

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

"The Voice of the Community"

Photo by Robert Johnstone

Volume 17, No. 5

www.daytonsbuff.org

July 2004

Inside This Issue:

- Swede Hollow Cafe.....Page 2
- Life along the river.....Page 3
- Your home's history.....Page 4
- Joanna the librarian.....Page 5
- Samai restaurant review.....Page 5
- Elder's Wisdom.....Page 6
- New World Money System...Page 7
- Susan Williams, writer.....Page 7
- Marian honors WWII vets....Page 8

A brief Hmong history lesson

By Nachee Lee, Executive Director, Dayton's Bluff Community Council

According to Hmong historians and studies, about five thousand years ago the ancestors of the Hmong lived along the lower reaches of the Yellow River in China. Wars and persecution from other groups forced the Hmong to flee their homelands southward to Indochina; now consisting of Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, and Burma. The Hmong left China around the end of the nineteenth century to settle near the tops of mountains in Indochina.

The journey of Hmong people from China to Indochina was long, hard and difficult. The long journey resulted in hardship, changes, sacrifice, starvation, and death. According to Hmong elders and folktales, during this journey many Hmong faced punishment and separation. Families headed different directions. They had to walk over steep mountains and through narrow gorges. Many people, particularly the elders, could not survive the long journey. Many died and were buried along the way. Women and children were exchanged and traded for food. Those who studied and had knowledge about Hmong history know this experience as the "Trail of Tears". In today's Hmong death ceremonies people still mourn this. Despite all of these hardships, many Hmong had survived and reached their destinations.

The Hmong became strong fighters for the United States against the Communists from 1960 to 1975. For this period, life for the Hmong was not the same. They were constantly moving again and facing a situation similar to the trek from China to Indochina. Families lost members, wives lost husbands, and children lost aunts and uncles. As a result of supporting the United States in this

National Night Out Poster Contest winners

The winners of the National Night Out Poster Contest have been announced. Children from Dayton's Bluff Elementary are Joseph Hamm and Rafael Roman, third Graders in Ms. Kressin's class. From the American Indian Magnet school winners included Amoses Holton, Pa Foua Yang, and Pa Kou Yang. Other Dayton's Bluff winners included Stephanie Vang, Blong and Peter Vang. Prizes included bikes, bike helmets, DVDs, soccer balls and gift certificates. All children who entered received a Student Achievement Award, a complimentary Child's meal from Old Country Buffet and Ice Cream from Culver's.

A special thanks goes to all the business that donated prizes for the contest. They include Boehm's Bicycles, Best Buy, Chanhassan Dinner Theater, Culver's, Gloria's Jewelry, Grand Performance, Holiday Inn (East Saint Paul), The Little Oven, Old Country Buffet, Padelford Packet Company, Perkin's, Play It Again Sports, Science Museum of Minnesota and Target.

The contest's purpose is to get more people involved in National Night Out events on Tuesday August 3, 2004. National Night Out is designed to heighten awareness of crime and drug prevention efforts, to generate support for and participation in local anticrime programs, to strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships, and to send a message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

Each year families, neighbors, neighborhood groups, and block clubs celebrate National Night Out with a variety of events. Neighbors spend the evening getting to know neighbors. Talk to your neighbors and find a way to celebrate National Night Out that fits your neighborhood.

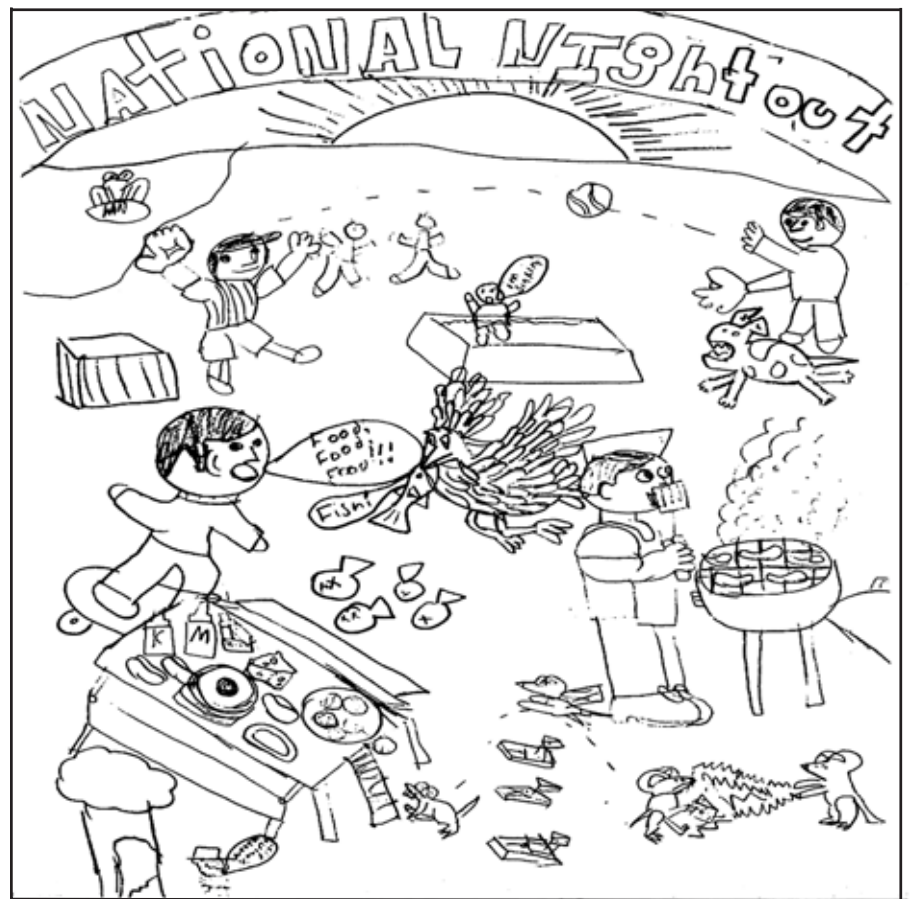
war about thirty thousand Hmong died.

The situation got even worse when the United States decided to pull out their troops from Vietnam and Southeast Asia in 1975. As soon as the United States pulled out, Laos fell to the Communists, and then Pro-American Hmong became a favorite target for the Communists. Pro-American Hmong villages, houses, and fields were burned down, the animals were slaughtered, and Hmong leaders were chased down and killed.

Luckily, many Hmong managed to flee through the jungles of Laos and crossed the Mekong River to Thailand for a short-term refuge. They waited in refugee camps to be placed in



Above: National Night Out Poster Contest winners from Dayton's Bluff Elementary School and some of the prizes. Photo by Karin DuPaul
Below: Joseph Hamm's winning poster.



countries that would want to take them in. The United States, Canada, and France were among the first to accept many Hmong families to their countries. These countries are also first choices for most Hmong because of their affiliation in Laos. Thanks to all the churches, organizations, and family sponsors, today there are large concentrations of Hmong in California, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Colorado, and Carolina.

The word "Hmong", to the Hmong, means "blooming fertile." In China, Hmong is known as "Miao" meaning "agriculture", to identify the first group of people who knew how to grow rice and corn in the rice paddies.

Visit Mounds Park for the 4th of July

Indian Mounds Park will be a great place to spend the extended Independence Day weekend.

Watch The Grand Flotilla of Grand Excursion 2004 arrive in St. Paul on the afternoon of July 3rd. Nearly a dozen paddlewheelers and spectacular boats, along with an "armada" of pleasure craft, are expected to be in full view from Mounds Park between 1 and 3 p.m. as they head for Harriet Island.

Of course The Taste of Minnesota fireworks will be visible from the west end of the park each night, July 1 - 5 at 10:15 p.m. with a special display on July 3 to welcome the Flotilla.

Charlotte's Web auditions at the Mounds Theatre

The heart-warming classic Charlotte's Web comes to life on the stage this summer at the Mounds Theatre as part of the newly formed Performing Arts Youth Conservatory.

Auditions are open to children in grades 4 through 12 and will be held on **Monday July 5 and Tuesday July 6**, from 6 to 9 p.m. Registration is not necessary. Simply show up.

Actors should prepare a monologue and a short musical passage.

Rehearsals will run July 7 through August 18. Performances are August 19 through 22.

Youth who are cast will not only rehearse the production but will also participate in workshops about acting, dance, voice and auditioning. There will be a \$35 registration fee for students accepted into the program.

If you are interested in helping with costumes, lights, sets or the many other aspects of the play, please contact the theatre.

The Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road, Saint Paul, MN 55106. For more information please call 651-772-2253 or visit their website at www.moundstheatre.org.

Grocery Give-Away

A Grocery Give-Away will take place on **Saturday, July 17** from 10:30 to noon at Mounds Park United Methodist Church, Euclid and Earl. Free produce, dry goods and bread items will be given to anyone who can use them. No registration or sign-up necessary. Sponsored by United Methodist churches on the East Side.

Editor Wanted
for the
Dayton's Bluff
District Forum.
Fun job, no pay.
Adobe Pagemaker
experience useful.
Call
651-772-2075



Wes Linstrom is the new owner of the Swede Hollow Cafe. Photo by Karin DuPaul

Swede Hollow Café changes hands

Wes Linstrom is the new owner of the Swede Hollow Café at 725 East 7th Street. Wes plans to keep things about the same and in time increase the items on the menu and the café hours. Wes comes to the café with years of restaurant experience and is happy to have the opportunity to own the Swede Hollow Café.

The Swede Hollow Café opened its doors on July 1, 1996 and is a well-known destination drawing in people from all over the Metro area. Newspaper and magazines have featured articles about the excellent food served at the café. In nice weather you can dine in the gardens next to the café. They are open Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and on Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Next time you go to the Swede Hollow Café say "Hi" to Wes and welcome him to the neighborhood.

For Rent

One bedroom apartments in the historic Stutzman Building. Wonderful view of downtown St. Paul. Washer and dryer. Beautifully redecorated. New appliances. Call 651-771-2659

MUELLER MORTUARY

PARKWAY CHAPEL

835 Johnson Parkway
at East Seventh Street
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55106

(651) 774-9797
FAX (651) 778-9677

LAKE MORTUARY

4738 Bald Eagle Avenue
at Third Street
White Bear Lake,
Minnesota 55110

(651) 429-4944
FAX (651) 429-7748

**Call anytime for service
or information**

Dayton's Bluff Take a Hike

Dayton's Bluff Take a Hike meets on the first Saturday of every month at 10:30 a.m. in Indian Mounds Park at Earl Street and Mounds Blvd. Join us on **July 3** for the next hike.

We hike from Mounds Park through Swede Hollow Park and then walk the length of the Bruce Vento Recreational Trail to its end, near Phalen Park.

The hike is about 6 miles with some moderately rough terrain. Transportation will be available near Johnson Parkway and Maryland to return to Mounds Park or you may hike back if you wish.

Join recreational trail supporters and explore this recreational trail. The paved trail runs from East 7th Street and Payne Avenue through Swede Hollow to Phalen Park. Dayton's Bluff Take a Hike started in December of 1990 and over the years hundreds of people have attended these events.

For more info, call 776-0550.

Learn how to start your own business

Have you ever wanted to start your own business? Or, have you started one and are realizing that you need more education to make it successful? If so, sign up for the Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Entrepreneur Training and Support Program. This program helps start-up and young businesses on the East Side. All East Side entrepreneurs are welcome. East Seventh Street is a good place to have your business. There are a number of storefronts available now. Also check out the Earl-Hudson area if you are looking for business space.

The next class will start in September 2004. Classroom training is eight weeks and includes topics such as operations management, marketing, financial management, and preparing a business plan. In addition, the class provides approximately eight hours of one-to-one assistance with creating a successful business. Those who successfully complete the course and locate their businesses in target neighborhoods are eligible for ongoing business support services.

Some of the businesses that people who took the course have started include graphics, photography, food service, restoration of wood furniture and works of art, custom floral design for weddings and events, and exterior and interior painting. 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 fee scale. Class size is limited so get your application in today. Please call Karin at 772-2075 for more information or an application.

Enter Dayton's Bluff garden contest

Greening Dayton's Bluff will hold a garden contest this summer. Be on the look out for outstanding gardens in your area. Then either email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org or send your nomination to: Dayton's Bluff District Forum, 798 East 7th Street, Saint Paul MN 55106. Include the address, name of the gardener, description of garden, your phone number and the phone number of the gardener. The judging will be in the late summer.

We are also looking for judges for the garden contest. If you are interested call Karin at 651-772-2075.

Dayton's Bluff District Forum
798 East 7th Street
Saint Paul, MN 55106
Phone: 651-772-2075
FAX: 651-774-3510
E-mail: KarinDD@msn.com

Monthly Circulation: 6,000. Also available online at www.daytonsbluff.org This is a publication of Hopewell Communications, Inc. and is intended to provide a forum for the ideas and opinions of its readers and to be an instrument for developing community awareness and pride. No material contained in this paper may be reprinted without consent of the editor. Guest articles and letters to the editor are welcome and may be emailed to KarinDD@msn.com or faxed to 651-774-3510. The Dayton's Bluff District Forum is delivered to every home in the Dayton's Bluff area. If you live outside this area, subscriptions cost \$12 and may be arranged by calling 651-772-2075.

Board of Directors: Allen Clausen, Greg Cosimini, Robert Johnstone, Debra Vos, and Karin DuPaul. Editor: Greg Cosimini. Layout by Greg Cosimini.
Next issue: August 2004. Deadline for material: July 10, 2004.

Church Directory

First Lutheran Church

463 Maria Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55106
651-776-7210

Located one block north of
Metropolitan State University

Sunday Services

8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

Coffee & Fellowship

9:00 a.m.

All are welcome!



**To place your church in
the Forum directory,
call 651 772-2253**

Life along the river

By Mary Petrie

After vandals stole the Indian statue on Mounds Boulevard, our family van was one of those vehicles slowing down in front of the recovered, mutilated landmark. We shook our heads over the stubs where arms once arched skyward, full of triumph and respect.

My mother was along for the ride. She pointed to the statue. "Oh! I saw this on the news."

My eight-year old son bolted from his standard slump, instantly energy and attention. "Our neighborhood was on TELEVISION?"

Mom nodded and recapped the 10:00 news segment.

Stryker jammed his hands in his pockets. If he'd been walking, he would've swaggered. "We're on TV. Awesome."

We left the Indian behind and drove on.

When we moved to Mounds Park last year, our friend Paul offered a helping hand with furniture and philosophy. If we wanted to get to know our new neighborhood as well as the old, he advised, attend to foot traffic. You get the flavor and feel for a community on the ground, in the minutiae of day to day living, as opposed to the public and polished narratives of newspaper, radio, and TV.

On the subjects of city life, cold beer, and sea shanties, Paul is rarely wrong. So I hit the streets. Unfortunately, Mound Street is only four or five blocks long, depending on how you're counting. Not much movement except for immediate neighbors and dog-walkers. The boulevard and river bluff are another story. You'll almost always find company on the long stretch of sidewalk running alongside the bluff, from Pacific to the tip of Burns.

I anticipated striking up conversation with the folks huffing up the hill or sitting on benches. Notoriously gregarious, I nonetheless found myself unable to initiate contact. Each person – from the rheumy-eyed man standing between the burial mounds, listening; to the teenage girl pointing out trains to a fascinated toddler; to the tense-looking woman who hauled paintbrushes, canvas, and easel to the top of the hill – seemed distant, wrapped in a sense of seclusion that's unusual to come by in public spaces.

Before long, I understood. People don't come to the Mississippi River bluff to be alone – you can do that in your own kitchen (or a locked bathroom, if necessary. Ask any mother of small children). People come to the bluff to be with the river. The Mississippi and her supporting cast of characters constitute the tenor and tone of this neighborhood as much as the people who share the sacred spaces.

While this pronouncement probably isn't coming as much of a surprise to longtime residents (or maybe even to you speedier learners), I was not prepared for landscape to become such a large part of my daily life. Until living in Mounds Park, I had an offhand vision of the river as one more obstacle to be crossed, sort of a like a long, leaky highway.

Now, daily, I marvel, grounded to the earth in new ways. Foot traffic here can mean the occasional deer. Twice, I've watched them bound through our backyard; frequently, I see them nose out of the trees near the bluff. Geese peck and squawk. I've stood below herons and hawks. Even the squirrels here strike me as more exotic—all the jet-black variations appear to have landed in this neck of the woods. On a wet spring morning, the prairie is alive with birds, grasshoppers, mice, and rabbits; the air is sweet with lilacs. Yarrow, coneflowers, and wild roses ready stem and petal for their turn to shine. Below, trains and boats still rely on their natural lifeblood, just as they did decades ago—the river. The city rises and pulses out of the water, dependent and dominant at once. Standing in the middle of the burial mounds—with the grass swaying and singing, with the expanse of water and sky – I can believe that what is elemental holds spirit. Yes, this can be called sacred space.

Clearly, others share my perspective.

A couple of days after the Indian statue was restored to its rightful spot, a pot of yellow flowers appeared underneath it.

I don't know if the homeowners set out the flowers. Maybe. But I like to think that someone like me, a neighbor—part of the foot traffic—stopped to welcome a friend home with a gift of color and life. Of course, that little pot of flowers won't ever make the news. But for those of us on the ground, that bright smattering of yellow in front of the statue offers the real tone and tenor of Mounds Park.

Mary Petrie is a Mounds Park resident who will be writing about life in the neighborhood and ways to improve the quality of family life.

Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center Events

Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center
800 Conway St.
Director: Jody Griffin
jody.griffin@ci.stpaul.mn.us

This is a partial list of activities. For a complete list and more information, visit the Dayton's Bluff Rec Center at 800 Conway St., call 793-3885 or visit: www.ci.stpaul.mn.us/depts/parks

TOTS ARTS & CRAFT TIME
(Ages 3-5 yrs.)
Fridays, July 16; 10:30-11:30 am; \$.50/wk; 4 sessions

PARENT & TOT PLAY TIME
(Ages 5 & under)
Mon., Wed. & Fri.; 10 am - 12 noon;
Free; On-going

RUN, JUMP & THROW
(Ages 3-5 yrs.)
Mon., June 21-July 25; 11 am - 12 pm;
\$12; 6 sessions

ARTIST WORKSHOP
(Ages 8-16 yrs.)
T/Th July 12; 10 am - 12 pm; \$60; 12 sessions

BREAKDANCING
(Ages 9-17 yrs.)
Mon. & Wed., July 12; 1:30 - 3 pm;
\$30; 12 sessions

TEEN CLUB
(Ages 9-14)
Tues. & Thurs.; 5-7 pm; Free; Ongoing

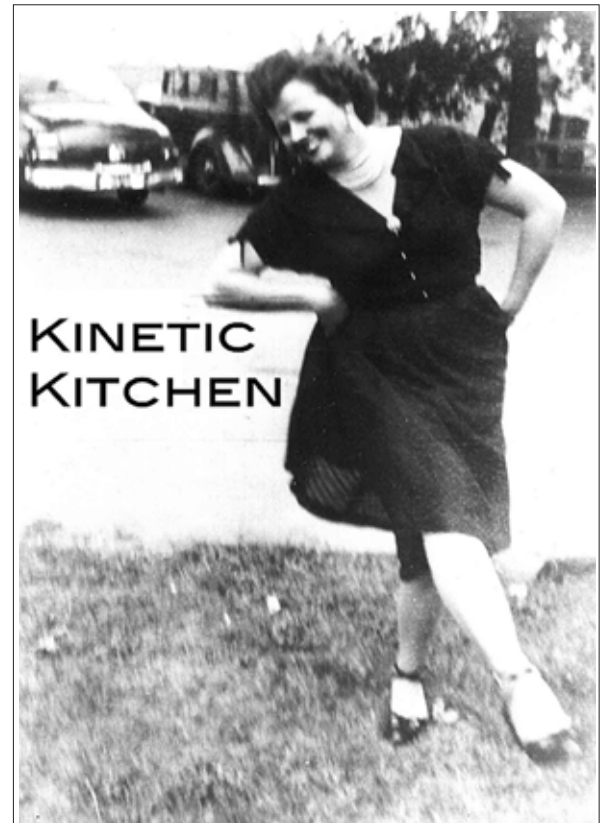
Kinetic Kitchen Dance Series starts July 3rd at Mounds Theatre

The Mounds Theatre and presenter Sarah LaRose invite you to attend a new tradition in dance, the "Kinetic Kitchen". This dance series will showcase dances and choreography by professional artists from the Saint Paul and Minneapolis arts communities.

To kick off this event, we are excited to present CAAM Chinese Dance Theater, the Christopher Watson Dance Company, Matt Jenson's New and Slightly Used Dance, and solo dances choreographed by Stacy Pottinger and Sarah Hauss. The first of eight performances to be presented at the Mounds Theatre in the next year will take place on Sat. July 3rd at 8 p.m.

We also look forward to showcasing youth performers in our "Kinetic Playground" dance series. The first "Kinetic Playground" will take place on Sat. Aug. 7th. This concert will showcase youth performers from the Saint Paul, Minneapolis, Hastings and Burnsville communities. We are excited to bring Ballareteatro Dance Theatre, Youth Dance Ensemble, Riverbend Dance Arts and CAAM Chinese Dance Theater to Saint Paul audiences.

The "Kinetic Kitchen" and "Kinetic Playground" dance series offers a wonderful opportunity for youth, emerging choreographers and established dance companies to come together to present their artistic visions. Sarah LaRose, presenter, looks for-



ward to opportunities for both performers and audiences to enjoy dance at the Mounds Theatre for years to come. Audiences from throughout the metro area will now have an ongoing opportunity to view and enjoy dance in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood.

Tickets for all "Kinetic Kitchen" and "Kinetic Playground" performances are \$10 each. Tickets may be purchased at the door the night of the first performance on July 3rd, 2004. Reservations for these performances are being taken by the theatre; please call 651-772-2253 for details.

The Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road. Please visit www.moundstheatre.org for more information about this and other events sponsored at the Mounds Theatre. Visit www.leavehome.com/kinetic for more information about the series.

EAST SIDE ARTS COUNCIL ART MOBILE
(Ages 6-12 yrs.)
Tues., Aug. 3, 10, 17; 1 - 3 pm; Free; 3 sessions

MOVIE THEME WEEK
M-Th; 3 - 5 pm; Free
July 12-15 Fish week
July 26-29 Documentary week
Aug. 9-12 Comedy week
Aug. 23-26 Cartoon week

SPORTS 101
(Ages 16 & up)
Week 1 - Baseball; Week 2 - Basketball; Week 3 - Football; Week 4 - Soccer; Week 5 - Golf; Week 6 - Hockey
Mon., July 12; 6:30 - 7:30 pm; \$4/wk; 6 sessions

WET, WILD CRAZY WATER DAYS
(Ages 5-12 yrs.)
Th, July 15 & Aug. 19; 1 - 2:30 pm; Free; 2 sessions

LET'S MAKE AN INSTRUMENT
(Ages 4-7 yrs.)
M-Th, Aug. 9-12; 9:30 - 11:30 am; \$8/wk or \$2/day; 4 sessions

BASKETBALL
M-Th, July 19-22; 1 - 3 pm; 7-11 yrs.; 3 - 5 pm; 12-17 yrs.; \$20; 4 sessions

VOLLEYBALL
M-Th, July 5-8; 12 - 2:30 pm; 13-17 yrs.; 2:30 - 5 pm; 8-12 yrs.; \$20; 4 sessions

MULTI SPORT LACROSSE CAMPS
(Lacrosse, Flag Football, Basketball)
M-Th, Aug. 2-5; 9 am - 12 pm; 6-9 yrs.; 1 - 4 pm; 10-14 yrs.; \$56; 4 sessions

FALL SPORTS REGISTRATION
Soccer, Flag Football registration will be July 6-16. Ages 5 to 14. Age groups: 6-8 yrs., 9-10 yrs., 11-12 yrs., 13-14 yrs. Tackle Football registration will be held at Conway Rec. Center 501-6343 and at Wilder Rec. Center 298-5727.

SHOWBOAT PRESENTATION OF "THE MOUSETRAP"
Tues., July 20; 1:30 - 5 pm; \$17

FIELD TRIPS

COMO ZOO POOL AND PICNIC
Fri., July 9; 9:30 am-3:30 pm; Fee: \$5

MN LYNX BASKETBALL GAME
Wed., July 14; 11 am-3 pm; Fee: \$7

INDOOR ARCHERY RANGE
Fri., July 16; 10 am-3:30 pm; Fee: \$12

CASCADE BAY WATER PARK IN EAGAN
Fri., July 23; 10:30 am-4:30 pm; Fee: \$11

STEPPING STONE THEATER
Fri., July 30; 11 am-1 pm; Fee: \$7

Do it yourself: Discovering your home's history

By Nick Duncan

When Amy Handford agreed to show her home on the Dayton's Bluff Home Tour last month she wanted to include a brief history of her house for tour attendees. But where to begin? Handford was fortunate in that her home had been included in a historical review of the Dayton's Bluff district done in the early 1980s, so she knew something of its past. "When we bought the house all we knew was the name of the family that had built it and the year it was built," said Handford. "The historical review gave us some very good information but nothing too detailed. I talked to some family members of the past owner and they gave me some information but I wanted to know more."

Like Handford, many of us would love to know more about the history of our homes. When was it built and by whom? How much did it cost to build? What did the original owners do for a living? Where were they from? What did your home look like 100 years ago? Was the second floor layout always that way or did someone do some remodeling at some point? Was that back bedroom always a bedroom or did it used to be a pantry? Was that garage originally a horse barn or was it built later? Remember, there were no cars 100 years ago. By researching the history of your home it may be possible to answer some of these questions.

Dayton's Bluff neighborhood

Most of the homes in our neighborhood are built on a tract of land originally developed for residential use by land speculator Lyman Dayton in the 1850s and 1860s. Dayton's Bluff quickly grew from a small colony of well-to-do businessmen, who built large homes along the ridgeline overlooking downtown St. Paul, to a mixed income development with homes of a wide range of styles and sizes stretching well eastward from the river bluffs.

If you live in Dayton's Bluff chances are that your home was built in the later part of the 1800s or early in the 1900s with the oldest homes generally being located nearer the Bluff itself. In the late 1800s Dayton's Bluff was considered one of the preeminent neighborhoods in St. Paul. Many of the city's most wealthy and influential citizens called Dayton's Bluff home. This included Railroad magnet James J. Hill who resided on Dayton's Bluff in the 1890s while his famous mansion on Summit Avenue was being completed. At the same time, the 1880s saw St. Paul's population explode. An influx of immigrants from Germany, Ireland, and Scandinavia flooded into the city. Many of these new Americans also built homes on Dayton's Bluff, although, at a much more modest level than their wealthy counterparts.

The diversity in home size and home style is easily Dayton's Bluff's most noticeable architectural characteristic. Take a quick drive down any street in our neighborhood and it will quickly

become apparent that Dayton's Bluff is truly a melting pot of architectural style. One notices that on virtually every block there are one or two large Victorian style homes sandwiched between a variety of smaller houses in an assortment of architectural styles and characteristics. But, regardless of your home's size or grandeur, there is a very good chance that it has a rich and interesting history.

Getting started

So how do you begin your house history research? There are a variety of resources available right here in St. Paul. We talked to some experts and have outlined some resources for beginning your research.

Building permits

"The best starting point when researching your home's history is with the building permit," says Jim Szevich, St. Paul's preeminent House Historian. From 1883 forward every house built in the city of St. Paul required a building permit. 90% of these permits still exist. The building permits include information on everything from dates of construction, original dimensions of the house, and additions to the house. The Ramsey County Historical Society now holds the permits. But, in order to obtain a copy of the original building permit for your home, you must first get the Building Permit number and year of construction from the City of St. Paul License-Inspections and Environmental Protection Office (LIEP) at 350 St. Peter Street, Suite 330, in downtown St. Paul.

Once you have obtained the Building Permit number and date call 651-222-0701 to request the copy. The Ramsey County Historical Society charges a \$12.00 fee for each permit copy you request.

Abstracts/Deeds

Another important source for discovering the history of your house is the home's abstract. The abstract is the document that records all legal transactions associated with a given property. A lot of valuable information can be gained just by examining the abstract. Not only can you find out who owned a certain house, when and for how long, but many times you can also find out who built the house and if and/or when it has undergone extensive renovations. It's a very good source to begin to find out more about the people who once inhabited your home. Most people were given the abstract of their home upon its purchase. If you're a homeowner you already have access to your homes abstract. If your home does not have an abstract and is Torrens property, you can look up documents pertaining to the history of your home and lot at the Ramsey County Property Records and Revenue Department at 50 West Kellogg Blvd.

City directories

There are city directories for St. Paul going back as far as 1856. These

directories are far more than your run of the mill telephone books. They list the names of all the adults in a household along with their professions. From 1929 forward the city directories even "cross index" so one can look up a listing by address not just the last name of the occupant. These directories are a great source if you want to know more about the past owners of your home. The Minnesota Historical Society Library has St. Paul Directories going back to the 1860s. They also have an early but selective directory, the Dual City Blue Book, which also has a reverse index. The Library has those directories for the years 1885-1923. The MNHS Library is located in the Minnesota History Center at 345 Kellogg Blvd and is open to the public. It is the single best resource for discovering your home's history.

Census records

If the city directories don't provide enough information on the past residents of your home maybe it's time to check out the census records. Every ten years from 1790 forward there was a federal census taken across the county. For the years 1850 to 1930 these census records are on microfilm at the Minnesota Historical Society Library.

Tracey Baker, MNHS Librarian and resident House History expert encourages researchers to look at the census for their house. "In the census you'll learn about how many people lived in your house, where they and their parents were born, their ages and occupations," says Baker. "It's amazing to discover that a house you consider cozy was once a home to a family of eight children." She adds.

Plat/Insurance maps

Over the years there has been a number of detailed maps of St. Paul. These maps, mostly made by insurance companies like the Sanborn Company,

include detailed drawings of every structure within the city. This includes the Dayton's Bluff area. If you want to see the footprints of your home 100 years ago, if you want to know if the porch was originally open, this is the place to look. Again, these maps are available on microfilm at the MHS Library.

Newspapers

Over the years St. Paul has been home to a variety of newspapers. This includes citywide papers along with local community papers. Szevich points out that included in the pages of many of these newspapers are a variety of articles that can be very helpful in your home history research. Events such as births and deaths are recorded and, in many cases, new buildings and even the doings of certain local architects were reported on. Again, these papers are available on microfilm at the MNHS Library.

Photos

The Minnesota Historical Society has photographs of many houses. To search the collection you can visit the Library or view their Visual Resources Database online (<http://collections.mnhs.org/visualresources>). The Ramsey County Historical Society also has some photographs of the neighborhood. If at all possible, talk to previous owners, neighbors or long time Dayton's Bluff residents. There's a good chance your home made the background of at least a couple of pictures in someone's family photo collection.

This certainly is not a complete list of sources for researching your home's history but hopefully it will offer a good stepping off point for you to begin your work. Most of these resources are free and open to the public. The Minnesota Historical Society Library is open Tuesday 12-8 and Wednesday thru Saturday 9-4.

Historic Leithauser Lofts

The Leithauser Building at 800 East 3rd Street was recently sold to Michlitsch Builders who plan to totally upgrade the building into six one- and two-bedroom condominiums. They will build a garage on the side lot with two more condominiums above it. The name of the project is Historic Leithauser Lofts.

The Leithauser Building had been vacant and for sale for a number of years. When architect Bob Roscoe was leaving a meeting at the Powderhorn Community Council in Minneapolis he asked Leon Michlitsch if his company would be interested in renovating a historic building in Saint Paul. Roscoe and Michlitsch have known each other for over twenty years and worked together on a number of projects. Leon and his brother Marvin are the owners of Michlitsch Builders, which has been renovating and building homes for

over twenty years. Roscoe is no stranger to Dayton's Bluff. He has worked with Historic Saint Paul and on a number of Dayton's Bluff historic homes projects. Roscoe and Karen Gjerstad are the architects for the Historic Leithauser Lofts.

A little history about the Leithauser building: Dayton's Bluff resident and architect/contractor Matt Leithauser built the Victorian building in 1887. The building had two commercial businesses on the first floor and apartments on the second. Matt Leithauser was head of the contracting firm of Leithauser, Fortmeyer, and Hilger. Matt and his two brothers immigrated to Saint Paul from Germany. The Leithauser families lived at 893 and 895 Fremont for many years.

Construction on Historic Leithauser Lofts should begin in July and be completed in February 2005.



Welcome to the Dayton's Bluff Branch Library

This article was originally featured in The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library Newsletter, Summer 2004. It is reprinted here with permission.

Saint Paul Public Library's newest branch, Dayton's Bluff, opened on May 10. It features a large, family-friendly collection of books and materials, with approximately 70 percent of it geared towards families and young children.

The Dayton's Bluff Branch Library shares its home with the new library of Metropolitan State University on East Seventh Street and Mounds Boulevard. A special card will be issued to neighborhood residents who wish to use Metropolitan State Library services and collections. University students will also benefit from access to the popular materials and children's services available through the Dayton's Bluff Branch.

The collection at Dayton's Bluff has had a huge boost due to the fundraising efforts of The Friends [of the Saint Paul Public Library]. We would like to thank the F. R. Bigelow Foundation, the Mardag Foundation, and the Saint Paul Foundation for contributing \$200,000 for collection purchases and funding a new Homework Center, scheduled to open later this year.

The collection at Dayton's Bluff has a lot to offer families and students. The children's collection has a wide selection of picture books, rhyming and phonetic books, and storytime kits targeting babies to children age 5. Non-fiction books are available on subjects such as space, dinosaurs, pets, dancing and other exciting topics.

The teen collection features fiction and non-fiction topics such as health, cars and college exams. Over a third of the teen collection is dedicated to graphic novels—a new, contemporary format combining visual art, narrative and dialogue.

In the adult collection, the largest portion serves new immigrants and non-English speakers with topics such as GED and citizenship preparation, guides on money management, employment, housing and more. The library also has an ample large-print book collection.

Of course, you'll find the usual library materials here—magazines, CDs, DVDS. The library is thrilled to offer the community the latest in technology such as free Internet access and info-packed databases. Exciting children's events and author readings are on tap, so be sure to check the library's latest news at www.sppl.org.

Mark your calendars: The Grand Opening for both the Dayton's Bluff and Metropolitan State libraries will be held on Saturday, October 9. It promises to be a memorable time!

Dayton's Bluff Restaurant Review

Samai Asian Restaurant

890 E. 7th St. 651-771-2807

By Nachee Lee

The other day someone dropped off a flyer at my office door. It was the Samai Asian Restaurant take-out menu. I looked over the menu and decided to give it a try.

When I was there, the waitress greeted me kindly with a smile. She asked me where I would like to sit, and I chose the window table, looking out the street across from the 3M Campus. She handed me the menu, and I looked over it and decided to try the vermicelli salad or item VS4.

It has grilled chicken, egg roll, and rice noodle with veggies and mild sauces. The dish looked just right and appealing to eat. I gave a bite to taste it before finishing the bowl. To me, it was very tasty and fulfilling because I like the mild sauces with grilled chicken. The egg roll added to the dish was quite tasty too. The shell gives that crispy crunch taste and has just enough meats and veggies inside. I'm a person who likes to watch what I eat and maintain a good diet. I find this dish just right for me. The dish cost me \$6.25 plus drinks and tips.

My second time there, I ordered the hot and spicy chicken. I asked the waitress to make it mild so it wouldn't

upset my stomach. Though I have eaten pretty hot and spicy food, I didn't want to upset my stomach when trying something new. The hot and spicy chicken looks orange-yellow with onion and hot pepper sauces. It comes with a bowl of rice on the side. Instead of eating them separately I mixed the rice with the hot and spicy chicken. It was just like homemade to me.

I have not tried every dish they have on the menu, but I find these dishes tasty and appetizing. Since the vermicelli salad is a lighter dish, it's better served during lunch and the heavier hot and spicy chicken would be best at dinner.

I give Samai Asian Restaurant four stars out of five for their friendly service, food quality and taste. It also has a great variety of Asian dishes: Chinese, Thai, and Vietnamese. The prices aren't that bad, ranging from \$2.95 to \$10.95, and the drinks are only a buck each. Parking is a problem, as there is street parking only. Also, the business location is not easily visible from the street.

If you are in the neighborhood and looking for Asian food on East 7th St., I recommend the Samai Restaurant.

Meet Joanna, your new Dayton's Bluff Librarian

This article was originally featured in The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library Newsletter, Summer 2004. It is reprinted here with permission.

You may recognize Joanna Brookes as the librarian who drove the Bookmobile. She will now be the friendly face greeting you at the new Dayton's Bluff Branch Library.

Joanna is a third-generation librarian. "When I was a little kid, I spent a lot of time in libraries. My mother is a librarian—she's now a law librarian in Hennepin County. My grandmother was a children's librarian in Wichita, Kansas. I guess libraries are in my blood." She received her Masters in Library Science from the University of Wisconsin, and began working at the Saint Paul Public Library in 1997.

In 2001, she left to live in Manchester, England for a year with her husband, working in libraries overseas as well. "It's a little different there. For one, there aren't as many modern amenities as we have here, like public internet access. They also don't have as many new books, but they did treat them with slightly more care, using thicker book jackets, not as disposable as ours."

What does she miss most about England? "Their amazing gardens. And the countryside." Not that she drove; she let her husband, a native Brit, handle the driving. "I was petrified of driving there, but after driving the 2-ton, 30 foot-long

Bookmobile, I think I might be able to handle it now."

She and her husband moved back because she missed Saint Paul, and better opportunities were available here. They moved into their new house just a year ago.

On her bookshelves, you'll find titles by Bill Bryson, Po Bronson, Anne Tyler, and Ian McEwan. "And mysteries. Anything suspenseful." In good weather, you might find her working in her garden. "We inherited the garden with the house. And since I haven't managed to kill anything off, I'm willing to keep working at it."

She's also a novice chef, enjoying making pizzas from scratch and trying out new soup recipes. "I picked up this daily soup cookbook from the library's discard pile. It just looked like an interesting book. I haven't had a bad recipe yet!" Especially tasty, she says, are the recipes for the Mexican tortilla soup—really spicy—and the corn chowder.

As the new Dayton's Bluff manager, Joanna is most excited about the partnership with Metropolitan State University and the chance to work under the same roof and share the collection. She's looking forward to meeting the families and students of Dayton's Bluff.

What is something that might surprise people about librarians? "We don't expect people to be quiet all the time!" So come and visit the new Dayton's Bluff branch, and don't be afraid to shout out a warm welcome to the new library manager.

Summer Reading Fun at the new Dayton's Bluff Branch Library

645 E. 7th St.

651-793-1699

Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.

JULY

- July 7: Half Pint and Oscar (clowns)
- July 14: Amazing Jeffo (magic)
- July 21: Diane Gasch (puppets)
- July 28: Black Storytellers Alliance (storytelling)

AUGUST

- August 4: Norm Barnhart (magic)
- August 11: Julie's Traveling Story Bag (storytelling)
- August 18: Rusty's Rockin' Jam-boree (music)
- August 25: Ten Penny Tunes (music)

Advertise in the Dayton's Bluff District Forum -- Call 651-772-2075

The Clothes Line -- True Colors

By Sarah Ryan

On July 4, 2002, National Public Radio's Neal Conan asked New Orleans-born trumpet player Wynton Marsalis about how he could look so cool, dressed as he was for the performance he was about to give in New York City's Battery Park across from the Statue of Liberty. Marsalis, artistic director of the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, answered this way: "That's part of our music. It's important for us to be clean and to represent ourselves well. And to understand that there are some things that you want to maintain in your culture. Some things you want to change. But some things you want to maintain. And one is the seriousness and respect for your audience and for your profession." He explained that having grown up in Louisiana's heat and humidity, he actually likes the steamy weather.

The orchestra was performing for free that day at the "Still Standing Strong" concert, part of the city's first Independence Day celebration since the terrorist attacks that destroyed the World Trade Center towers on September 11, 2001. The musicians were wearing crisp blue and white striped shirts, dark neckties accented with red, khaki pants, and navy blue suspenders. I heard the live broadcast of the concert on my kitchen radio. The music reminded me of the times I had lived in New Orleans and in New York City. I miss the Southern climate and just about everything else about New Orleans. New York has a lot to offer, too. The World Trade Center was the last city landmark I visited before moving to St. Paul in the early 1990s. But the part of the broadcast that impressed me the most was the way the musician explained his manner of dress.

As clothing and accessories bearing U.S. flag motifs proliferated on a wave of national emotion in the months following the September 11 attacks, I found myself reflecting on those things in our culture that are worth maintaining and what there is that needs to change. When United States President George W. Bush announced on May 24, 2004 that his administration, "as a fitting symbol of Iraq's new beginning," will seek the permission of an autonomous Iraqi government to demolish the Abu Ghraib prison outside of Baghdad, he was acknowledging something in the human culture that needs to change. The President was responding to reports that U.S. military personnel had tortured and humiliated their prisoners there. One of the tactics U.S. forces used against their prisoners at Abu Ghraib, a facility that had been a scene of torture under Saddam Hussien's regime also, was to strip them of their clothes.

New York City's clothing designers stage trend-setting "Fashion Weeks" every year in early February, when they present previews of their fall collections, and again in early September when they introduce what they have in store for the coming spring. In February 2001, French-born

women's fashion designer Catherine Malandrino, who is said to adore "everything Americana," rekindled fashion's love affair with the stars-and-bars theme by carrying it to new levels of audacity with wardrobe selections that lent U.S. flag imagery an in-your-face attitude. One example: a dress, slightly gathered at the back of the waist, that looks like two pieces of Old Glory stitched together and slashed in the center to create a deep, wide V neckline when draped poncho-style over the model. A single white star on a patch of navy blue accents the hemline that falls just above the knee.

The following month, United Nations (UN) Secretary General Kofi Annan honored Wynton Marsalis, the bandleader, Grammy Award winning recording artist, and Pulitzer Prize winning composer by appointing him as a UN Ambassador for Peace. The duty, according to Mr. Marsalis, entails "coming up with ideas that you think might help the cause of elevating humanity, and drawing attention to things that are inhumane, and to injustice. Using whatever resources you have to be a part of the ascendance of humanity, instead of the decline." Marsalis's priorities are fighting racism and promoting education. His greatest resource is the New Orleans jazz culture. As he explained in an interview for the Academy of Achievement in January 1991, the band functions like a democracy. "Each person has the right to play what they want to play, but the responsibility to play something that makes everybody else sound good."

Days before the September 11 attacks, fashion designers launched another Fashion Week. Catherine Malandrino, recognizing that sometimes "the seen-it-all fashion crowd needs to be taken out of its element," debuted her spring collection on Sunday, September 9 at the Apollo Theater in New York City's Harlem district, a predominantly African American and immigrant neighborhood. The Apollo is famous for its history as a venue for great jazz performers — an ideal backdrop for her swiny runway show of 1940s-style pant suits, dresses, and gowns. After the towers fell that Tuesday morning, the rest of the Fashion Week shows were rescheduled or cancelled and the already brisk demand for flag fashions exploded. Clothing retailers donated supplies and profits from the sales of their newly stocked flag-motif inventories to the relief efforts.

At the time of the attacks, Wynton Marsalis, who always irons his clothes before he goes on stage, was on the road with his orchestra's "United We Swing" tour. He told Cleveland Public Radio's Bobby Jackson in an October 2001 interview that "there's a strange thing about this tour. I pick out the tour music. I have to pick out about 105 songs to travel with. Before we went on this tour, and that was before September 11, for some reason I put "Stars and Stripes Forever" in the book and we never play that.... I remember picking out this song and saying to myself, 'Why am I picking out this song because we'll probably never play it.'" Things turned out differently.

Sarah Ryan lives in Dayton's Bluff. You can reach her at sr@lakecast.com or at the Dayton's Bluff District Forum, 798 E. 7th Street, St. Paul, MN 55106

Elder's Wisdom, Children's Song



Karin DuPaul is surrounded by Ms. Kressin's Dayton's Bluff Elementary third grade class. They proudly display the quilt they made for Karin.

By Karin DuPaul, Dayton's Bluff Community Organizer

This is the third in a series of articles about the Elder's Wisdom, Children's Song project under the leadership of Larry Long at Dayton's Bluff Elementary School. The students worked on the state standards for speaking, listening, reading and writing during the process. Larry Long led the children as they practiced interviewing skills and talked about the importance of learning and respecting the elders of the community.

I went to visit the class and thank the children for the beautiful job they did when they chose me as their elder. The children read their story about me and sang the song about me "Pick Up, Pick Up". The children said they had a big surprise for me. They give me a present wrapped in paper that reminded them about National Night Out. Inside was a beautiful quilt that they made for me. Each child had created a square to represent parts of my life. This is a wonderful gift that will always remind me of the wonderful experience I had with Ms. Kressin's third grade class. Then we had cookies and juice and the children showed me some of their schoolwork.

Interview

My name is Karin Dorothy DuPaul. I am named after my great grandmother, who came from Sweden. My middle name Dorothy came from my aunt. I was born November 27, 1943. Every four or five years my birthday is on Thanksgiving. Instead of having birthday cake I have pumpkin pie.

I was born in South Dakota. I lived on a farm. We had a garden and I liked to pick fresh carrots and radishes. We washed them at the well house, and ate them. We had chickens, sheep and one cow. We sold milk to the neighbors. When we came home from church on Sunday we would have chicken dinner. I thought the little chicken house would make a great playhouse, but my grandpa didn't think so.

When I was four and a half we moved to St. Paul. My house looked like a barn. People called it the barn house. My family included my mom and dad, three sisters and two brothers. I went to Hancock School in the midway area of St. Paul. I liked art

and recess. The school had tall ceilings and dark wood. I felt small in that big building with all those people around. I went to Hancock from kindergarten through the eighth grade. Then I went to Wilson High School. In high school my favorite subject was history.

I guess typing was fun in the old days; we had typewriters instead of computers. I worked in the office at a lumberyard. That is where I met my husband. We got married in 1965. We bought a house in the Summit University area. Then my daughter Angie was born. I did daycare for five families. We moved to Dayton's Bluff in 1977.

Over the years I have worked on many projects around the neighborhood. I wrote the first walking tour booklet because I wanted everyone to see that Dayton's Bluff is a great place to live. I got interested in the history of the area and wrote more booklets so others could learn the history. We formed a group called Upper Swede Hollow Neighborhood Association. I also belong to a group called Friends of Swede Hollow. We take care of the parks in the area.

I work at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council. We started a newspaper so people can have pride about the place they live. We also help people organize block clubs. Block clubs work together on projects. One project they work on is National Night Out. It is a special night that happens every August. Neighbors get together and celebrate the good things that are happening.

Words of Advice: Reach out to people. Treat people with respect. Make the effort to go and introduce yourself to your neighbors. Start a block club that works together to make the neighborhood better and build a true community.

Song

"Pick Up, Pick Up"

(Inspired by Ms. Karin DuPaul)

I was born in South Dakota
Lived with my grandparents
when Dad went to war
When he came home
moved to Minnesota
From a small town
to the small town of St. Paul

Quick Fix New World Monetary System

By Glen Mansfield

In my many years researching the cause of manmade atrocities I discovered hunger and economic strife to be the primary causes of most past and present crimes, revolutions and wars. In view of this and in light of the well planned method used to cause the horrific results of the 9-11 terrorist attack on our nation I was sure there was more to the attack than what President George W. Bush said, "They did it to disrupt our way of living."

With doubts of our president's truthfulness, I began searching for a more realistic cause to the attack and discovered that prior to the attack many leaders of developing countries, some with delinquent loans to our nation's financial institutions located in the now downed Twin Towers, told of hunger and economic strife and asked for more loans, but their requests were denied. This refusal led me to believe that hunger and economic strife is what fueled the 9-11 attack.

My suspicions were reinforced when a year after the attack an Arabic man with broken English called a radio talk show and stated, "The Pentagon was hit because that's where war plans are drawn and the World Trade Center was hit because of world hunger and economic strife and sanctions which add to that hunger and strife".

Many believe the rich are responsible for world hunger and economic strife but that's not entirely so. The primary cause of world hunger and economic strife stems from the inadequately structured monetary system in which money is backed by precious metals, resources and productivity. Such backing, of which many countries have little or none of, thus produce hunger and economic strife for many people in those countries.

Also as a result of this inadequate structure there not only are many more people than jobs but many existing jobs pay wages far below the cost of living, thus hunger, homelessness and economic strife among the many unemployed and working poor. In addition to all the above, NAFTA doesn't work as seen in many companies relocating to other countries, to reap the bounty of cheaper labor, lower taxes and so on. Also, our own method of tax and spend is also a failure as seen in the many service and program cuts. In addition to all of the above, money breeds many murders, such as murder for insurance, murder for inheritance and murder so the crime victim doesn't tell who did it.

To begin the end of all economic strife and monetary suffering, I, an inventor of life saving devices, also invented a quick fix modification to the monetary system which works for all people all the time and sent it to President George W. Bush asking that he not seek revenge nor war but that he and all leaders recognize the plight of the world's needy and recognize the inadequate structure of the monetary system as being largely responsible for that plight. Upon this recognition I asked that all leaders diligently work to enact my proposed quick fix New World Monetary System in which money is no longer backed by precious metal resources nor productivity but backed on the well being of mankind, thus an abrupt end to world hunger and economic strife. Modifying the monetary system, I wrote, is feasible and workable.

Case in point: Long ago when world leaders realized that the barter system didn't work they created the monetary system. Through the centuries the world wide monetary system has been restructured many times to become the

ill structure we have today causing a magnitude of suffering by a multitude of people.

In spite of all the economic suffering above, and knowing that violence only begets more violence and that terrorism will only end upon the resolution of discontent, President George W. Bush trash canned my peace proposal and set the world on a non-ending course of many more deaths and destruction.

In view of this and the fact that none of the candidates running can change anything, I find it necessary to seek the elective office of President.

In holding that office, I will invite all leaders to swiftly work with me in modifying the monetary system in which money is no longer backed by material things as it is today but backed on the well being of mankind. This backing of their New World Monetary System will open the doors to a New World Bank.

Once the Bank is created, world leaders, after their fiscal tax and spend, can submit their countries' domestic economic shortfalls to the governors of the Bank who will print and grant the money requested. Money from the Bank will assist leaders and the public in paying off all debts owed in the old system of today, and will enable leaders of developing countries to buy goods from industrialized nations in order to modernize their countries thus ensuring jobs and a strong economy in all countries.

Money from the Bank will also enable leaders to provide the public with free education plus affordable dental and medical. The Bank will also enable leaders to enact a full employment program plus provide supplemental checks for today's low-income earners thus increasing their income to meet the cost of living, thus an abrupt end to world hunger and economic strife, thus a great reduction in today's many crimes, terrorist acts, revolutions and wars.

While world leaders are working on the details of the New World Monetary System, I will enact my conventional platform in which the government will do more to assist inventors with designing, manufacturing and marketing their product or device. Thus many new consumer goods will be created which will spur consumer spending, thus jobs and a strong economy.

My platform also addresses the world's exceedingly high population and urges planned parenthood. It also calls for an end to the development of virgin lands and calls for total recycling and has an aggressive energy and transportation program.

My platform also calls for the people of Palestine and Israel to seek not revenge but a future in dividing the land in dispute so all can live in peace as good neighbors. As for Iraq, the people who want to govern the country should write their platform for the office sought and let the people vote. Assuming there is peace throughout the campaign process, U.S. troops should pull out and stay out as long as there is peace.

With Best Wishes for World Peace,

Glen Mansfield

Dayton's Bluff resident, inventor and former candidate for mayor of St. Paul

Meet the Candidate
Join Glen Mansfield for an
Afternoon of Entertainment and
Enlightenment
Sunday July 11, 2004
2 p.m. Free
Mounds Theatre
1029 Hudson Road
Saint Paul, MN 55106

Writer Susan Williams - no happily ever after

By J. Wittenberg

When I sat down with the writer Ms. Susan Williams to characterize her fictional stories, she told me they were "happy as hell."

Indeed, one review trumpeted their prevalence of gloom. Her most recent work involves a biracial man falling in love at mid-life.

"I would have an easier time getting published if my stories had happier, lighter endings," Ms. Williams said. The Great River Review recently published her fiction in April.

Since 1988, Ms. Williams has been teaching at our own dear Metropolitan State University, including freshman writing, the short story, and introduction to creative writing. She has also instructed at the Loft on and off for the past 5 years. Her writing has been published by Nimrod Press, and in 2003, she placed 2nd in that publication's annual fiction contest.

"They flew me down to Tulsa, where I was wined and dined," Susan said, before adding - "I visited the rich homes of would-be writers."

It turns out a New York agent read her story in Nimrod and was interested in her work, but concluded at last that it was "too dark and disturbing."

"There's no money in short stories, unless it is a novel in stories," Susan declared.

Ms. Williams has also published her poetry in New Rivers Press in 1987, and she won the MN Voices Award with her collection called *Dying Old and Dying Young*.

Ms. Williams is also currently in the mix to win the 'Fish Contest' in County Cork Ireland. Indeed, this woman's work has Continental reach!

Susan's greatest inspirations are Alice Munro, Joan Didion, and Roland

Flint. She received her Masters of English at the U of M, where she has also taught at the night school. Ms. Williams has worked in business as an editor, and she's performed weekly book reviews for Minneapolis Public Radio, from 1987-92, before returning to teaching at Metropolitan State.

Of her students today at Metropolitan State, she said - "It is the unlikely ones who often turn out to be very talented writers; the ones who don't think they're all that good. But writing overall, is not improving with the personal computer. Out of an average of 22 students in a writing class, two or three have a real spark. Most do not write very well, it's a whole different era now."

Susan mentioned that more public readings should be offered at Metropolitan State, but conceded that "building an audience is a slow process." She suggested that our fine paper should be the steadfast announcer of such events. Indeed, with all cultural differences aside, for any community's true progress to be declared, literature and literacy must take a higher place in our daily lives.

Ms. Williams is forging on as a writer and I hope more accolades come her way. She is appearing again in the spring/summer issue of the Great River Review, which contains her latest work called *The Visit*. I recommend you seek out her work at any independent bookstores, which do need your business. And indeed, delve into the new Metropolitan State library, and see if this fine new resource offers any of her work.

"I'm dying to retire," Susan declared. "The sooner the better. I want more time just to write."

CREATIVE SERVICES

Full Service Lawn Maintenance
 Spring/fall clean-ups, weekly service
 Commercial/residential; reasonable rates.
 FAMILY OWNED and OPERATED
 (651) 224-2349

Leo's Chow Mein

*We specialize in Chow Mein,
 Fried Rice,
 Egg Foo Young*

Dine In or Take Out
 Lunch Buffet

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

\$4.25

Hours 11:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

6 Days a Week

1059 Hudson Road

(651) 771-0305

Marian Center honors WW II veterans at special ceremony

There wasn't a dry eye during the playing of Taps. These courageous men and women, who fought in World War II, wiped away tears during an emotional tribute held at HealthEast Care Center and Residence - Marian of St. Paul at 200 Earl Street. It was standing room only at the special Memorial Day ceremony honoring about 50 WWII veterans who live at the Marian Center and Residence.

Their frail hands clung tightly to the American flag, which they so bravely struggled to defend 60 years ago. These veterans, who fought on the beaches of Normandy to the battlefields in the Pacific, sat side by side, many in wheelchairs and in poor health. Among them: a general, a cook, a gunner, a medic, a nurse and a pilot. They are among the rank of 73,000 remaining WWII veterans in Minnesota.

Commander of the Minnesota Air National Guard, Brigadier General Mark Ness, told the veterans gathered at Marian, "You answered the call. You gave service to your country. This country is stronger because of you. You are the heroes among us." One by one, he called out their names during a special roll call and they were handed a flag. They also observed a moment of silence for the veterans from the Marian Center who had died.

During the ceremony, they gave a send-off for Catherine "Kay" Brueggeman, a Marian independent-living resident and WWII veteran. Brueggeman was a Lieutenant in the

Army Corps of Nurses and served at the front lines during WWII. This Memorial Day, she was privileged to be an honoree at the World War II Memorial dedication ceremony in Washington, D.C. on May 29. During Kay's visit, First Lady Laura Bush gave Kay a personal tour of the White House.

Brueggeman told her fellow veterans at Marian that as long as she lives she'll remember the casualties she treated from a German prison camp. Here were young men whose legs and arms had been amputated by the Germans because the men had complained about a sore foot or an arm injury. She said, "This cruelty of war has stayed with me all these years."

Other veterans shared their wartime memories as well. One veteran recalled how they picked him off the battlefield and told him he would never live to see his grandchildren. The aging veteran told the group at Marian that he sure "fooled them."

During the special event, the local veterans watched videos of WWII battles, listened to music from the 1940s and enjoyed snacks reminiscent of that era, including a special cake made from a World War II recipe without butter or eggs.

HealthEast Care System is a community-focused, non-profit health care system.

Locally owned and operated, HealthEast is the largest health care provider in the Twin Cities' East Metro area with approximately 7,500 employees and more than 1,300 physicians on staff.



Top: Brigadier General Mark Ness, Commander, MN Air National Guard with Catherine "Kay" Brueggeman. Above: WWII Veteran Rudy Schovanec.

Volunteering at the Marian Center

We are seeking caring individuals of all ages and groups to spend some time with our Elders. Whether you have an hour or two, or several hours of time you can donate per month, we'd love to hear from you. Here's what we currently have to offer:

Visiting or reading 1 to 1 with our Elders

Beauty Shop Helpers

Chapel Services Helpers

Recreation Programs Assistants for

Arts and Crafts and/or Group Activities

Musical Entertainers (singers, play the piano or organ, or any musical instrument)

Men's Discussion Group Leader

Grocery Shopping Helper

And so much more!

Are you a High School student? You can get credit for volunteering! Many schools require a number of hours in "Community Service". By volunteering at our facility, you will get extra credit, gain experience in Senior Care, contribute to the community and have fun ... all at the same time.

Volunteering is very rewarding to every one of all ages and opens opportunities you never dreamed of.

If you are interested in joining our wonderful team of volunteers, please contact Robert Johnstone, Volunteer Services Coordinator at (651) 793-2116.

Have a safe and sane
4th of July!

Thank you from the Community Council

The Dayton's Bluff Community Council's computer crisis is solved. For the past several weeks, staff computers were ineffective and not working. Thanks go out to Deluxe Carpet Company on East Seventh Street and a few other neighborhood businesses for making monetary contributions to help the organization purchase new and upgraded computers and parts. With the new and efficient computers, staff are able to go back to their normal operation.

The Dayton's Bluff District 4 Community Council is a community-based non-profit organization located in Dayton's Bluff, St. Paul with the mission to advocate for the community, advise government, provide information, and undertake action to promote, cultivate, and set in motion conditions, programs, and ideas for the recreational, housing, educational, economic, and social needs for the betterment of the community. The organization provides programs and services such as crime prevention, citizen participation, recycling, neighborhood clean up, code enforcement, green space, buckthorn removal, business entrepreneur classes, and neighborhood home tours to the community.

If you would like to make a contribution to support the organization and its efforts, please send your tax-deductible donation to, 789 East Seventh Street, St. Paul, MN 55106. We are also looking for board and committee members. If you have some spare time and want to make a difference, contact us at 651-772-2075. Community of color members are strongly encouraged to participate.

To learn more about the Dayton's Bluff Community Council, please visit our website at: www.daytonsbuff.org

Remembering President Ronald Reagan

By Nachee Lee

When I came to this country in the 1980s I had no idea who Ronald Reagan was. The first time I saw him on TV, as a new refugee who didn't understand or speak a word of English, by the look of Reagan's face and presentation my instinct told me that he would be special and a lot of people would like and respect him. Later, I learned that he was the president of this country, and he was also a movie star.

Since I've learned more about Ronald Reagan I started to watch some of his movies. As a young person I always idolized and was intrigued by cowboy movies. Ronald Reagan is one of my cowboy idols next to Paul Newman. Personally, I'm not a person who is involved much in the political arena, but I believe that Reagan had set a new precedent for the Republican Party. In my spiritual belief, only good and holy people tend to live and have a long life. Reagan had lived 93 years on earth. To me, this says a lot.

On Friday, June 11, 2004, I showed my honor and respect to Ronald Reagan by thinking about him while I was passing out flyers in the neighborhood. Many people might have taken that day off from work to honor him, but I had to inform the residents at Third Street and Griffith about a housing plan for the vacant lot next to Parkway Little League. The housing plan is to build four new homes at the lot.

ELDER

(continued from page 6)

(Chorus)

Pick up, pick up, pick up
The trash in the neighborhood

Came to St. Paul on a train, at night
Heading down the street from the
railroad depot

Saw my first streetcar
Wow! Couldn't believe it
Without railroad tracks
how could that streetcar go

(Chorus)

We found our home
on the east side of the river
In Dayton's Bluff

a small town of it's own
Not far from Upper Swede Hollow
This is the place we now call home

(Chorus)

It's a place, you can be yourself
The kind of place we are looking for
Where people seem to get along
with each other

Trust and respect. We have that more.
(Chorus)

I want you to be the best you can be
To know your neighbors
to create community
Take back the streets
plant flowers in the boulevard
Pick up the trash and junk
it's not that hard

(Chorus)

I like to write, it's my favorite thing
For the District Forum
the voice of community

I like to learn about things I don't know
We will work together to make it so
(Chorus)

Words & music by Ms. Virginia Kressin's
third grade class of Dayton's Bluff
Achievement Plus Elementary School
and Larry Long.