

The Journal Times®



Local

Two years after homicide, Racine man's family still seeking answers, closure
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Thursday clutching framed photos of her dead daughter. She held them out to her 4-year-old grandson, Hunter Harris-Corona, and asked him, "Who's that?"

He pointed to the photos, reaching a small hand out to touch a frame before saying it was "mommy."

Hunter's mommy and Corona's daughter, 24-year-old Melissa R. Corona, was killed Sept. 22, 2011, when the motorcycle she was riding crashed. Brandon J. Seibert was driving that motorcycle recklessly and fled the scene. For his actions, he was sentenced Thursday to six years

cuit Court Judge Tim Boyle called Seibert a "train wreck waiting to happen" as he delivered the 27-year-old Racine man's sentence.

"Mr. Seibert has been living a reckless lifestyle for many years," Boyle said, explaining Seibert has a long, long record of driving offenses and was previously sentenced for an incident in which he fired a bullet through an apartment and nearly hit some children. "He has continuously acted as being devoid of conscience."

When Seibert gave Melissa Corona a ride that fateful night, he did so without a li-

Seibert
in court
in 2011

Deputy District Attorney Trish Hanson.

She said Seibert was trying to evade police. Seibert's defense attorney, Joshua Uller, said his client was concussed and unable to think rationally.

It is unknown if alcohol was a factor in the crash. Seibert and Corona were leaving Vintage Rock Café, 3701 Durand Ave., for a venue with dancing at about 12:30 a.m. when the motorcycle went through a construction zone in the 2000 block of Lathrop Avenue, lost control and overturned.

More on **SENTENCE**, Page 5A

Memorial Scholarship Fund to honor his late father, former coach and teacher Paul Stephen "Steve" Case.

Scholarship fund established in memory of late teacher, coach

LUKE FEUERHERM
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RACINE — Before the wrestlers of the Park and Horlick high school teams took the mat for their meet Thursday, they were offered one final piece of advice from a former coach on facing a tough opponent.

"He puts his pants on the same way you do," Jason Case told the Park gymnasium, remembering the

▶ Horlick wins wrestling meet — **1C**.

words of his father, former teacher and coach Paul Stephen "Steve" Case, words he hopes will be part of a larger legacy.

Since his father's death on Oct. 12, Jason said the family has been working to establish the Steve Case

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YOUR PAPER

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YOUR WEATHER

Today



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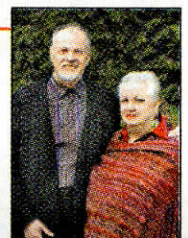


FAITH & COMMUNITY

SUNDAY

MEET RAM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BRUCE PEPICH AND HIS WIFE, ARTIST LISA ENGLANDER

FAMILY, LIFE



Y,
ME



Congratulations
to the newlyweds!
4D, 5D

Happy anniversary!
Happy birthday!
5D



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page editor: Brenda Poppy

9, 2012

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SECTION D

An Artistic Life



The executive director of RAM is honored for his extraordinary work

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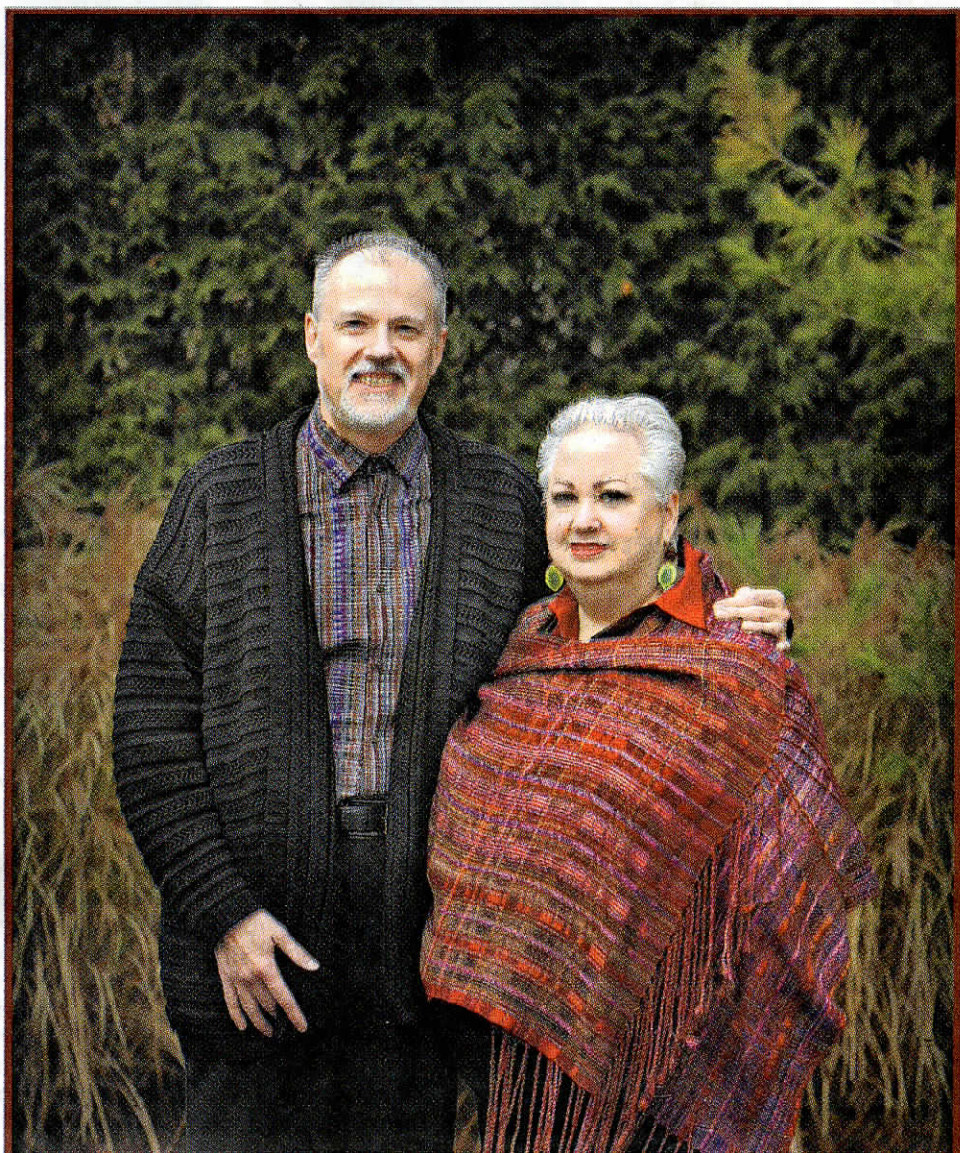
Bruce Pepich and his work here in Racine are known across the country and beyond. In November, the executive director of the Racine Art Museum was named a 2012 Honorary Fellow by the American Craft Council. And the prestigious award – which recognizes individuals and organizations for excellence in craftsmanship and significant contributions to the field of contemporary American craft – brought Pepich, the RAM and Racine further into the spotlight of the art world.

National recognition

National recognition is something the RAM has been earning since opening its doors at the corner of Main and Fifth streets nearly 10 years ago. Pepich, who also serves as its curator of collections, deserves much of the credit for RAM's success, and has received other awards for his work in recent years. Yet, those who know the director well know that his contributions reach far beyond the walls of the award-winning building that he helped transform from an old bank into one of the country's most prominent craft museums.

Getting to know him

Getting to know Pepich means looking all the way back to 1974, when the Elmhurst, Ill., native first came to Racine to work at the Wustum Museum of Fine Arts as a project manager. He was fresh out of Northern Illinois University at the



Arts as a project manager. He was fresh out of Northern Illinois University at the time, with a degree in art history and a plan to stay here for only a few months. Pepich was on his way to graduate school at the University of Minnesota — or so he thought — when he realized that the work he was doing at Wustum was the same type of work that would be required for his master's. "And here, I was being paid to do it," he said.

His decision to stay in Racine brought Pepich the title of museum director at Wustum in 1980. It also gave him the opportunity to meet his wife, artist Lisa Englander, who Pepich says has also played an important role in both his and the RAM's successes.

Love story

The pair met at Wustum in 1977 when Englander — who was taking graduate classes at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee — entered the museum's Watercolor Wisconsin competitive exhibition. Two of her paintings made it into the show, with one earning a third prize and the other being purchased by the museum.

A couple years later, the museum offered to show her work in a solo exhibition. And those connections led the director and artist to form a bond through their shared passion for art and long conversations on the subject.

"I think we started talking the day we met and I don't think we've stopped since," said Englander, who is originally from Brooklyn, N.Y.

Working together

Next year marks their 30th year of marriage — one that has not only survived time, but the challenge of working together at the museum. For many years, Englander taught classes



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Bruce Pepich and his wife, Lisa Englander, stand in the side yard of their home in the Village of North Bay on Nov. 30. For all the time and energy Pepich and Englander say they spend in the public eye, the couple makes the effort to have a private home life away from it all.

and ran the gift shop at Wustum. Today she is principal, guest relations and retail division, at RAM. While she and Pepich don't actually have much contact at work on a daily basis, their shared vision for RAM and the community is mutually supportive.

In addition to Englander, Pepich gives much credit to the museum's other numerous supporters, from main

benefactor, Karen Johnson Boyd, to the RAM board of directors, staff, members and visitors. The fact that so many people throughout the community have nurtured and supported the museum and his position there for so many years is what has enabled

Pepich to pursue his career here and build the museum's craft collection to be one of the largest in the U.S., including seminal works by international artists.

"Nobody in a position like this does this alone," he said.

Becoming an inspiration

Pepich also said he hopes that his recent ACC award can be an example to young people working in the field of art that they don't have to move to New York or

Los Angeles in order to be successful or have an affect on the field.

There are many other cities like Racine, with medium-sized cultural institutions, where he hopes people might take a chance and immerse themselves where they are and "see where it goes."

Home life

Art also plays a central role in the home life of Bruce Pepich and Lisa Englander. The couple, who live in North Bay, are passionate collectors of small craft objects and fine art, from prints to children's pop-up books, antique fans and Halloween decorations in various media.

Their collecting, though, is budget-driven, Englander said. "We look at estate sales, auctions and other places that people on a budget do," she said.

"People often think you have to have great wealth to do this, but you don't," added Pepich.

People might also be surprised to know that one of his and Englander's favorite things is having a free night to spend at home with their dog, Jackson.

Englander loves to cook and bake, and she and Pepich have dinner at home most nights. She also still carves out time to paint, and her artwork can be found in collections around the country. And Pepich, in his spare time, frames her work.

The couple also still enjoy talking about art. And, says Englander, "We make each other laugh."

WATERCOLOR WISCONSIN

The annual Watercolor Wisconsin show — which served as the catalyst for Bruce Pepich and Lisa Englander to meet — opens this afternoon at the Wustum Museum of Fine Arts, 2519 Northwestern Ave., and runs through April 27. For more about this exhibition, see Thursday's Out & About section.

American Craft Council Fellows

The title of Fellow has been bestowed to artists by the American Craft Council since 1975. Fellows are nominated and elected by their peers; must have demonstrated extraordinary artistic ability; and must have worked 25 years or more in the discipline or career in which they are being recognized.

In addition to being honored as a Fellow at the ACC's Awards Ceremony at the InterContinental Hotel Chicago on Nov. 2, Bruce Pepich was featured in a program called "A Conversation with Bruce W. Pepich" at the 19th Annual SOFA (Sculpture Objects Functional Art) Art & Design Show at Chicago's Navy Pier on Nov. 3.

Other 2012 ACC Awards recipients include Sharon Church, Anne Currier, Andrea Gill, Lewis Knauss, Tom Loeser (also from Wisconsin), Dante Marioni, Sherri Smith, Stephen De Staebler, Sidney D. Rosoff, and Nancy M. McNeil. Each is featured in the October/November issue of "American Craft" magazine, www.americancraftmag.org.

