**Madagascar: Digital and Disposable**

Local resident's exhibition will include photos by village children  
by Lisa Steinmann

Shortly before leaving for a trip to Madagascar last spring as a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity, Pat Connolly went to a movie: “Born into Brothels: Calcutta’s Red Light Kids.” The film inspired him to do something during his upcoming trip to help him experience it through eyes other than his own.

The documentary is a chronicle of two filmmakers’ experience in Calcutta’s red-light district, where they taught photography to the children of prostitutes. Connolly had already planned to bring his own digital camera to Madagascar. He has traveled extensively and taken thousands of photos.

In preparation for this trip, Connolly added 50 disposable cameras to his suitcase. His idea was simple: Give the cameras to the local children and ask them to take pictures of things that are important to them.

The results of his experiences in the village of Alakamisy, Madagascar, will be part of an exhibit entitled Madagascar: Digital and Disposable, which opens Jan. 8 at St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church Undercroft Gallery.

Connolly, a St. Anthony Park resident, works as a real estate developer and teaches about affordable housing at the University of Minnesota. He has traveled to over 20 countries. Many of his trips combine his interest in housing with cultural exchange and give him an opportunity to take photographs.

He describes his first trip with Habitat for Humanity to Papua, New Guinea, as “life changing.” He found himself living for two weeks in a remote jungle with no running water or electricity. He joined villagers in constructing houses with tin roofs and wooden floors set up on six-foot stilts. “It was a complete shock to my system, but a gorgeous shock to the system,” he says.

After returning to Minnesota, Connolly felt he was on “a natural high” for something other than a unit in a commune during the 1950s. Another woman described having “having Thanksgiving every year with other people in her apartment building. Several had previously considered the cohousing concept.

The Hardmans’ first experience with something like cohousing happened in the 1990s when they lived in the Edgemoor/Lexington area of St. Paul and found themselves regularly sharing meals with other households on their block. One of their neighbors was a young family that eventually moved to the Monterey cohousing community in St. Louis Park.

Even earlier, Susan remembers growing up in a close-knit neighborhood where “a kid could go into someone’s house without knocking.” She

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**St. Anthony Park couple spreads the word about cohousing**  
by Dave Healy

Seniors have never had more housing choices than they have today. Although traditional nursing homes continue to dwindle in number, other options abound: apartments, condominiums, townhouses, assisted living. With all those possibilities, do seniors need yet another one?

Susan and Bob Hardman think they do. The Hardmans sold their St. Anthony Park home two years ago and moved into a duplex in the neighborhood. As they plan the next chapter in their lives, Susan, 64, and Bob, 65, are looking for something other than a unit in a building with other seniors.

As Bob puts it, “I want more than a locked party room that you have to reserve.” The Hardmans like the idea of living in a space that they have some say in designing. They also are attracted to the prospect of living near people with whom they share something more than just age. The answer, Susan and Bob think, may be elder cohousing.

Cohousing is a form of intentional community that started in Denmark in the early 1970s. Cohousing differs from communal living in that people in a cohousing community occupy their own homes. It differs from traditional neighborhoods in that residents are involved in designing the community, and they share some common facilities. Often, community members eat some meals together in their “common house.”

The first cohousing communities in Denmark were multigenerational, and today some 75 such communities have grown up in the United States. More recently, age-targeted cohousing has gained a foothold in Denmark, with more than 200 elder cohousing communities in operation.

In the United States, elder cohousing is a recent phenomenon. Currently, Virginia and Colorado are the only states with such communities. Last summer the Hardmans went to Boulder, Colorado, for a conference on elder cohousing. They returned to Minnesota with renewed interest and enthusiasm for starting a cohousing community here.

To that end they have held three meetings in St. Anthony Park to present their ideas, conference materials, and a video, and to gauge interest. A fourth meeting is scheduled for Jan. 17. Their goal, at this initial stage, is to establish a core group of 6-7 other people who are serious about pursuing the idea of starting a cohousing community.

A meeting at the St. Anthony Park Library on Nov. 15 drew 10 people, who described a variety of experiences with alternative living arrangements. One man lived communally for a year with two other people when he was younger. A woman lived in a commune during the 1950s. Another woman described having Thanksgiving every year with other people in her apartment building.

The Hardmans’ first experience with something like cohousing happened in the 1990s when they lived in the Edgemoor/Lexington area of St. Paul and found themselves regularly sharing meals with other households on their block. One of their neighbors was a young family that eventually moved to the Monterey cohousing community in St. Louis Park.

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**Bank to erect new building**  
by Dave Healy

Park Midway Bank, which has been located at or near the Como-Carter intersection for almost 90 years, has announced plans to construct a new building on the site of their drive-in bank at Como and Doswell Avenues.

The two-story structure will enable the bank to consolidate services that are currently split between the main bank and the drive-in branch, said Rick Besso, bank president.

“Having a split site creates some inefficiencies. Being at one location will lower our costs for staffing, security and so forth.”

–Rick Besso, president  
Park Midway Bank

“Having a split site creates some inefficiencies,” said Besso. “Being at one location will lower our costs for staffing, security and so forth.”

Park Midway Bank leases its space at 2265 Como Avenue, where the main bank building has been located since 1985. That lease is up in 2007, said Besso, and the bank hopes to have a new facility completed by the end of 2006. Park Midway Bank also has a branch at 2171 University Avenue, built in 2001.

The drive-in bank was built in 1974. The building was designed by Joe Michaels, who lives in St. Anthony Park. The bank purchased that property in 2001.

The new building on the southeast corner of Como and Doswell will have 16,030 square feet of space, said Russ Schramm of HGT Architects, the architectural firm that is designing the new facility.

The basement will be used for storage; the main floor for a lobby, tellers and some offices; and the upper floor for conference rooms and additional office space. Three drive-up lanes and a parking for round out the site.

According to city code, the planned structure would require 41 off-street parking spots, according to a formula based on the building’s square footage. HGT’s plan for the site leaves room for only 38 spots, Schramm said. Accordingly, the bank has requested a parking variance.

Because it includes drive-up lanes, the new building would
Lauderdale
The City of Lauderdale will host its annual winter celebration, Snow Commotion, on Saturday, Jan. 28 from 3-6 p.m. Activities will take place at City Hall and City Park. Returning favorite events are the medallion hunt, horse and buggy rides, and a used book sale. Residents who wish to donate books, especially children's books, should bring them to City Hall before the 28th.

Moose Giannetti, council member, has announced her retirement from the council, effective the end of the year. The City Council is accepting letters of interest from those who wish to be considered to fill the seat. Letters will be accepted until 4:30 p.m., Dec. 30.

St. Anthony Park
The District 12 Community Council is considering a change to the bylaws that would eliminate write-in votes for council delegates. This change will be discussed at the Jan. 12 meeting.

The Community Council has agreed to participate in a collaborative of neighborhood associations along the proposed central corridor light-rail route. University United has organized the group in order to promote full citizen participation in the process of integrating light rail into the community. The collaborative will seek funding for a full-time staff person to provide technical expertise and support.

The Community Council has approved a site plan for Restaurant Depot, Inc. at 1830 Como. The plans will adapt the building for use by a wholesale restaurant supplier.

JPI, a national developer of student housing communities, proposes to build student housing on the Hubbard Broadcasting property, behind the existing building. JPI is appealing a decision by the city to designate the development a rooming house instead of an apartment building.

The council supports the city's decision and will request a moratorium on construction of student housing in District 12 until parking needs and other amenities are better understood.

The council has asked the city to intervene with Xcel Energy's plans for the south side of Hillside and Commonwealth Avenues. Xcel's plans are to remove six burr oaks. The council recommends that Xcel move or bury the power lines, plant smaller trees under the lines, plant oaks in the nearby area, and trim but not remove the existing oaks.

St. Paul
Mayor-elect Chris Coleman will hold five neighborhood inaugural events during the first week in January. On Wednesday, Jan. 4 from 8-9:30 p.m., residents of St. Anthony Park and Como Park are invited to join neighbors from Merriam Park and the Midway at the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory at Como Park. There will be an opportunity to meet and greet the mayor, view the gardens and listen to music by the Como Park High School jazz ensemble.

–Susan Conner
Bandana Square, once a shopping center filled with unique shops and restaurants, currently boasts a handful. But unlike many of its former sites, the Model Railroad Museum has not been converted to an office building or meeting hall. Without as many shoppers passing by, the museum is still able to lure visitors of all ages.

The railroad museum at Bandana Square is maintained by the Twin Cities Model Railroad Museum (TCMRM) organization. Founded in 1939, the organization has over 100 members who donate their time and money.

The museum features a 3,000-square-foot railroad modeled after trains of the 1940s and ’50s, a time when steam and diesel engines shared the tracks.

Members and volunteers include carpenters, cabinet makers and architects, who designed and built the entire exhibition. According to publicist Paul Gruetzman, “We are not soattract craftsman who show up right when we need them.”

Intending to educate the public about railroad travel, local railroads first provided space for the TCMRM in the St. Paul Union Depot. In 1980 the museum moved from its original location of 40 years to Bandana Square, once known as the Como Shops.

According to Gruetzman, the museum was “brought in primarily as an attraction, not an income source” and consists of “authentic reproductions of landmarks of the area.” The model has a 1/4 in. = 1 ft. scale. To ensure accuracy, surveyor’s equipment was used. The Minneapolis and St. Paul skylines comprise the backdrops of the various vignettes, which are separated by hills.

Some of the replicated trains are the Twin City 400, the Empire Builder and the 1947 Twin City Zephyr. The “scratch-built” model can date back as far as 1944.

Museum landmarks include the Stone Arch Bridge and milling district, the Grandview Theater and an original White Castle. When contacted by a museum member, the restaurant company sent several historical photos and documents.

Throughout the display, the model’s builders paid close attention to detail. For instance, several different ice cream flavors are listed on the wall behind the ice cream parlor’s counter. And one caboose even includes a miniature bathroom.

Several railroad landmarks are also included in the display, such as the roundhouses used to service steam engines. The Jackson Street Roundhouse, formerly known as the Mississippi Street Roundhouse, still exists today and is included, complete with a functioning turntable.

Other railroad landmarks are the Minneapolis Great Northern Depot, currently the site of the Minneapolis Federal Reserve Building, and the Midway Freight Yard, which was owned by the main railroads that once plied the rails. An electric streetcar has also been reproduced, the original powered by the Mississippi River’s electric dams.

Museum members are always updating the display. Gruetzman once expressed the need for a church, and his desire was quickly granted. A fellow member constructed a cardboard box model and showed it to Gruetzman, who thought it looked familiar. He soon learned that the model was another area landmark: a replica of a Center City church, the one shown in the movie “Grumpy Old Men.” The two homes in the movie have also been replicated in the display.

The passion of the organization’s members is the key element in the museum’s success. During a tour of the museum, Ray Norton, a member whose father repaired engines for 41 years, pointed to the artwork on the walls and said, “Every painting has a story behind it.” Norton, like most members, will gladly share such tales with anyone interested.

Some of the museum’s special events include Night Trains, where lights are dimmed, highlighting the interiors of the passenger trains and buildings. Gruetzman said, “I am certain there are 170 passengers because I glued the arms on each one and painted the whole cotton pickin’ works.” Circus Trains and the Christmas Train Show are two other featured events.

The nonprofit museum relies on donations, fundraisers, store sales and admission fees. Additions this year include two Thomas the Train play tables, more retail items, control buttons along the railings, and a museum DVD and video.

The organization gladly accepts volunteers. The best time to volunteer is from 6-8 p.m. on Tuesdays, when members make repairs on the trains.

Those interested in touring may visit www.tcmrm.org, call 647-7628 or stop by the second floor of Bandana Square. Visitors will soon learn that these train fanatics are anything but grumpy old men.

Happy Holidays from the Bustad Group!

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Karen Kistler at 645-7706 or e-mail
Pamela Mikel

Karen Kistler
kistler@msn.com. Please sign up by March 1 so we have time

by March 1 so we have time to plan the schedule. We hope to

see you there!

Karen Kistler
Falcon Heights
The Park Bugle is a community newspaper serving St. Anthony Park.

The Park Bugle strives to promote freedom of expression, enhance the quality

of life in the readership communities and encourage community participation.

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Meet your neighbors

The 20th annual St. Anthony Park Progressive Dinner will be held on Saturday, March 11. We
hope you can join us for a wonderful evening.

The dinner is a great way to see old friends and meet
new neighbors. It will begin with appetizers at St. Anthony Park
Methodist Church at 5:30 p.m. and then proceed to homes for
salad, main course and dessert. Participants sign up to host one
of these courses.

To participate, call Karen

Kistler at 645-7706 or e-mail

Fariba Sanatkhamat

at

pnu1@meg.net. Please sign up by March 1 so we have time to plan the schedule. We hope to

see you there!

Karen Kistler
Falcon Heights
St. Anthony Park

Know when to hold ‘em or fold ‘em

How do you know when to move on?

Let’s say the old domicile is feeling a bit cramped. You could
keep making do, but it would be nice to have more space. If you
rent, do you try to find something bigger? If you own, do you add
on, or do you sell what you have and buy a new place?

Or maybe it’s not so much a matter of square footage as it is
design. Reconfigured space would be more efficient, usable or
aesthetically pleasing. Do you remodel or rebuild—or look for
something different that’s closer to your ideal?

But moving on can involve more than physical space. For
many people, December includes the reenactment of rituals and
traditions—with family, with friends, with other members of a
religious community.

So the end of one year and the beginning of another may
prompt reflection on which traditions still feel important and which
have lost their vitality. And if a particular practice no longer seems
meaningful, you’re faced with a question: Do you try to recharge it,
or do you let it go?

The same kind of question can be asked about individual
relationships. Let’s say you’ve become convinced that certain
someone has been “growing apart.” How much energy should you devote to changing
the growth pattern? When is it time to say goodbye?

Remodeling—one of a building or a tradition or a
friendship—takes skill. It involves working with what’s there,
accepting a certain givenness in things or people, but also being
able to envision something different and seeing a way to get from here
to there. Remodeling may call for skills or tools that you don’t have. Does that mean it’s time to move on?

Maybe, maybe not. Some kinds of wherewithal can be acquired
or hired. You could take a class, or get counseling, or find a
consultant, or employ an expert. But any of those steps would
require an investment—of time, energy, money. Is this house, this
place, this practice, this person worth it?

For some, the notion of a new year is an

arbitrary concept. A calendar could start anywhere, so why memorialize
a particular beginning? It encourages us to pause, to

consider, to take stock.

January is named for Janus, the Roman god of gates and
doorways. He was depicted with two faces looking in opposite

While the question can arise any time, January may be a

good time to ask: Stay put, or move on? 
Mississippi: Making a difference for that one

by Michelle Christianson

Everyone’s had the experience of starting a project only to find that it takes up much more time than expected. But what if, as it expanded in scope and duration, that project turns out to be life changing?

That was Dr. Robert Titzler’s experience when he volunteered to go with his United Methodist Church group to Hattiesburg, Mississippi, after Hurricane Katrina.

Titzler, who lives in St. Anthony Park, grew up in New York City and attended City College and Columbia Medical School there. He has a long history of volunteer service. He was a Peace Corps worker in Nigeria between college and medical school, and met his wife, Mimi (a Minnesota native), while working at a camp for inner-city children.

He also has been part of the Methodist Church Disaster Relief group for the last seven years and assisted with the relief effort in Roseau after the flood of 2002. But what he saw in Mississippi has inspired him to give of himself even more.

The original trip was scheduled for 10 days, but after he worked in Hattiesburg was finished, Titzler drove down the coast to Biloxi. There he came upon the group Hands On USA, with whom he worked for another 10 days. He has been working with them on and off ever since.

Titzler retired in 2000 after working for Health Partners since 1980. Since then he has filled in for clinics that need short-term doctors. He negotiated with Health Partners (and his wife) to take time to work in Biloxi. So far he has made four trips, ranging from 6-18 days, and plans to go back in January.

Hands On was started by a group of volunteers who worked with disaster relief after the tsunami in Thailand. They realized that, though there were lots of people and organizations involved, there was no central coordination. They took on that job and used that model to create Hands on USA after Katrina.

“Titzler, who is tall, became instantly recognizable. “Are you Doctor Bob?” was often the first question. He gave medical advice, organized medications or wrote new prescriptions, referred people to a clinic if they needed it and offered to get what they needed from distribution centers. “Many of them,” Titzler says, “even though they were working hard to clean up and help their families, have a sense of guilt for surviving when so many did not. Just to tell them that they had a terrible experience and that they are not responsible helps them cope with their trauma.”

It’s hard to go back to your comfortable life after such a profound experience—seeing people who have lost everything, whose families are broken apart—and not be affected. It’s hard to see a need to turn your back on it.”

—Robert Titzler

The volunteers who work with them pay for their own transportation and food, but Beauvoir Methodist Church of Biloxi has provided a building, usually utilized for church programs, as a dormitory for the volunteers, who take turns cooking meals for each other.

Hands On sends out teams organized around house gutting, tree clearing, roof repair and debris removal; medical assistance; and social needs including food distribution and counseling. They also provide volunteers to other distribution centers and local projects. Titzler had hoped to go “incognito” and do hands-on work, but as soon as they found out that he was a doctor, he was assigned to the medical team.

A typical day was spent walking around neighborhoods talking with survivors, listening to their stories and validating their experiences.

“Many of them,” Titzler says, “even though they are working hard to clean up and help their families, have a sense of guilt for surviving when so many did not. Just to tell them that they had a terrible experience and that they are not responsible helps them cope with their trauma.”

Titzler’s trip was so rewarding that he has made several trips to Mississippi to help with relief efforts following Hurricane Katrina. Here he poses with Biloxi resident Victor Koby.

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Moberg. "I especially like 'Sleep' beautiful music this time," says rejuvenate. opportunity to rest and the dark time of year as an sun exposure, as well as a look at effects of too little or too much light, including the medical other aspects of darkness and of information and music about the Forum, there will also be lot in keeping with the mission of the darkest time of the year. But as other cultural adaptations to Christmas and Hanukah, as well music and readings relating to traditional choral concert, with program will be most like a Minneapolis the night before at held at Mindekirken in south Minneapolis the night before at 7:30 p.m.

Moberg says that this program will be most like a traditional choral concert, with music and readings relating to Christmas and Hanukah, as well as other cultural adaptations to the darkest time of the year. But in keeping with the mission of the Forum, there will also be a lot of information and music about other aspects of darkness and light, including the medical effects of too little or too much sun exposure, as well as a look at the dark time of year as an opportunity to rest and rejuvenate.

"We have some really beautiful musical ideas," says Moberg. "I especially like 'Sleep' by Eric Whitacre and 'Mid-Winter Songs' by Morten Lauridsen. And anyone who comes to this concert will definitely learn something." Moberg's programs are modeled after college Christmas concerts—a combination of music and readings on a theme. But because he has not limited his themes to traditional religious subjects, Moberg is able to find a wider variety of music and texts on narrower topics. And because the topics are narrower, the programs tend to be more cohesive, with a broader spectrum of musical styles and eras represented.

The group has changed in many ways since that first concert in May of 2004. Then there were 18 singers; now there are 28, and many of them are better singers and sight readers than before, says Moberg. That allows him to choose more challenging music. The group has performed in many venues, and the budget has grown considerably.

Yet some things remain the same. Moberg selects the music and readings and directs the singers, his wife Jenifer accompanies, and guest artists occasionally join the group for a particular program. Moberg still finds much of his information on the Internet and works hard to make the programs interesting and uplifting.

Of course, like any visionary, Moberg would like to see even more growth in the Forum. "I would like to see us grow to the point where we could tackle some larger symphonic choral works and also spin off a small, more select ensemble to experiment with more specialized vocal pieces. This would allow us to welcome a wider group of singers from the community into the larger group while maintaining a highly skilled, smaller, core ensemble."

That development would also enable the group to perform an even wider spectrum of music, including eight-part and double-choir pieces, and possibly even commissioned works.

Moberg also wants to build the audience for the forums, and to that end he is looking for someone to do administrative work—typing, grant writing, finances and keeping track of various databases. He hopes to keep growing on all levels.

This spring, the title of the forum will be "War and Peace: A Choral Forum on Conflict and Resolution." It will look at how people deal with conflict on all levels (within families, groups, nations) and how they resolve those conflicts.

In a recent e-mail to the singers, Moberg wrote, "I want to make music that speaks to people. I want to send messages to people. I want to reach that part of each audience member that years to be touched. I want our forum to have meaning beyond the music."

"But how to do we achieve this? As one of my mentors, Dale Warland, used to tell his singers, 'Greatness does not come from great people; it comes from common people doing common things uncommonly well.' Each singer's individual work is as important as the choir's work together at this point. This is what will make the difference between being just another 'community choir' and being a source of beauty, an encouragement for change, and a catalyst for understanding and peace."

What better goal for any musician?

Saint Paul Vocal Forum: Not just another community choir

by Michelle Christianson

When we last checked in with David Moberg, he was about to hold auditions for the first program ever given by his new group, The Saint Paul Vocal Forum. That was in February of 2004, and since then they have presented three concerts: the first about Jewish, Christian and Muslim views of Abraham; the second about aspects of freedom; the third concerning the second about aspects of freedom; Muslim views of Abraham; the present three concerts: the first 2004, and since then they have grown considerably.

The group has performed in many venues, and the budget has increased. "That allows him to choose more challenging music. The group has performed in many venues, and the budget has grown considerably."

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What better goal for any musician?

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- 2382 Dowrell Avenue
- 2310 Rayles Ave
- 1261 Edmondson Avenue N., Unit 1A
- 1269 Cleveland Avenue N., Unit 2B
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- 2328 Como Avenue

I wish all of you a Happy New Year!

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I wish all of you a Happy New Year!

Steve Townley

651-644-3557

www.stevetownley.com

St. Anthony Park!
months. He says he acquired a new view of his own life—his more-than-spacious house and the constant availability of food.

The New Guinea experience made him realize “how easy we have it” and left him anxious to travel with Habitat for Humanity again.

Madagascar is an island nation off the east coast of Africa. Connolly traveled to Alakamisy, a village of several thousand people. Habitat for Humanity in Madagascar focuses on the Malagasy principal of “fihavanana,” which means “the ties that bind communities together.”

Connolly joined members of the village community, who help build one another’s homes. The two houses he helped with were built with local materials. Besides rice farming, an important village industry is harvesting clay to make bricks and tiles used in construction.

Connolly stayed with a local family that included two parents, the younger of their eleven children and various extended family members.

He spent the evenings by lantern and candlelight with his Malagasy “brother,” 16-year-old Marjori. Together they would talk and write, communicating in a patchwork of French, Malagasy and English.

Connolly received an invitation to create a one-person show at the Undercroft Gallery after winning the Best in Show award for one of his photos (from a trip to Cuba) at last spring’s Community Art Show.

The new exhibit will feature about 35 of his own photos, culled from 1200 he took while in Madagascar, and about 40 of the children’s photos.

The young photographers are boys and girls ranging in age from 5-16. After they received their cameras, “Exactly what I hoped would happen, happened,” says Connolly. While he was busy building houses and making visits with the Habitat for Humanity group, the children captured the behind-the-scenes aspects of village life.

Connolly didn’t get to view the photos until he returned to Minnesota and had the film developed, which was “like opening 50 Christmas presents.” He kept the negatives and mailed the prints back to the village.

Per Connolly’s instructions, the first photo on each camera was one of the photographer. Then there were pictures of animals, goats, turkeys, cows and dogs. Pictures of family members and friends. Pictures of flowers and plants. Pictures from the marketplace.

Connolly tried to select photos for the exhibit that convey the gentle and generous spirit and sense of humor he found in the community, the simplicity of their material life and the importance of family and community.

The Undercroft gallery is located downstairs at St. Matthew’s Church, 2136 Carter Ave. Digital and Disposable runs from Jan. 8 to Feb. 24. An opening reception takes place Jan. 8 at 11:30 a.m.

The gallery is open to the public Monday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Tuesday to Friday 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Hello out there! No Bones readers! I am so excited about one of the coolest paleontological discoveries made in recent memory, and I had to fill you in!

Once in awhile, a paleontologist will take a slightly different approach to looking at fossils, and sometimes, with a little luck and exceptional preservation, our views of fossil worlds have come to change dramatically to accommodate new data. This exciting discovery does just that.

Let’s think about dinosaur landscapes. What was the world like when dinosaurs roamed? They showed up on the scene sometime before 228 million years ago and the non-bird dinosaurs all went extinct, along with lots of other kinds of life on land and in the sea, around 65 million years ago. That’s over 160 million years of dinosaur success!

For a long time it’s been assumed that one plant common to the world of dinosaurs. Instead of plains covered in rolling grass, we envisioned plains covered in ferns and low shrubs. Angiosperms, or flowering plants, showed up sometime during the Cretaceous period (the most recent time that had big dinosaurs). Unlike flowers, grass hadn’t ever been found in association with dinosaurs. In fact, the earliest fossils of grass were from around 55 million years ago—10 million years after the big dinos bit the dust.

However, a new discovery from India changes how we have to imagine the dinosaur landscape. A team of scientists found fossilized dinosaur dung, also called coprolites. The coprolites can be dated to 71-65 million years old, and they were made by dinosaurs called titanosaurs (my favorites, and the last surviving lineage of the plant-eating dinosaur giants commonly known as “long-necks”).

When they studied thin sections of the coprolites, the scientists were astonished to find tons of evidence of grass, in the form of phytoliths, silica-rich plant cells that fossilized. The phytoliths are a signature for different types of plants, and the team recognized relatives of rice, bamboo and several other types of grass. They also found evidence of conifer needles, woody material, ferns and other, more typical, parts of dino diets.

This scientific shake-up is really two-fold. One, it tells us that grass was already a diverse part of Cretaceous ecosystems, and that it must have evolved long before our estimates of 55 million years ago. In order for such diverse types of grass to exist on the Indian subcontinent, grasses must have been around since at least 80 million years ago.

Two, it confirms recent ideas about what titanosaurs and other sauropods were doing with those super-long necks. They weren’t just for eating the tops of trees. Long-necked dinosaurs probably were eating everything they could in their environment, and didn’t restrict themselves to the treetops when there was ample forage at their feet.

Til next time!
The December meeting was a project meeting. We had one demonstration on how to make a smoothie. The ingredients of the smoothie were yogurt and a variety of fruits.

We had tables set up with different service projects. One of the four projects was called Meals on Wheels. To do the meals project you get white bags and decorate them with designs. You can also write things like "Have a great lunch" or "Have a great day." Meals on Wheels bags are given to people who fill the bags with food and deliver them to the elderly.

Our third project was sewing fleece hats, mittens and scarves. The fourth service project was making tie blankets.

Our next meeting will be held Monday, Jan. 9 at Lauderdale City Hall. If you have any questions call Amanda Weber at 646-4363.

Cohousing from 1

Also has fond memories of camp and eating in the dining hall. "Maybe I'm trying to recapture some of that," she says.

People sharing things and looking out for each other are two strong attractions to cohousing, says Bob Hardman. But, he adds, cohousing also offers privacy because community members live in their own homes.

Cohousing is a living arrangement in which multiple, individually-owned housing units are oriented around a common open area and a common house. A walkway connects individual homes, and parking is usually on the periphery of the property.

For new construction, residents actively cooperate in planning the project with a developer. The goal is to create a neighborhood that supports cooperation and socialization.

Cohousing can be found in many forms—from urban factory loft conversions (retrofits) to new development in suburbs, cities and rural sites.

Whatever the form, cohousing projects share four components: a participatory process, deliberate neighborhood design, common facilities and resident management.

For the Hardmans, being able to help design a community from the ground up is an attractive feature of cohousing. They describe the process as deliberate, participatory and nonhierarchical.

"We have an idealistic streak," says Bob, "and maybe we're a little stubborn too."

That idealism shows itself in their belief that cohousing could happen right in St. Anthony Park. They point to an elder cohousing project—Silver Sage Village in Boulder, Colorado—in which 16 homes will be built on a 1-acre site.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 10,000 people turn 59 every day. Elder cohousing, says Bob Hartman, gives people a way to "age in place," surrounded by a supportive community.

For Susan Hartman, cohousing is an idea that, although developed elsewhere, is perfectly consistent with American history.

"Americans have the reputation of being individualists," she notes. "But the Pilgrims were a community. The West was settled by groups of people who worked together. We're not in this alone."

The Hardmans' next cohousing meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Jan. 17 at the St. Anthony Park Library. Anyone interested is welcome to attend and bring a friend. The Hardmans can be reached at 649-1154. Information about elder cohousing can be found at www.eldercohousing.org.
Roundtable discussion focuses on seniors

Over the past two years, the Bugle has hosted several roundtable discussions on topics identified as important by respondents to a 2003 neighborhood survey.

Previous discussions have addressed housing, transportation and the local business climate. This month we present the results of a fourth roundtable.

We invited four people with interest and expertise in serving seniors to talk about local needs and opportunities in this important area.

John Barker, administrator, St. Anthony Park Home
Geri Rutz, outreach coordinator, Lyngblomsten Community Center
Mary Jo Tarasar, director, St. Anthony Park Block Nurse Program
Dick Wenkel, president, Leisure Center

What services do today’s seniors need and want? How have these changed in recent years?

Wenkel: Certainly there is a wide range of services that seniors are looking for. In my experience the one that’s at the top of the list is transportation. Lack of transportation in turn leads to isolation and loneliness. Health problems are another concern of many seniors. We are fortunate at the Community Center to have a health and wellness nurse who does a lot of work in this neighborhood and others—blood pressure and blood sugar checks and so forth.

Another concern I have is nutrition. If people are not eating correctly, that leads to all kinds of problems. One challenge for us at Lyngblomsten is making people in the neighborhood aware that they can come to the Community Center for a noon meal. We’d like to reach more of those folks. Of course, this comes back to transportation. We go into the community two days a week and pick people up to bring them to our dining center. We could offer that more often if we had more volunteer drivers, but it’s a real challenge trying to get drivers.

Barker: I don’t think people’s needs have changed. What health care offers now, of course, is much different than it was. Twenty years ago it was mostly institutions—primarily nursing homes. Now there is a whole host of options for senior care. But some things don’t change, and I agree entirely with Geri that loneliness is the biggest issue out there.

One thing that institutions provide is socialization. If seniors are receiving services in their home that meet their physical needs, many of them are still going to be prisoners in their homes. The push for people to stay in their home has been huge, but there is a downside to that for many.

What additional community resources are needed for seniors?

Tarasar: Despite the proliferation of housing options and services for seniors, recent surveys indicate that 95 percent of all support for seniors is still done by family members. I know that’s been true in my own family. My mom is a diabetic, and she had a foot injury that, because of her diabetes, never really healed. My sister-in-law and my three sisters keep going over there, which is on the other side of town, to deal with her foot. I tell my mom, “They have a program for this kind of thing,” and she could afford it, but she won’t do it.

Right now family caregivers are mostly females aged 45 to 65. Because of the baby boom, that’s a pretty big group. They’re taking care of an elderly generation that’s much smaller. But in another 20 to 30 years, today’s caregivers will themselves need care, and the next group of potential caregivers is going to be much smaller.

What we’re relying on now isn’t so much some kind of official program or funding. We’re relying on human capital, and that’s going to continue to diminish. Plus, the whole thrust in health care over the past several decades has been to keep people going no matter what, so we can probably expect to see more complicated surgeries and treatments, with corresponding recovery times and need for supplemental care.

Wenkel: I don’t see huge gaps in what’s available for seniors. But the people we’re serving now in the Leisure Center are getting older. The Leisure Center was originally designed for a group of independent people to come together weekly for a meal and fellowship and then go on their way. It still functions that way, but the people who come—or want to come—are less independent, which means they’re even more dependent on the socialization provided by that experience. For many, it’s the biggest event of the week—to get together, have a meal and see their friends.

I don’t know how to ensure that that can continue, given that the people who make the Leisure Center work—as well as those who are served by it—are getting older.

Barker: If you compute this neighborhood to others in the city or state or even nationally, the options available here are pretty impressive—from skilled nursing homes to block nurse programs to senior housing centers. You start going into other areas where that’s not the case, and you realize how fortunate we are here.
The owners of Transformed Tree didn’t plan to become remodelers and cabinetmakers. Mel Salmi was studying engineering at the University of Minnesota when his roommate offered him a job at the new company in 1973. “After a year he quit,” says Salmi, “and I continued.”

Partner Peter Hagen studied architecture but found that carpentry was more satisfying. He joined Salmi in 1981.

After nearly 25 years of working together, the two partners finish each other’s sentences. While they’ve worked on homes that range in style from traditional to contemporary, their design philosophy, as Salmi puts it, is to “match the existing.” For both of them, the best remodeling job is one that looks like it’s always been there. And their clients agree.

When Jane Rauenhorst and Brian Nofzinger bought their St. Anthony Park house last year, they knew they’d need to remodel. The original structure, built in 1915, had been “remuddled” in the late 1960s with an addition that Rauenhorst calls “rambleresque,” and didn’t match the original Arts and Crafts style of the house. Veterans of three hands-on remodels in South Minneapolis, they decided to look for professional help this time.

Nofzinger says, “In the past, we’d buy a house, do little compartmentalized projects and take a long time to get it done. This time, we wanted to have it looking integrated, and we knew we didn’t have 10 years.”

Marty Wolf and Mary Ryan thought about their remodel for a long time—17 years, Ryan says, laughing. Wolf, who likes Frank Lloyd Wright’s Prairie Style, spent a long time looking at Wright designs and thinking about how to adapt them to his house.

“Usually when you decide to remodel, you know what you’re going to end up with,” he says. “For us it was a long series of deciding what to do. We decided that the best thing was to take off the whole second floor. It would give us lots of usable space, a new roof and an energy-efficient structure.”

The two clients found Transformed Tree in different ways. Rauenhorst and Nofzinger did their homework at the Remodelers’ Showcase. Nofzinger says, “We went to whole bunch of houses there. If we liked the work, we called them up. Of the six we liked, we talked to four.”

It helped that Transformed Tree had done work for a neighbor. But they chose Transformed, says, “Mel had a good sense of the job. And both of them liked the fact that neighborhood.

For Wolf and Ryan, Transformed Tree done work when the couple moved in. But their interest was low—until, he adds, “Their bid said back to us a lot.”

In both cases, the projects were

Transforming Houses to Look Like

Story and photos by

Jane Rauenhorst and Brian Nofzinger hired Transformed Tree to remodel their house at 2215 Doswell Avenue.

Top and bottom left: Before and after photos of the exterior.

Top and bottom right: During and after versions of the living room.
Like They’ve Always Been There

by Sabra Waldfogel

Transformed Tree was familiar, since they’d bumped into an Arts and Crafts-style extension. The original living room had square arches with a column on each side. The bumpout included a pine beam that couldn’t be removed, since it was structural. Transformed Tree cloaked the beam in matching wood and built columns on either side to match the existing woodwork. The result is a period-appropriate design that looks as though it was built that way originally.

Rauenhorst and Nofzinger also changed the footprint of the kitchen, moving the appliances and cabinets to take advantage of the kitchen window and the view. Just off the kitchen they built an office for Jane, with custom cabinets to match the woodwork in the dining room.

Wolf and Ryan started with the idea of remodeling their 1960s addition, but eventually decided to expand their second story from a half- to a full-story space. Transformed Tree did the tear-off.

Rauenhorst says, “The four of us lived in our bedroom,” feeling, as Nofzinger says, “all smooshed up.” Throughout the mess and disruption, he added, Transformed Tree was good to work with. “They always understood what we were trying to get done,” Nofzinger says. “We were constantly having to rethink but they always listened.”

Ryan says, “Mel and the gang are great to work with. It was just like family. We had everyone at the table, eating lunch. Most of the crew is from the Ukraine. They kidded me that if they knew lunch was going to be included they would have reduced the price. They were great to have around.”

Rauenhorst and Nofzinger are also happy with the results, especially the quality of the cabinetry and the woodworking. “They were able to do some things I wouldn’t expect,” Nofzinger says. “In woodworking, joinery, cabinetmaking, they stand out.”

The two also came away with a new appreciation of how hard it is to make a remodel go smoothly. Rauenhorst does couples counseling. She says, laughing, “Remodeling should be a subspecialty. I’d have one bookcase with books on psychology and another with catalogs to order things like doorknobs.”

Wolf and Ryan are delighted with their new space—it’s increased from 1800 to 3000 square feet. They’re particularly pleased with the Prairie Style look of the new roof. Wolf says, “A lot of the new stuff makes you wonder if in 10 or 15 years it will still be beautiful. Frank Lloyd Wright’s houses are still beautiful. You can fail miserably or end up with a nice facsimile.”

In the end, the job has earned Transformed Tree’s highest compliment. Wolf says, “The neighbors say that it looks like it’s always been here.”
Making a difference from 5

you see in the news or online is like looking through a periscope. When you get there you get a 360-degree view of destruction.

New volunteers are usually silent for the first few hours, simply watching the other volunteers deal with the human and physical damage. They find the incredible destruction hard to believe. Then, finally, they are able to begin helping.

The people who remained in Biloxi during the storm (about a quarter of the original population) had various reasons for staying—curiosity, a feeling of invulnerability (“I survived Camille”), fear that their belongings would be stolen if they left. But the biggest reason was that they had no place else to go and they still have no place to go. They are sleeping in trailers, tents and under tarps.

“They are a proud, resilient people, used to doing without,” says Titzler. “But they are mostly poor and they are the hardest hit of all. It’s hard to go back to your comfortable life, your possessions, your family, your friends after such a profound experience—seeing people who have lost everything, whose families are broken apart—and not be affected. It’s hard to see a need and turn your back on it.”

Titzler has many stories about the people he met. One man, Victor Roby, had property he could have been staying on, but it became clear that he was staying with others in a tent encampment in order to watch over them. He claimed not to need help but directed the Hands On people to others who “really” needed some assistance. Everything Roby owned had been wrecked.

One of the groups that Hands On has tried to help is Coastal Family Health Centers, whose mission is to provide medical services to underserved coastal Mississippians.

Originally, Coastal had nine sites in Mississippi, but five were wrecked. One of those volunteers is Bob Titzler. He is talking with Health Partners and his wife about how much of a commitment he can make to Coastal in the coming months.

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Arts Events
Music in the Park Series presents the viola da gamba duo Les Voix Humaines on Sunday, Jan. 8 at 4 p.m. Suzie Napper and Margaret Little will be joined by fellow Canadians soprano Suzie LeBlanc and internist Sylvian Bergeron for a program of French, German and English Baroque music.

Tickets are $18 in advance, $20 at the door and $12 for students (when available). They are available at 645-5699 or www.musicintheParkseries.org. The concert takes place at St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, 2129 Commonwealth Ave.

Job Corps
Over 100 students graduated from the Hubert H. Humphrey Job Corps Center at Dec. 15 ceremonies. State Sen. Ellen Anderson (Dist. 66) gave the commencement address.

The HHJ Job Corps Center is one of 122 such centers in the country providing training and job placement for economically disadvantaged young people.

Students at the residential facility, located at 1480 N. Stelling Ave., train for an average of one year for vocations that include accounting, business technologies, culinary arts, maintenance and health occupations.

Solar Heating
The Southeast Como Improvement Association, in conjunction with Innovative Power Systems, is arranging for the cooperative purchase of solar heating installations.

Cooperative purchase of equipment and tax rebates will reduce the cost of equipment and installation from about $7500 to about $4200. A down payment of $200 is required.

The deadline for registration is Dec. 31. For application forms or more information, call Justin at 676-1731.

Sale
Cedar patio planters are for sale from Focus Beyond, a community-based program for social development that benefits St. Paul Public Schools special education students.

Planters are 24 and $49. For more information, contact Dan Coughlin: 293-6644 ext. 110, or daniel.coughlin@spcs.org.

Yoga
Falcon Heights Parks and Recreation will offer hatha yoga classes for adults and seniors during January and February.

Classes will be taught by Karen Rajic Favazza and will be held at Falcon Heights City Hall, 2077 W. Larpenteur.

Classes run from Jan. 12- Feb. 16. Sessions for adults are Thursdays from 2:30-3:30 p.m. or 6:30-7:30 p.m. Cost is $54 for residents, $64 for nonresidents.

Classes for seniors are Thursdays, 1:15-2:15 p.m. or Fridays, 10-11 a.m. Cost is $48 for residents, $58 for nonresidents.

For registration information, call 792-7616 or visit www.ci.ftc.mn.us.

Awards
The Little Wine Shoppe, located at 2326 Coral Ave. in Milford Square, recently received a "Best of the Twin Cities” award for a neighborhood wine shop from Mpls/St Paul magazine. The store opened in May. In introducing their annual awards, the magazine wrote: “To celebrate change, we’ve awarded ‘Bens’ to new places that add luster to our landscape.”

Classes
The International Institute of Minnesota, 1694 Como Ave., will offer citizenship and English as a Second Language classes beginning in January.

ENL classes start Jan. 9 and end Mar. 20. Afternoon and evening classes are offered in 10-week sessions at beginning, intermediate or advanced levels. New students must be tested. Tuition is $125 for evening classes, $200 for evening classes, plus a $15 testing fee.

Free citizenship classes take place Saturdays (9-30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.) or Tuesdays (6-9 p.m.) in January and February. They cover history and government as well as citizenship interview preparation. For more information, call 647-0191.

School Information
The Twin Cities German Immersion School has openings for kindergarten and first grade in 2006. Information sessions will be held at the school, 1399 Eustis St., on Jan. 8 at 2 p.m., Jan. 26 at 7 p.m., Feb. 12 at 2 p.m. and Feb. 23 at 7 p.m.

The open-enrollment public charter school offers bilingual education. Information: 492-7106, info@germanschool-mn.org and www.germanschool-mn.org.

Volunteers
Ramsey County Community Services is looking for volunteers age 16 or over to provide supplementary clerical services for agency staff. More information:

Workforce Investment Board.
Information: 266-8001.

Aubudon Society
At its 7 p.m., Jan. 12, meeting, the St. Paul Audubon Society welcomes John Fitzpatrick, one of the few people in the world who has seen the ivory-billed woodpecker. Fitzpatrick is the director of the Carpenter Nature Center. The meeting takes place at the Fairview Community Center, 1910 W. County Rd. B.

Recreation
The Langford and South St. Anthony Rec Centers will hold their 47th Annual Winter Classic Jan. 3-9. Those days will feature youth hockey and basketball tournaments, races, a medalion hunt, art center and more. For more information, call 298-5765.

Open skating at Langford M-Th 3-9 p.m., F 8-8 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun. noon-4 p.m.

Registration for volleyball, floor hockey and indoor soccer takes place Feb. 1-24.

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Try these guaranteed Bugle-tested activities for beating the January blues

by Jean Larson

Feeling a bit of the old post-holiday letdown? Try these sure-fire cures for the midwinter blues.

1. Take a walk up Doswell past College Park at dusk, right after the street lights come on. Then look up. This is especially delicious when it’s snowing.

2. Then walk north on Hythe and watch for Humpty Dumpty falling off his wall.

3. Take your walk wearing rip-stop nylon pants and slide on your bottom down the embankment while no one’s looking.

4. Screw up your courage and head over to Ginkgo Coffeehouse (721 Snelling) for their open stage on the first and third Wednesdays of the month.

5. Visit the downtown St. Paul Public Library and spend a few hours reading periodicals on topics you know nothing about.

6. Go bowling at the Student Center on the St. Paul campus. Then eat at the cafeteria.

7. Buy white tissue paper on sale after the holidays and make lots of snowflakes, all sizes, for sale after the holidays and make

8. Cut up tart apples, boil, then simmer them with cinnamon sticks and cloves. Keep them on the stove till they make the room smell delicious.

9. Then use other apple slices or potato halves to dip in paint and make thank you cards. Carve shapes in the flat surface of the halved potato for potato prints. Dip in tempera, acrylic or colored ink that’s spread on a paper plate with a foam paint brush.

10. Kids! Go Julebukking (masquerading Norwegian style). Disguise yourselves in silly costumes, go to each other’s homes and have parents try to guess who is who. They can try to trick you into talking by asking questions. In the end, they feed you some goodies and off you go.

11. Make a moon journal. Observe the moon for seven days in a row. Here are ideas for making each night different. (1) Describe it. (2) Paint it. (3) Write a poem about it. (4) Sketch it through trees. (5) Write about a memory it reminds you of. (6) Write a limerick about it. (7) Make a mosaic illustrating the moon. Use tissue paper or torn colored magazine pages. Bonus: Go to the library or online and research the Sumerian god of the moon, Nanna.

12. Read Gwendolyn Brooks’ poetry or writings. Try “In the Mecca.”

13. Go ice skating outdoors at Langford Park or Falcon Heights Community Park.

14. Trek over to the Raptor Center on the St. Paul campus or a Saturday or Sunday for the “Raptors of Minnesota’s program at 1 p.m. It’s also open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and noon to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

15. Go to a reading at Micawber’s Bookstore. On Sunday, Jan. 15 at 1 p.m. the three winners of the Minnesota Literature Contest will read from their works. And on Friday, Jan. 27 at 7 p.m. Jennifer New presents her very cool book, “Drawing from Life: The Journal as Art.” Then start an art journal of your own.

16. Indulge in two scoops of ice cream for a dollar at Nelson’s Cheese Factory. This will help you acclimatize to the cold. Then go to Black Bear Crossing at Como Park Pavilion for coffee or tea to warm up.

17. Visit the cows at the St. Paul campus. They need a friendly human “moo” every now and then.

18. Afterward go to Minn’s for chicken mural with rice, hummus and pita bread. To die for!

19. Check out the dedicated artists at Anodyne Artist Company (825 Carleton St.) They put their wares on display every third Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

20. Listen to music at Coffee Grounds (1579 Hamline). On Friday, Jan. 20 it’s Pocahontas County at 8 p.m. Awesome bluegrass! Or go there to play board games and sip cocoa.

21. Visit the Como Conservatory and breathe in Life! Or shop at Hermes Floral and go into the greenhouse.

22. Go orienteering. The Minnesota Orienteering Club (www.mnoc.org) welcomes anyone to a “meet” or an “O.” These are basically hikes, following a map and finding flags hidden in a state park. There’s an “O”, meaning a gathering for orienteering, on Sunday, Jan. 16, noon to 1:30 p.m., at Lake Maria State Park in Monticello. Bring snowshoes or Nordic skis.

23. Make a list of everyone and everything you’re most grateful for and tape it to your bathroom mirror.

24. Find undisturbed snow. Make a giant pie shape with your boots. Cut the pie in wedges with a center point. Then play freeze tag on the lines of the pie.

25. Make caramel corn with 1 stick butter, 1/2 cup of brown sugar and 7 marshmallows all melted. Stir in popcorn as soon as the marshmallows are barely melted. Yum!

26. Shovel someone’s walk or drive without telling them you did it.

27. Buy something totally frivolous at Succotash (781 Raymond).

28. Check out the oldest oak in St. Anthony Park at the corner of Hythe and Honden. Which one do you think it is?

29. Polish silver. If you don’t have any, go to Goodwill or an antique shop and buy some. There’s something wonderful and therapeutic about doing this at your leisure. Invent a story about where that spoon has been and who has used this fork.

30. Discover the Raymond Avenue Gallery in south St. Anthony Park (761 Raymond Ave.)

31. Celebrate Nauru Independence Day. At eight square miles, Nauru is one of the smallest countries on earth. Residents observe Independence Day with beachfront barbecues—flying fish is traditional. You could substitute fish sticks eaten on the front porch.

Happy January!
The Vikings game went to commercial, so I went out to the kitchen to get a snack. I casually looked out the window to see if there were any birds on the feeder. I log them in my “Birds of Retirement” journal.

Yikes! No birds, plural, but rather one huge bird—a big, brown hawk sitting on the roof of my front-yard bird feeder. The Vikings game was forgotten.

A couple of squirrels cavorted around the base of the pole. I was hoping the hawk would dispatch one of them, but no luck. I called to my wife to come see this unusual sight.

Just the day before, I’d seen a hawk in our neighbor’s tree, escorted by a couple of noisy crows, announcing that there was a raptor in the neighborhood.

This looked like the same hawk, small and brownish, which I had identified then as a red-tailed hawk. It was small for a red-tail and didn’t really have a red tail, but an immature red-tail often has a bared tail (horizontal bands) before it attains real “red-tail-hood.”

It’s not unusual to see a red-tailed hawk soaring over Highway 280 or the nearby golf course, but I’d never seen one on my bird feeder before.

As my wife and I watched, a woman in a white coat and cap walked by. “Oh-oh,” I thought, “this will spook the bird.”

But no, the woman glanced at the yard then looked up to the top of the feeder and stopped. The bird didn’t seem to notice. She slowly turned and continued her walk backwards so she could keep an eye on the hawk.

I’d like to think she thought, “Huh. He really is the Birdman of Lauderdale.”

Almost immediately on seeing the bird, I had grabbed my camera and started taking photos. The hawk gave us a back view for nearly a half hour. Then it suddenly lifted its tail and shot a stream of whitewash into our yard.

I told my wife it was getting ready to take off. “He’s lightening his load,” it turned to face us, gave me one shot at a front photo and headed off over the house.

I posted an e-mail note on the Minnesota Ornithologists’ Union (MOU) Web site about the red-tailed hawk on my feeder and said I had photos if anyone was interested.

Julian Sellers, St. Paul Audubon Society’s field trip chair, requested some photos, so I sent him a front and back view. Within a few hours, he responded with his opinion that this was a juvenile red-shouldered hawk, not a red-tailed.

I studied several guide books about the identifying characteristics of the juvenile red-shouldered hawk and compared them with my photos.

My back view photos showed the even bands across the tail, the terminal band being broader than the rest. One book mentioned three light bands on the bottom part of the folded wing, but none of my photos showed that.

There was a lot of wind that day, so the hawk may not have been able to maintain a guide-book-perfect pose.

My one front view photo showed the large, dark, diamond-shaped spots on the chest, matching the guide book illustrations.

I was beginning to think “red-shouldered hawk” myself. But why wasn’t it a red-tailed hawk?

Size is not a good way to differentiate between the two hawks. Red-tailed hawks range from 17 to 22 inches in length. Red-shouldered hawks are 15 to 19 inches in length, so there is an overlap in size.

But there are several points of difference. Red-tailed hawks usually have a clear chest and a streaky belly band. The immature red-shouldered hawk has heavy, dark spots on the upper part of the chest and the creamy underparts that we had seen.

There is also a difference in the tails between the two, although it requires some study. The juvenile red-tailed hawk has narrow, dark bands on its tail. The tail of the juvenile red-shouldered hawk has narrow, light bands.

The juvenile red-shouldered hawk, as its name implies, can also show a rufous (reddish) shoulder, but my photos didn’t show the shoulder very clearly.

After my research, I was convinced that what I’d seen was a juvenile red-shouldered hawk.

Now I felt a bit embarrassed. Here I’d exposed my ignorance to a statewide organization of bird watchers. I updated my posting to the MOU Web site and admitted my mistaken identification.

Even more people asked for photos once it was identified as a juvenile red-shouldered hawk. To me, that was a phenomenal yard bird, even better than a red-tailed hawk would have been.

Bird watching can be pleasantly humbling. I’d suffered a few more chips off my ego. But I’d learned a lot more about the juvenile red-shouldered hawk, had a real close look for a long time and have some good photos for future reference.

And I hope I’ll be more careful about jumping to unfounded conclusions in the future.
Need someone to care for your pet while you’re away?

Don’t put your pet in a cold kennel! I will give them a warm, loving place to stay while you’re away on business, on vacation, or just for the day. I have over 30 years experience loving and caring for pets, and a beautiful fenced-in yard for them to play. Must be a smaller animal and get along with other pets. All animals are considered! Inexpensive with great deals for long-term care. References available.

Call Jennifer at 612-729-6481
PAINFUL SEPARATIONS

By Ted Kooser, U.S. Poet Laureate

Painful separations, through divorce, through death, through alienation, sometimes cause us to focus on the objects around us, often invested with sentiment. Here’s Shirley Buettner, having packed up what’s left of a relationship.

The Wind Chimes

Two wind chimes,
one brass and prone to anger,
one with the throat of an angel,
swing from my porch eave,
sing with the storm.

Last year I lived five months
under that shrill choir,
boxing your house, crowding books
into crates, from some pages
your own voice crying.

Some days the chimes raged.
Some days they hung still.
They fretted when I dug up
the lily I gave you in April,
blooming, strangely, in fall.

Together, they scolded me
when I counted pennies you left
in each can, cup, and drawer,
when I rechecked the closets
for remnants of you.

The last day, the house empty,
resonant with space, the two chimes
had nothing to toll for.

I walked out, took them down,
carried our mute spirits home.


This column is supported by The Poetry Foundation, The Library of Congress, and the Department of English at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. This column does not accept unsolicited poetry.
January Arts

Music

Coffee Grounds
1579 Hamline, 644-9959
Open Mic with Bill Hammond
January 1, 7 pm
Real Book Jazz
January 2, 7:45 pm
Sendero Flamenco Music and Dancers
January 6, 8 pm
Real Book Jazz
January 9, 7:45 pm
Bill Cagley's Roots Music Showcase
January 12, 7 pm
Jacob McNight
January 13, 8 pm
Spruce Top Review
January 14, 7-10 pm
Open Mic with Bill Hammond
January 15, 6 pm
Real Book Jazz
January 16, 7:45 pm
Pocahontas County
January 20, 8 pm
Inish Mohr (formerly Booley Band)
January 21, 8 pm
Real Book Jazz
January 23, 7:45 pm
Bill Cagley's Roots Music Showcase
January 26, 7 pm
John Michie
January 27, 8 pm
Chris Miller
January 28
Real Book Jazz
January 30, 7:45 pm
Ginkgo Coffeehouse
721 N. Snelling Ave., 645-2647
Bluegrass and Oldtime Jam Session
January 25, 7 pm
Open Mic
First and third Wednesdays
6 pm sign up
Music in the Park Series
www.musicintheparkseries.org
645-5699
Les Vox Humieres
January 8, 4 pm
St. Anthony Park
Lutheran Church
2323 Como Ave., 645-0371
St. Paul Vocal Forum
Midwinter Meditations: A Choral Forum on Darkness and Light
January 15, 4 pm
Visual Arts

Anodyne Artist Company
829 Clybourn St., 642-1684
Art...what is it?
Each third Thursday
Doors at 7 pm
Performance starts 7:30 pm
Luther Seminary
Olson Campus Center
1490 Fulham St.
641-3390
Nude Truths: An Odyssey in Poetry, Painting and Prose
Through February 20
Goldstein Museum of Design
241 McNeal Hall
1985 Buford Ave.
612-624-7434
Celebrate! The College of Human Ecology
January 28-April 9
St. Paul Student Center
University of Minnesota
612-625-0214
Parlor, by Steve Edelson
January 26-February 25
Opening reception
January 26, 6-8 pm
Paul Whiteman Dance Art Gallery
St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church
2323 Como Ave., 645-0371
Watercolors by Versea Bourdaghs
Through January 8
Undercroft Gallery
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
2136 Carter Ave., 645-3058
Works by Marjorie and Harold Alexander
Through January 6
Madagascar: Digital and Disposable
Photography by Pat Connolly
January 8-February 24
Opening reception:
January 18, 11:30 a.m.
A Juried Show
Multi Media
Prizes for Awards
February 26 - April 14, 2006
Art work must be delivered to the gallery on February 22. Call the Undercroft Community Gallery for an application to enter.
651-645-3058.
All applications must be submitted by February 20, 2006
Wishing everyone a harmonious New Year!
8th Annual Community Art Show
Call for Entries
Opening reception: Sunday, March 5th, Open-Air following Music in the Park Concert.
Live Music, Entertainment, Photography for:
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www.dcschultzproductions.com
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During the month of January, all of our framed and unframed art is reduced 15% - 75%. There is still plenty of winter left. Now is a great time to freshen the view inside your home and save money too. Come in soon for best selection!
All Art Is On Sale!
Warm up your home for the cold months ahead.
CARTER AVE. FRAME SHOP
2186 Como Avenue / 651-645-7862
2 Monday
• Como Wood Carvers at the Colfax Center (1579 Hennepin Ave., 644-9959), 7 p.m.
• AA, St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, 7 p.m. Every Monday.
• Boy Scouts, St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, 7 p.m. Every Monday.
• Como Park Recycling, Every Monday.

3 Tuesday
• Tea Time (for 5-7 year-olds and younger), Loundeck Park Rec Center (298-5765), 10 a.m.-12 noon. Every Tuesday.
• Ironmasters (649-6675), meeting in conference room, Huntington Park, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Every Tuesday.
• Free Blood Pressure Clinic and health resources by the St. Anthony Park Block Nurse Program, Seal High Rise (825 Seal St.), 1:15 p.m. Every Thursday.

4 Wednesday
• The Bead Ladies at the Coffee Center (603-8946), St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. lunch appointments by Monday. Every Wednesday. Free Blood Pressure Clinic by the St. Anthony Park Block Nurse Program 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m.-1:45 p.m.
• St. Anthony Park Block Nurse Program board of directors meeting, St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church Library, 7 p.m.

5 Thursday
• Tea Time (for 5-7 year-olds and younger), South St. Anthony Rec Center (298-5765), 10 a.m.-noon. Every Thursday.
• Ironmasters (649-5162), U.S. Forest Service, 992 Folwell Ave., St. Paul Campus, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Every Thursday.
• Chair Exercise Classes - Seal High Rise, 825 Seal St., Tuesday and Thursday, 12:30-1:30 p.m. Three classes are free to all area seniors, but pre-registration is necessary. Call 642-9092 to pre-register.
• St. Anthony Park Community Council Board of Directors Meeting, South St. Anthony Rec Center, 890 Cromwell, 6 p.m.

6 Friday
• Senior Citizens Fun Group (pam, bowling, and dinner), South St. Anthony Rec Center, 890 Cromwell, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Every Friday. First Friday blood pressure clinic by the St. Anthony Park Block Nurse Program, 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.
• Falcon Heights City Council, City Hall, 1891 Webster St., 7:30 p.m.

7 Saturday
• Noon to Noon (612-623-5246), 10:30-5:30 p.m. and at the Ophalen Spot, St. Paul Smasne Center, 2017 Buford Ave., St. Paul Campus, Every Saturday.

8 Sunday
• Coon Rapids, Lounon Park Rec Center, Como High School, 7 p.m.
• Park View, Inc., Park Ridge Golf Club meeting, St. Anthony Park Block community room, 7 a.m.

18 Wednesday
• View science projects from the Murray Jr. High Science Fair, 2200 Bidwell Ave., 6:30-8 p.m.
• The Bead Ladies at the Coffee Center (1579 Hennepin Ave., 644-9959), 10:30 a.m.
• Leisure Center for Seniors (603-8946), St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. lunch appointments by Monday. First Blood Pressure Clinic By the St. Anthony Park Block Nurse Program 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 11:15-1:45 a.m.
• Falcon Heights City Council, Falcon Heights, 7 p.m.

19 Thursday
• Winter season of Pilates begins at Loundeck Park Rec Center. 10 sessions, $70 or $68 for seniors.

20 Friday
• Minnesota Orchestra, Orchestra Center.

21 Saturday
• Parent Information Fair, River Park, 7 p.m.
• Lauderdale City Council, City Hall, 1891 Webster St., 7:30 p.m.

22 Sunday
• Murray Jr. High Science Fair, 2200 Bidwell Ave., 6-9 p.m. Over 350 exhibits. If interested in judging 7th & 8th grade science projects, contact Gen Nakanishi at 642-9092 or by email at nakanish@mn.doe.state.mn.us.

25 Wednesday
• The Bead Ladies at the Coffee Center (1579 Hennepin Ave., 644-9959), 10:30 a.m.
• Falcon Heights City Council, City Hall, 1891 Webster St., 7 p.m.

31 Tuesday
• Como Wood Carvers at the Colfax Center (1579 Hennepin Ave., 644-9959), 7 p.m.
A BIG “THANK YOU”!!!!!
To everyone who has supported our program over the past year, as a volunteer, or by making a donation, or BOTH!!! We could not help our community's seniors without you!!

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Mary Bren
Mary Helen Bren, age 93, died on Nov. 20, 2005. She had lived at Lyngblomsten Apartments for about 20 years, one of the first to take up residence there after its construction.
She was preceded in death by her husband, Orin, and siblings: Margaret, Bud, Catherine, Pat and Dick. Mrs. Bren is survived by her daughters, Pauline Bren; sons, Robert (Marda), James (Patricia) and David (Barb); nine grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; brother Joseph Kelley; and brother-in-law Ken Pew.
A special thank you to all those who loved and cared for her, especially her granddaughter, Theresa.
A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Nov. 23 at Holy Childhood Catholic Church. Internment was at Roselawn Cemetery.

Bernice Brink
Bernice M. Brink died Nov. 7, 2005, at the age of 94. She was a longtime Ramsey County social worker and a woman of great faith who was active in her church, St. Timothy Lutheran.
Mrs. Brink was preceded in death by five brothers; her husband, Edward L.; and son-in-law, Bruce Brenden. She is survived by daughter, Nancy Brenden of Rosemount; son, Daniel (Brenna) of Roseville; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; a brother, Dr. George Peterson of California; and many other relatives and friends.
A memorial service was held Nov. 19 at Lyngblomsten Chapel.

Mary Lou Durham
Mary Lou (Lamson) Durham died Nov. 29, 2005, at age 65. She had lived at the Seal Hi-Rise in south St. Anthony Park for many years and in St. Anthony Park Home for the last several years.
She was preceded in death by her husband, Gerald Durham; brother, George Lamson; and brother-in-law, Vern Ricci. She is survived by her son Dave R. Durham; sisters, Pat Ricci and Vicki (Martin) Humphrey; brother, Ed (Lol); and many nieces and nephews.
Her family wishes to thank the staff at St. Anthony Park Home for loving care.
A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Cecilia Church on Dec. 1.

Daniel Fletcher
Daniel G. Fletcher, age 70, died Dec. 3, 2005. He was a 1953 graduate of St. Thomas Military Academy.
He is survived by his brothers, Dick (Loeretta) and Ed (Mary); sister-in-law, Jeanine; and many nieces and nephews.
A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Holy Childhood Catholic Church on Dec. 6.

Robert Glaser
Robert J. Glaser, longtime Como Park resident, died on Nov. 11, 2005, at age 81.
He was born May 5, 1924, in LeMars, Iowa. He graduated from LeMar High School and after one semester in college was inducted into the Army, serving in the 101st Airborne division for two and a half years.
When packing planes and gear for the Normandy invasion, he suffered an appendicitis attack and was operated on in England. This illness providentially saved him from death in the glider he was scheduled to be in, which crashed on landing in Germany.
After recuperating, he joined another group whose job was to confiscate radios, guns and ammunition from homes in Bernschtugen.
After the war, he received his B.S. degree from Westmar College in LeMars and a masters degree from the University of South Dakota in Vermillion. He did further graduate work at the University of Minnesota.
He married Shirley Holdren in June 1950. The moved to St. Paul in August 1951 and joined Central Baptist Church the next year. He was a Sunday School teacher, deacon and usher, and sang in the choir there.
He also was a member of the American Chery Society. For a short while, he was a member of the Gideon.
Bob taught chemistry, math, geology and astronomy for 40 years in Sheldon, Iowa; and at Bethel College and Anoka Ramsey Junior College, retiring in 1990.
Summers consisted of working in the business office of Montgomery Wards, in the lab at Veterans Hospital in Minneapolis, plus many vacation trips with family. He enjoyed being with people.
During the State Fair he worked as a ticket seller and then gate captain for 21 years. He also interviewed people for various positions prior to the Fair.
Six years into retirement, he suffered a stroke during surgery. He was at home for four and a half years and then suffered another stroke. He then lived at Lyngblomsten Care Center for another four and a half years.
He is survived by his wife, Shirley; daughters, Susan (Ed) O’Neill, Elizabeth (David) Herr, Margaret (Greg) Switzer; 11 grandchildren; 9 great-grandchildren; his brother, Chester; Eleanor; and many nieces and nephews.
A memorial service was held Nov. 16 at Central Baptist Church. Interment was at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

Peter Hakensen
Peter C. Hakensen, age 55, died Nov. 26, 2005, from pancreatic cancer diagnosed in July.
Peter was a native and longtime resident of St. Anthony Park and a graduate of Murray High School, class of 1968. He was a Vietnam vet, serving in the Navy aboard the USS Kitty Hawk. He graduated from the University of Minnesota.
Professionally, he was a project manager and worked at Personia in Shoreview.
He will be missed by a large and wide circle of family, friends and colleagues who admired his humor, wit and kindness. He was an avid golfer and shared the love of the sport with many friends, including those who were part of the annual Jackpine Open.
He was preceded in death by parents John (Jack) and Pansy Peterson of St. Paul. Peter is survived by brother, John (Ruth) Hakensen; Roseville; sister, Jane, St. Anthony Park; brother, David (Kim), Minnetonka; two nieces and three nephews.
The family expresses thanks to Dr. Seth Wipfle and his staff, the ICU team at Regions Hospital and the caring nurses at HealthEast of the Lakes.
A memorial service was held Dec. 3 at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, with private burial at Fort Snelling Cemetery.

Charles Johnson
Charles R. Johnson of Falcon Heights died at age 86.
He is survived by his wife and best friend of 63 years, Mary Delaney; daughters, Vicki Johnson and Christine Droubie, and son-in-law, Gary Droubie; granddaughters, Sheri (Denis) Warzala, Jill Droubie (Andy Summen), Lisa (John) Stevken, Sandy (Bugsy) Held, Pary (David) Lilikfelt and Nicole (Chris) Conten; and 14 great-grandchildren.
He was a proud Swede from Johnson High School, a Hall of Fame basketball player from Hamline University, a Purple Heart Veteran (Omaha Beach, WWII), a retired 3M executive, and avid golfer from Midland Hills Country Club and the “Round Table.”
A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Dec. 1 at Holy Childhood Catholic Church. Private burial was held at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.
HATHA YOGA classes start week of Oct. 11. Call Holly House @ 651-645-6951.

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Lives Lived from 22

Gertrude Lind

Gertrude E. Lind, age 101, died Nov. 22, 2005, in New Orleans. She is survived by her family at 1286 Raymond until 1963, when they moved to Willow River, Minn. After high school, she returned to St. Anthony Park, where she was a familiar presence at Park Hardware and the original Carter Avenue Frame Shop.

Robert Nelson

Robert R. G. Nelson, age 47, died on Nov. 22, 2005, in New Orleans. Robert lived with his family at 1286 Raymond until 1963, when they moved to Willow River, Minn. After high school, he returned to St. Anthony Park, where he was a familiar presence at Park Hardware and the original Carter Avenue Frame Shop.

Robert was a gentle, fun-loving soul whose passions were music, people and fishing. In the mid-1990s, he moved to New Orleans, where he restored a mid-1990s, he moved to New Orleans, where he restored a

LIFE IN THE CHURCH: Come and Share

- BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH
  - 5741 Luther Ave., St. Paul
  - 651-646-7127
  - Handicapped Accessible

- COMO PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA
  - 3750 16th Ave. S., Minneapolis
  - 651-646-6817
  - Handicapped Accessible

- CORNERSTONE ECUMENICAL CATHOLIC CHURCH
  - An Ecumenical Old Catholic Community
  - 2200 Hillside Ave
  - 651-646-2871

- NORTH COMO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
  - 965 Larpenteur Ave. W., Roseville
  - 651-645-2581, kpemuen@northcomopres.org
  - www.northcomopres.org

- PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA
  - 1744 Walnut (at Ione) Lauderdale
  - 651-646-5440

- SPIRIT UNITED CHURCH
  - 3204 Como Avenue SE, Minneapolis
  - 612-378-5002
  - Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.
  - www.spiritunited.com

- ST. ANTHONY PARK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
  - 2129 Commonwealth at Chicago
  - 651-646-7173
  - Handicapped Accessible

- ST. CECILIA’S CATHOLIC CHURCH
  - 2575 Bayless Place
  - 651-644-3132
  - www.saintcecilias.org

- ST. MATTHEW’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
  - 2200 Hillside Ave (at Como)
  - 651-646-4859
  - Pastor Donna Martinson
  - www.stmatthewsmn.org

- ST. ANTHONY PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
  - 2200 Hillside Ave (at Como)
  - 651-646-4859
  - Pastor Donna Martinson
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