

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org

"The Voice of the Community"

The East Side Enterprise Building *A fixture in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood with a lengthy history*

Mitzi Beliveau
Special to the Foun

I had seen the building at 798 and 804 Margaret Street, when I lived in the neighborhood years ago, but it looked like it had lost its grandeur. A man named Cleo Kelly bought the building in the 1990s. It is now owned by a partnership of the Dayton's Bluff Community Council and the Latino Economic Development Center. What is now called the East Side Enterprise Center was something different when it was first built in 1885.

I met the great-granddaughter of the man who built the building, Camille Riggs. It was Camille who told me about her great grandfather. He came from Germany with \$30,000 cash and his name was George Pabst. Now George did not come alone, he came with his cousin who is better known for starting the beer company with the family last name, Pabst! Both were very successful in businesses here in America.

It was here in America that George met his wife, Mary Baetz. Together, they started a family and a large business. When George had the elegant building built, he lived upstairs with his wife and children. His business, a grocery store, meat store, and liquor store, were on the main floor, and there was a bakery in the basement.

As the family grew, they built a home a few blocks away and lived there. In the upstairs third level of the building, a family of eight children and two adults moved in. That family moved out, and some of the younger family of George moved in to help George run his business. George also acquired other properties from people who had borrowed money from him and could not pay. This allowed for George and his family to grow their businesses. George was known to help many people who did not have food. He shared what he had, but was also a good businessman.

Camille's grandfather was Bernard Joseph Pabst, who was born in 1896, and married Catherine M. Pabst in May of 1917. They lived in the 804 Margaret building upstairs for a short time. At that time, there was a pool on the side deck

for the family. After that, Camille remembers living within a few blocks, and many members of the family worked for the family business. That is when Camille's mother, Maria Pabst, born in 1918, married Clarence Allard Ofelt.

The next owner was Cleo Kelly in 1990, who used the building for his business Service Master. Service Master was best known for cleanup work after disasters in homes and businesses. There were several loading docks for Service Master workers to load up the trucks to help people in need after a massive water leak, floods, or fires. Service Master was a great Dayton's Bluff business and provided jobs for about 20 years on the East Side of Saint Paul. In the building there was an upper loft-style business office that Mr. Kelly used, which still stands today.

The building eventually fell into disarray, needing lots of work after a few years of being vacant. In 2013, the partnership of the Dayton's Bluff Community Council and The Latino Economic Development Center bought the building with grant and loan money. This provided opportunity for growth in the neighborhood for new businesses and the revitalization of the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood. The building was updated and renovated and now houses many non-profit agencies.

Besides the Dayton's Bluff Community Council and the Latino Economic Center at the East Side Enterprise Center building, they now house the Shared Ground Farmers' Co-op, Twin Cities Mobile Market, Kitchen on the Bluff, WEQY radio station, East Side Area Business Association (ESABA), Lower Phalen Creek Project, and African Economic Development Solutions.

Helping many diverse people in need in various ways, from helping farmers get their goods to market, helping the poor with access to food by the mobile food shelf, assisting people in need of loans for small businesses, providing training and mentoring to small business, teaching GED classes for the Latino community, to working to renew the Phalen Creek area – the list is endless, and helping is rewarding, lifting up the community to be self-sufficient and revitalizing the neighborhood for growth for years to come.

The East Side Enterprise Center is also open for event space rental. Rooms are available at low cost to local non-profits for events. Watch for the springtime of 2020 for a Grand reopening with new staff, new ideas, and new partnerships.



Pictured at left: The East Side Enterprise Center in 2019. The building, located at 798 and 804 Margaret Street, has a lengthy history on the Bluff.

Photo by Mitzi Beliveau

The Most Happy Fella coming to the Mounds Theatre

Amerigo Vespucci
Forum Musical Theater Critic

After a very successful run of *Così fan tutte* in March, Skylark Opera Theater is bringing another show to the Mounds Theater in October. However, it is not another opera but instead a classic musical.

In the words of director Bob Neu, who also directed *Così*, "*The Most Happy Fella* is everyone's favorite musical they're never seen. For lovers of music theater, the piece is somehow solidly part of our internal repertoire but yet very few of us have actually seen a production – and this is probably because the piece is darned difficult to cast and produce. It requires strong (almost operatic) voices with great acting skills, and it requires a production that can clearly communicate an epic story that is filled with hope, longing, redemption and love. We think Skylark Opera Theatre is up to fulfilling these demands."

The Most Happy Fella was written and composed by Frank Loesser, better known for musicals like *Guys and Dolls* and *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. Unlike those shows which started out as Broadway plays and then were made into motion

pictures, *Fella* never made it to the big screen which also helps explain why so few people have seen it. However, it features songs that should be familiar to persons of a certain age, such as "Standing on the Corner (watching all the girls go by)," "Big D" and "Somebody, Somewhere."

Fella is the story of a May-December romance between Tony, the older Italian owner of a Napa Valley vineyard and his young mail-order bride Rosabella. Any play that features Italians and wine must be good. Right? Local favorites Bill Marshall and Sarah Lawrence star as Tony and Rosabella, respectively.

Skylark's mission is to stage famous musical plays in small, nonstandard locations that normally never see such productions. Rather than focusing on special effects, huge sets, and large orchestras, Skylark prefers to focus on intimate story-telling that will create an engaging experience for audiences.

The Most Happy Fella will be presented at the Mounds Theatre, 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 55106 on **October 11, 12, 18, 19 at 7:30 p.m. and October 13 and 20 at 2:00 p.m.** Tickets can be purchased online, by phone and at the box office beginning one hour prior to start time. All tickets are for general admission. Ticket prices are: Adult - \$50, Student with ID (high school and up) - \$42, Senior (age 65+) - \$45.00, and groups (10+) - \$42. For ticket ordering information visit moundstheatre.org or skylark-opera.org or call (712) 343-3390.

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Steve Trimble

A large audience surrounded performers during a performance of the *Swede Hollow Ghost Sonata*, an immersive theatrical experience presented in Swede Hollow Park during the month of September.

Dayton's Bluff Take-a-Hike

On the second Saturday of most months, the Dayton's Bluff Take-a-Hike will begin at Indian Mounds Park, at Earl Street and Mounds Boulevard, at 10:30 a.m. The next hike will be on Saturday, October 12. The hike is one to two hours long and will end at Swede Hollow Park or East Side Heritage Park, depending on the desire of the hikers. Share and learn a little history along the way! Email karindupaul@comcast.net or call 651-776-0550 for more information.

Friends of Swede Hollow

Watch over, restore, and celebrate the history of Swede Hollow Park. Join the Swede Hollow community at their monthly meeting on Thursday, October 3, at 6:30 p.m. Email karindupaul@comcast.net or call 651-776-0550 for more information and the meeting's location.

Dayton's Bluff District Forum Board Meeting

The Forum is seeking writers and help with online content, idea generation, and ad sales – join us at our next meeting on Saturday, October 5, at 11:00 a.m., at Swede Hollow Cafe at 725 E. 7th Street. Call 651-776-0550 or email daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com for more information.

Police Community Meetings

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

The next meetings are on Wednesday, October 16, at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Meetings are intended to be a time to listen to and address concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Twin Cities Mobile Market

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



THE HISTORIC
MOUNDS
THEATRE

October 11-20: *The Most Happy Fella*. Skylark Opera presents *The Most Happy Fella* by Frank Loesser (*Guys and Dolls, How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*). Directed by Bob Neu (*Così fan tutte*) and starring local favorites Bill Marshall and Sarah Lawrence, this show is a classic piece of musical theater. It is not an opera although some of the songs verge on being operatic, and features familiar tunes like "Standing on the Corner," "Big D" and "Somebody, Somewhere." Show times: October 11, 12, 18, 19 – 7:30 p.m.; October 13 and 20 – 2:00 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online, by phone and at the Box Office beginning one hour prior to start time. Tickets: \$42/\$45/\$50.

October 18-27: *Real Haunted Tours*. One hour night-time presentations of our well-known haunted venue. Walk and learn historical information and stories about our resident spirits! The last tour of the night has an option to upgrade to a three hour tour, which includes the regular tour, plus the basement and time to explore on your own. On Sunday October 27, we will run two "Sunset Tours" which give an opportunity for kids 8-15 to take the tour (accompanied by an adult) before sundown so it's a little less intimidating for younger participants. Advanced tickets highly recommended. Various times on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Tickets: \$15/\$20/\$40.

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

October at the Dayton's Bluff Library

The following events take place at the Dayton's Bluff Library, 645 East Seventh Street, Saint Paul. The library will be closed on October 14 for staff training.

Tuesday, October 15, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., *Teens Know Best!* Teens have exclusive access to books before they are published.

This group meets on the second Tuesday of every month to share opinions and pizza. *Teens Know Best* members write reviews of the books they read. The reviews are submitted to the publishers to help guide their decisions.

School is in session! The library's got your back. Check out spl.org/back-to-school for information on homework help, after school snack, and other resources to make your school year a success.

For information about these and other fun events, check spl.org or call 651-

793-1699. The Dayton's Bluff Library shares its home with Metropolitan State University at 645 East 7th Street.

Wish List Care Packages

Help East Side Elders distribute food, hygiene items, and more to seniors on the East Side by shopping their Amazon Wish List!

Visit www.amazon.com/registry/wish-list/3KK001OGFO5NJ to have these much-needed items sent right to their office. From there, a team of volunteers will distribute them to seniors in need.

With the help of supporters like you, East Side Elders is able to supply groceries and personal care items to seniors in the community at no charge to them. These items help stretch their monthly budgets and give them access to healthy food and much-needed personal care products. Donations can also be dropped off at East Side Elders, 463 Maria Avenue Suite 201, St. Paul, MN 55106.

Grocery Shopping

Did you know that East Side Elders can help you and your loved one with grocery shopping?

Let East Side Elders take a chore off your long to-do list! To get help with grocery shopping, call 651-683-2326 or email Info@EastSideElders.org with a detailed list. From there, East Side Elders staff will put a call out to their grocery shopping team and schedule a day and time that works for you and the volunteer for delivery.

Grocery shopping is a donation-based service. Donate what you can for the convenience of not having to head out to the store. Reimbursement for the groceries can be done directly with the volunteer - they will bring you a receipt when they make their delivery.

Volunteer with East Side Elders

Did you know that East Side Elders provided over 1,600 rides to seniors on the East Side last year? With the help of our incredible volunteers, we help older adults get to medical appointments, the bank, the grocery store, and other errands. Each ride helps a senior remain an active, vital part of the community.

As we receive more and more requests for help from our senior neighbors, we need to grow our team of volunteer drivers. Join our team by applying online at EastSideElders.org/Volunteer or by contacting us at 651-683-2326. Volunteer drivers have a flexible schedule and help out when they can, as often as they choose. Gas cards are also available for volunteer drivers!

Business Classes

The Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Microentrepreneur class helps start-up and young businesses on the East Side. All East Side entrepreneurs are welcome. Class training lasts 12 weeks and includes topics such as operations management, marketing, financial management, one-on-one assistance with creating a successful business, and developing a business plan, plus eight hours of one-on-one assistance with cre-

ating and preparing a business plan.

Those who successfully complete the course are eligible for ongoing business support services (they don't have to locate their business in target neighborhoods to be eligible).

The course is sponsored by the Dayton's Bluff Community Council and the Neighborhood Development Center. There is a small registration fee based on a sliding scale. Class size is limited, so sign up now. Please call the training department at 651-379-8113.

Free Help for East Side Pets

The Animal Humane Society's Community Outreach program offers special clinics for pets on the East Side. The events provide free wellness exams, vaccines, nail trims, spay/neuter appointment scheduling, guidance from the AHS behavior team and St. Paul Animal Control, free pet food, and more.

For upcoming events and locations call 651-788-4685 or visit <http://animalhumanesociety.org/outreach-services-frogstown-and-east-st-paul>.

Learn About Medicare and Help Others

Help the Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging provide one-on-one counseling to Medicare beneficiaries at community partner sites, such as senior centers and libraries, in the seven-county metro area.

Make a difference in your community by becoming a State Health Insurance Assistance Program certified Medicare Counselor. Help people understand their Medicare options. Visit Metroaging.org/volunteer to learn more.

Sundays at Landmark

Fall to spring, Landmark Center has a full calendar of art, cultural, and holiday celebrations. The 2019-2020 season consists of free (unless noted) family friendly events.

October 6: Nooks and Crannies Tour, 1-3 p.m., **October 20:** Saint Paul Civic Symphony Fall Concert 1-3 p.m., **October 27:** The Great Pumpkin Halloween Celebration, 1-3 p.m., **November 17:** MN Mandolin Orchestra, 1-3 p.m., **November 24:** A Landmark Hoe-down, 1-3 p.m., **December 15:** Santa's Workshop, 1-3 p.m., **January 5:** Minnesota Boychoir Winter Concert, 2 performances; 1:00 and 3:30 p.m., **January 12:** Urban Expedition, 1-3 p.m., **January 26:** Saint Paul Civic Symphony Winter Carnival Concert, 2-3:30 p.m., **February 9:** Urban Expedition, 1-3 p.m., **February 16:** Balkan Festival, \$4/\$6, noon-5 p.m., **March 1:** Urban Expedition, 1-3 p.m., **March 15:** Irish Day of Dance, \$5/\$7, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., **March 17 (Tuesday):** St. Patrick's Day Irish Celebration, \$5/\$7, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., **March 22:** Urban Expedition, 1-3 p.m., **April 5:** Urban Expedition, 1-3 p.m., **April 26:** BandWidth Community Band Festival, 12-6 p.m., **May 3:** Kid's Tea at the Castle, 1-3 p.m., reservations required, **May 10:** Saint Paul Civic Symphony Annual Mother's Day Concert, 1-3 p.m.

All events are presented by Minnesota Landmarks. For more information visit www.landmarkcenter.org/sundays-at-landmark/



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Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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Exciting new events coming to Swede Hollow!

*Karin DuPaul
Friends of Swede Hollow*

Don't miss *The Clemency of Tito's Tennis Club: A Picnic Operetta*, on **Saturday, September 28, at 2:00 p.m.** in Swede Hollow Park. The Picnic Operetta is a yearly event in Swede Hollow.

In this adaptation of Mozart's opera, a rag-tag group of players is resurrecting a defunct tennis club. Backstabbing, bitterness, and a murderous revenge plot threaten their rise to the top of Rome's championship match. Will they find redemption before Mount Vesuvius covers them in ash? When can cheaters be forgiven? All is presented in the Picnic Operetta's trademark style of playfulness, satire, and hope. Classic arias and duets from Mozart's *La Clemenza di Tito* soar across the garden alongside new wave and synth-pop hits by Devo, Berlin, Yaz, and Pat Benatar. Operatic athletes will serve the audience some

fresh edible bites as well. For more information call 612-619-2112.

On **Friday, September 27**, join your neighbors for the *Annual Watch the Glow of the Setting Sun on the Red Brick Brewery* event. Starting at 6:00 p.m., followed by the annual "Chat and Chew." See the sun set and the bright glow of the brewery building. After the sun sets, the evening food and socializing begins. Former Swede Hollow residents, Hamm's employees, and everyone else are welcome. For more information, call 651-776-0550.

Finally, enjoy the *Ghost Sonata at Swede Hollow Park* on **September 28, and 29**. Sod House Theatre received a Knight Grant to present the *Ghost Sonata at Swede Hollow*. Through poetic dance and movement, original live music, vignettes from Strindberg's play, and re-constructed shanty house facades set within the historic Swede Hollow park, Sod House Theater will welcome audiences into an immersive experience of the immigrant community that once lived in Swede Hollow. Contact sodhousetheater@gmail.com for more information.

Contest : Where in Dayton's Bluff?

Send your guess to daytons-bluffdistrictforum@gmail.com with the location of the neighborhood curiosity pictured at right. The reader who submits the first correct entry will be notified and the winner will be announced in the November edition of the *Forum*. Congratulations to Hyorin Park, winner of the August contest with a correct location of Metropolitan State University.



Non-fiction Book Review

Madame Fourcade's Secret War: The Daring Young Woman Who Led France's Largest Spy Network Against Hitler

*Theresa Wanta
Special to the Forum*

As with other books penned by Lynne Olson, I wished *Madame Fourcade's Secret War* would never end. But then the war wouldn't have.

The book was most informative. I had no idea the largest and most important allied intelligence network in France, "Alliance," provided so much important intelligence to MI6, the British Intelligence Agency. And less so, did I know it was led by a woman. I was surprised to learn that U.S President Franklin Roosevelt did not understand what the Vichy government of France really was, and that some refused to stand up against the Nazis until Germany invaded the Soviet Union in 1941.

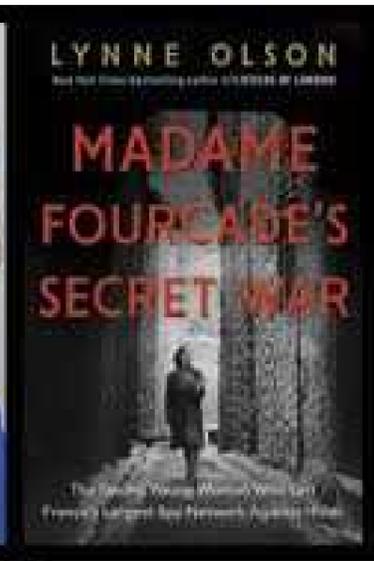
It is remarkable for the author to weave so many individuals and subplots into a coherent, understandable historical narrative while maintaining sus-

distinct, yet unifying element among her spies, reads like fiction.

I can't imagine Fourcade, who once escaped prison, bearing a child during this time. Many of her women spies were able to keep secrets under torture. Women then, and even today, minimize the importance of their achievements while, as Olson states, "those who had done the least spoke the most."

This powerful book required a great amount of research to pull it together. Lead-in sentences and choice of words for seemingly repetitive actions kept me interested and are much admired. And as picayunish as it may sound, I really appreciated the correct usage of the English language throughout. Put simply, the writing style pulls one in.

Among other books by Lynne Olson are the *New York Times* bestseller, *Citizens of London: The Americans Who Stood with Britain in Its Darkest, Finest Hour* and *Last Hope Island: Britain, Occupied Europe, and the Brotherhood That Helped Turn the Tide of War*.



LYNNE OLSON

pense to the very end. Her narration made the events seem present. Madame Fourcade's role as a

Occupied Europe, and the Brotherhood That Helped Turn the Tide of War.

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PLEASE VOTE!
Absentee voting starts Sept. 20
Early voting starts Oct. 29 • Election Day is Nov. 5

Why Vote?

Your VOTE is your VOICE in our democracy. As East Siders we need our voices heard at all levels of government. Your vote means that you care about our East Side community and that you expect the East Side to receive the same level of care and investment that you see across Saint Paul.

You can register and vote in Minnesota, if you are:

- A U.S. citizen
- At least 18 years old by Election Day, November 5, 2019
- A resident of Minnesota for 20 days
- Finished with all parts of any felony sentence (including probation, parole or supervised release)

When and how can I vote?

- Absentee voting starts September 20. For an application, call Ramsey County Elections at 651-266-2171.
- Early voting starts October 29 at Arlington Hills Community Center, 1200 Payne or at Ramsey County Elections, 90 Plato Boulevard.
- Election Day is November 5. Call 651-266-2171 to find your polling place.

Text or call Jane at 651-308-4984 if you need TRANSLATION assistance.



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**You got somethin' to say?
Say it here!**

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

daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com

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

Deadline for the November issue of the *Forum* is October 10, 2019.

**View From My Porch:
Little Pleasures**

*Sage Holben
Forum Staff*

Eleven year old Katar rang my doorbell at 9:10 Friday evening. "Could I visit with you?" he asked. He was at home, waiting for his mom and sister to return from shopping. He usually enjoys that time, but as sometimes happens, alone at night, sounds and imagined figures in the dark can create a need to seek company.

We sat outside on the porch so we could watch for his mom's return. The weather was warm and humid, and mosquitos were biting. We sprayed ourselves with mosquito repellent and talked about who mosquitos bit, their span of life and death, where and when they fell after biting; they died after biting, right? We talked about the number of lightening bugs we were

seeing lately...I shared how my siblings and I were able to catch jars full of them and use them as lanterns when I was his age. I'm never sure if the kids believe me when I share the magic of the past. We compared moths to butterflies; do moths light up like fireflies? If every living thing has a purpose, what is that of the mosquito? Simply to be another's food? What about June bugs? Big and ugly is the general thought as they bang themselves against windows, doors and people. I hadn't seen many of them since I was a kid, visiting my grandmother in Roodhouse, Illinois — hot summers on her porch, watching the 'dry heat' lightening in the far distance.

We watched the bright, partial moon sidle across the sky, accompanied by one star. How might that star change as it nears the earth? Would it produce great heat? We shared how our imaginations might get the best of us. How we see figures in the swirls of paint on a ceiling, in the dark shadows between

houses; formations of clouds during the day, fading soap suds in a bathtub.

A car pulled to the curb up the next block from us. I wondered if it was an unmarked police car. No, my friend stated. It's a woman in a tee. The driver never got out of the car, nor turned on interior lights. I questioned Katar's super sight. 'No, my eyes are really good. She's caramel like me, with lighter hair, and she's thin. Were my eyes really that bad? No, I had long ago nicknamed him the Trickster. He was playing with my mind. This kid will do well in life. 'I already am,' he assured me.

As he pulled up the lightweight cotton quilt as protection against the mosquitoes, I felt oddly comforted and at peace, sitting next to him on the glider. He wanted company in the dark and aloneness. Yet he shared the cherished gift of simply being, through quiet talk and wonder.

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

**Merrick Community Services —
Celebrating 111 Years**

*Mark Gallagher
Associate Editor*

Merrick Community Services started off as the Christ Child Society of St. Paul back in 1908 as a branch of the Christ Child Society that Mary Virginia Merrick had started earlier. Mrs. Quinlan, who had traveled out east to Washington D.C., was enamored with Mrs. Merrick and decided to start a chapter here in 1908. A little before that, The Christ Child Society became disassociated with the Catholic Church. "In 1990, we were chartered again with the State of Minnesota when we changed our name from The Christ Child Society of St. Paul to Merrick Community Services as an homage to Mary Virginia Merrick who passed away in 1955."

Before it became Merrick Community Services, the Christ Child Society was originally located at Railroad Island, which was a port of entry for immigrants and new arrivals in St. Paul. Railroad Island is an area that was closed off by railroads on at least three sides, so it was bordered by Payne Avenue on the east, 35E on the west, and Phalen Boulevard on the north. It is now located in Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, which is at 1669 Arcade Street, Suite 4, in St. Paul.

"The original mission when the Christ Child Society of St. Paul first started," said Dan Rodriguez, Executive Director of Merrick Community Services, "was to provide services to anybody who was in need, particularly immigrants and new arrivals. Originally, it was probably limited to people who were part of the Catholic Church. Back then immigrants would have been Germans, Swedes, and Italians. It was primarily focused on women and their children.

"The Christ Child Society would knit layettes. A layette is what you wrap an infant in, so if you think about the Christ Child story where Mary and Joseph wrap the Christ Child in swaddling clothing, that is what it was — recognizing that infants needed that kind of support.

"I think soon after The Christ Child Society of St. Paul was founded, people recognized that not only did the infants have needs, but their mothers had needs, the other siblings had needs, fathers had needs, and other members of the family had needs — then bit by bit more services began.

"Merrick was founded in the tradition of "settlement houses." A settlement house was a movement that started in the 19th century and went over to the 20th century. It was started in Europe but primarily in England."

A settlement house was a place for new arrivals and immigrants, in particular, to receive services to get settled in a new place. There they could become full citizens, so they would have classes on citizenship, classes on how to speak English, classes on job training, and they took those classes so that they could be successful. It was a place where kids could have some positive role models, and programming.

There were activities for the girls, as well. It was a safe place for people new to an area who may not have been citizens, or may not have spoken English, or may not have a lot of skills, to become successful and fully embedded in the American society.

Merrick Community Services has many programs that benefit the residents of the East Side of St. Paul. "We have five program areas," said Rodriguez, "and I will list them in no particular order. The first one is for youth, and we have programs after school and out of school. The youth are currently working with Urban Roots on the East Side where we have a garden. The youth also work at a food shelf where they are getting career readiness-focused, and they have an opportunity to earn a little money.

"Then we have a seniors program. We have one of the largest 'Meals on Wheels' programs in Ramsey County where we deliver hot meals every day with our volunteers to upwards of 90 or so people, and those people are all on the East Side. We actually do serve some people outside of St. Paul in South Washington County who might be in Woodbury. We also serve people in Oakdale.

"The other programs include: family services where we serve people who are in crisis. Often times we are dealing with domestic violence, other instability, and homelessness. We have a county contract where we will provide services for individuals there, and we also have career or employment services where we provide support and training to individuals who are unemployed or underemployed. Working with various funders, we provide credentials and work with employers who can get people to work for livable wages.

"Lastly, our largest program is our food shelf where we serve over 10,000 households. It's kind of sad that we have so many people who are hungry in this country of affluence and wealth. It's a shame, actually, but we're still fortunate to have funders, volunteers, and donors who support our efforts, so we can serve over 10,000 households a year who are hungry. Many people come to the food shelf once a month, and that is the guideline we use, although we don't turn anyone away.

"Then again, that's 10,000 households, so you can imagine if there are two, three or more people per family, you can see the impact we are having. I think this year we are on pace to serve over 700,000 pounds of food. The donations come from corporations, businesses, families, and churches that do food drives for us. Second Harvest Food Shelf is a close partner with us, along with Hunger Solutions, and we could not do that work without our volunteers and our donors."

Another program that Merrick Community Services has that benefits the residents of the East Side of St. Paul is the Christmas Gift Distribution, which is usually held a week or so before Christmas. They have developed a relationship over 30 years with the Salvation Army. Individuals in the Salvation Army have a partnership with the Marine's Toys for Tots, which receive gifts, and Merrick receives gifts as well. Merrick Community Services has other partners, and they have also have a relationship with the Salvation Army, and the Marine's Toys for Tots. It's because of the generosity of those previously mentioned organizations and of the churches and individuals who donate toys is how Merrick is able to serve over 700 to 750 families during the Christmas season.

"We are very fortunate to have pro bono support from 3M as we were recreating our logo," said Rodriguez. "It's a multi-colored logo, which represents the diversity and multiple colors of people we serve in the community. It's a circle, which also represents community. It's a circle that has a part of it missing, which is as we say is the 'incomplete work' that has yet to be done. To some people it looks like a budding flower ready to bloom. We think that

could represent the work yet to be done on the East Side in individuals' lives, so their potential can be fully realized. We realize that it is in full bloom, a very positive 'glass is half full' view of things — which is how we see things. If you look at it to be an "N" some people see a heart, like the heart of the community. So it means different things to different people. Our topline is "Growing. Stronger. Together." That's really important because we really believe the only way we grow is together, and when we grow together, we are stronger.



MERRICK
Community Services
Growing. Stronger. Together.

"Our whole organization is stronger, the community is stronger, and most importantly the people we serve are stronger. The periods after the three words in the Merrick logo are by design, not by accident. We are trying to say that Merrick and the people we serve are each one of those things independent of each other.

"Merrick Community Services is growing and has potential, and that's a positive affirmation of the organization, of the community of the East Side, which has not always been viewed positively, and most importantly, the people we serve have the potential for growth and they are growing. They are strong and in fact they're getting stronger, and again, it's a belief in the innate resiliency of the people we serve, the East Side, and the organization. And lastly, none of that can occur unless we do it together. In fact, we say that we know a lot about community because, after all, it's our middle name — Merrick Community Services.

"There are so many people in our society who are made to feel less than, and that's not who they are," said Ro-



Photo courtesy of Merrick Community Services

driguez. "That is one of the reasons I'm so happy to be at Merrick because of the difference we can make in people's lives. If someone is dealing with domestic violence, or homelessness, or unemployment, or hunger, or wanting to stay in their own home as a senior, or a youth who is trying to figure out what they want to do with their lives, Merrick has been a great place for me to be able to continue to serve those people, which has been a motivation for me all through my life."

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

World Wide Holidays in October

Temperance Brennan
Forum Contributor

As I have said before, my profession as an anthropologist leads me to seek out and sometimes participate in holidays of foreign lands. There's much more to look forward to than Halloween alone. You don't have to be a world traveler to celebrate some of them by reading up, making a drawing of another nation's flag with the kids, and maybe cook some of their traditional foods. If you do, take a photo of the event and send it in to the *Forum*.

October 1: National Day. The People's Republic of China was founded on October 1, 1949, with a ceremony at Tian'anmen Square. The Central People's Government passed the *Resolution on the National Day of the People's Republic of China* on December 2, 1949, and declared that October 1 is the National Day. Grand rallies and massive military parades were held to mark the National Day.

October 8: Battle of Angamos. This holiday marks the heroism of the Peruvian navy in the Battle of Angamos. Military and civil parades are held across Peru to honor Admiral Miguel Grau and his role in the Bat-

tle of Angamos.

October 12: Independence Day. Equatorial Guinea celebrates its Independence Day on October 12. This public holiday commemorates the country's freedom from Spanish colonization.

October 20: Mashujaa Day. Mashujaa is Swahili for Heroes and as such Mashujaa Day is also known as Heroes' Day. It is a public holiday to honor all Kenyans who have contributed towards the struggle for Kenya's independence.

October 25: Sovereignty Day. A Slovenia key event in the process of independence withdrawal of the last Yugoslav People's Army soldier from Slovenia.

October 26: National Day. The Declaration of Neutrality celebrates the day the Austrian Parliament declared the country permanently neutral. It was enacted on October 26, 1955, as a constitutional act of parliament.

October 31: Nos Galan Gaeaf. In Welsh language, this is the time when spirits and ghosts roam the land. People avoid churchyards, stiles, and crossroads, since spirits are thought to gather there on this night, when spirits and ghosts roam the land in parts of Wales.

The celebrations on Nos Galan Gaeaf are rooted in pagan times and vary in different locations, including special foods and the lighting of bonfires.

October 2, 1950: The first *Peanuts* comic strip, penned by Charles Schulz, appeared in seven newspapers on this day. He grew up in St. Paul, attended Gordon Elementary School, skipping two half-grades. He was younger than Central High School classmates, and a shy, timid teenager. He loved art, but one big disappointment was the rejection of his drawings by his high school yearbook.

Schulz's first cartoons were weekly one-panel jokes entitled *Li'l Folks* that were published from 1947 to 1950 by the *Pioneer Press* and included the introduction of a character named Charlie Brown. The first strip showed Charlie Brown walking by two other young children, Shermey and Patty. When Schulz sold his work to United Feature Syndicate they changed the name to *Peanuts*, a switch he never liked.

Peanuts eventually ran in over 2,600 newspapers and Schulz became financially successful. Television specials, including *A Charlie Brown Christmas* and *It's the Great Pumpkin* were popular. The final *Peanuts* comic strip appeared in January 2000. It consisted of a drawing of Snoopy at his typewriter. Reprints of the strip are still syndicated and run in almost every U.S. newspaper. Perhaps as atonement, a five-foot-tall statue of Snoopy is now in the school's main office.

Historic St. Paul October Days

Steve Trimble
Forum Historian

Here are some interesting items from our early and more recent times. Were any of our readers at the Zombie Record Day?

October 7, 1935: Amelia Earhart made a visit to St. Paul on this day. The city had a special reason for welcoming this famous aviator—she lived here for a time. She spoke at the Women's City Club, and Officers of the First National Guard Air Unit honored her at People's Church. Under the auspices of the women's club "the slender, boyish-appearing flyer told of her experiences during flights across the Atlantic and Pacific."

Her father moved the family to St. Paul in 1913 to accept a position as clerk at the Great Northern Railroad. The family rented a house at 825 Fairmount Avenue. Amelia attended St. Paul Central High School and was an excellent student. Her academic courses included physics, Latin, and German and she was on the girls basketball team. She was only there for her junior year because the family moved on to Chicago.

In the winter of 1920, Earhart saw her first air show, took her first airplane ride, and was hooked. Earhart became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic and set numerous altitude and speed records. On July 2, 1937, just before her 40th birthday, attempting to fly around the world, Earhart and her navigator disappeared over the Pacific.

October 11, 1918: St. Paul officials drafted regulations governing closing and opening of public places to counter the Spanish Influenza epidemic on this day. The first local case of the virus that would kill an estimated 50 million people world-wide was detected on September 26, brought by a returning soldier. The first death in Minnesota was that of a Ft. Snelling soldier on the first of October. A few days later there was a suspected case by a man on Blair Street. Still, the newspapers minimized the problem saying "influenza on the wane" or "no epidemic yet" and no need for alarm. They said it was just prevention.

A few days later, 24 people had died. By October 26, there had been 1,900 cases and 59 deaths in the city and quarantining seemed the only approach. October 30, saw a sudden upturn of cases and 1,946 houses were put under quarantine. St. John's Hospital was turned into an influenza location. The local Red Cross handed out thousands of face masks. On November 4, schools, shops, churches, theaters and other public places were shut down. People were eager to see work places opened and eventually, when cases began ebbing, public venues were gradually opened.

October 13, 2012: The Guinness World Record for largest gathering of zombies was set at St. Paul's Midway Stadium on this date. Annual zombie events were started in 2005 and kept growing. 8,027 of "the walking dead" showed up at Midway Stadium, AKA Zombie Island, at 9:00 p.m. They surpassed the previous record held by the New Jersey Zombie Walk, which had 4,093 attendees in 2011. The Minneapolis/St. Paul Zombie Pub

Crawl had over 27,000 attendees in 2011, but did not have ample evidence to submit for any award. This year, armed with evidence including blood-stained witness statements, they were successful.

Guinness confirmed that they had successfully set the new record for largest gathering of zombies. "Guinness World Records congratulates you on your achievement." New Jersey snatched back the record the next year, but was a short-lived crown. In October, 2014, Minneapolis declared the entire warehouse district with multiple stages, food trucks and entertainment venues to be the site. The Eighth Annual Twin Cities Zombie Pub Crawl took place on this day and over 30,000 zombies "rose from the dead" for the event that took place in St. Paul and Minneapolis. When wristbands were collected from participants and counted, there was a new record of 15,458.

October 19, 1902: Jim Younger, formerly of the Jesse James Gang, killed himself on this day at the age of 53. He had been incarcerated for 25 years for his participation in the ill-fated robbery of a Northfield, Minnesota bank and was let out of Stillwater Prison by special act of the legislature. According to newspaper reports, he was despondent over the restrictions of his parole.

Younger had become a theosophist in prison and because of a shared belief, came to know and was then engaged to a young woman in St. Paul. They hoped to marry, but the parole board denied him the right to have a wedding. In his hotel room at the Reardon Hotel, around 8:00 p.m., Jim shot himself in the head with a pistol he had just acquired.

He left a message on a long manila envelope that included a note to the woman he loved. On one side was written: "To all that is good and true, I love and bid farewell. Jim Younger." On the other side were these words: "Oh, lassie, goodbye. All relatives, just stay away from me. No crocodile tears wanted. Reporters, be my friends; burn me up. Jim Younger."

October 22, 1919: New rules for behavior in St. Paul dance halls were revealed in today's issue of the *Pioneer Press*. They had been instituted by 65 year old Chief of Police, Richard O'Connor. According to the paper, they included the following: Rule one was "Dancers must keep moving and not stand still on the floor and shake and shimmy." The second rule was "Neither shall they wiggle like a snake while turning the corners of the dance floor or when they turn around." The next rule was "They must not raise their hands above their heads. Calisthenics are out of place on a dance floor." Finally, "They must not rub cheeks; that is, dance cheek to cheek." O'Connor explained that dancing cheek to cheek might be all right on its own "if the dancers stopped there, but it is only necessary to turn the head a little and the lips meet."

This was seen as another example of the way the younger generations flaunt older ones expectations of the proper way to act. Leaders of at least two women's organizations supported the new regulations. One of them said "Dancing as carried on at public dances in the city is a disgrace to American womanhood."

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

Terrific Tree Trek

Seeley Booth
Forum Contributor

If you are an outdoorsy person as I am, let me tell you about an experience I just found out about. It is the Tree Trek, a recreational opportunity in our own neighborhood. It is all within Indian Mounds Park and contains 31 different tree species. Each tree's sign has a QR code that link to more information. Get your kids off screen and do some walking and learning outdoors. Think of it the next time your children or grandchildren are asked to do a school or scout project about trees or leaves. Take your out-of-town visitors to this special spot.

Visit www.moundsparktreerek.weebly.com, to download a map with the location of each identified tree and a looped trail that starts and ends at the pavilion at Earl and Mounds Boulevard.

The Tree Trek was created by several community folks, St. Parks and Recreation Department staff, along with members of the University of Minnesota's Department of Forest Resources Urban and Community Forestry Outreach program and is one of a very few such places in Minnesota. Maybe I'll see you in the park this summer and we can talk trees. Perhaps a group would like to create a Tree Trek for the Phalen Park area.



Steve Trimble

A Tamarack tree at Indian Mounds Park.

East Side Eating – Trimble's Taste Trek

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

There are more restaurants than there is room for in the monthly paper, but at least 60 may now be found online at daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org: click on "East Side Eating" at the top of the home page. Steve Trimble can be reached at daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com.

Mounds Park Sports Bar

Phones: Bar (651) 340-0319 Kitchen (651) 340-6336
1067 Hudson Road
St. Paul, MN 55106
Monday-Friday: 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Saturday: 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Sunday: 10:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Facebook: @MoundsParkSportsBar

I try to keep track of new sit-down restaurants on the East Side (by the way, if you know of a new one in a remote area let me know and I'll mention your name) so I was happy to hear that an older spot was now going to offer more than a typical frozen pizza. You may remember it as the Mounds Park Lounge. For the last five years or so it has been known as the Mounds Park Sports Bar. Owner Bill Spiess has done a lot of remodeling recently and now the establishment offers an array of food. The remodel made room for a kitchen and a bar set up in the basement for parties and other events needing room for large groups.

Jennifer Gascoigne and Nick Duncan, two long-time members of the *Forum* newspaper crew, wanted to accompany me on the latest Taste Trek, so we met there on a recent Friday. It was not packed when we arrived around 6:15 p.m., but it was definitely lively with a good-sized clientele. Inside we found six large flat screen televisions that keep track of the sports that give the establishment its name. There are eight tables with several chairs near the front windows and another eight tables in the back. There is a long bar on the western wall that has 15 stools and a full selection of various liquors. Check out the "Drink of the Day."

Year-round Christmas-style lights are strung up on the top of the walls and there are some decorations hanging from the ceiling. There are two electronic dartboards as well as a high-tech pinball machine. A mighty jukebox was playing a mixture of recent tunes and oldies. There are two colorful pull tab machines and an antique Hamm's electric lighted wall decoration with the running waters on-screen.

Some of the appetizers are deep fried mushrooms, mozzarella sticks, pepper poppers, onion rings, and garlic butter toast. Entrees are grilled ham and cheese, club sandwich, a classic BLT, two piece chicken drumsticks, shrimp, fish dinner, and a fish sandwich. There are also a variety of pizzas made on the spot. Breakfast is served

on Saturday and Sunday.

There are weekly specials. Monday features Coney's; Tuesday offers deep fried tacos; there is Wing Wednesday, and a BLT and chips for Thursday. Show up on Friday if you crave chicken tenders and fries. The weekend has quarter pound burgers and fries. Monday through Friday, burgers are only \$1.50 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. You may now add this spot to the various St. Paul eateries that offer a handmade "hot dago."

Here's what you find in the newly minted Mounds-burger: Two patties of beef, two cheeses, four pieces of bacon, tomato, and lettuce, topped with onion and a "se-



Steve Trimble

Nick Duncan and Jennifer Gascoigne ready to take on some delicious pizza at the Mounds Park Sports Bar.

cret sauce." All food specials can be taken out.

Nick and I chose to share the signature pizza and a pitcher of beer. It consisted of a crust, of course, and topped with house sausage, pepperoni, mushrooms, onion, peppers, and cheese. When we ordered a large pizza we accepted the complimentary pitcher of beer. Jennifer ate a bit of pizza but sated her hunger with chicken tenders and fries, washed down with a gin and tonic (as you do, when dining on chicken tenders).

In addition to food, there is entertainment. If you like singing, show up for karaoke at 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday and 8:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Cash bingo is on Wednesday starting at 7:00 p.m. Traditional meat raffles occur on Friday at 5:00 p.m., Saturday at 2:00 p.m., and Sunday at 1:00 p.m. Texas Hold 'Em poker starts at 7:00 p.m. on Monday and Saturday at 2:00 p.m. They have a golf tournament and sometimes a bocce ball tournament. On some weekends there is live music from local bands.

There is street parking and the spaces in Leo's Chow Mein's lot next door may be used if the restaurant is closed. When we were there we met the kitchen crew. They were both graduates of Johnson High School and confirmed that they now have the pizza ovens and some other cooking items from recently-closed Romolo's Restaurant. Bob Spiess, the owner, is also a "Govie," but makes sure Harding grads are welcome by painting their colors on the wall as well as those of his old school.

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

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