

Time with friends proves to be an enjoyable excursion

By Linda Wilk

I was jolted awake on the drive home from visiting friends in Michigan when my book fell between my feet and made a loud thud.

I did not realize just how wore out I was until that moment. My husband Larry, who was driving, commented, how I had not done that in some time. I confessed that while I truly enjoyed our weekend excursion, Larry’s high school friend’s wife was exhausting.

We had driven a lot of miles these past few weeks. In fact, our four-day stint to and from Austin Texas I had managed to read three Michael Connelly’ mysteries.

This weekend was different though. We went and visited one of Larry’s best friends from high school. A guy he golfed with in high school and who was one of our groomsmen in our wedding.



A SLICE OF LIFE
Linda Wilk

Unlike Larry, his friend Dave never left the town they grew up in. He and his wife Deb, instead settled in Standish Michigan, where they raised two children.

The trip was to play golf at Lakewood Shores the Gailes in Oscoda, Mich. Originally Dave, who had won two rounds of golf at the course planned to play with his dad. However, his dad died in March, so Dave

asked Larry to play in some ways as a memorial to Dave and Larry’s dads who had played golf with their sons as a foursome growing up. Larry’s dad died nine years ago from cancer.

My only request was that while the men golfed, I had something to do, as opposed to sitting at their house and spending time with Deb, a real talker, hearing about the family and life in a small Michigan town.

While I have gotten to know both Dave and his wife, Deb, over the years, my knowledge of all those who did and still do live in the town of Standish where the three of them grew up is not as deep.

So, thankfully Larry did some internet research and found what appeared to be a possibility – an art show in downtown Oscoda. That meant that it would logically make sense that all four of us would go together since the golf course in Oscoda

was an hour from Standish.

As we neared the golf course, Deb and I started seeing signs for rummages, which also piqued our interest. So, after dropping Larry and Dave off at the golf club, we began our day.

We ventured down a winding, gravel covered, dirt road to a home that sat by itself with various rummage items, among which were a set of golf clubs and a PGA golf bag. Deb, who had steel shaft golf clubs decided buying these ladies clubs that had graphite shafts might improve her game. In talking with the homeowner and negotiating the price, we learned this rummage was one of 24 in the area and the homeowner even supplied us with a map.

We were then off to an adventure that lasted three hours and took us down many roads lined with forests of trees and lake front houses, with one house in particular having a back yard where the

deck led to the water where a pontoon boat was docked.

We spent so much time rummaging that after stopping briefly for food, and a walk down a pier off Lake Huron, it was time to pick up Larry and Dave from the golf course.

Since we did not have time for the art and craft show, that meant Larry and Dave had the pleasure of also walking the tents before leaving Oscoda and heading to Tawas for more sightseeing, another pier and window shopping.

That evening we were treated to chicken and all the fixings from Iva’s Chicken Dinners, established in 1938, in nearby Sterling. The chicken dinner brought back memories for all three, who had the chicken from there many times growing up.

Probably the most momentous part of the trip was Sunday morning when Larry and Dave decided to take Deb and I

golfing to Pine Ridge Golf Club in Standish to play nine holes of golf.

The Pine Ridge Golf Club was the home course for the Standish-Sterling High School Golf Team and from the sounds of things not much had changed as far as the condition of the greens. As we went from hole to hole, Larry commented about the condition of the course, water holes and bunkers or trees that were no longer there and just how tough one particular hole remained.

We finished our weekend trip down memory lane with lunch at Wheeler’s Restaurant – another small-town fixture, having opened in 1935.

It was overall a great weekend of recalling the past and reconnecting with dear friends. It was also a time to remember that while life does not stand still, sometimes life does not change as much as one might believe.

FSS to hold annual Circle of Friends with Ignite speaker Lee Prosenjak

Family Service Society, Inc. (FSSI) hosts the 17th Annual Circle of Friends event, presented by Charlie and Bernie Wallace on Tuesday, Aug. 17 at Indiana Wesleyan University’s Barnes Student Center. The event is from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., and will feature keynote speaker, Lee Prosenjak.

Circle of Friends is the second largest fundraiser of the year and is critical for aiding Family Service Society, Inc.’s ability to meet the needs of clients across the community. This year’s goal is to raise \$60,000.

Formatted as a luncheon, corporations and individuals pay sponsorships, bringing with them friends



and supporters to learn about the agency and the mission. Each year there is a different topic that is mission centric to the organization and community needs.

“We are excited to be able to organize this event and to be able to host it in-person”, stated Iris Brunner, Marketing & Development Director for FSSI. “Circle of Friends is important for us to share our mission, to offer the opportunity for a nationally known speaker to share their knowledge with

our community, and most importantly, raise funds to continue helping children and families.”

This year, Family Service Society, Inc. is proud to welcome Lee Prosenjak, a Simon Sinek Ignite Leadership member, as he comes to present on the wildly popular topic:

“Start with Why” Any person or organization can explain what they do, some can explain how they are different are better than their peers, but very few can clearly articulate why. The why is not about money or profit — those are results. The why is the thing that inspires us and inspires those around us. Learn how the why can act as a filter for our every

thought, action and behavior, giving us an alternative perspective on our organizations, careers and lives.

Lee first met Simon Sinek at a conference in 2007, prior to Simon’s widely known Ted Talk. After hearing Simon’s message, Lee immediately called his wife, Stephanie, and said, “We’re leading our business the wrong way.” Lee skipped the remainder of the conference fervently writing in his notebook all he needed to do to put his WHY into practice immediately.

Everything Lee Prosenjak does is to create art so that everyone can discover their own inspiration, love and greatness. He embodies

enthusiasm, cultivates cohesive work groups, and facilitates the conversations that truly matter.

Lisa Dominisse, President/CEO of FSSI says, “Every difficult and dark time provides opportunities. The pandemic has provided us with clarity around the importance of inspiring hope in those who feel hopeless. And at this event, we circle OUR friends around the table, to embrace through our giving, those who feel lost and hopeless. Lee’s message inspires each of us to get in touch with our why and bring that to fruition in service to others. I believe each of us will leave the room on fire to change lives for good; and my

hope is we make that fire burn bright in our community for the benefit of all.”

To sponsor the Circle of Friends event or to purchase tickets please visit, www.famservices.com/cof or contact Jenny Artherhults, 765-662-9971 x 106 or jarterhults@famerservices.com.

Seating is limited and reservations are required to attend. The reservation deadline is Aug. 10, 2021 or when all seats have been filled. It is encouraged that you do not wait as seating sells out quickly.

For more information about Simon Sinek Ignite Leaders, please visit <https://simonsinek.com/about/#our-igniters>.

Grant-Blackford Mental Health announces new senior officers

Grant-Blackford Mental Health, Inc. (GBMH) announced two new additions to its organization’s senior management team on Monday.

Stacey Lohse joins GBMH as Senior Human Resources Director today, and Connie Woods, Corporate Compliance Officer, will join the GBMH team on July 30.

“We are excited to add two well-rounded



leaders to our growing leadership team,” said Dr. Marianne (Mari) DiMatteo, GBMH President and Chief Executive Officer. “As GBMH continues to

grow as an organization and look to an exciting future, we are very pleased that experienced professionals from the region are choosing to join our team to help us as we take advantage of new opportunities to provide comprehensive behavioral health services to our most vulnerable individuals in our local communities.”

Lohse joins GBMH with years of experi-

ence in human resources, compliance and related areas. She most recently worked at Kosciusko Medical Group as Director of Physician Practices, and she spent many years before that at Bowen Center in Warsaw, where she served as Vice President of Corporate Integrity, Vice President of Risk Management, Corporate Compliance Officer, and Privacy Officer.

Woods will join GBMH from Marion General Hospital, where she most recently was Administrative Director of Laboratory Operations. In that role, she supervised more than 50 people throughout seven locations. Much of her laboratory management experience included responsibilities with regard to compliance and regulatory issues.

“These two new sen-

ior officers will help GBMH continue to develop the infrastructure we need as we seek to better serve Grant and Blackford counties and seek to expand our services in coming days,” DiMatteo said. “It’s an exciting time at GBMH and the addition of these key leaders strategically allows GBMH to better serve our communities in the future.”