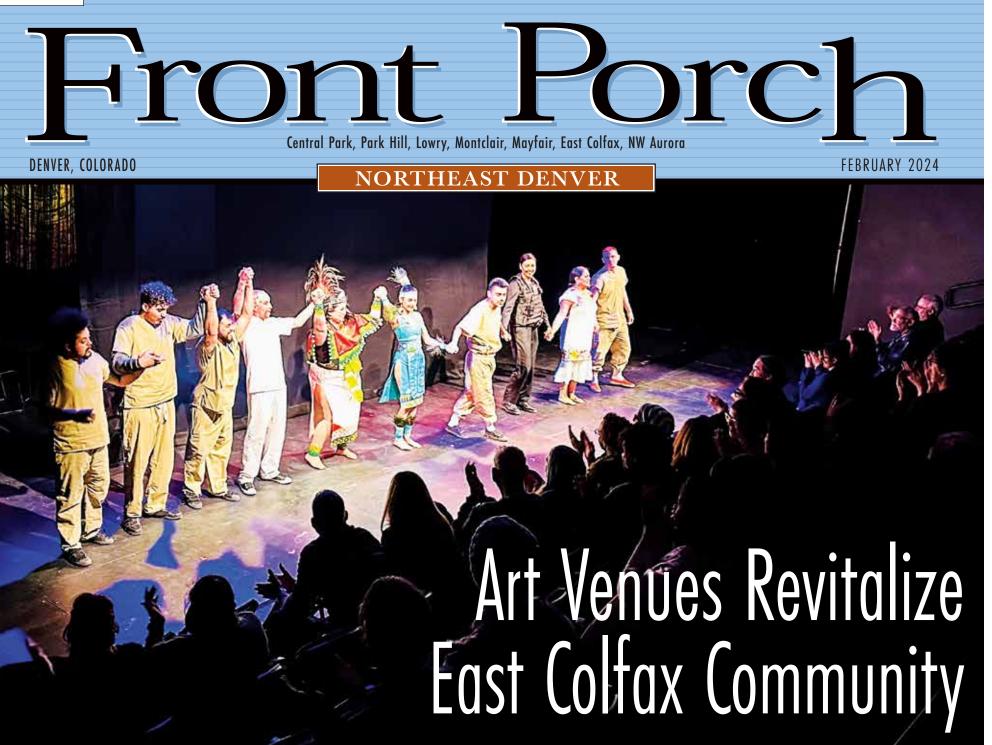


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The People's Building provides theater companies with opportunities to perform in the Aurora Cultural Arts District. The stage hosts plays, symphonies, and comedy shows. This production of Cuauhtemoczin was written by Diego Florez-Aroyo, who is a Denver artist and a band member of Los Mocochetes.

wo venues on East Colfax will complement each other to enhance the Aurora art scene. The People's Building provides a platform for theatrical productions and Manos Sagrados will offer a stage for live music. Both are eager to reflect the diversity of the residents and boost small businesses in the community. Story by Brian Heuberger on page 3.



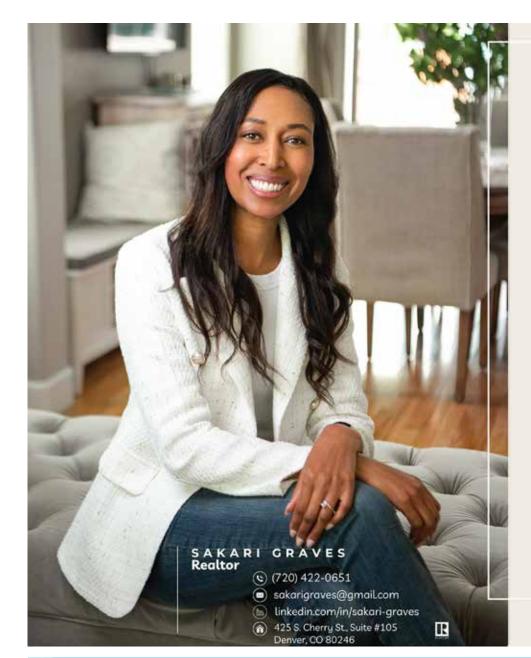
Park Hill Author Inspires Kids to Share



Front Porch photo by Christie Gosch



Sisters Naomi Domkam (left) and Stessy Mezeu (right) recalled stories from their childhood in Cameroon to write a book about sharing. Story by Sarah Huber on page 14.



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- Cappy and Sarah





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Front Porch

USDA

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Art Venues **Revitalize East Colfax Community**

By Brian Heuberger

or the past four years, The People's Building in the Aurora Cultural Arts District on Colfax has featured art exhibits, theatrical performances, and community events. Purchased by the City of Aurora in 2015 and converted into an arts venue, this new life for the building is revitalizing the neighborhood by providing platforms for artists, entertainment and culture for audiences, and foot traffic for businesses. Now a new venue called Manos Sagrados (Sacred Hands), expected to open this spring, will augment the District by offering live music, art studios, and yoga sessions.

The People's Building

"While there is a beautiful art culture in Downtown Denver, Aurora has the added benefit of having some of the most diversity in the state," says Aaron Vega, curator of The People's Building. "When you're reaching into those communities and letting them tell their stories, you end up with art that touches people in a deep way and that teaches us new ways to see the world. You don't have to go downtown



Alicia "Bruce" Trujillo, owner of Manos Sagrados, stands in The People's Building art gallery, which exhibits a new artist every 4-8 weeks. This exhibit is by Kaylee Bender.



The People's Building is located in the Aurora Cultural Arts District at 9995 E Colfax Ave. Since 2019, the venue has featured a wide variety of the atrical performances, art exhibits, and cultural events. Now, a new arts and music venue called Manos Sagrados is preparing to open next door.

to have that experience; you can stay in Aurora and see a work of art in your own backyard that you're going to carry with you for the rest of your life."

The theatrical productions have been especially successful. The venue provides an affordable stage for independent theater companies that produce high-quality productions for audiences. In January, the venue

> showcased *Cuauhtemoczin*, a play that takes place in a prison to represent the restrictions of society, but uses Aztec imagery to tell a journey of self-discovery. In February and March, the stage will host Clink Clink: A Love Story, Disney's Newsies Jr, and Mean Girls: High School Edition.

In selecting plays and theater companies, Vega evaluates whether the stories and mission align with The People's Building. "We also look at whether they will feel like part of the community, produce programming that residents want to see, and bring other folks into this neighborhood."

The People's Building also functions as an art gallery, showcasing paintings in the main lobby and bar area-and as an event venue, hosting community gatherings and cultural celebrations.

Although the East Colfax and NW Aurora neighborhoods have been hampered by poverty and high crime rates, Vega is optimistic that the growing art scene can alleviate those issues and revitalize the community. "The People's Building is a junction between an arts program and economic development, and we're excited to see it happen with independent businesses coming to East Colfax," says Vega. "The arts can change the narrative of the community, drive more traffic to small businesses, and improve the economy without gentrifying the neighborhood or displacing the residents."

Manos Sagrados

Now a live music venue, Manos Sagrados, is preparing to join this mission. Owner Alicia "Bruce" Trujillo says the concept of Sacred Hands represents the transformational power of the organization-one hand creates art and the other provides consulting services for local musicians. Trujillo has spent her career as a director for several Denver radio stations. "I've been involved with different parts of the music industry and I'm interested in a lot of different genres, so it seemed like the next step was to create something that brought together all of my passions and interests," says Trujillo. "I do some work at The People's Building, so when Aaron showed me that the space next door was open, (continued on pg. 5)

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Denver Challenged by Twin Crises of Migrant Influx,

Seeking Solutions for Venezuelan Newcomers

By Martina Will, PhD

The massive influx of migrants from Venezuela and other Latin American countries continues to strain city services. Denver's Deputy Chief of Staff, Evan Dreyer, says the City is currently housing approximately 4,500-5,000 migrants at any given time, and anticipates that the final bill in 2023 for sheltering migrants and providing services will land at about \$45 million. Denver is still waiting on the federal funds of \$9 million that were awarded in 2023. Mayor Mike Johnston was in Washington, D.C. in January for the U.S. Conference of Mayors, where he planned to "shake that tree" as well as advocate for a coordinated solution to Denver's migrant crisis.

"Our funding scenario has forced us to pause," says Dreyer, when asked about a housing subcontract that Dreyer had expected the City would announce in January. "We have to reevaluate what we can afford."



Andrea, a Venezuelan migrant, shows off traditional Venezuelan cuisine, including hallaca (tamale) in banana leaves and quesillo (flan).

At the current level, he says the tab for 2024 could be \$180 million, or about 10 percent of the Denver budget. That far exceeds the amount planned for in the 2024 budget that the City Council unanimously approved in November 2023.

As Denver and other cities await a response from the federal government about better coordinating efforts across the nation and expediting work authorizations for the migrants, Dreyer says Denver is "trying to do this in a balanced manner where we bring the number of folks in shelters down in a way that does not lead to migrants being on the street."

To that end, the City continues to work with the State and non-profits to conduct clinics to get housing applications completed. People displaced from the Zuni encampment, which was razed in January, recently attended a weekend clinic where the City offered support in the form of the first month's rent and a security deposit.

The question remains, however, as to how Denver can sustain these supports as the buses continue to arrive. Dryer affirms that the City's top three issues in conversation with the Biden administration continue to be "the need for national coordination of resettlement, transportation, and funding."

Migrant Marketplace

As the City continues to look for money and solutions, individuals and businesses continue to step up with new ideas. One of the latest has been taking place at Stanley Marketplace.

In January, Stanley opened a vacant retail space on Tuesdays for some of Colorado's Venezuelan newcomers to sell their wares or teach their skills. During a Denver Public School snow day, salsa and bachata music filled the second-floor space while a Venezuelan woman led children in a dance class. Vendors sold everything from dog leashes made of discarded climbing ropes to hallaca, a traditional meat dish wrapped in banana leaves.

Downstairs, "Yupi the Clown" juggled and made balloon animals while wearing a bedazzled costume he created out of clothing foraged from donations. With a university degree in tourism, Jesús (Yupi's real name) hopes to make a life in Denver that puts his education to work, but right now his circus school education from Caracas is proving more valuable.

Volunteer Janesa Lockhart says the initiative began with some local members of a Facebook group (see January's Front *Porch* story) who thought a pop-up shop would allow migrants to earn some income as they navigate the challenges of life in Denver. Though initially conceived as an outdoor venture, when the temperatures dropped, Stanley Marketplace stepped up. Behind each entrepreneur, Lockhart says, are a host of volunteers who helped provide a ride to get supplies, a space to cook, or a variety of other resources.

"Finding Their Way-A Migrant Fundraising Series" will continue as long as the vacant retail space isn't rented. Many residents and migrants hope there can be additional entrepreneurial opportunities. The need will continue, certainly, as Denver's flow of newcomers shows no sign of slowing.

House1000 Meets Goal But Much Work Remains By Mary Jo Brooks

ayor Mike Johnston met his campaign promise to get 1,000 people who were living on the streets into temporary housing by the end of 2023. According to city officials, the House1000 initiative closed ten encampments and placed 1,034 individuals in converted hotels, tiny home micro-communities, or permanent units. More than half of those people were sheltered in Northeast Denver, including in a tiny home village of 50 pallet shelters that opened in late December at 38th Ave. and Peoria St.



Yupi the Clown entertains children at Stanley, making balloon hats for Lennon (left) and Maren (right) Froseth. Front Porch photo by Christie Gosch

Some Northeast Denver residents have raised concerns at town hall meetings that District 8 was bearing too much of the burden of providing temporary shelter.

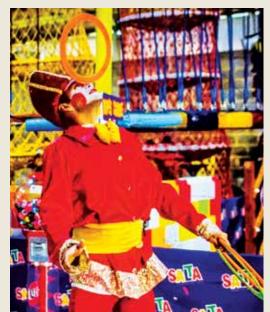
Johnston has pledged that eventually every city council district will have some form of non-congregant temporary housing shelters to meet the burgeoning demand. His goal is to get at least 1,000 additional people off the streets in 2024. Two more tiny home villages are expected to open by the end of February in the Golden Triangle neighborhood and on South Santa Fe Dr.

The Colorado Coalition for the Homeless (CCH) has been helping city officials with the encampment cleanups and in February will begin providing medical services to residents in the micro-communities and converted hotels. Johnston has said that wrap-around services such as medical care, job training, addiction counseling, and mental health services are key to helping people stay off the streets.

Cathy Alderman, public policy officer with CCH, applauds what has been accomplished so far—but says now the real work begins. "I'm proud that the goal was met, but that being said, the next step is really critical: making sure these



Homelessness



Yupi learned circus tricks at clown school in Caracas. Here, he performs in Venezuela. Photo courtesy of Yupi

folks have the opportunity to move into long-term housing."

The mayor has talked about adding 3,000 permanently affordable housing units in the coming year, but it's unclear where he would get the units. Later this summer, CCH will open 216 units of housing by converting a hotel into studio apartments near I-25 and I-70. "Doing these conversions really brings housing to market much sooner than building from the ground up, so we need to think about whether there are other opportunities to do additional conversions like that," says Alderman.



A micro-community with 50 pallet shelters opened on Peoria St. as part of the House 1000 plan. Photo courtesy of the City of Denver





Common Merganser

- More prevalent and slightly larger than Red-breasted
- Smooth top-of-head feathers
- White chest and neck
 - Distinct demarcation of darkcolored head White patch on females' chin
- Length: 21.3–27.9 inches Weight 31.8–76.2 ounces
 - Wingspan: 33.9 inches

Bird Sightings

Generously donated by George Ho

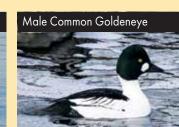
Ducks That Look Alike

During the winter months, Goldeneyes and Mergansers are among the many diving ducks we see in and around Denver, and while they look similar, they also have several distinguishing characteristics.



Red-breasted Merganser

- Shaggy top-of-head feathers
 Busty simplement colored brook
- Rusty cinnamon colored breast on male
- Brown-gray chest on female
 Length: 20.1–25.2 inches Weight: 28.2–47.6 ounces
- Wingspan: 26.0–29.1 inches



Common Goldeneye

- Forehead is smooth and rounded
- White patch below the eye is round
- Wings have slanted white box shapes
- Females have brown heads and gray bodies
- Goldeneyes are smaller than Mergansers
- Length: 15.8–20.1 inches Weight: 21.2–45.9 ounces Wingspan: 30.3–32.7 inches



Barrow's Goldeneye

- Forehead is more steep and triangular
- White patch below the eye is crescent-shaped
 Wings have smaller, more
- subtle white dots
- Females have brown heads and gray bodies
- Length: 16.9–19.1 inches Weight: 20.5–46.6 ounces Wingspan: 27.6–28.7 inches

Bird Walks Feb. 3 and Mar. 2. Two-hour walk starts at 8am. Free, but you must RSVP at blufflake.org/birdwatching. All are welcome. Bring your own binoculars, or borrow a pair from your guide. 11255 MLK Blvd. Search FrontPorchNE.com for "Bird Sightings" to see all the past bird stories and photos from George Ho.

Art Venues Revitalize East Colfax (continued from pg. 3)

it was a natural fit and everything fell into place.

The area has community theater with The Fox and The People's Building, but there's no music venue on that part of East Colfax and that's pretty surprising because music is an amazing industry," says Trujillo.

Reflecting the diversity of the local community is another important goal for Manos Sagrados. Residents in the surrounding neighborhoods represent a wide variety of races, ethnicities, and lifestyles with over 160 languages being spoken in the schools due to the diverse immigrant populations in the area. "The basis of Manos Sagrados came from uplifting different cultures of the community that are typically underrepresented or stifled in the music industry," says Trujillo. "Black, Latin, female, and queer artists are underrepresented groups. Even though they create the foundation for what's popular and what's exciting, they don't get opportunities at a lot of places."

The venue will also feature art studios for painting, recording studios for podcasts, and communal work spaces for creators. Additionally, the venue will host yoga sessions, meditation classes, dance parties, and poetry slams. Trujillo utilized a unique fundraising mechanism to purchase the venue. Although Trujillo qualified for a bank loan, she instead chose to raise money from residents so she could pay the 12.5 percent interest back to the community. Using the Honeycomb Credit platform, she raised more than \$32,000. "It was really good to get the word out about Manos Sagrados and to involve the community in what we're doing because the community is our main focus."

Trujillo is currently working to get the city permits necessary to meet safety codes and accommodate live music and alcohol sales. She hopes to open Manos Sagrados in the spring.







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Front Porch – NE Denver

February 2024

Indoor Lowry Golf Club Offers a Unique Experience



The golf bays at the Hangar Club have larger dimensions than other bays in Colorado. The simulators let guests play tournaments in leagues, take lessons with pros, or just have fun with friends.

By Brian Heuberger

The Hangar Club in Lowry is the latest indoor facility to offer golfers the chance to hone their skills and enjoy the sport no matter what the weather. The Club converted a historic building on the former Lowry Air Force Base into an indoor golf club where guests can play on courses located around the world-without needing to buy plane tickets or pack a suitcase.

The indoor golf club has ten bays with larger dimensions than other bays in Colorado. Each one contains a TrackMan simulator that enables golfers to hit the ball inside the bay and play games on the large screen. TrackMan technology provides the precise distance of the hits, trajectory of the balls, and placements along the holes.

The popularity of indoor golfing has grown rapidly. Colorado has more than 30 facilities, and the National Golf Foundation estimates that more than 6 million people used golf simulators last year-an increase of 73% compared to pre-pandemic levels.

Patrons at the Hangar Club can select from over 230 real golf courses that allow them to play on world-renowned venues, such as Pebble

Beach or St Andrews. Golfers can play in league competitions with 18-hole tournaments, take lessons from pro instructors to improve their skills, or use different settings to practice

The Hangar Club also has a pool table, ping-pong table, and servers to bring guests food or drinks. certain aspects

of the sport. Casual golfers can just gather with friends to enjoy a round of golf. Additionally, the club can host events of all sizes, from large business conferences with hundreds of people to small birthday parties for families and friends.



Anyone can come to the Hangar Club to enjoy the facility and use the amenities. Guests can have cocktails at the central bar, relax in the lounge areas, or watch games on the TVs.

A full bar and kitchen serve wine, local beers, craft cocktails, and food. Private and open lounges are scattered throughout the facility featuring velvet

> couches, plaid wingback chairs, and copper-top tables. "We were methodical in how it was designed, where we put things, and the flow that we created throughout the facility," says Annie Ohman, event

director at the Hangar Club. "The architecture has stood the test of time so we didn't want to manipulate the building too much. The beams, floors, and huge windows are all original."

The 22,000 square-foot facility was built in 1942 in Lowry Field, and it was integral during World War II as the U.S. Army and Air Force used the building to train armorers. With the building operating 24 hours a day to train 55,000 armorers each year, the War Department relied heavily on this Lowry facility. It is now commemorated in the National Register of Historic Places.

Converting such a massive historic building into an indoor golf course was a complicated project that took several years. "We faced a lot of hurdles modernizing a space that has been sitting vacant and that was used for a completely different purpose," explains Ohman, "It's an old building, so we had some hiccups with electrical stuff, external details, finding the right contractors, and then installing the customized features. So it was a difficult task, but making sure we took the time to properly design and execute the project was really important."

Using a golf bay at the Hangar Club costs \$75 per hour, and visitors can book a bay on the website at Hangarclub.co/tee-time.





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ADVENTURE/NATURE

Avid4 Adventure Summer Day Camps. PreK-7th graders learn to bike, hike, rock climb, paddle, and more. All levels. Locations across the CO Front Range. avid4.com

Bluff Lake Nature Center Summer Camp. Weekly camps with different themes for ages 5–12 and a Junior Counselor Program for ages 13-17. Scholarships available. 11255 E MLK Jr. Blvd. blufflake.org/camp24

Shredder Fly-fishing Camps. Half- and full-day camps. 5- or 10-day packs to use for any summer dates. shredderoutdoors.com

SPREE Summer Camps. Three unique themes over six weeks of outdoor adventure for 1st–5th graders.After care and leaders in training programs. Johnson Habitat Park. thegreenwayfoundation.org/summercamp.html

The Urban Farm Summer Camp. Half-day & fullday camps. Ages 4–12. Get outside and grow. Scholarships available. 10200 Smith Rd. theurbanfarm.org

Way Back Weeks @ Four Mile. One week programs, M– F, from 8:30am–1pm with the most activities taking place outdoors on our 12-acre working farm. 1st–5th graders. 715 S. Forest St. fourmilepark.org

ARTS/MUSIC/PERFORMANCE

Apex Parkour Camps. Structured parkour lessons focused on skill development, free training time, and engaging games. Ages 6–15. AM and PM camps. 700 W. Mississippi Ave. apexdenver.com/camps

Apex Performing Arts Collective. A collaborative and educational artistic experience for children and teens ages 4–19. Six camps to choose from. 209 Kalamath St. apexperformingarts.com

Art Garage Camps. Arts-based programs that inspire, empower, and promote creative self-expression. Ages 3–12, half- and full-day options. 6100 E 23rd Ave. Available by lottery, details at artgaragedenver.com

Aurora Arts Education Theater Camps. Create and perform plays based on different themes. Ages 7–18. Central Library, Aurora and Aurora Fox Arts Center, Aurora. More details at auroragov.org/things_to_do/

Ceramics in The City Summer Clay Camps. Ceramics, painting, and pottery wheel. Ages 7 & up. 5214 East Colfax Ave. ceramicsinthecity.com

Craftsman and Apprentice Camps. Creative camps for kids ages 5–11. Many themed options run by experienced arts educators. Aftercare available. 2350 N. Gaylord St. craftsmanandapprentice.com

2024 Camp Guide



CU Denver LYNX National Arts & Music Industry Camps. For high school students in music, audio production, filmmaking, animation, and visual arts. One and two week programs, residential or commuter. artsandmedia.ucdenver.edu/camps

DCPA Summer Acting Classes and Camps. Theatre, movement, improv, and more for children ages 3 to high schoolers, beginner through advanced. denvercenter.org/education

Fashion Factory Design & Sewing Camps. Learn the basics of sewing and design. Ages 7–14. Halfand full- day camps. Stanley Marketplace, 10255 E 25th Ave. Aurora. factoryfashionstanley.com

Girls Create Summer Camps. Writing, Stand-Up, and Fashion Design. 6th–10th grade girls. 3 different camps from 9am–3pm, M–F.Various Denver locations. athenaprojectarts.org/summer-camps

International Summer Dance Institute. All levels of dance plus theatre tech camps for ages 3 and up. Cleo Parker Robinson Dance, 119 Park Ave W. cleoparkerdance.org/academy/#

Junior Chef Summer Camps. Knife skills, cooking techniques, food safety, regional cuisines, and more. Grades 3rd–8th.AM and PM, half-day camps. 2501 Dallas St, Aurora. createkitchenbar.co

Roaming Gnome Theatre and Art Camps. Full-day and half-day sessions, with a different theme each week.Ages 4–14. Before and after care. 10255 E 25th Ave., Unit 5, Aurora. roaminggnometheatre.com

Rocky Mountain Theatre for Kids. A professional theater experience with an in-depth, personal, and holistic perspective. Many options for kids ages 5–17. 3425 S. Broadway, Englewood. theaterforkids.net

School of Rock Summer camps. Camps perfect for musicians of all skill levels who play guitar, bass, drums, keyboard, and vocals. Ages 4–17. 560 S Holly St. schoolofrock.com/music-camps/denver

Talk to the Camera Video & Moviemaking Camps. Video and moviemaking camps, and theater and acting camps. STEAM-based, hands-on curriculum. Ages 6–16. talktothecamera.com/denver-co Wolf Theatre Academy. Develop acting, singing, and dancing techniques in an intensive rehearsal schedule that culminates with performances. Grades 4–12. 350 S. Dahlia St. jccdenver.org/camps/wta

Young Writers Summer Camp. Each workshop is designed to foster creativity, self-expression, and excitement about writing. Full-day, half-day, and intensives. 3844 York St. and virtual. lighthousewriters.org

ATHLETICS/SPORTS

Aerial Dance Summer Camps. Learn aerial silks, trapeze, hoop, and hammock. Half- and full-day camps. Every week starting May 27 through Aug. 16. Ages 6– teen. 4605 Quebec St. aerialcirqueoverdenver.com

Altitude All Sports Flag Football Camp. Improve footwork, game strategy, and understanding the importance of discipline in the game. Ages 9–13, 9am–12pm.Week of July 29. At Central Park. altitudeallsports.com Altitude All Sports Multi-Sport Camp. Ages 4–12, 9am-12pm in two Central Park locations. Soccer, dodgeball, kickball, baseball/tee-ball, and football. 1–4 week options. altitudeallsports.com

Altitude All Sports Tennis Camps. Learn the fundamentals of tennis. Ages 5–10, all skill levels. 9am-12pm at Northfield High School. One or two week options: Jun. 10–14 & Jun. 17–21. altitudeallsports.com

Altitude Youth Ultimate Summer Camp. We play numerous games to develop disc fundamentals for new and experienced players. altitudeyouthultimate.org/play/summer-camps

Bounce Gymnastics Summer Camp. Weekly and half-day gymnastics camps for K–6th grade. 8:30am–12pm or 12:30–4pm. Stanley Marketplace, 2501 Dallas St, Aurora. bouncegymnasticsco.com

CampGrippen Indoor Rock Climbing Camp. Full-day, week-long indoor rock climbing camps. Different themes to choose from. Lunch and snacks included. 8610 E. 21st Ave. ugclimbing.com

Colorado Rapids Youth Soccer Camps. Several different camps for all levels, ages 3–18. Just starting out or hone your skills and get those touches! Several metro Denver locations. rapidsyouthsoccer.org

Dance Institute Camps. Offering week-long half- and full-day camps for ages 4–13.And a 6-week dance intensive for ages 11 and up. 4601 Quebec St. danceinstitutedenver.com

Dardano's Gymnastics Preschool Summer Camp. Ages 3–5½. Gymnastics, enrichment activities, arts & crafts, games, and more. By the day, week, or all full 4-weeks. 2250 Kearney St, dardanosgym.com

Fussbally Soccer Camps. For the competitive soccer player. All sessions have niched topics and are intensive. North sports fields, 10085 E 57th Ave. fussbally.com/2024-summer-camps (continued on pg. 8)

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10% OFF any multi-sport summer camp if you register by Feb. 29. Does not apply to tennis or football camps. Use code FrontPorch10 at checkout.

2024 Camp Guide

Lace 'Em Up Skating Camps. A variety of on-ice and off-ice activities, games, and lessons for students of all abilities. Fullor half-day camps. laceemupskating.com

Mighty Movement Speed and Strength Camps. Get Outside. Work Hard. Have Fun! Half-day indoor/outdoor summer camp for ages 8–16. 2245 Kearney St. mightymovementacademy.com

Nighthawks Soccer Camp. 9am–12pm for rising 5–8th graders. 5:30– 8:30pm for rising 9–12th graders. Week of 7/29. 5500 Central Park Blvd. nighthawkssoccer.com

Northfield Tennis Summer Camps. Technical instruction, drills, games, match play, and fun. Ages 7–13. All levels. Adams City High School. northfieldtennis.com

PGA Junior Golf Camps. Hands-on instruction led by certified PGA professionals.Ages 6–16. Full- and half-day, indoor and outdoor options. pgajuniorgolfcamps.com

Shredder Ski and Snowboarding Camps. Learn to ski/snowboard indoors at our summer camps for ages 3–10. Halfday, full-day, and 5 or 10 packs to schedule later. 4890 Ironton St. shredderski.com

Soccer Electric 10th Annual "Camplify". Week of Jun. 17. 2nd–8th grade.We're teaming up with Sie FilmCenter, Denver East High School, and others. soccerelectric.com/camps.html

Swimming Simply Summer Camp. Full- and half-day camps with personalized swim instruction, yoga, and other fun activities.Ages 4–15. Aurora Central High School. swimmingsimply.com

The Spot Gym Summer Camp. Participants will build climbing skills, confidence, and friendships. Half- and full-day camps. 1235 Delaware St. thespotgym.com DAY CAMPS

Aurora Summer Camps. Many options for every age group, from 18 months to 17 years old. 15151 E Alameda Pkwy, Aurora. auroragov.org/daycamps

Camp Shai at the Staenberg-Loup Jewish Community Center. Day

Camp serving children entering grades K–6. Individuals of all backgrounds, faiths, and families are welcome. 350 S. Dahlia St. jccdenver.org/camps/camp-shai

Commerce City Summer Camp. Weekly camps for ages 6–10, and 11–15. Leader in Training, ages 14–15. Enrichments available. State licensed, low child to staff ratios. Minutes away. c3gov.com/camp

Compositive Primary Summer Camp. Theater, art, business, math, soccer, STEM, field trips, and cooking.Ages 3–11. One week or all six. 2345 North Ursula St, Aurora. compositiveprimary.org

CSU Spur Summer Camps. Rotating summer camp opportunities that combine grade-level learning with hands-on fun in the themes of science, animals, and the arts.Ages 5–18. csuspur.org

Denver Museum of Nature and

Science Camps. Full-day summer camps for kids going into grades K–6. Different themes for different age groups. Scholarship spots. 2001 Colorado Blvd. dmns.org

Discovery Link Summer Camps.

Outdoor programming plus visual and performing arts, sports, science, and cultural exploration. Several DPS locations. Ages 3–12. dpsk12.org/o/equity/page/summer-camps

Dream Big 1-3-6-9 Week Private Traditional Day Camp. Weekly traditional options available in addition to day-tripping options including hiking and specialty camps, half-day sports, and cooking camps. dreambigdaycamp.com

Galileo Camps Colorado. K-10th graders enjoy STEAM-inspired projects,

collaborate with peers, and get active outside. Several Denver area locations. galileo-camps.com

Generation Teach STEAM Acade-

my. No cost, 24-day summer learning program. Engineering, law, math & reading plus arts, sports, games, movement enrichment classes, and field trips. M–F, 8:30am–4pm. For DPS students in 5th–7th grade. Enrollment starts Feb. 15. gtsteam.org

Hands-On History Summer Camp

at the History Colorado Center. 8 weeks of summer camp for ages 6–12. Different weekly themes range from topics of the deep ocean, archaeology, superheroes, and space exploration! 1200 N Broadway. historycolorado.org

International School of Denver

Summer Programs. Your child's ticket to a world of experiences. New programs offered each week, giving you the flexibility to pick and choose the ones that work best for your summer plans. Ages 3–14. 7701 East First Pl. isdenver.org/summer

Montessori Children's House of

Denver. Learning-centered, themebased camps at our Central Park, Mayfair, and Park Hill campuses. Ages 1–12. Built around extended outdoor play and handson, real-world experiences with a variety of schedule options. mchdenver.org

Primrose Summer Adventure Club. Ages K–5th grade. Every week

children explore new themes like sports, arts, robotics, and more. Several Denver locations. Primroseschools.com

Stanley Scholars. For kids of economically and socially diverse backgrounds. Must be recipient of free or reduced lunch thru CO Dept. of Ed. 1st–3rd grade. Swim lessons, breakfast, and lunch. Stanley British Primary School, 350 Quebec St. stanleybps.org

Steve and Kate's Camp. Campers choose from a variety of activities that include sewing, stop-motion animation, music, sports & recreation, crafts, bread making, and more. steveandkatescamp.com



Summer at Kent Denver. Hands-on learning in the arts, athletics, our Tiny Farm Day camp, academics, innovation, and tech. Ages 4–18. 4000 E Quincy Ave, Englewood. kentdenver.org/summer

Summer at Stanley. Full-day, weekly camps for grades K–8. Campers can explore, create, discover, and problem-solve. Before and after-care. Stanley British Primary School, 350 Quebec St. stanleybps.org

Summer Safari. Weekly camps for K–9th grade. Featuring animal experiences, zoo expeditions, and hands-on, camper-driven exploration. Denver Zoo, 2300 Steele St. denverzoo.org/summer-safari

Summer Scholars. Free six-week, full day summer program at six DPS locations. Literacy tutoring, social-emotional learning, and summer fun. scholarsunlimited.org/enroll

TOCA Denver Camps. Half-day soccer camps, full-day soccer training camps, and Fun and Games camps. 3–13 years. 2400 Central Park Blvd. tocafootball.com

MISC

Achieving Excellence Academy. A cultural summer program that highlights the experiences of Black/African-American,

MindCraft

Latinx, Asian-American/Pacific Islander, & Native American/Indigenous families, students, and educators. M–F, 8:30am–1:30pm, June 7–July 3. 9th–11th graders. dpsk12.org/o/celt/page/ achieving-excellence-academy

Arise Kids Camp. Learn all about God's galactic world, creation, and what the beginning of the world means for us now when we decide to follow Jesus. 4yrs–5th grade. Week of June 10th.Arise Church. 8700 E 21st Ave. arisedenver.com/kidscamp

Every Child Reading: Super Star Summer Camp. Engaging and fun 5-week Orton-Gillingham intervention program. Intensive, high-quality reading instruction along with math and writing instruction. Half-day and full-day options. everychildreading.org

Fayola Man Summer Leadership

Academy. 8-week academy for boys of color who will be in 6–8 grade. Featuring hip hop, character development, STEM, financial literacy, student voice, leadership, arts, career awareness, and academic readiness. sffoundation.org

FUN-ancial Summer Camps. Experience financial education through award-winning programs. 3rd–8th grade. Young Americans Center for Financial Education, 3550 E. First Ave. yacenter.org/summer-camps

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Learn aerial silks, trapeze, hoop, and hammock at Aerial Cirque Over Denver's half-day or full-day camps running weekly May 27–Aug 16! AerialCirqueOverDenver.com | 720.560.4701 4605 Quebec St, Denver, CO 80216 Weeklong full- & half-day camps available throughout the summer for ages 4–13. Six week summer intensive in ballet, contemporary and jazz for ages 11 and up. See website for details. **DanceInstituteDenver.com | 303.525.0011 4601 Quebec St, units C8 and C9, Denver, C0 80216**

Heritage Camps for Adoptive Families.

Nine separate camps for international and domestic adoptees and their families. Specific camp info at heritagecamps.org

Journey Point Kids Camp. Sport and elective-based camp for kids K–5th grades, including outdoor recreation, crafts, and a Bible story. Lunch provided. 8270 Northfield Blvd, Suite 1493. journeypoint.churchcenter.com

Renaissance Adventures Camps. Adventure Quest, Dungeon Delvers, and Knight Teen Leadership Program. Ages 6–17. At Berkeley Lake Park and The Denver Waldorf School. renaissanceadventures.com

Summer Connections. A free, five-week academic program that is open to all rising first through fifth-grade DPS students at eligible schools. This full-day program focuses on preparing elementary students for future success. dpsk12.org/o/dps/page/summer-connections

Summer Sacred Art. Explore world religions through music, dance, art-making, story, objects, and discussion. An atmosphere of creativity, celebration, and fun. Weeks of 6/17, 6/24, 7/15, and 7/22. Montview Church, 1980 Dahlia St. montview.org/children

OVERNIGHT

TITLE C

Avid4 Adventure Resident and Expedition Camps. Resident Camps with I-week options for Ist–2nd graders and 2-week options for 3rd–11th graders. Week long expedition camps for 5th–12th graders. Camp locations across CO and beyond. Learn more at avid4.com

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies Camp. Kids get outside and gain a deeper exploration and understanding of the natural world through the lens of bird conservation. Ages 12–17. birdconservancy.org

Camp Chief Ouray. Over 5,000 acres of mountains, valleys, streams, and meadows to explore. Camp options for ages 7–14 and leadership opportunities for 15–17. 1101 County Road 53 Granby. campchiefouray.org

Denver

1800 Pontiac St.

www.EveryChildReading.net

Camp Granite Lake. Co-ed, overnight camp for campers in 2nd–9th grade. One hour from Denver. Kids can connect with nature and friends, disconnect from technology, and have fun. 11902 Camp Eden Road, Golden. campgranitelake.com

Camp Timberline. A Christian sports and mountain adventure camp located in Estes Park, Colorado and along the Front Range. Several different camps for kids aged 7–18. 1207 Longs Peak Rd, Estes Park. camptimberline.com

Camp Quest. A traditional sleepaway camp also offering educational activities focused on critical thinking, ethics, scientific inquiry, philosophy, and comparative religion. Ages 8–17. campquestcolorado.org

Cheley Colorado Camps. 27-day overnight summer experience for girls and boys ages 9–17. Activities include hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, rafting, mountain biking, and more. Estes Park. cheley.com

Colorado Mountain Camps. Intermediate and advanced rock climbing camps and an introduction to camping and overnight trips for the outdoor lover. Grades 3rd–12th. cmc.org/youth/adventure-camps

Colvig Silver Camps. Programs that offer a wide variety of activities and expeditions in addition to a safe and comfortable environment where kids can be themselves. Grades 2–11. colvigsilvercamps.com

Girl Scouts Camps. Connect with nature and one another in a girl-led, supportive environment. Two different CO locations: one and two hours away from Denver. camp.girlscoutsofcolorado.org

JCC Ranch Camp. JCC Denver's overnight camp located on 380 acres of stunning private land in Elbert, Colorado in the Black Forest. 2nd–11th grade. ranchcamp.org/explore-ranch-camp

Stone Canyon Camp. Stone Canyon is a co-ed, overnight camp that services children ages 9–15. Over 30 different daily activities to choose from. stonecanyonedge.org/summercamp/overnight

June 10th - July 12th

9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Session Times:

8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

YMCA Camp Santa Maria. A traditional overnight camp located on more than 1,000 beautiful acres near Bailey, CO.Ages 6–17 with leadership opportunities. ymcanoco.org/camp-santa-maria

STEM

Camp Tech Revolution®. The hottest topics in tech, this unique camp prioritizes experiential, handson learning, serious skill building, exciting weekly events, and tons of fun. 1201 5th St. lavnercampsandprograms.com

Code Ninjas. Kids learn to code while gaining problem solving, critical thinking, and STEM skills in a fun, safe, and inspiring environment. Ages 5–15. 101 Ulster Ct. codeninjas.com

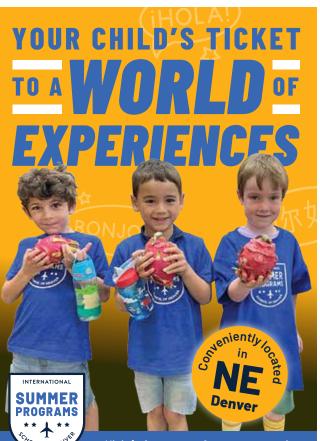
Curious Jane Summer Camp. A girls camp that revolves around science + engineering + design. Many different themes for ages K–2nd, 3rd–6th, CITs. Full- and half-day options. Graland School, 55 Clermont St. curiousjane.fun

Denver Rocky Mountain

30th Annual Chess Camp. Participants will be taught scorekeeping, etiquette, tournament preparation, logical thinking, and strategic planning for all phases of the game. Half- and full-day options. Ages 6–18. Bethany Lutheran Church, 4500 E. Hampden Ave. coloradomasterchess.com

Mindcraft Makerspace Steam Summer Camps. For the kid who loves creating, inventing, engineering, and building. A different theme every week.Ages 6–10+. Stanley Marketplace, 2501 Dallas St, Aurora. mindcraftmakerspace.com/makerspace

Snapology Camps. Teaches STEAM concepts to children through hands-on, interactive play, using LEGO® bricks and other fun tools.Ages 4–12. 3550 Federal Blvd. kidscampsco.com



Visit isdenver.org/summer to register





Super Star

Summer Camp

Camp is an engaging and fun 5-week Orton-Gillingham Intervention camp. Students entering 1st - 9th grade receive intensive, high-quality 1-1 or small group (max 4) individualized reading instruction and STEAM project-based learning to grow cross-curricular connections and self-confidence.

Does your child struggle with reading, spelling,

or writing? Is your child dyslexic?

Lakewood/Littleton

Location to be announced

Vail (Jun. 17-Jul. 12, 4 weeks only) Location to be announced

Learning & Fun Go Hand in Hand at Summer Camp

Hands-On History allows students (age 6-12) to develop a meaningful connection to their history and place in the world through interactive and explorative activities when school is not in session. Automatic tuition assistance is available.

History Colorado Hands-On History History

Where Kids Make History

June 10-August 9 // Weekly Sessions Monday-Friday // 8 am-5 pm

> History Colorado Center 1200 N. Broadway

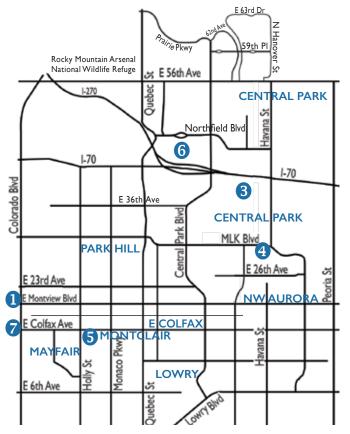
> > 303-447-8679



Enroll Your Child(ren) Today!

Register at: h-co.org/HOH-HCC

...NE News Updates





The mammal fossils at the "After the Asteroid" exhibit are 65 million years old and were discovered by museum scientists.

By Mary Jo Brooks and Brian Heuberger

U Science Museum Gets Record Grant to Study Life After the Asteroid

The Denver Museum of Nature and Science (DMNS) received a federal grant of \$1.3 million, the largest in the museum's history, to continue a massive study of life after an asteroid hit the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico 66 million years ago. The study, currently featured in the Museum's "After the Asteroid" exhibit, has been pivotal to the scientific community to learn how the earth recovered and mammals emerged in the years following this mass extinction event.

In 2016, a team of DMNS scientists led by Tyler Lyson made a crucial discovery that helped answer those questions. The team uncovered thousands of fossils





Tried 100+ cases

in the Corral Bluffs open space on the east side

of Colorado Springs, including fully formed 65-million-year-old mammal skeletons. The "After the Asteroid" exhibit at DMNS features more than 100 of those mammal fossils along with displays that explain how the planet developed in the first million years after the dinosaurs went extinct. Lyson says the grant will allow DMNS to purchase innovative equipment and hire more scientists to better understand the recovery of the ecosystem and the evolution of mammals.

😕 Statewide Ban on Plastic Bags

Starting January 1, Colorado implemented a law banning the use of plastic bags in grocery stores, retail centers, and convenience stores. This policy was enacted in 2021 by the state legislature with House Bill 21-1162. Stores now have until June 1 to use or sell the remaining plastic bags that they have in stock, and after that grace period, plastic bags will be prohibited from all stores except for restaurants and small shops. The bill also prohibits restaurants from distributing expanded polystyrene take-out containers.

3 Accolades for The Urban Farm Director Michelle Rodriguez

The Denver Broncos selected The Urban Farm Executive Director Michelle Rodriguez for their 2023 Changemaker Award to honor her program that enables juveniles in the criminal justice system to work on the farm, learn about animals, and earn an income. All 32 NFL teams give Inspire Change Changemaker Awards to individuals in their city who make positive improvements to the community through social justice advocacy or non-profit services. Rodriguez was celebrated at the Broncos game on Christmas Eve and The Urban Farm will receive a \$10,000 donation from the NFL Foundation.

The Farm also obtained a sizable grant in January that will facilitate significant land restoration. The \$48,000 grant from Greater Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) will allow the city to work with the Mile High Youth Corps to restore habitat within The Urban Farm at Sand Creek Open Space. This project will enable crews to apply herbicides, eliminate invasive species, construct new trails, and plant native seeds.

4 Tag Burger Moves to Eastbridge After closing its Congress Park location in 2021, restauranteur Troy Guard is reopening Tag Burger in Central Park's Eastbridge Town Center. For 11 years, Tag Burger was a staple of Congress Park featuring an extensive menu of burgers with a creative selection of toppings. The new Tag Burger, expected to open in April, joins two other Guard restaurants at Eastbridge: Hashtag and Los Chignones.





Owner Taylor Woodard handpicks the vintage Western items sold at The Shop Outpost, and she donates 6 percent of sales to local charities.

5 The Shop Outpost Opens on East Colfax

Vintage Wild West attire is featured at The Shop Outpost on East Colfax. Located in the antiques district, the store is replete with a vast collection of old items that tell stories of the Western past. Clothing items include leather boots, cowboy hats, embroidered jackets, denim skirts, and handmade jewelry. Customers can also buy household items, such as quilts, rugs, pillows, and blankets.

Owner Taylor Woodard says her background in design and a love of history helped determine the look and contents of the store. She credits her grandmother, who also owned a store, with her entrepreneurial spirit.



6 Mile-Hi Sweets and Treats Coming to Northfield

Mile-Hi Sweets and Treats is opening its first physical store in the Shops at Northfield. The Denver-based small business uses a vacuum pump to extract liquid and expand the candy into a fluffy texture, which intensifies the flavor. The company offers a wide variety of freeze-dried candies that include sweet, sour, and spicy options. Previously, Mile-Hi Sweets and Treats only sold its candy on its website or at fairs throughout Colorado. Founder Ian Kullhem is excited to open the company's first brick-and-mortar location, and he hopes that the store will be ready in the spring.



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🔽 Dilapidated Motel Site to be Redeveloped

Shuttered for more than a decade, the Royal Palace Motel at Colfax Ave. and Colorado Blvd. was sold in January to the real estate firm Laramar Group for \$7.3 million. According to city records, the firm plans to demolish the motel and erect a six-story apartment building with at least 153 units on the one-acre site. The Laramar Group did not respond to requests for comment.

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February 2024



This is going to be a great month for film, and for our neighborhood in particular. This month I give you reviews of two films that likely will be nominated for Oscars; one of those should produce (at least) one winner.

But first, I am happy to present "Cinema of Survival: Ukraine's Fight for Freedom— Through the Lens of Film." I preview the series below, but also see www.mca80238. com/event-calendar/cinema-of-survival for more detailed information and for ticketing. This is a joint production among the Central Park MCA, Ukrainians of Colorado, MSU Denver, and yours truly. All proceeds go toward aiding humanitarian relief efforts in Ukraine. The series will be a great event where we can all learn, celebrate, and get involved in positive action. I hope you can join us for one or more of the shows. And please bring friends!

"Cinema of Survival: Ukraine's Fight for Freedom—Through the Lens of Film"

All screenings and discussions will be at The Cube, 8371 Northfield Blvd.

A Rising Fury (2022) Friday 2/9 @6:30pm

This documentary delves into the heart of Ukraine's recent tumultuous events, capturing the escalating fury and determination of a nation fighting for its sovereignty and democratic ideals.

The Music of Survival: The Story of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus (2015) Saturday 2/10 @1pm

This short documentary explores the remarkable journey of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus, an ensemble that has become a symbol of resistance and cultural preservation amidst political upheaval.

Black Raven (2022) Saturday 2/10 @3pm This short documentary uses personal experiences to tell the story of the Holodomor genocide of Ukrainians in 1932–1933.

Klondike (2022) Saturday 2/10 @6:30pm See my review from November '22 about this wonderful and devastating film from director Maryna Er Gorbach: https:// frontporchne.com/article/indie-prof-the-2022-denver-film-festival. You won't want to miss this one. Freedom on Fire (2022) Sunday 2/11 @1pm

This documentary offers a powerful and heart-wrenching view of Ukraine's journey through revolution and war, highlighting the unbreakable spirit of its people. The screening includes a Q&A session with the director via Zoom from Kyiv, Ukraine.



The Holdovers (2023)

Director Alexander Payne gives us not only an exceptional story set in the early 70s, but also a film that is from the early 70s. This could very well have been sitting on the shelf for 50+ years while just arriving at theaters now in some sort of timeslip. The formal aspects-cinematography, editing, sound, the period setting/décor/costumes, and even the titles and credits-spring directly from the 70s and recall that interesting period in film history. The film is masterfully constructed and all of the elements come together to produce a wonderful whole. To top it all off, the story is delightful, the writing is fantastic, and the acting is first rate all around. It's all a treat.

The story takes place outside of Boston in 1970: At a boys' prep school, an irascible teacher (Paul Giamatti) is tasked with staying behind during the holiday break with several students who are "holding over," that is, not going home. That group dwindles down to just one student, a smart but snarky and vituperative young man (Dominic Sessa) who was ditched by his mother and stepfather. This unlikely duo also spends time with kitchen director Mary (Da'Vine Joy Randolph), who has just lost her son in Vietnam. It's hard to overstate the acting from this trio: Giamatti is brilliant and just picked up a Golden Globe for his performance; Sessa is wonderful, dynamic, and vibrant; and Joy Randolph is beyond a revelation—she pulls off the exacta of being understated and

effervescent at the same time. She also won a Golden Globe and is the favorite (according to this critic) for the Best Supporting Actress Oscar.

Great acting and excellent technical aspects always point to one thing: expert directing. Alexander Payne gives us that in every frame and beyond. He has been a standout since the early 90s with a phenomenal filmography: *Election, About Schmidt, Sideways, Nebraska*, and *The Descendants* among others. His films are always expertly staged, brilliantly acted,

and technically savvy. *The Holdovers* is another star in his wonderful career.

Available on Peacock or for rent.

Beyond Utopia

"We were captured in a huge, virtual prison."

Such are the words of a North Korean defector in this tense, riveting,

and powerful new documentary directed by Madeleine Gavin. We follow two stories of North Korean defectors: One is a young male, who is 17 years old, trying to reunite with his mother in South Korea. The other is a family of five: a grandmother, her son, his wife, and the couple's two young daughters. They are all attempting to cross the border into China.

The central character of the film is Seungeun Kim, a South Korean pastor whose life's work is helping North



Koreans defect. A defector himself, his activism is born of awful personal tragedy as well as his own journey. He uses funding from his church in Seoul to pay a network of agents throughout North Korea, China, Vietnam, and Laos to offer help and passage. The path is dangerous, brutal, and difficult. Sometimes Kim joins the fray and moves along with the defectors, but his own personal situation is tenuous (South Korean intelligence has told him to stay put since he is wanted in all of the aforementioned countries). Yet he soldiers on.

The film itself is well-structured, edited for maximum effect, and makes use of only real footage (without reenactments). We walk through the jungles with the family, we squat with them as they hear dogs in the distance, we struggle with them over slippery rocks at night, and we experience every range of emotion with them. The night vision camera adds to the visceral nature of the tension, but this is no contrived Hollywood plot; these are real people with real consequences at stake. We *feel* that throughout, and our hearts live and die with everyone involved. I won't give away the ending, but be prepared for all outcomes. Available for rent.

Vincent Piturro, PhD, is a Professor of Film and Media Studies at MSU Denver. Contact him directly at vpiturro@ msudenver.com or follow him on Twitter. For more reviews, search The Indie Prof at FrontPorchNE.com.







View and add local events FREE at FrontPorchNE.com/events. Submissions by the 17th will be considered for printing in the upcoming month's issue.

Please double check event dates and times using contact info provided.

NE DENVER/NW AURORA EVENTS

2/3 & 3/2-Bluff Lake Bird Walks. 2-hour walk at 8am. 11255 E. MLK Jr Blvd. Free but must RSVP at blufflake.org/birdwatching

2/8 Thursday—Active Minds Presents The History of Automobiles. 1–2pm, Free. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. activeminds.com

2/9 & 3/8—Goatflix and Chill. 6pm. 8246 Northfield Blvd. The Shops at Northfield. Pre-register at shopsatnorthfield.com

2/10 Saturday—Cockpit Demo Day. A close look inside select aircraft. 10am-2pm. 7711 East Academy Blvd. wingsmuseum.org

2/10 Saturday—Black Figures of Aurora. Learn about Black figures from Aurora history who have shaped our city and state. 2-3pm. Free. Aurora History Museum, 15051 East Alameda Pkwy. auroramuseum.org

2/10 & 3/9—Indoor Goat Yoga. 10am, 12pm, and 2pm. 8246 Northfield Blvd. The Shops at Northfield. shopsatnorthfield.com

2/15 Thursday—Educational Wine Tasting. 6–8pm. Must be 21. The Cube, 8371 Northfield Blvd. Tickets at mca80238.com

2/17 Saturday—Soul Food Genius with Asia Dorsey. Learn



2/21 Wednesday—Feed Your Mind: Hope and Suicide -Helping People Stay Alive. With Dr. Stacey Freedenthal, PhD. 3-4pm. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. denverlibrary.org

2/21 Wednesday—Black History Month Film Screening and Discussion. Free screening of Rungano Nyoni's 2017 movie, I Am Not A Witch. 5:30–7:30pm. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. denverlibrary.org

2/22 Thursday—Active Minds Presents Tibet. Explore the history and controversy that surrounds this unique region. I-2pm, Free. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. activeminds.com

2/24 Saturday—2nd Annual Black History Program. Educating people of all ages. At Greater Union Baptist Church, 1880 Xanthia St. Noon-3pm. For more info, email babsanne16@gmail.com

2/26 Monday—Death Café. Gather and normalize conversations around death. 2-3:30pm. Park Hill Library, 4705 Montview Blvd. denverlibrary.org

3/1 Friday-Nature Wonder Walks. Enter the wonder by slowing down, breathing, and reconnecting. Bluff Lake Nature Center. 1pm. 11255 E. MLK Jr Blvd. Free but must RSVP at blufflake.org

3/1 Friday—Drag Bingo. Alice Glamoure brings back her one of a kind B-I-N-G-O night in style. 8:30pm. Stanley Marketplace, 2501 N. Dallas St, Aurora. stanleymarketplace.com

METRO EVENTS

2/2 & 3/1—First Friday Art Walks. On Santa Fe. 5:30- 9:30pm. denver.org/things-to-do/denver-arts-culture/denver-art-districts

2/8 Thursday—Art & About Tours. For visitors with early-stage Alzheimer's or dementia and their care partners. I-2:45pm. 100 W 14th Ave Pkwy. denverartmuseum.org

2/8 & 2/15—Bold Women. Change History. Postcolonial Love Poem and People: a Reading Circle and Conversation. I-3pm. Center for Colorado Women's History, 1310 Bannock St. historycolorado.org

2/11 Sunday—Music in the Galleries. A family-friendly performances at noon and 1pm. 1250 Bannock St. clyffordstillmuseum.org

2/13 Tuesday—Black History Tomorrow Poetry Slam. Poetry slam/open mic program, in collaboration with Slam Nuba. Free admission all day. 5:30-8pm. 100 W 14th Ave Pkwy. denverartmuseum.org

2/13 & 2/14—Valentine's Collaging Pop-Up. Create something for yourself or a special someone. Free. I I am-3pm. Center for Colorado Women's History, 1310 Bannock St. historycolorado.org

2/20 Tuesday—Bob Ragland: Denver's Non-Starving Artist Continues To Inspire. A panel-style conversation. Kirkland Museum of Fine and Decorative Art, 1201 Bannock St. historicdenver.org

2/21 Wednesday—Rosenberry Lecture: Con Men and Klansmen: Denver 100 Years Ago. Ipm & 7pm. History Colorado Center, 1200 North Broadway. historycolorado.org

2/24 Saturday—artma. Art auction benefiting kids and teens with cancer. Sponsored by The Morgan Adams Foundation. Denver Design Center, 575 S Broadway. 6–10pm. artmaonline.org

2/24 to 3/3—Colorado Garden & Home Show. Colorado Convention Center. coloradogardenfoundation.org

KIDS AND FAMILIES

Tuesday-Friday-Local Library Storytime. Different age groupings and locations. Info at denverlibrary.org

Wednesdays-Mornings at the Museum. Ages 3-6, 10:30-11:15am. Free. New programs every week. Aurora History Museum, 15051 East Alameda Pkwy. Register at auroragov.org

2/7 Wednesday—Kids Game Club. Drop by to play games in a fun, relaxed environment. Ideal for ages 5-12. 3:30-5:30pm. Park Hill Library, 4705 Montview Blvd. denverlibrary.org

2/8 Thursday-Create Playdate. An early-childhood program for families with children ages 3-5 and their siblings. 10am-12pm. 100 W 14th Ave Pkwy. denverartmuseum.org

2/10 Saturday—CSU Spur 2nd Saturdays. Free. Lots of familyfriendly programming. 10am-3pm. 4817 National Western Dr. csuspur.org

2/10 Saturday—Maker Mornings: Love Notes. A Spanish and English story followed by craft time. Best for toddler-8yrs. 10:30am-12:30pm. 1250 Bannock St. clyffordstillmuseum.org

2/10 & 2/11—Children and Family Make and Take: Garden Valentines. Connect and create together. Ages 5 and up. 10am & 1pm both days. 1007 York St. Register at botanicgardens.org

2/11 Sunday—Foxy and Shmoxy: Art Detectives. Foxy and Shmoxy help young children access and experience art in unique ways. 10:30am-12pm. 100 W 14th Ave Pkwy. denverartmuseum.org

2/11, 2/18 & 2/25-Tomås and the Library Lady. Presented by Denver Children's Theatre. 2/18 is accessibility day. Best for grades 1-8. 10am. The Elaine Wolf Theatre, 350 S. Dahlia St. jccdenver.org

2/14 Wednesday—Valentine's Day Sing-a-Long. Bill Roberts' kindergartners sing a Valentine's Day performance. Ipm. Stanley Marketplace, 2501 N. Dallas St, Aurora. Stanleymarketplace.com

2/15 Thursday—Kids Book Club. This month's theme is friendship. K-5th grade. 4-5pm. Park Hill Library, 4705 Montview Blvd. denverlibrary.org

2/16 & 2/24—A Year With Frog and Toad. Arnold Lobel's treasured characters hop from page to stage in a story of friendship and adventure. Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd. Arvada. arvadacenter.org

2/17 Saturday—History Buff Day. Explore our historic home and take a picture with Billy the History Buff. I Iam-2pm. Center for Colorado Women's History, 1310 Bannock St. RSVP required at historycolorado.org

2/18 Sunday-Spanish Storytime at Tattered Cover Kids. 5pm. Stanley Marketplace, 2501 N. Dallas St, Aurora. stanleymarketplace.com

2/18, 2/21 & 2/24-Art Crawl: Into the Archives. 10:30-11:15am. For caregivers with infants-14 months. Registration required. 1250 Bannock St. clyffordstillmuseum.org

2/19 Monday—Geocaching At The Museum. Learn about Gladys West and her scientific contribution to the development of GPS. Ages 2-12. Wings Over the Rockies Museum. 7711 East Academy Blvd. wingsmuseum.org

2/24 & 2/25—Children and Family Make and Take: Build a Fairy Garden. Connect and create together. Ages 5 and up. 10am & Ipm both days. 1007 York St. Register at botanicgardens.org

2/28 Wednesday—Youth Gaming Night. Play XBox and Wii Games with friends! Snacks will be provided. Ages 5-17. 6-7:30pm. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. denverlibrary.org

3/1 Friday—Girls and Science. Participate in hands-on STEM activities. 4-8pm. 2001 Colorado Blvd. Free but reserve tickets at dmns.org

MUSEUMS, ETC.

American Museum of Western Art. Open M,W & F from I0am-4:30pm.Admission is \$5. 1727 Tremont Pl. anschutzcollection.org

Aurora History Museum. Admission is free. Closed Mondays/holidays. 15051 East Alameda Pkwy. auroragov.org

The Byers-Evans House Museum. Operated by History Colorado as the Center for Colorado Women's History.. 1310 Bannock St. historycolorado.org

The Children's Museum. Joy on Tap: the Children's Museum's craft beer extravaganza is Feb. 22. Reservations and tickets at mychildsmuseum.org

Clyfford Still Museum. SCFD Free Day Feb. 29. Children 17 and under are free. 1250 Bannock St. clyffordstillmuseum.org

Denver Art Museum. SCFD Free Day Feb. 13.Youth 18 & under always free. 100 W 14th Ave. Pkwy. denverartmuseum.org

Denver Botanic Gardens. SCFD Free Day Feb. 15, must register. 1007 York St. botanicgardens.org

Denver Firefighters Museum. Hours: Tues-Sat, 10am-4pm. 1326 Tremont Pl. denverfirefightersmuseum.org

Denver Museum of Nature and Science. SCFD Free Day Feb. 25. 2001 Colorado Blvd. dmns.org

Denver Zoo. SCFD Free Day Feb. 11. Lottery for free events at denverzoo.org. 2900 E 23rd Ave.

The Forney Museum of Transportation. 4303 Brighton Blvd. forneymuseum.org

Four Mile Historic Park. SCFD Free Day Feb. 23. Open Wed-Sun, 10am-4pm. 715 S. Forest St. fourmilepark.org



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3-4:30pm. Park Hill Library, 4705 Montview Blvd. denverlibrary.org

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Acrobuffos: Air Play



Historic Denver/Molly Brown House Museum. SCFD Voter Free Evenings Feb. 6 & Mar. 5, 5–7pm. Tue–Sun, 10am–Spm. 1340 Pennsylvania St. mollybrown.org

History Colorado. Free general admission for kids every day. 1200 Broadway. historycolorado.org

Kirkland Museum of Fine and Decorative Art. Tue–Sat, I Iam–5pm; Sun 12–5pm.Ages 13+ welcome. 1201 Bannock St. kirklandmuseum.org

Museo de las Americas. Free 1st Fridays and always free for under 13. Tue–Fri, noon-6pm. Sat, noon–5pm. Closed Mon/Sun. 861 Santa Fe Dr. museo.org

Museum for Black Girls. Hours:Wed. I lam–6pm (half price), Th–Sun, I lam–7pm. 500 16th Street Mall. Tickets at themuseumforblackgirls.com

Museum of Contemporary Art Denver. Free for under18 and healthcare workers. I¢ admission 1st Sat. of the month. 1485 Delgany St. mcadenver.org

Museum of Illusions Denver. 951 16th St Mall. moidenver.com

National Ballpark Museum. 1940 Blake St. Check for days/hours at ballparkmuseum.com

The Urban Farm. Open to the public Saturdays only from 9am–1pm. 10200 Smith Rd. theurbanfarm.org

Wings Over the Rockies Museum. SCFD Free Day Feb. 11.7711 East Academy Blvd. wingsmuseum.org

PERFORMANCE/THEATRE

2/2 to 2/11—Colorado Ballet Presents Jekyll & Hyde. Ellie Caulkins Opera House, 1385 Curtis St. coloradoballet.org

2/3 to 2/25—ART. A quick-witted comedy by Yasmina Reza. Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E. Colfax Ave. aurorafoxartscenter.org

2/3 to 3/7—The Nacirema Society. About six elegant African American debutantes. The John Hand Theater, 7653 E. Ist Pl. firehousetheatercompany.com

2/3 to 5/5—Space Explorers: THE INFINITE. Immersive experience inspired by NASA missions. Stanley Marketplace, 2501 N. Dallas St, Aurora. denvercenter.org

2/9 to 2/11—Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 2. One of the composer's most youthful and vibrant compositions. Boettcher Hall. coloradosymphony.org

2/9 to 3/10—Rubicon. Based on a true story, Rubicon tracks the career of one of history's most effective spies. Kilstrom Theatre. denvercenter.org

Through 2/10—Truth Be Told. A mother's unwavering belief in her son's innocence becomes a powerful force. Curious Theatre Company, 1080 Acoma St. curioustheatre.org

Through 2/11—Clink Clink: A Love Story. Spanning 28 years, Clink, Clink is the love story of a lifetime. The People's Building, 9995 E Colfax Ave., Aurora. thepeoplesbuilding.com

2/13 to 2/25—Message In A Bottle A unifying and uplifting story of humanity and hope. Set to music by Sting. Buell Theatre. denvercenter.org

2/16 Friday—Small Island Big Song. The stories and experiences of indigenous peoples with seafaring heritages. Newman Center, 2344 E. lliff Ave. newmancenterpresents.com

2/16 to 3/24—The Legend of Georgia Mc-Bride. He's young, he's late with the rent, and he just found out he's going to be a dad.Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St, Aurora. vintagetheatre.org

2/16 to 3/31—Natasha, Pierre and The Great Comet of 1812. Electropop tunes meet a scandalous slice of War and Peace. Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd. Arvada. arvadacenter.org

2/17 & 2/18—Disney's Newsies Jr!. The newsies learn that they are stronger united. 2pm & 6pm. The People's Building, 9995 E Colfax Ave., Aurora. thepeoplesbuilding.com

2/18 Sunday—DYAO Spectacular: Tales from Great Britain. All 3 of DYAO's orchestras weave together British compositions with a contemporary twist. Boettcher Hall. coloradosymphony.org

2/18 Sunday—Acrobuffos: Air Play. Part comedy, part sculpture, part circus, part theater, Air Play is sure to amaze and delight audiences of all ages. Newman Center, 2344 E. Iliff Ave. newmancenterpresents.com

2/18 Sunday—One Night Stand's Date Night. An evening of romance, comedy, and catastrophe. 1460 Dayton St., Aurora onenightstandtheater.org

2/18 Sunday—Lighthouse Presents: A Colorado Collection. Meet some of the state's best writers. Su Teatro Cultural and Performing Arts Center, 721 Santa Fe Dr. storiesonstage.org

Through 2/18—Fun Home. Based on The Graphic Novel by Alison Bechdel.Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St, Aurora. vintagetheatre.org

2/20 Tuesday—Friends of Chamber Music presents pianist Beatrice Rana. A program of masterworks. Newman Center, 2344 E. Iliff Ave. friendsofchambermusic.com

2/24 Saturday—The Magic of Mozart. Stratus Chamber Orchestra performs beloved pieces by Mozart with pianist Matthew Liu. 5000 E Alameda Ave. augustanaarts.org Through 2/25—CO Jazz–Ella & Louis. Jazz Music's Perfect Partnership With Mary Louis Lee and Robert Johnson. Various locations. coloradojazz.org

3/1 Friday—Joshua Redman Quintet. An all-star band featuring some of Redman's lifelong friends and partners in music. Newman Center, 2344 E. Iliff Ave. newmancenterpresents.com

3/1 to 3/23—125 "NO"s. A comedy rife with gawping, gabbing, and a little stinky cheese. 717 Lipan St. buntport.com

3/5 to 3/10—Hairspray. Can a girl with big dreams (and even bigger hair) change the world? Buell Theatre. denvercenter.org

Through 3/10—Cebollas. Three Latinas are forced to take an unexpected road trip. denvercenter.org

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

For a more extensive list, go to <u>www.FrontPorchNE.</u> <u>com</u> and search for Charitable Opportunities.

College Access Mentor with Minds Matter Colorado. 2 hours a week during the school year. Info at mindsmatterco.org/volunteers

Denver Public Schools. Numerous volunteer opportunities with students and schools. equity.dpsk12.org/get-involved/volunteer-services

Denver Rescue Mission. To find volunteer opportunities, go to: denverrescuemission.org/volunteer/#opportunities

Food For Thought Denver. Providing food for students and their families. Sign up to volunteer or donate at foodforthoughtdenver.org

Project Worthmore. Help bag and deliver fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy, and household necessities to refugees. projectworthmore.org

Reach Out and Read Colorado. Help sort and pack children's books for underserved families. Email info@reachoutandreadco.org for details.

Reading Volunteers Needed One hour a week. No experience necessary. Email contact: Pil, 2011@partnersinliteracy.org.

Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) For volunteer opportunities, email Cathy Law at claw@voacolorado.org

Ronald McDonald House Charities Volunteer. Info at ronaldhouse.org under "How You Can Help".

Windows & Doors



Sand Creek Greenway Volunteer Opportunities. Nov. 4 workday, 10am–12pm. Info or to register to volunteer at sandcreekgreenway.org

Single Volunteers of Greater Denver. Meet others and assist nonprofit organizations for events/ activities. Info at svgd.org

Spark the Change Colorado. Direct service programs that leverage the expertise of skilled volunteers in fields like mental health and empowering aging. sparkthechangecolorado.org

Village Exchange Center A non-profit formed to serve immigrants and refugees in Aurora & Denver. villageexchangecenter.org

Volunteers of America Colorado Branch For volunteer opportunities go to voacolorado.org/volunteer-opportunities/

GREEN AND SUSTAINABLITY EVENTS

2/5 & 3/4—Knowing Your Home Renovation Class. A foundational understanding of how a house works. Denver Tool Library. 555 Santa Fe Dr. Register at denvertoollibrary.org

2/8 Thursday—2024 Clean & Green Sustainability Conference & Expo. 8am–3:30pm. Denver PPA Event Center, 2105 Decatur St. eventbrite.com/e/2024-clean-green-sustainability-conference-expo-denver-co-tickets-748682428297

2/10 Saturday—Denver Urban Gardens Symposium. Focusing on themes of inclusion, diversity, and belonging in our urban green spaces. 1031 33rd St. dug.org

2/22 to 2/25—Colorado Environmental Film Festival. Environmental films from foreign, Colorado, and young filmmakers. Colorado School of Mines,924 16th St., Golden. ceff.net

2/27 Tuesday—Power Tools 101. Learn how to safely and effectively use Denver Tool Library's most common power tools. 555 Santa Fe Dr. Register at denvertoollibrary.org

3/11 to 3/22—Electronics Recycling Drop-off Event. \$5 car/individual for small load or \$10 for anything larger. Additional charges for some items. Facility open M–F, 8am–4:30pm, Sat. 10am–2pm.Techno Rescue, 3251 Lewiston St, Suite

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Park Hill Author Inspires Kids to Share

By Sarah Huber

Park Hill resident has channeled lessons from her childhood in Cameroon to write a children's book that explores one of humanity's most transcultural struggles: how to share.

Stessy Mezeu, who moved to Park Hill three years ago, began brainstorming a book about sharing with her sister during the Covid pandemic. Both Mezeu and her sister, Naomi Domkam, grew up in Cameroon with their two brothers before immigrating to California when Mezeu was nine years old and Domkam was eight. While they pursued differing educational paths–with Mezeu moving to Washington, D.C. to study international affairs and Domkam settling in San Francisco for a career in finance–the sisters have remained tight.

"When everything shut down [during the pandemic], we were on the phone every Saturday, reminiscing and laughing, then joking about writing a book," recalls Mezeu. The sisters started recording their most treasured memories in a Google spreadsheet, even as they wondered what it might take to turn their joke about publishing into an actual children's book inspired by their childhood.

"We realized we had something special as siblings, something that wasn't the norm: The four of us kids would solve things as a council and come up with our own rules," Mezeu says.

Many of the rules that Mezeu and her sibling council established were centered around food. "Our

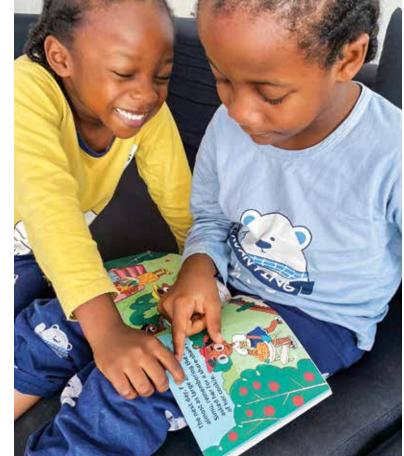
mom would come home with cookies, and we were expected to figure out how to share them," she says. Domkam adds, "We created an environment where everyone felt empowered to not only articulate their opinion but to defend it as well."

With those memories in mind, the sisters put pen to paper. They hoped their readers would find they could apply the Sly Siblings' "conflict resolution skills" to their own lives, notes Domkam, including the values of "listening, cooperation, and perspective-taking."

"Writing was the fun part," Mezeu says. Their final text, *How the Sly Siblings Learned to Share*, features "the Sly siblings," named in honor of the characters' mischievous outlook and modeled after Mezeu, Domkam, and their brothers. "Each one is in the hot seat once," Mezeu explains. "No one is all good or all bad."

In the story, the Sly siblings each struggle with sharing a favorite food item before partnering with their siblings to counter unfairness and show empathy. "It's important for kids to know that they also have power and can talk through things to solve problems," says Mezeu.

In keeping with the family theme, the sisters asked one of their brothers, William Siegning, who is a graphic designer in Cameroon, to illustrate their text. "But then his laptop was stolen," says Mezeu, so the sisters took Siegning's initial artwork for the book to Australian illus-



Mezeu and Domkam's young relatives in Cameroon giggle over the pages of How the Sly Siblings Learned to Share, which is co-illustrated by the authors' brother.

trator Maeve Baker, who was able to incorporate their brother's creative vision with her own whimsical style.

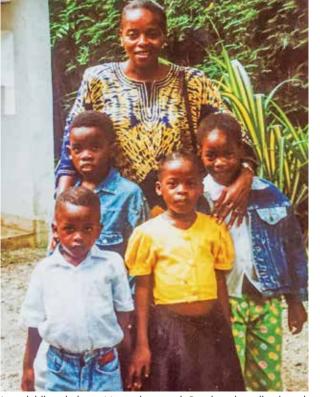
"We never really thought further than the next thing, so we didn't know how hard the publishing process could be," Mezeu says. "It helped that it was the two of us together."

Formatting proved to be the trickiest part of self-publishing. "There were so many small but necessary considerations that could only be learned by doing," Domkam says. "We spent nearly six months trying to format the finished product ourselves before realizing that we needed to bring in an expert to bring us to the finish line."

Although *How the Sly Siblings Learned to Share* celebrates conflict resolution in the hands of young people, Mezeu and Domkam credit their mother with giving them the confidence to express themselves and solve problems. In fact, they dedicated the book to their mom because "none of this would've been possible without her," says Domkam.

Mezeu suggested, with a laugh, that the siblings have learned their childhood sharing lessons well, as they wholeheartedly collaborated on *How the Sly Siblings Learned to Share*. Domkam agreed, saying, "The council not only served as a fun bonding moment with my siblings, but I think it also played a large role in the close relationship we have today."

The sisters wrapped up the project last year, although they continue to maintain the book's website (theslysiblings.com) and are looking to hold classroom readings. The book is available through Amazon and in local shops, including Tattered Cover on Colfax Ave. and Little Bird Denver in Park Hill.



In a childhood photo, Mezeu (in green), Domkam (in yellow), and Siegning (in white) stand with their older brother and mom.



From left to right: William Siegning, Naomi Domkam, their mom Bernadette Kameni, and Stessy Mezeu recently gathered in Cameroon.







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NEWS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD MASTER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION **FEBRUARY 2024**

IMPORTANT AQUATIC DATES

- March 1st: 2024 Swim Lesson Schedule Posted
- April 10th at noon: Swim Team Registration
- May 1st at noon: Pool Reservations Open (Party Pads & After Hours)
- May 8th at noon: Resident Swim Lesson Registration

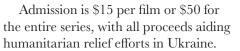
FEBRUARY EDUCATION WINE TASTING

Thursday, Feb. 15th, 6-8pm, The Cube, 8371 E. Northfield Blvd.

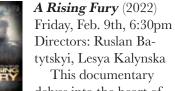
Save the date for our next educational wine tasting! This tasting will take place at the Cube on Thursday, February 15th from 6-8pm. Tickets are \$40 and are available at mca80238.com.

CINEMA OF SURVIVAL: Ukraine's Fight for Freedom—Through the Lens of Film

Ukrainians of Colorado, in partnership with the MCA and Prof. Vincet Piturro of Metropolitan State University, present "Cinema of Survival," a compelling film series at The Cube. This series, showcasing a selection of documentaries and dramas, provides a poignant glimpse into Ukraine's ongoing struggle for freedom. Scheduled from February 9th to 11th, each film offers a unique perspective on the resilience and enduring spirit of the Ukrainian people.



To purchase tickets, please visit mca80238.com.



Directors: Ruslan Batytskyi, Lesya Kalynska

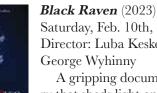
delves into the heart of Ukraine's recent tumultu-

ous events, capturing the escalating fury and determination of a nation fighting for its sovereignty and democratic ideals.



The Music of Survival: The Story of the Ukrainian Bandurist **Chorus** (2015) Saturday, Feb. 10th, 1pm Director: Orest Sushko

remarkable journey of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus, an ensemble that has become a symbol of resistance and cultural preservation amidst political upheaval.



Saturday, Feb. 10th, 3pm Director: Luba Keske and George Wyhinny

A gripping documentary that sheds light on the lesser-known aspects of

Ukraine's struggle, embodied in personal stories of resilience and defiance.

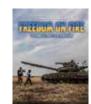
The screening will be followed by an in-person Q&A with the directors.



6:30pm Director: Maryna Er Gorbach

An award-winning drama that portrays

the harrowing reality of life near the Ukraine-Russia border. It's a visceral narrative of survival, love, and the human cost of conflict.



Freedom on Fire (2022) Sunday, Feb. 11th, 1pm Director: Evgeny Afineevsky

This documentary offers a powerful and heart-wrenching view

of Ukraine's journey through revolution and war, highlighting the unbreakable spirit of its people. The screening includes a Q&A session with the director via Zoom from Kyiv, Ukraine.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

If you are looking for a space to create and maintain your very own organic garden, this is your sign to get involved in the Central Park gardens!

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ACTIVE MINDS: The History of Automobiles

Thursday, Feb. 8th, 1–2pm. Sam Gary Library

From the hand cranked Model T that came in any color you want as long as it's black, to modern cars that have more circuits and chips than most computers, the automobile has a rich and still evolving history. Join Active Minds as we tell the story of the invention that replaced the horse and buggy. Along the way, we'll take a look at mass production, labor, environmental impacts, and the introduction of self-driving cars.

ACTIVE MINDS: Tibet

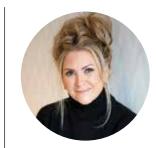
Thursday, Feb. 22th, 1-2pm. Sam Gary Library

With an average elevation higher than the tallest peaks of Colorado, Tibet has been called the "Roof of the World." Join Active Minds as we explore the history and controversy that surrounds this unique region. China claims that Tibet has been part of China for centuries, while many Tibetans maintain that China illegally invaded the independent country in 1949. We will cover the role of the Dalai Lama and the views of China and the international community as we seek to understand the situation there.

Jennifer Olsen **Communications Manager** Jolsen@mca80238.com







COMPASS

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Amanda Murphy 720.454.2622



Consuelo Sidas 720.277.2925



We've begun the new year and the market seems to have some fresh energy. There's more inventory for buyers to choose from, we've had more balance in our buyer/seller negotiations, and the Fed has indicated they may FINALLY be finished raising that fed fund rate that has fueled this past year's higher interest rates.





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