

## IT'S HAPPENING IN ELKHART!

By Nancy Carlson Dodd (*Senior News & Times*, Springfield, IL. Jan., 2015)

There will be no winter doldrums in Elkhart, Illinois, this year! Wonderful events and activities will usher in an early spring, bringing plenty to do and excellent food. Three business women are organizing enough events to fill your calendar until summer arrives.

Jean Tweet, owner of Bird Song Vintage and Books, Gillette Ransom, proprietor of The Country Bumpkin, and Andrea Niehaus, owner of Horsefeathers Antiques and Gifts and Wild Hare Cafe', are planning entertaining events in the business district of this country village from February to May.

Valentine's Day will become an even more special day when you have a romantic dinner and a luscious dessert at The Wild Hare, then browse through the unique collections of vintage Valentine decorations and cards at the Bird Song Vintage and Books, then visit The Country Bumpkin for unique gift suggestions.

March brings St. Patrick's Day and all things Irish. The Wild Hare Cafe', located in Horsefeathers, will be serving their traditional corned beef and cabbage dinner on March 17<sup>th</sup> complete with all the trimmings, leek soup, and fun green desserts like the long-standing favorite, key lime cheesecake. Reuben sandwiches will be served the next day, and most likely Celtic music will accompany the meals.

April will bring the observance of Easter and rare spring flowers on Elkhart Hill. The Elkhart Historical Society will once again be offering nature walks on a private estate on Elkhart Hill. This is a unique opportunity to see a large variety of wild flowers in their natural setting, surrounded by acres of gorgeous Blue Bells. There is a small fee for this tour which is a donation to the Society for educational purposes. Gillette Ransom, a founding member of the society, handles all reservations and can be contacted at 217-947-2238. Tour dates are April 11, 18, and 25, and are at specific times. Private tours during the week are also available by calling Gillette. Details about the tours will be posted on the EHS website, [www.ElkhartHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.ElkhartHistoricalSociety.org) or email [info@elkharthistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@elkharthistoricalsociety.org). Lunch will be available at The Wild Hare Cafe' on tour days; steaming bowls of soup, grilled sandwiches, delicious salads, and old fashion desserts will top off the excellent tours. Please make reservations for groups of 6 or more by calling 217-947-2100. These events would also make a wonderful Mother's Day gift as May

10 is Mother's Day! For bird watchers, May 2 also features Bird Watching Tours by EHS. Visit their website for more details.

Keep in mind that during all of these events, Bird Song Vintage and Books will offer a beautiful collection of nostalgic vintage cards and other special items while The Country Bumpkin will be featuring quality furniture, antique china, silver plate, carpets, and all manner of lovely indulgences to brighten one's home. Horsefeathers Antiques and Gifts is a great place to shop and The Wild Hare Cafe offers a special menu on Easter Sunday as always, so phone for reservations and details! As you can see, things are happening in Elkhart, and you don't want to miss any of them!

For more information: Bird Song Vintage and Books: 217-691-7966; Country Bumpkin 217-947-2200 or [thecountrybumpkin1@frontier.com](mailto:thecountrybumpkin1@frontier.com); The Wild Hare Cafe 217-947-2100 or [www.wildharecafe-elk-il.com](http://www.wildharecafe-elk-il.com); Horsefeathers Antiques and Gifts 217-947-2100 or [niehaus-baldwin@msn.com](mailto:niehaus-baldwin@msn.com).