The 2016 edition of the Dayton’s Bluff Vacant Home Tour took place on Sunday, April 17. Measuring by the size of the crowd, the tour was a great success. Hundreds of people walked, biked, drove, or rode a vintage 1954 tour bus around the neighborhood to see the six properties included on the tour. This year’s tour featured only properties already slated to be torn down – each being sold for $1. Organizers hope the tour will attract last minute buyers and save these properties from the city wrecking ball.

The Spring Ride on the Margaret Street Bikeway

Brad Griffith
Special to the Forum

The Spring Ride on Margaret Street Bikeway is sponsored by the STewards of Margaret Park (STOMP). The host site for the start and finish of the Ride and the celebration picnic is Bethlehem Lutheran Church, located at 655 Forest Street. Besides being a fun community event, the objective of the Spring Ride on the Margaret Street Bikeway is to encourage recreational and commuter bicycling on the East Side throughout the Spring and Summer of 2016. The Spring Ride on the Margaret Street Bikeway will kick off on Saturday, May 14, with a bicycle maintenance and safety clinic from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., immediately followed by the bicycle ride from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Riders may choose from two ride opportunities: Forest Street to Johnson Parkway and return, or Forest Street to McKnight Road and return. A celebration picnic will follow the ride from noon to 1:00 p.m.

For the past three years, the Parental Advisory Council (PAC) of the Dayton’s Bluff Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) program has held a spring rummage sale to benefit their program. This year, they are moving from the Dayton’s Bluff Recreation Center to the home of one of the parents.

"Our past sales have been great – we get the best donations from our ECFE families this year we wanted to get on the radar for people who love rummage sales," said Laura Kalkwarf, who will be hosting the sale this year. "We’re on the corner of Reaney and Johnson Parkway – 1277 Reaney – and it’s a great location. We hope to see a lot of people.

The sale is the main fundraiser for the PAC. Dayton’s Bluff ECFE serves over 125 children from the ages of birth to five and their parents or guardians. Each day starts with circle time with songs and a book, and then moves to child-directed play between parents and kids. “It’s important for kids and adults to play together, with the child taking the lead. ECFE supports parents as their child’s first teacher. Focused play-time together builds family bonds and encourages healthy growth and learning,” according to Alicia Runquist, lead teacher for the Dayton’s Bluff site. “After interaction time, parents meet to support each other, and the kids and their teachers continue their school routine which includes learning centers, large muscle time, snack time and plenty of opportunities for kids to practice sharing, learn positive ways to express their big feelings and how to get along with other friends.”

All Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) and Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) programs are run by the Saint Paul Public Schools. Parents are charged on a sliding scale. The Dayton’s Bluff site currently has nine classes - including classes for African American families, Hispanic families and Hmong families, families in a literacy class that meets three times a week, and an ECSE inclusion class.

Parental Advisory Councils operate at most ECFE sites. “We do trips to Dodge Nature Center in the spring and Afton Apple Orchard in the fall, and the PAC sponsors a bus from our site to the location,” says Cherie Collette, chair of the PAC. “We have a Winter Pajama Party for families from different classes to meet each other. PAC also pays for snacks, crafts, classroom materials, books, and we help subsidize the field trip admission. One year we bought a laptop for the teachers.”

Donations for the rummage sale come from the parents in the program. "Kids grow so fast, we’re always looking for the next pair of jeans and wondering what to do with that bouncy saucer,” says Wendy Fredrickson, a PAC member and parent. “We pass on things that are still good and make some money for the program. We’ve gotten most of our Jack’s summer wardrobes at the sale. It’s a good deal for everyone.”

The sale will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Friday, May 6, and Saturday, May 7, at 1277 Reaney, on the corner of Reaney and Johnson Parkway. Organizers say they will have snacks, drinks, and hot dogs for sale as well.

Love Your Block contest extended!

We still have a number of gift certificates from local establishments to give away. Send your clean-up pictures to editor@dayton bluff.org by Sunday, May 15, and the first five entries will win a prize!

Pics can show the recent parks clean-up, your block, or anything else in the neighborhood.

Dayton’s Bluff
Community Council
804 Margaret Street
St. Paul, MN 55106

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Metropolitan State spring commencement set for May 2

Robert Boos
Metropolitan State University

Metropolitan State University celebrates its 90th Commencement Exercises Monday, May 2. The student speaker is Michael Shyne, summa cum laude, College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Student, who is graduating with his degree in applied mathematics.

The ceremony is in the Roy Wilkins Auditorium at Saint Paul RiverCentre. Approximately 876 students are receiving bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees with 584 expected to participate in the spring ceremony.

There is also a separate ceremony for the university’s doctoral candidates, Doctor of Business Administration and Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) on Saturday, April 30, in the university’s auditorium at the Saint Paul Campus. DNP graduate Sanouk Xiong will be the student speaker.

Other commencement participants include: Metropolitan State Interim President Devinder Malhotra; Gimmy Arthur, provost and academic vice president; Ann Anaya, JD, trustee, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Board of Trustees; Allen Bellas, Inter-Faculty Organization president; Brian Wermerskirchen, Student Senate vice president; Ochen Kaylan, Metropolitan State University Alumni Association board president; Craig Vuje, Metropolitan State University Foundation board trustee; and Dan Bostrom, Saint Paul City Council member.

Metropolitan State University, a member of the Minnesota State College and Universities system, is the two-year, comprehensive state university providing lifelong learning, and competitive academic and professional degree programs at the bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral levels.

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Dayton’s Bluff Take A Hike

On Saturday, May 7, at 10:00 a.m., learn a little about the East Side while hiking through Dayton’s Bluff. The hike starts at Indian Mounds Park at Earl Street and Mounds Boulevard and is about a half mile long and 2 hours long. Hikers will have their choice of ending in Swede Hollow Park or East Side Heritage Park.

e-mail more information email karin@swedehollow.org or call 651-776-0550.

Friends of Swede Hollow

Watch over, restore, and celebrate the history of Swede Hollow Park. Come join the Swede Hollow community at their monthly meeting. Food.

 eventual starts at 1150 Greenbrier Street. Call 651-230-3294 or email editor@daytonbluff.org for more information and the meeting’s location.

Dayton’s Bluff District Forum Board Meeting

The Forum is seeking help with writing, online content, idea generation, and ad sales. Join us at our next meeting on Monday, May 2, at 1:00 p.m., at the Swede Hollow Cafe (725 E. 7th Street). Call 651-776-0550 or email editor@daytonbluff.org for more information.

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

¿Necesita más comida saludable para su familia? El programa SNAP le puede ayudar.

SNAP proporciona fondos para alimentos que benefician a familias de escasos recursos. Aún si no es ciudadano, si tiene hijos nacidos en este país ellos podrían calificar. Participar en el programa SNAP no afectará su estatus migratorio. Para saber si califica! 612-746-3500.

Mounds Park United Methodist Church

Mounds Park United Methodist Church is a community based, multi-cultural congregation located at 1049 Euclid Street at the corner of Earl and Euclid, striving to build on the positive assets of Dayton’s bluff, working together as neighbors while improving the community.

Top 20 Training

Tom Cody and the Top 20 team have inspired people to think, learn, and communicate more effectively, and empower those around them to do the same. Top 20 Training is about using the power of choice to make a positive difference in the quality of your life. All sessions will take place on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. at St. Mary’s on the Boulevard.

May at the East Side Freedom Library

On Thursday, May 5, at 7:00 p.m., join the East Side Freedom Library (ESFL) for Racing Uplift in a Jim Crow Local: Black Union Organizing in Minneapolis Hotels in the 1930s, a presentation given by Luke Mielke, Macalester College honors student and labor activist.

On Wednesday, May 11, at 7:00 p.m., the ESFL presents a conversation with Frank M. White, author of the new book They Played for Love of the Game: Untold Stories of Black Baseball in Minnesota.

On Friday, May 13, The ESFL and A Greener Read invite you to explore story telling through film and fiction. The evening starts at 4:30 p.m. with a Vinyl and Happy Hour, hosted at A Greener Read (506 East Kenny Road) followed by a 6:30 p.m. screening of the film Round Midnight, at the ESFL.

On Sunday, May 22, at 2:00 p.m., join labor historians Dave Riehle and Peter Raczek for a walking tour of Payne Avenue – From Swede Hollow to Arlington Hills: The Immigrant Past and Present of Payne Avenue walking tour departs from Swede Hollow Park and will focus on immigrant working-class life. The tour begins at Swede Hollow Park and proceeds to the ESFL, where refreshments and restrooms will be available. Register for this event at their website.

The East Side Freedom Library is located at 1150 Greenbrier Street. Call 651-230-3294 or visit eastsidefreedomlibrary.com for more information and to register. The Dayton’s Bluff Rec Center is located at 800 Convent Street, Saint Paul.

Sat uday, May 7: Independent Wrestling International (IWI). Tickets include a new "family four pack" option with 2 adults and 2 kids for $30. Bell is at 7:30 p.m. but you’ll want to be there at 6:45 p.m. when the door opens to get the best seats!

Friday and Saturday, May 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28: Build Your Own Inferno. Join Dante and Virgil as they go on a tour of Hell - decided by the audience! Part improv and part scripted, Build Your Own Inferno puts the comedy back into the Divine Comedy, combining social commentary and ridiculousness in a way that would make Dante himself proud. All shows begin at 8:00 p.m. Tickets: $12 in advance; $15 at the door; $12 at the door (if available) with Fringe Button, CONVERGE Badge, or Card Carrying Geek Card.
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Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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Five ways to help your elderly neighbor
Janet M. Golden, Executive Director
Dayton's Bluff Senators

She hardly ever comes out. In fact, you see so little of your elderly neighbor, you sometimes forget she’s there, don’t you?

But the quiet life that so often escapes your notice can mask many problems. A fear of falling might keep her from going to her doctor appointments or buying groceries. Worsening arthritis may keep her from caring for her home – or herself.

Luckily, there are organizations out there that can help her remain safe and joyful in her own home. And she can start getting help simply because someone like you was neighborly.

If you live near someone who is in their golden years, who has slowed down and appears to be home bound, make yourself known. Break the isolation here are a few ideas.

Offer help. Once the introductions are out of the way, let your neighbor know you can help with yard-work or snow shoveling. Many times, though, people can be reluctant to accept assistance from others. One way around this: tell your neighbor that you (or your older children) have some volunteer requirements to fulfill.

Run an errand. Before you get into the car and drive to the store, ring the doorbell. Ask if there is anything you can pick up.

Share the bounty. When cooking a meal, bring a serving to your neighbor’s house. Share fresh vegetables from your garden or the farmers market. Bring a sample of something you baked.

Set up a neighbor date. Invite your neighbor over for dinner, Sunday brunch or afternoon coffee. If conversation runs dry, some quiet activities can help pass the time, such as playing checkers, cards, putting together a jigsaw puzzle, or watching a classic movie.

Help your neighbor get in touch with Dayton’s Bluff Payne-Phalen Seniors. We are a nonprofit that connects seniors with volunteers from your neighborhood who can take them to their appointments, help them with shopping, or just keep them company. In addition to these services, we give referrals. To learn more, visit our website or give us a call: www.daytonbluffseniors.org or 651-683-2326.

New organization helping Karen refugees in Dayton’s Bluff
Carla Riehle
Forum staff

carlariehle@gmail.com

REACH Together, a new service center for refugees, has recently opened its doors at 1075 Hudson Road, just east of Earl Street. Known in the neighborhood for its glass block windows and Art Deco styling, the building was bought by Sheryl Fried about a year ago to serve the community. Through the center serves all immigrants, the Karen are right now one of the largest populations in need, so Sheryl chose the location in part because of its proximity to the apartment nears the south end of Johnson Parkway, now home to over 300 Karen refugee families, hoping for a chance nestle in like 2,000 residents, out of a pop- ulation of an estimated 9,000 Karen in Minnesota.

The Karen are an ethnic group originally from Burma that has long been sub- ject to persecution. After a military cleansing under the military government that took power in Burma (now known as Myanmar) in 1962. In 2005, after years of limiting the numbers of Karen refugees admitted to the US, the State Department began to re- move restrictions, and, under the auspices of the United Nations High Com- mission on Refugees, the Karen have come to the US. Services and many other charitable organi- zations, thousands began settling in this country, with Minnesota receiving the largest number.

Many of the refugees are not direct immigrants from Burma, but have lived in refugee camps in Thailand for years, hoping to one day return to Burma and one country and begin new lives. The majori- ty of Karen in Minnesota are Christian and come to the US speaking no English and lacking skills needed in today’s economy, although many are skilled arti- cians in traditional crafts like weaving and basketmaking.

That’s where efforts like the Karen Or- ganization of Minnesota (KOM) and REACH Together come in. KOM has been in existence since 2007 and provides many services to the Karen popula- tion throughout Minnesota. However, with the growing Dayton’s Bluff Karen population, Sheryl saw a need for a cen- ter within walking distance of their homes. Currently the center provides adult English classes; citizenship classes; classes covering English computer skills, baking, candlemaking forms, making phone calls and reading mail; providing space for Karen weavers to work together and individual tutoring for high school students. Sheryl has just obtained IRS nonprofit status for REACH Together, making it eligible for grants and donations, but up to now, she has personally provided all the funding for the organization.

An Edible Streetscape Blooming on East 7th Street
Katherine Su
Urban Oasis

East 7th Street in Dayton’s Bluff may not be a place typically associated with performance art – especially perfor- mance art about food. However, this summer Urban Oasis is partnering with Urban Roots and Dayton’s Bluff Com- munity Council to turn this busy urban street into an “Edible Streetscape of East Side Food Traditions,” celebrating the beautiful journey that food takes from seeds and soil to various ethnic cuisines on our plates - and invites the community to become active participa- tors as well.

The Edible Streetscape project will highlight the area’s food traditions from seed to table in three parts: Community Planting Day – Urban Roots will be hosting their first annual plant sale on-site from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Season of Growth – Visit the ten container gardens to learn about diverse food traditions and see the plants grow- ing into vegetables, herbs and edible flowers. Each garden will feature information about the plants, where they are locally grown, sold, or used in the com- munity, and example recipes which fea- ture them as ingredients.

Community Meal – On August 6, East Side residents are invited to partici- pate in a walkable dinner meal celebrating the growing season and abundance of food traditions represented in the local community.

“The planting of new container gar- dens on East 7th Street brings a new look that encourages a walkable district, drawing visitors and residents alike to Dayton’s Bluff,” says Deanna Abr- ight-Foster, Executive Director at Day- ton’s Bluff Community Council.

To get involved, visit the Edible Streetscape of East 7th's UrbanOasisMN.org/EdibleStreetscape to keep up with the latest information and upload photos of your experiences onto the Urban Oasis Facebook page, and include the hashtag #Edi- bleStreets.
The 7th annual Art in the Hollow festival will be held Saturday, June 4, in St. Paul’s beloved Swede Hollow Park.

Chelsea DeArmond
Friends of Swede Hollow

Neighbors will join together on Saturday, June 4, for a day of celebrating diverse local talent at the Art in the Hollow festival in the beautiful and historic setting of Swede Hollow Park in St. Paul.

This community visual and performing arts festival is free and open to all ages. Artists demonstrate and sell their work in booths along the park’s paths. Diverse musicians, dancers, and actors perform on an outdoor stage. Entries in the juried sculpture contest highlight the intersection of art and nature are exhibited throughout the park. Swede Hollow’s rich history as one of St. Paul’s earliest settlements is also showcased in photographs and story-telling shared by local historians and neighbors.

The festival begins with a fanfare by the Mariachi Estrella band leading the way into Swede Hollow Park. Other performing artists this year will include guitarist and singer Paul Garding and professional organ grinder Angelo Rulli. Past performances have ranged from hula to break dancing, and from bluegrass to spoken word. True to Swede Hollow’s roots as a cultural melting pot, Art in the Hollow showcases local talent that represents crafts and traditions from around the world.

Food trucks will be available throughout the day at the park entrance near the intersection of Beaumont Street and Drewry Lane. Free parking is available on Beaumont Street and Drewry Lane in the Hope Community Academy parking lot. Assistance is available for people who may need with walking help down the steep tunnel at the park’s entrance.

Artists interested in exhibiting or performing can contact Karin DuPaul at (651) 776-0550 or karin@swedehollow.org. The application deadline is May 27, and the entry fee is $15. Artists interested in entering the juried environmental sculpture competition can contact Mary Johnson at maryj99@icloud.com. Winners receive cash prizes. The application deadline is May 27, and the entry fee is $10. For more information visit www.artinthehollow.org.

The Mariachi Estrella band starting off the 2015 Art in the Hollow, heading down in the Drewry Lane Tunnels into Swede Hollow Park.

Metropolitan State University announces “Born of Fire” glass arts exhibit

Robert Boss
Metropolitan State University

Metropolitan State University Gordon Parks Gallery presents Born of Fire: Selections from Foci-Minnesota Center for Glass Art, featuring the glass art of five instructors who teach at Foci-Minnesota Center for Glass Arts (MCGA), which is Minnesota’s only non-profit, public-access community glass studio and education center.

“Because Foci-MCGA operates a fully equipped hot-shop facility, with equipment for kiln work, neon, fusing, and sandblasting, the artwork that is created there is disparate, yet distinct. From delicateutilitarian vessels to sculptural objects, this exhibit surveys the expansive nature of the medium from the hands of masterful local artists,” gallery director Erica Rasmussen said.

Exhibited artists include: Al Honn, Michael Boyd, Eric Dahlberg, Alli Luhmann, Elii Gagner, Bryan Ether, Todd Cameron, and Kelly Nzewitski.

The show runs from April 22 to July 14. The Gordon Parks Gallery is located in the Library and Learning Center on the St. Paul Campus at 645 East Seventeenth Street. Call 651-793-1631 or http://www.metrostate.edu/msuw/EXPO/cas/departments/cwa/gallery/ for more information.

Fight hunger with Dayton’s Bluff Seniors!

Volunteers are needed to help deliver free groceries to seniors in the community.

Swede Hollow Café Expands

Mark Gallagher
Forum Associate Editor

When Ruth Campbell and her husband bought the Swede Hollow Café three years ago, they had a dream to expand upstairs; they just didn’t expect it to be completed by October 31, 2015.

They wanted time to get used to owning a coffee shop. The Campbells had some ideas for expansion, but they were not ready to put those ideas into place. The catalyst for the upstairs expansion was the need install a new hood and ventilation system for the oven on first floor. “We could do it a little bit more efficiently if we did the upstairs expansion at the same time as we put in the new hood and ventilation system,” Ruth said. “This made the expansion happen a little sooner than we anticipated.”

The Campbells worked in conjunction with Cliff Carey, a member of the Stutzman Group who owns the building. “He is not an architect, but we also worked with an architect,” Ruth said. “It took a fair amount of time, probably over a year, and part of that was just working with the city and making sure we met all of their requirements.”

Cliff Carey did a lot of the construction on the expansion of the Swede Hollow Café. He is a regular customer and one of the building owners. The Stutzman Group is a group of five couples who purchased the building in the 1990s to fix it up and help the community.

Swede Hollow Café added a 28-seat expansion to its existing downstairs capacity of 35. One of the downstairs tables was moved to the upstairs expansion area. The café stayed open during its yearlong expansion and worked around the noise while keeping the dust isolated.

“We expanded our menu a little bit before we did the expansion,” Ruth said. “We may make more changes in the future, but we didn’t expand it a lot in conjunction with the work we did upstairs.” All the food, coffee, and other drinks are ordered downstairs, and the Campbells will probably keep it that way for now.

The building is located in the historic district of Dayton’s Bluff. The Campbells worked with the Historical Preservation Committee (HPC) to incorporate historic aspects of the building during the expansion.

A sheet on the café bulletin board mentions some of the history of the area. The building is from the 1800s.

“The people that come in seem to like the expansion,” Ruth said. “There is a window up there that was salvaged from an old building, so there is a lot of character up there. We also have a meeting room upstairs. Groups can reserve the room for one and a half or two hours with a minimum purchase.

“The people that come in seem to like the expansion,” Ruth said. “Everyone enjoys having more space. It’s easier for people to know they will be able to find a table when they come in for coffee.

“We also worked to expand the garden area. We have the upper patio chairs out there right now, and I hope to put the lower patio chairs out next week. I really enjoy running the coffee shop. It has been a definite learning curve.”

Mark Gallagher is the associate editor of the Dayton’s Bluff Forum and a graduate of Metropolitan State University. Mark can be reached at refineEditorial@gmail.com
The Dakota language is indigenous to Minnesota, and like many other indigenous languages in the US, has been endangered due to the effects of boarding schools, and policies which prohibited their use. As of 2009 in Minnesota, it is estimated that there are eight first language speakers of the Dakota Language within those communities. While a small number of these speakers are in their twenties, most are over the age of sixty. The number of native speaking Dakota speakers is rapidly decreasing. The language bowl is working to increase the amount of Dakota language speakers.

Contact Brittany Anderson at (612) 626-5759 or branders@umn.edu for more information, or visit http://mtde484.wix.com/dakotaapi.

Keeping our neighborhood safe

Jane Prince, Ward 7 – City Council

An outburst of gun violence in city neighborhoods in April has galvanized the attention of everyone living in Saint Paul.
As of this writing, seven gun-related incidents took place during a single four-day period, leaving two dead and nine injured – from Hamline Midway to Summit University, West Seventh to Lexington and University, Payne Phalen to Indian Mounds Park.

It's two steps forward, one step back. Suddenly, the media wanted to figure out what they would need to be a part of Dayton's Bluff. Victory, right? Not so fast. Like so many times before in our neighborhood, it's two steps forward, one step back.

At 7:30 p.m. on this same beautiful Sunday, a young man was tragically shot and killed in Indian Mounds Park. Suddenly, the media wanted to make our neighborhood out to be the wild-west again. The murder capital of Saint Paul. Those of us who live here know that's not the case, but the media says so and people who don't know better listen. But we know better. We don't forget all of the hard work our neighbors are putting into making Dayton's Bluff a great place to live, a place to be proud of.

The Dayton's Bluff Vacant Home Tour was a success – a big success. That's a story that belongs on the front page. But what ended up on the front page was another tragedy, another life lost.

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Mounds Park Barber Stylists

Have city planners shortchanged the East Side?

Carla Riehle, Forum Staff carlrierce@gmail.com

For years, East Siders have complained that the City of St. Paul treats the area as its poor relation, unworthy of adequate funding. They note the declining tax base in a community that predominately consists of people of color and has the city’s largest aggregation of poverty, and they point to its closed schools and recreation centers and its crumbling infrastructure. They see the benefits of light rail going no farther than the downtown Union Depot and projects like downtown’s Palace Theater receiving millions in funding. Meanwhile, on the East Side, public transportation languishes and the nation’s first charter school, City Academy at Case and Jessie, is plagued with mold and other problems.

However, up to now there haven't been any hard numbers to rely on.

Two neighborhood development organizations – Dayton’s Bluff Neighborhood Housing Services and East Side Neighborhood Development Company (ESNDC) are hoping to change that. They’ve teamed up with the Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers and the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) at the University of Minnesota’s Humphrey Institute of Government to undertake research that will nail down the facts.

The project is focused on the Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) process in the City of St. Paul and is tapping into the details of expenditures on East Side projects versus the rest of St. Paul. Although the CIB process was set up to provide the city’s residents with an opportunity to weigh in on each project – public transportation, recreation buildings and the like – those recommendations have often not been implemented.

Under the CIB process, although the city’s 17 district councils and its 18-member CIB committee make recommendations, they are not binding when they are adopted by the city council. John believes that when the research is complete, and is added to other inequities that he documents in city spending, it will be difficult for city planners to deny that the East Side has indeed been shortchanged.

Both Dan Bostrom and Jane Prince, the City Council member representing most of the area, have agreed to testify before the committee as part of their outreach to build support for the project.

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Be compassionate on Mother's Day
Jennifer Herman
Forum Staff

Mother's day is coming up on Sun- day, May 8, and one might assume that celebrating mom is a popular thing to do. In fact, according to Hall- mark, the holiday for mothers ranks third in the number of cards sent. But googling "I hate Mother's Day" tells another story, yielding pages of sites created by people who are struggling not celebrating. People might struggle on Mother's Day for a variety of rea- sons: they've lost their mother, they were abandoned or abused by their mother, they struggle with infertility and cannot become a mother, they lost a child, they were adopted and now have multiple moms and mixed feel- ings; there was a falling out with their mother/child, their children are small and their Dad forgets Mother's day ev- ery year, their children are grown and they ignore Mother's day every year, and on and on. You might be lucky enough to receive a pansey or marigold to ward easing it. Finally, if you "Hate Mother's Day" reclaim the day and take care of yourself -- hang out with people who make you laugh, do something special or indulge in a favorite treat. At the end of Sunday, May 8, if you breathe a sigh of relief for simply surviving the day, please know that you are in the company of lots of other wonderful people who feel exactly the same way.

Alfred J. Hill: Local Archaeologist and Philanthropist
Steve Trimble
Forum Historian

Alfred J. Hill was born in London, England in 1833 and as a youngster im- mersed himself in history and archaeolo- gy. He was trained as a civil engineer and came to the United States in 1854. He first lived in Red Wing, Minnesota, with its large concentration of mounds and earthworks. It seems likely the stay there stirred his interest in American Indian antiquities.

Hill moved to St. Paul in 1855 and started a long career as a draftsman in the state land office. His interest in mapping and his position in the state land office presented an opportunity to pursue ar- chaeology. He recruited other surveyors working in Minnesota and sought infor- mation on the location, number, and size of any mounds or other archaeological material.

During the Civil War, Hill served in the Sixth Minnesota Infantry which was involved in the Dakota War and Hill was then sent to Washington, D.C., to the of- fice of topographical engineers. After the war, Hill returned to St. Paul, joined the Minnesota Historical Society, and served as an officer of the Committee on Ar- chaeology.

Hill was determined to find, sketch, and investigate mound and other archaeological structures, mostly in the Upper Midwest. Hill sent around a circular requesting in- formation on any known mounds and other antiquities throughout the state. The information sent in was organized in a se- ries of large notebooks. However, in the 1870s, the Historical Society discontin- uated the Committee on Archaeology.

Hill continued on his own. He had been hoping for an extensive survey of the ancient cultures of Minnesota and adjacent states. Funds for such a survey were not available from public sources and obtaining an appropriate person to conduct the survey was even more diffi- cult.

Hill did some work and wrote that he had found 39 mounds in Dayton’s Bluff in the 1870s, in two viewing groups. He dug into one and found "just a few human remains," but also a house and a "large number of sea shell beads closely packed together." But he never viewed himself as a trained scientist. He once said "I told my friends that I was only keeping the place warm until a real archaeologist should turn up." And it happened – Hill met Theodore Lewis in 1880 and knew that the "real archaeologist" he hoped for had arrived.

Hill agreed to devote up to ten percent of his financial resources toward the sur- very and Lewis would conduct the field portion of the project. The Northwestern Archaeological Survey was born. Hill was somewhat wealthy, having wisely in- vested in real estate when there was mon- ey to be made.

Lewis made his headquarters at Hill’s home at 406 Maria Avenue in St. Paul and lived there for the next fifteen years. One author claimed "the house on Maria Avenue was the center of the most exten- sive archaeological activity ever privately initiated and supported on the American continent."

Hill provided $16,200 over the 15-year period on paper and salaries and un- dertook more than 2,000 mound and vil- lage sites containing more than 17,000 human remains, ‘a few human remains,” and earthworks of Minnesota is due to "Much of our knowledge of the mounds and earthworks of Minnesota is due to Alfred J. Hill." Hill was determined to find, sketch, and investigate mound and other archaeological structures, mostly in the Upper Midwest. Hill sent around a circular requesting information on any known mounds and other antiquities throughout the state. The information sent in was organized in a series of large notebooks. However, in the 1870s, the Historical Society discontinued the Committee on Archaeology.

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Hill provided $16,200 over the 15-year period on paper and salaries and undertook more than 2,000 mound and village sites containing more than 17,000 individual mounds and earthworks. Hill died suddenly, leaving the field of archaeology. His students found out that the story is not a happy one. Zin- tkala Nuni encountered two cultures and unfortunately was not warmly em- braced by either. Colby ended up with- ing little interest in the child and she was eventually passed from one family to another. Like so many other Native child- ren, she was sent to a boarding school. She faced racism, was not able to fit into Lakota culture, and was often in ill health from diseases to which she had no resistance. She married, but the family strugg- led. Having moved to California, she died at the age of 29 and was given a pauper's burial. Recently, a woman who researched the story paid to have Lost Bird’s re- mains exhumed according to Lakota customs and brought to South Dakota. Zintkala Nuni is now buried with her family in the Wounded Knee Memorial Cemetery located near the site of the massacre.

Zintkalan Nuni: Lost Bird of Wounded Knee
Steve Trimble
Forum Staff

Making it to the regional level of Na- tional History Day is quite an accom- plishment. While visiting the event at Johnson High School, I met a group from the American Indian Magnet School located at Third and Earl Streets. The sixth-grade trio was com- posed of two American Indians and one Hmong girl. Their display board was ti- tled “Zintkalan Nuni: Lost Bird of Wounded Knee.”

I asked a few questions. Among them was, “how did you come up with the topic?” One of the girls said that her mother is from Pine Ridge, South Dakota, and had heard stories about the Wounded Knee Massacre. It is an interesting and little-known story. On December 29, 1890, U.S. sol- diers surrounded a group of Lakota in South Dakota and began to disarm them. Gunfire broke out and the troops began indiscriminately shooting men, women, and children — killing over two hundred. Four days later, a rescue party found a live baby on the banks of a creek, protected underneath her mother’s frozen body. General Leonard Colsby, who had just arrived on the scene, decided to keep the little girl.

The three sixth-grade students who created the history display. Left to right: Lelosi, Skyla, and Kasiil.

Unfortunately, the students found out that the story is not a happy one. Zin- tkala Nuni encountered two cultures and unfortunately was not warmly em- braced by either. Colby ended up with- ing little interest in the child and she was eventually passed from one family to another. Like so many other Native children, she was sent to a boarding school. She faced racism, was not able to fit into Lakota culture, and was often in ill health from diseases to which she had no resistance. She married, but the family strugg- led. Having moved to California, she died at the age of 29 and was given a pauper’s burial.

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Brasserie Zentral. A fellow Lowertown-er from heading the kitchens at St. Paul’s College of Culinary Arts in Atlanta, as well as experience from Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts, rather than a stuffy, prestigious chef. He is more of an inviting and approachable friend than a true cook, which makes him feel like more than just a welcome addition to our neighborhood restaurants.

Carol March, owner of Public Kitchen has ventured to make Lower Hennepin Avenue a lively spot among diners of all types. March opened St. Paul’s latest deli on the corner of 7th Street and University Avenue. The decor blends the modern, almost steampunk-like feel (with the chandelier) with classic and traditional elements. The restaurant also serves up a mean gin fizz, a cloud of citrusy-gin perfection, as well as a delicious vodka, lemon and pineapple cocktail titled “Sage against the Machine.”

As for the main course or courses, depending on how hungry you are, the chicken and waffles has become a fan favorite—it’s light but sweet and the savory buttermilk batter really makes you forget what you’ve just ordered. It’s so delicious. The rosemary and pear-fused waffle is an added bonus.

Chef Sutherland’s favorite is the chicken and waffles, and he also recommends something called “The Farm,” which is a braised oxtail dish served with a buttermilk biscuit, duck egg, and crispy pig’s ear. If you prefer something more toned down they also offer baby back ribs, beef brisket, pulled BBQ sandwich, and salads. With delicious entrees and home-cooked mac and cheese or franks ‘n beans sides you might just want to order the whole menu. Just remember, it’s a place dedicated to the early tailed, pink farm animal, so it’s okay to pig out.

There was a three inch snow the night before and trying to avoid the predicted three to eight inches in the late afternoon, I thought it prudent to have lunch during the lull. There is a small parking lot and off-street spaces. Reservations are accepted, but not necessary. I went toward the building and was greeted by signs in the window that told of the availability of tortas, cerveza, and some daily specials. They keep Mexican beers on-hand, in addition to offering margaritas and a full bar. I was there for a 1:00 p.m. lunch and there were a few other diners. Latino soaps were filling with cheese and two sides of guacamole and sour cream. Too early for beer, so I added a real Mexican Coke.

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Have Forum, will travel... 

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

Larry Meuwissen and Joyce Maddox took a time out to catch up on the Forum in Venice, Italy, with Mary Block, Mark Cosimini, and some real-live gondoliers in the background.

Larry Meuwissen and Joyce Maddox took a time out to catch up on the news at home while visiting the Amber Fort just outside Jaipur, India.

Young Bluff residents, Lance and Moriah, brought the Forum along on their spring break trip to Manitoba, Canada, eh!

Book review: 

A Good Time for the Truth Race in Minnesota

Carla Riehle 
Forum Staff

The Minnesota Historical Society Press has just published A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota, a compilation of essays from 16 Minnesota writers of color. Edited by Sun Yung Shin, the book is a unique offering in the growing collection of literature about race, as it brings together a wide variety of racial and cultural experiences in our state.

The essays include the experiences of Ibé, an African immigrant entering a “sea of white that I constantly had to come to terms with,” to Heidi Erdrich, of both Ojibwe and Caucasian parentage, who says “My face lies about my race, my whiteness defies me and defines me;” and Kao Kalia Yang, who became the object of snickers and sneers from two white women in a bowling alley restroom.

While Minnesota is 85 percent white, that proportion is rapidly changing and the East Side has changed even more, with a population that is now around 60% people of color. In a way, the book represents a microcosm of our own neighborhood and offers a chance to readers of any background to learn about the experiences of people who could be living next door to them.

At a book launch at the Minnesota History Center in April, keynote speaker Nekima Levy-Pounds spoke about living in a society that is built and structured around white privilege.

Are you receiving your copy of the Forum each month?

If you live in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood, you should receive your copy of the Dayton's Bluff District Forum within the first two weeks of each month.

If you live within the neighborhood and feel you have missed delivery, please email editor@daytonsbluff.org along with your name and mailing address. We will contact the US Postal Service on your behalf.

If you do not live within the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood but enjoy reading the Forum, you can pick up a copy at many neighborhood locations, including the Dayton's Bluff Community Council offices at 804 Margaret Street, or email editor@daytonsbluff.org to have the Forum mailed to you for a yearly fee of $15.

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Dear Reader,

The Dayton’s Bluff District Forum has been a volunteer-run newspaper since the 1970s, and has always operated on a minimal budget. For the past three years we have been soliciting donations through our Friends of the Forum program. Thanks to the donations of readers like you, we have been able to keep the paper up and running.

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

Our goal for the year is $2,000; as of this printing we have raised $765. Will you help us?

Sincerely,

The Dayton’s Bluff District Forum

Russell Greg Cosimini, Nick Duncan, Karin DuPaul, Jennifer Herman, Sage Holben, Carla Riehle, Steve Trumble
Editor: Jennifer Gascogne Associate Editor: Mark Gallagher
Assistant Editor: Apryl Cave

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For more information, contact 651-776-0550 or editor@daytonsbluff.org.

Thank you for your support!