



Lil' Red Wagon

of the Servant of God Julia Greeley

**official newsletter of
The Julia Greeley Guild
a ministry of
the Cathedral Basilica of the
Immaculate Conception, Denver**

Twenty-First Issue 5-25-2019

Save the Date: June 7 ►

Be sure to mark First Friday, June 7, 2019, as the date of the annual Julia Greeley anniversary Mass, and then be there to show your support for Julia's Cause.

Fr. Ron Cattany, rector of the Cathedral, will be the main celebrant for a Votive Mass of the Sacred Heart commemorating the 101th anniversary of Julia's death on the First Friday of June, 1918.

Fr. Blaine Burkey, O.F.M.Cap., will be the homilist, and music will be provided by the Joyful Noise chorus from Curé d'Ars Parish and Mike Wooldridge, cantor.



Ms. Sieben leaving the Benedictine Abbey in St. Louis on Ash Wednesday, beginning her Julia Greeley pilgrimage.

Julia Greeley Pilgrimage ►

Anne Sieben, 55, a consecrated pilgrim (see societyofservantpilgrims.org), who spends much of her life on pilgrimage to various shrines, walked 1,300 miles from St. Louis to Hannibal to Cheyenne to Laramie to Denver—five cities connected with the life of Julia Greeley—during Lent of 2019. She left the Benedictine Abbey of St. Louis on March 6 and arrived at the Cathedral Basilica in Denver on April 20.

On the way Anne spread word of Julia wherever she found herself. Anne is a mendicant pilgrim and daily begged for lodging and food along the way.

During the last five miles coming to the cathedral, Anne was joined by two Guild members and about eight other people.



About ten Denver pilgrims joined Anne during the last five miles of her journey to the Cathedral on Holy Saturday.

Guardian of Greeley Site ►

The Guild recently made contact with Mrs. Patricia DeLeon, who for 45 years has lived in the Urquhart house on Hooker St., where the Servant of God once foretold the birth of little Marjorie (the “little angel” pictured with Julia) and then served as her nursemaid. Patricia was delighted to learn about Julia’s saintly presence and activities in her home a century earlier. She herself has stage-4 pancreatic cancer, and the Guild is now committed to praying for her.



Mary Transitioning ►

Guild President Mary Leisring has announced her retirement, effective June 30, from the directorship of the Archdiocesan Office for Black Ministry.

A former U.S. Army nurse and graduate of Colorado University, Mary was also certified in Spiritual Direction at Denver’s Lanteri Center and in Faith Community Leadership at the Institute for Black Catholic Studies at New Orleans’ Xavier University, and has served the Archdiocese’s ministry to African-American Catholics since 2002.

Accompanied by Charles, her husband of 43 years, Mary will continue providing office support for the Cause of the Servant of God Julia Greeley by spending time at Guild headquarters at the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Denver.

Mary plans to continue enjoying her hobbies of Rockies baseball, gaming, Caribbean and International Cruising.

Superfriend Medrano Passes ►

Fr. Marcus Medrano, 83, whom the Guild awarded an Honorary Lifetime Membership in 2017 for his outstanding efforts at promoting the Cause of Julia Greeley (*see Issue 13*), went to meet Julia on Apr. 4. Father was a son of Sacred Heart parish and later its pastor for 18 years.



Another Special Friend of Julia

Theodora O’Donnell Arnold ►

Theodora was 84 and living at the St. Elizabeth Retreat (*now known as the Gardens of St. Elizabeth at 2835 W. 32nd Ave. in Denver*) in 1969, when Eleanor Castellan began asking a local newspaper for recollections of Julia Greeley.

Theodora responded that she first met Julia in 1893, when her mother, Joanna, died and her father Thomas O’Donnell, who ran a dairy in the Barnum Neighborhood, hired Julia to keep house for him at 5th and Federal, and to care for his children, Theodora, Margaret, and James, so they could continue in school.

In her letter in the *Denver Post’s Empire Magazine* for Oct. 26, 1969, Theodora told of how

“Julia was blind in one eye because of cruel treatment when she was a slave. She would never eat with us at the table—always in the kitchen. I used to think it was on account of her eye. It seemed to be running water at all times and did seem rather repulsive until her kindness made one forget it.

“But as soon as we gathered around the table to say the Rosary for Mother, she was one of us who answered.

“I’ll never forget our first Christmas without Mother. Julia told us she was going to ask Father if she could take Margaret and me down town at night to see the display of lights and all the toys in the basement of Denver Dry Goods.

When there, she told me to pick out anything we wanted for Christmas. I remember my sister picked out a three-piece toilet set—comb, mirror and brush—while I, after hearing so much about the hard time [*Editorial note: this was at the time of Denver worst financial panic*], looked at the price tag and picked a little wooden bucket and shovel, all for 10 cents and only suitable for a 2-year-old-child. Julia said, “Oh, no, child, you want something better than that.” And then she bought me a doll’s trunk costing a dollar and also the bucket... She was getting \$10 a month in wages.

“She remained with us until school closed in June... After that we often saw Julia on the streets, delivering the Sacred Heart League leaflets to the firemen. And when I graduated from Cathedral High in 1901, whom did I see after the exercises but my old friend, Julia. She came to see me and wish me well. That was the last I ever saw of her.”

Theodora was in the first graduating class at Cathedral High School in 1901, and Margaret later taught there as Sr. Mary Aquinata, S.C.L.

Theodora married Henry S. Arnold, about nine years her senior, and they ran a hotel in Weldona near Fort Morgan, with Theodora doing all the cooking.

There was no Catholic Church in the town, but a Father Bernard J. Froegel from Brighton visited the area from time to time. Meanwhile Theodora took it upon herself to teach religion for those who wanted to receive First Communion and Confirmation. The Arnolds even provided rooms in the hotel so some of her students could be there when Fr. Froegel would arrive.

In 1915, the Catholic ladies of the area raised funds for building a church and the Arnolds decided to donate land they owned on the Lincoln Highway at the west end of town. When Bishop J. Henry Tihen came, he found the lot unsatisfactory. Disappointed, the Arnolds scraped up \$225 and bought another nearby lot where St. Francis Church now stands.

When Theodora’s brother James’ wife died about 1922, the Arnolds took in and raised at least three of their 11 children. Jack, Eileen

and William Joseph O’Donnell are listed with the Arnolds on the 1940 U.S. Census.

The youngest of these later became a captain in the U.S. Navy and a great grandfather and received many honors. He lives in assisted living in Live Oak FL.

Henry Arnold died in 1963 and was buried at Mountain View Cemetery in Longmont CO (Blk 32, Lot 126, S ½ Space 3).

After that, Theodore spent several years at St. Elizabeth Retreat, where she responded to Eleanor Castellan’s call for information about Julia and then joined her in recruiting Fr. Pacificus Kennedy, O.F.M., to help in finding further information about Julia. **She is thus a very important link in the chain of Julia’s Friends who kept her cause alive.**

Theodora died on Oct. 29, 1980 at the age of 95, and is buried beside Henry in Longmont (Space 4).

Hopefully, by the next issue of the *Wagon*, the Guild will be able to share a photo of Theodora, and maybe even more.

Disrespect for Julia’s Will ►

A future edition of *In Secret Service of the Sacred Heart* will tell at greater length about the recently-discovered will Julia wrote in 1909.

The will provided \$100 for each of three orphanages, \$50 to her executor, and the remainder of her estate was to be divided between Sacred Heart parish and St. Elizabeth’s parish, both in Denver. The estate’s initial inventory listed two lots at Benton St. and 44th Ave. worth about \$200, some unidentified personal effects, and about \$520 in cash. One James A. Fleming was named as executor.

Eight years later this simple estate had still not been settled, and the probate judge ordered Fleming to be in court the next day to explain why the estate was still open. It was settled the next day, but by then the \$520 had shrunk to \$408, and the two lots, which Julia had bought for \$550 in 1889, had been sold for taxes and according to Fleming “were not worth redeeming.”

Fleming said he could not locate one of the three orphanages, though it clearly still existed

and had publicly dedicated a new building in the meantime. The other orphanages each got \$100, Fleming got his \$50, and the churches each got about \$54.

The very fact the judge ordered Fleming to court so abruptly, was a red flag something was amiss. Imagine the Guild's surprise on finding one day the following article in *the Denver Post*, written 10 years after Julia's estate was settled. The three-tiered headline read:

Broker Pleads Guilty and Is Given Ten Years Fleming Accepts Prison Term to 'Escape Assassination' Crime Never Pays

Fearful of assassination, James A. Fleming, head of James A. Fleming and Co., Investments, pleaded guilty to embezzlement in Judge Julian H. Moore's division of the west side court Monday afternoon just before his trial was scheduled to commence, and was sentenced to serve seven to ten years in the state penitentiary.

The 66-year-old broker, it is understood, had been apprised of threats against his life by members of the North Denver Italian colony, whom he had swindled, and had reached the conclusion that even if a remote possibility of freedom materialized he had small chance to escape with his life.

One of the persons whom Fleming had mulcted out of \$2,000 was Frank Pastore, an old vegetable huckster. The article went on to say "The total of Fleming's misappropriations amount to \$100,000 at least ..., including money stolen from several estates of which the broker was trustee."

There is no way of knowing precisely what Julia had in mind in buying the property, but it is clear from the deed that the property could "not be occupied for any other purpose, than as a private residence," that any such residence would need to cost at least \$1,000, and that no hogs or geese could be kept on the property.

Greeley Canoe Masses ►

In conjunction with the Julia Greeley Guild, the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception has scheduled a monthly series of



Masses being offered for the intentions of those who have put themselves in Julia's Canoe. A symbolic canoe is being obtained and all the intentions placed in Julia's Canoe, either by email or other forms of submission, will be listed in a digital file constantly updated by Brigid Demko and placed in the symbolic canoe usually near Julia's Tomb during the following scheduled Masses at the Cathedral Basilica:

Fri., June 7, 5:30 p.m.
Sun., July 28, 6:30 p.m.
Mon., Aug. 12, 12:10 p.m.
Tue., Sep. 3, 5:30 p.m.
Wed., Oct. 2, 12:10 p.m.
Thu., Nov. 21, 7:10 a.m.
Fri., Dec. 20, 5:30 p.m.

Place yourself and your intentions in Julia's Canoe at juliagreeleyscanoe@gmail.com

Some Favors Received ►

Recently, my wife and I went to an administrative court hearing to appeal her Social Security Disability denial. Two years ago, at 50, she was diagnosed with Stage 4 metastatic breast cancer. Since then, she has been unable to work. In that same period, work for me has been sporadic at best. Our situation is truly getting desperate. After the hearing, we intentionally walked over to the Basilica to light some candles and pray. We were attracted to Julia Greeley's tomb and asked her to intercede for a positive outcome. We went home not expecting to hear anything for about four months.

Two weeks to the day later, my wife's lawyer called to let her know the judge expedited the case and ruled in her favor. Two weeks and one appeal were far faster than anyone expected. Even the lawyer seemed astonished. While it may seem a small thing to many, to us this was huge and no small miracle. We are grateful and humbled by what is to us obviously Julia Greeley's intercession.

C. & L. M.

My daughter has two children, a girl and a boy, both in good health. Shortly after the birth of the second child, she and her husband found out they were both carriers of the cystic fibrosis gene. They were surprised and grateful not to have passed the disease on. Then she discovered she was expecting her third child. Naturally we were all concerned. Shortly after this, I received a holy card of Julia Greeley with a picture of her holding the baby I felt inspired to pray to her for the health of my future grandbaby. I prayed the prayer printed on the back daily. I am pleased to report that Lee Allen Patrick was born free of CF!!!! It may not seem like much to anyone outside the family, especially as the other two are also CF free, but there was a 1 in 4 chance he could have the incurable disease and those are unsettling odds! I will be forever thankful to Bl. Julia Greeley! (D.H.)

Greeley Table ►

For a Mother's Day dinner in the Los Angeles area, Iconographer Vivian Imbruglia sponsored a Julia Greeley Table (shown at right) at which she invited her guests to learn more about the Servant of God whose icon she wrote in 2016.



Other Julia Presentations ►

Wagon missed the publication on June 19, 2018, of an article written by Susan Wroble for the *Colorado Encyclopedia*. Read it at www.coloradoencyclopedia.org/article/julia-greeley.

Fr. Blaine gave a presentation to about 50 residents of the Gardens at St. Elizabeth in North Denver on Aug. 28, and another one there on Mar. 8 to a similarly sized group.

Ria de Dios gave a presentation to nine Secular Franciscans from St. Elizabeth Fraternity at Mother Cabrini Shrine on Sept. 1.

Fr. Blaine gave a power point presentation to about 12 members of the Southeast Deanery of Serra Club on Sept. 13.

Frankie Rachell-Bruce & Ria de Rios gave a presentation at All Souls Church in Englewood on Oct. 6.

Fr. Blaine led a small group of women from ENDOW on a Apr. 6 pilgrimage to some 17 important sites connected with the life of Julia Greeley.

Robert Ellsberg, publisher of Orbis Books, will offer an article about Julia in this year's June issue of *Give Us This Day*.

Stella Trattoria, 3201 E. Colfax St., will be holding its annual Julia Greeley Night 5-10 p.m., June 9, with 10% of its receipts going to the Julia Greeley Fund. Parking lot one block west.



Annunciation School 5th Grade Creates Book ►

Fr. Blaine, assisted by Essy Goffinett, Kate Springs, and Fr. Charles Polifka, answered questions about Julia for almost two hours in Maggie Ellis' fifth-grade class at Annunciation Catholic School on Oct. 22. The 24 students had been studying Julia's life for several weeks already.

After the Guild's visit to their classroom, the students continued their interest, resulting in their putting together a 17-page hard cover book about the life and virtues of the Servant of God, featuring 28 full-color drawings of scenes from Julia's life.



The class plans to present a copy of the book to Archbishop Aquila at the St. John Paul II Center on May 31.

Holy People in Denver ►

The most recent issue of the Wagon spoke of eight Servants of God known to have spent time in the Denver area:

Servant of God Julia Greeley, O.F.S.,
1878/79-1918.

Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, M.S.C., 1902
and 1905.

Servant of God Father Leo Heinrich, O.F.M.,
1907-Feb. 21, 1908.

Saint Katharine Drexel, S.B.S., Oct. 18, 1911.

Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, June
19, 1953.

Saint Teresa of Calcutta, M.C., June 1986,
1989.

Servant of God Thea Bowman, O.S.F., Feb.
1989 & Aug. 24-26, 1989.

Pope Saint John Paul II, Aug. 12-15, 1993.

To these, we can now
add the name of

Pope Saint Paul VI,

who, while Vatican
secretary of state for
internal affairs,
attended the
installation of Bishop
Urban John Vehr as the
first Archbishop of

Denver on Jan. 6, 1941. Msgr. Montini is also
thought to have been at Camp St. Malo as a
guest of Msgr. Joseph J. Bosetti in 1952.



Discounted Rockies Tickets ►



In support of Julia's Cause, The Archdiocesan Office of Black Catholic Ministry is still offering discounted tickets for eight 2019 Rockies games. The tickets are for seats located in sections 144 & 145, under the overhang.

Orders for the tickets need to be sent to Mary L. Leisring, Archdiocese of Denver,

1300 S. Steele Street, Denver, CO 80210-2599, with a check payable to “Julia Greeley Fund.” Each ticket price \$33 / face value \$42. Direct all questions to 303-831-7010.

The Fund has been established by the Archdiocese to cover various expenses entailed in Julia’s Cause for Canonization.

Game 1 – Sat., June 29 vs. Dodgers @ 6:15 pm
(section 145)
Payment deadline: Mon. June 3, 2019

Game 2 – Fri., July 12 vs. Reds @ 6:40 pm
(section 144)
Payment deadline: Friday, June 24, 2019

Game 3 – Sat., Aug. 3 vs. Giants @ 6:10 pm
(section 144)
Payment deadline: Mon., July 1, 2019

Game 4 – Fri., Aug. 16 vs. Marlins @ 6:40 pm
(section 144)
Payment deadline: Mon., July 15, 2019

Game 5 – Sat., Aug. 31 vs. Pirates @ 6:10 pm
(section 144)
Payment deadline: Aug. 1, 2019

Game 6 – Wed., Sep. 11, vs. Cardinals @ 6:40 pm
(section 144)
Payment deadline: Aug. 26, 2019

Game 7 – Sat., Sep. 14 vs. Padres @ 6:10 pm
(section 144)
Payment deadline: Aug. 30, 2019

Game 8 – Tues., Sep. 17 vs. Mets @ 6:40 pm
(section 144)
Payment deadline: Sept. 3, 2019

More Information ►

For more on **Julia** and her fame, visit the Guild’s web site at

<http://www.juliagreeley.org>. View also the archdiocese’s video of “**Julia Greeley: Our Model of Mercy**” at **<https://vimeo.com/151101683>**

Paid Memberships ►

Help us build our Guild **paid** membership by joining the **Julia Greeley Guild** and inviting others to join. A membership application form can be found and printed at our web site, <http://www.juliagreeley.org/guild.html> **Dues are \$20 a year or \$50 for three years. Married couples are enrolled for a single fee.** All checks sent to the Guild should be made payable to “Cathedral Basilica,” with the notation on the memo line “for Julia Greeley Guild”

Friends of Julia

On our mailing lists – 5.12.2019

849

which includes

Guild Members

Dues paying – 5-22-2019

140

Recalling Fellow Friends ►

We commend to Julia’s intercession the eternal happiness of her deceased Friends.

Geraldine Magnie

Elaine Massie

Hanna Nevin

Ginger Perkins

Wilmetta Ann Roth

Fr. Marcus Medrano

Testimonials Needed ►

The Guild is anxious to have on file reports of any favors people feel they have received through **Julia**’s intercession! Lest any details be forgotten, please submit them to the Guild in written form. Having these on file will enable the Cause to show the power of her intercession.

Coming Meetings ►

All Guild Members and other Friends of **Julia** are invited to our planning meetings at the Cathedral rectory, 1530 N. Logan. St. The Guild meets every third Thursday of the month, at 10:30 a.m. Next meetings: June 20, July 19, and Aug. 16. If you have not previously been to a meeting, it would be good to contact the Guild ahead of time to make sure the meeting is still on schedule.

Guild Contacts ►

Julia Greeley Guild
c/o Immaculate Conception Cathedral
1535 N. Logan St.
Denver CO 80203-1913
juliagreeleyguild@gmail.com
(303) 558-6685
www.juliagreeley.org

Guild Officers ►

Mary Leisring, President & Treasurer
Kevin Knight, Secretary
Fr. Ron Cattany, Pastor
Fr. Blaine Burkey, O.F.M.Cap., Consultant

Other Guild Officers ►

Frankie Rachell-Bruce, phone secretary
Sharon Dorflinger, membership secretary
Dustin Caldwell, recording secretary
Minnie Cassell, associate secretary
Essy Goffinett, associate secretary
Ria de Dios, associate secretary

Wagoneers ► Fr. Blaine Burkey, pro-tem editor; Mary Leisring, president & circulation manager.

