



VOYAGER

North Star* Liberal Arts / Creative Writing & Literature

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* Jinny Beyer Quilt Pattern

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CORE VALUE: RESPECT FOR HUMAN DIGNITY



“For now, let us simply observe that the assault on human dignity is one of the prime goals of the visitation of fear, a prelude to the domination of the mind and the triumph of power”

• Wole Soyinka, Nigerian Novelist

Awarded the 1986 Nobel Prize in Literature for his work that "in a wide cultural perspective and with poetic overtones fashions the drama of existence."

LIVING VILLA'S MISSION

The PTA and OTA students are sponsoring two needy families for the Christmas holidays. If you would like to support their efforts, there is a list of requests near the PTA Faculty offices – or donate cash to one of the PTA or OTA faculty who will go shopping for you!



“Lord, I can’t preach like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr or Jesse Jackson or turn a poetic / phrase like Maya Angelou, but I care, and I’m willing to serve, and to use what talents / I have to build a world of peace.”

Marian Wright Edelman, from “I Care and I’m Willing to Serve”

Activist for the rights of children, advocate for disadvantaged Americans, and founder and president of the Children’s Defense Fund.

“Writers are thieves. Writers have always been thieves of the most cunning sort, plucking seeds from wherever they can and helping them grow to blossoms. And very rarely are these writers ashamed of their theft when they become prize winning blooms. The only sometimes feel shame if, and whom, their stocky fingers at last get caught tending their stolen sprouts to maturity.”

• *Victoria Cobel, Introduction to THE SEED THIEF, part of her senior project in Creative Writing & Literature.*

SPRING '17 COURSE REGISTRATION

Have you signed up for courses yet? While many course sections are closed or reaching their caps, there are still options in your Core Perspective courses such as ANT 201 Dwelling, ENG 316 Contemporary World Literature, ENG 330 African American Literature, PHI 200 Intro to Philosophy, PSC 201 American Government, and PSY 101 General Psychology.

“The capacity to learn is a gift. The ability to learn is a skill. The willingness to learn is a choice.”

- Brian Herbert, son of Frank Herbert Sci-Fi & Fantasy Author of Dune



MUSIC REVIEW: TINY RHYMES

By Alex Braun

On November 22, Villa Maria College faculty and students were bestowed with a talented musical duo that call themselves Tiny Rhymes. Originally, Tiny Rhymes is comprised of six members: lead vocalist and guitarist Sharon Mok, cellist and vocalist Katie Weissman, violinist and vocalist Kathryn Koch, harmony vocalist Lindsey Holland, bassist Bean Friend, and finally percussionist John Smigielski. Their genre of music is made up of three different styles that include: folk, chamber (orchestral), and singer-songwriter. Together, their style is known as Chamber Folk music. Unfortunately, the entire ensemble was unable to attend the show, which left the audience at Villa to listen to vocalist and guitarist Sharon Mok and harmony vocalist Lindsey Holland, but it was an unbelievable show!

Now, I'm a huge fan of a 60s folk duo known as Simon and Garfunkel who wrote amazing stories with powerful deep meanings that were delivered in such graceful harmonies while Simon accompanied them with his melodic guitar playing. I remember listening to them one night and thinking there won't

ever be another duo that would ever come close to their playing field, but then I saw Tiny Rhymes. Both Mok and Holland delivered the same type of messages and meanings in their originals, as would Simon and Garfunkel. The way they presented their songs and delivered the lyrics to the audience was just mesmerizing. Once they started singing, you could just feel the energy of the room changing as the audience zoned in on what they were singing. It almost felt like they put you in a trance and then have you imagine yourself being placed in the setting of their story and watching it unfold before you. My favorite part was when the harmonies came in because they were so rich and tight that you felt a sort of relief take over you from any negative thoughts you may have been suffering from.

I personally found nothing wrong with the performance because I truly appreciate music like theirs, and the style they present it in. It was nice to see a modern version of classic folk music played just as beautifully as the original version. Overall, I would say this concert was a very relaxing, meditative, enjoyable concert was a very relaxing, meditative, enjoyable experience that many others should consider going to see Tiny Rhymes for themselves.



FILM RESPONSE: Barry Levinson's AVALON

By Alexandra Lipinski

When I was younger, I read Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*, one of my favorite dystopian novels. The story intrigued me, but I never thought anything like that could ever happen. However, as families are growing apart, the idea that children are raised without a mother or a father or even a family doesn't seem entirely impossible.

Over the years, due to technological advancements, families have drifted apart. The once joyful family gatherings around the dinner table have become rock hard, frozen dinners around the TV while the children play Candy Crush on their iPhones. It's a disgrace.

In *Avalon*, the Krichinsky Family is shown surrounding the dinner table as they talk, laugh, eat, and enjoy their Thanksgiving dinner. As the movie progresses and television is invented, the Krichinsky Family seems to grow apart as they gather around the television instead of sharing family stories. This was the beginning of the technology movement, and it's still progressing.

There are pros and cons to any situation, and though technology has definitely made work and connecting with others easier over the years, it has still taken a huge bite out of family. Technology helps us connect with other people around the globe, but it also disconnects us from the people right next to us. Children playing video games while adults text their friends at the dinner table is not okay. We should be talking with our families, laughing over what happened at school today or venting about how much work you had to do. Share stories, not tweets.

We should welcome the advancements that technology brings while being aware of the disadvantages.

FILM RESPONSE: Barry Levinson's AVALON

by Grace Doll

Some of the memories I hold dearest are the ones that involve being with my family. Everyone sitting around the table, drinking wine and beer, laughing, debating, and storytelling. When the opening scene of *Avalon* began I could feel that same sense of warmth that family brings. The film chronicles the journey of a Jewish-American family as they make their home in this country, and the many struggles and triumphs they face.

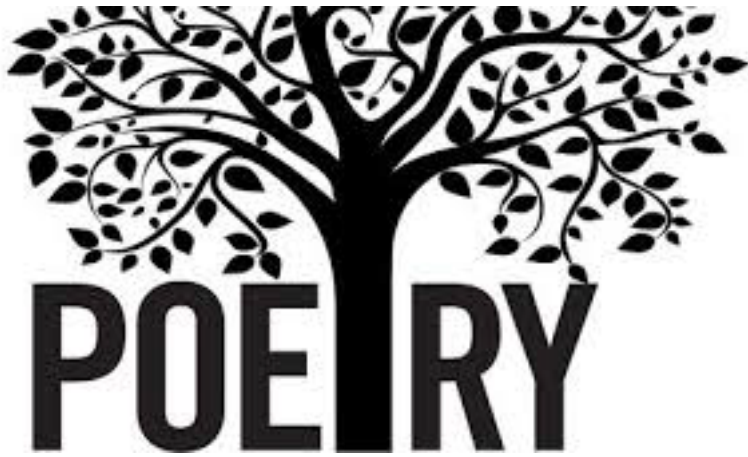
One aspect of the movie that I found interesting, and relatable, was the dynamic between the matriarch of the family, and her son's wife. The classic mother in law vs. young mother tensions were played out by small nuances and blatant disagreements the two woman had as they attempted to fulfill their roles and hold onto their respective positions in the household. A strong example was the mother-in-law refusing to get in the vehicle with her daughter-in-law, Anne. The older woman believes that women should not be able to drive and feels unsafe with Anne behind the wheel. This bothers Anne immensely as she feels it is a

slight at her. "It's just another example of how she can't do things right." The one time she can finally convince her husband's mother to let her drive, a train car goes off the tracks and hits their empty car; luckily everyone was safe, but that doesn't stop the remarks about why she shouldn't have been trusted to drive from pouring in. This incident turns into a family argument as Anne turns to her husband to defend her honor (another common dispute in marriages) and brings up true feelings of resentment. The subtle controlling issues are brought up in this scene as the couple goes to leave for an evening out and Anne can't find her jacket, when she is informed that it was sent to the cleaners without her knowledge because it was dirty. Implying that she can't take care of her belongings on her own. But, picking her battles she doesn't argue and leaves the house angry at her in law, and frustrated with her husband for not having more control on the situation.

Another large part of the film I found sadder, yet also inevitable was the changing of family. The opening scene radiated closeness, and desire to be together. By the end of the film it's just Jules and his family sitting quietly in front of the television eating dinner in silence. This dissolving of family happens as children grow older, people move farther, and life gets busier. This was a digression from all the children sitting together and playing and all the adults together in the entire extended family, to smaller gatherings and relatives bunching together. By the ending of the movie the grandpa is getting dementia while Jules and Anne sit around their table with him and barely say a word. Earlier in the film when they all lived together the grandparents sat at the table bickering and Jules and Anne sat diffusing the situation, the whole environment seemed lively and authentic. The change to the end was sad because the television that originally brought the family together in the living room gathered around ended up being the very thing that aided in their separation.

These are things I have noticed in my family. When I was younger we were all surrounded by each other and as we grew and life changed we all saw less of each other. In addition, cell phones are to us what the television was to them. There are many times when a lull in the conversation comes and I look up to see that it's because half the room is checking Facebook instead of communicating.

The film *Avalon* was relatable and interesting. I think the writers and actors were able to subtly cover huge topics that most families face. In the end they all still loved each other but their closeness had dissipated. Perhaps when all the nieces and nephews begin to have kids again a new generation of family time will begin, and all the warmth will be restored.



HONORING OUR FOREMOTHERS

By Romona Harkness

Was it bad enough we were burned, tortured, drowned
and viewed as witches from the 1400-1700s?
Martha Carrier, Elizabeth Clark, Bridget Bishop, I honor you.

Was it bad enough we were we were sterilized
based on our families curse and socioeconomic status,
falling victim to dictatorship over our bodies,
due to the lack of justice?
Dr. Charlotte Lozier, Margaret Sanger, I honor you.

Was it bad enough we couldn't vote until 1920?
Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, I honor you.

Was it bad enough we struggled to fight for love,
not the love that our husbands and fathers demanded of us?
Real love, the love we showed loud and proud in the 60's
when we decided that there was no greater love
than the love we gave ourselves and to those like us.
Was it bad enough we weren't good enough to do "a man's job?"
Alice Paul, Martha W. Griffins, Betty Friedan, Estelle Griswold, I honor you.

Was it bad enough they tried to force us
to keep a predator's bastard child in the 70's?
Norma McCorvey, I honor you.

Was it bad enough in the 80's our husbands
were the "head and master" of the property we shared?
Joan Feenstra, I honor you.

Was it bad enough in the 90's
we weren't considered good enough
to attend a military college if we wished?
Shannon Faulkner, I honor you.

Is it bad enough we still live in a patriotic country,
so bad that a woman who ran the White House in the 90's
while her husband engaged in fornication with young interns,
lose the election to an arrogant billionaire who's known as a womanizer?
Hillary Clinton, I honor you.

The way the others honor the founding fathers,
I honor our founding mothers.
Anna Howard, Ida B. Wells, Ruth Bader Ginsburg,
Abigail Adams, Betsy Ross, Phyllis Whitley,
Hannah Adams, Judith Sargent Murray, and Molly Pitcher
because of you, I push on knowing
we have lost many battles
but we have never lost a war.



Joyce Kessel, Director of the Creative Writing & Literature Program, has been named a finalist in the 42nd New Millenium Writing Poetry contest for her poem "The Vigil."



Sister Mary Josette Food Pantry

Dear members of the College community,

Thank you for giving the gift of hope to so many this Thanksgiving through your gifts of prayer, time, food items, gift cards and monetary donations.

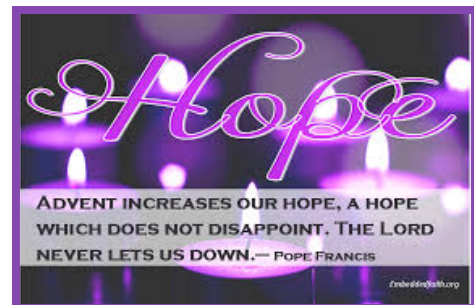
Over the past year the Sister Mary Josette Food Pantry served 3,965 households consisting of 9,962 individuals the equivalent of 89,658 meals. The need is great and growing. No doubt we do not have to go far to answer the gospel call to **be merciful as your heavenly Father is merciful**. And again, thank you for responding so generously to that call.

You will be remembered throughout the year with special Mass intentions offered on or around the feasts of Blessed Mary Angela Truskowski, Foundress of the Felician Sisters, October 10; Feast of the Presentation, Founding Day of the Felician Sisters, November 21; St. Joseph, feast day of Sister Mary Josette Smigielski, foundress of the Food Pantry, March 19; St. Felix, patron of the Felician Sisters, May 18; and St. Vincent DePaul, September 27. Masses will be said in the College Chapel.

May God, who cannot be outdone in his generosity, bless you with abundant graces and joy of heart. May the hope, peace, joy and love of this Advent season fill your heart and nourish your spirit.

Gratefully holding you in prayer,

Sister Mary Michaelanne Galas
Supervisor
Sister Mary Josette Food Pantry



Lifting hearts and hopes.

