

THE DUBUQUE AREA LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE, FEBRUARY 2026

FREE

JULIEN'S JOURNAL

50th
ANNIVERSARY

**JULIEN'S JOURNAL
CELEBRATES 50 YEARS!**

**1976: A LOOK BACK AT
DUBUQUE 50 YEARS AGO**

**TWO WINES THAT ARE GREAT
FOR VALENTINE'S DAY**

Take care of your *heart* today and for the future.



AMERICAN HEART MONTH

Your heart works nonstop to support your body—yet heart disease often develops without noticeable symptoms. That's why awareness, prevention, and regular check-ins with your provider are so important.

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Since opening, Dubuque Pottery Studio has quickly become a favorite activity spot in the community. The studio has been a hit for events, date nights, and meaningful time with loved ones, offering a hands-on experience that's both engaging and fun for all ages.

The studio's most popular activities are its weekend one-time wheel throwing classes, where you can learn to create pieces like planters, bud vases, cups, and more.

For those wanting to go deeper, a six-week wheel throwing course walks students through throwing, trimming, and glazing a collection of wheel-thrown work, while the five-week dinnerware class focuses on hand-building a complete 12-piece set.

All classes can be booked online at dubuquepotterystudio.com

**MAKE
YOUR OWN
POTTERY IN
DUBUQUE**

JULIEN'S JOURNAL

**Volume 50, Number 2
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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

February marks the 50th anniversary of *Julien's Journal*, so this issue contains some fun facts and nostalgia about *Julien's Journal* and the City of Dubuque. Fifty years ago, the average price for gas in the state of Iowa was \$0.60 per gallon. A new product called a radar range, that would later become known as a microwave, was on the market. Polyester pantsuits for women and leisure suits for men were also popular. I'm embarrassed to admit that I wore a leisure suit to a school dance while I was in high school. Change isn't always good, but from my point of view the elimination of the leisure suit was a real positive for society.

Inside this issue

The first issue of *Julien's Journal* was published in February 1976, appearing as a monthly publication in the mailboxes of some 5,000 carefully chosen homes. The initial magazine was sixteen-page magazine focused on local feature stories. Read the rest of the story on page 15

It was February 1976, and the country had started celebrating the Bicentennial. As people looked back on 200 years of American history, Marie Devaney Udulutch was looking forward. She sought to grow her community by starting a new publication. Read about it on page 18.

Nonprofit funds hosted by the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque are set to grant millions of dollars to support the work of local organizations. Learn about endowments and how they help on page 21.

When people think about retirement success, they often focus on one central question: How are my investments performing? But once retirement approaches there's another factor that can quietly have just as much impact, and sometimes more. Read about it on page 24.

Falbo Bros Pizzeria started in Madison, Wisconsin in August of 1992 when two University of Wisconsin students dreamed of the concept of a better pizza. Read our review of the Dubuque Falbo Bros Pizzeria on page 29.

The Frosted Glass reviews Goofy Boots, a hazy IPA that maintains a smooth finish from drink to swallow. Read the full review on page 31.

TeamWine reviews two wines that are great for Valentine's Day on page 33.



It's Not About Predicting the Market. It's About the Order You Take Income.



In retirement, timing can matter more than performance.

Most retirement conversations
focus on investments.

But once income begins, the sequence of
withdrawals plays a critical role in how long
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Upcoming Events Should be Emailed to Juli@JuliensJournal.com.

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Photos of the Month



These photos of the Northern Lights were taken last November and submitted by Gary Fagan of Fagan Photography. Visit Garyfaganphoto.smugmug.com or email faganphoto@aol.com. Comments and photos for possible use in a future issue can be sent to Robin@JuliensJournal.com.

Wishing you a Heartwarming Valentines Day...



*From nearly 10,000 campers, staff, volunteers,
and the Board of Camp Courageous...*

Wishing you a Heartwarming Valentines Day...from nearly 10,000 campers, staff, volunteers, and the Board of Camp Courageous...

'Camp Courageous is grateful for your support year-round...and particularly this time of the year when love and hope...are in the air....

Camp Courageous is a year-round recreational, respite, and travel program for individuals with disabilities of all ages. It has grown from 211 campers during the summer of 1974 to nearly 10,000 campers in a year-round program today.

It has grown from 40 acres to 400 acres, from 5 buildings to 35 buildings, and from a staff of 12 to a staff of nearly 100...all done without government support, formal sponsorship or anyone paid to raise funds for the Camp.

Camp Courageous stands as a living testimony to the goodness of many. For most Camp Courageous Campers, Coming to Camp Courageous is the highlight of their year!



*Make plans to visit Camp Courageous in 2026!
We are grateful for your support!*

*For more information visit: www.campcourageous.org
Donate at www.campcourageous.org/donate*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Events are subject to change. Please visit listing sites for the most up-to-date information. Submissions may also be edited and printed at the discretion of the publisher.

Fabulous Fridays Community Artist Series

Fridays, February 6 through March 27
12-12:30 PM @ St. Luke's United Methodist Church

Free performances. Donations support People in Need and St. Luke's Food Ministries. Desserts follow. Visit StLukesDbq.org.



First Fridays

Friday, February 6

@ Various Locations in Dubuque

First Fridays is a free downtown monthly community arts event with open galleries, artists' studios, and live entertainment. Visit FirstFridaysDubuque.org.

Early Explorers: "W" is for Wolf

Saturday and Tuesday, February 3 & 7
10-11 AM @ National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium

Programs include a variety of hands-on activities, including a craft and a game. Ages 2-5 with a parent/caregiver. Visit RiverMuseum.org.

Wild West Wednesdays

Wednesday, February 4, 11, 18 & 25
7-11 PM @ Dubuque County Fairgrounds

Come for country dance music and fun. All ages. Visit DBQFair.com.

JDIFF Gala-Welcome to Emerald City

Saturday, February 7
7:00 -9 PM @Dubuque Country Club

Join the Julien Dubuque International Film Festival in an imaginary trip to Oz. Come during Cocktail Gathering (sponsored open bar from 5-7 PM) to register for the auction, and bid on silent auction items. Meet our special guest filmmaker, enjoy light hors d'oeuvres and get ready to find those ruby slippers.

Dinner is served 7:15 PM with auction at 8 PM. Attire is black and green, or dress as your favorite Oz character. Visit Julien-FilmFest.com/gala

February Events



Nate the Great the Musical

Sunday, February 1

2 PM @ The Grand Opera House

Nate the Great gets a call from his good friend Annie alerting him that her new painting of her dog Fang is missing. To solve this case, he is going to need to find some pancakes, learn to think of new ways, and rely on the help of his friends.

A funny, sweet, rollicking good time that celebrates art, friendship, creative thinking, and of course, pancakes! This production is recommended for audiences ages 5 and above. Visit TheGrandOperaHouse.com.

Superb Owl Sunday

Sunday, February 8

12 PM @ EB Lyons Interpretive Center, Mines of Spain

Birds of prey close-up introduction to three or four live raptors. Participants can learn more about each species and discuss topics of conservation related to raptors. All ages. Visit MinesOfSpain.org.



Home School Art Adventures

Wednesday, February 11

10 AM-12 PM @ Bluff Strokes Art Center

Visit BluffStrokes.org/Programming.

Homeschool Days

Thursday, February 12 @ National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium

Homeschool Days are held the second Thursday through February. Visit RiverMuseum.org.

Seed Exchange

Thursday, February 12

6-7 PM @ Dubuque Arboretum & Botanical Gardens

Bring seeds to share, pick new varieties, and connect with fellow gardeners. A fun way to kickstart your spring planning. RSVP. Visit DubuqueArboretum.net.

Dubuque Audubon Monthly Program

Thursday, February 12

7-8 PM @ EB Lyons Interpretive Center, Mines of Spain

Speaker Nick McClimon, an Iowa DNR Wildlife Management Biologist, will feature an update on Green Island and other DNR wildlife management areas. Visit MinesOfSpain.org.



School's Out Day Camp

Friday, February 13

9 AM-4 PM @ National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium

Camps are held on weekdays when the Dubuque Community School District is not in session. These full-day camps are for students in K-5th grade. Visit RiverMuseum.org.

Middle School Art Adventures

Saturday, February 14, 10 AM-12 PM
@ Bluff Strokes Art Center
Visit BluffStrokes.org/Programming.

Bon Jovi Tribute Band

Saturday, February 14, 7 PM
@ Ohnward Fine Arts Center
(Maquoketa, IA)

Enjoy a rocking night with Bad Medicine, a renowned Bon Jovi tribute band. Visit OhnwardFineArtsCenter.com.

Annual Ice Golf Classic

Saturday, February 14
8AM - 4 PM @ Mid Town Marina

Join St. Mark Ice Golf Classic for more costumes, and more fun. All proceeds benefit the kids at St. Mark Youth Enrichment. The St. Mark Ice Men compete for this year's 18-hole course. Prizes will be presented to the Best Sled, Best Dressed, and Best Overall Theme. AND there'll be 50/50, raffle drawings, and a silent auction during the event. Visit StMarkYouthEnrichment.org

She Unites

Wednesday, February 18, 6:30-7:30 PM
@ The Innovation Lab, 210 Jones St.

Come together for an evening of socialization and education. She Unites features rotating speakers talking about anything and everything pertaining to women in a chill environment. Visit SheUnitesIowa.com/events.

Make a Willow Basket

Saturday, February 21
9 AM-5 PM @ Bluff Strokes Art Center
Create a small "rib-style" basket from willow. Ages 14+. Visit BluffStrokes.org/Programming.

History of the Mines of Spain

Sunday, February 22
12 PM @ EB Lyons Interpretive Center, Mines of Spain
Dig a bit deeper into the history of the Mines of Spain. Visit MinesOfSpain.org.

Euchre Party

Sunday, February 22
12 PM @ Steeple Square
Get ready for an exciting afternoon of Euchre. Registration includes a sandwich, chips, and a cookie. Cash bar. Pre-registration required. Visit SteepleSquare.com/Euchre2.

DSO: Classics 3

Saturday and Sunday, February 28 & March 1
Saturday, 7:30 PM; Sunday, 2 PM @ Five Flags Theater
Former Dubuque Symphony Orchestra (DSO) Concertmaster and current Chicago Lyric Opera violinist Eleanor Bartsch makes an anticipated return to perform Samuel Barber's Violin Concerto. Members of the Dubuque Symphony Youth Orchestra also join the DSO in a special side-by-side performance of Jean Sibelius' Finlandia. Visit DubuqueSymphony.org.

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SONGFEST: CONNECTED THROUGH

by Sarah Slaughter

“I’m over here, and you’re over there, but there is something between us that’s greater.”

This line from Brian Tate’s “Connected” is a perfect metaphor for the shared joy of making music. People come together, playing different instruments and singing different rhythms and melodies to create an experience greater than the sum of its parts.

In the spirit of celebrating musical connections, the Dubuque Chorale is proud to present *SongFest*, an annual celebration of choral music in the greater Dubuque area made possible by a generous grant from the DRA.

“Their consistent support of community music-making embodies the connectedness of our Dubuque community,”

– Dr. Amanda Huntleigh, Artistic Director of the Dubuque Chorale.

Now in its 11th year, this concert brings singers of all ages together for an evening of sharing and making music. The Dubuque Chorale, along with their chamber choir Cadenza and both Dubuque Chorale Children’s Choirs (DCCC), will be joined onstage by other local groups, including the Julien Chamber Choir, the Music Men, and choirs from Clarke University, Emmaus University, Loras College, the University of Dubuque, and the University of Wisconsin-Platteville.

This concert provides a wonderful opportunity for audience members to sample a variety of groups with different musical styles. “I learned about multiple groups that I didn’t know about from our area my first time attending *SongFest*,” recalls Victoria Bausman, director of one of the children’s choirs. “Barbershop harmony tends to be a lesser-known style, so we welcome the opportunity to display what it’s all about,” says Merlin Green, longtime member of the Music Men Barbershop Chorus. There’s something for everyone at this concert, and the participating choirs look forward to sharing what makes their ensemble special with their fellow singers and potential new fans!

SongFest is important to the Dubuque Chorale’s community building and educational goals because it brings together singers from across generations. The Dubuque Chorale Children’s Choirs have been part of the festival since 2023, truly making this an event for all ages. In



GH MUSIC-MAKING

this concert, children as young as eight will stand onstage and sing with musicians from all stages of life, from college students to octogenarians. This experience shows young people that music can be a lifelong pursuit. “Your tennis arm might eventually give out, but you can still sing through your eighties!” remarks Kristen Eby, Associate Professor of Music at the University of Dubuque and conductor of the Julien Chamber Choir. We hope our audience also recognizes the proof in this concert that it’s never too late (or too early) to get involved in making music.

Another goal of the concert is to celebrate connecting through music. The finale piece, “Connected” by Brian Tate will be sung by the combined choirs and is a beautiful illustration of this idea. Karmella Sellers, program director for the DCCC, says “‘Connected’ is the perfect song for an event that gathers singers from all kinds of places - community, universities, children - to lift their voices in song together.” The text of the song includes lines such as, “I am a part of you, you are a part of me, and so together we are one body,” emphasizing the interconnectedness of all people.

The piece will be conducted by DCCC Staccati Singers conductor Victoria Bausman. “When we raise our voices together, we embody the truth the piece proclaims—that we are not separate, but connected,” says Bausman. Musically, the piece makes connection even more evident by juxtaposing a section of different overlapping melodies with a second section where each voice part returns to a common refrain. Each person may be singing different notes and rhythms, but they all combine to create a unified sound and deliver a powerful message.

Please join us for the 11th annual *SongFest* and experience the joy of musical connection! The performance will take place at Eleanor Roosevelt Middle School on February 7 at 7:00 PM. There is no cost for admission; freewill donations are appreciated. 🎵



The combined choirs sing the finale piece together at the SongFest 2025.



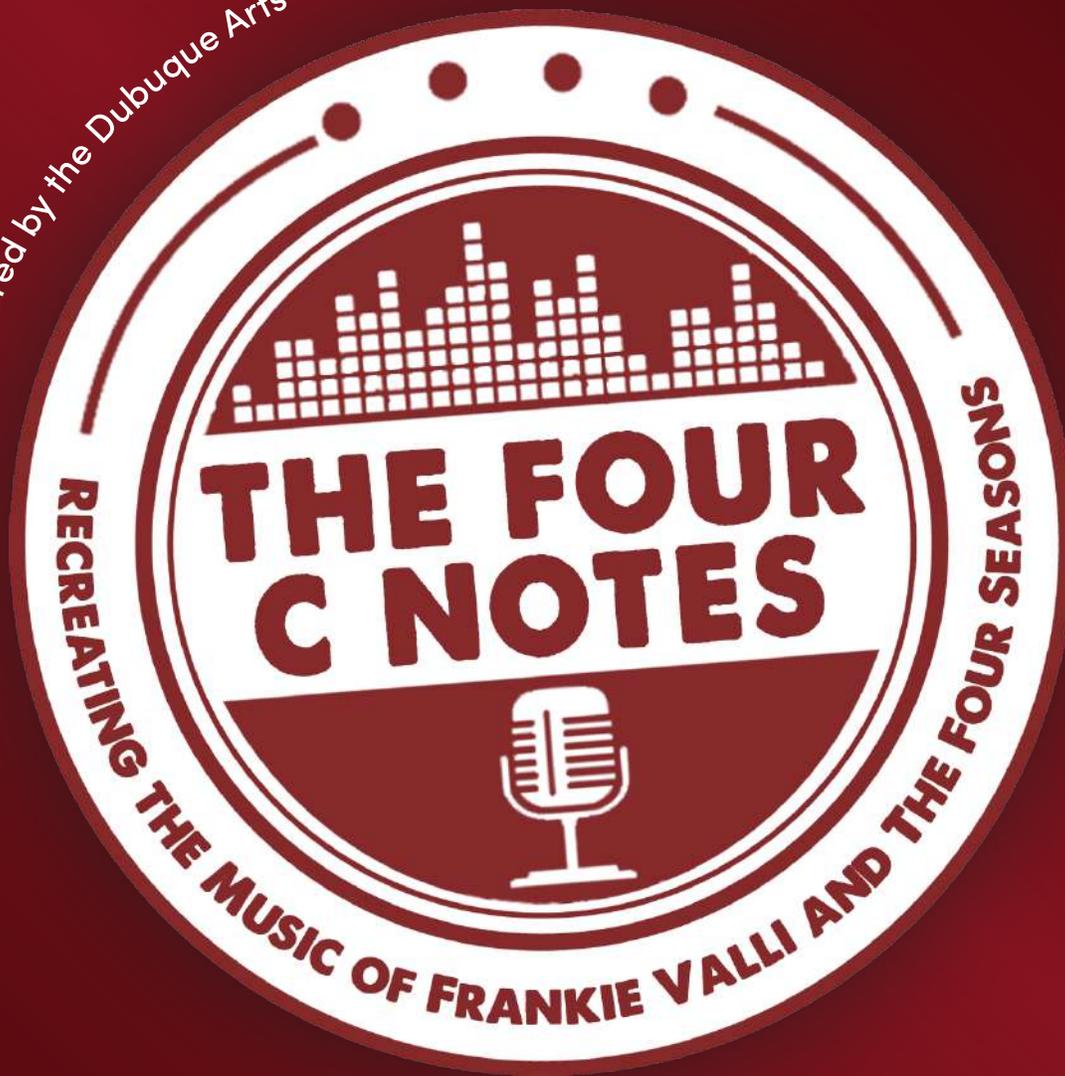
Victoria Bausman will conduct this year's finale piece.

Special thanks to the Dubuque Racing Association; this event couldn't happen without your generosity.

Thanks to all our sponsors and in-kind donors!

Premier Bank, Gronen, Iowa Arts Council, City of Dubuque, DRA, National Endowment for the Arts, Henry Family Foundation, Schoen Family Charitable Trust, The Wahlert Foundation, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Bread of Life Presbyterian Church, Grand View Methodist Church, Church of the Nativity, First Congregational Church UCC, Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Greater Dubuque Development Corporation.

Sponsored by the Dubuque Arts Council



March 27 | 7:30 p.m.

UNIVERSITY OF DUBUQUE HERITAGE CENTER

The Four C Notes are bringing the legendary sounds of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons to the University of Dubuque Heritage Center on March 27! Created by John Michael Coppola, a star from Chicago's long-running Jersey Boys production, this Midwest powerhouse delivers an authentic, electrifying tribute that similar groups simply can't match.

Prepare for a nostalgic journey through timeless classics like "Sherry," "Big Girls Don't Cry," "Walk Like A Man," "Can't Take My Eyes Off Of You," and "December, 1963 (Oh, What a Night)." With vintage suits, sharp choreography, and pitch-perfect harmonies, these four guys capture the magic that made the Four Seasons icons of rock and roll.

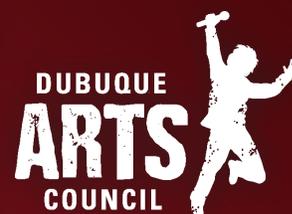
Whether you grew up with these hits or you're discovering them for the first time, this high-energy show promises an unforgettable evening of music, memories, and pure entertainment. Don't miss your chance to experience this premier Frankie Valli tribute!



“ Sensational! The Four C Notes rocked the house...
‘Oh, What a Night!’ ”



**BUY
TICKETS**



DubuqueArtsCouncil.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



All events/activities are subject to change. Visit the online calendar at CarnegieStout.org/Events for the most up-to-date information.

Toddler Time

Mondays, February 2 through May 4 @ 9:30 AM & 10:30 AM

Programs feature short stories, songs, and movement activities. Ages 18-35 mos. Adult participation required.

Dementia Simulation Experience

Tuesday, February 3 @ 9:30 AM.

Learn more about what dementia is, how it affects the brain, and what you can do to help the people in your life living with dementia. Ages 18+. Registration required.

Baby Rhyme Time

Tuesdays, February 3 through May 5 @ 10:30 AM

Hear stories, rhymes, and songs during this interactive program. Ages birth-18 mos. Adult participation required.

Preschool Storytime

Wednesdays, February 4 through May 6 @ 10:30 AM

Stories, sing-alongs, and movement activities. Ages 3-6. Adult participation required.

Pokémon Club

Wednesday, February 4 @ 5:30 PM

Meet other Pokémon trainers. Ages 6-12. Registration required.

Mini Pom Pom Pets

Thursday, February 5 @ 4 PM

Create mini pom pom critters using yarn, glue, and accessories. Ages 8-14. Registration required.

Virtual Author Talks

Tuesday February 5 @ 6 PM

"Swashbuckling Heroines and High Seas Adventures" with novelist Vanessa Riley. Ages 16+.

Art @ Your Library Opening Reception

Friday, February 6 @ 5:30-7:30 PM

Art @ your library is a First Fridays program occurring bi-monthly and featuring local and regional artists.

Love is in the Air Photo Shoot

Saturday, February 7 @ 9 AM-5 PM

Come for a 15-minute photo shoot and receive family photos digitally. Call (563) 589-4225, x-2228 to register.

Reading Roundtable Book Club

Monday, February 9 @ 6-7 PM

Books are available at the check-out desk.

Ages 18+.

Kindness Rocks

Tuesday, February 10 @ 4 PM

Create rocks with positive, uplifting messages to inspire. Ages 6-11. Registration required.

Ukulele Time!

Tuesday, February 10 & 24 @ 6 PM

Adult ukulele lessons. Registration required.

Valentine's Day Story & Craft

Wednesday, February 11 @ 4 PM

Listen to Valentine's Day stories and make a craft. Ages 6-11. Registration required.

Minecraft Mania

Wednesday, February 11 @ 5:30 PM

Ages 7-14. Registration required.

Cape Creators

Thursday, February 12 @ 4 PM

Design your own superhero character and create a custom cape to match. Ages: 6-12. Registration required.

Virtual Author Talks

Thursday February 12 @ 6 PM

"Mojos, Mermaids, Medicine, and 400 Years of Black Women's Magic" with Dr. Lindsey Stewart. Ages 16+.

Movie Night

Thursday, February 12 @ 6 PM

Come for a free movie suitable for adult audiences. Ages 16+.

Lollipops & Music

Saturday, February 14 @ 10 AM

This concert series is offered for preschool children and their families. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Reading with Rover

Saturday, February 14 @ 10:30 AM

Read or listen to a story with some furry friends. Do not bring a pet; kid-friendly dogs are provided. Ages 6-9.

Hobby Fair & Craft Supply Swap

Saturday, February 14 @ 1-3 PM

Browse tables hosted by community members excited to share their passions. There will be no sales, just an enthusiastic exchange of ideas, information, and creativity. All ages.

The graphic features the Carnegie-Stout Public Library logo at the top. Below it, the text "Explore a world of Streaming Video with Kanopy" is written in large, bold, orange letters. Underneath, there are four categories listed: "Movies", "Documentaries", "World Cinema", and "TV Series". At the bottom, it says "FREE with your library card!" in orange and white. The background is dark with some faint, colorful images of people and objects.

360 W. 11th Street | 563-589-4225 | carnegiestout.org

Creative Bean Art

Wednesday, February 18 @ 4 PM

Recreate images using black beans and your imagination. Ages 7-12. Registration required.

Take your Child to the Library Day

Saturday, February 21 @ 9 AM-3 PM

Come for a day of library fun.

LEGO® Challenge

Saturday, February 21 @ 10 AM

Build, create, and have fun. The library provides the LEGOs®. Donations welcome. Ages 5-12.

Family Book Bingo

Saturday, February 21 @ 2 PM

Ages 4-12.

Forces for Good: Abolitionists in the Old Lead Mine Region

Sunday February 22 @ 2 PM

Ages 16+.

Melty Bead Mania

Monday, February 23 @ 4 PM

Get creative with melty beads. Ages 8-12. Registration required.

Introduction to Self Defense

Tuesday, February 24 @ 12 PM

All ability levels. Ages 18+.

Sun SHINE Squad

Tuesday, February 24 @ 4 PM

Work on volunteer projects while providing feedback on making the library a welcoming place for teens. Ages 12-18. Registration required.

Virtual Author Talks

Thursday February 24 @ 6 PM

“Smithson’s Gamble: The Incredible History Behind the World’s Largest Museum” with Smithsonian Curator Emeritus Tom Crouch. Ages 16+.

Movie Matinee

Wednesday, February 25 @ 2 PM

Enjoy a movie suitable for adult audiences. Ages 16+

Tiny Treasure Boxes

Wednesday, February 25 @ 4 PM

Upcycle trading cards and decorative elements to build a mini container. Ages 12-18. Registration required.

Reel Reads Cinema

Saturday, February 28 @ 2 PM

Come to the library to enjoy a movie based on a book. Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend with their children. Ages 6-12. Registration required.

Dubuque County Reads

Sunday, February 28 @ 2 PM

Indigenous Voices Panel @ Dubuque Museum of Art. Ages 13+.

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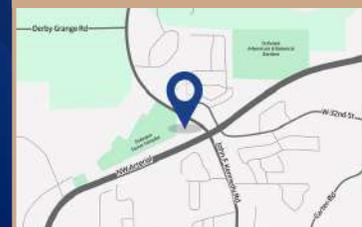
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Happy Anniversary! *Julien's Journal* Celebrates 50 Years!

by Connie Cherba

The first issue of *Julien's Journal* was published in February 1976, appearing as a monthly publication in the mailboxes of some 5,000 carefully chosen homes. The initial sixteen-page magazine focused on local feature stories including the Orpheum Theater restoration project and tri-state skiing spots. Also included in the first issue were columns and advertising. Originally published in a Central Avenue building by Marie Udulutch and her mother, Florence Devaney-Schwartz, the magazine soon became available through subscription or at local newsstands. Single issues were sold for \$0.50. A year's subscription ran \$6.00.

Marie Udulutch studied at Dubuque's Clarke College for two years before graduating from Marquette University. She returned to Dubuque to teach in the public schools. She had extensive experience in public news, working as the news director of KCLN Radio in Clinton and publisher/editor of a weekly newspaper in Madison from 1969 until 1974. Udulutch did it all for *Julien's Journal* – writing, photography, ad sales, and layout. The magazine was printed by the Platteville, Wis., *Shopping News*. Udulutch said, "I wanted to own my own business, and I knew Dubuque. The goal of the magazine was to stimulate greater community awareness."



Udulutch's mother and co-worker, Florence Devaney-Schwartz, was well connected in

Dubuque. She was president of the Mercy Hospital Auxiliary and the Visitation Home School Association as well as serving as a member and officer of several prominent Dubuque organizations. She also worked as a food editor for multiple publications and was a regular guest lecturer at Clarke. Devaney-Schwartz served as the advertising director of *Julien's Journal* for 17 years.



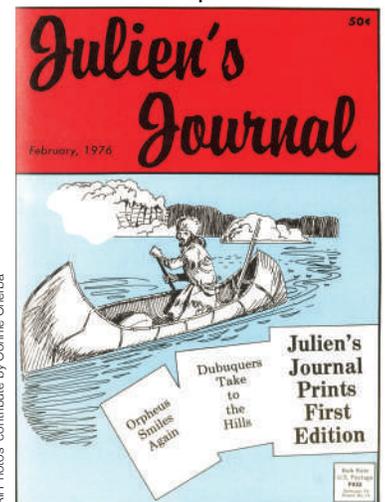
The sixteen-page publication originally featured covers showcasing works of local artists. The magazine quickly became a hit and received a 1976 award from the Iowa Arts Council for its coverage of the arts. Full-page photographs began appearing in the magazine in 1977. After Udulutch received her PhD in 1992, she sold *Julien's Journal* to Robert LeMay. He recalled, "Marie called

me out of the blue one day and asked me if I was interested and I was."



LeMay was owner of Northeast Iowa Publishers, inc., which owned the *Dyersville Commercial* and *Cascade Pioneer-Press*, along with Marquette/McGregor newspapers. His company also had a part interest in a Guttenberg printing press

THE FIRST COVER OF THE JULIEN'S JOURNAL IN 1976.



All Photos contribute by Connie Cherba

50 YEARS OF PUBLISHING

where LeMay was able to print the magazine on good quality, but less expensive paper. Most production including layout, typesetting, and darkroom was done in Dyersville by LeMay's in-house staff. In February 1994, LeMay sold the *Journal* to David William Rusk (J.D. Communications).

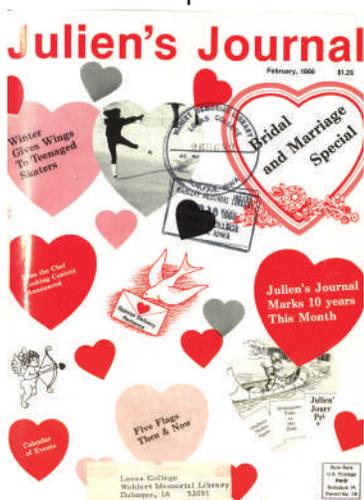
Rusk had a strong background in marketing, sales, and business management. He soon developed the monthly editorial schedule, edited editorial content, sold the advertis-

ing, and worked hard to promote the magazine. Under Rusk, the first full-color *Julien's Journal* cover appeared in August 1996. The themes of the monthly content were often reflected by the cover. The magazine continued to promote the Dubuque area, its institutions, and its people. Estimates put the readership at 40,000, including paid subscrip-



tions and vendor sales. In February 2001, *Julien's Journal* marked its 25th year by hosting a custom-crafted exhibit displaying the first 300 magazine covers in the lobby of the Dubuque Building – now the Roshek Building. Later the exhibit moved to the Carnegie Stout Public Library and then it moved to Kennedy Mall. Rusk noted, "Our 25th anniversary suggests that ours is truly a uniquely fashioned and sustained product relative to any population area of a size similar to that

FEBRUARY 1985 COVER OF THE JULIEN'S JOURNAL.



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NOVEMBER 2023 COVER OF THE JULIEN'S JOURNAL.





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which we serve.”

Rusk was enthusiastic when it came to the magazine. In April 2002 he wrote, “Publishing this magazine has brought me many joys. Certainly, foremost is the fact that it serves as a vocational avenue for my avocational pursuit of promoting this special community of Dubuque and Julien’s Land.” He added, “I also am greatly rewarded by the associations it brings me with writers.”

Julien’s Journal continued to flourish and grow. By February 2006, the magazine had expanded to 112 pages.

After David Rusk passed away in 2010, ownership of *Julien’s Journal* officially transferred to Gina Siegert (G.A. Publishing, Inc.). Siegert had worked under Rusk as the assistant publisher and creative director of the magazine. A graduate of Iowa State University, she had more than twenty-five years of publishing experience in Chicago, Minneapolis, and western Wisconsin. Under Siegert, *Julien’s Journal* became a theme-based magazine with more of a “city and regional” magazine feel.



At the magazine’s 35th anniversary in February 2011, Siegert wrote, “With our 35th anniversary this month, I feel ready to update the look and make meaningful additions to our content. As in the past, *Julien’s Journal* will continue its commitment to the arts, nonprofit efforts, and the communities we serve.” As the new owner, Siegert planned to include columns written by local professionals and enthusiasts with features on health and financial decisions, unique travel destinations, tips on personal style, wine and spirits information from local growers, and area historical pieces. She wrote, “We hope these additions are of interest to families and visitors of all ages.”

In late 2023, Siegert sold *Julien’s Journal* along with companion magazines *CHOICES for Fifty Plus* and *Tri-State Home Trends* to RTN Publishing located in Asbury, Iowa. RTN Publishing was founded and owned by Robin and Terri Nichols. At the time of the sale, Nichols had been publishing magazines for more than 30 years and is credited with founding two companies and several magazines and websites. In December 2023, Nichols wrote, “After a couple stints in the

corporate world, I came to realize that I wasn't cut out for it and that it wasn't cut out for me. And as a result, *Julien's Journal* becomes my next challenge and opportunity. I realize that in becoming the publisher of this treasured magazine that I am attempting to fill big shoes and hope that I can do it as well as my predecessor, Gina Siegert."



Nichols said, "I feel fortunate that I was able to retain most of the existing staff when I purchased the magazines including Gina Siegert along with feature writers Connie Cherba, Beth Triplett, and John Donovan and distribution manager John Moran. I've also added feature writers Cassie Cate and Joshua Nichols along with Juli Hoppensteadt, our events and news editor, Charlotte Grass a graphic designer, and Tim Bowers who helps with magazine distribution. My wife and partner in the business, Terri, helps with accounting and office management."

When it comes to the future, Nichols commented, "We've added a craft beer review and a content sharing agreement with the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque to our editorial lineup, but I've been hesitant to change the magazine very much, because it has been so successful in its current format. I am looking forward to working with the staff to further fine-tune our editorial themes and expand our digital presence in the future."

As *Julien's Journal* begins its 51st year, Dubuque Land wishes the magazine a hearty "Happy Anniversary" and continued success and prosperity into the future. ❖

Comments on this article can be sent to comments@juliensjournal.com.





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1976: A LOOK BACK AT DUBUQUE 50 YEARS AGO

by Beth Triplett

It was February 1976, and the country had started celebrating the Bicentennial. As people looked back on 200 years of American history, Marie Devaney Udulutch was looking forward. She sought to grow her community by starting a new publication, Julien's Journal.



Contributed photos

The Julien Dubuque bridge in 1976.

“It was begun because we like the Dubuque area and we want to participate more fully in its life and contribute to its wellbeing,” Udulutch wrote in the first edition. A half-century later, that mission persists.

As the magazine celebrates its 50 years in publication, we look back at Dubuque in that

landmark year.

“The Orpheum Theatre Smiles Again” proclaimed one of the headlines in the inaugural *Journal* edition, highlighting the renovation of what is now known as the Five Flags Theater. Another restoration benefited the cultural scene as the Old County Jail became the home of the Dubuque Art Association



The new trend was polyester fabric 50 years ago.



The Touchomatic radar range 50 years ago.

museum.

Voters were asked to approve a new Civic Center adjacent to the theater, initially voting “no”, but ultimately approving the measure, with construction beginning in the spring. Voters were also asked to approve \$2.2 million for county care facilities, which they did, and Sunnycrest Manor was established.

Additional enhancements provided quality of life amenities to citizens. The Children’s Zoo opened in Roosevelt Park, Dalzell Field with its new turf was officially dedicated, 13 new busses (with air conditioning!) were purchased, the statue of five pioneers was dedicated in front of the St. Raphael Cathedral, a public fallout shelter in the basement of the Aquinas Institute opened, and the Comiskey Neighborhood and Recreation Center continued to grow.

Citizen groups were also active in spearheading improvements to the area. That year, Jim Schwartz formed Tri-State Gardening Club to establish a botanical garden in Dubuque and collaborated with Frank Hardie's interest in establishing an arboretum, possibly on the 51 acres of land donated the previous year by Jackson 'Mac' Marshall. The Dubuque County Association for Retarded Citizens opened Camp Albrecht Acres, and the Jaycees constructed the gazebo in Washington Park as part of a \$60K park restoration project.

Other changes foretold opportunities that would not be realized for years. Work was progressing on the new city-county landfill, and all solid waste from Dubuque County would be located there after July 1. City Island, Dubuque's landfill for two decades, was being readied for development, and "City officials are wondering how it should be used."

Of course, "Julien's Land" as it was referred to, had its share of setbacks as well. Residents were inconvenienced by the daily closure of the Julien Dubuque Bridge for painting from May to September of that year. St. Mary's Church on White Street suffered a fire, and arson damaged the press box at the University of Dubuque's Chalmers Field. The Caradco Building was up for auction as the company moved production from Dubuque to Rantoul, IL, and St. Raphael's grade school held its last graduating class.

Protests were alive as workers from UAW Local 94 went on strike against John Deere, and picketers were in front of City Hall in support of a proposed city ordinance requiring item pricing. And proving that some things never change, "A group of parents and educators demonstrated their concern about bringing the basics back to Dubuque schools. Other parents and educators think the basics are now being taught."

The earliest *Journals* were all black-and-white, 16-page publications. Looking through the advertisements shows a very different retail environment, with Plaza 20 and the Town Clock Plaza serving as commercial hubs. Ads from Sue's Street of Shops, Kahle's Fine Gifts, InnerSpace Waterbed Store, Siefert's The Book Nook, Donut Hut, Swiss Valley Chalet, Happy House Gift Shop, and Posh bring back memories of shopping experiences that are no longer.

Clothing ads featured coral and blue pantsuits in Fortrel polyester, solid dickeys to wear under a patterned V-neck vest, a little black

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dress accented with pretty bows “for cocktails and later.” For the men, dress shirts were available from \$10 at Gildner’s and Haggard slacks were \$14-\$25 at Graham’s Style Store for Men.

Dining advertisements included the Feast of the Forest Buffet at the Holiday Inn, costing \$5.75 for adults, while children paid 10 cents per year of their age. Marc’s Big Boy opened that year on Dodge Street and the Cock ‘n Bull Supper Club ads attracted *Journal* readers.

Clemens Motor Sales tried to entice readers by asking, “Can we build a new Oldsmobile for you?” People’s Natural Gas offered Maytag dryers for \$60, and Amana promoted its new “Touchmatic Radar Range”, known today as a microwave.

Banks have certainly evolved in the last 50 years. Interest rates were 6.14%, compounded quarterly, or 7.5% on a 3-year investment certificate from MorAmerica Financial Corp., with interest paid monthly by check. DB&T offered free GE gifts with a loan of \$1,500 or more, or Hallmark fashion note stationery if you opened a Christmas Club. If you deposited \$500, a new calculator could be

yours for \$3.50, or free with a \$5,000 deposit. American Trust & Savings offered a “Photo Check Guarantee Card...like having our Chairman of the Board vouch for you every time you write a check, assuring that any check you write up to \$100 is good.” Later in the year, they revealed the new “24/7 card” allowing you to “insert your card, punch in your secret code, and presto – money is at your fingertips. Who knows? It may save you from washing dishes after your check’s been refused sometime!”

All of the *Julien’s Journals* are archived and available at the Carnegie-Stout Public Library in Dubuque. A look through their pages shows that not only has “Julien’s Land” evolved with the times, but the magazine has as well. The *Journal* now features color, expanded distribution, and coverage of contemporary life in the region, all of which will preserve a monthly snapshot of the city. For a half-century, *Julien’s Journal* has captured the stories of people and progress and looks forward to celebrating many more anniversaries with the city we call home. ❖

Comments on this article can be sent to comments@julienjournal.com.

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How The Power of Endowment Helps Local Nonprofits

Nonprofit funds hosted by the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque are set to grant millions of dollars to support the work of local organizations.

Dubuque Arboretum & Botanical Gardens Director Jenna Hirtz knows first-hand the impact endowment funds have on the community. Each year, she sees her organization's endowment, hosted by the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque, pay out to cover an array of daily expenses, such as electricity bills for water features, gas for maintenance equipment, materials for garden beds, and seeds for planting.

"Our endowment with the Community Foundation is essential for yearly stability and future prosperity," Hirtz says. "I see it as an active retirement account for our organization. We all know how critical it is to have a personal retirement account set aside to help you get through day-to-day life in the future. An endowment is similar: We have the comfort of knowing we have the resources to get us through our day-to-day expenses, and it will be there for us for many years to come thanks to the generosity of our donors."

More organizations like Dubuque Arboretum & Botanical Gardens are poised to receive their own endowment payouts this February. The 400-plus nonprofit endowment funds hosted by the Foundation and its eight affiliates across Allamakee, Clayton,

Delaware, Jackson, Jones, and Clinton Counties will grant out more than \$5 million that organizations can use for operations, community projects and many other aspects of their work.

"The Community Foundation is here for the Dubuque region now and forever, and the organizations receiving these payouts are our partners. They help us understand the needs of our communities and drive lasting change to ensure all people can thrive," says Nancy Van Milligen, Foundation president and CEO. "Endowments provide a sustainable source of funding that allows organizations to realize their missions, embark on new initiatives to meet local needs, and do their best work to support communities."

The endowment funds held by the Com-

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community Foundation grant out every February. Since 2021, the total amount of these payouts has increased by approximately \$3 million. Because of endowment funds' stability and the reliability that comes from annual payouts, nonprofits choose to create funds with the Foundation and its affiliates that will support their work and benefit the community forever.

Take the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra, for example.

"Endowment is some of the most critical funding for the Dubuque Symphony," says the Symphony's executive director, Mark Wahlert. "It helps to support literally all of our programs and efforts in some way. Endowment income allows us flexibility in how we best utilize those resources while also providing year-after-year support that both sustains our organization but also helps us to plan for the future knowing we'll have those resources as part of our funding mix."

The National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium's endowment, meanwhile, has been essential for funding campus maintenance and improvements, says Corrine Kroger, vice president of development and marketing for the museum.

"It has helped us manage rising energy and utility costs," she says. "Once fully funded, the endowment will cover our annual depreciation expense, ensuring our facilities remain top-notch while allowing earned revenue and gifts to support mission-based programs.

"These enhancements create a ripple effect, ensuring the health and safety of our animals, guests and staff, the preservation of our artifacts, and the overall operations of our organization, ultimately enriching the lives of those we serve."

Community foundations are charitable organizations that use philanthropy to create systemic change, benefiting their communities and improving the lives of people in their geographic region. Nonprofits and community members can create endowment funds at the Community Foundation of Greater

Dubuque and its affiliates to benefit charitable causes. These funds are invested and pay out annually to the designated nonprofits, providing a reliable source of income to sustain organizations' operations in perpetuity.

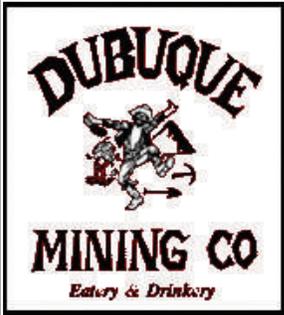
Local generosity makes this possible. Endowment funds held by the Community Foundation are invested permanently, and the earnings from that investment provide annual funding to address our region's greatest needs for generations to come.

Gifts of all sizes make a difference, and people who give \$50 or more to an endowment fund at the Community Foundation are eligible for the generous Endow Iowa 25% state tax credit. To make your gift to an endowment fund, visit Dbqfoundation.org/endowment.

If you are interested in starting an endowment, contact the Community Foundation at 563-588-2700.

This article is made possible by a partnership between *Julien's Journal* and the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque. ❖

Comments on this article can be sent to comments@juliensjournal.com.



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Why the Order of Your Retirement Income Matters More Than the Market

by Keith Leverentz

When people think about retirement success, they often focus on one central question: How are my investments performing?

That focus makes sense. Investments play an important role in building long-term security. But once retirement approaches — or income begins — there's another factor that can quietly have just as much impact, and sometimes more: the order in which retirement income is taken.

This concept is known as Sequence of Return Risk. While the name may sound

technical, the idea is often overlooked.

WHAT IS SEQUENCE OF RETURN RISK?

Sequence of Return Risk refers to the impact that the timing of returns and withdrawals can have on a portfolio, particularly in the early years of retirement. Two people can earn the same average rate of return yet experience very different outcomes depending on when gains or losses occur and how income is withdrawn.

In simple terms, the order matters: when withdrawals are taken during down markets — especially from the wrong types of accounts — the effects can com-

pound. Losses aren't just felt on paper; they can reduce how long a portfolio lasts. Why This Often Goes Unnoticed For many households, retirement planning has historically centered on investments. Most people have someone watching their portfolio — an important piece of the picture. But retirement income introduces additional considerations that extend beyond investment performance alone.

Factors such as where income comes from, when it's taken, and how it interacts with taxes often receive less attention. Most people were never taught how these pieces work together once income begins, and as a result, important opportunities for coordination can be missed.

IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT MARKET VOLATILITY

Sequence of Return Risk isn't only about market swings. It's also about how income is structured.

Withdrawals from tax-deferred accounts, taxable accounts, or Roth accounts can have very different tax consequences. In some cases, drawing income from the wrong account at the wrong time can unnecessarily increase taxes, reduce flexibility, or even affect whether Social Security benefits become taxable.

This doesn't mean retirees need to avoid income or attempt to time markets. It simply means that intentional planning matters.

WHY AWARENESS CHANGES OUTCOMES

The good news is that Sequence of Return Risk doesn't require complicated formulas or constant monitoring. What it does require is awareness and intention through an approach coordinated between you and your advisor.

For those who haven't yet begun taking retirement income, understanding this concept early can help establish a stronger foundation from the start. For those already drawing income, reviewing the sequence and sources of withdrawals can often reveal opportunities to improve efficiency and reduce unnecessary strain.

A MORE COORDINATED VIEW

Successful retirement planning isn't just about investments. It's about how income, taxes, timing, and long-term goals work together.

When these pieces are coordinated, retirees tend to experience greater confidence — not because markets are predictable, but because their strategy is thoughtful and adaptable.

Understanding concepts like Sequence of Return Risk helps shift the focus from reacting to short-term events toward building a plan designed to support income over the long term. ❖

Keith Leverentz, NSSA®, is the founder of The Life Group, guiding clients since 2003 with personalized financial planning, investment counsel, and retirement strategies. Learn more and view upcoming financial seminars at TheLifeGroupllc.com.

Comments on this article can be sent to comments@juliensjournal.com.

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DANIEL P. HORAN, PHD

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All events are subject to change. Visit the website for the most up-to-date information.

Silent Book Club

Sunday, February 8 @ 2-3:30 PM

Participants gather to share the same space while reading in silence, without the tradi-

tional book club's pressure of having to finish a book on time. RSVP.

The Emerging Problem of "AI Psychosis"

Tuesday, February 10 @ 6:30-8 PM (via Zoom)

While AI chatbots promise availability, accessibility, and emotional support, they also introduce new and often hidden psychological risks. Registration required.

Lunch & Renew: Chair Yoga

Wednesday, February 11 @ 11:30 AM-12:30 PM

Registration required.

Meditation & Music

Monday, February 16 @ 6:30-7:30 PM

Wear comfortable clothing. Feel free to bring a pillow or blanket. Registration required.

Praying with the Psalms

Wednesdays, February 25 through March 25 @ 7-8 PM (via Zoom)

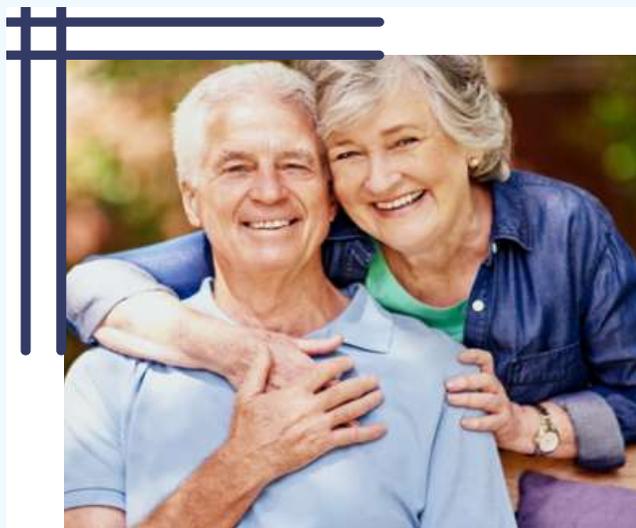
Join Sr. Sarah Kohles for a journey of reflection upon key Lenten Psalms. Registration required.



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Mondays, February 16 through March 16 @ 5:30-6:20 PM

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Monday, February 16 @ 7-8 PM

Build confidence for labor and practice hands-on techniques along with labor positions. Guidance, feedback, and tips provided by a certified doula.

Community Acupuncture

Thursday, February 19 @ 5-6:30 PM

Community acupuncture allows for individualized treatment in a common treatment area.

NEWS

GENERAL SURGEON JOINS SOUTHWEST HEALTH

Southwest Health, Platteville, WI, announced that **Ekaterina Fedorova, MD**, a general surgeon with specialized expertise in abdominal transplant surgery, breast, and vein surgery, has joined its team of medical professionals. Fedorova is now accepting new patients at Southwest Health's Platteville location.

Fedorova was born and raised in Russia and moved to the United States in 2006 on an international scholarship. She completed undergraduate studies at the University of Idaho and later completed her medical education through international and U.S.-based training, including two years on the island of Saba in the Caribbean. She went on to complete her general surgery residency at MedStar Baltimore and a fellowship in abdominal transplant surgery and research at the University of Wisconsin.

In her role, Fedorova offers patients a broad

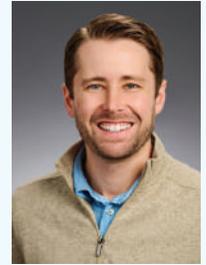
range of surgical services for adults, including breast surgery, vein surgery, laparoscopic abdominal procedures, hernia repair, and treatment of benign and malignant skin lesions.



PHYSICAL THERAPISTS JOINS MEDICAL ASSOCIATES

Medical Associates Clinic announced the arrival of **Ryan Hermesen, PT**, to their physical therapy department.

Hermesen received his Doctor of Physical Therapy from the University of Iowa



Charmer, Confidante, or Conspirator? – The Emerging Problem of AI Psychosis
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with Dr. Marlynn Wei, MD, JD

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and Bachelor of Science in Biology from Wartburg College in Waverly, IA. He is also certified in dry needling and holds a Certificate in Orthopedic Manual Therapy.

He will evaluate conditions and designs personalized treatment plans to reduce pain and enhance strength, posture, flexibility, and movement. With a specialization in return-to-running protocols, Hermsen supports patients as they safely transition back to running or other activities after injury.

STATERA OFFERING DIABETES PROGRAM

Statera Integrated is offering a diabetes prevention and management program with **Anna King, BSN, RN** and **Lori Ballew, certified holistic nutritionist**.

Diabetes is a chronic condition in which the body has difficulty regulating blood sugar. Over time, elevated glucose can damage blood vessels and organs, affecting the heart, kidneys, nerves, eyes, and overall metabolic function. Understanding how food, activity, stress, and medications influence blood sugar is an important part of preventing complications and improving

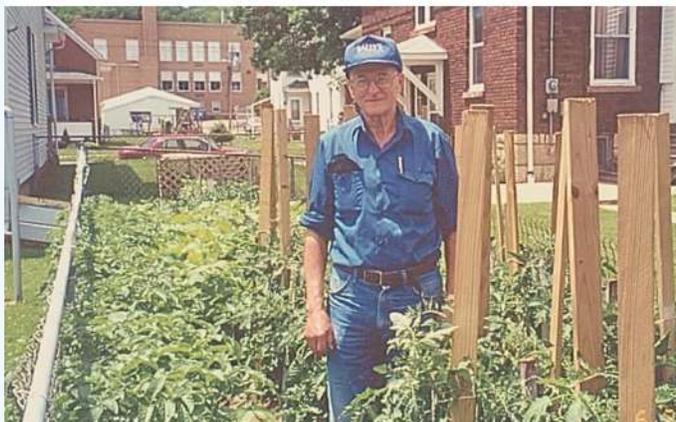
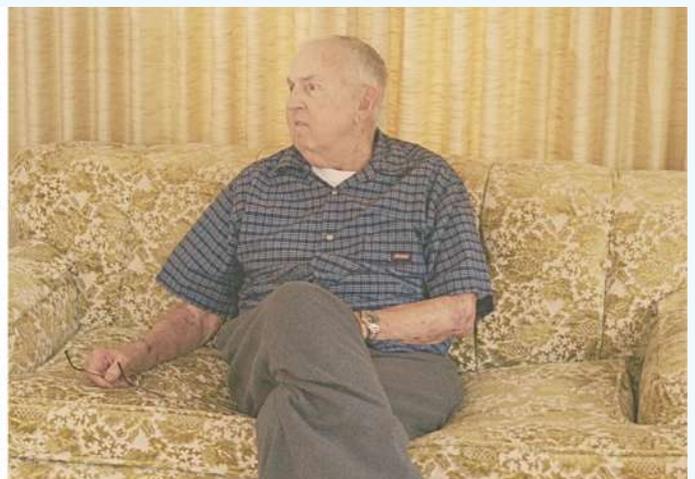
long-term health. This program is designed to provide practical education and structured support for individuals with diabetes or pre-diabetes.

Over three months, participants will learn essential concepts related to blood sugar regulation, nutrition, physical activity, and lifestyle factors that influence metabolic health. The program includes opportunities to review lab results, practice meal planning, engage in guided discussions, and build skills that support day-to-day diabetes management.

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RESTAURANT REVIEW

Taste

Article and photos by Cassie Cate



Falbo's is a simple, humble place to get a good pizza pie!

FALBO BROS HAND CRAFTED PIZZAS ARE MADE FROM SCRATCH

Falbo Bros Pizzeria started in Madison, Wisconsin in August of 1992 when two University of Wisconsin students dreamed of the concept of a better pizza. The taste for greatness spread from Wisconsin to Iowa, currently in six locations, including Madison, Middleton, and Verona, Wisconsin, and Iowa City, Coralville, and of course Dubuque, Iowa.

Falbo Bros came to Dubuque in 2005 and was previously owned by Jeremy Noel, who came from the Iowa City location, bringing the franchise to town after learning all he could from his prior

experience. Currently, Aidan Brown is the owner of the Dubuque franchise, which he purchased about a year ago.

The recipes used at Falbo Bros Pizza have been passed down for over thirty years and

rely on the authentic taste of Italy, crafted from scratch, using fresh ingredients, put together, and completed in stone ovens. This unique flare gives Falbo's a different pizza experience for those in the area.

Currently, Falbo's is located at 3250 Kennedy Circle, Dubuque. This location has its pros and cons, in that the business is tucked away and not overly visible from the main road. For those who discover this amazing pizzeria, however, the eatery has a wonderful family style, with a "hole in the wall" image, as Aidan says, that provides a unique opportunity for a



Falbo's offers many specials for customers to enjoy.

stronger connection with customers who find this pizza joint. Aidan's goal is to get a more visible or even second location to serve and get to know more people in Dubuque and the surrounding area.

Although they may not be overly visible from the street, Falbo Brothers certainly is visible in their community connections. The walls of the eatery contain the work of local artists, giving a unique flare to the business and sharing the craft and creativity of others, while providing an opportunity for locals to



The deep dish taco pizza.

support locals. The business also makes regular donations to the Dubuque food pantries, local churches, and other various organizations. They provide gift cards, pizzas, and use fresh food from the local farmers' market to give back to those in the community who support them as well. Aidan's goal as a small business owner is to "regularly connect with the local customer base on a more intimate level and give back to the community that gives back to us."

Adding to the commitment to promote local is the introduction of Aidan's father's cottage bakery, Barony Bakery. Mark Brown, Aidan's father, has added to the enticement of visiting Falbo's by bringing in his baked goods, including his delicious cookies, often served alongside the regular Falbo's menu. The goal is to eventually move Mark into the location where his sweet treats of sourdough, cinnamon rolls, scones, and more can be served

on a more regular basis. Barony Bakery has a program called Loaves of Love, where they give back to the community by regularly donating baked goods, proving generosity runs in this family.

Aidan says that talking to customers is his favorite part of the business. Aidan says, "Whether it be personally helping them refine their order to what suits their needs and taste or cracking up jokes during lunch hours," this is what makes his business fun and successful.

The business has not been without its struggles. With a small business, comes a small crew. When someone is sick or needs time off, there are not many others to turn to. Also, simply getting the name of the business out has been a struggle but is the ultimate goal. Aidan says, "Our biggest struggle has really been the lack of understanding where we are, and customers having never heard of us. It's funny because when I talk to people about Falbo's, they've either never tasted it or heard of us, or those that have, described it as the best pizza in Dubuque!"

None of this has kept Falbo's from doing what they do best- serving delicious pizza. Currently, they are largely just pizza, but the goal is to add more pasta bakes, sandwiches, and soups of the day. The best sellers at Falbo's include The Works, a supreme pizza topped with black olives, green peppers, mozzarella, mushrooms, onions, pepperoni, red sauce, and sausage. Another best seller is the Mac and Cheese Pizza, topped with cheddar, mozzarella, and parmesan cheese. Aidan always recommends people get the pan pizza, as this is the best bang for the buck. He also says customers should absolutely try the Chicago style stuffed crust pizza, as that is what he grew up on and fell in love with.

Pizzas can be made with a New York Style thin crust, a hand tossed rising crust, or Chicago style stuffed deep dish. The menu at Falbo's offers more pizza choices than you can fathom, from Taco to Bacon Cheeseburger, to the Zeus or Slaughterhouse Five. Another favorite is the Falzone, Falbo's spin on a calzone. They also serve several salads,

like the Greek, Taco, Grilled Chicken, or Garden. Appetizers are also available, including CheeseStix, Bacon CheeseStix, and Breadstix.

All these options can be enjoyed as catering options. Aidan and the crew are willing to organize a customer's needs in a variety of ways. They can bring in their heated slicebox and continuously cook for large, public events. Or, they can cook and deliver pizzas to serve from. They also offer going to small businesses and setting up pizzas to sell straight out of the heated bags and boxes. They are also happy to



The deep dish meat works pizza.

accommodate large orders for teams, events, weddings, parties, and so much more!

Falbo's is all about the customer and providing great value. Aidan says they are best known for their lunch special for dine-in or carry out. This special serves up two slices and a drink for eight dollars. For ten dollars, customers can add on a cookie. They also offer fifteen percent off for any order over fifty dollars, as well as other specials customers can check out in-house.

So, if you are looking for something delicious to share with your family, business, or next large gathering, stop into Falbo's and pick out your favorite slice.

Falbo's is located at 3250 Kennedy Circle, Dubuque. You can contact them at 563.588.9100. ❖

Comments on this article can be sent to comments@juliensjournal.com.

THE FROSTED GLASS Taste

Article and photo by Joshua Nichols



GOOFY BOOTS – AMUSING NAME FOR A SERIOUS BEER

What we're drinking: Goofy Boots Hazy IPA
ABV: 7.0%

Who Brews It: Penrose Brewing Company

Where you can find it: Hy-Vee Wine & Spirits

Expected Price: \$14.99 for a 4 pack of 16 oz. cans

As someone who writes a beer review column, it should come as no surprise that I've tried my fair share of craft beer. It's one of my favorite parts of the ever-growing craft beer scene. It's hard for

me to pick a single beer that I would call my favorite. The variety is what appeals to me, not an individual brew. Still, every so often, I try a new beer, and at first sip, my eyebrows slightly raise in surprise and I think to myself, "Wow, this is a really good beer." That's what happened when I was searching for a beer to highlight for the February issue of *Julien's Journal*. I stumbled upon Goofy Boots by Penrose Brewing Company out of Geneva, Illinois.

Goofy Boots is a hazy IPA that maintains

a smooth finish from drink to swallow. The taste is remarkably consistent, and the flavor profile does not drastically change while it lingers in your mouth. It does not shy away from fruity and hoppy flavors, so if you're someone who stays firmly on the lager side of beer enjoyment, this one definitely is not for you.

When poured, the beer has the coloration of wheat and honey and a medium head. You wouldn't find any excess sediment, which can be a brewing choice in some hazy IPAs. However, the beer itself is not translucent, so



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you cannot see through your glass. Quality lacing remains after a couple of drinks. Goofy Boots does have a pleasant, fruity aroma when poured, which made it stand out from other hazy IPAs I've tried. Personally, I found the fruit flavors to be stronger than the hoppy flavors. Citra hops are emphasized, and this flavor dominates the body of the beer. Mosaic and Azacca hops round out the flavor profile nicely, adding notes of tropical fruits and a light yet earthy finish. Among all the fruit flavors, mango and honeydew were the most noticeable to me. At times, it reminded me slightly of orange juice. After swallowing, the taste fades quickly, leaving your palate clean for another sip or for a bite of food.

In 2020, Goofy Boots took the gold medal in the category of Juicy or Hazy Strong Pale Ale at the Great American Beer Festival.

As a hazy IPA, Goofy Boots emphasizes "juicy" flavors over hoppy ones, and this is one of the main distinguishing factors that sets a hazy IPA, also known as a New England IPA, apart from the West Coast IPA. A West Coast IPA emphasizes the bitter, piney flavors of hops. If you've ever tasted an IPA and came away feeling like you just tried to swallow an evergreen tree, chances are you tried a West Coast IPA. West Coast has been around since the 1970s, but New England IPAs only started to gain popularity in the 2010s as an alternative to the increasingly hop-focused IPA scene.

Looking back at 2025, Goofy Boots was a major highlight, standing apart from all of the beers I sampled, especially on the IPA side of craft brewing. If you've tried Pseudo Sue by Toppling Goliath and enjoyed it, you should expect similar results from Goofy Boots. I would recommend it to all IPA lovers, and even some beer drinkers who are skeptical of aggressively hoppy IPAs but don't mind the fruit flavoring often found in shandys. Its consistent taste and expert balance of juice and hops makes for a thoroughly enjoyable drink. ❖

Have a beer that you'd like to see us review? Send it to beer@juliensjournal.com and we'll do our best to feature it in a future issue.



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SIPS & TIPS Taste



FEBRUARY WINES TO WARM YOUR VALENTINE'S HEART

Article & photo by John B. Donovan

"We are all mortal until the first kiss and the second glass of wine."

— *Eduardo Galeano, Uruguayan journalist and novelist (1940-2015)*

February means we're still bundling up for winter but also finally turning our attention toward spring; it's time to plan gardens, depart on late-winter trips, and, of course, celebrate Valentine's Day. A cozy meal with fun wine pairings could be the fitting antidote to cold-weather cabin fever.

For this month's selections, TeamWine chose both a red and a white, both featuring beloved farm animals on the labels: a llama and a goat, respectively—they seem to serve as a reminder to be playful while waiting for the return of Spring.

SIPS

The red is a **Llama Old Vine Cabernet Franc 2025** (13.5% abv \$18) from Belasco de Baquedano. This wine, which is aged on French Oak and estate bottled in Mendoza Argentina, is from 100 percent Cabernet Franc grapes grown at just over 3,400 feet in the Andes foothills in sandy soil on silt and clay deposits.

Wine tasting notes online suggest that this classic French grape grown at higher elevation means elegant, concentrated fruit, and

TeamWine would agree.

The deep red color underscores the wine's elegance, and on the nose is a "lively" range of aromas from cassis and pepper to cherry and tobacco. One TeamWine member picked up molasses but "in a good way," which is an understandable statement when it comes to wine.

On the palate, the wine is medium-bodied with soft tannins, and flavors reminiscent of baking chocolate, fig, pepper, and cherry. In fact, one TeamWine member wrote that cherry comes through on the finish as next-day cherry pie.

Overall, TeamWine is a fan of this expression of Cabernet Franc and would pair it with comfort foods like skirt steak, dry cheese, or mushroom ravioli.

We chanced on the white wine at Galena's Wine & Cheese Shop. It is a **Cantina La Capranera Falanghina** (13%; \$20). More



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precisely, it's from the Campania region of Italy, province of Salerno, and borders the Tyrrhenian Sea. The black goat image comes from the goats that reside in a national park near the vineyard.

The wine is aged in stainless steel and spends four - six months on fine lees, which may explain an interesting taste we detected (below). The wine (13% abv) is light yellow and is medium-bodied with medium acidity.

TeamWine noted lemon and white flower on the nose, and even hints of pineapple that carried through on the palate. Also, on the palate was underlying sugar cookie and caramel flavors. Online tasting notes suggest banana, too, and while we didn't pick up on that, we did make note of pineapple-upside down cake, which can be the result of the wine aging on lees.

One TeamWine member highlighted the salt or saline on the palate, which connects it nicely back to its vineyard near the Tyrrhenian Sea. This drinkable wine would pair well with baked brie, herbed chicken, flatbread with white sauce, and other comfort foods on the lighter side.

For a short month, February can seem long, but trying these wine varietals and exploring others may help calm cabin fever by dialing up the coziness, which also happens to make for a warm Valentine's Day, too.

TIPS

Valentine's Day is certainly a wonderful occasion for wine, but it also calls for chocolate. One of the best selections for fine chocolate in Dubuque is Sorpresa, located on Main St. right next door to McCoy Jewelers. Check out their excellent selection on European chocolate from the Chocolaterie Stam.

Also, for regular readers, you'll remember that the last Saturday in February is Open That Bottle Night (OTBN). We will, once again, be meeting at EJ's Wine Shop on Saturday, February 28 to celebrate that bottle of wine you've been saving for a special occasion. We will gather at 7:30 PM and take turns sharing our stories of the wines and sharing them with others. Anyone is welcome, and there will be a \$10 fee per person to cover extensive snacks. Remember, it's not about the wine, but the story. Watch EJ's Wine Shop Facebook page for further updates. For more information about OTBN, Google "Open That Bottle Night" to get the full backstory. Please join us! ❖

Comments on this article can be sent to comments@juliensjournal.com.

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Business & Community News

LIONS CLUB PURCHASE CAMERAS FOR FREE EYE TESTS

The Dubuque Noon Lions Club would like to thank the generous companies and individuals for their donations totaling \$16,000, which went toward the purchase of two specialized digital cameras to provide free eye test screenings for kids.

The Lions Club partners with the University of Iowa KidSight program to help provide quality eyecare at no cost to children who need it. The new cameras replaced the existing equipment that was nearing the end of their lifespan. Free eye test screenings are provided at 16 schools and 24 daycares throughout the Dubuque area.

Since 2004, the Lions Club



and the University of Iowa have partnered to test the vision of 28,000 children ranging in age from six months to kindergarten.

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