

The Front Porch

Planning Council Board Meetings

May 28, 7 pm & June 25, 7 pm

St. Albans Park Community Room, 665 Selby

Council News

At the meeting on Feb. 26, the Council Board finalized arrangements to approve the hiring of Rozanne Glass as a consultant to work with Board members and staff and to establish a structure for Council growth and development. The Board also approved a tentative budget and elected two new Executive Committee members: Barbara Crum, as chair of Neighborhood Development, and Gail Graham, as Treasurer. They will serve until the regular Council elections in May.

At the meeting on Mar. 26, the Council Board signed the contract for Rozanne Glass, Council consultant. David Stewart was seated as a new Board member representing Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church, of which he is pastor, and Liberty Plaza. The resignation of David Singleton from the Board was accepted.

Planning Council Board Members

Barbara Crum	Sub-district B
Julia Cruz	Weed & Seed
Theresa Fountain	At large
Mary Gardner	Sub-district D
Gail Graham	Mississippi Market
Reginald Harris	Sub-district C
Diane Hutchinson-Shoals	Sub-district B
Kay Knutson	At large
Carl Nelson	Sub-district F
Cheryl Peterson-DeGeer	Sub-district D
Cary Rembert	Sub-district C
Darryl Spence	Sub-district C
David Stewart	Dayton Ave Presbyterian Church/Liberty Plaza
Steve Wilson	Hallie Q. Brown
Scott Wright	Sub-district D

Board Bio: Carl Nelson

Carl Nelson and his wife, Gerda, have their home at 564 Selby Avenue. They have lived in St. Paul for 37 years and in the Summit-University neighborhood for 12 years. Carl worked in student affairs at the University of Minnesota until 1988, after which he and his wife opened Blair Box Office Video in 1989. Semi-retired now, he continues to be involved with civic affairs, especially those dealing with racial justice, public schools, international peace and justice, crime prevention, and development of the Summit-University businesses and neighborhood.

Bits and Pieces

- May 8 - St. Paul Parks and Recreation Commission is sponsoring a forum at the Martin Luther King Center, 270 Kent St., at 6:30 pm to obtain feedback about parks and recreation matters in the area. Call Mike Rosenberg at 651 266-6447 for details.
- May 18 - **Annual Summit-University Planning Council Board elections**, 10am-4pm. If you would like to run for a Board seat, pick up a petition at the SU office, 627 Selby, 9-1 weekdays, and turn in the completed petition by 1pm on Monday, May 13. **Every resident of District 8 is encouraged to vote on May 18.**
- May 18 - Ramsey County Master Gardener Annual Plant Sale at 2020 White Bear Ave., Maplewood, MN.
- Jun 8 - Carty Park, bordered by Grotto, St. Albans, Carroll, and Iglehart, is having a Stand for Children Festival from 11 to 3. There will be many youth activities, including basketball games with police officers, as well as prizes and food. The festival is sponsored by the Youth Service Community Initiative.
- Jun 22 - CLEAN-UP. Bring your stuff to 560 Concordia, the Capitol Hill Magnet School. No garbage or hazardous waste is accepted.

Check the Council website for more information
www.district8stpaul.org

Interview with Rozanne Glass, Planning Council Consultant

"There's never been a job that I haven't both enjoyed and learned from," says Rozanne Glass, the newly hired consultant who is shepherding the Summit-University Planning Council through its reorganization before the hiring of its new Executive Director in September. "I see myself as both making changes and calming the waters here."

Ms. Glass, a Midwesterner born and educated in Chicago, has been active in the consulting field for a number of years. She began her consulting work after holding the position of Chief of Public Information for the Ohio Department of Liquor Control. The great majority of her work has involved nonprofit and government organizations. She holds a Master's Degree in Urban Studies from Cleveland State University.

Ms. Glass has been a lifelong book lover, someone who considers a library a "holy place." In her earlier years in Columbus, Ohio, where James Thurber lived, she was a two-time winner of the annual Thurber House Short Story Competition. "If I were to pick my fantasy career, I'd probably have been a playwright," she says.

As a new Minnesotan, Ms. Glass feels completely comfortable. "I've been here before," she comments. "My first experience in Minnesota was right after college when I was a Vista volunteer on the Fond du Lac Reservation. When people ask me if I like it here, I say it's home."

OVER THE BACK FENCE

Neighborhoods

Cheryl Peterson-DeGeer

A neighborhood is a community made up of a diverse group of people who, when blended together, make a harmonious sound. I grew up in the sticks. We (my brothers and the neighbor kids) played marbles on a dirt road. At this time of year, the ice was still in the mud puddles, but even with the ice scrunching, we'd be ready to play. "There's some ground to be seen, dust off your marbles, let's go!"

Kay Knutson

For me, a neighborhood is feeling safe, communicating and having fun on a social basis. It's being able to talk to everybody. I grew up on Summit Avenue, with all the big families from a mile around on every side. There was always someone to play with. What's important about our neighborhood in SU is that it's so diverse. You have young and old, rich and poor, and every color under the sun. It's key that we remember that's what a neighborhood is.

Steve Wilson

A neighborhood is where kids can play freely with a sense of being close to home and a sense of being safe. Sometimes in the summer when school was out, we used to leave around nine in the morning and not come back until after six. We were playing, doing boy stuff, exploring. We used to get on our bikes and just go.

Cary Rembert

A neighborhood is a place where your feet are planted and with the kids you want to show them love. My neighborhood was mixed -- Italian, Puerto Rican, Mexican, Jewish, Black. It was a place where when you walked down the street and saw Miz Jones or Miz Johnson, by the time you got home, your folks would know just what you'd been doing. The women and men were everybody's father and mother.

As a kid, I didn't really know I was Black. But one day I visited my grandma in Park Lawn. They had a ski slope, and some kids there said to me, "We're not allowed to play with n-----s." I looked around behind me to see who they were talking about.

Comments and responses welcome, for publication in next issue. Drop at 627 Selby, or e-mail to district8@ci.stpaul.mn.us with <Outreach> in the subject or body of the e-mail.

Dreadlocks and Goldilocks



ART



D Art has always been "by the people, for the people," but it seems that in our time it has become a tool of privilege utilized to define and divide.

G When I was in high school, I took all the art classes I could. What I made was horrible--grandma's portrait looking as if she had been pickled, the Virgin Mary in sky-blue wrappings. Then later I gave up art--I was smart enough to know I was no good, and by then I had other interests.

D The youth I work with are attempting to reclaim the indigenous use of art to inform and empower people. Through their performances and exhibits, audiences are being offered insights into worlds of struggles and dreams that become mirrors reflecting universal concerns and hopes.

G What art hangs in my house? A Robert Natkin acrylic worth quite a bit of money, with a purple Easter egg in the lower righthand corner. Two abstract collages of a woman giving birth--only someone had already bought the third, so the baby never gets born. In the kitchen, my son's art school paintings, leaning on top of the cupboards. Several photographs of dead babies in their coffins--why? I don't know as I even want to think about it.

D If art does not unify, galvanize and give access to the unimagined--then what kind of art is it? If art does not respond to the social conditions that stagnate, marginalize or oppress people--then of what use is that "art?"

G Then there's the shelf of Vietnamese clocks, statues, knickknacks, fake flowers under plexiglas, Jesus on the cross surrounded by Christmas lights (though you have to plug him in first). Not art exactly, but something. Memories, maybe. Hands touching. Voices across the space between us.

D Let's recuperate the aspects of art that have always liberated, enlightened and healed the people. Let's erase the lines separating the artist from the audience. Let's reclaim the poetry of the people.

This is...

◆ For The Youth ◆

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The information on this page was compiled and/or written by YSCI.

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Summit University - "A Community of Promise"

A year ago, the Summit University Community became a "Community of Promise". This means that residents, community agencies, churches, businesses and youth in the Summit University Community are partnering with other organizations to ensure that all children and youth in Summit University receive the five promises: 1) **MENTOR**: Ongoing relationships with caring adults. 2) **PROTECT**: Safe places and structured activities. 3) **NURTURE**: A healthy start for a healthy future. 4) **TEACH/LEARN**: Marketable skills through effective education. 5) **SERVE**: Opportunities for youth to serve.

The Youth Service Community Institute is pleased to announce that they have been selected to host an AmeriCorp Promise Fellow over the next year to help support this effort. To find out more about this effort and/or to get involved call Liz Stevens at (651) 222.6906 ext. 10. Join us in recognizing young people as assets.



MMEP Summer Enrichment Guide 2002

The Minnesota Minority Education Partnership, Inc. (MMEP) is a collaborative effort of Minnesota's Higher Education institutions, K-12 school districts, the state of Minnesota and the broader community committed to increasing the success for Minnesota Students of color in Minnesota schools, colleges, and universities. MMEP publishes a guide as a service to Minnesota communities of color to assist youth in identifying summer academic and college orientation programs. The guide is available on the web at: www.mmep.net or you may contact them at 612-330-1645 to request a copy.



YSCI After-school Enrichment Community Advisory Board

Do you live or work in the Summit University Community? Are you concerned about our children? The YSCI After-school Enrichment Advisory Board is currently taking applications from individuals interested in serving on the committee. Whether you are a young person or an adult here is an opportunity to get involved and help create a vision and voice for our young people. The Mission of the Community Advisory Board is to ensure that all school age youth in Saint Paul Ward One Community, focusing on the Summit University Neighborhood, have access to programming during non-school hours that seeks to improve their social skills, academic skills and cultural awareness. If you are interested in serving on this board please contact Liz Stevens at 651-222-6906 ext. 10 for an application.

URBAN YOUTH TALENT SHOWS

If you missed the first "Urban Youth talent Show" on March 15th, you won't want to miss the next three on May 31, June 28, and July 19, 2002 from 7:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. at Central High School Auditorium, 275 North Lexington Parkway. These talent shows are a collaborative effort of G.O.L.D.; Rondo Avenue Inc., Target Market, and Summit University Weed and Seed. Cost of tickets are \$4.00 for youth and \$5.00 for adults.

Youth interested in participating in the talent shows may call 651-649-4483 to leave you name and phone number to schedule an audition. When leaving a message, please speak clearly and slowly. Winners' receive cash prizes and the opportunity to perform at the Rondo Days grand finale show on July 19th.

STAND FOR CHILDREN - 2002

Circle your calendars and plan to attend the Third Annual Summit University Stand for Children event on **June 8, 2002 at Carty Park from 11:00 - 3:00 p.m.** The planning is just beginning, if you are interested in helping please contact Liz Stevens, Youth Service Community Institute, 651-222-6906 x 10.