

# Graduation brings family together with its own special circumstances

My 94-year-old aunt barged my oldest daughter who was graduating with her master’s degree in architecture last Sunday with questions.

While I was not sure how Laura would respond, I cannot say I had any intention of stopping the onslaught of questions, as I was learning more than I probably would have, had I been doing the asking.

And she most certainly did. She asked what it meant to be an architect and how Laura would find a job.

Where was Laura applying for a job and why? She asked if there would always be a need for architects and what the process of an architect’s job and responsibilities are?

Why didn’t Laura want to stay in Milwaukee, and when she learned she wanted to go South, why in the world she would want to do that, especially Texas.

Our original intent was that my aunt would join us for Laura’s graduation ceremony at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee.

The format of the graduation had changed from a virtual one, to an in person one to then a hybrid graduation.

My 80-year-old mom flew out for the momentous occasion and arrangements were made for my mom to spend the night at my aunt’s while Larry slept on the coach and I slept on an air mattress at Laura’s apartment.

We arrived in Milwaukee



A SLICE OF LIFE

Linda Wilk



on Saturday, going to lunch at the downtown Milwaukee’s Market, then walked a little along the lake front before my mom tired sending us back to Laura’s apartment.

Later that afternoon we went to my aunt’s where we took a tour of the Concordia University at Mequon campus where they have a breathtaking landscape along the waterfront and a copper looking statue of Jesus and one of his disciples in a boat.

We then decided to take a chance and drive to a remote area to a restaurant called the Jail House that my cousin owns. As we drove into the parking lot, I decided it might be best to go in first to see if they could accommodate us. To my surprise my cousin, who owns the restaurant, was the hostess and immediately remembered me as I worked my



Laura Wilk and her grandmother, Betty Renken, who flew in to Milwaukee for her granddaughter’s graduation.

way through the crowded entryway and bar area. She could not believe Laura was already graduating. We had first stopped at her restaurant when Laura and I came to Milwaukee looking for an apartment two years earlier.

Despite the restaurant being full, of course she had a table for us on the main floor, knowing neither my mom nor aunt could traverse up the long set of stairs where the majority of seating was.

A wonderful pre-graduation meal was had by all and from there we went back to my aunt’s where the after-dinner conversation and questioning began, which Laura handled quite well, maybe considering it a mock

interview for a prospective job.

Then came Sunday, the day we had been awaiting. We picked up my mom from my aunts at noon, said our tearful goodbyes to my aunt, knowing this may be the last time I see her. We are moving Laura out of her apartment Memorial Day weekend so coming back to Milwaukee is less likely.

My aunt decided that attending even a hybrid graduation was too much for her, so she did not come. So, my mom, Larry, myself and Laura went to the architecture school where Laura had only spent one semester of her two-year program.

Laura found a classroom where she was able to hook up her laptop and project the zoom graduation on to a screen where not only did, we get to see the graduation, another student and his family watched it.

After the virtual graduation, we went outside where each of the graduates were given a congratulatory rolled up note from the university, and a photo op with the faculty. Many photos were taken, and congratulations was shouted.

It was a perfect day with what COVID 19 allowed. Now Laura will be spending a couple weeks relaxing and touring the countryside before moving on to the next step of her life – adulthood as one of her aunts said in her congratulatory text to Laura.

## Weekly schedule

May 20-27

Thursday, May 20

10 a.m. – Quilters Hall of Fame Exhibit, Quilters Hall of Fame, 926 South Washington Street, Marion. Hollis Chatelain: A Retrospective Quilt Journey. Through her work that addresses challenging social and environmental themes, Hollis reflects 12 years’ experience living in West Africa and working with humanitarian organizations, as well as 35 years’ experience as a professional artist. Admission \$4, \$3 for seniors and students, \$1 for children ages 6-12, and free for children under 6 years of age. Exhibit open Tuesday – Saturday.

Friday, May 21

10 a.m. – Quilters Hall of Fame Exhibit, see May 20.

Saturday, May 22

10 a.m. – Quilters Hall

of Fame Exhibit, see May 20.

10 a.m. – Mama Pearson’s Spring Market, Mama Pearson’s Soaporium, 125 West Main Street, Gas City. Join us as we celebrate Spring. Our outdoor market has a high quality vendor selection, so shop for the perfect gifts for others and for yourself. Handcrafted, vintage, boutique items, farmhouse style vibes, primitives, customizable goods, garden plants, and more. Food trucks, music, shopping while our store celebrates Spring bath & body scents.

10 a.m. – American Legion Car Show, American Legion Post 10, 1700 Pennsylvania Avenue, Marion. Join us for a fun day full of beautiful and classic cars. The 33rd Annual Laurence Moreland Memorial Car

Show. Rain date May 29, 2021. Entry Fee \$15. Awards include People’s Choice, Ladies Choice, Best Custom, Best Paint, Best Engine, Best Interior and Top 25. Judging from 12pm-2-m. Awards ceremony 3pm. Cheeseburger Plate \$5 and Hot Dog Plate \$3 available onsite. Contact Jeff at 765-603-7159 for additional information.

7 p.m. – The LeFevre Quartet with The Shirah Brothers, Epworth United Methodist Church, Matthews. Presented by the Epworth United Methodist Church. Doors open at 6:00pm. \$10 in advance or at the door if available. A love offering will be received. Limited seating due to covid-19 restrictions. To guarantee your seats, please purchase tickets in advance online or by call/text to

765-677-0842. The LeFevre Quartet has decades of incredible music behind them and continues to blaze new trails in Gospel Music. The Shirah Brothers are three brothers who share their love for singing Southern Gospel Music and love to share God’s word through music.

7:30 p.m. – Gas City I-69 Speedway All-Star Shootout, Gas City I-69 Speedway, 5871 East 500 South, Gas City. Ollie’s Bargain Outlet All Star Circuit of Champions winged sprint cars, All Star TQ Midgets. Adult General Admission \$15, Children 12 & Under Free, Pit Pass \$30. Special event night prices range from \$18-\$25 for adult general admission. Pit Gates open 3pm, GA Gates open 5pm, Hot Laps 6:45pm. Racing Starts 7:30pm. Tickets

available at the speedway ticket office the day of the event. Concessions available. Free parking. Check our website, social media or call the track for current weather related updates.

Sunday, May 23

10 a.m. – Quilters Hall of Fame Exhibit, see May 20.

3 p.m. – Bad Dad Brewing Co. Cyclist Meetup, Bad Dad Brewery, 407 West Washington Street, Fairmount. Bad Dad Brewing Co. and Marion CycleWorks are partnering to welcome all bicyclists to meet up at Bad Dad Brewing Co. Cyclists that ride in will receive a complimentary Bad Dad Koozie and there will be pizza and beer specials available. Ride in with your friends for an afternoon of pizza, beer, and music in our beer garden.

Plan to arrive between 3 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Monday, May 24

10 a.m. – Quilters Hall of Fame Exhibit, see May 20.

Tuesday, May 25

10 a.m. – Quilters Hall of Fame Exhibit, see May 20.

Wednesday, May 26

10 a.m. – Quilters Hall of Fame Exhibit, see May 20.

Thursday, May 27

10 a.m. – Quilters Hall of Fame Exhibit, see May 20.

4 p.m. – Marion Walkway of Lights Mix and Mingle Social, The Kingdom Stage, 111 North Boots Street, Marion. Join Walkway of Lights board members, our volunteers, and our sponsors as we celebrate and spread awareness about this year’s Walkway of Lights event. Mix, mingle, and be of good cheer!