Going out on a high note

After four decades with Music in the Park series, founder Julie Himmelstrup will retire in the spring.

By Judy Woodward

Fourteen years ago, Julie Himmelstrup, artistic director of Music in the Park Series, pulled off a coup. She announced that the world-famous Guarneri Quartet would play for the 25th anniversary concert season of the series she had started in 1978.

In the world of chamber music, Himmelstrup had done the equivalent of persuading the Minnesota Twins to move their season opener to Langford Park.

This month Himmelstrup has an equally momentous announcement, although this time the occasion is a much sadder one for those who love classical music in the intimate setting of the St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ (UCC). Himmelstrup, who will celebrate her 82nd birthday in 2018, is stepping down as artistic director at the end of the season in April.

The much-lauded Himmelstrup has built a national reputation for her impeccable musical taste and her ability to attract the biggest names in chamber music to the series, which has been held annually for the last 39 years in the church, located across the street from her home.

Even after Music in the Park began to attract wider renown for Himmelstrup’s ability to attract musical heavyweights, as well as her unswerving dedication to new music and the promotion of Minnesota composers, she always thought of it first as a neighborhood organization.

“I want my legacy to be that I provided a special kind of art form in the community,” she says. And the Himmelstrups to 8

Women’s Press changes hands

Feminist publication was launched in St. Anthony Park more than 34 years ago.

By Jason DeMoe

The new year will bring about a new beginning for Kathy Magnuson and Norma Smith Olson. The duo, longtime co-editors of the Minnesota Women’s Press, have been active with the publication in some capacity for three decades. They surrendered the reins to longtime collaborator Mikki Morrisette in mid-December.

Morrisette has 15 years of experience with the Press as a writer and copy editor and has worked with the New York Times and Time Inc.

“Every editor and publisher puts their own frame on things, so we do expect some changes,” Olson said. “However, we are confident that Mikki will continue our legacy and maintain our mission of telling women’s stories in ways that build community and encourage change.”

Although both Magnuson and Olson agree that it is time to step away, the decision did not come lightly for either.

“It was a tough deliberation because this has been such a labor of love for both of us,” Magnuson said. “Not only has it been our steady income, but more importantly, this is a mission that we are both very invested in. We are, however, excited to see the direction that the new generation plans to take the Women’s Press.”

Minnesota Women’s Press Inc. was founded by Mollie Hohen and Glenda Martin in 1984 to publish a biweekly newspaper, the Minnesota Women’s Press. Over the years, the publication has grown and expanded. In February 2009, the Press transitioned to a monthly magazine format. The magazine is distributed for free at more than 500 locations and events in the metro area. The current readership online and in print is estimated at 115,000.

In addition to the print publication, Women’s Press provides opportunities for women to meet, read, learn, write, talk and explore through outlets such as the Minnesota Women’s Directory, BookWomen Magazine, the Center for Writing Women (CWW) and the BookWomen Café.

Winter Classic set for late January

The 58th annual Langford Park Winter Classic will be held Thursday, Jan. 25, to Sunday, Jan. 28, and will feature basketball and hockey tournaments, a snack bar serving hot food throughout the weekend, and a medalion hunt on Sunday at noon.

The four-day event is a St. Anthony Park tradition that draws families from around the city and beyond. The Winter Classic is sponsored by the Langford Park Booster Club and volunteers are needed. Call Langford Rec Center 651-298-5765 for more information or to sign up to volunteer.
Cono Park
The District 10 Como Community Council meets at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month at the Historic Streetcar Station, 1224 N. Lexington Parkway. Contact information: 651-647-9000, district10@鞍m.org or District 10 Community Council on Facebook.

Upcoming District 10 meetings
All District 10 committee and council meetings begin at 7 p.m. at the Historic Streetcar Station, which is at the northeast corner of Lexington Parkway and Horton Avenue. Community members are always welcome to attend and participate.

Whenever possible, agendas are posted in advance in the “Board News” section of District 10’s website. Here are the upcoming meetings:
• Como Community Council monthly meeting: Tuesday, Dec. 19
• Environment Committee: Wednesday, Dec. 27
• Neighborhood Relations and Safety Committee: Tuesday, Jan. 2
• Land Use Committee: Wednesday, Jan. 3

Lauderdale
The Lauderdale City Council meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at Lauderdale City Hall, 1891 Walnut St. Contact information: 651-792-7650 or visit the website at lauderdalemn.org.

Resolution asks Congress to reverse Citizens United decision
The Lauderdale City Council passed a resolution at its Nov. 28 meeting supporting legislation that would overturn the controversial 2010 Supreme Court decision Citizens United v. FEC.

The Supreme Court decision had two elements that have changed the way political campaigns are funded: It gave corporations and other artificial legal entities the same constitutional rights enjoyed by citizens, and it equated the spending money to influence elections is not speech under the First Amendment; asking that Congress propose a constitutional amendment to provide such clarification.

Copies of the resolution were sent to Minnesota’s senators and representatives in Congress and Lauderdale’s senator and representative in the Minnesota Legislature.

St. Anthony Park
The District 12 Community Council (SAPCC) meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at Jennings Community Learning Center, 2455 University Ave. The council offices are located at 2455 University Ave., Suite 300. Contact information: 651-649-3992 or www.sapcc.org.

Neighbors help draft 10-year plan
More than 70 community members attended community forums in November and contributed feedback to the St. Anthony Park Community Council’s (SAPCC) community-vision planning. SAPCC is incorporating ideas from the community into a draft 10-year plan that will be reviewed by the city of St. Paul.

An updated draft of the plan will be shared with the community in the spring.

Thank you!
Thank you to all community members who have come together to make the achievements of the St. Anthony Park Community Council possible in 2017. Between the incredible board and committee members, generous donors, and hundreds of volunteers, partners and engaged community members, SAPCC has had an incredible year.

In the past year, our community partners have enabled the council to:
• Engage hundreds of residents, organizations and neighbors in surveys to design a community-vision for the future of St. Anthony Park.
• Secure transportation improvements, including ADA accessibility, the Stop for Me campaign, bike connections to the Grand Round, and sharing the success in the National Walk Summit.
• Collaborate with the city of St. Paul to purchase 2.25 acres for a new public park in South St. Anthony Park surrounded by new affordable housing designed to integrate into the character of the neighborhood.
• Expand food access by delivering hundreds of pounds of produce from our community garden to local low-income housing and securing stops from the Wilder Mobile Market.
• Partner with public environmental agencies to monitor air and water quality and improve our shared natural resources in St. Anthony Park.

Join your community council
SAPCC’s committees and board leadership are busy developing priorities for 2018 and are looking for more community members to join in and have an impact on improving this wonderful neighborhood.

Whether you’re interested in housing, economic development, transit accessibility, environment, food access, community building or other ideas, join SAPCC to make your ideas a reality for all who live, work, play, pray, study and shop in St. Anthony Park.

Visit www.sapcc.org for more ways to get involved and donate time or funding to these efforts. Here is a list of upcoming meetings. Jennings Community Learning Center is at 2455 W. University Ave. The SAPCC office is at 2395 W. University Ave., Suite 300.

The Transportation Committee meets the first Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at SAPCC.

The Land Use Committee meets the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at Jennings Community Learning Center.

The Equity Committee meets the first Friday of each month at 8 a.m. at SAPCC.

The Environment Committee meets the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at Jennings Community Learning Center.

Join the community council
St. Anthony Park Co-op Preschool
2129 Commonwealth Ave. St. Paul MN
Located in the SAP United Church of Christ
Exploring who we are and what we can do together!
Meets Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings
Ages 3-5 years
Extended day option T, W

COME TO OUR OPEN HOUSE:
FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 9-11 AM
To schedule a visit, call Kerrin Flanagan: 612.504.7436 For more info, visit our website: sapcp.org COMING FEBRUARY 25: FUN DAY @ LANGFORD PARK, 3-5 PM; JOIN US!
One giant masterpiece

Some saw a long hallway of Masonite; she saw a corridor of canvas.

It was a classic making-lemonade-out-of-lemons idea.

When construction workers at St. Anthony Park Elementary School put up a temporary wall this fall between the school’s soon-to-be-new library and the second-grade wing, construction-wearied students and faculty got inspired.

“The big, blank, white wall aroused many voices to channel a single thought: ‘We should paint this,’” said art instructor Courtney Oleen.

Because the wall was located in the second-grade annex, “I felt it should be [the second-graders’] project and a way to make the beginning of the year special.”

And it was. Some 80-plus second-graders spent several weeks creating one really long mural that features birds, bees, trees, flowers, fish, hearts, a unicorn, the Statue of Liberty and a whole lot of color.

The mural will be up until sometime in the spring, when the new library space will be open and the wall will come down.

“I think of this as a performance piece,” Oleen said, “a public art project that brought color to the long walkway.”—Kristal Leebrick

Ingrid Bollman signs her name on the area of the mural she helped create. Photos by Kristal Leebrick

At top, St. Anthony Park Elementary School art instructor Courtney Oleen shows off the temporary hallway mural. Above, Oleen works with a second-grader on the piece.

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The sun again will shine bright and clear (we hope)

As 2017 comes to a close and the winter solstice passes, here’s to a happy new year and leaving the dark days behind. We give you this poem by 12th-century Persian poet Hafiz.

The Sun Never Says
by Hafiz

Even after all this time the sun never says to the earth, “You owe me.”

Look what happens with a love like that, it lights the whole sky.

Deeadlines, publishing dates and where to find a Bugle

Want to submit something to the Bugle? Here are the deadlines and publication dates for the next three months:

February issue: The deadline is Wednesday, Jan. 17, and it will be published Tuesday, Jan. 30.
March issue: The deadline is Wednesday, Feb. 14, and it will be published Tuesday, Feb. 27.
April issue: The deadline is Wednesday, March 7, and it will hit the streets Tuesday, March 20.

Got a story idea? Give us a holler: editor@parkbugle.org or 651-646-5369. We take traditional mail, too: Park Bugle, PO Box 8126, St. Paul, MN 55108.

LED lighting is here

Are you paying attention to the new street lighting on Como and Raymond avenues in St. Anthony Park? Do you like it? Do you notice a difference between the new and existing lighting? Can you imagine all the neighborhood streets lined with that bright harsh lighting in place of our current soft lights? I support energy conservation and the advances made in lighting, but I truly don’t think that manufacturers have given good thought to the visual impact of the new lighting and its consequences. Once here, we will have to live with the changes. I believe there are other options that can be pushed for, but it won’t happen unless we do. If you are with me on this, please contact me at barryfp27@gmail.com.

Barry Resch
St. Anthony Park

Thank you, E&L Bindery

Shout out to Jeff Dahlin at E&L Bindery, 708 Vandalia St., for helping us archive all paper Bugles from 1974 to today. Thanks, Jeff!
Thank you for supporting the Park Bugle

Thanks to the following Park Bugle readers who have helped the Bugle raise $33,251 toward our goal of $42,000 in the 2017-18 fund drive. This list reflects those who gave through Dec. 8. We will publish more donors in the next issue.

The Bugle relies on tax-deductible donations to help defray the newspaper’s annual operating costs. You can donate online at www.parkbugle.org. Click the green DONATE button on the right side of the page (scroll down. It’s under the events calendar). Or send a check to: Park Bugle, PO. Box 8126, St. Paul, MN 55108.

Thank you!

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Preparation and attitude are key assets in dealing with disasters

By Mindy Keskinen

In an emergency, our best asset isn’t a flashlight, or a sleeping bag, or even a clean water supply. It’s our attitude. If we’re calm and aware of other’s needs, we help spark the community spirit that can raise in adversity.

This year, Americans have seen severe storms and floods, wildfires, and heat waves, all intensified by climate change. Are we prepared here in Minnesota? In any disaster, our confidence will depend on our health and our preparation.

That insight came from Dave Crawford, who spoke at a Nov. 28 community meeting co-sponsored by Transition Town – ASAP and the St. Anthony Park Community Council, with support from the Saint Anthony Park Community Foundation.

This year, that was partly why we formed the Local Economy group,” said Pat Thompson, who co-leads the new group with Sherman Eagles.

We live in a globally interdependent economy, but if we can bring at least some of our money home, we’ll be stronger in the long run.”

Members are researching topics, such as:

• Rolling over IRAs to allow for local investment
• Starting a real estate investment co-op, similar to Minneapolis’ NorthEast Investment Cooperative (www.neic.coop)
• Forming an investment club or chapter of Cooperative Principal, a Minnesota-based nonprofit that offers startup consultation to investment clubs

Any household should be ready both to shelter in place and to evacuate quickly if needed. Pre-pack a “bug-out bag” of key supplies for each person. (Illustration by Michael and Regina Russelle)

Are we ready as households, as neighborhoods, as a city?

A disaster preparedness consultant, Crawford said that any household should be ready both to shelter in place and to evacuate quickly if needed. Pre-pack a “bug-out bag” of key supplies for each person. The items will depend on where you’re likely to shelter, and for how long. But consider a first-aid kit, water-purification tablets, copies of light items to lift spirits. Be ready as households, as neighborhoods, as a city!

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Mindy Keskinen is a book editor who also coordinates communications for Transition Town – ASAP.

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‘Tilden Spotlight’: Here’s a snapshot from 60 years ago

By Roger Bergerson

The old elementary-school newsletter is yellowing, but the typewritten and mimeographed pages provide an informative and often-entertaining peek at the life after World War II.

Dietrich Lange, director of nature study for the St. Paul schools, talks to Tilden kindergarteners in 1939.

The old elementary-school newsletter is yellowing, but the typewritten and mimeographed pages provide an informative and often-entertaining peek at the life after World War II.

Early that June, an evening open house featured a concert by the Tilden Band, with refreshments, including cookies and shortcakes made by the eighth-grade girls as part of a home economics demonstration.

On a somber note, it was

One darling thing after another

Roger Bergerson chronicles our remarkable past

Six school patrol boys at Tilden caused a minor furor when they provided with passes to the Shrine Circus.

Their complaint? Unlike previous years, they had not been suspended the boys from their patrol duties, an action that he said was “permanent, as far as I am concerned.” He allowed them to continue in school, however.

R.E. Keesler, school principal, was unimpressed and suspended the boys from their patrol duties, an action that he said was “permanent, as far as I am concerned.” He allowed them to continue in school, however.

Lt. Frank Herzenz, St. Paul superintendent of school police, said it was the first time anything of the sort had happened in the 20-year history of the patrol force.

History:

One darn thing after another

Roger Bergerson chronicles our remarkable past

Get your copy at Micawber’s, the Como Avenue Bibelot Shop, the Minnesota History Center bookstore or Hermes Floral.

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One darn thing after another

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Chelsea Printworks now does business, there was Tilden Foods and Meats. (My mother bought a carving knife there that I still have). At 1341 Pascal St., just north of Midway Parkway, in the building in which Delicara Pizza and Gelato is now located, the Lorenz Food Market operated.

And no more than a block away, up the hill, there was the Frankson Grocery and John Olin Meat Market, at 1458 and 1450 Frankson Ave., respectively.

But there was also an ad that signaled the beginning of the end for that neighborhood shopping era.

Foodtown, “Midway’s Newest and Finest Super Market,” was opening at 1536 Como, today the site of the Shanghai Market.

I remember the grand opening of Foodtown because they gave away balloons. Very impressive to a 6-year-old.

Labor unrest

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By Roger Bergerson

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Dietrich Lange, director of nature study for the St. Paul schools, talks to Tilden kindergarteners in 1939.

The old elementary-school newsletter is yellowing, but the typewritten and mimeographed pages provide an informative and often-entertaining peek at the life after World War II.

Early that June, an evening open house featured a concert by the Tilden Band, with refreshments, including cookies and shortcakes made by the eighth-grade girls as part of a home economics demonstration.

On a somber note, it was

One darling thing after another

Roger Bergerson chronicles our remarkable past

Get your copy at Micawber’s, the Como Avenue Bibelot Shop, the Minnesota History Center bookstore or Hermes Floral.

History:

One darn thing after another

Roger Bergerson chronicles our remarkable past

Chelsea Printworks now does business, there was Tilden Foods and Meats. (My mother bought a carving knife there that I still have). At 1341 Pascal St., just north of Midway Parkway, in the building in which Delicara Pizza and Gelato is now located, the Lorenz Food Market operated.

And no more than a block away, up the hill, there was the Frankson Grocery and John Olin Meat Market, at 1458 and 1450 Frankson Ave., respectively.

But there was also an ad that signaled the beginning of the end for that neighborhood shopping era.

Foodtown, “Midway’s Newest and Finest Super Market,” was opening at 1536 Como, today the site of the Shanghai Market.

I remember the grand opening of Foodtown because they gave away balloons. Very impressive to a 6-year-old.
emphasis has always been on community. Himmelstrup was never interested in musicians who merely show up for their concert, then pack up their instruments and depart for the next gig. For Music in the Park, an engagement includes a meet-the-musicians reception after the performance and a post-concert talk about the music. She looks for musicians who are also willing to do more than make music. Himmelstrup looks for musicians who are also willing to do more than make music. Heimelstrup never planned a career in music. Heimelstrup never planned a career in music. His mother, a violinist. Young Julie was brought up in a musical household. His mother, a violinist. Young Julie was brought up in a musical household. Julie started playing piano, and she spent a lot of time singing in and accompanying various church groups. (For those who remember Chipewa Falls’ other most-famous resident, computer legend Seymour Cray, Himmelstrup says, “Cray’s mother was my Sunday school teacher.”) It was Himmelstrup’s accompanying skills that led to one of the most important encounters of her early life. Himmelstrup was living in St. Anthony Park when Anders Schiøtz asked the young pianist to meet a newly arrived young man from the Old Country. Anders Himmelstrup. The harmonics produced by that meeting proved to be more than musical. Himmelstrup had met her future husband and biggest supporter. The couple has been married for 57 years.

By the 1970s, the Himmelstrups were living in St. Anthony Park, and Anders was building his graphic design business and Himmelstrup had been appointed as one of three artists-in-residence by COMPA, a nonprofit that places teaching artists in Twin Cities schools. Meanwhile, an idea was taking shape in Himmelstrup’s mind: “I had played with the choir at the UCC, so I knew the setting, and I kept thinking, ‘That would be a beautiful place to have chamber music.’”

Working with a committee of neighborhood residents and drawing on her contacts in the music world, Himmelstrup cobbled together a first series in 1978. The budget was a measly $5,000. With characteristic panache, she decided to kick things off by spending most of it to bring in the entire 25-person St. Paul Chamber Orchestra for the series’ inaugural performance.

“Anders said, ‘If we don’t make our budget back, I’ll make up the difference.’” Himmelstrup recalls. He posted leaflets on the neighborhood trees to advertise. “I would never have been able to do it without him.”

Thanks also to musician friends like flutist Julia Bogorad, guitarist Libby Larsen briefly impelled the future of classical music in Minnesota by driving the pianist at restless speeds back to his downtown hotel to retrieve the missing programs. Rumors that Anders Himmelstrup entertained the waiting audience with coin tricks are, however, not to be believed. “There are ways in which Himmelstrup has the sense of coming full circle as she nears the end of her tenure. For one thing, the SPCO will perform the same William Bolcom piece this season that they played in that first Music in the Park performance almost four decades ago. For another, many of the performers in the coming months will be old musical acquaintances, like the Parker Quartet and David Finckel and Wu Han, whom both Himmelstrup and the audience have come to know and treasure. Himmelstrup says. For the future, Himmelstrup recognizes that audiences for classical music are aging. “Sure, I’m worried,” she says. “The audience is graying, but chamber music itself seems healthy. . . . I’m encouraged by the numbers of young people with interesting program ideas (that don’t) sacrifice the quality of the music.”

After Himmelstrup’s retirement, the series’ day-to-day operations will remain in the hands of the area’s oldest musical organization, the Schubert Club, with which Music in the Park merged in 2010. “I’m leaving Music in the Park with an organization that can maintain it,” she says, “and cast a wider net and expand.”

Besides, she adds after a moment, “I will certainly be attending the concerts, and maybe they will ask my advice occasionally.”

Him melstrup from 1

Every time I walk in, I think (the St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ sanctuary) feels like a big living room.” — Julie Him melstrup

Women’s Press from 1

for Feminist Reading and the Wom press newsletter, released four times a month.

Although thriving now, the Women’s Press wasn’t always well supported. “We spent the early years looking for investors and a lot of people said this would never work and that it was an idea that no one would support,” Olson said. “People didn’t believe that anyone would want to read a magazine only about women. Even after we published, we were still getting push back from potential advertisers. They would want to see a year or two of work before they would buy ads.”

Through hard work, dedication and a willingness to stick to the mission, the staff and management of the Women’s Press were able to turn the tide.

“We stayed true to what we’re not and what we are,” Magnuson said. “We focused on women’s health, education, spirituality and politics. These are the things that matter to women in their everyday lives. It is important to follow the money, but we resisted that and it has cost us financially. Our readers, though, are smart, and they reward our high editorial integrity. Eventually, advertisers caught on and the task of securing financing became less daunting.

“We now have a reputation in and around the Twin Cities and calling on ads requires a lot less time to figure out what we want to do next,” Olson said. “This is going to be a very big change for us. I think the day we need to sit down and figure out what we need to do in a few days before we can make an assessment in regards to what’s next. I think I need to take a sabbatical and then decide how I want to carry on being involved in the issues that I have always valued,”

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The December 2017 Changemakers issue of the Minnesota Women’s Press was the finale for Norma Olson and Kathryn Magnuson.
‘Community Conversations’ series aims to open dialogue on race

By Kristal Leebriick

As visitors approached the doors to Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 1630 Van Buren Ave., on a Saturday afternoon in early November, they were greeted with two signs. The one on the left door said, “White only”; the one on the right, “Colored only.”

The signs set the tone for the afternoon’s event, “Jim Crow: Then and Now,” the first of a four-part discussion series aimed at opening dialogue on racial and ethnic issues. Nearly 60 people—half black and white—attended this inaugural event of “Community Conversations for Racial and Ethnic Reconciliation and Understanding,” funded through a grant from the Episcopal Church in Minnesota. Holy Trinity, a small predominantly African American church in the Hamline-Midway neighborhood, has partnered with St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church in St. Anthony Park, Hamline-Midway business Mosaic on a Stick, Hamline University, Concordia University, Luther Seminary and Hamline United Methodist Church to present the series.

As participants settled into their seats at tables set up in the basement social hall of the church on Nov. 4, Marvin Gaye’s song “What’s Going On” played in the background. “What’s Going On,” was the unofficial theme of the afternoon, said facilitator Vianne Owens Hayes. The group was there to discuss their own experiences with Jim Crow laws in the past and how remnants of those laws continue now.

Jim Crow laws were state and local laws that enforced racial segregation in public facilities in the South and in public transportation, including segregated cars on interstate trains and buses. These laws were enforced until the Civil Rights Act was passed in 1964.

Linda Finney, a member of Holy Trinity and one of the coordinators of the Community Conversations, remembers sneaking over to a “white-only” public drinking fountain near her home in Miami-Dade, Fla., in the 1950s. She was just a kid, and curious and black. “I remember thinking, ‘It’s got to be better. Why do they separate it like that?’” She tasted it: “Just the water. It was like that? There’s got to be lemonade.” Finney said.

Those who were raised in Minnesota had their own stories to tell at the gathering. Rita Lyell, daughter of Minneapolis civil rights leader Harry Davis, recalled how her youngest brother had to be escorted by police to school when their father ran as the DFL-endorsed candidate for Minneapolis mayor in 1957.

Owens Hayes grew up in St. Paul and attended Webster Elementary School, the only black child there in the early 1950s. She recounted her story of being delighted at an invitation to a tea at a classmate’s home and then being told she had to go in the back door of the house, not the front door.

Attendees told stories of being chased out of Northeast Minneapolis — an area of town where black teenagers knew they were not welcome — and of the sections of the city where their families were not allowed to buy homes and businesses they knew better than to walk into, some of which are still unwelcoming to blacks today, Owens Hayes said.

“They are blinding into the present day,” Finney said.

Americans need to understand our history and have respectful conversations around race and ethnicity, because “if you understand your history, you are less likely to repeat some of it,” Finney said.

The second Community Conversation will address micro-aggressions and their impact on relationships both at work and on campuses. Finney said the event will be held Saturday, Feb. 24, from 2 to 5 p.m. at Hamline United Methodist Church, 1514 Engwood Ave.

For more information, email holytrinityepiscopal@q.com. The last two forums will be held April 28 and July 14. The subjects and locations have not been determined.

Planners felt talking about what it was like to live under Jim Crow was an important topic to start with, especially for young people. The Jim Crow discussion was intentionally kept to 60 people to enable those in attendance “to have a conversation,” Finney said.

The February conversation will accommodate more people.

Finney said Holy Trinity’s aim is to bring people together in a safe and respectful forum through these Community Conversations. This small church has an active membership of just 50 to 75 people, she says. Nevertheless, “I call us the little church that could,” she said.

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church hung signs on the doors for its Community Conversation on Jim Crow Nov. 4.

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By Kristal Leebrick

If Gen Nakanishi were to add up all the gingerbread houses she’s had her hand in creating over the last 36 years, the result probably would be close to 1,000.

Since 1981, when Nakanishi was working at the Maid of Scandinavia kitchen store in Roseville, she has been teaching people how to make and decorate those candy-laden concoctions. And many of those people have been her neighbors on Grantham Street in St. Anthony Park.

For at least 28 years, Nakanishi and her neighbors Ann Bettenberg and Patty Stolpman have been hosting a gingerbread house extravaganza each December. Participants have changed over the years as children grew up (though a few 20-somethings come back to participate), houses sold and new
neighbors moved in, but the rhythm of the event is still the same. You get the call from Bettenberg: Go down to Speedy Market to buy your gingerbread mix and if you didn’t save your house pattern from the year before, she’ll get you another one. Show up at Bettenberg’s house on a certain Thursday night—adults only—with your house parts baked and ready to go, then Nakanishi guides the group through the building phase of the project.

First item: creating the lattice windows and the decorative borders on the door. Then the walls go up, then the roof and then the snowy yard surrounding the home. (Unless you’re creating a Hawaiian surf shop, as 7-year-old Nora Imbertson did this year. Her yard was made of graham cracker crumbs to resemble sand.)

The houses sit for two or three days to harden, and then the children gather on the weekend to do the real work: filling those walls and roofs with gumdrops, peppermints, marshmallows, Skittles, Nerds, candy canes, chocolates and more chocolates. When asked how the candy decorations are chosen, the unanimous answer was: “We buy what we like to eat.”

“Mostly chocolate,” said 15-year-old Niko Scholtz, as he worked on his Viking longhouse with his 13-year-old sister, Kaia.

We asked Nakanishi what she thought made the perfect gingerbread house: “When the people—the kids—express their individuality. When the houses are first erected they all look the same, but they come alive when everyone does their thing. When they finish, they are all unique.”

It’s been nearly three decades since Nakanishi started this neighborly tradition, and she plans to keep doing it, she says, until “I don’t have anybody who wants [to make] them anymore.”

First, the lattice windows. Photos by Kristal Leebrick

“We buy what we like to eat” was the unanimous answer to how the candy decorations are chosen.

Nakanishi demonstrates how to attach the walls.
**January Events**

Venue information is listed at the end of each date.

**1 Monday**  
St. Paul Public Libraries are closed.

**2 Tuesday**  
Community Blood Drive, St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2-7 p.m.  
Register online or on blooddrive.org, sponsor code SAPAS, or call 651-644-9453 and leave a message.  
Head Nurse for Beginners, Women’s Drum Center, 5-6:30 p.m.  
Dram provided. $10 registration, no charge or registration required.

**3 Wednesday**  
English Conversation Circle, every Wednesday in January, St. Anthony Park Library, 6-7:30 p.m.  
All are welcome. No reservations required.

**4 Thursday**  
Curecara Support Group, first Thursday of each month, St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, 10-11:30 a.m.  
Bereavement Support Group, last Thursday of each month, St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, 10-11:30 a.m.  
Dialogue on Towson House, every Thursday, U of M St. Paul Campus, Northham Research Center, 1992 Folwell St., 10:30 a.m. x:12:30 p.m.

**5 Friday**  
Walking in the Langford Park gym from 2-3 p.m. every Friday. Free and open to adults.

**9 Tuesday**  
Baby/infant massage workshop begins each Friday at St. Anthony Park Library, 9:30-10:30 a.m. No reservation on Jan. 2.

**11 Thursday**  
St. Anthony Park Area Senior Drama series, “Wooden Woman,” St. Anthony Park Library, 2 p.m. All are welcome. Free.

**12 Friday**  
SAPAS Game Day, Centennial United Methodist Church, 10 a.m.-noon. No charge or registration required.

**13 Saturday**  
Preschool storytime in Meowhars, Chinese, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30 a.m.

**15 Monday**  
Community Sing, Como Campus Center first floor, Luther Seminary, 6:30 p.m. gathering, 7-8:30 p.m. singing. The event is free, but a free-will offering will be passed for the music leaders and to make the songs possible. Children welcome. Co-sponsored by the District 17 Community Council.

**19 Friday**  
SAPAS Game Day, Centennial United Methodist Church, 10 a.m.-noon. No charge or registration required.

**25 Thursday**  
Local Park Week Family launch & new items from Sporting Basketball, 5-9 p.m. snack bar, sandhill how. Call 651-298-5765 for more information.

**26 Friday**  
Tablet/Smartphone Drop-in Clinic, St. Anthony Park Library, noon-2 p.m. All are welcome. For more information, call 651-645-5065.

**28 Sunday**  
Sovaly, Almsman Book Club, “Blown” by Allen Gatz, 1:30-3 p.m. All are welcome.

**Senior Events**  
St. Anthony Park Area Seniors Series, Mondays and Thursdays, Falcon Heights Senior Apartments, 1-2 p.m. All are welcome.

**Free Senior Blood Pressure Clinics**  
Como Park/Falcon Heights  
Block Nurse Program:  
Fourth Monday, Falcon Heights City Hall, 12:45-1:30 p.m.

**Third Thursday**  
Author Panel, Senior Apartments, 10-11 a.m.

**Fourth Thursday**  
Falcon Heights Town Square Senior Apartments, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

**Saint Anthony Park Area Seniors (SAPAS)**  
Wednesdays, Centennial United Methodist Church, 11:30 a.m.-noon.  
Friday, Jan. 5 St. Anthony Park Library, 2-2:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, Jan. 9, Soul HI-RISE, 3-5 p.m.**

**Venue Information**  
Ashton Prime Senior Apartments, 655 W. Maryland Ave.

**Centennial United Methodist Church**  
SAP campus, 2200 Hildale Ave., 651-605-8946

**Falcon Heights City Hall, 207 W. Larpenteur Ave.**  
Falcon Heights Senior Center, 610 W. Larpenteur Ave.

**Falcon Heights Town Square Senior Apartments, 1530 W. Larpenteur Ave.**  
Lauderdale City Hall, 3800 W. Larpenteur Ave.

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Dr. Michael J. Dorer

St. Anthony Park resident, has been named one of six distinguished educators to receive the 2017 Wisdom of the Elder Award by the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education. The Wisdom of the Elder Award recognizes educators’ lifetime of dedicated service to Montessori education.

Dorer has been involved in Montessori education for more than 45 years. After beginning as a classroom assistant, he earned a Montessori education credential from the Minnesota Institute for Teacher Education in 1971 and early childhood and elementary school credentials from the American Montessori Society (AMS) and the Association Montessori Internationale. Dorer has a doctorate in instructional leadership from Argosy University. Dorer taught in the St. Catherine University Montessori Teacher Education Program from 1984 to 1990 and served as program director from 1991 to 2012. He founded the Institute for Montessori Innovation at Westminster College in Salt Lake City, from which he retired in 2015. He also started and wrote the charter for the nation’s first Montessori charter school, in Winona, Minn.

Dorer now serves as a senior consultant for the Montessori Foundation in Sarasota, Fla.

Dorer’s latest book, “The Deep Well of Time: The Transformative Power of Storytelling in the Classroom,” was released in 2016. Dorer and his wife, Rose, are longtime residents of St. Anthony Park.

Local nonprofit delivers books to historic Egyptian library

A piece of Midwestern literary culture now resides in one of the world’s oldest libraries in Alexandria, Egypt, thanks to a joint effort by nonprofits Books for Africa, Little Free Library, Minnesota Friends of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina and the Minnesota Book Awards program.

Books for Africa has a warehouse at 635 N. Prior Ave., just north of University Avenue. In October, Patrick Plonski, executive director of Books for Africa, presented Bibliotheca Alexandrina officials with a Little Free Library filled with award-winning books by Minnesota authors who had been recognized in the recent Minnesota Book Awards ceremony.

The library originally opened in the third century and has been recreated in recent years. The Little Free Library presented there is paired with a birch tree motif that evokes Minnesota’s woodlands.

Books for Africa has distributed more than 40 million books and large numbers of computers and e-readers to nearly every African country over the past 30 years.

Women’s Drum Center will host New Year’s Eve Wassail

The Women’s Drum Center, 2242 W. University Ave., St. Paul, is hosting a free informal co-ed New Year’s drum jam Sunday, Dec. 31, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. All ages are welcome. No drumming experience is necessary and drums will be provided.

The evening’s focus will be on drum jams, with other activities, including a short performance by Taikollaborative, a raffle prize drawing and a ceremonial ending with each person drumming in the New Year on a large Japanese taiko drum.

You can help support the Women’s Drum Center and its community outreach efforts by purchasing a raffle ticket for a chance to win one of three Visa gift cards. First prize is $300, second is $200, and third is $100. Purchase raffle tickets at the event or online at https://go.rallyup.com/wdcdwassail2017. You do not need to be present to win. No registration is needed for this free event; just come on by.

St. Matthew’s photo exhibit documents lives of refugees

St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church, 2136 Carter Ave., St. Anthony Park, invites you to attend the exhibit “When Home Won’t Let You Stay,” which runs Tuesday, Jan. 2, to Tuesday, Feb. 6, in the church’s Undercroft Gallery.

“When Home Won’t Let You Stay” is a poignant photography exhibition about refugees in Minnesota by documentary photographer James A. Bowey. It provides a new perspective on the often hidden lives and compelling experiences of refugees in our communities. The number of globally displaced people has risen dramatically in recent years and is expected to continue to rise in response to ongoing conflicts, poverty and climate change. International and national events have prompted debates in communities across the country about our duty to refugees, our American room and national identity. The traveling exhibition consists of contemporary color portraits accompanied by first-person stories highlighting the plight and resilience of refugees who call Minnesota home.

The exhibit also includes a unique live community conversation moderated by the photographer to consider the experiences of refugees, and the responses of local communities to needs of displaced people around the world. The community conversation will be held at St. Matthew’s Thursday, Jan. 25, 6:30 to 9 p.m.

St. Paul Public Library will offer Winter Wellness programs

St. Paul Public Library will host several programs to help encourage the community to embrace winter with laughter, meditation and warm mugs of tea. Programs are free and all are welcome.

“Tea 101 with TeaSource” will explore the many different types of teas—black, dark, oolong, yellow, green and white tea—and samples will be provided at each event. This event will be held at Hamline Midway Library, 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave., Wednesday, Jan. 10, at 6 p.m.; at Dayton’s Bluff Library, 645 E. Seventh St., Wednesday, Jan. 24, at 6 p.m.; and at St. Anthony Park Library, 2245 Como Ave., Thursday, Feb. 15, at 6 p.m.

Participants are invited to discover how meditation can improve concentration and relaxation. A rivind Naik will present simple, powerful meditation techniques to reduce stress. These Meditation for Healthy Living programs will be held at Rondo Community Library, 461 N. Dale St., Tuesday, Jan. 9, at 6 p.m.; at Arlington Hills Library, 1200 Payne Ave., Thursday, Jan. 25, at 6 p.m.; and at George Latimer Central Library, 90 W. Fourth St., Sunday, Feb. 11, at 2 p.m.

Laughter Yoga invites more joy, play and well-being into the daily routine. It does not include physical asanas and can be practiced by anyone who is willing to be a bit silly. These programs will be presented by certified Laughter Yoga leader and holistic life coach Katy Taylor at Riveview Library, 1, E. George St., Saturday, Jan. 13, at 1 p.m.; at Rice Street Library, 1011 Rice St., Tuesday, Jan. 16, at 6 p.m.; and at Hayden Heights Library, 1456 White Bear Ave., Saturday, Feb. 17, at 2:30 p.m.

To call 651-266-7000 or go to mypl.org/WinterWellness for more information.

‘A Steady Rain’ to open at Germolin Theatre in January

“A Steady Rain” will be performed at
Joseph Bianchi

Joseph D. Bianchi, 93, of Falcon Heights, died Nov. 17, 2017.

Joseph worked as a social worker at Hennepin County for many years. He was a volunteer firefighter in Falcon Heights for 30 years. He also served in the army during World War II.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Dorothy; siblings, Catherine (Joe Kearney), Ernest (Dorothy) and Dominic “Dick”; grandson, Joe Joki and Eugene Couture; and daughter, Lisa Livingstone (John Kranner) and Estelle Barul and three grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Milton; wife, Eleanor; infant son; and daughter, Jan.

A special thanks to Dave’s caregivers, Yamoko, Yemi and KG. With their expert and loving care, Dave was given the gift to stay in his home in comfort. A celebration of Dave’s life was held at University Baptist Church on Nov. 21.

Harold Fabriz

Harold Leo “Hal” Fabriz, 85, of Falcon Heights, died Nov. 25, 2017. He had a special talent in the arts of Duesenberg Automobile Museum, grace and charm both in word and deed. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Paul “Bucky” Jensen. She is survived by her children, Byron (Ann), Lisa (Gene) Gaetke, Paul (Lorraine); her daughter, Susan (Karl Schwacket); and two grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Ralph (2003); her daughter, Caroline (1963); her brother, Donald Gadde; and her sister, Josephine Stoner.

Duesenberg Automobile Museum. Hal’s hallmark was his loyalty, work ethic and integrity. He was preceded in death by his brother, Paul “Bucky” Jensen. She is survived by her children, Byron (Ann), Lisa (Gene) Gaetke, Paul (Lorraine); her daughter, Susan (Karl Schwacket); and two grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Ralph (2003); her daughter, Caroline (1963); her brother, Donald Gadde; and her sister, Josephine Stoner.

Private services will be held. Her ashes will be buried alongside Ralph’s at Osage Church in Cook, Neb.

Raymond Keller

Raymond A. Keller, 82, died peacefully Nov. 16, 2017, at St. Anthony Park Home. He was born in 1935 in St. Paul to Paul and Rose Hanna. His memorial service was held Dec. 19 at St. Christopher’s Episcopal Church in Roseville.

Dorothy Hopp

Dorothy Gaddi Hopp died Nov. 21, 2017. Dorothy celebrated her 101st birthday, joyfully surrounded by adoring fans, and left on her own terms, dying gracefully of old age. She will be missed and always remembered.

Born: Dorothy Louise Gade, Nov. 6, 1916, on a farm near Seward, Neb., she grew up hard working, active, inventive and adventurous. She grew tomatoes, helped clear fields and sewed a closed front of dresses. At the University of Nebraska in Lincoln her eyes were opened to cultural pursuits, classical music and interior design. She graduated with foods and nutrition and interior design majors.

She met Ralph Hopp at a dance in 1938, and they married on June 8, 1941. After travels for Ralph’s studies, they settled in St. Anthony Park. They enjoyed a happy life of Colorado skiing, tennis leagues, canoe trips, golf, dancing and entertaining—and raising three kids (Caroline, 1944; Tom, 1948; and Susan, 1953). Summers were spent car-camping and at their cabin in Amery, Wis. They family spent 1962–65 in Ankara, Turkey. Dorothy was active in organizations, including the University of Minnesota Faculty Women’s Club, where she was president in 1973-74. Dorothy’s lifelong passion for interior design was evident in her lovely homes full of Oriental rugs, paintings gathered from Turkey and travel. Asked late in life what her profession was, she replied, “I make things beautiful.” She indeed.

She is survived by son, Thomas (Loretta); daughter, Susan (Karl Schwacket); and two grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Ralph (2003); her daughter, Caroline (1963); her brother, Donald Gadde; and her sister, Josephine Stoner.

Private services will be held. Her ashes will be buried alongside Ralph’s at Osage Church in Cook, Neb.

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**New book explores the life and art of 94-year-young Bettye Olson**

By Jason DeMoe

It was 1923 when Emil and Irene Johnson welcomed daughter Bettye into the world at Norwegian Lutheran Deaconess Hospital and subsequently brought her home to their Powderhorn Park apartment in Minneapolis. Little did they know at the time, that Bettye would grow to become one of the most influential Minnesota artists of the 20th century.

In “Persistence of Vision,” a newly released book detailing Lauderdale resident Bettye Olson’s life and art, co-authors Julie L’Enfant and Jaden Hansen provide a thorough birth-to-present examination of the artist, who has been compared to both Vincent Van Gogh and Emily Carr.

Olson is a lifelong resident of the Twin Cities who received bachelor’s and master’s degrees in art history from Augsburg University, Luther College, the University of New Mexico in Taos and the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills, Mich.

Boasting an art career that spans seven decades, Olson has held 56 one-woman shows, including a retrospective at St. Catherine’s University in November 2006. That show was curated by associate art and art history professor Patricia Olson, who also wrote the forward for “Persistence of Vision.”

“Each of Bettye Olson’s artworks is but a single image in the body of work,” Patricia Olson writes. “Her art documents the authentic response of an artist compelled to carefully observe the incredible world around her.”

“Persistence of Vision” is broken into eight chapters’ worth of an examination of Bettye Olson. Each of those chapters explores a different set of years of her life. The book opens with 1923 to 1945, moves on to 1945 to 1949, and then provides six decades chapters: 1950s, 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s and 2000s.

One focal point of the book is the fact that Olson persevered as an artist and never stopped creating, even during a time when many believed wife and mother were the only two acceptable things for women to be and art was referred to as nothing more than a hobby for even the most serious of female painters.

“Who can say that the art world didn’t change but for the persistence of women artists like Bettye, who kept submitting their work to exhibitions and competitions, visiting art galleries, all the while so busy that they sometimes had to paint in the bathroom at night after the kids went to bed,” wrote Kristen Makhom, director of the Minnesota Museum of American Art, in the introduction to “Persistence of Vision.”

Although the book does weave an interesting truth about the life and times of Olson by providing vivid details in text, the artwork and personal photographs heavily peppered throughout the pages also speak to her enduring legacy while providing the reader an intimate look at the different phases of her life. From watercolors to acrylics to ink washes and charcoal work, Johnson’s efforts come to life on the pages. Also, 70 years worth of personal photographs from Minnesota to Washington to New Mexico to London to Italy and beyond provide a pictorial history lesson that provides for a welcome addition to the book.

“Persistence of Vision” is available through Aton Press at gogirl3954.com.

Paintings are included in the collections of the Weisman Art Museum, Minnesota History Center, Minnesota Museum of American Art, St. Catherine’s University, Augsburg University, Luther College, Concordia College, St. Olaf College, Pillsbury Th巾ter, 3 M and others, including private collectors—national and international.

**Neighbors from 13**

Germinal Theatre, 550 Vandalia Street, St. Paul, Friday, Jan. 12, through Saturday, Feb. 3. A Steady Rain explores the complexities of a lifelong bond tainted by domestic violence and the rough streets of Chicago.

Joey and Denny have been best friends since kindergarten, and after working together for several years as policemen in Chicago, they are practically family: Joey helps out with Denny’s wife and kids; Denny keeps Joey away from the bottle. But when a domestic disturbance call takes a turn for the worse, their friendship is put on the line.


![Bettye Olson in her studio at the Dow Arts Building on University Avenue. Photo by Kristal Leebrick](https://via.placeholder.com/150)

**JANUARY 2018 PARK BUGLE 15**

**Persistence of Vision**

The Art of Bettye Olson

**JULIE L’ENFANT and JADEN HANSEN**

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Written by Keith Huff (“TV’s “Madmen” and “House of Cards”), “A Steady Rain” premiered on Broadway with Daniel Craig and Hugh Jackman.

Tickets are $28 for general admission and those under 30 pay half their age every night. Discounts are available for seniors and Fringe button holders.

For times, dates and tickets, go to www.germinaltheatre.org or call 1-888-71-TICKETS.

**Classes at St. Paul Parks & Rec**

Registration for spring sports (indoor soccer, volleyball, floor hockey) is open Jan. 1-31. The first five days are early-bird discount days.

Here is a sampling of offerings at the Parks & Rec centers in the St. Anthony Park and Como areas. Go to the centers’ websites to find out more about classes.

**North Dale Recreation Center**

www.stpaul.gov/northdaleRec

651-296-7585

**Adult Ping Pong, Mondays through March, 6:30-8:30 p.m.**

Zumba for Adults, Wednesdays, Jan. 24-March 21, 9:30-10:30 a.m., $60

Ice Skating Lessons, ages 5-7, Saturdays, Jan. 6-Feb. 3, 10-11 a.m., $40

Mix It Up Chemical Engineering, ages 7-11, Thursdays, Jan. 18-Feb. 1, 4-5:30 p.m., $57

POWA Hip Hop, ages 16-adult, Saturdays, Feb. 3-March 31, 9:30-10:30 a.m., $60

Domestic Violence 101, ages 16-adult, Saturday, Feb. 3, 10-11 a.m., free

Mens 35+ Ice & Advil Basketball, Sundays, Feb. 11-March 25, 1-2:30 p.m., $26

Mens Soccer, Saturdays, Feb. 10-March 25, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., $35

Parent/Child Tot Time, Mondays, Saturdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, 9 a.m.

Winter Classic High School Girls Hockey, Saturday, Jan. 13, 9-11 a.m.

**Northwest Como Rec Center**

www.stpaul.gov/northwescomoRec

651-296-7585

Family Open Gym, Sundays, Jan. 7-March 25, 7-9:30 p.m., $60

Indoor Soccer, Sundays, Dec. 3-March 25, 5-6:30 p.m., $35

Junior Gamers, (ongoing), Tuesdays, 1-3 p.m., free

Women’s 35+ Basketball, Sundays, Dec. 3-March 25, 6:30-7:30 p.m., $35

Mens 35+ Ice & Advil Basketball, Sundays, Feb. 11-March 25, 1-2:30 p.m., $26

My Buddy & Me Dance, ages 3-7 and their adult buddy, Wednesdays, Jan. 17-March 9, 6-6:30 p.m., $80

Parents Night Out, ages 4-12, Fridays, Feb. 16, 6-9 p.m., $7/child

Creative Wiring Club, ages 7-12, Wednesdays, Feb. 7-28, 3-4:15 p.m., $35

Ice Skating Lessons, ages 3-5, Saturdays, Jan. 6-27, 12:30-1 p.m., $35

Ice Skating Lessons, ages 6-9, Saturdays, Jan. 6-27, 1-1:30 p.m., $35

Lego Machines, ages 7-12, 1 Mondays, Feb. 19, 1-4 p.m., $35

Softball Fast Pitch Clinic, ages 9-14, Tuesdays, Feb. 20-27, 7-8:30 p.m., $20

Teen Open Gym, ages 12-17, 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 10-28, free

Wacky Craft Thursday, ages 6-12, 3-15-4 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 11-March 3, free

Family Skating Party and Bonfire, Friday, Jan. 26, 6-8 p.m., free

**Longfellow Rec Center**

www.stpaul.gov/longfeldRec

651-296-7585

Ice Skating Lessons, ages 3-5, Saturdays, Jan. 6-Feb. 3, 2-3:30 p.m., $35

Ice Skating Lessons, ages 6-9, Saturdays, Jan. 6-Feb. 3, 2-3:30 p.m., $35

Baseball/Softball Clinic, ages 7-11, Tuesdays, Feb. 6-27, 7-8 p.m., $25

PARENTS NIGHT OUT, ages 4-12, Fridays, Feb. 9, 6-9 p.m., $7/child

Chair Yoga for Adults, Thursdays, Feb. 4-April 5, 1-2:30 p.m., $60

Have a Heart Cooking Class, ages 7-12, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Thursdays, Feb. 15, $35

Mens Soccer, ages 11-17, Saturdays, Feb. 17, 6-7:30 p.m., free

Chess Club, ages 7-12, Wednesdays, Jan. 10-March 28, 6-7:30 p.m., $65

Babysitting Training, ages 11-17, Saturdays, Feb. 3, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., $60

Zumba for Adults, Mondays, Jan. 22-March 19, 7:45-8:45 p.m., $60

Badminton, ages 10-adult, Saturdays, Jan. 6-Feb. 3, 2-4 p.m., free

Pickleball, ages 10-adult, Sundays, Jan. 7-Feb. 4, 2-4 p.m., free

Open Gym, all ages, Saturdays and Sundays, Jan. 6-Feb. 3, 4-6 p.m., free

Bowling, ages 50+, Fridays, 9-11 a.m., free

Walking, ages 18+, Fridays, Jan. 5-March 30, 2-3 p.m., free

Trot Time, Thursdays, 9-10:30 a.m., free

Men’s 35+ Ice & Advil Basketball, Sundays, Feb. 11-March 25, 1-2:30 p.m., $26

Soo Bahk Do, ages 6-adult, Thursdays (ongoing), $45/month
School News

We welcome news about area schools and students in our coverage area. Send your news about local schools and students to editor@parkbugle.org. The next deadline is Wednesday, Jan. 17.

Como Park Senior High
740 Rose Ave., 651-293-8800
www.comosr.spps.org

They were on TV
Academy of Finance (AOF) students at Como welcomed Wells Fargo employees to school last month for an all-day networking event. Leaders from Wells Fargo guided AOF students from each grade level in small group discussions, mock interviews, resume-building lessons and soft skills refinement.

Coordination between Como AOF instructor Kris Somerville, Wells Fargo and Junior Achievement’s “JA Inspire” outreach program created a large-scale, impactful experience at Como for more than 300 students.

Reporter Jessica Miles from KSTP-TV was on site interviewing students and Wells Fargo representatives. A feature story was produced for evening and morning news broadcasts.

Senior Janzsha Jones said developing confidence in professional situations will serve all students well, regardless of what they study in the future.

“The communication skills we get are huge because a lot of young people in this era don’t know how to talk to people or approach someone,” Jones said. Senior Robert Adams added that joining AOF was one of the best decisions he has made in high school. The program has given him confidence to reach for his goal of being an entrepreneur.

Close Up students are bagging groceries to raise funds for trips
AOF Government and Politics students are fundraising for the March Close Up trip to Washington, D.C. Students will bag groceries for customers at the Roseville Club Foods on Larpenteur Avenue Friday, Dec. 22, and Saturday, Dec. 23, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Donations from Cub customers will help defray the expense of the educational adventure.

Also, throughout the month of January, proceeds from all sales at Sunrise Bank’s Park Pels Coffee Bar will support the Como students’ journey to the nation’s capital. Tasty treats and coffee are located inside the bank at 2250 Como Ave. in St. Anthony Park.

Twenty-six seniors will participate in the Close Up program, which promotes education in democracy and uses the capital as a living classroom.

Throughout the week, Como students will connect their learning through study visits to monuments and memorials, have meetings with elected officials, policy experts and journalists, while representing Minnesota in their peer groups with other high school students from across the nation.

Apps Club meets weekly
Como girls interested in technology applications and who want to learn more about writing code have started up the Como Technovation Apps Club again this winter.

The club meets weekly for three months and includes membership from a field expert, the use of the App Inventor product and coordination from club adviser Liz Riggs.

“The culminating event is participation in Minnesota’s Technovation Appalooza, where students showcase their app to local business and industry leaders at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Last year, one of Como’s teams won at the Minnesota event by developing an efficient language translator. They advanced to the national level of competition, which was evaluated virtually by a committee of judges,” Riggs said.

This year, the returning girls aspire to develop a new app that serves people in another effective way. They also hope to have even more girls participating in the fun, instructive and useful club activity.

Como shadow at Como
Prospective students who are interested in experiencing a day at Como Park Senior High School are invited to shadow a current student.

Students may shadow Jan. 10, 11, 17 and 18, as well as Feb. 7 and 8. Parents of students who would like to shadow may register on the school website, www.comosr.spps.org. Under “Families,” click the “shadowing and tours” link. Any questions can be referred to Dede at paricia.hammond@spps.org or 651-774-6825.

Murray Middle School
2200 Buford Ave., 651-293-8740
www.murray.spps.org

Learning about environment and culture at Wolf Ridge ELC
Seventy Murray students went to Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center in northern Minnesota in late November to learn about the environment.

As they rode the bus, they sat with their friends or started to make new ones. As they met their dorm mates, they continued to make new friends and even more were made as they attended their classes, which varied from adventure ropes to lichens.

These environmental classes were interpreted with classes taught by eighth-grade leaders from four of the many different cultures represented in the student body at Murray.

All students participated in classes ranging from dance contests, making Yule heart crafts, learning about the Rondo neighborhood, how the Karen came to America and enjoying pan de muertos.

These cultures, although different, all coexist within the Murray community. The classes helped students respect the differences and understand that every culture has traditions and stories that make us more alike than different.

As the retreat closed, students were asked how they could make Murray an even better school. Their ideas will start conversations around school within all foundations classes. The school’s staff and administrators will work to implement and help the student voices become integrated into school life.

Tutors needed at Murray
Murray Middle School offers a comprehensive tutoring and study skills support program called the Murray Pilot One-on-One Tutoring Program.

Now in its 11th year, the program is offered during the school day as an elective class Monday through Friday during the last three class periods of the day at 11:08 a.m., 12:12-1:04 p.m. and 1:08-2 p.m.

The seventh- and eighth-grade children involved in the program are primarily at-risk students who benefit from obtaining daily support from a tutor and mentor. Tutors work with students on developing solid study skills and they work on core subjects, including English, science, math and social studies. The goal is to have 75 tutors each week who are either members of the community or are students from the local colleges and universities.

People enjoying working at Murray because it is an urban middle school with a diverse population and they have an opportunity to work with the same student each day. This lends itself to developing positive relationships with the Murray students. Cindy Thrasher is present in the classroom during the entire time so that both the Murray student and the tutor have a support system in place at the school.

All tutor volunteers are asked to participate in a 90-minute training and orientation session. Contact Cindy Thrasher, coordinator, to sign up for a training session or for more information at 651-293-8740 or cindy.thrasher@spps.org.

New Year’s Resolutions for 2018

☐ Have a current appraisal done on my home
☐ Look for my dream home while interest rates remain low
☐ Work with a caring and knowledgeable realtor

Nancy Meeden
Coldwell Banker Burnet
Mobile 612-790-5053
nmeeden@cbburnet.com

Murray Middle School students spent many hours outdoors during the late-November trip to Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center near Finland, Minn. Photos courtesy of Tim Chase.

Voyageur camp is a popular class at Wolf Ridge.

Murphy Family Farm
Murray Middle School students spent many hours outdoors during the late-November trip to Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center near Finland, Minn. Photos courtesy of Tim Chase.
The Nordic ski season for high school teams across the state officially began Nov. 13. As of Dec. 13, the Como Cougar Nordic skiers had yet to ski on snow, which, after all, is pretty much the point of Nordic skiing.

An ivy mix in early December toppled off with flames covered the ground in white, but the snow pack required for skiing in St. Paul was not sufficient.

Roller ski that simulate skiing technique have been used by a handful of Como skiers that have their own equipment, but the majority of team members have been running. And running. And running some more.

The circumstances create a bit of a conundrum for coaches and captains. How should skiers practice skiing when they can’t ski?

“I’m like the basketball team having practice every day, but they’ve deflated all the basketballs,” quipped senior captain Dominik Wherter.

Seniors Gabe Reynolds, Eli Pattison and Eva Hanson are also captains. They share the sentiments. Nevertheless, they know there’s not much they can do. When there is enough snow, their fitness needs to be at a high level.

All the captains, plus a majority of the 30 team members, are cross-country runners in the fall. “It’s a lot of running when there’s no snow, and some people get a little tired of that after many months, but endurance is very important to Nordic, so it’s still helpful to get us ready,” Hanom said.

“I’m not bothered by dryland training, but it is a bit tricky to try and maintain team excitement when we’re not actually doing the sport we signed up to do,” Pattison added.

To mix things up and avoid monotony, dryland training activities have included spirited games of soccer and Ultimate Frisbee. Skill levels and passion for those forms of cross training vary, but the camaraderie of the team keeps things fresh.

Another element to team chemistry is pasta. Team bonding over pasta dinners is a tradition carried out the night before every race. Or most accurately, every scheduled race.

While lack of snow may cancel a meet, it doesn’t stop Como Nordic skiers from feasting together on carbs the prior evening. Pattison and Reynolds explained, with a smile, that they wouldn’t want to miss their carb loading.

When spending time around the Cougars’ skiers, it’s difficult to not be impressed with the attitude, maturity and pleasant spirit they display. These traits are greatly appreciated by Como head coach Sasa Van Vootis.

“It’s a really smart group of kids. It’s nice not having to explain every decision we make. They understand why we’re running. You definitely get committed kids when you’re only skiing a third of your actual season,” Van Vootis said.

Van Vootis is an accomplished skier with deep knowledge of technique and equipment. He is well-connected in the large Nordic ski community and enjoys the supportive relationships.

“His young and he’s passionate and he’s really committed to seeing skiing grow in St. Paul,” Gabe Reynolds said of his coach.

Van Vootis grew up in St. Paul and attended Central High School. He was on the ski team there and in college. After schooling and work with the forest service, he returned to Central and served as the assistant coach. The head coach was his father-in-law, Rob Lagoon.

After five years as an assistant, Van Vootis applied for the head coaching position at Como when it opened up in 2015. While taking the job at Como may have split up the daily family gathering, a
The Como Nordic ski team spent another warm November day doing dryland training on the school track and field before heading around Lake Como.

Photo by Eric Erickson

The Como Nordic ski team spent another warm November day doing dryland training on the school track and field before heading around Lake Como.

Photo by Eric Erickson
CLASSIFIEDS

Send your ad to classifieds@parkbugle.org or PO Box 8126, St. Paul, MN 55108, or call Fariba Sanikhatam, 612-306-7565. Ads are $5 per line. Add a box or art for $10. Next deadline: Jan. 19.

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Naughty Greek opens second store on University Avenue

St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman was on hand Dec. 5 to hold the ribbon as Angelo Giovanis and his two daughters cut it, marking the grand opening of the Naughty Greek’s second location at 2400 University Ave. Giovanis, a native of Greece, opened his first restaurant at Snelling and Selby avenues a year ago. It was so successful that he needed a new space with a larger kitchen and more storage to house the olive oil, feta cheese, honey and olives that Giovanis imports from Greece, he said.

The University Avenue restaurant has a similar menu to the Snelling Avenue location, including the store’s signature dish: pork gyro made from scratch with layers of locally sourced meat, herbs, garlic, olive oil and citrus. The new restaurant can seat up to 74 people.

A new jewelry line at Scarborough Fair

Katheryn Menaged, proprietor at Scarborough Fair, helped Diane Young with pieces from the store’s new jewelry line, Clara Williams of Chicago. Photo by Kristal Leebrick

All pieces are made in the Chicago area by artisans or are antique precious pieces sourced from throughout the world. “The wearer can interchange the centerpieces with any of the necklaces,” she said. Menaged has been intrigued by the artistry and innovation of this line for years, she said. Scarborough Fair carries “romantic” women’s clothing, jewelry and accessories, and art. It is located in Milton Square in St. Anthony Park, at the corner of Como and Carter avenues.