



Lil' Red Wagon

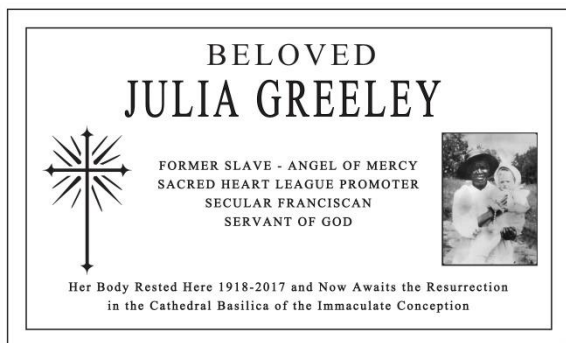
of the Servant of God Julia Greeley

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

Sixteenth Issue 1-18-2018

Marker at Mt. Olivet Gravesite ►

The Guild and Mt Olivet Cemetery are currently in the process of remarking Julia's former gravesite with a granite memorial indicating the transfer of her remains to the Cathedral Basilica. In white letters on a black granite stone, the text will read



The top two lines of text and the cross at left are preserved from the original smaller

rose-colored stone placed on Julia's grave in 1956 by Agnes Rooney Urquhart and her daughter Marjorie, the "little white angel" shown on Julia's lap.



Julia in Song: Perske's Concert ►



During a University of Denver concert, "Colorado Landscapes," on April 29, 2017, the Nebula Ensemble debuted Sarah Perske's *Voices of Colorado Women: Julia Greeley*.

A composer and guitarist at the school, Sarah created the work as the first installment of a large-scale project telling the stories of significant women in Colorado's history through song.

In her program notes, Sarah wrote:

Few people know it, but in the late 1800s and early 1900s the city of Denver had its very own Mother Teresa. She was a former slave named Julia Greeley who made it her life's work to help every needy person she could reach.

Despite a life of extreme hardship – Julia even lost one of her eyes to the physical abuse she suffered at the hands of a slave owner – Julia was a profoundly joyful person who devoted all her



Sarah Perske

energies to making others feel loved and accepted.

As I learned more about Julia's life in preparation for writing this piece, I was fascinated to discover that she also taught herself to play the piano when she was over 60 years old, giving at least one house concert at a friend's home where she played and sang the Gregorian 'Mass of the Angels.'

My piece attempts to tell Julia's story from her perspective, and encapsulate the message of her life: that seemingly simple and everyday acts of love and forgiveness have an impact far beyond what we might imagine. Julia Greeley tells us that we can change the world, one heart at a time.

It is now possible to attend the first performance of Sarah's piece by accessing YouTube. To enable you to follow the text, we have included it as an Appendix to this issue of the Wagon, on p. 6. The link to the concert is there.

Third Class Relics Available ►

Third-class relics, icons with small pieces of cloth attached which were touched to Julia's bones last June 7, are now available, and are free. To obtain one from the Guild, send a self-addressed, self-stamped envelope to Julia Greeley Guild, 1535 N. Logan St., Denver CO 80203-1913. The relics can also be obtained at Guild events, but will be distributed only to individuals asking for them. The relics will not be available in multiple quantities.

First- and second-class relics will be available only once Julia is someday beatified, and even then will probably not generally be available to individuals. They will then be available for public veneration in churches, chapels, etc.

Centennial Plans Underway ►

Archbishop Samuel Aquila will

celebrate Mass at the cathedral at 5:30 p.m. on June 7, 2018, to mark the centennial of Julia Greeley's death. Save this date and time in your calendar now.

Bishop Joseph Perry, auxiliary bishop of Chicago and vice postulator for the cause of Fr. Augustus Tolton, and Bishop Terry Steib SVD, bishop emeritus of Memphis, have both expressed their intentions of attending, and Lt. Derrick Johnson of the Denver Fire Department is working at having a firefighters honor guard at the Mass.

The Guild invites any suggestions that you might have to make the occasion more special.

Spreading the Word of Julia ►

Arrupe Jesuit High School's religion department developed a three-part curriculum unit on Julia Greeley to introduce the students to Julia Greeley. Besides a presentation on Julia, the school also had a Mass in October at which they spoke about Julia. Later the school's juniors did presentations on her for a Moral Heroes Project. Power point slides used for the class presentations can be viewed at https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1dVgPkAVeezIycyz9HQ4ZWfWuJcUO_IFAI-rqKPkdwx8

Fr. Blaine Burkey is scheduled to give a lecture on Julia in the Martin Room at History Colorado, 1200 Broadway, Denver, on Feb. 26 at 1 p.m. Tickets for non-History-Colorado members \$5. <https://www.historycolorado.org/event/denvers-own-saint/2018/02/26>

Lt. Derrick Johnson of the Denver Fire Department, a candidate for the permanent diaconate, has recently offered to help let the Denver firefighters know of Julia's historic love and concern for their predecessors.



First Christmas Party ► Instead of its December meeting Dec. 21, the Guild had its first Christmas party, organized by Fr. Ron Cattany in the dining room of the Cathedral rectory. Attending were (seated l. to r.) Essy Goffinett, Sharon Doerflinger, Frankie Rachell-Bruce, Fr. Blaine Burkey, and (standing) Charlotte McKinney, Minnie Cassell, Dr. Gayle Hamlett, Linda Chase, Sr. Marion Weinzapfel, Fr. Cattany, and Mary Leisring. Present but not pictured: Kevin Knight and Kate Springs.

Coming Meetings ► All Guild Members and other Friends of Julia are invited to our planning meetings at the Cathedral rectory at 1530 N. Logan St., just behind the Cathedral. The Guild meets every third Thursday of the month, usually at 12:30 a.m. The next meeting will be Feb. 15. Any last minute changes will be listed on the Guild's web site: www.juliagreeley.org.

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 printed at <http://www.juliagreeley.org/guild.html> Dues are \$20 a year or \$50 for three years. Married couples are enrolled for a single fee.

Friends of Julia

on our mailing lists – 1-17-2018
(was 665 on 11-6-2017)

724

which includes

Guild Memberships

as of 1-17-2018
(was 89 on 11-6-2017)

103

Julia Greeley Evening ► Trattoria Stella at 3201 E. Colfax has committed to giving the Julia Greeley Guild 10% of all its evening sales on its Julia Greeley Evening, June 10, 2018, 5-9 p.m.

Remembering 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**

Discounted Rockies Tickets ►

In support of Julia's Cause, The Archdiocesan Office of Black Catholic Ministry is once again offering discounted tickets for six 2018 Rockies games. The tickets are for seats located in section 117 under the overhang.

Orders for the tickets need to be sent to Mary L. Leisring, Archdiocese of Denver Office of Black Catholic Ministry, 1300 S. Steele Street, Denver, CO 80210-2599, with a check payable to "Julia Greeley Fund."

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

Game 1 – Fri., May 25 vs. Reds @ 6:40pm

Price: \$27 per ticket

Face Value: \$42

Payment deadline: Fri., May 4, 2018

Game 2 – Sat., June 2 vs. Dodgers @ 5:15pm

- Price: \$30 per ticket
- Face Value: \$42
- Payment deadline: Friday, May 11, 2018
-

Game 3 – Thur., July 12 vs. Diamondbacks @ 1:10pm

- Price: \$27 per ticket
- Face Value: \$29
- Payment deadline: Thur., June 21, 2018

Game 4 – Tues., July 24 vs. Astros @ 6:40pm

- Price: \$30 per ticket
- Face Value: \$34
- Payment deadline: Tues, July 3, 2018

Game 5 – Friday, Aug. 24 vs. Cardinals @ 6:40pm

- Price: \$30 per ticket
- Face Value: \$42
- Payment deadline: Friday, Aug. 3, 2018

Game 6 – Wed., Sept. 5 vs. Giants @ 6:40pm

- Price: \$27 per ticket
- Face Value: \$29
- Payment deadline: Wed., Aug. 15, 2018

Julia Greeley Home ►

The ladies at Julia Greeley Home, surrounding their founder, Fr. Regis Scanlon, sent Christmas greetings to their benefactors.



Difficulties of Slave History ►

An attractive illustrated life of *Fr. Augustus Tolton, the First Recognized Black Catholic Priest in America*, published in Strasbourg, France, by Editions du Signe in

2015 discusses the difficulties of researching Tolton's early life as a slave.

Much of this discussion resembles similar difficulties in the history of Julia's early years.

"The scarcity of written records makes the history of those who experienced slavery especially difficult to tell. Slaves were forbidden to learn to read. Some could sign their names, but many were totally illiterate... Thus, with some notable exceptions, slaves could not write down their own stories.

"However, slaves treasured their histories, and handed them down to their children by word of mouth, in a rich oral history tradition. But the institution of slavery disrupted this transmission of family memory. Because slaves were treated as property, they could be sold or traded at any time. Families were constantly being divided as fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, were sold to new owners far away. These separations put great strain on family relationships. They also made it difficult for slaves to preserve their own histories...

"Still another challenge we face in exploring the history of slave families is tracing their names. Sometimes, slaves would take the last name of the slaveowners, but often they would have only a first name...

"Escaped slaves would frequently change their names, partly so they would be more difficult to trace, but also to express their new identity as free women and men. In the story of Father Tolton, even something as fundamental as his last name is a mystery. The name 'Tolton' does not appear in any records until Father Tolton goes to Rome, and we do not know exactly when the family began to use it or where the name came from."

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>

To Contact the Guild ►

Julia Greeley Guild

c/o Immaculate Conception Cathedral
1535 N. Logan St.

Denver CO 80203-1913
(303) 558-6685
juliagreeleyguild@gmail.com

Calendar of Julie's Cause ►

These are important landmark events in the Process of the Cause for Canonization:

- Aug. 4, 2016 – The Archbishop contracted Dr. Waldery Hilgeman, J.U.D., to be Roman Postulator for the Cause.
- Aug. 6, 2016 – Archbishop Samuel Aquila asked the Vatican's Congregation for the Causes of Saints (CCS) for the decree *nihil obstat* (nothing stands in the way) for opening **Julia's Cause**. **Julia** was thereby entitled to be called Servant of God.
- Oct. 22, 2016 – The CCS published its decree *nihil obstat*.
- Nov. 14, 2016 – The United States bishops (USCCB) endorsed Archbishop Aquila's decision to open the Cause.
- Nov. 30, 2016 – Archbishop Aquila issued an edict asking the faithful for participation in the Cause which he was about to open.
- Dec. 18, 2016 – Archbishop Aquila officially opened the Cause at the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception during 8:30 Mass.
- Feb. 21, 2017 – Second Session of the Tribunal.
- Apr. 11, 2017 – Archbishop requested permission from the CCS to exhume and transfer Julia's mortal remains to the Cathedral Basilica.
- May 6, 2017 – The CCS granted said permission.
- May 26, 2017 – The Exhumation began of Julia's body at Mt. Olivet Cemetery.
- May 28, 2017 – Julia's skull was partially uncovered.
- May 31, 2017 – The last of Julia's bones were collected by Dr. Christine Pink, Metro State University anthropologist.
- June 6, 2017 – The CCS authorized transfer of Julia's remains to the Cathedral.
- June 7, 2017 – Julia's mortal remains were received, blessed, authenticated, and placed in the northwest corner of the transept of the Cathedral Basilica

Guild Board ►

Mary Leisring, president
Kevin Knight, secretary
Linda Chase, consultant
Fr. Ron Cattany, rector and pastor
Fr. Blaine Burkey, O.F.M.Cap., consultant

Other Guild Officers ►

Minnie Cassell, associate secretary
Frankie Rachell-Bruce, phone secretary
Josey Hall, membership secretary

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

Appendix

Text for Sarah Penske's *Voices of Colorado Women: Julia Greeley*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IY_SXdNdmCs&feature=youtu.be

The world says "an eye for an eye."
I lost mine when I was just a little child at
my mother's side
When the old master's whip missed its mark
And tore, ripped, sliced my face
Already scarred with pain and fear.

The world says "an eye for an eye,"
But the Sacred Heart of Jesus
Beckons me to love,
Love until it hurts,
And build up anyone who's low.
Give until you run dry,
And all the world shall be yours.

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.

"Blessed are the merciful, mercy shall be
theirs."
They showed me none when I was just a
little child,
And even now I hear harsh words, see
hateful stares.

So I will show this poor old world all my
love.

Me and my little red wagon
Will find Jesus where he's most in need:
In the outcasts, in the hungry,
In the lonely, weak and poor.
If you hear a sound at midnight,
It's just old Julia at your door
With whatever you need to survive another
day.
I'll beat a path to heaven's door,
Spreading mercy and forgiveness on my
way.

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.

But the Sacred Heart of Jesus beckons me to
love,
Love every person,
Love them even when it's hard.
Love even when the world says, "an eye for
an eye."

