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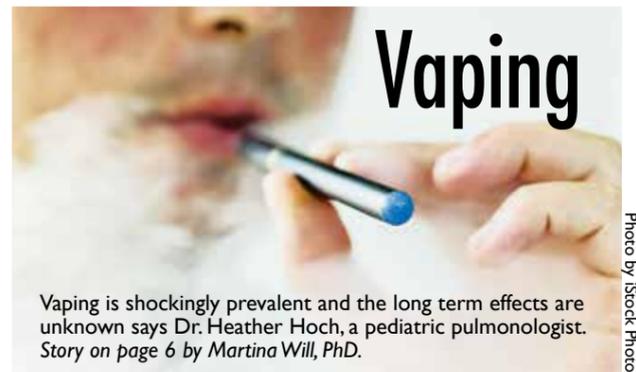
West African drumming and dance ensemble IWADDE perform the Koukou harvest dance at Willow Elementary as part of Ubuntu Day. The event was created to celebrate human similarities, culture, and diversity among children and their families through communal food, performance, and art. The African word Ubuntu means, "I am who I am because of who we are." Story on page 15 by Sara Blanchard.

Monet at the DAM



This Denver Art Museum (DAM) exhibition is the most comprehensive showing of Claude Monet's work in 25 years, featuring 120 paintings spanning his entire career. Denver is the sole U.S. venue for this insightful presentation of the famous Impressionist's work. The exhibit will be open through Feb. 2, 2020. Story on page 26 by Laurie Dunklee.

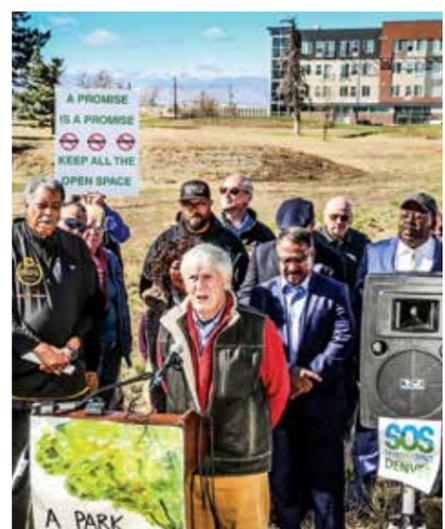
Vaping



Vaping is shockingly prevalent and the long term effects are unknown says Dr. Heather Hoch, a pediatric pulmonologist. Story on page 6 by Martina Will, PhD.

Photo by iStock Photo

Open Space Advocates Cite Law To Save Golf Course



Woody Garnsey speaks at a press conference/rally organized by Save Open Space Denver on Oct. 22. Story in NE News on page 20.



Fall colors ended on Oct. 11 this year; the next day, after the snow and freezing temperatures, most of the leaves turned brown.

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Is the *Front Porch* arriving on your front porch regularly?

If you're not getting it every month, and if it's not on your porch and dry, please let us know. Email Carol@FrontPorchNE.com.

Letters to the Editor — Send to Carol@FrontPorchNE.com

Pick up the *Front Porch* in the Lowry and Mayfair Safeways or our sidewalk racks. Readers are welcome to take multiple papers from any *Front Porch* racks to share at local businesses and organizations.

Events & Announcements at Stapleton

MCA's Wine Education Series

Wednesday, November 11, 7pm, The Cube
This educational side of wine tasting will be guided by wine expert Grant Harmsen of The Vineyard Wine Shop, who will teach attendees on the selected wines' evolution from vineyard to table. This two-hour tasting will highlight some of Grant's current favorite wines from a variety of different countries and regions. Tickets are \$20 and will increase to \$40 on the day of the event. To purchase tickets, visit stapletoncommunity.com. You must be 21+ to attend, and no refunds will be permitted.

Active Minds Seminar: Zimbabwe

Thursday, November 14, 1pm, Sam Gary Library
On November 15, 2017, the then President of Zimbabwe, Robert Mugabe, was removed from power via a military coup. Current President, Emmerson Mnangagwa, faces a challenging transition following a leader who was both oppressive yet beloved by many. Join Active Minds to review Zimbabwe's history as a former British Colony, and the 15-year civil war involving complicated race relations. We will also cover where the country may be heading as it seeks to find its path after nearly four decades under the dictatorial rule of Mugabe.

Active Minds Seminar: Space Exploration

Thursday, November 21, 6:30pm, Sam Gary Library
Fifty years ago, the United States landed the first manned space mission on the moon. Join Active Minds to reflect on President Kennedy's challenge, the space race, the Apollo Mission, and the role NASA has played since the lunar landing. We will bring the topic up to date by discussing the current political context for NASA and the rise of private space companies such as SpaceX, Blue Origin, Virgin Galactic, and others.

Winter Welcome

Friday, November 22, 6 – 8pm, 29th Ave. Town Center
Join the MCA to bring our annual 29th Avenue Town Center holiday lights and displays to life. Evening will include fun winter activities for the whole family, including carriage rides, s'more stations, carolers, local food trucks, and more! This evening will also mark the release of our 2020 Pets of Stapleton calendar! Many of these activities will require a ticket. Tickets are \$2 each and can be purchased at the MCA ticket booth.

Please be aware that 29th Ave. from Quebec to Roslyn St. will be closed at 8am to set up for this event.

2019 Annual Members Meeting

Wednesday, December 18, 6:30pm, The Cube
At this meeting community members are required to elect ten (10) representatives to serve as District Delegates for the following year. The meeting will also be streamed live on Facebook for members that would like to participate online.

Snow Event Removal Policies

Below are a few reminders of our snow removal policies for minor and major snow events. A complete list of procedures for both minor and major snow events can be found at stapletoncommunity.com

Major Roadways and Arterials are the responsibility of Denver's Department of Public Works. Snow removal begins before every snow event and continues throughout its completion. Roads are placed on different priority levels and are addressed as equipment becomes available.

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. During minor snow events (6+”), the MCA will make a pass through each alley to clean up the center drive lane the night following the storm. During significant snow events (12+”) the snow removal plan will include the continuous use of heavy and light equipment to remove snow from alley drive lanes, intersections, and significant pedestrian paths. Alley work will be limited to the removal of enough snow from the alleys so residents can drive through. The drive lanes will not be scraped down to the pavement, to eliminate the need to truck snow off-site.

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The Front Porch – NE Denver distributes more than 28,000 free papers during the first week of each month. Papers are delivered to doorsteps and/or racks in Stapleton, Park Hill, Montclair, Mayfair and NW Aurora.

The Front Porch is printed with soy-based ink and the paper contains 30% post-consumer waste. We contribute monthly to replant trees equivalent to the amount of paper used in each issue.

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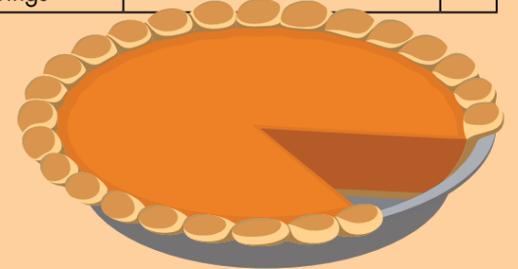


Learn more about them at www.FrontPorchNE.com > Business Directory

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Churches	Augustana Lutheran Church	4
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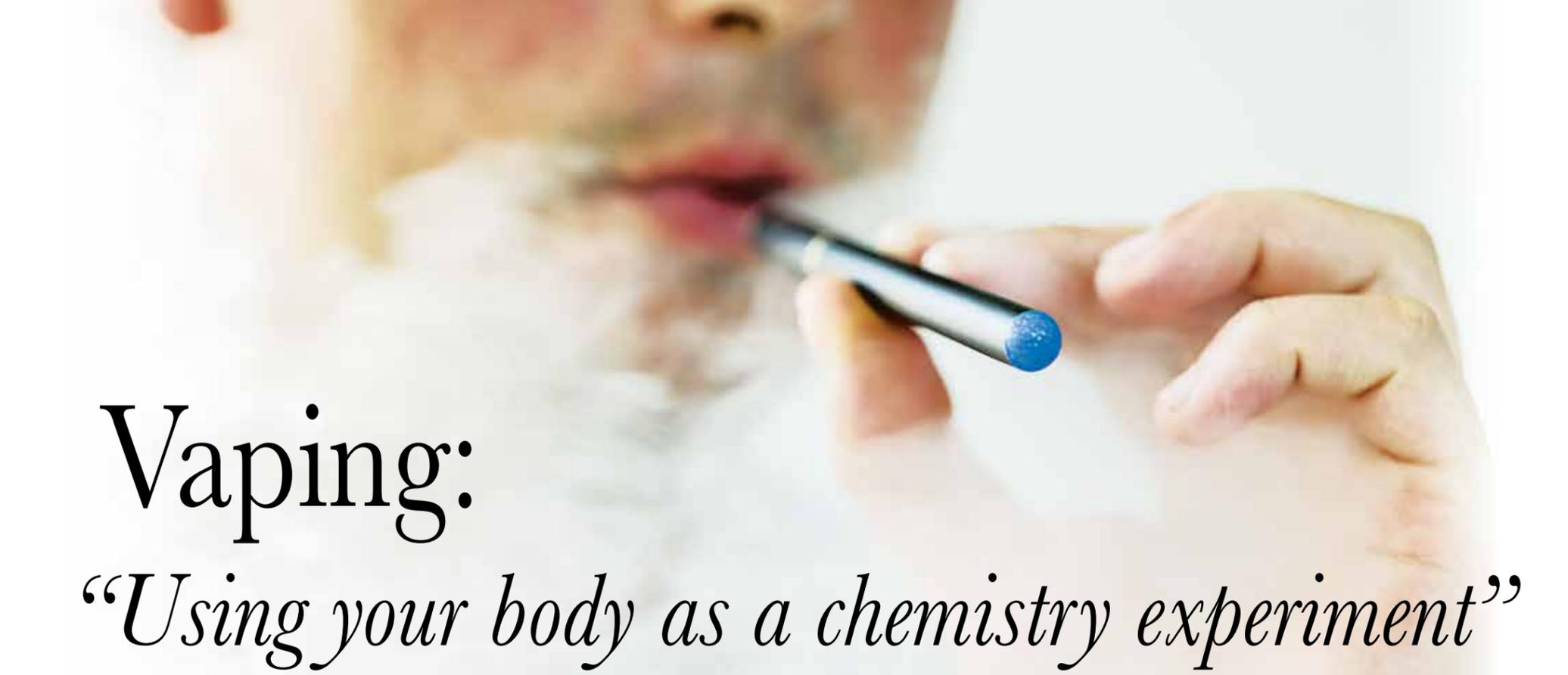


Photo by iStock Photo

Vaping:

“Using your body as a chemistry experiment”

*Teen vaping in Colorado is twice the national rate of youth vaping.**

By Martina Will, PhD

If you have a child in middle school or high school, there’s an excellent chance they have tried vaping (“E-cigarettes”) or are regularly vaping. “Parents would not be wrong to assume that your child has either vaped or has been exposed to those who have fairly regularly,” says Dr. Heather Hoch, a Stapleton resident who specializes in Pediatric Pulmonology at Children’s Hospital Colorado. She deems vaping “shockingly prevalent.” Dr. Hoch relays that one of her colleagues says of vaping, “It’s like you’re using your body as a chemistry experiment”—the long-term effects are still largely unknown, as is the cause of the recent deaths (31) and life-threatening illnesses (1,299) keeping vaping in headlines across the country.†

Restricting Tobacco Purchases

In late September, Denver City Council voted unanimously to raise the legal age from 18 to 21 for purchasing tobacco products in Denver. The City and County of Denver’s Department of Public Health & Environment (DDPHE) had been proponents of the age change for some time. “While the proliferation of vaping wasn’t the only incentive, it certainly helps underscore the critical nature of tobacco use in any form by our youth,” shared Ann Cecchine-Williams, Deputy Executive Director of DDPHE.

Councilman Christopher Herndon says “I sincerely believe it’s the right thing to do. If you look at statistics, we agree that we do have an issue when it comes to e-cigarettes with our youth...and when you hear about some of the impacts it’s having on our youth when it comes to addiction and smoking later on as an adult, ensuring that those over 21 are the only ones allowed to purchase it is the right thing to do in my opinion.”

Will raising the age reduce teen vaping?

Many teens, Hoch says, do not even realize that what they are vaping is tobacco, and haven’t thought about the many other chemicals in the pods. She says that many teens purchase their vaping products outside of stores, meaning that the pods they use may have been modified; “they have no idea what’s in those pods,” Hoch says, adding that “that may be an additional level of risk.”

Sid Stephens, who works at Rusty’s Vape & Smoke Shop echoes this concern, saying, “You’ll find people that have access to units that have infiltrated the country in bulk... they will sell it to anybody that wants it.” Stephens worries that the legitimate retailers like Rusty’s that comply with all the laws and regulations around tobacco sales will

*Many youth report using e-cigarettes because they believe these products to be less harmful than conventional cigarettes.***

shoulder the blame and get a bad name. He thinks more contaminated devices will proliferate with the increase in the legal age to purchase tobacco in Denver. A Vietnam veteran who enlisted at 17, Stephens takes issue with the fact that teens have to register with the Selective Service at 18 but cannot purchase tobacco products at 18. “If you can be called to serve your country, you can smoke [a vape device or a cigarette].”

Herndon says there was some discussion of the possibility that raising the age might lead teens to purchase vaping pods from unauthorized retailers, increasing the possibility of their purchasing adulterated products. “I’m sure there will be a percent that will still use those methods, but that shouldn’t stop us from doing the right thing to protect the overwhelming majority of kids.”

Hoch suggests that increasing the cost of vaping products by adding excise taxes to vaping products would be instrumental to reducing teen vaping. Currently, a pod—which includes

as much nicotine as a pack of cigarettes—is cheaper than a pack of cigarettes in Colorado. Hoch says teachers have told her they have students that go through two or three pods in a day. Herndon would not comment on additional measures City Council might consider moving forward to restrict youth tobacco use, though he did say, “We’re always looking for ways to better protect our youth.”

Vaping: Not Safer Than Cigarettes, But Harder to Detect

Though Hoch and other experts agree that vaping is not good for anyone, its impacts among youth are especially concerning due to the fact that brains are still developing until age 25. Teens are “exquisitely responsive to addiction,” and vaping is actually much more addictive than old-school cigarettes according to Hoch. The lungs are also still developing until the mid-20s, according to Hoch, so the impact on their health may be even greater than in adults.

The most recent Healthy Kids Colorado Survey (2017) revealed that 44% of Colorado middle and high school students surveyed had tried vaping at least once (versus 16% trying cigarettes). Fully 27% of respondents were currently vaping. That puts Colorado youth at twice the national average for experimenting with vaping. This data is ironic given Colorado’s history centering on pulmonary wellness, which drew many to settle here in the late nineteenth century. “Colorado has always been a huge center for respiratory medicine, going back to tuberculosis days,” reflects Hoch.

Unlike cigarettes, the odor of vaping products dissipates quickly, making it exceedingly difficult for parents to detect that their child is vaping. Associated paraphernalia is also difficult to identify. Hoch shares that she’s seen devices that resemble asthma inhalers, lipsticks, and even “vape-wear”—hoodies designed so the

*The brain keeps developing until about age 25—and nicotine can harm the parts of the adolescent brain that control attention, learning, mood, and impulse control.***

If cigarette smoking continues at the current rate among youth today...

*1 of every 13 Americans under 18 today (about 5.6 million people) will die early from a smoking-related illness.***

wearer can vape through the sweatshirt’s strings. “I think teachers are really at the forefront of this epidemic,” says Hoch, since teachers are finding these items and identifying them in schools. Hoch recommends parents engage in ongoing, open conversations with their children about the dangers of vaping.

As for the perception that vaping is safer than cigarettes? “I liken it to driving down the highway at 150 mph either wearing a seatbelt or not wearing a seatbelt; maybe wearing a seatbelt is safer but neither one of those [activities] is safe,” says Hoch.

†Data as of 10/16/2019; source: The New York Times Vaping Illness Tracker at <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/health/vaping-illness-tracker.html>

The *Front Porch* ran a prior article on vaping in March 2018, <https://frontporchne.com/article/safe-vaping-smokescreen/>

Cause of Vaping Illness?

All reported patients have a history of using e-cigarette, or vaping, products. Most patients report a history of using tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)-containing products. The latest national and state findings suggest products containing THC, particularly those obtained off the street or from other informal sources (e.g. friends, family members, illicit dealers), are linked to most of the cases and play a major role in the outbreak.***

In Colorado, at least 11 individuals are reported to have the illness, with 9 of them hospitalized, according to the CDHE. *

On Oct. 24, the *Denver Post* reported that the Colorado Dept. of Health and Environment was investigating the death of an 18-year-old Colorado man that could be the state’s first death associated with vaping.

*Colorado Dept. of Health and Environment
**https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/Quick-Facts-on-the-Risks-of-E-cigarettes-for-Kids-Teens-and-Young-Adults.html
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Bearing Witness to "White Supremacy" One Meal at a Time

By Martina Will, PhD

What happens when you bring together a group of well-intentioned White women for dinner with the explicit goal of calling out their role in maintaining white supremacy? This is not a hypothetical question or an SNL sketch, but the premise of a local business. Regina Jackson and Saira Rao formally established Race 2 Dinner earlier this year, and have hosted 8-10 dinners around the metro area. Jackson, who is African American, grew up in an era when white supremacy was still codified. Rao, of Indian parentage, is a former candidate for the U.S. House who came to her awakening a little later in life, after her halcyon Laura-Ashley-and-pearls-days at the University of Virginia.

"Making White women comfortable isn't our goal," declares the Race 2 Dinner website. In fact, the opposite is true: discomfort is the objective. Jackson and Rao seek to raise awareness among White woman about "how you've caused us harm," as a first step in dismantling white supremacy, "a system that's killing us all." And why women? That answer emerges when Jackson states with a knowing smile, "If White men were going to change anything, they would have done it already."

There is no seat for white fragility at this elegantly set dinner table on a Saturday night in the community still known as Stapleton. Ten well-educated, well-read, progressive White women sit with Rao and Jackson. Many are already engaged in social justice and/or racial justice work, but concede that missteps still occur. Terrell Curtis is at the dinner so she can continue in her work with a local nonprofit, and reflects on her poor word choice with a coworker months before that had nagged at her; "it didn't matter what my intentions were; it landed for her the way it did because of her experience as a Black woman."

In preparation for the evening, Curtis and the others have read Robin DiAngelo's best-selling *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism*. The White women have pledged among themselves not to behave with defensive behaviors or tears. "For people of color, our [White people's] tears demonstrate our racial insulation and privilege," writes DiAngelo.

There will be no tears at dinner, and no overt anger, fear, or expressions of guilt—other behaviors DiAngelo warns of. But there will not be a lot of dialogue, either. Rao and Jackson hold court for two hours, touching on a range of topics. The White women absorb their stories, pain, anger, and sweeping generalizations about White women.

alizations about White women.

"You guys are the biggest hypocrites on the planet. You could have shut down the entire operation after Sandy Hook and all you do is hashtag and wear pink pussy hats and safety pins. It's not the NRA that's responsible for this; it's you all: White women could have shut down the entire operation after Sandy Hook, and you have chosen not to," says Rao, who is strident as she assails White women for their complicity in everything from U.S. gun culture to the rape of enslaved women in the antebellum era. "Why do you consciously choose your race over your gender?" Rao questions the group.

Occasionally, there's a space for the White women to respond, but on the evening in question, the medium seems to form an essential part of the message. This dinner table topples social norms that privilege White people's voices and experiences, where stereotypes about people of color inform everything from the quality of healthcare received to how people treat a teenager in a hoodie or a ski mask. During a phone debrief a few days later, a number of the White women share that they would have welcomed more of a back and forth in the conversation.

The entire evening is, in fact, a study in one of the paradoxes DiAngelo observes: White people feel confident in their opinions on racism, though most live their lives in segregation. Race 2 Dinner jettisons the customary barriers of politeness, privilege, status and race that insulate White people from race-based stress, forcing them to experience the micro-aggressions and gross generalizations that people of color daily navigate. Dinner guest Becca Miles reflects on the dinner a few days later, observing "it's completely unique to hear people of color's raw and unfiltered views on race in such an intimate setting." Taking part in a Race 2 Dinner "is not a first step," says Miles; however, "it is important context for those engaged in anti-racism work."

Neither Rao nor Jackson sugarcoat their

messages. Jackson, who possesses a regal and serene presence, speaks less, and seems more deliberate in her words than Rao; however, her message is no more palatable. For much of the evening, her surface calm stands in sharp contrast to Rao's more aggressive stance. But when she relates an anecdote from a run-in at a grocery store earlier in the week, she conveys the urgency of the racial justice work she is engaged in. While waiting in line for customer service at a King Soopers, Jackson observed an older White woman refuse to cede the way when it was time for a "teeny Latina" to be helped. "When people are oppressed they are afraid to use their voices," says Jackson. So Jackson interceded on her behalf, nicely

Regina Jackson and Saira Rao engage White women in conversations about race and White women's role in sustaining white supremacy. White supremacy, as defined by the Associated Press is, "The racist belief that Whites are superior to justify political, economic and social suppression of non-white people and other minority groups."

justice issues, the more she is reprimanded by her family and her community. She exhorts the women at the table to engage in a more meaningful way both in the real world and on social media, pointing out, for example, that it is inadequate to "like" posts a person of color has poured their emotional labor into;



"White women get pissed off if your yoga instructor is five minutes late—you're mad as hell. But if a Black kid is killed by a police officer, you're not mad as hell. So you have to start looking at yourselves in the mirror, about how you spend money...look at who you hang out with," says Rao.

asking the White woman to move her cart so the Latina could pass to the counter. "And who's gonna make me?" the White woman asked. The situation escalated to include some expletives (Jackson) and an aggressive use of a shopping cart (White woman), and King Soopers security.

Ironically, the petite Latina disappears entirely from Jackson's narrative; however, Jackson's point is clear: "There were three White people there.... Nobody said a word; I don't know if it's lack of courage or fear of losing your White card, but you guys have to call out hate and racism and injustice when you see it. Publicly."

"Do you see our liberation tied to yours?" Rao asks a dinner guest, who has just shared that the more she speaks out publicly on racial

as in the real world, White women working on equity and racial justice must be willing to take a risk and put themselves on the line. "Stop being afraid of not being liked," says Rao. Jackson adds, "Publicly make a statement.... What you're not changing, you're choosing."

The evening ends with a call to action, and some specific steps White women need to take. Some of these are simple, like reaching out to the one individual or family of color at a school event, or inviting one of your child's nonwhite classmates over for a playdate. "Stop writing checks to yourselves....take all that money and do a little bit of research and find Black and Brown women candidates, women companies, women documentarians, nonprofits, and businesses...give us the money and we will make sure that all boats rise," says Rao.

Photos by Becca Miles

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139 Affordable Apartments Quality Inn Becomes Fusion Studios



The Quality Inn on Quebec is being renovated to become 300-600 sq. ft. apartments with kitchenette for Denver residents who currently do not have a home. Tenants will pay 30% of their monthly income in rent.

By Martina Will, PhD

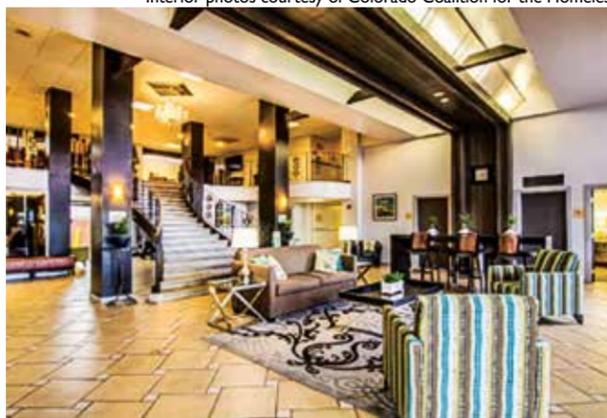
Being home (whether or not in time for the holidays) will soon have a profound new meaning for over a hundred Denver residents—the Quality Inn on Quebec is being transformed into 139 affordable microhousing units.

On October 7, with funding from the City of Denver and the State of Colorado, the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless purchased the Quality Inn at 3737 N. Quebec St. for \$11 million. Construction and renovation at the 100,000 square foot building is already underway. The former hotel will be transformed into Fusion Studios, with the first two floors moving in ready later this year and the top two floors becoming available in early 2020. Assuming remodeling goes according to schedule, “We anticipate having people moving in...by the end of November to early December,” says Cathy Alderman, Vice President of Communications and Public Policy at Colorado Coalition for the Homeless.

Construction priorities include upgrading all the sprinkler systems to meet code and filling in the outdoor pool to create a large patio area for residents. Normally, Alderman says, it takes 2-3 years to create a housing unit, start to finish. Converting the hotel is a much faster and more affordable process, and will get people off the streets and into their own homes quickly.

This development offers a glimmer of hope to Denver’s homeless population during a year that found them at the center of a vociferous debate on Initiative 300, the “Right to Survive.” Many critics of the measure asserted that it did not push the city forward on the pressing issue of affordable housing but merely abdicated responsibility by allowing urban “camping.” The Colorado Coalition for the Homeless did not

Interior photos courtesy of Colorado Coalition for the Homeless

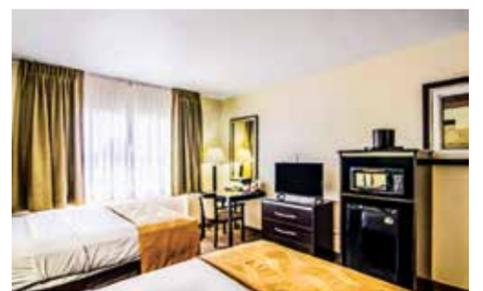


for meal service, depending on residents’ needs and interests. The common areas hold promise for helping build community among residents.

Alderman says couples and individuals will likely be the principal residents, though she’s not ruling out single parents with a child, who might temporarily call a micro-studio home while waiting for an apartment or a larger unit elsewhere to open up. The goal, however, is to provide long-term housing here for a fraction of the estimated 5,755 people experiencing homelessness in Denver at any given time. Residents will pay no more than 30% of their monthly income in rent.

“A lot of people who are experiencing homelessness...if they can be provided a transitional option or just a safe space to be for a time while they get their affairs in order...then they’re much more likely to be successful in the housing when they obtain it,” says Alderman. “There will be some cases where this will serve more as transitional or a bridge housing option.”

Fusion Suites will have 24-hour security and on-site property managers to ensure the property is safe and well maintained.



The Quality Inn lobby (left) will become a common area for Fusion Studios residents, and bedrooms are being renovated to become studio apartments.

support Proposition 300, and has been working with the City to increase the availability of housing.

Each furnished 300-600 square foot unit will include its own kitchenette, with a small refrigerator, microwave and sink. The studios will not have stovetops for cooking; however, a large common area inside the building may be used for cooking instruction or possibly

Two or three case managers will work on-site to provide any necessary support services to residents, as well as referrals to health and behavioral health services. To Alderman, Fusion Suites is full of possibilities, with the Coalition prepared to be flexible in the scale and scope of its programming and services to best meet the needs of those who will call the Suites home.

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Left: Children visiting the museum on a school field trip try out the kid-sized climbing wall.

Above: Interactive stations throughout the gallery allow children and adults alike to compare their skills with those of extreme athletes. Here, students try to make their body match the virtual athlete's.

Taking It to th

By Karyn Cole

Have you ever wondered what it feels like to soar through the air in a wingsuit, climb a towering rock wall, or race the backcountry slopes? Whether you are an avid risk taker or prefer to play it safe, the newest

traveling exhibition at The Denver Museum of Nature and Science has something for all types. *Extreme Sports: Beyond Human Limits* lets visitors experience the minds and bodies of extreme athletes.

The decision to bring it to DMNS was a no-brainer, says Exhibit Curator Dr.

Garth Spellman. With Colorado being ground central for many extreme athletes, the Museum took the opportunity to add profiles of 15 Colorado athletes who are world renowned in their sports.

What does it take to be an extreme athlete? Interactive games test visitors' body control, spatial awareness and focus. They can take a quiz to determine their own "sensation seeking score" and compare their score to those of the featured athletes.

Search and rescue teams that help athletes in distress are featured in one area; another explores the injuries many of athletes have endured. The importance of athletes knowing their own limits and

what they can do to minimize risk is a recurring theme. The exhibit clearly is not encouraging novices to go out and try these high risk activities.

The museum hopes guests will walk away with a better idea of what makes these competitors do what they do, says Spellman. "They are not adrenaline junkies. They are highly trained athletes with extreme technical skill. And they have knowledge of specialized gear that allows them to reduce risk."

The final section of the exhibit is set up according to the location of the sport: in the air, on snow and ice, in the water, on the rocks, and on the ground. Hands-on stations in these areas invite participants to get a taste of extreme activities. Visitors can use

How Does Inflammation Affect the Aging Brain?

Research Study Investigates Aging, Memory, and Immune Function. The University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus is looking for interested adults 60 and over to participate in a research study examining how inflammation influences brain health. Data gathered from this study will be used to better understand how inflammation may or may not disrupt thinking and memory. This study involves two research visits over the course of two years at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus.

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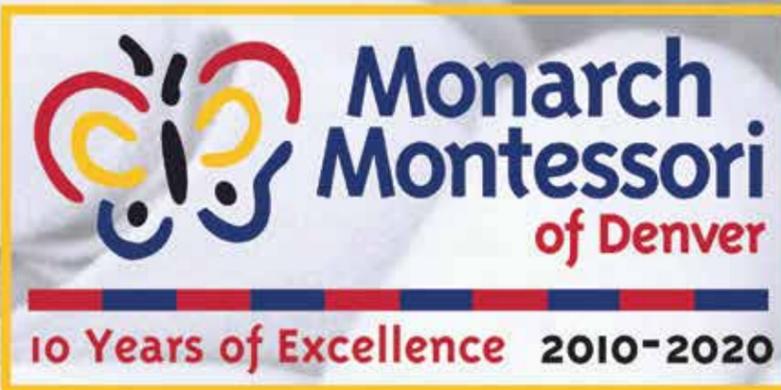
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Extreme Sports: Beyond Human Limits Curator Garth Spellman demonstrates how to walk the highline that serves as one possible entrance to the exhibit.



Above: Willoe Hartman conquers the ninja course developed in partnership with Ninja Nation. The obstacles will change throughout the exhibit's run to challenge repeat visitors.

Below: Students at one of the exhibit's many video kiosks learn the physics of piloting a wingsuit.



e Extreme

augmented reality to experience flying in a wingsuit or go in the immersion room to take a ride on a mountain bike or in a whitewater kayak. Kids can try the child-sized rock climbing wall and run a Parkour course. Those over 48 inches tall can even try their luck on an ever-changing ninja course built by Ninja Nation.

Activities for visitors of all ages make the exhibition both interactive and family friendly. Boulder resident and museum member Ashley Chandler says her two children, Norah and Miles, couldn't wait to explore the exhibit, particularly the climbing wall and the Ninja Course. "Just being able to inter-

act physically was a really cool addition," says Chandler. "It was interesting to see all the science behind extreme sports."

Extreme Sports provides a look at what makes these athletes tick. "The exhibit really focuses on the psychology behind their motivations, [offering] a little bit of neuroscience behind why these athletes are pursuing these sports," says Spellman

Extreme Sports: Beyond Human Limits runs now through April 12, 2020. The exhibit is free with general admission to the museum.

This U.S. debut of the exhibition was developed and produced by Science North in partnership with the Ontario Science Centre.



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Adriana Mejia, manager, and Leo Vetancourt, general manager and co-owner of Pozzetti Gelato and Coffee in North Stapleton were trained by an Italian chef and make fresh gelato daily. Below are some of Pozzetti's bakery options.

whole milk or cream we use," explains Mejia. Sorbet has no dairy and is water based. All of their products use only natural ingredients for flavoring and color.

Guests can watch Vetancourt and Mejia as they make the gelato and sorbet from scratch daily. "We have a lot of competition in the area," says Vetancourt, "which is why we make everything in front of the customer so they know how it's made, 100%."

Vetancourt and Mejia received their training from an Italian chef who created the recipes specifically for Pozzetti and taught them the art of making gelato, sorbet, paninis, cakes, and Italian coffee drinks.

The shop serves more than 20 flavors of gelato in rotation—and eight flavors of sorbet. Several popular American flavors of gelato will always be available such as Chocolate, Cookies and Cream, and Salted Caramel—as well as traditionally Italian gelato flavors like Tiramisu and Cinnamon. And Venezuelan sorbet flavors like mango and passion fruit will be in the mix. Pozzetti will also offer seasonal flavors, such as the vividly-hued purple Sweet Potato option.

Gelato with Italian/Venezuelan Flair

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

Italian gelato, sorbet, coffee, and paninis have made their way to Denver by way of Venezuela. That not-so-natural progression started more than a decade ago when the team behind Pozzetti Gelato & Coffee opened shops in Venezuela and Equador. Leo Vetancourt, the general manager and one of four owners of Pozzetti, and Adriana Mejia,

manager, both worked in the Venezuela location prior to moving to the United States. Vetancourt had visited Colorado before and loved it. So when he thought about where to open a U.S. location, Denver and Stapleton were his first choice.

Vetancourt envisioned kids and families filling the colorful restaurant at 5094 Central Park Boulevard. "With all of the families

and growth in Stapleton, it was a natural match," he says.

The name of the shop, Pozzetti, comes from the traditional Italian cold case where gelato is stored in cylindrical containers. Vetancourt and Mejia have a newer version of the traditional cold case in which they store their sorbets. Next to it is yet another kind of cooler containing billowing swirls of gelato, which greet visitors as they walk in. Vetancourt says it's traditional for gelato to be displayed in artful ways, but admits they go a bit over-the-top in presentation.

"Gelato and sorbet differ from ice cream and custard in that gelato has less air, less sugar, is denser, more intense in flavor, and has no added fat beyond what is naturally in the



Eventually, Vetancourt would like to open more shops. But for now, he and Mejia are happy remaining small, getting to know neighbors, fundraising with area schools, and catering local events. And making those pretty gelato swirls.

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David Weekley Homeowners Jennifer, Lily & Zach Kolhoff



Above left: Families and school staff share a pot luck meal with dishes representing each family's heritage.

Above: Fikir Tekba helps her children with their food from the community buffet.

Lower left: Students learn about African culture by participating in Fanga, a dance of welcome, led by IWADDE.

Below: Parent Theresa Takushi talks to kindergarten teacher Brittany Schultz (right).

By Sara Blanchard
"Ago!" calls out choreographer Dr. Yaz of IWADDE, the Inter-generational Women's African Dance and Drumming Ensemble. "Ame," comes the resounding response from the audience of over 300 students and their families in the school gymnasium.

The performance at Willow Elementary School's annual Ubuntu Night follows a bustling pot luck dinner in the cafeteria where shared dishes—ranging from fried plantains to New Orleans jambalaya—represent the broad cultural heritage of school families.

Ubuntu is an African word meaning, "I am who I am because of who we are." To celebrate similarities, culture, and diversity—and oppose intolerance together—the

school held its first Ubuntu event last year with a pot luck and cultural performances.

This abundant celebration quickly became a cornerstone of the school's calendar—but such after-school socializing among families wasn't always the case. Despite having 37% percent non-white students and 22 different languages spoken by families at the school last year, that diversity wasn't represented at the school's events.

Now, Ubuntu Night is one of the best-attended, uplifting events of the year. "I would love to see this happening at more schools in our neighborhoods," says principal Dr. Amy Gile. As students pour down from the bleachers to dance with IWADDE, clap along with the Bryant Webster school's student mariachi ensemble, and drop their jaws at head-spinning moves



Ubuntu

by the Block 1750 breakdancing crew, it is clear this year's mission of celebrating cultures is another success.

"Anybody can be a school," says Ben Kellogg, director of Mariachi at Bryant Webster School, "but being involved and getting together is what makes it a community."



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November is Denver

Film Festival (DFF) month, and it is time to review films from this year's program. If you love films or if you are just a casual fan, this is the best time of the year for film-going in Denver! DFF 2019 takes place from 10/31 – 11/10, and the selections are once again excellent. I prefer the films we don't get to see elsewhere—such as foreign films and documentaries—and I have included short reviews of three films that I recommend. For a full program, check out the Denver Film Society's website at denverfilm.org.



A White, White, Day



A White, White, Day
(Iceland—2019)

This thoughtful film has one of the more arresting and contemplative openings I have seen in a while. The story follows a semi-retired policeman in the eastern region of Iceland whose wife recently died in a tragic accident. We see him as a dedicated grandfather and well-respected citizen of the rural/coastal town in which they live. He sees a grief counselor which only seems to add to his grief as he grapples with

questions such as, "Who are you?" "I am Ingimundur," he replies. Furtively and solidly played by actor Ingvar Sigurðsson, the avuncular Ingimundur keeps his emotions close and doesn't speak much, but the landscapes—not to mention his actions—tell us everything about him. If you've read this column before, you are aware of my affinity for Icelandic films; they have a unique way of capturing the essence of the country itself: quirky, unpredictable, quietly humorous, moody, and sometimes dark. But back to that opening: after a quietly shocking start, the film gives us one of the best passages of time—and character symbolism—any film can offer. As it progresses and Ingimundur investigates a possible affair



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between his wife and another man, that opening grows in meaning. These are the gems that make a film festival, and this one shines.

Screening: 9:15am Friday 11/1, 6:15pm Saturday 11/9, and 4pm Sunday 11/10 at the UA Pavilions.

Castle of Dreams

(Iran—2019)

Directed by the very talented Riza Mirkarimi, this film swept the awards at this year's Shanghai Film Festival. It tells the story of an absent, and unwilling, father/husband (Jalal) who is forced into taking back his kids after a long absence. He hasn't seen any of them for three years—part of which he spent in prison—and now only returns to claim the few assets of his terminally ill wife. His sister-in-law was caring for the kids, and she essentially forces them on him because she can no longer afford their care. He then takes the kids on the road through the Iranian countryside: he, his girlfriend (whom he constantly berates), his quiet and thoughtful son Ali, and his too-cute young daughter Sara wind up stuffed together in the small confines of the car. Along the way, we find out more

about his past and his relationships, and he eventually becomes slightly more human than the vile and venal character we see in the first frames. The film is a brutally honest look at a father who cannot perform as a dad, and its realist style reminds of the great Italian Neorealist films of the 40s, such as *Bicycle Thieves*. The title comes from a story told to the children by their mother—that their father would come one day and take them to a great castle. That castle, of course, doesn't exist.

Screening 7pm Tuesday 11/5 and 4:15 pm Wednesday 11/6 at the UA Pavilions

Pahokee (US—2018)

This inviting documentary from Ivete Lucas and Patrick Bresnan certainly belongs in the category of “there are no new stories, only new ways to tell them.” This film gives us the story of four high school seniors in Pahokee, Florida, in a close and emotional style that allows us *in*. We've seen such stories before, yes, but here we are able to follow the main players, root for them, and cry with them. It's quite the trick for a film to thrust us into so many lives in such personal terms, but this doc pulls it off.

Na'Kerria is a cheerleader and wants to “go away and start a new life” after graduation; BJ is the captain of the state champion (sort of) football team and hopes for a scholarship; Jacobed is the class

salutatorian and the daughter of Mexican immigrants; and Junior is a single dad whose prospects seem limited but knows he has to work hard for his daughter. This is a real story about real people with real problems and real dreams. While this is a film for everyone, if you come from a small town and dreamt of getting out (like this writer), it really hits home. I, like you

will be, was rooting for them.

Screening 9:30am, 12:30pm, & 6:30pm Friday, 11/1 and 10:45am Saturday, 11/2 at the UA Pavilions.

Vincent Pitorro, PhD, is a Professor of Film and Media Studies at Metropolitan State University of Denver. He can be reached at vpitorro@msudenver.edu. And you can follow “Indie Prof” on Facebook and @VincentPitorro on Twitter.



Pahokee

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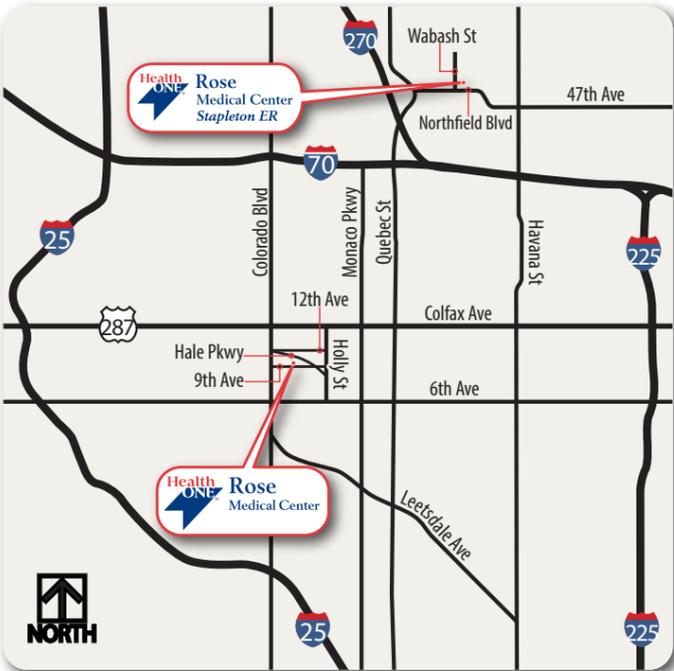
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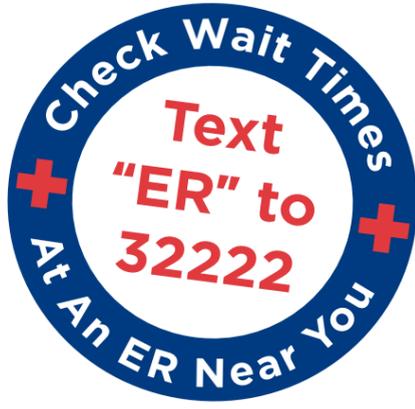


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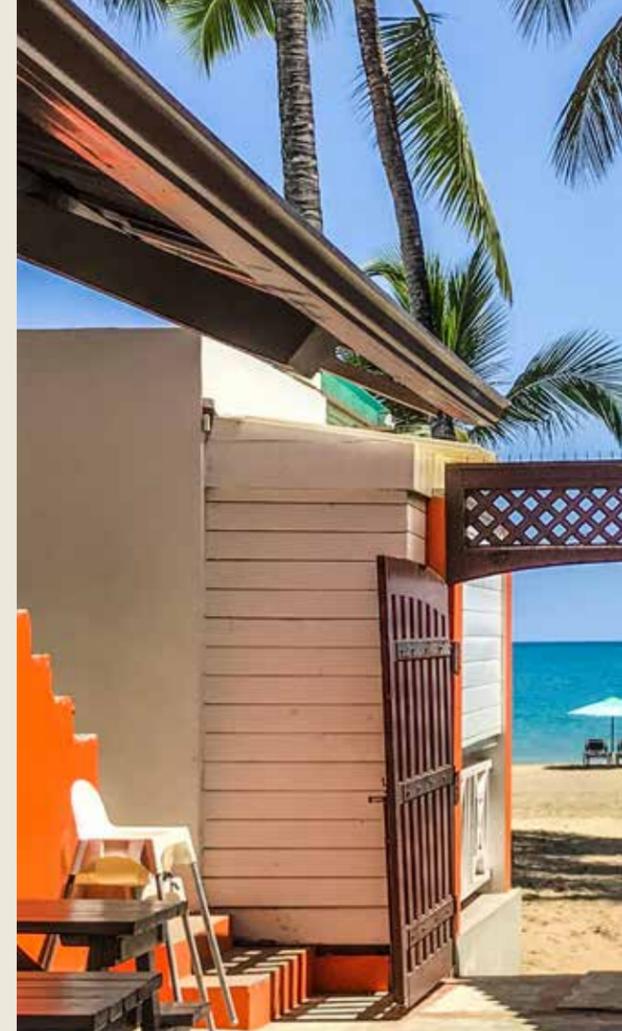
CULTURAL TRAVEL



Left: Our son jamming with the band as we waited to board the cable car in Puerto Plata.

Above: Canoeing on the tranquil canal that borders our rental home—most beautiful at dawn and dusk when the birds come out.

Right: Cabarete Beach is a mecca for kite surfing. Calm waves, clean sand, umbrellas for rent and a variety of restaurants up and down the bay make it a perfect getaway for families.



Have you taken a trip with the goal to understand and experience another culture (with or without kids)? Contact us if you'd like to share your information on a "Cultural Travel" page like this.

By Katy Troyer

Right after graduate school, my husband and I spent two years living in a Mayan community in Guatemala, working in education and international development, immersing in the local culture, and forming lifelong friendships. Ten years have passed; we have two kids, a house, non-profit careers and our passion for travel is still there.

When I earn a month sabbatical, there's no question

how I want to spend it. The definition of a sabbatical is to take a break from work to rest, travel, study and pursue your dreams. Mine is spending at least two weeks in a Spanish-speaking country, renting a house in a local



Our rental home, about a 15-minute walk from the beach, was located on the river across from Choco National Park. It was a serene spot in a typical Dominican neighborhood.

neighborhood, and introducing my kids to adventure, travel and most importantly how the majority of the world lives. It's our first international trip as a family of four. The Dominican Republic seems like a good fit.

When we arrive, we find our driver Ismael and load into his minivan. Over the next hour and a half we wind through Dominican towns, making our way to the coast. Chickens, banana trees, tiendas, street vendors, motorcycles, tin roofs on cement block houses, music. This is what Guatemala looks like—Kenya and Cambodia too.

Day 1: After a wakeful night with two sick kids, a rooster starts crowing and the birds are stirring in our thatched roof home in Cabarete. I get my first view of Choco National Park out my window. It's breath-taking. And by afternoon the kids are over their 24-hour bug.

Day 2: We go to the beach on motoconchos.

Dominican R



The cable car up to the Teleferico in Puerto Plata offered a beautiful view of the port where Christopher Columbus landed in 1503.

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baseball fans.

We return home on motocochos. It's the heat of the day. We retire inside for siesta with fans pointed on us. Once the pool is in the shade around 4pm, we venture outside to swim. We hear bachata (Latin music popular in Cuba and the Dominican Republic) playing from houses nearby. Locals walk by us greeting, "Hola, buen tarde" through the fence.

I'm asked many times where I'm from—my Spanish is too good for a Gringa. Though Spanish is helpful in this part of the country, it is definitely not necessary. Many ex-pats and retirees from Europe and the U.S. settle in Cabarete and the surrounding area. The restaurants and rental properties close to the beach all cater to English-speaking tourists.

Over the next two weeks, we adopt the local culture. We listen to bachata. We play dominoes. We hang our laundry out to dry. We jam with the musicians. We take cold showers. We eat rice, beans and plantains. We drink rum. We devour ice cream. We greet the vendors by name and negotiate prices. We buy a toy boat from a local wearing a Vail, Colorado shirt.

We venture beyond town to explore the beauty of the island. We enter caves and jump into their cold hidden lakes. We ride horses through a mountain village. We snorkel in Sosua Bay. We walk miles on the beach. We discover colonies of sand dollars. We canoe on the lagoon. We apply sunscreen and insect repellent but still get burned and bit. We sample sweets at a chocolate factory. We tour an amber museum. We explore a Spanish fort. We ride the cable car in Puerto Plata up to Montana Isabel de Torres. We feed rescued monkeys. We make friends in the neighborhood and with others from Bulgaria,

Switzerland and Canada. The kids learn to body surf and boogie board.

We spend lazy days at home enjoying our family time. We play hide and go seek, cards and marco polo. We taste food blindfolded. We save lightening bugs from drowning in the pool. We play iron chef with mangoes.

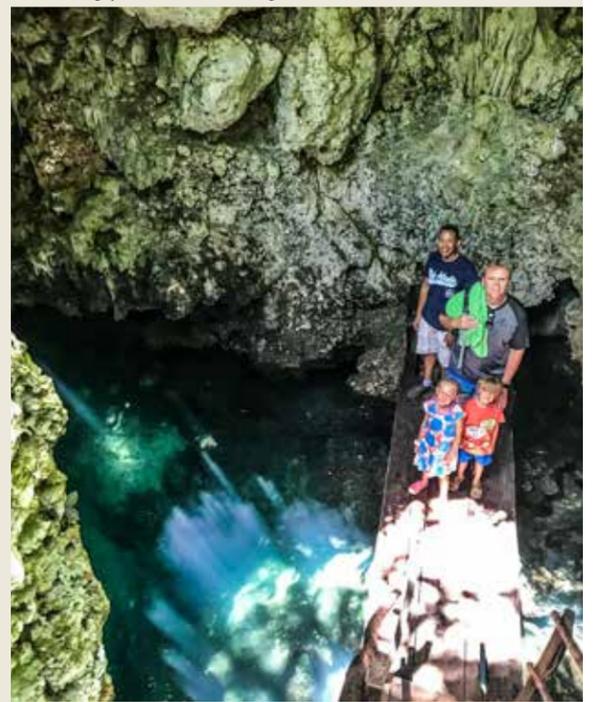
We go dark on social media and let the rat race of American life fade away. We thrive in the Dominican Republic. As our trip comes to a close, we dream about our next overseas trip —where should we go next?

Photos courtesy of Katy Troyer



Above: Our daughter fed rescued monkeys at Monkey Jungle about an hour's drive from Cabarete.

Below: We explored the caves at Choco National Park located close to our house. We enjoyed jumping into the refreshing pools and learning about the flora and fauna.



epublic: With Kids

We're approached by many vendors selling jewelry, hair braiding, trinkets, massages, woodwork. They're all members of an association and have uniforms and badges. I'm shocked by their organization and politeness.

We devour calamari, ceviche, papas fritas and two cold Coca-Colas at the Front Loop. The kids proclaim they love calamari. The Swiss owner decorated the bar for the World Cup. Soccer fans from all over the world converge on this small restaurant to cheer on their teams. The locals could care less about futbol, they are



Our son loved greeting the vendors, especially Billy, who sold him a handmade boat. Buying trinkets and getting hair braided at the beach supports local families.

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2 Open Space Supporters Say Park Hill Land Can't Legally Be Developed

Save Open Space (SOS) Denver held a press conference at the Park Hill Golf Course on Oct. 22 to show their

opposition to any future development on the 155 acres of land there. They cited a statute passed by the state legislature on June 30 that they believe will make future development on the land impossible.

Real estate developer Westside Investment Partners purchased the land on July 11, 2019 from the Clayton Trust. The sale carried with it a conservation easement purchased by the City for \$2 million in 1997, while Wellington Webb was mayor, to perpetually preserve the Park Hill Golf Course land for open space and recreational land uses; Webb spoke at the press conference. "I believe what has made Colorado special and Denver unique is our ability to protect our open space and our land development in Denver



Denver's former mayor, Wellington Webb, speaks in support of retaining the Park Hill Golf Course land as open space at a press event called by Save Open Space (SOS) Denver On October 22.

out that the statute would require both the mayor and City Council to agree it would be impossible for the golf course land to fulfill its conservation purposes and they would need to have a judge sign off on that. Park Hill resident and SOS spokesperson Woody Garnsey, concluded, "At this point in time, there is no legitimate reason for anybody to initiate a city planning process for some sort of planning on this property while this conservation easement encumbers the land. That would be a terrible waste of citizen resources and city resources."

With limited time from the press conference to the *Front Porch* press deadline, we tried, but were unable, to get further information from City Council members or state legislators—or from Westside on whether they believe SOS' interpretation is incorrect and that they will, in fact, be able to develop the land.

1 Major Fossil Discovery by DMNS Team

"This [fossil discovery] is the biggest paleontological discovery in Colorado since 2010, when construction workers discovered a trove of ice age fossils in Snowmass. From the science side of things, it's a Richter scale above it," says James Hagadorn, Denver Museum of Nature and Science (DMNS) Curator of Geology. "It fundamentally changes our understanding of earth history." Hagadorn, who for many years wrote his "Just the Facts" column in the *Front Porch*, is part of the DMNS team researching the fossils. Thousands of exceptionally preserved animal and plant fossils found in

Colorado Springs show how the world and life recovered after the catastrophic asteroid impact that wiped out the dinosaurs 66 million years ago.

"Blasting our planet, an asteroid triggered the extinction of three of every four kinds of living organisms. While it was a really bad time for life on Earth, some things survived, including some of our earliest, earliest ancestors," says Dr. Tyler Lyson, the Museum's curator of vertebrate paleontology in a DMNS press release on Oct. 24. "These fossils tell us for the first time how exactly our planet recovered from this global cataclysm."

The team's research is documented in a paper in the current *Science* magazine and in the NOVA Documentary, "The Rise of Mammals," streaming on PBS and first broadcast nationally on PBS on Oct. 30. For more information, visit pbs.org/nova. An exhibition about the findings, "After the Asteroid: Earth's Comeback Story," opened at the Museum on October 24.

By Martina Will, PhD, Carol Roberts

1 Gotham Greens

Gotham Greens cofounder and CEO Viraj Puri in early October confirmed to the *Front Porch* that the Brooklyn-based business is building a new 30,000-square foot facility just north of the Stanley Marketplace. The innovative techniques that the greenhouse employs will allow this 1-acre space to yield crops that would require 20 acres using conventional methods. Though the new site will not include a retail space, Puri confirms that the greenhouse—which specializes in greens (lettuces and herbs)—will be supplying high-quality organic produce as well as a line of pestos, dips and salad dressings, to area retailers and restaurants. He anticipates the site opening by early spring 2020. Puri's cofounder Eric Haley grew up in Greenwood Village and attended Cherry Creek High School. Haley's wife is also from the Denver area. Look for the article on Gotham Greens in the December issue of the *Front Porch*.



Construction on the greenhouse for Gotham Greens, located just north of Stanley Marketplace, is proceeding quickly.

itself. The issue is, this land needs to be protected... If a concrete residential commercial development is put here, you can never reclaim this space. It's gone...Can you imagine New York City without Central Park?"

The statute SOS believes will protect the Park Hill land, HB 19-1264, describes the process for terminating a conservation easement. "If it is determined that conditions on or surrounding

a property...change so that it becomes impossible to fulfill its conservation purposes...a court...may, at the request of both the owner of property... and the holder of the conservation easement, terminate... the conservation easement."

The SOS group points

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November and Early December Events

NE DENVER/NW AURORA EVENTS

11/1 Friday—Food Truck Rodeo. 11am–2pm. Aurora Municipal Center, 15151 E. Alameda Pkwy, Aurora. Auroragov.org/events

11/5 to 12/5—20th Annual Festival of Wreaths. Benefiting the Aurora Museum Foundation. View at 4 locations including The Stanley Marketplace, stanleymarketplace.com

11/9 Saturday—Bill Roberts Fun Run. 9am check-in and registration, 10am start time. 1 mile or 5K. Family food and fun. 2100 Akron Way. To register or sign-up to volunteer, go to billroberts.dspk12.org/fun-run

11/15 Thursday—Active Minds: Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe's history as a former British Colony, the nominally independent country of Rhodesia, and a 15 year civil war involving complicated race relations. Free. 1–2pm. activeminds.com. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. denverlibrary.org

11/19 Tuesday—GSBA Monthly Meeting. 8–9am. Network, present your business, learn about other members' businesses, or stuff Welcome Bags. stapletoncommunity.com. 7350 E 29th Ave #300.

business.com. 7350 E 29th Ave #300.

11/20 Wednesday—Contempt, Division and (re)Finding Humanity during the Election Season. Presented by The Conflict Center. 6:30–7:30pm. activeminds.com. Park Hill Library, 4705 Montview Blvd. denverlibrary.org

11/21 Thursday—Active Minds: Space Exploration - From the Moon Landing to Today and Beyond. The space race, the Apollo Mission, and the role NASA has played since the lunar landing. Free. 6:30–7:30pm. activeminds.com. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. denverlibrary.org

11/22 Friday—Winter Welcome. 6–8pm. Fire pits, s'mores, food trucks and more. Many events require tickets for sale at the MCA ticket booth. 29th Ave Town Center. stapletoncommunity.com

11/22 to 1/2—Camp Christmas. Tickets start at \$8. All ages. Over-the-top indoor immersive installation turns the holiday spirit all the way up. denvercenter.org. The Hangar at Stanley Marketplace, 2501 Dallas St, Aurora.

Visit our online calendar to view more events. Events submitted by the 17th of the month are considered for printing as space allows. FrontPorchNE.com > Events

11/25 Sunday—Sam Gary Literary Book Club. 2pm. November Title: *Educated: A Memoir*, by Tara Westover. denverlibrary.org. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St.

11/30 Saturday—Break the Ice. Street party with aerial & ice skating performances, character meet & greets, skate with Santa and more. 4:30–6:30pm. northfieldstapleton.com. The Shops at Northfield Stapleton.

To 11/30—Guardian Storage Winter Coat and Sock Drive. Collecting gently used coats and new socks. guardianstorage.com. 3633 North Walden Cir, Aurora.

12/3 Tuesday—City of Aurora Holiday Tree Lighting. 5–7pm. Aurora Municipal Center. auroragov.org

CIVIC MEETINGS/ EVENTS

11/13 Wednesday—LUN (Lowry United Neighborhoods) Quarterly Meeting. Time to talk trash with Megan Lane, Denver Recycling Program and Community Resource Officer on Holiday Safety. Eisenhower Chapel, 293 Roslyn St. lowryunitedneighborhoods@gmail.com

11/21 Thursday—New High Comfort Bikeway: Central Park Boulevard from Montview Boulevard to 36th Avenue Public Meeting. Central Park Rec Center, 5:30–7pm. denvergov.org/bikeprogram

METRO EVENTS

11/1 Friday—First Friday Art Walks. Santa Fe Arts District, Tennyson Art Walk, River North (RiNo) Art District, Golden Triangle Museum, Navajo Street Art District. denver.org/things-to-do/denver-arts-culture/denver-art-districts

11/2 Saturday—Pioneering on the Platte. Free celebration of Denver history. 11am–2pm. Pan for gold, listen to Native American stories, make crafts, and take photos at our Western photo-booth. Grant Frontier Park, 2300 South Platte River Dr. thegreenwayfoundation.org

11/2 Saturday—Día de los Muertos Celebration. Mexican celebration remembers deceased loved ones. 9am–3pm. Free with admission. Denver Botanic Gardens, York St. botanicgardens.org

11/2–11/3—Urban Holiday Market. 11am–6pm. Skyline Park, 1100 16th St. Mall. coloradoevents.net

11/3 Sunday—Womxn's March Denver Fundraiser: Movie Night and Happy Hour. Showing of the new documentary *Raise Hell: the Life and Times of Molly Ivins*. 3pm. womxnsmarchdenver.org. Drafthouse Theatre, Sloans Lake 4255 W Colfax Ave.

11/8 to 11/10—Junior League Mile High Holiday Mart. Gates Field House, Univ. of Denver, 2201 E. Asbury Ave., Denver. Hours vary. JLD.org

11/8 to 11/10—International Gem & Jewelry Show Denver. A variety of gems, beads, and jewels from all across the globe. Denver Mart. For hours, rules and discounted tickets: intergem.com

11/9—Denver Veterans Day Parade & Festival. Parade starting at Colfax & Bannock and ending at Civic Center Park, 10am–12pm. Festival follows till 3pm. denerveteransday.com

11/9 Saturday—Rock-A-Belly Festival. 6–10pm. Tickets \$50. Tastings from top restaurants, breweries, distilleries & live music. Tivoli Student Union, 900 Auraria Pkwy. food-forthoughtdenver.org

11/13 Wednesday—Colorado "I Have A Dream" Foundation 31st Annual Gala. Saluting the achievements of individuals who "Dream it...Achieve

it!" and pave the way for others. Denver Center for Performing Arts. 1350 Arapahoe St. 303.861.5005

11/13 Wednesday—Jewish Colorado Presents: Men's Event Boots and BBQ. National Western Complex Event Center. jewishcolorado.org

11/15 to 11/16—Kicker Monster Truck. Featuring Bigfoot. Fri. show at 7:30pm, Sat. at 2pm and 7:30pm. Tickets at ticketswest.com. kickermonstertruck.com. National Western Events Center.

11/15 to 11/17—33rd Annual Holiday Food & Gift Festival. Hundreds of local artisans and vendors. Meet Santa Claus. Fri. 10am–7pm, Sat. 10am–6pm, Sun. 10am–5pm. \$3 coupon in this month's paper. hfgf.com. National Western Complex.

11/16 Saturday—TEDxMileHigh: Imagine. All day events 9:30am–10pm. Bellco Theater. Tickets at tedxmilehigh.com

11/21 to 11/23—Denver Botanic Garden's Winter Gift Market. Thursday, 4–8pm, Friday & Saturday, 9am–6pm. Free gardens & market admission. 1007 York St. 720-865-3500. botanicgardens.org

11/22 to 12/23—Denver Christkindl Market. Authentic German holiday experience. Shopping for artisan gifts and a heated Festival Hall. ChristkindlMarketDenver.com. Skyline Park-16th Street Mall and Arapahoe St.

11/23 to 11/24—World Gift Market. Unique fair-trade and eco-friendly gifts that let you give twice. Sat. 9am–4pm, Sun. 9am–2pm. First Universalist Church of Denver, 4101 E Hampden Ave. firstplymouthchurch.org

11/23 to 11/24—Sugar Plum Bazaar. A makers market featuring over 120 vendors from multiple states. 10am–5pm. The Denver Mart. sugarplumbazaar.com

11/27 Wednesday—Thanksgiving Eve Community Worship. Followed by the 40th annual pie fest. Donate cans of chili to stock local food pantries. 7pm. augustanadenver.org. 5000 E. Alameda Ave.

11/30 to 12/1—Horseshoe Holiday Market. All things handmade, vintage, art, and design. 10am–5pm. Highlands Masonic Temple 3550 Federal Blvd. horse-shoemarket.com

To 12/6—Denver Leaf Drop 2019. Weekday and weekend drop sites. 5 pack of 30 gallon leaf bags at Denver ACE Hardware stores. Dates times and locations at DenverGov.org or call 311.

HEALTH, WELLNESS, FITNESS

11/3 Sunday—Fall Fest 5k, Bolder Boulder qualifying event. Race/walk in memory of Luke Wyatt Morin. Proceeds go to Children's Hospital Colorado to support research for DIPG. Central Park, 9651 E. Martin Luther King Jr Blvd. runsignup.com/Race/CO/Denver/GoddardFallFest5k

11/10 Sunday—Denver Veterans Day 5K and 10K. 8am. City Park. denerveteransday.com

11/10 Sunday—Colorado HAL (Healthy Active Living) Run. Washington Park. 10am–12pm. coloradohalrun.com

11/10 Sunday—AWAKE Day of Mindfulness. One-day mindful living retreat includes, mindful meditation, gentle asana, dharma talks, a mindful lunch and more. awakeexperience.com. 1195 Newport St.

11/16 Saturday—Pumpkin Pie 5K/10K. City Park. 8:45am. pumpkinpie5k.com

(continued on page 22)



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Stapleton Pediatrics

HEALTH, WELLNESS, FITNESS

(continued from page 21)

11/28 Thursday—5th Annual Stanley Harvesting Hope Turkey Trot. Family friendly. Featuring a professionally timed 5K & 10K and free kids fun run. harvestinghope5k.com. Stapleton Central Park, 8801 M.L.K. Jr Blvd.

11/28 Thursday—46th Annual Mile High United Way Turkey Trot. Washington Park, 10:15am. unitedwaydenver.org/turkey-trot

KIDS AND FAMILIES

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

Every Thursday—Star K Kids. 9:30 and 11am; kids 5 and under. Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E. Smith Rd., Aurora. auroragov.org

Every Saturday—Little University. 10:30–11am. Various kids' programming, changes weekly. Schlessman Library, 100 Poplar St. denverlibrary.org

Baby, Toddler & Preschool story-time. Denver Library. Various locations, times and days. Details at denverlibrary.org/events.

11/2 Saturday—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. homedepot.com

11/3 Sunday—Halloween Spooktacular. Boettcher Concert Hall. This family-favorite concert features music from films, television, and more. 2:30pm. Adults \$27, children \$10. coloradosymphony.org

11/6 Wednesday—Firehouse Tales for Tots. Free with general admission. 11am–12pm. Denver Firefighters Museum, 1326 Tremont Pl. denverfirefightersmuseum.org

11/10 Sunday—Jr. Rangers. 1:30–3pm; kids 6–12. Signs of Animals. Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E. Smith Rd., Aurora. auroragov.org

11/13 Wednesday—Create Playdate: Drop-in Artmaking Program for Kids 3–5. 10am–1pm. Tots and their grownups enjoy story time, art making, and more. Denver Art Museum, 100 W 14th Ave. Pkwy. denverartmuseum.org

11/19 Tuesday—Little Wings: Let's be Engineers. 9–10am. Ages 2–4. With one adult. \$1 off admission. Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum, 7711 East Academy Blvd. wingsmuseum.org

11/23 to 11/24—Bunk with the Beasts at the Denver Zoo. Kids and family will enjoy dinner, hot cocoa and crafts and a variety of activities that explore how animals survive even the coldest of winters. 2300 Steele St. 720-337-1400. denverzoo.org

11/24—Fourth Sundays at Four Mile Historic Park. Explore and enjoy story time and a craft for the youngsters. Adults \$7, youth (7-17) \$5, under 6 free. Get here early! 715 S Forest St. fourmilepark.org

11/25 Monday—Teen Movie Night. Grades 6–12. Free. Denver Museum of Nature and Science, 2001 Colorado Blvd. dmns.org

11/25 to 11/26—Urban Animals: SPREE Holiday Camp. Learn with SPREE the different urban animals that call our City and the South Platte River their home. Campers may attend either or both days. thegreenwayfoundation.org. 610 S Jason St.

11/25 to 11/26—Give Thanks Art Camp. Choose one or both days. Children will use art to remember what they are thankful for. neighborhoodartstudio.com. Neighborhood Art Studio, 4890 Ironton St. Unit 6A.

11/25 to 11/29—Thanksgiving Break Week at the Denver Art Museum. Free general admission for kids every day includes hands-on artmaking and more. denverartmuseum.org. 100 W. 14th Ave. Pkwy.

11/29 Friday—Home Alone in Concert. Boettcher Concert Hall. Hilarious and heartwarming holiday fun for the entire family. Tickets start at \$15. coloradosymphony.org

To 12/1—Denver Puppet Theater. Hansel and Gretel. 3156 W. 38th Ave. denverpuppettheater.com

To 12/29—Ella Enchanted. A captivating tale for children and adults of all ages. Tickets \$9–\$13. Main Stage. 6901 Wadsworth Blvd. Arvada. arvadacenter.org

LECTURES, CLASSES, INFORMATIONAL EVENTS

11/5 Tuesday—World War I: The Great War. The hundred year anniversary of the end of World War I, the "war to end all wars." Free. 10–11am. activeminds.com. Jewish Community Center, 350 S Dahlia St.

11/6 Wednesday—Bold Women. Change History. Lecture Series. Maria Hinojosa, Emmy-Winning Journalist. Complimentary childcare. 1200 Broadway. historycolorado.org

11/17 Sunday—An Evening with Journalist Ari Melber. Host of MSNBC's "The Beat with Ari Melber" comes to the JCC Mizel Arts and Culture Center's Jewish Arts, Authors, Movies and Music Festival (JAAMM). jccdenver.org. 350 S. Dahlia St.

MUSEUMS

11/1—Cultural First Friday: Día de los Muertos. 4–9pm. Museo de las Americas, 861 Santa Fe Dr. museo.org

11/3 Sunday—Cockpit Demo Day. 10am–2pm, Wings over the Rockies Museum, Lowry. wingsmuseum.org

To 1/12/20—Still: Elemental. Exhibition features multisensory experiences to engage visitors' emotions. Clifford Still Museum, 1250 Bannock St. clyffordstillmuseum.org

Tuesday–Sunday—Aurora History Museum. 15051 E. Alameda Pkwy, Aurora. auroragov.org

11/1 to 11/9—Denver Arts Week. 9 day celebration of all things art in The Mile High City, featuring more than 300 events at a wide variety of art galleries, museums, theaters and concert halls, many of which are deeply discounted. More info at denver.org/denver-arts-week/

11/2—Free Night at the Museums. Many museums open late and admission free 5–10pm. Details at: denver.org/denver-arts-week/free-night-at-the-museums

11/2—Denver Art Museum Free SCFD Saturday. Free for kids 18 and younger every day. Denver Art Museum, 100 W 14 Ave Pkwy. 720-865-5000, denverartmuseum.org

11/2 Saturday—Clifford Still Museum Free Day. 10am–10pm. 1250 Bannock St. clyffordstillmuseum.org

11/5 Tuesday—The Children's Museum Free Evening. 4–8pm. mychildsmuseum.org

11/8 Friday—Denver Zoo SCFD Free Day. 2300 Steele St. denverzoo.org

11/8 Friday—Four Mile Historic Park SCFD Free Day. 715 S. Forest St. fourmilepark.org

11/10 Sunday—Music in the Galleries: Roma Ransom. Listen to live performances surrounded by Clyfford Still's vibrant paintings with Roma Ransom. clyffordstillmuseum.org. 1250 Bannock St.

11/11 Monday—Denver Botanic Gardens SCFD Free Day. 1007 York St. botanicgardens.org

11/17 Sunday—Denver Museum of Nature & Science SCFD Free Day. 2001 Colorado Blvd. dmns.org

11/21 Thursday—Plains Conservation Center SCFD Free Day. 21901 E. Hampden Ave., Aurora. botanicgardens.org

12/3 Tuesday—The Children's Museum Free Evening. 4–8pm. mychildsmuseum.org

Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St, Aurora.

11/2 to 12/15—The Thanksgiving Play. A wickedly funny satire. 1080 Acoma St. curious theatre.org

11/6 to 11/17—The Phantom of The Opera. A spectacular new production. Tickets start at \$45. denvercenter.org. Buell Theatre, 1350 Curtis St.

11/8 Friday—Mozart Symphony No. 40. Boettcher Concert Hall. Tickets start at \$15. coloradosymphony.org

11/9 Saturday—Hunchback of Notre Dame Silent Film Comes to Life with Organ Improv. Organist Peter Krasinski accompanies the silent film. augustanaarts.org. 5000 E Alameda Ave.

To 11/9—Mrs. Warren's Profession by George Bernard Shaw. germinalstage.com. John Hand Theater, 7653 E. 1st Pl.

11/10 Sunday—The Mac-cabets a cappella group. More than 20 million views on YouTube, numerous TV appearances, and proven success with four albums. jccdenver.org. JCC Mizel Arts and Culture Center, 350 S. Dahlia St.

To 11/10—Denver International Film Festival. 200+ films, panels, workshops and more. denverfilmfestival.org

To 11/10—Plaza Suite. A comedy in three acts by Neil Simon. Black Box Theater. 6901 Wadsworth Blvd. Arvada. arvadacenter.org

11/15 to 11/16—Stripped. Traci Kern shares songs and stories in her cabaret. Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E. Colfax Ave. aurorafoxartscenter.org

11/15 to 12/22—Shakespeare's Twelfth Night. Denver Center for the Performing Arts. Space Theatre, Speer Blvd & Arapahoe St. denvercenter.org

11/20 Wednesday—Charlie Foxtrot: Comedy at Stanley. A new monthly comedy show every 3rd Wednesday at 8pm. Stanley Marketplace, stanleymarketplace.com

11/22 to 12/22—A Christmas Carol: The Musical. Main Stage Theater. 6901 Wadsworth Blvd. Arvada. arvadacenter.org

To 11/23—The Necromancer's Stone. When a boy's uncle goes missing, he begs the Voodoo queen for her help. bitsystage.com. The Bitsy Stage, 1137 S. Huron.

11/23 to 11/24—The Hip Hop Nutcracker. Tickets start at \$20. denvercenter.org. The Buell Theatre, 1385 Curtis St.

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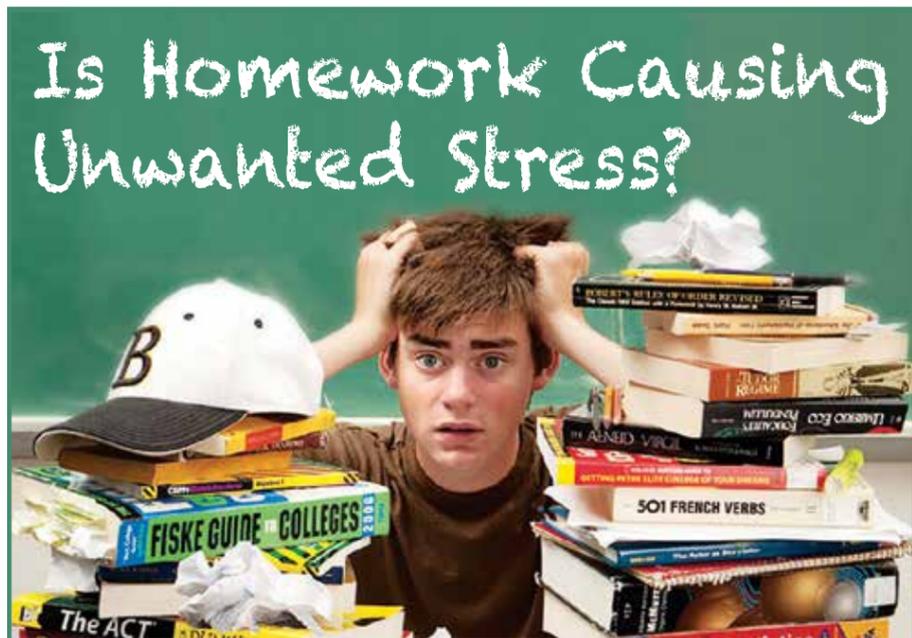
MUSEUM FREE DAYS

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

PERFORMANCE/THEATRE

11/1 to 11/16—And Toto too Theatre Company presents Charlie's Waiting. Producing plays by women playwrights. 1245 Champa St. andtototoo.org

11/1 to 12/15—Looped. A comedy by Matthew Lombardo. vintagetheatre.org.



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11/23 to 12/22—Calendar Girls. Based on the Miramax motion picture by Juliette Towhidi and Tim Firth. Fri. & Sat. 7:30pm, Sun. 2pm. firehousetheatercompany.com. John Hand Theater, 7653 1st Pl.

To 11/24—A Doll's House Performed in repertory with A Doll's House, Part 2. Tickets start at \$30. Ages: 16+. Follow two acclaimed playwrights' distinctive takes on one woman's journey to self-discovery. denvercenter.org. Ricketson Theatre, 1050 13th St.

11/29 to 12/22—The Second City's Twist Your Dickens. Season-

al satire that's never the same thing twice. Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E. Colfax Ave. aurorafox-artscenter.org

11/30 to 12/29—The Nutcracker. Colorado Ballet's acclaimed Nutcracker returns for its 59th year. Ellie Caulkins Opera House. coloradoballet.org

To 2/16—Goodnight Moon. Tickets start at \$16. Ages: PreK-2nd grade. The beloved bedtime story comes to life on stage for a whimsical musical adventure. denvercenter.org. Randy Weeks Conservatory Theatre, 1101 13th St.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

11/16 Saturday—Volunteers of America Rake Up Colorado. 17th Annual Rake Up Colorado Volunteers are needed to assist limited income seniors by raking leaves throughout Adams, Arapahoe, Denver, Douglas and Jefferson counties. Call 303-264-3334 or voacolorado.org

11/22 to 11/23—2019 Denver Feed a Family Thanksgiving Distribution. Set-up and/or day of distribution volunteers needed. To donate or help, sign-up at epworthfoundation.org

Every third Saturday—Volunteering Orientation 9-10am. Urban Farm at Stapleton offers opportunities for individuals and families. RSVP: theurbanfarm.wufoo.com/forms/zia2rpb0ou3ewl. 10200 Smith Rd.

Mentoring high-performing, low-income students. Minds Matter is recruiting our next class of college access mentors to help high-performing, low-income high school. mindsmatter-denver.org

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. ronald-house.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. 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, befriend refugee neighbors. 1609 Havana St., 720-460-1393

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SUN Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month from 6:30-8:30pm; a break at 7:30pm allows attendees to depart after an hour, though all are welcome to stay until the end. Meetings are held at Central Park Recreation Center, 9651 MLK Jr. Blvd. For information about SUN, visit www.stapletonunitedneighbors.com. To contact SUN, email stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com

Stapleton Elementary Choice: Change from Proximity Buckets to Proximity Zones?

Denver Public Schools approached SUN this fall to determine the amenability to a conversation about shifting from proximity buckets to proximity zones for the elementary school choice process for the Stapleton enrollment zone. In both systems, the community is segmented into proximity regions near each school that do not overlap and include all homes in Stapleton. In the current system of proximity buckets, after filling high-priority seats (e.g. current students, siblings, children of staff), 25% of remaining seats are first filled by residents in the proximity region for an elementary school. If demand in the proximity region exceeds the 25% available seats, residents in the proximity region with lower lottery numbers are queued with the remainder of the Stapleton enrollment zone to fill the remaining seats. In the proximity zone approach, after filling high-priority seats, the proximity region would fill remaining seats; after which remaining seats would be open to the rest of the Stapleton enrollment zone. Under the proximity zone approach (in contrast with a traditional boundary approach), a

November SUN News

resident in a proximity region would not be guaranteed a seat at the corresponding elementary school if demand from the proximity region exceeds the available number of seats. Using choice numbers from 2019, residents in the proximity region for Willow would have exceeded the number of seats available and Swigert would have come close. DPS's motivation for considering a change from buckets to zones includes 1) that Stapleton's choice process works differently from the rest of the district, 2) the process is difficult to execute, and 3) the process is challenging to explain and seems to lack transparency.

Would proximity zones lead to more inequity in the future?

After a presentation by Jim Carpenter from Denver Public Schools at the October 15th SUN meeting, implications of a potential change from buckets to zones were discussed. SUN board members expressed concerns that a shift from buckets to zones would fundamentally change the character of the community. As has been seen in other regions, boundaries would in time produce inequity within the community; such a change with rippling effects in the direction of inequity was deemed unacceptable.

An alternative: Increase capacity to make space for students in adjacent boundaries?

Alternative approaches to meeting the community's demand for specific programs were discussed. Willow elementary shares a campus with DSST Conservatory Green Middle School, which has low enrollment from the Greater Park Hill Stapleton Middle school zone (25%), with 58% of students in 2018-19 having come from the far northeast, and 9% from outside of Denver public schools (e.g. Commerce City or Aurora). SUN encouraged DPS to eliminate campus sharing at Willow with DSST CG to allow for more capacity for the community's expressed demand for the program at Willow. In this context and in general, due to the challenges of campus sharing, SUN asked for DPS to focus effort on eliminating the practice of campus sharing as the community reaches build-out. Increased capacity at elementary schools would meet demands now, and allow flexibility in the long run for students from adjacent boundaries similar to that in place at Northfield High School (where 35% of seats are for students from adjacent boundaries).

SUN Recommendations

SUN asked DPS to have a conversation broader than buckets->zones, about meeting the community's programming preferences. SUN recommended an additional elementary school north of I-70, a free-standing middle school south and north of I-70, and a plan for allowing Northfield High School to fill out the entire Sandoval campus. SUN noted that an elementary school zone division at I-70 would be appropriate to consider in the future, with community input, but not presently with only two options on the north side.

Mr. Carpenter suggested focusing facility use and capacity considerations into the 2020 bond process through the Community Planning and Advisory Committee (CPAC). When census data from 2020 are available, DPS would like to revisit the conversation around splitting zones at I-70.

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NE Denver SPF Scores – No Surprise, Academic Performance Tracks with Affluence

COMMENTARY

By Carol Roberts, Publisher

If you have a child in one of these DPS schools, the first score you looked for was likely your own child or grandchild's school. Lacking any of those you probably looked first at the closest school. Humans are wired to instinctively care for their own family and "tribe"—those closest to us.

We printed demographic information about each school along with the School Performance Framework (SPF) scores in hopes that after checking on the education health of your immediate tribe, you will look more closely at the education health of your broader tribe—North-east Denver. (And, as it happens, Northeast Denver is a pretty good representation of the country.)

These schools aren't listed alphabetically or by grade level. They are sorted according to percent of students who get Free or Reduced Lunch. NE Denver's education health report has the same problem that plagues the country. With few exceptions (and DSST is the exception here), the higher performing schools are the ones with a greater number of affluent students.

Whether you agree or disagree with the specifics of DPS's SPF criteria, we can all agree our NE Denver community, our state and our nation would be healthier for all of us if all children succeed academically. Kids from more affluent families start school with life experiences that give them an academic head start—and then affluent parents bring their fiscal and social capital to their kids'

School Name	Enrollment	SPF Rating	Academic Gaps	Student Progress - Growth	Student Achievement - Status	Family and Student Engagement & Satisfaction	% Free and Reduced Lunch	% Students Of Color	% English Language Learners	% Special Education	OVERALL RATING SCALE
Manual HS	299	Accredited on Probation 29.5%	39.5%	34.3%	12.9%	57.1%	87.6%	96.3%	35.1%	23.1%	Distinguished (79.5 to 100%)
Smith Elementary	387	Accredited on Watch 44.6%	45.4%	49.1%	35.0%	20.8%	86.6%	91.7%	36.4%	15.5%	
Hallett Academy	217	Accredited on Probation 25.8%	no score	27.8%	2.2%	37.5%	84.3%	96.8%	6.0%	18.9%	Meets Expectations (50.5 to 79.49%)
Ashley Elementary	365	Accredited on Watch 45.7%	49.3%	50.9%	36.4%	33.3%	81.6%	86.3%	37.0%	9.3%	
Montclair Academics/Enrichment	413	Accredited on Watch 41.5%	40.0%	42.4%	38.9%	41.7%	75.5%	78.7%	35.6%	7.5%	Accredited on Watch (39.5 to 50.49%)
DSST: Montview MS	477	Meets Expectations 70.6%	66.1%	67.4%	79.3%	58.3%	71.3%	85.3%	43.6%	9.4%	
Monarch Montessori	212	Accredited on Priority Watch 36.4%	29.8%	41.2%	16.5%	58.3%	70.3%	85.8%	39.6%	8.5%	Accredited on Priority Watch (33.5 to 39.49%)
DSST: Conservatory Green MS	470	Meets Expectations 64.6%	60.6%	68.6%	54.9%	44.4%	64.7%	86.6%	48.3%	10.4%	
Denver Discovery Sch	264	Accredited on Probation 27.7%	23.3%	31.8%	20.7%	5.6%	60.6%	75.0%	23.1%	12.5%	Accredited on Probation (0 to 33.49%)
McAuliffe Manual MS	337	Accredited on Priority Watch 39.2%	37.2%	42.6%	32.9%	11.1%	60.5%	71.5%	22.8%	15.1%	
DSST: Conservatory Green HS	305	Distinguished 83.4%	79.8%	75.6%	100.0%	96.4%	56.7%	85.6%	44.6%	8.9%	Accredited on Probation (0 to 33.49%)
Stedman Elementary	313	Accredited on Priority Watch 33.7%	28.7%	43.6%	14.4%	33.3%	55.6%	68.7%	12.5%	13.1%	
DSST: Montview HS	582	Meets Expectations 72.3%	67.8%	61.3%	93.6%	64.3%	55.0%	75.6%	37.3%	8.4%	Accredited on Probation (0 to 33.49%)
Lowry Elementary	520	Accredited on Watch 49.1%	41.7%	52.6%	36.8%	58.3%	52.3%	60.8%	17.9%	8.8%	
Hill Campus of Arts & Sciences	850	Accredited on Watch 49.1%	34.4%	52.5%	34.2%	61.1%	50.2%	59.4%	22.2%	11.9%	Accredited on Probation (0 to 33.49%)
George Washington HS	1,174	Accredited on Watch 40.4%	27.3%	25.8%	45.5%	53.6%	49.9%	65.0%	29.6%	9.3%	
Northfield HS	825	Accredited on Watch 45.6%	35.7%	37.9%	40.4%	60.7%	42.4%	63.6%	24.7%	8.2%	Accredited on Probation (0 to 33.49%)
East HS	2,603	Accredited on Watch 60.2%	43.8%	45.6%	59.6%	71.4%	30.6%	50.7%	14.4%	5.5%	
Odyssey Sch of Denver	234	Meets Expectations 66.7%	68.5%	72.1%	55.4%	66.7%	28.6%	47.4%	7.3%	7.3%	Accredited on Probation (0 to 33.49%)
Isabella Bird Community School	524	Accredited on Watch 56.3%	50.0%	59.7%	45.2%	58.3%	27.9%	41.6%	14.3%	7.3%	
Inspire Elementary	183	Meets Expectations 59.6%	50.0%	83.3%	56.3%	50.0%	25.1%	42.6%	6.0%	6.6%	Accredited on Probation (0 to 33.49%)
McAuliffe International Sch	1,420	Distinguished 89%	84.0%	89.8%	85.4%	72.2%	17.8%	36.1%	7.3%	6.2%	
Denver Language Sch	823	Meets Expectations 75.4%	80.8%	81.4%	64.2%	56.7%	16.5%	51.2%	11.9%	3.2%	Accredited on Probation (0 to 33.49%)
Willow Elementary	622	Meets Expectations 58.5%	55.8%	55.3%	59.9%	62.5%	15.3%	37.5%	8.8%	9.6%	
Park Hill School	721	Meets Expectations 68.5%	62.7%	63.1%	79.6%	66.7%	14.6%	27.3%	3.7%	9.8%	Accredited on Probation (0 to 33.49%)
William (Bill) Roberts ECE-8	924	Meets Expectations 79.4%	76.5%	78.4%	82.1%	70.0%	13.0%	27.7%	6.0%	8.4%	
Denver School of the Arts	1,097	Distinguished 80%	79.5%	69.1%	97.4%	62.5%	10.1%	31.4%	6.9%	2.5%	Accredited on Probation (0 to 33.49%)
Westerly Creek Elementary	726	Meets Expectations 71.1%	65.3%	63.3%	85.2%	83.3%	9.6%	30.3%	5.8%	11.4%	
Swigert International School	571	Meets Expectations 63.9%	67.9%	45.8%	86.9%	95.8%	6.5%	24.3%	4.4%	5.4%	Accredited on Probation (0 to 33.49%)

schools, further widening the opportunity and academic gaps between kids at more and less affluent schools.

Mixing up the zip codes, providing schools with additional resources, sharing resources

among schools, respecting and appreciating cultural differences—these, and more, are all pieces that can improve education health. As individuals, families, schools and neighborhoods in NE Denver, let's

look beyond our immediate tribes and be part of improving the education health of this slightly larger tribe we all belong to.

For information about the SPF ratings visit <https://spf.dpsk12.org/en/spf-ratings/>

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By Laurie Dunklee

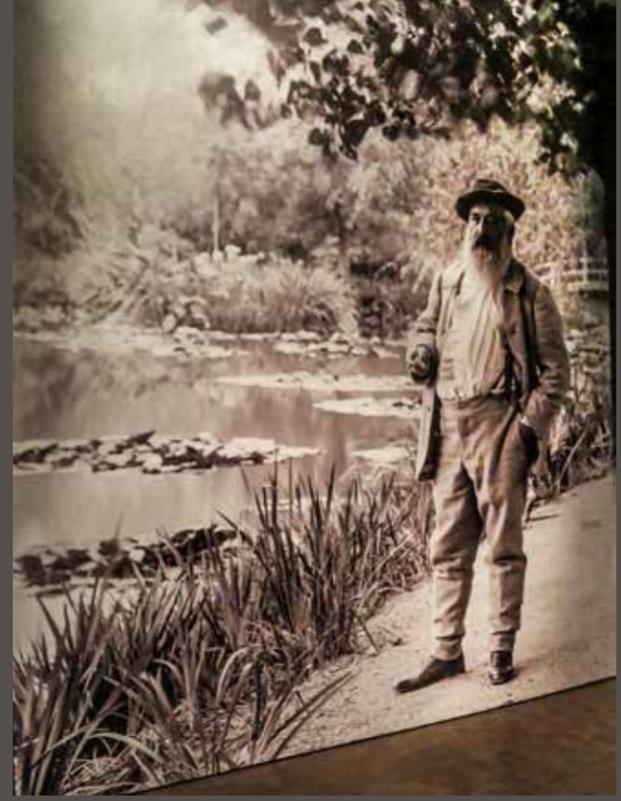
"Above all, I wanted to be truthful and exact," Claude Monet wrote about his painting. "He felt that to understand a subject, he needed to look at it every day and paint it from the same spot—to grasp the tone and spirit—the truth—of a place," said Angelica Daneo, the Denver Art Museum's curator of European art before 1900 and curator of *Claude Monet: The Truth of Nature*, at the museum through Feb. 2, 2020.

The DAM exhibition, featuring 120 paintings, focuses on the famous French Impressionist's relationship with nature and his response to the varied and distinct places he visited. "Visitors will gain a better understanding of Monet's creative process," said Christoph Heinrich, Frederick and Jan Mayer director of the DAM.

Monet (1840-1926) is best known for his



Farmyard in Normandy, 1862-63, one of Monet's early paintings. At age 16 he met artist Eugène Boudin, who became his mentor. Boudin taught Monet "en plein air," the techniques for painting outside.



Charing Cross Bridge, Reflections on the Thames, 1899-1904. "What I like most about London is the fog," Monet wrote. "It assumes all sorts of colors." The painting depicts a misty, impressionistic London, with barges moving slowly and the Houses of Parliament barely visible in the background.

Monet at

landscapes and especially his waterlilies. But early in his career he specialized in caricature drawings of his teachers and other locals in Le Havre, in the Normandy region where he grew up. When he was a teenager, Monet began painting landscapes under his mentor, painter Eugène Boudin. Boudin opened his eyes to light and the love of nature, Monet said. From then on, Monet committed himself to understanding and painting nature. "The richness I achieve comes from nature, the source of my inspiration," he said.

Monet became a master at capturing quickly changing atmospheres, the reflective qualities of water and the effects of light. "Monet was indefatigable in his exploration of the different moods of nature," said Daneo.

The exhibition features several of Monet's most famous Paris scenes, including *Boulevard des Capucines* (1873-74), painted from a vantage point high above the street to convey the energy of the crowds. But his increasing interest in nature led him to abandon any human presence



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Below: Water-Lilies, 1913-14. Monet's earlier waterlilies were realistic but his later representations were indistinct shapes that served to break up the reflections on the water. They show a freer brushwork that anticipates the abstract painting of the Mid-20th Century and inspired painters including Kandinsky.

Left: This photo of Monet shows where he greeted visitors in his garden at Giverny, with its Japanese-style footbridge (background).

Above: Three different views of the Rock Needle on the coast of Normandy (1885-86). Monet's series of the same subject reflected his desire to understand its essence. "One canvas was not enough to grasp the spirit of a thing," said Angelica Daneo, DAM curator of the exhibition.



A gallery of Monet's winter paintings shows how he could transform white into a whole spectrum of colors. During the last years of his life, Monet created his gardens at Giverny, which he then translated onto the canvas. "He not only painted but created his own motif," said Daneo. "His creative process established a unique intimacy with his subject." Monet ordered waterlilies no one had seen before, and he painted them repeatedly. While his earlier water-

lilies were realistic, his later representations show a freer brushwork that anticipated the abstract painting of the Mid-20th Century. "He was an artist in two centuries," said Heinrich. Heinrich said children will enjoy this exhibition and be enriched by it. "They'll experience Monet's respect for nature, which is so important. And it will nourish their love for art, realizing that a painting is not a photograph."

the DAM

in his landscapes, immersing himself in nature. He moved with his family several times farther away from the city, following the Seine River. Monet's paintings of the Seine, many from the same vantage point at different times of day, were the beginning of his focus on series of the same subject. These series included his haystacks, poplar trees, Waterloo Bridge and waterlilies.

The painter's extensive travels inspired many of the paintings featured in the presentation. He wrote that the rugged Normandy coast produced images of the sea with "a sinister and tragic quality." The sunny Mediterranean enchanted him and inspired paintings of villas in bright, jewel-like colors.

Monet labored over his colors, writing, "Color is my day-long obsession, joy and torment. I chase the merest sliver of color...I want to grasp the intangible. Color lasts a second, or several minutes at most. Then they're gone and you have to stop. Ah, how painting makes me suffer!"

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