

DISTRICT FORUM

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Community Calendar

- May 3, "Green" Historic Buildings (p. 3)
- May 5, Community Meetings* (p.5)
- May 7, Take-a-Hike (p. 5)
- May 7, E-waste Sculpting, Metro State (p. 3)
- May 10, Rain Barrel Workshop* (p.5)
- May 13 & 14, Hmong Film Festival (p.3)
- May 18 and 20, Meet the Police (p. 5)
- May 14, Plant Sale and Exchange (p. 5)
- May 23, Legal Forum at Metro State (p. 4)
- Throughout May: Social Justice Talks (p.7)

*Council office, 798 E. 7th Street

Fostering Hope



Dayton's Bluff Community Council staff poses for a picture in the Council office.

Pictured (left to right) are: Karin DuPaul, Community Organizer; Deanna Foster, new Executive Director; and June Bennett, Administrative Assistant.

Photo by Lou Michaels

New Executive Director at Dayton's Bluff Community Council

Deanna Foster is the new Executive Director at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council. She comes with years of experience working with neighborhoods. She is pleased to be working in Dayton's Bluff because of all the exciting things that are going on. Deanna wants to work with the community on their plans for the future. She is in the learning stage of her job and wants to learn what the community wants, its dreams and vision for the future. She came here because she wants to get back to working with neighborhood people and be involved at the local level. For many years Deanna worked at Hope Community (hope-community.org), an organization that started as a shelter for women and children and then expanded into community organizing and development as a way to instill a sense of hope and possibility in a community that was drug and violence ridden. People had given up, housing stock was deteriorated and crime was the norm. Residents said they tried everything, but nothing worked. They were overwhelmed and defeated and needed a sign of hope for the future.

Hope Community gathered people together and asked what they could do to change what is happening in their community. They wanted housing and places for community gatherings. When Hope Community started fixing up houses and renting quality affordable housing to families, the residents began to believe the neighborhood could change. Deanna worked on community organizing and the community became a sign of the possibility of significant change.

Deanna was involved in Hope Community early on doing the newsletter and as a coordinator of projects and became the Executive Director in 1992. She worked there until she went to work at LISC (Local Initiatives Support Corporation, the largest community development support organization in the country) in the middle 1990s. She is also part of a development group that has worked on housing issues in Jackson, Mississippi.

She lived in Minneapolis for 25 years and is now a resident of Woodbury where she gardens, walks her dog and entertains her grandchildren and great-nieces and nephews in a backyard pool. She said, "We always wanted a place for our large family gatherings, and now we have one." Community is her passion.

Transformation Possible

Anti-Racism seminar sparks community conversations

by Sherry Johnson
Special to the Forum

Veteran community leader Larry Hiscock delivered his Individualized Degree Program presentation, *Anti-Racism and Neighborhood Organizing*, at MSU student center on March 15.

Hiscock, a fifteen-year member of Minneapolis' Harrison Neighborhood Association, relayed his organization's response to inequitable outcomes of their policies. His opinion: Community organizations who wish to build diverse, equitable neighborhoods will benefit from anti-racism training, which can result in beneficial structural changes.

Of the many principles outlined in his two-hour presentation to Metro State University students and faculty – as well as interested Dayton's Bluff neighbors -- Hiscock emphasized the importance of community organizations' understanding of the history of the oppressed and marginalized in their locale.

He began his presentation outlining the history of the Harrison neighborhood, which has some parallels with Dayton's Bluff. Now a diverse, working class neighborhood, Harrison is marked by a history of segregationist city planning. It experienced a succession of demographic changes in which low-income populations would move in, prosper, and disperse as the next low-income population moved in. In the 1940s, "urban renewal" policies shifted white populations to the suburbs through institutionally racist policies, exemplified by the Federal Home Association's loan approval process which denied dark-skinned applicants. This left increasingly low-income populations and empty homes behind in what is now termed "white flight."

Another result of urban renewal was the rise of neighborhood associations. Made up of mostly homeowners, their intention became to raise standards of living by increasing homeownership. But according to Hiscock, the outcome of pro-ownership policies—still embraced by neighborhood associations and district councils today—resulted in excluding renters from participating equally in the local political process.

The conflict between intentions and outcomes became obvious when, Hiscock says, Harrison Neighborhood Association began asking themselves three questions: "Who benefits from our work? Who

ANTI-RACISM FORUM p. 6 >

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Community Council**
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Please join the Forum on Facebook!

Just can't wait for next month's Forum? Join the online conversation about Dayton's Bluff; "Like" the Forum's new Facebook page: search "Dayton's Bluff District Forum."

Get updates on community events, and add your own. Comment on stories in this issue; suggest ideas for next month. Hope to see you there!

Second annual Dayton's Bluff fundraiser a success

by Stephanie Harr

This year's annual Dayton's Bluff fundraising dinner was held on April 28 and, like last year's event, was another resounding success. For the second year, The Strip Club Meat and Fish hosted the event to benefit the Dayton's Bluff Community Council (DBCC) and closed its doors to other diners during the dinner. More than 50 friends of Dayton's Bluff were in attendance, filling the restaurant to capacity. Many neighbors, local business owners and the area's elected officials were on hand for the evening. According to neighborhood resident Tammy Barbie, "it feels very special to be in a beautiful restaurant like this and know that we are all here because we sup-

port the neighborhood and the Community Council."

This year's menu was custom-designed by the restaurant's acclaimed chef JD Fratzke. Highlights of the five-course meal included an arugula salad featuring grapefruit and blue cheese; braised pork belly; and a chocolate dulce de leche cake for dessert. Each course was paired with a wine or, in the case of dessert, a house-infused allspice bourbon cocktail.

Although the food was spectacular, many guests noted that the highlight was the opportunity to demonstrate their love and support for Dayton's Bluff with their neighbors and others. According to neighborhood resident Eric Zidlicky, "I feel very strongly that we should support and patronize local businesses, especially those will-

ing to host a fundraiser for a community organization like DBCC. I get a fabulous meal from a fabulous restaurant, and support the Community Council at the same time."

According to Deanna Foster, the newly-hired executive Director, it was an especially warm welcome into the organization and an opportunity to meet many of the organization's supporters. "A beautiful venue, enthusiastic people and excellent food all combined to create for me a memorable introduction to Dayton's Bluff.



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The event was a compelling reminder that patronizing quality, locally-owned and -operated businesses builds community. Let's do it often."

The event raised more than \$2,000 for general operating funds for the Community Council.



Diners enjoy a delicious meal at the 2011 Fundraiser. Pictured (left to right) are: Tammy Klinkhamer of the new University Bank on Arcade; George Klinkhamer; County Commissioner Rafael Ortega, and State Senator John Harrington. Photo by Lou Michaels



A bird's-eye glimpse of the classic décor of The Strip Club restaurant, which hosted the 2011 Dayton's Bluff Community Council Fundraiser. Photo by Lou Michaels

The Great Eastside Summer Resource Fair



Girl Scouts instructor Deb Predgen does a craft in the gym with young girls at the Eastside Resource Fair.

The Eastside Network Café and Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center held their annual Eastside Summer Resource Fair on Wednesday, April 13. This was a great way to bring the community together and have a dinner with families and friends.

Here at the resource fair, we were able to provide families with programs and activities that are going on the Eastside of Saint Paul and North End. Families enjoyed games, food, crafts and entertainment. This free event is held every year at Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center.

Agencies such as: the YMCA, City of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation, Girl Scouts of America, Boys and Girls Club, Community Education, Saint Paul Public Libraries, Common Bond, and Camp Fire USA work together with facilitator Lou Bender to provide educational trainings, resource fairs and free summer field trips for youth and teens in Saint Paul.

Add your voice

Check out Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center:

Open gym: Tues/Thurs, 4:00-6:00 pm

Computer lab open Tues/Thurs, 5:00-8:00 pm

Teen room is open Tues/Thurs 5-8pm

Dance Room is open Mon-Thurs from 5-8pm

Hmong film festival at Metropolitan State University

by Harvey Meyer

The second annual *Qhia Dab Neeg* (Hmong storytelling) film festival will be offered at Metropolitan State University on May 13 and 14.

Films and videos about Hmong culture, history, perspectives and issues will be shown in Founders Hall Auditorium, located at Metropolitan State's East Side campus. Twenty-five submitted films were produced, directed, acted in or worked on by Hmong or include Hmong themes and storylines, said Kao Choua Vue, the festival's creator and co-coordinator.

"Our goal for the festival is to honor Hmong storytellers and stories about Hmong," said Vue, a Hmong documentary filmmaker who lives on the East Side. "We also hope the films and videos help bridge the generation gap between older and younger Hmong and show Hmong history, communities and cultural and other issues. We invite and encourage non-Hmong to attend and learn more about Hmong in the United States and elsewhere."

Metropolitan State is excited about co-sponsoring the event, because it represents another way to connect with the community, which has long been integral to the university's mission, said Evelyn Rolloff, associate director of Metropolitan State's Center for Community-Based Learning.

"It's an example of our efforts to highlight the rich diversity in the community," said Rolloff. "The festival provides opportunities for our students to submit films or participate in other ways. Students and members of the community who attend will also have a chance to learn more about Hmong culture, history and view contemporary photography and art."

Vue observed that Metropolitan State offers a good venue for the festival because of its East Side location, where many Hmong live. She also noted that many students of color, including Hmong, attend the university.

Sue K. Hammersmith, Metropolitan State president, will welcome attendees on the first day of the festival, which is free and open to the public. Two university alums have submitted films for the festival.

The submitted films and videos, all in English or with English subtitles, range in length from two minutes to 80 minutes. Most of the films involve Hmong Minnesotans, but there are also submissions from Wisconsin, California and even Taiwan. Winners will be selected from three competitive categories.

The event, which will also feature a panel discussion, is being presented by In Progress, a Saint Paul nonprofit whose mission includes promoting diversity through digital media, videos, photography, music and other media. Among the organizations offering funding or in-kind contributions are Metropolitan State, the Minnesota State Arts Board, Compas, and Clean Water, Land and Legacy.

For more information about the film festival, please contact Kao Choua Vue at 651-890-6506 or vue.green@gmail.com.

Harvey Meyer is an Academic Writer/Editor at Metropolitan State.

Going Green in Historic Dayton's Bluff

Do you ever hear about a cool, new "green" building technology, then think, "Oh, I've got an old house. I can't use that." Well, maybe you can. And maybe you're already doing more than you think in terms of sustainability and energy efficiency.

Join us at Metropolitan State University's Library and Learning Center on Tuesday, May 3, to hear about what it means to "be green" in an historic neighborhood and how we can do even more as we restore and renovate our older homes.

Starting at 6:30 pm, we'll hear two speakers with backgrounds in historic preservation and environmentally friendly construction:

- Erin Hanafin Berg is a field rep-

resentative with the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota and was a panel member in the workshop series "Green Retrofitting Today's Homes for Tomorrow" sponsored by Historic Saint Paul a little over a year ago. She will address the sustainability aspects of historic preservation.

- Laura Faucher is an architect at Miller Dunwiddie Architecture and former board member of the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota. She will talk about how we can work on our homes in a "green" way while still respecting historic guidelines.

As always, we encourage residents to bring photos and stories about your own renovations to share following the scheduled speakers. If you would like special equipment, such as a PC and projector to show pictures, please contact Karin at 651-772-2075 so we can arrange it beforehand.

Where in Dayton's Bluff?



It may look like a Mexican pueblo, but this mystery building is located somewhere in Dayton's Bluff. Do you know where? Email karin@daytonsbuff.org or call 651-772-2075. The first correct response will be reported in the June Forum and will receive a pack of color postcards of Dayton's Bluff.



Instead of watching TV, make TV!

If you have the **desire to produce television** to express yourself, to get your point across, to help your neighbors, or to change your community for the better, we can help!



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375 Jackson St., Ste 250
Saint Paul, MN 55101

Public Art for the Digital Divide presents:

FREE E-Waste Sculpting Workshop for Youth

Please join us on Saturday, May 7, for a fun hands-on e-waste sculpting workshop. Don't know what e-waste is? Learn more about it and the digital divide from a professional multi-media artist who will be on hand to share techniques with the youth. Workshops run from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm and 1:00 - 3:00 pm. Youth-created sculptures will then be displayed at the St. Paul Central Library and Dayton's Bluff Library for the month of July.

Workshops are FREE and open to all ages! Please contact Keegan to reserve a spot at 651-209-3519 or keeganfraley@technology.org. Registration is encouraged but drop-ins are welcome. This event will be held in Room 302 at Metro State University. Enter through Dayton's Bluff Library and follow signs.



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Spotlight School: Community of Peace Academy

by June Bennett
Administrative Assistant,
Dayton's Bluff Community Council

How do you go about determining the education of your children? Do you go from school to school, or do you just accept the school that is in your area or closest to your home? I know there are so many schools here in St. Paul, but you want the best for your children, so you gather information and you read and read and weigh out your options.

Let me tell you about one of the schools here in St. Paul. The school is Community of Peace Academy, a public charter school located at 471 Magnolia Ave. East. When I went there to do this article, I was amazed at the atmosphere. The children had manners as far as speaking, and smiles on their faces, no matter if I saw them in the halls or in class. I was acknowledged with respect.

This school was founded 16 years ago, in 1995. The school has a strong commitment from the Board, staff and administration. I talked with Cara Quinn, the Director of Teaching and Learning, and she expressed her com-

mitment and spoke of how much she enjoys working there. Her son is a student at the school.

Dr. Karen Rusthoven, the school's Director, writes a monthly letter to parents on the ethical principle of the month. In March, the topic was "HOPE." She stated, "Children deserve to live in a hope-filled world. They look to us each day to give them hope! As the wise adults in our children's lives, we need to keep our spirits filled with hope, so that our hope will spill over onto them. In spite of the snow and cold, in spite of everything, I wish you hope! Enough for you and all of your family!"

So, if you have any doubts about your children's education, get acquainted with the people at Community of Peace Academy. The phone number is 651-776-5151, or check out their website at cpa.charter.k12.mn.us.





An artist paints the beautiful Swede Hollow landscape at the 2010 arts festival.

CALLING ALL DAYTON'S BLUFF ARTISTS AND CRAFTERS!

"Art in the Hollow" seeks artists, volunteers, visitors

Saturday, June 4 will be a big day for creative, talented folks in the Dayton's Bluff community, provided they sign up to participate in the second annual "Art in the Hollow," an open-air art fest in Swede Hollow Park. The open-air concept came from 19th Century French painters—Renoir, Monet, and other "impressionists"—who called it "*plein air*."

The art fest also welcomes craftspersons and performance artists. Though artists and crafters are encouraged to create right on-the-spot, as the 19th Century impressionists did, they also have the option of bringing and selling art works and craft items they created earlier. The one requirement is that whatever works or items are exhibited for sale must have been done by that person. In other words, no one will be allowed to peddle items acquired from Hong Kong or Buenos Aires or Vladivostok. This art fest is for creators, not peddlers.

Last year's performance artists were a diverse group that included singers, instrumentalists, and poetry-readers, along with story-tellers who told about the immigrants who once lived in Swede Hollow.

The art-fest is planned by Karin DuPaul and Romi Slowiak. Karin, who is well-known as Community Organizer for the Dayton's Bluff Community Council, is also president of Friends of Swede Hollow (FOSH), a support group for the East Side's most natural, beautiful park. Romi is an active promoter of the arts in St. Paul.

The planners hope to have multiple ethnic groups involved in both the development and implementation of the art fest. They encourage members of both the more-established ethnic groups, such as Mexican-Americans, and newer groups, such as Somali-Americans, to join in. Age diversity is important, also; children and teens are welcome to come and create. There will be a children's section with free art supplies and a special exhibit from Hope Academy elementary school, which has many Asian-American students.

Unlike many art fests, Art in the Hollow charges its participating artists and craftspeople no fee. In addition, participants receive invitations to a no-charge gala, a festive gathering hosted by the Water and Oil Art Gallery a couple weeks prior to the art fest. In keeping with the French theme, artists and craftspeople, along with sponsors and volunteers, will be served a free French-style breakfast at a private home nearby, and lunch will be available at a reasonable cost.

Volunteers will be on hand to transport supplies into the hollow, and there will be extra assistance for participants with disabilities. In fact, volunteers are needed for a variety of functions.

To obtain registration materials, or to volunteer, phone Karin DuPaul at 651-776-0550 or email her at SwedeHollow@gmail.com. You'll be glad you did! Artists' registrations must be returned by May 15.

Not an artist, but excited to share in this *plein air* art exhibit?

The event will be open 10:00 am - 5:00 pm on Saturday, June 4 in Swede Hollow Park. Park visitors will have an opportunity to see artists at work in the open-air setting of Swede Hollow, which is especially lovely in

Projects needed for Urban CROSS 2011

"Get all your summer projects done on one day (or week)!"

David S., Urban CROSS volunteer

Urban CROSS (Christians Reaching Out in Service in St. Paul) is a grass-roots, locally-grown mission/service project. Mounds Park United Methodist Church (MPUMC), at the corner of Earl and Euclid Streets, has challenged itself to better meet the needs of its neighborhood. One of the ways MPUMC is accomplishing this is by hosting a week-long service oriented camp during the week of June 20-24, 2011. At Urban CROSS, the members, neighbors and guests of MPUMC are serving the neighborhood, and we invite you to join us in this blessing.

Projects Needed: We are looking for residents and non-profit organizations who could use a hand. If you have a project that you need help with – such as painting, yard work, landscaping, cleanup, simple construction or repair – please contact the church at 651-774-8736, moundsparkumc.org, or mpumcyouth@gmail.com by May 31. We will then set up a time when one of our staff can come to your place to assess the project. The assessment will determine the details of the project, including whether or not it is feasible for us to do the project.

We look forward to the possibility of working with you.



Photo courtesy of Eric Buck

spring. The fest is a family event. Schools, day care homes, and churches are invited to participate. Parents and children are welcome and sidewalk chalk will be provided for children to draw Swede Hollow scenes of their own along the paved paths. Children's activities, such as face painting and crafts, are planned.

Former Swede Hollow residents and Hamm's Brewery employees will be invited. They love to come back to Swede Hollow and they will be on hand to share stories about this picturesque valley.

FOSH is a nonprofit organization that works on Swede Hollow projects such as plantings, cleanups, education, history tours and events. FOSH is planning to make this one of its annual events. Help spread the word! For more information, call 651-776-0550 or email SwedeHollow@gmail.com.

Community Outreach Legal Forum

Have a legal question, but feel intimidated by making an appointment and traveling to an attorney's office to ask? The Dayton's Bluff District Council's Arts, Culture and Outreach Committee has assembled a group of local attorneys to speak about many different areas of the law, including wills and estates, bankruptcy, divorce and child custody, personal injury and workers' compensation, and criminal law. Metropolitan State University has graciously allowed us to use its space to hold this legal forum. This is an opportunity for you to listen to an attorney and ask questions in a casual, no-cost, no-obligation setting. You are welcome to attend on Monday, May 23, from 6:00 - 8:00 pm at Metropolitan State University in the Library and Learning Center, Room 302.



An artist displays her creations for sale during last year's Art in the Hollow festival.

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Family survives fire at 1067 Wilson

Donations being accepted

by June Bennett, Administrative Assistant

After taking a bath, seven-year-old Dolly complained about being cold. Zee Thao, her mother, told her to go and put some clothes on, but instead Dolly decided to plug in a space heater. When she plugged in the heater, it sparked and burnt her finger. She returned to the living room and told her mother her bed had fire on it. Thao tried to put out the fire with water and a blanket. She called her husband, Tik Soukchaleum, and had to leave a message; when her husband called back, he asked, "What you mean the bed is on fire?" Thao thought the fire was out, but the house started to fill with heavy smoke. Realizing how bad the smoke had gotten, they fled the house. When the Fire Department arrived at 1067 Wilson Avenue at about 11 pm on April 6, the house was ablaze and heavily damaged.

The family has five children ranging in age from three to 14 years. The family lost almost everything, but thank goodness they are all okay. The Dayton's Bluff Community Council has set up a special fund to help the family. If you would like to donate funds, send a check to the Dayton's Bluff Community Council, 798 East 7th Street, Saint Paul MN 55106 for the Tik Soukchaleum Family.

Community meetings

The next Dayton's Bluff community meeting is Thursday, May 5 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm at the Dayton's Bluff District 4 Community Council office, 798 East 7th Street. The council holds a community meeting on the first Thursday of most months to work on community issues and let neighbors know about upcoming events.

Police and/or code enforcement officers are usually present at the

meetings. Bring addresses where problems are occurring and they will check them out. If the addresses are sent to the council offices ahead of time, they can research the issue before the meeting. All Dayton's Bluff residents are welcome to attend.

Complaints can also be made by calling 651-266-8989 or online at <http://www.stpaul.gov/index.aspx?nid=1649>. Complainants' names are kept confidential.

Take-a-Hike May 7

Take-a-Hike occurs on the first Saturday of most months. The next hike will be Saturday, May 7. Hikers meet at 10:30 am in Indian Mounds Park at Earl Street and Mounds Boulevard, and walk to East Side Heritage Park. Along the way. The hike is about four miles long with some moderately rough terrain. Transportation will be available to return to Indian Mounds Park, if needed.

Meet the Police

The Eastern District Police hosts its monthly meetings for community members at 722 Payne Avenue at the corner of Minnehaha Avenue.

The next meetings are on **Wednesday, May 18, at 6:30 pm, and Friday, May 20, at 9:30 am**. The meetings are intended to listen to and address concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side.

Friends of Swede Hollow

Meetings are on the second Wednesday of the month, generally at Water & Oil gallery, 506 Kenny Road or at members homes; call for location. The next monthly meeting is on **Wednesday, May 11** starting at 6:30 pm.

FOSH is planning the second annual Art in the Hollow, which is an art fest that will be held on Saturday, June 4. If you are an artist or know artists who would like to participate in Art in the Hollow, con-

tact us at SwedeHollow@gmail.com or 651-776-0550.

Dayton's Bluff Beat Phone

The Police Beat Phone will now be more available for residents calls. The Eastern Police District has made it possible for police officers to respond to calls coming into the Dayton's Bluff Beat phone, 651-341-7637, on a more regular basis. In the past, the phone was with one car from 4:00 pm - 2:00 am, four days a week. It was not in service on those officers' days off, special training, or vacations.

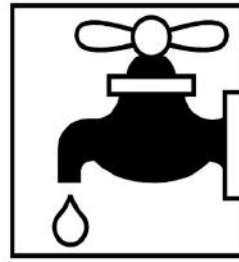
Now, there are four officers with two police cars that will carry the phone from 4:00 pm - 2:00 am. Another police car will have the Dayton's Bluff Beat Phone during daytime hours, from 7:00 am - 5:00 pm on many days.

What kind of calls should be made to the Beat Phone? You may call about ongoing problems in the neighborhood; concerns about people in vacant buildings after 10 pm; police-related questions, and so on. If you need police right away or see a crime in progress call 911 or 651-291-1111.

Small Business Classes

The Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Microentrepreneur Program is taking applications for the fall 2011 class.

The program helps start-up and young businesses; all East Side en-



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Dayton's Bluff
Neighborhood Housing Services
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St. Paul, MN 55106
651.774.6995-office
www.dbnhs.org



Block club meetings

Margaret Rec Center Block Club meets on the **second Thursday of each month** at the Margaret Rec Center, at Margaret and Frank, at 6:30 pm.

Beech/Margaret 654 Block Club will meet on the **last Thursday of the month**. This block club covers the area Minnehaha, Beech Margaret, 6th, 5th, and 4th Streets between Cypress and Arcade.

If you wish to have your block club listed, or need information about starting your own block club, please contact Karin at 651-772-2075 or Karin@DaytonsBluff.org.

trepreneurs are welcome. The Dayton's Bluff Community Council and the Neighborhood Development Center have been hosting two such microentrepreneur classes each year since 1993.

Classroom training lasts eight weeks and includes topics such as operations management, marketing, financial management, how to create a successful business and how to prepare a business plan. In addition, each student will have eight hours of one-on-one time with the instructor to work on individual business concepts. Those who successfully complete the course and locate their businesses in target neighborhoods are eligible for ongoing business support services.

The registration fee is based on a sliding scale. The next session will start in September. Class size is limited, so don't wait to apply. For an application, see the contact information below.

Annual Plant Sale and Exchange

The eighth Annual Greening Dayton's Bluff Plant Sale and Exchange will be held on **Saturday, May 14**, from 9:00 to 11:00 am at the corner of East 7th Street and Bates in the gardens outside the Swede Hollow Café. If you have plants in your garden that you have too many of or do not like any longer, bring them to the plant exchange and take home something you would rather have in your garden. For more information, see the contact information below.

Rain Barrel Workshop

Build your own rain barrel at a workshop scheduled for Tuesday,

May 10, at 6:30 pm at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council office.

A rain barrel is an old idea given new life as more people are realizing that water is not a limitless commodity. Placed under a downspout to collect water from the roof, a rain barrel can help save water for use in the yard, eliminate potential flooding in basements, and reduce storm water management costs.

The \$15 registration fee will help cover the cost of a \$50 rain barrel that participants can take home and put to use. To register, send a \$15 check made out to the Dayton's Bluff Community Council and mail it to the Dayton's Bluff Community Council, 798 East 7th Street, St. Paul, MN 55106 or call Karin at 651-772-2075.

KidVenture Registration Now Open

East Side KidVenture provides safe, community-based, engaging programming for youth entering grades 1-5. Sessions are led by community artists, teachers and professionals. Each day, youth rotate through fun workshops on arts, cooking, dance, physical activity, and more! Programming is free to youth who live or go to school in the Dayton's Bluff or Payne/Phalen neighborhoods. Summer sessions will be held at the Dayton's Bluff Rec Center, 800 Conway. Call 651-487-7383 to register through Community Education. Free transportation is available via the East Side Circulator Buses.

For more information...

...about anything on this page, contact Karin: karin@daytons-bluff.org or 651-772-2075.

- **Is debt making your life miserable?**
- **Do you want someone to talk to?**
- **Would you like to learn about options to help your family?**

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ANTI-RACISM FORUM
continued from p. 1 >

... isn't here (at these meetings, on this board)? What about affordable housing?"

What they discovered? Homeowners, largely white and middle-income, received the lion's share of any federal, state, city, or nonprofit monies. Their sparsely-attended association meetings misrepresented the community's racial make-up, with few people of color attending them in a minority-white neighborhood. As they dug deeper and sought anti-racism training, they found that most of their outreach to renters came from a sense of internalized racial superiority, resulting in renter bias: The mistaken belief that ownership, over rentership, is the primary way to encourage pride in one's community.

Hiscock credits Harrison's sweeping structural changes and accompanying successes to huge investments in anti-racism training through the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond. First sending three board members, then small groups, then large groups—including key partners—they discovered a common language to identify and root

out institutional racism wherever it developed.

Within a year of sending those first three members to anti-racism training, the association instituted major structural changes in response to what they'd learned. They began holding regular anti-racism workshops and listening sessions around the community. Their telecommunications-based community engagement style transformed into door-knocking and relationship-building. "We no longer compartmentalize the personal from the political," Hiscock explains. They had come to find that such a value was indeed specific to white culture, and that it failed to build trust.

"Specifically addressing racial equity...changes the tone," asserts Hiscock. Not only did diverse crowds of people start showing up for meetings, but more became involved in local policymaking and planning—spurred on by the new Harrison Neighborhood Association's commitment to developing leaders that represented the whole community.

The Harrison Neighborhood Association changed their vision statement to reflect these refreshed values, culminat-

ing in a Community Benefits Agreement Campaign. No longer was homeownership and gentrification their primary focus to benefit the few. Now, they would work for a broader-based vision of what makes strong communities: local jobs employing local people; affordable, right-sized housing; environmental stewardship and justice; and planning for rich community life.

Johnston & Johnston: Sharing a Musical Passion

by Steve Trimble,
Forum Board Member

Many parents dream their children will follow in their footsteps by sharing similar interests and passions. Dayton's Bluff resident Alan Johnston has reason to be doubly proud of his family's accomplishments.

Johnston recently received the Teacher of the Year award given by the Thursday Musical Club. The group is one of the oldest classical musical associations in Minnesota. They promote performances and scholarships for local artists and young, aspiring musicians. The club noted Alan's exemplary record as a teacher of talented youth, many of whom have received awards themselves. This year, three of his students were finalists and Alan said he "was very surprised" and deemed the news "pretty darn great."

The Schubert Club, perhaps the most prestigious musical group in the state, also has high regard for Alan's teaching; in five of the last six years his students have won the top award for classical guitar.



Alan and Henry play an impromptu father-son duet in their living room.

Photo by Steve Trimble

24. Henry is the youngest person to have won in this category. His father summed things up when he said, "It made me feel both proud of my son and satisfied about my professional accomplishments as a teacher."

Restaurant Review – Moonshine at 1179 7th STREET

by Dan Stahley, District Council board member

Moonshine is an example of why I love living in Dayton's Bluff. We are lucky to have such a wide array of different cultures living in our neighborhood. In turn, this means that we have many different options for great food. The Thao family, lifelong Eastside residents, purchased the former Moose Bar on East 7th Street about two years ago and changed the name to Moonshine. The cooking, both traditional Thai and Hmong, is done primarily by mother, Katherine Thao, and the business is run by the father and son team of Sean and Johnny Thao. Moonshine is the family's third restaurant; they also own the East Side Thai restaurants on Payne Avenue and University Avenue.

The house specialties are the Pad Thai and the Thai-style Pho, a traditional beef and noodle soup that is the perfect food on a cold winter night. My favorite menu items are the pot stickers, curry dishes and Hmong-style sausage, with sticky rice. The food all packs a flavor punch, so you will need a beer or two to douse the flames in your mouth. For the more adventurous eater, Moonshine proudly serves cow tongue, pig feet and chicken feet. If you have an unadventurous eater in your group, they also serve great chicken wings and fries.

The restaurant is open daily from 5:00 pm until 1:00 am and serves a full menu until midnight. All of the food options on the menu range from \$3 to \$7. Moonshine has a full bar that serves until 1:00 am and has everything from \$5 pitchers of Natty Ice, for the budget swiller, to Johnny's specialty house cocktail, the "Crunk-Nasty" (drink first, ask questions later).

Wednesday is a good night to visit the bar. Formerly ladies night, and now known as "gender-equality" night, Moonshine serves both men and women with 3-4-1 drinks from 9:00 until 10:00 pm and 2-4-1 drinks from 10:00 until 11:00 pm. They also have karaoke all night on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.

Moonshine Saloon

Thai food; full bar
1179 7th Street E
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To share more about this transformation, Larry Hiscock hopes to host a second conversation at Metro State to address how Dayton's Bluff might benefit from the same lessons and methods.

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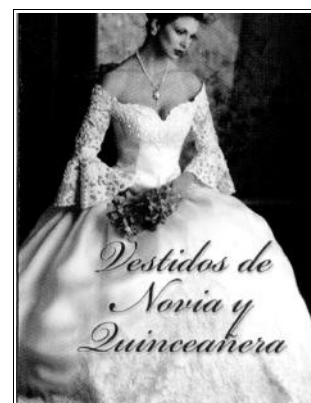


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“Baby-whisperer” to retire

Joan Bergman celebrates 29 years soothing babies, parents at ECFE

by Meg Gronau, Editor

To hear her talk, you'd think anybody could do it. You'd think that calming the raging storm of a 2-year-old child was simply a skill that could be learned. You'd think that managing a roomful of children, from newborns up to three years of age, is simply child's play.

"The more you know about child development, the more your expectations get in line, and the typical stuff doesn't get so unsettling," says Joan Bergman, the infant/toddler Educational Assistant at Dayton's Bluff ECFE (Early Childhood Family Education).

"Typical stuff" for a 2-year-old, for the uninitiated: Tantrums. Inability to share. Incredibly messy eating. Inconsistent toileting habits. Insistence on "doing it myself," but lacking the physical, emotional, and/or mental ability to, in fact, do it. Separation anxiety. High energy. Curiosity. Impulsivity.

But Joan takes it all in stride. Did I say "Educational Assistant"? Right. A more appropriate title would be "Baby Whisperer." "Saint Joan." "Magical Baby-Sorceress."

Bergman is retiring this year, after 29 years. And while her young charges may not be able to recall her teaching style, their parents certainly do.

"She is amazing," said Caitlin Seath, mom of two of Joan's alums. "Kids stop crying as soon as she talks or picks them up. If a child hits another, she will gently tell that child 'Look, you hurt so-and-so; they are sad.'"

"I've NEVER seen her get frustrated or heard her raise her voice," said Anitra Krogman, a parent who has been involved with Dayton's Bluff ECFE for nearly a decade.

"She has continually wowed me with her patience and calm," adds Julia Hobday, mother of four. "I've seen her sway the most persistent toddler and soothe so many distressed babies into quiet contentment."

And it's not just the babies who benefit from Joan's gentle, loving kindness.

Holly Windingstad, another ECFE parent, recalls one very difficult parenting day. "I felt like my world was crushing around me. Three days of no shower, the baby up all night nursing, the older kids acting up for attention – Joan sat down next to me on the carpet and said to me, 'They love you even when you are having a hard day.' She just said it so calmly and non-judgmentally, just easy chatting. She re-centered my thoughts and calmed me down."

Joan is "the grandma every new mom should wish to have," says ECFE parent Rainbow Espinosa. "She always listens with attention as we brag about the things our toddlers have learned to do – like she hasn't heard the story a million times over the years – and shares fond memories of her own children's babyhood."

In fact, "What would Joan do?" has become the mantra of countless tired, overworked, frustrated parents in St. Paul. "How would Joan handle this situation?"

And therein lies the magic: not only can Joan smooth the most-furrowed brow and dry the soggiest tears; but her

example leads countless parents to pause before screaming or punishing their toddlers. Parents who have experienced Joan being Joan, are more apt to approach difficult situations with love instead of fear, and understanding instead of rage.

Joan claims she wasn't always a magical baby-sorceress. When she was first offered the ECFE job, she assumed she'd be in the "preschool" (3-5-year-olds) room. Recalling her surprise at being placed with infants and toddlers, she said, "I'd had children, but I'd never had that many at one time!"

She had excellent mentors. The late Dorothy Petrie, the first ECFE teacher ever, helped hire Joan and taught her the value of patience and the importance of understanding how infants' and toddlers' brains work.

"Early Childhood teachers are fun people," Bergman says. "It's a wonderful atmosphere to be in. It's ... rejuvenating – full of hope and energy – who wouldn't want to be in that kind of environment?"

Bergman has also been influenced by the little ones in her care.

"They're tough; they're persistent," she says. And the parents have made an impact, too: "I have been so touched – people hand you the most precious thing in their life," she says.

Mary Ann Cogelow, Dayton's Bluff ECFE Parent Educator for 34 years, says of Bergman, "She is one of the most centered and grounded people I know. She brings these life skills to her work with infants and toddlers and is absolutely physically and psychologically present with them. Her presence is deeply affirming and growth supporting to them. She also has a great sense of humor which enhances her work with people of all ages."

Joan's easygoing sense of humor certainly has served her well through the years. She laughs and recalls the day that a four-year-old child in her care brought a pair of red plastic handcuffs and locked her up.

"Fortunately he locked my hands together in FRONT of me," Joan says. "I never thought to ask whether he had a key!"

Bergman was personally thanked in the acknowledgments of the book *Kids, Parents, and Power Struggles: Winning for a Lifetime*, written by renowned parenting expert Mary Sheedy Kurcinka.

And how will Bergman spend her newfound free time? "Anything that will get me outside in the nice weather: mow the grass, play in the dirt," she says, also mentioning a book club, day trips in Minnesota, getting more exercise, and attending theatre. Her son Jeff will be married this summer to fiancée Mary, and Bergman looks forward to the family time spent with them, along with daughter Michelle and husband John. And, of course, "I will be coming back [to ECFE] to volunteer; I have to have little people in my life."

Dayton's Bluff ECFE is celebrating Joan's contribution to the community during its annual picnic, June 13, at Mounds Park. Festivities will begin around 5:30 pm, and all are welcome. Should you wish to attend or contribute to the event, please contact editor-@daytonsbuff.com.

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SOCIAL JUSTICE TALK SERIES HELD AT HAZEL PARK CHURCH

Hazel Park Congregational United Church of Christ, at 1831 E. Minnehaha Ave., St. Paul, is wrapping up its "Sacred Conversations: Social Justice Talks" series with a discussion on Interfaith and Progressive Christianity.

The presentations, held on Sundays, May 1, 8, and 15 from 11:15 am to 12:15 pm in the Fellowship Hall, will be informal and participatory, facilitated by Rev. Sara Morse and student pastoral intern Anna Larson, of HPUCC.

REDUCED-PRICE GROCERIES AVAILABLE

Hazel Park Congregational United Church of Christ is a distribution partner for Fare For All Express, a cooperative food-buying program that offers fresh produce and quality meats at a savings of up to 50 percent off retail prices.

The cooperative buying program is open to all without qualifying requirements or pre-registration. Fare For All groceries are available for purchase on select Wednesdays each month from 4:00 to 6:00 pm at the church, located at 1831 E. Minnehaha Ave., St. Paul.

Upcoming drop-in distribution events are May 4, June 1, July 6, Aug. 3 and 31, Oct. 5, Nov. 2 and 30. Cash, credit cards, EBT cards or debit cards accepted; checks not accepted. Please visit www.fareforall.org for other Twin Cities locations, or call Hazel Park UCC at 651-735-2555, or visit www.hazelpark-congregationalucc.org.

Keys of Paradise opens in old Hamm's Brewery

Keys of Paradise, a local Pagan-owned business, has moved into the old Hamm's Beer Brewery on the east side of St. Paul. Their new facility offers space for production, a meeting room, a healing space, classes, and their main offices.

Keys of Paradise specializes in products, particularly mystical oils, herbs, and incenses, made for all spiritual communities. They are currently having a sale of 20% off all mystical oils and 10% off all herbs to support

and celebrate the move to the new location.

Keys of Paradise's owners pride themselves on acquiring fresh herbs right from the farmers.

Co-owner Michael Forde says, "Most of our herbs can be used for all of their well-known applications outside the magical applications too."

Online orders can enter the free shipping code "CUSTPICKUP" to pick up the products directly from the facility, to avoid shipping costs.

Contact Keys of Paradise at 612-293-5397, at www.keysofparadise.com, or on Facebook.

MOUNDS PARK BARBER STYLISTS



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Tidying up Swede Hollow



Left: Cliff Carey and Angela DuPaul at the Swede Hollow Park Clean Up. Both have been working on Swede Hollow improvement projects and clean ups for over 30 years.

Below: Volunteers working on the Swede Hollow Clean Up. Over 30 volunteers worked at removing trash from many of the nooks and crannies in Swede Hollow.



Most of our local parks could use a helping hand this spring! Gather a broom, gloves, and trash bags to bring on your next walk, and make a difference in your neighborhood.

Vote for the Best Taco on the East Side!

¡Vota para el mejor taco en el este!

The *Forum* staff thought it might be fun to celebrate *Cinco de Mayo* by asking our readers to visit nearby local restaurants and decide which one serves the best tacos. *Cinco de Mayo* (May 5) commemorates the Mexican army's unexpected victory over the colonialist French forces at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862. It represented a significant morale boost to the Mexican army and the Mexican people at large. While *Cinco de Mayo* is not a major event south of the border, it is celebrated throughout Latino populations in the United States, including St. Paul.

We hope many of our readers will take the time to visit some of our local Mexican food establishments and vote on which of them, in your opinion, made the best tacos.

These particular places were not chosen in any scientific way; we wanted to have them all within easy reach of Dayton's Bluff residents. Don't see your favorite east-side taco joint on the list? Write it in! We must receive your votes (and comments) by June 10, so the results can be shared in the July issue of the *Forum*.

BEST EAST-SIDE TACO 2011 - OFFICIAL BALLOT -

Please check off your choice:

- Taquera Bymore, 870 Payne Avenue
- La Loma, 927 Payne--inside Plaza Latina
- Taqueria Los Ocampo, 895 Arcade
- Taqueria Paisanos, NE corner of Arcade & East 7th
- Mañana, 828 East 7th
- La Cabana Restaurant, 863 East Seventh
- other (write-in) _____

Add your comments here:

Return ballots by hand or mail to 798 East 7th Street, St. Paul, MN 55106. Or email them to editor@daytonabluff.org. All votes are due June 10!

Progressive Dinner Makeover

Every May, we have the pleasure of sharing our homes and each other's company with our annual Dayton's Bluff Dinner Event. This year we will experiment with something new – an outdoor, one-location event – to accommodate people who are not able to join us in May.

Missing the traditional event already? No need to fear. The plan is for an every-other-year schedule. The even-number years (2010, 2012...) will be our traditional host-home dinner held on the Saturday before Memorial

Day, as it has been for over 10 years. The odd-number years (2011, 2013...) will be our new outdoor event in September (no date set yet). This new Fall event will be held in one of our neighborhood's beautiful outdoor sites with participants bringing food, drink, etc. to complete our tables.

Please contact the event organizer, Marjorie Smith, at mrg363@gmail.com, to contribute your thoughts and ideas for our new event. The past few years, we have had about 50+ participants attend. Let's keep this energy flowing and maintain our neighborhood-gathering tradition by improving it and helping it grow into something even bigger.



Ed Lambert and friends ham it up at a party celebrating Lambert's retirement as the Executive Director of the Dayton's Bluff Community Council. Pictured (left to right) are: Deanna Foster, new Executive Director; Chris Newton, President of the Dayton's Bluff Community Council; Jennifer Newton; Lambert; Tim Herman; and Alex Bajwa, President of the Dayton's Bluff Area Business Association.

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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