

# Voice of the River Valley

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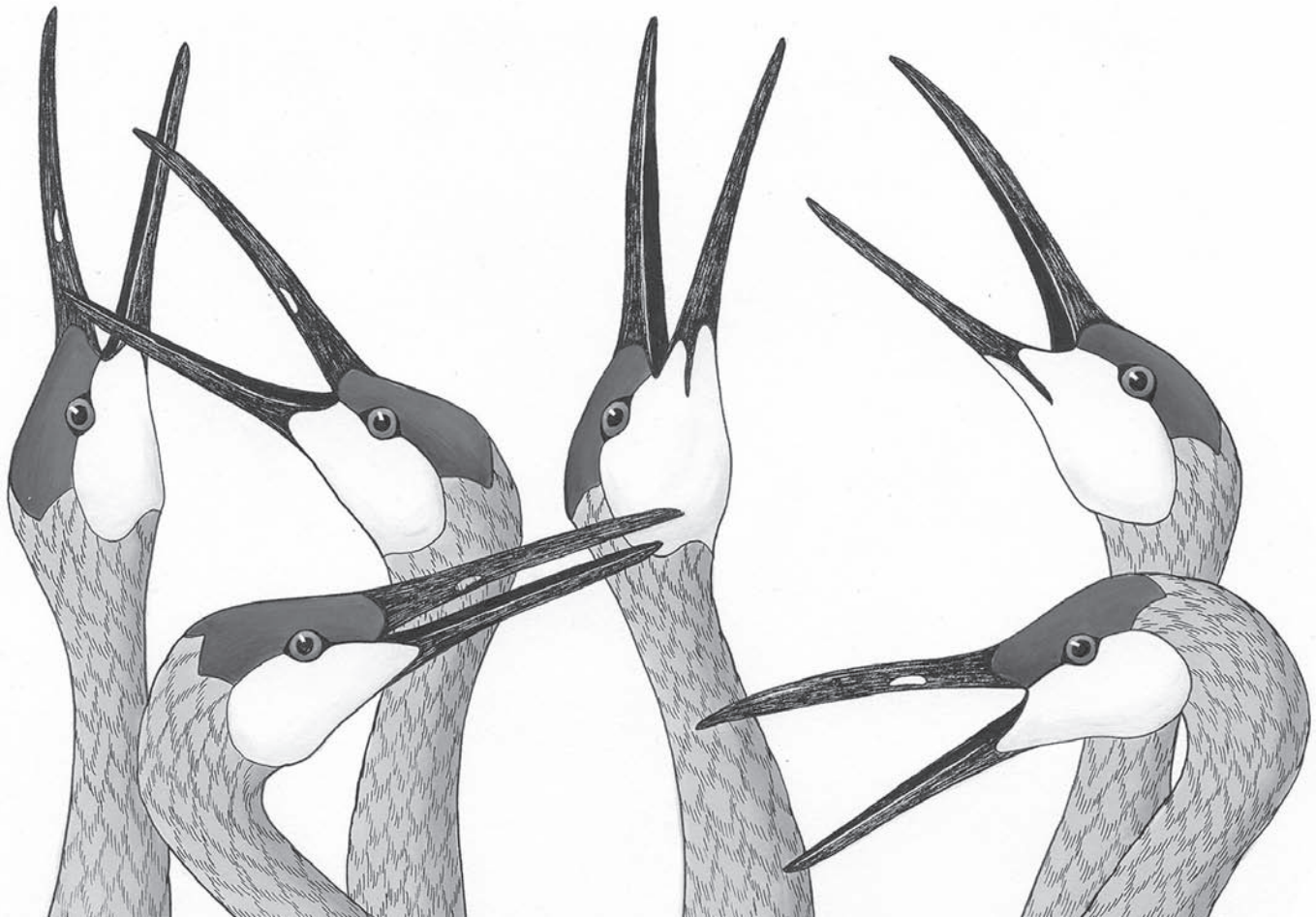
May 2014

A Guide to People and Events that Inspire, Educate and Enrich Life in the River Valley Area

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Arena~Avoca~Dodgeville~Lone Rock~Mazomanie~Mineral Point~Muscodia~Plain~Prairie du Sac~Richland Center~Sauk City~Spring Green

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***New "Voices"***

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## **Visit our website:**

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## **What's this?**

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## Happy May

**F**rühjahrs Müdigkeit. This is the German term for a sort of endorphin, testosterone and estrogen crash some people experience after the body begins enjoying a reawakening when the days become longer, the grass starts pumping chlorophyll, and our feeling of vitality soars. Not everyone feels the tiredness when they get you-know-what fever. There are other symptoms and signs.

On the way to town recently, I saw two bald eagles circling one another in the air in a decidedly flirtatious way. My husband photographed a mated pair of sandhill cranes calling in unison while the red-headed male splashed about handsomely in a deep field puddle. At a neighbor's farm, a hen took a rooster for a walk and flattened herself down so the rooster could hop on for a noisy quickie.

Browsing for ramps through the still-leafless woods with our dog, Russ, my husband

and I were surprised to find our furry buddy quickly swarming with tiny deer ticks, apparently thawed enough to have emerged from hibernation and be poised for blood-sucking action. Our human appetites are soaring as well — particularly for the fresh taste of fruits and veg, and foraged spring delicacies.

Feeding this urge, the farmer's markets are rapidly ramping back up (see below), and more hunters are getting ready to share their bounty at Muscoda's annual morel festival. It's a sure sign of spring when our events calendar crosses over into a fifth page (pp. 10-14), but be sure to check the ads that fill our pages for re-openings and seasonal events. I hope you enjoy the many facets of this new season, and the talented voices that fill this month's issue.

Happy reading,  
Sara Lomasz Flesch

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For information about advertising, please see our website, e-mail info@voiceoftherivervalley.com or call (608) 588-6251.

### Area Farmers Markets

**Darlington** (May 3-Oct. 25): Sat., 8 a.m.-12 p.m., Festival Grounds on Main Street. Contact Suzi Osterday, (608) 776-3067.

**Dodgeville Area Community Market** (May 10-October): Sat., 7 a.m.-noon, Wed., 3-7 p.m., on the grounds of the Iowa County Humane Society, 305 Cty Hwy YZ. See www.dodgevillemarket.com.

**Dodgeville** (May 10-Oct. 31): Sat., 8-11 a.m., United Methodist Church Parking Lot, 327 N. Iowa St. Contact Dee Margis, (608) 553-2625, margis@centurytel.net.

**Mineral Point** (May 3-Oct. 18): Sat., 8:30-11 a.m., Water Tower Park. Contact Jenny Bonde, (608) 967-2319, starfarm@mhtc.net or Lois Federman, (608) 987-2097, federman@charter.net, www.mineralpointmarket.com.

**Platteville** (May 17-Oct. 25): Sat., 7 a.m.-noon

(or sell-out), City Park in front of the Platteville Municipal Building., Tues., 3 p.m.-dusk, Take Two Restaurant, 111 Millennium Dr. See <https://sites.google.com/site/plattevillefarmersmarket/>.

**Richland Center** (May 3-Oct. 11): Sat., 7:30 a.m.-12 p.m., Richland County Courthouse, corner of Seminary and Central. Wed., 3-5:30 p.m., Church of the Nazarene parking lot off of Main Street. Rain or shine. Contact Paul or Christine Swanson, (608) 627-1799, swansonpc@mwt.net, richlandareafarmersmarket.org.

**Sauk Prairie** (May 10-Oct. 31)  
Sat. 8 a.m.-noon, on Water Street across from the Blue Spoon Creamery Cafe. Contact Sue Dohm at (608) 643-8445 or dohmsad@hotmail.com.

**Spring Green** (May 17-Oct. 18):  
Sat., 8 a.m.-12 p.m., Post House Garden, Jefferson Street. Rain or shine. Contact sgfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

### On the Cover

May's cover image, "A Cacophony of Cranes" by Spring Green artist Kim Russell, depicts the raucous, early morning wake-up call of the sandhill cranes that grace the farm fields and wetlands surrounding her River Valley home. Kim's work can be found at the Jura Silverman Gallery in Spring Green and online at [www.russellworks.com](http://www.russellworks.com). Kim has also been involved in organizing the May 10 Wings Over River Valley Bird Festival (see p. 5). Thanks to Kim for her contribution! If you would like to contribute images or story ideas to Voice of the River Valley, please write to [info@voiceoftherivervalley.com](mailto:info@voiceoftherivervalley.com).

# V

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For submission guidelines, advertising options and rates, and to submit events, visit our website.

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Marv Turner

**IF YOU GO:** Dan and Kathy Vaillancourt open the Walker House at 1 Water St. in Mineral Point for events and by reservation. For more information and to inquire about lodging, space rental and bakery orders, see [thewalkerhouse.org](http://thewalkerhouse.org), follow them on Facebook, e-mail [walkerhouse1@gmail.com](mailto:walkerhouse1@gmail.com) or call (608) 987-1101 or (608) 553-0728.

## ***Couple Breathes New Life Into Mineral Point's Historic Walker House***

**By Beth Turner**

**W**e can search the world over for true love, extreme beauty and great wealth only to learn the greatest treasure remains in our own backyard. So it is for most of us, and so it was for Dan and Kathy Vaillancourt.

After spending many years living in different homes (12 in 10 years) and living in three different countries, the Iowa County couple made a conscious choice to breathe new life into a treasure in their own backyard: the Walker House.

Built by William Walker in 1836 and opened as a hotel in 1860, the Walker House is inhaling and exhaling again — taking in new owners, guests, carpenters, artists and the simply curious, and exhaling excitement, anticipation, creativity ... and hope.

"We looked at each other and asked if we should retire. No, there is still too much suffering in the world to stop now," the Vaillancourts say of their decision to buy the building two years ago.

Speaking on a recent spring weekend, they laugh and gesture widely and wildly at times. Dan watches a large digital timer tick away to ensure the homemade banana bread that is baking doesn't burn, while Kathy shares stories, history and big plans.

The longtime Iowa County residents, who spend most of their week in Chicago at Loyola University where Dan lectures as a tenured philosophy professor and Kathy assists as his administrator and mentor to students, are heading toward 70 years old, a time when most their

age think of putting their feet up, their faces to the sun and their backs to the wind. Instead of quietly collecting shells or boarding cruise ships, they are choosing a path less traveled, with briars and thorns of insecurities, a building with a history of bankruptcies and rumored ghosts, and a lot of "what if's" that could end up in "oh, no's!" They leave the big city on Thursdays and head to their smallish Mineral Point Antoine Street home and the Walker House for the weekend.

### **"Seeing beauty in brokenness"**

Just a few years ago, the price tag of the Walker House sat at \$1 million. Dan, half laughing, recalls the history of bankruptcies the Walker House has visited upon its owners since 1960.

Four years later, in 2012, the price had dropped to \$300,000. The Vaillancourts wrote an offer for \$213,000 and picked the closing for a Friday the 13th in April.

"For us, it was a joke," but two hours later, Dan was no longer laughing. They had an accepted offer, and a place to rest the head of an idea, a hope that could change people's lives.

"Dan teaches this concept called 'extreme beauty' in his classes at Loyola," Kathy explains. "A watered-down version means 'seeing beauty in brokenness.' Society offers something else: youth, perfection, flawlessness. We are bombarded with the 'standard beauty images,' meaning the perfect hair, the perfect eyes. No one is perfect,

## Between the Lines: Five Steps to Your Perfect Title

One of the biggest challenges I find in writing is coming up with a title. Book titles, story or essay, doesn't matter. They're all difficult. Being a novelist means I like to use many words. A one- to five-word title can throw me into a writer's block tizzy. To add pressure, the title is the first thing that intrigues a reader or says "yawn, pass this one up." So how do you find the perfect title? Here are steps to help you uncover just the right one.



Kathy Steffen

**1. Begin with a working title.** I usually start with my protagonist's name or where the story takes place. I title the word file and go from there. Plenty of titles are a name or place, and this might work for what you are writing. At least you'll have a way to identify your file on your desktop.

**2. Finish writing the piece (including revisions) before you start working on your title.** A title may come to you as you write the first draft or during the revision process (and we always hope a gift from our muse will drop in our laps). Once you finish writing, you'll know exactly what it is that you need to title. As you write and ideas come to you, jot them down on the side for future consideration.

**3. Explore your theme.** Once you know what you are trying to say, you can brainstorm titles. Begin by writing down the theme in one sentence. Reword and rewrite several times, playing with subtext and meanings. Is there an object in your story that symbolizes the theme? Use it!

**4. Summarize your story in one sentence.** If you haven't done this exercise during the writing process, now is the time to jump in. If writing a novel, you need to do your logline anyway (which is the essence of the story in once sentence). During the process of writing your logline, chances are you will find your title.

**5. When in doubt, brainstorm.** The right title still hasn't emerged? Scan your manuscript for phrases or sentences that might make a great title. Look through your previous list of possibilities and change or twist a word and see what happens. Make lists from your story: character careers, hobbies, passions, secrets, settings, topographical features, mystical features and character traits. Try alliteration or rhymes. Grab a thesaurus and expand your lists. Put words from your lists together in different ways, combining ideas. Make a list of (20) one-word titles. Then two words (yes, 20 again). Three words. Four-word titles. Finally five-word titles. Look over all your writing. Highlight what grabs your attention. Trust yourself: Your perfect title is there, waiting for you to uncover and use it.

*Kathy Steffen is an award-winning novelist and author of the "Spirit of the River" series: "First, There Is a River," "Jasper Mountain" and "Theater of Illusion," available online and in bookstores everywhere. She writes from a log home in the woods of southwestern Wisconsin that she shares with her husband and three cats. Find out more at [www.kathysteffen.com](http://www.kathysteffen.com) and find more of her columns at [voiceoftherivervalley.com/archives](http://voiceoftherivervalley.com/archives).*



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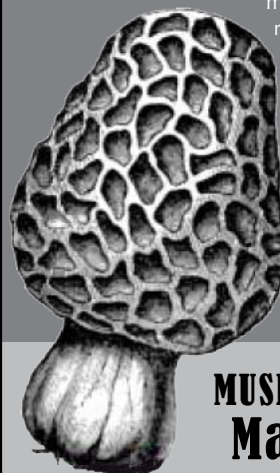
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- **May 17, Dusk** Fireworks set off on the banks of the beautiful Wisconsin River

- **May 18, 2 p.m.** "Thrill of the Hunt" Parade organized by the Muscoda Leading Ladies, featuring Klements Sausage Racers and Zor Shriners' Mini Cars

FULL CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT  
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## **'An Evening with Celia' Benefits MP School's Music**

### **Press Release**

MINERAL POINT—Known for her angelic voice, engaging stage presence and captivating concerts, musician and composer Celia will perform a collection of songs from her 10 albums during "An Evening with Celia" at 7 p.m. May 24 at Trinity Episcopal Church. This special event is a benefit for the Mineral Point High School Music Program.

Trinity Episcopal Church, 403 High St., was built in 1845 and is considered a gem of Gothic architecture with Belgian glass windows installed in 1859. The parish utilizes the original pipe organ installed in 1907 and restored with the help of well-known actor Vincent Price, whose ancestors were early members. As a result of its design, the structure boasts extraordinary acoustics ideally suited for Celia's ethereal musicianship.

Tickets to the benefit are \$10 in advance at 43/90 North Earth Gifts in the Albany Street Shops in Spring Green, (608) 588-3313 Friday-Sunday, and at Berget's Jewelry, 257 High St. in Mineral Point, (608) 987-3218 Monday-Friday. Tickets are \$12 at the door. Seating is limited so order early.

## **Get Bird-Savvy at Wings Over River Valley Festival**

**Contributed by Judy Ettenhofer**  
SPRING GREEN—The Town of Spring Green Bird City committee is finalizing the details for the second annual Wings Over River Valley Bird Festival to be held 7 a.m.-2 p.m. May 10.

The festival is part of a worldwide recognition of International Migratory Bird Day 2014, which celebrates the migration of nearly 350 species of birds between wintering grounds in Latin America, Mexico and the Caribbean and their nesting habitats in North America.

This year's local festival begins with a guided bird walk at 7-8:30 a.m. at Bakken's Pond State Natural Area off Kennedy Road led by Department of Natural Resources ecologists and expert birders Mike Mossman and Dave Sample, with help from local DNR wildlife biologist Meg Ziegler. As was the case with last year's popular walk, we should see lots of migrating warblers and other water birds.

Participants are invited to return afterward to the Spring Green Library Community Room, 230 E. Monroe St., for a warm beverage and snacks. The

community room will be the location for the rest of the festival's events, beginning with a reception at 9 a.m. for local artists whose bird-related work will be on display.

Additional displays will feature topics such as native plants for birds, tips and products for attracting and protecting birds in your yard, migration, "why birds matter," The Nature Conservancy's Spring Green Preserve and Bakken's Pond, and the Cornell Nest Watch citizen science project.

Guest speakers will offer advice on native plants, birdhouses and seed, and tips for photographing birds. A special feature this year will be bird rehabilitator Linda Bethke of Soaring Eagle Wildlife who will do a presentation with two live owls.

There will also be fun kids' art activities, hourly prize drawings and refreshments throughout the festival. Watch the Wings Over River Valley Facebook page for more details or for more information contact Judy Ettenhofer at judyett@gmail.com or (608) 588-3725.



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## Living Well, Dying Well

*"In order to understand the world, one has to turn away from it on occasion." — Albert Camus*

Winter here in Wisconsin was long and bitter cold. As late as mid-April we wondered when spring's warmth would grace our lives again. One thing the winter did offer was an opportunity to slow down, to hibernate a bit as activities in our various towns almost came to a halt and invitations and temptations to attend events and go places dwindled. That is the beauty of winter; it offers us an opportunity to balance the busyness of our lives with the enjoyment of solitude. Now that spring is approaching I have noticed I have to make a greater effort to find balance.



**Mary Friedel-Hunt and Bentley**

Too much "doing," and I tend to lose my own center, become less aware, less present, less calm, more agitated. Being the introvert that I am, I find quiet evenings with a small group of close friends or an evening curled up with a good book far more energizing than a large noisy crowd or party that in actuality drains my energy. My life with my husband, Bill (also an introvert), was quiet, simple, balanced and often shared with two or three close friends. Now as spring approaches, saying "no" to some of the many entertainment opportuni-

ties in our area allows me to maintain a sense of balance in my life between "doing" and "being."

We live in a world that tends to ignore the need for solitude and being. It starts early. Kids are involved in so many activities that parents become chauffeurs driving them here and there adding to their own stressful lives. At home, we are often plugged in to an iPod, a laptop, a TV — even if we are together with other family members. When do our kids get an opportunity for unorganized fun and play time? Time for quiet creativity? Starting life this way leads to being too busy as an adult. It becomes a habit deeply entrenched in our days. Jobs, overtime, committees, teams, events, volunteer work, socializing, travel and so much more seems to supersede the need for some quiet and solitude each day.

Kara Heissman ([www.tinybuddha.com](http://www.tinybuddha.com)) identifies some of the red flags we can use to alert us to a life that is too busy. She says when her life gets too busy she is always looking for something (keys, documents, cell phone, etc.) because being too busy leads to poor memory, a scattered mind, the result of a lack of focus or presence. She goes on to report that when she is too busy she is aware of being grumpy, moody, unhappy and quick to anger. Headaches and fatigue as well as a vague sense of unhappiness also mark the need to slow down, simplify, seek solitude and balance.

When the blank boxes on my calendar begin to fill up and disappear, I know I am too busy "doing" and need to back off. As Socrates said, "Beware the barrenness of a busy life."

*Mary Friedel-Hunt, MA, LCSW is the founder/former publisher of Voice of the River Valley and a thanatologist/bereavement counselor. Bentley is a registered therapy dog. Mary can be reached at [mfriedelhunt@charter.net](mailto:mfriedelhunt@charter.net) and P.O. Box 1036, Spring Green, WI 53588.*

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### Dr. Miller is welcoming new patients!

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One of the most important things you can do to maintain good health throughout your life is to establish a strong relationship with a primary care provider. Allowing your physician to get to know you will develop a valuable partnership when it comes to managing your health.

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## Master Gardener Volunteer Recalls 'Glorious' Mornings at Taliesin

By Adam Bennett

Special to Voice of the River Valley

SPRING GREEN—Last summer I volunteered at Taliesin, the Frank Lloyd Wright estate outside of Spring Green. My duties were varied: I tended and watered the flower gardens at the main residence and the Hillside studio; I participated in beautification projects, clearing brush in various locations throughout the property; I weeded and cleared the site of a potential future propagation garden; and I helped harvest grapes from the perennial harbors.

I spent one morning a week at the property, and it was glorious. Watching the fog clear over the Wisconsin River Valley while I tended to my work enabled me to achieve a rare feeling of calm and majesty. I also found reward in gardening efforts that were enjoyed by so many thousands of visitors to the historic site. In addition, I found it kind of thrilling to have “backstage access” to such a wonderful Wisconsin treasure.

I worked closely with Cultural Landscape Coordinator Jessa Tripalin, a Wisconsin native who is a graduate of the master gardener program in Dane County, and Jutta Gross, a Mineral Point resident and native of Germany who was formally educated in landscape gardening in her homeland. They bring disparate expertise and interests to the landscape at Taliesin. They are both extremely hardworking and a lot of fun. I very much enjoyed the opportunity to learn from them.

The coming season at Taliesin holds in store many exciting projects. Possibilities include the further development of a propagation garden and/or a greenhouse facility. In addition, planned activities include a garden mustard pull, a revitalization of a historical rhubarb patch, the eradication of poison ivy on many of the historic trees on the property, and the eradication of invasive species and reintroduction of native prairie grass habitat.

I look forward to working with a number of my fellow mas-



Sara Lomasz Flesch

**IF YOU GO:** The full 2014 Taliesin tour season runs May 1 through Oct. 31 featuring six tours offering insight into the life and ideas of Frank Lloyd Wright. Advance reservations are strongly recommended for all tours, which begin at the Frank Lloyd Wright Visitor Center at the intersection of Highway 23 and County Road C. For more information, call (877) 588-7900 or see [www.taliesinpreservation.org](http://www.taliesinpreservation.org).

ter gardener volunteers at Taliesin this spring and summer!

*Adam Bennett is a Spring Green resident and Taliesin garden volunteer who first submitted this article to the Sauk County Master Gardener newsletter. To learn more about volunteering at Taliesin, call (608) 588-2511 x. 5529 or e-mail [volunteer@franklloydwright.org](mailto:volunteer@franklloydwright.org).*

### Spring Green Area Chamber of Commerce Seeks Volunteers

The Spring Green Area Chamber of Commerce invites volunteers to get involved with the community that was recently recognized as a great place to live, work and play by the Smithsonian Magazine. The new Chamber board and new director have lots of new things to do. A range of support is sought from students to retirees to anyone in between to assist with a variety of clerical support; greeting and helping visitors at the chamber office; running errands and distributing mailers; and helping on one of four committees. To volunteer, contact Kris Stoddard at (608) 588-2054 or [sgacc@frontier.com](mailto:sgacc@frontier.com).

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## Pedagogy Stew

Every now and then I see the following quote used as if it belonged on a motivational poster (and who knows — it may be on one somewhere): “Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them.”

The thing is, the quote isn’t inspiring the way people sometimes seem to mean it. The line is spoken by Malvolio in Shakespeare’s “Twelfth Night” (though it’s actually “thrust upon ’em”), and in the play it’s funny because the letter he’s reading it from is a prank — the people who wrote it don’t see him as great in any way except possibly greatly foolish.



**Marnie Dresser**

Malvolio’s downfall is that he doesn’t see himself the way others see him. If he were a student in my class, I might say he has a metacognition problem. (And someone who quotes the line as if it were meant to inspire? Another metacognition problem.)

What is metacognition? James Lang defines it thus: “our ability to assess our own skills, knowledge, or learning.” Lang learned about metacognition from Stephen Chew, in a terrific series of videos aimed at helping students succeed (available on YouTube), and he quotes Chew repeatedly in a blog post for the Chronicle of Higher Education. My favorite quote is this one: “People who are incompetent typically do not realize how incompetent they are.”

I ended last month’s “Pedagogy Stew” with this from Paul Pintrich: “It is much more important to have accurate perceptions and judgments of one’s knowledge base and expertise than to have inflated and inaccurate self-knowledge.” That’s Malvolio all over the place — his inflated and inaccurate self-knowledge as garishly obvious as the yellow stockings he mistakenly believes will win over the lady he adores.

I still have fond memories of James Ridge’s Malvolio at American Players Theatre in 2004 — an interesting mix of wind-baggery and pathos. A very different APT production also showed metacognition, but good metacognition this time. Instead of someone who’s incompetent but doesn’t realize it (bad metacognition) — it’s someone making solid moves toward competence and then beyond competence to excellence.

I’m not sure how many times I’ve seen James DeVita’s “In Acting Shakespeare,” but it’s at least three, and I’ve been wanting to see it again (and I keep wishing every student everywhere could see it). DeVita doesn’t use the word metacognition, but he describes a crucial moment in his own education, the moment he could finally hear how his Long Island accent sounded to other people. Until he could hear it, he couldn’t begin to change it.

In March and April, I talked about an article from the Harvard Business Review that profiled IDEO and its helper culture and how that connects to students using peer review and peer critique as part of their learning process.

Metacognition ties all those ideas together, because unless students have an accurate perception of their weaknesses and strengths, they won’t know when to ask for help, or when to offer help, or how to process criticism — or praise.

*Marnie Dresser is a poet, creativity researcher and English professor at the University of Wisconsin-Richland. She lives in Spring Green with her husband and son. More of her reflections on teaching theory and teaching reality can be found at [voiceoftherivervalley.com/archives](http://voiceoftherivervalley.com/archives).*

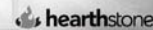
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## Mimes, Civil War Re-enactment, POPS, 'German Requiem,' Arts Adventure Win Grants

### Contributed by the Spring Green Area Arts Coalition

SPRING GREEN—Five area arts and cultural organizations have been awarded over \$10,000 in Creative Community Grants by the Spring Green Area Arts Coalition for 2014.

Grants were awarded based on artistic merit, community impact, the potential for artistic development, the number of individuals benefiting from the project, and the ability to meet financial matching requirements. Reviewing grant applications were John Hess, Katie McGrath and Jeannie McCarville. The process was led by Terry Kerr, SGAAC board member and chair of the grants committee, and awards were made the first week in April.

Recipient of the largest grant is the White Church Theatre Project, which will present four different performances of mime and physical theater throughout July and August, including a newly commissioned work for the Madison-based Kanopy Dance Company (see ad, p. 13). In addition, they will hold a summer school in mime and physical theater, offering classes, lectures and public performance opportunities to students from the Spring Green area, the broader United States and Europe. The Creative Community grant will offset costs for renting lights and video equipment.

The Lone Rock Historical Society received a grant to underwrite costs of production and publicity for "Thunder in the River Valley," a Civil War re-enactment showcasing the 6<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Light Artillery. The event in early June demonstrates the historical significance of the Lone Rock area during the Civil War. It is a two-day living history event with more than 50 Civil War re-enactors participating.

The River Valley High School Choir Department was awarded funds to support the production of the 2015 POPS concert, which brings together community members, teachers and students performing pop, jazz, country and rock.

The Rural Musicians Forum received a grant to support orchestral costs of two performances of Johannes Brahms' "A German Requiem, Op. 45" in mid-August. The musical event, directed by Effi Casey, will bring together a 20-piece orchestra and a 50-member chorus of as many area singers and musicians as possible, including high school students from Spring Green.

Arts Adventure for Children at the Wyoming Valley School Cultural Arts Center was given a grant to underwrite costs of art supplies and teaching materials for Inez Learn's three-day workshop in the fall for children ages 8-15. Students will work with six local artists who will introduce various forms of visual art. Students will then create their own works, reflecting what they have learned. The workshop will conclude with a public exhibit of their work.

The Creative Community Grants are made possible by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board that is matched by the arts coalition with funds raised in the community through events such as Art Out of the Closet, a recycled art auction, and Match Game, an annual celebrity game show. In addition, memberships, dues and donations from area businesses and individuals are combined to match the grant. The arts coalition will offer a second re-granting opportunity this year. Details will be announced in the near future.



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# Voice of the River Valley Calendar of Events 2014

## Ongoing Events

### Through May 6 Prairie du Sac

**"Wings and Water:" A Juried Exhibition of 2D and 3D Art**, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Mondays-Fridays, 1-4 p.m. Saturdays and by appointment. Artists from 16 states working in a variety of media were accepted by juror Martha Glowacki, curator of the James Watrous Gallery in Madison. River Arts Center Gallery, 105 9th St., 608-643-5215, [www.riverartsinc.org/wingswater-artists](http://www.riverartsinc.org/wingswater-artists).

### 10-17 Dodgeville

**Friends of the Dodgeville Public Library Book Sale**, open during library hours except May 11. Used-book sale featuring paperbacks, fiction, nonfiction, books for children and teens, CDs and DVDs. 139 S. Iowa St., (608) 935-3728, [www.dodgevillelibrary.com](http://www.dodgevillelibrary.com).

### Through May 23 Spring Green

**"Flights of Birds" art exhibit**, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sat-Sun. or by chance or advance appointment. Watercolors of cranes by Vicky Lilla and Birds in Wood by Kim Russell. Wisconsin Artists Showcase at the Jura Silverman Gallery, 143 S. Washington, (608) 588-7049, [www.jurasilvermangallery.com](http://www.jurasilvermangallery.com).

### Through May Spring Green

**"Meet the Maker" art exhibit: Bird City Exhibit**. Mon. & Wed. 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Tues. & Thurs. 12:30-7 p.m.; Fri. 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Community Room, Spring Green Community Library, 230 E. Monroe St., (608) 588-2276, [springgreenlibrary.org](http://springgreenlibrary.org).

### Through June 2 Mineral Point

**"Food for Thought" Art Exhibit**. Robin Riggs' vividly colorful paintings of food pyramids and hybrid, created foods is a tongue-and-cheek look at distancing ourselves from all sources of natural food. Wantoot Modern American Art & Craft Gallery, 236 High St., [www.wantoot.com](http://www.wantoot.com).

### Through Oct. 8 Spring Green

**Live Music at The Sh'tty Barn**. Doors open at 6 p.m. for BYO grillables or \$10-\$14 dinner offerings from Enos Farms. Cash bar serves beer and wine. Music 7-9 p.m. Family-friendly event suitable for kids 6 and older. See schedule on p. 20 and info at [www.shittybarnsessions.com](http://www.shittybarnsessions.com).

### Through October Spring Green

**Taliesin House Tour**, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Fridays-Sundays. Two-hour tour includes full interior access to Frank Lloyd Wright's personal drafting studio and main living quarters. Advance reservations strongly recommended. Frank Lloyd Wright Visitor Center, Highway 23 and County Highway C, (877) 588-7900, [www.taliesinpreservation.org](http://www.taliesinpreservation.org).

### Sundays Mazomanie

**Shenanigans Knitting Group**, 3-5 p.m. Bring your own project and enjoy the company of other knitters while you sip tea or coffee. Donations accepted, no registration needed, just drop in. 25 Brodhead St., (608) 301-5080, <http://shenanigans4u.com>.

### Mondays Spring Green

**AI Anon/ACOA Meetings**, 7:30 p.m., Cornerstone Church basement, 210 Lexington St., (608) 935-5900.

### 1st/3rd/5th Mondays Mineral Point

**Mineral Point Kiwanis Meeting**, 12-1 p.m. Meetings are open to the public; participants pay for lunch separately. Pointer Cafe, 809 Ridge St. To attend, e-mail President Lisa Hay at [lisahay@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lisahay@sbcglobal.net).

### 2nd Monday Spring Green

**Bloomin' Buddies Garden Club**, 7 p.m. Spring Green Community Library, 230 E. Monroe St., (608) 588-2276, [www.springgreenlibrary.org](http://www.springgreenlibrary.org). No dues required, all are welcome.

### 3rd Monday Richland Center

Support group for those dealing with autism, 7-8:30 p.m. Country Kitchen/White House, (608) 588-2585, [www.angelautismnetwork.org](http://www.angelautismnetwork.org).

### Tuesdays Muscoda

**Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings**, 8 p.m., west door at St. John's School, 116 W. Beech St., (608) 929-4970.

### Tuesdays Spring Green

**Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings**, 10 a.m., Christ Lutheran Church conference room, 237 E. Daley St.

### 1st Tuesday Dodgeville

**Caregivers Support Group**, 10:30 a.m.-noon, facilitated by Joan Pape (608-437-7500) &

## May 2014

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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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**For more events information, see [voiceoftherivervalley.com/events](http://voiceoftherivervalley.com/events)**  
**To submit events, e-mail [events@voiceoftherivervalley.com](mailto:events@voiceoftherivervalley.com)**  
**All events subject to change.**

Rita Stanton, RN (608-437-6959). Iowa County Health & Human Services, 303 W. Chapel St. All caregivers welcome. Free.

### 1st Tuesday Dodgeville

**Open Mic**, 7 p.m. Mike Wolkomir MC's the evening with his autoharp while Scott Stieber does a top-notch job on sound. Piano available, coffee and tea provided, donations appreciated. Folklore Village, 3210 Cty BB, (608) 924-4000, <http://folklorevillage.com>.

### 1st Tuesday Richland Center

**Pioneers monthly meeting** of gay, lesbian, transgender social group, 7 p.m. Open to anyone in southwestern Wisconsin. For more information and location, contact (608) 627-1902 or [swpionews@yahoo.com](mailto:swpionews@yahoo.com).

### 2nd/4th Tuesday Richland Center

Rolling Hills Toastmasters, previously Plain Toastmasters, 7-9 p.m. Members are from a variety of communities including Plain, Richland Center and Spring Green. Richland Hospital, Pippin 3, 333 E. 2nd St. For more information, contact [natjones101@gmail.com](mailto:natjones101@gmail.com).

### 3rd Tuesday Plain

**Plain Page Turners Book Club**, 7:30 p.m. May's selection is "Uncle Tom's Cabin" by Harriet Beecher Stowe Kraemer Library & Community Center, 910 Main St., (608) 546-4201, [www.scls.lib.wi.us/pla](http://www.scls.lib.wi.us/pla).

### 3rd Tuesday Platteville

**Southwest Wisconsin Photography Club**, 7



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p.m. Join local photographers to share photos and thoughts on photography. Free to join and open to all skill levels. UW-Platteville Art Building, Room 109. For more information, contact Michael Smith at [magiclightphotography@gmail.com](mailto:magiclightphotography@gmail.com).

### 3rd Tuesday Spring Green

**Open Mic Night at Arcadia Books**, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Calling all poets, songwriters and storytellers for an open mic hosted by Julie Tallard Johnson. Come a little early to sign up. 102 E. Jefferson, (608) 588-7638, [www.readinutopia.com](http://www.readinutopia.com).

### 4th Tuesday Mineral Point

**Mineral Point Book Club**, 7-8:30 p.m. Lower level of Trinity Episcopal Church (enter door on lower level), 403 High St. Refreshments served. All are welcome. For more information, call Ann Bachner at (608) 935-5541.

### 3rd Wednesday Dodgeville

**Dodgeville Public Library Book Club**, 6:30 p.m. May's selection is "Code Name Verity" by Elizabeth Wein. 139 S. Iowa St., (608) 935-3728.

### Thursdays Richland Center

**AI-Anon** support group for family and friends of alcoholics, 12 p.m., Peace United Methodist Church, 265 N. Church St., use Union St. entrance.

### Thursdays Richland Center

**Miracles Study Group**, 5 p.m. Brewer Public Library, 325 N. Central Ave. For more information, contact Bill at [agape@mwt.net](mailto:agape@mwt.net).

### Thursdays Spring Green

**"Stitch and Bitch,"** 3:30-5:30 p.m. knitting and fellowship at the round table. Spring Green General Store, 137 S. Albany St., (608) 588-7070, [www.springgreengeneralstore.com](http://www.springgreengeneralstore.com).

### 3rd Thursday Dodgeville

**Film Group**, 1-4 p.m. The Dodgeville Public Library hosts a free film, tea and lively conversation in the Council Chambers, Dodgeville City Hall, 100 E. Fountain St. For more information, call (608) 935-3728 or see <http://dodgevillelibrary.com>.

### 3rd Thursday Plain

**PFLAG-Plain support and advocacy group** for parents, families and friends of lesbians and gays in the River Valley, 6:30-8:30 p.m. For more information and location, contact Joanne Vogt at (608) 546-2439 or [pflagplain@yahoo.com](mailto:pflagplain@yahoo.com).

### 3rd Thursday Spring Green

**Thank-you Note Thursdays**, 6:30-7:45 p.m. This is an experiment. Write a note. Mail it. See what happens. All ages welcome. Free. Arcadia Books, 102 E. Jefferson St., For more information, call Pat at (608) 924-9234.

### Fridays Spring Green

**Alcoholics Anonymous**, 6:30 p.m. "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions." Christ Lutheran Church, 237 East Daley St.

## May

### 1 Spring Green

**Franny Choi, Spoken-Word Artist**, 7 p.m. Korean-American writer, performer and teaching artist presents an evening of spoken word. Arcadia Books, 102 E. Jefferson St., (608) 588-7638, [www.readinutopia.com](http://www.readinutopia.com).

### 2 Mineral Point

**"Unplugged,"** 7:30 p.m. Writer Paul McComas and singer Maya Kuper present a musical and dramatic performance based on Paul's critically acclaimed 2002 novel "Unplugged." Shake Rag Alley's Alley Stage, 18 Shake Rag St. \$20 at the door or at Brown Paper Tickets.

### 2 Spring Green

**Live Music: The Driftless Beggars**, 7-9 p.m. Arcadia Books, 102 E. Jefferson St., 608-588-7638, [www.readinutopia.com](http://www.readinutopia.com).

### 2 Spring Green

**Live Music: Redneck Victim**, 8 p.m. Arthur's Supper Club, E4885 Hwy 14, (608) 588-2521, [www.foodspot.com/Clients/WI/SpringGreen/ArthursSupperClub](http://www.foodspot.com/Clients/WI/SpringGreen/ArthursSupperClub).

### 2-4 Dodgeville

**Cajun Festival.** Music workshops and nightly dances featuring Kristi Guillory, David Greeley and others. Folkore Village, 3210 Cty Hwy BB, <http://folklorevillage.com>.

### 2-3 Spring Green

**Taste of Spring Green**, 5-8 p.m. Friday and 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday. Spring Green merchants showcase the best from local River Valley producers, growers and manufacturers of food and drink. Pick up a map at any participating merchant and nibble your way around the great shops in the village. Free and open to the public. [www.springgreen.com](http://www.springgreen.com).

### 3 Mineral Point

**Mineral Point Market Opening Day**, 8:30 a.m.-11 a.m. Offering staples like bread, jam, fresh vegetables, meats, eggs and cheese. Take home an artful treasure for your home, or a plant for your garden. All from local producers and artists. Water Tower Park, [mineralpointmarket.com](http://mineralpointmarket.com).

### 3 Prairie du Sac

**Live Music: Harmonious Wail and the Gonzolo Bergara Quartet**, 7 p.m. River Arts Center, 105 9th St. \$20 adult, \$18 senior, \$10 student.

### 3 Richland Center

**Richland Area Farmers Market Opening Day**, 7:30 a.m.-noon. Celebrate the opening of the 2014 season of "bringing edible and artful creations for you." Richland County Courthouse, corner of Seminary Street and Central Avenue, [www.richlandareafarmersmarket.org](http://www.richlandareafarmersmarket.org).

### 3 Richland Center

**"Smartfest,"** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Free events and open house at the UW-Richland Foundation's Smart Farm featuring geocaching, wildflowers trail tour, pottery firing, music and more. 24970 Smart Lane, [wayne.morgenthaler@uwc.edu](mailto:wayne.morgenthaler@uwc.edu), (608) 647-6186, ext. 292.

### 3 Spring Green

**Author Talk: Kevin Henkes and Laura Dronzek**, 2 p.m. Bring the kids to meet beloved author Kevin Henkes and illustrator Laura Dronzek who will discuss their latest children's books, "The Year of Billy Miller" and "It Is Night." Arcadia Books, 102 E. Jefferson St., (608) 588-7638, [www.readinutopia.com](http://www.readinutopia.com).

### 3 Spring Green

**Live Music: Jud & Friends**, 2-4 p.m. Spring Green General Store, 137 S. Albany St., (608) 588-7070, [www.springgreengeneralstore.com](http://www.springgreengeneralstore.com).

### 3-4 Mineral Point

**5th Annual Clay in May Pottery Tour**, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Celebrate the arrival of spring with a diverse and growing community of potters known for their high-quality functional and sculptural work. Self-guided tours offer throwing demonstrations, kiln and studio tours, and time to meet and talk with the artists and shop! For more information and maps, see [www.clayinmay.com](http://www.clayinmay.com).

Continued p. 12



### Wisconsin Artists Showcase

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**Carla Pustina**  
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## Calendar Cont. from p. 11

### 4 Mazomanie

**Mazomanie Free Library 115th Anniversary Party**, 1-4 p.m. Celebrate the library's 115th birthday with a walking tour, drawing for prizes and cake following a 3 p.m. community photo of residents of the Village of Mazomanie in front of the library, 102 Brodhead St. For more information, see [www.facebook.com/events/238979076294687/](http://www.facebook.com/events/238979076294687/).

### 4 Mineral Point

**Live Music: Harmonious Wail and the Gonzolo Bergara Quartet**, 7 p.m. Mineral Point Opera House, 139 High St. \$10 in advance at the opera house, Berget Jewelers on High Street, or online at Brown Paper Tickets; \$12 at the door.

### 4 Richland Center

**12th Annual Howl & Meow**, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Join the Ocooch Mountain Humane Society for a fun-filled day benefitting OMHS animals. Crazy critter quarter raffle, glorious food stand, dog obstacle course, plant sale and more. Richland Center Community Building, 1050 N. Orange St., [www.ocoochmountainhumanesociety.org](http://www.ocoochmountainhumanesociety.org).

### 4 Spring Green

**Live Music: 1st Sunday Acoustic Jam**, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Come to listen, come to play. Spring Green General Store, 137 S. Albany St., (608) 588-7070, [www.springgreengeneralstore.com](http://www.springgreengeneralstore.com).

### 4 Spring Green

**Author Talk: Maureen Janson Heintz**, 2 p.m. Featuring "Ghost Signs of Madison," a chronicle of the 35 remaining "ghost" signs in the Madison area. Arcadia Books, 102 E. Jefferson St., (608) 588-7638, [www.readinutopia.com](http://www.readinutopia.com).

### 5 Arena

**Mostly Mondays Poetry Society**, 7 p.m. Listen, read, sing, play your own work or favorites by other authors. All welcome, open mic, free. The Shoppe at Herbs Spices & More, 7352 Hwy 14, (608) 924-9234.

### 5 Mineral Point

**Super Bowl 8 Pin Tap Fundraiser for the Mineral Point Stadium Project**. Doubles tournament and shifts start at 1 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 6 p.m., 8:30 p.m. Midway Lanes, 1850 Midway Rd. \$15 per person. For more information, e-mail [info@mpstadium.com](mailto:info@mpstadium.com).

### 7 Mineral Point

**Pendarvis Opening Day**, 10 a.m.-5

p.m. Historic Cornish settlement, a Wisconsin Historic Site, opens for the 2014 season. Guided tours and self-guided tours until 4:45 pm. 114 Shake Rag St., 608-987-2122, <http://pendarvis.wisconsinhistory.org>.

### 9 Prairie du Sac

**Rising Stars House Concert**, 7 p.m. Annual house concert featuring the talents of Sauk Prairie's youth as organized by Matt Brennan, director of choirs at Sauk Prairie High School. River Arts on Water Gallery, 590 Water St., [info@riverartsinc.org](mailto:info@riverartsinc.org), [www.riverartsinc.org](http://www.riverartsinc.org).

### 9 Spring Green

**Live Music: Lucas Cates**, 8 p.m. Arthur's Supper Club, E4885 Hwy 14, (608) 588-2521, [www.foodspot.com/Clients/WI/SpringGreen/ArthursSupperClub](http://www.foodspot.com/Clients/WI/SpringGreen/ArthursSupperClub).

### 10 Darlington

**8th Annual Cinco de Mayo Fiesta**, 12 p.m.-midnight. A family-friendly celebration of cultural diversity featuring kids activities, food booths, salsa-making demonstrations, a mariachi band, dancing and more. City of Darlington Festival Grounds on Main Street, [www.fiestalatinadarlington.org](http://www.fiestalatinadarlington.org).

### 10 Dodgeville

**Dodgeville Farmers Market Opening Day**, 8-11 a.m. Local producers offer fresh produce, eggs, jam, plants, jewelry and bird houses. Next to the United Methodist Church at 327 N. Iowa St.

### 10 Dodgeville

**Free Maypole Dance**, 6:30 p.m. potluck, dancing to follow. Families will love decorating the maypole with fresh, spring flowers, raising the pole up and then weaving colorful patterns with ribbons around the pole to music. Folkore Village, 3210 Cty Hwy BB, <http://folkorevillage.com>.

### 10 Hyde

**6th Annual Hyde Blacksmith Shop Territory Open House**, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Experience the excitement of yesteryear with horse-drawn wagon rides, rope-making, fur tanners/traders, music, vendors, and master blacksmith demonstrations. 4 miles north of Ridgeway on County Highway H, (608) 924-5508 or (608) 924.6564.

### 10 Mazomanie

**Clowning (Is Not Just for Kids)**, 1-4 p.m. Jacob Mills leads this workshop filled with theater, circus and play. Come dressed for movement and to experiment with a variety of physical theater and comedy forms fun group and



## Calendar Cont. from p. 12

individual improv games, circus skills, juggling, object balancing, tight wire, tricks, skits and more! Ages 9-99. The Rumpus Room, 15 Brodhead St. \$30 for the first family member, \$20 for each additional family member. To register, contact Marcia Miquelon at wildrumpuscircus@gmail.com or (608) 669-6403.

### 10 Spring Green 2nd Annual Wings Over River Valley Festival, 7 a.m.-2 p.m.

Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day 2014 with a guided bird walk 7-8:30 a.m. at Bakken's Pond followed by a day of activities in the Spring Green Library Community Room, 230 E. Monroe St. For more information, watch the Wings Over River Valley Facebook page or contact Judy Ettenhofer at judyett@gmail.com or (608) 588-3725.

**10 Spring Green  
Live Music: 2nd Saturday  
Bluegrass Jam, 2:30-5:30 p.m.**  
Come to play, come to listen. Spring Green General Store, 137 S. Albany St., (608) 588-7070, www.springgreengeneralstore.com.

**10 Madison  
Native Plant Sale, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.** Friends of the UW-Madison Arboretum annual native plant sale featuring 100+ species of native plants, shrubs & trees; propagated plants; information on plant care with each species; and experts on hand to answer questions. Proceeds benefit Arboretum projects. UW-Madison Arboretum Visitor Center, 1207 Seminary Hwy, (608) 263-7760, uwarboretum.org/foa.

**16 Spring Green  
Live Music: Reloaded, 8 p.m.** Arthur's Supper Club, E4885 Hwy 14, (608) 588-2521, www.foodspot.com/Clients/WI/SpringGreen/ArthursSupperClub.

**16-18 Mineral Point  
Beads and Bangles, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.** A weekend of introductory-level jewelry classes in a range of techniques and styles plus an opening reception Friday evening with a fun Make-N-Take project. Shake Rag Alley Center for the Arts, 18 Shake Rag St., www.shakeragalley.com/bead-and-bangles.

**16-18 Muscoda  
32nd Annual Morel Mushroom Festival.** The "Morel Capital of Wisconsin" hosts a celebration of this woodland delicacy (see story, p. 14). See ad on p. 4 and <http://muscoda.com/festivals/>

muscoda-morel-mushroom-festival. Kratochwill Memorial Building, 206 N. Wisconsin Ave.

**17 Dodgeville  
16th Annual Uplands Garden Plant Sale, 8-10:45 a.m.** Annuals & perennials, vegetables, herbs, prairie, woodland and rock garden plants, grasses, trees, shrubs, house plants, peonies, iris, daylilies and hostas. Free parking, no admission fee. Ley Pavilion at Harris Park, 598 N. Bennett Rd., uplandsgardenclub.blogspot.com, (608) 935-9441.

**17 Mineral Point  
"The Bachelors" Workshop, 7:30 p.m.** Alley Stage presents a free workshop of the first working draft of the script for "The Bachelors," Rick Kinnebrew and Martha Meyer's new play about the restoration of Pendarvis. Alley Stage at Shake Rag Alley, 18 Shake Rag St., www.shakeragalley.com/alley-stage. In the case of inclement weather, the reading will take place at Gray Dog Deli, 215 High St.

**17 Spring Green  
Spring Green Bloomin' Buddies Annual Plant Sale, 6-11 a.m.** Shop the annual perennial sale of plants grown either in the library garden or locally so they are winter-hardy for our area. Spring Green Community Library Community Room, 230 E. Monroe St.

**17 Spring Green  
Spring Green Farmers Market Opening & Farm Day, 8 a.m.-noon.** Music, farm animals, kids' planting table and more. Celebrate the beginning of farmers market season. Post House Garden, sgfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

**17 Spring Green  
Celebrating Strengths of the Valley, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.** Celebrate and support the strengths of the River Valley School District at this event outside in front of the high school, 660 Varsity Blvd.

**17 Spring Green  
Live Music: Jesse Bauman & Lily Bragge, 2-4 p.m.** Two members of Mineral Point's Cupola play live and lo-fi. Spring Green General Store, 137 S. Albany St., (608) 588-7070, www.springgreengeneralstore.com.

**17-18 Spring Green  
School of the Arts at Spring Green: Writing from the Zero Point: The Transformative Power of Story, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.** UW-Madison Continuing Studies weekend workshop featuring

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Continued p. 14

## Calendar Cont. from p. 13

11 writers explores various techniques to write from our own experiences and to "share story" with others. Wyoming Valley School Cultural Arts Center, 6306 State Hwy 23. To register, see <http://continuingstudies.wisc.edu/conferences/school-of-the-arts-spring-green/may.html>.

### 18 Mineral Point

**Tin Top Open House & Kite Fly**, 1 p.m. Tin Top is beautiful meadow within walking distance of downtown Mineral Point where a group of people have come together to create a new way of life. Stewardship of the land, permaculture, renewable energy and friendship are key to this vision. Please come and help us celebrate spring with a kite fly and a campfire. Bring a kite! 140 Spruce St.

### 18 Spring Green

**Author Talk: Susan Apps-Bodilly**, 2 p.m. The daughter of author Jerry Apps, an elementary- and middle-school teacher for more than 20 years, discusses her book titled "One Room Schools: Stories from the Days of 1 Room, 1 Teacher, 8 Grades." Arcadia Books, 102 E. Jefferson St., (608) 588-7638, [www.readinutopia.com](http://www.readinutopia.com).

### 18 Spring Green

**Plays Out Loud: "The Seagull" by Anton Chekhov**, 2 p.m. The Spring Green Literary Festival sponsors the third of four readings from American Players Theatre's 2014 season. Free scripts available at the door on the day of the event or playbooks for sale at Arcadia Books. Choose the part you want to read, wait to be assigned or come and just listen. Upstairs at the

Shed, 123 N. Lexington.

### 23 Dodgeville

**Iowa County Astronomers Monthly Meeting**, 7 p.m. Stargazing at Bethel Horizons following the meeting if skies are clear. Free and open to all astronomy enthusiasts. The only requirement is the ability to look up and say "wow!" Quality Liquid Feeds, 3586 Hwy 23 N, <http://licastro.org>.

### 24 Spring Green

**Live Music: Michael Wolkomir**, 2-4 p.m. Traditional and contemporary folk autoharp like you've never heard it before. Spring Green General Store, 137 S. Albany St., (608) 588-7070, [www.springgreengeneralstore.com](http://www.springgreengeneralstore.com).

### 24-25 Mineral Point

**Fairy Tour of Homes**. Stroll the magical grounds at Shake Rag Alley and discover original fairy homes built especially for this tour. Each will be available at a silent auction, a fundraiser for Shake Rag Alley's nonprofit school of arts and crafts. Cookies and lemonade will be served. Shake Rag Alley, 18 Shake Rag St., [www.shakeragalley.com](http://www.shakeragalley.com). Tour \$5 adults, kids 12 and under free, make your own fairy home \$20.

### 25 Spring Green

**Live Music: BobFest**, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Celebrate the music of Bob Dylan at this annual free family-friendly outdoor music festival featuring hours of Dylan songs sung by local performers, a special festival menu by "Zimmerman's Deli" served out of the cafe starting at noon, Furthermore microbrewed beer, and tons of fun. Bring a lawn chair and bug spray. Spring Green

General Store, 137 S. Albany St., (608) 588-7070, [www.springgreengeneralstore.com](http://www.springgreengeneralstore.com).

### 25 Spring Green

**Harrisburg One Room School House Potluck Picnic and Silent Auction**, 12:30 p.m. The Harrisburg Troy Historical Society invites the public to a potluck picnic and silent auction in support of the Harrisburg One Room School House. E7646 Cty Road B, 5 miles east of Plain.

### 25 Spring Green

**Author Talk: Mike Mair**, 2 p.m. Author of "Kaiten: Japan's Secret Manned Suicide Submarine and the First American Ship It Sank in WWII," co-authored with Joy Waldron, will discuss a little-known, but startling World War II attack. Arcadia Books, 102 E. Jefferson St., (608) 588-7638, [www.readinutopia.com](http://www.readinutopia.com).

### 26 Memorial Day

### 30 Hollandale

**Scott and Marla Lind's Folklore Village Barn Dance Fundraiser** with The Firesides and Sue Hulsether, 7-10 p.m. 8920 McKenzie Lane. Goodwill donations will benefit Folklore Village.

### 31-June 1 Mineral Point

**Driftless Fibre Arts Faire 2014**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Join De la Pear and area fiber artists for fiber art demonstrations, alpacas and Sheep to Shawl. Vendors will be on hand with fiber, yarn, roving, textile art, original handmade textiles and more. Local food, wine and cheese will also be available for purchase. Shake Rag Alley Center for the Arts, 18 Shake Rag St., [www.shakeragalley.com](http://www.shakeragalley.com).

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### Yid Vicious

Monday, June 23 | Unity Chapel

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### Songs of Norway

Monday, July 14 | Hillside Theater at Taliesin

A musical exploration of the people, scenery and moods of Norway.

### Quinteto Yzafa

Monday, July 28 | Unity Chapel

The passion and allure of authentic tango music.

### Brahms: A German Requiem

Sunday, August 10 and Monday, August 11 | Hillside Theater at Taliesin

An unchallenged monument of choral music.

### Music In The Fields: Harmonious Wail

Sunday, August 24 | Wyoming Valley Cultural Arts Center

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## Understanding Music by Studying the Soundtracks to Life

Contributed by M. Kent Mayfield

For many people music is the source of some of the most powerful and significant experiences in their lives. In the 100 years or so since recorded music has been widely available, our lives have become suffused by it: We are born and die to music; we eat, shop, travel and make love to music; we work and play to music. Some of our most poignant memories are either of music, or are accompanied by music — and sometimes, we seem almost to become the music we hear: “Music heard so deeply that it is not heard at all, but you are the music while the music lasts,” as T.S. Eliot wrote.



M. Kent Mayfield

Philosophers have long puzzled over what it is about these organized but apparently meaningless sounds we find so compelling. It’s tempting to think it might be something physical — something about the orderly patterns of vibrations — that gives music its compelling force. Back to Pythagoras and the idea of a harmonic series, thinkers have chased a mathematical/acoustical explanation. But considering the vast sonic differences between the music of different cultures, or those within our own culture, this seems implausible. The idea that music might be a kind of universal language runs into difficulty if you try to get Gilbert and Sullivan fans to express any enthusiasm for dubstep, or jury members of the Chopin Piano Competition to rate the traditional *beiguan* music of Taiwan.

Perhaps it would be more fruitful — and much more interesting — to think about the rich, complex manner in which music is embedded into life at a number of levels.

### Understanding music’s power, impact

Oliver Sacks’ “Musicophilia,” Philip Ball’s “The Music Instinct,” Dan Levitin’s “This Is Your Brain on Music,” Ruth Herbert’s “Everyday Music Listening,” in admittedly different ways, all grapple with what might be called the “level” problem: Should we be looking at the brain, or at the structure of musical materials, or at the psychological processes of perception, cognition and emotion, or at music’s possible evolutionary origins, or at its everyday 21st-century social functions as the keys to understanding music’s power and impact on people’s lives?

The easy answer is “all of them,” and in one sense that’s absolutely right. Since our brains and bodies are central to the experience

of music, there must be a role for neuroscience; but since it’s also clear that the brain is dramatically shaped by the environment to which it is exposed, we need a detailed understanding of the structures and possibilities of the particular micro-environment that is music. And it would be neglectful to ignore research on the psychology of human emotions in trying to understand why music moves us, just as it would be wrongheaded and naive to think that one could account for the popularity and influence of either Madonna’s or Mozart’s music without thinking about social status, market economics and the impact of institutions like record companies, the Internet or opera houses.

Perhaps one of the problems is a tendency to tackle these “big questions” in ways that are too general and abstract. Another way to ground them is to think more about the music that matters most to each of us at a personal level. What, for example, are some of the significant pieces of music or musical experiences for me?

### Grabbed by stealthy musical moments

When I was 12 or so, I was given an LP recording of Arthur Rubenstein playing Chopin’s four ballades. I didn’t even know who Chopin was much less Arthur Rubenstein, but from the moment I put the record on the turntable, I was hooked.

Ballade No. 1 in G minor opened with a forceful line that began in the low register of the piano and rose up the keyboard in octaves as if making a declaration. Then at the peak of the ascent, the line twisted into a soft plaintive turn, delivered in two halting phrases.

Then, something startling happened, just for a moment. A short gesture, a softly sighing three-note melodic fragment landing on a dissonant-seeming chord that at first sounded as if it were wrong. Yet the harmony lingered, and the pungency of the clashing notes was strangely beautiful, almost comforting, leading into what was surely the saddest melody I had ever heard.

There are comparable moments in many pieces of music we love when something grabs us. I’m not talking about the obvious ones, climactic bursts that pound you into submission or enticing lyric voices that sweep you along. No, I’m thinking of subtle, almost stealthy musical moments we might not notice at first hearing.

In 1950, Gian Carlo Menotti was com-

missioned to write an opera for television, and on Christmas Eve 1951, “Amahl and the Night Visitors” was performed by the NBC Television Theater. The story is simple: One night in Judea, a disabled shepherd boy-turned-beggar and his mother are visited by Three Kings following a crystalline star and seeking a king they believe to have been born in the region. This story of the boy’s encounter with them and the miraculous healing of his crippled leg when he offers his crutch as a gift to the newborn child has captured audiences around the world. I didn’t see the opera on TV in 1951, and I had never heard the work when, years later, I was asked to sing the part of one of the kings in a college performance. I can’t tell you much about the event. I don’t recall my own lines, nothing of my princely costume, only this:

The KINGS sing: *Have you seen a Child/the color of wheat, the color of dawn?/ His eyes are mild./His hands are those of a King,/as King he was born./His eyes are sad./ Incense, myrrh, and gold/we bring to His side,/and the Eastern Star is our guide.*

And AMAHL’S MOTHER responds: *Yes, I know a Child/the color of wheat,/the color of dawn./His eyes are mild,/his hands are those of a King./As King he was born./ But no one will bring him incense or gold/ He’s sick and hungry, poor and cold/He is my child, my baby/My own....*

Why do these moments hook us? What prompts such an emotional impact? What do the soundtracks to my life tell me about either music or myself? Well, they bring home a strange combination of serendipity and revelation that so often characterizes our encounters with music. One steps into an invisible circle of sound and is suddenly transfixed, abducted by “the secret power of music.”

There’s nothing hidden about music’s power in our lives, even if we are a long way from understanding it, but there is something astonishing and transformative about music’s grip on consciousness.

Over the coming months, I’ll be asking performers in the 2014 Rural Musicians Forum summer concerts to tell us about music that has soundtracked their lives. Some fascinating information should emerge to help us think more about the “big questions” that lie behind the sounds of our lives.

M. Kent Mayfield is the artistic director of Rural Musicians Forum. For more information about the 2014 season, see the ad on p. 14 and [www.ruralmusiciansforum.org](http://www.ruralmusiciansforum.org).

## Driftless Terroir: Morels as Habitat Helpers and Seasonal Objects of Desire

*Driftless Terroir* is a series featuring guest voices celebrating the intersection of land and culture — the essence of life in the Driftless Area — with topics including farming and gardening, cooking and eating, fermenting and drinking, and more. To read past columns, see [voiceoftherivervalley.com/archives](http://voiceoftherivervalley.com/archives). To contribute to *Driftless Terroir*, e-mail [info@voiceoftherivervalley.com](mailto:info@voiceoftherivervalley.com).

One of the most notable and elusive fungi to amateur, expert and non-mushroom hunters alike is the morel, or *Morchella*. This delicacy of springtime, what some Native Americans called “land-fish,” can be recognized by its conical honeycomb-like cap, which ranges in color from cream to yellowish-tan to black, and its tubular milky brown trunk. Found in a variety of places all across North America, this fungi is hunted most commonly in the northern latitudes and here in our Driftless Region during the months of April through June when they are most abundant.

As a non-expert mushroom hunter, I aim to share information I’ve collected on this iconic American edible through personal experience — and I’d highly advise amateur hunters to verify found specimens using multiple and reliable sources before consuming. An ill-identified mushroom could be poisonous.

What is it about this avidly hunted “mycofruit” that has captivated so many eaters and hunters across our nation? Muscoda calls itself “Wisconsin’s Morel Capital,” Minnesota claims itself “The Morel State,” and a variety of places, from Louisiana to Washington, celebrate morel mushroom festivals every year (see ad for the Muscoda Morel Mushroom Festival, p. 4). What could our love for this mysterious and scientifically difficult-to-classify species say about our culture, and more specifically what is its relationship to us here in the Driftless?

Sometimes during this time of year, I roll my eyes at the hoopla surrounding morel season. Perhaps this is why I am here, challenging myself to move beyond my jaded attitude and to contextualize my admiration for these forest-floor delights. Maybe I’ve taken for granted the vast wilderness on which we live that allows me to hunt each year, maybe I’m a food snob or have read too many articles about springtime foraged foods (you know, morels, fiddlehead ferns, ramps, etc.), or maybe it’s my exposure to the

restaurant world, which somehow takes the joy out of consuming a morel by slapping a price tag on it of \$10 to \$50 per pound and doing all the hunting and preparation for you. Morels taken out of context and hunted by someone else are less exciting to me and sometimes over-rated. They simply don’t taste as good when the desire to hunt and eat them is smothered by the ability to go down the street and order them off of a menu. Humbug.

Morels are beneficial. They appear in places that need help, even barren, burned or flooded areas. They are decomposers and help attract insects and small animals that carry seeds and other life-breeding microbes to nourish the land. With the Driftless Region’s multitude of hillsides, varied rural landscapes and ecosystems rich with waterways and wildlife, there are thousands of moist nooks and crannies, warm pockets and south-facing slopes in which to find morels. Our climate seems ideal for these fungi friends. Morels can be found in a variety of habitats, most commonly in areas where recent and serious disruption has occurred, such as after a burn, in abandoned apple orchards, at construction sites, or around your backyard fire pit. Fortunately or unfortunately, due to West Elm disease, we have plenty of dead or dying trees near which morels can also be found.

I won’t get too detailed with hunting tips because you can get them at any library. Morel hunters are a protective bunch and, should one ever divulge the location of his or her bountiful hunting grounds to you: 1. Assume it’s a lie; or 2. Consider yourselves BFFs (best friends for life). Know this: Morels are great camouflagers. Once you’ve spotted your first, your mind seems to catch onto their disguise, but until then the best advice is to scan the ground slowly, get down low and spend some serious time searching. There may be one right in front of you. During my first morel hunt I came to the conclusion that “you don’t see the morel, the morel sees you,” because of the way you might glance over an area, swear you saw nothing, then take a closer look and there’s a morel! This mushroom is hard to spot and rarely shows up in the same place year after year. Delightfully, though, if you spot one, stop and look around: There’s usually more to be plucked. To responsibly harvest, I leave about 20 percent of what I find in the ground and never harvest the unhealthy-looking ones. The weather may have much to do



**Erin Crooks Lynch**



**Sara Lomasz Flesch**

### Preparing Morels Erin’s Favorite Way

Morels have a delicate flavor. I like to eat them after sautéing them in butter, served on toast with a handful of spring greens like foraged baby dandelion leaves, garlic mustard or any other mild-flavored green. They go well with ramps, scallions, shallots and garlic. They can also be fantastic served in a cream sauce with pasta or a risotto, and also go well with eggs and fresh herbs.

Morels are best eaten within days after harvest. Store in a paper bag in the refrigerator, as plastic may make them slimy. When ready to use, split from top to bottom, brush out soil or insects with a pastry brush, and rinse well in cold water. A salt-water soak is not necessary, but a common preference. Never consume raw morels.

Heat a skillet to medium, medium-high heat. Throw in cleaned morels; heat until the rinse water evaporates, about 5 minutes. Add a dollop or two of butter, lower heat, and allow the morels to sauté for another 5 minutes. Toss in some greens and aromatics and let cook for a few minutes. Some browning on the mushrooms is great. Season with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Serve with toast.

— Erin Crooks Lynch



with the success of your hunt. “Watch for warming ground temperatures,” “Just after a rain,” “When you smell the lilacs blooming,” “Near a dead elm,” were all pieces of advice I have heard from people. But I didn’t find my first morel in any of those places.

I’ll never forget the scene: The air was warmish and smelled of rain, the moss was greening and delicate ferns were emerging from the earth, birds chirped, a light breeze accompanied and not a mosquito was in sight. What a pleasure it was to be outside again after that harsh winter, and what a pleasure to be chosen by my first morel! It was almost by accident. We were casually chatting and walking quickly, and we hadn’t even gotten close to the south-side slope to which we were heading. (South-facing slopes tend to be warmer than others and, since morels need warming ground temperatures of 40-60° F, these tend to be great spots for early season hunting.) There I saw it, standing tall, glowing in awe of itself under a tree in a rather cool and shaded north-facing slope. I approached slowly as I did not want to step on any others that might have been in my path, my eyes glued to it, not daring to let it out of my sight. I pinched its hollow rubbery base from the earth, leaving its dark brown core in the ground. Its yellowish honeycomb cap plumply rested in the palm of my hand and I tossed it into my onion bag. (Mesh bags may be a responsible way to hunt mushrooms as they can allow spores from the mushroom to be spread while you hunt.) A smile quickly spread across my face, my posture straightened, and a feeling of pride overcame me as if someone had just fastened a “Morel Club Member” pin to my chest. We continued happily along our way, in awe and gratitude of how abruptly the “hunt” had happened, walking at a much slower pace than before, with knees bent and eyes peeled. These fungi could be anywhere! This beauty was a bonus to my already delightful first

spring outing, the culmination of Mother Nature’s ways, a cherry atop the sundae. We kept our captured morels well-ventilated and shaded. Some we processed and ate right away (see recipe), others we kept in a brown paper bag in the fridge for a couple of days.

For me, morel hunting and tasting is about the seasonality and pleasure of acquiring it, as are most things I eat. Morels can’t easily be found in the supermarket the way asparagus can be in September. Mushroom cultivators have had little success mass-producing morels, and because of their scarcity and seasonality, our desires to eat them grow each day of the year we don’t have them — with exponential mouth-watering effects after the last snow has melted. With no guarantee of success in our hunt, we desire them more. Hunting excites us too and gives us a reason to get outdoors each spring. There’s satisfaction in “bringing home the land-fish” or bacon.

Last year was a great year for morels here on the farm. Unfortunately it was also great for mosquitoes. I’ll never forget gazing out our window at the neighbor in full body armor, a bee net veil on with whip in hand, swatting the blood suckers off his back, bobbing in and out of the brambles and black raspberry thorns at the edge of the woods, capturing his bounty of morels. I passed on joining him for the occasion and comfortably sat inside, itch free and munching on the last of my pickled veggies, OK with the fact that I wasn’t going to be indulging in morels that year.

*Erin Crooks Lynch and her husband, Jeremy, live in the Wyoming Valley near Spring Green and own and operate Enos Farms, a growing biodynamic operation, and Enos Farms Catering, a farm-to-table affair offering menus based on the seasons. For more information, see [www.enosfarms.com](http://www.enosfarms.com) or e-mail [contactenosfarms@gmail.com](mailto:contactenosfarms@gmail.com).*

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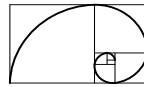


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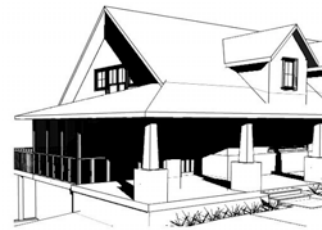


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## WALKER HOUSE cont. from p. 3

we are all flawed.”

Kathy goes on to explain the concept that Dan came across when reading an essay by Pope Benedict XVI, then Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger. “[He] referred to Christ on the cross when he was dying and had the thorns and the sword in his side, and yet at the same moment he’s forgiving his executioners. . . . Pope Benedict XVI said that was ‘extreme beauty.’ So, it takes extreme love to see the beauty in other people.”

The Vaillancourts see the beauty in applying their life philosophy in and through an iconic piece of Wisconsin history.

### Incubating the idea for an institute

According to historical research and the Walker House website, Walker built the house and eventual hotel for \$10,000. Walker was quite strategic in his timing of construction as Mineral Point prepared for the arrival of the railroad in 1857. The trains ran so close to the hotel that in many of the old locomotive photographs, one could see the sign for Walker’s establishment, Mineral Point Hotel. Elements of the original structure remain intact today.

“What more perfect building than an almost 200-year-old building with all its cracks and flaws and everything else? It will never be perfect, so it is learning to see beauty in the brokenness, not despite it,” Kathy says.

“I travel all over the world and give lectures on beauty and how beauty heals, and how beauty changes the world, and how it provides meaning in people’s lives. But I am always talking to professors, and I wanted to talk to . . . real people. And this is it!” Dan laughs, joyfully.

“It” refers to the Walker House, incubating and giving life to Dan’s World Institute of Extreme Beauty.

“We want to make this a world center to attract people from around the world to come here in order to regroup, reenergize and heal, and this year I am launching my school to do that,” Dan says.

He is developing and refining a series of hour-long courses on life: what is love, how to eat properly, how to manage your money, how to live in community, how to develop a spiritual component in your life. People will sign up via the web, come to the Walker House for breakfast, take a course or two, have lunch, take another course, have lunch and a debrief with the Vaillancourts.

“This is not about a destination, but a transformative experience,” Kathy says.

### Rooted to the beauty of place

Everything about the Walker House is done with purpose and philosophy and a “sense of place,” they say.

There are no TVs. Guests staying in one of the nine rooms or suites share bathrooms. Breakfast is served in a one-hour time slot and guests all eat at shared tables.

Everything about the house comes from within a 25-mile radius — the art talent, the baking talent, the wood, the laborers, the goods to make the food.

“There can’t be anywhere else like it because it is all local. You are rooted to wherever you are and you have your senses opened to what is right around you. That’s where beauty is! Nothing perfect, but nothing else like it in the world,” Dan says.

The Walker House does not have set operating hours, but instead is open on demand and for events. They believe previous owners struggled financially because the building operated in a retail mode.

The Walker House has opened the doors of its Cornish Pub with its two badger-hole caves, multipurpose room and restaurant for memorials, wedding rehearsals, local fundraisers and this year’s Junior Prom.

Kathy says, “We feel all these events are sacred because it is about people coming together with love, and the family institution is sacred anyway.”

### “We have to keep going”

When the road gets rough — living in the building in 2012 before construction and without electricity, heat or running water; needing to wash with brain-numbing cold creek water; using a salary to pay for the maintenance and expansion of the property; and warding off people who come seeking only the paranormal — the couple remind each other of testimonies from guests who have come seeking something else.

The Vaillancourts recall hosting one woman who takes one weekend off a month from the demands of serving and nurturing her autistic child. “She came here and would go to one of the caves and play her flute and come up weeping just from the release of everything. She looked at us one day and looked around and said, ‘This place is sacred.’”

And this January, the Walker House opened its doors for an Irish wake.

“It was overwhelming,” they recall. All the people coming in a line over an iced bridge, through snow and gripping cold to

honor and remember a life. Dan remembers looking at Kathy and saying, “You are absolutely right, we have to keep going.”

“And the people of Mineral Point. We would be no place without the people of Mineral Point,” Dan shakes his head in amazement.

More than 10 high school students help out at the Walker House. One home-schooled grad is a current “baker in-training.” Don Hawkins, a 92-year-old local resident, former agriculture teacher and land preservationist, comes weekly to help make salads. A former elementary school principal made and then donated three large black walnut dining tables. Lisa Govier, a Darlington baker, sacrificed some of her own business and time to invest in the Walker House training others and baking.

“We keep spouting to everyone, ‘This is not Dan and Kathy’s building. This building belongs to the people of Mineral Point,’” they say. “And a lot of people are buying into it. They are coming and helping out. People want to contribute for the generations to come!”

They refer to themselves as stewards only, because of the vision beyond themselves and the time they have in this place and on this earth.

The couple lays it out. They have wrapped up phase one, rehabbing the property enough to open the doors and provide services. (For their preservation efforts, last November they received the Mineral Point Chamber of Commerce Bert Bohlin Historic Memorial Award.) To keep costs down, just 67 percent of the 16,000-square-foot property is in operation.

This year is about getting businesses started — the bakery, lodging, the institute, the gardens — to make enough money to pay the bills. Next year’s goal is to have the businesses self-sustaining in order for the couple to draw a salary that will go into an endowment that would eventually allow them to hire a Walker House executive director again, and again and . . .

“We see continuing the life of the building so it survives us,” Dan says. In essence, the people of Mineral Point will own it, and “extreme beauty” will perpetuate.

*Beth Turner graduated from Dodgeville High School and spent more than 20 years in broadcast journalism as an anchor and reporter. She and her husband, Marv, own a video production company in Madison where they live with their three boys and large black lab.*



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