have always embraced their neighborhood and the customers that come along with it. "There have been a lot of developments around town that have wanted us to join them. They say: go some place where you'll be busier. We're not going to leave this neighborhood. We love these people. They've supported us all these years," Gerry reflects. Aside from the fact that their business is constantly steady, moving away from the store established by Gerry's father is unthinkable. Back when Chet Urbaniak built



Andy Urbaniak hand cuts each pork belly down to the exact size necessary to be able to fit them on the slicer after it's been smoked into bacon. Andy says, "The meat tells you where to trim it, you just gotta know where to look." Not many people have this kind of intuition or experience; Andy's brother Gerry likens it to an art.



this store, there were small “Mom & Pop” grocery stores everywhere. But now nearly all of those are gone, and with the ever-increasing awareness of food deserts, Urbaniak Brothers plays an important role in serving their local community: “We have been told by many people including congressmen, mayors, city council people, how grateful they are that we’re here. Because we serve this community that has had a lot of challenges. And we’re happy and grateful to serve them.”

Gerry and his brother Andy are always working to help the business grow as the years go by, while also holding steadfastly to the traditions that have made the business what it is today. They are uncompromising when it comes to the food they make and if a certain required ingredient is unavailable, they simply won’t make do with a different product. Gerry pulls out what he calls the “Family Bible,” a yellowed, leather-bound, grease-stained recipe book that the family has used (and added to) since the earliest days of the business. It is this kind of tradition that informs all they do and make, ensuring all the products taste exactly as expected every time.

Gerry’s father, Chet, continued on with the family business until his death at age 97, just six years ago. He worked up until two weeks before he passed away: butchering meat, serving customers, and finding satisfaction and fulfillment in the family business. Gerry reflects, “He loved our store and was thrilled that he could still work

every day — so were we! He was a legend in the Erie meat industry.” Gerry’s mother, Rita, also worked up until her retirement at age 90. Many of the recipes that are still used (and kept secretly bound in that historic book) were hers. “All of our employees and customers loved her.” It is a tight-knit group at Urbaniak Brothers; whether by blood or by experience, they are all family.

When Urbaniaks first opened, the brothers’ station was simply the butcher counter. They rented out the other stalls in the shop to different proprietors, just like how it would have been in the Central Market House, but on a smaller scale. Urbaniak recalls, “We had Dutch Farms poultry and cheese where our deli counter is now. We helped Scolio get his start here in the produce bay. We had Picardo family horseradish at the front counter for decades. We had Balkan Bakery for years, then Colonial Bakery. Through the years we’ve eventually brought everything into our fold and now do it all ourselves, except the bakery.”

Today the bakery stall is occupied by the all-natural, all-local Herb and Honey Bakery. Owners Jessica Schultz and Danny Babo jumped at the chance to be a part of the long-standing tradition of Urbaniaks and are proud to call the shop their home base. “I had a bakery in Virginia for eight years,” Schultz continues, “I’m originally from Erie and I moved back during the pandemic. The first time I walked in here to look at this spot, it was like sensory overload, but I was amazed. It’s such a unique



ERIN PHILLIPS

**Gerry Urbaniak digs out his family “Bible,” a recipe book that has existed since 1958 and contains all of the recipes Urbaniak Brothers uses to create all of their foods. Consistency is important and following those recipes means that their foods will taste the same today as they did 50 years ago.**

spot and they put so much effort and integrity into what they make; it’s just something I wanted to be a part of.”

For Schultz and Babo, being a part of a local small business is important, as highlighting and celebrating local is what they’re all about. They use as much locally grown produce as is available, and only use fruits and vegetables that are in season when coming up with the recipes for their sweet and savory treats. Schultz comments: “We do all of our stuff from scratch. I try to get local as much as possible. I had a local farmer grow the specific pumpkins I wanted to make pumpkin pies this year.”

Babo has very nostalgic memories of Urbaniaks from growing up and he is thrilled to get to be a part of the future of the business that was so much a part of his past: “I’ve been coming here since I was a baby, with my grandma and my great grandma. So to put a bakery in here kind of feels like opening a bakery in your aunt’s house or something. It feels like family already. And so we try to make things that are on the same level of quality as the Urbaniaks. And we use their meat in our baked goods whenever we can.”

When asked about the future of the business, Urbaniak feels confident that the work and dedication that his family has put into the neighborhood and the store will continue on. “We’re in the adult life of our business now. We’ve never been busier than we are now. We have a lot of customers and that’s what we’re here for. The future, for us, is here. You keep growing, or you die. Even though we’re getting older, we just keep charging.” And if Gerry is anything like his parents, we’ll be greeted with his kindness and familiarity for decades to come, as he, his brother, and his adopted family of employees keep the smoky fires burning.

*Urbaniak Brothers Quality Meats is open Wed-Fri 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. // Herb and Honey Bakery is open for pre-order pickups at Urbaniak Brothers Fridays and Saturdays // Visit [urbaniakbrothers.com](http://urbaniakbrothers.com) and [herbandhoneybakery.com](http://herbandhoneybakery.com) for more info*

*Little brings Erin Phillips more joy than cured or smoked meat in casings. This was a very enjoyable interview for her. She can be reached at [erin@eriereader.com](mailto:erin@eriereader.com)*



ERIN PHILLIPS

**This faded, vintage photo shows the very early days of Urbaniak Brothers Meats, when they ran their operation out of Erie’s Central Market House. From left: Ben Urbaniak, Chet Urbaniak, Eddie Urbaniak, Ted Urbaniak, Richie Izbicki, Joe Wasielewski, and Danny Ropelewski.**





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# The 2022 Made in Erie Gift Guide

Meet your makers this holiday shopping season

By: Matt Swanseger

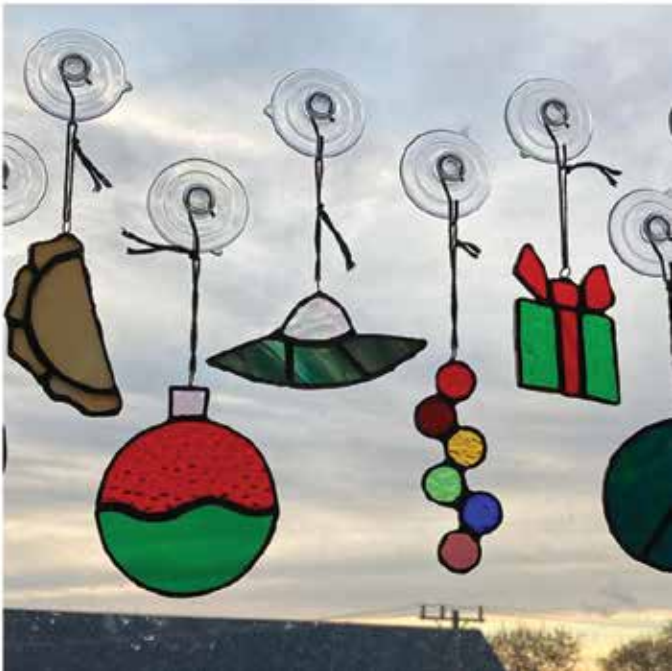
You shouldn't have to squint to shop small. This year, with the aid of Erie Arts and Culture and the Erie Downtown Partnership, we are using our Made in Erie Gift Guide to magnify the big talents of the region's *smallest* retailers. The **second annual Western Pennsylvania Maker Market**, to be held on Saturday, Nov. 19, will spotlight creators and craftspeople who might fall into the category of "out of sight, out of mind" otherwise. Shoppers will be able to peruse a diverse selection of locally-made wares, with items ranging from blazers to bath bombs.

Seeing, of course, is believing. And there will be a lot to see, including a brand new venue housed in a very old building at 1307 State St. Once a home to furniture and wagon wheel manufacturers, the rehabbed structure will now furnish digital artists with more opportunities to get their careers rolling. **FEED Media Arts** is the brainchild of investor Benton Bainbridge, a digital media artist who built his résumé on both coasts before returning to the shores of Lake Erie.

Bainbridge's contribution to the local arts scene is certainly a grand one, but not all gestures need be five stories tall. Carry just a few locally-made items back to your car and you're sure to carry an armload of gratitude with you, too. "By visiting and shopping at events like the Western Pennsylvania Maker Market, you can purchase thoughtful gifts directly from the artists and artisans who make up your community," says Patrick Fisher, executive director of Erie Arts and Culture.

The Maker Market is a fitting prelude to the nationally observed **Small Business Saturday** a week later on Saturday, Nov. 26. Invented by American Express 2010, Small Business Saturday was conceived as a community-driven counterpoint to Black Friday, the most lucrative day of the year for many big box retailers.

Expresses Fisher: "Shopping small is a great way to help ensure that the dollars you spend leading into the holiday season have a positive impact on the local and regional economy. We have a wide array of makers who live and work in Erie and the surrounding counties and they range from hobbyists to full-time professionals. The items and objects they make similarly run the gamut and include con-



(clockwise from top left) Ceramic urns from Peggy Quinn Clay Studio, sushi platters and chopsticks from Lake Effect Woodworks, window ornaments from Megalons Stained Glass, necklace from Sue Amendolara Jewelry.

sumables, wearables, decoration, furniture, and more."

He adds that "shopping locally is aligned with efforts to be a good environmental steward, as local makers tend to have smaller carbon footprints."

With that said, let's breathe in this breadth.

## Fishing and Outdoor

### Adam Nelson - Daggerfish Gear Co.

As the son of a park ranger, Nelson carved out a unique and personal ap-

preciation for the wilderness, which Daggerfish fashions into gear for fishing, foraging, and exploration.

[daggerfishgear.com](http://daggerfishgear.com)

### Lisa Hansen - Hikes and Hose

Sustainably handmade outdoor adventure gear repurposed from intriguing items such as fire hoses. If you have a particular need, Hansen will work with you to hit it right on the nozzle.

[hikesandhose.com](http://hikesandhose.com)

## Apparel

### Gaby Reyes - Melancholy Brand

Owned by non-binary Erie native and mental health advocate Gaby Reyes, Melancholy's designs represent self-love, personal growth, inclusivity, and diversity.

[melancholybrand.bigcartel.com](http://melancholybrand.bigcartel.com)

### Ansumana Komba Gbembo Tailoring, Designing, and Training

A refugee of war-torn Sierra Leone, clothing designer Ansumana Komba





(top) Adam Nelson of Daggerfish Gear Co., (bottom left) a custom herbal tea blend from Sacred Ayla Teas, (bottom right) illustrated recipe cards from Hellbender Atelier.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

**Tammy Bishoff - Tammy's Homesteading Crafts**

Tammy Bishoff is a maker supporting fellow makers with project bags for keeping all your knitting, crocheting, and/or other crafting supplies in one place.

[tammyshomesteadingcrafts.com](http://tammyshomesteadingcrafts.com)

**Art Prints**

**Doug Eberhardt - Voidboy Prints**

Eberhardt heeds the "call of the void" when crafting his surrealistic illustrations, rife with strange creatures and unnatural landscapes lurking just beyond the edge of night.

[voidboy.art](http://voidboy.art)

**Kat Charnley - Katz Prints**

The local lithographer and tattoo apprentice's prints delicately juxtapose elements of beauty and terror, often evoking life, death, and the in-between in the same image.

[kathleencharnley.com](http://kathleencharnley.com)

**Anthony Carson - Ants Arthouse**

Carson translates his itinerant lifestyle into inspiration, drawing directly from his wide-ranging travels. At this Maker Market, he will offer live ink and watercolor drawings, stickers, and "Womb Doodles" celebrating our

shared humanity.

[patreon.com/AntsArtHouse](https://patreon.com/AntsArtHouse)

**Emily Cicora - Hellbender Atelier**

Like her shop's eponymous amphibian, Cicora nimbly shifts between techniques and methods to create her art. Her recent series of prints features iconic recipes from around the world.

[etsy.com/shop/HellbenderAtelier](https://etsy.com/shop/HellbenderAtelier)

**Calie Mee - Calie Maloney**

The Korean-American illustrator, muralist, and animator creates whimsically cute and cozy works using inks, watercolors (including gouache), and digital media.

[caliemee.com](http://caliemee.com)

**Corrine Kraus and Dena Rupp - Flagship City Press**

Looking for the perfect memento of home? Flagship City Press captures all things quintessentially Erie in its stationery and other products, including magnets, decals, and totes.

[flagshipcitypress.com](http://flagshipcitypress.com)

**Ceramics**

**Jessie Simmons - Jessie Simmons Ceramics**

Deeply involved in studio ceramic arts and instruction locally, Simmons' focus is to "express feelings of beauty,

**Jewelry and Accessories**

**Erin Yates - Piquant**

To be piquant is to stand out as pleasantly bold or sharp, exactly the effect Yates seeks to create with her vibrant earring designs. She makes "fun jewelry for fun people."

[shoppiquant.com](http://shoppiquant.com)

**Sue Amendolara - Sue Amendolara Jewelry**

Recently retired Edinboro art professor Sue Amendolara has been practicing jewelry and metalwork for 35 years, with her principal inspirations stemming from plant life.

[sueamendolara.com](http://sueamendolara.com)

**Carol Posch Comstock - Goods of the Spirit/Lake Effect Lace**

The sacred geometry of nature serves as a template for much of Comstock's work, with her "Lake Effect Lace" line of pendants and ornaments modeled from snowflake micro-imaging.

[Goodsofthespirit.com](http://Goodsofthespirit.com)

**Patricia Lee - Purse-nickety**

Despite the name of her venture, Patricia Lee isn't especially fussy about her fibers — so long as they're sustainably sourced. Her eclectic purses are woven from a surprising variety of yarns, cords, ribbons, and other recycled materials.



(top) Hand-dyed wool from Three Tulips Yarn Company, (bottom left) apparel from Zach Merrill Prints, (bottom right) leather clutch from Clark Morelia.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



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Shunning materialism this holiday season? Treat friends or family to passes to (clockwise from top left) Asbury Woods, the Erie Zoo, the Erie Art Museum, or expERIENCE Children's Museum.

joy, and practicality through handmade ceramic forms."

[jsclay.com](#)

**Peggy Quinn - Peggy Quinn Clay Studio**

Borrowing from the simplicity and elegance of traditional Chinese pottery, Quinn bakes up wheel-thrown and hand-built clay works often applying hand-painted or carved plant motifs.

[peggyquinnclaystudio.com](#)

**Glass**

**Megan Shalonis - Megalons Stained Glass**

While the Pittsburgh-based multimedia artist is *shardly* a novice, she says stained glass is a more recent fascination. Shop from sun-catchers, jewelry, and more.

[etsy.com/shop/Megalons](#)

**Barbara Thomas Yerace - Yerace Glass Studio**

Yerace's portfolio is a master class on glass, her products demonstrating a deftness with both blown and sculpted forms. A variety of glass bead jewelry,

ornaments, flowers, paperweights, and tumblers will be available for purchase.

[yeraceglass.com](#)

**Woodworking**

**Bryan Geary - Lake Effect Woodworks**

Splicing together time-honored Japanese technique with modern methodologies, Geary's imaginative woodwork ranges from furniture to kitchenware to decorative pieces.

[instagram.com/lakeeffectwoodworks](#)

**Armando Reyes - Black Monarch**

The Lake Erie Woodworks owner and 40 Under 40 alum salvages sleek, Mid-Century-inspired furniture from emerald ash borer-damaged trees with his Black Monarch side venture.

[blackmonarch.com](#)

**Leather Goods**

**Jocelyn Avila - Clark Morelia**

Avila and her partner Rob embrace the beauty in imperfection, turning the "second run" leather rejected by larger fashion manufacturers into handsome,

quality products for people and pets.

[clarkmorelia.com](#)

**Consumables**

**Jeff McCullor - Erie Ale Works**

"We make beer," Erie Ale Works' wise-cracking co-founder states, ever so succinctly. Take home a pint of liquid proof with you — or for that matter from any of the excellent regional craft brewers featured on the Lake Erie Ale Trail (who will not be present at the Maker Market).

[eriealeworks.com](#)

**Doug Baker - North Edge Coffee**

The most recently honored 40 Under 40 honoree of the three in this category, Baker roasts specialty coffees embodying the hardworking, resilient spirit of Erie.

[northedgecoffee.com](#)

**Jess Royer - Sacred Ayla Teas**

This longtime singer-songwriter knows a thing or two about finding harmony, both in her music and her connections with others. Her custom herbal tea blends are intuitively balanced to the needs of your body and spirit.

[sacredayla.com/shop](#)

**Stocking Stuffers**

**Poese Family - Politisticks Lip Balm**

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[politisticks.us](#) and [loveletters.ink](#)

**Amy Montagna - Three Tulips Yarn Company**

Spin a colorful yarn with Three Tulips' small-batch, hand-dyed Merino and Highland wools — everything you need to get *fibered* up for your next project.

[threetulipsyarncompany.com](#)

**Anush Dulgaryan Bruno - Sealed by Nature LLC**

Bruno's handmade soaps, lotions, balms, and bath products look as good as they smell and feel, infused with an invigorating artistry ripe for gift-giving.

[etsy.com/shop/SealedbyNature](#)

**Caryn Krahe - The Oily Knot**

It would *knot* be a bad idea to slip a handmade macrame ornament, lanyard, coaster, charm into a stocking this holiday season — in fact, it would

be downright crafty.

[etsy.com/shop/theoilyknot](#)

**Elizabeth Benson - Elizabeth Benson Art**

Combining a love of absurdism, pop culture, and food, multi-talented creator Elizabeth Benson (aka Borth Bonson) offers peg dolls and feltwork practically begging for a spot in your stocking.

[instagram.com/cheese\\_after\\_dark](#)

**Ashley Pastore - Grounded Printshop**

Yet another 40 Under 40 alumna to emerge from Erie's fertile arts scene, Ashley Pastore is champion of repurposing and reuse, crafting handmade paper and notebooks from recycled material.

[etsy.com/shop/Groundedpapershop](#)

**Experiences**

Can't make it to the Maker Market? Sidelined on Small Business Saturday? Or perhaps you know someone who favors experiences over things — a trend that has grown over the past decade, especially amongst younger generations. There is tremendous value in both *being* and in *doing*, and we're 100 percent here for it.

**Escape for a while**

All too often, we're indefinitely trapped in a boring, unthemed room with people we *don't* like. What if we told you that you could schedule the total reverse of those situations with Covert Games Escape Room? Bring one or more of your favorite humans and solve a sequence of puzzles to beat the clock and unlock the locks.

**Live and learn**

Belonging is important, but often comes with a sense of obligation. Don't make your giftee sweat that unsolicited gym membership — a seasonal or annual pass to the Erie Art Museum, expERIENCE Children's Museum, Erie Zoo, or Asbury Woods will help exercise their legs *and* their minds.

**Take part in art**

Cultivate their creativity with a gift certificate to Foundation Art Academy (small group and individual art classes from Alison Stinley) or Erie ClaySpace (ceramics classes), both located in the PACA Building at 1505 State St. Each offers a variety of scheduling options to match both casual and serious interests.

[foundationartacademy.com](#) and

[erieclayspace.com](#)

Matt Swanseger can be reached at

[mswanseger@eriereader.com](#)





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# More Than Just a Soup: Pho, From Vietnam to Erie

Saigon Nights spurs reflection on refugee history

By: Jonathan Burdick

Heading towards Presque Isle at 2430 W. Eighth Street, in the building formerly occupied by Khao Thai, Erie will soon have a new option for nourishment: Saigon Nights. As the name implies, the restaurant will offer patrons Vietnamese cuisine with options for dine-in or takeout. For owner Nga Rastatter, who some may recognize from Nail Creations in the Village West Plaza, opening this eatery is a bucket list item that can finally be checked off.

"This has been my dream for so many years," she said, adding that she has always loved to cook for family and friends, in particular the meals that she grew up eating. "I wondered, if I'm a good cook, why can't I open a Vietnamese restaurant in Erie?"

This was especially important to Rastatter because, despite a sizable Vietnamese and Vietnamese-American population in Erie, there hasn't been a Vietnamese restaurant in Erie since Pho 78 closed on West 12th Street some years ago.

"When I came to Erie 17 years ago, I was always hungry for Vietnamese food," she recalled. "But we don't have any [Vietnamese] stores or restaurants in Erie, so I'd always have to go far away to get it."

Remodeling of the restaurant was finished a few weeks ago and the plan is to open in mid-November. While not new to business, this is Rastatter and her husband's first time operating a restaurant, which she admits with a gentle laugh is not easy. Yet she is clearly passionate about the food and is excited to discuss it, which she promises will be different, delicious, and fresh.

On the menu for Saigon Nights will be numerous rice and noodle dishes, but perhaps the most exciting is the inclusion of bún bò Huế — a spicy, salty, and savory soup originating in the city of Hue in Central Vietnam. She notes that the meal is a "hidden Vietnamese gem" that hasn't quite caught on in the U.S. yet.

"It's a very special soup that we have to cook for 10 to 12 hours," she explains, recounting the various spices and use of lemongrass. "The beef is very moist and very tender. It's delicious. My husband, who is American, loves it. And my kids love the bún bò Huế. They love pho, too."

Familiar to many, of course, will be the menu's authentic Vietnamese pho, the noodle soup that is the national dish of Vietnam and has grown significantly in popularity stateside. I'm not remotely a food writer, so forgive me here, but if I *had* to describe pho to someone who has never tried it: it's a mouthwatering eruption of flavors and sensations.

In *The Pho Cookbook* by Andrea Nguyen (an *actual* food writer), she describes how after her family came to the United States in 1975 as refugees of the war, pho became a "gateway" to their cultural roots — and, as she explains, not all pho is created equal. Pho differs regionally in Vietnam and those regions take great pride in these differences. The origins of



Saigon Nights, located at 2430 W. Eighth St. (site of the recently closed Khao Thai), is projected to open later this month. Executive Chef Nga Rastatter is eager to share the cuisine of her native Vietnam, including iconic dishes like pho and bún bò Huế.

ERIN PHILLIPS

the soup are both debated and somewhat mysterious, but she says that it is a relatively new cuisine, developed sometime in the early-1900s and was most likely a result of numerous cultures "rubbing shoulders" as its popularity spread throughout Vietnam.

Anthony Bourdain, a self-described American pho enthusiast (but not expert), wrote in his 2010 book *Medium Raw* that despite the differences among regional pho dishes, there were commonalities. Pho is always "a balanced meeting of savory, sweet, sour, spicy, salty, and even umami [and] a gentle commingling of textures as well: soft and giving, wet and slippery ... light and heavy, leafy and limp, crunchy and tender."

"[Pho] is a sophisticated and deceptively subtle thing," added Bourdain. "I do not pretend to fully understand and appreciate its timeless beauty."

Nguyen, while writing for NPR in response to the backlash over a popular food magazine calling pho "the new ramen," wrote that pho is more than just a trendy food. It's not a chic meal for foodies to snap photos of and post to their socials, but a Vietnamese staple that is representative of the history of the country and its people. "Treating pho as merely a fashionable food negated its rich role in Vietnamese, Vietnamese-American, and now, American culture," wrote Nguyen.

For many in the United States, one's food and access to that food can be taken for granted when they are easily accessible, but when Vietnamese refugees first began arriving in the United States (including Erie) in 1975, food access was a significant adjustment for their life in a new country. Food is, after all, central to one's culture and identity.

In 1986, a study of 50 families conducted by Amy Tong for the *Family Economics Review* found that the unfamiliar American food culture was still an immediate problem for Vietnamese refugees and immigrants. For one, Vietnamese diets consisted of significantly less fat, dairy, and sugar and relied more on starches and fibers. Almost universally, the families self-reported that they did not like American foods such as apple pie, potato salad, macaroni and cheese, cheeseburgers, barbecue, or spaghetti — although about half enjoyed hot dogs.

In Tong's study, about 30 percent reported having changed their eating habits. Their reasoning was mostly due to having less time for the labor-intensive cooking of traditional Vietnamese meals. For those who hadn't budgeted, Tong found, they continued their culinary traditions because it provided "stability and reassurance during the period of great uncertainty."

Ultimately, the study concluded that eventually Vietnamese-Americans "may even in the long run en-



rich America's diverse dietary patterns and culinary heritage."

Meanwhile, to understand the rich history of Vietnamese refugees and immigrants specifically in Erie, one must go back further. By 1977, Erie was home to 200 Vietnamese refugees. For some of these, their journey began in January 1975, only months before the fall of Saigon and the collapse of the South Vietnamese government. Tens of thousands were already fleeing the country. The Saigon government was still ordering airstrikes on North Vietnam, but the situation was increasingly desperate (and extremely complex, deserving far more words and nuance than can be offered here).

In late April, the remaining Americans were evacuated from Saigon. Hundreds of Vietnamese arrived outside of the U.S. embassy hoping to be evacuated too. There were initial plans to evacuate 130,000 Vietnamese who might be in danger if they remained, which U.S. leadership felt was a moral obligation. About 40,000 initially made it to Guam, Wake Island, and the Philippines as tent cities were being prepared in California, Arkansas, and Florida. Processing centers were soon overwhelmed. According to reports, members of Congress were flooded with letters and calls from constituents voicing opposition to the impending influx of refugees. "How do we know that there aren't any North Vietnamese communists in the crowd?" one letter stated. Some had concerns about an already shaky unemployment situation in the United States. Others were implicitly and explicitly xenophobic and violent.

"They say it's a lot colder here than it is in Vietnam," an American woman picketing one of the camps told United Press International. She then added sardonically, "With a little luck, maybe they'll take pneumonia and die."

As the tent camps on U.S. soil filled to capacity, some refugees regretted leaving Vietnam. They feared the picketers. They worried about the cold winters. Many hadn't wanted to leave in the first place but had felt they had no choice. Others were thrilled and described America as being like Disneyland. Some were simply bored. "I eat, I walk outside, I sit down, I go to toilet, I come back inside, I sit down," a 41-year-old refugee stated after weeks of idleness in a camp.

In May, the first plane of Vietnamese refugees landed at Harrisburg International Airport in Pennsylvania. They were the first to arrive at a camp at the military barracks in Fort Indiantown Gap. Elected officials and a military band greeted them, prepared deliberately in an attempt to make arrivals feel at ease. Many had heard about the hostility and protests outside of other camps.

A professor of engineering at Gannon College wrote to the Erie Times-News saying that protests claiming refugees would take jobs were bogus. "Although some immigrants will possibly become producers of goods, all of them certainly will also be consumers. If they earn money, they will also spend it and thereby create jobs for others." There were many other letters of support.

"We're responsible for them being refugees," humorist Art Buchwald wrote in a Washington Post op-ed

published in the Erie Times-News. "The least we can do is take in whatever huddled masses escaped to our teeming shore ... Please don't turn your back on them."

By mid-June, there were 15,000 refugees now at the Fort Indiantown Gap camp. In Erie, the local Red Cross invited an Army major to a public meeting at Erie City Hall to explain how U.S. citizens and local organizations could sponsor refugees, a requirement before they could leave the camp for a new home. "The longer these families are in camp," the major told Erieites, "the more tendency there is to get beaten down."

On June 20, the first family from the camp arrived in the Erie area, sponsored by a Wattsburg man who initially kept their names private due to fears of "crackpots." The father of the family had been a captain and paratrooper in the Vietnamese Army and was fluent in English. He was hired for a job quickly, although the sponsor said it was one for which he was overqualified. A second family arrived a few days later, followed by two more families in early July. Ten Vietnamese nuns were then sponsored by the Diocese of Erie and housed at the Villa Maria Convent, Mercyhurst Mother House, and Gannondale.

The International Institute of Erie assisted with helping these families adjust to life in Erie. By August, local school districts were preparing accommodations for their new students. Nine new students were set to attend the city schools, and 11 were expected to attend parochial schools, numbers that were expected to grow in the following months. A furloughed French teacher was brought back, as many of the Vietnamese students already spoke French and an adult Vietnamese woman was hired as an assistant.

These early years in Erie were challenging for many of the families, the Erie Daily Times reported. In 1976, there were around 150 refugees living here. In Vietnam, they had been lawyers, teachers, bankers, farmers, and fishermen — but in America, they were taking entry-level jobs far beneath their ability. Many suffered from depression.

The refugee crisis reemerged in the late '70s with those who were often referred to as the "boat people" by the media, paving the way for thousands more to be granted asylum in the United States. By 1979, there were around 200 Vietnamese refugees living in Erie (as well as displaced Laotians and Cambodians).

In July 1979, the Erie Daily Times interviewed Chung and Lan Nguyen, who spent five months at sea and in refugee camps in 1975 before settling and marrying in Erie. Chung, 34, was an apprentice at General Electric and Lan, 24, had been enrolled at Mercyhurst College, but was now staying home to take care of their two-year-old daughter. They were grateful to be here, as Chung said he likely would have been imprisoned had he stayed, but they also often felt depressed and missed Vietnam. Chung had attended Saigon University, graduated from Vietnam's Naval Academy, spoke English, but initially could only find employment as a dishwasher in Erie.

Buu Nhuan was a lieutenant colonel who fought alongside the American military before escaping Vietnam with his wife, Cong Tang Nu Lien-Chi, and their four children. "The children are not worried



Buu Nhuan and his wife, Cong Tang Nu Lien-Chi, Vietnamese refugee family now residing in Erie, sit on arm chair while their three children and nephew, Vinh Nhu, Vinh Tran Tuan, Tran Duc Duyanh and Tran Thi Kim-Lien' gather around them.

**ERIE DAILY TIMES**  
ERIE, PA. TIMES, Wednesday, August 20, 1975

ERIE TIMES NEWS

This clipping from the Aug. 20, 1975 edition of the Erie Daily Times shows some of Erie's earliest Vietnamese refugees.

about being in a new country," he told the newspaper. Thanh Nguyen had been a pilot in Vietnam, but when he arrived in Erie, he didn't receive any offers. So, he accepted a job making frozen hamburgers on an assembly line to support his family of seven while he dreamed of flying again. Meanwhile, he encouraged his children to learn English as quickly as possible and, outside of school, they spent time watching educational programs on WQLN-TV 54 (PBS). "The children love *Sesame Street*," he told the Erie Daily Times.

A young couple from Saigon and their two children arrived in Meadville with only 10 dollars in their pocket and an extra change of clothes. They were both graduates of Saigon University. He had owned and operated a pharmacy while she had been a French teacher. There were adjustments (for instance, they'd never felt temperatures below 60 degrees), but overall, they were happy to not be living in fear.

These are only a few of Erie's hundreds of stories of those who were relocated or immigrated to Erie from Vietnam. In the decades since, they have contributed significantly to Erie and its surrounding region both culturally and economically. Nationwide, there are now 1.4 million Vietnamese immigrants in the United States.

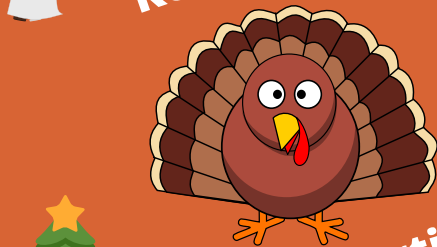
For Nga Rastatter, the opening of Saigon Nights is a full-circle moment and it serves to highlight the importance and influence of the Vietnamese population in Erie.

"I believe we will be very busy at our restaurant," she told me earnestly. It undoubtedly will — and remind yourself, as you slurp down those spicy, savory noodles, that what you are tasting is *more than just a soup*.

*Jonathan Burdick runs the historical blog Rust & Dirt. He can be reached at [jburdick@eriereader.com](mailto:jburdick@eriereader.com)*



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# Gem City Style: Makers Edition

A Q&A with Curtis Waidley of Natural States Collective

By: Jessica Hunter

**Jessica Hunter:** For those who don't know about it, please tell us about Natural States Collective.

**Curtis Waidley:** Of course! Natural States Collective is my original collection of National Park posters and apparel. More than that though, its artwork is meant to promote preservation and respect for our iconic National Parks and really just our natural landscapes in general. A lot of the posters that I create have influences from the era of psychedelic design. Others are made using a digital photo collage technique. I use photographs that I take within each park and composite them together into original works that embody a lot of visual energy and unique forms.

**JH:** Can you share your experiences behind the idea of your brand?

**CW:** This actually originally began as my senior thesis at Mercyhurst University. That summer I had just returned from being on the road for six weeks visiting a lot of these parks for the first time and I was so enamored by them. My thesis was creating a reimagined series of National Park posters. The reception I received from my designs was so uplifting, I began to develop more ideas and expand. This eventually led me to begin selling them in an online store. Now, I'm traveling to new parks every year and developing new designs.

The name "Natural States" comes from a quote from the first director of the National Park Service (NPS), Stephen Mather. He said that the primary duty of the NPS is to keep these unique landscapes in their natural state. That means protecting them from private development and other destructive advances. That idea really resonated with me because just knowing the history of industrialization of the United States, these



JESSICA HUNTER

Many of Curtis Waidley's Natural States Collective posters take cues from the era of psychedelic design, blending national park scenes with surrealistic elements.

incredible places like Yellowstone, the Redwoods, and Yosemite, could have only been seen for their economic potential and they'd have been devastated by development. But thanks to early conservationists, these sacred places were spared.

**JH:** How do you practice a conservation model in your business?

**CW:** Well as you can imagine, I go through a lot of paper. Because of that, I am adamant about using environmentally conscious paper stock for my prints. The one I use is actually made of 100 percent cotton. The paper mill uses a cotton by-product from the textile industry. This is waste that would have been discarded anyway, but the mill turns it into paper. It has the look and feel of a fine art paper and the surface is like velvet; it's fantastic! Plus, knowing that it was made with the environment in mind is even better.

**JH:** What are you giving back to the national parks that inspired Natural States Collective?

**CW:** I donate a portion of every sale to the National Parks Foundation. They're the official nonprofit of the National Park Service and they use these funds to improve park infrastructure, lead conversation programs, and create education programs aimed at sharing more inclusive stories that haven't been previously told. To date, I've donated close to \$2,500 to the National Park Foundation through selling my artwork.

**JH:** What is next for you and your business? Do you have any plans for Small Business Saturday?

**CW:** There are always new designs cooking and being added to the store. There's fresh apparel on the way. Small Business Saturday is the start of my 12 Days of Christmas Sale, with different prints going on sale each day. Follow @naturalstatescollective on Instagram to get in the loop about that! I will also be selling prints at the Holiday Market at the HandMade Arcade in Pittsburgh on December 3.

For more information or to purchase art or apparel, visit: [naturalstatescollective.com](https://naturalstatescollective.com)

Jessica Hunter can be found at [jessicahunterphotos.com](https://jessicahunterphotos.com)



JESSICA HUNTER

Curtis Waidley stands beside framed artwork from his Natural States Collective collection, a series of reimagined National Park Service posters inspired by a six-week road trip before his senior year at Mercyhurst University.



# Switched On: Bob Moog via Dr. Albert Glinsky

An electrifying look into the man behind the synthesizer

By: Larry Wheaton

If you've been following popular music at any point since the late 1960s, then you have probably heard the Moog synthesizer in use — The Beatles, ABBA, Michael Jackson, Nine Inch Nails, and Daft Punk are just a handful of the popular artists to employ the revolutionary instrument in their songs.

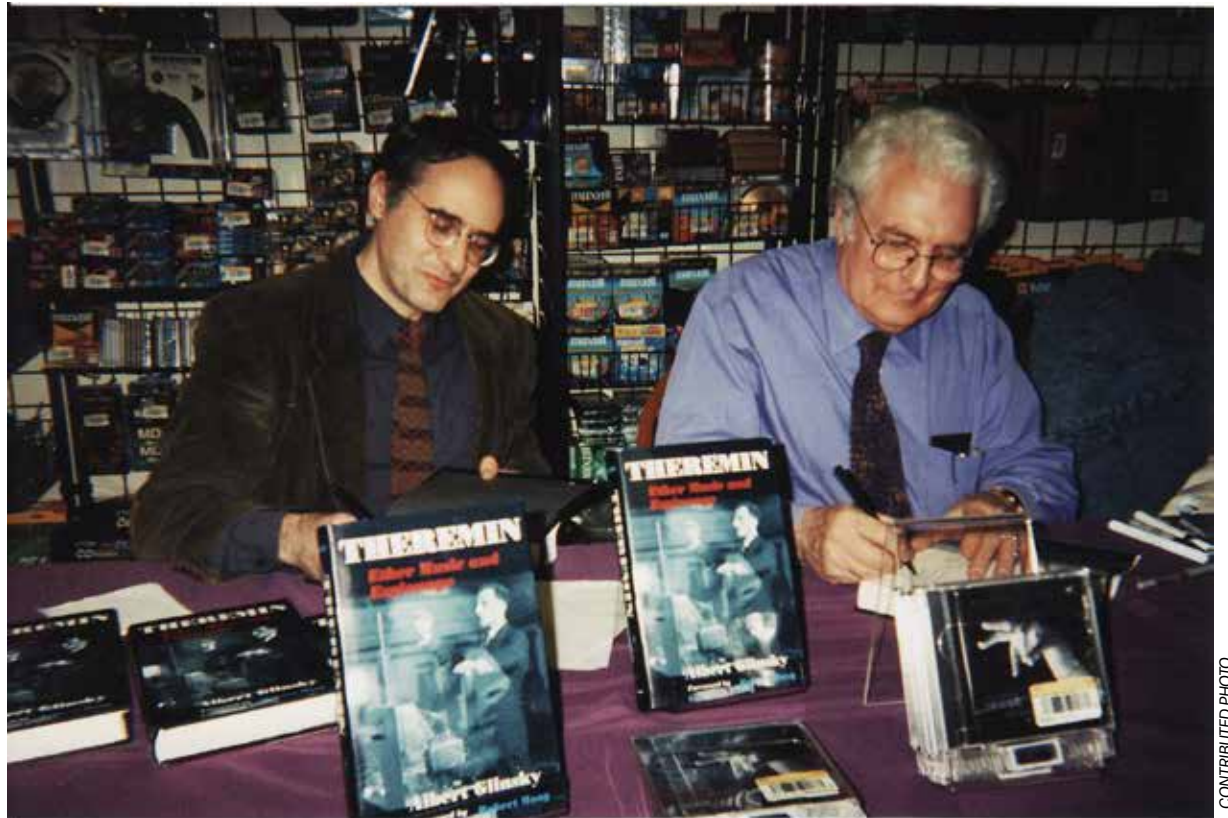
However, up until now, very little has been written about the man who invented it. The latest book from author and composer Albert Glinsky, *Switched On: Bob Moog and the Synthesizer Revolution*, gives readers an inside look at the man himself and a detailed timeline on how the synthesizer was created and embraced by the music community, and how its signature sounds reverberate into the present day.

Albert Glinsky, Ph.D., a professor emeritus at Mercyhurst University, has a long history as a composer, his works having been performed at Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, and throughout Europe. Glinsky's love of music also inspired him to write the book *Theremin: Ether Music and Espionage* in 2000, which covers Russian/Soviet inventor Leon Theremin, who created one of the first electronic musical instruments, the theremin. The book featured a foreword by Bob Moog, which started a professional relationship between Moog and Glinsky and brought Moog to Erie in 2000 for an electronic music showcase at the Erie Art Museum.

*Theremin: Ether Music and Espionage* was well-received and is regarded as required reading for anyone studying electronic music, making *Switched On: Bob Moog and the Synthesizer Revolution* a natural follow-up. When Moog passed away in 2005, he left behind a treasure trove of letters, pictures, and financial receipts documenting the entire history of his life and career. A year after his passing, his children (three daughters and a son) started looking for a way to memorialize him, so they started the Bob Moog Foundation in August of 2006.

The foundation, located in Asheville, N.C., features educational resources, archives, and what is often called the Moog-seum. Glinsky said that he got a call from one of Bob's daughters, Michelle Moog-Koussa (who is the executive director for the foundation) about three years after the foundation was established. "She called me up and she said that they were hoping that there would be a biography of Bob Moog. A portrait of the man, since there has been so much written about his instruments and his work as an engineer, but no one ever did a real biography that really characterizes his life, personalities, and his troubles."

Moog-Koussa asked Glinsky if he would like to take on the project, and he took almost no time at all to confirm his interest. Nonetheless, it was a massive undertaking. "There were thousands and thousands of documents that we had to go through, photocopy, and scan." With help from his wife, they took a number of trips to Asheville, N.C. to collect information and, on one trip, they copied 8,000 sheets of paper to take back home to Erie to review. "The book took 12 years of



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Biographer Albert Glinsky (left) sits beside synthesizer pioneer Robert Moog during a 2000 book signing event at a Borders bookstore in Buffalo, N.Y.. Moog wrote the foreword for Glinsky's *Theremin: Ether Music and Espionage*, which profiles theremin inventor Leon Theremin.

my life to make, and 12 years of my wife's life to make."

When asked why he believed Moog's family approached him to write the biography, Glinsky said, "I think they felt that I had a distance because I wasn't his best friend. I would have a certain amount of objectivity and tell the whole story. The reason they thought of me was that Bob really liked the Theremin book and he would buy extra copies to give as presents to friends, and he would make notations in the margins of some of his favorite parts. So, they asked if I could do with Bob's life what I did with Theremin's, because Bob would have approved. Because there is such a throughline from there to Bob."

Even though there are similarities between Theremin and Moog, the two men were different people, who both came to prominence as godfathers of electronic instruments but with wildly different backgrounds. "One of the major differences is that there is a whole lot more information about Bob Moog out there than there was for Theremin, for many reasons," Glinsky stated. "The main reason was that Theremin was a Soviet citizen most of his life, and information on him was kept top secret. He was always scared to death to talk to Westerners because he was afraid of giving anything away, or saying anything he would be punished for when he went back to the Soviet Union. He was very mum and not a person who kept diaries. With Bob, not only did I know him, so many other people that knew him wrote about him. There were so many interviews and personal correspondences."

When asked what type of person Moog was and how that shaped his book, Glinsky reflects, "Moog is a little more of an earthy character, wonderfully real and he loved telling jokes, whereas Theremin was very much the opposite. So, when I wrote about them I tried to write in the style of their lives. Bob used four letter words and was a real American of the '60s." One of the most interesting things Glinsky found was Moog's early love letters with his then fiancée, who would become his first wife. These are reproduced in the book along with one of his illustrations, an early cartoon that he made for her, showing a more personal side rarely seen before.

Glinsky states, "The book is meant for a broad audience, to take in the general reader who likes a good biography: musicians, the electronic people, the geeks, the people who can take apart a synthesizer screw by screw and put it back together and know every circuit. Although it's not a highly technical book, it covers most of the instruments that Moog fans would want it to, as well as business and business ethics, because he struggled with that a lot."

*Switched On: Bob Moog and the Synthesizer Revolution* by Albert Glinsky, with a forward by Francis Ford Coppola, was recently released by Oxford University Press and is available in hardcover and as an ebook.

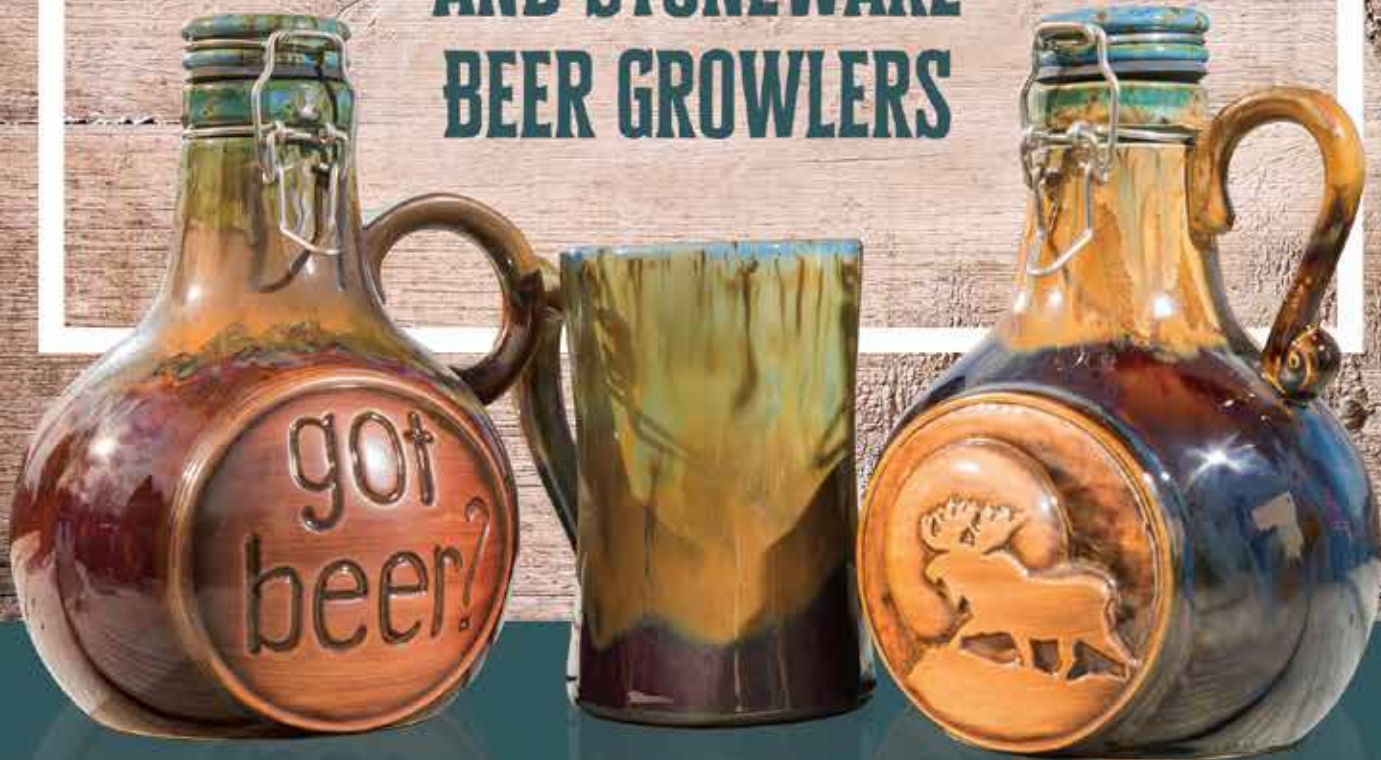
Larry Wheaton tends to stick to the brass and percussion instrument families, but has been known to tinker with a theremin from time to time. He can be reached at [wheaton1138@gmail.com](mailto:wheaton1138@gmail.com).



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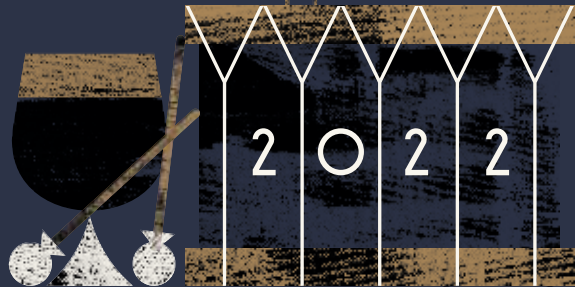
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Tyler Smilo: Songs and Stories, a Tale of Addiction and Recovery

Experience the stories behind the songs

FRIDAY, NOV. 4 - 5

By now, you likely recognize Tyler Smilo's name — if not on its own, then from his band, Smilo and the Ghost (not to mention a recent coffee blend collaboration). The reason you recognize Smilo's name is that over time, he has grown to become one of Erie's strongest songwriters and musical talents, a flagship artist and an inspiration for so many others in the scene. Whether with his band (who has opened up for major names such as Dan + Shay and 10,000 Maniacs) or solo, Smilo's unique and personal style of folk songwriting has been a staple of our arts community. That's what makes his upcoming *Songs and Stories* shows so endearing — especially as they land just weeks after his four-year sobriety anniversary.

*Songs and Stories: A Tale of Addiction & Recovery* is designed to offer a glimpse into Smilo's life and the events that inspired so much of his music.

*Songs and Stories: A Tale of Addiction & Recovery* is designed to offer a glimpse into Smilo's life and the events that inspired so much of his music. These performances expose an even deeper intimacy than that which is already displayed in his songwriting, known for showcasing his stories and struggles. The shows, which are happening at PACA on State Street, prom-



DEREK HAYES

Tyler Smilo has become a fixture in the Erie music scene, owing in large part to his raw, earnest songwriting.

ise that for two hours, the art and life of the songwriter will come full-circle for the audience. In this sense, his music and storytelling are bound to connect with anyone who's experienced similar challenges; if we're lucky, it won't be the last *Songs and Stories* show we get from Smilo and Co. — Aaron Mook

Friday and Saturday, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. // PACA Theater, 1505 State St., 2nd Floor // \$20 // [paca.org](http://paca.org)

Go 'Forward! To the Moon' Inside the Yahn Planetarium

Artemis missions inspire future scientists

BEGINNING SATURDAY, NOV. 5

If you have ever gazed up at the moon in wonder or thought, "How long until we live there?," the answer is: sooner than you might think.

This is thanks to the Artemis Program, NASA's latest moon exploration program and the subject of *Forward! To the Moon* at the Yahn Planetarium on Penn State Behrend's campus in the School of Science complex. Formerly known as the Erie Planetarium, the 56-seat auditorium-cum-theater, which projects the solar system and all its objects onto the domed ceiling, is where you can find the astronomy and physics majors, but it's also open to the public for events like *Forward! To the Moon*.

Jim Gavio, director of the Yahn Planetarium, states, "Forward! To the Moon will briefly talk about the Apollo missions from the 1960s and early 1970s, then compare Apollo with Artemis ... the Artemis missions will be long duration missions where we will eventually have outposts on the moon, just as we do at the South Pole of the Earth." He continues, "Going to the moon will also prepare us for the longer journey to Mars."

The program, which began in October, has its first November showing on the fifth and runs every Saturday. It is recommended for ages nine and up. Gavio says, "I would like kids and adults to be inspired by these



PENNSYLVANIA BEHREND

The *Forward! To the Moon* program at Penn State Behrend's Yahn Planetarium will outline NASA's upcoming Artemis missions, which will look to establish long-term outposts on the moon.

important and huge events that are unfolding during our time ... The Apollo program inspired many young people to be the scientists, astronauts, and teachers of today, so we hope that Artemis will do the same." — Cara Suppa

Saturdays through November // 1 p.m. // Yahn Planetarium at Penn State Behrend, 4701 College Drive // Adults: \$5, Kids 12 and Under: \$3, Penn State Employees and Children: Free // For more information, go to [behrend.psu.edu/school-of-science](http://behrend.psu.edu/school-of-science)



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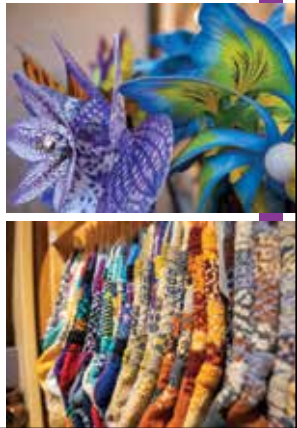


November 6 HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE, 10am-6pm

November 18 NEW HOLIDAY SHOW featuring Lynn Fizel, Amy Hahn, Hiromi Katayama, and John Misterovich

November 19 DOWNTOWN ART BRUNCH (along with City Gallery & 10/20 Collective), 11am-2pm

November 25 & 26 BLACK FRIDAY & SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY extended hours & specials, 9am-6pm each day.



Looking for More Events?

Remember to visit the Erie Reader's Online Calendar at [eriereader.com/calendar](http://eriereader.com/calendar)

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EVENTS

Erie Playhouse's Youtheatre Strikes Again  
With *The Lightning Thief*

Hello millennials, remember Percy Jackson?

PREMIERING FRIDAY, NOV. 11

Greek mythology has long been a fascination of young adults, and the first book in Rick Riordan's *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* series, *The Lightning Thief*, enthralled an entire generation. Released in 2005, it quickly became one of the most beloved pieces of young adult literature and received the Adult Library Services Association's Best Books for Young Adults award, among many others.

*The Lightning Thief* was turned into a play that was geared toward young audiences in 2014, and in 2017 it was turned into a 2 hour off-Broadway performance. It debuted on Broadway in 2019. Now, our young and talented Youtheatre is taking this mythological masterpiece to The LECOM Stage at the Playhouse. Dom DelGreco, the education director for the Erie Playhouse, says he's excited to be able to bring this show to life: "This musical is a great introduction into the Percy Jackson world. Our assistant director is a big fan of the series, so we won't let the fans of these books down."

When asked why Youtheatre is important to our community, DelGreco responds: "It's the marvelous ability to grant perspective. This can translate outside the walls of art, as well. It creates a community of understanding individuals." He continues, "This musical has the potential for us to bring to the forefront more important issues that are subtly touched on in the books and



ZWIEBACKESSER

play: generational trauma, a search for youthful identity, and, despite Percy being a demigod, human emotions and problems."

With some of the youngest cast members in Youtheatre history, this youthful showing of talent won't be overshadowed by a lot of glitz and glam. This is going to feel like an emo-kid's first pop/punk show. The music and lighting will give the feeling of teenage angst, and that should hit home with the generation that grew up with Percy Jackson. Show your support for this amazing young cast, and give a warm welcome to Vexx Festa who is playing the role of Percy, as this will be his first stage appearance with the Erie Playhouse. — Jordan Coon

Fridays at 2 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. or 7 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. through Nov. 20 // Erie Playhouse, 13 W. 10th St. // \$14.90 // All ages // For more information, please visit [erieplayhouse.org](http://erieplayhouse.org)

Dramashop's *The Christians* Raises Questions

Lucas Hnath's challenging script explored in staged reading

PREMIERING FRIDAY, NOV. 11

"Hell does not exist," Pope Francis was quoted in a March 2018 article with Italy's *La Repubblica*. "The disappearance of sinful souls exists." While the Vatican was quick to play damage control, explaining away what the inflexible leader of their church reasoned, it raised the question to millions, nay billions of Christians — be they Catholic or Protestant — Jews, Muslims, and Agnostics the world over.

Rewind to 2014, as *The Christians* premieres at the 38th Humana Festival of New American Plays in Louisville, Ky. In the play, Pastor Paul drops a similar bomb to the congregation of his megachurch. The ripples are felt throughout the entirety of the script, affecting his life both professionally and personally. Pastor Paul — played by Steven Ropski — has built his church up from a congregation of 15 to one that numbers in the thousands. An affable and thoughtful pastor, he delivers a sermon one Sunday morning that drives a schism between his congregants — including his wife (Pam Perron), his protege, assistant pastor Joshua (Nick Warren), church elder Jayne (Sue Lechner), and congregant and choir member Jenny (Judy Stowe).

Hnath's scripts beg interpretation, and *The Christians* is far from exempt. Is it a play about the unraveling of white male fragility, or the literalism and semiotics of intra-church dogma? What stance does it take on the existence of hell, or does it even matter?



NICK WARREN

Sue Lechner (foreground) and Steven Ropski (at lectern) star in Dramashop's *The Christians*.

As part of Dramashop's Staged Readings series, the actors perform with assistance from a full choir made up of local singers. Both Friday performances will find Dramashop partnered with PopLuck Popcorn, with proceeds of its special "Fire and Brimstone" variety going to help the local theater.

With a 90-page script and no intermission, *The Christians* goes by fast. Members of the cast and crew (including director Michael Wachter and stage manager Justin Karns) will participate in an after-show discussion with coffee and refreshments provided (popcorn on Fridays).

So, for believers and atheists alike, it's a production that will make you wonder, make you question, and make you feel. — Nick Warren

Fridays and Saturdays, Nov. 11 to 19 // 8 p.m. // Dramashop, 1001 State St., 2nd Floor // Pay what you can // For more information and to donate, go to [dramashop.org](http://dramashop.org)

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She has 34 years of legal experience, including work with local governments. She served in various capacities for Erie County for 26 years, concluding with an 11-year appointment as chief public defender. A native of Edinboro, she is a graduate of Edinboro University of Pennsylvania and of the Dickinson School of Law. She is a member of the PennWest University Council of Trustees.

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## Grace and Gravity

Mercyhurst dancers defy, embrace gravity in latest production

**PREMIERING FRIDAY, NOV. 11**

Featuring a mixed repertoire of classical and contemporary works, the Mercyhurst Dancers will present *Grace and Gravity* at the Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center from Nov. 11-20. The concert features two faculty-choreographed dances, one restaging of a classical repertoire, and three pieces by guest choreographer, Sidra Bell. In all, the program features the talents of 42 dancers who defy, as well as embrace, gravity.

The production opens with "Pas de Quatre," a Romantic Era ballet. This interpretation features Jules Perrot's original choreography while offering a fresh look through interpretation and costuming. The story focuses on four women, all linked by romantic liaisons with Perrot, explains Jennifer McNamara, assistant professor of dance. "I've also made the decision to costume the dancers in more sleek, contemporary dresses rather than using the traditional voluminous tutus because I wanted to create a visual disruption of the stereotypes often associated with this iconic work in the Romantic canon."

*Grace and Gravity* features three different casts of four dancers and Richard DiFiore, principal pianist and music director for the Mercyhurst University Department of Dance, on piano. In addition, three pieces choreographed by



MARK SANTILLANO

**The Mercyhurst Dance Department presents *Grace and Gravity*, featuring 42 dancers who defy, as well as embrace, gravity.**

internationally renowned guest artist Sidra Bell, whose work reveals aspects of the human condition through a distinctly female lens, make this a must-see production. — Amy VanScoter

Friday and Saturday, Nov. 11-12, and Nov. 18-19, at 7 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 13, and Nov. 20 at 2 p.m. // Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center, 501 E. 38th St. // \$5 to \$15 // For more information visit: [miac.mercyhurst.edu](http://miac.mercyhurst.edu)

## A Motown Christmas

Get a soulful start to the Christmas season at the Warner Theatre

**SATURDAY, NOV. 19**

Some say that the day after Thanksgiving is the official start to the Christmas season, but the Warner Theatre plans on kicking off the holiday season a little early this year with some Motown magic. The soulful sounds of the Motor City roll into town for *A Motown Christmas*, which is assembled from past and present members of various legendary Motown groups. This performance will feature Ali Woodson's Temptations, The Miracles, and The Contours singing some of those classic Christmas tunes that have become as much a part of season as snow, sleigh bells, and Santa Claus.

Tradition is one thing that brings us together with those we love, and for many, holiday music is another shared bond. "Joy To The World," "White Christmas," and "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" are some of the classics that were featured on the first *A Motown Christmas* compilation album released in 1973. Even though it's been almost 50 years since that album, those songs have grown to become a part of our lives. With a legacy spanning decades, this is a family friendly event that encourages everyone to bring their holiday spirit and sing along to their favorite melody.

Along with the aforementioned seasonal staples, you can also expect to hear some of Motown's greatest over-



BPE PRODUCTIONS

**Members of The Temptations, The Miracles, and The Contours will combine talents at Downtown Erie's Warner Theatre for *A Motown Christmas*, featuring soulful renditions of your favorite holiday hits.**

all hits, with members of each vocal group carrying on the custom of dressing to the nines. This tradition, along with spectacular choreography and amazing harmonies, have become synonymous with the Motown moniker. *A Motown Christmas* will get you out of your seat and into the holiday spirit, with a little help from the sound of soul. — Larry Wheaton

8 p.m. // Warner Theatre, 811 State St. // \$42 to \$52 // For tickets and more info, go to [erieevents.com](http://erieevents.com)

## Find the Magic of the Season at the 2022 Festival of Trees

Yule be pining for more holiday cheer after seeing this enchanting display

**FRIDAY, NOV. 25 - 27**

This holiday season, the Bayfront Convention Center will once again host the annual Festival of Trees, a tried and true tradition of the Erie community that's celebrating its 38th year.

More than 80 uniquely decorated trees will come together to create the Gallery of Trees, with a number of the professionally decorated trees up for auction at the end of the weekend, all in support of AHN Saint Vincent and the Children's Miracle Network.

The festival boasts more than just beautifully decorated trees, though: there's more *fir* the whole family to enjoy! From noon until 5 p.m. each day, live reindeer will dash, dance, and prance through the festival, and holiday displays and rooms from Santa's Castle will be available to visit. Santa himself will even attend, waiting on stage in the Great Hall following your visit to the Gallery of Trees.

For families with stuffed toys who have been a bit un-

der the weather recently, a team of AHN Saint Vincent teddy bear specialists will be on-site to offer examinations to ensure each toy is in tip top shape for the holiday season.

Live entertainment will also be on hand, along with local vendors offering holiday shopping opportunities and deals.

This year also marks the return of Festival After Dark, a 21+ event supporting nursing education at AHN Saint Vincent Hospital. The After Dark event will take place Saturday, Nov. 26 at 7 p.m. and will feature adult train rides, Santa's reindeer, tastings from local breweries and distilleries, as well as hors d'oeuvres and live music from The Groove to accompany dancing in the Gallery of Trees. — Ally Kutz

Friday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Festival After Dark: Saturday at 7 p.m.) // Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafra's Pier // \$10 adults, \$6 children (ages 2-12) // [supportahn.org](http://supportahn.org)



DEVELYN GRAHAM

**For 38 years, the Festival of Trees has evoked wonder in children young and old alike, with proceeds benefiting AHN Saint Vincent and the Children's Miracle Network.**



EVENTS

Meet Us Under the Boston Store Clock

Bringing downtown holiday magic back with Small Business Saturday

SATURDAY, NOV. 26

Anyone who grew up in Erie during the heyday of the Boston Store can tell you that meeting under the clock was a real thing. But since the iconic department store closed its doors in 1979, the meaning of meeting under the clock has largely been lost to history. That is until the Erie Downtown Partnership, in tandem with Local Lovin Erie, brings new life into the Boston Store concourse, with their now annual Small Business Saturday celebration in Downtown Erie. And it's all starting out "under the clock."

The Boston Store lobby will be filled with up to 40 vendors, sharing their arts, crafts, inventions, and products with crowds of Erie residents showing up to give their support to these small businesses. There will be live music to keep spirits bright and several other spots throughout downtown will also be open with vendors, specials, pop ups and more.

Dave Tamulonis, events manager for the Erie Downtown Partnership, is excited to bring this event back to Erie's rap-

idly growing downtown. He comments, "Every year we encourage the Erie community to do their holiday shopping with our many talented and amazing local small businesses and makers through Shop Small Saturday. Keeping the money circulating in our local economy helps the Erie region, but it also builds a strong connection between local businesses and consumers."

In addition to the vendors at the Boston Store, She Vintage, Ember and Forge, The 10/20 Collective, and the Shops at 5th and State including Erie Apparel (City Supply), Glass Growers Gallery, The Dollhouse at Pointe Fourre Boutique, Primo Tailoring, Rita's, and Subway will host a number of local crafters, makers, and artists for a one-day local shopping celebration. Perry Square's holiday village will be stocked up with hot cocoa and coffee for cozy refreshment as you make your way up and down State Street.

The time is right to bring shopping back to Downtown Erie, just like older generations so fondly remember, when the Boston Store was the most magical



Up to 40 vendors will gather for Small Business Saturday in the Boston Store lobby, a nod to its history as the center of Erie's retail district.

place to be during the holidays. Not only will shopping downtown help create unforgettable memories, it will help our local economy grow and put money directly into the pockets of individual local makers and small business owners. Tamulonis agrees: "Making downtown a destination for local holiday shopping, and a year-round destination for events and entertainment, supports all our small business owners." — Erin Phillips

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. // Boston Store lobby and throughout Downtown Erie // For more information, go to [eriedowntown.com](http://eriedowntown.com)

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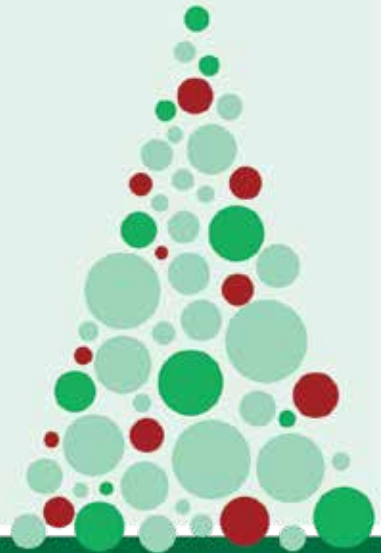
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## A Long Time Coming With Grizz

Horror movie influences permeate local rapper's debut album

By: Charles Brown

Local rap artist Grizz has been penning rhymes since his adolescence, creating his first song at the tender age of 12. But because making music was recreational, his craft wasn't taken too seriously until more recently. "I made my first song at 12 or 13, but didn't really get super into it until I turned 21 because I started to grow as an artist," admits Grizz.

Since those years, Grizz has been in the studio delivering verse after verse with his producer/engineer Anthony Rogers, who is also a rap artist. Leveraging the chemistry of their long-time friendship, this dynamic duo is able to effortlessly produce countless songs, contributing to mixtapes and Rogers' solo works. Even with so much experience in the studio, Grizz has yet to give Erie his own body of work, until now. *Too Many Scary Movies* will be the sum of Grizz's journey thus far, as well as the beginning of a new one. With the debut being a Halloween season release, the latter part of 2022 will be in for a treat.

The intriguing title comes from the rapper's fascination with scary films. "When I was younger, my dad would always watch horror movies," recalls Grizz. "And being a kid, you want to hang out around your dad, so I would sit and watch. I mean, I was scared to death. But I grew to love and enjoy them. So, I wanted to bring my love of horror movies over to my other love of music

and make something special."

Appropriately, most of the song titles from *Too Many Scary Movies* are named after horror classics such as "Child's Play," "Candyman," and "American Psycho." The themes explored throughout the project are having fun, rap dominance, being braggadocious, and cultivating an appetite for success. Grizz holds nothing back and allows himself to show people why he should be considered a superior emcee. It's all in good fun, though, and a celebration of releasing his first solo project. "It feels great honestly because I've been making music since I was 13 years old," says Grizz. "Now at 28, I take it way more seriously and I've gotten way better as an artist. I knew it was finally time to get something solo out."

*Too Many Scary Movies* is definitely a vibe for those looking for something refreshing. Presenting itself as more of a red carpet introduction than an in-depth autobiography, the project invites you to have a good time from beginning to end. To hear Grizz tell it, you can expect no skips. "I want them (the listeners) to feel a rollercoaster of emotions like when you're watching a horror movie," states the rapper. "It's a fun project and I want people to enjoy themselves when they listen."

Grizz also notes that no matter what time of day it is, locking in on music with Rogers is an extreme pleasure. "Ant (Rogers) is my brother, so it's much more than just him producing and engineering my music. We've got a



ANTHONY ROGERS

real life bond and friendship which makes making the type of music we make easy for us. Whether it was a late-night session, early morning session, middle of the day, or whatever — anytime I'm in the stu' with my brother, it's always enjoyable."

Many artists can be hesitant about putting out their work, for various reasons that those who are not artists may not understand. But when the time is right, the art becomes worth the wait.

Congratulations to Grizz, and judging by his work ethic, we can expect more from both him and Rogers in the future. But for now, let's allow this first project to settle in with us. You can listen to *Too Many Scary Movies* on all music streaming platforms, but only if you dare!

Charles Brown can be found on Facebook and Twitter @CEEBrown814, and online at [ceebrown.com](http://ceebrown.com)

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# Cultivating Moments of Joy

The multifaceted creations of artist and musician Anthony Carson

By: Amy VanScoter

Stop for a moment and think about what brings you joy. Just the thought may bring a smile to your face or conjure up images of a favorite memory with your loved ones or pets. Joy is most simply defined as a feeling of great pleasure and happiness. Experiencing a moment of mindfulness when you think about your joy is usually, in itself, quite joyful.

That unadulterated bliss is exactly what local artist and musician Anthony Carson seeks to capture. You may have seen Carson set up with his chair and easel at area events and pop-ups, offering to “draw your joy” — creating whimsical watercolor illustrations showcasing those moments that bring you happiness.

“I get to watch people dig deep and really think about what brings them joy and I personally enjoy the people who really dig deep,” said Carson. “It’s a shift in focus. Instead of giving people free range, it’s giving people an opportunity to look at something positive in a world, in a societal structure where we see a lot of negativity.” He creates pieces of joy that are short, sweet, and

meaningful in a minimal amount of time, allowing him to reach many people in a day, creating smiles and even more joyful moments.

Carson is a multifaceted, self-taught artist who started creating like many of us: by doodling stick figures in the borders of his homework in elementary school. These days, he creates professionally full time as an illustrator and graphic designer, living a life of full self-expression. His work spans the creative spectrum from poetry to progressive music to art that can be found on everything from logos, illustrations in children’s books and comic strips, chalk drawings, and NFTs. He is often commissioned for his work and also puts on live performances that merge media, such as poetry with illustrations or music with art.

Whether through art, poetry, or music, Carson often tackles the natural world, the emotional, and the existential in his subjects. He says he’s most interested in finding ways to empower and inspire people into their own authenticity. “I hope to help other people to find themselves, and it’s also medicine for me while I’m doing it,” Carson said. “Inherently for me, when I’m playing music, any false identity that I create to exist in this society often falls away. Often, when I’m in a good place, and I’ve warmed up and I’m making music, I don’t feel like I have to hold up a veil. Making music and also going out and doing drawings for people gets me out of my head and thinking about more than just myself.”

Carson says his music takes him more into a spiritual realm, whereas his drawing puts him into a state of service to others. “The intent in all of it is to live a full life as Anthony, and do my best to keep him happy and fully expressed, even in his low moments, and to be present enough to observe those moments so that I can translate them into art, translate them into music, and poetry and lyrics, in the hope that somebody else might find themselves inside of it. That’s the reason I share it. I want my work to empower people, to help them to find their joy, and encourage them to be more free, and I know I don’t get to dictate how it is received,” Carson said.

Carson says he wants to “be that force that gives somebody a tinge of themselves, like it’s okay to be



Artist Anthony Carson will offer to “draw your joy” at the upcoming Western PA Maker Market on Saturday, Nov. 19 at FEED Media Arts.



Local artist Anthony Carson’s whimsical watercolor illustrations showcase his subjects’ moments of joy, inflecting a welcome positivity into area events and pop-ups.

themselves. They have power and they are not alone in their struggles.”

You can find Carson hosting an open mic night at 10/20 Collective (1020 Holland St.) on November 9 and drawing at the Western PA Maker Market on November 19th from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at FEED (1307 State St.).

Carson is available to hire for drawing at events by emailing [anthonycarson143@gmail.com](mailto:anthonycarson143@gmail.com). You can follow his work on TikTok and Instagram at [@antsart-house](https://www.instagram.com/antsart-house) and [@thesoundserem](https://www.instagram.com/thesoundserem). He has original music at [anthonycarson.bandcamp.com](https://anthonycarson.bandcamp.com) as well as on Spotify and Apple music.

Amy VanScoter is a slow, mindful yoga instructor with a passion for wellness and the arts, and a marketing/communications professional. She can be reached at [avanscoter@gmail.com](mailto:avanscoter@gmail.com)



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## Chautauqua Artists in Residence 2022

The Erie Art Museum's Chautauqua Spotlight introduces a promising artistic partnership

By: Dan Schank

Entering the Erie Art Museum's Holstein gallery, it's hard not to notice Shabnam Jannesari's *Floating* immediately. As a ghostly figure emerges from its gestural abstractions, this large-scale oil painting commands attention through vibrant color and rich texture. Moving closer, allusions to Iranian history are revealed through these textures. Jannesari's piece exemplifies the spirit of the exhibition, in which 14 artists from the Chautauqua School of Art's summer residency have shared their work. The group's focus is social history, collage aesthetics, and "the body as a site of celebration, censorship, trauma or healing," according to its press release.

Celebratory bodies are also on display in Kym Cooper's playful *Two Dancers in Chautauqua*, a mixed media piece that combines traditional painting and collaged African fabrics. Like *Floating*, the work examines personal history through vibrant color — but here the mood is joyous rather than dreamlike. My daughter

(age 5) ran up to it immediately as we entered the gallery, exemplifying its inviting nature while also rewarding an older, more discriminating audience with dizzying patterns and sharp contrasts.

A third examination of cultural identity comes from Xayvier Houghton's *Taki the Primeval*, which uses rich earth tones and transferred photographic imagery to investigate Caribbean spirituality. Houghton's dense composition feels intimate and reverent at once, like a window into a baptism.

Even in non-figurative work, personal history serves as a connective tissue throughout the show. In Sara Hess' *Catalog for Collection*, a series of digital images are transferred to sheer fabric. These tiny pictures of tools, clothespins, and related debris render an intimate world familiar. With its evocative, handwritten labels and minimalist geometric structure, a sense of what it takes to maintain order in a chaotic universe emerges.

The Chautauqua Showcase introduces



SHABNAM JANNESARI

Shabnam Jannesari's spectral oil painting *Floating* is just one of the many Chautauqua School of Art works on display in the Erie Art Museum's Holstein Gallery.

a promising new partnership between the Erie Art Museum and our bohemian neighbor in Western New York. By showcasing the work of (mostly) young emerging artists, the exhibition offers a glimpse of the national art world that might otherwise require a day trip to the

Albright-Knox or the Mattress Factory. And its mixture of styles, materials, and dimensions are as diverse as the artists who made the work itself.

On display until Jan. 22, 2023 // Erie Art Museum // 20 E. 5th St. // For more information visit [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org)

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## The Sam Rivers Sessionography Stuns In Print

Local author Rick Lopez's passion project packs big punch

In March of 1997, Rick Lopez began his first and arguably most iconic music research project as an online document, detailing the life and music of jazz musician and composer Sam Rivers. Those 25 years of research, dedication, and compilation culminated in a book that is nothing short of an absolute masterpiece.

Rivers — whom Lopez describes as “the man who has come to define ‘deserving wider recognition’” — was born in El Reno, Okla. in 1923, becoming active in the jazz scene in the early 1950s. Most famously known for performing as a tenor saxophonist, he also performed on an array of other instruments, including bass clarinet, harmonica, and viola, among others.

As Lopez humbly states, he “did not ‘write’ much of this book. It is an assemblage, an incomplete puzzle, a collage built from the work of others.” But in reviewing the staggering 768-page anthology of Rivers’ life and sessionography, it is hard not to attribute a great amount of success and credit to Lopez. Compiled within these pages are decades of painstaking research, detail, and passion that cannot be easily found within many other collections.

For Lopez, the work is hugely important: “It’s got my fingerprints all over it because the content is *personal* to me, and because I really don’t know how to do anything otherwise.” Lopez has dedicated so much time and effort to this work, making many trips and spending countless hours researching and obtaining archival information from folks around the world, including Rivers’ daughter Monique and individuals at the RivBea Archive (named for the studio jazz loft Rivers and his wife Bea ran in the 1970s in New York City’s

NoHo district).

The research was nothing if not fruitful, though. Contained within the collection are nearly 600 images, many from the RivBea Archive, alongside a incredibly detailed and dedicated retelling of Sam Rivers’ sessions and life.

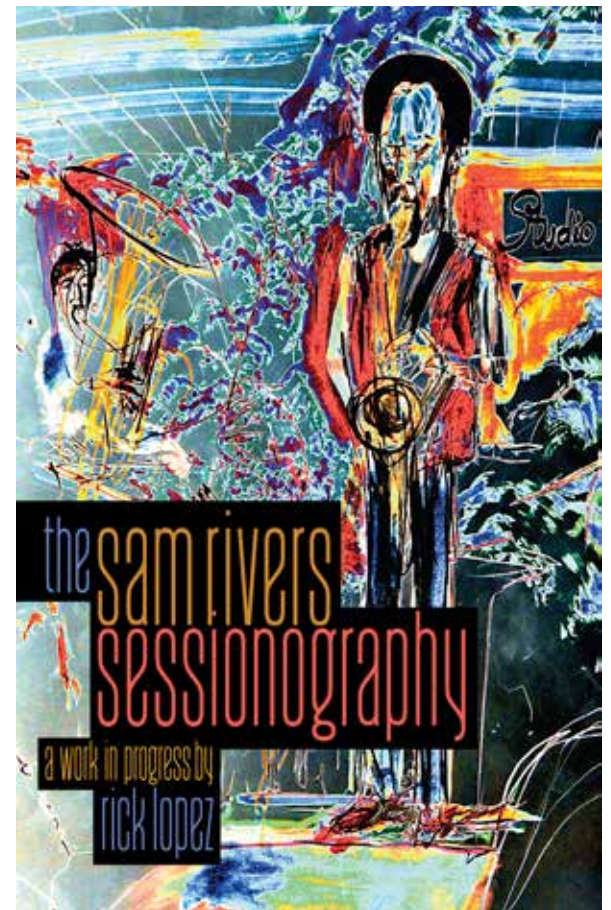
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[Sam] Rivers — whom [author Rick] Lopez describes as “the man who has come to define ‘deserving wider recognition’” — was born in El Reno, Okla. in 1923, becoming active in the jazz scene in the early 1950s. Most famously known for performing as a tenor saxophonist, he also performed on an array of other instruments, including bass clarinet, harmonica, and viola, among others.

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In the ending to his preface, Lopez perfectly sums up the passion, dedication, and incredible work poured into this collection, stating, “A single line would be sufficient preface in itself. Mr. Samuel Carthorne Rivers: Here is the shrine that I’ve built for you. I wish you were here to see it! And I pray that it is worthy.” — Ally Kutz

As of this writing, copies of the book are available via a \$65 donation to Lopez’s GoFundMe page for the project, which you



can find here: [gofundme.com/f/sam-rivers-sessionography](https://gofundme.com/f/sam-rivers-sessionography)

Lopez’s other works include the 2014 publication *The William Parker Sessionography* as well as digital sessionographies for Marilyn Crispell, Mary Halvorson, Glenn Spearman, and David S. Ware, which can be viewed on his website at [bb10k.com](http://bb10k.com)

## Thistlefoot

Stories take on new life in Nethercott’s debut novel

In a modern age of cell phones, the Internet, and flying cars (well, not quite yet), many tales of myth and folklore from our ancestral homelands feel as though they have lost most of the magic they once held, or have been lost entirely to a generation of people.

These stories, though, are an important component of GennaRose Nethercott’s debut novel, *Thistlefoot*, which follows Baba Yaga and her present-day ancestors. For those unfamiliar, Baba Yaga is a common Slavic folklore character, often depicted as a supernatural older woman who lives in a moving house that stands on chicken legs. Nethercott’s Baba Yaga, however, takes on a more matriarchal role, originating as the great-great grandmother of the story’s two main characters.

Estranged since childhood, the Yaga siblings — Isaac, a street performer and con artist, Bellatine, a woodworker — find themselves forced together again when a mysterious inheritance from a long-dead ancestor shows up at a loading dock in New York City.

They quickly discover that the inheritance isn’t land or money but is instead — you guessed it — a sentient house with chicken legs, which Bellatine names This-

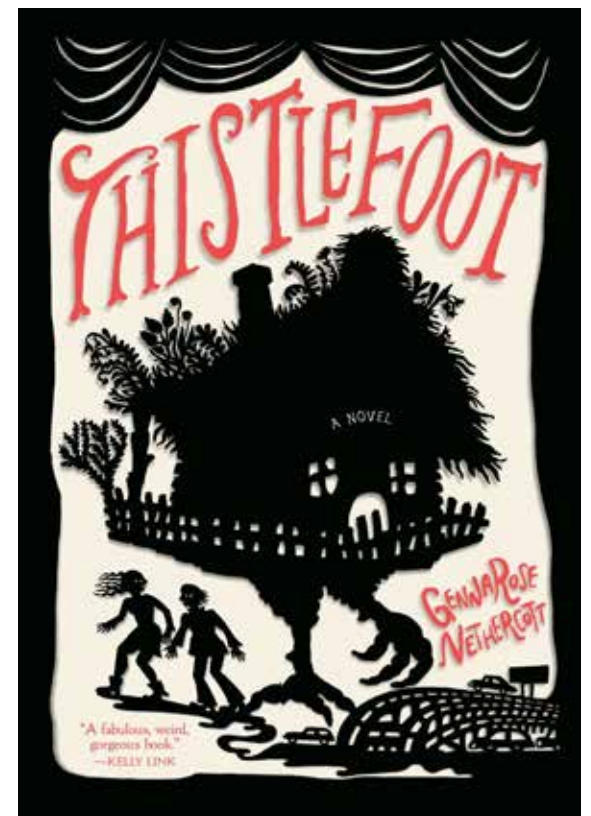
tlefoot. The two then agree to a plan to take the house on the road to perform as they had in childhood alongside their parents, putting on the puppet show *The Drowning Fool*, a mainstay of the Yaga family puppetry theater.

But *Thistlefoot* has not come to America alone: a sinister figure known only as the Longshadow Man has followed the house, bringing with him violent and tragic secrets from the past that were hidden in the Yaga bloodline for generations.

Nethercott’s writing performs the incredible feat of breathing life into this old tale and creating a space in which folklore and myth blur with reality. Her incredible prose leaps off the page, begging to be read, and gives new meaning to tales that have existed for centuries.

With characters that tug at heartstrings and pull you in, Nethercott’s family saga weaves into your consciousness so intricately that it is hard to separate yourself from the words on the page, creating the want and need for more of the Yaga siblings’ lives, long after the final page. — Ally Kutz

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# MOVIE REVIEWS

## Evil Dies Tonight?

*Halloween Ends* is both fascinating and frustrating



David Gordon Green’s *Halloween Trilogy* has proven to be a strange beast. After a by-the-numbers reboot and a shockingly inept sequel, his finale proves to be surprisingly interesting. Its plot about collective trauma and how monsters are made manages to be the most creative thing the series has done since the underrated *Halloween III*. Sadly all the intriguing premises keep getting interrupted by the stupid *Halloween* movie to which it’s attached. It becomes so disheartening to see such an interesting premise succumb to the ravages of banality.

Four years after Michael’s second rampage in Haddonfield, the townspeople are still suffering from the trauma of his memory. This trauma is transferred to a young man (Rohan Campbell, looking like a dead ringer for Michael Rooker in *Henry: Portrait of a Serial Killer*) accused of killing a boy he was babysitting. As the town’s torment drives the man further into madness, Laurie Strode (Jamie Lee Curtis) believes that the spirit of evil has found a new home.

With its pessimistic depiction of small-town life (literally every Haddonfield resident we meet is an awful person), this feels less like a *Halloween* film and more like a lost Stephen King adaptation. The change in tone is welcome, but sadly gets dropped so we can see Laurie fight Michael for the seventh time. *Halloween Ends* is half a great film — the wrong half, and the filmmakers don’t have the courage to truly move beyond the tired cliches of the slasher, making this the most frustrating entry in the series. Like the aforementioned *Halloween III*, this film would have benefited without a single frame of Michael Myers. — Forest Taylor

*Directed by: David Gordon Green // Written by: David Gordon Green, Chris Bernier, Paul Brad Logan, and Danny McBride // Starring: Jamie Lee Curtis, Andi Matchak, Rohan Campbell, Will Patton, Omar J. Dorsey, Jesse C. Boyd, Joanne Baron, Rick Moose, Michael Barbieri, Kyle Richards, and James Jude Courtney // 111 minutes // Rated R // Ryan Green/Universal*



## BOO!

Rob Zombie’s *The Munsters* is a strange experience



Shock-rocker turned film director Rob Zombie has had a strange career. After hitting the scene with ultra-violent exploitation throwbacks like *House of 1000 Corpses* and *The Devil’s Rejects*, he moved on to making polarizing avant garde horror films like *Halloween II* and *The Lords of Salem* (his best film). Naturally, the next step in his career would be a PG-rated family comedy based on his favorite TV sitcom. *The Munsters* is possibly the weirdest film released in years. It’s not a good film by any stretch of the imagination, but one that should be applauded for having the guts to be as unapologetically bad as it is.

In Transylvania, young Lily (Sheri Moon Zombie) is looking for love but the various monsters and ghouls she’s been dating have turned out to be duds. This all changes when she lays her eyes on an aspiring stand-up comedian/rock star named Herman Munster (Jeff Daniel Phillips). Their meeting is love at first sight and

nobody, not even Lily’s meddling father (Daniel Roebuck) can tear them apart.

With a script that is 90 percent dad jokes, garish colors (apparently the film was originally planned to be shot in black-and-white) and sets that look like they come from a middle school play, this film fails in every conceivable way. That said, it is refreshing to see something so unique in this world of algorithm driven, pre-approved content. It feels very much like Rob Zombie’s own vision (no studio executive would greenlight a script this bad) and that gives it its own kind of charm. Is *The Munsters* a bad film? Absolutely. Am I still recommending it? Yes. *The Munsters* is playing exclusively on Netflix. — Forest Taylor

*Written and directed by Rob Zombie, based on characters by Norm Liebmann and Ed Haas // Starring Jeff Daniel Phillips, Sheri Moon Zombie, Daniel Roebuck, Jorge Garcia, Richard Brake, Tomas Boykin, Sylvester McCoy, Dee Wallace, and Cassandra Peterson // 110 Minutes // Rated PG // Netflix*







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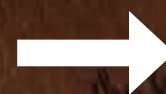
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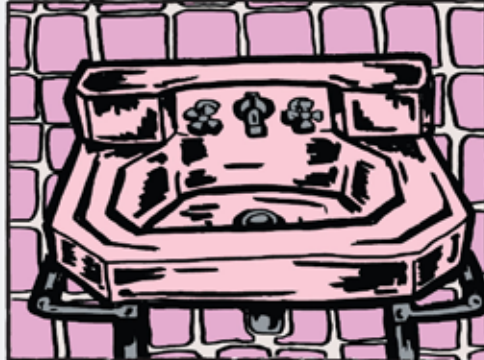
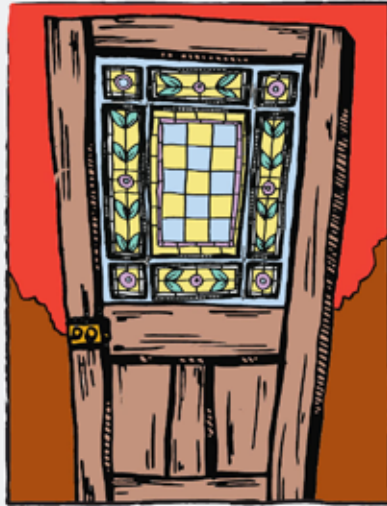


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ALBUM REVIEWS

**Freddie Gibbs**  
*\$oul \$old \$eparately*  
Warner Records  
★★★★

Most of the time, Freddie Gibbs comes across as a rapper's rapper. Even Pusha-T fans will admit that at this point in the rapper's career, he's creating something closer to "blockbuster rap" than telling actual tales from the street, and that's where a rapper like Gibbs excels. With a batting average as high as Gibbs', it's hard to be upset when he strays a little too far from his comfort zone. Enter *\$oul \$old \$eparately*, in which Gibbs drops the producer-specific joint projects with Madlib and The Alchemist in favor of a revolving door of producers, guest artists, and subgenres. Unfortunately, *\$oul \$old \$eparately* may be Gibbs' weakest project in nearly a decade, but that really only speaks to his strengths as a rapper. It's a shame that some of the best songs on here are those produced by familiar faces ("Blackest in the Room," "CIA") because it's charming to hear the rapper try some new things. It's hard not to smile at the dirty synthetic horns on opener "Couldn't Be Done," or the '90s underground chorus of "Pain & Strife." But on that same track that throws back to such a specific sound, it's misguided to feature Offset (of rap trio Migos). *\$oul \$old \$eparately* is an album full of admirable swings, though your mileage may vary depending on your preferred style of hip-hop. — Aaron Mook



**Brooke Surgener**  
*Moon Waves*  
Lucky Cat Chambers  
★★★★★

After four years of various singles and a self-titled EP, the debut album from Erie's own Brooke Surgener has arrived, and it sounds every bit as sweet as the songs for which she's become known. *Moon Waves* is a singer-songwriter's album through and through, chock-full of organic instrumentation and melodies carried by Surgener's soft vocals, occasionally bordering on a whisper. Surgener's voice adds a delicate texture to songs that are already clear-cut about their subject matter; take for instance "Tidal Waves," which recalls the presence of a lost loved one, or the deceptively simple "For My Dog," a sweet and straightforward ode to our love affair with (hu)man's best friend. But for every song designed to make listeners think or feel, there's another designed to put a smile on your face. "I hate you the least/It's my highest compliment to enjoy some company," she sings, against smooth slide guitars on the track "I Hate You the Least." Even better is "Gimme Gimme," which opens with dreamy guitars before transforming into a hand-clapping doo-wop song that is impossible to forget. On *Moon Waves*, Surgener has solidified her sound with a debut devoid of filler; the exciting part is seeing what she tries next. — Aaron Mook



**Higher Vibration**  
*From Rivers to Oceans*  
Self-produced  
★★★★★

Local reggae band Higher Vibration drops 44 minutes of feel-good tracks on their newest album *From Rivers to Oceans* on all music platforms. With eight songs packed full of inspirational lyrics, danceable melodies, and bright guitars, this album will take you on a spiritual and introspective journey. *From Rivers to Oceans* is a self-produced project featuring Kyle Hammer on vocals and guitar, Jake Van Hooser on the bass, and Derek Sloppy on the drums. The first track, titled "I&I," starts off strong with a heavy guitar solo that leads into motivational verses about manifesting life's passions outside of a 9 to 5 job, before rolling right back into more unique guitar effects almost comparable to dub-step. "New Sound" really drives home the way Higher Vibration recreated their sound and image for this project, and lyrically gives us an insight on why they chose to become musicians and pursue this passion. The track "Fall of Babylon" is a smooth and melodic piece, featuring a unique instrument called a melodica (relative of the harmonica). "Confluence" is a short instrumental that preludes perfectly into the very last song, the eponymous "From Rivers to Oceans" which is a whopping 8 minutes and 30 seconds and shines a light on how talented these three musicians are together. — Cypher Eihwaz



**Kelly's Brother**  
*Regifting the Gifts We've Been Given*  
Self-released  
★★★★★

A beautiful and heartfelt work, the debut album from Kelly's Brother is certainly one worth looking into. Living firmly within the folk genre, the duo consists of Charlie Krugger and Brittany Barko Krugger. Charlie provides lead vocals, five-string banjo, and drums, while Brittany plays guitar, drums, and sings as well (with "Cosmic Banquet" and "In Her Time" consisting entirely of vocals and Taos gathering drums). Conceptually, in their own words the album is "a project that offers a glimpse into the hidden world of simplicity and joy that has been revealed to them through their sister with special needs," Kelly Mae Krugger. An album of admirable depth and concept, it's continually loving and thoughtful. While the lyrics are at times brilliant and clearly well-envisioned, it is the instrumental work that most stands out here. Perhaps it's Charlie's vocals that too often reveal themselves in an Anthony Kiedis-like affectation, sometimes to a distracting degree, but the gorgeous musical passages are self-evident from the opening track, "Kelly's Song" and onward. Highlights include "Love Alone," "Falling Leaf (Harmony)," and "Reckoning (Ukraine)." It's a different kind of album, a bold offering with tinges of Christian ideals that never overtake the overall message and mission of the band itself, but work in tandem with it. — Nick Warren



TOMMY IN TOON — BY TOMMY LINK



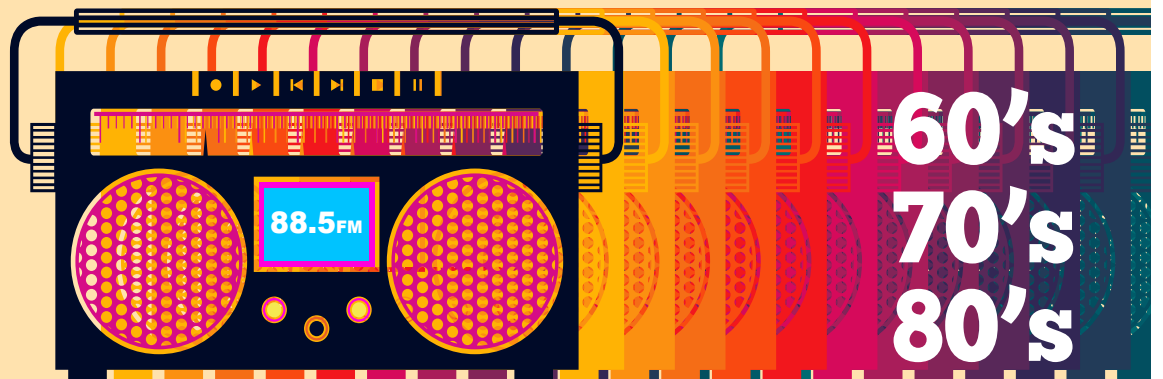


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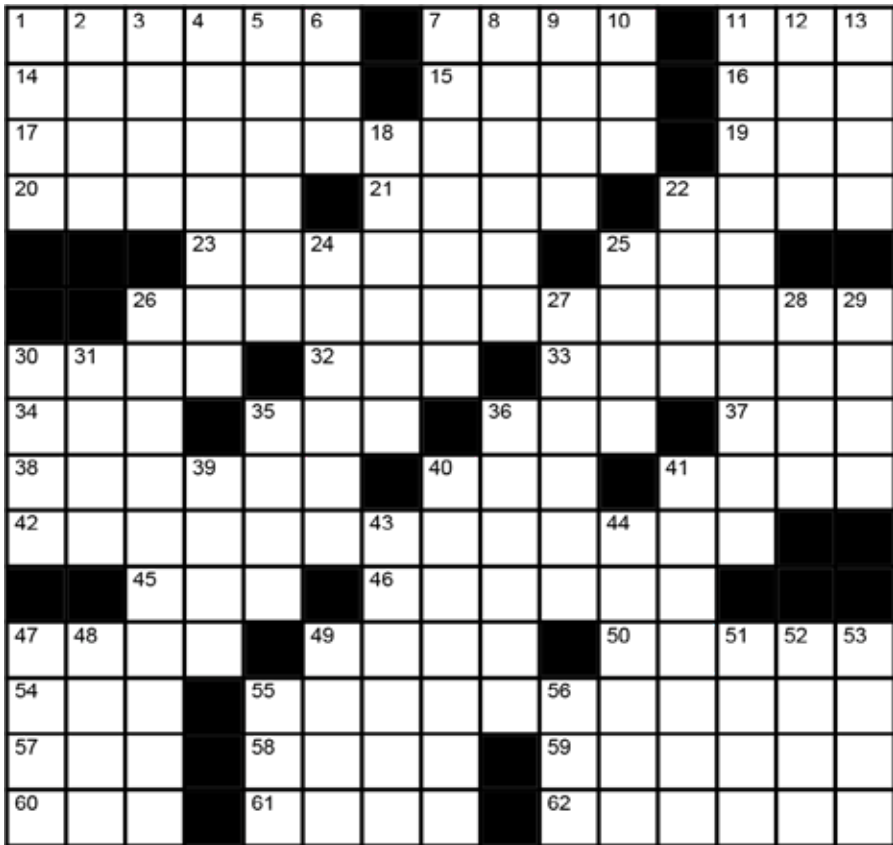
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- Pixar clownfish
- Memorable 2021 hurricane
- Japanese soup ingredients that continue to spam your inbox when you click 55-Across?
- 72, say, for a golf course
- Product whose name comes from the French for "without caffeine"
- "\_\_\_ Flux" (2005 Charlize Theron film)
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- Castaway's "Help!"
- Setting for 400+ miles of the Euphrates: Abbr.
- Channel with the slogan "Boom."
- 1984 Best New Artist Grammy winner
- 130 and 140 are high

## Down

- Therefore
- "Mary \_\_\_ little lamb ..."
- Alma mater of Percy Bysshe Shelley
- Neil Armstrong made one giant leap for it
- 1844 Verdi opera
- Italian "god"
- "Yes, \_\_\_!"
- Make further advances?
- Dark clouds, e.g.
- "Nein "and "nyet," for two
- Humdinger
- Very little, as of

## mustard

- Podcaster Maron
- Participants in a regatta, perhaps
- Secretary of State after Muskie
- On the job
- Instruction in risotto recipes
- DIY moving rental
- Bottomless pits
- Mia Hamm's jersey number
- They know the drill: Abbr.
- Org. whose website ran the headline "See You in Court" immediately after Donald Trump was elected U.S. president
- Gorilla expert Fossey
- Brief periods of time
- It merged with Bristol-Myers in 1989
- Some trivia venues
- They serve burgers on the West Coast
- Wish harm upon
- Chinese revolutionary Sun \_\_\_
- "\_\_\_ By Golly, Wow" (1972 hit by the Stylistics)
- "Red Table Talk" host \_\_\_ Pinkett Smith
- Gorillas, e.g.
- From square one
- "Knives Out" director Johnson
- "Hamilton" won one in 2015
- "Now, where \_\_\_ we?"
- Subject of many a conspiracy theory
- Valvoline rival



## Answers to last puzzle







# THE JEFFERSON EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY'S GLOBAL SUMMIT 2022

Wednesday, November 2 – Tuesday, December 13

## WEEK TWO

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2022 AT 7:30 P.M.

**The Future of Tradeskills** **Tom Bodett, Jett**, author, humorist, and longtime voice of Motel 6, joins the talented lineup of the Jefferson Global Summit 2022.

Location: Jefferson Educational Society.



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2022 AT 7:30 P.M.

**José Muñoz** Expert will talk about innovative strategies for schools. **Community Schools: A Model Locally, a Model Nationally**

Location: Jefferson Educational Society



Brian Polito



Reuben Jacobson

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2022 AT 7:00 P.M.

**Fiona Hill** Former foreign policy adviser to three American presidents testified at former President Trump's first impeachment trial. **Policy, Politics, and International Affairs: From U.S.-Russian relations to her critically acclaimed book, 'There Is Nothing for You Here'**

Location: Gannon University's Highmark Events Center, 620 Peach Street



## WEEK THREE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2022 AT 7:30 P.M.

**Jay Cost** Conservative writer and author focuses on politics, election, and public opinion at the American Enterprise Institute.

**James Madison: America's First Politician**

Location: Jefferson Educational Society



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2022 AT 7:30 P.M.

**John C. Austin** Expert on Great Lakes and Midwest economies helped transform Michigan's economy. **Rejuvenating Industrial Heartlands: Key to Heal Polarized Politics and Strengthening Western Democracy**

Location: Gannon University's Yehl Room Waldron Campus Center



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2022 AT 7:30 P.M.

**James Fallows** and **Deborah Fallows**

Authors, writers, and friends of the Jefferson specialize in coverage of news, culture, and trends. **How America's Towns are Writing the Nation's Future**

Location: Gannon University's Yehl Room Waldron Campus Center



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2022 AT 7:30 P.M.

**Rev. Charles Brock** This year's recipient of the Thomas B. Hagen Dignitas Award will discuss democracy in crisis. **John Milton, Abigail Adams & Thomas Jefferson: Revolution Yesterday and Tyranny Today?**

Location: Jefferson Educational Society



## WEEK FOUR

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2022 AT 7:30 P.M.

**John Dickerson**

Chief political analyst for CBS News and senior national correspondent is also a writer and author. **Future of the American Presidency**

Location: Gannon University's Yehl Room Waldron Campus Center



MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2022 AT 7:30 P.M.

**Al Hunt** and **Judy Woodruff**

National media personalities and spouses Al Hunt and Judy Woodruff comment on American politics **An Evening with Al Hunt and Judy Woodruff**

Location: Gannon University's Yehl Room Waldron Campus Center



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2022 AT 7:30 P.M.

**Making Maps, Telling Stories, Opening Minds**

Respected geographer, cartographer & storyteller **Allen Carroll** is the featured speaker in the Summit finale.

Location: Jefferson Educational Society



For more information, visit [www.jeserie.org](http://www.jeserie.org)  
Free admission to all events for Erie County Students who pre-register