



[above] Red-headed Woodpecker. [inset] Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

**by Noel Stanton**

For most of our married life Marie and I had been casual (rather than fanatical) bird watchers. On our hikes we often carried along cheap binoculars and sometimes a bird book, but we seldom went birding for its own sake.

When we moved to our Kansas hilltop house overlooking Tuttle Creek Lake in 1993, great birds were suddenly coming to us - we had better birding from our kitchen table than we had ever experienced hiking the boonies back in Ohio. There were bald eagles along the shoreline all winter, and in the spring and fall the huge white pelicans glided in on their nine-foot wingspans to congregate in snowy flocks on the water. Sometimes they came in low over the house, momentarily darkening our kitchen as though a cloud had passed in front of the sun.

Our house was also in prime songbird habitat

amidst a mixture of woods and open fields. The kitchen table sat in a bay of casement windows that opened onto a wooden deck about 8' above the ground. I built a small feeding platform that extended out from the deck, right next to a little mulberry tree that gave cover to cautious incoming birds. A metal ring supported a water dish on one side of the platform, and suet and seed feeders hung from a slanted driftwood pole nearby. Something for everybody: birds such as warblers that didn't enjoy seeds often came for suet or water.

We had many bird species at our feeders that were entirely new to us and saw others up close that we had previously seen only from a distance. Some were very photogenic; for several years a pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers nesting in a dead tree down on the lakeshore came by regularly for sunflower seeds,

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and we were visited for several springs by a pair of Painted Buntings, spectacular birds that we had never seen before.

Unfortunately, this feeding arrangement was quite difficult to defend against squirrels, and whenever they came around, they scared away the birds. I had dimly realized that this might be a problem when I set things up, but I had grossly underestimated the guile and tenacity of Kansas fox squirrels, who are also disgustingly adept at detecting empty threats. Rapping on the window rapidly lost its effectiveness, and so did cranking open a casement window and yelling.

Time to try a little operant conditioning: I rigged up a squirrel shocker, designed to be instructional rather than lethal. Its indoor portion consisted of a lantern battery, a small transformer connected in voltage step-up mode, and an antique telegraph key from my junk box. A thin extension cord ran out the window and under the deck to a grid of parallel wires just above the surface of the feeding platform. The grid was normally unenergized and didn't interfere with feeding birds, but tapping the telegraph key delivered a pulse of a few hundred volts between adjacent wires.

The first test of this contraption was a major success. I waited until a squirrel was happily chowing down, then tapped the key. He jumped four feet straight up, just barely managing to grab the edge of the platform on the way down, then ran off at top speed. This learning experience was repeated for his friends and kin over the next few days, and squirrel traffic at the feeder almost vanished.

Then came a spell of wet weather that made the shocker temporarily useless. The squirrels gradually ventured back and were soon feeding with impunity again. Unfortunately, their

takeaway from their shocker episodes was not the intended "Fear the platform", but more like "Check in the window for people, especially in dry weather".

Clearly, sterner measures were called for. My son David gave me a Daisy Red Ryder Model 1938 BB gun, just like the one that almost shot Ralphie's eye out in the movie "A Christmas Story".

Although it was fun for target practice, it proved impractical for discouraging squirrels. I had to go outside through the garage, then try to sneak up on the feeder from the side of the deck. Even if the squirrels didn't see me, firing at the feeder carried a large risk of a ricochet back toward the casement windows (and the resulting domestic unpopularity).

Think smaller. I bought a CO2-powered BB air pistol from Walmart. The plan was to crack a casement window open an inch or so before we sat down at the table, then when a squirrel arrived, stealthily drop down and ever-so-slowly point the pistol out the window while Marie created a diversion to encourage the feeding squirrel to face away from me, providing a clean butt shot (these squirrels

had unusually fat butts, mostly from eating our sunflower seeds). Once again, the first test was a dramatic success; another four-foot vertical leap and rapid retreat. The lesson was repeated for the whole squirrely clan, producing greatly reduced feeder traffic.

Eventually, inevitably, a BB ricocheted off the metal railing of the deck and hit a casement window right in front of Marie. Fortunately for me there was no damage done, but after that my use of the BB pistol was severely rationed.

There followed a long era during which the squirrels were far from starving, but between the dry-weather shocker and occasional BB shots they were discouraged enough to allow the birds some feeding time too. An uneasy stalemate at best. But isn't that how some wars end?



[top] Yellow-rumped Warbler.  
[above] Painted Bunting.

## EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

### **Summer Worship Series: ML Seminary**

A seminary is a specialized educational institution where students are trained in theology, scripture, and pastoral leadership to become religious clergy, such as priests, ministers, or rabbis. Faith leaders usually take three to five years to work through nearly 80 credit hours required. You can get a crash course in this education—course by course, week by week in just six months! During Sunday Worship at 10 a.m. or 11 a.m., you'll be able to get a glimpse of the course topics and themes contained in a seminary degree as part of the Spiritual Life focus on learning this summer and fall!

### **Explore Our Great Outdoors**

The Outdoor Committee is offering more opportunities for half-hour rides around unexplored areas of our campus. Sign up in the Blue Book for one of the following times to enjoy a tour: Saturday, June 6, at 9, 9:30, or 10 a.m.; or Saturday, June 13, at 9, 9:30, or 10 a.m.

### **Transportation to Arts in the Park & Manhattan Municipal Band**

Sign-up sheets for transportation to the Arts in the Park and the Manhattan Municipal Band performances are now available in the Blue Book.

### **Window Cleaning around Campus**

There will be a company coming around campus from June 10 through June 25 cleaning windows.

The schedule is as follows:

- ~ June 10 & 11: Duplexes
- ~ June 16—June 18: Main Building
- ~ June 22—25: Bramlage building and Monarch building (including the sliders on Main building and Monarch building)

### **Manhattan Arts Center Classes**

Happening next week at the Manhattan Arts Center (MAC)... "Urinetown, The Musical!"

A drought, a corrupt corporation, and a public bathroom fee—what could go wrong? In this outrageous and award-winning musical satire, a hero rises to fight for the right to ... flush. Urinetown hilariously skewers politics, greed, and musical theatre itself, all while delivering toe-tapping tunes and tongue-in-cheek humor. It's

bold, brilliant, and just a little bit potty. Don't hold it in—come see Urinetown! "

Showings are on June 5-7, and June 12-14. Showtimes are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m., at the MAC. To purchase tickets, go online to <https://www.tix.com/ticket-sales/tix/7521>, or call (785) 537-4420 on weekday afternoons.

### **Music with Pat Billington**

*Friday, June 5, at 7 p.m.*

Join us Friday, June 5, at 7 p.m. in the Event Center for an evening of acoustic music and classic rock favorites with Pat Billington.

Pat will bring a feel-good mix of laid-back hits and singalong favorites from rock's golden era in a live, unplugged performance sure to have you tapping your toes and singing along. All are welcome!

### **Worship Services**

*Sunday, June 7, at 10 & 11 a.m.*

Join Rev. Melanie Nord, Spiritual Life Leader, for worship at 10 a.m. or 11 a.m. on Sunday, June 7, in the Community Room/Chapel. This day's sermon title is "Self-Control." All are welcome to enjoy coffee and fellowship in the lobby between 9:30 a.m. and 12 p.m.

### **Fellowship with First Assembly of God**

*Monday, June 8, at 10:00 a.m.*

Stewart Mowry and Scott Taylor are two of Meadowlark's newest volunteers who are eager to connect with residents and build meaningful community.

They will be hosting a non-denominational Bible study, on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month, at 10 a.m., in the Flint Hills Room. The gathering will offer a welcoming space for reflection, conversation, and fellowship.

Stewart, a classically trained violinist and Pastor, will also share his musical talents during the study, giving participants the opportunity to enjoy live violin selections and join in singing a few familiar tunes. Both Stewart and Scott are members of First Assembly of God and are looking forward to getting to know residents while engaging in thoughtful discussion and spiritual

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# EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

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encouragement.

### Volunteer & Tech Helper

*Tuesday, June 9, at 4 p.m.*

Deborah Goins will be available to help residents with technology questions between 4 and 5 p.m. Tuesday, June 9, in the Flint Hills Room. Deborah looks forward to building connections through this opportunity and meeting others, so be sure to stop by during her visits.

The June visit schedule will be different than the usual schedule, so be sure to see days in the future Messengers.

### Summer Vesper Evening Devotion Series

*Tuesday, June 9, at 6:30 p.m.*

Every Tuesday evening this summer there will be an evening devotional service beginning on June 9, from 6:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Community Room. Spiritual Life Leader, Melanie will lead a brief evening service with prayer, contemplation, devotion and song. This is a wonderful opportunity to end your day with inner peace. All are welcome.

### Memory Café

*Wednesday, June 10, at 10 a.m.*

Memory Café meets every Wednesday from 10 to 11 a.m. in the KSU Classroom at Meadowlark and virtually via Zoom. Memory Café is led by Linda Montgomery, Licensed Social Worker, and features story sharing, reminiscing and social engagement.

### Speedy PD Art Making

*Wednesday, June 10, at 1:30 p.m.*

Join Meadowlark Parkinson's Program and our partners from the Beach Museum of Art in making pieces of art that will be used in August for the 18th annual Speedy PD Race for Parkinson's Disease. These pieces of art are given as the age group awards for the 5K and 10K winners.

Speedy PD race helps raise awareness about Parkinson's and is the primary fundraiser for the Meadowlark Parkinson's Program. The Beach Museum of Art provides us with the supplies needed and also can assist with some inspiration. No prior art experience is necessary.

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The art-making class will meet each Wednesday now through July 8 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the Patriot Room or KSU Classroom. You're invited to come and go as your schedule and attention allows. (The June 3 & 10 are in the Patriot Room, the other sessions are in the KSU Classroom.)

### Volunteer & Tech Helper

*Wednesday, June 10, at 4 p.m.*

Deborah Goins will be available to provide in-home technology support to residents on Wednesday, June 10.

Please sign up in the Blue Book at the Hospitality desk for a time to meet with her for an in-home visit.

The June visit schedule will be different than the usual schedule, so be sure to see days in the future Messengers.

### Caring Conversations for People with PD

*Thursday, June 11, at 11:30 a.m.*

Join this opportunity to share your experiences and receive support from others with a Parkinson's or Parkinsonian diagnosis. It is open to all with a diagnosis at any stage of your journey. The next meeting is at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, June 11, in the Flint Hills Room.

### Ladies Luncheon

*Thursday, June 11, at 11:30 a.m.*

The next Ladies Luncheon will be Thursday, June 11, at 11:30 a.m. in the Event Center. Jayme Minton and Barbara Rees will be presenting "Name That Tune," an interactive guessing game, on the piano for the program.

A light lunch of a seafood salad plate (seafood salad on a bed of leaf lettuce and sliced tomato), cheddar biscuit, and chocolate chip cookie ice cream is planned at a cost of \$12 per person. Please sign up in the Blue Book at the Hospitality Desk to join us for the meal. If you want to attend the discussion but can't make it to lunch, come anyway and take a seat in the chairs arranged in the back of the Event Center.

### Blood Pressure Check

*Thursday, June 11, at 1 p.m.*

Meadowlark Home Care hosts a monthly Blood Pressure Clinic on the second Thursday at 1 p.m.

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in the Kansas Room. The next scheduled clinic is Thursday, June 11, at 1 p.m. No sign up required.

### **Knitting & Crocheting Group**

*Thursday, June 11, at 2:30 p.m.*

Are you interested in learning how to knit or crochet? Or maybe you have ongoing projects you'd like to work on? Whether you are just beginning or have years of experience, join other yarn creatives in the Kansas Room at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, June 11, for a fun, social, creative opportunity. All skill levels are welcome!

### **Prairie Rose DJ: Courtyard Edition**

*Friday, June 12, at 7 p.m.*

Meadowlark welcomes back Johnny Cyrene, better known as the Prairie Rose DJ, for some great tunes outside under the Kansas sky! All are welcome to attend 7 p.m. Friday, June 12, in the Courtyard.

### **S'mores in the Courtyard**

*Saturday, June 13, at 6:30 p.m.*

Keeping with the summer theme, all are invited to gather around the fire pit in the courtyard to roast s'mores and enjoy conversation, for a beautiful evening outdoors on Saturday, June 13, at 6:30 p.m.

### **Prairie Star Writers Reading Corner**

*Tuesday, June 16, at 3 p.m.*

Join us Tuesday, June 16, at 3 p.m. in the Prairie Star Event Center for a special Prairie Star Reading Corner immediately following Coffee Corner. Members and friends of the Prairie Star Memoir Writing Group will share favorite stories and memories from their lives and experiences.

Founded decades ago at Meadowlark by Charley Kempthorne of LifeStory, the writing group continues to celebrate personal history, storytelling, and connection through the written word. Come enjoy an afternoon of reflection, humor, and unique perspectives on our not-so-distant past.

### **KSU String Camp**

*Wednesday, June 17, at 11 a.m.*

Join us Wednesday, June 17, at 11:30 a.m. in the Event Center for a special musical performance by students participating in Kansas State University's

String Leadership Institution music camp.

Residents will enjoy an afternoon of string music performed by talented young musicians, who will also share insights about their musical journeys and experiences. Don't miss this opportunity to support these dedicated students and enjoy a wonderful live performance.

### **Taste of Summer**

*Thursday, June 18, at 2 p.m.*

Join us once again on Thursday, June 18, in the Courtyard, at 2 p.m. to enjoy the second event of the series which will feature "tastes" of several bite-size creations made by the Prairie Star Team. This is a free event, and all are encouraged to come out and enjoy a hopefully beautiful day. More information will be shared in the Messenger closer to each event date.

### **Gladius: Musical Performance**

*Saturday, June 27, at 1 p.m.*

Join us Saturday, June 27, at 1 p.m. in the Event Center as Meadowlark welcomes Gladius for an unforgettable musical performance.

Raised in Atlanta, Georgia, and trained by a protégé of legendary guitarist Andrés Segovia, Gladius blends classical and flamenco influences with the energy of rock guitar. An award-winning composer and accomplished performer, he has shared the stage with Grammy-winning artists and captivated audiences across the country with his dynamic live shows since 2016.

Don't miss this exciting afternoon of exceptional musicianship and entertainment. All are welcome!

### **American Classics Menu**

*Monday, June 29*

Starting Monday, June 29, Prairie Star will feature a weeklong special menu to celebrate America by featuring signature dishes from several states. Prairie Star looks forward to celebrating with you through good food and great company.

### **Lollipops & Lemonade**

*Monday, June 29, at 3 p.m.*

All are welcome to attend the Lollipops and Lemonade event from 3 to 4 p.m. Monday, June 29, in the Courtyard. This opportunity, hosted by Meadowlark Ambassadors, will feature refreshing lemonade and tasty lollipops.

# RESTAURANT **SPECIALS**

<p><b>Sunday, June 7</b></p>	<p><b>Sunday Brunch</b> Brunch Menu available from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.</p>	<p><b>\$16 Dinner</b> Pot Roast <i>with Carrots, Onions &amp; Celery</i> Mashed Potatoes &amp; Gravy Fresh Green Beans</p>
<p><b>Monday, June 8</b></p>	<p><b>\$12 Lunch</b> Beef Gyro Crispy Greek Roasted Potatoes</p>	<p><b>\$13 Dinner</b> Stuffed Peppers Tuscan Tomato Salad</p>
<p><b>Tuesday, June 9</b></p>	<p><b>\$11 Lunch</b> Steak Sandwich Pasta Salad</p>	<p><b>\$15 Dinner</b> French-Onion Stuffed Pork Tenderloin Garlic Red Skin Mashed Potatoes Green Beans</p>
<p><b>Wednesday, June 10</b></p>	<p><b>\$11 Lunch</b> Mushroom Swiss Burger French Fries</p>	<p><b>\$15 Dinner</b> Salisbury Steak Mashed Potatoes &amp; Gravy Broccoli</p>
<p><b>Thursday, June 11</b></p>	<p><b>\$10 Lunch</b> Chicken Bacon Ranch Quesadilla Watermelon Berry Salad</p>	<p><b>\$16 Dinner</b> Loaded Caesar Salad <i>(sauteed shrimp, bacon, romaine, parmesan cheese, cherry tomatoes, &amp; Caesar Dressing)</i></p>
<p><b>Friday, June 12</b></p>	<p><b>\$11 Lunch</b> Soup &amp; Salad Bar</p>	<p><b>\$16 Dinner</b> Chicken Florentine Vodka Cream Pasta Peas &amp; Onions</p>
<p><b>Saturday, June 13</b></p>	<p><b>\$9 Lunch</b> Chili Dogs Tator Tots Fried Pickle Spear</p>	<p><b>\$26 Dinner</b> 4-oz. Filet &amp; Garlic Shrimp Baked Potato Asparagus</p>

# Weekly Opportunities Calendar *June 7 to June 13*

## Sunday • June 7 *Put your trash at the curb!*

8:45 a.m. ~ Transport to College Ave UMC, ME  
 9:30 a.m. ~ Sunday Morning Fellowship, ME  
 10:00 a.m. ~ Transport to College Ave UMC, ME  
 10:00 a.m. ~ Worship Service, CR/**1960**  
 10:30 a.m. ~ Transportation to FUMC, ME  
 11:00 a.m. ~ Worship Service, CR/**1960**

## Monday • June 8 *Trash & Recycle pick-up*

9:30 a.m. ~ Seated Strength, CR/**1960**  
 9:30 a.m. ~ Memory Care Partners Group, **STM**  
 10:30 a.m. ~ Weights 101, CR/**1960**  
 11:00 a.m. ~ Rock Steady Boxing, **PF**  
 11:30 a.m. ~ Sit & Be Fit, CR/**1960**  
 11:30 a.m. ~ Meadowlark Valley Luncheon, BR  
 1:00 p.m. ~ Parkinson's Exercise Class, CR/**1960**  
 1:30 p.m. ~ God Talk, KSU CL  
 1:45 p.m. ~ Parkinson's Voice Class, CR  
 2:00 p.m. ~ A Matter of Balance, BR  
 6:00 p.m. ~ Care Partners Support Circle, FHR  
 7:00 p.m. ~ Community Bingo, CR

## Tuesday • June 9

10:00 a.m. ~ Memory Activities Class, EC  
 10:00 a.m. ~ Mat Yoga, KSU CL  
 10:30 a.m. ~ Steady Yourself, CR/**1960**  
 11:15 a.m. ~ Chair Yoga, **1960 only**  
 12:00 p.m. ~ 4th Floor Luncheon, MR  
 2:00 p.m. ~ 10-Point Pitch Group, GR  
 2:00 p.m. ~ Social Circles, PS  
 2:00 p.m. ~ Water Media Painting, KSU CL  
 3:00 p.m. ~ Coffee Corner, EC  
 4:00 p.m. ~ Volunteer Tech Help, FHR  
 6:30 p.m. ~ Vespers, CR

## Wednesday • June 10

9:30 a.m. ~ Seated Strength, CR/**1960**  
 10:00 a.m. ~ Walmart/Dillons Shopping Trip, ME  
 10:00 a.m. ~ Memory Care Partners Group, FHR  
 10:00 a.m. ~ Memory Café, KSU CL  
 10:30 a.m. ~ Weights 101, CR/**1960**  
 11:30 a.m. ~ Sit & Be Fit, CR/**1960**  
 11:30 a.m. ~ Lutheran Luncheon, BR  
 1:30 p.m. ~ Speedy PD Art Making, PR  
 2:00 p.m. ~ Tai Chi, EC  
 2:00 p.m. ~ A Matter of Balance, KSU CL  
 3:00 p.m. ~ Rock Steady Boxing, CR

## Wednesday • June 10, continued

3:00 p.m. ~ Sing-Along, FHR  
 4:00 p.m. ~ 4th Floor Social, FHR  
 5:30 p.m. ~ 3rd Floor Supper, BR

## Thursday • June 11

9:00 a.m. ~ Messenger Team, VBL  
 10:30 a.m. ~ Steady Yourself, CR/**1960**  
 11:15 a.m. ~ Chair Yoga, **1960 only**  
 11:30 a.m. ~ Ladies Luncheon, EC  
 11:30 a.m. ~ Caring Conv. For People w/ PD, FHR  
 11:30 a.m. ~ PD Care Partner Social, PS  
 1:00 p.m. ~ Parkinson's Exercise Class, CR/**1960**  
 1:00 p.m. ~ Blood Pressure Check, KR  
 2:30 p.m. ~ Fanny & Furby, KR  
 2:30 p.m. ~ Knitting & Crocheting, KR  
 5:30 p.m. ~ Eastside Supper, BR

## Friday • June 12

7:30 a.m. ~ Rock Steady Boxing, **PF**  
 9:30 a.m. ~ Seated Strength, CR/**1960**  
 10:30 a.m. ~ Weights 101, CR/**1960**  
 11:30 a.m. ~ Sit & Be Fit, CR/**1960**  
 7:00 p.m. ~ Prairie Rose DJ, CY

## Saturday • June 13

9:00 a.m. ~ Tai Chi, **1960 only**  
 9:30 a.m. ~ Band Bust Exercise Class, **1960 only**

### Room Abbreviations

<b>1960</b> , TV Channel 1960	ME, Main Entrance
BR, Bison Room	<b>MM</b> , 120 N. Scenic Drive
CR, Community Room	MR, Manhattan Room
CY, Courtyard	<b>PF</b> , Peakform Wellness Center
EC, Event Center	PR, Patriot Room
FHR, Flint Hills Room	PS, Prairie Star Restaurant
GC, Grosh Cinema	<b>STM</b> , St. Thomas More Church
KR, Kansas Room	VBL, Verna Belle's Lounge
KSU CL, KSU Classroom	<b>WPL</b> , Wamego Public Library



## GROSH CINEMA SHOWTIMES

MONDAY TO SATURDAY 1:00 P.M. / 4:00 P.M. / 7:00 P.M.  
SUNDAY 2:00 P.M. / 6:00 P.M.

### SUNDAY: June 7

***JUMANJI: WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE*** (2017) PG-13, 1hr. 59 min. *Comedy, Quest*

Cast: Dwayne Johnson, Kevin Hart, & Jack Black

Four high school students get sucked into the jungle setting of a video game, where they embark on a quest as their comically mismatched adult avatars.

### MONDAY: June 8

***MRS. HARRIS GOES TO PARIS*** (2022) PG, 1hr. 55 min. *Comedy, Drama*

Cast: Lesley Manville, Isabelle Huppert, & Lambert Wilson

In 1950s London, a widowed cleaning lady falls madly in love with a couture Dior dress, deciding she must have one. She embarks on an adventure to Paris that will change not only her own outlook -- but the very future of the House of Dior.

### TUESDAY: June 9

RESIDENT REQUEST

***I'M STILL HERE*** (2024) PG-13, 2 hr. 17 min. *Docudrama, Historical Epic, Portuguese*

Cast: Fernanda Torres, Fernanda Montenegro, & Selton Mello

A woman married to a former politician during the military dictatorship in Brazil is forced to reinvent herself and chart a new course for her family after a violent and arbitrary act.

### WEDNESDAY: June 10

***ALOHA*** (2015) PG-13, 1 hr. 44 min. *Comedy, Romance, Drama*

Cast: Bradley Cooper, Emma Stone, & Rachel McAdams

A celebrated military contractor returns to the site of his greatest career triumphs and reconnects with a long-ago love while unexpectedly falling for the hard-charging Air Force watchdog assigned to him.

### THURSDAY: June 11

***THE CHILDREN ACT*** (2017) R for a sexual reference, 1 hr. 45 min, *Legal Drama*

Cast: Emma Thompson, Stanley Tucci, & Reena Lalbihari

As her marriage crumbles, a judge must decide a case involving a teenage boy who is refusing a blood transfusion on religious principle.

### FRIDAY: June 12

***FOOL'S GOLD*** (2008) PG-13, 1 hr. 52 min. *Romantic Comedy, Action Adventure*

Cast: Matthew McConaughey, Kate Hudson, & Donald Sutherland

A new clue to the whereabouts of a lost treasure rekindles a married couple's sense of adventure -- and their estranged romance.

### SATURDAY: June 13

***MAYBE I DO*** (2023) PG-13, 1 hr. 35 min. *Feel-Good Romance, Comedy*

Cast: Diane Keaton, William H. Macy, & Richard Gere

Michelle and Allen are in a relationship. They decide to invite their parents to finally meet. Turns out, the parents already know one another well, which leads to some differing opinions about marriage.