

PLATT PARK *Post*

The Official Newsletter of
Platt Park People's Association
Dec. 2018 / Jan. 2019
www.3pa.org



Be a Helper this Holiday Season

Lauren Slawson

The holiday season is full of worries. Many of us in the Platt Park neighborhood are obsessing over things like hanging our festive lights just right, finding the perfect scarf for our mother-in-law, and planning a seamless holiday feast (myself included). Life seems to move at a quicker pace this time of year. It can be easy to forget there are those nearby who worry about where they will sleep. It can be easier to forget many of those people include youth ages 15 – 20. It is easy to forget the face of homelessness has no age, and Denver is no exception.



If you aren't familiar with Urban Peak, it is Denver's only non-profit organization that offers a full range of services to homeless and underprivileged youths and has for thirty years. The essential assistance they provide includes overnight shelter, a daytime drop-in center, street outreach, education and employment planning, and supportive housing. Their mission, along with more detailed information about the cause can be found on their website (<https://www.urbanpeak.org/>):

"Our goal is to meet youth where they are and to provide them with the assistance

and support they need to become self-sufficient or obtain the necessary services they need to exit a life on the streets. Urban Peak's programs and services are founded on the principles of trauma-informed care* and positive youth development and assist youth in reaching their potential and living a successful life off of the streets.

*To provide trauma-informed services means that we understand an individual's experience of trauma impacts every area of human functioning – physical, mental,

The Platt Park People's Association, a city of Denver Registered Neighborhood Organization, serves more than 3,000 homes and businesses in the neighborhood bounded by Broadway on the West, Downing on the East, I-25 on the North and Evans on the South. 3PA membership is open to all neighbors and business owners who live and own property within these boundaries. Have a voice in your neighborhood and with the city: Join 3PA.

Check out our website. Stay informed, learn about upcoming events, and more!
www.3pa.org.

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Ann Michelle Hill
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Call for Contributions!

The Platt Park Post is always looking for new articles and neighborhood updates. If you are a Platt Park resident interested in writing an article, please email Lauren Slawson: lslawsonfreelance@gmail.com

Continued on page 4

Neighborhood Notes: *An Opinion*

As you read this I hope you find yourself settling into a comfortable chair by the fire as the snow gently falls outside your window, the sound and smell of chestnuts roasting (not entirely sure what that's like but sounds good) blending with the scent of your favorite warm beverage (or beverage that warms) to create the perfect holiday moment. Just creating a little atmosphere for you as we bring you up to date on all the happenings around here in our holiday issue.

Bakeries come and bakeries go. As you likely have noticed the Boulangerie on the corner of Pearl and Iowa closed its doors in October. The owner Steve Roland cited a significant increase in property tax as pushing his bottom line such that he had to relocate. As of this writing Steve is hoping for a new location on Pearl Street north of I-25 or somewhere along Broadway. Glad to hear that the Boulangerie will still be around and best of luck to Steve and his family.

So almost on cue Tokyo Premium Bakery slipped quietly in and opened its doors in October. There is not a big sign out to grab your attention at 1540 S Pearl Street but for easy reference it occupies one of the two commercial spaces that front the Sushi Den parking garage. The bakery is the product of a meeting five years ago between Toshi Kizaki (owner of Sushi Den) and Nanri Nakayama who was interested in moving from Japan to open a Japanese style bakery in Denver. The new garage and its accompanying commercial spaces provided the perfect space—not too large or small—for Nanri and his project.

Nanri is joined in this endeavor by his two bakers, also hailing from Japan, Satoru Matsumura and Hiro Arima, both friends from his college days. They, along with Nanri's and Hiro's wives, make up the new staff. The space itself has a modern clean feel with seating for about a dozen or so patrons. I asked Nanri what characterizes his bakery and he explained that bakeries in Japan have a decided French root reflected in quality, products and presentation. The latter was clearly on display, as all the pastries looked like edible works of art. You'll find Japanese breads along with both sweet and savory pastries to try. I tried a Curry Donut, which sounded a little intimidating, but was actually amazing. Tokyo Premium Bakery also has a full selection of Coffee and other beverages to go along with your selections. Open every day except Monday starting at 6:00 am until 4:00 with extended hours on the weekend. You can drop in or check them out online at TokyoPremiumBakery.com.

I caught up with Tori Schumacher the other day. Tori and her husband Tom are opening Hazel Art Bar at 1581 S Pearl Street around the first of December. Hazel Art Bar is the creative brainchild of Tori's that combines her personal love for art with Tom's background in the restaurant world. Tori's vision has been to create a local gathering space not unlike a microbrewery where people can gather, relax, have a drink all while taking in creations from local artist or if they so desire create artwork themselves which Tori strongly encourages.

Tori and Tom have long resided in the Platt and Wash Park community having both grown up here. Tom's father started Schumacher Accounting and Tax Services at 1895 S Pearl many years ago and now works there himself as an accountant. Their hope is the art bar will foster the wonderful sense of community that they have enjoyed throughout their lives.

The interior was all designed, decorated and built by Tom and Tori. The large mural and the bar's namesake are all tied to Tori's dear aunt Hazel who inspired her creative passions. The mural tells a bit of Hazel's story and even has a small portrait of her. Art from local artists will rotate monthly, and 20% of all sale proceeds will be donated back into the community. Tori invites everyone to come down, have a drink from the full bar, and if you want, bring some of your own art to work on; it's your space! Patrons are also welcome to bring food. Visit www.hazel.bar for more details.

A third opening this month on the busy 1500 block of South Pearl is Second Star to The Right at 1545 S Pearl. The building that for decades housed Green Tree Cyclery has had a convoluted past few years and was at one point scheduled for demolition. When those plans failed to come together the building became available. About the same time Marc and Dea Lavoie, owners of the bookstore were facing the need to move from their location on Tennyson in the Berkeley neighborhood. The Green Tree building was the perfect fit of charm and size, and they were thrilled to help preserve a wonderful historic structure.

Second Star to The Right is a children's bookstore that features books for kids ranging from newborn to teenager, or, as Marc put it, everything from board books to Harry Potter. Additionally they offer an assortment of toys that are designed to both educate and inspire imaginative play. They maintain a busy calendar of kid events like book readings from actual authors and kids yoga, and will eventually host kid parties. Marc and Dea are planning to put an addition on the back of the building at some point in the near future to ensure they have space for all their vision. Sounds like a fun addition to the neighborhood. Visit their website at secondstartotherightbooks.com for more information.

One last bit from the 1500 block of Pearl. You've probably noticed that the old Gaja Bistro building is gone, and the chain-link fence is up. The story is slowly evolving but seems Toshi and Yasu are planning an impressive structure to replace it (we'd expect nothing less from that duo). What, however, will occupy said structure, remains a mystery. Stay tuned....

That's all for now. From all of us at the Platt Park Post, we wish you and those you hold dear a wonderful Holiday season.

See you around the neighborhood,
Tom Snyder





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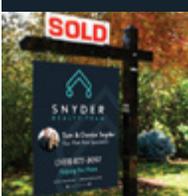
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The Platt Park People's Association is a Registered Neighborhood Organization with the City and County of Denver. The Platt Park People's Association is notified directly by the city of various activities in the neighborhood.

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There are two ways to become a member.
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Or: Send the membership form with annual dues of \$20 payable by check to "3PA" to:
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This is a: Renewal New Membership

VOLUNTEER

Continued from page 1

behavioral, social, intellectual and spiritual. Trauma-informed care is an approach to engaging people with histories of trauma that recognizes the presence of trauma symptoms and acknowledges the role that trauma has played in their lives."

They have six Denver locations, and one of them is nestled in our community at 1630 S Acoma Street. And guess what? There are dozens of fun ways to get involved!

Donating cash is one way to get involved, if you have the means. You can do so easily online, or by either calling their Development Officer or mailing a check (more info on their website).

<https://www.urbanpeak.org/>

You can also donate things. Keep in mind that all clothing should be appropriately sized for youths ages 15-24. People range in all sizes, weights, heights, and body types, so it's difficult to determine what that means. Just don't bring sweaters that fit small children. Urban Peak also maintains somewhat of a wishlist for their most needed items, which you can also find on their website under the Donation drop-down link. All donations must be brought to their location at 4890 Pecos Street. I don't know about you. I can think of a few clothing items I purchased online that just didn't work out and have been collecting dust in my closet that would better serve someone else!

There are several more ways you can do something great and get involved via donations. Please see the Urban Peak website for the full list.

Volunteering is another great (and fun) way to help homeless youths in need. You can sign up quickly and painlessly as a one-time volunteer to cook and serve a meal with a group of friends, or family members. How much fun does that sound?

There are also opportunities for individuals to get involved on a more ongoing basis. They include:

- GED Tutors (weekday afternoons at our Shelter)
- Front office support (weekday mornings at our Drop-In Center)
- Shower volunteers (weekday mornings at our Drop-In Center)

Please see the Urban Peak website for more detailed information.
<https://www.urbanpeak.org/>

I am so proud to be in the same community as Urban Peak. What they offer is so much more than a gateway to self-sufficiency and stability. They offer healing, hope, and a way for us to all get connected.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday season! Stay warm out there (and remember to donate any unwanted winter coats). Until the new year...

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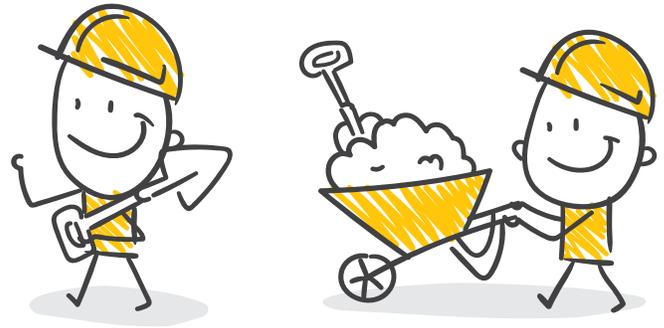
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ANNOUNCEMENT

McKinley-Thatcher Elementary School (1230 S Grant St.) is expanding!

Between November 2018 and August 2019, a six-classroom addition will be under construction. In summer 2019, interior renovations, including Early Childhood Education restrooms, gym floor replacement, and a new Special Education room, will be completed. During construction, there will be activity and increased traffic in the alley on the west side of the building and to the south on Louisiana Street. Please visit mckinleythatcher.dpsk12.org for details of what the new expansion will look like!

Families looking for a small, community-focused school in the heart of the Platt Park neighborhood are invited to RSVP for a school tour by calling (720) 424-5600. Tours run the last Friday of the month from 9:30 am to 10:30 am and are a great opportunity to explore and ask questions!



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Gift Tips from a Holiday Procrastinator

Are you in need of last-minute gift ideas? I always am! Our Platt Park neighborhood businesses offer imaginative gifts for loved ones of all ages, and what better way to give a gift, than to support your local economy? Some gift ideas include:

- Buy a single yoga class or a package of classes from **Karma Yoga Studio**, 1705 S Pearl Street
- From unique stocking stuffers to sophisticated gifts, **The Ruffly Rose**, at 1611 S Pearl Street offers an enchanting display of everything you need this holiday season. They offer a series of precious goods such as soy-based candles, artisanal skin care, stylish baby gear, an array of gorgeous flowers, quirky greeting cards, and so much more.
- Satisfy the epicurean in your life with a gift card from one of these local restaurants:
 - **Sushi Den**, 1487 S Pearl Street
 - **Beatrice & Woodsley**, 38 S Broadway
 - **Adelitas**, 1294 S Broadway
 - **Palizo Italiano**, 1472 S Pearl Street

- Find the perfect hardcover for your book-loving loved ones at one of the following book-shops:
 - **Printed Page**, 1416 S Broadway
 - **Broadway Book Mall**, 200 S Broadway
 - **Gallagher Books**, 1454 S. Broadway
- Buy an unforgettable experience for your loved ones young and old from **Peace of Mind Massage** at 1249 S Pearl.
- Buy an oil change and inspection package for your family car lovers from **Leo's Automotive**, 1563 S Pearl
- Sign yourself and a friend or loved one up for a pottery class at **Colorado Potters Guild**, 1541 S Pearl
- From paintings to whimsical crochet pillows, **Spectra Art Space** has everything you need for last-minute show-stoppers sure to impress your friends and family, 1836 S Broadway
- Don't forget the animals in your life! Visit **The Whole Cat & Dogs Too** pet shop for all your furry friends' needs like biscuits, toys, and accessories at 1562 S Pearl.



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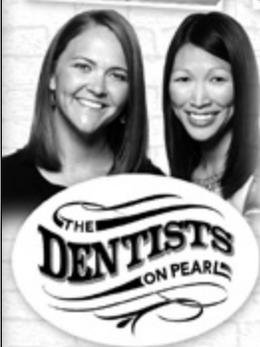
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Que Bueno Suerte, 1518 S Pearl St, Denver

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The Brutal Poodle, 1967 S Broadway, Denver

Every Tuesday night

Join other loves of metal, hard rock, and punk every Tuesday night for
Headbanger Karaoke!

South Pearl Street First Friday Art Walk

First Friday of every month, 5 p.m. - 9.m.

The next event is on January 4th. Come out and enjoy a family-friendly
art experience put on by local artists.

Denver Botanic Gardens Blossoms of Light

November 23rd - January 1st, 5p.m. - 9.m.

This is an annual holiday light show not too far from our nest. It is a
great place to take the whole family and enjoy dazzling light displays,
holiday treats, and warm drinks.

DECKER LIBRARY EVENTS

1501 S. Logan St. 720-865-0220, www.denverlibrary.org

Follow Decker Branch Library on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/decker.dpl>

Library Hours: Monday, Tuesday 12-8 p.m.; Wednesday, Thursday,
Friday 10 a.m -6 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday Closed

Toddler Storytime, Wednesdays, 10:15 a.m.

Stories, songs, rhymes and fun for toddlers ages 18-36 months and
their parents or caregivers.

All Ages Storytime, Thursdays, 10:15 a.m.

Stories, songs, rhymes and fun for children of all ages and their
parents or caregivers. Craft activity immediately follows the program.

Baby Storytime, Wed. and Thurs., 11:15 a.m.

Stories, songs, rhymes and fun for babies ages 0-18 months and their
parents or caregivers. Play and social time immediately follow the
program.

Imagination Station, Thurs. and Fri. 3:00-5:30 p.m.

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