Local legislators deal with redistricting decision

Hausman, McGuire reflect on personal, professional relationship

by Natalie Zett

While driving to work at the House of Representatives recently, St. Anthony Park resident Alice Hausman pondered the consequences of the state’s recent redistricting plan. Every 10 years there is a redistricting based on census findings. Unfortunately, this one placed Hausman and Representative Mary Jo McGuire in the newly created 54B-District. As a result, McGuire chose to resign rather than oppose Hausman, her longtime ally and colleague.

Pulling into her usual parking spot—next to McGuire’s car—Hausman paused, staring at the bumper sticker on her friend’s car: “So how are the children?”

Hausman said, “As I focused on Mary’s bumper sticker, I grieved over the loss of a voice for children and for education during a time when we need it desperately.”

Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-District 54A-Falcon Heights) and Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-District 66B-St. Paul) have been colleagues, friends and seatmates for the seven terms that each woman has served in the Minnesota House of Representatives. Throughout the years, the two have shared interests, personal histories and their work as state legislators, which for both Hausman and McGuire is as much a calling as a job.

Elected in 1988 and 1989 respectively, McGuire and Hausman are among the most senior women in the House. In an environment where seniority equals influence and where women are still underrepresented, McGuire’s resignation is a blow.

At first, neither woman could believe it. “We never thought we’d be faced with a situation where we’d have to run against each other,” said Hausman. Although briefs were filed, the redistricting plan was allowed to stand.

To add to the already distressing situation, McGuire’s sister-in-law had just passed away, leaving behind three young children. Just two days after that loss, the final redistricting announcement was made. Since the new district would include 90

Redistricting to page 5

St. Anthony Park Community Band celebrates 20 years

by James Beach

Communities all across the United States support the acoustical arts by forming performance groups that enhance the lives of adults while also entertaining and educating young minds. And though a neighborhood band may not be a novel concept, the St. Anthony Park Community Band remains distinctive for several reasons.

“We don’t spend time fundraising for European concert tours or recording sessions,” boasts the band’s Web site. “Joining the band means playing music, not committee meetings.”

Active from April through September, the St. Anthony Park Community Band rehearses Tuesday nights until June, when it begins to play weekly concerts throughout the summer at a variety of venues, including Lake Como Pavilion, Roseville’s Central Park, Langford Park and Alden Square. A number of area retirement facilities, such as the St. Anthony Park Home, Presbyterian Home at Lake Johanna, Rose Point and Eagle Crest, as well as the occasional summer festival crowd, also benefit from the free concerts.

The idea for a neighborhood musical group emerged around 1980 among area residents who kept bumping into each other at various local musical programs. One of these people, Karen

Band to page 14

Bell Museum officials consider moving from Mpls. campus

Two St. Paul campus sites considered

by Dave Healy

The University of Minnesota’s Bell Museum, a fixture on the Minneapolis campus since 1939, may be headed for a new home. For the past year, the University has been exploring the possibility of renovating its existing building or constructing a new facility. Current plans favor a new building, and two locations on the University’s St. Paul campus are being considered. One site is at Commonwealth and Cleveland Avenues, where a parking lot is currently located. This area borders the “Green Lawns,” a large green space facing Cleveland. The other site being considered is at Larpenteur and Cleveland Avenues. That acreage presently includes soccer fields, greenhouses and the old Gibbs Schoolhouse.

According to Bell Museum Director Scott Lampy, a St. Paul location would have several advantages. “Most of the University departments that the Bell Museum collaborates with are on the St. Paul campus,” he said. “There are 19 departments, 23 centers and 433 faculty located there that serve as resources for the museum. It would be nice to be closer to each other.”

Although the Bell Museum has always been associated with the University, it has a broader mission, “Many people are unaware that the Bell is the state natural history museum,” said Lampy.

And 1972 mandate by the Minnesota State Legislature directed the University’s Board of Regents “to cause proper facilities to aid an end. Our goal is the state’s natural history museum to connect people with nature. We want to do everything we can to nurture a spirit of questioning and discovery.”

—Scott Lampy, director, Bell Museum

The St. Anthony Park Community Band is a fixture at the annual Fourth of July celebration in Langford Park.
CITY FILES

PARK BUGLE • MAY 2002

Cone Park

There will be a groundbreaking ceremony for the new North Dale Community Center on Monday, April 29 from 4-5 p.m. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend.

On May 9 from 1-2 p.m. a ribbon cutting ceremony will be held to officially open the new pedestrian bridge in Cone Park. The bridge crosses Lexington Avenue near the Pavilions. Dignitaries, a marching band and refreshments will be a part of the celebration.

Lauderdale

The Citywide Garage Sale will be held on Saturday, June 1 starting at 8 a.m. Residents are encouraged to register their garage sales with the city so that a map of all sales can be distributed. Call City Hall, 631-0800, to register for no charge. Free maps are available at City Hall.

For those who wish to sell their items from the Social Room at City Hall, tables will be available for rent ($10). This might be a good option for apartment dwellers or for others who have no garage. Refreshments will be available at the Social Room.

Contact City Hall by May 24 to register your sale or to rent a table.

St. Anthony Park

The McDonald’s on University Avenue has presented a new design plan for their remodelling. The new design takes into consideration concerns expressed earlier by the Community Council. The Council has seen and approved of the revised plan.

The Metropolitan Council will be making a decision this summer about mass transit options for the Central Corridor. Either a busway or light rail is being considered for University Avenue between the two downtowns. The St. Anthony Park Community Council has voted to advocate for light rail as the preferred option, with a station located within one block of Raymond and University.

In the Community Council election held in April, three delegates were elected to represent North St. Anthony Park. Chris Causer, Suzanne Garfield and Don Stryker. Victor Hanson and Nate Tracy will serve as alternates. In South St. Anthony Park, Ron Dufault and Bruce Kimmel were elected as delegates and Raymond Bryan as an alternate.

The Community Council has decided to establish a task force to explore ways to increase citizen participation in Council elections.

Ramsey County

Ramsey and Washington Counties have finished soliciting input on public collection of solid waste. Public collection of waste is a city, township or county provides or arranges for collection services on behalf of residential, commercial and/or multifamily housing waste. Materials collected can include garbage, recyclables, compostables (such as yard waste or food waste), bulky items (such as major appliances), household hazardous wastes, and tree and shrub waste.

The two counties have issued a report summarizing the public collection study. The report lists several ongoing problems:

- Waste generation is increasing.
- Recycling is stagnant or decreasing as economic incentives to recycle diminish.

- Resources that could be put to a higher use through recycling are disposed of in processing facilities or landfills.
- Key decisions are made with a focus on short-term costs or returns.
- Illegal dumping of wastes and associated environmental concerns continue in several areas.
- Municipal concerns about truck traffic continue.
- Resource recovery costs are subsidized to compete with landfill costs.
- Resource recovery capacity is not consistently utilized.

The two counties received over 8,000 comments during the public comment period. Additional comments were recorded during various public meetings. Each voice mail, e-mail and letter was recorded and categorized. From the public input, several contact lists were developed forpeople who requested feedback and follow-up.

Several themes emerged from public comments:

- The public strongly supports managing waste in a manner that protects health and the environment.
- Research shows that public collection can be designed and implemented in a way that addresses environmental, health and safety goals in Ramsey and Washington Counties. It can be designed to address public concerns about hauler choice, survival of independent haulers, competition, quality of service, cost, service reliability, and environmental and health goals.
- Public collection exists in several forms in Ramsey and Washington Counties.
- Recycling, yard waste, household hazardous waste and, in some municipalities, garbage. Public collection exists elsewhere in Minnesota and other parts of the United States, and operates to
provide high quality service in a safe and effective manner.

• Independent haulers strongly support having the Newport Resource Recovery Facility available as a place to deliver waste. However, the independent haulers oppose public collection even if it means the RRF could close.

• The waste industry is opposed to public collection but appears to be amenable to working in a public/private partnership to implement a hauler-collected service charge along with contracts and regulatory changes directed toward generators to accomplish the goals of public collection.

• The public is split on the issue of public collection. Supporters mentioned decreasing garbage truck traffic, increasing efficiency, reducing costs, and supporting environmental, health and safety goals. Opponents expressed concern about increased government involvement, retaining choice in selecting a garbage hauler, protecting small businesses and increased costs.

The report makes recommendations that Ramsey and Washington Counties do the following:

• Move some or all current waste management service charges from the property tax statement to a new hauler-collected waste management service charge, so that waste generation pays more directly for the waste they produce.

• Enter into long-term contracts with the waste industry to assure delivery of the optimum amount of waste to the Resource Recovery Facility at a tipping fee appropriate to the market, and to create opportunities for composting source-separated organic waste.

• Work with municipalities to adopt service standards that support the counties' goals and incorporate these into municipal policies and contracts.

• Continue to promote waste and toxicity reduction and recycling.

• Create and fund partnerships with municipalities and haulers to provide increased opportunities for disposal of difficult materials, such as bulky items and brush, in order to reduce illegal dumping and burning.

• Work with haulers and municipalities to identify violations of local mandatory collection ordinances, in order to assure that waste is being properly managed.

• Create and fund increased opportunities for households and small businesses to legally dispose of special wastes and hazardous wastes.

If these recommendations are implemented and good faith efforts in a public/private partnership result in progress toward the environmental goals, the counties do not recommend implementing public collection at this time.

However, if the counties cannot substantially achieve these recommendations, and a public/private partnership does not materialize and move the system toward the goals using these methods, public collection should then be implemented.

The "Final Report: Study on Public Collection" can be viewed at www.co.carver.mn.us/recovery/Public_Collection.htm.
Writing our own stories

"Politics," we're often reminded, "makes strange bedfellows." The reverse is often true as well: bedfellows make politics strange.

The story of fellow legislators Alice Hausman and Mary McGuire vividly illustrates the strangeness of the political realm. They have become unlikely allies, having found themselves potential antagonists owing to the vagaries of redistricted legislative districts.

The story could have made classic political theater: two allies forced to face each other. Instead they found fit for cooperation with our conception of politics as inherently agonistic. That would have been compatible with a cruise twist, like sisters Venus and Serena Williams forced to do public battle on the tennis court.

But that story will have to be imagined. Mary Jo McGuire wrote a different one by bowling out the race before it began. Instead of slipping into her role as relentless combatant, McGuire took a page from another tale. She cast her lot with Melville's conflicted scribbler Barleyth and declared, "I would prefer not to."

McGuire's decision complicates our conception of the world of politics. We like nothing so much as a good fight, and we're accustomed to thinking of politicians as fighters. That assumption renders exquisitely ironic the story about McGuire that Natalie Zett includes in her front-page article in this issue. McGuire found herself an advocate for marijuana legalization because of her reluctance to curtail athletic opportunities for young women. Yet McGuire herself refused to go to the mat against her sister representative.

The Hauman/McGuire story is a reminder that politics is a complex realm. We value its intrinsically masculinist elements: competition, individualism, winners and losers. But politics is equally the art of negotiation, relationship building, compromise. McGuire's action illustrates that politics can even involve self-sacrifice.

It would be hypocritical to call this story a tragedy. Life will go on for Mary Jo McGuire. She is a versatile professional with other career options. She's not destined for the soup line. She can continue to make her mark in other spheres.

But this is a sad story nonetheless. It's saddening that our democratic political process sometimes pushes good people out of the picture. It's saddening that two capable, experienced politicians felt obliged to choose between themselves. It's saddening that the Minnesota House is losing a strong and articulate voice.

But representative government forces us to make difficult and sometimes painful choices. That's part of the price we pay for living in a democracy. And as Mary Jo McGuire would be the first to say, that's a price worth paying.

Thanks to the community

We want to thank our community so very much for their enthusiastic support of the "Evening in Afghanistan" at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church on April 6.

St. Matthew's is a small, neighborhood church whose mission is to serve the local international community, and we are thrilled that the event was such a success. Approximately 200 dinners were served; people came from all over the city to attend.

We have heard such nice comments from people throughout our community, many of whom are not church members, as well as those who are. People said they were glad for the opportunity to learn more about Afghanistan and in some small way, perhaps, contribute to world peace.

It was such a joyous occasion that the AFghan university (Da Afghan Express) was excellent, the Afghan music played by Nazir (a former refugee) was terrific. But most of all, we were grateful to Dr. Lakanwal for his lecture on Afghanistan and for the opportunity to learn more.

Correction

An article last month about Embellas La Maison contained several errors, Marilyn Voigt's name was misspelled, and it was Voigt, not Lisa Wynn, who appeared in the photo that accompanied the article.

Also, the three women who starred Embellas La Maison got the idea for opening a store after participating in a flea market held at the State Fairgrounds—not at the Minnesota State Fair, as the article stated.

Finally, although Embellas' tea room can be rented for special events, the writer stated, we should also have made it more clear that reservations can be made by individuals or any size group for afternoon tea, which is served at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. The Bugle regrets the error.

We are pleased to tell you that, as a result of this most successful evening, the church and the community were able to raise approximately $1,400 to the Alliance for the Education of the Children of Afghanistan.

At a follow-up, we will be meeting with Dr. Lakanwal to discuss how we might interface with the Minnesota Center for Cultural Diversity. There are many ways we can learn from each other. Stay tuned.

P.S. Could this become an annual event in which all the area churches are involved? Readers, if you are interested in discussing this idea, please let us know.

Abby Marion, event coordinator (plus many volunteers!)

Hampden Park traffic changes

Susan Conner did a superb job of clarifying the sequence of actions that led to the alteration of two entrances to the Hampden Park neighborhood.

Sixty pedestrian petitioned against any changes when these alterations were first discussed. A Hampden resident said that this opposition continues and has increased.

Traffic counts did not indicate a clear need for the changes. Signage pollution at one entrance now obscures the charming view of St. Cecilia's Church as one enters the neighborhood. The other entrance has become a rear-end accident happen to cause, not by the narrowed curving of Bayliss Avenue as it meets Raymond Avenue.

If the principal concern is that some few nonresidents use Bayliss Place as a shortcut on the way home in the evening, the simple expedient of making the short block of Bayliss Place one way going west would suffice.

The alterations have negatively impacted the aesthetic and functional view of those intersections. They have created a serious safety hazard at the Raymond Avenue site. They are an inconvenience to neighborhood residents.

The Community Council should accept the fact that this whole project is a failure and take steps to rectify the situation.

Verna Baxter
St. Anthony Park

P.S. The Hampden Park traffic changes are a matter of some concern to the readers of the Minneapolis Star Tribune.

Bugle Delivery

The Bugle is concerned about our delivery service. We receive sporadic reports from people who have not received the paper, but we want to begin monitoring our delivery more closely.

If you live in north or south St. Anthony Park, Lauderdale, Falcon Heights or Como Park west of Hamline Avenue, a copy of the Bugle should be delivered to each of you.

Papers are delivered during the last week of the month. If you have not received a paper by the appropriate date, please call the Bugle office at 646-5369.

We want to hear from you. Please, give us a message. The next three delivery dates are: Friday, May 31 (June issue) Friday, June 28 (July issue) Friday, August 2 (Aug. issue)

In addition to home delivery, the Bugle is also dropped off at area businesses and schools. Following is a list of these drop-off sites.

Weeds Fork Bank, Schneider Drug, Dakota 12 Office, nail's, Hardware, Saccachelli's, Herbie Foods, Minnesott's Press, Key's Restaurant, Shermun's Liquor, Prairie St. Hut, Hampden Park Coop, Parkview Cafe, Food & Park, Brueger's Bugle, Como/Raymond Alamo, Abby Nader, St. Anthony Park School, Longfellow Rec Center, Keedey Realty


Heartis and Vinis, Luther Place Apn, Munster Janie High, Luther Seminary, Lutheran Social Services, Group Health, Children's Home (Bauern)

Lauderdale City Hall, Lot's Coffehouse, Lauderdale, Student Center, Linnet Home, International Institute, Nelsen Church, District 10 Office, Buckly's, Stolen Home, Lyghthenoundation Home, Holy Childhood Home, Cleohe Higney Elmentary, Bloemog Doug, Falcon Higney Elementary, Sandry Baker, Roserville Library, Britich Elementary, Chin's Kitchen, Fishvalt Express, Design Makers, Fonda Hauser, Higney Falcon City Hall, Black Bear Crossing, Como Senior High, Como Elementary

Office Space

The Bugle's office needs have changed in recent months. We're looking for an organization that's interested in sharing an office. If you're looking for office space in St. Anthony Park, or if you already have an office in the neighborhood but have extra room, please contact us at 646-5369 or bugle@minn.net.
Redistricting from page 1

percent of Haasman's present constituency, McGuire didn't have to think twice about her response.

"I decided to resign—only because I believe in Alice and have the utmost confidence that she represents my concerns too and will continue doing an excellent job."

"I didn't want her to make such a decision in the midst of primaries," said Haasman.

"What I prayed for was an unagonizing decision, a clear vision," said McGuire. "And really, I was at peace with this."

"Still, we were crying and hugging each other," added Haasman. People probably thought it was about the redistricting. It was about life—

and death. But I felt so responsible and so miserable.

There is no joy in this."

McGuire, an attorney and college educator who also holds an M.P.A. from the JFK School of Government at Harvard University, specializes in crime prevention, education policy, and family and early childhood education. Haasman, who holds an M.A. in education, also spent years in health care before becoming a legislator. She specializes in environment and natural resources policy, transportation finance and transportation policy.

"We sit together on the House floor, we support each other's areas of specialization, we push each other to make our jobs better for people," McGuire said. "Alice knows more about me than probably anyone."

"We tag-team frequently. We

even finish each other's sentences," laughed Haasman. "She is passionate about the same issues that I am."

This turn of events also caused Haasman to reflect on the history of women in the Minnesota House of Representatives. They didn't even have a women's restroom in the building until the late 1980s, she noted.

"We used to have to walk outside to another building. Before my work as a legislator, I spent many years in health care, where women held positions of power, so this was rather shocking."

Although we often think of Minnesota politics as progressive, in terms of gender equity, there are other states, such as Kansas, where they've had a woman governor and women senators. Minnesota has been progressive, but we're lagging behind in gender equity."

Haasman emphasized, "Mary Jo's resignation is not just a personal loss, but a loss for the state of Minnesota. There are few women in the House of Representatives, and soon there will be even fewer. (They are currently 100 men in the House of Representatives and 34 women.)

To give a fit on McGuire's personality, Haasman told a story.

"There was an issue that came up about mixed-sex wrestling in the schools. A woman had wanted to introduce a bill that prohibited it."

Said McGuire, "Now I have to say that I never really thought that much about wrestling."

"But Mary Jo is an athlete" added Haasman. "And she wondered if that proposition would then limit girls' options to wrestle at all."

"Well, I had to ask the question," said McGuire.

As a result, McGuire received many phone calls from young women who were involved in or cared about women's wrestling.

"Now I'm a wrestling advocate!" laughed McGuire.

Haasman pointed out, "The fact that Mary Jo asked the question in the first place shows her sensitivity to issues. You see that one person does make a difference, and the loss of this one person's voice is a loss to us all."

McGuire said, "After I announced my resignation, I got a lot of phone calls—-I know Alice would have had she made a similar announcement. I was really touched when an 82-year-old man called, saying that he'd never done anything like this in his life, but thanked me for being there, for representing him."

McGuire maintains that she sees a greater purpose in all of this. "Yes, there is life after Legislature, and I will be following my passions such as public policy and teaching at St. Kate's. I am a legal professional too and involved in national organizations."

While McGuire will most certainly stay involved and continue to promote positive changes, both women hope that people are now more aware that we need to have more women decision-makers.

Haasman concluded, "We can't rest on our past. And again, I hope that this situation encourages more women to throw their hats into the ring. The story's not over."
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Toastmasters helps speakers learn by doing

by James Beech

The symptoms: clammy palms, sweaty brow, quivering limbs, lost train of thought. Although these might be indicators of the flu or some other illness, they actually pertain to a more common phenomenon. The fear of public speaking causes many to feel suddenly, inexplicably and nauseatingly ill.

Public speaking can be debilitating and taxing; in fact, most performances generate some anger and frustration. Unfortunately, no one has yet invented a cure-all for this type of phobia, though a solution does exist.

Students, business people and retirees have discovered that they can face the fear of public speaking directly by joining Toastmasters International. The 78-year-old nonprofit educational organization devoted to helping people improve public speaking skills has 200,000 members in 70 countries, with more than 200 clubs in the Twin Cities.

One such Toastmasters club, Dialogues, meets Thursdays from 11:30 to 12:30 at the North Central Forrest Reserve. In 1993, Folwell Avenue, on the University of Minnesota St. Paul campus, with gleaming paneled walls and a view of pines through a wall of windows, Dialogues has a decidedly cozy, academic feel. Though faculty and students constitute the majority of the club's members, anyone can attend these community meetings.

Mary Barwise, recent recipient of the esteemed Competent Toastmaster Award, has been attending regularly for 10 years. "The diversity (of the international student) brings breadth and life to the group," the St. Anthony Park resident says. "The fact that members can bring their own lunches makes it financially comfortable to all."

The former English teacher says Toastmasters has taught her to speak more clearly and with better focus, which helped her earn her Ph.D. "It's the most honorable, most wholesome group I've ever belonged to," she adds.

For those with spare time in the morning, Early-Words, another area Toastmasters club, meets from 7:35 to 8:35 every Tuesday morning. Also open to new faces, they operate out of Hewlett-Packard, at Broadway and Highway 280 in Minneapolis. Comprising less than a dozen members, this group gathers around a conference table in a rectangular board room, simulating a business meeting.

Kevin Bush, current head toastmaster of the Early Words club, says that "great speakers have a cadence and rhythm to their speech," something that can be gleaned by regular attendance at Toastmasters meetings. Elimination of "ums" and "ahs" as well as variation in sentence length are also instilled.

Three basic components constitute every Toastmasters meeting. Since on-the-spot speaking and thinking is mandatory in today's business world, a segment called "Table Topics" offers chances to engage in off-the-cuff responding. One can also present a longer "Prepared Speech" to inform, persuade, inspire and/or entertain. "Evaluations" then give the speaker positive and constructive feedback based on program objectives and personal goals. Variations on the meeting structure might include a humor segment or a word of the day, such as Early Words' latest: "propitious.

Originally conceived by Dr. Ralph C. Smedly in 1924, Toastmasters began as a way to encourage young adults at the YMCA in Santa Ana, California, to improve leadership skills. The favorable response led to the creation of similar clubs, and the idea quickly spread to neighboring cities, eventually reaching more than 3 million men and women around the globe.

Each club could be thought of as a "learn-by-doing" laboratory where a member progresses at his or her own pace using club-provided materials. Members begin by giving 10 basic speeches, building listening and evaluation skills along the way. The advanced manuals, geared toward specific career or personal objectives, further refine public speaking ability.

Because members join at different times and progress at different speeds, each club represents a cross-section of the population, from the tongue-tied to the loquacious. Yet despite different abilities, all members share the same objective: Both the jitters newcomer and the expert old-timer want to improve speaking skills.

Toastmasters International also boasts creativity by offering a full range of speaking opportunities that encourage self-improvement and risk-taking. The mantra "practice, practice, practice" instills confidence by teaching preparation, appearance and thinking on one's feet.

Through Toastmasters, one can learn how to successfully express, formulate and sell one's ideas and one's self.

Members suggest visiting several clubs before committing because each club has a different character despite similar agendas. Visitors can also attend a club more than once before deciding to join.

Cost for membership is about $50 a year, including materials. For more information about Early-Words, contact Kevin Busch at 654-6675. For Dialogues, call David Bengston at 649-5762. General information about Toastmasters International can be obtained by contacting Frank Mayers (488-7945 or 266-2390) or by visiting www.toastmasters.org.

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Edina Realty
Bell Museum from page 1

Museum has been its dioramas. These permanent displays of Minnesota flora and fauna have captivated several generations of museum visitors.

Lanyon makes it clear that the dioramas would still be part of a new museum. "Natural history museums are designed to be contemplative spaces," he said, and dioramas are consistent with that design. "The trick is how to make dioramas interactive, how to make the glass disappear."

That task would be facilitated by a more modern building, said Lanyon. He and other museum staff envision a much more flexible space. The dioramas would be more portable and would be augmented by a variety of interactive experiences integrated throughout the museum.

A new location would also enable the Bell to create some outdoor environments, especially if the museum ends up at the Cleveland and Larpenteur site, where there would be room for several examples of Minnesota biomes.

"Facilities are a means to an end," said Lanyon. "Our goal at the state's natural history museum is to connect people with nature. We want to do everything we can to nurture a spirit of questioning and discovery. Our current building has enabled us to do that for over 60 years, but we have no room to grow and little flexibility in updating our capabilities to take advantage of new technologies and meet the public's expectations of a modern museum."

Current plans call for a building of approximately 70,000 square feet. This environmentally friendly facility would have high ceilings and movable walls, as well as the potential for expansion. With it, the museum anticipates doubling the number of people it serves.

So far, the museum's relocation plans have not been formally approved by the University's central administration. If that approval is made, the University can proceed to make a final site selection.

Of the two proposed sites, museum officials favor the Cleveland/Larpenteur one. That location would have greater visibility to the non-University community than would the Cleveland/Commonwealth site. It would also generate less traffic through the surrounding residential neighborhood and would more easily accommodate parking.

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St. Anthony Park Community Council NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS!

St. Anthony Park Community Council (District 12) congratulates the following Delegates and Alternates for the 2002 Election

NORTH ST. ANTHONY PARK:
Delegates: Chris Causey, Suzanne Garfield, and Don Stryker
Alternates: Victor Hanson and Nate Tracy

SOUTH ST. ANTHONY PARK:
Delegates: Ron Dufault and Bruce Kimmel
Alternate: Ray Bryan

This space paid for by the St. Anthony Park Community Council
Care for some salsa with those truffles, ma’am?

University Avenue boasts two new food-related businesses

by Amy Causton

It’s a popular dream: own your own business. Especially today, with job uncertainty and layoffs, being your own boss has a strong appeal. Two local women are currently living that dream on University Avenue.

Mary Leonard owns Chocolat Celeste—French for “heavenly chocolate”—a truffle shop at 2506 University Avenue.

The Leonard family has always dreamed of owning her own food business. She grew up in Highland Park and got a degree at the University of Minnesota’s St. Paul campus in Foods in Business.

Leonard began her career working in food service, developing recipes and overseeing production. She became skilled in working with computers, which led to work in the technology field, and then she branched into sales and management at MCI.

Meanwhile, she had been beginning to make truffles to give during the holidays. After she lost her job at MCI, she was feeling ambivalent about taking another job offer, when someone who had tried one of her truffles asked her, “Do you sell these?” After thinking a moment, she replied, “Yes,” and the next day she incorporated.

She did about two months of research, training in advanced chocolate technology (the science of processing chocolate) and apprenticing with a master chocolatier in Vancouver. She also sampled her competitor’s wares and went to trade shows.

“I bought a lot of chocolate and ate a lot of chocolate,” she says. And while that might seem like the kind of research we’d all like to do, for Leonard it was hard work. You see, chocolate makes her sick, triggering her migraines.

She initially made her truffles in a friend’s commercial kitchen in Arden Hills and began officially selling them last July. When she decided she needed her own place, she first looked for wholesale manufacturing space. When she couldn’t find one that fit, someone directed her to the retail space on University, which turned out to be perfect.

“The energy of the building is really nice,” Leonard says, pointing out that with all of the other artisans and services in the building, including a printing shop and a basket designer, she has a built-in support network. Another reason she chose this location is that she wanted to stay in St. Paul (she lives on Cleveland Avenue). She moved into the building December 1, opened to the public February 12 and held a grand opening April 19.

Leonard now has 11 people working for her, mostly part-time. They usually do their chocolate production one day a week (currently Wednesdays), the rest of Leonard’s time is spent administering and developing the business. She estimates that 75 percent of her job is sales and marketing, and adds that the hardest part of running her own business is “staying healthy; I’m a workaholic.” The best part, she says, is the recognition she gets through her work.

Leonard’s long-term goal is to build Chocolat Celeste into a national business. Currently 90 percent of her business comes at Christmas and Valentine’s Day, but she hopes to develop a large corporate clientele for year-round gift giving. She also wants to work more with what she calls “violet chocolates,” exploiting the subtle variations in chocolate much the way a connoisseur appreciates the distinctions of fine wines.

Unlike wine, which can be made from numerous kinds of grapes, chocolate is made with only two kinds of beans, which are grown mostly along the Ivory Coast of Africa and in South and Central America. The difference in chocolates comes from the processing—how the beans are roasted and fermented, how much cocoa butter is used etc.

Leonard is an authority on the different methods of creating and using chocolate. She has given classes at chocolate at her shop, and occasionally does special demonstrations to groups, as she recently did for General Mills, where she demonstrated the way chocolate is processed and packaged.

If you’d like to take a class, you can call the shop at 664-3823. Or you could stop by and sample one of the eight varieties of truffles Leonard makes:

- Roasted Almond
- Coconut Creme
- Golden Cinnamon
- Irish Creme
- Red Raspberry
- Dulce de Leche
- Lime and their signature Brownie Celeste—silk, rich filling inside a bittersweet shell. Leonard is able to achieve this silky texture because she uses fresh cream, unlike the more heavily preserved alternatives used to make shelf-stable chocolates.

Chocolat Celeste is open to the public Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Another thriving food business on University Avenue is Lisa’s Salsa Company, owned by St. Anthony Park resident Lisa Nicholson. Nicholson grew up in White Bear Lake and did undergraduate studies at the University of Minnesota.

She liked to make fresh salsa with her garden’s bounty, and after being encouraged to try selling it, she loaded 120 jars into her red pickup truck and went to the Minneapolis farmer’s market, where they sold out in three hours.

But that was the summer of 1992. The following year, Nicholson graduated from law school. As a lawyer, she passed her bar exam but never did practice law. Her salsa business began to take over.

After plying her salsa (sold under the name Salsa Lisa) at the farmer’s market for a while, demand began to grow. She expanded first into local food co-ops, then into Land’s and Byerly’s, by offering to deliver the salsa herself, do in-store demos to support it and buy back unsold product. Eventually she found a distributor, after her outlets became so numerous that she found herself unable to keep a trucking company, or am I going to make the salsa?”

Nicholson originally prepared her salsa for the farmer’s market in a kitchen she shared with a caterer in Columbia Heights. Her first employee was her husband, who helped her meet the rising demand. Eventually she incorporated the business, took on some private investors and built her own kitchen at 2140 University Avenue. She’s been there about 10 months and finds the location ideal.

“I’m really familiar with St. Paul and the Midway area,” she says, “The Midway is a great place to do business.” Best of all, the building is very convenient to her home on Dawsell Avenue, and to her children’s schools (two attend St. Anthony Park Elementary and one attends the St. Anthony Park Co-op Nursery School).

The salsa company operates on a weekly schedule. Orders come in by FedEx, and at which time Nicholson places orders for the fresh ingredients they’ll need. Monday afternoon, the ingredients are delivered and prep work is done. Tuesday is devoted to making the salsa; if it’s a busy week, they’ll continue on Wednesday. The remainder of the week is spent handling business affairs and taking orders.

Nicholson feels that the best part of running her own business is the satisfaction she gets filling her orders from week to week and getting them to stores by the end of the week.

She also enjoys creating a fun work atmosphere for her employees; she now has one full-time employee (besides herself) and 12 part-time employees.

The hardest part of running her own business? “Having the ability to stay committed to it, week after week after year,” she says. “People don’t realize how much hard work that takes; how many hours.”

Chocolates/Salsa to page 20
Learning to climb and climbing to learn

Former St. Anthony Park resident helps youth in Kyrgyzstan

by Dave Healy

Where do you go after you've been voted president of the sixth grade class at St. Anthony Park Elementary School? If you're Garth Willis, you keep right on climbing.

Willis, who grew up in St. Anthony Park, is the founder of the Alpine Fund, a nonprofit organization based in Kyrgyzstan that provides advocacy, education and mountaineering experience for homeless teenagers in the former Soviet republic.

Willis first went to Kyrgyzstan in 1995 to explore the possibility of an overseas teaching assignment and to try climbing the country's magnificent mountains. He found an opportunity to combine both activities.

"When I first came to Kyrgyzstan, I sensed a great deal of optimism," he says. "There was a lot of foreign aid flowing into the country, and people seemed hopeful about the future."

The longer Willis stayed, though, the less optimism he found. Foreign aid slowed, poverty increased and the Kyrgyz explain increasingly reverted to pessimism and fatalism. Willis was especially struck by the attitudes of young people. More than half the population is under 18, and most of the country's youth have limited prospects.

After three years as a government aid worker, Willis was familiar with Kyrgyzstan's problems but frustrated with his ability to help solve them. He kept meeting kids in whom he sensed great potential but who were languishing after they finished school at age 16. In particular, Willis was taken by the plight of young people whose parents had left the country or become unable to care for their children.

"Most of these kids end up in orphanages," he says, "and they don't have a lot to look forward to."

Willis knew that these young people needed both life skills and vocational training. He hit upon the idea of a climbing club modeled on the successful U.S. program Outward Bound. A $20,000 grant from UNICEF launched the Alpine Fund, which works with three orphanages and provides guided hiking trips.

The hiking experience teaches discipline and respect for nature. It can also lead to jobs as hiking guides. For example, one young woman who participated in Alpine climbs is now working for the organization as a paid intern.

The Alpine Fund also has an educational component that draws on 25-30 volunteers from local universities who tutor in the three orphanages. Recently, Alpine sponsored an essay writing contest; winners got to take their essays to Parliament and meet government leaders. Willis himself has managed to combine education with his experience in Kyrgyzstan. The Alpine Fund formed the subject for his master's thesis in international education development at Boston University.

Now he's trying to decide what his future with the organization will be. "I want Alpine to be self-sustaining," he says. "But that means it has to go beyond me."

The Alpine Fund continues to build a base of financial support. "We've been doing this long enough now to have established a track record and some credibility," says Willis. "But, of course, we're always looking for contributions."

After spending several weeks in St. Anthony Park during April to finish up his thesis, Willis will return to Kyrgyzstan in May. Being home helped him focus his thoughts and recharge his energy.

Climbing to learn to page 16

Lyngblomsten seeks volunteers to...  
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Muffuletta for this fall's buckhorn roundup. They can be purchased at the club's plant sale during the Art Fair on June 1 or by calling 644-7388.

Summer Programs
Merriam Park Community Services and the Northwest Midway Family Center host a Summer Program Information Fair Wednesday, May 1 from 3:30-7:30 p.m. at 2000 St. Anthony Avenue.
St. Paul area youth and family agencies and recreation centers will be available to let families know about summer camps and activities for kids. Make-your-own sundae will be provided. For more information, call Kris Otto at 603-6647.

Gardening
St. Anthony Park resident and renowned cottage gardener Judy Wehrwein will speak at the May 7 meeting of the St. Anthony Park Garden Club. Her talk is entitled Creating My Garden: From Vision to Reality.
The program begins at 7 p.m. in the meeting room of the St. Anthony Park Library and is open to the public.
The Garden Club is organizing a Buckhorn Busters marching unit for the Fourth of July parade. If you are interested in participating, contact Ron Dufault at 647-6262.
The Garden Club is selling DIE BUCKTHORN SCUM T-shirts for $10 as a fundraiser for this fall's buckhorn roundup.

Arts Events
Music in the Park Series presents its season finale Sunday, May 12 at 7 p.m. with a concert by Steven Copes, violin, Anthony Ross, cello, Burt Hart, clarinet, and Peja Mügter, piano.
The program will include the Midwest premiere of "Nine Episodes for Four Players," by Ned Rorem, a work commissioned in part by Music in the Park Series and the Schubert Club. Also on the program are works by Hindemith, Haydn and Poulenc.
The concert takes place at St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, 2129 Commonwealth Avenue. Tickets are $15 in advance, $17 at the door and $10 for students. They are available at Bibelet, Macowber's or by calling 645-5699.

The Prevailing Winds
Woodwind Quintet is in concert Sunday, May 19 at 7 p.m. at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2523 Como Avenue. The concert features music of Kughaerde, Holst and Jim Parker. Admission is free.
Members of St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church will perform Once Upon a Parable, an intergenerational musical, on Sunday, May 5 at 6 p.m. at the church, Como Avenue and Luther Place.
The performance is free. An offering will be received at the door to help defray expenses. Call 645-0371 for more information.

Kindergarten Roundup
Como Park Elementary School hosts a kindergarten roundup Thursday, May 2 at 6:30 p.m. at the school, 780 W. Wheelock Parkway.
Parents and children will be able to meet teachers, visit classrooms, tour the school and learn about the school's programs and curriculum.
Information booths will address questions about transportation, after-school programs, health care, registration and Como's Community Connections program.
Hmong interpreters will be available throughout the evening, and refreshments will be served.
For more information, call the school at 293-8820.

Water Festival
The Capitol Region Watershed District, Black Bear Crossings-on-the-Lake and the St. Paul Parks and Recreation Department sponsor a Como Lake Water Festival Saturday, May 11 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Como Lake Pavilion.
The event includes exhibits on lawn care, educational activities and games for families, fish and wildlife demonstrations, face painting, planting activities and a chance to clean up Como Lake.
Black Bear Crossings-on-the-Lake will host a free picnic lunch at 1 p.m. for those who help with planting and cleaning. Trash bags will be provided, but volunteers

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should bring gloves. To register as a volunteer, or for more information, contact Debbie Meister at 647-6816 or mcteser@quest.net.

**Book Signing**

Como Park Living at Home Block Nurse Program will host a book signing and discussion on Saturday, May 18 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 104 S. Studding Avenue. Pat Samples will lead a discussion and sign copies of her book, “Comfort and Be Comforted: Reflections for Caregivers.” Samples has worked and volunteered with the chronically ill and their families for over 30 years. She is the editor of The Phoenix, a local wellness publication, and the author of “Daily Comforts for Caregivers” and “Self-Care for Caregivers.” For more information, call 642-1127.

**Community Events**

The Northern Lights 4-H Club hosts its annual pie and ice cream social Friday, May 31 from 5-8 p.m. in the parking lot of the St. Anthony Park Drive-up Bank at the corner of Como and Drexel.

St. Anthony Park Unison Methodist Church will host a Welsh hymn sing (Gymanfa Ganu) on Sunday, May 19 at 2:30 p.m. Singing will be in Welsh and English. Singers need not have participated in a previous Gymanfa Ganu to enjoy the event.

The hymn sing is sponsored by the St. David’s Society of Minnesota. Singing will be led by Mary Mengelbach. The church is located at Como and Hillside. Call 612-789-4923 for more information.

**Sales**

A raffle sale will be held at Holy Childhood Parish, Pascal and Midway Parkways, on May 9 from 9-11 a.m. and May 10 from 9 a.m.-noon.

A yard sale will be held at Falcon Heights United Church of Christ, 1795 Holton Avenue, on May 18 from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Holy Childhood School, 1435 Midway Parkway, will hold a plant sale on May 4 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The sale includes annuals, perennials, vegetables, herbs and hanging baskets.

YMCA Camp Widjiwagan and Camp du Nord will hold their annual spring garage sale May 15-18 in the Merchandise Mart building on the Minnesota State Fairgrounds. Hours are 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, 9 a.m.-noon Saturday. All proceeds go to the camps.

Como Park Conservatory hosts a plant sale May 18 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Perennials and bulbs will be for sale. Proceeds support the Conservatory.

**Recreation**

Registration for boys and girls baseball, softball, T-ball and tee ball takes place through May at Langford and South St. Anthony Recreation Centers. Cost is $35 for baseball and softball (ages 9-14) and $20 for T-ball (5-6) and tee ball (7-8). Call 298-5765 for more information.

South St. Anthony will begin an open adult volleyball night starting Thursday, May 2 from 6:30-8 p.m.

**People**

At an award ceremony held April 25 at the Landmark Center, Langford Recreation Center recognized Charley Naun and P.J. Polsh for their volunteer efforts. South St. Anthony Recreation Center recognized Ron Dufault and Mary Lerman.

St. Anthony Park resident Deirdre Kramer has been named dean of the Graduate School of Education at Hamline University. Kramer had been serving as interim dean since June 2000 and previously served as associate dean for six years.

St. Anthony Park resident Andy Boss recently received the Legacy of Leadership Award from the Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce for his outstanding public service to the St. Paul/East Metro area. Boss has been involved in a host of civic organizations for the past 35 years.

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**Taste of Scandinavia**

Swings into summer. Join us Friday, May 3, 2002 for our start to summer with outdoor seating, good food, great coffee and live music in the evening. Come back on Saturday for our healthy breakfasts, lunches and dinners. Then on Sunday come for a relaxing morning of food and music. In the afternoon we will have a book program featuring Dr. Dale Anderson with his new book “Never Act Your Age.” Plan on spending your weekend at the Taste of Scandinavia.

Monday - Thursday 7am - 9 pm
Friday - Saturday 7 am - 10 pm
Sunday 8 am - 9 pm

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**Come home to St. Anthony Park...**

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Aging Gracefully by Mary Jo Tsorur

Since I started this column, I have asked readers for ideas on possible topics to cover. I want to thank everyone who has called or emailed. Most of the calls I have received have been from people who had very practical questions about home health care—how to set it up, costs and so forth. I will be covering this topic over the next two months. As always, if you have ideas for topics we could cover, please contact us at 662-9052 or aphelp@tsi.com.

Home Health Care Needs

People usually contact a home health care provider for one of two reasons:

- They have been hospitalized and require short-term assistance upon discharge.
- They have ongoing health conditions that require regular home health care services.

This month’s column covers home health care following a hospital stay. Next month we’ll look at ongoing home health care services.

Getting the Most Out of Getting Out of the Hospital

If you know you’re going to be in the hospital, you can plan some things in advance that will make your homecoming easier.

It’s important to realize that you may be unable to care for yourself as you are accustomed to after a stay in the hospital. You can plan for relatives and neighbors to assist you, but some kinds of help may not be appropriate or safe to expect from nonprofessional helpers. Some things should be done only by someone who is trained—like help walking or being lifted.

Hospital discharge planners often have huge caseloads and can’t always give each person the time he or she deserves. They may assume that if you are married, your spouse can assist you after surgery. Clearly, if you are 85 and have had a hip replacement, it’s unlikely that your 88-year-old husband can help you bathe, use the toilet and so forth. You should make it clear when you arrange for your hospital visit that it is likely that you will need assistance when you are discharged.

Shorter Hospital Stay—Same Recovery Time

Hospital stays are shorter than they used to be. Ten years ago, you would have been in the hospital an average of 60 percent longer for the same treatment.

Most insurers will cover home health care following surgical procedures, but it’s important to bring your needs to your insurer’s attention before you go to the hospital. You may not need the support you line up, but it’s far better to have it available to you and not need it than to need help and not have it arranged.

If you are over 65, you will most likely be eligible for home health coverage through Medicare if you are homebound following a hospital stay. Although a final determination of your status cannot be made prior to your surgery, you can be assessed at the hospital after surgery so that you won’t have to wait at home without the help you need before your health condition is evaluated. Make sure to contact your insurance provider(s) so that you can keep out-of-pocket costs to a minimum.

Invest in Your Health

A surgical procedure is an investment in your future health, and you should protect this investment as you would any other. Careful planning can help. Contact your doctor’s office and your hospital prior to your surgery to get an idea of your postoperative care. Contact home health providers that they recommend. Check to see what your insurance covers. Most of us in the home health service field would rather spend some time with you explaining your options in advance than to have you call us when you get home and be unable to assist you right away.

Props

Many helpful items are available to help you adapt to postoperative disability. We maintain a “leading library” of such items as walkers, canes, crutches, toilet seat lifts and bath benches. If your health care provider suggests that you use such an item after your hospital stay, give us a call. We’ll be happy to locate the appropriate assistive device for you.

We also provide rides to follow-up medical appointments—which can be just as important as the surgery itself. Please call us as far in advance as possible so that we can arrange transportation. There is no charge for this service.

LIBRARY NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Planned landscaping will enhance the beauty of the St. Anthony Park library and grounds, create a new community space out of the underused backyard, solve erosion concerns, and add to the urban landscape.

☐ Here’s my contribution to the landscaping fund.

☐ I am interested in buying an engraved brick for $250. (Deadline to order: August 15.)

☐ I am interested in a commemorative bench.

☐ I would like information about joining the Library Association.

NAME

ADDRESS OR E-MAIL

PHONE

Make your contribution payable to the Friends of the St. Paul Public Library (note: for St. Anthony Park Landscaping project). For more information, call 651-642-9944. Return this form to St. Anthony Park Branch Library, 2245 Como Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108.
by Judy Woodcard

A St. Anthony Park mother remembers

Like many young parents, Dana Dokas liked to tell stories to her newborn baby. In Dokas’ case, however, the storytelling didn’t remain simply a figure of baby Julian’s bedtime routine.

Juliana was 4, and St. Anthony Park resident Dokas has begun a new career: Her first children’s book, “Remembering Mama,” a piece on grief and bereavement, has been accepted for publication later this year by a West Coast publisher. Remembering Mama did not originate during a bedtime story session, but Dokas explains that, in a certain sense, Julianas was the main inspiration for the book. The impulse for “Remembering Mama” arose out of a personal sense of loss that Dokas experienced.

“I haven’t lost a parent,” she says, but I am adopted. When I became pregnant with Julianas I started having feelings of loss for the (birth) parent I never knew. Later, as a new parent, I began thinking, ‘What if something happened to me?’”

Dokas noticed that there was very little available on parent loss for young children, and so she crafted a story of a little girl and her father working through their grief at the death of the mother. “Remembering Mama” is a picture book, but Dokas refuses to allow it to be pigeonholed by category.

“It’s geared for ages 4-8,” she says, “but it’s a powerful book for adults, too.” At the back of the book, Dokas has added a list of concrete suggestions for dealing with grief. “They’re intended, she says, for children as well as family members of all ages.”

Dokas, a lifelong Lutheran, did not at first have an overly religious message in her book, but when she submitted the manuscript to Augsburg, she pointed out the subtle spiritual overtones in the story. “Augsburg rejected the book. They said the religious overtones were not subtle for them, but they invited me to rewrite it.”

The final manuscript, says Dokas, contains a nondenominational spiritual message that makes the book a “nice crossover item in the religious market.” Still, she does not consider herself primarily a religious writer.

Her next book, “Muriel’s Red Sweater,” is the story of a duck who goes out for a walk and unwittingly unravels her bright red sweater on route. It has a thoroughly secular theme, which will, Dokas hopes, appeal to the winter holiday gift-buying public.

“Although Dokas, 34, is a newcomer to the publishing scene, her interest in children’s literature is a lifelong affair. Her initial love was a first grade teacher who might say that her first creative work was script adaptation.”

When Dana Sanders, as she was known then, was growing up in St. Anthony Park, just a block from where she lives now, she enlisted the neighborhood kids for impromptu shows, which they performed for whatever adult audiences they could recruit from among neighbors and parents. Veteran drama fans from the neighborhood may recall her star turn in a backyard performance of “Bartholomew and the Oobleck” circa 1975.

“I was the lead actor and the director and the script-writer,” she remembers it.

Then came her first original play, “Interruption,” which she co-wrote for a school literary contest. She describes it as “an extension of ‘West Side Story’ Maria was pregnant. Did you know?”

When she was in fourth grade, Dokas’ family moved to Michigan. She finished school there and later attended the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, which is where she met her husband, Paul, a computer security expert currently working for the University of Minnesota. After college, the couple moved back to Minnesota and St. Anthony Park.

Dokas worked for the Children’s Theatre and the PBS television show “Newton’s Apple” for a few years, then became a teacher of English and drama at St. Paul’s Open School. As a classroom instructor, she taught creative writing, and she remembers telling her students, “You have all the material for your stories already.”

As a new mother looking for a creative outlet for herself, she decided to take her own educational advice. Now that her books are about to appear in print, she feels that her life has moved to a new stage: “I do feel my life has changed,” she explains. “I look at myself in a significantly different way. I realize this can be a career, and I’m treating it as a business, not a hobby.”

Dokas is currently working on a novel aimed at 10-14 year-olds. She describes “Is This Paradise?” as a book about a girl’s experience on a summer vacation with her family. It’s set in Paradise, Michigan, a summer resort where Dokas and her family not so coincidentally vacationed when she was in seventh grade. As always, the book will be written with Julianas in mind. “My daughter,” she says, “is my total inspiration. She thinks I write all my books for her. It will be interesting to see what she makes of her mom as a writer.”

Dokas will read and sign “Remembering Mama” at 7 p.m. on May 6 at Bound to Read Bookstore, 737 Grand Avenue in St. Paul.

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Photo by Lari Hamilton

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Band from page 1

Howard, was instrumental in getting the original group of musicians together. Later, organizing duties were taken over by longtime St. Anthony Park resident Gerald McKay. McKay had played in the University of Minnesota Band and was instrumental in starting the U of M Alumni Band. In addition, he had directed several bands throughout Minnesota, including the FFA Marching Band. In addition to playing the French horn in the St. Anthony Park group, McKay also managed the affairs of the band for two decades, arranging concert schedules, initiating publicity, designing programs and seeing to financial matters.

At 93, McKay now prefers to appreciate the summer statuas from the audience, though he'd like to play if he could. "My hearing isn't what it used to be," he admits.

In 1982 the St. Paul Community Education Program officially registered the community group. Local grants and contributions further funded the organization, guaranteeing the necessary equipment and sheet music.

Members then appealed to the Roseville Park and Recreation director to help find someone to lead them. Though they had been practicing and performing for a couple of years on their own, they wanted to try more challenging material.

"Performing anything beyond a simple match needs a director," says the musically inclined Paul Hubby, who heard about the St. Anthony Park band's auditions from his own band director. When offered the position of director, he gladly accepted the role.

Hubby, a St. Anthony Park native, still conducts the community assembly 20 years later, and has watched it grow from a dozen or so people to 35 enthusiastic musicians, receiving very little monetary compensation for his time.

"Directing has been a labor of love for Paul," says McKay. "The first few years he didn't receive a cent."

With an open-door policy and free membership, the Community Band welcomes anyone who wants to play in a supportive, informal setting. Over the years, architects, librarians, mechanical designers, engineers, accountants, consultants, homemakers, students, retirees and pilots have donated one of the group's signature blue jerseys. Though many contributing neighborhood members, the band attracts people from all over the metro area. One player used to travel from New Richmond, Wisconsin every week to add his talent to the group. Eliminating auditions ensure the band will have ample recruits, though turnover is very low, according to Hubby.

"Only about 10 percent of the members are new each year," he says. "The younger people tend to be the most mobile."

Often, family members make music together, generating some "intergenerational interaction." Teresa Anderson, St. Anthony Park resident and four-year band member, plays timpani and percussion alongside her two children and trumpet-playing husband, Jed.

"Our music is challenging, and most of the members are adults, but we have always had some younger members," says Anderson, who co-created the band's Web site with Joel. "It's a good place for amateur musicians to meet friends and play interesting music while providing a service to the community."

And what do they play? "Mostly classical British band literature," replies Hubby. "We also perform musical numbers and movie scores."

With windwolds, brass and percussion, the group is adept at many types of music, from Gustav Holst to Percy Grainger, Maucham to Seignoust. By building a modest library over the years, the band has plenty of previously performed options, and new songs are added each season. Hubby carefully selects the tunes for the eclectic playlist while keeping an ear open to repertoire suggestions.

"I know I can't please everybody all the time, but hopefully everyone will enjoy most of the music," says Hubby. People interested in joining, hiring or attending a concert of the St. Anthony Park Community Band can call the director at 642-1595 or visit their Website at www.usp.org/band.
Local family reinforces the Korean connection

by Michelle Christianson

Most of us would have no problem if a parent gave us a chance to cover the cost of bringing our families to see the place where we grew up. For some of us, that means giving up the car and driving to a nearby town. Others might have to make a short flight or even one that takes several hours. But what if the place was Korea? Frances Homans spent the first 12 years of her life in Seoul, Korea. Her father went there as a part of the Agency for International Development and started a business; her mother worked for the U.S. military. Homans attended a Korean preschool and still has a photo of herself with her Korean classmates. She and her two older sisters, Rebecca and Nancy, spent every weekend exploring the countryside with their parents, eating Korean food, sleeping on floors (Korean-style) and finding their way back home.

One place the families particularly liked to visit was Chollipo Beach, a secluded nature preserve partially owned by an American expatriate, Carl Miller. Miller had bought much of the beach, developed an arborium and moved in some traditional Korean homes in an effort to keep the area in pristine condition and save it from being developed. This was the area Martha Homans wanted her children’s families to visit. She gave them the money for the trip in 1998, as she was dying.

At that time logistics were just not right for such a venture. As the trip went by the idea of the trip got pushed to the back of her mind, though Homans still thought it would happen someday. Then last Christmas she received a card from Carl Miller inviting them to visit. Knowing that he had had quite ill, Homans felt it was the last chance to see him. He suggested the occasion in the spring, and the trip was planned for the beginning of April. By an amazing coincidence, shortly after that Homans’ daughter Martha brought home a letter from a new pen pal—who lived in Kumi City, South Korea. Students from a private kindergarten in Kumi City had sent a packet of over 400 letters to St. Anthony Park Elementary School, inviting the kindergartners to make friends with Korean children. The principal of the Kumi school and her son, who is a law student at the University of Minnesota, had called in a favor to a Kumi kindergarten and established a relationship with the two kindergartners, one of whom is Jessica Welijk, Martha’s teacher. Homans, knowing that the family was planning to visit the country, wrote to the principal of Kumi Kindergarten, Mrs. Kim Dong-Chun, and they established their own correspondence. Mrs. Kim arranged for the family to visit the school during the trip, which also included visits to Seoul, Incheon and Chollipo-beach. Homans’ husband, Allan Torsonten, was able to get a proclamation from Mayor Randy Kelly proclaiming April 8 (this day of their visit) as Martha Kindergarten Day. Kelly also signed and inscribed a book about St. Paul for the Kumi School.

Although Homans wrote to Carl Miller before the trip, she did not hear from him before the trip, but she made reservations to stay at the Beach Villa there anyway. On April 2, Homans, her daughters Martha and Lisa, her husband and her two sisters (along with Rebecca and her children) flew to Korea. They spent two days in Seoul, where the sisters visited the DOD elementary school they had attended and looked around the army base.

“I had visited Korea briefly in 1989 on a visit to my father’s former business partner and wasn’t interested in going again,” says Homans. “But this trip felt like a homecoming. My sisters remembered more than I did, and having them there made a big difference.” Homans was surprised both by what had changed and by what hadn’t. “The people in Seoul were still interested in Westerners and made a big deal out of my children, touching their hair and taking pictures. That hadn’t changed. But there is construction everywhere! We got lost driving around the countryside—just like we did when we were children—but this time we got lost at high speeds on modern superhighways.”

The children handled the attention pretty well, but the food and the toilets (a hole in the floor) were a challenge. In an unfortunate turn of events, Carl Miller died the day the family arrived, so they were not able to see him, but the children enjoyed the beach, as children always will. The “vill” turned out to be a three-room building with no reception desk (and no towels). It was still an adventure that felt very familiar to the three sisters—just as they had experienced as children.

“Dinner at the Korean restaurant at Chollipo was a surprise. We had a hard time figuring out from the sign language (flapping arms) what the meal would be then they brought out a live crab on a plate! The meal was crab soup.”

Of course, the highlight of the trip was the visit to Kumi Kindergarten. Because they got lost on the way, they were 15 minutes late and had to rush into the program with no time for pit stop before sitting on the stage in front of the whole school. Children waving U.S. and Korean flags greeted them, many speeches were made, and after a question-and-answer period, Allan read the proclamation from Randy Kelly and both groups presented their gifts.

After staying the night in students’ homes and eating traditional American and Korean food for breakfast, the families headed back to the school for the morning program. The girls wore their presents of traditional Korean clothing—as did the students at the school. The talent show the students put on included the flower dance that Rebecca and Nancy remembered doing as children.

“The people were so nice—they just wanted to be children at that school,” says Homans. “They wanted us to come back every year and even asked us to host some visitors from Kumi City if they visit Minnesota.” One of the enduring pictures that Homans took back is that of their children playing with the Korean children. "Children are the same world over. They all get hungry, but they all face the world with exuberance.”

Her mother would be pleased.
Climbing to learn from page 9

barricades. "If you're going to take a big break," he says.

"Growing up in this neighborhood was a great way to get launched into life," Willis says. Going to St. Anthony Park Elementary, Murray Junior High and Como Senior High prepared him for pursuing a B.A. in political science at the University of Minnesota and his eventual M.A. at Boston University. His first job was washing dishes at Muffyetta.

The Alpine Fund also maintains a fiscal connection to St. Anthony Park. The organization keeps a reserve account at Park Bank.

Willis contemplates his return to Kyrgyzstan with both eagerness and apprehension. In recent months the country has become a political hot spot, and 3,000 Marines are expected in the capital city of Bishkek by June. The airport is being rebuilt for use as a military air base.

The mountainous terrain, the impoverished economic conditions, the strategic political significance of Kyrgyzstan all combine to create an environment worlds removed from the one Garth Willis grew up in. But it's a place where he has found an outlet for aspirations and abilities that were nurtured back in Minnesota.

"No matter where I live," he says, "I'll always be from St. Anthony Park."

For more information about the Alpine Fund, visit: www.alpinefund.org. Contact Garth Willis at: garth@freerent.ks.

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18 Park Bugle • May 2002

Calendar

1 Wednesday
Women’s Connection, a job networking organization (651-481-6925), Hubert Humphrey Job Corps Center, 1480 Snelling. Building #1, 8 a.m. Every Wednesday.

1 Leisure Center for Seniors (651-603-8946), St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Lunch reservations by Monday. Every Wednesday.

1 St. Anthony Park recycling.

2 Thursday
The Time (for 5-year-olds and younger), South St. Anthony Rec Center (651-298-5765), 10 a.m.-noon. Every Thursday.

1 Trustmakers (651-645-5162), U.S. Forest Service, 1992 Folsom Ave, St. Paul Campus, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Every Thursday.

St. Anthony Park Community Council Physical Planning Committee, South St. Anthony Rec Center, 990 Como Ave, 6 p.m.

3 Friday
Storytime for preschoolers ages 3-5, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30 a.m. Pre-registration requested.

1 Leisure Center for Seniors (651-645-0411).

2 Maple Table 56”x38” 2-15” leaves + 6 chairs $550
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14 Tuesday
Lauderdale City Council, City Hall, 1891 Walnut St., 7:30 p.m.

15 Wednesday
Lauderdale Bicentennial, 7 p.m.

St. Anthony Park recycling.

17 Friday
Storytime for preschoolers ages 3-5, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30 a.m. Pre-registration requested.

18 Saturday
FARE For All food distribution and registration at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 651-664-8383, 8:30-10:30 a.m.

20 Monday
Book talk “The Mountaintop” by Malcolm X. St. Anthony Park Library, 7 p.m.

21 Tuesday
District 10 board meeting, 7 p.m., Block Bear Pavilion, L.I.

22 Wednesday
St. Anthony Park Community Council Housing and Human Services Committee, South St. Anthony Rec Center, 990 Como Ave, 5:30 p.m. Environment Committee, 7 p.m.

St. Anthony Park recycling.

28 Tuesday
Lauderdale City Council, City Hall, 1891 Walnut St., 7:30 p.m.

Lauderdale recycling.

29 Wednesday
St. Anthony Park recycling.

31 Friday
Come Park recycling.

Items for the June Community Calendar must be submitted to the Bugle office by 6 p.m., Friday, May 17th.

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The Classifieds

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Chocolate/Salsa from page 8

One thing she hasn’t found difficult is maintaining the quality of the salsa while producing it in greater and greater quantities. “We have so much experience with this product, we know it to well,” she points out. “We’re really confident of how consistent we’ve been able to get it.”

Which is a good thing, considering that her salsa volume has increased tenfold over her early farmer’s market days. The salsa is still made by hand, which means that she and her co-workers hand-squeeze 4000-4600 pounds of tomatoes each week, and peel all their onions by hand.

One might expect her to hate the sight of a tomato, but on the contrary, she notes that each week when they net the batch they still find themselves thinking, “Wow, this is really good salsa!”

And they’re not alone in feeling that way. Recently, in the international Scovie Fiery Foods and Barbecue show, Salsa Lisa placed second in the fresh salsa category, among a field of 600 entrants. “It was important for us to get national recognition,” Nicholson says, adding that “it was the first time we entered any national competition.”

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Prospect Hill Friends’ Meetings Sundays at 4 pm.
Wednesday Services:
10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rt. I, in Chapel
Sunday, May 19: Feast of Pentecost
Last Sunday of Christian Education for children, youth and adults.
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Sunday, May 26: Trinity Sunday
Summer worship schedule begins (please call 645-3058 for times)
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