Lee Ann Pomrenke has been a resident of Dayton's Bluff since 2008, where she lives with her husband and two daughters. She always wanted to be a mom and later, in high school, discovered she had an affinity for being a pastor. Pomrenke attended high school in Ohio and did a mentorship program there in which a student could get out of school at noon to volunteer. She signed up and was asked where she was going to volunteer, and Pomrenke said, “I don’t know, how about my church?” Pomrenke was mentored by her pastor and started taking on leadership roles in the church. At the end of the year the pastor said, “Look, I realize you’re not looking for a confirmation of a call here, you were just trying to get out of school, but you have the gifts, and you should be a pastor.”

“Okay, thanks, bye-bye,” Pomrenke said. “He saw that I had some gifts for becoming a pastor from seeing me in action,” Pomrenke said. “I led the youth group, I preached, and did all the different church things. But I wasn’t interested — primarily because the only models I had ever seen were male pastors and they did not, in my opinion, spend enough time at home or with their children.”

“I’ve always known I wanted to be a mother, so it seemed to me that even though women had been ordained in the Lutheran church for 50 years, I didn’t personally have any role models. So, I thought this is not the road for me,” Pomrenke said.

Pomrenke came home, she told the pastor she signed up and was asked where she was going to volunteer, and Pomrenke said, “I don’t know, how about my church?” He said, “Uh-huh, yes.” He was not at all surprised by that.

“I am a ‘pipeline’ as they say,” said Pomrenke. “I went straight from college into seminary. Maybe pipeliner is a word that we (pastors) use. Right now, in the Lutheran Church, in the United States, about half the people who go to seminary are second career and half go straight through (first career). The two groups certainly behave in different ways. I mean, people who come with a previous career want their expertise in that field to be appreciated.”

Following her bachelor’s degree, Pomrenke enrolled in a Master of Divinity (MDIV) — a four-year program with one of those years being an internship. “I have an MDIV with a concentration in Youth and Family Ministry,” Pomrenke said, “which is just like an add-on because I took different courses. It’s like getting another college degree in four more years, and usually you have to take Greek the summer before the program starts. In the ELCA, you are required to do Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) to be ordained. It is an internship in an institutional setting, like a hospital or a chaplaincy.”

See Pastor, page 6

We have Three Easy Ways for You to Donate!

We were able to print the November issue, due to the generous donations made by our community. If you’d like to see future issues printed again, please consider donating. We have three ways for you to do so:

- Donate electronically via PayPal at: daytonsludistrictforum@gmail.com
- Make checks payable to Dayton’s Bluff District Forum and mail to: 668 Greenbrier Street, Saint Paul, MN 55106
- Donate on our website at: givemn.org/organization/Hopewell-Communications-Incorporated-dp

Be sure to keep up with us online in one of four ways:

-Website at daytonsludistrictforum.org
-Facebook at Dayton’s Bluff District Forum
-Instagram at Dayton’s Bluff District Forum
-Nextdoor at Dayton’s Bluff District Forum

Pictured above is the book Pastor and author LeeAnn Pomrenke recently wrote.

Listed below are some holiday events that are going on in the area in December. For the full list and to ensure these events haven’t been canceled, please visit: visitthetwinpaul.org/blog/what-holi-day-event-picks/-unless there is a website within the events below.

December 1
Run 2020 Rudolph Virtual 5k Run Walk
Your choice of location.
It’s that time of year again. Time to don our Santa hats, elf ears, or in this case Reindeer antlers! Our Rudolph Run Rudolph Virtual 5k Run is fun for all ages. Participants Receive: Run Rudolph Finisher Medal (Noze Lights Up), Tyvek Race Bib, Reindeer Antlers, Rudolph Running Buff, Long Sleeve Finisher Shirt. Participants must register for the event, it is limited to 1500 runners. Go to the virtual run challenge.com/virtual-race-event/run-rudolph-virtual-5k-run-walk.

December 1 through January 30
Glow Holiday Festival
MN State Fairgrounds
GLOW Holiday Festival is a one-mile drive-thru with a dozen seasonal scenes featuring over a million holiday lights, a 100-foot illuminated tree, ice-cicle and art installations, a festive gingerbread house, and other attractions. The event goes from 4:30 to 9:30 p.m.

December 1 through 24
Keg & Case Holiday Market
928 7th St W, Saint Paul, MN 55102
Keg & Case West 7th Market is your one-stop-shop for holiday shopping, dining and more. In addition to all the usual market favorites, the holiday market will include 20 local pop-up vendors and phone photos with Santa, a tree farm, and ice rink.

December 5, 12, 19, 26
Pop-Up Produce Shop by Storehouse Grocers from 9-11 a.m.
851 East Seventh St., Suite III, St. Paul.
We will have collard greens, mustard greens, kale, cucumbers, squash, and tomatoes for sale. Come support Black Farmers!

December 6
Santa’s Lighting and Movie Night
214 4th St E, Suite 300, Saint Paul, MN
Join Union Depot for their annual tree lighting and movie night, hosted by Colleen and Bradley from MyTalk 107.1. Stick around following the tree lighting for showings of Elf and Polar Express.

December 6
Katie McMahon’s Celtic Christmas, The O’Shaughnessy
2004 Randolph Av, Saint Paul, MN 55105
Celebrate Christmas in Celtic style at The O’Shaughnessy with Katie McMahon’s family-friendly program of traditional carols, stories, and Irish dance.

December 6-February 22
Destination Winter Saint Paul
CHS Field
Destination Winter Saint Paul is bringing a one-of-a-kind experience to the area this winter. There’s excitement for all ages in one place with the relocation of Wells Fargo WinterScape from Landmark Plaza to the playing surface at CHS Field and the return of the Securian SuperSlide for the first time since Super Bowl LII.
Friends of Swede Hollow
Friends of Swede Hollow watch over, restore, and celebrate the history of Swede Hollow Park. Join the Swede Hollow Foundation for our monthly meetings. We have changed our meeting date to the second Thursday of each month.

Due to the COVID-19 virus, there will be no meetings until further notice. Please check back at a later date for more information. Email karrindupaul@gmail.com or call 651-776-0550 for more information and the meeting’s location.

Dayton’s Bluff District Forum Board Meeting
The Forum is seeking writers and help with online content, idea generation, and ad sales — join us at our next meeting on Thursday, December 3, at 11:00 a.m. If you’d like to attend, call 651-776-0550 or email daytonblüß_districtforum@gmail.com for more information.

We are currently at the beginning of a new year. Let’s connect, in person, safely, and social distance.

Police Community Meetings
The Eastern District Saint Paul Police hosts 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 meetings are intended as a time to learn, listen and address people’s concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side. Policing meetings held at 8:30 a.m. or 6:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month.

Bring your neighbors!
Due to COVID cases rising, please email Robyn to ensure December meetings are still being held.

Email: robyn.brewin@ci.stpaul.mn.us for more information.

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.

Aún si no es ciudadano, si tiene hijos nacidos en este país ellos podrían cali-

ficar. Participar en el programa SNAP no afectará su estatus migratorio.

¿Llama a CLUES para saber si califi- ca? 612-746-3500. Nuestro personal bil-

ingüe 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. Par-

ticipation 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 afford-

able, healthy food directly into 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.

December 4 and 20: The Historic Mounds Theatre brings you our Klingon Holiday Tradition in a brand new way! As a way to raise funds to get our non-

profit theatre (and you) through this long winter, our cast of talented Klingon-

in is offering two LIVE online read-

ings of the script of our original production, It’s An Honorable Life: A Star Trek Fan Production.
Friday, Dec. 4 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 20 at 3 p.m. Price: $20 & $40. See our Facebook page at Mounds Theatre on the East Side. All East Side en-

trepreneurs are welcome. Class train-

ing lasts eight weeks and includes topics such as operations manage-

ment, marketing, financial manage-

ment, one-on-one assistance with creating a successful business, and preparing a business plan, plus eight hours of one-on-one time with the in-

structor.

Those who successfully complete the course and locate their businesses are eligible for ongoing business support services. Some examples of businesses started by people who have previously taken this course include graphic design, landscape-

ing, photography, food service, restoration of wood furniture, art, custom-

tom floral design, and exterior and in-

terior painting. The course is sponsored by the Dayton’s Bluff Commu-

nity Center and the Neighborhood Development Center. There is a small registration based on a sliding scale. Class sizes are flexible, so enroll now. Please call 651-379-8432 for a current application.

Landmark Center Open
Landmark Center is pleased to wel-

come visitors back to its work of art, serving people to browse exhibits, and per-

sure its history. Country fair book ad-

vance appointments to visit the building by reserving tickets online.

Appointments allow visitors to safely browse Landmark Center for one hour and one half hours. In addition to regular build-

ing exhibits, the American Association of Woodturners Gallery of Wood Art will be open during Landmark Center’s visitor hours, and the Schubert Club Museum is scheduled to reopen this fall.

Entry times are Wednesday through Friday, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; and Sun-

day, 12 and 2 p.m. (Sunday reservations close at 12 p.m. on Fridays).

Free Masks Available
Ramsey County launched a new initia-

tive – A Mask for Everyone – to ensure that individuals and families have ac-

cess to cloth face masks to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

Led by the county’s COVID-19 Racial Equity and Community Engagement Response Team (RECERT), the program will prioritize distributing home-

made cloth masks to racially, ethnically, and culturally diverse communities.

Individuals and families in Ramsey County who are in need of masks can visit ramseycounty.us/MaskForEvery-

one to request a mask. Each recipient will be provided with a homemade cloth mask to help slow the spread of COVID-19, accurate and up-to-date infor-

mation about the importance of wear-

ing a mask, and instructions on proper use and care of homemade masks.

Business Classes
The Dayton’s Bluff Neighborhood Microentrepreneur Class begins January 4th and businesses on the East Side. All East Side en-

trepreneurs are welcome. Class train-

ing lasts eight weeks and includes topics such as operations manage-

ment, marketing, financial manage-

ment, one-on-one assistance with creating a successful business, and preparing a business plan, plus eight hours of one-on-one time with the in-

structor.

Those who successfully complete the course and locate their businesses in target neighborhoods are eligible for ongoing business support services. Some examples of businesses started by people who have previously taken this course include graphic design, landscape-

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terior painting. The course is sponsored by the Dayton’s Bluff Com-

munity Center and the Neighborhood Development Center. There is a small registration based on a sliding scale. Class sizes are flexible, so enroll now. Please call 651-379-8432 for a current application.

Learn About Medicare and Help Others
Help the Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging provide one-on-one counsel-

ing to Medicare beneficiaries at com-

munity partner sites.

In order to be in your communi-

ty by becoming a State Health Insur-

ance Assistance Program certified Medicare Counselor. Help people un-

derstand their Medicare options. Visit Metroaging.org/volunteer to learn more.

Need Groceries?
If you are 60 or older, you may be eli-

gable to receive a box of nutritious food every month from Second Harvest.

This box is part of a program called NAPS, and we can help you apply! Give us a call at 651-683-2326 and someone will assist you with your appli-

cation.

Some examples of what might be in-

cluded in a NAPS box are: milk, meat, canned goods, peanut butter, grains, and produce.

Just a Call Away
Did you know that East Side Elders has friendly phone volunteers who can call in or just to chat? If you or a loved one would like to sign up, just contact us at 651-683-2326 or In-

fo@EastSideElders.org. You can sign up for daily calls, or as often as you would like — our volunteers are stand-

ing by for your call!

Financial Assistance
Increased financial assistance is avail-

able for Ramsey County residents who lost income due to COVID-19 and need help paying for housing costs.

Residents may be eligible for Emer-

gency Assistance that can help pay for past due rent/mortgage, a damage de-

ment, medical debt, utilities, water, elec-

tricity, and heat, from being discon-

nected.

Go to ramseycounty.us/Emergen-

cyAssistance for an application or call the Emergency Assistance hotline at 651-266-4884.

East Side Learning Center Seeking Volunteer Tutors
East Side Learning Center is seeking a virtual volunteer tutor to be part of their literacy program.

If you’re interested, call Shosa Khang, the volunteer coordinator, at 651-808-8107.
Recipe
Easy Goodie Bars
Anne Lund
Special to the Forum
Oven: 300 degrees
Time: 25 to 30 minutes
Ingredients:
- ½ cup butter
- 1 1/3 cup coconut
- 1 ½ cup crushed graham crackers
- 1 cup chopped nuts
- 1 four-ounce can condensed milk
- 1 cup M&Ms
Directions:
Preheat the oven to 300 degrees
- In a 13 x 9 pan, melt the butter.
- Sprinkle the graham cracker crumbs over the bottom of the pan and pat into the bottom
- Add the condensed milk
- Add coconut
- Add nuts
- Add M&Ms
- Press all ingredients down into the pan
- Bake for 25-30 minutes

If you’d like to submit your favorite recipe, please send it to daytonsblluffdistrictforum@gmail.com.

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Dayton’s Bluff District Forum
668 Greenbrier St., St. Paul, MN 55106
Phone: 651-776-0550 E-mail: daytonsblluffdistrictforum@gmail.com

You got somethin’ to say? Say it here!

The Dayton’s Bluff District Forum welcomes all opinions and neighborhood anecdotes—send yours to:

daytonsblluffdistrictforum@gmail.com

Opinions expressed in contributed articles may not represent the views of the Forum.

Deadline for the February issue of the Forum is January 10, 2021.

Trust: Part One
Clara Martin
Forum Staff

Every human is called upon at some point in life to trust in something. As children we trust our parents, our teachers, other adults in our life, and the systems we are part of on a regular basis. For example, refugee children across the planet must trust their parents to lead them to safety when lives and livelihoods are being threatened. We ask few questions when we’re young. Parents are our protectors and decision-makers. Our world is relatively small at that point and fairly uncomplicated. A child puts her hand in her mother’s hand and trust lies in the connecting of their palms and the interlacing of their fingers.

As adults, trust sometimes has to be worked at and a conscious decision has to be made about whether or not to trust. By the time we have grown out of the cocoon of home and let go of our mother’s hand; moved beyond the safety net of a school schedule; and into a career and/or marriage and family; we have encountered challenges, and at times, trauma leading us to rethink our willingness and naivete about trusting. We have put away childish things and childish trust lies in the connecting of their palms and the interlacing of their fingers.

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My favorite thing to do on a winter morning is to slide down the hill next to the stairs leading to lower Swede Hollow Park on my butt, with my furry best friend running along beside me. My well-groomed butt slide is a great way to avoid the treachery of the winter stairs.

As an adult child, snow is one of my favorite things, and when Swede Hollow Park becomes an Arctic paradise that glitters and shines when the sun reflects on the snow, it becomes my favorite playground.

As I got to thinking of my beloved winter activities, I couldn’t help but realize that all of them are free (sans the gear needed not to freeze) and can be enjoyed at a social distance or solo. Don’t let the icy UN-maintained stairs leading into the park dissuade you. A pair of boot cleats or Yak Tracks give you the traction needed to descend safely, although I can’t stress enough the joy of my butt slide.

A walk down and around the lower hollow is roughly 9 miles, and the spring fed creek flows all winter providing views that are picuresque. For a slightly more intense workout, the hike from Swede Hollow and around the Bruce Vento Nature trail is roughly 3.5 miles from lower Swede Hollow to the Wakan Tipi, the second cave with the large pond and back. When the snow gets really deep, snowshoes make this particular walk a breeze, allowing you to float over the top of snow drifts with ease. This trail is also great for Skijoring, the sport of cross-country skiing with one or two dogs. From the nature sanctuary you can view downtown, the river, watch the trains go by, and marvel at the small planes fly ing into the Saint Paul airport, all from the comfort within nature’s snow globe. If you have small children who like to sled, the hill at Swede-Henge offers a mellow slope perfect for younger kiddos.

Getting outside is a safe way to enjoy the company of a few friends at a social distance or an amazing way to enjoy the solitude of winter on a solo hike.

The photo above was taken by Kristenza Nelson. Swede Hollow has some beautiful scenery and trails for all kinds of winter activities!
The Start of My Swede Hollow Journey

Karin DaPaul
Forum staff

In 1977 our family decided to buy a beautiful, older home in Dayton's Bluff. When we told my father about it, he said it must be by Swede Hollow. I had never heard of Swede Hollow and asked him what that was. My dad said it was a place along the eastern edge of the old brewery buildings. He suggested that we visit it. I was a little hesitant, as I had never heard of Swede Hollow and was not sure if I would like it. My father’s next suggestion was to park by the Clark Gas Station at East 7th and Payne Ave and walk down the railroad tracks and head north. We headed over on another search for Swede Hollow and went down the hill to the railroad tracks and came up to the “East 7th Street Improvement Arches.” What a magnificent structure! It was built for the railroads for trains to go through to get to the Saint Paul train depot.

We walked through the arches into Swede Hollow. It was a rather unkempt forest in the middle of the city. Being a family that liked State Parks, hiking, and so on, a place like Swede Hollow was perfect for us.

At that time, the hollow was blighted by discarded tires and other trash. Yet I had a beauty that we loved from the start. It was a great piece of nature and history in the heart of the city. It had a small stream, a pond, lots of birds and later we found it was home to deer and other critters.

A railroad line ran along the western edge of Swede Hollow and was one of the early railroads in Minnesota, carrying people to and from St. Paul from Duluth. (It is a future article, there will be more about the rail line.)

Just north of Swede Hollow is the old Hamm Brewery, which began operating in 1865. The vacant brewery buildings eventually became home to a number of businesses including Saint Paul Brewing Company and 11 Wells Distillery.

Meal Program Offered for COVID Affected

Ramsey County

Ramsey County announced a new home meal delivery program for those residents who have been adversely impacted by COVID-19 and are struggling to leave their homes. Five community partners have been selected to provide healthy home-delivered meals to qualifying residents free of charge. Applicants are encouraged to review each partner’s options which include medically tailored, vegetarian, culturally-specific, and Halal-only meals at tailored, vegetarian, culturally-specific, and Halal-only meals at

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In 1977 our family decided to buy a beautiful, older home in Dayton's Bluff. When we told my father about it, he said it must be by Swede Hollow. I had never heard of Swede Hollow and asked him what that was. My dad said it was a place where Swedish immigrants lived, just off Payne Avenue. He explained that as time went by the Swedish moved up out of the hollow to nearby streets and immigrants from Italy and later Mexican Americans moved into the hollow. The next time we were driving on Payne Avenue we looked and looked but did not find any indication of a hollow.

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Pastor, Cont’d from Page 1

Working solo, Pomrenke is currently in an interim position, and has been there about nine months. The church where she is an interim pastor, All Saints Lutheran Church in Eagan, MN, has just formed a call committee, so the Bishop is going to start giving them candidates to interview. Interim pastors are usually at a church for one to three years.

“When you are an interim pastor,” Pomrenke said, “you feel free to have the conversations that otherwise people might be afraid of or people getting upset. But I figure, if they are that upset, they will just say that we will outlast her — when she leaves, we won’t have to deal with her anymore. So, I bring it all up.”

An interim pastor is not eligible to apply for the full-time pastor position where that person is serving. Lots of times members of the congregation say, “Well, now we are used to you, why can’t you just stay?”

“That is not the role,” Pomrenke said. “The role is to help the congregation figure out who they are without the personality of the leader in place.”

Lee Ann Pomrenke is a pastor and mother with two daughters, and they are 10 years old (fifth grade) and almost six years old (first grade). Pomrenke reflects on what she sees as the greatest challenge of trying to homogenize the two different, but sometimes similar vocations.

“First,” Pomrenke said, “I will say what most of my colleagues would say — which is the guilt. The guilt that you are shortchanging someone on one side of that equation at all times. It goes hand in hand with just balancing your time well and balancing being able to compartmentalize. You know, you cannot be up all night hashing over the stinging email you got from someone because you’re going to have to get up to feed the kids or whatever the issue is.”

In Matthew 23:27, Jesus said, “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem… How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!”

“That is the most famous mothering image in the Bible.” Pomrenke said. “I think, in scripture, and my point is — it’s not the only one. I would say that is the one people actually cite.”

Pomrenke has written a book entitled “Embodied: Clergy Women and the Solidarity of a Mothering God.” Many authors say the book they wrote is the book they wanted to read. “If I had read this when I was heading into college,” Pomrenke said, “and seen that not only can you do both, mother and pastor, but there is a great gift in it, it would have not taken me so long to get around to making that decision. Yes, I wrote ‘Embodied’ because it is the book I wanted to read, and it took me about nine months to write my book.”

In her brief summary or elevator speech, Pomrenke makes the case that not only do women mothering pastors have some struggles that people need to know about, but women pastors can also be a great gift to congregations. She thinks the only part of it that we need to understand is how difficult it is for families to bring their children to church. It shifts the expectations of leadership because it’s a lot of work. Instead of church leaders standing apart and saying, “Oh, why are people with children coming to church anymore?” there just has to be a level of understanding and empathy that is really necessary in this age.

“Every chapter in my book,” Pomrenke said, “ends with questions for reflection for clergy women and for people who would be their support network. So, it’s actually designed to be read in a group, in a congregation, or maybe if your congregation is in transition and could be hiring a clergy mother — maybe you already have one, or maybe you’ve had a clergy mother leave and you would like to dig into that. It’s meant to be for discussion.”

As a women pastor, Lee Ann Pomrenke is not an authoritative figure, but she seems to have carved her niche as a nurturing mother of grace.

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

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See You in February!

With the holidays just around the corner, we are taking a break to spend time with our families, friends, and neighbors. We will not have a January issue, but please keep your eye out for our online-only February issue!

Stay safe during the holidays and enjoy the many events St. Paul has to offer!

Happy holidays, Dayton’s Bluff!

December 2020

Dayton’s Bluff District Forum

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Some St. Paul Historic Events

Some St. Paul Historic Events

Steve Trimble
Forum Staff

I hope readers like reading about the rich and diverse history of our city. Here are just a few of them that you might want to find out about in more detail. Included are the naming of Kellogg Street, the breakthroughs of an African American woman, an institution on the West Side that is still around, a little-known St. Paul woman architect, and the amazing story of a Como Zoo event. Enjoy.

December 8, 1933: The St. Paul Municipal Opera opened its doors this day as a near capacity crowd at the St. Paul Auditorium watched “Samson and Delilah.” Inside there was a German beer garden where drinks were served by Junior League members who were “barmans” dressed in “peasant costumes.” This was going to be “civic opera” that featured good music, low ticket prices, and was performed in English. It strides to use local talent and to develop young singers, but eventually moved toward a modified star system, bringing in outsiders. The first, Rosa Tontoni, was a Minnesotan from the Iron Range.

There were on and off financial problems from the beginning. One response was to move toward light opera in the 1930s. There was an active Women’s Opera Guild that raised money and even helped make costumes. In the 1960s, the staging of musicals was a profitable venture.

There was to move toward light opera in the 1930s. There was an active Women’s Opera Guild that raised money and even helped make costumes. In the 1960s, the staging of musicals was a profitable venture.

December 12, 1956: A groundbreaking ceremony for a new building to house Our Lady of Guadalupe was held on this day. It would be a great improvement over any of the previous buildings. Completed in 1961, the new building housed a church, offices, a parish center, a kitchen, and a school. The church began when Our Lady of Guadalupe held its first masses in both Spanish and English on Saint Paul’s West Side on February 22, 1931. The Mexican mission met in a former grocery store at 123 South Wabasha Street and was attended by three dozen Mexican residents. The chapel became widely known for its shrine to the Lady of Guadalupe.

The group later purchased a building at 186 East Fairfield in 1939 that was renovat ed with a chapel, rectory, and social center, the mission was incorporated as a parish. By the end of the 1930s there were classes in religion, sewing, and English.

December 20, 1932: Third Street in downtown Saint Paul was re-named Kellogg Boulevard on this day. Frank B. Kellogg was a local self-taught lawyer who led the prosecution of monopolistic companies. He served as the U. S. Secretary of State and became internationally famous as co-author of the Kellogg-Briand Peace Pact, signed in 1928. It pledged “the renunciation of war as an instrument of national policy.” Kellogg became “famed for his achievements for world peace” and because of his actions he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1931. The new name had been part of a contest for a monetary prize. The ceremony included a parade, a dance number, and music program as “aerial bombs thundered” and the new name was spelled out in luminous green. According to a newspaper, “it will be completed as a street of outstanding beauty and distinction. Unfortunately, Kellogg was called out of the city and wasn’t there.”

View from My Porch

Sage Holken
Forum Staff

“The pandemic has stolen so much. So many. Tiny things. Big things. Just touching another human. Seeing smiles, frowns. Guessing what a stranger means by a vague comment because you can’t see a mouth, and eyes are covered with darkened lenses. I guess one of the saddest and saving qualities of human beings is their ability, without even trying, to adapt.”

Late Thursday evening I texted my sister that I was “COVID-tired.” Bobbi, from the west coast, sensed in my “text voice” a growing emotional numbness. She has always had that innate talent (as well as a pen and ink artist); the most creative writer — poetic, evocative, evoking, inspiring... “The re-emergence of the pandemic has slowed down social interaction. The mind can close off if there isn’t outside stimulation...when people around you are talking about their lives in isolation terms, it’s hard to keep yours up...it’s all too easy to get lost in the details...”

Bobbi reminded me, “We know we will adapt at a price. Higher than money. Traditions were stolen. Movies from a year ago remind us of a time we could sit next to and across from friends and family. Grandkids. Growing up from afar even 35 miles away.”

Favorite coffee shops are not available, visiting face to face, small celebrations, coffee chats all carry a certain wariness. Christmas and Thanksgiving will not be with my son and his family this year. I’m ok with that—I had moved to enough places not knowing anyone and have spent many holidays alone. I had always seen alone-time as a way of learning about the inner me; strengthening my resilience, better understanding my motivations, learning my depths and limits. Bobbi texted: “Funny how even distanced, social contact is so necessary [I now rely on phone and Zoom. Texting is great, but I also need voices and seeing facial expressions]...” So why? Bobbi posed, “do we lock so many people away?”

Prison incarceration has been an unsettling topic for years, so many, many dimensions. Not too long ago my book group read The Crusade for Forgotten Souls, Reforming Minnesota’s Mental Institutions 1946-1954. So many ways to lock a person away...in a homeless camp, in a shelter, on a public street, invisible to others, simply because people have stopped “seeing” what and who are around them. I see it in small apartments and in more populated apartment buildings. There are no physical locks on camps and apartment/shelter buildings, but isolation can be devastating or without a lock.

The mind can close off if there isn’t outside stimulation...when people around you are contending for inches of personal space; when your home is nowhere; who smiles at you? Who looks at you and sees something in your eyes? Not your face as a whole, but your eyes? When was the last time you looked someone (stranger or family or friend) fully in the eyes and saw that person for the first time, felt a connection of souls? Bobbi is right in so many ways of deeply within being lost...I think we look inwards for comfort...but it’s not too late...I’ll end with Bobbi’s words: “It is important more than ever to look for the light shining through the cracks.”

Contest: Where in Dayton’s Bluff?

Send your guess to daytons-bluffdistrictforum@gmail.com with the location of the neighborhood curiosity pictured at right.

The reader who submits the correct answer will be awarded a new record for the fastest return of a C-section orangutan to a first-time mom.

December 13, 2008: Jaya had a very special birth at Como Zoo on this day. He was the first orangutan to be delivered via cesarean section in the zoo’s half a century of caring for the species and only the ninth such surgery in the world. Because of his mother Markisa’s earlier still born baby, a birth management plan was written up, laying out scenarios for any problems that could have arisen. Most orangutans are in labor for less than half an hour, Elder said, so after an unnaturally long four hours in labor, Markisa was sedated and brought to the University. The procedure was performed by the head of large animal surgery at the University of Minnesota’s College of Veterinary Medicine, assisted by an OB-GYN from the Children’s Hospital. Jaya was temporarily cared for around-the-clock by zoo staff while he and his mother recovered and, to simulate his mother, caretakers took turns holding and feeding the baby while wearing a special orangutan suit.

A few days later, the newborn was shown to his mother through a mesh divider and Jaya was successfully reintroduced to Markisa on Christmas Day after only twelve days—setting a new record for the fastest return of a C-section orangutan to a first-time mom.

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See You in February!
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 60 may now be found online at daytonsbuffldistrictforum.org. Click on “East Side Eating” at the top of the home page. Steve Trimble can be reached at daytonsbuffldistrictforum@gmail.com.

NorthStar Bar & Grill
Phone: 651-350-7856
883 Payne Ave, St Paul
St Paul, MN 55130
Mondays-Thursdays 4 p.m. to midnight
Fridays-Sundays 11 a.m. to midnight
Facebook: @nsbarandgrill

My friend Seeley Booth has mentioned that a spot named the NorthStar Bar and Grill was going to start up in the old Louie’s Bar. However, after the COVID pandemic and, while a large sign had been put up, the building remained empty. Then I got word that the doors had been opened. As one of the newest East Side restaurants, I had to visit and include it in the Taste Trek.

They allowed inside dining with a reservation, so I showed up around 6:30 on a Monday evening. The inside had six large booths with a horseshoe shaped bar with a dozen or more stools and a couple of tables with chairs. Half of the booths were shut off and had large cutouts of the Hamm’s Bear to provide distanc- ing. There were ceilings that had lights and a remnant of the original tin ceiling. Several large screen TVs graced the interior. There was a dart board, and several walls and crannies had historic framed photos of Payne Avenue. The juke box was playing mostly oldies when I was there. There were four couples there at the time.

The menu was not huge but here are some of the offerings:

deep fried pickles

Appetizers include Swedish pauleine, Dillinger Gang bacon, buttered mushrooms, Payne Avenue pounder (ribs), half-a-pound of chicken wings, Granny’s chicken strips, and onion rings.

There is a good selection of burgers. The Big Louie (probably a homage to the old owner), the Polaris, the Patty Melt, the “Mikko” Meatball and the bacon cheeseburger. There is something called “Not so Secret Payne Reliever” that was comprised of two beef patties, sauce, double cheese, an onion ring, and tomato.

One of their specials is the “East Side Build your own Burger.” It starts with a quarter pound beef patty and you can add extra ingredients with the cost of from fifty cents, a dollar, or two dollars. Some of the possible add-ons were mushrooms, bleu cheese meatballs, and an onion ring.

Sandwiches come with either fries or tater tots. They include a chicken sandwich on Texas toast, a classic BLT with bacon steak, and a grilled cheese with American and Swiss cheese.

For my order, I decided to become creative (at least somewhat, since there were limited available additions). I opted for the “Build Your Own Burger” and added onions, tomato, Swiss cheese, barbecue sauce, thick cut bacon, and an egg. I thought the onion rings dipped in the home-made beer batter would be a nice side. I had a beer — and could I choose anything other than Hamm’s since the two booths I sat between had huge cardboard Hamm’s Bears in them?

There is street parking, but there is also an adjacent parking lot to the north of the building. According to my great server and bartender Kayla, changes are coming. In December there should be pull tabs and e-tabs. There will soon be bingo on Saturdays. They will also be having on some days, a breakfast brunch with different dishes with eggs, hash browns, bacon corned beef hash, and stuffed hash browns, or a breakfast burger with an egg and bacon served with a side of hash browns.

Dear Reader,

The Dayton’s Bluff District Forum has been a volunteer-run newspaper since the 1980s and has always operated on a minimal budget. Each issue costs around $1,900 to produce and mail, per month.

For the past three years we have been soliciting donations through our Friends of the Forum program. Thanks to the donations from 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 2020. Our goal for 2020 is $18,000; thanks to readers like you, we’ve raised $1,815 to date — will you help us reach our goal in 2020?

Sincerely,
The Dayton’s Bluff District Forum

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