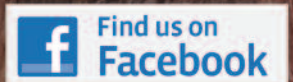


THE WAYNE Dispatch

JANUARY 2021



Wayne Couple Expresses Love for
the **A R T S**, the City and Each Other



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In Memory of

Philip Kaplan
1925 - 2020



Philip Kaplan, 95, of West Bloomfield, Michigan, passed on
Monday, December 21, 2020.

The Funeral was A PRIVATE FAMILY SERVICE on
Wednesday, December 23, 2020 at 2:00 PM

Rabbi Jeffrey Falick and Cantor Daniel Gross officiated.

Philip Kaplan passed away December 21 after a long and fulfilling life. He was born on July 5, 1925, the 5th and youngest child of Isaac and Fanny Kaplan. He grew up in Detroit as the baby in the family and his older brothers and sister took great pride in their baby brother. He worked hard in his father's fish market growing up and into young adulthood. Education was very important to Philip and he attended Wayne State University in Engineering. On Aug 13, 1943 he and the love of his life, Diane Pritz, went out on their first date and an enduring love affair, partnership and friendship resulted in 73 years of wonderful marriage. They had 3 children, Gary, Robert and Janet.

Phil was clearly a "people person" and that was a great attribute for a career in business. He and his brother Sidney acquired Northside Hardware in Wayne, Michigan in 1955 and grew the business into one of the most successful independent hardware stores in the country. Phil became a leader of the local business community. He continued to work until almost his 90th birthday and developed numerous very special friendships that endured over his entire life.

Phil and Diane had a rich and full life. They traveled extensively to all of the continents with trips that often included adventure, history and art sight-seeing, and made many new friends along the way. Phil was always very curious and interested in everyone he knew and met. This led to long conversations and many opportunities to discuss the latest in politics, world affairs and the challenges of daily life. He was well known for his sense of humor and many would often seek him out for the latest joke. He truly loved life.

Philip is survived by his loving wife of 73 years Diane, his son Gary (Wendy), daughter Janet (Howard) and his 2 grandchildren Erin Zeitler (Daniel) and Zachary Kaplan and 2 great grandchildren Riley and Mason. He leaves loving nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews and many friends especially in Seattle, North Carolina, and the Detroit area.

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A tale of love for city and each other

By Carolyn Marnon

He met his sweetheart in high school, but she wasn't his high school sweetheart. It took 30 years for Wayne Memorial High School alumni Antoine McKay and Michelle Guernsey to reconnect. Now they are on a journey to bring Wayne more recognition as the fabulous hidden gem that it is.

While attending WMHS, the two were involved in choir, forensics, student council, and theatre together. After high school, each went on to pursue different careers.

Michelle, whose grandfather designed the City of Wayne seal, attended Wayne State University before getting married and having kids. She found her way back to WSU where she earned a bachelor's degree in Dance Education. She went on to teach a creative dance lab. After further education, Michelle found herself at Burger School in Garden City teaching special education. She eventually got a Master's Degree in Special Education and also earned Trauma Grief Certificates. To fuel



Antoine McKay and Michelle Guernsey on their wedding day July 18, 2020.

her creativity, Michelle started a stained glass mosaic business. She has taught classes at Helium Studio in downtown Wayne numerous times.

Antoine received a scholarship to study at Eastern Michigan University where he took classes in imaginative

writing and written communications. From there, he went to New York to act and do a few other things. He has appeared in over 20 shows on Second City's Main Stage, both in Detroit and Chicago. He has had roles on Detroit 187, ER, Prison Break, The Weatherman (with Nicholas

Cage), Someone to Eat Cheese With (with Jeff Garland) and so much more. His largest role you might know of is as Bunkie Williams on the Fox show "Empire."

The couple reconnected at a Champions of Wayne program being held at the State Wayne Theatre on September 25, 2019. "The more we got to know who we are now, we were checking boxes off," Michelle said. Because Antoine lived in Chicago where he has owned a theatre for the past three years, the pair had to commute if they wanted to see each other. She would drive to Chicago or he would take the train here.

Michelle decided it was time to stop teaching. She was doing well with her stained glass business. April 30, 2020 was going to be her last day at Burger. Before she could get to that date, COVID-19 hit. She made the bold decision to travel to Illinois to hunker down along with Antoine.

See **Love**, page 4

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Love, Continued from page 3

They hold hands. Their steps when they walk are in sync. They declare their love for each other and their unique traits: intelligence, humor, giving, generosity. They've been newlyweds for almost five months after marrying in July 2020.

Although they still have a home in Chicago, they decided to live here in Wayne also. Antoine said they are settling here because it's "where we were awarded and afforded so much."

"It's so important to pour into the socio-economic. Wayne poured into us and now we can pour back into the community. I felt special when I was here, and we want to give that back to the community," said Antoine.

How are the couple pouring back into the community? They formed Chelletoine Productions to explore life through the arts. Their first project is "Michelle S. Bitts, Ph.D." which they are filming in Wayne. The show is about a psychologist who, over the course of the season, is going to devolve into needing one of her own. The title of the show is a word play on Michelle's stained glass business "Michelle's Pieces."

How did the show come about? Antoine said a friend who is based in Los Angeles, told him that the networks were dying for content right now. "Right here on this porch," he says, "we got the idea, and we started writing." The show has aspects of mental illness in it. "We want to normalize it (mental illness)," said Michelle. Actor/comedian Robin Williams, fashion designer Kate Spade, and chef Anthony Bourdain



Antoine McKay recently starred in the short film 'Unclaimed' that was shown during a recent virtual fundraiser for Champions of Wayne.

struggled with mental illness before taking their own lives. The McKays want to spread the word about mental illness, the ideas behind it, the language associated with it, so people become more comfortable talking about it.

The pilot episode was filmed with mostly a "green" crew. Antoine said these crew members had never worked on or done a play, much less a TV show. They are trying to use as many people from Wayne as they can or else Michigan actors and crew on the show. They want to use everything they can from Wayne, as far as that is possible.

Production spent two days at Helium Studio, shooting a farmer's

market outside. Scenes were also shot outside the Wayne Historical Museum and inside US-12 Bar and Grill.

When we spoke, Antoine and Michelle were writing episode 2 which they planned to start shooting over four days beginning December 9. The McKay's are taking safety precautions for all involved. Daily temperature checks, COVID tests and a nurse on set are part of that.

Before Antoine came back into her life, Michelle's "performances" were strictly as a mosaic teacher. After reconnecting with Antoine, she made an appearance in "The G," a TV series filmed in Gary, Indiana currently on Amazon Prime. She plays a woman at a rally while Antoine plays Councilman Battle. In the series, a man returns home from prison to pick up where he left off, controlling all the criminal activity in the city. "She has stepped into this world and her art," enthused Antoine, "Her performance, it's just beautiful, and she fits right in."

What's in the future? Antoine is busy organizing the Wayne Interna-

tional Independent TV and Film Festival. There is a similar festival in New York to what he has planned for Wayne where, he says, \$10,000 is spent in a week in New York City by people attending the festival. He believes \$1.5-2 million could be injected into the City of Wayne with his projects. "We've gone through what we've gone through for it to be what it needed to be," said Antoine. "I've been so blessed to act and teach around the world."

Besides the financial effects of the projects, Michelle stresses the cultural benefits. They want to enhance lives, create hope, and give the Wayne community a foundation to build from. "Our goal," said Antoine, "is to create a production-based entity here where we use all the attributes of Wayne. It's a great city. We're introducing creativity and fun back into the community."

"Build on creative energy," added Julie.

"It becomes more of a destination than just a place," concluded Antoine. Wayne as a destination is a fine idea indeed.



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2021 DOG & CAT LICENSES

The 2021 dog and cat tags are available for sale in the City Clerk's Office at City Hall. All dogs and cats four months of age or older must be licensed (certificate of rabies vaccination required) and wear a collar with current tag attached. Tags obtained by February 28, 2021 will be at a lesser fee.

Fees during annual licensing period ending February 28, 2021

Regular license	\$18.00*
License for spayed or neutered animals	\$10.00*

Fees from March 1 through December 31, 2021

Regular/spayed or neutered animals	\$30.00
Replacement license (all year)	\$1.00

*Dogs and cats under four months of age or owned for less than 10 days qualify for these rates at any time of the year.
 Any questions please contact the Clerk's Office at 722-2204.

ALL CATS MUST BE LICENSED IN THE CITY OF WAYNE

Goodbye to 2020

By Carolyn Marnon

With a sigh of relief, 2020 has now officially come to a close. Let's look back on a few highlights and events that happened in Wayne last year and were mentioned in The Wayne Dispatch.

The Wayne Police Department welcomed a golden retriever named Zeke to their ranks as a community therapy dog.

At the Ford Wayne Assembly Plant, the Ford Bronco rolled off the production line and is being built.

Since 1966, Chum's Donuts, across the street from Wayne Memorial High School, had been a part of many high school students' morning. Chum's closed early in the year after the death of owner Larry Stockwell.

The Wayne-Westland Community School District had what was probably their largest-attended graduation ceremony when 84-year-old Avery Hall received his high school diploma. Avery had left school at a young age to serve in the armed forces. The rest of the Class of

2020 graduated in a socially-distanced ceremony due to the COVID-19 pandemic that rocked the world.

Taft-Galloway got a sensory room for students with autism thanks to a large donation from Freddi Bello, the Pizzaman.

COVID-19 infiltrated the United States causing major shutdowns across the nation. Schools, restaurants and non-essential stores closed. Thousands of people were suddenly unemployed. Stay-at-home orders were put in effect. Zoom became the new way to interact with others.

Officer Michael Bolton was named 2019 Wayne Police Officer of the Year.

The Wayne Fire Department suffered as 50% of the staff were sidelined with COVID. Community members stepped up to supply the department with meals and gift cards.

Wayne-Westland Community School District welcomed a new Superintendent, John Dignan. Mr. Dig-



Zeke joined the the Wayne Police Department ranks as a community therapy dog.

nan was immediately tasked with the challenge of how to serve students remotely during the pandemic.

Lori Morrow was named the new Executive Director for Wayne Main Street.

A new Veterans Memorial was erected outside Wayne City Hall after five years of dreams and fundraising.

The sale of recreational marijuana was approved in 2019 by Michigan voters. In 2020, the Wayne City Council approved recreational marijuana sales in the City.

Most students are excited to return to school in September with

new classes, new friendships to be made, and seeing old friends. Returning to learn in 2020 involved tables and desks set up in homes as Wayne-Westland students returned to school virtually.

Wayne's oldest resident, 110-year-old Winifred Nichols, died in September. She did not die of COVID.

Wayne residents voted to eliminate the Ward System for electing city council members. This will take effect with the 2024 election. The Wayne City Council welcomed Mayor John Rhaesa, Mayor Pro Tem Tom Porter, Councilman Kevin Dowd and new Council member, Alfred Brock.

For I *Know* the PLANS I have for you, *Declares* the LORD,
 PLANS to *Prosper* you, and not to harm you,
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Jeremiah 29:11

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Gable retires from courthouse after 21 years

By Carolyn Marnon

Linda Gable, the 29th District Court Administrator, retired on December 18 after serving the 29th District Court for 21 years.

While Linda was in college studying for her degree in math and computer science, she took a summer job in 1983 as a file clerk at the 18th District Court, Westland. She went back to the 18th District Court the following summer and loved it so much, she decided to continue working there while going to school. She remained employed there until 1988.

She went from there to the 46th District Court, Southfield. She started as a clerk and moved her way up to be the IT person for the court. While there, she discovered she wanted to be a court administrator.

Linda was hired in Wayne in 1999 by Judge Carolyn Archbold. During her 21 years as administrator, she worked at the pleasure of Judge Carolyn Archbold, Judge Laura Mack and Judge Breeda O'Leary.

What does a Court Administrator



The court had several interns over the years and they have gone on to become attorneys.

"Their success is my success."

Linda Gable

do? "That's a really long question," she answered. "I do the day to day operations of the court." While the judge oversees the courtroom, Linda

oversees the office operations. "It's like a household. You need to make it run, and you do what it takes to get it to run."

During her career in Wayne, her biggest challenge has been the financial situation the City is in. "We try to be fiscally responsible" at the court. She laments having lost her longtime employees due to financial issues. One of her longtime staff members retired last April. The court's current court clerks are comprised of employees that each have less than 3 years of experience.

Her greatest success has been "seeing my staff grow. I like to train my staff and see them excel even if they don't stay here," she said. The court had several interns over the years and they have gone on to become attorneys. "Their success is my success." Linda enjoys training people to become the best they can be.

Her best memories at the courthouse revolves around people. She enjoys the camaraderie with the staff. "My best memory is all the friendships I've made."

Linda has served nine different

judges over her career. "I'm ready," Linda said of her retirement. "I'm still going to be around. I'm not disappearing. My job was personal for me, and it will be hard to leave. The court is very special to me, and I want to see it succeed."

Although she'll miss the staff, the police and the general public, Linda will be able to spend more time with her grandchildren and travel. "I'll miss dealing with the people on a regular basis. Right now, I'm going to try to enjoy retirement. When my husband retires, we would like to get another home in Florida." She has traveled all over Michigan enjoying nature, walking, seeing the beauty of the state along with all its waterfalls. "Michigan is beautiful."

What won't she miss? "I'm not a morning person, so I won't miss getting up early to come to work."

As Linda left the courthouse building on her last day of work, police and community members celebrated her retirement with a drive-by parade. Amidst honking, sirens and shouts of "Yay Linda!" Linda waved as each car passed by.

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Congratulations!

Wayne Downtown Development Authority members Scott Gocaj and Mayor John Rhaesa congratulate a few of the Experience Downtown Wayne winners who participated in the Experience Downtown Wayne \$50.00 gift card drawings. The DDA announced 30 winners Darlene W. of Westland, Melissa B. of Westland, Marge C. of Wayne, Linda B. of Wayne, Samantha M. of Wayne, Lynn B. of Wayne, Cindy B. of Wayne, Sharon B. of Romulus, Shaniko B. of Dearborn Hgts., Rich W. of Wayne, Jazzmean of Westland, Jennifer M. of Livonia, Jennifer W. of Westland, Gegory V. of Dearborn Hgts., Laura B. of Westland, Caleb C. of Wayne, April M. of Canton, Sharon J. of Belleville, Kyle B. of Plymouth, Erin L. of Wayne, Michelle S. of White Lake, Mary B. of Westland, Noah G. of Redford, Phil B. of Wayne, Dawn D. of Wayne, Jeff A. of Dearborn, Tom V. of Garden City, Sandra A. of Westland, Laura S. of Livonia, and Sandy R. of Livonia. Winners received a \$50.00 gift card to one of the following businesses Northside Hardware, Leo's Jewelry and Gifts, Helium Studio, US-12 Bar & Grill, The Avenue Bistro or The Phoenix State Wayne Theater.

Free COVID-19 testing at Hype

The City of Wayne now has a Wayne County COVID-19 testing site. Two new, cost-free testing sites with reportedly shorter waiting times were opened in Wayne at 4635 Howe Road and Dearborn, both sites at HYPE locations. The sites are open 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. on Saturday.

Officials say the diagnostic COVID-19 tests are offered at no cost, and are available via drive-thru or walk-in. All individuals over 5 years old are eligible to get tested, though minors must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Individuals interested in testing do not require a doctor's order or pre-registration before visiting the site. Officials say insurance is requested but not required to undergo testing.

Individuals who are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms are encouraged to get tested and quarantine until test results are received to prevent the spread of the virus. Symptoms can develop up to 14 days after exposure to the virus.

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John P. Rhaesa
Publisher
john@thewaynedispatch.com
Natalie Rhaesa
General Manager

Writers: Carolyn Marnon

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