

## Gordon Parks art gallery and exhibition at Metro State University

Metropolitan State University will soon house The Gordon Parks Gallery, an art gallery honoring the life and artistic legacy of past St. Paul resident Gordon Parks. A prolific photojournalist, writer, filmmaker and composer, Parks was best known for his photos illuminating poverty and powerlessness, including "American Gothic," an image of an African-American cleaning woman.

The university dedicated the new name of the gallery on May 21 with a major exhibition and retrospective of Parks' work. The exhibition will run through July 2010. "I believe Gordon Parks would be proud to have his works on display at Metropolitan State University," said Erica Rasmussen, associate professor and gallery director. "As the most ethnically diverse four-year college in Minnesota, Metropolitan State shares Parks' focus on multiculturalism."

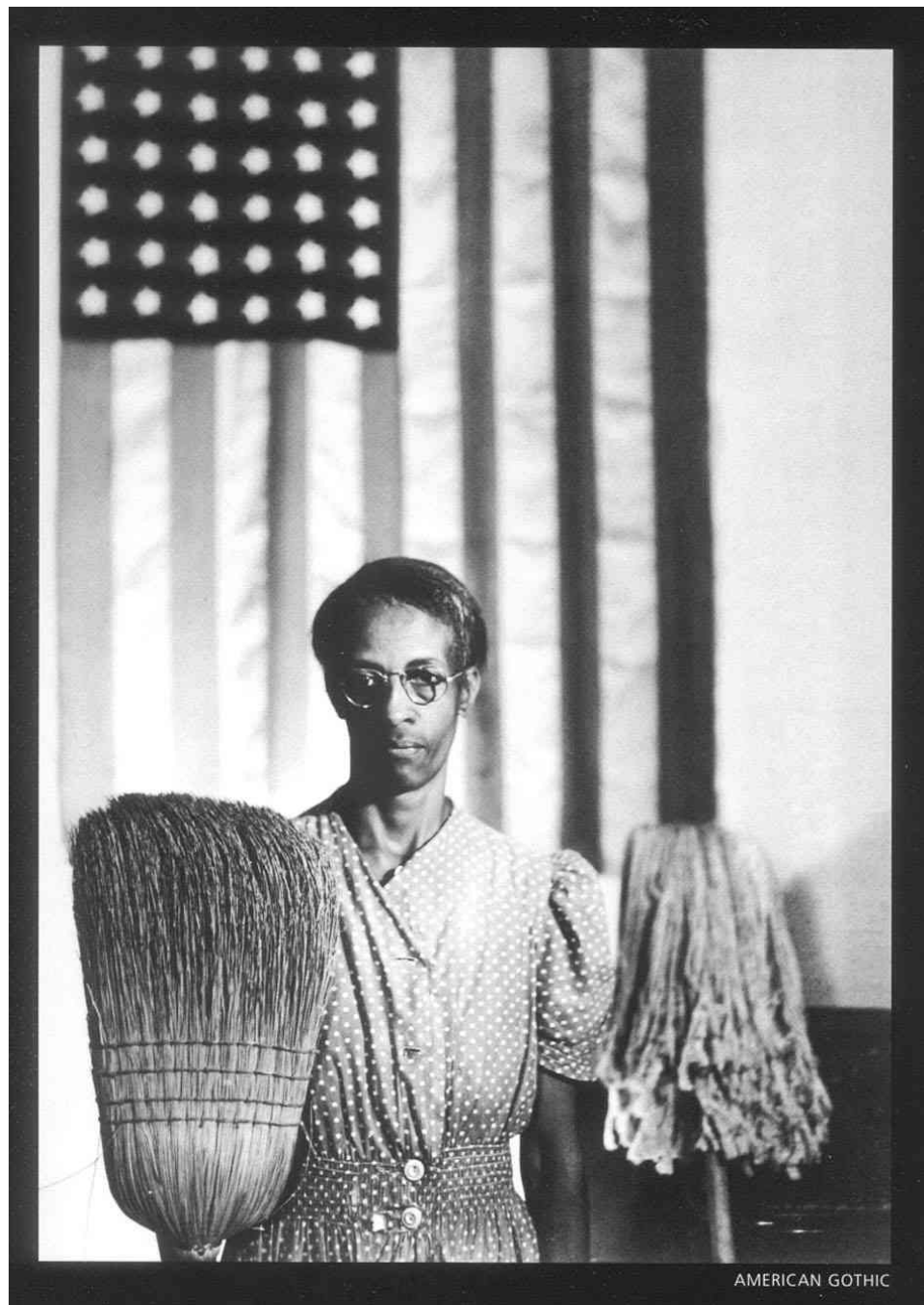
The youngest of 15 children, Parks used his skills as a photojournalist to tell powerful stories, especially during the 1960s Black Power movement. He became the first African-American photographer for *Life* magazine, where he worked for 24 years. He authored several books and became the first African American to direct a major Hollywood film. While he directed five films, his most famous was "Shaft." He also wrote novels, poetry, a ballet and several orchestral scores.

The Gordon Parks Gallery at Metropolitan State University will be located on the third floor of the university's current library, now simply called the Third Floor Gallery. The university has launched a campaign to raise \$250,000 for ongoing programs in support of the gallery. Some of the money will also support community outreach, including ties with several public schools in the Twin Cities.

"Some people are under the assumption that the state provides funding for university programs such as this," said Robert Heuermann, University Advancement vice president and Foundation executive director. "In reality, the state of Minnesota only provides 38 percent of our funding. We rely on alumni, community leaders and concerned citizens for the vast majority of our financial support." The fundraising campaign will support the school outreach program, gallery promotion and six annual exhibitions by a diverse group of established and emerging artists

Corporations, foundations and individuals wishing to contribute to the Gordon Parks Gallery at Metropolitan State University can do so online at [www.metrostate.edu/foundation](http://www.metrostate.edu/foundation) or by calling Rob Larson at 651-793-1813.

Metropolitan State University ([www.metrostate.edu](http://www.metrostate.edu)), a member of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system, provides high-quality, affordable academic and professional degree programs at the bachelor's, master's and doctorate levels. It is the only state university in the Twin Cities metropolitan area.



"American Gothic" by Gordon Parks

### Please show support for this newspaper

Times are tough and you probably have already been solicited to give to pledge drives for non-profits, to sponsor people walking for a cause or to buy raffle tickets for school or churches. There are a lot of good causes out there. And the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* hopes you think of the paper as a good cause and might be able to make a contribution to help keep the presses rolling.

This newspaper needs your help to continue to cover what is going on in our neighborhood. The cost of printing has gone up and the postage for mailing has soared. In addition, we do not have a strong advertising base to count on. There is currently enough money to publish through the early fall, but after that it's hard to tell.

So if you value having a local newspaper and you can afford it, please consider writing a check. All donations are tax-deductible. You might consider buying a gift subscription for someone who used to live here and who might enjoy reading about the old home area. Maybe you can talk an area business into taking out advertising.

Any amount will be appreciated and, unless you want to remain anonymous, your name will be included in a future issue of the paper. Please make any checks out to the *District Forum* and mail them to Dayton's Bluff Community Council at 798 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street, St. Paul 55106.

As a special premium, anyone who makes a donation of at least \$25.00 will receive a set of 12 collectable Dayton's Bluff postcards—a ten dol-

lar value—as long as the supply lasts. For information about gift subscriptions or advertising rates, call Karin DuPaul at 651-772-2075. Thanks.

### Looking for East Side "Greatest Generation" history information

by Steve Trimble

This fall, *Ramsey County History* magazine will publish an article on the 1940s and 1950s in Dayton's Bluff, Railroad Island and lower Payne Avenue. The editors are looking for memories, photos, letters and the like to help draw an accurate picture of the life in those neighborhoods. Stories of working at Hamm's Brewery, 3M, Seeger's/Whirlpool, St. John's Hospital and other businesses are welcome. Information about social and cultural life—family celebrations, events at recreation centers and Christ Child Center, the importance of schools, churches, unions and other institutions is also sought.

The article will focus on the home front during World War II, so dig out your diaries, letters, photos and tales of scrap drives and rationing.

There will be a look at the post-war era and the changes it brought. Then there are the 1950s with good jobs and industrial expansion along with more automobiles, drive-ins and televisions that need to be discovered.

If you have personal memories, family stories, photos or other items about the 1940s and 1950s in the neighborhoods along East 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Payne Avenue, please contact this writer at 651-774-2096 or at [steve.trimble@gmail.com](mailto:steve.trimble@gmail.com)



# BEACON BLUFF

(former 3M site)

## COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING



Thursday,  
**June 10th**  
5:00-7:00pm

Come hear about the progress and plans for this next generation business center!

(refreshments will be provided)

Carpenter's Union Great Hall  
710 Olive Street, Saint Paul

(Williams Hill Business Center)

Please contact Tonya Bauer at  
(651) 204-6228 with questions.