

Making Our Way



A McMAHON / CHEYNE PODCAST

#81 • Season 3 • Episode 20

1/28/2026

"A pause"

Our Hosts

Janet Cheyne McMahon is a lover of family, dogs, nature, travel, books, and music. Born south of the Mason-Dixon line, she left after 9 months for parts north, landing eventually in Michigan, which will always be “where I’m from.”

Love of learning led Jan to a Bachelor of Arts (History, Political Science) at the University of Michigan-Dearborn (Go Blue), and a Master of Arts (Library and Information Science) at the University of South Florida. Amid all that, studied for a time with Rob at Colorado State University, a pivotal time in their lives.

Worked at the U of M-Dearborn Library, and then The Salvation Army Florida Divisional Headquarters, with the greatest reward being in serving as the Divisional Librarian. A librarian is who Jan is “in my soul.”

Jan and Rob have made our home in Florida since 1983, and live now in retirement with their dog, Skye, who makes it all the best adventure. They travel as much as possible, spending time in nature and in diverse places on this amazing planet. It has all been, and continues to be a fascinating journey, with hope of making a difference, in small ways, by being brave enough to speak and act on behalf of others.

Rob McMahon is a native Michigander, born in Saginaw and raised in the suburbs of Detroit. Rob attended Michigan State University, graduating in 1978 with a Bachelor of Science degree. He did graduate studies at the University of Michigan and the University of South Florida. Rob is retired, having spent 36 years in public education teaching both high school chemistry and biology and middle school science. He worked as a total quality management trainer for the Pinellas County School District and served four years as the president of the Pinellas Classroom Teachers Association. Rob cofounded a non-profit total quality management training center, The Learning Co-op, for Teacher Unions interested in applying the W. Edwards Deming continuous improvement principles to their day-to-day operations. He worked with teacher unions in Colorado, Maryland, New Mexico, North Dakota, Texas and Michigan. He also worked in a similar capacity with Jim Shipley & Associates. In retirement Rob has written a series of science related children’s books, and enjoys traveling with his wife, Jan, and their Black Labrador Retriever, Skye.

Deanna Cheyne, born in St. John’s, Newfoundland, earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Vocal Performance from the University of Toronto (1996), studying with such luminaries as Elmer Eisler, Doreen Rao, Greta Kraus, Lois Marshall, and Rosemarie Landry.

Dee taught music at Mississauga Christian Academy, served as music director for Meadowvale Bible Baptist Church (Mississauga, Ontario), served as Assistant Divisional Music Director for The Salvation Army in Florida, is a former member of Tampa’s Master Chorale, and, for the past 18 years, has been a public school teacher.

Dee has visit 36 of the 50 U.S. states, and 12 countries. Her favorite destinations include France, Prague, New Orleans, National Parks, & Hawaii.

Dee & Jim live in Florida with Brigus (Golden Retriever) and Pip (Teacup Yorkie).

James Cheyne, born in Galesburg, Illinois, earned a Bachelor of Music degree (Theory and Composition) from Michigan State University (1978); and a Master of Music degree (Theory and Composition) from the University of Illinois Urbana/Champaign (1981), studying with David Liptak, Salvatore Martirano, and Ben Johnston.

Jim has served as music director for The Salvation Army in Central Illinois & Eastern Iowa, Orlando Area Command, and the Florida Division, served as a pastor with The Salvation Army, and was a public school teacher for 17 years.

In travel so far, Jim has visited 50 states and 27 countries. His favorite travel destinations include National Parks, New Orleans, Newfoundland, Argentina, Prague, & France.

Jim continues to write music and support Dee’s musical endeavors, and cooks whenever absolutely necessary. Jim & Dee live in Florida with their dogs Brigus & Pip.



L-R: Brigus, Jim, Deanna, Skye, Jan, Rob.
Inset: Pip

"A pause"

#81 - Season 3; Episode 20

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Host: Jim

| The crew places a pause in their series on Central Europe in light of events in Minneapolis. Jim offers a few thoughts.

JIM: Due to recent events in Minneapolis, we at Making Our Way feel this is not the best moment for light-hearted discussions about vacations in Central Europe, such as those we've enjoyed in our three latest episodes. So, we are pausing for a moment as we collect ourselves and tend to our grief.

Jan, Rob, and Dee are unavailable for comments just now, but each has expressed confidence that I will not overstep our common purposes with this podcast. So, to be clear, in this brief statement I am speaking for myself.

Renée Nicole Good, Alex Pretti. For my part, I cannot reconcile the video evidence I've seen of their deaths with what certain federal officials are requiring us to believe about what happened. President Trump initially claimed that Renée Good ran over an ICE agent, which, as video evidence shows, is untrue. The president, not known for apologies or retractions, modified his statement to this, and I'm quoting, "At the very minimum," he said, "that woman was very, very disrespectful to law enforcement," close quote, which, as video evidence shows, is also untrue. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Nome said that Alex Pretti, quote, "committed an act of domestic terrorism." Border Patrol commander Gregory Bovino said Alex wanted to, quote, "massacre law enforcement." White House aide Stephen Miller called Alex a, quote, "would-be assassin."

I am referring to the victims by name, something that Trump, Nome, Bovino, and Miller did not do. They somehow claimed knowledge of the victims' motives, yet they didn't know their names, or for some reason would not speak them. To Nome, Bovino, and Miller, Alex Pretti was an anonymous individual. To President Trump, Renée Nicole Good was merely "that woman."

As I record this, it is Tuesday morning, January 27th, and the Associated Press is reporting that Border Patrol commander Gregory Bovino is expected to leave Minneapolis as the administration scales back the federal presence there. A sacrificial lamb, perhaps? And will there be others? Kristi Nome and Stephen Miller are names that come to mind. I know at least that Karoline Leavitt will perform the verbal gymnastics necessary to keep President Trump above the fray. Listen closely for the next names we hear.

This podcast belongs to the four of us, and these events require that all of us be at this microphone. Jan, Rob, and Skye are wending their way back home from some much-needed vacation time out west. This evening, Dee, Brigus, Pip, and I will sit by our fireplace against this latest Florida chill.

Then we all return next week with Lillian and Larry to conclude their adventures along the beautiful blue Danube, after which we will continue Making Our Way.

Please take good care of each other.

Until next time.