

# Front Porch

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NORTHEAST DENVER

DECEMBER 2018

## Social Media: Does it Erode Democracy?



East High School Constitutional Law teacher Matthew Fulford and some of his students gather in the library prior to class. Students show the phones they use to exercise their first amendment right of free speech as Fulford holds the document that gives them that right. From left, students are: Walker Young, Jenny Nolan, Marco Jimenez, Rebecca Chapman, Abby Schuman.

By Martina Will, Ph.D.

East High School's constitutional law students have had an impressive record of achievement in constitutional law competitions over the years. The students in Matthew Fulford and Susan McHugh's class,

in the East tradition, were well-versed about the historic context of James Madison's words, "Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech..." They spent 90 minutes exploring its meaning in today's world of social media. *See story on page 6.*

## The Case for a Real Auditorium

By Carol Roberts

For a talented and passionate group of young actors from Northfield High School (NHS), their recent production of *The Canterbury Tales* wove together their love of theatre, new knowledge of people and places from the 1300s, and a concern about their current theatre facilities. As the only International Baccalaureate (IB) high school in the state with no auditorium for their theatre program, they are imploring DPS to build an auditorium. *Story on page 8.*



In *The Canterbury Tales* or Geoffrey Chaucer's *Flying Circus* by Burton Bumgarner, Harry Bailey (center, played by Tyler Imhof) brings the first act to a close. Left to right are Kate Stewart as Bob, Macy Schram as Mandy, Macy Vogel as Thief 2, Katie Campbell as Thief 1, Ayla Perez as Thief 3 and Maggie Kempen as Envy.

## Dior at the DAM



Seventy-one years of the iconic fashion house, chronicled by its haute couture creations. *Story by Laurie Dunklee on page 6.*

## "The Talk"

Sex Education for Teens

Story by Martina Will, Ph.D. page 30.





WinterSkate, a 15-year tradition in downtown Louisville, has opened a second rink at The Shops at Northfield this year. WinterSkate at Northfield is sponsored by The Shops at Northfield, Tuff Shed and ListenUp.

—Photo courtesy of Boulder Creek Events, producers of WinterSkate rinks.

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Like us at Front Porch Newspaper for updates on local news and events.

Visit FrontPorchNE.com to comment and find articles from past issues.

## Correction

In the November issue, School Performance Framework (SPF) chart on page 17, we inadvertently coded the “Status” (achievement) box for Ashley Elementary School red instead of yellow. Our sincere apologies to Ashley staff, parents and students. See story on page 20 for more information about Ashley and SPF color coding.

## Are you a freelance writer?

Let us know your areas of interest and expertise. We’d like to expand our list of writers to include NE neighbors knowledgeable about subjects of interest to the community.

## Letters to the Editor

We welcome your letters. Send to Carol@FrontPorchNE.com

## Pick up the Front Porch in local grocery stores.

We now have papers in both King Soopers in Stapleton and in the Mayfair King Soopers. Papers are also available at the Safeway stores in Lowry and Mayfair.



### Christmas Concert

Friday, December 7th, 7:00 pm, The Cube  
The Colorado Wind Ensemble will be performing a holiday-inspired concert, highlighting some seasonal stylings that will surely bring this magical time of year to life. The wind ensemble is much like a traditional concert band, but each musician plays as a soloist within a large group rather than as one member of a large section playing the same part. The wind ensemble is one of the most dynamic performing groups in music today, with a constantly evolving repertoire. This concert is free and open to the public.

### Wine Education Series

Wednesday, December 12th, 7:00 pm, The Cube  
The MCA’s Wine Education Series spotlights the educational side to wine tasting. This two-hour, sit-down tasting will highlight a variety of red and white wines from Southern Italy. The tasting will be guided by wine expert Grant Harmsen of The Vineyard Wine Shop, who will educate attendees on the selected wines’ evolution from vineyard to table. Tickets are \$20 and will increase to \$40 the day of the event. To purchase tickets, visit stapletoncommunity.com. You must be 21+ to attend and no refunds will be permitted.

### Active Minds Seminar – Holiday Traditions & Customs

Thursday, December 13th, 6:45 pm, Sam Gary Library  
Why do we have Christmas trees? Or for that matter, holiday lights, eggnog, holly or mistletoe. Join Active Minds as we seek to explain the origins of a wide variety of holiday traditions and customs. Our focus will be mostly on secular winter holiday traditions, many of which are associated with the winter solstice.

### Christmas Cocktails Workshop

Wednesday, December 19th, 7:00 pm, The Cube  
Looking to impress your friends and family with some newly developed mixology skills over the holidays? Come to our Christmas Cocktails

Workshop where you’ll be able to explore a diverse collection of bartending supplies and produce your very own, signature, holiday drink. There will be a cocktail expert present to demonstrate a variety of bartending techniques and flavor profiles. Tickets are \$20 and will increase to \$40 the day of the event. To purchase tickets, visit stapletoncommunity.com. You must be 21+ to attend and no refunds will be permitted.

### Santa’s Best Christmas Trees

This holiday season, be sure to visit one of our Christmas tree lots located on both our North and South Greens. The North Conservatory Green is located at 49th Place & Valentia Street and our South Founders’ Green is located at 29th Avenue & Roslyn Street. You won’t have to go far to find the perfect tree for your 2018 holiday display!

### Front Desk Location

Our 29th Avenue office has closed permanently to the public as we proceed in moving to our new administrative offices. Our existing front desk location is currently accessible within The Cube, located at 8371 E Northfield Blvd. The Cube will be open Monday–Friday, 9am–5pm, and closed weekends and holidays.

On behalf of the entire MCA staff, we’d like to wish everyone a most joyous holiday season. No matter your race, religion, traditions or beliefs, each resident plays an equal part in making Stapleton such a spectacular place to live. Therefore, this holiday season at the MCA, we’ll be celebrating all of you; the residents who breathe life into everything we do here. We look forward to cultivating many new memories with all of you in 2019! Together, we represent ONE community, ONE neighborhood, ONE Stapleton.

If you have any questions or comments about the information above, please feel free to contact  
luhling@stapletoncommunity.com or call the MCA office at 303.388.0724.

Lawrence Uhling  
Administrative Assistant  
luhling@stapletoncommunity.com

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PUBLISHERS:  
Carol Roberts – Editor  
Steve Larson – Photography

WRITER: Martina Will de Chaparro, Ph.D.

AD SALES: Karissa McGlynn 303-333-0257,  
303-993-9963, KarissaMcGlynn@gmail.com

Letters to the Editor: Carol@FrontPorchNE.com

# Front Porch

www.FrontPorchNE.com  
FrontPorch@FrontPorchNE.com 303-526-1969  
2558 Syracuse St., Denver, CO 80238

The Front Porch – NE Denver distributes more than 27,000 free papers during the first week of each month. Papers are delivered to doorsteps and/or racks in Stapleton, Park Hill, Lowry, Montclair, Mayfair and NW Aurora.

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# East High Grad Returns from Broadway

By Laurie Dunklee

“I didn’t have a terrifically illustrious theater career at East High School—I acted in a couple of shows. But I realize now that much of my DNA as an actor and teacher—my thoughts and perspectives—were instilled in me by the teachers I had there,” says Gareth Saxe, best known for his role as the villain Scar in the Broadway and Denver productions of *The Lion King*.



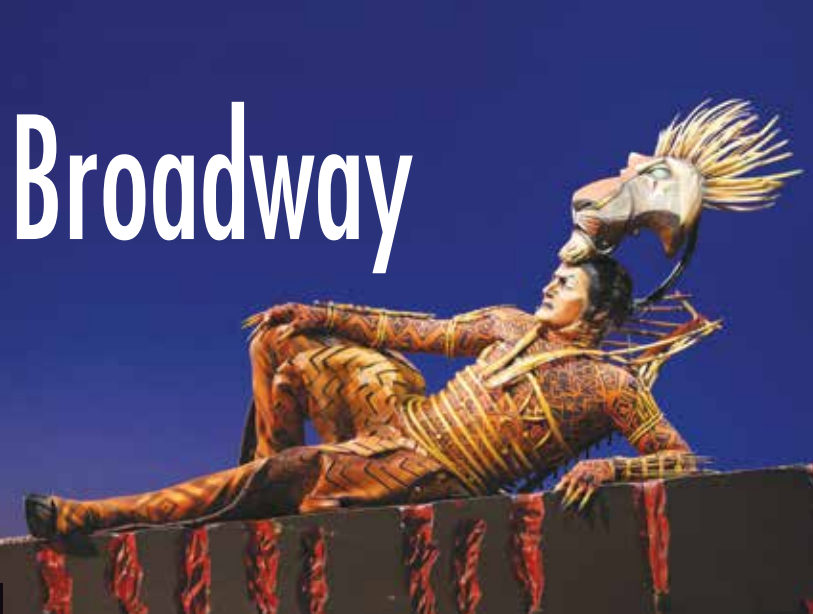
East High School graduate Gareth Saxe (left) returns to the East stage for this photo with the current East theater teacher Matt Murphy.

Saxe graduated from East High School in 1989. “I grew up around theater; my parents did shows at the Changing Scene and dad taught at Metro. I was like the preacher’s kid, though. I wanted to be an architect. I was in my senior year at Colorado College when it became obvious that acting was what I should be doing.” Saxe went on to study theater at New York University, earning his Master of Fine Arts. In addition to landing roles in three Broadway productions, he performed Off-Broadway and

in regional theaters, as well as in TV and film. Saxe began his six-year run as Scar on Broadway in 2010, with a break in 2015 to play the role in the Denver road production. “Disney let me switch from Broadway to the touring company, so I could come home to take care of my ill dad. After we came out for that month, we decided we wanted to move back to Denver.” His Broadway contract ended in mid-2017 and so Saxe moved to Denver with his wife and 6-year-old son. “We wanted to be close to

pithy.” Not all Saxe’s roles are villains. His favorite role was that of Franz Jägerstätter, a conscientious objector during World War II, in the play *iWitness*. The character is executed by the Nazis. “It was satisfying because here was a person of conviction who decided that losing his conscience would be worse than dying. “As an actor, it’s a glorious thing to move through the large and rich palette of human experience.” Saxe performed in the DCPA’s *Macbeth* last

fall and has been cast in *Anna Karenina* in January 2019. His classes at the DCPA help both beginning actors and those who are perfecting their craft. “It’s a real mix of students, both professionals and hobbyists. I enjoy the act of transmitting what I know. I’m learning too, because now I must articulate what I’ve done intuitively. It throws me back into the process. Teaching is renewing my love affair with the craft.” He recalls several teachers at East who influenced his acting and teaching. “I took forensic speech classes with Judy Schwartz, who got me interested in modern drama. The drama teacher, Mr. Van Epps, was an old-school veteran of many shows who bridged the working world of theater and the academic world. He instilled in me that theater requires serious commitment. When done well, acting can look easy, like fooling around. But this is not foolishness. There are mechanics to making people laugh and you need to learn them.” Saxe remembers a particular scene at East that changed his perception of theater. “It was a show about teenagers’ difficulties that ended with all of us doing barre exercises to the Pachelbel Canon. It felt raw and real, so powerful it overwhelmed me. It resonated with me and for the first time I thought ‘This can really talk about people’s experiences in a profound way. This is important and useful for society. It’s not just entertainment.’”



Gareth Saxe played the villain Scar in the Broadway and Denver productions of *The Lion King*. —Photo by Joan Marcus

THE ART OF AIRPORTING

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The holiday forecast is looking chill at Denver International Airport! Take a twirl before takeoff or after you land—or just bring the family out for some festive fun.

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A promotional graphic for the Denver International Airport (DEN) ice skating rink. It features a large, smiling child in a purple winter jacket, a striped scarf, and a knit hat, holding a pair of ice skates. The background is a light blue with white snowflake patterns. The DEN logo is in the top right corner.



# Does Social Media Enhance Democracy or Erode It?



Above: Matthew Nekritz argued that social media has increased the opportunity for democracy.  
Below: East High School Constitutional Law class students discussed what types of speech are protected under the First Amendment and what is not (e.g. obscenity and pornography). One student noted that social media is often more restrictive of imagery than it is of words.

James Madison, 1787 (a year before the Constitution’s ratification):  
*“The influence of factious leaders may kindle a flame within their particular States, but will be unable to spread a general conflagration through the other States.”*

Henry Fox, 2018, East High School Constitutional Law class: *“He [Madison] would maybe change that if he were able to see the advances in technology. How the internet gives voice to those factions has absolutely changed...connecting 1% of the population with everybody else who thinks that way really overrepresents those groups.”*



By Martina Will, Ph.D.  
Fast-forward to today, and Madison’s words seem anemic in the age of viral videos, White House tweetstorms, and bots conveying targeted (mis)information across the web. Does social media enhance democracy or erode it? Students in Matthew Fulford and Susan McHugh’s Constitutional Law class at East High School tackled this question and its First Amendment implications the day after the midterm elections. Having come of age in an era saturated with social media, these perceptive teens offered views that reflected on Madison, the nation’s current polarization, and First Amendment rights in the internet age.

**First, some history**  
Let’s face it. Our Founding Fathers were, for the most part, elitists. Radical as the American experiment was at the time, they were intentional in establishing a democratic republic rather than a direct democracy. In a republic, people do not have a direct voice in government but select individuals to represent them—a logical choice in an era



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Abby Schuman shares her views during the class discussion. One subject that arose was the idea that even though social media brings hate speech to the surface, keeping it underground would make it even more nefarious.

when most people were illiterate. Only white, educated men of property could be trusted to make decisions unblemished by self-interest. Women, people who did not own property, those who had been enslaved, and others did not merit a voice at all in this noble experiment.

In fairness, the Founding Fathers did consider direct democracy. James Madison grappled with the question of both forms of government in Federalist #10, concluding that a republican form of government could best safeguard both majority and minority interests. Though concerned that factions might whip up support for unsavory causes contrary to national interests, geographic distances provided a sort of security whereby passions would cool before inflaming the public beyond a particular locality. “The

influence of factious leaders may kindle a flame within their particular States, but will be unable to spread a general conflagration through the other States. A religious sect may degenerate into a political faction in a part of the Confederacy; but the variety of sects dispersed over the entire face of it must secure the national councils against any danger from that source.”

### What do East’s constitutional law students think?

“I feel like the existence of the internet makes it a lot easier for people to find different perspectives,” said junior Sophie Goldberg. “This is purely theoretical, but if there were a newspaper run by the government, they would be able to put whatever information in that they want with no check on the accuracy of that information; however, if there are multiple news sources out there—of course, some might be the Breitbarts of the world—but if they are the New York Times, they are checking Fox News, which is checking CNN, for example. That allows people to think critically about the information they are getting, solely by being able to see a lot of different perspectives.”

Junior Aiden Glennie suggested that many viewers, however, were more focused these days on trying to determine if the information presented was true rather than “processing it how they should be.” Kacey Tanner contended that “the standards for genuine academic discourse have not been lowered,” because people who are passionate about politics

continue to do the research to find the most accurate source and check each other when they are wrong about something.

Matthew Nekritz stated that social media “has actually aided democracy and we saw it yesterday. Voter turnout in this year’s midterms for younger voters, mostly millennials, is projected to have gone up 188% this year.” While he acknowledged that some of this increase is due to greater polarization, he asserted that “it’s also due to other people who are not actually news sources—such as celebrities—pushing people to vote through social media....I would say in that sense, it has increased the opportunity for democracy.”

Though “mob rule” wasn’t the phrase students em-

ployed, Madison’s fear of the rabble sullyng the virtuous republic with their emotional demands resonated with some, who expressed concern over the internet’s ability to amplify the voices of outliers on both sides of the political spectrum. People empowered by the anonymity of a keyboard and a screen can now share their hateful ideas and find a virtual community of like-minded souls. While a number of students agreed that political leaders should condemn hate speech and incendiary speech, most seemed to concur that the responsibility for establishing the boundaries of free speech online falls on the shoulders of private companies operating sites like Facebook, Snapchat, and Twitter.

Several of these future voters spoke to social media’s democratizing effects. Kennedy Austin suggested that, as polarized as we are today, the internet has also made our society more politically engaged than ever before. Social media allowed the students at Parkland to share information and organize, quickly turning a local tragedy into a national movement. Social media allows constituents to easily determine whether their senators and representatives are fulfilling their campaign promises, increasing their accountability to the electorate. Notwithstanding these benefits, some mourned the loss of political compromise and the facility to “disagree agreeably,” as Goldberg phrased it, which social media seems to exacerbate.

Returning to James Madison’s vision of the republic, however, Henry Fox considered what that Founding Father’s view would be in the modern world. “By looking at Federalist #10 we can see Madison’s view of factions and how he thought they would counteract [each other] in a diverse and broader community. He would maybe change that if he were able to see the advances in technology. How the internet gives voice to those factions has absolutely changed...connecting 1% of the population with everybody else who thinks that way really overrepresents those groups.”

Though the class ultimately did not reach consensus on the question of social media and democracy, their respectful, well-informed, and carefully reasoned exchange of ideas embodied the best of our democracy and underscores the value of civics classes such as this. It was in the education of our youth that the Founding Fathers invested their hopes for the nation, even as they confessed their doubts as to the republic’s endurance. As the contentious Constitutional Convention was finishing its work of crafting the Constitution in 1787, George Washington told a Georgia delegate “I do not expect the Constitution to last for more than 20 years.” In fact, of course, the U.S. Constitution is the oldest in the world. Washington’s pessimism, however, reminds us of its fragility.

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# Can a High School with No Auditorium Be



Resharde Law, (left) playing Geoffrey Chaucer, acts out one of many animated interactions with Tyler Imhof, who played Harry Bailey in The Canterbury Tale, a modern version of The Canterbury Tales.



The Queen (Tyler Imhof) grants the wish of the Ugly Old Woman (Kate Stewart) to marry the Naughty Knight (Paul Tye) in return for knowing the correct answer to the question, "What is the one thing women most desire?" The answer: "To have control over their husbands!"

By Carol Roberts

Actors in *The Canterbury Tales* may not have had to learn speech patterns from the 14th century, but they did learn that Chaucer's original *Canterbury Tales*, "are used in culture all the time. It's like, wow, Monty Python totally stole this from the *Canterbury tales*," says Tyler Imhof. "It's really interesting to look at something and see where we get pop culture."

Northfield's theatre department, which includes theatre arts, IB theatre, production, and stagecraft classes, is growing rapidly as the school grows. In addition, NHS shares

its cafetorium with DSST: Conservatory Green, since both are located on Sandoval Campus. Theatre production teacher Ryan Hill says with a shared campus, both schools have reduced use of the cafetorium for classes since it's used for lunch several hours a day. "It's not the same experience for a student to do his scene in a classroom compared to on stage. It is not conducive to teaching a theater class.

"These kids are not receiving the knowledge... how to focus and hang lights... sit in an AV booth and properly run a show... DPS

calls this a comprehensive high school, which it, of course, is not, without an auditorium....

"When our students go from this space to college, they are not going to be prepped in the same manner as a student who goes to East or any other high school with a theater."

Actor Kate Stewart says it's about respect. "... you see that everything you love and have put so much effort into and... people don't see it as a piece of work. They see it as a hobby that you can do in the same space as a cafe-

ria." "Where it still smells like lunch," adds Imhof.

Theatre and stagecraft teacher Gwynn Potter says, "Acoustically this building was made to dampen sound. In an auditorium, acoustics are created to project across the audience."

NHS Principal Amy Bringedahl, Ryan Hill and numerous students shared this perspective with DPS Board members at the Board's monthly meeting on November 15.

DPS responded to the *Front Porch's* request for information about an auditorium at NHS with the same informational letter they sent to families who contacted them on this subject.



Stage manager Adaisha Martinez applies eye make up for ensemble member Makayla Kilk.



Just before the performance the actors shared positive thoughts, then joined hands for a moment of silence.



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# "Comprehensive?"



The actors, despite performing in a space that features lunchroom chairs, lunchroom tables, and lunchroom acoustics, capture the audience with their high energy performance.

Due to increased enrollment projections, DPS will need to borrow approximately \$50 million in funds for another classroom building at NHS, taking "financial risk in assuming obligations without the voter authorization for specific taxes to pay for them." For this reason, says DPS, they need to limit the project to what they believe is critical to serve Sandoval campus students.

The scope of the new project at Sandoval campus includes a stagecraft classroom and workshop, changing rooms, music classrooms, and improvements to the lighting and sound on stage. Though DPS has built 17 new facilities in the past 15 years, only one had an

auditorium (Denver school of the Arts) due to funding limitations.

Parent Jen Carabetta, in a written statement to DPS, said, "We do not feel the DPS is spending money wisely to 'add on to or improve' the existing inefficient and poorly planned cafeteria stage space due to the fact that currently the cafeteria is used 75% of the time..." for eating, meetings

and other non-theatre purposes. Students, teachers, parents and administrators are all asking that the auditorium be built as part of the \$50 million Sandoval campus expansion and believe it could be built for \$8 million.



Lacking a dedicated shop, dressing room and space for props, a single small crowded closet near the stage does it all.

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# Dior

from  
PARIS  
to the  
WORLD

By Laurie Dunklee

Female beauty and flowers were two of Christian Dior's favorite things. "After women, flowers are the most lovely thing God has given the world," he wrote in *The Little Dictionary of Fashion*, published in 1954. Dior directed several art galleries before opening his own couture house in 1947, which revolutionized the world of fashion.

*Dior: From Paris to the World*, at the Denver Art Museum through March 3, surveys 71 years of the House of Dior's enduring legacy and its global influence. The story of the iconic haute couture fashion house is told with a selection of 200 dresses, as well as accessories, photographs, original sketches and runway videos.

Haute couture, literally "high sewing" in French, refers to the most fashionable and influential dressmaking and designing. The House of Dior has enjoyed a continuity that is rare in the fashion world. "If you look at the great French couture houses, Dior is perhaps the only one that has no gap in its history," said Florence Müller, the DAM's Avenir Foundation Cu-



Left: Dior's love of beautiful dresses was equaled only by his passion for gardening. The paintings of the Impressionists, especially Renoir and Monet, inspired his floral embroideries and layered petals of fabric.

rator of Textile Art and Fashion.

The architectural design of the exhibit is surprising and engaging, as visitors move through flowing sections based on curves

rather than square gallery spaces. "It's organic, like a river or a garden wall," said exhibit designer Shohei Shigematsu of the Office of Metropolitan Architecture (OMA). "We were

inspired by the Hamilton building itself, with its titanium-clad exterior, to install curved aluminum panels to reflect the fashions. The curves are taken from the cut of the dresses."

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Here and upper left: The curving entrance to the show displays work by all seven House of Dior designers. The Bar suit at far left was created by Christian Dior himself in 1947 and became the manifesto of a new style that Dior called the “flower-woman.”

Dior generated a fashion revolution in 1947 with his New Look collection (so named by *Harper's Bazaar*). In reaction to the boxy, masculine looks of wartime fashion, Dior designed a succession of curves, with rounded shoulders, a generous bust, a tiny waist and accentuated hips. Not everyone applauded his pioneering vision. Protesters in Paris, a city still bullet-pocked and



Yves Saint Laurent, Dior's first successor, quoted street style, pop culture and the movies in his 1960 collection. His black leather Chicago ensemble took its cue from the rebel biker immortalized by Marlon Brando in the 1953 film, *The Wild One*.

recovering from wartime austerity, tore the gowns off models in the streets to denounce Dior's wasteful use of fabric. But the style carried the day because it expressed the craving for bygone glamour.

Dior died of a heart attack in 1957, leaving the helm of the House of Dior to six successive art directors, who have carried his vision into the 21st Century: Yves Saint Laurent (1958–1960), Marc Bohan (1961–1989), Gianfranco Ferré (1989–1996), John Galiano (1997–2011), Raf Simons (2012–2015) and Maria Grazia Chiuri (2016–present).

Dior's inspirations included modern art, the movies, the flamboyance of 18th century France, and his garden, where he often sat while designing. Many of these themes, especially the feminine aesthetic he embraced, remain to the present day through his successors. “Dior's successors continued his signature feminine shapes, like the figure 8,” said

Christy Cheng of OMA exhibit design.

The House of Dior's creative process remains as well. Once the designer comes to the head of the atelier (workshop) with a set of designs, the designs are created in white cotton, called toiles. When approved, the

toiles are disassembled and the pieces are used as the pattern for the final garments. Visitors will see a wall of toiles. Since haute couture gowns can cost thousands of dollars, they are most often worn by well-heeled patrons. Dior loans its gowns to celebrities for such events as the Academy Awards. Jennifer Lawrence, Charlize Theron, Natalie Portman and Rihanna have all worn Dior gowns on the red carpet. Visitors will see a chartreuse chinoiserie silk gown worn by Nicole Kidman, as well as a flower-embroidered dress worn by Natalie Portman.

A display from the golden age of fashion photography shows Dior's fashions on such luminaries as Audrey Hepburn and Marilyn Monroe.

Christian Dior travelled extensively and established the House of Dior on five continents—Africa, Asia, Europe, North America and South America. World art and cultures continue to be a source of inspiration for his successors, as displayed in the final gallery.



Inspired by many cultures: fashions by Dior and his successors evoke the art and cultures of Spain, England, Japan, China, Africa, Egypt and Latin America, as well as Chicago and New York.

David Weekley Homeowner  
Katy Vancannon with Luna

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# The Opioid Crisis Begins at Home

By Martina Will, Ph.D.

Open your medicine cabinet. Now count how many leftover prescription pain pills you have “hidden” behind the Q-tips, Tums, and deodorant. If you find hydrocodone (Vicodin®); oxycodone (OxyContin®, Percocet®); oxymorphone (Opana®); codeine or fentanyl, you are not alone. Six in ten U.S. households have a backstock of these dangerous, highly addictive pain relievers, the detritus of two decades of physicians’ and dentists’ over-enthusiastic prescriptions, according to Dr. Robert Valuck of the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at CU Anschutz. Valuck, a Park Hill resident, spoke to parents and community members at McAuliffe International School on October 29 about the dangers of opioids.

## Seven Opioid Myths

Valuck discussed the seven myths most people have about prescription pain relievers (see sidebar). As Director of the Colorado Consortium on Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention, his language was deliberate. Opioids are not “painkillers,” for no drugs can eliminate pain (Myth 1). More importantly, these medications are not even terribly effective; 40% of the pain relief people taking opioids report, is a result of the placebo effect. Valuck recommends that those seeking pain relief instead alternate ibuprofen (Advil® or Motrin®) and acetaminophen (Tylenol®) every 3 hours. Whereas opioids reduce the pain people experience by only 33%, rotating these common over-the-counter and non-addictive medications reduces pain by 55%.

## Colorado’s Growing Opioid Problem

In Colorado, deaths from opioids are increasingly the result of combining opioids with other medications (e.g., benzodiazepines like Ativan, Halcion, or Klonopin). Over half of the 1,012 drug-associated deaths in Colorado in 2017 were opioid-related.

## Parents Share Their Children’s Stories to Create Awareness

One of those deaths was that of Jonathan Winnefeld. Just three days after starting at the University of Denver, Jonathan died from a batch of fentanyl-laced heroin. Jonathan’s father, a retired Navy Admiral and former vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (2011-2015), wrote about his son’s path to addiction in *The Atlantic*: “He began by sneaking a bit of alcohol at night in order to bring himself down from the Adderall a doctor had prescribed him, based on a misdiagnosis of attention deficit disorder. By the eighth grade, he was consuming alcohol in larger quantities and beginning to self-medicate with marijuana. Next came Xanax and, eventually, heroin.” The full story in *The Atlantic* merits a read, as Jonathan’s life was more than just his addiction; he was, in so many ways, like any number of kids growing up in our community.

Suzi Stolte’s adult daughter Heidi died on May 7, 2011 after combining medications. A vibrant woman who loved animals and cared deeply for people, Heidi became a caseworker so she could help others. Stolte recalls the night of her daughter’s death, before the phone call that upended her life. She was anticipating the next day, which was Mother’s Day. When Heidi’s boyfriend called at 10pm, he had already dialed 911. But in the seven minutes it took

Stolte to drive to her daughter’s home, Heidi died. Her prescription medications (Vicodin for pain relief, Valium for anxiety, and Metaxalone, a muscle relaxant) combined with over-the-counter Benadryl, had killed her.

Heidi had been in a car accident about five years earlier that caused ongoing pain, which doctors consistently treated with opioids; she had just received new prescriptions a few days before her death. Stolte recalls expressing concern with her daughter’s continued need for medication, but Heidi dismissed her mother’s words, saying “Mom, you don’t understand.” Stolte acknowledges now that she did not in fact understand. “I didn’t understand the dangers of combining these drugs with alcohol, Adderall, benzodiazepine, and over the counter medications. I didn’t understand why she needed to take more pain relievers than the prescriptions called for.” Stolte shares Heidi’s story in hopes that other families will not experience this devastating loss.

## Opioid Education and Treatment Programs

Stolte is the Communications and Marketing Director for the JP Opioid Interaction Awareness Alliance, which works to educate people about the dangers of combining medications. For more information see: <http://www.jpopioidalliance.org/>

Michael Miller, Communications and Chapters Director for Young People in Recovery, shared his own story of addiction and recovery, and emphasized the need for more evidenced-based recovery programs in Colorado and nationally, especially in rural areas. Young People in Recovery is a national organization that works to “provide the training and networks all individuals, families, and communities need to recover and maximize their full potential.”



Park Hill resident Dr. Robert Valuck spoke recently to medical professionals at the Anschutz Campus (above) and at McAuliffe International School about the growing opioid problem.

## Reducing Opioids in Our Homes

The stories and experiences of Jonathan Winnefeld, Heidi Stolte, and Michael Miller underscore the power each of us has to reduce the availability of opioids. Go through those medicine cabinets and collect these dangerous drugs so they don’t fall into the wrong hands. Children’s Hospital, Denver Health in Lowry and Montbello, and numerous Walgreens have permanent collection boxes for disposing of unused medications. For more sites and more information on safe disposal, go to: <http://takemedseriously.org/>

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*The free and open to the public informational event was sponsored by the Cherry Creek Rotary Club. For more information on future speakers and events in the Innovation Zone speaker series, check updates and/or contact: [www.ndiz.org](http://www.ndiz.org).*

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# Seven Opioid Myths

*1. I can get to a pain level of zero if I take enough pills.*

A zero-pain level is neither attainable nor desirable. The best pharmacology reduces pain by about 50%; opioids are not that powerful, and only reduce pain by 1/3. After taking a recommended dose, a patient's pain plateaus; taking more pills doesn't reduce their pain further but increases side effects.

*2. The U.S. is #1 in treating pain.*

No. We are, however, #1 in dispensing opioids; the U.S. consumes 80% of the world's opioids.

*3. They must be the best at treating pain since they're Schedule II drugs.*

The DEA's Schedule II criteria do not refer to a drug's efficacy; they only speak to its dangers. Per the DEA's website, these are "drugs with a high potential for abuse, with use potentially leading to severe psychological or physical dependence. These drugs are also considered dangerous."

*4. But I had surgery. I need serious drugs.*

Opioids are not required after surgery; opioid-sparing protocols exist for most major surgeries. Communicate with your doctor or dentist to request such a protocol.

*5. You have to be pretty messed up to get hooked.*

People of all ages, races, and walks of life succumb to addiction. Studies document a correlation between the number of pills dispensed and the likelihood of becoming dependent on opioids.

*6. It's ok to combine prescriptions. They're from my doctors.*

Combining drugs can be deadly. 51% of Colorado's opioid deaths in 2017 were the result of combining common benzodiazepine drugs (Ativan, Halcion, Klonopin) with an opioid. Do not combine opioids with sedatives like Ambien either!

*7. I might want to use those outdated medications stashed in my cabinet. What's the harm?*

Fully 87% of people who become hooked on opioids begin with using leftover medications—often from a family member, a neighbor, a friend who may not even notice the missing drugs.

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By Martina Will, Ph.D.

Hassan Latif speaks like Oprah’s “SuperSoul” guests discussing their spiritual journeys. His words spill out in eloquent, mission-driven paragraphs that are at once inspiring and humbling.

Latif is Executive Director of Aurora’s Second Chance Center, Inc., a nonprofit he established in 2012 “to help formerly incarcerated people transition to lives of success and fulfillment.” It recently received an award for its low recidivism rate of 9%, which stands in stark contrast to Colorado Department of Corrections recent data showing a 50% recidivism rate in 2017. While the majority of these were the result of technical violations rather than new crimes, a recidivism rate of 9% is extraordinary.

Located at 16th and Dayton streets in Aurora, about 1,300 people come through its doors each month to avail themselves of a hot meal, computer training, addictions counseling, support groups, emergency housing and other services.

Latif lived for eighteen years as an inmate in Colorado penitentiaries, and understands the profound challenges individuals confront the moment they leave incarceration. The khaki pants, blue polo, and plastic shoes that are

# Second Chance: Where People

standard-issue for released inmates make them easy targets for predators, who know they are likely carrying a \$100 debit card plus cash from years of underpaid prison labor. “People walk out and this is a whole new world for them.... if you’ve just been released...you’re already desperate.” Giving these folks new clothes is the first step in reintegrating them into a world that is different than the one they knew before they had a record of a prison term.

For many people who have served time, life on the outside can be disorienting and isolating, leading to a return to prison—usually for technical violations. Second Chance Center’s Director of Operations Dana Jenkins reflects on her own experiences on the outside after serving twenty years. Though she eventually found a job that allowed her to use the cosmetology license she had earned in prison, she felt disconnected. “I had been home for three years and had checked all the boxes of what is acceptable... But I was ready to go back to prison...I wasn’t going to do anything to



get there, but being out was entirely too hard....There’s never anybody that looks like you.”

That changed when she met Latif, who understood what she was experiencing. Jenkins persevered, and through her work at Second Chance Center she now helps to provide the support and resources that make re-entry a success for hundreds of clients. Among her many responsibilities, Jenkins helps furnish clients’ apartments. Donated furnishings and household items allow her to create spaces that communicate dignity and support reentry.

Second Chance’s remarkable success in reducing recidivism has less to do with a new outfit or a furnished apartment than it does with the family Latif and his staff have created. “Showing them that they are a part *of*, instead of apart *from*, which is how they’ve felt most of their lives,” allows people the secure footing they need to move beyond their past, says Latif. He reminds clients, “The better they do, the better we are going to be able to do...They actually empower us to change the landscape by buying into Second Chance.”

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December 2018

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Front Porch – NE Denver



# Move Beyond their Past



Second Chance Director of Operations Dana Jenkins and Executive Director Hassan Latif say the program's constituents know they are "part of" the family the organization has created—not "apart from," as they have felt most of their lives.

"We know how people sabotage their own efforts...and our people coming in the door know that we know that, so we get a level of trust from the beginning. They have to trust that it's safe to do that and that they're not alone in that journey," says Latif.

Patrick Firman, Sheriff for the City and County of Denver, echoes Latif's words by emphasizing the importance of giving people access to services after release to ensure they do not return to the system. "We contract with Denver Health for all of our medical and mental health services. We've got some pretty progressive medication-assisted treatment programs...we've got community groups so that we can do a warm handoff. Things like peer support. We'll pay for the taxi ride to go from our front door to the community resource center....those are

the kind of things that we need to continue to build on." He says community collaboration is essential to getting people the ongoing support they need.

In addition to the downtown Denver Detention Center, Firman's office oversees the Denver County Jail, a Stapleton neighbor on Smith Road. Firman says about 50% of the jail population suffers from mental health issues. In 2016, his department implemented Crisis Intervention Training for its deputies, to provide them the skills and understanding needed to work more effectively with inmates. The Denver Police Department recently launched a co-responder program to reduce the number of people being locked up. "They have mental health professionals that ride along with the police officers. They help the police officers understand if they're going to a call with somebody in crisis what might be going on, what resources might be available other than just bringing them to jail... that's been successful in helping police officers make good, informed decisions on what to do."

Latif states that 98% of the people currently incarcerated will be released into society at some point. "It behooves us to be concerned about what treatment is available to them on the inside, and concerned about what assistance is available to them on the outside," he says. Helping people to successfully transition is not merely the right thing to do; it is a matter of community health and wellbeing and a matter of minimizing the tax dollars being absorbed back into what he calls "the black hole of corrections."

For more information about Second Chance Center visit [www.scccolorado.org](http://www.scccolorado.org) or view a video about Second Chance at <https://youtu.be/XtISgqHg8L8>

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Front Porch – NE Denver

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December 2018



# ...NE News Updates



By Carol Roberts

## 1 Construction Starts on MLK to Peoria

Work on a 1.1 mile extension of Martin Luther King Blvd (MLK) from Havana St. east to Peoria St. began in November and will continue until November 2019. The project includes:

- Two travel lanes each way and one parking lane in the eastbound direction,
- A raised median with landscaping.



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Stefanie Huff, M.D.

- A paved bicycle/pedestrian path on both sides, with the north side also having a soft-surface equestrian trail.
  - Moline St. to 26th Ave. to be rebuilt as a two-lane collector street.
  - Three traffic signals: Kingston at MLK; Moline at MLK; 26th at MLK.
  - Street lighting and signage for a 35-mile per hour speed limit.
- Construction impacts:
- Four to five lane closures will occur along MLK Blvd between March and July 2019.
  - Access to residential neighborhoods will be maintained but delays could occur when equipment is working in front of entrances.
  - Traffic control to be managed by Mortenson Construction from 7am to 5:30pm Monday through Friday.
  - All work is weather dependent. Denver Public Works and Forest City will keep the public informed of any scheduling changes.

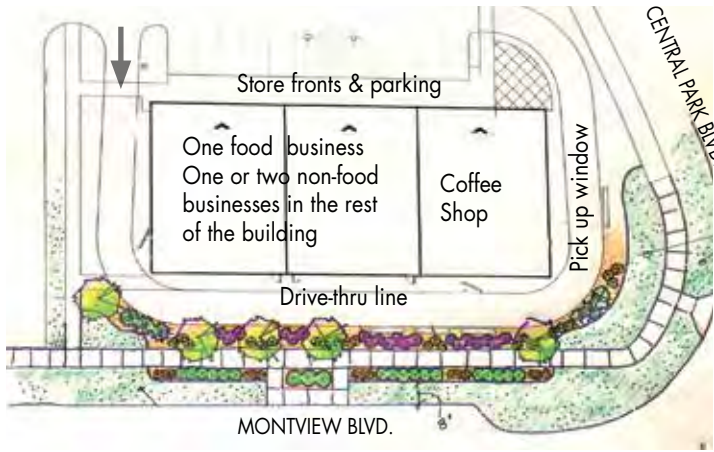
A map of the project is posted at [FrontPorchNE.com](http://FrontPorchNE.com). For more information, visit [denvergov.org/content/denvergov/en/denver-department-of-public-works/projects/current/mlk-boulevard-extension.html](http://denvergov.org/content/denvergov/en/denver-department-of-public-works/projects/current/mlk-boulevard-extension.html)

## 2 Superintendent Search Update

The *Front Porch* asked DPS District 3 Board Member (Lowry and Montclair) Carrie Olson for her thoughts on the superintendent search process. “I’m glad I talked to as many people as I did. As a researcher, once you start to hear the same things over and over again you know you’re reaching what we call saturation. I started hearing the same things come up and I think they are represented in the report by Dimension Strategies.\* I feel Dimension Strategies did a very good job of capturing everything I heard in all my visits.”

At the Nov. 15 Board meeting there were calls to meet the candidates. Olsen said she understands that desire, but she also wanted to be sure they saw the best candidates—and to do that they had to maintain confidentiality so those not chosen could go back to their jobs. Olson says she believes the two candidates announced on November 26 are the top two of all the interviewees. DPS will host opportunities to meet them on Dec. 4 & 5. Watch [supersearch.dpsk12.org](http://supersearch.dpsk12.org) for details on those events.

*\*The reports are posted with this article at [FrontPorchNE.com](http://FrontPorchNE.com)*



Top: Conceptual rendering of The Shops at Stapleton Crossing at Central Park and Montview Blvds. with a coffee shop at the east end of the building. Below: The site plan for the project shows the drive-thru route.

## 3 New Shops at Montview and Central Park Blvd.

An 8,500 square foot building with three or four tenants is being planned for the corner of Montview and Central Park Blvd. Though no company name is being announced yet, the plan is to have a coffee shop with a drive-thru at the east end. One other food use is expected and one or two non-food retail uses. The front of the building and 43 parking spaces will be on the north side, accessed either from Central Park Blvd., or on the west via the road used to enter the existing gas station. Dense landscaping is planned along Montview to partially hide cars lined up for carry-out along the back of the building. Architect Scott Higa of G3 Architecture says neutral gray and silver tones are used on the exterior with some masonry at the drive-through.

## 4 New Shops at 56th and Central Park Blvd.

Tyler Carlson and Evergreen Development, which developed the Eastbridge Town Center, have again partnered with City Street Investors to do the leasing for The Shops at Beeler Park. Carlson says difficult access at the high traffic intersection has made the project a challenge. The median will be cut at 57th Ave. to create left turn access for southbound vehicles on Central Park Blvd. Access from 56th will be for westbound traffic only. Exits onto 56th and onto Central Park Blvd. will be right turns only. The color scheme of the buildings will be white and gray with black accents.



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Top: Conceptual rendering of the north end of Building E with exterior plaza. Above: Site plan for The Shops at Beeler Park (Central Park Blvd. and E. 56th Ave.) Site Plan Legend:

- A – Hello Car Wash (4,791 SF) is family business coming from Texas. Hours will be dawn to dusk. The long narrow drive-thru building creates a buffer between residential in the north and the gas station
- B – Gas station (2,800 SF), with canopy to the south
- C – Quick-serve restaurant (2,200 SF)
- D – Signed letter of intent from a daily-needs-type retail user (food & drug) for the whole space (7,862 SF). Designed so it also could be a multi-user building. Exterior décor will hide utilities and “dress up” side and back walls.
- E – Marketing to “nice” sit-down restaurants at the ends with retail use between them (8,315 SF). Plaza at north end.
- F & G – Retail/office buildings will be acquired by a local dentist for two separate practices (5,500 SF each).
- H – Quick-serve restaurant
- Childcare – New Horizons to be built by a different developer.

## 5 Forest City Sale to Brookfield Asset Management Approved

Forest City’s stockholders approved the acquisition of Forest City by Brookfield Asset Management Inc., a real estate investment fund, at a special meeting of stockholders on Nov. 15, pursuant to their merger agreement on July 30, 2018. With the approval by

Forest City stockholders, Forest City expects that the acquisition will be completed by December 10, 2018, subject to the satisfaction of closing conditions. Forest City Stapleton Senior Vice President Jim Chrisman said he does not know what staffing or office changes Brookfield might make, but he confirmed that Brookfield is contractually required to fulfill Forest City Stapleton’s existing obligations.

## 6 Committee to Recommend New Middle School

The Placement Committee to recommend one of three middle schools for North Stapleton has been named and posted on the DPS website at <https://portfolio.dpsk12.org/2018/11/13/meet-the-members-of-the-gphs-placement-committee>. They will make a recommendation to the board on Dec. 14.

Community members can give feedback to

the committee at [cnqs@dpsk12.org](mailto:cnqs@dpsk12.org) or directly to DPS Board members (at [board@dpsk12.org](mailto:board@dpsk12.org)) through December 20, when the Board will vote on the final selection. The new program will open in the 2019-20 school year at a temporary location in North Stapleton.

## 7 Punch Bowl Selected for Design Award

The 2018 Mayor’s Design Awards primarily recognized historic buildings this year, among them Punch Bowl Social at the old control tower in Stapleton. The award was well-deserved, with Punch Bowl’s commitment to take on such a monumental project and Oz Architecture’s vision to keep the historic aspects of the tower while giving it a modern look and reusing as much material as possible.



assessment for homes will remain at \$43/month.)

At the meeting, delegates on the ballot introduced themselves. Many of the incumbents said they stepped up when their seats were vacant and in need of someone to take the position. This year, however, eight of the

## 8 Stapleton’s Annual MCA Meeting /Delegate Election

At the annual Master Community Association meeting on Nov. 14, attended by about 100 people, Executive Director Keven Burnett reviewed what the MCA does and provided an overview of the budget. That information is available in a downloadable Power Point at [StapletonCommunity.com](http://StapletonCommunity.com).

delegate seats were contested. The eight new candidates were part of a slate that supports changing the name of the community.

Election results are posted on the MCA website, but just as the Dec. paper was going to the printer, the Rename St\*pleton For All Group informed us that two pro-rename candidates are contesting the outcome of their districts. Further information will be posted on the *Front Porch* website as we learn more.

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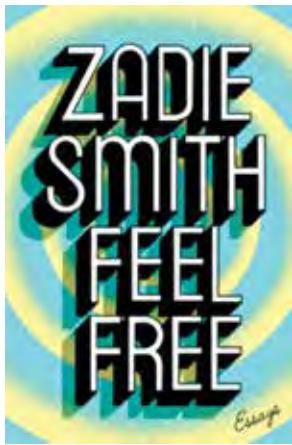
# The Boo

Reviews by Sam Gary Librarians

ADULT NON-FICTION

*Feel Free*

by Zadie Smith (2018)



In her newest collection of essays, Smith examines the significance of a range of cultural artifacts, high and low, well-known and obscure.

*Feel Free* is divided into five parts: "In the World," "In the Audience," "In the Gallery," "On the Bookshelf," and "Feel Free." The essays comprising each part, while ostensibly observations of particular subjects (from Brexit to Key and Peele, J.G. Ballard to Justin Bieber), invariably digress and expand, opening up the conversations to look at bigger issues like race, the world stage, the self, etc. Smith maintains a keen eye for the oeuvres and events we engage with and how, and what those relationships say about who we are as individuals and as communities. An incisive and charming collection.

—Review by Elsa Colon

ADULT FICTION

*Convenience Store Woman*

by Sayaka Murata

*Convenience Store Woman* is a Japanese novel about a very odd woman. Keiko Furukura has always had trouble fitting in and her parents worry about how she will get by in the adult world. While attending university she takes a job at a convenience store and it ends up being perfect for her. The world of the convenience store is a predictable place where Keiko can thrive and form an identity. She is happy at the convenience store, but ends up staying there for so long that her family is even more concerned. She eventually meets an alienated and bitter man, and it ends up shaking her world—but is that a good thing? This novel is a great and quirky look into Japanese culture and the pressure to conform, along with an interesting perspective about identity and modern consumerism.

—Review by Kelly Wright



YOUNG ADULT FICTION

*The Prince and the Dressmaker*

by Jen Wang

This graphic novel takes place in Paris at the dawn of the modern age. Prince Sebastian's parents are working hard to find him a bride, but he isn't interested as he is too busy taking Paris

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by storm with his secret life. At night he puts on dresses and impresses Paris nightlife as the fabulous Lady Crystallia. His best friend Frances, a young seamstress, is the only one who knows his secret—she makes his beautiful and unique clothing. Sebastian wants to be able to protect his anonymity, and Frances dreams of greatness with her designs. How long will they be able to keep this a secret? This is a heartwarming and absolutely charming graphic novel that has you cheering for both of the characters.

—Review by Kelly Wright



ican girl in the 1960s and 1970s. Woodson takes readers through her formative experiences of Jim Crow and the Civil Rights Movement as seen through a child's eyes, detailing her familial world in South Carolina and New York. The personal details and Woodson's own development from a struggling reader into an eloquent writer and storyteller will be relatable to anyone who's ever had a family. Woodson proclaims, "I do not know if these hands will become Malcolm's, raised and fisted—or Martin's, open and asking—or James's, curled around a pen. I do not know if these hands will be Rosa's or Ruby's gently gloved and fiercely folded calmly in a lap, on a desk, around a book, ready to change the world." Once you read *Brown Girl Dreaming* and are impressed by Woodson's heartfelt story, you will know what those hands have done to change the world.

—Review by Lily Kosmicki



## CHILDREN'S FICTION

### *Brown Girl Dreaming*

by Jacqueline Woodson (2014)

*Brown Girl Dreaming* is an autobiography-in-verse. This unique format will introduce readers aged 10 and up to different forms of poetry in a captivating, emotionally resonant story of author Jacqueline Woodson's life as an African Amer-

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# Dig in — and Find What Lies Behind

By Carol Roberts

The *Front Porch* made a color-coding error on Ashley Elementary School's status (achievement), incorrectly coloring it red rather than yellow in the School Performance Framework (SPF) chart\* we printed last month. Our error brought attention to the impact these color codes have on

*On last year's early literacy test for first to third graders, Ashley ranked in the top ten elementary schools in the district—alongside many affluent schools with far fewer "academic gap" students.*

schools—and the kind of information a parent *doesn't* learn from the SPF system of color-coding. We discovered that initial impressions of a school based solely on the SPF chart can change dramatically with a deeper look at the data behind it. On Ashley's test of early literacy for kindergarten through grade three last year (the Istation test), they were in the 87th percentile, ranking tenth



Ashley Principal Zachary Rahn talks about data from the School Performance Framework that he and Ashley staff can use to identify weaknesses and implement changes to improve the school.

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## Breaking News from Monarch Montessori of Denver

by M. Lopes with Monarch Montessori

**Denver Public Schools approved a pilot for a Spanish/English dual language path starting with a Kindergarten class for the 2019-20 school year!**

This fall, First Steps at Monarch Montessori of Denver started a dual language path in its preschool program with great success. Now, DPS has approved extending the pilot to the kindergarten, which is part of Monarch Montessori's public school of choice open

to any families in the area.

Executive Director Laura Pretty stated, "We are elated to expand the Spanish/English path into the public kindergarten. If the pilot is successful, the goal is to have bilingual and bi-literate students when they graduate 5th grade."

The bilingual kindergarten class will be comprised of 50% native-English speakers and 50% native-Spanish speakers, starting with a strong Spanish-language component, and adding English each year, so that by 4th and 5th grade, roughly half the day

is spent in each language.

When asked why Monarch is offering this track, Laura Pretty stated, "The benefits of being bilingual include: improved executive function, increased ability to multitask, appreciation of different cultures and the ability to think more creatively. When combined with the independence and self motivation that our Montessori program offers, imagine the well-rounded, innovative, worldly individuals that our next leaders will be!"

Monarch is gearing up its enrollment

for all of its programs for the next year. Families can apply to attend Monarch Montessori of Denver Charter through the Denver Public Schools Choice system. Monarch has two upcoming Open Houses for the charter school scheduled on Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at 6pm and Thursday, January 10, 2019 at 6pm. Tours are available every week, for both First Steps (infants-preschool) and charter (K-5th grade). Visit [www.monarchm.com](http://www.monarchm.com) to learn more or sign up for a tour.



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# SPF Colors

in all of DPS elementary schools using that test. Ashley was in the same pool as neighboring affluent schools with far smaller numbers of at-risk students. “In comparison to schools that are not similar to us (their numbers within those groups are less than ours), we’re outperforming them by significant numbers,” says Ashley Principal Zachary Rahn.

This year DPS raised the level at which students are considered proficient on the early literacy Istation test for grades 1 – 3. Data showed that students who tested proficient on Istation early literacy test were not proficient on the state test that starts in grade 3. Vice Principal Kali Gonzales says Ashley staff could see the Istation “aim lines” were too low, and they set their own higher aim lines last year. That has paid off on monthly assessments this year. Under new scoring standards, Ashley started the year at 37, when the district overall was at 30. “We’ve made consistent growth every month. In November, we’re at 50% and the district is at 26%,” she says.

“Last year we were measured on 27 different populations—boys, girls FRL etc. We went up in 26 of 27 measures.” Rahn says this data shows Ashley is serving all students. He also points out that they specifically track higher achieving students, and that sub-group also shows the growth reflected in other sub-groups.

Examining reasons for the red color-coding in Ashley’s Parent and Student Satisfaction category, Rahn says, “There’s good data for us as a school to unpack even as we’re disappointed in their responses.” The category compiles separate results for parent and students satisfaction and for attendance. Some categories were high—90% said, “My teacher cares about



Kindergarten teacher Margarita Taylor works with her class on reading.

me.” But only 60% said, “When I do my work my teacher tells me what I did well and where I need to improve.” Fifth graders gave the lowest scores in this sub-category.

Gonzales says this student response enabled them to identify the need for clearer teacher communication. They have since implemented a new system for students to better track where they’re doing well and where they need to improve.

“It (the SPF) can be very confusing. I know a lot of families and that’s the reason they pick a school,” says Ashley parent Soren Gall “...it’s almost better to have your child in a more diverse setting while they’re young because they can learn to appreciate different cultures and different individuals. That’s huge to me...If you’re not a green or a blue, some people just totally disregard you...”

Rahn points out that Ashley was just three points from being a green school in their overall rating this year. If not for the

low rating from 5th graders and the attendance algorithm used last year (which is being changed this year), Ashley would have looked like the top row instead of the lower row.

% Earned Points	Meets Expectations	Academic Gaps	Growth	Status (Achievement)	Family/Student Satisfaction
% Earned Points	Accredited on Watch	Academic Gaps	Growth	Status (Achievement)	Family/Student Satisfaction

It’s the same school with a couple of relatively small differences. But the resulting color changes greatly affect the perception of anyone who doesn’t dig deeper than the chart. Other schools would likely share similar stories with families that ask for more information.

“How do we do we create tools or systems that ensure increased levels of equity and show where we’re hitting the mark and where we’re not hitting the mark—in a non-punitive way?” asks Rahn.

## \*SPF Ratings

The SPF rates achievement, growth, parent and student satisfaction, and academic gaps (the difference in achievement between certain subgroups—like low-income students, students of color and English Language Learn-

ers—and the rest of the student population). Each category is rated separately, and each school gets an overall rating and color code based on a DPS algorithm that combines the separate scores. A school’s overall rating is the combined score, shown as a color and a rating level (the first two columns in the rows shown above). The colors resemble a stoplight with the addition of blue for “distinguished” schools. Green schools “meet expectations.” Yellow schools are “on watch.” Orange schools are “on priority watch.” Red schools are “on probation.”

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Each month, the Indie Prof reviews a current film in the theater and second film or series available on DVD or instant-streaming service. Follow “Indie Prof” on Facebook for updates about film events and more reviews.

### Cam (2018)

This first-time feature from writer Isa Mazzei and director Daniel Goldhaber is a fascinating and strange trip into a world many of us have never seen: the world of the cam girl. Cam girls are essentially in the porn business, performing in front of a web camera for willing clients who pay the girls to watch and interact with them. What each girl does depends on the individual: some are flirty, some are more risqué, and some are more explicitly sexual. Mazzei was a former cam girl, and she wrote the film based on her personal experiences. The

film, however, is a fictional account of a cam girl who wakes up one day to find her identity stolen. The sci-fi(ish) psychological thriller twists and turns with Hitchcockian fervor (add a dash of Lynch), and all

the while it keeps us guessing. It is a winning formula from a writing/directing duo who are just embarking on what looks to be a promising career.

The film starts with an arresting opening sequence: cam girl Alice (a spectacular Madeline Brewer) seems like a girl-next-door-type, interacting with her adoring watchers and thanking them all personally every time they pay her. She is sexy, flirty, and very smart. She is always one-step ahead of her *coterie*, and as the stakes of the skit increase, we begin to wonder about it. The “act” becomes clear from the start, and a central subject of the film is defined here—performance.

Such is the life of a performing cam girl: constantly trying to please, constantly raising the stakes, and constantly looking at the leaderboard (of top performers). Brewer (*The Handmaid’s Tale*, *Orange is the New Black*) plays the part with an affability, sexiness, and energy that is perfect for the role. She embodies the character from the beginning, and regardless of any preconceived notions about the industry and the players therein, she wins us. When Alice wakes up one day to find a *doppelgänger*, Lola, has taken her place, Brewer’s performance really shines (now as Lola and Alice). The plot really takes off at this point as the mystery deepens.

Mazzei and Goldhaber both formerly lived in Boulder and were in town recently for the Denver Film Festival. These are the type of people you root for in the film business—real people with real talent making real stories. Be sure to check out this thoughtful, interesting, and solid all-around-film. It begins a run at the Sloan’s Lake



Cinema Drafthouse starting on November 30 and was also picked up by Netflix.

You will like this if you enjoyed *Showgirls*, *Sleeping Beauty*, or anything from Hitchcock.

### Daredevil, Season 3 (Netflix)

The Marvel TV Universe has struggled of late. After the first seasons of *Daredevil* and *Jessica Jones*, the Universe looked promising. As my reviews of those shows stated, they were innovative and even spectacular shows that rocketed Netflix into the realm of premium cinematic TV. But as good as those shows were, the first season of *Luke Cage* was tepid at best, and the first season of *Iron Fist* was downright awful. *The Punisher* was somewhat promising, but the crossover series *The Defenders* (with all the characters together) fizzled, and then the second season of *Jessica Jones* was a disappointment. *Luke Cage* and *Iron Fist* were both canceled after their weak second seasons. *Jessica Jones* season three is in development. In the meantime, *Daredevil*

season three keeps the Universe pulsing with first-class production values, solid storytelling, sizzling action, excellent performances, and stinging social commentary. This series started out strong and gets better every year.

In my review of season one, I stated my overall feeling for the series: “I find its mixture of comic book lore, *Taxi Driver* film noir-darkness, and *Oldboy* gore refreshing.” Charlie Cox as the tortured anti-hero is sublime, and cohorts Deborah Ann Woll and

was in prison, it suffered. But he returns for season three, and what a return it is: he is now The Kingpin, one of the most beloved villains of the Marvel comic-book world. He has now become the best villain on TV.

This season narrows its focus down to the duel between Daredevil and The Kingpin while still slyly adding in new characters (including a new villain who will certainly star in season four) and biting, contemporary social commentary. That commentary is a scarily precise portrait of the current political climate, boiled down into one sadistic and sociopathic character. Overall, the acting, writing, and pro-



duction values are all first-rate and the season speeds along with vengeance and verve. Even more than keeping the Universe alive, the show stands on its own as a shining achievement in this new era of TV.

Now playing on Netflix. You will like this if you liked season one, season two, anything from Tarantino, and/or *Oldboy*.

Vincent Piturro, Ph.D., is an associate professor of Cinema Studies at Metropolitan State University of Denver. He can be reached at [vpiturro@msudenver.edu](mailto:vpiturro@msudenver.edu).

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# December & Early January Events

Events were submitted online. Please double check dates and times using the contact info provided.

## NORTHEAST DENVER/AURORA EVENTS

**12/1 to 12/2—Sweet William Market.** Northfield Event Center, 8371 Northfield Blvd. #C. 9am-2pm. [www.sweetwilliammarket.com](http://www.sweetwilliammarket.com)

**12/1 to 12/2—Montview Fair Trade Holiday Market.** Sat, 9-3, Sun, 8-12:30. Fair Trade Market in the Montview Church Fellowship Hall. [www.montview.org](http://www.montview.org)

**12/4—City of Aurora Holiday Tree Lighting.** 5-7pm. [www.auroragov.org](http://www.auroragov.org)

**12/4—Fear Not: Christmas Concert.** 4pm. Montview Church Sanctuary. [www.montview.org](http://www.montview.org)

**12/4—Grand Menorah Lighting.** Hot cocoa bar, fire show, games. 29th Ave Town Center 5:30pm. [www.jewishstapleton.com](http://www.jewishstapleton.com)

**12/6—Eastbridge Sleigh Ride.** Carriage rides, pictures with Santa, holiday jingles by The Dickens Carolers and complimentary hot chocolate. 5-8pm. 10155 East 29th Dr, [www.eastbridgetowncenter.com](http://www.eastbridgetowncenter.com)

**12/7—Christmas Concert at The Cube—Colorado Wind Ensemble.** 7pm. Free, open to public. The Cube: 8371 Northfield Blvd. [www.stapletoncommunity.com](http://www.stapletoncommunity.com)

**12/8—Mini Comic Con 3.** 10am-4pm. Facepainting, buttonmaking, green screen photos, and other activities. Featuring over 30 Colorado comic book creators. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. [www.denverlibrary.org](http://www.denverlibrary.org)

**12/9—Holiday Caroling.** Join Neighborhood Music for cocoa, cookies and caroling at Stanley Marketplace 4-5pm. [www.neighborhoodmusicstapleton.com](http://www.neighborhoodmusicstapleton.com)

**12/9—Chanukah Wonderland.** Stanley Marketplace 5-7pm. [www.jewishstapleton.com](http://www.jewishstapleton.com)

**12/12—Wine Education Series.** 7pm. MCA fall series with sit-down tasting of different wines from different regions with wine educator leading discussion. \$20 [stapletoncommunity.com](http://stapletoncommunity.com); \$40 day of event. Must be 21; no refunds.

**12/16—Santa Claus comes to Stanley.** Stanley Marketplace, 11am-1pm. [www.stanleymarketplace.com](http://www.stanleymarketplace.com)

Visit our online calendar to view more events.

Events submitted by the 17th of the month are considered for printing as space allows.

[FrontPorchNE.com](http://FrontPorchNE.com) > Events

**To 1/6—Zoo Lights.** 5:30-9pm. Denver Zoo, 2300 Steele St. 720-337-1400. [www.denverzoo.org](http://www.denverzoo.org)

**Through February—Winter Skate at Northfield.** Admission includes complimentary skate rental. 8368 Northfield Blvd. Info, prices, hours at 303-449-3137 or [www.bceproductions.com](http://www.bceproductions.com)

## SEASONAL/HOLIDAY EVENTS

Additional events outside of Denver can be found at [FrontPorchNE.com/events](http://FrontPorchNE.com/events). Set filter for Seasonal/Holiday Events.

**12/1—9News Parade of Lights.** Marching bands, ornate floats, and a special appearance by Major Waddles the Penguin and Santa! Friday, 8pm; Saturday, 6pm. Civic Center Park, 101 W. 14th Ave. [www.downtowndenver.com](http://www.downtowndenver.com)

**12/1—Christmas with the Colorado Choir.** Holiday favorites by Colorado Choir. Augustana Lutheran Church. Tickets: [www.augustanaarts.org](http://www.augustanaarts.org)

**12/1—1940's White Christmas Ball.** It's a Wonderful Life theme. Hyatt Regency Downtown Convention Center. Discount tickets \$67 till 11/23. [1940sball.org](http://1940sball.org)

**12/1 to 12/2—Women's Bean Project 2018 Holiday Open House.** Treats, beverages, food, music, new products, free photos with Santa on Sat. 3201 Curtis St. [www.womensbeanproject.com](http://www.womensbeanproject.com)

**12/1 to 12/2—59th Annual Georgetown Christmas Market.** Outdoor European Christmas Market. First 2 Dec. weekends. [www.georgetown-colorado.org](http://www.georgetown-colorado.org)

**12/1 to 12/16—Yuletide Teas.** Molly Brown House. Saturdays and Sundays. [www.mollybrown.org](http://www.mollybrown.org)

**12/1 to 12/23—Holiday Entertainment.** Celebrate the season with festive holiday entertainment 1-4pm every Saturday and Sunday in

December at Cherry Creek Shopping Center, 3000 East 1st Ave. [www.shopcherrycreek.com](http://www.shopcherrycreek.com)

**12/1 to 1/1/19—Annual Yuletide Window Walk.** Sophisticated winter woodland themed windows on the square. 1450 Larimer Square. Info at [www.larimersquare.com](http://www.larimersquare.com)

**12/2—Light Up Your Chanukah!** A celebration for young families. 10am-12pm \$12/ages 13 & up; \$10/ages 3-12; Free for ages 2 and under Staenberg-Loup Jewish Community Center Social Hall 350 S Dahlia St. [www.judaismyourway.org](http://www.judaismyourway.org)

**12/7—Star Wars Holiday Variety Show.** 7pm, all ages. [www.theorientaltheater.com](http://www.theorientaltheater.com)

**12/7—Christmas Lights of Denver Tour.** Heated bus tour includes cookies, hot chocolate and bus transportation. Reservations Required: Call History Colorado at 303/866-2394 or email [reservations@state.co.us](mailto:reservations@state.co.us)

**12/7 to 12/9—RiNo Holiday Bazaar.** Walnut St. between 28th & 29th. [www.denverbazaar.com](http://www.denverbazaar.com)

**12/7-9, 12/14-16—Union Station Holiday Market.** 1701 Wynkoop. Info and tickets at [www.denverflea.com](http://www.denverflea.com)

**12/8 Saturday—Brunch with Father Christmas.** Four Mile Historic Museum, 10am-12pm. Reservations required. 715 S. Forest St. [www.fourmilepark.org](http://www.fourmilepark.org)

**12/8—Holiday Sing-Along: Colorado Women's Chorus.** Afterward enjoy crafts for kids, cookie decorating, and pictures with Santa. Augustana Lutheran Church. Tickets: [www.augustanaarts.org](http://www.augustanaarts.org)

**12/8—Nick's Annual Food Drive with Santa and Live Reindeer.** 11am-6pm. Free printed photo with Santa for every 12 cans donated. Reindeer visit 12-5pm. Nick's Garden Center, 2001 S. Chambers Rd. [www.nicksgardencenter.com](http://www.nicksgardencenter.com)

**12/8—Winter Fest on Fillmore Plaza.** Cherry Creek North. 10am-2pm. Free. Live ice carving, face painting, fire pits, complimentary treats/beverages, ornament decorating, entertainment. [www.cherry-creeknorth.com](http://www.cherry-creeknorth.com)

**12/8 to 12/9—Denver Jackalope Indie Artisan Market.** McNichols Civic Center, 10am-5pm. Free admission. 150 local, curated and hand-selected artisans, crafters and DIY enthusiasts. [www.jackalope-artfair.com](http://www.jackalope-artfair.com)

**12/8 to 12/24—Breakfast with Santa.** Downtown Aquarium, seatings begin 8:30am, reservations required, call 303-561-4450 or visit [www.aquariumrestaurants.com](http://www.aquariumrestaurants.com)

**12/16—Brunch with Santa at Red Rocks.** Ship Rock Grille in the Red Rocks Visitor Center. Reservations at [www.redrocksonline.com/dining](http://www.redrocksonline.com/dining)

**12/15 & 12/22—Inside the Orchestra—Christmas Tiny Tots.** Christmas music, a winter wonderland, guest appearances by Santa and Mrs. Claus, hot cocoa, jingle bells, caroling, and more. McNichols Building, Civic Center, 144 West Colfax. Shows at 9:30am & 10:45am. Tickets: [www.insidethe-orchestra.org](http://www.insidethe-orchestra.org)

**12/15 to 1/2—Denver Pavilions Holiday Carousel.** \$3 a ride. Denver Pavilions. [www.denver-pavillions.com](http://www.denver-pavillions.com)

(continued on page 24)



**Augustana Festival Christmas Concert** | Sunday, December 16 | 7:30 pm | Choir, Handbells, Organ, Orchestra  
**Longest Night: A Service of Healing and Hope** | Wednesday, December 19 | Noon • 6:30 pm  
**Christmas Eve Worship** | Monday, December 24 | 3 pm • 5 pm • 7:30 pm  
**Christmas Day Worship** | Tuesday, December 25 | 10:30 am

**Augustana** Sunday Worship: 8 am | 10:30 am  
LUTHERAN CHURCH 5000 E. Alameda Ave | Denver CO 80246 | 303-388-4678 | [www.augustanadenver.org](http://www.augustanadenver.org)



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SEASONAL/HOLIDAY EVENTS  
(continued from page 23)

**To 12/21—2018 Holiday Fine Arts Festival.** Closing party on 12/20 from 5-8pm. Art Gym, 1460 Leyden. [www.artgymdenver.com](http://www.artgymdenver.com)

**To 12/23—Santa’s Village at Chatfield Farms.** Denver Botanic Gardens Chatfield Farms. [www.botanicgardens.org](http://www.botanicgardens.org)

**To 12/23—Denver Christkindl Market.** Vendors from Germany and elsewhere, local artisans, carolers, traditional German food/drink. 1515 Arapahoe St, on the 16th St. Mall. Hours vary. [www.christkindlmarketdenver.com](http://www.christkindlmarketdenver.com)

**To 12/23—Colorado Railroad Museum’s Polar Express.** Performances/train rides weekends and select days. Tickets: [www.coloradorailroadmuseum.org](http://www.coloradorailroadmuseum.org)

**12/31 Sunday—Noon Year’s Eve at Denver Children’s**

**Museum.** 9am-4pm. Ball drops on the hour from 10am-3pm. [www.mychildsmuseum.org](http://www.mychildsmuseum.org)

**12/31—New Year’s Eve Downtown Fireworks Display.** 2 shows: 9pm and 12am. 16th St. Mall. [www.downtowndenver.com](http://www.downtowndenver.com)

**To 12/31—A Hudson Christmas.** Holiday lights, wagon rides, Santa, music, etc. Select dates, 5-9pm. [www.hudsongardens.org](http://www.hudsongardens.org)

**To 1/1—Denver Botanic Garden’s Blossoms of Light.** 5-9pm. A dazzling and ever-changing display of light and color. 1007 York St. 720-865-3500. [www.botanicgardens.org](http://www.botanicgardens.org)

**To 1/6—Denver International Airport’s Ice Skating Rink.** 9am-9pm. Free; complimentary skates available. [www.denevents.flydenver.com](http://www.denevents.flydenver.com)

**To 2/3—Downtown Denver**

**Rink at Skyline Park.** FREE ice skating; bring skates or rent: \$6/kids 12 and under, \$8/13 and older. [www.downtowndenver.com](http://www.downtowndenver.com)

METRO EVENTS

**12/1 Saturday—TEDxMileHigh: Reset.** Featuring two live sessions of speakers, an interactive exhibits lounge, and a surrounding week of experiences. Tickets at [www.tedxmilehigh.com](http://www.tedxmilehigh.com)

**12/1 Saturday—Young Entrepreneurs Marketplace.** 10am-2pm. Young Americans Center, 3550 E. 1st Ave. Repeats 12/9 Sat., 10am-2pm, Young Americans Center Belmar, 401 S. Pierce St. [www.yacenter.org](http://www.yacenter.org).

**To 12/2—Denver Potters Association Winter Show and Sale.** Over 40 top local artists. Ceramics, glass, jewelry wood and more. Thur 3-7pm; Fri 10am-7pm; Sat 9am-6pm; Sun 11am-3pm. Sixth Avenue United Church, 3250 E. 6th Ave. [www.denverpotters.com](http://www.denverpotters.com)

**12/4 Tuesday—Colorado Gives Day.** [www.coloradogives.org](http://www.coloradogives.org)

**12/7 to 1/11/19—Youth at DAVA Holiday Show and Sale.** Downtown Aurora Visual Arts youth exhibit. Handmade holiday gifts for sale. Opening reception 12/6 4-7pm. 1405 Florence St. [www.davarts.org](http://www.davarts.org)

**12/7—First Friday Art Walks.** Santa Fe Art District, Tennyson Cultural Art District, River North (RiNo) Art District, Golden Triangle Creative District (Final Fridays June-Sept.), and others. [www.denver.org/things-to-do/denver-arts-culture/denver-art-districts/](http://www.denver.org/things-to-do/denver-arts-culture/denver-art-districts/)

**To 12/7—Denver Leaf Drop 2018.** Weekday and weekend drop sites, prefer leaves in paper bags, Free 5 pack of 30 gallon leaf bags at Denver ACE Hardware stores. Dates, times, locations at [DenverGov.org](http://DenverGov.org)

**12/8—Written On The Land—Ute Voices, Ute History.** Exhibit opening celebration with drummers, dancers, crafts and more. 11am-3pm. History Colorado Center. [HistoryColorado.org](http://HistoryColorado.org)

**12/22 Saturday—32nd Annual Winter Solabration.** Celebration of Christmas and solstice customs, storytelling, dance, juggling, etc. The Joyful Ballroom, 3695 W. 72nd Ave, Westminster. Tickets: [www.wsolstice.org](http://www.wsolstice.org)

**To 12/24—Hygge Life’s Nordic Market at The Source.** 11am-7pm. 3330 Brighton Blvd. [www.thesourcehotel.com/events](http://www.thesourcehotel.com/events)

**To 12/31—Amazing Scavenger Hunt**

**Adventure Downtown Denver.** Play the game, see the sights, and experience Denver in a whole new way! Start at the Capitol Building, end at the Brown Palace Hotel. 2-3 hour adventure. Info at: [www.urbanadventurequest.com/tours/things-to-do/denver/default.aspx](http://www.urbanadventurequest.com/tours/things-to-do/denver/default.aspx)

**12/31 to 1/11/19—Denver Treecycle 2019.** Your tree must be placed at your trash pick-up location by 7am on your scheduled trash collection day, no pick-up on 1/11/19. More info at [DenverGov.org/treecycle](http://DenverGov.org/treecycle) or call 311 (720-913-1311)

**To 1/13—Above and Beyond.** The ultimate interactive flight exhibition - Presented by Boeing at the Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum. Exhibit included in the price of admission. 7711 E. Academy Blvd. [WingsMuseum.org/Beyond](http://WingsMuseum.org/Beyond)

HEALTH/ WELLNESS

**12/9 Sunday—Denver Jingle Bell Run/ Walk for Arthritis.** Washington Park. [www.jbr.org](http://www.jbr.org)

**12/15 Saturday—Scramblin’ Scrooge IM/5K/10K.** Denver City Park. [www.featon-thestreet.com](http://www.featon-thestreet.com)

**12/22 Saturday—A Christmas Carol Classic 5K, 10K and Tiny Tim 1K.** Denver City Park. [www.featon-thestreet.com](http://www.featon-thestreet.com)

**1/5/19 Saturday—New Year’s Eve Resolution 5K.** Denver City Park. [www.resolution5K.com](http://www.resolution5K.com)

KIDS AND FAMILIES

**Every Tuesday—Tattered Tales Storytime.** Every Tuesday for a half hour of stories, activities and snacks. 10:30am, 2526 East Colfax Ave. [www.tatteredcover.com](http://www.tatteredcover.com)

**12/1 Saturday—Beaded Intention Bracelets.** Make a special gift for someone using stone beads, crystals and good intentions! Ages 6 and up. Schlessman Library, 1-2:30pm. 100 Poplar St, 720-865-0000. [www.denverlibrary.org](http://www.denverlibrary.org)

**12/1 Saturday—Oops!** A fantastical story about learning from failure and finding joy in imperfection. Ideal for ages 4-11. 2pm, 9995 E Colfax Ave, Aurora. [www.auroraculture.org/acad-events](http://www.auroraculture.org/acad-events)

**To 12/2—Denver Puppet Theater.** Little Red Riding Hood. 3156 W. 38th Ave. [www.denverpuppettheater.com](http://www.denverpuppettheater.com)

**12/3 Monday—Preschool Yoga.** 4-4:30pm. Combines story time with yoga! Get

ready to move and groove to songs and stories. Sam Gary Branch Library 2961 Roslyn St.. [www.denverlibrary.org](http://www.denverlibrary.org)

**To 12/16—Corduroy.** Don’t miss one of the most beloved children’s books of all time spring to life on stage! The Conservatory Theatre, 1400 Curtis St. [www.denvercenter.org](http://www.denvercenter.org)

**12/6 to 12/9—Disney on Ice: Dare to Dream.** Pepsi Center. [www.disneyonice.com](http://www.disneyonice.com)

**12/31—Noon Year’s Eve.** 11:30am-12:30pm. Make party hats, dance, photo booths and do a countdown to noon. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. [www.denverlibrary.org](http://www.denverlibrary.org)

**1/3/19—Escape From Narnia: A Family Escape Room Event.** Each family/ team will have 30 minutes to play the game. Contact the Sam Gary Branch Library to reserve your start time. 720-865 0325 x4 or email [asksamgarylibrary@denverlibrary.org](mailto:asksamgarylibrary@denverlibrary.org)

LECTURES, CLASSES, INFORMATIONAL EVENTS

**12/1 Saturday—Objects in Mirror Are Closer Than They Appear: The Objectification of Women.** Tomi-Ann Roberts, a professor of psychology at Colorado College who was sexually harassed by Harvey Weinstein shares her research on the objectification of girls and women. Park Hill Branch Library, 2:30-4:30pm. 4705 Montview Blvd. 720-933-3395. [www.denverlibrary.org](http://www.denverlibrary.org)

**12/4 Tuesday—Active Minds: Marshall Plan.** Jewish Community Center, 10-11am. 350 S Dahlia St. [www.activeminds.com](http://www.activeminds.com)

**12/6—Outfoxing the Predators: Preventing Fraud and Exploitation.** 1-2pm. How to protect yourself and spot the 5 Red Flags of Scams and ID theft. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. [www.denverlibrary.org](http://www.denverlibrary.org)

**12/13 Thursday—Active Minds: Holiday Traditions & Customs.** 1-2pm. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. [www.activeminds.com](http://www.activeminds.com)

**12/14 Friday—Active Minds: Chicago: Biography of a City.** 1:30-2:30pm. Hiawatha Davis Recreation Center, 3334 Holly St. [www.activeminds.com](http://www.activeminds.com)

**12/27 Thursday—Active Minds: Alexander Hamilton.** 6:30-7:30pm. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. [www.activeminds.com](http://www.activeminds.com)



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# Robert Anderson Gallery

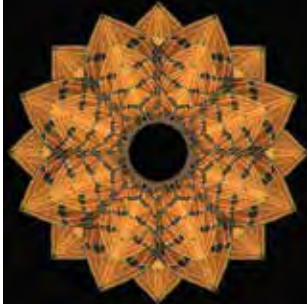
## Holiday Gift Ideas: Art/Photography

Current exhibit featuring Ana Maria Botero, Laurie Dunn, and Patti Barry Levy closes December 27, 2018


3321 East Colfax, Denver | just east of the Bluebird Theater




Ana Maria Botero




Lauri R. Dunn



Patti Barry Levy



Karen Divine



Stephen Podrasky

**Plus work by selected gallery artists:** Cody Brothers, Helen Hutchinson, Ron Johnson, Janice McDonald, Mieko, Pamela Mougin, Adrienne Moumin, the Obolers, Loretta Young-Gautier, Wendi Schneider, and Janey Skeer... Plus images by gallery artist Dan Fong from Denver’s 2018 Grandoozy Music and Arts Festival and by Elliott Erwit, Nick Brandt and Pentti Sammallahti.

Gallery hours: Wednesdays through Saturdays, 12 to 6pm, and by appointment  
email: [info@robertandersongallery.com](mailto:info@robertandersongallery.com) website: [robertandersongallery.com](http://robertandersongallery.com)



MUSEUMS

**12/5—Oceans: Our Blue Planet 3D.** Explore the largest, most mysterious habitat on Earth, oceans. Coffee and dessert follow. Presented in partnership with The Nature Conservancy Colorado. Denver Museum of Nature and Science, 7pm. Tickets at [www.dmns.org](http://www.dmns.org)

**12/8—Getting Chilly With It.** See amazing science demonstrations followed by hands-on activities. 10am–12pm. Museum of Nature and Science. RSVP required. [www.dmns.org](http://www.dmns.org)

**12/22—Cockpit Demo Day.** Kids and adults can climb aboard select aircraft. Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space. 10am-2pm. Kids 4-16, \$1 admission today through 12/31. [www.wingsmuseum.org](http://www.wingsmuseum.org)

**To 1/6—“Claes Oldenburg with Coosje van Bruggen: Drawings” at the Denver Art Museum.** 39 drawings and one sculpture span the artists’ careers from 1961–2001. Denver Art Museum, 100 W 14 Ave Pkwy. [www.denverartmuseum.org](http://www.denverartmuseum.org)

**To 1/6—“Rembrandt: Painter as Printmaker” at the Denver Art Museum. Special exhibit.** Showcasing aprox 100 prints from Rembrandt van Rijn’s career spanning from 1625 to 1665. 100 W 14 Ave Pkwy. [www.denverartmuseum.org](http://www.denverartmuseum.org)

**To 1/20—“Eyes On: Shimabuku” at the Denver Art Museum.** 100 W 14 Ave Pkwy. 100 W 14 Ave Pkwy. [www.denverartmuseum.org](http://www.denverartmuseum.org)

**To 1/20—Cuba!** Be immersed in the extraordinary biodiversity, cultural traditions, and daily life of this intriguing country. Denver Museum of Nature and Science, 2001 Colorado Blvd. Free with admission. [www.dmns.org](http://www.dmns.org)

MUSEUM FREE DAYS

SCFD/TARGET FREE DAYS

**12/1 Saturday—Denver Art Museum Free Day.** [www.denverartmuseum.org](http://www.denverartmuseum.org)

**12/9 Sunday—Denver Museum of Nature & Science.** [www.dmns.org](http://www.dmns.org)

**12/4 Tuesday—Children’s Museum Free Target Tuesday.** 4-8pm. [www.cmdenver.org](http://www.cmdenver.org)

**12/14 Friday—Four Mile Historic Park Free Day.** 2nd Friday, 12-4pm. [www.fourmilepark.org](http://www.fourmilepark.org)

**12/28 Friday—Clyfford Still Museum.** Free admission last Friday monthly all day and every Friday 5-8pm. [www.clyffordstillmuseum.org](http://www.clyffordstillmuseum.org)

PERFORMANCE / THEATRE

**12/1 to 12/16—Granny Dances to a Holiday Drum.** A multicultural celebration that touches the hearts of people of all backgrounds. 119 Park Ave W. [www.cleoparkerdance.org](http://www.cleoparkerdance.org)

**12/5 to 12/15—Irving Berlin’s White Christmas.** A timeless tale of joy and good will. Buell Theatre, 1350 Curtis St. [www.denvercenter.org](http://www.denvercenter.org)

**12/6 to 12/23—Joaquin’s Christmas.** 7:30pm. Boettcher Concert Hall. [www.coloradosymphony.org](http://www.coloradosymphony.org)

**12/7 to 12/8—A Classical Christmas Conducted by Brett Mitchell.** Set in 1950’s Pueblo, can a talking dog named Angel and a magical Abuela make this a very merry Christmas? Su Teatro Cultural & Performing Arts Center, 721 Santa Fe. [www.suteatro.wellattended.com](http://www.suteatro.wellattended.com)

**12/7 to 12/8—Moscow Ballet’s Great Russian Nutcracker.** Paramount Theatre, 1621 Glenarm Pl. [www.nutcracker.com](http://www.nutcracker.com)

**12/7 to 12/9—The Nutcracker Ballet.** Aurora Central High School, E 10th Ave & Newark St, Aurora. [www.aurorasymphony.org](http://www.aurorasymphony.org)

**12/8 to 12/9—The Nutcracker.** Adams City High School, 7200 Quebec Pkwy, Commerce City. Sat-5:30pm, Sun-1;30pm. 15% of ticket sales donated to local schools. [www.danceinstitutedenver.com](http://www.danceinstitutedenver.com)

**12/14 to 12/16—Colorado Symphony Presents A Colorado Christmas.** Boettcher Concert Hall, 1000 14th St. Tickets: [www.coloradosymphony.org/tickets](http://www.coloradosymphony.org/tickets)

**12/15 to 12/27—Nutcracker 2018 from Ballet Ariel.** Tickets: 303.987.7845. Lakewood Cultural Center, 470 S.Allison Parkway. [www.balletariel.org](http://www.balletariel.org), [www.lakewood.org/tickets](http://www.lakewood.org/tickets)

**12/16—Tuba Christmas Concert.** 12:30pm. Denver Performing Arts Complex (Galleria). FREE to public, \$10 participant fee. 303-726-4101 or [www.tubachristmas.com](http://www.tubachristmas.com)

**To 12/22—The Humans.** An uproarious, hopeful, and heartbreaking play that takes place over the course of a family dinner on Thanksgiving. [www.curiotheatre.org](http://www.curiotheatre.org)

**To 12/22—Coyote. Badger. Rattlesnake.** This comedy looks behind-the-scenes of a museum nature diorama. Buntport Theater 717 Lipan St. [www.buntport.com](http://www.buntport.com)

**To 12/22—The Christmas Spirit.** John Hand Theater, 7653 East 1st Pl., Lowry. 303-562-3232, [www.firehousetheatercompany.com](http://www.firehousetheatercompany.com)

**To 12/23—Elf.** Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd, Arvada. [www.arvadacenter.org](http://www.arvadacenter.org)

**To 12/23—A Christmas Carol – The Radio Show.** This rollicking, creative adaptation of Dickens’ classic work is sure to warm hearts. Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St, Aurora. [www.vintagetheatre.org](http://www.vintagetheatre.org)

**To 12/23—The Second City’s: Twist Your Dickens.** Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E. Colfax Ave. [aurorafoxartscenter.org](http://aurorafoxartscenter.org)

**To 12/24—A Christmas Carol.** Stage Theater, Denver Center for the Performing Arts. [www.denvercenter.org](http://www.denvercenter.org)

**To 12/24—The Santaland Diaries.** The Jones Theater, Denver Center for the Performing Arts. [Denvercenter.org](http://Denvercenter.org)

**To 12/24—Colorado Ballet – The Nutcracker.** Colorado Ballet’s acclaimed Nutcracker returns for its 58th year. Ellie Caulkins Opera House, 14th Curtis St. 303-837-8888. [www.coloradoballet.org](http://www.coloradoballet.org)

**To 12/24—Santa’s Big Red Sack - Final Season.** Avenue Theater, 417 E. 17th Ave. [www.avenuetheater.com](http://www.avenuetheater.com)

**12/31—A Night in Vienna.** Presented by Colorado Symphony, Boettcher Concert Hall, 1000 14th St. Tickets: [www.coloradosymphony.org](http://www.coloradosymphony.org)

**To 1/6/19—Mary Poppins.** Vintage Theatre. 1468 Dayton St., Aurora Cultural Arts District. [www.vintagetheatre.org](http://www.vintagetheatre.org)

(continued on page 26)



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Is It Real or Is It a



Replica CEO Ari Walker and his partner Kevin Hicks came up with the idea of chemically analyzing the qualities of respected wines and then producing replica wine with the same qualities at a lower price.

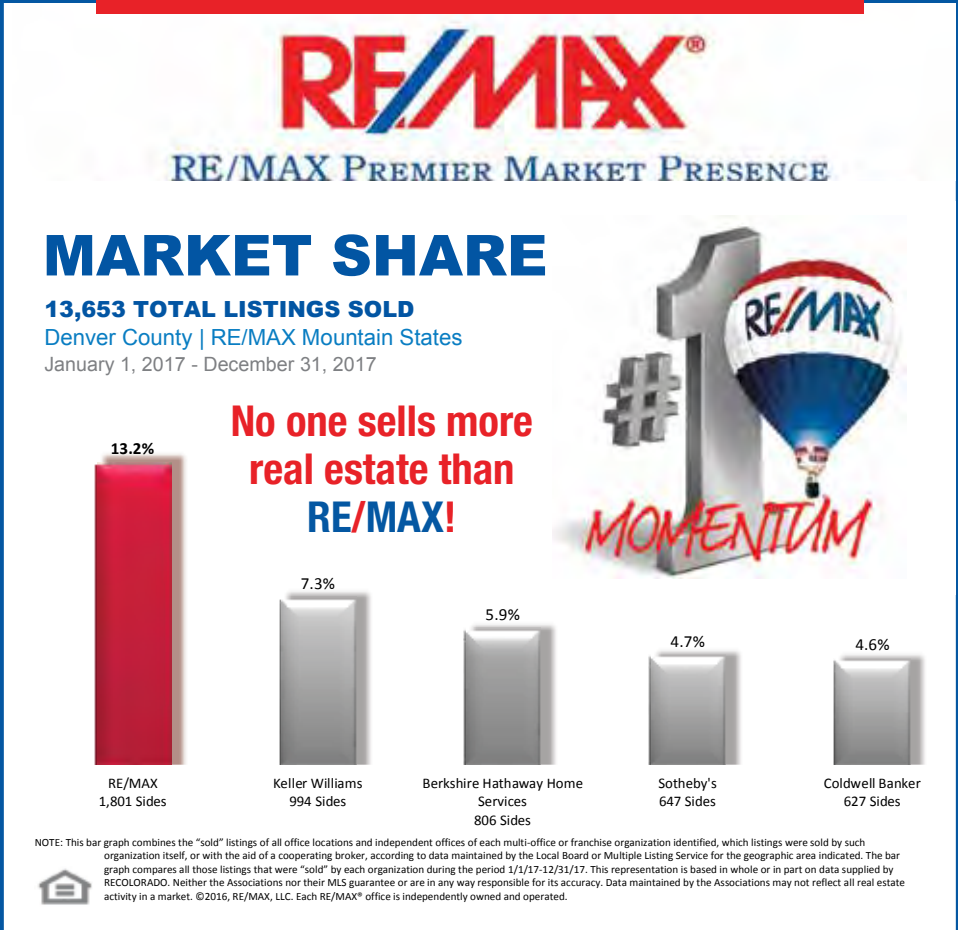
By Martina Will, Ph.D.

With self-deprecating names like “Pickpocket,” “Knockoff,” and “Label Envy,” Integrated Beverage Group’s Replica wines wink at consumers who seek both good taste and value in a bottle. The brand pairs high-quality grapes with science to create affordable knockoffs of pricey wines. Replica CEO and 13-year Stapleton resident Ari Walker believes that “Consumers are paying more than they should for their favorite wines.” Replica offers wine enthusiasts on a budget some worthy

alternatives, and the brand has garnered a lot of national attention recently with features from *Wired* to CBS News.

Walker and his business partner, Kevin Hicks, found inspiration for a new wine label in part as a consequence of their interest in baby food. They had opened Ellipse Analytics laboratory in north Denver in 2012 hoping to determine what was the best commercial baby food in anticipation of Hicks’ first child. Analysis of many products found disturbing levels of heavy metals and other contaminants. Even organic brands fell short on the purity spectrum, according to Walker, who explains that prod-

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# a Replica?

ucts are not tested at the end point of production; therefore, contaminants and chemicals may well still appear, even in products made with certified organic ingredients.

Walker and Hicks decided to apply this same technology to wine, reasoning that a careful chemical analysis of well-respected wines could allow them to reverse engineer a good product. They launched Replica in 2016, and the brand now includes nine wines, most of which have garnered a score of 90 or higher from *Wine Enthusiast*. Replica wines retail for about \$15-\$20 a bottle compared to the typical \$40-\$50 price tag on the sources of their inspiration.

The laboratory, which Hicks oversees, has conducted chemical analysis of thousands of wines, building up a database of profiles that include not only taste and aroma but also purity. Ellipse tests for pesticides, metals, antibiotics, and other elements that may originate in agricultural runoff, for example. Walker states that the Replica wines are not only nearly identical to the wines they imitate but “cleaner” as well.

Though wine engineered in a lab may not appeal to some, good grapes remain the key ingredient. IBG owns vineyards in Oregon—and Walker and his team work with farmers in Oregon and California to ensure that they are acquiring the best grapes for their wines. The laboratory provides a chemical profile that the winemakers try to match as closely as possible while making stylistic decisions and incorporating sensory analysis to develop the final product. Among the staff at Integrated Beverage is a certified Master Sommelier (one of fewer than 250 worldwide), who ensures that the wines taste good and are convincing replicas of popular wines.

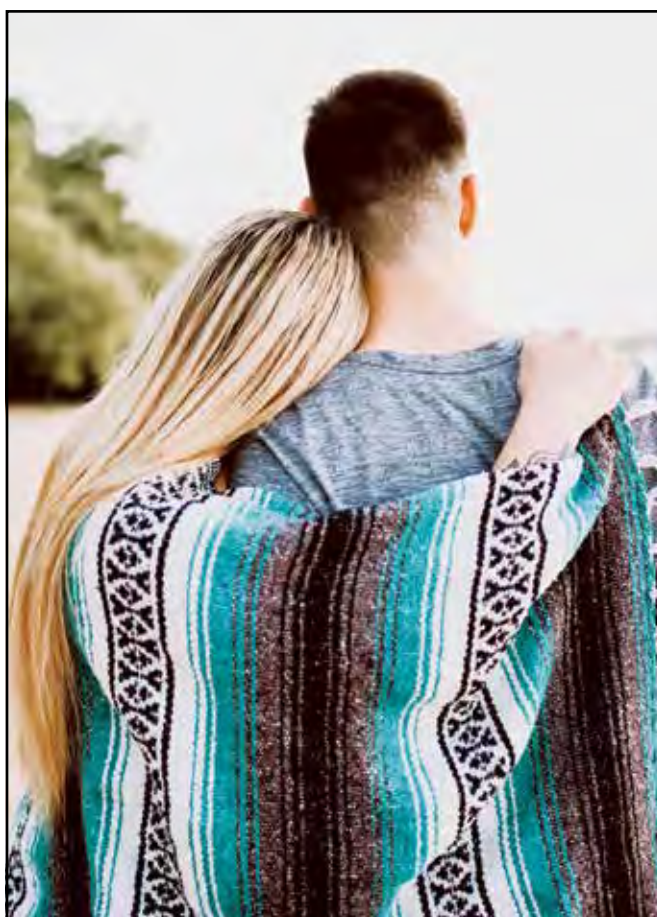
Though Replica copies great wines, Walker notes that the final product “is also uniquely ours.” He says “Science is a roadmap for our incredible wine-making team.”

For skeptics and book clubs alike, Walker encourages an evening of wine sampling. Compare, for example, Prisoner Red Blend with Replica’s Pickpocket, or Kendall Jackson Vintner’s Reserve Chardonnay with Knockoff and decide for yourself whether it is real or a Replica. For more information visit [ReplicaWine.com](http://ReplicaWine.com)

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SUN Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 6:30pm (Block Captain meeting) and 7:30pm (Board meeting) at the Central Park Recreation Center, 9651 MLK Jr. Blvd. For information about SUN, visit [www.stapletonunitedneighbors.com](http://www.stapletonunitedneighbors.com). To contact SUN or confirm meeting time, email [stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com](mailto:stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com)

## December SUN News

By Geoff Horsfall, Chair, Stapleton United Neighbors Sustainability Committee.

The Stapleton United Neighbors (SUN) Sustainability Committee would like to wish everyone a joyful holiday season. As we approach the end of the calendar year, we are grateful for the opportunity to share some of our successes from 2018 as well as look ahead to what's in store for 2019.

### Stapleton: Outstanding Neighborhood Status in the Sustainable Neighborhoods Program

In 2018, the SUN Sustainability Committee was accepted into the City and County of Denver's Sustainable Neighborhoods Program, giving residents the opportunity to become active partners in making their neighborhood a vibrant and sustainable community through credit-based workshops, projects, and other events that enhance the livability of the neighborhood. Successful initiatives to date include:

- 250 reusable grocery bags distributed at Eastbridge Town Center King Soopers
- Removal of 19 garbage bags of trash (and a suitcase) from the Sand Creek Regional Greenway
- A pollinator basics course hosted by The Urban Farm at the Sam Gary Branch Library
- Community Day of Reflection on the topic of Benjamin Stapleton's life and legacy moderated by Colorado State Historian Patty Limerick
- A new-renter outreach campaign at five Stapleton apartment complexes

SUN's Sustainability Committee established a year-one goal for its participation in the Sustainable Neighborhoods Program of 100 credits. The number of credits awarded for any given program event is a function of an event's relative impact on the community and the number of residents participating in that event. To learn more, visit: [www.sustainableneighborhoodnetwork.org](http://www.sustainableneighborhoodnetwork.org).

Reaching 100 credits in a year earns the community "Outstanding Neighborhood" status in the eyes of the City and County of Denver. At 97 credits and with more waiting to be tallied, Stapleton is all but certain to reach that milestone. As this is a resident-lead effort, SUN thanks and congratulates the many residents who have participated.

### Going Solar: Making the Right Choice for Your Home

SUN's Sustainability Committee's most recent event was also its first digital event, a webinar entitled *Going Solar: Making The Right Choice For Your Home*. Hosted by Yun Lee, Stapleton resident and Director of U.S. Solar for Panasonic, the webinar is a practical, step-by-step overview of the process of making the smartest, most efficient decision for how to add solar panels to your home. Persons interested in a link to the webinar should contact [sunsustainability@gmail.com](mailto:sunsustainability@gmail.com).

### Engaging Area High Schools

The SUN Sustainability Committee recently held two information sessions with

Northfield High School students and faculty about opportunities to participate in the Sustainable Neighborhoods Program. Students can use this program to complete volunteer hours required for National Honor Society and other service-based organizations. Participation is also an outlet for students passionate about the topic of sustainability. A meeting with students and faculty at DSST: Stapleton is scheduled for December 11. Schools interested in learning more about how high school students can participate in the program should email [sunsustainability@gmail.com](mailto:sunsustainability@gmail.com).

### A Community-Driven Effort

As the SUN Sustainability Committee begins preparations for year two in the Sustainable Neighborhoods Program, the queue of planned projects includes:

- A Tree Planting Day
- A Movie Night/Fundraiser
- A Community Sustainability Fair

Individuals or groups interested in learning more about any of these 2019 opportunities, or hosting an event as part of this community-lead Sustainable Neighborhoods Program should please reach out. The committee seeks to provide residents every opportunity to share their own ideas for how Stapleton can be a more sustainable neighborhood. Achieving Outstanding Neighborhood status within the Sustainable Neighborhoods Program was accomplished because engaged residents have been willing to give of themselves and take action. Continued support of motivated residents is essential for this program to grow and achieve the ultimate goal of a community and city that are vibrant and sustainable. No idea is too big or too small—all that matters is that there are residents who are passionate about and excited about making their idea a reality. To request information or share ideas, contact the committee via email or Facebook: [SUNsustainability@gmail.com](mailto:SUNsustainability@gmail.com), [facebook.com/snpstapleton](https://www.facebook.com/snpstapleton).

## Letter to the Editor

### Thank You to Considerate and Well-Informed Voters at Central Park Rec Center

After working for Denver Election Commission at the Central Park Rec center October 22-November 6, I need to say thank you to all the residents of Stapleton neighborhood. I had the pleasure of being outside all those days collecting completed ballots. Everyone who drove up to hand us their ballots were the most friendly and appreciative people I have ever worked with. You made me smile everyday.

Also a special thanks to all who expressed concern for us in the cold and the wind. We appreciate your kindness. Thanks for the hot chocolate and treats to keep us going out there.

Finally I was so impressed with everyone's hard work in studying the ballot issues. The time everyone took to think those through and vote in the way that mattered to them.

Hope to see you all again next election.  
Claudia Benson, Platte Park

### SUN Meetings in December

Monthly SUN outreach meeting, Tuesday December 18, Central Park Rec Center, 6:30-7:30pm, followed by a SUN board meeting 7:30-8:45pm.

Additionally, as the SUN board did not meet in November, a board meeting will be held December 12 at 7pm for discussion of potential proposed changes to the organization bylaws around voting procedures, prompted by concerns of ambiguity and a desire to be more inclusive in the modern era of communication, location TBD.

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# Damn the Torpedoes



Coffee connoisseur Kyle Wells gave up his corporate IT job to create a coffee shop with the best qualities of all the shops and brewing methods he had researched meticulously. When he made the decision to move forward and open the business, he took inspiration from the Civil War quote, “Damn the Torpedoes...Full Speed Ahead” and named his Park Hill shop Torpedo Coffee. Below: Barista Alyssa Moreno is pictured with just some of the food options Torpedo customers can choose from.

By Courtney Drake-McDonough  
Kyle Wells’ wife is a risk-taker. He is less so. When the idea of opening a coffee shop persevered in Kyle’s mind, Fallene Wells, who has a hair salon business, said, “Why wouldn’t you do this?!” To which Kyle would respond with a litany of the practical things that came with his corporate IT job such as a steady paycheck and insurance. “But at the same time, I just felt the pull. It kept coming back to me that I needed to go for it,” he says. For gumption, he drew on his old naval days and the Civil War quote “Damn the Torpedoes...Full Speed Ahead!” That became the inspiration for the name of the coffee shop he opened mid-September, “Torpedo Coffee.”

Located in the recently renovated Oneida Park development at 23rd and Oneida in Park Hill, Torpedo Coffee offers drinks, baked goods, breakfast burritos, sandwiches and salads to eat there or grab and go. A perky torpedo guy graces the sign outside and merchandise in the “industrial-nautical-themed” space.

Corvus Coffee is the primary roaster for Torpedo, but they also have a guest roaster program to highlight a local Denver roaster on a quarterly basis. “I’m trying to show our customers other types of coffee that are out there and other roaster profiles,” says Wells. A Colorado native, he wants to highlight Denver while simultaneously being different from other coffee shops. “We try to not have it feel like a hipster coffee shop where it’s intimidating when you go in,” he says. “It’s right here in our neighborhood so we want it to be approachable, but still somewhat refined in the sense that people can come in and know they’re going to get a really good cup of coffee.”

Attaining that really good cup of coffee is what got Wells started on the path of his coffee shop. He had always had an affinity for coffee but became more interested in it in recent years. He began thinking of coffee as something more than just a hot drink in the morning. “I was still working my day job and found myself being more passionate about taking coffee to work and not just having whatever swill they had there,” Wells says. That expanded to taking an electric kettle, a French press, and other coffee-making methods into the office. In his off hours he did research and took classes about coffee. When traveling for work, he’d go to coffee shops and imagine how he’d do things differently. “I had this idea that I would have a coffee shop where it was all about the coffee and have all these different brewing methods,”



do it right and go full speed ahead.”

he says. A serendipitous, voluntary severance package from his corporate job came along as Torpedo Coffee was getting ready to open, taking Wells headlong into his new venture. He says he’s working harder and longer than he ever did in his corporate job, which is fine with him. And talking with his wife about work doesn’t end just because their shops have closed for the day. “All of our conversations are about either coffee or hair, and I’m bald!” he says, laughing. “If you start reading the stats about businesses failing, you’ll go crazy,” says Wells. “So we’re going to

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# “The Talk” is Really Many Conv

By Martina Will, Ph.D.

“Here’s a book. Let me know if you have any questions.” Alison Macklin, Vice President of Education and Innovation for Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains, recalls these words as the extent of “the talk” her otherwise liberal parents had with her as a teen. Most perceptive educators and doctors today recognize that “the talk” is not a single conversation but an ongoing set of conversations around sexuality and sex. These may arise deliberately or organically, in response to a child’s pointed questions after hearing a new slang term or after viewing a movie or hearing a suggestive song.

For the past 14 years, Macklin, a Stapleton parent of two, has devoted her professional life to helping others have open and frank conversations about sex, sexuality, and reproductive health. When it comes to teenagers, she encourages parents to discuss not just the mechanics of sex, but also—and more importantly—the feelings around sexuality and sex.

Dr. Tricia Huguelet, a specialist in pediatric and adolescent gynecology at Children’s Hospital Colorado and a Stapleton mom of three, adds to this advice. “Parents should not assume that their children are getting comprehensive sex education at school. Most kids know a lot less than

parents think they know about sex; parents absolutely should be the primary source of information for their children.”

Some parents fear that talking about sex will cause teens to run out and have sex; however, evidence-based research affirms that neither sex education nor contraception cause teens to engage in sexual intercourse or risky behavior. Macklin says, “Teens who have ongoing dialogue with their parents about sex and sexuality typically are more likely to wait because they are better prepared to decide for themselves when they are ready to be in a physically intimate relationship.”

Some parents don’t open the door to these conversations. Others may reject their teen’s views or values, leaving their children feeling like sex and sexuality are not safe topics for discussion. Teens may then turn to friends or the internet for information, resulting in “misinformation or information that isn’t developmentally appropriate,” says Liz Romer, a nurse practitioner and executive director of BC4U, a federally-funded Title X clinic at Children’s Hospital in Aurora. BC4U’s goal is to provide the tools and information young people need to advocate for their own sexual health and well-being. The clinic does this by providing free birth control solutions, educational resources, and

other reproductive health services to men and women under the age of 25.

Romer says the BC4U clinic is a safe and nonjudgmental place that provides medically accurate and developmentally appropriate information to teens. The service is free and completely confidential, and she and her staff see more than 4,000 patients a year. About half come without a parent. The colorful and user-friendly BC4U website (<https://bc4u.org>) allows clients to make appointments, pose questions, and get answers to common concerns.

“We honor that teens may have a hard time getting here, and we provide all services on-site, from education to birth control, so a patient walks out with their questions answered and their concerns met.” Romer says, “I wanted to be able to create a place where young women and men can get this information and develop their



Alison Macklin, Stapleton mom of two, helps others have open and frank conversations about sex, sexuality and reproductive health. Her book, *Making Sense of It. A Guide to Sex for Teens (and Their Parents)* is available in area bookstores and online.

*Most kids know a lot less than parents think they know about sex; parents absolutely should be the primary source of information for their children.*

—Dr. Patricia Huguelet

*State law protects teens seeking sexual health services and contraception. They do not need parental consent to get these services.*

—Liz Romer

own knowledge and values around sex and sexuality.” BC4U has a separate adolescent waiting room to make teens more comfortable and reassures its patients that their information is kept confidential.

“State law protects teens seeking sexual health services and contraception. They do not need parental consent to get these services,” says Romer. She hopes that when young people come in, they are building rapport with BC4U providers so they will return for follow-up visits as needed and be advocates for their own healthcare. Many teens need time to figure out how to talk to

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# versations



Dr. Tricia Huguelet (left), specialist in pediatric and adolescent gynecology at Children's Hospital Colorado tells parents they should not assume that their children are getting comprehensive sex education at school.

their parents about their sexual health needs. BC4U provides support and care to teens during this time.

Dr. Huguelet is a proponent of providing teens with long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) such as IUDs (intra-uterine devices) and implants. Unlike the birth control pill, which is only 95% effective for the most diligent of patients (and 90% effective for typical users who have an occasional forgetful day), LARC methods like IUDs are 99% effective and only need to be replaced every 5 years. One common misconception is that birth control causes

weight gain; Dr. Huguelet says that this is only the case for some users of injectable birth control. Teens and parents should seek guidance and education on these and other concerns from their pediatricians, adolescent gynecologists, and other doctors specializing in adolescence. Dr. Huguelet encourages teens to have open and frank conversations about all of these issues with their parents, but understands that for some, "the talk" is still challenging territory.

In response to parental requests, Denver Public Schools' school-based health clinics, operated by Denver Health, began dispens-

ing contraception in 2010. These clinics offer a range of services, from routine dental care to immunizations to testing for sexually transmitted infections. Parents do have to sign a consent form for a child to receive care, but once that consent form is on file, students in grades 6-12 do not need to have a parent along or notify a parent as to the nature of their visit. For a complete list of services offered and sites see: <https://www.denverhealth.org/services/school-based-health-centers>

Of course, sex education is not just about teaching the mechanics of sex and making contraception accessible, but includes thoughtful discussions of sexuality and consent. As the #METOO movement reminds us, sex education also can teach our kids critical concepts like consent: What does it mean to say "yes"? How do you handle a "no"?

The wealth of resources in our community dedicated to reproductive health and well-being are no substitute for parental engagement. Conversations around values and feelings are paramount for many adolescents as they begin to explore their own identities.

Macklin reasons, "If you want your children to grow up to be adults who are in consensual and pleasurable sexual relationships, basic conversations while a young person is growing up act as stepping stones that allow them to discuss and explore their values with a trusted adult. They also help them learn how to communicate their needs, desires, and boundaries effectively with a partner."

## RESOURCES

**Making Sense of It: A Guide to Sex for Teens (And Their Parents, Too)** by Alison Macklin is available in area bookstores and online.

**AMAZE** includes a wealth of videos and information for middle schoolers, with topics covering bullying, puberty, and menstruation. There's even a whole group of videos directed at parents wondering how to talk about sex and sexuality. See: <https://amaze.org>

**BC4U:** Clinic provides free birth control solutions, STD testing, and education to men and women under the age of 25. Can schedule an appointment and live chat on the website. Locations in Aurora, Wheat Ridge, Highlands Ranch and Colorado Springs. [www.bc4u.org](http://www.bc4u.org) or 720-777-BC4U (2248)

**Sex, Etc.:** Created for teens, by teens, this website provides accurate and honest information to improve teen sexual health, as well as various ways for adolescents to get involved in various campaigns around sexual and reproductive health. [www.sexetc.org](http://www.sexetc.org)

**Youth Resource:** In partnership with Advocates for Youth, this website is created by and for LGBTQ young people and provides information and support through education and advocacy. [www.youthresource.com](http://www.youthresource.com)

## HOTLINES TO CALL/TEXT:

**Love is Respect:** Visit [www.loveisrespect.org](http://www.loveisrespect.org) text "LOVEIS" to 22522, or call 1-866-331-9474 to talk with a peer advocate to prevent and end an abusive relationship.

**National Sexual Assault Hotline:** Visit [www.rainn.org](http://www.rainn.org) to chat or call 800-656-HOPE (4673) to get connected with a trained staff member from a sexual assault service provider in your area.

**Planned Parenthood** offers a sexual health text line dedicated to teens' questions and concerns: text ICYC to 57890

**Trevor Project:** Visit [www.thetrevorproject.org](http://www.thetrevorproject.org) or text or call 866-488-7386 to receive crisis intervention and suicide prevention services for LGBT young people.

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