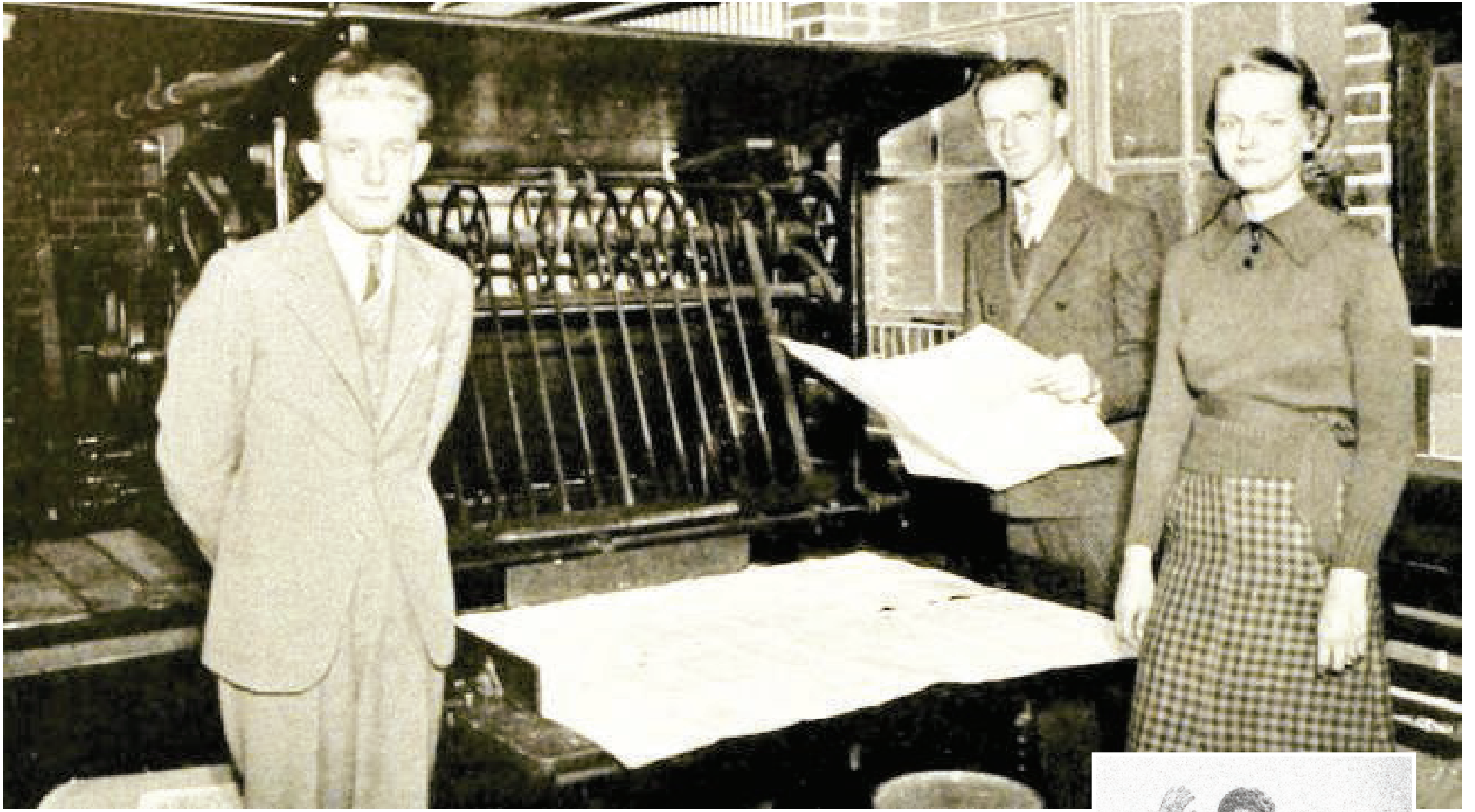


# LAKE LIFE

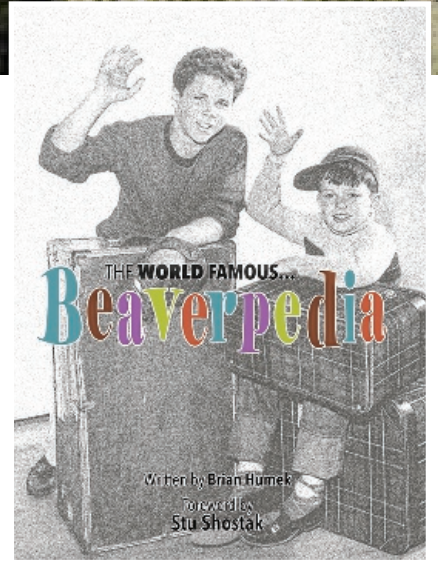
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## PEOPLE



PROVIDED PHOTOS

Above: Bob Mosher, left, on the Susquehanna University editorial staff. Right: "The World Famous Beaverpedia" by Brian Humek.



### To learn more

For more information on "The World Famous Beaverpedia" by Brian Humek, visit [leaveitto Beaverbooks.com](http://leaveitto Beaverbooks.com).

# Bob and the Beaver

## New book details the '50s show, its Auburn co-creator

DAVID WILCOX  
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A new book offers almost 500 pages of information on "Leave it to Beaver" — including the life of the Auburn native who co-created the iconic '50s television show.

Author Brian Humek, of Irving, Texas, released "The World Famous Beaverpedia" in December. The book was inspired by his lifelong adoration of the show, he told The Citizen, and based on exhaustive rewatching of all 234 episodes over the course of three months. Using a spreadsheet with 160 categories, he spent about two hours watching each 25-minute episode. Among other things, Humek noted when characters and locations appeared, situations were encountered and Jerry Mathers' Theodore "Beaver" Cleaver said, "Gee, Wally!" to his older brother portrayed by Tony Dow.

Before he chronicles the lives of the Cleaver family, however, Humek spends the first chapter of "Beaverpedia" on those of the men who created the sitcom: Joe Connelly and Auburn native Bob Mosher.

Born Jan. 18, 1915, Mosher grew up at 53 Lake Ave. in the city. He would later nod to his childhood home with references to that road in the "Beaver and Andy" and "Beaver's Cat Problem" episodes of "Leave it to Beaver," Humek wrote. But Mosher spent every season except summer in New York City, where his father left the child with his aunt. Mosher had lost his mother during birth.

After graduating from Morris High School in the South Bronx, Mosher studied English and worked for the newspaper at Susquehanna University in Pennsylvania. His summer jobs included writing for television and radio



Bob Mosher, top right, with the 1936 yearbook staff at Susquehanna University.

programs, as well as advertising copy. He continued the latter upon graduating, working for J. Walter Thompson agency in New York City, where he met Connelly.

The agency transferred Mosher and Connelly to Hollywood in 1942. There, they worked on "The Chase and Sanborn Hour," "Chesterfield Music Shop," "The Frank Morgan Show" and more before they were asked to write for "Amos 'n' Andy." In 12 years, they wrote more than 1,200 episodes of the radio sitcom, Humek said. By the early 1950s, however, they had set their sights on television.

Mosher and Connelly's credits before "Beaver" included writing an episode of "The Alan Young Show," creating the show "Meet Mr. McNutley" ("The

Ray Milland Show") and conceiving the story of 1955 film "The Private War of Major Benson," which earned the duo an Academy Award nomination. Two years later, they created what Humek called "the most endearing family comedy of all time."

At first, Mosher didn't think families — particularly children — would like "Leave it to Beaver." But he believed they did because he and Connelly often took their side instead of the parents'.

"Every episode is based on something that really happened," Mosher told The Citizen in 1962 while summering on Owasco Lake. "Either to my own children, any one of Joe's seven, or even to Joe and me when we were kids. Without straining, we try to get a lesson in the 'Beaver' episodes, and some of our fans

call Beaver a good example for youngsters. We want to portray kids honestly."

Mosher passed away in Los Angeles in 1971, eight years after the last season of "Leave it to Beaver," at the age of 57. He left behind a wife, Rose, and two children, Patricia and Bob Jr.

Mosher's son has praised Humek's book, saying in a testimonial, "My dad would've loved this book, which shows his passion for writing."

"Beaverpedia" is Humek's second book about the show, he said, and was the No. 1 new release in the TV books section of Amazon for five straight weeks. He has also published books in the young adult and ministry genres. Though he works full-time in licensing historical photos, he said he stopped working for months to write his latest ode to a show that has brought joy to him and millions of others.

"It takes you back to a time when you didn't have a lot of responsibilities," Humek said. "In 25 minutes everything is solved, any problem that they have. It's a fun show to watch."

Lake Life Editor David Wilcox can be reached at (315) 282-2245 or david.wilcox@lee.net. Follow him on Twitter @drwilcox.

## IN BRIEF

### Tourism office offering Tubman events grants again

The Cayuga County Office of Tourism has announced it will offer Harriet Tubman Events Grants for the second year in a row.

The grants are available to help county businesses and organizations develop events, activities or performances that will entertain and inspire while promoting and honoring Tubman's life and legacy. To be eligible, events must also take place between March and December 2023 and support inclusive activities.

"Harriet Tubman chose to spend over 50 years of her life in Cayuga County; these events are an opportunity to honor her," said Karen Kuhl, executive director of the tourism office, in a news re-

lease. "We hope many of these events will become annual traditions and Harriet Tubman's legacy continues to be elevated."

Last year, 17 events were supported by the grants, including the Seward House Museum, Howland Stone Store Museum, Aaduna, Fair Haven Community Arts Center and Montezuma Historical Society. The society said the grant helped it reveal an 1896 local newspaper article in its archives.

"Tour Cayuga's financial support provided the opportunity to reveal its truth at this time when we are so deeply in need of understanding the human story," the society said.

The grant application deadline is April 15, and winners will be notified May 15.

For more information, visit [tourcayuga.com](http://tourcayuga.com) or call (315) 255-1658.

### New women's conference to be held in Auburn March 10-11

A new women's conference, You Matter, will bring together a variety of Black experts Friday and Saturday, March 10 and 11, in Auburn.

Presented by Women in the NAACP and the Harriet Tubman Liberation Foundation, the conference is free and open to the public. It will begin at 9:30 a.m. Friday, March 10, with "Our Ancestors Matter: Harriet Tubman Day Walk" at the New York State Equal Rights Heritage Center, 25 South St., Auburn. Led by GirlTrek, the walk will proceed to Fort Hill Cemetery, where Tubman is buried.

Friday's events will continue with lunch from noon to 1:30 p.m. at Auburn Public Theater, a break from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m., "Creating Community" with facilitators at 5:30 p.m. at the theater, and a screening of "Harriet" at 7 p.m. at the theater.

Saturday, the conference will begin with check-in and a meet-and-greet coffee hour from 9 to 10 a.m. at the Harriet Tubman AME Zion Church, 90 Franklin St., Auburn. That will be followed by a morning motivational keynote speech by Vanessa Garrison, co-founder of GirlTrek, from 10:05 to 10:45 a.m.

Two sessions will then take place at the church from 10:50 to 11:35 a.m. and 11:40 a.m. to 12:25 p.m., featuring restorative yoga, a self-guided ComfortZone and vendors. Lunch will be

from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., and a 1:45 to 4 p.m. breakout session and 4 to 4:30 p.m. We Matter Gathering will wrap up the conference.

Along with Garrison, the conference will feature Valerie Hardy (spiritual direction), social worker and transitional counselor Renee Gregg, licensed clinical social worker Tamika Hudson, nutritional health specialist Merlin Marrain, OB-GYN Dr. Alisia Kabari, Tenekqua Cauthen (founder of B.E. With the Goofy Yogi) and nurse practitioner Angel Stanley.

For more information, or to register, call (315) 816-8529 or email [win@auburncayuganaacp.org](mailto:win@auburncayuganaacp.org).