Minneapolis and Saint Paul Home Tour to feature Dayton's Bluff homes

Karin DuPaul
Forum Staff

The annual Minneapolis and Saint Paul Home Tour will be held on Saturday, April 29, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday, April 30, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. During the home tour, residents in both Minneapolis and Saint Paul open their homes to the public to showcase the great things about city living.

Each year, Dayton's Bluff has five to eight homes on the tour. The tour also shows off many of the great features of our neighborhood: the bluff itself, overlooking Downtown and the Mississippi River, Metro State University, the parks, the business community, and the outstanding housing options in Dayton's Bluff.

Dayton's Bluff homes on the tour this year include 433 Johnson Parkway, 954 Wakefield Avenue, 700 East Third Street, 866 Mound Street, 672 Greenbrier Street, and 845 Conway Street.

On Sunday April 30 only, 170 Maria Avenue will be open to visitors. This beautiful Georgian Revival home was designed by Thomas Holyoke and built for Albert and Wilhelmina (Minnie) Hamm Koehler. Minnie wanted to have a large yard for gardening. Minnie's siblings built their homes near their parents Theodore and Louise Hamm, and the Hamm's Brewery. Albert died in 1916, and Minnie was listed in the city directory as living in the house until she died in 1951. In the mid 1950s, the house was home to the Discalced Carmelite Nuns of St. Paul. This order of cloistered nuns wears sandals, not shoes. In the early 1960s, it became a headquarters for Alcoholics Anonymous. Today it is called the White House and Northwestern Alano. They have held meetings and offered other services for their clients for over 50 years.

The Minneapolis and St. Paul Home Tour brochures can be picked up at the Dayton's Bluff Library on East 7th Street, Arlington Hills Library on Payne Avenue, or any Saint Paul Public Library. The Dayton's Bluff leg of the tour will feature a brochure of all six Dayton's Bluff homes featured on the tour that can be picked up at any of the homes during tour hours. Many people come on the tour year after year. Visitors to our neighborhood enjoy the variety of homes, the parks, the neighborhoods and the people they meet in the homes. Some of the visitors like it so well that they move into the neighborhood!

For more information on the Minneapolis and Saint Paul Home Tour, visit mshometour.com.

Where in Dayton's Bluff?

More chances to win great local prizes!

Tell us where in Dayton's Bluff the photo on page 8 was taken. Send your guess to editor@daytons bluff.org. The first correct entry will win a great prize from a local business!
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 hike will be on Saturday, April 8. The hike is approximately one and a half to two hours long and will end at Swede Hollow Park or East Side Heritage District, depending on the desire of the hikers. Share and learn a little history along the way! Email karinpurple@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 meetings on Wednesday, April 5, at 6:30 p.m. Email karin@swedeholow-low.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 Thursday, April 6, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., at Swede Hollow Cafe (725 E. 7th Street). Call 651-776-0550 or email editordaytonbluff@gmail.com 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 Avenue. The next meetings are on Wednesday, April 19, at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Meetings are intended as a time to listen and address concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side.

31st Annual Spring Cleanup
Saturday, April 22, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., join family, friends, and neighbors for the 31st Annual Citywide Spring Cleanup! Each year, hundreds of volunteers gather across Saint Paul to help with the Citywide Spring Cleaning, picking up trash in neighborhoods and parks. To register online, visit www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-recreation/parks or call 651-632-2411. Bags, gloves, and snacks are provided. Meet up with your neighbors at one of the East Side sites to pick up supplies: Swede Hollow Park at the intersection of Greenbrier Street and Margaret Street or the Phalen Picnic Pavilion. Please wear sturdy shoes and a head out to clean up the park or neighborhood of your choice. All ages and mobility levels are welcome!

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 beneficien a familias de escasos recursos. Si vive en la ciudad o si no es ciudadano, si tiene hijos nacidos en este país ellos podían calificar. Participar en el programa SNAP no afectará su estatus migratorio.

April at the East Side Freedom Library
Tuesday, April 4, at 7:00 p.m., the East Side Freedom Library invites you to enjoy a free screening of the film soldiers in Stoel.

April at the Dayton’s Bluff Library
While the Saint Paul Public Schools are closed for spring break the week of April 3, the Dayton’s Bluff branch of the Saint Paul Library will be offering special afternoon events for students! The following events will be held at the Dayton’s Bluff library, 645 East Seventh Street, St. Paul.

Tracking Wildlife with the Dayton’s Bluff Neighborhood Stewardship Program helps students 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.

Business Classes
The Dayton’s Bluff Neighborhood Stewardship Program helps students 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.

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Tuesday, April 4, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.: Maker Break—Create a Japanese Zen Garden! Learn about the art of Zen gardening with artist Jeanette Dickinson. Build your own Japanese Zen garden using a variety of miniature objects including stones, sand, and small model greenery.

Wednesday, April 5, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.: Spring Break Maker Space! The Saturday FanZONE comes a little early with computer games like Minecraft, hands-on fun in the Zone.

Thursday, April 6, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.: Flower-Making with Mail! Now you can learn to make the paper flowers you have admired at the Dayton’s Bluff Library’s circulation desk! Library Associate Mai Ge Vang gives step-by-step instructions to create colorful tissue blooms to brighten your day!

Email daytonbluffbookclub@gmail.com for more information, or call 651-793-1699.

For information about these and other events check sopl.org or call 651-793-1699.

The Dayton’s Bluff Library shares in the mission of Westinghouse State University at 645 East 77th Street.

East Side Elders presents Elder Cafe: Amy & Adams
Thursday, April 13, from noon to 2:00 p.m. at First Lutheran Church, 463 Maria Avenue, St. Paul. East Side Elders presents Elder Cafe: Amy & Adams For more than two decades, Amy & Adams has entertained and touched folks in Minnesota, the Midwest, and beyond. Amy & Adams shares an upbeat Eclectic/Folk/Rock/TinPanAlley/Blues-Rock musical blend. In addition to their original songs, great tunes from the 1920s through today are accompanied by guitars, ukuleles, mandolin, key- board, flutes, and stunning harmonies that will bring a song to your lips and a hop to your step.

Call 651-683-2336 to make a reserva- tion to request a side. Elder Cafe cannot guarantee a meal without a reservation. Admission is free for se- niors age 60 and over; all other guests are invited to make a suggested donation of $10. This event is presented in partnership between East Side Elders and First Lutheran Church of Dayton’s Bluff.

Become a Lifeguard!
Ramsay County Parks & Recreation is hiring lifeguards for the 2017 sea- son. Positions available at Battle Creek Waterworks water park and the county’s 50 public pools. All positions are full-time throughout the aquatics season, begin- ning Saturday, June 10. Submit a Life- guard Interest Form online at applicants.ramseycounty.us/your-gov- ement/departments/economic-growth-and-community-investment/parks-recre- ation/ aquatics/ aquatics-guard-interest-form. The interview station staff will then follow up on the next steps. Interest forms are due by April 15.

Ramsay County lifeguards must be certified prior to employment. Parks & Recreation is offering a three-day certification course this winter for app- licants who do not hold a current cer- tification. The course will run from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., April 21-23. Class fee is $100. Completion of the course does not guarantee employ- ment with Ramsey County.

Dayton’s Bluff Gardeners!
Join a diverse group of gardeners by reserving a plot today at beautiful Skidmore Park Community Garden! Located at 1085 East 4th Street, plots come in two sizes: 40 square feet and 64 square feet for a fee of $20 per year.

Applications and Garden Rules are available at the Skidmore Park Commu- nity Garden Facebook page or by visit- ing http://bit.ly/1DQ077. Submit applications by mail to John Babrie at the address provided on the application. One application per house- hold – applications must be received no later than April 8, 2017. To receive a garden plot assignment, you must attend orientation at Skidmore Park Communi- ty Garden on April 10, at 6:00 p.m.

Contact John Babrie at 651-260-0005 or johnbabrie@hotmail.com, or Jennifer Herman at jenniferherman7@gmail.com for more information.

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

Mounds Park United Methodist Church is a multicultural neighborhood congregation located at 1049 Euclid Street in Dayton’s Bluff. Sunday worship starts at 10:30 a.m. Easter Sunday is April 16 – come and help form the Great Easter Celebration as we explore the power of Resurrection and the promise of new life! Bring your questions and openly explore your faith within a community of respect and openness. All are invited!

Weekly in April: After-School Program for area youth, sponsored by McVay Youth Partnership of Hamline University. This is an after-school program for all community youth grades, 5-12, at Mounds Park Church from 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, and Friday of each week, offering cooking classes, games, homework help, field trips, and help learning English. Contact Jane Krentz at 612-581-6978 for more information.

Saturday, April 15: Beginning at 2:00 p.m. at Indian Mounds Regional Park South Shelter, located at Earl Street and Mounds Boulevard, there will be treats, games, and the Easter Egg Hunt all across the park – meet at the Shelter to begin the hunt! This event is especially for children up to grade 5 and their parents or guardians.

Saturday, April 22: Community Rummage Sale from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., join Mounds Park United Methodist Church for the annual rummage sale including lunch and a bake sale. A variety of items will be available, including an entire room dedicated to clothing, shoes, and other accessories. Come early to get the best finds! The kitchen will be open with soup for sale for lunch and the women circles of the church will be busy baking making goods for the bake sale. Donations of clothing, household items, and more are welcome to be dropped off at the church during office hours Monday-Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. starting April 3. Donations of furniture or electronics such as TVs, computers, or stereos, will not be accepted. If you have any questions about donations, please call the church office 651-774-8736 for more information.

Wednesday, April 26: Beginning at noon, Community Friendship gathering with hot lunch. Enjoy a hot lunch of tilapia or chicken breast, green beans and new potatoes, salad, rolls, and dessert. Following the meal, The Mellow Fellows, a 3M Men’s Chorus of 20 men, will present a program of great music! This is a community gathering – ALL are invited to come; the focus is on persons age 55 and over. A donation of $8.00 is suggested.

Looking for some help with a home project around your place this June? Urban CROSS has teams ready to help local residents and non-profits with projects such as indoor and outdoor painting, yard work, gardening, landscaping, simple construction, and cleanup. You may submit your request by calling the church office at 651-774-8736 or mailing in a form available on our website: www.moundsparkumc.org/urbancross.html. Our deadline for project submission is May 15.

2nd Annual Union Job and Resource Fair at the East Side Freedom Library

Peter Rachleff
East Side Freedom Library

Last spring, job seekers from the East Side and greater St. Paul crowded into the East Side Freedom Library to encounter dozens of union employers and resources at the first Union Job and Resource Fair. This year, the event returns with a new line-up of employers and resources offering jobs, training opportunities, and helpful information. The second annual Union Job and Resource Fair will be held on Thursday, April 6, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the East Side Freedom Library, 1105 Greenbrier Street, St. Paul.

Employers will be hiring for union positions in such fields as construction, manufacturing, government, school building custodial, food service work, healthcare, hospitality, and retail. Union representatives will be on hand to discuss “earn-while-you-learn” high-quality, paid vocational training opportunities and to answer questions. Information will be available on the advantages of union membership, neighborhood and national union history, and record expungement. The event is designed not only for ready-to-hire job seekers, but for young people exploring how to build their career paths in the future and even people wondering: “What is a union? What do they do?” People who speak many languages will be available to greet and interpret at the event. EVERYONE is welcome to attend.

This event is organized each year by the Saint Paul Regional Labor Federation, the Saint Paul Building & Construction Trades, the City of St. Paul, United Food & Commercial Workers Local 1189, and the East Side Freedom Library.

“It’s empowering for everyone to learn about the hard-won advantages of union work in this country,” says Thay Sai Htoo, an interpreter at the 2016 fair who will volunteer again this year. “Unions built the American middle class, and a union job remains the best way for working people to secure livable wages and decent health and retirement benefits,” says Bobby Kasper, President of the 50,000-member Saint Paul Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO. “As a labor movement, we need to raise awareness about the value of a union contract, especially among immigrant communities and young workers. This job fair is an exciting opportunity to extend our outreach and build new relationships on the East Side, and we’re proud to be a part of it.”

For more information about the Union Job and Resource Fair, please contact: Prof. Peter Rachleff, East Side Freedom Library, 651-230-3294, rachleffe@macalester.edu or Vicki Beebe, St. Paul Labor Studies and Resource Center, 651-846-9320, vbeebe@stpaulunions.org.

About the East Side Freedom Library: The mission of the East Side Freedom Library (ESFL) is to inspire solidarity, to advocate for justice, and to work toward equity for all. The library houses non-circulating research collections that appeal to interested general learners as well as scholars, with innovative databases and finding aids that make using the collections fun and vital. Story is a major theme of the ESFL, and the telling and gathering of stories, through formal interviews, workshops, and small-scale public performances, will allow local residents and the interested public to learn more about the work and residential histories of the East Side.
East Side Freedom Library named winner of John Sessions Memorial Award

Leighann Wood
Special to the Forum

The East Side Freedom Library was selected as the 2017 winner of the John Sessions Memorial Award. The award, sponsored by the Department for Professional Employees AFL-CIO, recognizes a library or library system which has made a significant effort to work with the labor community. By doing so, it has brought recognition to the history and contribution of the labor movement to the development of the United States.

The mission of the East Side Freedom Library is “to inspire solidarity, advocate for justice, and work toward equity for all.” As an independent library located in the Payne-Phalen neighborhood of St. Paul, Minn., the ESFL has successfully built relationships with organized labor and community groups that facilitate the empowerment, learning, and engagement of working people.

Since the library was established in 2013, co-founders Peter Rachlaff and Beth Cleary have secured a permanent home in a former Carnegie Library, built a collection of 15,000 items, and hosted more than one hundred programs and 6,000 visitors. Multiple letters from local and regional labor unions glowingly attest to the library’s leadership in raising awareness of the centrality of workers, immigrants, and the labor movement to the past, present and future of the East Side, Twin Cities, and Minnesota, as well as being a “valuable resource and reliable ally.” “A place where diverse audiences assemble, hold conversations, and explore shared concerns,” “an important extension of the local labor movement,” and repeatedly, a “partner.”

The John Sessions Memorial Award committee includes: Aliqae Geraci (Chair), Hilary Meg Albert, and Phebe L. Dickson.

The East Side Freedom Library will be honored with a plaque at the RUSA Achievement Awards ceremony at the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago. The ceremony will be held from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., Sunday, June 25. All conference attendees are invited to the event. Additional event details will be available on the conference website in April.

Community Meals
Pastor Carl Johnson
Faith to the Nations

I remember as a teenager, our family gatherings around the table. We would invite neighbors, family, coworkers, and friends. My mother would cook a big meal and we would always have leftovers. As a pastor, I have seen the decline of such meals in homes and in communities. We have a vision to abolish food insecurity – we are Faith to the Nations Dinner Church, and want to impact Dayton’s Bluff. We organize, fund, and throw banquet style meals for the neighborhood. We have a message of faith but our main concern is to get to know the stories of our neighbors around a table. We are currently hosting dinners at the Mounds Theatre, our next dinner is April 18. We are here to uplift our neighborhood. We have a specific motive and it is to feed and help people.

We want you to be a part of what we are doing. If you eat alone, you don’t have to anymore. If you run out of food, we want you to eat. If you have nowhere to eat, we want you to join our table. Our mission is to bring unity to the whole neighborhood. Contact us at info@faithtothenations.com.

Dayton’s Bluff District Forum

804 Margaret Street, St. Paul, MN 55106
Phone: 651-776-0550 E-mail: editor@daytonsbluff.org

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Board of Directors: Greg Cosimi, Nick Duncan, Karin DuPaul, Sage Holben, Steve Trumble
Editor: Jennifer Gascoigne; Associate Editor: Mark Gallagher

How to build community – in challenging times

Jane Prince and East Side Neighbors

When we held our East Side Interfaith/Intercultural Community Meal in December, Dayton’s Bluff Community Council President Pa Chua Vang, led the 250 or so of our diverse neighbors in a conversation. At each table, the diners were asked to answer two questions and to record their responses. It was such a simple process – and it yielded an amazing consensus from people of all ages, ethnic backgrounds, religions, and neighborhoods. Framed by apprehensions about our new government in Washington, the first question asked, “What are your biggest concerns?” Whether from a new immigrant, the parents of public school kids, a millennial bicycling enthusiast, a small business owner or employee, or a retired lifelong East Side elder, the concerns that neighbors shared about our challenging times were remarkably similar.

Neighborhood safety. We’re all concerned about keeping our neighborhoods and schools safe, and making them even safer. Some of us, elders and immigrants, talked about fear of being targeted by, or of being isolated from our community. There are the concerns we share about the achievement gap and the need for living wage jobs. Election year rhetoric raised fears in all of us about threats to health care and the social safety net, about race or ethnic-based hate crimes, and about cuts to funding for parks, schools, and housing.

In a child’s handwriting were the words, “Do not call people ISIS.” Our East African and Muslim neighbors have been most unreasonably targeted by hate speech and made to feel unwelcome.

In expressing their concerns, our neighbors who gathered also conveyed the message, “We want and need leaders,” including people of color and those of diverse cultures and backgrounds, who will help us come together and understand each other, build community, and help us overcome our fears and anxiety.

The second question that Pa Chua asked those gathered was, “What commitment will you make to our community?” These responses and ideas are exciting, creative, and inspiring enough to be designed into a neighborhood poster! Sharing meals together with people from other cultures and religions, say hello to our neighbors, stand up for each other and ask for help if I feel threatened or harassed, speak out for freedom, work together to ensure no child falls through the cracks, learn from each other, stand together, learn how other people live, hold our elected officials accountable, spend a day with a person or family from a culture other than your own, and stay involved!

These commitments pledged by our neighbors are priceless. How about if we each start today – to commit to do at least one thing on this list each and every day. Add some ideas of your own and grow this list. Get the whole family involved. Share the list with a friend or neighbor – or a person you don’t even know. Post it on the fridge!

We live in challenging times. But those of us living on the East Side understand that our strength is our wonderful, dynamic and diverse community. There is no time like the present to reach out to each other and to new neighbors to forge stronger connections to make our community safe and welcoming. Each of us, whether a kid or an elder, can be a leader on our block, in our building, in our classroom, at our job – each of us committing to love our neighbor.

Jane Prince can be reached at ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

Rep. Sheldon Johnson invites you to

Keep our Swede Hollow Beautiful

Saturday, April 22 from 9 to 11:30 am

Join forces with family, friends and neighbors for the 31st annual Citywide Spring Cleanup!

Why: Each year, hundreds of volunteers gather across Saint Paul for the Citywide Spring Cleanup to pick up garbage that has recently become exposed due to the melting snow.

Where and How: Participating is easy! Register online and then drop by Swede Hollow (Intersection of Greenbrier St and Margaret St) any time between 9 and 11:30 am, on Saturday, April 22nd to pick up bags, gloves and snacks and meet your neighbors and community members. Then, head out and clean up Swede Hollow Park.

Register online at: https://tinyurl.com/hbww847

For more information, contact the Saint Paul Volunteer Coordinator at 651-632-2411.
Student Salon 2017:
A new art exhibit at Gordon Parks Gallery

Poh Lin Khoo
Metropolitan State University

Metropolitan State University Gordon Parks Gallery presents Student Salon 2017, featuring works produced by Metropolitan State University students, enrolled in undergraduate and graduate programs.

From cast metal sculptures to black and white photography, this exhibit surveys the diverse form and content explored in class and beyond. This year’s exhibitions feature works produced by three Studio Arts majors: Hannah Gray, Saint Paul; Kimber Starnes, Saint Paul; and Bryan Starry, Minneapolis.

“The work was created in the classroom as part of standard assignments. Other pieces were executed beyond the university as part of the students’ individual interests,” said Eric Rasmussen, gallery director. “What ever the inspiration, it’s a pleasure for me to share the culmination of their artistic pursuits with the university community.”

The exhibit opens with a reception from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., on Thursday, March 23, and continues through April 14. Gallery hours are 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday to Thursday, and 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Fridays. The gallery is located in the Library and Learning Center, 645 East Seventh Street, at the university’s Saint Paul Campus.

For more information about the exhibit, contact Erica Rasmussen, gallery director, at 651-793-1631 or e-mail her at erica.rasmussen@metrostate.edu.

Metropolitan State University, a member of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, is the Twin Cities’ public, urban, comprehensive state university providing lifelong learning, and competitive academic and professional degree programs at the bachelor, master and doctoral levels.

Are you receiving your copy of the Forum each month?
If you live in the Dayton’s Bluff neighborhood, you should receive your copy of the Dayton’s Bluff District Forum within the first two weeks of each month. If you live within the neighborhood and feel you have missed delivery, please email editor@daytonslumber.org along with your name and mailing address. We will contact the US Postal Service on your behalf.

El Guanaco Bakery & Café, located at 849 East Seventh Street, St. Paul.

El Guanaco Bakery & Café, located at 849 East Seventh Street, St. Paul; and Bryan Starry, Minneapolis.

“I am proud to be a woman and I am a Woman” is a new division of Minnesota’s own Afton Press.

Metropolitan State University

Sculpture by Bryan Starry, on view at Gordon Parks Gallery, Metropolitan State University.

I am a Woman
Photos and stories from Mary Sue Englund

Krissy Schoenfelder
Landmark Center

Minnesota native, Mary Sue Englund is the author of I am a Woman, the companion book to her song of the same name. Englund has worked at El Guanaco for nearly three months. It was time to make a start-up business has been open for about three months. It was time to make a change. The owners of the new cafe are Oscar and Dolores Murcia. Their original bakery was small with only a couple of tables, so they jumped at the chance to increase the space that allowed them to also have a sit-down restaurant. Opening business has been good according to Oscar, who has worked at restaurants before in El Salvador and the United States.

While eating, I noticed a hot sauce I had seen before. The table had a small bottle of hot sauce called “Cry Baby Craig.” It was said that it was handcrafted in Minneapolis and had been “Bawlin’” since 2012.” When I saw that the paper wrapper showed a person crying red tears, I decided it was likely too hot for my taste buds. Maybe a reader can report on their reaction to “Cry Baby Craig.”

Steve Trimble can be reached at editor@daytonslumber.org.

El Guanaco Bakery & Café, located at 849 East Seventh Street, St. Paul.

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landmarkcenter.org: click on “East Side Eating – El Guanaco Bakery” or visit

www.landmarkcenter.org.

Steve Trimble

For more information about the exhibit, contact Erica Rasmussen, gallery director, at 651-793-1631 or e-mail her at erica.rasmussen@metrostate.edu.

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Minnesota native, Mary Sue Englund is the author of I am a Woman, the companion book to her song of the same name. Englund has worked at El Guanaco for nearly three months. It was time to make a change. The owners of the new cafe are Oscar and Dolores Murcia. Their original bakery was small with only a couple of tables, so they jumped at the chance to increase the space that allowed them to also have a sit-down restaurant. Opening business has been good according to Oscar, who has worked at restaurants before in El Salvador and the United States.

While eating, I noticed a hot sauce I had seen before. The table had a small bottle of hot sauce called “Cry Baby Craig.” It was said that it was handcrafted in Minneapolis and had been “Bawlin’” since 2012.” When I saw that the paper wrapper showed a person crying red tears, I decided it was likely too hot for my taste buds. Maybe a reader can report on their reaction to “Cry Baby Craig.”

Steve Trimble can be reached at editor@daytonslumber.org.

El Guanaco Bakery & Café, located at 849 East Seventh Street, St. Paul.

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landmarkcenter.org: click on “East Side Eating – El Guanaco Bakery” or visit

www.landmarkcenter.org.

Steve Trimble

For more information about the exhibit, contact Erica Rasmussen, gallery director, at 651-793-1631 or e-mail her at erica.rasmussen@metrostate.edu.

I am a Woman
Photos and stories from Mary Sue Englund

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Some new members of the Dayton’s Bluff Hall of Fame

Steve Trimble
Forum Historian

In the February Forum, I wrote about several people who I thought deserved to be included in a virtual Hall of Fame for Dayton’s Bluff. They were being added to a list put together in the neighborhood newspaper in 2007. There was not a lot of room in the February issue, and I decided to develop a history walk on the Lower Bluff for March – Women’s History Month – hope you enjoyed it.

There are six new people and a longer write-up of one other featured below. If you have any suggestions for people who should be considered for inclusion in the area Hall of Fame, please send them in. By the way, if you want to look at the initial Bluff Hall of Fame, go to dayton bluff district forum.org, click on “Past Issues” and you will find it in the December 2007 issue.

Joan Davis: Born Josephine Davis in 1912, she became a well-known radio and television figure. Her family lived for many years at 275 Bates Avenue and Joan entered Mechanic Arts High School in 1926. She was on the academic honors list, was part of the debate team, and was an excellent musician. She loved being a performer starting as a girl, and had a career that spanned vaudeville, film, radio, and television. She is best remembered for the 1950s television comedy I Married Joan, that ran in the 1950s.

Karin DuPaul: Karin DuPaul was born in South Dakota and moved with her family to St. Paul, graduating from Wilson High School. In 1977, she and her husband Rich bought the old Wits on Harral house on Greenbrier Street and she has become an expert on the history of the Hamm family and their brewery.

DuPaul was a long-time community organizer for the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council. She was instrumental in saving the land for the Upper Swede Hollow Park and working with other groups to develop the larger Swede Hollow Park. She founded the Upper Swede Hollow Neighborhood Association. Among other things, Karin is a founder of the East Side Elders, and a long-time board member of the Dayton’s Bluff District Forum newspaper. She is still active in the community, sponsoring the annual Swede Hollow Art Fair – Art in the Hollow, and the annual Cabaret! at the Historic Mounds Theatre.

Wayne Eddy: Wayne Eddy was a successful businessman and well-known radio and television personality. He lived in several Dayton’s Bluff locations during the 50s and 60s, including in the back of the old Rosen’s Grocery Store at 41th and Forest Streets. He was a 1960 graduate of Harding High School and is part of its Hall of Fame. He was a champion of hometown radio for more than 40 years. Starting in 1964, he was a radio and television station owner.

The St. Paul native and Brown Institute graduate found his real niche in 1968, when he started a daytime AM station in Northfield. He was owner and manager host for 34 years. He is a member of the Minnesota Broadcasters Hall of Fame and was also elected to the Minnesota Softball Hall of Fame.

Vera Gammnon: Vera Mable Gammmon, born in 1895, was often called “Minnesota’s Helen Keller.” As a young child living at 964 Reaney Avenue, she lost her hearing and sight. Her parents enrolled her in the Minnesota Academy for the Deaf in Faribault in 1907, and she made incredible progress. She learned to sign (in her hand) ball and two other words – a feat that usually took other similar children several months to master. She learned to thread needles and make clothes for her dolls and had a remarkable sense of smell, knowing people by their aromas. Soon, she could write long essays on a typewriter. So, she wrote to Helen Keller, asking for help and guidance. When Keller visited the Twin Cities in 1914 she had a lengthy visit with Vera, leaving her “full of confidence.”

Vera lived with her mother on Reaney most of the rest of her life, enjoying reading Braille and winning State Fair ribbons for her knitting.

Albert “Obby” Johnson: Albert Johnson opened a grocery and feed store back in 1919, when farmers came to town on a road in front of his building and might have bought agricultural goods on their way back. It is unclear whether or not they might have tipped a glass there as well. Albert got his nickname “Obbs” from a child who regularly mispronounced his first name. The family lived in a house near the restaurant at 260 Clarence Street, Obb’s Sports Bar & Grill, one of the first ten bars in St. Paul. He was licensed after the repeal of Prohibition. When the avid sportsman retired, his sons Bob and Glenn took over. Aside from a short span, it has remained in family hands. The fifth generation is now working at the expanded spot.

Emil Ulrici: Emil Ulrici was an architect who once lived in Dayton’s Bluff at 619 North Street. He designed a number of structures in the neighborhood, including the Adolph and Anna Muench house at 653 East Fifth, a Queen Anne on the National Register of Historic Places. He also designed Dr. Ohage’s house in Irvine Park, the C.S.P.S. Hall on West Seventh Street, and the Pioneer Building downtown. One source suggests that he worked in St. Paul for less than ten years.

Ulrici was active in civic life. In 1883, he was the librarian for the Turner Society, a German gymnastic association, and in 1887 designed the ornamental work on the Fire King’s Chariot for the Winter Carnival float.

Emmett Yanez: Emmett Yanez came to St. Paul with his family from Texas. He lived for a time on the West Side and then at 618 East Fourth Street in a home shared with his brothers and four sisters in a small Mexican-American community in the area under and around the Third Street Bridge. He left school to enlist in World War II. He returned to St. Paul and worked for the city for most of his life. He started the Mexican-American Boxing Club in the 1950s that served East Side and West Side boys. When he married Natalie, they lived at 1042 Wilson Avenue in the Dayton’s Bluff neighborhood.

Emmett Yanez: Emmett Yanez coached boxers for more than 50 years and finally retired at the age of ninety-two. He developed many Golden Gloves champions and a few successful St. Paul professional boxers.

Steve Trimble can be reached at editor@daytons-bluff.org.

A little bit of history

David Lyons
Special to the Forum

There is a small iron door at the base of the chimney in our basement, covered with multiple layers of paint, which has caught my eye from time-to-time. One evening this fall when I was putting around looking for something to do, I decided to strip the paint off it and see how it might turn out. With the help of stripping solutions and a wire brush, I uncovered the bare cast iron and was pleasantly surprised to find it in pristine shape. After an Internet search, I found that the manufacturer Stowell Foundry in So. Milwaukee – dates back to the mid-Nineteenth Century, during the heyday of the industrial revolution of the Midwest. It closed in the 1960s, in the early days of deindustrialization in the Rustbelt.

Our house was built in 1912, and if I let my mind wander backwards…this small door was probably cast about at the same time as the hull of the Titanic and some of the armaments that were used in WWI. The only may well have come from the Mesabi Iron Range, which had only come into production about 15 years earlier. This was also during the peak of the last and largest wave of European immigration, so who knows—the mining and foundry workers may well have been newcomers to the U.S. from Slovenia, Finland, or Bohemia.

Our house on Mound Street will be on this year’s Minneapolis and Saint Paul Home Tour, April 29-30, open to the public.
Have Forum, will travel...

Romi Slowiak & Bill Zajicek keep up with the Bluff while visiting Xtabi Resort, Negril, Jamaica.

Toolie and Seth Kersten brought the Forum on a recent road trip to Utah. This photo was taken at the top of a run at Brighton Ski Resort, outside of Salt Lake City.

Several readers sent us pictures of themselves reading our newspaper on their travels. If you’d like to do the same, please email photos to editor@daytonsbluff.org.

Many thanks to our 2017 donors:

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Friends of the Forum

Dear Reader,

The Dayton’s Bluff District Forum has been a volunteer-run newspaper since the 1970s, and has always operated on a minimal budget. 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 at right. 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 $935.00 – Will you help us?

Sincerely,

The Dayton’s Bluff District Forum

Contest: Where in Dayton’s Bluff?

Email editor@daytonsbluff.org with the location of the neighborhood curiosity pictured below for a chance to win some great prizes from local businesses. The reader who submits the first correct entry will be notified and the winner will be announced in the May Forum.

Congratulations to Dane Johnson, winner of the March contest with his correct guess of the location in the photo: Dayton’s Bluff Saint Paul Public Library.

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

$100  $50  $25  Another amount _____

Or give online: razoo.com/Hopewell-Communications-Incorporated.

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Make checks payable to: Dayton’s Bluff District Forum and mail to 804 Margaret Street, St. Paul, MN 55106. For more information, contact 651-776-0550 or editor@daytonsbluff.org.

Thank you for your support!