



Lil' Red Wagon

Official newsletter of
The **Julia Greeley** Guild

Second Issue 3.15.15

Why the Wagon ► **Julia Greeley (JG)** used her wagon to deliver food, clothing, and fuel to the poor, often secretly. Her Guild's wagon is meant to openly deliver news occasionally of the spread of her fame and to encourage her Friends to introduce her to new Friends. For example, you can help us grow our mailing list by sending us email addresses of Friends who would like to receive the *Wagon*. Feel free to forward the *Wagon* to all on your own email list.



Our Shepherd Speaks ► In his *Denver Catholic Register* column for Nov. 17, 2014, Archbishop Samuel Aquila wrote, "The Archdiocese of Denver has been graced with the

heroic examples of many saintly men and women whom we can look to for inspiration ...

"You might ... have heard of **Julia Greeley**, a former slave who earned her living scrubbing floors and used the little money she had left to help the poor.

"By all appearances, she was an unremarkable woman who could have been mistaken for a homeless person. But when she died on June 7, 1918, the Feast of the Sacred



Heart, people flocked to her wake and funeral by the hundreds.

"It soon became widely known that although **Julia** earned \$10-12 a month, she would constantly visit the poor and help them with what little she had. When her money was insufficient, **Julia** would beg for those in need. In a story written shortly after her death, the *Denver Catholic Register* recalled, "Nobody ever asked for help in vain from **Julia Greeley**. She was victimized many times by charity

frauds. But **Julia**'s rule seemingly was that it was better to give than to be too careful and deny assistance to someone who needed it."

By One Who Knew Her ► "I was 11 years old in 1918. I was coming from the old church and I can remember the exact spot – between Lawrence and Larimer – on 28th St.– where we met and talked. She was so cheerful – she had time to talk to kids – not many people do that – she was liked by kids – If there's ever a saint in heaven, she was out of this world. She made an impression on me – spent her money on somebody who had more than she did. I pray to that woman every night to intercede with the Sacred Heart for me. I know she's not at that stage, but to me she is." – John McNulty, in *In Secret Service...*, p. 60.

Learn more about Julia Greeley ► Would your parish like to learn more about a Colorado servant of God? Have it invite Fr. Blaine Burkey, O.F.M.Cap., author of *In Secret Service of the Sacred Heart*, who recently spoke of **Julia's** service to the Denver poor at Immaculate Conception Church in Seattle WA and at Denver's Most Precious Blood Church's adult education group in January 2015. Contact Fr. Blaine at juliagreeleyguild@gmail.com

Catholic Charities Podcast ► Listen to Catholic Charities' corporate chaplain Capuchin Fr. Charles Polifka's podcast of his interview of Fr. Blaine concerning **Julia**, "one of the forerunners of Catholic Charities." Hear same at <http://audioboom.com/boos/2287421-fr-charles-interview-with-fr-blaine-denver-s-angel-of-charity>

2015 Mass ► The third annual **Julie Greeley** Mass of the Sacred Heart will be held on June 5, 2015. We invite all who are interested in honoring Julie and learning more about her story and mission to please plan to attend. The Joyful

Noise Choir from Cure d'Arts Parish will again sing. The Mass will be held at Sacred Heart Church, 2760 Larimer Street, Denver, CO 80205 at 7:00 p.m.



Cure d'Arts Joyful Noise Choir

Drawings of Julia ► Donna Auguste commissioned artist Jamian Ajamu Jacobs to make eight drawings based on the various episodes involving **JG** as mentioned in *In Secret Service...* With Donna's permission, we present another of them, "Getting Ready for Church." Some of the drawings will also appear in future printings of *In Secret Service...*



Anxious for Movement ► Though **Julia's** cause for beatification has not yet been officially opened, there are always folk who think that has already happened. A list entitled "Dozens of causes underway in the US," that appeared Dec. 5 in the *National Catholic Reporter*, included "**JuliaGreeley**, ex-slave, laywoman of Denver diocese known for work with poor;" and the super-website called "Hagiography Circle"

recently surprised Guild officials who ran into **Julia** enshrined in such a prestigious setting at <http://newsaints.faithweb.com/year/1918.htm>

Julia Greeley Home ► The Home, which was begun so as to take single homeless women “off the street” and prepare them to reenter society more productively, is presently planning to move its operations in May from Arvada to a larger facility in Lakewood. Capuchin Fr. Regis



Scanlon, who began the program, put it under the patronage of **Julia Greeley**, because of the countless hours she spent on Denver’s streets caring for the poor and, at least once sleeping in a friend’s stable. Learn much more about it at: <http://www.juliagreeleyhome.org>

Greeley Award ► Col. Diana L. Ruzicka of New Market, Alabama, a retired Army nurse and Endow facilitator on the Nature and Dignity of Women, received Endow’s 10th Annual **Julia Greeley** Award, which was named for “*an exceptionally holy woman whose virtuous life is a model of love and sacrifice.*”

Previous recipients of the award have been Hanna Nevin (2006), Susie LaVelle (2007), Sharon Post (2008), Elizabeth Wisniewski (2009), Jane Eusterman (2010), Jen Bahan (2011), Jennifer Ricard (2012), Michelle Schmidt (2013), and Martha Reichert (2014). Mrs. Nevin died in 2014, aged 101.

Save the Date ► Fr. Simon Kalonga, pastor of Cure d’Ars Church, has agreed to preside at the

Mass for the 3rd annual **JG** celebration at Sacred Heart Church, 2750 Larimer St., Denver, on June 5, 2015. Please save the date and help us grow the event by bringing at least one new Friend with you.

Add Other Dates to Your 2015 Calendar ►

- Mar. 19: This Planning Meeting has been cancelled.
- Apr. 5: 4th Anniversary of the seed being sown for **Julia Greeley** Guild (2011).
- May 21: Planning Meeting
- Jun. 5: Third **Julia Greeley** Anniversary Mass, Sacred Heart Church, 7 p.m.
- Jun. 7: 97th Anniversary of **Julia’s** death (1918).
- Jun. 26: 135th Anniversary of **Julia’s** entering the Catholic Church (1880).
- Jul. 16: Planning Meeting (2015).
- Aug. 1: 4th Anniversary of the first meeting of the **JG** Guild (2011).
- Sep. 17: Planning Meeting (2015).
- Nov. 19: Planning Meeting (2015).

Spirituals Concert ► Soprano Stephanie Ann Ball, shown at right of Guild president Mary Leising, gave a second performance of her “Heading Up to Glory: a Musical Celebration



of the Life of Julia Greeley,” at St. Ignatius of Loyola Church, Denver, on Mar. 8. About 60 people attended. As at the first performance at Immaculate Conception Cathedral last Sept. 28, a portion of the freewill offerings was given to the Guild.

Papal Honor ► Sr. Prudence Allen, RSM, who sowed the seed for the **Julia Greeley** Guild at one of the Archbishop's Lectures in 2011, has recently been named by Pope Francis to his International Theological Commission. Sister now teaches at the Catholic campus chaplaincy at Lancaster University in Bailrigg, Great Britain.

Another Co-Founder Top Blogger ► Kevin Knight, our first Secretary-Treasurer, was honored by ChurchRelevance.com last spring for his Catholic website, New Advent.org, which it ranked No. 1 on the Top 300 Christian Blogs for Ministry. Kevin was recently hired by EWTN to serve as blog editor for the *National Catholic Register*.

Friendship & Membership ► The first issue of the Wagon was sent electronically to 93 **Friends of Julia**. This second issue is going to about 130. So as to make **Julia** better known by more people, please help us to grow that number by sending us email addresses of other Friends interested in Julia's cause. We will send the newsletter to them free of charge.

To date, only seven of our Friends are also dues-paying **Members** of the Guild. We also need to increase that number, as it will more effectively demonstrate the strength of commitment to **Julia** and her cause. Please join the Guild and invite others to do so. A membership application form can be printed at <http://www.juliagreeley.org/guild.html>

Current Dues-Paying Members ► Fr. Blaine Burkey, Jennifer Fairweather, Gaylene Harris, Junior Knights of St. Peter Claver #261, Knights of St. Peter Claver #261, Mary Leising, Kathryn E. Springs.

Scholarships ► The Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of St. Peter Claver awarded \$1,000 College Scholarships this year to six high school

graduating young women and men who have embraced the spirit of **Julie Greeley**.

Testimonials ► The Guild is anxious to have on file reports of any favors you feel you have received through Julia's intercession! Lest any details be forgotten, please submit them in writing to **Julia Greeley** Guild.

Meetings ► The Guild has moved its bi-monthly planning meetings from Sacred Heart Church to Cure d' Ars Parish Center, 4701 Martin Luther King Blvd. (just west of the church). The next meeting, open to all of **Julia's** Friends, will be Thursday, May 21, at 10:30 a.m. (ring the doorbell)

Internet Presence ► For more information re **Julia** and her fame, visit the Guild's website at <http://www.juliagreeley.org>. Enjoy there a short video, made by Channel 9 News in February of 2013 about **Julia**. One can also find there the First Issue of the *Lil' Red Wagon*.

National Attention ► The National Black Catholic Conference has become one of Julia's Friends by posting "**Julia Greeley**: Denver Sainly Woman" on its web site at <http://www.nbccongress.org/Spotlight/Julia-greeley.asp>

Among Sainly Women ► Kathy Coffey, well-known Catholic author, is including a chapter on **Julia Greeley** in a book on saintly North American Women, which she is writing for the Liturgical Press in Minnesota.

Special Thanks ► The charming image of **Julia's Lil' Red Wagon** on our masthead is a gift to the Guild by Artist Tom Sarmo, brother-in-law of the Guild's Book Sales Chair, Sue Roth-Allen, and son-in-law of Ann Roth, who has generously stored the Guild's inventory of *In Secret Service...* in her home.

Denver History ► Phil Goodstein's latest book, *Curtis Park, Five Points and Beyond*, devoted several paragraphs (pp. 114-116) to **Julia**.

Bus Pilgrimage ► The Guild is hoping to have another **Julia Greeley** bus tour if it can find a large bus which it can borrow. Watch for details!

The Right Eye ► A half century after her death, witnesses were uncertain as to which of **Julia's** eyes had been destroyed by her slave master. Before making any of his drawings, Mr. Jacobs had the sole photo of **Julia** computer enhanced, lightening the area shadowed by the hat, and learned thereby that it was **Julia's** right eye (on the left side of her photo) which was destroyed by her slave master. This judgment has been authenticated by Dr. Gene Wiggs, one of Colorado's leading ophthalmologists.



On the List of Julia's Friends ► If you received this issue of the *Wagon* by the forwarding of a Friend and do not want to miss further issues, send us your email address, care of juliagreeleyguild@gmail.com.

In Secret Service of the Sacred Heart ► **Julia's** biography is available in Denver at Gerkens, John Erger's Religious Goods store, Tattered Covers, The Book Bar on Tennyson, the Capuchin Franciscans' provincial office, and the Archdiocesan Office for Black Catholic Ministry. It costs \$19.95.

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