

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

Volume 30, No. 10
November 2017
daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org

"The Voice of the Community"



Karin DuPaul

The Smilin' Cowboys will donate all cover charge proceeds to support Art in the Hollow, the annual art fair produced by the Friends of Swede Hollow. The event will take place at the Minnesota Music Cafe on Thursday, November 9, from 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

The Smilin' Cowboys to headline Art in the Hollow fundraiser event at Minnesota Music Cafe

*Karin DuPaul & John Knowles
Special to the Forum*

Thursday, November 9, from 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., the Friends of Swede Hollow and the Fraternal Order of Eagles St. Paul Chapter will sponsor a benefit for Art in the Hollow. The benefit will feature the popular local band, The Smilin' Cowboys. This event will be held at the Minnesota Music Café, located at 501 Payne Avenue.

The \$5.00 cover charge and any music proceeds will help to fund Art in the Hollow, the annual art festival in Swede Hollow Park. Art in the Hollow is produced by the Friends of Swede Hollow nonprofit organization which works to protect and regenerate the natural beauty and ecology of Swede Hollow and remember its past, so neighbors and visitors can learn from and enjoy this historic wilderness within the City of Saint Paul. There will also be an opportunity to purchase other items including the new book *Caught in the Lye* by Marilyn McGriff, a Dayton's Bluff resident. The book is a perfect blend of mystery, local Scandinavian tradition, and humor that will keep

you turning the pages.

Lifelong East Side resident John Knowles is one of the faithful performing artists at Friends of Swede Hollow's yearly CABARET! event at the Mounds Theatre as well as at Art in the Hollow each year.

John suggested that his band, The Smilin' Cowboys, help raise money for Art in the Hollow. Of course, Art in the Hollow staff were thrilled. John has been playing music for more than 30 years and has released four albums under the band name Cave Music. The band's name was based on playing music at Carver's Cave before it became a city park, the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary.

The Smilin' Cowboys' keyboard player is Dan Popp, an East Side resident. Craig Olund is a creative bass player formerly of the band Codger. Bill Patten, The Smilin' Cowboys' drummer, is also a magnificent singer, song writer, and musician. He will perform as the opening act at the benefit. The band recently released their debut album, *The Smilin' Cowboys - Here Comes The Party*.

The Smilin' Cowboys enjoy performing songs that they "enjoy and at the same time are mostly well-known cover songs which nobody else performs. Along with original music, this formula seems to work well," say band-members.

For more information about the Friends of Swede Hollow and the organization's events, contact karindupaul@comcast.net or call 651-776-0550.



Karin DuPaul

The crowd at the annual Watch the Glow of the Setting Sun on the Red Brick Brewery event sponsored by the Friends of Swede Hollow. After watching the bright glow of the fall sun on the brewery building, guests enjoyed an evening cookout and good company.

Dayton's Bluff
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Tell us where in Dayton's Bluff the photo on page 4 was taken. Send your guess to daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com. The first correct entry will win a great prize from a local business!

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Dayton's Bluff Take-a-Hike

On the **second Saturday** of most months, the Dayton's Bluff Take-a-Hike will begin at Indian Mounds Park, located at Earl Street and Mounds Boulevard, at **10:30 a.m.** The next hike will be on **Saturday, November 11.** The hike is approximately one and a half to two hours long and will end at Swede Hollow Park or East Side Heritage Park, depending on the desire of the hikers. Share and learn a little history along the way! Email karindupaul@comcast.net or call 651-776-0550 for more information.

Friends of Swede Hollow

Watch over, restore, and celebrate the history of Swede Hollow Park. Join the Swede Hollow community at their monthly meeting on **Thursday, November 2, at 6:30 p.m.** Please note that meetings are now on Thursday. Email karin@swedehollow.org or call 651-776-0550 for more information and the meeting's location.

Dayton's Bluff District Forum Board Meeting

The *Forum* is seeking help with writing, online content, idea generation, and ad sales. Join us at our next meeting on **Tuesday, November 7, at 1:00 p.m.**, at Swede Hollow Cafe (725 E. 7th Street). Call 651-776-0550 or email editor@daytonsbluff.org for more information.

Police Community Meetings

The Eastern District Saint Paul Police will host their monthly meetings for community members at the Eastern District Police Office at 722 Payne Avenue, on the corner of Payne and Minnehaha Avenues.

The next meetings are on **Wednesday, November 15, at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.** Meetings are intended as a time to listen to and address concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side.

SNAP Food Program at CLUES (Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio)

¿Necesita más comida saludable para la familia? El programa SNAP le puede ayudar. SNAP proporciona fondos para alimentos que benefician a familias de escasos recursos.

Aún si no es ciudadano, si tiene hijos nacidos en este país ellos podrían calificar. Participar en el programa SNAP no afectará su estatus migratorio.

¡Llame a CLUES para saber si califica! 612-746-3500. Nuestro personal bilingüe puede facilitar el proceso para usted y su familia.

Need healthy food for your family? The SNAP program provides funds for low-income families to buy food. Even if you are not a citizen, your children born in this country could qualify. Participation in the SNAP program won't affect their immigration status.

Call CLUES to find out if you qualify at 612-746-3500. Our bilingual staff can facilitate the process for your family.

Twin Cities Mobile Market

The Twin Cities Mobile Market is a grocery store on wheels that brings affordable, healthy food directly into under-resourced neighborhoods. The Mobile Market stops at Parkway Gardens Apartments, located at 1145 Hudson Road, on **Wednesdays, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**



Wednesdays, November 1, 8, 22: *Free Community Dinner* presented by Faith to the Nations. **6:30 p.m.** Free.

Friday, November 10: *Aquanaut Variety Hour; Episode II – The Music Show.* Once again, Chris and Grant present an evening of outstanding music and memorable comedic performances. For this episode, we focus primarily on the topic of music and all the different ways it is heard and shared. From friends exchanging songs over the internet to hip public radio, many topics will be covered in the second Variety Hour show. Special Comedy Guest: Lounge Lizzy. From her debut at Huge Theatre, Lounge Lizzy has made one thing clear: she's an amazing and steamy singer who makes sure to get the crowd involved in any way she can. Special Musical Guest: Rachele Lanae. Rachele Lanae is a graduate the U of M Twin Cities and studied cello under Tanya Remenikova. While cello is her first love, she has been songwriting for four years and has studied the art with Jeremy Messersmith in addition to recording with bands In Theory, The Riverside Coalition, and Ginger Bones. Tickets \$15.00 available online. **Doors open at 7 p.m. Show begins at 8 p.m.**

November 17 - 26: *Frankenstein: A Modern Prometheus.* Mirroring the grotesque creature of Mary Shelley's iconic novel, scenes of Gothic horror are cobbled together with Green T's signature physical style. An eerie parade of misshapen beings, a visual nod to the 1931 Karloff film, oversized puppets, and at the center, the heartbreaking, female-centered story of an ambitious medical student who brings a creature to life then shuns it. Locked out of society, deprived of human contact, understanding and compassion, the creature tragically lashes out. Written and Directed by Kathy Welch. Tickets \$12/\$18/\$22 available online. **Show times: 7:30 p.m. on November 17, 18, 20, 24, 25; 2:30 p.m. on November 19, 26.**

Weekends, December 1 - 23: *A Klingon Christmas Carol.* Get your tickets early. See website for details.

Visit moundstheatre.org for information on upcoming events as it becomes available. The Historic Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 55106; 651-772-2253; historicmoundstheatre@gmail.com.

November at the Dayton's Bluff Library

The following events will be held at the Dayton's Bluff library, 645 East Seventh Street, Saint Paul:

On **Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays** in November, from **4:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**, Dayton's Bluff Library will offer *Snack in the Zone*, along with *Homework Help in the Zone* from

4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 4 and 18, from noon to 2:00 p.m., *Maker Space in the FunZONE!* Play computer games like Minecraft, and enjoy other hands-on fun in the Zone.

Tuesday, November 14, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., *Teens Know Best!* Teens have exclusive access to books before they are published! This group meets on the second Tuesday of every month to share opinions and pizza. *Teens Know Best* members are expected to write reviews of the books they read. The reviews are submitted directly to the publishers to help guide their decisions. New members can register at the meeting. Call 651-632-3873 for more information.

New! Check out board games at the library! The Metro State library now has a board game collection available to all! Library visitors can play the games in the library or check them out for two weeks. The full list of games can be viewed at <http://bit.ly/MetroGames> and all are available to the public.

Saint Paul Public Libraries will be closed November 10-11, in observance of Veteran's Day, and **November 24-26**, for the Thanksgiving holiday.

For information about these and other events check spp.org or call 651-793-1699. The Dayton's Bluff Library shares its home with Metropolitan State University at 645 East 7th Street.

November at the East Side Freedom Library

Saturday, November 4, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m., the ESFL invites you to *INAATE/SE: A Screening and Discussion* with filmmakers Adam and Zack Khalil. Adam Khalil and Zack Khalil's new film re-imagines an ancient Ojibway story, the Seven Fires Prophecy, which both predates and predicts first contact with Europeans.

Monday, November 6, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., learn about collaborating with the ESFL in events, media, and community engagement.

To learn more, attend a collaboration session on **Monday, November 6, at 9:30 a.m. and Wednesday, November 15 at 5:30 p.m.** Discuss upcoming events, the library's mission and goals, and explore trainings in diversity and intercultural engagement.

Tuesday, November 7, at 7:00 p.m., the ESFL invites you to enjoy a free screening of the film *Spies in Steel*.

This 1999, Minnesota-made documentary follows the 1928 pamphlet, *Spies in Steel*, which was published by a whistleblower who had worked for the U.S. Steel Company on Minnesota's Iron Range.

The ESFL invites you to *Noteworthy Dive Bars of Payne and Arcade: A Presentation by Bill Lindeke*, on **Friday, November 10, at 7:00 p.m.**

Bill Lindeke has written the guide booklet *Noteworthy Dive Bars of Payne and Arcade*. His book fits within the genre of psychogeographic tour guides that are intended to offer different ways of moving along the sidewalks of Minneapolis and Saint Paul.

Psychogeography is the study of how geography intersects with subjectivity, perception, memory, and place, and intends to offer new ways to explore otherwise mundane terrain (find more info at tcsidewalks.blogspot.com).

Following his presentation, Bill will lead willing participants on a walking tour and some site visits.

The East Side Freedom Library is located at 1150 Greenbrier Street. Call 651-230-3294, email info@eastsidefreedomlibrary.org, or visit eastsidefreedomlibrary.org for details on these and other upcoming events as they become available.

Business Classes

The Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Microentrepreneur Class helps start-up and young businesses on the East Side. Classes last eight weeks and include operations management, marketing, financial management, one-on-one assistance with creating and preparing a business plan, plus eight hours of one-on-one time with the instructor.

Those who successfully complete the course and locate their businesses in target neighborhoods are eligible for ongoing business support services.

The course is sponsored by the Dayton's Bluff Community Council and the Neighborhood Development Center. There is a small registration fee based on a sliding scale. Class size is limited. Call Emma Spillman at 651-379-8432.

Let your voice be heard!

Contact WEQY 104.7 FM, St. Paul East Side's Community Reporter Cearah Hamilton of The Eastside Vibe if you have valuable resources you want to get out to the community, would like her to cover your event, or interview your organization! Cearah can be reached at cearah@weqy.org.

Children's Book Drive

Now through **November 30**, REACH Together is collecting new or gently-used children's picture books and early readers for low-income families living in the Earl and Hudson neighborhood of Dayton's Bluff. Research shows that children do better in school if they've experienced the joy of reading at home. Your books will provide that joy.

Please bring your gifts to REACH Together at 1075 Hudson Road or call Sheryl at (651) 774-3086 or (612) 270-4360 to arrange for pick-up.

REACH Together is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, nonprofit charitable organization. To learn more, visit www.reachtogether.org.

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Mounds Park United Methodist Church

1049 Euclid Street (corner of Earl and Euclid); 651-774-8736
Mounds Park United Methodist on Facebook

Mounds Park United Methodist Church is a multicultural, intergenerational neighborhood congregation located at 1049 Euclid Street in Dayton's Bluff. Sunday worship begins at **10:30 a.m.**

November: *After school programming for area youth*, sponsored by the McVay Youth Partnership of Hamline University is an after school program for community youth grades 5-12, held at Mounds Park UMC on **Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.** during the school year. Students will participate in environmental classes, Girl Scouts, field trips, and receive homework help and support in learning English. Contact Jane Krentz (612-581-6978) for more information.

Sundays: *Join the Multi-Generational Sunday School Class!* Class meets every **Sunday at 9:15 a.m.** in the lounge of the church and is led by two congregation members. This class follows an adult curriculum and has a participant age range of 80 years!

Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.: *Parents of Addicted Loved Ones (PAL) Support Group Meetings.* PAL is a place where parents with a child addicted to drugs and/or alcohol can find hope in a support group. Founded in 2006 by Michael Speakman, LISAC, PAL has recently become incorporated as a Christian run non-profit. PAL meetings are open to anyone of any faith or background, as the primary goal is to provide hope through education and support for parents dealing with addicted loved ones. Meetings are led by a trained facilitator. This is an open group to persons 18 years and older. Stop by any Tuesday, ring the doorbell on the Euclid Entrance, and you'll be welcomed in!

The third Wednesday of each month, beginning at noon: *Community Friendship Gathering Meal and Program.* Join Mounds Park UMC on the **third Wednesday** of each month for a hot meal and entertainment. Hot lunch of turkey and dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, cranberries, rolls, and dessert. Following lunch, Tara Brueski will play the piano and sing for us. Reservations are due to the church office by calling 651-774-8736 no later than the Monday before Friendship Gathering.

Sunday, November 19: *Community "Dessert First" Potluck Meal and Silent Auction.* Join us at **11:30 a.m.** for our Community Potluck "Dessert First!" Bring your favorite dessert to share! The youth group will also be hosting their annual Silent Auction on **Sunday, November 19, from 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** During lunch, you may check out the auction tables and place your bids. We are currently asking local businesses and residents to donate items or appropriate services to be auctioned. This event will raise money for our Youth Group, to be used for scholarships to camps and mission trips. Everyone in the community is welcome to donate an item to the church during office hours (Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.) or join us to bid on the items. Items that are won will be available to take home following payment, on **Sunday, November 19.**



Jeannie Foster is your Dayton's Bluff neighbor running for St. Paul School Board.

On **November 7**, re-elect "Jeannie Foster for Kids!"

Paid for by neighbors of Jeannie Foster.

Needed: Your home for the Minneapolis and St. Paul Home Tour

*Karin DuPaul
 Forum Staff*

The 2018 Minneapolis and St. Paul Home Tour will be here before we know it. Dayton's Bluff homes are needed to be featured on the 2018 tour taking place on **Saturday, April 28, and Sunday, April 29.**

This home tour showcases occupied homes and highlights the great variety of Dayton's Bluff homes and our wonderful community. Visitors from all over the metro come each year to see the lovely homes and meet the welcoming people living in Dayton's Bluff.

Six to eight Dayton's Bluff homes are need-

ed to be on the tour. Homes can be large or small, Victorians or ramblers, or anything in between. Homes may be works-in-progress or finished products. It's a fantastic opportunity for us to show off our neighborhoods and all the good things about Dayton's Bluff. Each year some visitors like Dayton's Bluff so much that they buy a home here. The tour is a great way to get new ideas on remodeling and updating your home. You can nominate your own home, or talk to a friend or your neighbors about getting their homes on the tour.

In addition to homes to be on the tour, we are also looking for neighborhood people to volunteer to help out during the tour. After the tour is over on Sunday evening, the annual "After the Tour Supper Party" will be held for the home tour host families and all home tour volunteers. To sign up or for more information, please email karindupaul@comcast.net or call 651-776-0550.



Karin DuPaul

Home Tour visitors with homeowners Mara Heck and Eric Lohman at their beautiful Johnson Parkway home. A friend of the couple who lives in Dayton's Bluff had seen the For Sale sign on the house and told Mara and Eric about it. It was perfect for them. They have since made many improvements to their home.



A Celebration of Life

Please Join Us

Sunday November 5th at

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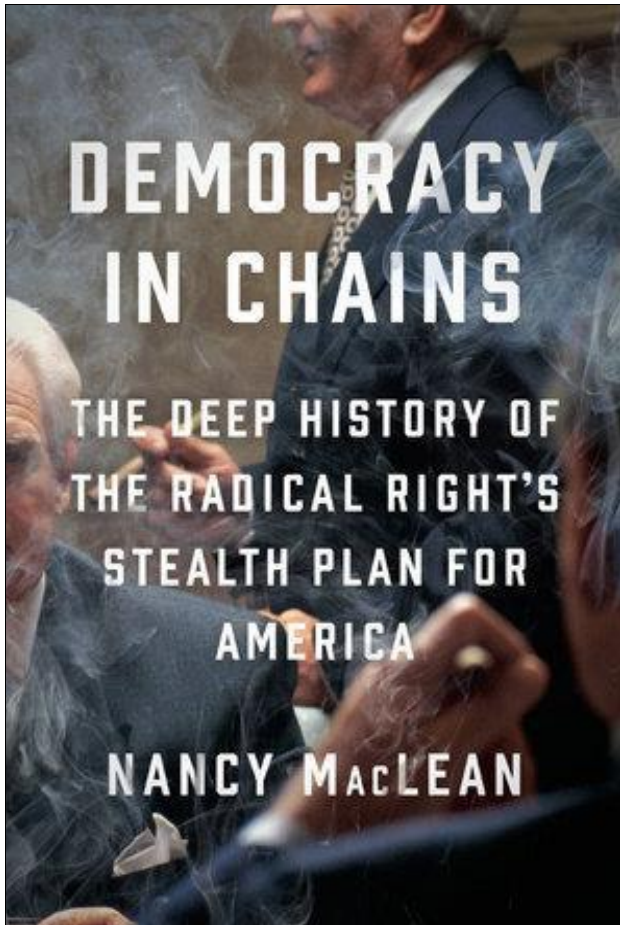
To Celebrate the Life of Mikee the Monkey

*From 1-7pm to share stories,
 memories and laughter.*

Refreshments and snacks provided.

Book Review: *Democracy in Chains: The Deep History of the Radical Right's Stealth Plan for America*

Bob McNattin
Special to the Forum



Have you ever wondered what's been wrong with our politics for the last 40 years? Why is it that politicians want to privatize Social Security, the Post Office and public schools? What about deregulation in the transportation industry, banking, and trade? Why do state legislatures cut school budgets, bonding bills for public works, and subsidies for local government? And how did the no-new-taxes movement gain such traction? Why did the U.S. Supreme Court decide that corporations have the same rights as people and that money is an expression of free speech?

Nancy MacLean, a Professor of History and Public Policy at Duke University knows why and she explains it effectively in her new book, *Democracy In Chains: The Deep History of the Radical Right's Stealth Plan for America*. She attributes these policies to the economic theories of a University of Chicago trained economist, James McGill Buchanan, who won the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences in 1986.

Buchanan divided the polity not in conventional terms such as liberals and conservative or Republicans and Democrats but, rather, as "makers and takers." "Makers" are people of means and property who, by their affluence, are entitled to whatever they want. "Takers," on the other hand, are all the rest of us who depend on taxes to provide the necessities of life such as schools, infrastructure, regulated markets, jobs, etc. In a democratic political system, the majority takers should have the power, through their elected officials, to levy progressive taxes on makers who see themselves as an oppressed minority. These makers seek protection from their "oppressors" by trying to rig the voting process, influencing legislators with campaign contributions, and suppressing takers' organizations such as unions, Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and any other social services such as public schools and universities. In their view, they have "earned" their wealth and the rest of us must have no claim on any of it. If we are lacking, we should just work harder to provide for ourselves. If we can't? Too bad!

Buchanan's theories about how government officials make decisions and, "...[H]ow the rules of government might be altered so officials could not act on the will of the majority..." caught the attention of Charles Koch (of the infamous "Koch Brothers") who, according to Professor MacLean, had been looking for a political economic theory to under-gird his libertarian, anti-regulation beliefs. He used them as the basis for funding such right-wing think tanks as the libertarian Cato Institute, American Legislative Exchange Council, the Club for Growth, the American Enterprise Institute, and a whole list of altruistic sounding advocacy groups, which really support the power and protect the wealth of the Makers.

When the Pinochet dictatorship sought advice as to how to organize the Chilean economy after the overthrow of the socialist Allende government, it turned to the economics department at the University of Chicago. In addition to Milton Friedman's advice about free-market economy, Professor Buchanan also offered advice on how to modify the Chilean Constitution to

insure, "[A] veto-proof super-majority operating without majority support." The Pinochet regime is long gone but the undemocratic constitution remains to this day thwarting the will of the majority.

It is this anti-majoritarian aspect of the radical right philosophy and Professor MacLean's scholarship tracing its origins and implications for the future of our democracy that makes this such an important book for people to read. North Korea, the Taliban, Russia meddling in our election, even white extremism, are nothing compared to the damage that can be done to our democratic way of life if we lose majority rule. It can happen here and it would not take a constitutional convention or amendment to do it. It could be done with a simple reinterpretation of the law by treating the .01% of the super-rich as an "oppressed" minority, and until enough elections had been won, so that a different court could be appointed, we would be stuck in a third-world dictatorship of the super-rich and there would be nothing we could do about it.

Much of the ground-work for such an outcome has already been laid: four sitting Supreme Court Justices are members of the Koch-funded Federalist Society. One more and there will be a reliable majority for the super-rich. The existing back-log of federal appeals court appointments is being filled by radical right jurists. Voter suppression laws and gerrymandering of congressional districts will not only continue but, expand. Rigging of the voting process is already an established fact. In Minnesota we are one election away from becoming a right-to-work state. Radical right influence is seen in the "pre-emption" bill currently passed by the legislature and in efforts to return the budget surplus to the wealthy rather than using it for much-needed infrastructure/education benefits. We are already well on our way to losing our majority rule.

Professor MacLean is a masterful story-teller. Her important book is an absorbing read. Her scholarly exposition of the political economy of the radical right, makes clear the peril of our democracy. Fore-warned is fore-armed. Like Paul Revere, her warning is urgent. Read this book and take action!

On Thursday, November 2, at 7:00 p.m., join the East Side Freedom Library at 1105 Greenbrier Street, in welcoming Professor MacLean who will share the story of how she found the trail of this collaboration in the archives as she explains its frightening endgame and import. This event is free and open to all. For more information contact info@eastsidefreedomlibrary.org or 651-230-3294.

Mounds Liquor Store

Open 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Sundays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.




1047 Hudson Road




Karin DuPaul

Visitors watching *Philemon and Baucis – Planet in Peril: A Picnic Operetta* in Swede Hollow Park on September 24. Delicious picnic items were served courtesy of Urban Roots. The crowd is already looking forward to next year's performance!

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Contest: Where in Dayton's Bluff?

Send your guess to daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com with the location of the neighborhood curiosity pictured at right for a chance to win great prizes from local businesses. The reader who submits the first correct entry will be notified and the winner will be announced in the December edition of the *Forum*.



Perseverance has become a vocation for Andy

Mark Gallagher
Associate Editor

In his life, Andy Kurian has hurdled one obstacle after another, and another, and another. When he was eight years old, he had multiple strokes, which put him in a coma for nearly three months and in three hospitals for one year.

Kurian spent much time between Children's Hospital in Minneapolis, Abbott Northwestern Hospital, and the Sister Kenny Rehabilitation Institute. "I got shuffled around a lot," he said.

After high school, Kurian was homeless. "In an effort to find housing," he said, "I got into a graphic design program at The Art Institutes Minnesota because starting school allowed me to live in the dorms. I received my associates degree in March of 2006."

After receiving his degree, he needed major reconstructive surgery on his right leg to correct some residual problems from his strokes. "It put me in a nursing home for six months," Kurian said. "When I got back on my feet, I started doing physical and speech therapy at Sister Kenny for the aphasia caused by the strokes."

Kurian has been on a waived case-management plan since after his nursing home stay. Funds available through a waiver could go towards developing a person-centered plan for people seeking greater independence.

"Since the clinic where I was receiving the therapy was managed by the president of the Minnesota Stroke Association," Kurian said, "he was very supportive and allowed me to utilize technology in his sessions as I explored ways of extending my therapy."

"While I was doing that therapy, I also started volunteering with the Brain Injury Association of Minnesota and through that volunteering position, I advocated for them to utilize a network suite. I hoped the entrepreneur program I was starting in 2007 would assist me in working with the organization — that was before the Brain Injury Association of Minnesota merged with the Minnesota Stroke Association."

After a few months of this therapy, Kurian received notice that Medicare would end his aphasia therapy. That news prompted him to start looking at ways to extend his therapy outside the clinical setting.

"I started talking to professionals in the field about telemedical applications that could support this therapy," Kurian said.

After his speech therapy ended, Kurian opened a case with the Workforce Vocational Rehabilitation Agency. His counselor agreed to support a self-employment plan to do business with a nonprofit case-management provider to create an alternative communications network.

"Opening that case is what prompted me to start attending the Dayton's Bluff Micro-entrepreneur Program in 2007," Kurian said. "When I was in that program, I was told it was a partnership between the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) and the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS), so the class offered me an opportunity to explore my concept for an alternative network."



Andy Kurian

Mark Gallagher

The Microentrepreneur class helped Kurian identify a case-management statute that would permit this alternative network. He was later told that a group on the state level was researching policy issues around streamlining communication in various case-management waivers. "At that time, I had an opportunity to work with the Service Core of Retired Executives (SCORE)," Kurian said. "However, after I finished the Microentrepreneur Program, the case was closed."

The vocational rehabilitation counselor Kurian worked with suggested that the workforce agency needed to close his case because they could not be involved in public policy.

"In 2014, I started an undergraduate program in

IT/Healthcare at Capella University, but as I was completing my first course, the school withdrew me, saying I was too slow. Capella University cited federal policy as justification for withdrawing me — that's when I started casework with Senator Klobuchar's office."

In February of 2015, Kurian reopened the case with the Minnesota Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Services and requested Senator Klobuchar's office make an inquiry into the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, which is under the Department of Education.

"The State of Minnesota said they would do an evaluation to determine if I would benefit from vocational rehabilitation services," Kurian said. "The state contracted with the Courage Center to do this assessment, and their final conclusion to the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation was they didn't feel I was employable to their standards."

In February of 2016, Kurian started "Partners in Policymaking" with the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities, an eight-month program with weekend sessions once a month. "I believe I was accepted into the program because the private school system failed me," he said, "and the vocational agency did not support me to get into the workforce."

"Before I concluded my policymaking program," Kurian said, "I met with Senator Franken's health-care representative to discuss the state's ability to help people with disabilities get into the workforce. The meeting was to discuss the labor issues in Trump's skinny budget, specifically the elimination of the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP). The policymaking program taught me to be a more effective advocate for disability rights. I graduated from the program in May of 2017."

"I enjoyed participating in the policymaking program. In completing the program, my hope is to offer real solutions to these education and workforce problems. Now that I am a policymaking graduate, I have the opportunity to advocate for the policies to support my efforts of creating an alternative communications network."

"One takeaway I got from my policymaking studies," Kurian said, "was the growing inadequacy of the traditional public financing model to raise living standards in the age of Trump. That is why I continue to advocate for new models to foster innovation in the public sector, and better ways to put capital to work. My hope is through advocacy we can keep this dialogue going."

Mark Gallagher is associate editor of the Dayton's Bluff Forum and a graduate of Metropolitan State University. Mark can be reached at refineEditorial@gmail.com

MOUNDS PARK BARBER STYLISTS



APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE
TUESDAY THRU SATURDAY

1043 HUDSON ROAD
SAINT PAUL, MN 55106

651-771-6980

Judy Lee

Green Burial and Eco-Funerals Part One: The Place

Let's protect our planet and keep it sustainable

George Aughey
Special to the Forum

With our changing environment, it is ever more important to continue to protect our planet for future generations. In nature, when an organism dies, it returns to the ground to become part of the earth itself. As humans, we defy this natural process, wasting resources in the process. A traditional funeral results in the burial of concrete, metals, and toxic fluids in the ground, along with the body. Given that there are several million burials a year, the combined impact is significant. A "green funeral" and/or an "eco-funeral" means having a simple, natural funeral.

Locations for natural burial are becoming more common, as more people learn about the benefits of natural burial. Places that accommodate natural burials are beautiful, natural places,

which lack headstones, concrete and other man-made materials that detract from the natural environment. Special flowers, plants, shrubs, and native or newly planted trees can usually be used in place of a headstone to mark the burial location of a loved one. Family and friends can plant, care for, and witness the new growth and nature in that special place. Green and natural cemeteries promote the growth of trees and natural shrubs, and support wildlife within as they are designed to allow nature to take its course.

There is a natural eco-friendly cemetery available in Minnesota: Prairie Oaks Memorial Eco Gardens. Many more locations are planned.

If you are interested in minimizing your ecological footprint on the environment, you should consider an eco-friendly burial method or at least cremation at Prairie Oaks Memorial Eco Gardens. Check it out for yourself at 8825 Argenta Trail, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077 (Business Office address: 1025 Dodd Road, West Saint Paul, MN 55118).

For further information or to schedule an individual or group consultation, contact George Aughey at (651) 434-4040 or gsgaughey@gmail.com.



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View From My Porch

Sage Holben
Forum Staff

Spring of 2017 brought not only hay fever and colorful gardens to a Swede Hollow neighborhood, but also a growing crime wave. Garages have been broken into, bicycles and tools stolen, theft precautions meaningless. Adult males have found a perverse satisfaction in exposing their genitalia while urinating in front of children and women who live in the area. Litter in the grassy boulevards was once an occasional Burger King wrapper; now neighbors regularly pick up hypodermic needles, empty liquor bottles, and piles of human feces, as well as clothing, and odds and ends.

Residents who once felt safe walking their dogs in Swede Hollow Park have since learned to expect to be verbally or physically harassed by aggressive men who appear to be drunk, on drugs, and/or exhibiting psychotic behaviors. More recently, and striking more fear into the neighborhood, a man, not from the neighborhood, after being seen checking the Listening House doors, walked into a residence and removed items from an enclosed porch, piled them in the yard and added kindling to the pile. The owner, who had been called by a neighbor, returned home. A man held the intruder until police arrived. Apparently, the intruder had been released from a hospital prior to his 'house visit' and the police returned him to the hospital.

Another resident, on returning home, was shocked to find an adult male asleep on her porch. Frightened, she left and stayed elsewhere, believing he had a knife...evidenced by the words he had carved into the porch railing: 'F--- this life.'

Saint Paul's City Planning Commission recently indicated that this is acceptable behavior. With committee chair Betsy Reveal voting, the hand vote was a 7/7 tie. Some who voted to overrule the neighborhood appeal and the City Zoning agreement with that appeal in effect reasoned that because people who have committed these crimes and misdemeanors are homeless, and since the First Lutheran Church sponsors a 'drop-in living room' (this is not a shelter and no meals are served), Listening House guests have every right to feel at home in the neighbors' yards and porches; this is my phrasing, not the pastors' or Listening House director's. As one Planning member said, "It's what churches do." I'm not sure what 'It' is, unless it is to give alcoholics and drug users a place to indulge inappropriate behaviors in public, litter the neighborhood with hypodermic needles, empty liquor bottles, and to encourage behaviors of exposing male genitalia, urination, and condoning thefts and break-ins.

I say 'encourage' and 'condone,' because although the neighbors have pleaded with the church and 'living room' staff to provide actual service support, security

detail, after hour grounds check, and better communication of expectations with the 'living room' guests, none of this appears to have been in the church's plans or follow through.

Sadly, if this property were a house on the same block, and the same number of excessive calls made to police; if the same number of urinators, thieves, drunks, drug users, psychotic, socially reprehensible people came out of a neighbor's house, said property would be labeled a problem property, the landlord notified, and eventually, the house would be decertified. I guess that's what makes a church blessed.

Does it matter that the Planning chair serves as board member of Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative according to Beacon's website? One would hope that serving on such a board expands knowledge in all directions. However, in the beginning, when the director of District 4 Community Council and the First Lutheran Church pastors saw no ethical or moral reason to notify the local neighborhood or hold an informational meeting before giving their blessing to the 'living room' for sheltered and non-sheltered homeless...when members of the church congregation publicly taunted neighbors as 'godless,' 'lacking in compassion,' and 'Nazis'; when members serving the residents of Saint Paul on zoning and planning or councils, accuse this neighborhood as NIMBY (not in my backyard)...I have to question: How dare you make such decisions and allegations when you do not live in the same neighborhood? From Woodbury to the western suburbs...but not in the neighborhood, except for one couple who have openly spoken.

Then I think, ahhh...but since Listening House needed to move from their site near the old Dorothy Day shelter, and the police/problem calls when downtown were excessive, of course, you would not want it in your neighborhood. Moving one more 'problem' to the East Side, to Dayton's Bluff, is typical of our city government, this time by virtue of the city's own erroneous zoning decision, recently verified by the assistant city attorney (and which likely would have been noticed had the public been informed of the zoning approval in late 2016; but no, not even the District 4 director spoke up for those she represents...she lives in Woodbury!)

By the time this is in print, the second City Planning meeting and vote will have been held. Then, it goes to the City Council. What I perceive so far is that people don't really listen, nor do they discern. And I want better from those who represent my community. Whether these people serve on the district council, the school board, the city council, planning, or zoning...here is what I want you to understand:

First, know yourself. You have to live with your decisions (try as you might to shut them out) and if you would not want to live with the constant threat of break-ins, harassment, sexual perversions, your child's

safety, you have no right to shrug it off onto people you represent but may not live in your neighborhood. In this case, the issue up for vote was not for or against homelessness and who has a heart, but the fact that the City erred in the first place by allowing the Church and Listening House to open in the very beginning. The Assistant City Attorney found the zoning approval to be made in error and the standards not met. And shame on First Lutheran's pastors for signing a ten year lease with an organization that was undoubtedly going to be a questionable fit for such a neighborhood.

Sometimes you will have to vote against the person whose approval you crave. You may be the only one who will make that vote...it feels exceedingly lonely. You have a spine! Show it!

To district council board members, this isn't about the apartment building across from your residence and how your neighbors behave; it's about a very small percentage of unsheltered homeless who are psychotic and/or socially disordered and who have no supportive services and so disrupt a vulnerable neighborhood. It is not about you reliving your poverty as a child. It is not about race, though there has been an attempt to tilt it that direction. It is not about how much you pay for your clothing or how you have used your bootstraps. Reframe your thinking, clean your lenses, and clear the noise from your heads.

In such a case as Listening House being moved into a densely child-populated neighborhood, I see many people making a decision based on the large picture of "homelessness exists, let's show we have a heart." Early comments from some church congregants included demands that neighbors should 'fix' the needs of homeless. State and federal governments have not yet been able to 'fix' homelessness; churches and religions of many faiths and beliefs have attempted since before Christ to 'fix' homelessness. Why, now, would a small Dayton's Bluff neighborhood be expected to 'fix' homelessness?

It is up to each of us to work toward caring for our neighbor, whether s/he has a home or not. Some will go to work in a drop-in living room, a church food bank, earn a wage or volunteer for several hours...and then go home to a quiet evening. Others will earn their wage at a job and go to a home they used to enjoy, only to pick up human feces, find a passed out body blocking their home entrance, explain to a little girl why the man was holding his penis in front of her...and then, instead of fixing supper, make a police report and spend the evening shaking and contemplate moving. If you don't want to be the latter, why would you force it on someone else? This isn't about homelessness. It is about criminal and toxic behavior.

Sage Holben can be reached at daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com.

Statement on the Las Vegas Shooting

Sen. Foung Hawj
Special to the Forum

Tragedies like the shooting in Las Vegas have happened too many times in this country. It's time for America and Minnesota to engage in real conversations about how to stop senseless gun violence. It's time to pass laws that quell

the rampant gun violence terrorizing our citizens. Gun violence that is happening all too often at our schools, nightclubs, at baseball games, at concerts, and in our neighborhoods.

It's time to stop this epidemic of gun violence.

As a legislator, tasked with the responsibility of representing and protecting my communities, I must take a stand. I must speak out. Together, we must work toward a common goal and author, lobby, and pass common-sense gun laws to safeguard our citizens.

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

804 Margaret Street, St. Paul, MN 55106
Phone: 651-776-0550 E-mail: daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com

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Board of Directors: Greg Cosimini, Nick Duncan, Karin DuPaul, Sage Holben, Steve Trimble
Editor: Jennifer Gascoigne; Associate Editor: Mark Gallagher
Next issue: December 2017. **Deadline for material: November 10, 2017.**

Elder Café

The Minnesota Wildlife Rehabilitation Center



Thursday, November 9th, 2017

12:00 Noon – 2:00 PM

463 Maria Avenue, St. Paul MN 55106

The Minnesota Wildlife Rehabilitation Center's Executive Director, Phil Jenni will introduce us to the wonderful work done by his agency helping Minnesota's orphaned wildlife.

Hope you can join us for a nourishing meal and great conversation!

Call (651) 683-2326 to make a reservation*
or to request a free ride!

Event is **free** for seniors 60+ who reside in the Dayton's Bluff, Payne-Phalen and East Side Elders Conway-Battle Creek areas of Saint Paul. All others are welcome to make a \$10 donation to East Side Elders.



*We cannot guarantee a meal without a reservation.

Announcing the East Side Elders' Publication: *Walk on the East Side*

Janet Golden
East Side Elders

Raising funds and awareness for East Side Elders has long been a challenge. Anyone who has been involved with a non-profit knows how hard it can be to get the word out about the work they do and ask for financial support. With that in mind, we decided that we were going to do something completely different for our annual fundraiser this year. A book.

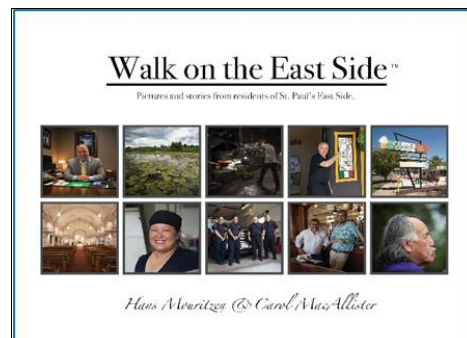
"*Walk on the East Side*" is a compilation of pictures and stories from residents of St. Paul's East Side. We are fortunate to have two extraordinarily talented volunteers who have stepped up to create this project.

Photographer Hans Mouritzen and writer Carol MacAllister have spent countless hours walking the East Side to photograph and interview some of the more colorful and interesting residents and locations. You can "meet" your neighbors as they talk about their lives, interests, and backgrounds.

Having only recently relocated to this area, Carol leaped at the opportunity to be involved. "This project has introduced me to my new city and the uniqueness of the East Side," she said.

Hans Mouritzen, an award winning artist, embraced this project as an opportunity to tell the story of St. Paul's East Side. It is the story of immigrants seeking their American dream. He knows this story first-hand. He immigrated to St. Paul from Denmark 40 years ago.

The first edition of our book "*Walk on the East Side*" will be ready for distribution in early November. A copy can be yours for a \$20 donation to East Side Elders. Reserve your copy today by calling (651) 683-2326.



The cover of East Side Elders' inaugural publication, *Walk on the East Side*.

East Side Elders mission is to create a circle of care around the elders of Dayton's Bluff, Payne-Phalen, and Conway-Battle Creek neighborhoods, empowering seniors to live safe and independent lives in their homes. For further information on our programs please visit our website at www.EastSideElders.org or call us at (651) 683-2326.

Cloudburst over the Bluff

Greg Cosimini
Forum Staff

The third major piece of public art in the Beacon Bluff Education Hub sculpture garden is *Cloudburst*, which demonstrates the various ways storm water is handled.

Created by artist Gita Ghei in 2014, *Cloudburst* consists of three large rings constructed of corten steel and fabricated aluminum, an observation/interactive control area, an interpretive plaque, and a water management area, both above and below ground. Each ring represents a different way water makes it way from the sky and into lakes and rivers.

The Natural State existed before there was any development. Rain was filtered by running through grass and forests or by passing through soil before making its way into lakes and rivers and groundwater aquifers. The Urban State works against nature as rain that lands on mostly hard surfaces becomes polluted

and is then channeled into storm sewers that drain directly into lakes and rivers. The Restorative State works with nature by channeling water from urban areas into holding ponds and rain gardens that filter out pollutants before water is returned to lakes and rivers.

When the system is operational, visitors can actually create their own artificial rain showers and watch how water is treated in these three states. The Beacon Bluff Business Center handles real rain in mostly a restorative manner to minimize pollution and maximize rainwater as a resource for groundwater recharging.

Cloudburst was commissioned by the East Side Arts Council and the Saint Paul Port Authority.

The Education Hub is a creative place-making multi-year partnership of the East side Arts Council and the Saint Paul Port Authority located on the north side of E. 7th St. at the intersection of Minnehaha Avenue. The sculpture garden's focus is the best practices in next generation energy use and storm water management in an urban environment.

Greg Cosimini can be reached at daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com.



Greg Cosimini

Cloudburst, a sculpture created in 2014 by artist Gita Ghei, stands at the Beacon Bluff Education Hub at the intersection of E. 7th Street and Minnehaha Avenue.

East Side Eating – Trimble's Taste Trek

Forum contributor Steve Trimble has set out to eat at every locally-owned, sit-down restaurant on the East Side. He hopes to get the word out to Dayton's Bluff about the eating options here on our side of town.

There are more restaurants than there is room for in the monthly paper, but at least 59 may now be found online at daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org: click on "East Side Eating" at the top of the home page. Steve Trimble can be reached at daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com.

Brunson's Pub
956 Payne Avenue
(651) 447-2483

Monday-Thursday: 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.
Friday: 11:00 a.m. to midnight
Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to midnight
Sunday: 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday: Brunch served from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

www.brunsonspub.com

It's always sad when a restaurant that is a local legend closes. This was certainly the case when Schweitz's shut down after the death of its owner. But it is also interesting to see a new restaurant that might take its place in the building. I was about to find out when I paid a visit to the recently opened Brunson's Pub when my daughter Meridel and her family came to town from their home in Chicago.

We were planning to go to historic Fort Snelling in the afternoon and decided to have lunch first. Our car was soon going up Payne Avenue and our group was ready to take part in the current East Side Eating Taste Trek. Upon entering, I saw that the original tin ceiling, wood floors, and long bar along the north side had been retained in the restoration.

In the front is an area with tables and a few lines of booths/tables, and walls that contain large photographs of old St. Paul. In the middle area, where we sat, there were six tall tables that could seat six to eight people. There is additional seating toward the back and a huge patio that has 16 tables for four. One side is bound by a long brick wall covered with ivy. The open cooking area in the back has a large sign saying "The Department of Health won't let you kiss our cooks, but tips are greatly appreciated!"

The walls have lots of decorations – current beer neon signs as well as antique advertisements of beers including Hamm's. There is an homage to the earlier owners with a large wooden

Schweitz Saloon sign. Be sure to look at the nice mini-mural on the wall of Benjamin Brunson, (1823-1898) St. Paul's first surveyor who gave this pub its name. His pioneer brick home built in 1856 still stands at 485 Kenney Road in the nearby Railroad Island Neighborhood.

Here's some of the menu: Appetizers include Brunson Wings, Loaded Fries, house made deviled eggs, and field pea hummus. "Plates" include a house salad, a Hoppin' John salad, a bacon mac and cheese, and fish and chips. There are a bunch of burgers that are served with house-fried chips and gluten free buns for an extra charge. Some of the lunch selections are the Schwietz Burger, a BBQ Brisket, and a mixed bean containing black and garbanzo beans as well as black eyed peas. The smallish Kids Menu includes mac and cheese, the Nordic Hot Dog, and chicken tenders, all served with choice of chips or fruit.

Brunch features the Pulled Bacon Benedict with poached eggs, Veggie Benedict with many veggies, English muffins, and French toast. They also serve the traditional Bloody Mary and mimosa drinks. During brunch or other times they also have a sizeable collection of red and white wines.

While I passed on the Italian and Bahn Mi sandwiches, I opted for a pulled bacon BLT that had a fried egg, avocado, garlic aioli, and other ingredients.

Brunson's has almost 20 revolving tap beers that are local craft, domestic, and imported beers. I decided to try Bauhaus Brewery's Wonderstaff Pil. My son-in-law also had the Bacon BLT and said it was good but it didn't taste "bacony" enough. My daughter liked the tidy restroom. My grandchildren enjoyed their food. Amanda, our skilled server, recently moved to the East Side.

Since we were there before 5:00 p.m., we passed on the mixed drinks. But if you are dining in the evening you might be tempted by one of their house cocktails with names like Spike & Tyke's Revenge, Benny's Old Fashioned, Corpse Reviver #2, Tap That Ass (a Moscow Mule variation served on-tap), Ojo Rojo (with tequila), Lively Up Yourself, and La Bomba.

The owners, Thomas and Molly LaFleche, worked in the food industry for 26 years. It is where they first met. Molly grew up on Payne and Jessamine and they were friends with the Schweitz family. The moment they stepped in the door, they knew it was the spot they wanted for their gathering spot. If there are no street spots, there is a parking lot in the back of Brunson's.

Steve Trimble can be reached at daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com.



Steve Trimble

Sammy Ketcham, from the Logan Square neighborhood of Chicago, chowing down on a helping of Brunson's bacon mac and cheese.

Have Forum, will travel...



Diane May takes an unnecessary break from looking at beautiful scenery in Scotland. Behind her is the Urquart Castle on the shores of Loch (Lake) Ness.

Several readers send us pictures of themselves reading our newspaper on their travels. If you'd like to do the same, please email photos to daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com.



Many thanks to our 2017 donors:
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For the past three years we have been soliciting donations through our *Friends of the Forum* program. Thanks to the donations of readers like you, we have been able to keep the paper up and running.

If you value this community source of information, please consider filling out the form below. Any amount is appreciated; you may also make memorial donations, or include the *Forum* in your legacy planning.

If you have been our *Friend* in the past, please renew your membership with a donation in 2017. **Our goal for the year is \$2,000; as of this printing we have raised \$1,635.00 – Will you help us?**

Sincerely,
The *Dayton's Bluff District Forum*

Yes, I will become a Friend of the Forum. My tax-deductible check is enclosed, for:

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Thank you for your support!

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