

2 Rivers Circle

NO. 3 May 2026 Mendota Dakota Friendship Group



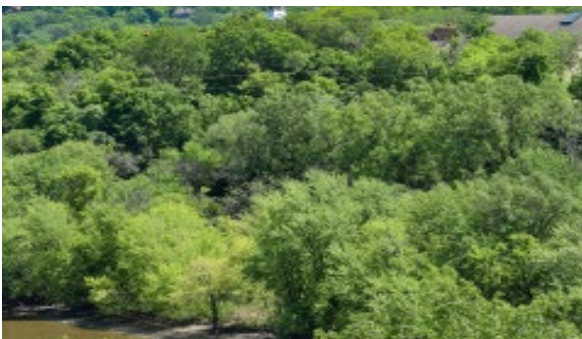
Memorial Commemoration

for **DOUG DAUBENSPECK**
Master Landscaper

SUNDAY, MAY 31st, 2:PM
at the *FOUR OAKS*
ARBORETUM & GARDENS

behind **Church of St. Peter**
1405 Hwy 13
Mendota, MN 55150

outdoor event - BYO chair
church restrooms will be open



2 Rivers Circle now has a phone number:
651-870-7034 and a new board!

Board members are:

Chair: Samantha Walker,

samantwalker@gmail.com

Vice Chair: Rita Chamberlain,

ritachamb56@gmail.com

Treasury: Isaac Fish, fishrg@yahoo.com

Secretary: Sarah Sivright,

sarahsivright2@gmail.com

Elder Advisors: Sharon Lennarston,

sharlenn78@gmail.com

Joseph Bester and Lee Newcomb,

Josephbester@gmail.com and

leenormannewcomb@gmail.com

Media/newsletter Team: Pat Darling and Sarah

Sivright, pat_darling@hotmail.com

Zach Taylor has volunteered to assist us in
putting together a website for our group.

Thank you Zach! zjtaylor85@gmail.com

Community Activities

2 Rivers Circle field trip this month on May 29th to the new **Wakan Tipi Center** at 590 4th St E St. Paul. We will discuss logistics at our next meeting and get a head count, or you can call in your own reservation. Go to the Wakan Tipi website to register. The ceremony begins at 11:00 a.m.

May Drumming on **May 8, May 22**, Friday nights. Drumming **starts at 6:30** with food and socializing. Community Room of the Sanctuary at West St. Paul, 1746 Oakdale Ave., West St. Paul, MN 55118.

May Inipi date is May 31 due to schedule conflict at the Dupuis house.

May 10 is Mother's Day, "Happy Mother's Day to all the wonderful women in this group"! You are all nurturing, and caring and we are blessed to have you!

Friday night Drumming



Community News

Birthdays: May birthday: Matthew Ekdahl May 31

Prayers: Prayers and get well wishes for Sharon.

Congratulations: [Congratulations](#) to Riley on graduating on May 22 and receiving some very special and rare challenge coins for his accomplishments. Riley starts an internship at Leech Lake Tribal College on May 4. Your community is proud of you!

Tommy Tiokasin has buckets of maple syrup to share. Let Rita know if you want one.

ritachamb56@gmail.com tiokasintommy007@gmail.com

Deaths: Doug Daubenspeck, Master Landscaper. Invitation to Doug's memorial on page 1.

Save the date: Pat Darling & Roger Grabowski 50th wedding anniversary at St. Peters, June 21, 2:00-5:00.

Ceremonies:

Full Moon Walk:

The first full moon in May, the Flower Moon, occurs on Friday, May 1, also celebrated as Date Night, and there is a second full moon (Blue Moon) on May 31, 2026. Full Moon Walks for May at Fort Snelling Park. Gather at the National Park entrance, 7pm. Park on the Hwy 55 access road. For more information, please contact SUSUJEFFREY@msn.com

Next 2 Rivers Meeting: May 17, 2 p.m. at Rita Chamberlain's, 3328 Roll LN, Eagan.

Printed copies of the agenda will be handed out at the meeting and will include the naming decision, finalization of vision and mission statement, logo choices, first service activity, etc.

If there's anything else you want added before we meet, feel free to send it through to Samantha Walker.

Gratitude to be building this together.

Wakan Tipi Restoration

After a century of industrial use, the land lay vacant and blighted until a coalition of East Side and Lowertown residents formed the Lower Phalen Creek Project, now called [Wakan Tipi Awanyankapi](#), and worked with the City of Saint Paul to launch an effort to purchase the 27-acre land and restore it.

Wakan Tipi Awanyankapi & Wakan Tipi Center [Wakan Tipi Awanyankapi](#) is a Native-Led, East Side environmental stewardship nonprofit centered in Dakota values. Founded in 1997 by community activists, the project area stretches from Lake Phalen to the Mississippi River and throughout the East Side River District.

Named [Wakan Tipi Center](#) to honor the significance of Wakan Tipi Cave as a Dakota sacred site, the mission of Wakan Tipi Center is to serve as an intergenerational gathering place that honors Wakan Tipi and the maḡa paha as Dakota sacred sites. The work here connects people to this sacred landscape through immersive experiences in Dakota history, lifeways, language, and values.

The building features an exhibit hall, classrooms, ceremony space, a community gathering area, a teaching kitchen, and teaching gardens to showcase and expand the value of the sanctuary as a place for cultural healing, life-long learning, and inspiration. The Wakan Tipi Center is opening to visitors in Spring of 2026.

**May 5 is the National Day of Awareness for
Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women**



Together, let's raise awareness of the high rates of violence against Indigenous women and girls. Share resources and learn more:

gathermagazine.org/mmiw

Start planning today!

gather
FOR FAITH AND ACTION

The Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) movement advocates for the end of violence against Indigenous women and draws attention to the high rates of disappearances and murders of Indigenous women and girls. The root causes lie in colonization and historical trauma, racism, and sexual objectification.

On **Tuesday, May 5th**, a **virtual “Candlelight Vigil for Murdered and Missing Women”** written by Dr. Kelly Sherman-Conroy has been planned by **Women of the ELCA**.

Our Saint Paul Area Synodical Women's Organization (SWO) is invited to participate in this virtual vigil.

Registration and information at: <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/ministry-action/justice/mmiw>.



Sharon Lennartson would like a group of us to attend the memorial *wachipi* for Nick Western Boy Owen on Saturday, May 23rd, 7 p.m.

Please contact Sharon if you are interested in joining her. sharlenn78@gmail.com

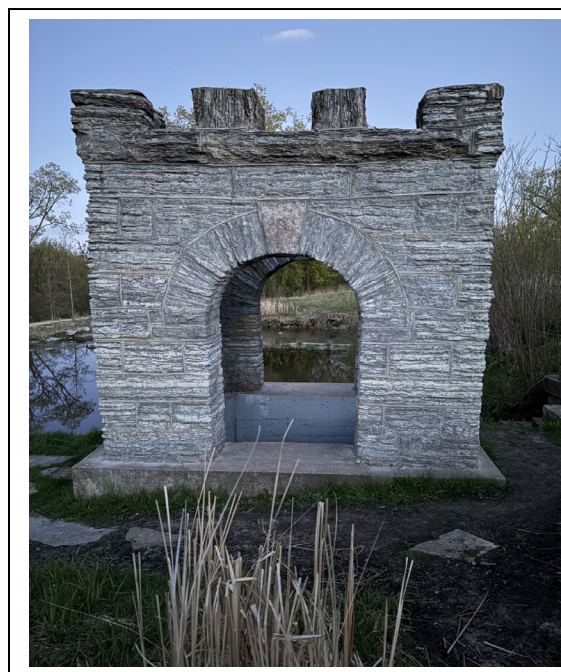
PRAISE TO THE WATER

by **David Bengtson**

for the Two Rivers Chorale

Praise to the spirit of springs and marshes.
Praise to the spirit of creeks and brooks.
Praise to the spirit of streams and rivers.
Praise to the source of all water.
We sing praise to the source of all song.

When water becomes water, there is music.
When water touches water, there is song.
When water flows into water, when voices unite,
There is praise; there is prayer. In the darkness, light.



Praise to the source of all water.
We sing praise to the source of all song.
When roads are broken, when hearts, forsaken,
When dreams are silenced, we cry out for grace.
We turn to the pale moon. We turn to the earth.
We turn to the water that quenches our thirst.

Praise to the source of all water.
We sing praise to the source of all song.
When water touches water where two rivers meet,
Many voices, our voices sing in praise and delight.
We celebrate the mystery, the power of water.
We celebrate the holiness of song.
Praise to the source of all water.
We sing praise to the source of all song.

Praise to the spirit of springs and marshes.
Praise to the spirit of creeks and brooks.
Praise to the spirit of streams and rivers.
Praise to the source of all water.
We sing praise to the source of all song.



May all beings be happy, healthy and whole.
May they have love, warmth and affection.
May they be protected from harm, and free from fear.
May they be alive, engaged and joyful.
May all beings enjoy inner peace and ease.
May that peace expand into their world and throughout the entire universe.

