THE DUBUQUE AREA LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE, NOVEMBER 2026

FREE

JULIEN'S JOURNAL



A SENSE OF BELONGING AND A DRIVE TO GIVE BACK

THE PRESENTATION LANTERN CENTER HELPS IMMIGRANTS THROUGH LANGUAGE & CULTURE

MORE THAN CLOTHES: THE HEART OF OPEN CLOSET AND ALMOST HOME

Orthopedic care that keeps you moving.

YOU HAVE **US.**



MEDICAL ASSOCIATES

Whether you're training for your next race, recovering from an injury, or simply trying to stay active and pain-free, our Orthopedics team is here to help you move with confidence. From sports medicine and podiatry, to rheumatology, physical therapy, and advanced joint replacement care, we create personalized treatment plans focused on getting you back to the life you love.

- Complex bone fractures & torn ligaments
- Sports rehab & physical therapy
- Spinal disorders
- Same-day total joint surgery
- Arthritis & joint pain relief
- Foot & ankle injuries
- Neck, shoulder, & back injuries
- Sports related concussion care

No matter the care you need, **you have us** to keep you moving forward.

WELCOME *New* PHYSICIANS



Stephen Goodin, MD
Orthopedics & Sports Medicine Surgery



Nicholas Hora, DO
Orthopedics & Sports Medicine

ORTHOPEDICS DEPARTMENT | 563.584.4460 | West Campus: 1500 Associates Drive, Dubuque IA

Physical & Hand Therapy | 563.584.4465
Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation | 563.584.4470
Podiatry & Surgery | 563.584.4420
Rheumatology | 563.584.4370
Sports Medicine | 563.584.4455
Total Joint Replacement | 563.584.4460

Medical Associates Clinic and Health Plans

www.mahealthcare.com

JULIEN'S JOURNAL

NOVEMBER FEATURES

15 THE PRESENTATION LANTERN CENTER HELPS IMMIGRANTS THROUGH LANGUAGE & CULTURE

18 MORE THAN CLOTHES: THE HEART OF OPEN CLOSET AND ALMOST HOME

20 A SENSE OF BELONGING AND A DRIVE TO GIVE BACK

23 BEYOND THE THANKSGIVING TABLE: BUILDING A LEGACY THAT LASTS

DEPARTMENTS

2 PUBLISHERS NOTE

4 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

10 CARNEGIE-STOUT LIBRARY

12 PREMIER EVENT

TASTE

24 RESTAURANT REVIEW – CATFISH CHARLIE'S OFFERS GREAT FOOD AND MISSISSIPPI RIVER CULTURE

27 SIPS & TIPS – TWO WINES THAT ARE MADE FOR SHARING WITH FRIENDS

HEALTH & WELLNESS

29 HEALTH & WELLNESS NEWS

31 **BUSINESS & COMMUNITY NEWS**

Photo of the Month



Bald Eagle with its catch at Lock #11. Photo submitted by Julien's Journal reader Dave Wallis. Comments and photos for possible use in a future issue can be sent to Robin@JuliensJournal.com.

JULIEN'S JOURNAL

Volume 50, Number 11
November 2026

JULIEN'S JOURNAL IS A PUBLISHED BY
RTN PUBLISHING, INC
6170 FOREST HILLS DRIVE
ASBURY IA 52002-9349
PHONE – 563.557.7571
JULIENSJOURNAL.COM

PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER
ROBIN NICHOLS
ROBIN@JULIENSJOURNAL.COM

VICE PRESIDENT & OFFICE MANAGER
TERRI NICHOLS

GRAPHIC DESIGNER
GINA SIEGERT

EVENTS EDITOR
JULI HOPPENSTEADT
JULI@JULIENSJOURNAL.COM

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS
ELIZABETH CALL
CASSE CATE
JEFF DANA
JOHN B. DONOVAN
KEITH LEVERENTZ
JOSHUA NICHOLS
BETH TRIPLETT

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS
ELIZABETH CALL
CASSIE CATE
JOHN B. DONVAN
JOSHUA NICHOLS

DISTRIBUTION
TIM BOWERS
JOHN MORAN

THE PUBLISHER MAKES NO REPRESENTATIONS CONCERNING ANY PRODUCT OR SERVICE ADVERTISED IN THIS PUBLICATION. JULIEN'S JOURNAL AND JULIENSJOURNAL.COM SERVE ONLY AS A MEDIUM FOR SELLERS TO REACH POTENTIAL BUYERS AND DO NOT WARRANT THE ACCURACY OF ANY ADVERTISEMENT. JULIEN'S JOURNAL MAKES EVERY EFFORT TO ELIMINATE TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS AND ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR MISSPELLING NAMES. ALL EDITORIAL ITEMS SUBMITTED ARE SUBJECT TO EDITING AND ALTERATION AT THE SOLE DISCRETION OF THE PUBLISHER. DESIGN AND FORMAT OF THE MAGAZINE AND WEBSITE ARE PROTECTED BY THE COPYRIGHT LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. REPRODUCTION OF THIS PUBLICATION IN WHOLE OR IN PART IS PROHIBITED WITHOUT SPECIFIC WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE PUBLISHER.

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

There is a moment every autumn when all of us admit defeat to the coming winter. For some it might be the realization that they need to scrape frost off their windshields each morning, but I say it is when the Fenelon Place Elevator closes for the season. When those iconic cable cars power down in late November, the reality hits hard. This annual shutdown marks the start of my personal denial phase. I stage mini protests by walking outside in a light jacket while telling myself, "It's really not that bad out," right up until a blast of northwestern wind turns me into a popsicle. Then comes the great winter coat dilemma where I break out my heavy winter coat before Thanksgiving but still refuse to wear it for a few more days. I end up compromising by breaking out my winter sweaters and sweatshirts along with starting a mental countdown of the days left until April. The tradeoff is that we begin the Holiday Season by celebrating Thanksgiving this month and there's nothing quite like the shared warmth of spending this holiday with your family and the Dubuque community. Have a great Thanksgiving.

Inside this issue

Immigrants come to the Presentation Lantern Center from all over the world and are welcomed with open arms. Learn about their process on page XX 15.

Open Closet is a transformative community program located on the lower level of St. John's Lutheran Church that works alongside Almost Home to provide a safety net for Dubuque residents facing instability and hardship. Read about what they do on page 18.

That love for the Dubuque region has inspired the Dave and Jane Heiar to do what they can today to make a positive difference for future generations. Read their story on page 20

Building a meaningful legacy isn't just about leaving behind a dollar amount on an account statement. It's about creating lasting clarity, stability, and peace of mind for the people you love. Learn more on page 23.

Although the food at Catfish Charlie's is unique and delicious, the true secret to Catfish Charlie's isn't the food- it's the hospitality. Read our review on page 24.

TeamWine reviews two wines that are made for sharing with family and friends at Thanksgiving. Read about them on page 27.

ON THE COVER:

Love for the Dubuque region has inspired Jane and Dave Heiar to do what they can today to make a positive difference for future generations. Photo contributed by the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque.





THE YEAR IS ALMOST OVER.

YOUR PLANNING SHOULDN'T BE.

As the year winds down, it's a natural time to take a closer look at your financial picture and the decisions that can shape what comes next.

Tax Planning | Charitable Giving | Legacy Planning | Retirement Income

Let us help bring your retirement income, taxes, charity giving, and legacy — together with purpose.

Scan to Schedule Your Year-End Purpose Meeting

The Life Group
FINANCIAL SERVICES

TheLifeGroupLLC.com | 1545 Associates Drive, Suite 104 Dubuque, Iowa 52002 | 563-587-7840

THE FINE PRINT

For Advertising Inquiries, Feature Article Submissions, Subscription and Billing Inquiries Contact Robin Nichols at 563.557.7571 or Robin@JuliensJournal.com.

Upcoming Events Should be Emailed to Juli@JuliensJournal.com.

Julien's Journal is published monthly by RTN Publishing, Inc. in Asbury, IA. Subscription rates are $29.00 per year or $55.90 for two years. Mailing address: 6170 Forest Hills Drive, Asbury, IA 52002-9349. Telephone 563.557.7571. Website: www.juliensjournal.com.

Return Policy: Magazines are mailed standard class and should be received within 15 days of the mailing date. Returns should be sent to *Julien's Journal Magazine*, 6170 Forest Hills Drive, Asbury, IA 52002-9349. You must provide name, address, and mailing label.

Cancellation Policy: Cancellations are based on a 6-month cycle. Notify us of your intent to cancel at any time. Cancellations made after six issues will not be refunded. Upon death of the subscriber, subscriptions can be transferred to another party, and cancelled at the end of the annual subscription period. *Julien's Journal* reserves the right to issue refunds or credits at our sole discretion. If a refund or credit is issued, we are under no obligation to issue the same or similar refund in the future.

Julien's Journal is published monthly and mailed by the 28th of the month proceeding issue date. Subscriptions will start one month after payment is received. We hope that all magazines will be received in good condition. If you receive a magazine that is damaged, return it by first class mail, along with mailing label. We do not refund the return shipping costs. E-mail requests for returns should be made to: Robin@JuliensJournal.com.

Refund Policy: All refund requests must be made by the subscriber or credit card holder, and must include the name of the subscriber and/or transaction number. Upon approval, refunds will be mailed to the subscriber within 90 days of cancellation.

These above policies apply to all Julien's Journal's subscriptions unless otherwise noted prior to the subscription.

Julien's Journal is printed each month locally at Welu Printing Company.

November Events



SUNSHINE Circle | Finley Hospital

Holiday Shopping Extravaganza

Sunshine Holiday Fair

Sunday through Monday, November 1-2

Sunday, 9 AM–3 PM; Monday, 7:30 AM–1 PM @ UnityPoint Health Finley Hospital

Showcasing homemade baked goods, flower arrangements, home decor, gifts, jewelry, handmade items, and RADA cutlery. The Sunshine Circle has been raising funds for Finley Hospital supporting patients in need since 1889. The event is held in the auditorium and Sunshine Gift Shop.

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.

Early Explorers: "C" is for Catfish

Saturday and Tuesday, November 3 & 7

10-11 AM @ National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium

Discover the ABCs of the world around us through hands-on and active activities, including a craft and game. Space limited. Ages 2–5 with parent/caregiver. Visit **RiverMuseum.org.**

Wild West Wednesdays

Wednesday, November 4, 11, 18 & 25

7-11 PM @ Dubuque County Fairgrounds

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

National Farm Toy Show

Friday through Sunday, November 6-8

Friday, 2 PM; Saturday & Sunday, 8 AM @ Dyersville, IA

Located at Beckman High School, The



FOREVER STARTS HERE, ENJOY

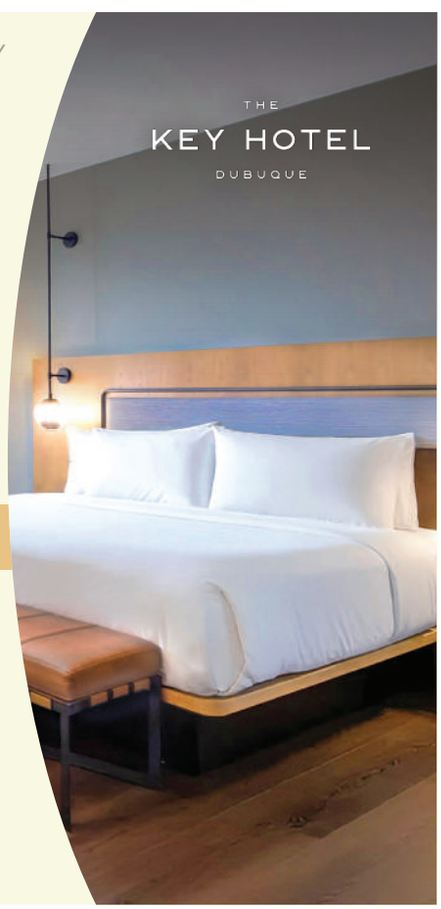
50% OFF
WEDDING ROOM
RENTAL FEES
on all remaining dates in 2027

25% OFF
WEDDING ROOM
RENTAL FEES
all remaining dates in 2028

Any new wedding bookings will
RECEIVE 1 FREE SUITE AT THE KEY HOTEL



DIANA SCHULZ
DIRECTOR OF HOSPITALITY SALES
EMAIL: DIANAS@QCASINOANDRESORT.COM
PHONE: 563-585-3000



National Farm Toy Museum, Commercial Club Park, and outdoor sales in Dyersville, IA. Free shuttle. Early bird with weekend passes available. Visit **ToyFarmer.com.**

DSO Sound Bites Luncheon

Friday, November 6
11:30 AM–1 PM @ Dubuque Golf & Country Club

Dubuque Symphony Orchestra (DSO) Music Director and Conductor, William Intriligator, offers insightful commentary on the upcoming concert program. Guest soloists also attend and share information about their education, careers, and thoughts about the music. RSVP by 11/4. Visit **DubuqueSymphony.org.**

First Fridays

Friday, November 6
@ Various Locations in Dubuque

First Fridays is a free downtown monthly community arts event with open galleries, artists' studios, and live entertainment, fostering community and celebrating arts in Dubuque. Visit **FirstFridays-Dubuque.org.**

Little River Band

Friday, November 6
7 PM @ Five Flags Center

The Little River Band will perform the hits the way you remember them but with even more feeling, vibe, and energy than ever before. Visit **FiveFlagsCenter.com.**

Mac N Cheese Fest

Saturday, November 7
3 PM @ Midtown Marina (East Dubuque, IL)

Grab a drink and prepare to get cheesy! Live music from Joie Wails at 4-7 PM. Reservations recommended. For more information, email **Brenda@MidTownMarina.com.**

An Evening of Vanity Theatre

Saturday, November 7
7 PM @ Voices Studio

Fly-By-Night Productions presents the 2nd Annual Evening of Vanity Theatre. Have a monologue you have been dying to perform, but no one will do that play, or won't cast, or you don't have time to be in a play? Here is your chance. Visit **FlyByNightDubuque.com.**









DSO Classics 2: Connection

Saturday and Sunday, November 7-8
Saturday, 7:30 PM; Sunday, 2 PM @ Five Flags Theater

Featuring Marcus DeJesus on guitar. Free Musical Musings pre-concert lecture with DSO Music Director and Conductor William Intriligator are held prior to each Sunday Classics concert at 1 PM. Visit **DubuqueSymphony.org.**

Nurse Blake Comedy Tour

Tuesday, November 10
7 PM @ Five Flags Theater

Nurse Blake (Blake Lynch) is a nurse, creator, advocate, and touring comedian whose humor and storytelling have made him a viral sensation and a beloved figure in the healthcare community. Visit **FiveFlagsCenter.com.**

AFP
Association of Fundraising Professionals
Greater Tri-State Chapter

CHANGE THE WORLD WITH A GIVING HEART

National Philanthropy Day Luncheon
Thursday, November 12, 2026
11:45 am - 1:15 pm
Dubuque Golf & Country Club
Keynote Speaker: Nancy Van Milligan

Outstanding Individual Philanthropists
Stacy Hirsch - New Eagle Insurance
Outstanding Philanthropic Organization
Crescent CARES & The Schmid Family
Judges Award
100+ Women Who Care

Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy
Kartik Chugh
Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser
Deb Siegworth
Outstanding Professional Fundraiser
Kara Murphy

Join us to celebrate National Philanthropy Day and honor our award recipients.
RSVP online by Monday, November 2 at https://bit.ly/44K2aIp or via the QR code.
For questions, please contact Karen Tuecke at *karen@dbqpbvms.org.*

Thank you to our National Philanthropy Day sponsors!

Sayaka Ganz Artist Gallery Tour
Wednesday, November 11
5:30 PM @ National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium
Join artist Sayaka Ganz for a gallery walk through *Reclaimed Creations*, where she will share the stories, materials, and ideas behind her sculptures made from reclaimed plastic. Visit **RiverMuseum.org.**

Homeschool Days
Thursday, November 12
9 AM-5 PM @ National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium
Held the second Thursday of each month through February. Homeschool Days offers themed scavenger hunts for homeschoolers of all ages. Visit **RiverMuseum.org.**

Holiday Porch Pot
Thursday, November 12
6-8 PM @ Dubuque Arboretum & Botanical Gardens
Create your own one-of-a-kind winter porch pot. Visit **DubuqueArboretum.net**.

Dubuque Audubon November Program
Thursday, November 12
7-8 PM @ EB Lyons Interpretive Center
Learn about Nebraska with Tye Smedes. Discover the state's wonderful variety of birds and other wildlife. Visit **AudubonDubuque.org.**

Annual Maquoketa Community Christmas / Festival of Trees
Saturday through Monday, November 14 - 29, Monday-Friday, 10 AM-4 PM; Saturday & Sunday, 12-4 PM @ The Ohnward Fine Arts Center (Makoqueta)
The Ohnward Fine Arts Center is planning our 22nd Festival of Trees with bidding on creative trees and beautiful wreaths. Ask about the Family Holiday Gift Pass. Visit **OhnwardFineArtsCenter.com.**

Polar Plunge
Saturday, November 14
11 AM @ Houlihan's Restaurant at Hilton Garden Inn
The Polar Plunge is a signature fundraiser for Special Olympics and offers a unique opportunity for individuals and organizations to raise money and support Special Olympics Iowa athletes by jumping into frigid waters. Visit **SoIowa.org.**





Fall Into the Holidays
Sunday, November 15 , 10 AM–3 PM @ Dubuque County Fairgrounds

Shop the most-anticipated market of the year. Hop from over 100 local and regional makers, crafters, bakers, and small businesses. Find one-of-a-kind gifts. A portion of the door proceeds benefit a local nonprofit. Visit **FB.com/JodiAndKT.**



She Unites
Wednesday, November 18

6:30-7:30 PM @ The Innovation Lab

Come together for an evening of socialization and education. Rotating speakers talk about anything and everything pertaining to women in a chill environment. Visit **SheUnitesIowa.com/Events.**

Christmas Tree Night Light
Thursday, November 19

6-8 PM @ Dubuque Arboretum & Botanical Gardens

Paint a light-up Christmas Tree night light. Visit **DubuqueArboretum.net**.

Cowboy Christmas
Sunday, November 22

10 AM–3 PM @ Dubuque County Fairgrounds

This equine and country lifestyle market brings together regional vendors, makers, and small businesses under one roof for a full day of festive shopping. Find new and used equine tack, gear, and equipment; Western, boho, and country-inspired apparel; rustic farmhouse and holiday home decor; children's items; and one-of-a-kind finds. Visit **FB.com/JodiAndKT.**

The Vienna Boys Choir
Wednesday, November 25

7:30 PM @ Five Flags Theater

The Vienna Boys Choir performs almost 300 concerts per year, with almost half a million people attending. Visit **FiveFlagsCenter.com.**





A FESTIVE CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT SEASON PLANNED FOR FIVE FLAGS CENTER

Dubuque's Five Flags' schedule is jam packed with music, family fun, and entertainment for the 2026 holiday season! Listed below is a preview of upcoming events.

November 25
Vienna Boys Choir: Christmas in Vienna
The world-renowned Vienna Boys Choir have been delighting music lovers across the globe for six centuries with their distinctive charm and diverse repertoire. These gifted musicians perform hundreds of concerts a year around the world.

November 28
The Prophecy Show: The Music of Trans-Siberian Orchestra
20th anniversary tour! Experience the power, music, and magic once again this Christmas season as The Prophecy Show performs your favorite music from the Trans-Siberian Orchestra and more!

November 30
The Glenn Miller Orchestra: In the Christmas Mood
The World-Famous Glenn Miller Orchestra will perform their greatest hits, including "In The Mood," "Chattanooga Choo Choo," their theme song "Moonlight Serenade" and many more, along with a variety of Christmas classics performed in the Glenn Miller style!

December 5 & 6
Dubuque Symphony Orchestra Holiday Concerts
Beloved holiday favorites set the soundtrack for the season with the voices of the Dubuque Chorale, the magic of The Nutcracker featuring members of the Heartland Ballet, the melodies of Ukrainian bandurist Viktoriia Slyvka, and the nostalgic Sinatra-style vocals of Bryan Anthony.

December 9
FROST – A Holiday Cirque Extravaganza
Family friendly FROST blends acrobatics, refined choreography, aerial artistry, and magic into a theatrical experience. This production showcases a cast of performers whose artistry creates moments of awe and excitement.

December 12
Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol
Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," has enchanted audiences the world over with its simple message of holiday joy. The heartfelt acting talent of a national touring cast brings characters like Fezziwig, Bob Cratchit and Tiny Tim to life in memorable performances. Light and sound effects, along with larger-than-life puppets accentuate this haunting ghost story. (2 performances)

December 13
Movie: Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas
(Universal Pictures, 2000) stars Jim Carrey, Jeffrey Tambor, Christine Baranski, and Molly Shannon. Lavish live-action version of the classic tale as the cold-hearted creature trying to thwart Whoville's Yuletide celebration. Rated PG.

December 18
Anthony Shore: Christmas with Elvis
Step into the world of Rock 'n' Roll royalty as Anthony Shore and his 11-piece band bring Elvis Presley's incredible Christmas songs and biggest hits to life.

December 19
Neil Berg's Broadway Holiday
Featuring Dubuque native Rita Harvey, and special guest choir Heartland Harmony directed by Teresa Slade.

Kicking off the 'Echoes of Broadway' Series, brings Broadway's finest stars and songs together for a holiday event. This musical revue features Dubuque native Rita Harvey, and special guest choir Heartland Harmony Broadway with hits from classic shows such as *My Fair Lady* through ground breakers like *West Side Story*, to blockbusters like *Wicked*.

December 20
National Lampoon's *Christmas Vacation*
The Warner Bros. 1989 movie staring Chevy Chase, Beverly D'Angelo, Randy Quaid, Juliette Lewis, and Johnny Galecki, has the Griswold family staying home for the holidays and being invaded by bickering relatives. Rated PG-13.

For more information and tickets visit **FiveFlagsCenter.com.** *Avoid online fees by visiting the box office from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM Thursdays and Fridays.*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



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

StoryWalk®
An outdoor reading experience that displays pages of a book along a path. Locations: The 22nd Street Bee Branch Creek and Dubuque Arboretum & Botanical Gardens.

Turkey Time Scavenger Hunt
November 1-30

Find all the pictures of foods that we eat on Thanksgiving and earn a small prize.

Vote for Your Favorite Thanksgiving Food
November 1-30

Vote for your favorite holiday food this month and see which jar fills up the highest.



Carnegie-Stout
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Auto Repair Source is your **free library resource** for the most current, accurate and authoritative auto service and repair information.

- Step-by-Step Repair Guides
- Maintenance Schedules
- Labor Estimates
- Recall Notices

Need help getting started? Ask a librarian! Visit the library or call 563-589-4225.

Toddler Time
Mondays, November 2 through December 14 @ 9:30 AM & 10:30 AM

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

Trauma-Informed Self Defense
Monday, November 2 @ 1 PM

Introductory class. Ages 18+. Registration required.

Baby Rhyme Time
Tuesdays, November 3 through December 15 @ 10:30 AM

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

Invisible Ink Adventure
Tuesday, November 3 @ 4 PM

Use an invisible ink pen to solve mysteries, crack secret codes, and more. Ages 6-10. Registration required.

Preschool Storytime
Wednesdays, November 4 through December 16 @ 10:30 AM

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

Beginning Chapters Book Club
Wednesday, November 4 @ 4 PM

Do you like *Magic Tree House, Junie B. Jones,* and *Nate the Great* books? If so, this club is for you. First through third graders. Registration required.

Pokémon Club
Wednesday, November 4 @ 5:30 PM

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

Beyond the Book Club
Thursday, November 5 @ 4 PM

Read a new book each month and meet up for a book discussion and activity. Ages 9-12. Registration required.

Quilts of Valor Presentation Ceremony
Sunday, November 8 @ 2-3:30 PM

Prior to the ceremony, the Quilts of Valor will be on display, honoring local veterans and service members.

Edible DNA Helixes
Tuesday, November 10 @ 4 PM

Create an edible DNA Model in this hands-on science project. Ages 10-18. Registration required.

Good Luck Charms
Friday, November 13 @ 4 PM

Make your own good luck charm. Ages 6-10.

Lollipops & Music
Saturday, November 14 @ 10-10:30 AM

Concert series for preschool children and their families. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Reading Roundtable Book Discussion Group
Monday, November 16 @ 6 PM

Attend monthly through November for a book discussion for adult readers. Ages 18+.

Toilet Roll Knitting
Tuesday, November 17 @ 4 PM

Turn a cardboard tube into a knitting loom. Ages 10-14. Registration required.

Christmas Count-Down Calendar
Wednesday, November 18 @ 4 PM

Create a count-down calendar for Christmas. Ages 8-12. Registration required.

Minecraft Mania
Wednesdays, November 18 through December 9 @ 5:30-6:45 PM

Sign up for this game-playing night to test your skills and build away. Ages 7-13. Registration required.

Kinusaiga: No-Sew Fabric Art
Thursday, November 19 @ 5:30-7 PM

Try your hand at beginner-friendly Japanese fabric art. Ages 10+. Registration required.

LEGO® Challenge

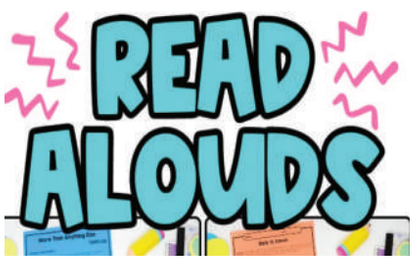
Saturday, November 21 @ 10 AM
Build, create, and have fun. The library provides the LEGOs®. Donations welcome. Ages 5-12.

Family Book Bingo
Saturday, November 21 @ 2 PM
Ages 4-12.

Introduction to Dungeons & Dragons
Sunday, November 22 @ 1-4 PM
Learn the basics of this popular tabletop role-playing game. Ages 10-13. Registration required.

Book Blinging & More
Monday, November 23 @ 4:30-6:30 PM
Come, relax, work on puzzles, chat with friends, or make progress on your own crafts. Ages 18+

Sun SHINE Squad
Tuesday, November 24 @ 4-5:30 PM
Work on volunteer projects while providing feedback on making the library a welcoming place for teens. Ages 10-18. Registration required.



bridge
christian church
realJesus. realhope.
Service Times 9 AM & 10:30 AM
395 W 9th St Dubuque
Bridgedbq.church



MASON DIXON SALOON





GREAT FOOD.
GREAT SPORTS.
GREAT TIMES.

MASON DIXON SALOON
163 Main St. Dubuque, IA
EST. 2010

- **THE RIBS:** Thursdays & Sundays starting at 4:30 PM. They're so good we serve the BBQ sauce on the side.
- **THE WINGS:** Crispy, juicy, and flat-out amazing.
- **THE SPORTS:** Catch every game on our multiple TVs! Plus, exclusive Iowa Hawkeye Football Game Day Specials.
- **THE PARTY SPACE:** Host your next event in our private lower level.

COME FOR THE FOOD. STAY FOR THE GAME.
163 MAIN STREET, DUBUQUE, IA 563.582.3445 MASONDIXONBQ.COM

PREMIER EVENT SPONSORED BY THE DUBUQUE ARTS COUNCIL

CELEBRATING Sinatra

BROADWAY LIGHTS AND HOLLYWOOD NIGHTS



Bryan Anthony & Hunter Fuerste and his American Vintage Orchestra

Return to The Grand Opera House for an Unforgettable New Year's Eve Celebration

Ring in 2027 in true showstopping style. This New Year's Eve, The Grand Opera House glows with "Celebrating Sinatra: Broadway Lights & Hollywood Nights," a dazzling concert devoted to the songs Frank Sinatra carried from the footlights of the Great White Way to the silver screen. Led by vocalist Bryan Anthony and Hunter Fuerste and his American Vintage Orchestra, the evening promises swing, sophistication, and a generous helping of nostalgia.

Sinatra was never only a recording artist. He was a movie star, an Academy Award winner, and a performer who made show tunes and film songs unmistakably his own. This year's program shines a spotlight on that side of Ol' Blue Eyes, featuring iconic stage and screen hits made famous by Sinatra himself. From brassy showstoppers to tender ballads, these are the songs that filled theaters, movie houses, and living rooms, and that still capture the glamour of an era when entertainment

NEW YEAR'S EVE | 8 p.m.
The Grand Opera House

Ring in **2027** with the *Sinatra's* greatest stage and screen hits!

came with a tuxedo and a trumpet section.

Bryan Anthony is the ideal guide for the journey. A veteran vocalist of the Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey, and Nelson Riddle Orchestras, he keeps the legacy of the Great Gentlemen of Song alive and well in performances that are immensely satisfying and sweetly nostalgic. His stunning homages to the Swing Era speak just as warmly to contemporary audiences as they do to lifelong fans.

For Anthony, the appeal of this music runs deep. "The American Songbook possesses such wisdom and poetry that runs the gamut of human emotion," he says. "The feelings, situations, and dynamics that are written about in this music run through every generation and tie us all together." It is a conviction that shines through every phrase he sings.

Dr. Hunter Fuerste, a North Texas graduate and former member of Guy Lombardo's orchestra, leads his famous American Vintage Orchestra. When Fuerste founded the ensemble, he spent two years writing transcriptions of original big band hits, determined to keep the sound as authentic as possible. The result is a band that captures what made Sinatra's recordings so thrilling: swinging brass, sultry saxophones, and a rhythm section that never lets the music sit still.

Anthony and Fuerste have shared a passion for this music for roughly two decades, and the chemistry shows. Together they have turned a New Year's Eve concert into a Dubuque tradition, one that grows richer with each season by pairing beloved favorites with fresh energy and a deep respect for the original arrangements.

The concert is presented by the Dubuque Arts Council, with board members Hunter Fuerste and Dave Grable leading the production of the organization's special events. It is a night of first-class talent that audiences might otherwise need to travel to a major city to experience, right in the heart of downtown Dubuque.

So dress up, bring your favorite dance partner, and let the lights go up on a night of Broadway and Hollywood magic. Whether you've loved Sinatra for a lifetime or are discovering the songs for the first time, this is a spectacular way to say goodbye to the old year and welcome the new one.

Tickets are available by phone at 563-588-1305 or online at thegrandoperahouse.com.



DUBUQUE ARTS COUNCIL

BUY TICKETS NOW!

DubuqueArtsCouncil.com

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer

November 27 through December 6
@ The Grand Opera House

Because of his shiny nose, Rudolph doesn't feel like he belongs in Christmastown and sets off to find a place that accepts him. Along his journey, he encounters fellow misfits, only to realize that home is where he has belonged the whole time. See website for performance days and show times. Visit **TheGrandOperaHouse.com.**

Nashville Country Christmas

Saturday, November 28, 2 PM @ The Ohnward Fine Arts Center (Makoqueta)

Get ready for a toe-tappin' good time this holiday season with this brand-new show direct from Music City. Visit **OhnwardFineArtsCenter.com.**



A Tribute to the Trans-Siberian Orchestra

Saturday, November 28 @ Five Flags Theater

A powerful vocals, accomplished musicians, dazzling lighting effects, and a high-energy stage production, The Prophecy Show recreates the excitement and grandeur that made Trans-Siberian Orchestra performances a holiday tradition. Visit **FiveFlagsCenter.com.**

Glenn Miller Orchestra: In the Christmas Mood

Monday, November 30
7 PM @ Five Flags Theater

The World-Famous Glenn Miller Orchestra will perform their greatest hits. Visit **FiveFlagsCenter.com.**







The Presentation Lantern Center Helps Immigrants Through Language & Culture

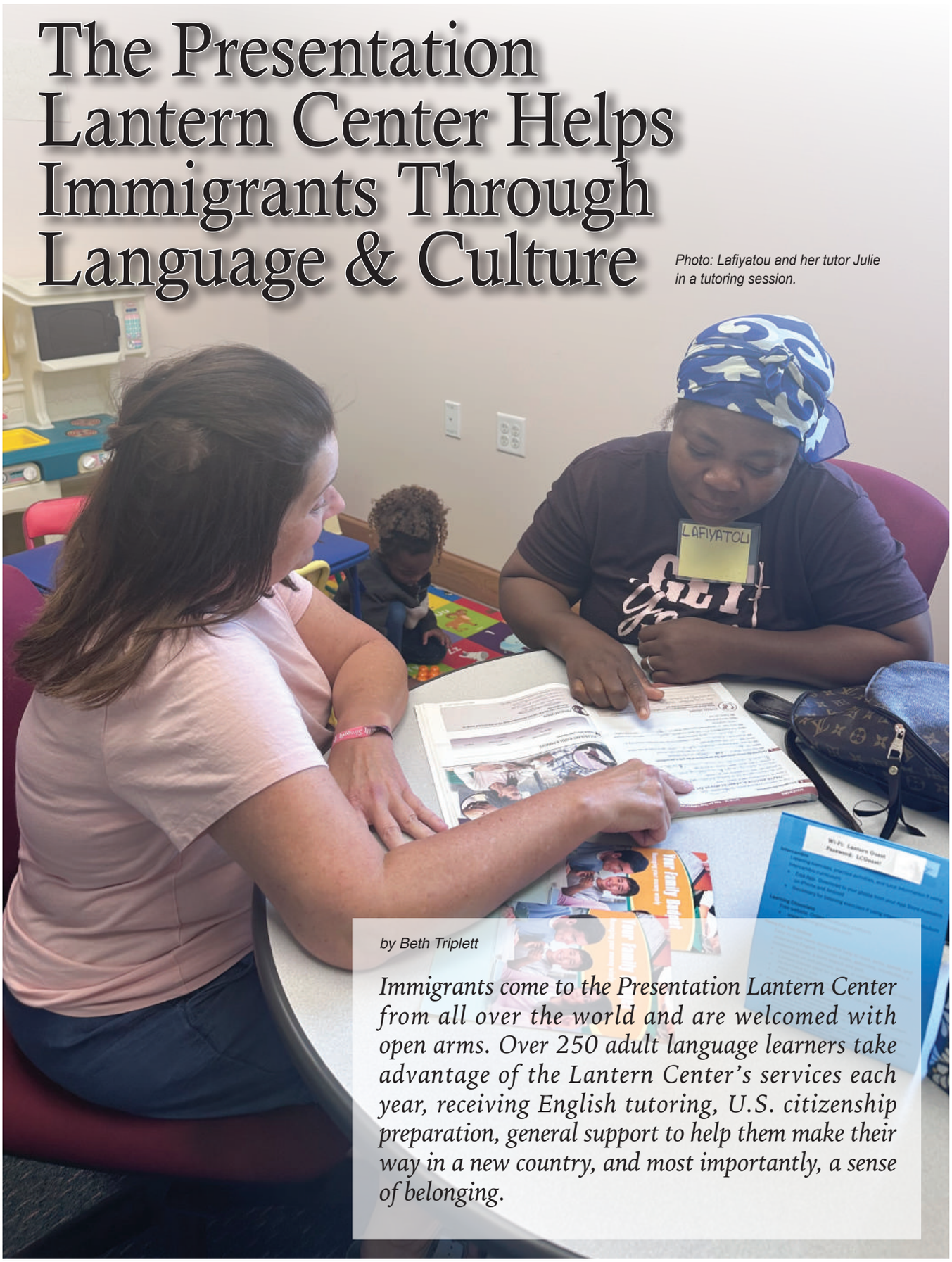


Photo: Lafiyatou and her tutor Julie in a tutoring session.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

by Beth Triplett

Immigrants come to the Presentation Lantern Center from all over the world and are welcomed with open arms. Over 250 adult language learners take advantage of the Lantern Center's services each year, receiving English tutoring, U.S. citizenship preparation, general support to help them make their way in a new country, and most importantly, a sense of belonging.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Lantern Center tutors and students after a Tea Time.

Since its inception, the Lantern Center has served 2,500 students and helped 128 attain U.S. citizenship. Learners have come from 85 countries, reading like a list from the United Nations, including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Colombia, France, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Sweden, Ukraine, and Vietnam.

The Lantern Center was established in 2002 by the Sisters of the Presentation, who saw the need after conducting research about what a city of Dubuque's size needed to flourish. Although the program began modestly, it has offered free tutoring five days a week since its founding and now serves 60 to 80 participants each week.

"When it opened, the intention was to provide hospitality and a welcoming environment to make people feel comfortable and valued so they would want to come every week and build a stronger tutoring relationship," said Megan Ruiz, executive director.



"That has been really successful and naturally grew over the years into us providing more types of guidance and support."

Each student receives an individual volunteer tutor who works with them every week in the fundamentals of English, meeting them where they are from introductory to college-prep. The Center, which recently expanded its location to the Sisters' motherhouse on Carter Road, provides language-level workbooks and a large collection of learning aids for tutor use. No teaching experience is necessary to become a tutor, and they are provided with the curriculum and tools required to help their students succeed, including targeted guidance from Sue Ellis, education director.

Julie Kruser is currently a tutor on her second round of volunteering at the Center. She tutored several years ago and then resumed when she retired. "I really believe in helping people," she said. "I want to help them feel welcome, feel part of a community, and help them obtain employment



Tutor Katie Fisher answers the question at a Tea Time: "What do you plan to do this summer?"

(sometimes a second job, or to look for a job in their specialty field)."

Helping students grow beyond English proficiency and learn practical cultural orientation skills, such as understanding American financial institutions and obtaining car insurance, is an intentional component of the Lantern Center mission.

"We offer English tutoring, U.S. citizenship mentoring, advocacy and support services," said Ann Lorenz, development director.



"We're here to welcome people, help them navigate challenges and support them as they become self-sufficient and successful members of the Dubuque community."

Student Lafiyatou from West Africa feels the warm welcome she receives at the Center. Her young daughter can accompany her to tutoring sessions and play in the same room during lessons.

"They help me to learn English and help with everything, and they are nice with me," she said. The confidence Lafiyatou gained from her time at the Lantern Center gave her the motivation to become a vendor at Farmer's Market, selling West African prepared food.

Maria, a learner from Mexico, has been in the United States for several years, but uses the Lantern Center to build friendships as well as language proficiency.

"I like the Lantern Center because I am able to interact with other people from other countries," said Maria. "Every time I am here, I feel good. Speaking is hard, so I am able to practice and make friends."

One way that friendships form is through Tea Time, a regular feature of each 2-hour tutoring session where all students and tutors gather around a large table and answer the question of the week. In addition to helping students to meet each other, it provides another opportunity for them to practice speaking and listening to conversation. During Tea Time, information about community resources and upcoming events is shared, helping the students become more involved in their new home.

Tutors play a big role in building relationships with students and helping them navigate life in a new country, but the benefits are not one-sided. Carolyn Wiezorek has tutored at the Center for three years, working with her student Maria throughout that time. "I tutor because I love the cultural aspects of the Center," said Wiezorek. "I learn things myself, and believe learning is a mutual process."

Tutors often become aware of stresses in students' lives and can connect them with helpful resources. The Center works closely with other community agencies to assist with needs such as opening bank accounts, obtaining driver's licenses, accessing parenting classes, locating food pantries and finding employment. When other resources are unavailable, the Center's Urgent Student Need Fund provides partial, short-term assistance with rent, transportation, immigration filing fees, utility bills and job-related expenses such as steel-toed shoes or scrubs. Assistance is often provided on a one-time basis.

Dubuque is fortunate to have the Center, the only one of its kind within 70 miles. By helping immigrants learn English and become established in the community, they can soon contribute to the workforce and culture. Most learners come to the Center already holding a full-time job, but by improving their language skills, they can advance or return to school to learn new skills or better use their past expertise and education.

Center staff works with Northeast Iowa Community College and Greater Dubuque Development Corporation to identify employment niches that need to be filled and help people navigate the transportation challenges of getting to those jobs.

"Transportation is by far one of the biggest challenges, and it is just a constant burden," said Ruiz. "Many times, the jobs are second, third, night or weekend shifts. Taking an Uber or taxi to work every day easily eats up a large portion of someone's paycheck, so it's not practical or sustainable, but it is the only option for people right now."

With an ever-changing economy and changing regulations, the needs of immigrants will undoubtedly continue to grow. Fortunately, those in our community won't have to face these challenges alone, thanks to the Lantern Center and its many volunteers who will be here to assist and celebrate their accomplishments with them.

Donations from religious communities and private donors support the student urgent need fund and overall center operations. To learn more or to volunteer visit TheLanternCentern.org. ❖

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

PRESENTATION
LANTERN CENTER
WELCOME • LEARN • BELONG





CONTRIBUTED BY GALAXY NOTE20 5G

More Than Clothes: The Heart of Open Closet and Almost Home

by Beth Call

On a warm Saturday morning, I walk down White Street in downtown Dubuque. My destination is the Open Closet- a transformative community program located on the lower level of St. John's Lutheran Church at 1276 White Street. Working alongside Almost Home, the program provides a safety net for Dubuque residents facing instability and hardship. When I walk through the door, I am not sure what to expect. It is 9 AM on the first Saturday of the month, and people move in and out while enjoying coffee and snacks.

Robert (Bob) Hartman, Staff and Mission Coordinator of the Almost Home program, greets me near his office, directs me downstairs, and introduces me to Cindy Recker, an active Open Closet volunteer. Over the next hour, I get a glimpse of what Open Closet does for the community, and it's very impressive.

There are organized racks of clothing and shoes for everyone from newborns to adults. Items are sorted by size and type. Volunteers eagerly assist shoppers. I am amazed by the sheer variety of what the space accommodates. The racks have everything from everyday casual wear and school attire for children to professional clothing for adults. There is a corner just for books, as well as another room for newborn items, including all sizes of diapers.

There is an older gentleman looking for a suit coat for a wedding. A father and his son are looking for the right size of jeans. A young mother is looking for school clothes for her daughter, as well as a Halloween costume (Yes, they have costumes, too!).

The Open Closet is rooted in a commitment to human dignity. It creates a welcoming, retail-style shopping experience without questions or any cost. The program began with the vision and dedication of a mother and daughter.

In the early 1990s, Helen Thomas and her daughter, Barbara Keough, founded the Open Closet. As dedicated, longtime members of St. John's Lutheran Church, they wanted to help people facing hardship. After several congregational meetings, church members agreed to use the basement to provide free clothing to those in need. As word spread, donations and volunteer support grew. Almost 40 years later, the mission remains strong, serving thousands of individuals and families each year. Partnerships with local organizations such as Opening Doors also help coordinate clothing donations across the city.

The Open Closet is entirely volunteer-run and operates without a formal budget. Clothing donations are accepted Tuesday through Thursday from 9 to 11 AM. In 2025, 1,066 donors provided clothing or financial support. Many generous supporters watch for sales, purchasing coats and children's clothing for the program. Thrivent Financial members may apply for Action Team cards to buy children's coats and swimsuits, as well as steel-toed shoes for people who need appropriate footwear for manufacturing jobs. People may also direct proceeds to the program from items sold through the Open Closet's nonprofit account at Stuff Etc. There are numerous individual and business monetary donations as well.

The Open Closet relies on about 40 regular volunteers each month. Most serve one day a week. Volunteers restock donations Tuesday through Thursday from 8:30 to 11:30 AM and assist with two monthly shopping events.

Shopping events take place on the first Saturday of each month from 9 to 11 AM and the third Thursday from 3 to 5 PM. Customers come from diverse backgrounds, and most visit only when a need arises. Before COVID-19, as many as 700 customers attended a two-hour shopping period. Since then, the program has averaged 115 shoppers per event, with attendance ranging from 53 to 203 depending on special offerings. These include the Free Kids Swimsuit Giveaway in May; the Free Kids Coat Giveaway in October, this year on October 3, and the 25-Cent Garage Sale in November.

The Open Closet store is getting ready to close for the day, and I head back upstairs to speak with Bob Hartman to learn about Almost Home.

I learn that single fathers facing a housing crisis often encounter unexpected barriers when they are seeking shelter. Many facilities separate residents by gender or primarily serve single mothers, leaving fathers with few options for staying together with their children.

Founded in 2010, Almost Home helps fill this gap by operating a shelter in St. John's former guest house. Following a major expansion completed in early 2024, the shelter can now accommodate up to four families, with a total of 21 beds, in apartments on the second and third floors.

Families may stay for three months, or longer when circumstances require. Hartman describes Almost Home's support for families in need as transitional housing that provides a safe, stable environment where fathers with full custody of their children can work toward lasting stability. It is a "springboard" for starting their new chapter.

Rather than simply providing a temporary bed, the program fosters a "family culture" by creating a stable, home-like environment where families can remain together while addressing the challenges that led to their displacement. Each family receives a food basket and hygiene basket when they move in. For access to free food, The Food Pantry is across the street, and there are many churches nearby that provide free lunch or dinner on certain days of the week.

According to Hartman, a bed is only the first step toward stability. To help families break the cycle of homelessness, the program pairs them with dedicated case managers who develop a comprehensive plan for the future. Its key areas of family support include:

Employment assistance: Helping fathers find and secure steady employment.

Financial literacy: Teaching budgeting, debt management, and financial planning skills to prepare families for independent housing.

Parenting education: Equipping fathers with tools to manage the emotional and practical demands of a single-parent household.

Child well-being and advocacy: Keeping children enrolled in school or preschool and connecting them with caring adults who help restore routine and stability.

As I walk back to my car, a man is walking toward St. John's, pushing a stroller. The toddler in the stroller is giggling. The man smiles as he walks past me, looks down at the toddler, and says, "We're almost home". Indeed…they are almost home. ❖

For information about volunteering or donating call 563.583.6572 or visit Almosthomedbq.org.



Back Row: Volunteers Deb Davis, Terri Hilgendorf, Sherrie Bushman, Valerie Wright
Front Row: Karen Schaeffer, Nancy Thomas, Cindy Recker

A Sense of Belonging and a Drive to Give Back



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Connections are what make life in the Dubuque region so rich and rewarding for Dave and Jane Heiar. From their childhoods in Bellevue to their retirement years in Dubuque, their experiences have brought them close to the people, organizations and culture that they love.

"This is a special place," Dave says.

"It's easy for us to get involved, to be part of something," Jane adds. "That idea of belonging is so important, and we felt that when we moved here."

That love for the Dubuque region has inspired the Heiars to do what they can today to make a positive difference for future generations. Both volunteer with local organizations, including the Dubuque Dream Academy and the Sisters of St. Francis, and donate to the Community Foundation to support causes they care about.

They also have worked with the Foundation's planned giving partner, Johni Hays of Thompson & Associates, to develop an estate plan that lets them take care of their family and leave a legacy for their community long after they are gone.

A goal throughout their lives has been to ensure that the Dubuque region is a welcoming place for all people and that everyone can access the resources they need to thrive. Dave worked in municipal government and economic development in Bellevue, Manchester and Dubuque, while Jane taught in Dubuque public schools: Title I reading at Lincoln Elementary; first and second grades at Bryant Elementary.

In retirement, they are involved with several Community Foundation initiatives, including the Better Together Committee and Women's Giving Circle, because they share the Foundation's vision for a vibrant and inclusive Dubuque region.

Through that involvement, they learned about the Thompson & Associates partnership and met with Johni Hays to help formulate an approach to estate planning that reflects their values about family and community.

"It was an awesome experience," Dave says. "There was no pressure."

"I really liked how she got us to reflect," Jane adds. "You never think about that when you do a will. She had such a very non-intrusive way of guiding us through that process."

continued on page 22

Complimentary, Confidential Estate Planning

Although it may feel like you have all the time in the world to plan your estate, half of all Americans die without creating a will.

To help with this important task, the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque works with charitable estate planning expert Johni Hays, senior vice president of Thompson & Associates, to provide complimentary, confidential estate planning.

Hays takes participants through a three-phase process:

Complete a confidentiality agreement and a questionnaire about family, values, goals and objectives.

Quantify assets to determine potential tax issues.

Develop a recommended plan, fine-tuned to meet participants' personal needs. This plan includes a comparison with participants' current plan and can then be shared with the participants' own attorney to be put into action.

With conscientious planning, Hays is often able to increase the amount of an estate given to heirs by transferring funds from tax-heavy assets like IRAs to charitable remainder trusts. These trusts pay out earnings to heirs over time, and the principal is given to a charitable cause after that time has passed — minimizing the tax burden on heirs and maximizing impact.

Contact Kaley Rigdon Burgmeier, development officer at the Community Foundation, to schedule your complimentary, confidential session: 563-588-2700 or kaley@dbqfoundation.org.

To explore charitable giving options, visit Dbqfoundation.org/ways-to-give. ❖



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Create a kitchen worth gathering in.

Just in time for the holidays!

DuTrac.org/HELOC



80 DuTrac Community Credit Union

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

NCUA

Belong continued from page 20

The Heiars created a plan that will leave sufficient resources for their children and grandchildren while reducing their tax burden and supporting nonprofits. As part of their plan, they prepared a document for the Community Foundation that names seven organizations their estate will support.

It's a plan built on trust. They have seen first-hand how the Foundation addresses community needs, and they feel assured that the assets they leave will contribute to initiatives that support a welcoming, vital region.

"That's the beauty of the Foundation," Jane says. "They really have their finger on the pulse of the community's needs."

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.









Beyond the Thanksgiving Table: Building a Legacy That Lasts



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

by Keith Leverentz

Every November, as the Tri-State area turns a bit cooler and the autumn leaves settle, my thoughts naturally turn toward home. Thanksgiving has always been one of my favorite times of year because it brings family together around the dinner table. It's a season for sharing a good meal, reflecting on the blessings God has given us, and holding close the people who mean the world to us.

As we look around that table at children and grandchildren, it's only natural for our minds to drift toward the future and think about legacy.

During your working years, legacy often feels like a distant goal line. You work hard, save consistently, and hope that whatever is left over will naturally pass on to support the next generation. But as you enter retirement, the perspective changes. Building a meaningful legacy isn't just about leaving behind a dollar amount on an account statement. It's about taking care of your family and creating lasting clarity, stability, and peace of mind for the people you love.

That is where a common planning gap often appears. Many households have done a wonderful job accumulating wealth over a lifetime, but they haven't yet thought through how those assets will transition when the time comes.

In retirement, every financial decision ripples into the next. The choices you make about drawing income, the timing of Social Security, and how you manage taxable distributions don't just affect your current lifestyle, they directly shape what remains for a surviving spouse, your children, or causes close to your heart. Without thoughtful coordination, a well-meaning inheritance can sometimes create unintended tax burdens or unnecessary confusion for grieving family members.

A complete legacy strategy asks deeper questions than simply, "How much will I pass on?" It asks:

How can we protect the next generation from unnecessary tax strain?

Is my spouse fully supported and secure, no matter what changes down the road?

Have I organized our assets so my family experiences ease and clarity rather than stress?

At The Life Group, we call this taking a Panoramic View of retirement. Legacy isn't an isolated decision; it's deeply connected to your tax strategy, healthcare considerations, income stream, and family values. When all these moving parts work together, legacy planning stops being a source of quiet worry. Instead, it becomes an intentional, loving gift to your family.

True peace of mind comes from knowing that your lifetime of hard work will continue to care for and protect your family for generations to come.

If you are gathering with loved ones this fall, it may be the perfect time to look beyond daily account balances and make sure your plan reflects your true heart for your family.

Keith Leverentz, NSSA®, is founder of The Life Group and has helped Tri-State area families and retirees since 2003 with personalized financial planning, investment guidance, and retirement strategies. You can visit their website at TheLifeGroupLLC.com. ❖

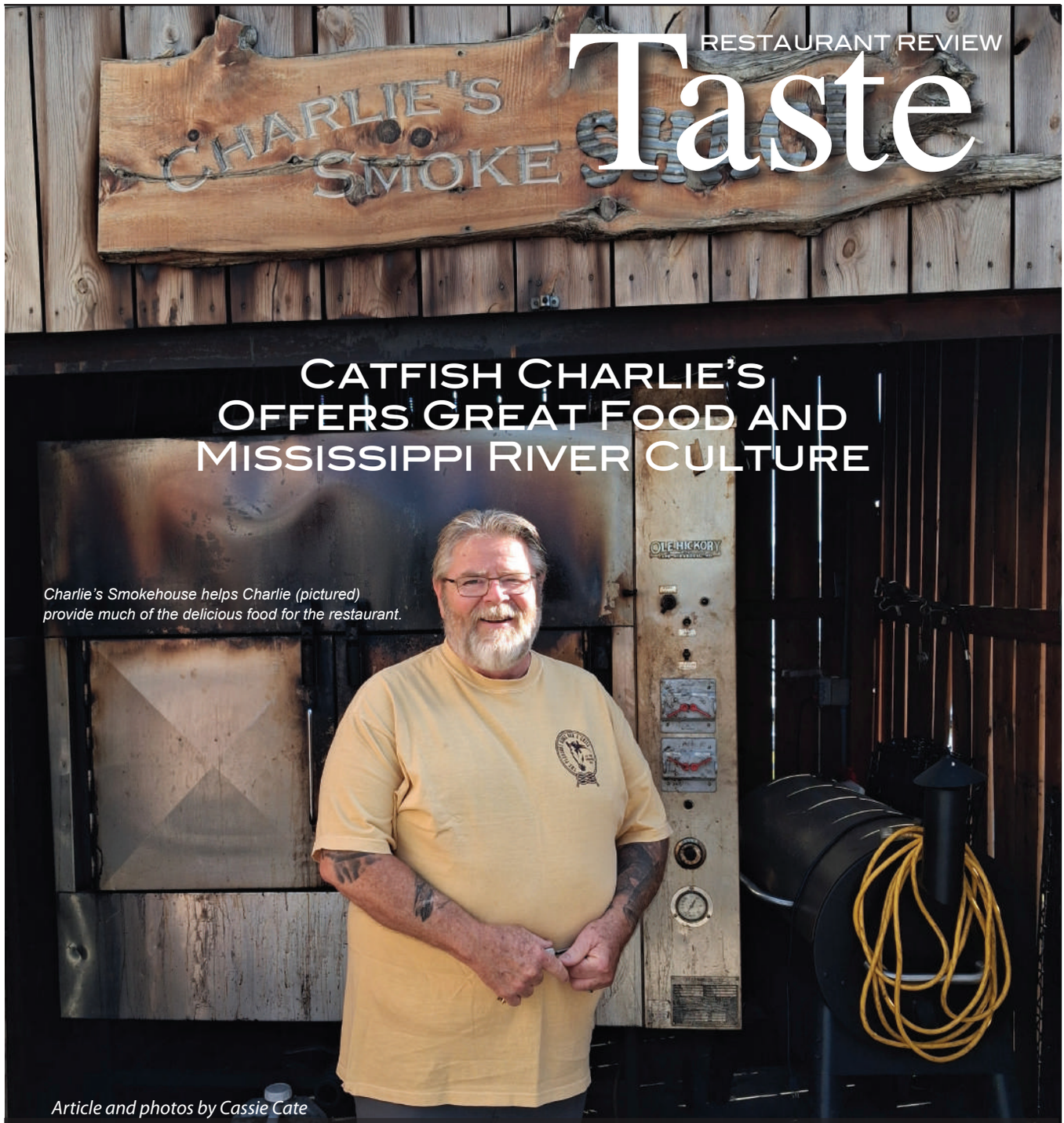
Comments on this article can be sent to comments@juliensjournal.com.



RESTAURANT REVIEW

Taste

Catfish Charlie's Offers Great Food and Mississippi River Culture



Charlie's Smokehouse helps Charlie (pictured) provide much of the delicious food for the restaurant.

Article and photos by Cassie Cate

The lure of the Mississippi River brings people of all kinds together to experience something undeniably larger than yourself. Its beauty and elegance hold secrets that many never take the opportunity to discover. If you find yourself feeling adventurous and looking to be immersed in the Mississippi River culture, look no further than the one and only, Catfish Charlie's.

Charles "Charlie" Cretsinger wasn't raised on the river, but it certainly called his name. After forty-seven years in the restaurant industry, Charlie knew a thing or two when he and his partner Dave Pretaski began a business venture that would turn into a household name in Dubuque's restaurant scene. The two developed a friendship at the Marina, concluded they had the beginnings of a great restaurant, and Catfish Charlie's was born.



A favorite spot for many is the outdoor dining area where customers can enjoy a view of the river.

Cretsinger's training behind the grill came from the school of hard knocks. His initial dreams of being a farmer and working the land came to an end when interest rates sky-rocketed in the late seventies. Although it seemed like the end at the time, it truly became the beginning of a story that Charlie is proud to tell.

Although the food at Catfish Charlie's is unique and delicious, the true secret to Catfish Charlie's isn't the food- it's the hospitality. When you pull into the parking lot you find yourself immersed in river culture, surrounded by boats, trees, the quaintest of restaurants, and the river flowing behind it all. As you walk up the stairs onto the porch you are welcomed with the feeling of home. When the doors open, customers are greeted with a breathtaking view of the river, where no seat in the house is bad. The view is even better from the outdoor seating area where diners can enjoy beautiful views, an outdoor bar area, and fire pit.

The interior bar takes customers to a place of comfort, where friends gather and enjoy an easy-going atmosphere. The restaurant brews their own beer in two small barrels, creating a niche brewery that provides around ten different options on tap. These barrels brew fifty to sixty different kinds of beer that rotate in and out with the seasons, providing customers with new options as they visit. These brews are the best sellers at the bar and tell a big part of the story of Catfish Charlie's commitment to homemade and local food and fare.

Another room within the restaurant contains local goods for sale, including jams and jellies, local whiskey and wine, specialty home items, and much more. All these products are stocked due to their connection with local vendors and craftsmen. Charlie's commitment to local entrepreneurs isn't about the revenue it brings in, but about providing a place where people can have their hand at sharing their gifts and talents. There is also a party room that seats around fifty people and can be used at no charge for those wanting to host an event and use the kitchen and bar to provide the food and beverage.

The menu is structured around seafood, although there is something for everyone to enjoy. Charlie said, "In this day in age in a small town when people are going out for dinner, they go where everyone likes something, so we carry a menu that relates to anyone."

Obviously, catfish is a main menu item at the restaurant. Charlie's own sons are responsible for much of the seafood that is served. The boys commercially fish the river and bring back their catch to serve as specialty items on the menu, commonly referred to as MR catfish or Mississippi River. Although they would love to serve only their bounties from the river, the demand is simply too high, so USA farm grown catfish is used where their supply cannot meet the demand. The variety of seafood options include Fried Shrimp, the Seafood Platter, Big Timber Bourbon Salmon, Fish 'n Chips, Walleye, Bluegills, N'Awlins BBQ Spiced Shrimp, and of course Blackened Catfish, Whole Catfish, and Charlie's Catfish.

Everything at the restaurant is made in-house, from sauces to broths and everything in between. Catfish Charlie's is the only restaurant in town that serves Cajun cuisine, and customers continue to come back for these special dishes, including the Chicken Creole, Catfish Creole, Gumbo,



Experience a true taste of the bayou with our signature Chicken Creole.



Catfish Charlie's has an eclectic flair that creates a welcoming experience to diners looking for a unique Mississippi River experience.

Bayou Platter, Fried Oysters, Jambalaya, and Cajun Catfish and Shrimp Creole. These southern staples come complete with Hush Puppies and choice of soup or salad.

As Charlies said, there is something for everyone, and carnivores can enjoy The Gauer Steak, Ribeye, or Top Sirloin. The kitchen also smokes its own meat and serves up an amazing array of BBQ, including Charlie's Special Hickory Smoked Pork Ribs, BBQ brisket, and Hickory smoked pulled pork. The sandwich menu offers everything from the Buffalo Steak Burger to the Catfish Club to the Three Little Pigs (A Catfish Charlie's Specialty), and several other creations. There are pastas and sides that will please everyone, and the appetizer menu is second to none, with Alligator Nuggets, Catfish Fingers, Smoked Pork Nachos, and many others to enjoy.

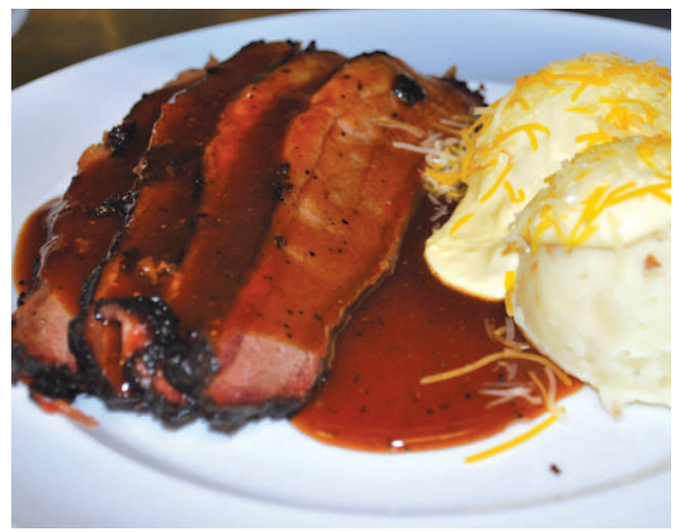
Another part of the business is the American Lady which offers scenic cruises on the Mississippi River. Typically, the boat launches in April and operates until the last week in October. These cruises offer a spectacular ride down the Mississippi where passengers can enjoy breathtaking views and a delicious meal, catered by Catfish Charlie's of course. Several cruise options are available from public lunch cruises, happy hour cruises, sightseeing cruises, and dinner cruises. Private cruises are also available for booking and are perfect for weddings, anniversaries, birthday parties, reunions, corporate parties, or any other occasion.

This slice of Mississippi River paradise hasn't come easy, and Charlie credits his wife for her commitment to caring and raising their boys as he put tireless hours into making Catfish Charlie's what it is today. If you are looking to experience true hospitality, delicious food of all kinds, and an incredible setting to do so, visit Catfish Charlie's. You will not be disappointed.

Catfish Charlie's is located at 1630 E 16th Street in Dubuque. You can visit their website at CatfishCharliesDubuque.com. ❖



Our signature Gumbo is a masterpiece of slow-cooked Southern tradition.



The kitchen smokes its own BBQ brisket.

SIPS & TIPS

Taste



Article & photo by John B. Donovan

Wines for Sharing with Friends

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." — Winston Churchill

The theme for this month's *Julien's Journal* is Philanthropy. And, with Thanksgiving happening this month, it's a time for giving thanks for what we have. This year when you are gathered around the table, let me suggest that before the opening toast, you each take a moment to express your personal thanks for things throughout the year. Further, this is the time of year for giving more than thanks! If you haven't already, give what you can to your favorite local non-profit, or a national organization that supports something important to you.

TeamWine gets together once a month to converse, share stories, express opinions and yes, taste wine. We do enjoy this task, and we do take it seriously as we know that we are passing along our thoughts and recommendations to you on wines we have discovered that we think you would enjoy. We hope you do, anyway!

Sips

Our white this month was a **2024 Diatom Chardonnay** from Santa Barbara, California (14.5% abv $20). It was purchased at Hy-Vee. With the higher ABV you might think the Chardonnay was "oaky", but it is an unoaked wine aged entirely in stainless steel and no malolactic fermentation. The color was a light straw yellow with fine clarity. Aromas we sniffed were honeysuckle, brioche, a bit of floral, and a hint of lemon curd. The wine was crisp with noticeable minerality. Acidity was medium-high, which made for a very refreshing Chardonnay. Mouthfeel was silky and a suggestion of sweetness surfaced on the finish. TeamWine found this wine to go well with everything we had on our table and felt this would go well for the beginning of a Thanksgiving meal. We suggest that roasted vegetables, sweet potatoes or squash soup would be excellently paired with this wine. That said, however, this wine would be perfect for a back porch get-together with friends or family. It's easy drinking, and pairs with almost anything you have in the house.

Our red wine was obtained from Roux & Lucia, a **2023 La Fiera Montepulciano D'Abruzzo** (13%abv $19). We wanted a red that had a depth of flavors to make it through the second half of a holiday meal. This wine was dark garnet in color. We all got aromas of cherry, red berries, plum and a touch of cassis and cocoa. A medium-light body and soft mouth feel showed

Mt. Pleasant
HOME

Enjoy summer on the patio of your new home!

Rooms include **all** meals, housekeeping, laundry, utilities, wi-fi, maintenance, cable TV, access to a beautiful campus, and more **all** for one low price.



Short or long-term options available!

No lease.

For more information call 563.582.4144 or visit MtPleasantHome.org.

very light tannins. Flavors on the palate compared similarly with the aromas such as baked cherry pie, blackberry cobbler and baking spices came through on the finish. We felt this wine would pair well with the dark meat of a turkey or white meat if matched with a hearty cranberry sauce. It did go well with our blue cheese and the white cheddar. Of course, being an Italian red, it would go very well with pizza of a pasta with red sauce, or even a chicken puttanesca. And yes, it did go well with our dark chocolate.

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

Tips

Staying with our theme of giving, if you will be a guest at a holiday dinner or party, keep these tips in mind if you want to bring wine as a gift.

Unless you've called in advance, don't expect the wine to be used during the dinner or party (unless the party was advertised as BYOB). Often the meal planner knows what wine they want with the meal, so think of your wine as a gift, that they will enjoy later.



If you have called in advance and will be bringing wine as part of the dinner, get something nice, but not outlandish. If it is a white or Rosé, have it chilled so that it can be used as an opener. If it is a red, keep it at a comfortable temp (slightly cool) so it will fit right in with dinner. Your goal is to not create extra steps for the host/hostess. You may even want to take your own corkscrew and offer to open the wine when it's time.

Salut & Happy Thanksgiving ❖



ROUX & LUCIA

your neighborhood stop for

THOUGHTFULLY CURATED WINES + FRESH CULINARY CREATIONS



R & L

620 S. GRANDVIEW AVE. | DUBUQUE, IOWA

ROUXANDLUCIA.COM



SHALOM SPIRITUALITY CENTER

SHALOMRETREATS.ORG

Silent Book Club
Sunday, November 1 @ 2-3:30 PM
Participants gather to share the same space while reading in silence, without the traditional book club's pressure of having to finish a book on time. RSVP.

An Evening of Music for Grateful Hearts –Thursday, November 5 @ 6:30-7:30 PM
Experience tranquility and soothing vibrations with professional musician, Desiree Irwin, and sound healing practitioner, Morgan Noel. Registration required.

Shalom Movie Night
Monday, November 9 @ 6-7:30 PM
Kindness is Contagious, a film narrated by Catherine Ryan Hyde, author of Pay It Forward. RSVP.

Meditation & Music
Monday, November 16 @ 6:30-7:30 PM
Wear comfortable clothing. Feel free to bring a pillow or blanket. Registration required.

Lunch & Renew: Chair Yoga
Wednesday, November 18 @ 11:30 AM-12:30 PM
Registration required.

STATERA INTEGRATED HEALTH & WELLNESS

STATERAINTEGRATED.COM

No Limb-its Amputee Social & Support Gatherings
Monday, November 16 @ 4-5:30 PM
A monthly gathering where individuals living with limb loss can meet others with similar experiences and struggles.

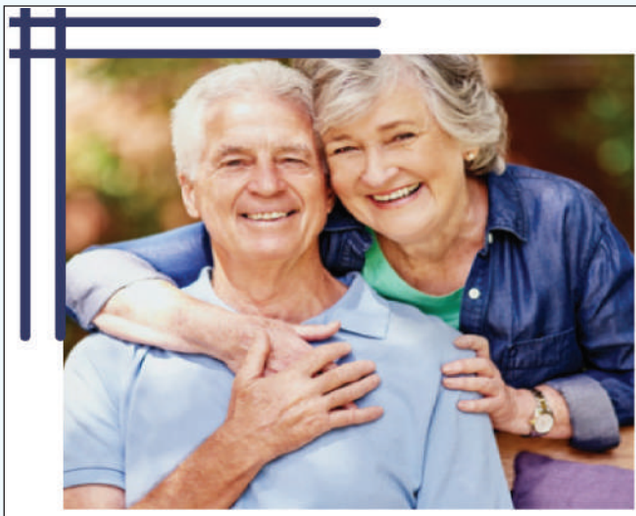
NEWS

STATERA PROVIDER OBTAINS FUNCTIONAL MEDICINE CERTIFICATION

Rylee Sigwarth, FMCP-M, a provider with Statera Integrated, is now recognized as a Functional Medicine Certified Professional – Medical™ by the International Board of Functional Medicine Certification™.

As a certified functional medicine professional, Sigwarth is trained in the core competencies of functional medicine. She understands the root causes of chronic disease and provides personalized care within her scope of licensure to address each patient's unique health challenges and goals. To earn this distinction, she completed The Institute for Functional Medicine® (IFM) core functional medicine curriculum.





Your Lifestyle.
Your Family Community.

Our caring team looks forward to providing you and your family quality care and services from a leader in senior living.

- Independent & assisted living
- Personalized care available 24/7
- On-site therapy
- Scheduled transportation
- Daily exercise classes
- Housekeeping & laundry
- ...and more!

We are a compassionate team committed to cultivating a culture of trust, compassion, integrity and respect to those we interact with, each and every day.

Special-Receive Up to Two Months Free. (Limited Time, Restrictions Apply)

TRUSTWELL LIVING
EAGLE POINTE PLACE
2700 Matthew John Dr.
Dubuque, IA 52002
563-690-1900

Call 563-690-1900 today to schedule a personalized tour!

SINSINAWA MOUNT TO HOST AA

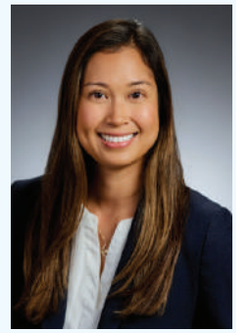
Sinsinawa Mound Center will host Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) every Friday at 6 PM in St. Clara Chapel. In a safe, supportive, and non-judgmental environment, attendees connect with others through group discussion and literature readings while focusing on recovery. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking alcohol. Doors open at 5:30 PM. No sign-in required in this come-as-you-are environment.

MEDICAL ASSOCIATES EMPLOYEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

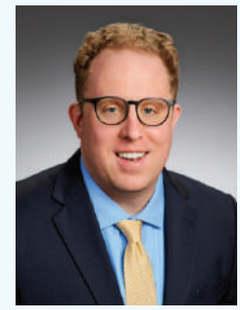
Stephen Goodin, MD, joined the orthopedics and sports medicine department. He received his medical degree from the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE, and Bachelor of Science in Chemistry with an emphasis in Molecular Biology from the University of Nebraska Kearney, Kearney, NE. Goodin also completed his residency in orthopedic surgery at Michigan State University / Corewell Health in Grand Rapids, MI, and a fellowship in sports medicine and shoulder surgery at the University of Missouri, Columbia, MO. He provides outpatient treatment for conditions affecting the muscles, joints, and bones, including those related to trauma or chronic disease. He also performs surgical procedures for orthopedic and sports-related injuries.



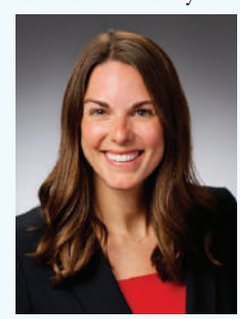
Paulina Phomvongsa, MD, joined their surgery department. She received her medical degree from Michigan State University College of Human Medicine in Grand Rapids, MI. She received her Bachelor of Science in Human Biology and Bachelor of Science in Psychology, both from Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI. Phomvongsa completed her residency in general surgery from the University of Michigan Health-West, Wyoming, MI. She is also fluent in Laotian and English. Dr. Phomvongsa provides a full spectrum of general surgery services.



Nicholas Hora, DO, joined their orthopedics and sports medicine department. He received his medical degree from Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Parker, CO, and Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. Hora completed his residency in family medicine at Mayo Clinic Health System, Eau Claire, WI, and fellowship in primary sports medicine at VCOM-Virginia, Blacksburg, VA. He provides personalized, non-operative care to help patients remain active, recover from injuries, and return safely to their activities.



Reilly Wojciehowski, MD, joined their family medicine department. She received her medical degree from the University of Illinois College of Medicine, Rockford, IL, and Bachelor of Science in Biology Research from Loras College. Wojciehowski completed her residency in family medicine at the University of Illinois College of Medicine, Rockford, IL. She provides immediate and routine care including diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic illnesses for patients of all ages.



Please send your medical community news to Juli@JuliensJournal.com and be included in our monthly Health & Wellness.



Business & Community News

DUPACO EARNS WORKPLACE HONOR

Dupaco Community Credit Union has been named a 2026 Top Workplace by the *Des Moines Register*, earning statewide recognition for its commitment to creating a workplace where employees feel valued, supported, and empowered to grow. The honor is based entirely on employee feedback gathered through an independent survey administered by Energage, a workplace culture research and technology firm.

Community Foundation OF GREATER DUBUQUE

DUBUQUE AREA NON-PROFITS RECEIVE GRANTS

The 10 non-profits receiving Community Impact Grants from the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque this year are tackling some of Eastern Iowa's most pressing challenges. The Community Foundation is proud to support their work with $105,900 in grants that will bridge funding gaps for critical programs. This year's grant recipients are Centrally Rooted, DeWitt Referral Center, Dubuque Community YMCA/YWCA Victim Service Shelter, ElevateHER Network, Friends of St. Mary's, Mindful Minutes, Moms Connect Dubuque, My GEAR Outreach, Opening Doors, and River Bend Food Reservoir.

RURAL LIBRARIES INVITED TO APPLY FOR GRANTS

Thanks to funding from the Trust for Civic Life, the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque will make grants to libraries serving small towns in the seven-county region it serves. Libraries serving communities in Allamakee, Clayton, Clinton, Delaware, Dubuque, Jackson, and Jones counties are invited to apply for funding of $5,000 to $9,000 for community engagement projects and programs.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION NAMES PRESIDENT, CEO

The Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque announced the appointment of **Kristy Ryan** as its next president and chief executive officer, marking a new chapter in the organization's 23-year history.



Ryan, a non-profit executive with leadership experience at large organizations across the United States, will succeed founding President and CEO Nancy Van Milligen, who has led the Community Foundation since its beginning in 2003. Van Milligen will continue serving the organization as president emerita, a part-time role in which she will provide continuity and support key relationships, partnerships and opportunities that advance its mission and long-term impact.

Save more for what's ahead.

4.00% introductory dividend rate for the first 6 months! 3.66% APY*

Open a new Achieve Money Market Account with a qualifying deposit of at least $25,000* for competitive earnings, easy access to your money and the trusted support of Dupaco.

Learn more at Dupaco.com/EarnMore

Dupaco CREDIT UNION

FEDERALLY INSURED BY NCUA



*APY=Annual Percentage Yield. The promotional rate will be in effect for 180 days from the date of the initial $25,000.00 minimum deposit. After the 180-day promotional period, the account will automatically convert to the standard variable rate tiers, which may change at any time.

The $25,000.00 required to open this account must be funded with "New Money" or "Eligible Term-Share Certificate Maturity Funds." New Money is defined as funds that have not been on deposit with Dupaco Community Credit Union within the past 180 days. Eligible Term-Share Certificate Maturity Funds are defined as funds from a Dupaco Community Credit Union Term-Share Certificate that matured not more than 10 calendar days prior to depositing them into the Achieve Money Market Account. The minimum balance to earn the APY is $25,000.00. As of 8/24/26, the tiered introductory rate structure is as follows: $0.00-$24,999.99 at 0.00% dividend rate and 0.00% APY; $25,000.00-99,999.99 at 4.00% dividend rate and 3.66% APY; $100,000.00-$249,999.99 at 4.00% dividend rate and 3.66% APY; $250,000- $1,000,000.00 at 4.00% dividend rate and 3.66% APY.

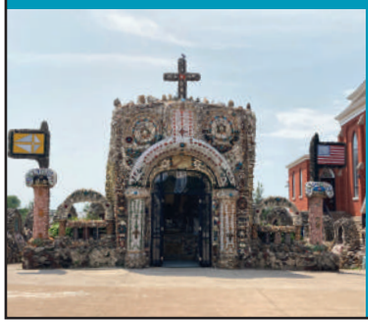
As of 8/24/26, the standard variable rate tiers that apply after the 180-day promotion period are as follows: $0.00-$24,999.99 at 0.00% dividend rate and 0.00% APY; $25,000.00-99,999.99 at 3.20% dividend rate and 3.25% APY; $100,000.00-$249,999.99 at 3.20% dividend rate and 3.25% APY; $250,000-$1,000,000.00 at 3.20% dividend rate and 3.25% APY.

Business accounts are excluded, and public funds are not accepted in the Achieve Money Market account. This account is limited to a maximum of one Achieve Money Market account per member. Maximum deposits may apply. Fees could reduce earnings. Rates, terms, and conditions are subject to change at any time.

Business Card Directory



DISCOVER HIDDEN MARVELS



Dickeyville Grotto & Gift Shop

- Store features Local Artists
- Hand-set glass, rocks, shells & crystals

305 W Main Street,
Dickeyville, WI
DickeyvilleGrotto.com

Certified Asbestos Testing, Inspections, and Removal

EMSI

Environmental Management Services of Iowa, Inc.
5170 Wolff Rd., Ste. 2, Dubuque, IA 52002
563-583-0808
E-mail: emsi.asbestosservices@aol.com
www.emsofiowa.com





Whirlpool KitchenAid MAYTAG AMANA

GATEWAY SALES & SERVICE APPLIANCE

STORE: 563.543.5431
CELL: 319.464.0687
EMAIL: mwinfield@gatewayappliance.com
gatewayappliance.com
2600 Dodge St.
Dubuque, IA 52003

MATT WINFIELD
Assistant Manager



Wittman's Nutrition Center
Sharon Wittman I Owner

2600 Dodge Street-Plaza 20
Dubuque, Iowa
52003

(563)557-9067
Facebook.com/wittmansnutrition2015

Looking for an inexpensive way to advertise? Place your business card here. Call 563.557.7571 for more information. Or email ***Robin@JuliensJournal.com***.

Advertising Directory

ASSOCIATION OF FUNDRAISING PROFESSIONALS 6

BIG A AUTO 22

BIG APPLE BAGELS 14

BRIDGE CHRISTIAN CHURCH 11

BRIDGE CITY COLLECTIVE 7

CARNEGIE STOUT LIBRARY 10

CELEBRATING SINATRA - SPONSORED BY DUBUQUE ARTS COUNCIL 22

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF GREATER DUBUQUE ..... BACK COVER

CULBIES EVENT CENTER 5

DUBUQUE ARTS COUNCIL PREMER EVENT 12-13

DUBUQUE MINING COMPANY 22

DUBUQUE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA 7

DUPACO COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION 31

DUTRAC COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION 21

EAGLE POINTE PLACE 29

FIVE FLAGS CENTER 8

GARAGEEXPERTS OF GREATER DUBUQUE 11

MASON DIXON SALOON 11

MEDICAL ASSOCIATES INSIDE FRONT COVER

MT PLEASANT HOME 28

NAMASTE 8

OHNWARD FINE ARTS CENTER 5

Q RESORT + CASINO REFLECTIONS EVENT SPACES 4

ROUX & LUCIA 28

RUNDE AUTO 17

SHALOM SPIRITUALITY CENTER 22

STONEHILL COMMUNITIES 30

THE GRAND OPERA HOUSE 6

THE LIFE GROUP 3

TROLLEYS OF DUBUQUE 14

YARN SOUP 14

Subscribe for Delivery to Your Door Every Month... Anywhere!



JULIEN'S JOURNAL

The Dubuque Area Lifestyle Magazine

We invite you to read the Dubuque area's only monthly feature magazine. Please complete and return the form attached with payment to ensure that you receive you individual copy each month to you door!

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

EMAIL ADDRESS

ORDER BY PHONE: 563-557-7571 to pay with a credit card

ORDER BY MAIL: Enclose this card with a check to Julien's Journal, 6170 Forest Hills Drive, Asbury, IA 52002-9349.

One Year $29 (12 Issues

Two Years $55.90 (24 Issues)

6170 FOREST HILLS DRIVE
ASBURY, IA 52002-9349

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Dubuque, IA
WINC







EMPOWERING Communities | IGNITING Generosity

When you give to a nonprofit endowment fund,
you support organizations that strengthen the Dubuque region.

Your generosity inspires others to give back in many ways, big and small.

Make your gift today at dbqfoundation.org/give or scan below.

Community Foundation
OF GREATER DUBUQUE

700 Locust St.
Suite 195
Dubuque, IA 52001
563-588-2700