

## VISUALART | PREVIEW

# PREVIEW THE FUTURE at MAKER FAIRE MILWAUKEE

BY TYLER FRIEDMAN

**T**he traditional science fair evokes images of sputtering baking soda volcanoes and soporific posters about the movement of tectonic plates. By comparison, Maker Faire Milwaukee is a science fair for mad scientists and fetishists of futurity.

The pièce de résistance of the 2016 Maker Faire Milwaukee is *Hand of Man*, a seven-ton, 26-foot, hydraulically activated sculpture of a human hand, which is operated via a glove controller allowing the operator to control the hand by moving their own. The wearer becomes a prosthetic god—capable of crushing cars like a tin can.

Countless other curios will make a showing as well, including solar-powered vehicles of the future, fossilized snowflakes and handmade accent lamps of wood and raw brass. So abundant and varied is Maker Faire Milwaukee that attendees are encouraged to visit the event's website where they can preview this year's many makers.

The third annual Maker Faire Milwaukee is held at Wisconsin State Fair Park from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 24 and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 25. Admission is free. For more information, visit their website at [makerfairemilwaukee.com](http://makerfairemilwaukee.com).

## "Return of the Big Sheboygan Shebang"

Stefanie H. Weill Center | 826 N. Eighth St.

The vaudevillian extravaganza that is "Return of the Big Sheboygan Shebang" contains too much entertainment for a single venue. Consequently, beginning at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 24, fire-eaters, ukulele thrummers, baton twirlers and other oddly talented odd ducks will hold court on Eighth Street in Downtown Sheboygan. At 7:30 p.m., performers will take to the stage for a carefully crafted production emceed by self-styled lunatic Dr. Prof. Tomáš Kubínek and featuring, among others, musical comedian Al Simmons and rope aerialist Elise Ebner. Get your tickets for this one-night event by calling 920-208-3243 or by visiting [weillcenter.com](http://weillcenter.com).

## "RAM Collects: Contemporary Art to Wear" and "Sensory Overload: Clothing and the Body"

Racine Art Museum | 441 Main St.

Two original shows produced by the Racine Art Museum (RAM) ennoble clothes by removing them from the closet and hanging them on museum walls. As its title suggests, "RAM Collects: Contemporary Art to Wear" explores the functional side of clothing as art. "This show crosses boundaries," says Lena Vigna, current RAM curator of exhibitions. "These artists don't necessarily have art backgrounds; for instance, some bring a chemistry background to dying fabrics." Vigna borrowed works from contemporary artists across the country to produce "Sensory Overload: Clothing and the Body." "These works push the conceptual side of clothing as an art form," she says. "Most people wouldn't choose to wear these works on an everyday basis." Both shows are open from Sept. 23 through Dec. 30.

## BOOK | PREVIEW

# The Cost of College

Sara Goldrick-Rab on 'Paying the Price' of education :: BY JENNI HERRICK

**A**ccording to the National Center for Education Statistics, college costs rose 25-35% between 2003-04 and 2013-14. Financial aid has not kept pace with tuition hikes, meaning that the cost of college has increased dramatically over the past decade, leading to inflation and putting dreams of a higher education out of reach for many average Americans. Author Sara Goldrick-Rab, who served as director of higher education policy and sociology at UW-Madison for more than a decade, has written an important new book that uncovers the damning details of rising college costs and the confusing maze of financial aid policies that leaves many students unable to afford a higher education.

In *Paying the Price: College Costs, Financial Aid, and the Betrayal of the American Dream*, Goldrick-Rab follows 3,000 young people who entered public universities across the state of Wisconsin in 2008. Even with the support of federal aid and Pell Grants, the effects of this unprecedented study are dramatic: 40% of the students in the study left college without a degree, while only 10% graduated within five years. For most of these students, leaving college early meant dealing with crippling college debt and an uncertain future. The book tells the stories of six individual students as well as providing shocking data related to our nation's convoluted financial aid policies. *Paying the Price* is a wake-up call for change in our higher education system and the government.

Goldrick-Rab is a national expert on higher education and financial aid policies, and her work has been covered on NPR and in *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic* and other publications. As part of her work in the state, she founded the Wisconsin HOPE Lab, the nation's first laboratory aimed at improving outcomes in postsecondary education. She will speak at the Milwaukee Public Library's Central Library/Centennial Hall, 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 22.

## BOOK | HAPPENING

## Jennifer Chiaverini

6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 28

Kenosha Public Library-Northside Neighborhood Library  
1500 27th Ave.

Bestselling Wisconsin writer Jennifer Chiaverini is the author of a number of works of captivating historical fiction, many set in the Civil War era and narrated by bewitching females from diverse socioeconomic and racial backgrounds. Chiaverini is also the author of the award-winning Elm Creek Quilts series and half a dozen collections of quilt patterns based on these books. In her new novel, *Fates and Traitors: A Novel on John Wilkes Booth*, she returns to a familiar-to-her period of American history and tells the stories of four women, each distinctly important in the life of the infamous assassin John Wilkes Booth. A Notre Dame and Chicago graduate, Chiaverini now resides in Madison. The event is co-sponsored by Boswell Book Co.