

# Front Porch

COLORADO

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FEBRUARY 2019

NORTHEAST DENVER

## Find Common Ground or Strike?



During negotiations between the Denver Classroom Teachers Association (DCTA) and Denver Public Schools (DPS), supporters of the teachers raised their hands in solidarity with the Los Angeles teachers, who were on strike at that time. The Los Angeles union representative was in the room and requested the photo to be sent to his teachers. Ultimately, DCTA representatives rejected the district's offer an hour before their contract expired at midnight on January 19 and scheduled a strike vote. The outcome was 93% in favor. Money and ProComp, DPS's salary structure, are at the root of the differences between DCTA and DPS.

The teachers union, Denver Classroom Teachers Association (DCTA), proposes a clear payscale for everyone based on years of service and opportunities to increase pay through college credits or in-house Professional Development Units. Denver Public Schools is committed to setting aside

some of the funds for salaries to pay incentives and retention bonuses at hard-to-serve schools. As this issue of the *Front Porch* is going to press, the two sides have agreed to resume discussions and are awaiting an answer whether the state will intervene to try to bring the two sides together to avert a strike. *Story by Carol Roberts on page 30.*

## Brown: Integration in Theory, Not in Practice



Kindergarten and first grade students from four Park Hill elementary schools sing "We Shall Overcome" on the steps of Montview Presbyterian Church where Martin Luther King spoke to a crowd of 3,000 in 1964.

King's 1963 "I Have a Dream Speech" envisioned black and white boys and girls together just as they are shown in this photo celebrating him today. But real integration of schools has proven elusive.

In 1954, a unanimous U.S. Supreme Court determined that segregation in public schools violated the 14th Amendment, in the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision. The following year, the Supreme Court, in what became known as *Brown II*, instruct-

ed states to begin desegregation "with all deliberate speed." States liberally interpreted that phrase, and many plodded towards integration with the deliberate speed of tortoises. *Story by Martina Will, Ph.D. on page 8.*



## Cultural Travel

Follow a family's adventures in Guatemala. Above, traditional chocolate-making—in Mayan culture, chocolate was consumed as a beverage with chile added. *Story on page 10 by Caroline Hagadorn.*

## 2019 Camp Guide

Find more than 60 camps including adventure, sports, science, music, dance, karate, cooking and more. The *Front Porch* Camp Guide starts on page 23.






Geese stand on thin ice in the pond at the east end of Central Park in Stapleton.

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and events.

Visit FrontPorchNE.com  
to comment and find  
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### Summer Camp Guide

If you missed submitting to our printed camp guide in this issue, you can still upload your camp to our online calendar:

1. Go to [frontporchne.com/submit-event](http://frontporchne.com/submit-event).
2. Choose multi-day event and enter first camp session to last camp session.
3. Create your camp description.
4. Select categories. IMPORTANT: Be sure to choose "SUMMER CAMP GUIDE" so it will come up with other camps in searches. A second category is optional.
5. Complete all other fields for event submission.

### 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](mailto: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.

## Events & Announcements at Stapleton

### Active Minds Seminars

Community-based educational seminars exploring a diverse range of topics each month. This month, Active Minds will explore the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the South Asia region of Kashmir. For more details on this month's topics visit [stapletoncommunity.com](http://stapletoncommunity.com).

### Wine & Chocolate Tasting

*Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm, The Cube*  
What's Valentine's Day without a little wine and chocolate? This sit-down tasting will provide lovers, friends and loners alike with the opportunity to try an exceptional selection of wine and chocolate while receiving professional insight into what elements comprise a premium pairing. Grant Harmsen of The Vineyard Wine Shop, will return to guide attendees through the tasting and provide answers to any questions related to the pairings. Tickets are \$25 and will increase to \$50 the day of the event. To purchase tickets, visit [stapletoncommunity.com](http://stapletoncommunity.com). You must be 21+ to attend and no refunds will be permitted.

### Family Classics Film Series – *Mary Poppins*

*Friday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7:00 pm, The Cube*  
Our three-part Family Classics Film Series continues with *Mary Poppins*, the irresistible Disney classic that has enchanted movie-goers of all ages since its groundbreaking release in 1964! A spectacular combination of live action and animation, impressive musical numbers, plus Julie Andrew's unforgettable portrayal as Mary Poppins, makes this film *practically perfect in every way*. Dr. Vincent Piturro will provide viewers with a new perspective and exclusive industry insights relating to the film. For more information, and to purchase tickets, visit [stapletoncommunity.com](http://stapletoncommunity.com).

### Family Classics Film Series – *Willy Wonka*

*Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 7:00 pm, The Cube*  
The final film in our Family Classics Film Series is *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory*, a genuine work of pure imagination. Gene Wilder's performance has been hailed as pure genius! Full of delight and constant excitement, no kid will want to miss a trip to see this chocolate factory on the big screen. Dr. Vincent Piturro will provide viewers with a new perspective and exclusive industry insights relating to the film. For more information, and to purchase tickets, visit [stapletoncommunity.com](http://stapletoncommunity.com).

### Call for Entries – Month of Photography

*Entry deadline: February 15<sup>th</sup>*

The Cube will be participating in this year's Month of Photography, a biennial celebration of fine art photography. You may submit up to three images via email, to Lin Clark at [LinKClark@gmail.com](mailto:LinKClark@gmail.com). All images must be 72 dpi and under 2MB in size. Please include the title and frame finished size of work. Selected photographers will be notified by Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> via email. All selections must be ready to hang in a professional manner (no saw-tooth hangers).

### Call for Entries – Stapleton's Got Talent

*Entry deadline: March 1<sup>st</sup>*

We are delighted to bring you Stapleton's Got Talent, a new and exciting opportunity for all amateur performers in Denver to showcase their unique abilities with others in the community. We encourage all ages and talents to apply! Finalists, selected from video auditions, will be invited to compete in the live finals on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at The Cube. Three winners will be awarded a 10-minute spot at one of Stapleton's outdoor summer concerts. Please visit [stapletoncommunity.com](http://stapletoncommunity.com) for a complete list of entry rules. Apply today!

### Minor Snow Event Removal Policies

Below are a few reminders of our snow removal policies. A complete list of policies can be found at [stapletoncommunity.com](http://stapletoncommunity.com)

**Major Roadways and Arterials** are the responsibility of Denver's Department of Public Works. Snow removal begins prior to every snow event and continues throughout its completion.

**Neighborhood Streets** are addressed by city officials **only** if a "major snow event" is announced by the City of Denver.


**Neighborhood Sidewalks** are the responsibility of the adjacent property owner or sub-association. Snow removal on sidewalks adjacent to community or regional parks is the responsibility of the MCA or Denver Parks and Recreation.

**Neighborhood Alley Surfaces** are to be routinely maintained by the adjacent property owner or sub-association. The MCA will plow a single driving lane through each alley if a "major snow event" is announced.

If you have any questions or comments about the information above, please contact the MCA office at 303.388.0724.

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# Front Porch

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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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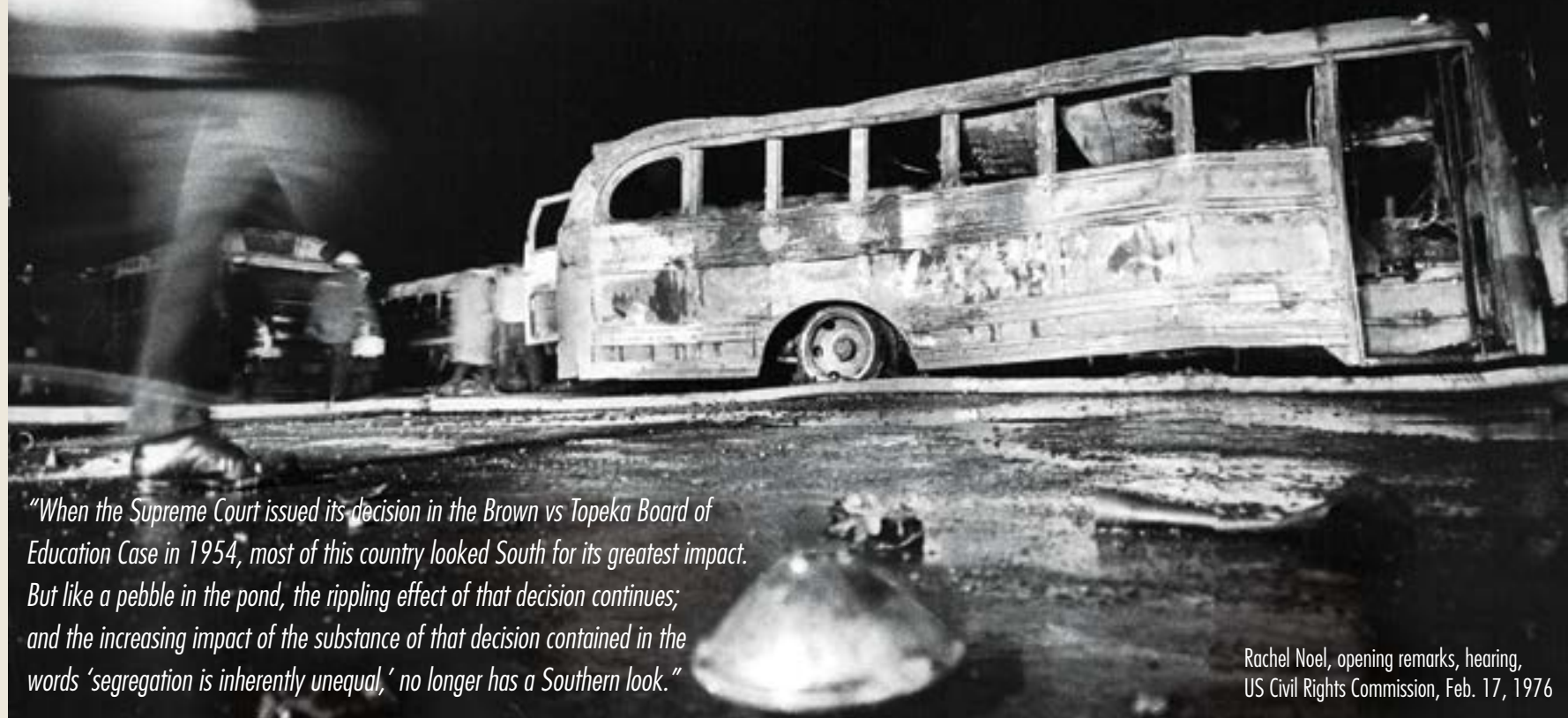
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# Denver after Brown v. Board: From Segregation to Integration (in theory)



"When the Supreme Court issued its decision in the Brown vs Topeka Board of Education Case in 1954, most of this country looked South for its greatest impact. But like a pebble in the pond, the rippling effect of that decision continues; and the increasing impact of the substance of that decision contained in the words 'segregation is inherently unequal,' no longer has a Southern look."

In 1970, 12 dynamite bombs destroyed 24 school buses and damaged an additional 15 at a DPS bus depot; the New York Times referred to this as a "massive and skillful demolition job." Witnesses reported seeing three young White males fleeing the scene. DPS had been ordered to purchase new buses the year before to facilitate busing. To date, no one has been convicted.

That same year, the Keyes family found a bomb outside their home; fortunately, no one was injured.

Photo by Steve Larson for the Denver Post (now publisher/photographer for the Front Porch).

Rachel Noel, opening remarks, hearing, US Civil Rights Commission, Feb. 17, 1976

By Martina Will, Ph.D.

**B**rown v. Board of Education originated in a class action lawsuit filed by residents of Topeka, Kansas who wanted to be able to choose the school their children attended. The landmark 1954 decision represented an about-face for the Supreme Court, which in 1896 had approved Jim Crow segregation by sanctioning "equal but separate accommodations for the white and colored races."

Still, the 1954 decision lacked teeth and could not transform centuries of racism into acquiescence. In many cities, violence ensued as communities and officials resisted the mandate. The Little Rock Nine who bravely integrated

Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas in 1957, for example, did so at profound personal risk. President Eisenhower had to call upon the Arkansas National Guard and sent 1,000 paratroopers from the 101st Airborne Division to protect the students and restore order.

In the decade following *Brown*, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in numerous cases against de jure segregation (segregation written into law), banning segregation in public accommodations from restaurants to golf courses to beaches.

## Segregation in Denver Public Schools

In Denver, de facto segregation (seg-

regation in practice) was every bit as nefarious as de jure segregation. And because it was not codified, it endured long after *Brown* and subsequent Court decisions.

As demographics in Northeast Park Hill shifted from 3% to 70% African American between 1960 and 1967, locals watched national events with increasing anxiety, fearful that the volatile combination of civil rights protests, unemployment, alcohol, drag-racing youth at the Dahlia and Holly Shopping Centers, and summer heat would erupt in violence. As it turned out, Denver's de facto segregation would be what put the city at the forefront of the national civil rights scene as the 1960s waned. What *Brown v. Board of Education* represented for de jure segregation in 1954, *Keyes v. School District No. 1* symbolized

for de facto segregation in 1973.

Notwithstanding a 1959 Fair Housing Law in Colorado, redlining and other discriminatory practices meant that neighborhoods and schools in Denver were extremely segregated. For years, the school board continued drawing school boundaries to safeguard segregation. Denver's Black population, which was growing in the 1950s, increasingly exerted pressure on DPS to provide all children quality education. The result was several committees that examined schools' racial and ethnic composition, boundaries, and other considerations.

Due to changing demographics, Park Hill was the subject of particular concern, especially when DPS in 1960 built Barrett Elementary (near Colorado Blvd.



Helen Wolcott (right) and Anna Jo Haynes' daughters, Lee Ann and Mary, visit Stephen Knight Elementary, 3245 E. Exposition Ave., in 1969. The visit was sponsored by "Citizens for One Community" that supported school integration. At the time, Stephen Knight Elementary, now Knight Center-Early Education, was 98.7% white. Today it is 68% white.

and 29th Ave.). The school seemed to have been erected deliberately to exclude its predominantly Black student population from the much better-equipped White Park Hill Elementary School. Within a few years, the Office of the Mayor's Commission on Community Relations reported that Northeast Park Hill's two elementary schools were "de facto segregated"—and the junior high school was "integrated, but changing very rapidly into a de facto segregated school."

The same report concluded "The Negro community of Denver is essentially separated and/or alienated from the majority white community in Denver. There is not equal opportunity for members of the Negro community in areas of employment, education, housing or recreation." (Aug. 31, 1967, Rachel Noel Papers at Blair-Caldwell Library).

## DPS Integration Plan

Undaunted by harassing phone calls, in 1968, the Denver school board's first Black member, Rachel Noel, introduced a resolution directing the superintendent to submit to the board a comprehensive plan for school integration. The following year, however, voters elected anti-integrationists, who quickly rescinded Resolution 1490 (the Noel Resolution). Civil rights attorneys and eight Denver families decided to move forward with a lawsuit, with Park Hill's Lyla and Wilfred Keyes family serving as lead plaintiffs. District Judge William Doyle's



Above: Helen Wolcott talks to a pedestrian about school integration outside the Denver School Administration Building in 1968. She and fellow picketers demanded DPS make a plan for integration.

Below: A 2016 photo of Helen Wolcott (left) and Anna Jo Haynes taken by Steve Larson for the Front Porch. Newspaper clippings are from Wolcott's scrapbook.



school population, including one-fourth of the Negro elementary pupils, over two-thirds of the Negro junior high pupils, and over two-fifths of the Negro high school pupils." To remedy the situation, DPS launched mandatory school busing, triggering widespread White flight.

Melba Pattillo Beals, one of the Little Rock Nine, writes in her 1994 memoir, *Warriors Don't Cry*: "The effort to separate ourselves whether by race, creed, color, religion, or status is as costly to the separator as to those who would be separated." Her words are just as potent today, as we reflect on over half a century of missteps in the struggle for desegregation and consider not only what *Brown* and *Keyes* meant, but where they fell short and how we can achieve true and meaningful integration for our children and grandchildren.

ruling in favor of the plaintiffs began the case's trajectory to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In his 1973 majority opinion, Justice William Brennan wrote that the school board was guilty "of following a deliberate segregation policy at schools attended, in 1969, by 37.69% of Denver's total Negro

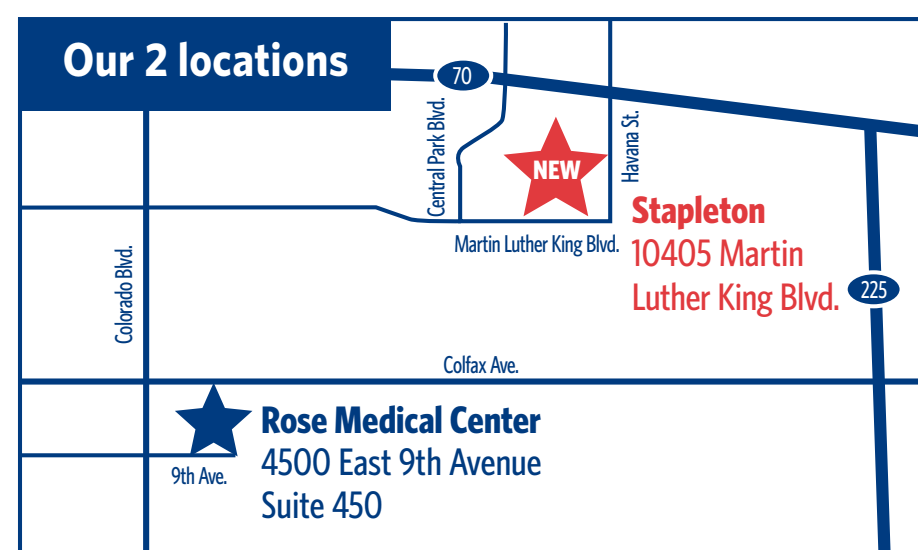


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## After *Brown*: Fewer Black Teachers



By Martina Will, Ph.D.

The National Bureau of Economic Research recently released a study which found that “Black students who’d had just one black teacher by third grade were 13 percent more likely to enroll in college—and those who’d had two were 32 percent more likely.” This wasn’t the first report to find a positive correlation between Black teachers and Black student outcomes. As DPS seeks to reduce the achievement gap, then, why do our schools still have so few Black teachers?

Though we typically think of *Brown v. Board of Education* in terms of its impact on students, the Donnell-Kay Foundation hosted a panel discussion to examine *Brown*’s legacy on Black educators on Jan. 24 at Manual High School. The

discussion built on Dr. Michèle Foster’s life histories of Black educators from her book, *Black Teachers on Teaching*.

After *Brown*, especially in the South, school districts pushed Black educators and administrators out of the profession. Schools grudgingly integrated Black students but not their former teachers. Since the *Brown* decision, the number of Black teachers and administrators relative to White teachers and administrators has declined nationally.

Even as public-school populations across the country have grown more diverse (DPS’ non-White student population is 76%, of which about 13% is Black), the teaching population has remained predominantly White. According to the Education Trust, “Teachers of color represent only 18 percent of the teaching population in the U.S. (Black



Left: Dr. Sharon Bailey (foreground), former DPS board member, released a report in August 2016 summarizing the concerns of Black educators in DPS. Pictured behind Bailey at a summer 2017 meeting about that report are former Superintendent Tom Boasberg and Anna Jo Haynes (far left). In the first photo (at far left) an attendee speaks out in the Bailey Report meeting.

Right: Third-grade teacher at Ashley, Branta Lockett.

work? Our students still deserve the best.”

DPS has been aware of its shortage of African American teachers for decades. In 1962, 5.6% of DPS teachers were Black; “A Progress Report to the Board of Education” documented several efforts in 1964-65 to recruit more “Negro” and “Spanish-named applicants.” These efforts seem to have been successful, and by the mid-1970s, 9.7% of DPS teachers were Black and 4.5% were “Chicano” or Hispanic, according to a League of Women Voters report.

Today, however, even after a year that saw greater minority teacher recruitment than ever before (274 total new-to-DPS educators, of whom 4.37% are

teachers are 7 percent.)” The research offers a host of explanations for this “diversity gap,” including fewer undergraduates choosing to major in Education. In many districts, teachers of color are more likely to be placed in low-income, high-minority urban schools where conditions are already extremely challenging, leading to low teacher retention. When these schools fail, these same educators may be left without jobs.

She shares concern over the ongoing segregation and disparities students face, even in the same neighborhood. “I look at the resources we have at Ashley, and if I cross the street to Stapleton, there are stark differences in resources. It’s hard on teachers. How do we make these resources

schoolteacher, Lockett relays that her mother had hoped she would enter a better-paying profession. She understands her mother’s concerns. “A lot of Blacks don’t go into teaching because of the money...A lot of us cannot afford to teach.”



500 Kindergarten and first grade students from all four Park Hill Elementary schools looked at the photo of MLK (at right) as they headed up the steps to stand where he had stood 64 years earlier at Montview Presbyterian Church. Park Hill Elementary kindergarten teacher Erika



Neale spearheaded the event that took place on Jan. 22. On the steps of Montview Church, they are a picture of integration—but within these four schools, like many others in DPS, racial divides persist. The minority populations of the four schools are 96%, 92%, 69% and 27%.

Photo provided by Montview Presbyterian Church

Black), only 4% of DPS classroom teachers are Black. By comparison, almost 15% of DPS paraprofessionals and 13% of principals are African American. Dr. Sharon Bailey interviewed Black DPS educators and put together a set of recommendations for DPS in 2016; among these was the creation of a professional network to help connect Black educators.

Allen Smith, Chief of the Culture, Equity & Leadership Team at DPS, cites *Reach One Mentoring* and *Belong* affinity groups as two new programs created in response to the recommendations and designed to foster community among teachers of color. Lockett lauds *Reach One*, which pairs newer teachers of color with mentors, for providing the support she needed as a new teacher. She also credits Ashley’s supportive culture as key to teacher retention. “Our voices are heard.” She hopes DPS will create more programs that foster relationships among teachers of color across schools, since they



Allen Smith, Chief of the Culture, Equity & Leadership Team at DPS.

are otherwise often isolated.

Smith, who grew up in a family of teachers, says “This isn’t an issue that was created overnight, and we’re not going to fix it overnight...but we want to do just as good a job retaining our teachers as

recruiting them.

We don’t want to have this revolving door.” He acknowledges the important role Black teachers have in closing the achievement gap, while observing that an unintended consequence of only focusing

on increasing the number of Black teachers in classrooms could place a disproportionate burden on them to close gaps. “We also have to consider whether other (non-Black) teachers are holding our kids to high expectations and truly helping them.” Cultural competency training for teachers can help ensure that all educators have the same high expectations and level of understanding for every child.

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Above: In Guatemala, old American school buses find a new life with bright paint and their own distinctive style.

Right: A verdant bathroom from a macademia farm.

Far right: The main market square in San Martin Jilotepeque where we visited a Denver-based non-profit dental clinic.



Have you taken a trip with the goal to understand and experience another culture? Contact us if you'd like to share your information for our "Cultural Travel" page (with kids or no kids).

By Caroline Hagadorn

Our family lived for a month in Antigua, Guatemala, a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its Mayan and Spanish colonial history. We took daily Spanish classes and participated in our school's field trips to learn about local history and industry, gradually discovering this new place together.



CULTURAL TRAVEL

Our kids' memories of Guatemala are predictably concrete. Lucy (3), remembers feeding pigeons in

the plaza flanking one of Antigua's many historic churches. Ray (5) was smitten with hailing tuk-tuks, the ubiquitous local three-wheeled scooters that serve as taxis. Stella, (7), has fond memories of the many stalls hawking colorful makeup in Antigua's open-air market.

Our kids were happy and engaged by these experiences. But I hoped they'd also absorb something less tangible—an understanding of another culture and how easy it is to find connection and kindness even when people are worlds apart.

About three weeks into our trip, we drove

an hour and a half to the small town of San Martin Jilotepeque. There we met my friend Kim Troggio, who runs a Denver-based non-profit, Global Dental Relief (GDR), which provides dental care to kids in developing countries.

In San Martin, GDR's clinic was in the municipal building along the edge of the central square. At seven busy workstations four dentists and three hygienists cared for about a hundred kids per day. GDR has been running clinics there for a decade, providing regular care to the kids in their treatment populations, but we had arrived when they were setting up a new clinic aimed at kids who had never seen a dentist.

Most of the kids had such advanced tooth decay that the volunteer dentists

didn't treat cavities in baby teeth—instead they focused on saving permanent teeth. Almost all the kids needed multiple fillings; many had teeth so decayed their teeth had to be extracted. Some had infections due to advanced decay. Once they begin getting regular treatment from GDR, their teeth and gums improve immensely.

I couldn't help but contrast the teeth of these children with those of my own kids. My two oldest had never had a single cavity. I was struck by the impact of the relatively simple interventions my kids had received that produced such a dramatic difference: regular cleanings, brushing, flossing, and avoiding sugary drinks and food—interventions that these Guatemalan kids would now be getting regularly through GDR.

## WITH KIDS



We each had our own Spanish teacher and worked at our own level. Lucy (3), Ray (5) and Stella (7) are pictured with their teachers Pamela, Jessica and Claudia.

I was also amazed at the response my kids had. As soon as they realized what was going on, they wanted to help.

GDR accepts volunteers age 12 and older and although our kids weren't quite of age, Kim put them to work: restocking gloves, preparing dental bibs, setting up trays of dental instruments, and ferrying supplies. The kids were shy, but they all watched and were watched back. A video of Stella carrying dental tools shows three young Guatemalan girls in traditional dress waiting for fluoride treatments. Their heads swivel in unison to watch Stella as she walks past them, while Stella keeps her eyes steadily on the floor in front of her, aware that she is being studied. After her first hour there, Stella realized the clinic's purpose, and didn't want to go back to sunny, touristy Antigua. She was resolute that she would spend every waking moment in San Martin, helping however she could.



The Spanish teachers felt like family by the end of the trip—surprising my husband with a cake on his birthday.



Stella carries a tray of dental instruments. In the foreground is one of the many stray dogs that Stella befriended on the trip.

Left: Kids arrived at the clinic in groups coordinated through their schools. Most of the kids in this group had never been to a dentist before.

Far left: One of our Spanish teachers shows Ray how to use her backstrap loom. Men in Guatemala use a larger treadle loom.



But we returned to our Spanish school in Antigua. With its familiar routine of classes, field trips, and kind teachers, it was like returning to an extended family.

Back in Denver, as they await their turn in our comfortable air-conditioned dentist's office, I reflect on my kids' experience in San Martin. They may not recognize a direct connection between our family's travels and what they eventually choose to do. But I feel certain that our trip to Guatemala did influence who they will be in the

world—curious, adventurous, compassionate, adaptable, and kind. All of this makes me eager for our next trip, and for the privilege of reflecting on such experiences and integrating them into our family life.

And me? I've gotten involved with GDR, trying to help them further their mission. The biggest need GDR has is not for dentists, but for lay volunteers to staff their clinics in Guatemala, Nepal, India, Cambodia and Kenya. I'm hoping someday my kids will join me in one of these projects. [www.globaldentalrelief.org](http://www.globaldentalrelief.org)



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By Martina Will, Ph.D.

Tucked behind the Lowry Town Center, the Eisenhower Chapel at 293 Roslyn Street is reminiscent of a Norman Rockwell painting. This simple white tongue and groove building that opened its doors just days before the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, has stood as a quiet witness to the neighborhood's many changes since World War II. Today, it is calling on Lowry and the broader community to support a capital campaign to restore and preserve its damaged exterior.

The Lowry Foundation in partnership with Historic Denver in November 2018 announced a \$105,000 Colorado State Historical Fund grant award to underwrite just over 50% of the needed exterior siding repair. The grant requires that The Foundation secure matching funds, and a capital campaign is underway even as repairs are

# Lowry's Eisenhower Chapel: The Only Surviving Military

scheduled to begin in April. The Lowry Community Master Association has donated \$10,000 to the capital campaign and an oversized thermometer outside the Chapel shows that the campaign has reached almost 70% of its goal.

Built as one of four nondenominational traditional-design military chapels to serve the spiritual needs of the former Lowry Air Force Base's enlistees, it is the only surviving chapel of its kind in Colorado, and one of just a few in the country. The Chapel owes its endurance to the fact that President Dwight "Ike" Eisenhower and his wife

attended services here when Lowry was the site of the "summer White House" from 1953-1955. A plaque marks the pew where the couple routinely sat.

*Learn more from State Historian Tom Noel on The History of the Eisenhower Chapel Tuesday, February 5, 7pm*

Free admission, Eisenhower Chapel. Sponsored by Lowry Speakers Series and History Colorado. More info: lowryfoundation.org or info@lowryfoundation.org.



View of the Eisenhower Chapel from a second floor loft area at the back.

mer White House" from 1953-1955. A plaque marks the pew where the couple routinely sat.

Eisenhower loved Colorado. He married Denver native Mamie Doud, whose parents had built a home at 750 Lafayette Street in 1906. A decade later, while a General in the Army, Eisenhower and Mamie wed at this address; given frequent moves during his military career, the couple considered this their home address for decades. As President (1952-60), Eisenhower and his wife made many trips to Denver. The Lowry Foundation Board Chair Evan Lasky grew up in Denver and recalls going out to see the presidential motorcade make its way along 8th Ave. to



The traditional architecture of the chapel is highlighted by white lights during the holiday season, as surrounding trees cast shadows on it. President Dwight "Ike" Eisenhower and his wife attended services here when Lowry was the site of the "summer White House" from 1953-1955. Ike married Denver native Mamie Doud at her parents' home on Lafayette St. and loved Denver. During his military career, he and Mamie considered Denver home. The chapel is a reminder of this era.



Photo courtesy of The Lowry Foundation

the Lafayette address.

He also recalls the Base. "When we were kids, from 7th and Colorado we would ride our bikes over to watch the planes land" at Lowry Air Force Base, Lasky says.

The Chapel is a reminder of this era, and for Lowry Foundation Executive Director Jeane Larkins, the Chapel embodies Lowry's historic heart and its present center. "This is a gathering place, and the centerpiece for a lot of our efforts to bring people together."

Memorials, weddings, vow renewals, bar and bat mitzvahs, films, speakers, concerts, and neighborhood association meetings frequently take place at the Chapel, which comfortably seats up to 200. The Lowry Foundation is reaching out to the entire community and to as many of the 1,000,000 people who lived and worked at the Lowry Air Force Base as can be contacted, to seek their support of this important project and share information



about the many events planned for 2020, which marks the 25-year anniversary of the Air Force Base's closing. "We're going to have a year-long series of events to mark the anniversary of the closing of the Base and the anniversary of the beginning of the neighborhood of Lowry," says Larkins.



Above left: A plaque marks the pew where President Eisenhower and his wife Mamie sat when they attended church services at the chapel. Above: The chapel is regularly used for community meetings. This photo was taken at a community meeting about Boulevard One in 2013.

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This year's Oscar column previews the Academy Awards held on Sunday, February 24.

What is the Best Picture at the Oscars? How do you choose such an award? The technical answer is that members of the Academy vote for it. I see it a bit differently, however; I see the Best Picture as the sum total of all the other awards: Director, Actor, Actress, Cinematography, Editing, Sound, Screenwriting, etc. The film that bests in the most categories is the Best Picture. Nobody asks me, however, so the Academy votes will prevail once again this year. This year's group of films is quite eclectic: a big-budget superhero film, a throwback to Classic Hollywood Cinema, a stylized political film, a masterful epic, and the weird. At press time, the nominees had not yet

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been announced, so I give you my list of probables. There is no clear favorite this year, and the chance for surprises has never been higher. I might even watch.

### *A Star is Born*

There are two stars born here: Lady Gaga as an actress and Bradley Cooper as a true superstar. He writes, directs, acts, sings and plays music, and commands the screen as if he were straight out of Classic Hollywood Cinema. While Lady Gaga is getting all of the buzz, it is Cooper who is the heartbeat of the film. He directs with simplicity and honesty, and he doesn't try to be flashy or stylized. He keeps the film focused on the story and the players. It is easily the most moving and emotional film of the bunch, and I see multiple Oscars on the night. This is the kind of film the Academy rewards.

### *Vice*

Imagine the pitch: "I would like to make a film about Dick Cheney, with Christian Bale starring." I can see the studio executives bellowing with laughter. The stylized approach to the film works well, however, given the material: the jump cuts, the elliptical and disjunctive editing, and the laser focus on Bale's ridiculous performance as Cheney makes for a stunning ensemble. It is captivating and enthralling—both the material and the presentation. Director Adam McKay works magic and Amy Adams as Lynne Cheney is stunning—as always. I see Bale taking the Best Actor Award for this one.



### *The Favourite*

Weird. If you've never seen a film from director Yorgos Lanthimos (*Dogtooth*, *The Lobster*), then this film may seem quite bizarre; if you have, then it may seem quite tame in comparison. The moniker is quite apt: Lanthimos is part of a movement called "The Greek Weird Wave," a group of current Greek filmmakers whose films are dark, disturbing, strange, and dripping with black humor. This film is all of those things along with gorgeous cinematography, sharp performances from Olivia Coleman, Emma Stone, and Rachel Wiesz—and a wacky story that keeps you on your toes. The film may be an acquired taste, but such tastes usually soothe the palate like no other.

### *Black Panther*

This is more than just a cultural phenomenon; it is a very good film, with excellent production values, writing, cinematography, editing, sound, directing, and more than anything, fantastic performances. Even if you are not a fan of the Marvel Universe or superheroes, this film is irresistible and magnetic. This is my surprise pick.

### *Roma*

This is one of the most beautiful, epic masterpieces I've seen in a long time. Director Alfonso Cuarón also wrote, shot, and edited this story of a family and its maid in early 1970s Mexico. With its brilliant black and white cinematography, subtitles, and a run time well over two hours, it is doubtful the Academy will have this at the top of their list. But it should. If nothing else, it will win the Best Foreign



Language Film. Look for a more detailed review next month.

### *First Man*

I wrote about this film in the November issue: it is poetic, close, tough, and resilient. I found the narrow focus of the film refreshing and anxious—the style, acting, and direction are all so wonderfully in sync that we forget we know the ending!

### *BlackKKlansman*

I wrote about this film in the January issue: it is Spike Lee's best film in years, matching the spirit of his earlier films. It is stylized, punishing, and important. It puts together the best of filmmaking: set design, cinematography, editing, sound, writing, acting, and directing.

### *Bohemian Rhapsody*

I include this film on the list because so many others have. Because of its popularity and the wonderful performance from Rami Malek as Freddy Mercury, it will almost certainly delight the Academy.

Other possibilities: *Green Book*, *If Beale Street Could Talk*, and *Crazy Rich Asians*.

### My Picks:

What will win: *A Star is Born*

What should win: *Roma*

Best Actor: Christian Bale

Best Actress: Lady Gaga

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).

# February & Early March Events

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

## NORTHEAST DENVER/AURORA EVENTS

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

**2/1 to 2/2—Harry Potter Lock-In.** 2:30pm Friday—10am Saturday. For Witches and Wizards, grades 2–5. The Cube, 8371 E. Northfield Blvd. Last day for online registration: Jan 29, 12pm at [stapletoncommunity.com](http://stapletoncommunity.com)

**2/5 Tuesday—Denveright Draft Plan Review.** Read the new drafts of Comprehensive Plan 2040, Blueprint Denver and Game Plan for a Healthy City and give us your feedback. [denvergov.org/content/denvergov/en/denveright.html](http://denvergov.org/content/denvergov/en/denveright.html). Park Hill Branch Library, 4705 Montview Blvd.

**2/5 & 3/5 Tuesday—Kindness Club.** 4-5:30pm Inter-generational, all-ages club [denverlibrary.org/event/kindness-club](http://denverlibrary.org/event/kindness-club). Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St., [lkosmicki@denverlibrary.org](mailto:lkosmicki@denverlibrary.org)

**2/9 Saturday—The Urban Farm Pop-Up Market.** 11am-3pm. Featuring hand-crafted Turkish kilims, pillow coverings, jewelry, TUF logo items, fresh eggs (if our hens feel like laying some) and our champion Lincoln Sheep! The sale will benefit the Urban Farm at Stapleton. The Cube, 8371 Northfield Blvd, 303-307-9332

**2/10—Aurora Symphony Orchestra Tunes for Toons.** These family concerts are designed to give our younger audiences a shorter music presentation, along with stories and fun entertainment. Two free concerts, 11am & 1pm. RSVP not necessary but helpful: [aurorasymphony.org/family](http://aurorasymphony.org/family). The Hanger at Stanley Marketplace, 2501 Dallas St, Aurora.

**2/14 Thursday—Wine & Chocolate Tasting.** Sit-down tasting will provide lovers, friends & lone-wolves alike with the opportunity to try an exceptional selection of wine & chocolate while receiving professional insight into what comprises a premium pairing. Tickets \$25 or \$50 at door. 7pm. [stapletoncommunity.com](http://stapletoncommunity.com). The Cube, 8371 E Northfield Blvd.

**2/15 Friday—Call for Entries – Month of Photography.** You may submit up to 3 images via email, to Lin Clark at [LinKClark@gmail.com](mailto:LinKClark@gmail.com). All images must be 72 dpi and under 2 MB in size. Selected photographers will be notified by the February 18th. The Cube, 8371 E Northfield Blvd, 303.388.0724

**2/19 Tuesday—Greater Stapleton Business Association Monthly Meeting.** 8-9am. We are an association of businesses in the Stapleton area whose purpose is to support each other and our neighbors with local goods and services. [stapletonbusiness.com](http://stapletonbusiness.com). 7350 E 29th Ave #300, [info@stapletonbusiness.com](mailto:info@stapletonbusiness.com)

**2/22 Friday—Family Classics Film Series – Mary Poppins.** A spectacular combination of live action & animation and impressive musical numbers. Dr. Vincent Piturro will provide viewers with a new perspective & exclusive industry insights relating to the film. 7pm. Ticket required. [stapletoncommunity.com](http://stapletoncommunity.com). The Cube, 8371 E Northfield Blvd.

**2/23 Saturday—Special Olympics Denver Polar Plunge.** Polar plunge benefits Special Olympics. Aurora Reservoir. [specialolympicsco.org](http://specialolympicsco.org)

**2/24 Sunday—Clinic to expunge low-level marijuana offenses that occurred prior to recreational-use laws.** Individuals must file motions in each case. The city's "Turn Over a New Leaf" program is designed to make that process easy. To participate in the clinic, applicants must provide government-issued photo ID. [denvergov.org/newleaf](http://denvergov.org/newleaf). Park Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church, 3385 Albion St.

**2/24 Sunday—Sam Gary Literary Book Club.** Meets at Sam Gary once a month on Sundays, 2pm. Rotates between fiction, nonfiction, and reader's choice selections. February Title: Fahrenheit 451, by Ray Bradbury. [denverlibrary.org](http://denverlibrary.org). Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St., [lkosmicki@denverlibrary.org](mailto:lkosmicki@denverlibrary.org)

**3/1 Friday—Family Classics Film Series is Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory.** No kid will want to miss a trip to see this chocolate

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factory on the big screen. Dr. Vincent Piturro will provide viewers with a new perspective and exclusive industry insights relating to the film. 7pm, tickets at [stapletoncommunity.com](http://stapletoncommunity.com). The Cube, 8371 E Northfield Blvd.

**3/1 Friday—Call for Entries – Stapleton's Got Talent Entry Deadline.** Exciting opportunity for all amateur performers in Denver to showcase their unique abilities. We encourage all ages/talents to apply! Finalists, selected from video auditions, will be invited to compete in the live finals on Sat. Apr. 27. The Cube, 8371 E Northfield Blvd, 303.388.0724

## METRO EVENTS

**2/1 Friday—First Friday Art Walks.** Santa Fe Arts District, Tennyson Art Walk, River North (RiNo) Art District, Golden Triangle Museum District. [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)

**2/8 to 2/10—Monster Jam.** Pepsi Center. Tickets start at \$15. [monsterjam.com](http://monsterjam.com), [pepsicenter.com](http://pepsicenter.com)

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(continued from page 17)  
fashion+art+ideas.fashion that is always eco friendly & cruelty free. 6-9pm, middlemanbar.com. 3401 E Colfax

**2/20 Wednesday—Mom UP! Project 2019.** Everyone 21+ and over is welcome to attend! \$8 from each ticket will be donated back to the school of your choice. momupproject.eventbrite.com. Mile High Spirits, 2201 Lawrence St. 720-841-2545

**2/22 Friday—Wish Night: Share the Power of a Wish, benefitting Make-A-Wish® Colorado.** Music and dance performances by local wish kids as well as cocktails, dinner, silent and live auctions. colorado.wish.org. Hyatt Regency Denver at Colorado Convention Center, colorado@colorado.wish.org

**2/22 to 3/3—Denver Restaurant Week.** 200+ restaurants offer multicourse meals for special pricing. Menus/pricing: www.denverrestaurantweek.com

**2/23 Saturday—Environmental Film Festival with GLCI** Travel to Golden with Greenway Leadership Corps and see 1-2 full length films from the CO Environmental Film Festival! This is a free event and lunch is provided, but registration is required. Visit our website to register today! thegreenwayfoundation.org/greenway-leadership-corps.html. 610 S Jason St.

**2/26 Tuesday—Beyond the Suit Breakfast.** Featuring Q & A with a panel of Successful Supporters. Panelists are program participants, volunteers, Board of Directors and corporate sponsors. Tickets are \$35. denver.dressforsuccess.org. Denver Athletic Club, 1325 Glenarm St, denver@dressforsuccess.org

**To 2/28—Robert Anderson Gallery Native American Artist Exhibits.** Opening reception, Friday, Jan 18, 5–8pm. 3321 East Colfax. robertandersongallery.com

**3/1 Friday—A Classical Jazz Evening with the Colorado Children's Chorus.** Featuring Concert Choir and Tour Choir singing in the grand tradition of the European cathedral. 7:30-8:15pm, St. John's Cathedral, 1350 Washington St. Tickets \$19-\$24. sing.childrenschorale.org

**3/2 Saturday—Up with People 2019 Gala.** 8th annual Gala: Turning Hope into Action. Hyatt Regency Denver at the Colorado Convention Center. upwithpeople.org/give/annual-gala. 650 15th St, mluebke@upwithpeople.org

**3/2 to 3/3—Rocky Mountain Train Show.** Denver Mart, 10am-5pm Sat., 10am-4pm Sun. Adults/kids 12 and over \$10. Under 12, scouts in uniform and active duty with military ID Free. Admission good both days. 451 E 58th Ave. rockymountaintrainshow.com

## HEALTH/ WELLNESS

**2/8 Friday—Winter Bike to Work Day.** Enjoy fresh air/exercise of riding your bike to work. Check website for Breakfast Stations and events along your route. winter-biketoworkday.org

**2/23 Saturday—Cupid's Undie Run.** Stoney's – 1111 Lincoln St, 12pm. Benefits research to help end neurofibromatosis (NF), a rare genetic disorder that causes tumors to grow on nerves throughout the body. cupids.org

**3/3 Sunday—Fight for Air Stair Climb.** Benefits American Lung Assoc. \$35

entry fee; \$100 minimum fundraising. Individual or team. Republic Plaza, 16th and Tremont Entrance. www.lung.org

## KIDS AND FAMILIES

**Every Tuesday—Tattered Tales Storytime.** 30 minutes of stories, activities and snacks. 10:30am, 2526 East Colfax Ave. tatteredcover.com

**Storytimes! At Bookies.** Every Tues. 10:30am, Sat. at 4pm. Meet other families; stay afterwards to browse shelves and play in our playhouse. Free. The Bookies Bookstore, 4315 E. Mississippi Ave. 303.759.1117, info@thebookies.com. thebookies.com

**2/1 Friday—Neat Nesters: SPREE Holiday Camp.** Birds aren't the only nest architects of the South Platte River. Join SPREE to learn about different animals that build nests in our city! SPREE= South Platte River Environmental Education. 610 S Jason St. camp@greenwayfoundation.org, thegreenwayfoundation.org

**2/2—Dr. Mike's Bag of Bugs.** Come learn about insects & other arthropods. Kids 5 and under. 10–11am. Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E. Smith Rd., Aurora. auroragov.org/nature

**2/2 Friday—Home Depot Kids Workshop.** 9am–12pm. FREE how-to clinics first Sat. monthly, ages 5–12. Get Home Depot apron, wooden project and project pin. Metro-area Home Depot stores. www.homedepot.com

**2/9 Saturday—Love to Print: Kids' Valentine Card Workshop.** Ink Lounge, 10–12pm. \$25 (materials/snack)

for kids 6+ to draw and screen print own set valentines. 29 S Fox St, inklounge.com/workshops.html

**2/10 Sunday—Foxy and Shmoxy: Art Detectives.** Join the DAM art detectives, as they solve mysteries in the galleries. 10:30am. Adult/kids evening out final Friday monthly. Denver Art Museum, 100 W 14 Ave. Pkwy. 720-865-5000, denverartmuseum.org

**2/12 to 2/13—STEAM: Patterns in Nature.** 4–5pm. Let's explore patterns and how they occur in nature. We'll learn about symmetry, tessellations, Fibonacci and fractals! Two sessions: Tues/Wed. Registration required online. denverlibrary.org/event/steam-7. 2961 Roslyn St., lkosmicki@denverlibrary.org

**2/13 Wednesday—Monarch Montessori of Denver Charter Open House.** Join us to learn more about our FREE Public Charter elementary program. Starting in the 2019-20 school year Monarch will have a dual language path in English and Spanish for Kindergarten. RSVP on our website at MonarchM.com. 4895 Peoria St.

**2/15 Friday—A Night At Hogwarts.** 6:30–8:30pm Students in grades 6–12 are invited to join us after the library closes for a teens-only after hours event. Come dressed in costume and win fabulous prizes! Permission slips/registration required. denverlibrary.org. 2961 Roslyn St., lkosmicki@denverlibrary.org

**2/18 Monday—Nocturnal Nature: SPREE Holiday Camp.** Investigate with SPREE the crepuscular and nocturnal creatures of Denver and the South Platte River! SPREE= South Platte River Environmental Education. thegreenwayfoundation.org/holiday-camps.html. 610 S Jason St. camp@greenwayfoundation.org

**2/20 Wednesday—Write & Talk for Teens with Lighthouse Writers.** 4–6pm Are you interested in exploring the world of creative writing? Join local author Whitney Gaines to try a new genre or topic each month. Registration required. denverlibrary.org. 2961 Roslyn St., lkosmicki@denverlibrary.org

**2/23 & 2/24—Ballerina by Degas Tea Party.** The story of a young dancer and her rise without in the Paris Opera. A mini-performance and tea party will be held on Feb. 23rd at Pinnacle Performing Arts Center and Feb. 24th at Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Theatre. ballerina.org. 119 Park Ave West, 303-945-4388

**2/26 Tuesday—Let's Build It – Shrinky Dink Key-chains.** 4–5pm Use shrinky plastic to design your own key chain or pet tag. denverlibrary.org/event/let%27s-build-it-shrinky-dink-keychains. 2961 Roslyn St., lkosmicki@denverlibrary.org

**2/26 Tuesday—Inside the Orchestra's Tiny Tots Concerts.** Kids get truly inside the orchestra as they are seated on the floor and surrounded by a 30+ piece orchestra. This winter, takes a musical walk through the four seasons with programs full of interactive fun! insidetheorchestra.org/tiny-tots-events. Temple Emanuel, 51 Grape St, info@insidetheorchestra.org

**To 3/3—Denver Puppet Theater.** Two folktales, the Fisherman and His Wife and The Three Wishes. 3156 W. 38th Ave. denverpuppettheater.com

## LECTURES, CLASSES, INFORMATIONAL EVENTS

**2/4 Monday—League of Women Voters Denver Presents: Understanding the Denver Public Schools Budget.** Tracie Rainey, director of Colorado School Finance Project, will present background on the complexity of school budgets and specifics on the workings of the DPS budget. LVV/Denver.org. Montview Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia St., McCollum Room

**2/5 Tuesday—Active Minds presents Chicago: Biography of a City.** Chicago; from French explorers, missionaries, and Native Americans through the Great Chicago Fire to present-day politics, crime, food, culture and architecture. 10–11am, free. activeminds.com. Jewish Community Center, 350 S Dahlia St. 303-316-6359

**2/5 Tuesday—Lowry Speaker Series Presents: "The Historic Eisenhower Chapel: Past, Present and Future".** 7pm at the Eisenhower Chapel, 293 Roslyn St. Admission is free; no tickets necessary. 303-344-0481

**2/13 Wednesday—Talking About It Doesn't Kill You!** Rocky Mountain Will and Trusts in conjunction with Feldman Mortuary is proud to present the kick off of a new event series "Meaningful Conversations." For info and link to purchase tickets, email marieta@rmfirm.com

**2/14 Thursday—Active Minds: Martin Luther King Jr.** 1–2pm It's been over 50 years since Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee. Take a look at his life and legacy. denverlibrary.org. 2961 Roslyn St., lkosmicki@denverlibrary.org

**2/21 Thursday—Free Encore Career Workshop for Baby Boomers!** Boomers Leading Change hosts—"Power Up Your Game: Encore Career Strategizing"—a Free Workshop, 5:30–7:30pm, 303-426-6637. wBoomersLeadingChange.org. Carla Madison Recreation Center 2401 E Colfax Ave. srandall@boomersleadingchange.org

**2/21 Thursday—Science in the News: The History and Science of Vaccines: What, How, WHO, Why.** 6:30–7:45 pm Join three local scientists from the University of Colorado to discuss the

history, science, and medicine of vaccinations. denverlibrary.org/event/science-news-1. 2961 Roslyn St., lkosmicki@denverlibrary.org

**2/28 Thursday—Active Minds: Kashmir.** 6:30–7:30 pm Join Active Minds as we explore Kashmir and seek to understand its pivotal role in South Asia. denverlibrary.org/event/active-minds-20. 2961 Roslyn St., lkosmicki@denverlibrary.org

## MUSEUMS

**To 3/3—"Dior: From Paris to World" at the Denver Art Museum.** Showcasing 70 years of the House of Dior's enduring legacy and its global influence. Denver Art Museum, 100 W 14 Ave. Pkwy. 720-865-5000, denverartmuseum.org

**2/2 Saturday—Groundhog Day! Critter Celebration!** Punxsutawney Phil is on the loose, find out what we really know about these adorable critters. 10am–2pm. Denver Museum of Nature & Science, 2001 Colorado Blvd. dmns.org

**2/2 to 8/18—Denver Art Museum Presents Jordan Casteel: Returning the Gaze.** Featuring nearly 30 paintings by Denver-born artist Jordan Casteel, who is now based in Harlem, New York. Denver Art Museum, 100 W 14 Ave. Pkwy. 720-865-5000, denverartmuseum.org

**2/9—Cockpit Demo Day.** Wings Over the Rockies Museum, 7711 East Academy Blvd, wing-museum.org

**2/21 Thursday—Science Lounge.** Denver Museum of Nature & Science 3rd Thursdays. Adult evening with different theme monthly. 6:30–9:30pm. 2001 Colorado Blvd. dmns.org

## MUSEUM FREE DAYS

**Monday thru Friday—The Money Museum.** Closed weekends and bank holidays. 1020 16th St. kansascityfed.org

**Tuesday thru Sunday—Aurora History Museum.** Closed January 1. 15051 E. Alameda Pkwy, Aurora, auroragov.org

**2/2 Saturday—Denver Art Museum Free First Saturday.** Free general admission tickets are available on-site starting at 10am. Denver Art Museum, 100 W 14 Ave. Pkwy. 720-865-5000, denverartmuseum.org

**2/3 to 2/4—Denver Zoo Free Day.** denver-zoo.org

**2/5 Tuesday—The Children's Museum of Denver Free Day.** mychildsmuseum.org

**2/8 Friday—Four Mile Historic Park Free Day.** 12–4pm. fourmilepark.org

**2/11 Monday—Denver Museum of Nature & Science Free Day.** dmns.org

**2/17 Thursday—Clyfford Still Museum Free Day.** clyffordstillmuseum.org

**2/18 Monday—Denver Botanic Gardens Free Day.** botanicgardens.org

**3/2 Saturday—Denver Art Museum Free First Saturday.** Free general admission tickets available on-site at 10am. Denver Art Museum, 100 W 14 Ave. Pkwy. 720-865-5000, denverartmuseum.org

## PERFORMANCE / THEATRE

**2/1 to 2/10—Colorado Ballet – The Wizard of Oz.** Exciting premiere of The Wizard of Oz, featuring new sets, costumes and special effects. Ellie Caulkins Opera House, 14th Curtis St. 303-837-8888, coloradoballet.org

**2/1 to 5/17—The Diary of Anne Frank.** Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd. arvadacenter.org

**To 2/10—Hooded, Or Being Black For Dummies.** Aurora Fox Theater, 9900 E. Colfax Ave. www.aurorafoxartscenter.org

**2/6 to 2/18—Denver Jewish Film Festival.** The 23rd Annual JCC Mizel Arts and Culture Center's Denver Jewish Film Festival includes 44 films showcasing Jewish and Israeli cinema including 30 Colorado premiers. jccdenver.org/film. 350 S. Dahlia St.

**2/8 To 3/10—The Whistleblower.** Space Theatre, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Speer Blvd & Arapahoe St. denvercenter.org

**2/8 to 3/24—A Gentleman's Guide To Love & Murder.** Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St. vintagetheatre.org

**2/10 Sunday—One Night Stand Theatre presents "Star-Crossed Lovers".** Join us the Sunday before Valentine's Day for an evening of plays and stories of tragic love, passionate romance, and unlikely

couplings. onenightstandtheater.org. Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St., Aurora, tickets@OneNightStandTheater.org

**2/16 Saturday—Rock of Aging REVIVAL!** A hit band in the 60's and 70's, Ricki D. Bones, Willie Withers, and Tina Tumor are struggling to "keep on keepin' on." fire-housetheatercompany.com. The John Hand Theater at 7653 E. 1st Pl, 303-562-3232

**To 2/16—Gloria.** In this 2016 Pulitzer Prize finalist, MacArthur "Genius" Branden Jacobs-Jenkins skewers the cutthroat, opportunistic culture of modern media. curious theatre.org/event/gloria/

**To 2/17—Betrayal - The classic drama by Harold Pinter.** Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St. vintagetheatre.org

**2/20 Wednesday—Pianist Sir Andrés Schiff, presented by Friends of Chamber Music.** 7:30pm, Gates, Hall, Newman Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets \$10 - \$50. friendsofchambermusic.com. Info at 303-388-9839, 2344 E. Iliff Ave, 303-388-9839

**2/22 To 3/17—Life Sucks.** Aurora Fox Theater, 9900 E. Colfax Ave. www.aurorafoxartscenter.org

**2/22 To 5/18— The Moors.** Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd. www.arvadacenter.org

**To 2/24—Anna Karenina.** Stage Theatre, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, 14th and Curtis. denvercenter.org

**2/26 Tuesday—Music with Friends featuring Ensemble Fau- cheux.** 6pm. Syntax Physic Opera 554 S. Broadway. friendsofchambermusic.com or 303.388.9839

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**2/23 Saturday— Volunteer Steward Recruitment Event.** Join us for this recruiting event and discover how volunteers provide essential support. 10–11am, Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E. Smith Rd., Aurora. auroragov.org/nature

**Denver Snow Buddy.** Volunteers are paired with seniors within a 2-mile radius of one another, helping clear their walkways after two or more inches of

snow has fallen. Application to volunteer at www.voacolorado.org/Volunteer/ Snow-Buddies or contact Wayne Chitwood at 303-297-0408. Please note, there is a one-time fee of \$25 for a background check.

**Volunteers Needed at Ronald McDonald Family Rooms at Rocky Mountain Hospital for Children.** At Presbyterian/St. Luke's Hospital. Seeks volunteers for once-a-week commitment, 6-month minimum. www.ronaldhouse.org under "How You Can Help" for info.

**Single Volunteers of Greater Denver.** Volunteer, not-for-profit singles group to meet others and assist nonprofit organizations for events/activities. www.svgd.org

**Reading Volunteers Needed.** For students in K-8 grade, 1 hour, 1 student, 1x week. During school hours, julie@partnersinliteracy.org or 303.316.3944 ext. 241.

**Project Worthmore.** Nonprofit organization of committed community members give, volunteer, mentor, befriended neighbors. 1609 Havana St., St. 720-460-1393

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Chef owner of Create Cooking School Erasmo (Ras) Casiano pauses with his wife MacKenzie Koncher before a private birthday party/class on a Friday night.

# An Entertaining, No-Stress Route to Becoming a Better Chef

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

With a long history working in restaurants, Erasmo (Ras) Casiano thinks it's great that people dine out a lot. But he and business partner Diego Coconati noticed that people were becoming intimidated by certain foods and by cooking their own meals. They realized that between social media and TV shows, food was being put on a pedestal. "It didn't need to be that intimidating," says Casiano. "We feed ourselves on a daily basis to live. Why not get back to enjoying it?" They opened Create Cooking School in the Stanley Marketplace last November to help people become comfortable making their own meals,

and become confident in their abilities.

The two chef/owners met while working in another, now-defunct, cooking school several years ago. The idea for opening their own cooking school for non-professionals started when Casiano was recovering from back surgery. His wife suggested he go out on his own to teach people how to cook. Casiano noticed Coconati's enthusiasm and manner with class attendees and approached him with the idea of opening a cooking school together.

They loved the idea of being in the Stanley because of easy exposure to their prospective students. "We were the last business to open here and bring the Stanley to full capacity," says Michelle Nguyen, Event Coor-



Guests have a drink and a snack before the cooking starts.



Above: Chef Ras goes over knife skills, showing guests how to properly hold items to ensure safety—and adding some humor along the way so the lessons are both educational and entertaining.

Chef Nicole shows guests how to mince garlic, putting into practice what they just learned from Chef Ras.



dinator at Create. "People are looking for experiences for fun or to build skills."

Class size is limited to 12 people, with one chef and one steward, to make sure everyone has the chance to ask questions and get individualized help. Working in pairs, each class attendee makes their own full meal which includes an appetizer, entrée, and dessert. Often, cooking classes assign students to make one element of a meal, but Casiano and Coconati wanted to avoid that. "We wanted to put as much contact with food ingredients and processes into our 3-hour classes as we could," says Casiano.

Classes start with a drink and some nibbles while the chef discusses the plan for the evening. As portions of the meal are made, people sit down together to eat, then get up and make the next part. Every class includes a full meal that each person has prepared for themselves, altering things like spiciness levels, as they desire. In the course of each class, students learn knife skills are learned as well as skills specific to the class such as sautéing or poaching.

Classes are available for ages 6 and up and for all skill levels. At any given class, there may be very experienced cooks on down to the very inexperienced. Casiano says beginners shouldn't be intimidated. "I tell them to look around the room and see that everyone else bought a class too. 'It's not just you. You won't be alone. We're here to help.'"

Create Cooking School is also available for those who aren't taking a class. A full bar featuring



A guest enjoys his appetizer before moving on to create the next part of the meal.

basics such as Manhattans, Piña Coladas, beer, wine, and non-alcoholic drinks is open daily from 10:30am-10pm whether or not a class is going on. People are welcome to grab a drink and sit at the bar or at the viewing bar at the outer corner of the school and listen in on a class, take notes and enjoy the "free smells," as Casiano puts it.

It's all part of the ambiance the team wants to create. "We want it to feel comfortable, warm with some nice music, kind of like being at a friend's dinner party. We want to bring people back to the kitchen, back around the table, and get people back in touch with their food." For more information, visit CreateFoods.co, call 720.573.9949, or email michelle@createfoods.co.

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## Breaking News from Monarch Montessori of Denver

**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 Wednesday, February 13, 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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[www.denverlanguageschool.org](http://www.denverlanguageschool.org)

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 Neighborhood Music, [neighborhoodmusicstapleton.com](http://neighborhoodmusicstapleton.com), 720-378-3668

Stanley Marketplace, [stanleymarketplace.com](http://stanleymarketplace.com)  
 Adjacent to Stapleton at 2501 N. Dallas Street, Aurora, 80010

## 2019 Front Porch Guide to Summer Camps

Summer camps were submitted online. Please double check using info provided.

### ADVENTURE/OUTDOOR

**6/3 to 8/2—Adventure Trek Camp.** Adventure Trek Camp for ages 11-15. Full-day camps with swimming and field trips each week! State-licensed and low child to staff ratios. Registration opens 2/20. \$155/week. [c3gov.com/camp](http://c3gov.com/camp). 303-289-3789. [c3gov.com/camp](http://c3gov.com/camp). Eagle Pointe Recreation Center, 6060 E. Parkway Dr., Commerce City, 303-289-3789

**6/3 to 8/9—Avid4 Adventure.** Our Stapleton summer day camps in Colorado take pre-K–7th graders of all ability levels out to a range of stunning settings introducing them to exciting local outdoor adventures to bike, climb, paddle, & hike. 720-249-2412 or [info@avid4.com](mailto:info@avid4.com). [avid4.com](http://avid4.com). [front-porch.vesterly.com](http://front-porch.vesterly.com). Westerly Creek Elementary, 8800 E. 28th Ave, Denver/ [info@avid4.com](mailto:info@avid4.com)

**6/3 to 8/16—SPREE Summer Camps.** SPREE= South Platte River Environmental Education SPREE runs 10 unique weeks of camp at two spectacular Denver locations! Sign your kids up for SPREE camps this year, and they will experience the wild and nature that lives in our city! [thegreenwayfoundation.org/summer-camps.html](http://thegreenwayfoundation.org/summer-camps.html). 610 S Jason St, 720-306-8000

**6/17 to 7/19—Four Mile Camp on Cherry Creek, at Four Mile Historic Park.** A week-long day camp combining outdoor exploration with history-centered activities, for ages 6-11. Sessions are June 17-21 and July 15-19, 9 am-3 pm. \$325 per camper, with optional before/after care and half-day sessions available. [fourmilepark.org/summer-day-camp](http://fourmilepark.org/summer-day-camp). Four Mile Historic Park, 715 S. Forest St., education@fourmilepark.org or 720-865-0814 for more information.

### ANIMAL/FARM LOVERS

**6/3 Monday—Summer Career Camp.** The Dumb Friends League offers seasonal camps for kids and teens in support of our goal to teach children and young adults the importance of treating animals in a humane

way. [ddfl.org/youth-camps](http://ddfl.org/youth-camps). 2080 S Quebec St, 303-751-5772

**6/3 to 7/26—Equine.** Ages 5-7 Very Young Riders and Ages 8+ Beginner and Progression Half Day and Full Day Options Prices ranging from \$300 to \$550 – January 21 to February 28 and \$325 to \$575 Starting March 1 [theurbanfarm.org/summer-fun-on-the-farm](http://theurbanfarm.org/summer-fun-on-the-farm). The Urban Farm at Stapleton, 10200 Smith Rd, 303-307-9332

**6/3 to 8/2—Urban Ag and Ranch Camp.** Ages 6 – 11 Young Farmers Cost/one week: Early Bird Discount – \$325 – January 21 to February 28 Non-Members \$350 – Starting March 1 Ages 13-15 Youth Farmer Leadership \$200, [theurbanfarm.org/summer-fun-on-the-farm](http://theurbanfarm.org/summer-fun-on-the-farm). The Urban Farm at Stapleton, 10200 Smith Rd, 303-307-9332

**6/3 to 8/8—Summer Critter and Career Camps.** The Dumb Friends League offers seasonal camps for kids and teens in support of our goal to teach children and young adults the importance of treating animals in a humane way. [ddfl.org/youth-camps](http://ddfl.org/youth-camps). 2080 S Quebec St, 303.751.5772. Also 6/17 to 6/20 at our Castle Rock location.

### ARTS/MUSIC/THEATER/PERFORMANCE

**6/3 to 8/9—School of Rock Denver Summer Day Camps.** School of Rock Denver offers a variety of summer day camps for musicians ages 7-18, including Rock 101, Led Zeppelin and Best of the '90s! Winner of Colorado Parent Family Favorite Award for the past three years in a row! Join the band today! [locations.schoolofrock.com](http://locations.schoolofrock.com)



Dream BIG Day Camp.

[denver/music-camps](http://denver/music-camps). 216 S Grant St, Denver@SchoolOfRock.com

**6/2 to 8/16—Songwriting/Composition or Music Technology Intensive Program.** Songwriting/Composition/ Music Technology Intensive Program with Stapleton singer/songwriter/composer David Ross. Write and record music. Grades 7-12. Tuition based on days/times chosen. Contact: [pianomanross@yahoo.com](mailto:pianomanross@yahoo.com). [denverpianostudio.com/Northeast-Denver-Stapleton](http://denverpianostudio.com/Northeast-Denver-Stapleton)

**6/10 to 6/14—School of the Poetic City Urban Art Camp.** Each morning, visit art in downtown museums, galleries, and streets. Each afternoon, make art in the studio. Create a poetic conversation with the city: viewing art, making art and staging site-specific interventions. [schoolofthepoeticcity.com](http://schoolofthepoeticcity.com), 2016 Glenarm Pl, peter@schoolofthepoeticcity.com

**6/10 to 7/26—LYNX National Arts & Media Camps.** Summer arts camps for high school students at CU Denver. 3

sessions offered with many options for students interested in contemporary music, film, or visual arts. [cam.ucdenver.edu/summercamps](http://cam.ucdenver.edu/summercamps). 1150 10th St, david.walter@ucdenver.edu

**6/10 to 7/26—Summer Sacred Art For Children 2019.** Children entering 1st-5th grades (Fall 2019), create art inspired by sacred texts, sacred spaces and an exploration of world traditions. There are six, five-day sessions in June and July. Register online at [montview.org/community](http://montview.org/community). 1980 Dahlia St, prouty@montview.org

**6/10 to 8/2—Young Filmmakers Workshop.** Developed for teens aged 12-18, the Denver Film Society's Young Filmmakers Workshops furnish their participants with opportunities to learn the art of cinema, refine their work with professionals and exhibit their films in public. [denverfilm.org/education/young-filmmakers-workshop/](http://denverfilm.org/education/young-filmmakers-workshop/). Sie FilmCenter, 2510 E Colfax Ave.

**6/10 to 8/9—DCPA Education Summer Camp.** For eager students as young as three to high schoolers taking the first

(continued on page 24)

Dream it. Plan it. Make it happen.

SUMMER ENGINEERS SUMMER ADVENTURE CLUB

At Primrose Schools Summer Adventure Club, children become engineers, artists, explorers and more as they discover the joys of design thinking, a fun and innovative way to learn. Engineering design challenges, experiments and themed activities await as children unlock new ways of thinking—all while having a blast!

Now Enrolling  
June 3<sup>rd</sup>-Mid August

Primrose School at Stapleton  
303-322-7200  
[PrimroseStapleton.com](http://PrimroseStapleton.com)

# CAMP BLADIUM

NEW ADVENTURES! SPECTACULAR!

WEEK LONG FULL-DAY & HALF-DAY SUMMER CAMPS

JUNE 3-7	JULY 15-19
JUNE 10-14	JULY 22-26
JUNE 17-21	JULY 29-AUG 2
JUNE 24-28	AUG 5-9
JULY 1-3	AUG 12-16
JULY 8-12	

CALL 303.320.3033  
OR VISIT US ONLINE AT  
[CAMPS.BLADIUMDENVER.COM](http://CAMPS.BLADIUMDENVER.COM)  
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GET A 10% DISCOUNT  
For Bladium Fitness Club Members (child must be a fitness club member) or when you book 4 or more weeks at the same time. Discounts cannot be combined.

CAMP BLADIUM SPORTS & FITNESS CLUB



(continued from page 23)

step towards a theatre career, our classes fuel creativity and reinforce the tools to help all skill levels improve and develop their craft. denver-center.org/education. Robert and Judi Newman Theatre Education, 1101 13th St, Denver/education@dcpa.org

**6/10 to 8/5—Your Soul's Movement Summer Camps.** Half and full day, \$150-\$50, ages 2 and up. Weekly themes: Moana 6/10, Small Foot 6/17, School House Rock 6/17, Visual Arts 7/8, Coco 7/8, Empower U 7/15, Frozen 7/29, Music-Voice 8/5. yoursoulsmovement.com or 303-284-1553. 3825 Newport St.

**6/10 to 8/16—Art Camps @ Ceramics in the City.** Kids 7 years and older learn pottery, glass fusing, painting techniques and more! ceramicsinthecity.com. Ceramics in the City, 5214 East Colfax Ave, 303-200-0461

**6/10 to 8/16—Digistars® Make-a-Movie Workshop.** Moviemaking camps creatively combine technology with art in fun, hands-on and kid-driven, stop motion animation or live action filmmaking programs. Open to kids entering grades 1-8. Fees vary by program. DigistarsWorkshop.com. 6740 E. Colfax Ave., 888-611-5090

**6/17 to 6/28—School of the Poetic City Animation Lab.** Make cartoons using stop-action animation, cel animation, and rotoscope or take your animation skills to the next level and join Peter and Fred for a week with

experienced animators. schoolofthepoeticcity.com. 2015 Glenarm Pl, peter@schoolofthepoeticcity.com

**6/17 to 7/26—Musical Review Summer Camps.** Musicals include Dear Evan Hansen, Mamma Mia! And Les Miserables. Performances at the end of each camp. Options for ages 6+ and 7+. Mon-Fri 9AM-4 PM Cost: \$350-\$550. \*All camp sales are final. neighborhoodmusicstapleton.com/summer-camps-2019. Stanley Marketplace 2501 Dallas St, Suite 130, Aurora. skye@neighborhoodmusicstapleton.com

**6/17 to 8/9—Dance Institute Summer Camp.** We offer weekly camps throughout the summer for ages 4-up, as well as a summer intensive for more advanced dancers. 1/2 day and full day options are available. Camps include, Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Hip-Hop, Tumbling and Art. DancelnstituteDenver.com. Dance Institute, 4601 Quebec St, 303-525-0011

**7/8 to 7/12—Audition Prep Summer Camp.** Learn audition tips that will help improve stage presence, portray confidence, overcome nerves, and connect with directors. Students will explore monologues and one act plays. Cost: \$275 Ages 7+ neighborhoodmusicstapleton.com/audition-prep-summercamp. Stanley Marketplace 2501 Dallas St,



MindCraft Makerspace

Suite 130, Aurora. skye@neighborhoodmusicstapleton.com

**7/29 to 8/2—Shakespeare and Swords Summer Camp.** Acting and Stage Combat. Student will explore acting scenes in Shakespearean plays and a variety of stage combat

techniques. Camp finale will include a family performance showcasing combat styles. Mon-Fri, 9AM-4PM Ages 7+ Cost: \$275 neighborhoodmusicstapleton.com. Stanley Marketplace 2501 Dallas St, Suite 130, Aurora. skye@neighborhoodmusicstapleton.com

## ATHLETICS/SPORTS

**6/3 to 8/1—Preschool Gymnastics Summer Adventure Camp.** For boys and girls ages 3 to 5 1/2. Two 4-week sessions beginning June 3rd combining gymnastics with enrichment activities, arts & crafts, games and more. Monday thru Thursday 9:30am-12:30pm. Flexible scheduling. Pre-registration is advised. dardanosgym.com/camp. Dardano's School of Gymnastics, 2250 Kearney St, gina@dardanosgym.com

**6/3 to 8/9—Übergrippen Summer Camps.** Full day all-inclusive camps (lunch and snacks provided) with different themes each week including Überwarrior, EcoGrippen and Superheroes. Kids will also be filling their days with climbing! Ages 7+ \$435/wk. ugclimbing.com/camps. 8610 E. 21st Ave., Denver. itsacrag@ugclimbing.com

**6/3 to 8/12—Speed and Strength Summer Camps.** The best coaching at the right time

can change your whole life! This unique week-long half-day summer camp is taught by certified, experienced track+field and weightlifting coaches to develop essential athletic skills for kids at every level. MightyMovementAcademy.com. Stanley Marketplace, 2501 N Dallas St, Aurora, 720-822-1822

**6/3 to 8/16—Bounce Stapleton Summer Camp!** Join us for non-stop movement and fun this summer at Bounce! Gymnastics, Obstacle Courses, PE style games, and much more! Morning Camp-8:30-12:00am or Afternoon Camp-12:30-4:00pm. \$200/week. \$50 sibling discount. Ages 5 to 13. bouncestapleton.com. 2501 Dallas St, Unit 118, Aurora, 720-460-0267

**6/3 to 8/16—Camp Bladium @ Bladium Sports & Fitness Club.** Activities run throughout the Summer and include Dodgeball, Soccer, Flag Football, Capture The Flag, Camp Riddles & Line Tag, and Inflatable Fun Zone among many others. Now available this Summer, half-day camps exclusively for kids ages 4. camps.bladiumdenver.com. 2400 Central Park Blvd., 303.320.3033

**6/3 to 8/16—Enshin Karate Summer Camp.** Every day includes a wide variety of activities that focus on mindfulness, discipline, embodiment, and play. Your child will explore martial arts, yoga practice, West African drumming, breakdancing, parkour, meditation, and even chess! 10 weeks available. M-F 9am-4pm. Ages 5-12. enshin.com. Stanley Marketplace, 2501 N Dallas St, Aurora, 303-320-7632.

**6/10 to 6/21—Stapleton All Sports Tennis Camp.** Stapleton All Sports Tennis Camp (4-10 year olds). Camps will focus on the fundamentals of tennis, teaching kids using engaging games and drills. Program will be at McAuliffe tennis courts. \$190/week, or \$335 for both weeks. stapletonallsports.com. McAuliffe Middle School Tennis Courts, stapletonallsports@gmail.com

**6/10 to 8/8—Fencing Summer Camp.** Summer Camp (Fencing and Pentathlon) June 10-13 (M-Th) June 24-27 July 8-11 July 22-25 August 5-8 10 am - 3 pm Early Bird discount 20% until May 15. coloradofencing.com/fencing-camps. Cheyenne Fencing Society, 818 East Colfax Ave., 720-838-4225

**6/24 to 8/2—Altitude Youth Ultimate - Ultimate Frisbee.** Develop disc fundamentals, athletic skills, and highlight teamwork and sportsmanship. New or experienced players. All camp participants receive a T-shirt and Disc - includes daily lunch too. Camp ages 7-16. Cost - \$285 Full day (\$185 half day) altitudeyouthultimate.org/camps. MLK Park - 3880 Newport St., Denver. camps@altitudeyouthultimate.org

**7/8 to 8/2—Stapleton All Sports Multi-Sport Camp.** Stapleton All Sports Multi-Sport Camp (ages 4-11):

Explore history and nature at  
**FOUR MILE CAMP ON CHERRY CREEK**  
June 17-21 & July 15-19, 2019

**FOUR MILE HISTORIC PARK**  
Call (720) 865-0814 | Visit FourMilePark.org

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Summer Fun for your...

EQUESTRIAN - GARDENER  
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Register for our June and July camps by March 1 and receive \$25 discount [www.theurbanfarm.org](http://www.theurbanfarm.org)  
10200 Smith Road Denver CO 80239 303-307-9332  
a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization cultivating kids, crops, critics, and community

Weekly camps (7/8-8/2, 9AM-12) will rotate through soccer, gym sports, baseball/tee-ball and football. Camps will take place at Central Park in Stapleton \$160/week or \$550 for all for weeks. stapletonallsports.com. Central Park, 8801 Martin Luther King Blvd, stapletonallsports@gmail.com

**7/15 to 8/12—CorePower Yoga Kids Camp for Ages 5-10.** CorePower Yoga Stapleton is offering two, 1-week long camp sessions for kids 5 - 10. Session 1 July 15-19, Session 2 July 29-Aug 2. M-F from 1:30-4pm. Cost is \$199 (on/before July 1st) and \$225 after. Contact: 303-377-7444/ stapleton@corepoweryoga.com. 7485 E 29th Pl, stapleton@corepoweryoga.com

**7/15 to 8/2—ÜberCrushers Training Camp: For Competition Climbing.** A camp for those kids 9 to 18 that are involved in competitive climbing (or plan to join a team in the fall). ugclimbing.com/camps. 8610 E. 21st Ave., Denver. itsacrag@ugclimbing.com

**7/22 to 7/26—CorePower Yoga Girl Power Camp for Ages 12-16.** CorePower Yoga Stapleton is offering one, 1-week long conditioning and enrichment camp session, July 22nd-26th for females, ages 12-16. M-F from 1:30pm-4pm. Cost is \$199 (on/before July 1st) and \$225 after. Contact: stapleton@corepoweryoga.com. [http://7485 E 29th Place](http://7485E29thPlace), Denver. stapleton@corepoweryoga.com

**7/29 to 8/2—Grand Slam Tennis Camps.** Run by Meredith McGrath, former Wimbledon singles semi-finalist and doubles finalist, 1996. Ages 7-14. Time: 9:30am-12:30pm. Cost: \$265/week. Location: McAuliffe. To sign up please contact Meredith McGrath: meredithmcgrath@yahoo.com. 2540 Holly St.

## COOKING

**6/3 to 8/2—Kids & Teen cooking camps.** Your kids can take a culinary vacation on a kitchen journey that will teach them how to cook, eat healthy, and also leverages all those math, reading and science skills right here in our kitchen. Students take their delicious creations home. Most camps 9:30am-12:30pm. uncorkedkitchen.com. Uncorked Kitchen, 8171 South Chester St, Suite A, Centennial, 720-907-3838.

**6/3 to 8/10—Junior Chef Camps.** Let your junior chefs immerse themselves in a variety of different cuisines and techniques during our weeklong camps! Morning and afternoon half-day camps, 3rd - 8th grade options. createfoods.co. Create Cooking School, 2501 Dallas St, Aurora, 720-573-9949

## DAY CAMPS

**6/3 to 7/19—Evergreen Country Day Summer Camp.** Ages 2-15. In full week sessions (Mon-Fri 9am-3pm), this camp sparks imaginations and energizes learning with classes and sport  
*(continued on page 26)*

**A NEW WORLD**  
awaits your child this summer!

Every week, your child will explore the world while moving their body, expanding their mind, developing new skills, and forming new friendships.

From language immersion to STEM to athletics, **ISDenver Summer Camps** has something for every camper. New camp options are offered each week, giving you the flexibility to pick and choose the camps that work best for your summer plans. Whether you pick one camp or pick them all, your child will thrive in a safe and supportive learning environment at the International School of Denver.



Join us this summer!  
[ISDENVER.ORG/camp](http://ISDENVER.ORG/camp)

**SUMMER SACRED ART**  
FOR CHILDREN ✚ ☸ ☪ ☯ ☶ ☷

*This program at Montview Church is devoted to the arts in a sacred context.*

Children entering 1st - 5th grades (Fall 2019), create art inspired by sacred texts, sacred spaces and an exploration of world traditions. There are six, five-day sessions in June and July. Register online at [www.montview.org/community](http://www.montview.org/community), in the Children section, under Summer Sacred Art.

Montview Boulevard Presbyterian Church  
1980 Dahlia Street, Denver, Colorado 80220-1239 | 303.355.1651 | [www.montview.org](http://www.montview.org)

**Your Soul's Movement Performing Arts**

Spend Your Summer Singing, Dancing, And Creating With Your Soul's Movement

SIGN UP FOR OUR SUMMER CAMPS!

Half Day & Full Day Camps - Prices Range \$150-\$550

<b>MOANA</b> June 10-14 ages 6+	<b>EMPOWER U</b> July 15-27 ages 8+
<b>SMALL FOOT</b> June 17-21 ages 6+	<b>FROZEN</b> July 29-Aug. 2 ages 6+
<b>SCHOOL HOUSE ROCK</b> June 17-29 ages 8+	<b>VISUAL ARTS</b> July 8-12 ages 6+
<b>COCO</b> July 8-12 ages 6+	<b>MUSIC/VOICE</b> Aug. 5-9 ages 2-9+

To sign up visit us online at [www.yoursoulsmovement.com](http://www.yoursoulsmovement.com), call 303.284.1553, or email us at [info@yoursoulsmovement.com](mailto:info@yoursoulsmovement.com)  
3825 Newport St, Denver, CO 80207

**GYMNASICS TUMBLING OBSTICAL COURSES OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES MORNING STRETCH ARTS & CRAFTS GAMES/PUZZLES/MOVIE**

**SUMMER CAMP ADVENTURES**

<b>June</b> 3RD-7TH 10TH-14TH 17TH-21ST 24TH-28TH	<b>July</b> 8th- 12th 15th-19th 22nd-26th
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**August**  
5th-9th

Full Day 9am- 4pm  
Half Days 9-12:30/12:30-4pm  
Early Morning drop-off 8am \$10/family

Cost  
\$65 full-day  
\$45 half-day  
\$305/week full-days  
\$215/week half-days  
Sibling discount

4720 Lima St. Denver, CO 80238  
Phone: 303-371-1338  
[www.gymtegrity.com](http://www.gymtegrity.com)



(continued from page 25) made for early childhood, elementary, and middle school. Rates starting at \$250. Come all 6 weeks or mix n' match! evergreencountryday.org/programs/summer-camp. 1036 El Rancho Road, Evergreen/303.674.3400

**6/3 to 7/26—Montessori Children's House of Denver Summer Camp.** The Montessori Children's House of Denver (MCHD) recaptures those wonder-filled summer days with fun theme based activities, gardening, outdoor classrooms, field trips, sports, arts & crafts, cooking and more. mchdenver.org/classroom/mchd-summer-camp. Mayfair (1467 Birch St, 80220), Park Hill (2600 Leyden St, 80207), Stapleton (2211 Xanthia Way, 80238) 303-322-8324; directorofadmissions@mchdenver.org

**6/3 to 7/26—Summer at Stanley – Camp is in Session!** Summer at Stanley is a child-centered, experiential summer program for students ages 5-14. We create activities and environments that allow campers to explore, create, discover and problem solve. stanleybps.org/summer. 350 Quebec St., 303-360-0803

**6/3 to 8/2—Youth Camp Venture.** Youth Camp Venture for ages 6-10. State-licensed and low child to staff ratios. Full-day camps with swimming and field trips each week. Just minutes away in Commerce City! Registration opens 2/20. \$155/week. c3gov.com/camp. 303-289-3789. arvadacenter.org/camp. Eagle Pointe Recreation Center, 6060 E. Parkway Dr., Commerce City, 303-289-3789

**6/3 to 8/9—Arvada Center Summer Camps.** Arvada Center Summer Camps



Enshin Karate Summer Camp



LYNX National Arts & Media Camp

are designed for kids to learn new skills, discover new interests and most importantly, have fun! Enroll kids ages 3-18 in camps for drama, visual art, digital arts, dance and more. Camps range from 1 to 8 weeks. arvadacenter.org. 6901 Wadsworth Blvd, Arvada, 720-898-7200

**6/3 to 8/9—Dream BIG Day Camp.** 1-3-6-9 weeks of amazing fun. Team/individual sports, performing arts

and arts/crafts, Color War, Carnival, Western, Space, World Cup Soccer Days, rocketry, science, yoga, waterslides, and more! 6:1 ratios. Mature staff. In Hilltop at Carson Elementary, 5420 E. 1st Ave. Mary Stein: 303-377-1805, dreambigdaycamp.com.

**6/10 to 8/2—Summer at Kent Denver School.** Offering students ages 3-18 a chance to explore their passions with more than 80 outstanding classes in the arts,

athletics, technology and design, and academics. Participants explore our 200-acre campus and world-class facilities as they play, create, learn and thrive! kentdenver.org/summer. 4000 E. Quincy Ave, Englewood, 303-770-7660

**6/10 to 8/2—Life Tree Day Camp.** Lifetree Day Camps is partnering with Stapleton Church for fun, faith, and friendship this summer! Kids ages 6-11 can come for 1 week, or any combination of 7 weeks! \$215/child/week. M-F 8:00-3:15. Extended care available. Closed week of July 4. lifetreedaycamps.com. 8700 E 21st Ave, info@lifetreecamps.com

**6/10 to 8/9—Summer at Ricks.** Summer at Ricks blends fun summer activities with rich academic learning experiences all while enjoying the benefits of the University of Denver campus. du.edu/ricks. 2040 South York St, margaret.wright@du.edu

**6/17 to 8/5—ISDenver Summer Camps.** At ISDenver, campers explore the world while moving their body, expanding their mind, developing new skills, and forming new friendships. From language immersion (Spanish/French/Chinese) to STEM to athletics, there is something for everyone! isdenver.org/enrich/camps. 7701 E 1st Pl Unit C, summercamps@isdenver.org

## MISC

**6/6 to 9/2—Heritage Camps for Adoptive Families.** We have 9 separate camps for children adopted internationally and domestically, and their families. Each camp specializes in providing cultural and adoption related experiences, and an opportunity to be with other families "just like theirs." heritagecamps.org. 2052 Elm St, hcamps@comcast.net

**6/10 to 7/12—Super Star Summer Camp 2019.** Building literacy and math skills, self-esteem and confidence for students who want summer support, struggle or have dyslexia. Session Times: 8:15-11:30am or 9:15am-12:30pm Full day option available. Designed for students entering 1st-9th grade. everychildreading.net 1091 S. Parker Road (Galilee Baptist Church), 4everychildreading@gmail.com, 720-306-1107

**7/20 to 8/3—Preparing Students for College Success.** Landmark College, a global leader in educating students with learning differences (LD), is partnering with Johnson & Wales University to host a new program that will help high school students prepare for success in higher education. landmark.edu/summer/jwu-lc-summer-program. 7150 Montview Blvd # 1, 303-256-9300

Does Your Child Struggle with Reading, Writing, Spelling or Math?  
Is your child dyslexic?

Choose a camp where they can learn, grow & thrive!

Our Super Stars Summer Camp is an engaging and fun 5 week Orton-Gillingham intervention program where students receive intensive high quality 1-1 or small group (max 4) individualized reading instruction along with small group math and writing instruction to grow skills and self confidence.

Summer 2019 Dates:  
June 10–July 12 (No camp July 4 or 5)  
Session times: 8:15–11:30 or 9:15–12:30  
Mon–Thurs and June 28: Intervention Days  
Fridays: Fun Days & Parent Education Sessions  
Full Day Option at Littleton/Lakewood location from 8am–5pm for Super Stars and Sibs

www.EveryChildReading.org

2 Locations:  
Denver  
1091 S. Parker Rd  
(Leetsdale near Quebec)  
Denver, CO 80231  
Littleton/Lakewood  
3898 S. Teller St  
(Wadsworth and Hampden)  
Lakewood, CO 80235  
4EveryChildReading@gmail.com

February 2019

Preparing Students for College Success

JULY 20 – AUGUST 3, 2019

For rising high school juniors and seniors who struggle to apply basic executive function (EF) skills — focus, organization, planning, and self-monitoring — to their life and studies.

A unique summer program offered at JWU Denver in partnership with Vermont's Landmark College, nationally recognized for its innovative programs for students who learn differently.

Learn more at [landmark.edu/summer](http://landmark.edu/summer)

JOHNSON & WALES UNIVERSITY

LANDMARK COLLEGE

26

Front Porch – NE Denver

## OVERNIGHT

**6/9 to 8/3—Camp Granite Lake.** Connect with friends, counselors and nature in a supportive, un-plugged community! 2-week sessions for campers finishing 2nd-9th grades & CIT program. Kids choose from a wide range of activities. Learn more and register at campgranitelake.com, 11902 Camp Eden Rd, Golden. tomp@campgranitelake.com

**6/9 to 8/17—Camp Timberline summer camps.** Be known, Be Loved at Colorado's four premier Christian sports and mountain adventure camps in Estes Park and the Front Range. Offering overnight camp, day camp, backpacking and teen service programs for ages 6-18, week-long programs. camptimberline.com. 1207 Longs Peak Road, Estes Park, 970.484.8462

## STEM

**5/27 to 8/2—Wings Over the Rockies Summer Camp.** This year take off with Wings in 7 different summer camps, three of which are repeated twice throughout the summer. Wings staff will guide campers in STEAM activities where we will explore living on Mars, the art of space, and much more! wing-smuseum.org/camps, 7711 E Academy Blvd, 303-360-5360 ext 125

**6/3 Monday—Summer Camp at Butterfly Pavilion!** Keep your kids entertained and inspired by nature and science during the break with incredible invertebrate explorations at Butterfly Pavilion Summer Camp! butterflyflies.org/learn/children-and-family-programs/camps-at-butterfly-pavilion. Butterfly Pavilion, 6252 W. 104th Ave., Westminister/mcopen@butterflyflies.org

**6/3 to 6/7—Chess Camp.** 25th Annual June Denver Rocky Mountain Chess Camp Full and half-day options, 9am- 4pm, 6-18 years old, \$369, \$249 Learn from National Chess Master and international best-selling author Todd Bardwick. Call 303.770.6696. coloradomasterchess.com/camp. 4500 E. Hampden Ave., Englewood/tbardwick@yahoo.com

**6/3 to Mid-August—Summer Adventure Club.** Engineering design challenges, experiments and themed activities await as children unlock new ways of thinking—all while having a blast! New themes and challenges each week. K-5th grade. primrose-schools.com/balanced-learning/summer-adventure-club. Primrose Schools, 2501 Syracuse St., 303-322-7200

**6/3 to 8/16—Summer Camps @ MindCraft Maker-space.com.** We offer unique and fun summer camps with 3D printing, laser cutting, sewing, circuitry, robots, STEM and more for kids, ages 5-11 and Teen Summer Studio for kids ages 12-18. Kids design, create, invent & build memories for a lifetime with us. mindcraftmakerspace.com. Stanley Marketplace, 2501 Dallas St., #228, Aurora, 303-364-9581

**6/3 to 8/16—Summer Camps @ eXL Learning, Located in the Lowry Town Center.** Our fun Summer Learning Adventures include Marine Biology, Gross Out Science, Minecraft, Life Beyond Hogwarts, Mini-med School, Chess Masters, and the Academic Booster Camp for struggling readers & writers. Half / Full Day options for grades K-6. exlearning.com. Lowry Town Center 200 Quebec St Bldg 600 Unit 205, 303-364-9581

**7/8 to 7/10—Chess Camp – July.** 25th Annual June Denver Rocky Mountain Chess Camp 9am-4pm, ages 6-18, \$259 Learn from National Chess Master and international best-selling author Todd Bardwick. 303-770-6696, coloradomasterchess.com/camp. 4500 E. Hampden Ave., Englewood/tbardwick@yahoo.com

SUMMER CAMP OFFERINGS AT

corepower YOGA

Kids Camp for Ages 5–10

Two week long sessions focus on the basics of yoga: breath, movement, concentration and meditation. Fused with stories and myths of the practice, games, movement and fun! Session 1: July 15–19, Session 2: July 29–Aug 2. M–F, 1:30–4pm. Cost is \$199, \$225 after July 1.

Girl Power Camp for Ages 12–16

Week long session will focus on the basics of yoga and breath, movement, concentration, athletic strength and meditation along with how to find your inner strength and prepare for whatever life has to offer. Specifically tailored for dancers, athletes, and any females wanting to find strength in their own body! July 22–26. Cost is \$199, \$225 after July 1. M–F, 1:30–4pm. Application required to be accepted to program. Email: dakini@corepoweryoga.com for more information.

Space is limited...Reserve your spot today!

7485 East 29th Pl., Denver. 303-377-7444

Email: [stapleton@corepoweryoga.com](mailto:stapleton@corepoweryoga.com)

Front Porch – NE Denver

Summer at Ricks for Preschool–8th Grade

A blend of fun summer activities and rich learning experiences all while enjoying the benefits of the University of Denver campus.

Week long camps | June 10–Aug 9 | 8:30am–3:30pm\*

Preschool–2nd grade themes include Space Explorers, Treasure Hunters, A Bug's Life, Kitchen Chemistry and more. 3rd–8th grade can choose from Rocket Science, The Great Escape, Young Entrepreneurs, Mixed Media Art, Coding, Legos® and much more!

\*Extended day available. 2040 South York St, Denver, CO 80210  
303-871-4839 | [www.du.edu/ricks](http://www.du.edu/ricks) | email [Margaret.wright@du.edu](mailto:Margaret.wright@du.edu)

Take your talents to new heights

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REGISTER TODAY  
DENVERCENTER.ORG/EDUCATION  
303.446.4892

dream BIG day camp

1-3-6-9 weeks of amazing fun!

Team/individual sports, performing arts and arts/crafts. Color War, Carnival, Western, Space, World Cup Soccer Days, rocketry, science, yoga, waterslides, and more!

6:1 ratios. Mature staff.

Mary Stein: 303.377.1805  
[www.dreambigdaycamp.com](http://www.dreambigdaycamp.com)

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February 2019



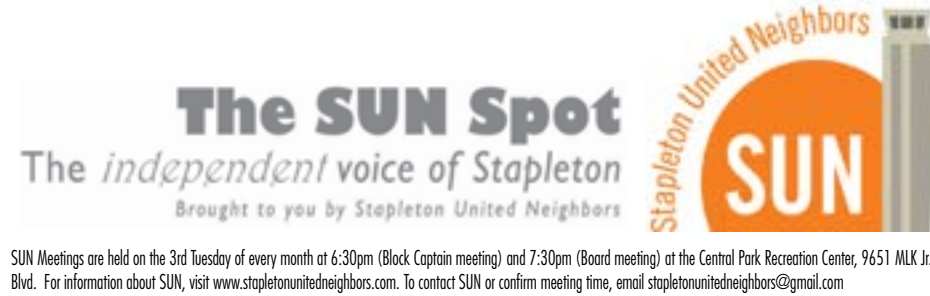
By Amanda Allhouse, President

## Community Survey

Stapleton United Neighbors (SUN) surveys the community in order to gather broad community input. SUN's current survey will be open through late-February 2019. While it includes a range of topics, this survey was motivated by conversations between Evergreen Devo and community members living near planned retail to be called The Shops at Beeler Park. Aggregated results will be published in the Front Porch, shared with Evergreen as well as other groups responsible for leasing space in and around Stapleton, and shared with additional community partners such as the Denver Public Library, the Denver Police Department, and Denver Public Schools. Link to survey: <http://surveys.verticalresponse.com/a/show/461957/3ee3d82ab7/0>

## February Community Meeting: ByLaw Vote

During the 6:30-7:30 Outreach hour at the February 19<sup>th</sup> monthly SUN meeting, SUN will host a community vote on changes to SUN's bylaws. Please refer to the January Front Porch SUN spot or [www.StapletonUnitedNeighbors.org](http://www.StapletonUnitedNeighbors.org) for details of these changes. Briefly, after SUN's May 2018 Annual Meeting, in response to feedback about the voting process, the SUN Board of Directors identified areas of its By-Laws to update and streamline. Recommended changes are intended to add clarity, remove inconsistencies and modernize the By-Laws to better serve the needs of SUN



## February SUN News

and the community.

### SUN Sponsored City Election Candidate Introductions: April 16

As part the SUN Outreach Committee meeting on Tuesday April 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm, there will be an opportunity for candidates for the City Municipal Election to be introduced and answer questions. Candidates interested should contact SUN at [Stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com](mailto:Stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com).

### Recruitment of a Diverse Board

SUN Outreach meetings in spring of 2019 will continue on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm, followed by the SUN board meeting at 7:30, both in Central Park Recreation Center Multipurpose room. Meetings are open to the public and all are welcome to attend. Specifically, residents interested in civic engagement at the community level are encouraged to attend SUN's monthly meetings. SUN is the registered neighborhood organization for the Stapleton area of Denver and is comprised solely of volunteers. Our mission is threefold:

to provide a forum for our residents;

to maintain a communication network between ourselves, our neighboring Denver residents, and the City of Denver; and to act on issues of importance to the community as a whole. SUN facilitates community discussion of key issues, encourages in proactive steps to avoid problems and conflict, and is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our community. SUN seeks to be comprised of a diverse group of community members who share this purpose and principles. Residents can nominate themselves or neighbors for a 2-year term on the SUN board in person at a monthly meeting or by emailing: [Stapleton-UnitedNeighbors@gmail.com](mailto:Stapleton-UnitedNeighbors@gmail.com).

### Ongoing Communication

Sign up for emails from SUN on the SUN website: [www.Stapleton-UnitedNeighbors.org](http://www.Stapleton-UnitedNeighbors.org)

Follow SUN on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/StapletonUnitedNeighbors](https://www.facebook.com/StapletonUnitedNeighbors)

### Parent Discussion of SchoolChoice

Jointly hosted by SUN and Park Hill Neighbors for Equity in Education, the January SUN meeting tackled SchoolChoice with an eye to how individual families can participate in a way that would improve equity across schools. The rich discussion culminated with broad considerations and specific advice for parents and guardians participating in the school choice process. When evaluating schools, parents were encouraged to review the school calendar of events to determine whether the same values are reflected in the nature of events hosted at the school as are present within the family. Questions about the presence of a School Accountability Committee, where parents can inform the direction of the school, can illuminate whether there is an active mechanism in place at a school to work with parent input. Parents were encouraged to bring the same social consciousness that influences other aspects of daily life into the SchoolChoice process, and to visit a school that perhaps they otherwise would not have considered.

### Three Tips for Parents

By Carol Roberts, Front Porch

Before attendees divided into small groups to talk about the values that guide their choice of a school, Park Hill parent Andrew Lefkowitz offered three tips.

1. Calm down. SchoolChoice may feel like you have to find the "perfect fit" and if you don't do it right everything is lost. "Actually, for the vast majority of kids, the vast majority of schools will do a nice job. The decision you're making now is not the difference between the Nobel Prize and living in your basement," says Lefkowitz.

2. Principals have a lot of autonomy and impact the school greatly, but principals change over time. Look at parents' roles and what value the school places on them and the Collaborative School Committee as a source for driving changes at the school.

3. Think about your values and what you want



Armed with information and suggestions about SchoolChoice, attendees at the Jan. 15 joint SUN/Park Hill meeting gathered in small groups to talk about their values for a school, and how identifying those values could help guide their SchoolChoice decision-making process.

your kid to get out of school. It's

easy for a parent to feel that if a school has good test scores *it must be good for my kid*. But there are so many more elements that make up a good school experience. "For me the experience of being in a community of people who are not like me was transformative—finding shared humanity with people from different backgrounds," says Lefkowitz.

### Parents Share their Values



Angie Curington, kindergarten daughter—"It's hard looking at a school's website. Even as a teacher I can't really tell what they mean in day to day language. I value a school that has some kind of neighborhood connection, even if there's kids coming from all different places. Recognizing that there are people living right around us, how can we still be connected to them in addition to just our school communities?"



Kelli Brandenburger, kindergarten daughter—"I got my 5th choice. I went in thinking 95% or something like that get their first choice, no way would we get something that low. I kept thinking, 'We're on the wait list, we'll get a call.' Then we never did. I wasn't heartbroken. I thought we can get her into another program next year. And I know they (Inspire) are red. But I feel like that has to do with them being new. And I love their philosophy. And I love the teachers. They are service-oriented, they do personalized plans. And my daughter loves it."



Margaret Fogarty, 2nd grade son and ECE daughter—"We're particularly interested in the Spanish immersion program at Steadman. If she doesn't get in ECE we'll try again for kindergarten. Park Hill, our boundary school, would be fine, but it has a concentration of wealth and a lack of diversity. We're interested in diversity in her school environment. The program at Steadman was brand new for my son so it wasn't even on our radar then. It's been neat to watch the evolution. Interesting. It doesn't feel like a red school."

## Letter to the Editor

### Giving AirBNB a Try

Folks in our neighborhoods are giving AirBNB a try. Denver recently updated its laws, requiring that you be a resident of the U.S., the property is your Primary Residence, you have written permission from your Landlord or property owner, and you are able to verify that your rental is insured.

If you qualify, it's worth considering the benefits. Padding the pocketbook is an obvious benefit, but simply being connected to other people is the real payoff. As I consider home hosting, I've tapped into the experience of Julie Robinson of Boho Hospitality who teaches a class at Colorado Free University.

Travel: Because an AirBNB income isn't directly tied to an hourly wage, not only does the money coming in from hosting easily fund global excursions, but hosts also have time and new friends to visit when they travel.

Home Improvements: Like any business, it takes money to make money. The income jolt makes that fresh coat of

paint and tidy yard possible and necessary.

Filling Voids: Whether the void in their life comes from a kid going off to college, retirement, divorce or death—hosts benefit when paying guests fill empty rooms. Changing a spare room into a money making enterprise helps pay the bills. Chatting with guests over a cup of coffee helps fill other, more emotional voids.

Financial Boost: This industry sprang up to help homeowners keep their homes instead of going into foreclosure. Hosts today can repair that credit score and reap tax benefits from making a slice of their property their business. Running an AirBNB can a viable stay at home job.

Home hosting brings people together under a roof in a safe, welcoming environment. Cultures blend. People chat. There are many positive side effects, including less isolation and loneliness and even a decrease in property crime.

— Helen Hand, Stapleton resident

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DCTA negotiators, from left, Pamela Shamburg, Robert Gould and Corey Kern are pictured on Feb. 17, one day before the contract expired. DPS Superintendent Susana Cordova is in the foreground.

of the Front PorchBy Carol Roberts

DPS's pay structure, ProComp, which offers incentives and bonuses in areas of particular concern to DPS, is a fundamental area of disagreement between the two sides. ProComp was initially negotiated in 1999, says Laura Lekowits, who was a DPS Board member at that time. "We felt that if we paid teachers in a different way we could end up paying them more and paying them for things we as a district needed them to be expert in. The idea was you would no longer advance automatically

on the salary scale."

She thinks taking away that system and having everyone be equal would be going backwards. "What they should have is a higher incentive for teachers to go in hard-to-serve schools because the incentive amount is too low right now to really incentivize anybody. The community was quite supportive of the idea that teachers should be paid based on their effectiveness in the classroom—as opposed to simply being there. That approach made a lot of sense to most people I was representing at the time."

Fast forward 19 years, and, in a union

# Contract Negotiations



DPS negotiators Mark Ferandino, Superintendent Susana Cordova and Michelle Berge.

vote, 93% were in favor of a strike to get higher pay and end the ProComp system. Currently, 66% of teachers are union members, according to DCTA President Henry Roman. He told us, "...one time incentives like ProComp mask how much you're actually making in base." With ProComp, "...some will get nothing and some will get the amount advertised. So for us it's an issue of equity. I want to be sure additional funding is distributed throughout the entire salary schedule, not just certain parts."

Teachers say ProComp means they can't plan for their future because they never know exactly what their pay will be. Besides being unpredictable, incentives are not a part of their base pay so they don't help a teacher qualify for a mortgage, says Laurel Davis, a Bill Roberts second grade math and science teacher. She says DPS promised bonuses, then started taking them away. For example, at one time, teachers who were hired at Bill Roberts

got a \$7,000 bonus for working at a "distinguished" school. Davis says they were told as long as the school stays distinguished, it would be part of their salary. "Well that started to go down. The first year I was there it was \$4,000. This past year it was \$1,000. DPS said, 'We're running out of money so we can't pay the bonuses we thought we could pay.' People feel like they can't rely on those incentives."

DCTA proposes reducing the \$2,500 incentive to Title I (high poverty schools) to \$1,750 and has no incentives for teachers at DPS's 30 highest priority schools—instead that money goes into base salaries for all teachers. Even with that redistribution of funds and other additional funds DPS is offering, another \$8 million in the salary schedule is needed to achieve DCTA's salary proposal.

Superintendent Susana Cordova, however, has focused on the absolute importance of ProComp "to provide both incentives and retention bonuses to teachers who work with



DPS Board members Angela Cobián (right) and Carrie Olson greet DCTA negotiator Rob Gould.

our poorest children so we can close the achievement gap." On the morning after the negotiations ended, she said, "...that's a place we're not going to budge. We think the investment in teachers who work in our high poverty schools is too important to compromise. If we tried to create a proposal that had *their* base salary and *our* incentives, it actually doubles the amount that we're short. So it's no longer \$8 million that we're short, it's \$16 million."

Roman says high salaries in central office positions need to be cut and put into teacher salaries. He adds, "In the past 7 years, Central Administration has increased 95%." Cordova has promised to reduce central office expenses by 7.5% and put that money into teachers' pay. The results of a Colorado Open Records Act (CORA) request that were circulated on social media showed 196 people in 50 different positions in the Central Office receive salaries over \$80,000. These positions include the Superintendent; Instructional Superintendents and Curriculum Coordinators; Transportation & Facility Managers; and the General Counsel, among others, with an average salary of \$98,989.

Teachers who oppose the ProComp pay system say bonuses for work at hard-to-serve schools don't make up for the increased level of

work and emotional drain so it isn't retaining teachers—and a more predictable pay scale is what would retain more teachers. Roman says 70% of the educators in Denver are probationary with just 1–3 years of service. DPS says 25% of teachers have 3 years or fewer teaching experience. DPS also points out that they had a "more than a six point increase in retention at their highest priority schools," and the overall retention rate is 86%.

Middle school math teacher Shannon Wood Rothenberg, now at McAuliffe International School, made a mid-life career change from architecture to teaching because she wanted a more fulfilling job. She says this about her time at a Title I school from 2010 to 2013: "The workload was unbelievable. I am not afraid of hard work, so I'd work from 6am to 6pm most days, just to feel like I had a handle on things. Our staff turnover every year was devastating. We had teachers quitting midyear, simply because they couldn't do it anymore."

Rothenberg has been recognized as a Distinguished teacher for the past 7 years and as one of the 2018 Denver Teachers of the Year. She was not a member of DCTA until a few weeks ago, feeling the deduction



Young supporters of the teachers observe the negotiations.

of \$70/month was excessive. She wrote to Cordova, "I had this unexamined belief that teachers' unions kept underperforming teachers in the classroom and kept over-achieving teachers from being rewarded appropriately. Once I educated myself about what was happening with ProComp and the steps that DPS and the DCTA were taking, I knew I had to join the union. It's a question of solidarity, the greater good. I voted to strike and, if a strike is called, I will strike."

On the other side, Alison Corbett, a Park Hill resident and 8-year DPS teacher in Montbello made an equally strong statement in favor of ProComp in her letter posted in Chalkbeat. "I see that change [getting rid of ProComp] as funding less effective teachers at the expense of others, and I worry they could drive strong teachers from the district. But far more important to me are the existing bonuses for teachers who work in high-poverty schools. I can tell you from experience that schools where many students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch... face complex and often painful challenges. If those bonuses keep shrinking, what incentivizes teachers to teach at schools like ours? Turnover at

my school is relatively high, and evening out teacher pay could make it worse. Students at those schools deserve great teachers who stick around."

Corbett has a master's degree that qualifies her to teach concurrent enrollment classes (for which students receive both high school and college credit), a qualification the district encourages in their pay proposal. Cordova says one of the reasons DPS' proposal does not give credit for in-house Professional Development Units (PDUs) is that they want teachers who are able to teach concurrent enrollment classes. College credits, not PDUs, are required for that.

DCTA's proposal offers a path for pay increases through *either* college credits or Professional Development Units (classes within DPS) that would count like college credits to move them up the pay scale, with more frequent opportunities to increase their pay.

DPS's request for state intervention took away the possibility of an immediate strike since that process now has to play out with responses from all parties before a strike can occur. In the meantime, the community watches and waits to see if an agreement can be reached in resumed negotiations.

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