

THE WASHTENAW VOICE

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‘There’s so much more to your story’

Grad speaker, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society president hopes to treat sickness worldwide



PAULA FARMER | THE WASHTENAW VOICE

This year's graduation speaker, Leylan Kazi, poses in front of the Student Center.

BY WILLOW SYMONDS
Staff Writer

An honor society's leader should ideally feel comfortable presenting before an audience. Luckily, 17-year-old WTMC student Leylan Kazi is the rare person who enjoys public speaking.

"I like to see if I can make an impact on anyone with the words I'm speaking," she said.

Even before she had the qualifications to be a Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society member, Kazi was "super involved and enthusiastic, [and] always leading the meetings," according to the organization's adviser, Veronica Capraru. These qualities made Kazi a good candidate for becoming Phi Theta Kappa's

2023 Graduation Information

🕒 May 20 at 9:20 a.m.

📍 George Gervin Game-Above Center



president this school year.

"I watched her develop as a leader throughout the years," Capraru said. "Especially at an age where not a lot of students see themselves as leaders, she really sets an example and thrives."

Due to Kazi's love for public speaking and her "phenomenal" work in Phi Theta Kappa, Capraru encouraged her to apply to try out as this year's commencement speak-

er. Kazi felt unsure at first, but once she agreed, she wrote a sample speech about students' point of view during these unusual last few years.

When auditioning, however, she had no voice.

"I'd recently gotten over being sick, so ... I think that showed [the judges], 'Wow, she can loudly whisper and present a speech nicely,'" Kazi joked. "I think I was chosen because I had a way with my

words ... and I really connected with how students feel."

Kazi attended Huron High School her freshman year, but she wanted a "smaller environment" with fewer students per class. While she still rows for Huron's crew team, she enrolled at WTMC three years ago and has taken college classes since Winter 2021. This was when she realized how much she loves biology and chemistry, especially in her lab classes.

On May 20, 2023, Kazi will graduate with both a high school diploma and an associate degree in General Math and Science.

She worked as a Student Ambassador her sophomore and junior years, this being her first job, though she didn't know she got paid until after starting. She's also a recipient of STEM Scholars, where she often sought advice from WCC's Dean of Science, Math, Engineering, Technology, Tracy Schwab.

"Always seek out mentors because you're always going to learn from others," Kazi said.

One of her STEM idols is William Foege, a former CDC (Center for Disease Control) director and epidemiologist who was instrumental in eradicating smallpox. In January 2022, Kazi – then the Vice President of Finance and Funding – personally invited Foege to speak to the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

This semester, Kazi would ride in the car with her mom, listening to Foege's speeches for inspiration on her commencement speech. She also explained to the Voice how disenfranchised places,

CONTINUED ON A3



PAULA FARMER | THE WASHTENAW VOICE

The panel of environmental leaders discusses social issues.

U-M hosts talk with environmentalists

BY GRACE CRANDALL
Staff Writer

The University of Michigan held a panel called "Justice in Focus," on April 13 as part of this year's Earth Day celebrations. Hosted by the U-M Tishman Center for Social Justice and Environment at the School for Environment and Sustainability, the panel was moderated by Nayyirah Shariff, co-founder of the Flint Democracy Defense League.

The panel featured three environmental leaders, each of whom has worked at the center of various environmental advocacy movements. The event was held in the

Rackham Graduate School Auditorium, with about 50 people in attendance.

The discussion focused on the social and environmental changes since the pandemic, especially changes regarding social justice movements. Shariff began the conversation by reflecting on how the death of George Floyd created greater social networks, and asked the panelists what they learned about collective power.

"Covid was a great elucidator," said Anthony Rogers-Wright, director of environmental justice for the New York Lawyers for Public Interest. "It showed us all the systems not working. Movements cannot be ephemeral."

"This was a time of contradiction," agreed Isaac Sevier (they do not capitalize the initial letters of their name), the founder and co-director of People's Utility Commons in California. "Cash assistance lifted the poverty level. But it was short-lived."

Maria Lopez-Nunez, deputy director of advocacy



PAULA FARMER
Isaac Sevier discusses the environment.

CONTINUED ON A3

County to give more money to social service organizations

BY ROBIN WYLLIE-SCHOLZ
Deputy Editor

Fourteen organizations that provide support for people who are struggling in Washtenaw County are getting a combined \$1.5 million in the next two years, thanks to a proposal approved by the Board of Commissioners in early April.

The proposal was raised to reinstate county funding that the groups lost after the New Human Services Partnership replaced Washtenaw Coordinated Funders in 2022, which changed the organizations that were receiving county funds.

One such organization is Alpha House, who had been getting roughly 100k prior to the NHSP. When that funding went away they had to scramble for help from the community, according to Shonagh Taruza, Alpha House's executive director.

This new proposal will hopefully alleviate some of their financial struggles. Alpha House is set to receive \$107,250 in 2023 and again in 2024.

"The relief that I felt, I was almost in tears... it took us out of that survival mode," said Taruza.

Though the proposal is good news for the organizations receiving the funding, it isn't a perfect fix. For starters, the county has not yet communicated directly with the organizations impacted, according to Christine Watson, executive director of SafeHouse.

SafeHouse is set to receive \$93,972 in both 2023 and 2024, but they don't yet know any details, according to Watson.

"We have yet to receive any official confirmation," Watson said.

Both Watson and Taruza emphasized the importance of finding a more long-term solution to the housing crisis.

"There's an urgent need for more family shelter space," Taruza said.

Housing is a pressing issue in Washtenaw County. There were 448 people experiencing homelessness in December of 2022, according to the Washtenaw Continuum of Care.

Organizations like Alpha House and SafeHouse are trying to combat that. Alpha House has an emergency shelter, and also helps people find long-term housing. SafeHouse is focused on helping survivors of domestic violence via an emergency shelter and other resources like their 24/7 helpline.

‘There’s an urgent need for more family shelter space.’

-Shonagh Taruza

One struggle that Watson hopes the proposed money will alleviate is their lack of staff. Lately they've been operating with a 50% reduced workforce.

"We're trying to minimize the impact to survivors... we're doing the best we can," said Watson.

They are open to volunteers as well as paid employees.

"Reach out! We don't require a certain degree," said Watson.

For people that don't have time to get directly involved, there's still ways to help.

"The best thing that the younger generation can do is stay informed," said Taruza.

Being informed and spreading awareness helps these organizations reach as many people as possible.

"I just want people to

know that we're here, that we're open, and that we're available to support [them]," said Watson.

While the proposal should alleviate some of SafeHouse's immediate concerns, they know it won't last forever.

"It's a two-year funding – then what?" said Watson.

Both Watson and Taruza

feel that the proposal is a good start, but a permanent solution is needed.

"There's a wealth of resources in Washtenaw County – let's figure out how to use them better so we don't have people experiencing homelessness, especially families and children," said Taruza.



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SafeHouse is one of 14 organizations to receive county funds from this proposal.



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Bill aims to align state’s electoral vote with popular vote

By JACOB KUIPER
Staff Writer

The American way of electing a national leader is one global peculiarity. Instead of simply voting as a nation for our next president, a middleman is set in place in the form of the Electoral College. The Electoral College is what actually decides who the next president will be, and sometimes it disagrees with a majority of Americans.

A local lawmaker is among those who want to change that.

State Rep. Carrie Rheingans, an Ann Arbor Democrat, seeks to have Michigan join a group of states that agree to award their electoral votes to the winner of the national popular vote. She’s the lead sponsor of a bill in the House to have the state join the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact.

“The presidency is the only elected office in our entire country where the second-place vote getter can actually win,” says Rheingans. The change would bring the presidency in line with all other elected offices in the country

where a candidate must gain at least a plurality to win.

How we got here

When the Founding Fathers were seeking to ratify the Constitution, the issue of representation became an issue: Small states feared they would suffer under the political power of more populated states. As a compromise, they created a system where the president would be elected based not on the popular vote, but on the “electoral vote.”

‘I want the electoral college to be aligned with the will of the people. The will of the people and the popular vote should be what determines who represents all of us.’

-Carrie Rheingans

A state’s popular vote would be converted into a number of electoral votes equal to that state’s number



JACOB KUIPER | THE WASHTENAW VOICE

State Rep. Carrie Rheingans is the lead sponsor for the bill for Michigan to join the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact.

of congressional representatives plus its number of senators. (Michigan, for instance, has two senators and 13 representatives so it has 15 electoral votes.)

The Electoral College effectively gives extra power to smaller states. In theory, this institution protects smaller states from the “tyranny of the majority,” forcing candidates to win not just a large number of raw votes, but also

win a large number of individual states.

This, however, is not what always happens in practice.

Candidates who appeal to a large number of individual states can sometimes circumvent a popular vote deficit because of the extra electoral votes they are awarded. In recent times, two of our last four presidents have been elected without actually winning a majority of votes.

What’s next

While seemingly not a fan of the Electoral College, Rheingans stresses that she has no intention of fighting against or abolishing the institution: she just wants to change how it awards its votes.

“I want the electoral college to be aligned with the will of the people,” she says. “The will of the people and the popular vote should be what determines who represents all

of us.”

However, even if this bill were to pass it would not change Michigan’s voting laws immediately. That’s because the compact is not legally enforceable until the combined number of state electoral votes reaches a majority, that is 270.

Currently 15 states plus the District of Columbia are a part of the compact, totalling

‘The presidency is the only elected office in our entire country where the second-place vote getter can actually win,’

-Carrie Rheingans

195 votes. If Michigan were to join, its 15 electoral votes would bring that number to 210, still short of a majority. Still, advocates say that this is an important next step to the compact’s eventual.

Rheingans hopes to move the bill forward with a full committee vote in May.



COURTESY OF WASHTENAW COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A student holds up their diploma.



COURTESY OF WCC

WCC cap and gown hang on display.



COURTESY OF WCC

Students smile at graduation.



COURTESY OF WASHTENAW COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A new graduate smiles for the camera.

Speaker

CONTINUED FROM A1

She also explained to the Voice how disenfranchised places, like impoverished countries and refugee camps, have little accessibility to vaccines and simple medicine.

“I want to make [vaccines and medicine] accessible to others around the world,” she said.

In hopes of helping people on the same scale as Foegel, Kazi will attend the University of Michigan this fall, double majoring in Public Health and Biology, Health, and Society.

She believes her majors set a good “balance” in the medical field.

“Public Health is learning about the real world and the impact,” Kazi said. “Then you have Biology, Health, and Society, where you’re taking all these biochemistry classes [and] learning all the science.”

Because she “loves WCC’s small class sizes,” the main reason she switched to WTMC, Kazi will be joining the Residential College of Literature, Science, and Arts at UofM. This program lets those enrolled take classes with only nine to 20 students.

Though Kazi majors in the science aspect of ISA, she hopes to engage with the fine arts by joining an a cappella group and continuing theater. She’s always loved performing, which she regards as using similar skills to public speaking.

Correction

A story about visiting speaker, Cabot Phillips of the Daily Wire, in the April 4 edition contained two errors:

The on-campus TurningPoint USA group did solicit email addresses from attendees at the event, but it does not have a newsletter.

The language used by a student who participated in a Q&A session was inaccurate. The meaning was not affected by the error, but the material appeared as a direct quote and we apologize.

Finally, a clarification: Our story described Phillips’ response to a question about racial bias as avoiding the issue. Phillips responded by calling out the U.S. Transportation Safety Administration and discussed reverse discrimination that disadvantages white people. We should have said he focused less on the race aspect of the question and more on the TSA.

Talk

CONTINUED FROM A1

Maria Lopez-Nunez, deputy director of advocacy and organizing for Ironbound Community Corporation, spoke about her work in helping pass New Jersey’s Environmental Justice Cumulative Impacts Bill, which blocks new industrial facilities from entering overburdened communities such as Newark. New Jersey has defined “overburdened” as any area in which at least half of households qualify as low-income.

Lopez-Nunez has worked with the people of Newark,

defending their rights for environmental and housing justice. She emphasized the importance of community organization to the audience.

“EJ (Environmental Justice) law took a while, but the fact that there is justice is because of us,” said Lopez-Nunez, leaning forward in her chair. “If we lose, (we) try to lose forward.”

The panel also discussed the Justice40 Initiative, a climate policy that began in New York in 2019, then was issued as an executive order by President Biden in 2020. Justice40 seeks to direct 40% of benefits from certain federal investments to disadvantaged communities, Rogers-Wright explained. These investments

include clean energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable housing.

Some states such as California have tried to pass a state law to see what 40% looks like realistically. Now the concern is using the allocated money correctly. Each panel member pointed out the importance of keeping government officials accountable.

“Our government is just people,” said sevier, who works towards ending utility shutoffs and creating new utility frameworks. “Our history has been to eliminate people who understand racial justice. We need to rebuild and restore (society) with a progressive fervor.”

The discussion ended with

Shariff asking the panelists what Justice40 could look like on a local level, and how to bring social justice into the community. Each panelist reminded the audience that struggling is part of the process of finding a solution.

‘EJ (Environmental Justice) law took a while, but the fact that there is justice is because of us. If we lose, (we) try to lose forward.’

-Maria Lopez-Nunez

“Embrace the idea that thresholds are okay, and that trying to go against thresholds is going against nature,” said Rogers-Wright. “Don’t be afraid to fail.”

“Look alive. Pay attention,” added Lopez-Nunez. “Stop making Earth Day something separate from democracy. It is democracy and public struggle of those that care that will help us. Whoever we become ancestors to will remember what we did now.”

The entire discussion can be viewed on YouTube via the U-M School for Environmental and Sustainability channel.



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Around 50 people attended the talk.



PAULA FARMER | THE WASHTENAW VOICE

The panel embraces after their discussion.



PAULA FARMER | THE WASHTENAW VOICE

Nayyirah Shariff moderates the panel discussion.

COLUMN

How ‘real’ is BeReal, really?



By Willow Symonds
Staff Writer

Most “anti-social-media” apps attempt to decrease addiction and mindless scrolling, but BeReal combats something else: posed pictures and fake narratives. But has it accomplished its goal, or has it only fed into social media’s lingering problems?

When I created a BeReal account last summer, the content on my feed surprised me. The posts resembled Snapchat streaks: bland and poorly shot, different from the typical Instagram post. Similar to Snapchat’s 24-hour expiration date, BeReal’s pictures disappear with the next scheduled post. Only the user can see their previous posts.

French app developers Alexis Barreyat and Kevin Perreau released BeReal in 2020, yet its popularity skyrocketed in mid-2022. I hadn’t even heard of it until July. I’m a Gen-Z student who cut down hours of screen time in the past year, so the idea of a low-stress, low-commitment social media app appealed to me.

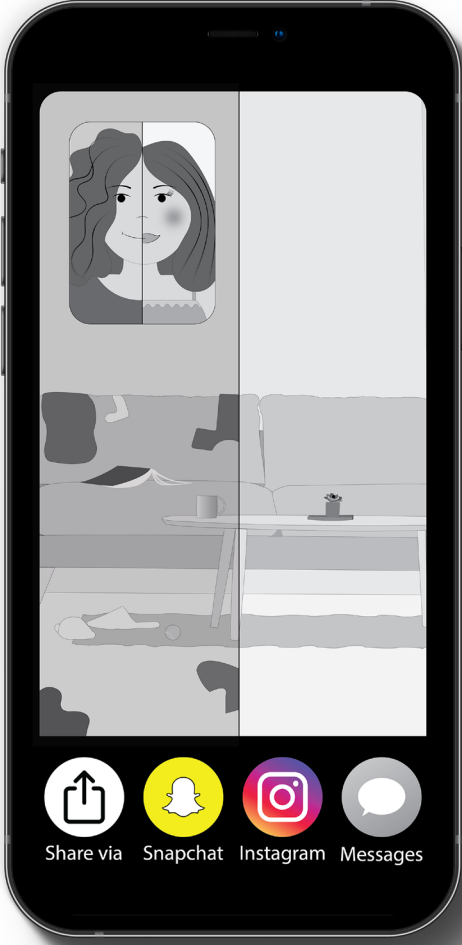
I’ve posted every day since downloading the app. According to my “2022 Stats,” however, I only posted 8% of my 154 BeReals that year in the two-minute time span. The designated time differs from day to day, meaning no one can purposefully set up an interesting shot while waiting for the timer (though many do wait long after the timer to post something interesting – I know I’ve done that before).

Most of the time when I post late, though, it’s because my “do not disturb” mode muted the notification. I never let my daily screen time reach over three hours, so I probably wasn’t on my phone, anyway.

Still, the app interrupts my thoughts throughout the day: “Uh oh, what if BeReal goes off right now? Should I have my phone out just in case? What if it goes off after I’ve already gone to sleep?”

If people feel they must stop what they’re doing to pull out their phone and take a

photo, then maybe we’re still living for social media, not for ourselves. Wouldn’t the realest thing be for the app to capture an image and post it **WITH-OUT** our knowledge?



LAURA CHODOROFF | THE WASHTENAW VOICE

But, understandably, no one would want that. We wouldn’t use an app that could expose us at not just our “realest,” but also at our rock-bottom worst. If everyone posted the moment the notification came through, then we would often see the view from

people’s pants pockets and surprise selfies of them on the toilet.

The mission for a 100% authentic social media platform may have been doomed from the start. It’s the same reason Instagram “photo dumps” can be just as artificial as regular posts, or why some people purposefully influence their Spotify Wrapped: the user curates a specific vibe they want their friends or followers to see, instead of existing online naturally.

‘Uh oh, what if BeReal goes off right now? Should I have my phone out just in case? What if it goes off after I’ve already gone to sleep?’

-Willow Symonds

Despite BeReal’s flaws, though, I do enjoy the app. It’s easy to navigate and I don’t spend hours scrolling through it. I probably wouldn’t have thought the same thing a few years ago, since this would have been another crushing weight on my phone’s screen time to worry about.

I just hope BeReal doesn’t add a “story” or “reel” feature like every social media platform these past few years.



BLISS BY HARRY BLISS

I SHOULD ~~PROBABLY~~ GET A RIDE HOME.

BUZZED DRIVING IS DRUNK DRIVING

What’s your biggest accomplishment this school year?

By Grace Crandall & Willow Symonds
Staff Writers

VOICE BOX

“My biggest accomplishment is that I got all As this semester. I watched a lot of Organic Chemistry Tutor.”

Kelly Theros, Health Science transfer



“I’m just taking a couple of classes. Being able to jump back into things and do well is an accomplishment.”

Stefon Ramando, Pharmacy



“I’ve lost a lot of weight this year. I think about five pounds. I did that by exercising more and watching what I eat.”

Ryan Wells, WTMC General Math and Science



“This semester, my biggest accomplishment was passing my classes, especially Anatomy & Physiology. That one was hard.”

Aiche Djibo, Nursing



“I coached middle school wrestling. We just got done with our season. It was a lot of work, but it was worth it.”

Justin Pronyk, Radiography



“Passing my classes. Chem, stat, bio... I’ve never studied that hard in my life.”

Anta Toure, Nursing



“Earning my bilingual certificate in Spanish. At my old school, I took an AP class and I got a five, so I later got my certificate in the mail, and I can now legally translate for people.”

Fernanda Gonzalez, undecided



COLUMN

Goodbye horseesss, I’m flyin’ over yoouuu



By RUBY GO
Editor

Of all the expectations I had for high school, I never thought it would have been like this.

The movies and T.V. shows made it look so fun and care-free. I thought I would make lots of new friends and party with them all the time and go to football games and school dances—not that I’ve ever been that outgoing or social, but I genuinely thought that somehow, someday, entering high school would flip a magic personality switch inside me and I’d become that fun, popular person I always wanted to be.

To no one’s surprise, that didn’t happen. As I near the end of my senior year, I’m still socially awkward. I made one real friend in ninth grade and lost touch with most of my

middle school friends. I never went to a football game. I never went to a school dance. Instead, I dealt with a pandemic.

Frankly, I don’t know what possessed 10th grade me to apply to work at the Voice. It was spring of 2021, and after a year’s worth of virtual isolation, I had never been more timid. I had gotten so used to doing everything from the comfort of my home, from my own precious little bubble where I could stay in my pajamas during class and keep my camera off and pretend I didn’t exist.

It scared me, but I knew I was going to have to pop that bubble eventually. Even though I was interested in journalism and had done well in a class, the thought of actually joining the student newspaper and becoming part of a team sounded crazy to me. But, I did it anyway, and it was one of the best decisions I’ve ever made.

Aside from all the lessons about journalism, being at the Voice has taught me to put myself out there (which, now that I think about it, is also applicable to journalism).

It’s made me more confident in myself and what I’m



ROBIN WYLLIE-SCHOLZ | THE WASHTENAW VOICE

Editor Ruby Go stands outside of The Voice newsroom. She will graduate this month.

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SC 109 OR via Zoom

capable of. I no longer worry so much about my social ineptitude, because my accomplishments speak for themselves.

In a statewide contest last year, I was named Student Journalist of the Year. Last summer, I was chosen to be an apprentice for the Detroit Free Press, where I had a story published. And recently, I received two awards for my photography, a new passion of mine.

Working at the Voice is probably the closest you can get to real world experience while you’re still in school. Before working here, “real world experience” used to scare me. “Real world experience” is what would pop the bubble I sheltered myself in. But now, I seek out that experience.

In fact, I’m so eager for it that I’ve decided not to attend a four-year university after I graduate. I’ve learned and grown more at the Voice than I have from most of my classes (emphasis on most), which is why I want to start working as soon as I can. I personally feel restricted by school, and I would rather look for a job than be protected by the walls of a classroom.

I also want to emphasize that the Voice is not just a place for aspiring writers. If you are interested in photog-

raphy, videography, graphic design, illustration, and/or web design and development, I strongly encourage you to check us out (you can get paid!). Come to our weekly Monday meetings at 5 p.m. in SC 109 or via Zoom.

I won’t be there anymore, so you’ll miss out on a lot. You’ll have to make do with the next editor, Grace Crandall. She’s OK, I guess.

how well do you know these girls?

Learn more about your **breast health** at **KnowYourGirls.org**

Save money and the enviroment with plants native to Michigan

BY JACOB KUIPER
Staff Writer

Summer is right around the corner and it's time to get your garden on! But before you go shoving any old bulb into the ground, take a second to consider some non-traditional alternatives to the typical garden flower: native plants.

Native plants are plants that have naturally grown in a particular region or environment for thousands of years and adapted to the local climate and soil conditions. Native plants play crucial roles in ecosystems, and many wildlife species depend on them for food and habitat.

Here are some benefits of incorporating native plants into your garden or outdoor space:

Better adapted to local conditions: Native plants are better adapted to the local climate, soil conditions, and pest and disease pressures. This



Wild red columbine blooms in spring and re-seeds easily.

BENEFITS OF NATIVE PLANTS

- Better adapted to local conditions
- More supportive of local biodiversity
- Lower maintenance
- Enhanced aesthetic value
- Lower environmental impact



GRACE FAVER | WASHTENAW VOICE

means they are more likely to thrive and require less maintenance than non-native plants.

More supportive of local biodiversity: Native plants provide food and shelter for native birds, butterflies, and other wildlife, helping to support the local ecosystem.

Lower maintenance: Native plants are often tough and resilient, requiring less care and watering than non-native plants. This can save time and

money on maintenance.

Enhanced aesthetic value: Native plants can be just as beautiful as non-native plants, and their unique features and growth habits add interest and character to the garden.

Lower environmental impact: By choosing native plants, you can minimize the environmental impact of your garden, as they are less likely to spread invasive species and disrupt natural habitats.

Consider incorporating native plants into your garden



Sky blue aster bloom in the late season.



JACOB KUIPER | WASHTENAW VOICE

Bigleaf aster blooms in the late season.

Shade-Shade
Soil Condition: Sandy, well-drained soils
Attracts: Birds, butterflies, hummingbirds

Bluestem Goldenrod
The arches of the purple-tinged stems support clusters of tiny, yellow flower heads that appear in the leaf axils, with a large finale of blooms at the top.
Size: Up to three feet
Bloom Time: August-October
Water Use: Medium
Light Requirement: Sun-Part Shade
Soil Condition: Versatile
Attracts: Birds, butterflies

Sky blue Aster
The long stalks support a stunning array of deep blue to lavender petals surrounding a vibrant yellow center.

Size: Up to five feet
Bloom Time: September-November
Water Use: Low
Light Requirement: Sun-Shade
Soil Condition: Mesic to dry, average soils
Attracts: Butterflies

Bigleaf Aster
This flower boasts oversized, heart-shaped leaves that occupy the base and cover the soil. The white or violet flowers of this native plant bloom in open clusters, creating a breathtaking scene across the garden.
Size: Up to three feet
Bloom Time: July-October
Water Use: Medium
Light Requirement: Sun-Shade
Soil Condition: Versatile
Attracts: Butterflies

Birds, butterflies, bees: New garden on campus a space for pollinators

BY GRACE CRANDALL
Staff Writer

Students and faculty came together to create WCC's new pollinator garden as a part of the Bee Campus USA program, April 18 and April 20. The plot, located outside the Crane Liberals Art and Sciences Building and the Gunder Myran Building, is part of this year's initiative towards making WCC a pollinator-friendly campus.

‘If everyone appreciates pollinators and does their small part- that might be as easy as not using pesticides in your home environment, or starting any type of pollinator garden—those are two things that any individual can do,’

- Sandy McCarthy



Students read an informational board at the new insect garden.

About 10 students from the Student For Sustainability (S4S) Club on campus came to assist in the planting of shrubs and flowers.

“It was freezing and windy, but the students enjoyed it,” said Sandy McCarthy, WCC librarian and one of the leaders of WCC's Bee Campus USA affiliate. “Now they can come back through here and say, ‘Hey, I planted that!’”

Pollinators include birds, butterflies, and, of course, bees. The plants grown in the new plot will be a food source to pollinators, thus completing one of the goals of Bee Campus USA.

Bee Campus USA was started by the Xerces Society, as part of an initiative to help college campuses sustain natural habitats for pollinators.

WCC has been a Bee Campus USA partner since 2019, becoming one of three in Michigan. As WCC's Bee Campus USA website explains, over one-third of the world's crops are dependent on bee pollination. Providing native plants as food for bees and other pollinators is vital to a healthy environment.

While many areas around campus feature flower beds that are pollinator-friendly, the new garden specifically has plants that will be food sources throughout the year. These include hibiscus, butterfly bushes, reed grass, and coneflowers. A tree was also planted as part of WCC's tree campus work.

Another focus of Bee

Campus USA is limiting the amount of pesticides used on campus. WCC follows an integrated pest management (IPM) plan, which states the order of pest control measures to be used. The use of chemicals should always be a last resort, according to the IPM plan.

WCC also offers work-



The garden includes butterfly bushes and other pollinator friendly plant life.

shops and classes that offer more insight on the role pollinators have in the environment. Past workshops have included learning the basics of beekeeping and bee-friendly gardening. Credit courses that feature the topic of pollinators include BIO 101 Concepts of Biology and ENV 101 Environmental Science I.

Other colleges like Eastern Michigan University have taken interest in WCC's sustainable work, said McCarthy. EMU environmental science students come to WCC every fall to explore the campus' native flowers and trees.

“We are a community college. We're small and we can still do these national initiatives most places don't have,” said McCarthy. “It's all about educating students. That is the bottom line with all of this. It's not just doing it, but having that educational piece.”

Looking forward, Bee Campus USA will promote “No Mow May,” a popular movement in which grass is not cut during the month of May, to allow flowers to grow as a food source for pollinators. As for other ways to support pollinators, McCarthy offers a few suggestions.



‘Now they can come back through here and say, ‘Hey, I planted that!’”

- Sandy McCarthy

“If everyone appreciates pollinators and does their small part- that might be as easy as not using pesticides in your home environment, or starting any type of pollinator garden—those are two things that any individual can do,” said McCarthy. “Hopefully that's what they learn from what we do on campus here—that you can do your part also as an individual.”



RUBY GO | WASHTENAW VOICE

Echinacea, also known as 'coneflowers' attract bees.



GRACE FAVER | WASHTENAW VOICE



DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
Then we arrive at the Kresge Foundation, a national philanthropic foundation headquartered in Troy.

FREELANCE WRITER AND EDITOR
Next, we take a turn at freelancing, during which time Judy worked for several publications across Michigan.

MANAGING EDITOR
Then we make a pit stop at the Herald-Star and The Daily Times of Steubenville, Ohio and Weirton, West Virginia.

WRITER AND EDITOR
Then we set up camp for 12 years at The Ann Arbor News, where Judy worked as the opinion page editor and columnist, until the paper closed in 2009.

ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR, STAFF WRITER
The trip starts off at the Olean Times Herald in New York, where Judy first worked.

MANAGING EDITOR
Next stop is The Coshocton Tribune in Ohio.

roadtrip to RETIREMENT

Judy McGovern, the much-beloved adviser of the Voice, is retiring. She’s been a fixture at the Voice for the last eight years, but what about before that? Here, we take a look back at her 40+ year career.

Compiled by: Ruby Go | Editor

events

IN THE COMMUNITY

ROLLING HILLS WATER PARK

Memorial Day Weekend-Labor day weekend Noon-7 p.m.

7660 Stony Creek Rd.

If you want to cool yourself off on a hot summer day, grab some friends and head over to Rolling Hills water park. Feel the excitement of the wave pool or enjoy the relaxation of the lazy river.

MATTHAEI BOTANICAL GARDENS

Tuesday-Sunday from 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

1899 N Dixboro Rd.

Visit the 300-acre garden with a variety of outdoor displays and nature trails for exploring. Admission is free. Visit mbgna.umich.edu for more information.

THE CREATURE CONSERVANCY

Saturday & Sunday from 1pm-5pm

4940 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd.

Check out the wild animal conservancy with over 80 species of mostly exotic animals, many of whom are rescued former pets. Tickets can be purchased at the door or at the conservancy's website at thecreatureconservancy.org.

FREE LIVE MUSIC

Every Friday starting in May until Labor Day at 7 p.m.

Kellogg Park

The Bank of Ann Arbor Music in the Air concert series is free.



CLUELESS ESCAPE ROOMS

Hours vary

5204 Jackson Rd. STE F

Challenge your wits and skills to find clues and solve puzzles. Players between 9-17 must be accompanied by an adult. Visit a2clue.com for more information.

LIBERTY FEST

June 15-17

Heritage Park

Canton Township's 30th annual Liberty Fest typically welcomes thousands of individuals each summer, who participate in Canton's largest community celebration over this three-day festival.

A2 ART AIRS

July 20-22 starting at 10 a.m.

Downtown Ann Arbor

This year's Ann Arbor Art Fair features nearly 1,000 artists and a footprint spanning 30 city blocks in downtown Ann Arbor.

VEGFEST

June 4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Detroit's Eastern Market

This year's spring VegFest will feature early 100 vendors will offer a variety of plant-based foods. Admission is free.



TIGERS GAME

Various dates and times

Comerica Park

Enjoy spending time at Comerica Park to see a Detroit Tigers game. A day at the ballpark is something the whole family can enjoy. Get on the ferris wheel, take a picture with Paws, or get lucky and catch a foul ball. Check mlb.com/tigers for date and time of games.

MOTOR CITY PRIDE

June 10 at 1 p.m. and June 11 at 12:30 p.m.

Hart Plaza

Take part in Michigan's largest pride festival. Each year, typically over 50,000 people attend the festival.

THE GOO GOO DOLLS CONCERT

August 19 at 7 p.m.

Michigan Lottery Amphitheatre

Fans of rock and alternative music can attend the Goo Goo Dolls concert. Tickets can be purchased at ticketmaster.com.

TOP OF THE PARK

June 9-25, hours vary

Ingalls Mall

Top of the Park offers free-admission concerts, "Movies by Moonlight, open-air street spectacles, culinary treats, and unique family attractions."



The Loop

NEWS FOR AND BY STUDENTS

Get Washtenaw Voice headlines in your inbox every week

Sign up for Washtenaw Voice's Newsletter, get a sticker and chance to win a shirt!



Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Jewish American Heritage Month, & Pride Mo

Diversify Your BOOKSHELF

By ROBIN WYLLIE-SCHOLZ & WILLOW SYMONDS
Deputy Editor & Staff Writer

How High We Go in the Dark by Sequoia Nagamatsu (2022)

Genre: Literary; Speculative Fiction

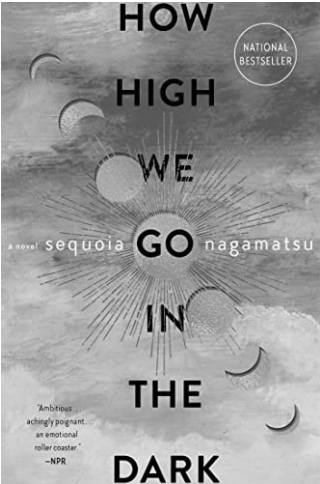
In 2030, a grieving archaeologist visits where his daughter died in the Siberian Arctic Circle, only to discover that the melting permafrost ties him and her research team to a deadly, ancient virus. Once exposed to the world, society in every aspect adjusts to death – theme parks designed for terminally ill children, funeral hotels on every street that hasn’t been abandoned, expeditions to far away planets all become the new normal. Yet humans continue pushing through the worst of times toward anything that resembles humanity.

Each chapter of “How High We Go in the Dark” focuses on a different character, all experiencing their own tragedies and small hopes. Whether set near-future America or centuries-from-now Japan, each story holds something special for readers while still creating one overall storyline.

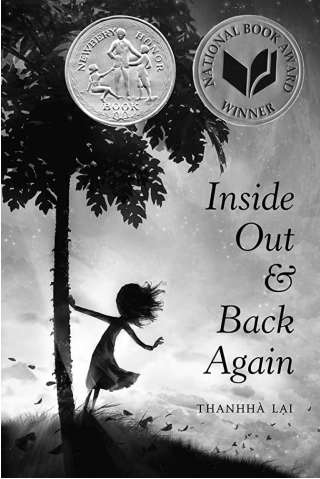
Inside Out & Back Again by Thanhha Lai (2011)

Genre: Middle Grade Historical Fiction

Ten-year-old Kim Hà enjoyed her life in Saigon, running through the markets with her friends and watching her own accidental papaya tree grow taller than her. Then the Vietnam War took those simple joys away from her. When she and her family escape for America, their ship becomes stranded at sea, the harsh winds and sun whittling them down over the weeks. Only when Hà’s hope almost dies do they reach the shore, but what’s waiting for them in the refugee camps and later in



How High We Go in the Dark by Sequoia Nagamatsu (2022)



Inside Out & Back Again by Thanhha Lai (2011)

Alabama is no less confusing than the war-town country they left behind.

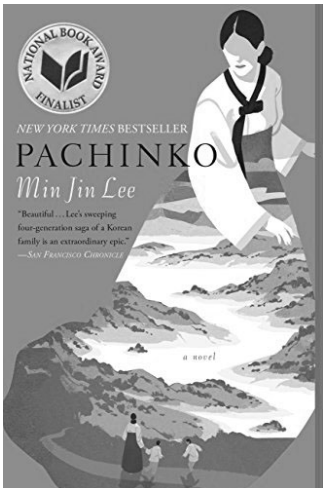
Thanhha Lai based “Inside Out & Back Again” from her own life, writing this National Book Award Winner and Newbery Honor Book in simple yet beautifully worded verse.

Pachinko by Min Jin Lee (2017)

Genre: Historical Fiction

Spanning almost 80 years and four generations, “Pachinko” is a sprawling epic of a Korean family in Japan struggling with discrimination, poverty and relationships. The backdrop of Japan’s annexation of Korea and both world wars is expertly woven together with

the everyday challenges of the book’s protagonists, creating a quietly powerful story about family and identity. The New York Times Bestseller was recently made into a TV show that is available on Apple TV.



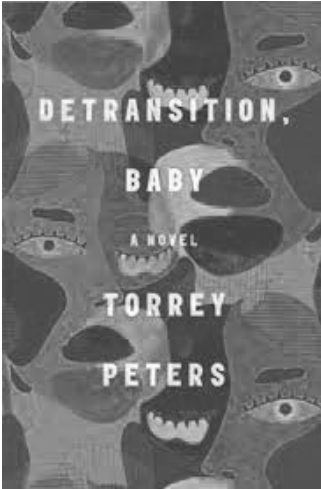
Pachinko by Min Jin Lee (2017)

The Girl from the Sea by Molly Knox Ostertag (2021)

Genre: Young Adult Graphic Novel; LGBTQ+ Romance

Morgan Kwon has kept secrets all 15 years of her life. When she spends a night on her island hometown’s cliffside, she finds herself sinking to the ocean’s bottom, reflecting on her isolation. Then, as if in a dream, a girl she vaguely recognizes saves her from drowning. She soon discovers this mysterious girl is Keltie, and she’s less human than she appears. While the two grow closer, Morgan’s friend group and community strain what Keltie holds dear – and forces Morgan to make a decision she never expected.

“The Girl from the Sea” tells a story of first love in vibrantly colored comic panels, featuring characters that feel both larger than life and like real people readers know all too well.

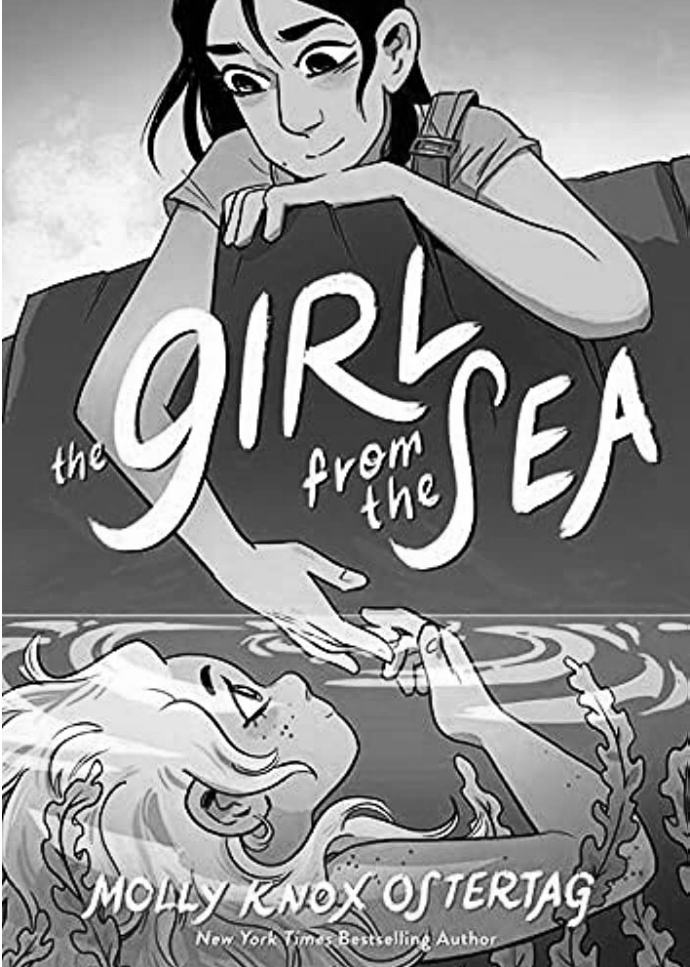


Detransition, Baby by Torrey Peters (2021)

Detransition, Baby by Torrey Peters (2021)

Genre: Literary Fiction

Reese has always wanted to be a mother. As a transgender woman in her 30s trapped in a cycle of self-destructive habits, she thinks that the



The Girl from the Sea by Molly Knox Ostertag (2021)

Diversify Your Bookshelf introduces readers to books written from marginalized perspectives, including racial minorities, LGBTQ+ people, disabled individuals, and more. This article features books for Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month (May), Jewish American Heritage Month (also May), and LGBTQ+ Pride Month (June), but anyone can read them at any time of year.

closest thing she’ll get is being a mentor to the younger trans girls in her circle. That changes when her ex Ames, who lived as a trans woman while they were together but has since detransitioned, tells Reece that he got his boss pregnant and wants her to help raise the baby. At once bitingly witty and introspective, “Detransition, Baby” tackles the question of what it means to be a mother with impressive dexterity and care.

The Prison Minyan by Jonathan Stone (2021)

Genre: Crime, Humor

Life at Otisville, America’s only predominantly Jewish prison, isn’t so bad. The white-collar criminals serving their sentences there might even like it better than their real lives. A group of prisoners even form a minyan, a Talmudic study/prayer group, led by their fellow inmate who is a rabbi. Their routine is shaken up when a new inmate joins their group – a celebrity lawyer to an unnamed but familiar conservative president. With his arrival comes a new malevolent warden and a dangerous conspiracy. The minyan must band together to combat this new threat to their existence, aided by a lesbian poetry professor. “The Prison Minyan” is meticulously, probingly funny while also dealing with heavy topics like antisemitism, white supremacy and people’s ability to change.



The Prison Minyan by Jonathan Stone (2021)

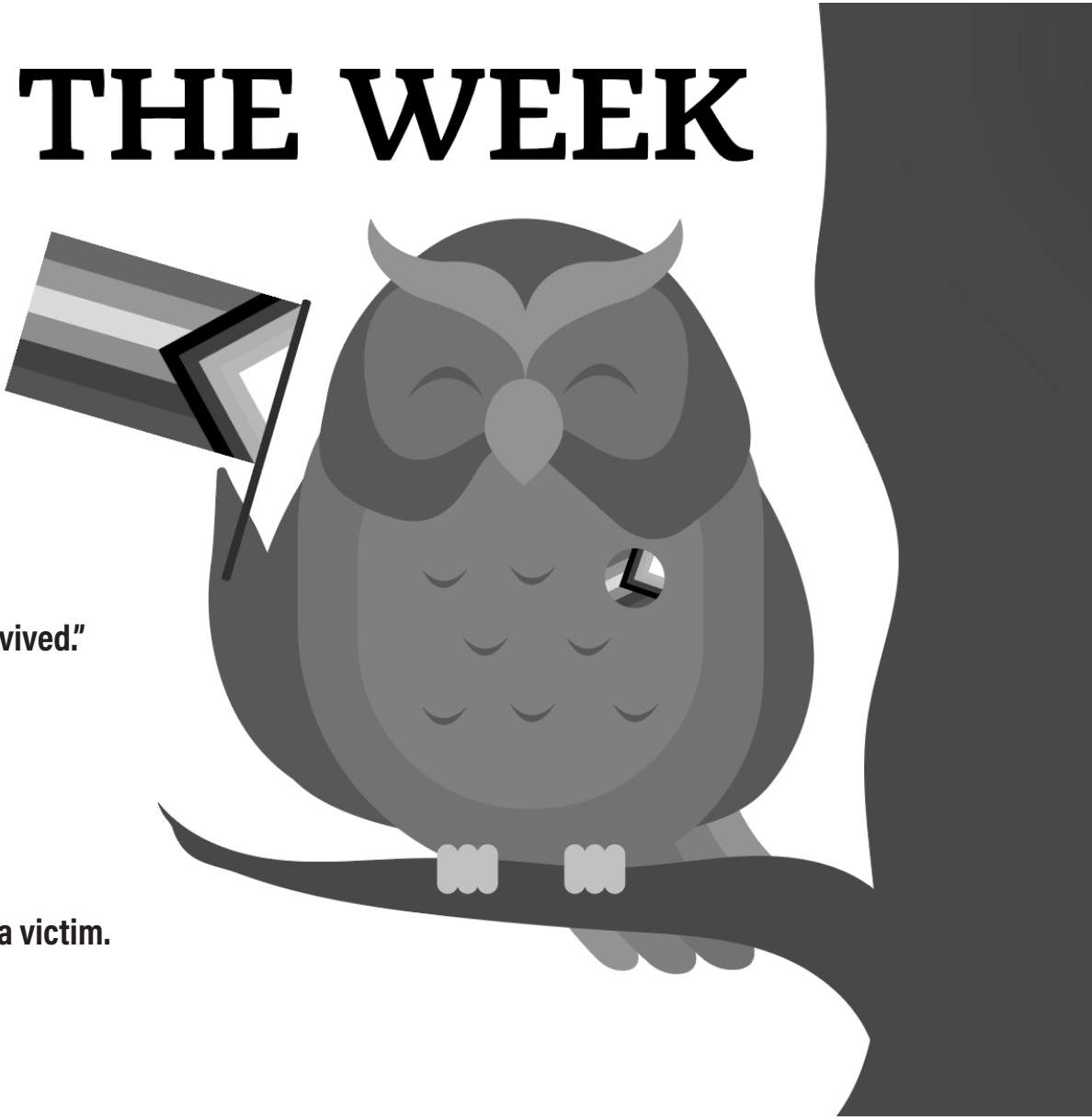
WISDOM OF THE WEEK

PRIDE MONTH EDITION

“Openness may not completely disarm prejudice, but it’s a good place to start.”
- Jason Collins, former NBA player

“We are powerful because we have survived.”
- Audre Lorde, poet and activist

“Never be bullied into silence. Never allow yourself to be made a victim. Accept no one’s definition of your life. Define yourself.”
- Harvey Fierstein, actor



Our Time With Judy...

Melanie Chapman

Year(s) at The Voice: 2022

Position: Staff Writer

How has Judy impacted your education, career, or life?

You have made me more confident as a writer; you always gave the best feedback. I'm also glad you gave me a chance to write for The Voice because it allowed me to grow as a writer.

Emily Landau

Year(s) at The Voice: 2020-22

Position: Digital editor

How has Judy impacted your education, career, or life?

I went from not working in newspapers, to working in newspapers! I'm now an editor and digital manager for the Ann Arbor Observer. I definitely wasn't expecting my career to go in that direction when I applied for the Voice, basically on a whim.

Jessica Pace

Year(s) at The Voice: 2020-21

Position: Graphic designer

How has Judy impacted your education, career, or life?

The way you were able to pilot us through the strange year of digital-only publication during COVID was truly remarkable! I always admired the way you kept the team moving while still encouraging ethics-driven autonomy in our work.

Dorothy Gacioch

Year(s) at The Voice: 2016-18

Position: Graphic designer; editorial team leader

What was your favorite memory while working with Judy?

The first production Friday I ever had. It was brand new to me, and a complete whirlwind of a day. We were all so nervous we wouldn't make deadline, and when we did and sent our first paper to the printer, it was the BEST feeling.

Nicholas Ketchum

Year(s) at The Voice: 2018-20

Position: Staff writer, deputy editor

What piece of advice or lesson from Judy has stuck with you?

Journalist ethics—don't print iffy content if no good can come of it. Another is to hold firm as a journalist following truth and not to bend/bias narratives to appease outside interests being covered in our publication.

Willow Symonds

Year(s) at The Voice: 2021-23

Position: Staff writer

How has Judy impacted your education, career, or life?

You're the person who got me into journalism! I appreciate how well you critique our work, as it's improved my reporting and writing so much these last few semesters

Paula Farmer

Year(s) at The Voice: 2022-23

Position: Photo editor

Is there anything else you would like to say to Judy?

Thank you for helping me believe in myself and helping me further my career! I will miss you so much! Don't forget about us.

Ruby Go

Year(s) at The Voice: 2021-23

Position: Staff writer, contributor, editor

What piece of advice or lesson from Judy has stuck with you?

To take ownership of my role. I've often had trouble being assertive, but as the editor, that's a pretty important part of the job. It's taken time, but with Judy's help, I do feel more comfortable taking ownership of my role.

Natalie Jarvie

Year(s) at The Voice: 2016-18

Position: Graphic designer

What piece of advice or lesson from Judy has stuck with you?

She showed a lot of us how to work as a team and get along with each other while working with deadlines. And also that mistakes happen and we can improve with the next issue of the paper.

Chanel Stitt

Year(s) at The Voice: 2016-17

Position: Staff writer

How has Judy impacted your education, career, or life?

Judy was always proud of us every time we had a good idea, we wrote a good story, or we won an award. I have shared many of those proud moments with her!

Grace Crandall

Year(s) at The Voice: 2023

Position: Staff writer

Is there anything else you would like to say to Judy?

Judy, thank you for being so welcoming and always ready to help during my first semester with the Voice. I have learned a lot from your experience in this short time, and am grateful for your enthusiasm for journalism!

RJ Hunt

Year(s) at The Voice: 2021-22

Position: Editor

What was your favorite memory while working with Judy?

My favorite memory has to be how I begged you all semester to get us Chick Fil-A for lunch. Of course, you being the kind person you are, you bought us some. It just happened to be my luck the day you did, a bee flew by me. As I tried to get it out of the way, my poor sandwich fell on the concrete floor... That led to many jokes in the newsroom.

Jordan Scenna

Year(s) at The Voice: 2022-23

Position: Deputy editor

What was your favorite memory while working with Judy?

Jesus, you swear a lot. Remember when we met for coffee at the old Ugly Mug coffee house on Cross street in Ypsilanti. You said you wanted a chat after you heard I wasn't planning on attending university after WCC. At school you're very professional... I must admit I was nervous to sit down with you, but I'm so happy I did. I got a little glimpse of the real you, or, another aspect of you; and that aspect really likes to swear.

Shelby Beaty

Year(s) at The Voice: 2021-22

Position: Photo editor

Is there anything else you would like to say to Judy?

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to show my skills and believing in me when sometimes I thought I couldn't do it, or my photos weren't good enough. You gave me reassurance in that I am good enough to do anything with my work.

Robin Wyllie-Scholz

Year(s) at The Voice: 2022-23

Position: Video/multimedia reporter, deputy editor

What piece of advice or lesson from Judy has stuck with you?

Communicate with your team early and often-- planning is your friend. Also, don't forget the hyphen in three-cheese.

Lilly Kujawski

Year(s) at The Voice: 2018-20

Position: Editor

Is there anything else you would like to say to Judy?

Thank you, Judy, for being one of the most influential mentors in my life... I am grateful for the opportunity I had to learn from you. You helped me transform from a "person who writes" to a "writer." Congratulations on this new chapter in your life, and I hope you will always remember the difference you made in all of our lives.

Hyoung-in Oh (Danny)

Year(s) at The Voice: 2022

Position: Staff writer

How has Judy impacted your education, career, or life?

I was going through a particularly difficult period of my life and even though I was not fulfilling the quota required of a staff writer, I felt that you were always supportive and empathetic of my situation.

Asia Rahman

Year(s) at The Voice: 2018-19

Position: Graphic designer

Is there anything else you would like to say to Judy?

Thank you for being my mentor and a friend.

