

NORTH SHORE JOURNAL

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Christine Mallory, Editor

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34th Annual John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon

By Kitty Mayo

The 34th Annual John Beargrease Sled Dog race is gearing up to be a great one with a decent amount of snow, and cold temperatures that sled dogs thrive in.

Starting on Sunday, January 28th just outside of Two Harbors, the four-hundred mile race was first run in 1980 and honors the memory of John Beargrease who secured his name in history by running a dog team in winter months to deliver mail between Two Harbors and Grand Marais during the late 1800s. Mike Keyport, Grand Portage band member and great-grandson of Beargrease, is now on the board of directors for the race.

With only eight mushers registered for the marathon race thus far, odds are looking good for a northshore showing. Colleen Wallin, Beargrease veteran and 2015 third-place winner from Two Harbors, Matt Schmidt who ran his first Beargrease last year from Grand Marais, and Blake Freking, 2004 Beargrease champion from Finland are all signed up for the marathon.

The mid-distance race, which is still a long hike at 150 miles and a field of over 30 teams participating, has a whole host of northshorers signed up: Nick Turman, Two Harbors, Frank Moe, Hovland, Mary Manning, Hovland, Jennifer Freking, Finland, Andrea DeBoer, Grand Marais, Alice White, Ely, Rita Wehseler, Tofte, Adam Treeful, Grand Marais.

Once again this year the race start will be out of the gravel pit just a few miles up Highway 2 outside of Two Harbors. To get to the race start turn north off of Highway 61 /7th Avenue, travel about 8.5 miles to the Snowmobile State Trail turn-

off. Parking for the public is along Highway 2. Walk to the turnoff (right on Alger Grade Road) and you will very shortly come to the gravel pit area where the race will start.

If you get there at noon you can meet the mushers and their dogs, buy some tasty goodies, and maybe some Beargrease merch if you are so moved. Mid-distance runners will take off starting at 2:00 pm, with the marathoners soon to follow.

FYI: pets are NOT permitted at the event, though ADA trained service animals that are specifically trained to aid a person with a disability are, of course, most welcome.

This year's race route is identical to last years, with Grand Portage the designated turnaround point with its mandatory eight hour rest period. The race's end is at Billy's Bar (on Jean Duluth Road) with the marathon runners usually coming across the finish line the following Wednesday.

Following groomed snowmobile trails along the Sawtooth Mountains ridgeline, checkpoints are at Finland, the Sawbill Trail, the Gunflint trail center, and Grand Portage Lodge.

GPS tracking for each racer will let you follow along, and can be a good predictor of when they the will pass through a checkpoint that you want to catch them at.

In addition to the marathon and mid-distance races, fans can follow the Recreation and Junior races, as well as the Cub Run for kids. For more information about the mushers, their dogs and events details, go to: <https://beargrease.com/>

Second Grand Marais Women's March announced

Arrowhead Indivisible action group to host march on January 20

All are invited to join the 2018 Women's March in downtown Grand Marais on Saturday, January 20 at 1 p.m.

Participants who want to raise awareness of the systems that threaten women's equality, health, and human rights should gather in Harbor Park at 1 p.m. on Saturday, January 20. Volunteers from the local action group Arrowhead Indivisible will lead participants on a march through downtown Grand Marais, ending back in Harbor Park for a brief presentation. Participants are encouraged to bring signs.

The Grand Marais Women's March seeks to highlight the many issues that affect American women today: from the sexual abuse and harassment highlighted in last year's #metoo movement, to the need for pay equality, as well as the lack of female representation in U.S. politics. Organizers hope the march will remind others of the work left to do to achieve equality in our country and to also inspire fellow community members to take action, especially as the United States move towards the mid-term elections in November.

This is the second such march

January Human Trafficking Awareness Month

By Kitty Mayo

For the fifth year the Lake County Sex Trafficking Task Force gathered with community members at the atrium of the Lake County courthouse at 4:30 pm on Monday, January 8th. Held to honor those who have died because of trafficking, those who are being trafficked, and those who have survived, the vigil hopes to bring the issue into social consciousness.

The Lake County Sex Trafficking Task Force (LCSTTF) was formed in 2013 to reach out to individuals, businesses, and organizations across the county to raise awareness and educate in an effort to keep the county free of commercial sex, as well as to advocate for victims eligible to receive services provided by the Minnesota Safe Harbor/No Wrong Door initiative.

Statements in support of awareness for human trafficking were read by officials from Silver Bay, Two Harbors and Lake County at the vigil. Senator Amy Klobuchar also sent a letter that was read by one of her staff members.

Sue Hilliard thanked local law enforcement who were represented by Lake County Sheriffs and Two Harbors Police Department, saying that LCSTTF has appreciated their support from the start. Philip Hommes played harp while vigil candles were passed around to those in attendance.

Introduced as "a fierce advocate", special guest Joy Friedman, survivor and advocate for human trafficking prevention, spoke to the group about her experiences, urging the community as a whole to find new ways to help victims of trafficking in practical and emotional ways.

"This is my passion, any time I can bring awareness of this issue I am ready to speak out," Friedman stated.

"It's going to take all of us to get rid of this, at the end of the it's about unity," said Friedman, referring to sexual exploitation. Friedman says that she fell into the pits of sex trafficking for 22 years un-

held in Cook County. On January 21, 2017, Berta Bauer organized a Women's March in Grand Marais as one of 673 Women's Marches held around the world in concert with the Women's March in Washington D.C. The Women's March movement began in 2016 with the mission to "harness the political power of diverse women and their communities to create transformative social change. Women's March is a women-led movement providing intersectional education on a

til the age of 37, and has worked for the last 17 years trying to help others get free of the lifestyle. She currently works at the Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center in Minneapolis.

Primary among the Friedman's speech was the message that victims of trafficking should not be judged. After her experiences of being labeled a prostitute, arrested, and viewed as a criminal, Friedman said that type treatment only leads to further alienation. Instead, she said that victims of trafficking need humane treatment, help getting jobs and housing, and support through their return to a healthy and normal lifestyle.

Holding up her vigil candle, Friedman said, "My light represents I'm a safe port in the storm, and the light represents those that didn't survive the storm."

The LCSTTF urges citizens to take personal responsibility by calling 911 if you see something that doesn't look right. Anyone with questions, concerns, or if you need help yourself, the LCSTTF says help can be found by calling the Polaris Project National Hotline at 1-888-373-7888.

Here are several free events during the month of January to promote awareness and prevention of human trafficking:

Jan. 11 - National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, Enger Tower remains lit

Jan. 13 - all day Gichi Manidoo Giizis Traditional Pow Wow, Black Bear Casino Resort - Grand Entries: 1:00 & 7:00 pm; Feast @ 5:00 pm

Jan. 16 - 6:00 pm MOVIE: "The Mask You Live In" Lincoln Park Middle School Auditorium "How do we raise our boys?" A probing documentary - 3215 W. 3rd St. - Duluth on what it means to be male in American society.

Jan. 23 - 6:30 pm Two Harbors Community Event: Bystander Activism - Two Harbors Community Center - Sponsored by Lake County Sex Trafficking Task Force.

diverse range of issues and creating entry points for new grassroots activists and organizers to engage in their local communities through trainings, outreach programs, and events."

During the weekend of January 20-21, one-year anniversary Women's Marches will be held around the world. More information about these events can be found at: <http://www.powertothepolls.com/>