



**We build Pride on the Southside**

# NOKOMIS EDITION

SECOND MONDAY OF THE MONTH

**March 2020**

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## Trophy hunting



BY TONY BOUZA

*[Editor's note: I disagree with the argument and the conclusion of Tony Bouza's analysis. My rebuttal follows.]*

The first thing that must be said is that racism is America's #1 problem. Period.

The murder of Tyesha Edwards, 11, in 2002, is an unspeakable, unbearable tragedy.

Myon Burrell, now 33, was convicted of murder twice—once by County Attorney Amy Klobuchar and then by her successor.

Klobuchar was the best prosecutor of the 40 years I've been observing them—tough, hard-working, fair and no racist.

Mr. Burrell stubbornly insists he is innocent. An innocent he ain't—gang member and utterly silent on his life or any role he may have played in the tragedy. Emmet Till this ain't.

I don't see any new evidence beyond protestations of innocence—not exactly a novel approach.

Black leaders have called on Klobuchar to suspend her campaign.

This is the kind of trophy hunting by which the Al Sharptons catapult

**See Bouza, page 10**



Where once the Bergan's Supervalu stood, serving the community, steam shovels now begin the process of building a 125-unit apartment building above a new Lunds/Byerlys grocery store. The apartment complex is expected to be completed in 2021. Apartments will range from 447 to 1114 square feet, renting from \$1,200 to \$2,375 per month. Photo by Stephanie Fox

## Will the Park Board sink the Bergan's apartment bulding?

BY ED FELIEN

I asked City Council Member Andrew Johnson on Dec. 27, 2019, whether the Park Board's plans to reduce pumping water from the Hiawatha Golf Course would compromise the footings for the Bergan's Supervalu construction project. The 2017 analysis by the Park Board ([https://www.minneapolisiparks.org/\\_asset/0rc7ml/February-2017-Stormwater-Surface-Water-and-Groundwater-Analysis-Summary.pdf](https://www.minneapolisiparks.org/_asset/0rc7ml/February-2017-Stormwater-Surface-Water-and-Groundwater-Analysis-Summary.pdf)) provides no clue. Figure 22 on page 51 shows a significant wetland area less than 200 feet from the proposed development. One would think this would have been a matter of concern for the city engineer. It is possible that reduced pumping could increase groundwater and compromise footings under a five-story building.

Since 1979, the average

water level in Lake Hiawatha went from 810.3 to 812.7, according to Table 5 Lake Hiawatha Water Elevation Summary, p 22: "The replacement of the dam at Lake Minnetonka in 1979 has modified the flow regime in the creek, resulting in more constant flows throughout the year when historically flows would stop in Minnehaha Creek during dry periods. Additionally, there are periods of sustained high flows (~250-300 cfs) [approximately 250 – 300 cubic feet per second] along Minnehaha Creek when Lake Minnetonka is being drawn down in the fall that can result in elevated water levels in Lake Hiawatha."

The Gray's Bay dam has increased the average water level of Lake Hiawatha by 2.4 feet. If we are genuinely concerned about reducing pumping, then why haven't the city and the Park Board questioned the priorities of

the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District that place a higher value on consistent docking facilities for weekend yachtsmen than on the flooded basements in South Minneapolis?

On page 47 the analysis tries to solve the riddle of why Lake Hiawatha flow seems so sluggish: "The calibrated River cell conductance values suggest that Lake Hiawatha has a weaker hydraulic connection to the unconsolidated aquifer than does Minnehaha Creek. It is physically plausible that fine-grained, low-conductivity sediments from Minnehaha Creek and storm sewers have accumulated on the bed of Lake Hiawatha over the years. Such sediments would add resistance to flow between the lake and the aquifer."

In plain English, the problem is that when Theodore Wirth dredged the lake in 1929 the maximum depth

**See Bergan's, page 10**

## City Council threatens neighborhood associations

BY STEPHANIE FOX

In May of last year, the City Council of Minneapolis announced that there would be new guidelines for funding neighborhood associations. The old guidelines, deciding how much funding a specific neighborhood association would receive, were based on neighborhood size, racial mix and livability, determined by crime statistics and foreclosure rates.

The new plan would upend those guidelines. With a new system, developed by the Minneapolis Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) Department and the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA), neighborhoods would not qualify for any meaningful funding from the city unless their main focus was racial equity.

This would mean redirecting the more than \$4 million away from local neighborhood associations, leaving base funding for many to fall from \$75,000 to only \$5,000 to \$10,000, essentially forcing many to close their doors.

Active neighborhood organizations, such as the Standish Ericsson Neighborhood Association (SENA), could be one of them.

"I want to make something very clear," said Candace Miller Lopez, the group's executive director. "SENA is in total agreement with the city's desire to address the significant disparities in housing, education and employment in Minneapolis. Where we disagree is their contention that this is an either/or proposition. We believe there is a real missed opportunity here to elevate the work of the neighborhood associations and use the strength of the 70-strong network to move the city toward these goals."

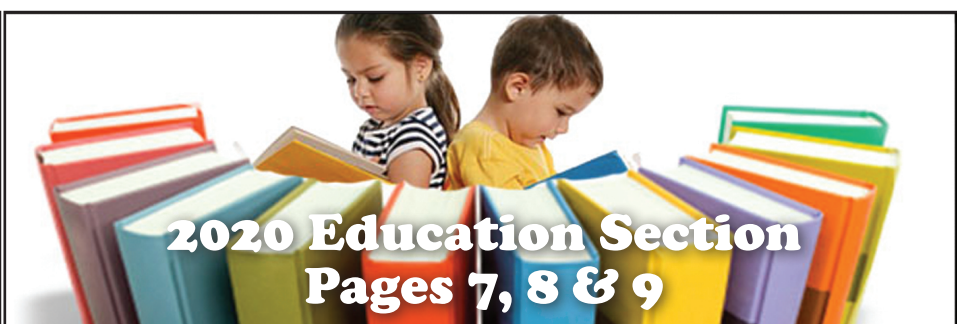
Neighborhood associations in Minneapolis started in earnest in the early 1990s, when Minneapolis was being called "Murderopolis" by the national press. The violent crime rate was high and frightened people were leaving the city for safer suburbs. In order to get the middle class to stay, then-Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton promoted the Minneapolis Neighborhood and Community Relations Department. The plan worked. Crime went down and people again began to buy homes and stay in the city. But there were unintended consequences.

Most homeowners were white and although much of the funding was distributed to lower-income areas, the programs did not help many minorities become homeowners. The repercussions continue today. The current inequity is one of the worst in the country, with

**See Neighborhoods, page 13**



**2020 Summer Camp Section  
Pages 2-3**



**2020 Education Section  
Pages 7, 8 & 9**





# Minnesota bursts with wide array of summer camps

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

In Summer Camp world as well as in School Year world, STEM, the acronym for all technical things (Science-Technology-Engineering-Mathematics) has been merged with the arts to become STEAM. Although I haven't found anything labeled as a STEAM camp, there is hardly an arts camp that doesn't include a hefty amount of technology, and hardly a STEM program that doesn't emphasize creativity and "making." And all of this stuff—from welding metal sculptures to digital imagery to building robots—is the big buzz in summer camps right now, as we reach the culmination of

fast-growing organizations dedicated to bringing out the cyberneticist and inventor in the youth of today. So, just to be contrary, we're going to start with sports camps. Swimming and other water-based activities are always popular. The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) provides a variety of options year-round in the case of the Phillips Aquatic Center, the park system's only indoor pool, which just happens to be in our own neighborhood. Parent & Tot, Levels 1 through 4 for kids, a Jr. Swim Club, Adult Beginner Classes, and Lifeguard Clinic are all offered. Fee assistance is offered, and for youths 15 and up, a full refund of the Lifeguard

Clinic fee is on offer if you sign up to be a lifeguard on completion. Outdoor swimming is offered at North Commons Park, Lake Nokomis and Bde Maka Ska among other locales. Sailing lessons can be taken at Lake Harriet. The MPRB website is rather convoluted and not easy to use; try phoning the Aquatic Center at 612-370-4859 or email [aquatics@minneapolis-parks.org](mailto:aquatics@minneapolis-parks.org). Or just drop in: the Phillips Aquatic Center is open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, with shorter weekend hours.

For kids ages 6 to 18, Whittier Park offers a week-long basketball camp, Aug. 10 through 15. You can register on the website [activekids.com](http://activekids.com) (which has a lot of other summer camps too). Twins Baseball Camp is a high-priced but high-class alternative for your kid if they're into that. In addition to instruction from actual team coaches, the camp offers "30 hours of terrific instruction, four complimentary Twins game tickets, a V.I.P. day at the ballpark, meeting a current Twins player, a full Twins uniform, and the unforgettable friendships and memories." Start at [mlb.com/twins](http://mlb.com/twins), then go to "Community," then "Training Camps." The Twin Cities has a metrowide program called Revolutionary Sports that began in 2001 as a Minneapolis Park-based soccer class, and now spans multiple



Leonardo's Basement

locations and cities with over 100 coaches in all major sports. You can access their summer camps at [pla-it.com/camp](http://pla-it.com/camp). There are also lots of less mainstream recreational choices available through the Minneapolis Parks, such as a three-day skateboard camp at Armatage Park, an archery program at MLK Park, and "Angelina Ballerina" at Northeast Park. Moving on from sports, there are other "academic" areas besides STEAM that camps can be themed to. A big one nowadays is language im-

mersion camp, which is like language immersion school but compressed into a summer camp. The International Spanish Language Academy (ISLA) in Minnetonka offers three-day camps for grades 1 through 5 in areas such as eco-adventures and, yes, STEAM, plus one camp on animals for kids entering kindergarten —Animalisimo. Check out the ISLA website [isla.school](http://isla.school). Concordia Language Villages in Bemidji offer the intensity of 24-hour language immersion with the fun of overnight camping far from the cities—and in 14 different languages (one at a time though!) from Arabic to Swedish. Download a schedule with rates and registration info at [concordialanguagevillages.org](http://concordialanguagevillages.org). Another interesting possibility is Law Camp. Hamline University offers summer camps in a variety of subjects including Mock Trial Camp: "This weeklong day or overnight camp is for

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**2020 Summer SOCCER CAMPS**

Minneapolis United Soccer Camps are designed for both Recreational & Competitive Players. All instruction will be provided by MU's professional coaching staff.

**Boys & Girls ages 5 to 16**

**Ball Masters Rec Camps** ages 5 to 13  
June 15-19 // June 22-26 // July 6-10  
Designed for rec players with a focus on basic ball skills (dribbling, passing, shooting). Fundamentals with FUN in mind!

**Elite Camps** 8U to 13U  
June 15-19 // June 22-26  
Designed for competitive players with a focus on the technical & tactical awareness needed for play at an elite level.

**Goalkeeper Training Camps** 10U to 15U  
June 15-19 // June 22-26 // July 6-9\* // July 20-24  
Goalkeepers will learn technical skills with tactical, physical, and mental training. It will include playing in the goal in game-like situations, under the guidance of a goalkeeper coach, coaching the player from in the goal and not from the sideline.

**Tryout Prep Camps** 8U to 15U  
July 6-9: 7U to 10U // July 20-24: 11U to 15U  
Players will be put through exercise/drills similar to tryout format activities (1 vs. 1, 4 vs. 4, and 7 vs. 7).

**ALL CAMPS:**  
Monday to Friday  
9:00am - 12:00pm  
Camps held at Pearl Park & Parade Park

**For more details & to register: [www.minneapolisunited.org/camps](http://www.minneapolisunited.org/camps)**

**camps start at \$140**





# Summer Camp!



students of all skill levels, ages 14–18, to learn from collegiate mockers, attorneys, judges and more, about teamwork, critical thinking, and presentation skills.” Hamline also offers a Young Writers Workshop camp. Check them out at hamline.edu.

Now for the STEAM camps. The two biggest offerings in terms of high-profile and depth are iD Tech/Alexa Cafe at Macalester and Leonardo’s Basement in the Windom neighborhood. First iD Tech. This is a nationwide STEM camping organization based in California, founded in 1999 by Alexa Ingram-Cauchy and her mother, Kathryn Ingram, now run by Alexa and her brother Pete. iD Tech teams up with technical institutes and universities to provide an ever-grow-

Leonardo’s Basement could not be more different from iD Tech if it tried (and I suspect it may be trying). Where iD Tech boasts expensive tools, instructors from Fortune 500 companies and looking good on your resume, Leonardo’s Basement is clearly building for more of an anarcho-utopian future and has a punk, home-grown, homemade esthetic, rather like the Barebones Dumpster Duels. Their focus is on “making” pure and simple. Although they do have 3D printers and welding equipment and CAD software, they also have crazy stuff like IRL video games, paint pendulums, catapult contests, and a chance to make playable games or design fantasy worlds. Go to [leonardosbasement.org/summer-schedule/](http://leonardosbasement.org/summer-schedule/) to download the

chance to either sample or, if they’re already enrolled, enrich. They offer three types of summer camp options: performance week-long camps, daily sampler camps, and teen high-flying adventure camps. All options provide experience of all genres of the circus arts: aerial, acrobatics, balance, juggling and theater.

Another serious art experience is Clay Camp at the Northern Clay Center in the Seward neighborhood. NCC offers week-long camps for kids 6 to 18 divided into three age cohorts. Classes center on a type of project—animals, pinch pots, goofy mugs, etc. Start your search at [northernclaycenter.org](http://northernclaycenter.org).

Most of the arts organizations in town offer summer camps—the Guthrie, MIA, MacPhail Center, Children’s Theater and more. Minneapolis College of Art and Design, MCAD, has some very intriguing offerings for ages 6 to 18. Besides basics like painting, drawing and sculpture, there are modules on book arts, soft sculpture, comic books, “school of rock” (music), stop-motion filmmaking, and drawing raptors from life.

Finally, here are a few unclassifiable camps. There are two ways of offering a little bit of everything at a day camp. One way is the approach of Minnehaha Academy’s Camp Minnehaha, which has a plethora of short modules from which campers can pick and choose. Some interesting offerings include action figures, journaling, a festival of China, and a girls-only spa. The other way is that taken by the University of MN’s Gopher Adventures, where each day of camp has a bit of art, a bit of environmental learning, a bit of vigorous play and a bit of quieter activity. (Check out <http://recwell.umn.edu/youth-programs/gopher-adventures>.) The Animal Humane Society offers a day camp for kids who love animals. A 5-day, animal-themed day camp for kids entering grades 3 through 10, each camp includes animal-related educational activities, games, crafts, guest speakers and more. Then there’s the Way Cool Cooking School in Eden Prairie which has classes such as Food Show Favorites, Oodles of Noodles, and Cupcake Wars. And if you want your child to experience the real deal—overnight camping with a focus



## Circus Juventas

on hiking, wilderness and water, here are a couple of options to consider. First, Camp Tanadoona, a 103-acre adventure camp located in St. Louis Park that teaches leadership development for ages 5-18. Tanadoona is a program of Camp Fire, Inc. And then last but definitely not least, there is Star Lake Wilderness Camp in Pequot

Lakes. This is a true old-school, coed wilderness camp. The August camp is a United Methodist camp, led by Methodist pastors, while the June-July camps are secular, but all offer a rich wilderness-based experience and they don’t turn anyone away for inability to pay the full fee.



## Twins Baseball Camp

ing array of camp experiences for kids ages 7 to 17. Alexa Cafe is a girls-only branch of iD Tech with a mission to boost participation of women in STEM careers. (There are 150 iD Tech locations, but only 15 Alexa Cafe locations, so we’re kind of lucky to have one here!) The tracks offered at Macalester are Coding, Game Development, Robotics and “Creative” (Graphic Design-Digital Media.)

amazing summer schedule.

In the more pure world of arts and culture and entertainment, let’s remember that the Twin Cities is also blessed with a world-renowned circus school. Circus Juventas is a summer program that’s still going strong after 25 years. Located in Saint Paul, this school for ages 6 to 18 offers an intensive year-long circus course, but summer camps give students a

## Build engineering, art, and technology projects. Ages 6-17. All year.

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# • COMMUNITY CALENDAR •

## Southside Pride / NOKOMIS EDITION

**World Premiere of "Spamtown, USA"** **T**  
Now through April 5  
Children's Theatre Company  
2400 3rd Ave. S., Mpls.  
Children's Theatre Company (CTC) is proud to announce the world premiere production of "Spamtown, USA," running Feb. 16 through April 5, written by Philip Dawkins and directed by Will Davis. The playwright met with and interviewed 25 people who were children in the city of Austin, Minn., during the P-9 Strike against Hormel in the 1980s to gather their stories and perspectives. The play explores how pivotal events that occurred during the strike affected relationships inside and between three families. While five kids dream of space camp, tennis teams, and out-of-state college, they find their families and community suddenly divided by picket lines and opposing agendas. This is the story of having the strength to stand up for what you believe in, the challenge that comes in disagreeing with those you love, and the humor that helps keep friendships alive. The show is recommended for everyone ages 9 and up. Ticket prices range from \$15 through \$71 (subject to change) with ACT Pass tickets for \$5. For more information, visit us online at [www.childrenstheatre.org](http://www.childrenstheatre.org) or call the ticket office at 612-874-0400.

**March at Bryant-Lake Bowl**  
Bryant-Lake Bowl  
Cabaret Theater **T**  
810 W. Lake St., Mpls.  
The Theater of Public Policy

**Mondays, March 9 and 23**  
**April 6 and 20**  
**May 4 and 18**  
**7 p.m. (doors at 6 p.m.)**  
Presented by Danger Boat Productions  
Learn AND laugh with The Theater of Public Policy! Each show, we host an expert guest for a live on-stage discussion on a big issue, topic or idea. Then the cast brings the conversation to life through entirely unscripted improv comedy theater. Tickets \$15/\$12 in advance or with Fringe button/\$60 season pass (over the phone only). More info at [https://www.bryantlakebowl.com/theater/the-theater-of-public-policy-57/?mc\\_id=1749](https://www.bryantlakebowl.com/theater/the-theater-of-public-policy-57/?mc_id=1749)  
**Courtney Pauroso: Gutterplum Friday, March 27, 7 p.m.**  
Presented by Spit Take Comedy Series  
A smash hit at the 2019 Edinburgh Fringe Festival, "Gutterplum" is an unclassifiable whirlwind of physical comedy and theater from LA-based comedian and "dangerously delightful" clown Courtney Pauroso. "An intense and hilarious journey...an hour of utter chaos that somehow portrays a deep life-spanning story." \$18/\$15 in advance. More info and tickets: [https://www.bryantlakebowl.com/theater/courtney-pauroso-gutterplum/?mc\\_id=1747](https://www.bryantlakebowl.com/theater/courtney-pauroso-gutterplum/?mc_id=1747)

**Dan Pfeiffer presents "Un-Trumping America"**  
**Tuesday, March 10, 7 p.m.**  
The Parkway Theater **L**  
4814 Chicago Ave., Mpls.  
Dan Pfeiffer, New York Times bestselling author and co-host of

"Pod Save America," comes to the Parkway in celebration of his new book, "Un-Trumping America: A Plan to Make America a Democracy Again." Join us for this energizing reading and book signing! Each ticket includes a copy of Pfeiffer's new book. "Un-Trumping America" is a sharp political playbook for how Democrats can take on Trump, McConnell, Fox News, and the rest of the right-wing circus dominating American politics. The book dismantles toxic Trumpism and offers a way forward. The event will be moderated by special guest Alyssa Mastromonaco. Sponsored by Magers & Quinn Booksellers. For more info and tickets: <https://www.magersandquinn.com/event>.

**"Redwood"** **T**  
**March 11-April 11**  
**Tuesdays-Saturdays, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Sundays, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.**  
The Jungle Theater  
2951 Lyndale Ave. S., Mpls.  
The Jungle Theater is excited to present "Redwood," an astute new play brimming with comedy, wit and dance. Written by Brittany K. Allen and directed by H. Adam Harris, this singular American story is about learning to live and love in a present that's enmeshed in a dark past. In this razor-sharp, humor-filled tale, a Hip-Hop dance class Greek Chorus and opinionated long-dead ancestors help guide the relationship between Meg and Drew, an interracial couple whose lives are rocked when Meg's Uncle Stevie discovers Drew is from the family that enslaved her relatives in antebellum Kentucky. Tickets and more information are available at 612-822-7063 or [www.jungltheater.org](http://www.jungltheater.org).

**The Fight for Women's Rights**  
**Thursday, March 12**  
**7 to 8:30 p.m.**  
Holy Name Church **T**  
(Garvey Hall)  
3637 11th Ave. S., Mpls.  
Everyone is welcome to attend

**FIND YOUR EVENT:**  
**M - MUSIC** **D - DANCE** **T - THEATER** **L - LIT** **A - ART**

**Neighborhood Night.** This month we honor Women's History Month by viewing and discussing the documentary "The Fight for Women's Rights," which looks at the stories of two women—one who is one of the first female commercial airline pilots and one who is part of the early women's rights movement. This documentary shows how women used talent and persistence to overcome obstacles. Come, learn and get to know neighbors! Coffee and snacks included. Bring a friend! No cost/no registration. For more info: [www.churchoftheholyname.org](http://www.churchoftheholyname.org); 612-724-5465.

**Stories of SEVEN Women**  
**Monday, March 16, 7:30 p.m.**  
The O'Shaughnessy **T**  
St. Catherine University  
2004 Randolph Ave., St. Paul  
In honor of celebrating women's vital role in history, The O'Shaughnessy is proud to present "SEVEN," a riveting documentary play by seven female writers based on personal interviews with seven remarkable women who faced life-threatening obstacles before bringing heroic changes to their home countries of Pakistan, Nigeria, Ireland, Afghanistan, Guatemala, Russia and Cambodia. Produced by LA Theatre Works, the play makes the powerful and timeless statement that even in the darkest times, one person, one voice, and a single act of courage, can change the lives of thousands. "SEVEN" will be on The O'Shaughnessy stage for one performance only at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, March 16. Tickets are \$25-\$29 (discounts for students, seniors, military, TPT, MPR). Box Office: [www.theoshaughnessy.com](http://www.theoshaughnessy.com) or 651-690-6700

**Zealous Hellions: Taylor Mac**  
**Tuesday, March 17, 7 p.m.**  
Mixed Blood Theatre

1501 S. 4th St., Mpls.  
Mixed Blood Theatre hosts Taylor Mac in their newest ZEALOUS HELLIONS event. Taylor Mac, who uses "judy" (lowercase unless at the start of a sentence, just like a regular pronoun), not as a name but as a gender pronoun—is a playwright, actor, singer-songwriter, performance artist, director and producer. Judy's work has been performed on Broadway, the Lincoln Center, D.C.'s Kennedy Center and the Sydney Opera House. Mac is a MacArthur "Genius Grant" recipient, a Pulitzer Prize finalist for drama, and a Tony-nominated playwright. Mac will discuss art, gender, expression and last year's Broadway experience with the show "Gary: A Sequel to Titus Andronicus" in conversation with Jeremy Cohen, the Producing Artistic Director of the Playwrights' Center. Mac and Cohen will debate, connect and theorize with each other on stage which, in combination with audience energy and participation, will result in humor, inspiration and wisdom. Guaranteed admission for \$25, become a member, or attend without charge on a first-come-first-served basis via Radical Hospitality. For reservations or more info, call 612-338-0937 or go to <https://mixedblood.com/event/zhtaylormac/>.

**Sick Lit: A Writing Workshop**  
**Saturday, March 21**  
**11 a.m. to 2 p.m.** **L**  
Nokomis Library  
5100 34th Ave. S., Mpls.  
An open writing workshop for artists and writers interested in writing and reading around chronic illness. No previous experience needed. FREE. Workshops will be lead by writer, editor, and teaching artist Lara Mimosa Montes in the library meeting room. For more info and to RSVP, please write: [MplsWritingWorkshops@gmail.com](mailto:MplsWritingWorkshops@gmail.com)

**Arbeit Opera Theatre presents "The Rape of Lucretia"**  
**March 20-21, 7:30 p.m.** **M**  
**March 22, 4 p.m.**  
Southern Theater  
1420 Washington Ave. S., Mpls.  
AOT will present "The Rape of Lucretia" by Benjamin Britten on March 20- 22 at the historic Southern Theater in Minneapolis. The production will be presented in English with English supertitles, and features an all-Minnesota cast, crew and orchestra. "The Rape of Lucretia" was the first of Britten's chamber operas and is based upon the ancient Roman tragedy of Lucretia. As with most of Britten's operatic storytelling, Lucretia portrays the struggle of an individual against a hostile society. The story unfolds during a time of war when Rome is ruled by an Etruscan king who ascended to power through force. It is in this hostile society that Lucretia's body is used as a tool for political ambition and power. AOT's production will be set untraditionally in an ambiguous time and place, focusing this story through



### NOKOMIS EDITION

Southside Pride Nokomis Edition is a monthly community newspaper delivered on the Second Monday of the month for free to over 100 locations in and around the Nokomis community. We are proud of the racial and cultural diversity of the Southside, and we oppose racism and other efforts to keep us apart as a community.

If you want to share some news of your church, school or organization, please write us at:

### Southside Pride

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MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55407  
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**Final 2 Weeks!**  
**Must close March 22**  
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directed by TOM QUAINANCE

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# • COMMUNITY CALENDAR •

## SouthsidePride / NOKOMIS EDITION

a more universal lens. It will center on the many layers of power struggle, creation vs. destruction, violence against women, and the marginalization of rape regarding racial minorities.

As with all of AOT's productions, they will not be telling this story alone. Women's Advocates, Violence Free MN, and Advocates for Human Rights will be their community partners throughout this production and on-site at performances to host talk-backs. AOT believes in the importance of inspiring conversation from the stage and then taking a step back to let these stories be told by the people and organizations that are enacting change daily. There will be a trained therapist on-site at each performance to assist those who may be triggered by the content of this opera. All tickets Pay As Able with a suggested \$20 donation, available at <https://aotlucetria.bpt.me>.

**"The Color of Law" on Segregation**  
**Monday, March 23, 7 to 9 p.m.**  
Plymouth Congregational Church (sanctuary)  
19th St. & Nicollet Ave. S.  
Richard Rothstein, a national expert on the impact of government-sponsored racial segregation, will lead a discussion of his book "The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America." "The Color of Law" meticulously details how federal, state and local policies explicitly segregated metropolitan areas nationwide, creating racially homogenous neighborhoods in patterns that violate the Constitution and require remediation. These policies have hindered economic mobility of African Americans through undisguised racial zoning; public housing that purposefully severed previously mixed communities; subsidies for builders to create whites-only suburbs; tax exemptions for prejudiced institutions; and support for violent resistance to African Americans in white neighborhoods.

In exposing this institutional racism, Rothstein answers an important question—how did we arrive here?—and raises another one—how do we move forward? Plymouth Church, through its Racial Justice Initiative, is hosting Rothstein in collaboration with Hennepin History Museum and Alliance Housing. The Minneapolis Foundation and Pohlrad Foundation are sponsors of Rothstein's talk. Please do join us for this important event. Tickets (\$5) are available through Hennepin History Museum: <https://hennepinhistory.org/event/the-color-of-law/>

**This Doesn't Make Census! Navigating the 2020 Census**  
**Tuesday, March 24, 6 to 8 p.m.**  
YWCA Minneapolis Midtown  
2121 E. Lake St., Mpls.  
The 2020 Census has been dominating the news in confusing ways. Workshop participants will learn about the history of the U.S. Census and its importance in funding programming across our country and in our state.

In particular, participants will learn exactly what information is requested on the census, facts vs. myths, and will have the opportunity to understand how they can engage with the census safely.

This workshop will begin with a basic overview of public policy, how it impacts our lives in Minneapolis and the potential for what policy can do. FREE. To register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/this-doesnt-make-census-navigating-the-2020-census-tickets-85163078059>.

**Pints for Positive Change**  
**Saturday, March 28**  
**2 to 6 p.m.**

Saint Paul Brewing  
688 Minnehaha Ave., St. Paul  
Mississippi Market is partnering with Saint Paul Brewing to host a food drive fundraiser called "Pints for Positive Change." This is another way that community members can support local food shelves and their clients during the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign. Head to Saint Paul Brewing's East Side taproom on Saturday, March 28 from 2-6 p.m. for an afternoon of food and fun! At the event, guests can save \$1.00 off every pint or growler purchased for every canned food item donated. Mississippi Market member-owners can save an additional \$1.00 off their first pint through the co-op's Community Partner Program by showing a valid membership card. Cash donations for the food drive will also be accepted at the door. Plus, guests can enjoy live music by East Side resident Alex Tulp, food for sale from the J. Mobile (J. Selby's plant-based food truck), and free food samples and giveaways courtesy of Mississippi Market. This family-friendly event is open to everyone, including dogs! Learn more at [www.msmarket.coop](http://www.msmarket.coop).

**Vegetarian Pancake Breakfast**  
**Saturday, March 28**  
**9 to 11 a.m.**

Minnehaha Communion  
Lutheran Church  
4101 37th Ave. S., Mpls.  
A climate-positive vegetarian pancake breakfast will be held on Saturday, March 28 from 9 to 11 a.m., sponsored by Transition Longfellow. Participate in a hand-made ITEM SWAP: Bring one or more items you've made by hand (breads, jams, pickles, brews, handwork, etc...) and swap them out for something handmade by someone else! Table discussions will be lead by: Russ Henry: Soil health for climate, water, and pollinators; Dan Schultz: Lawns to Legumes – LCC; Chard Your Yard: Introducing this year's CYY build and volunteer opportunities; Clyde Cutting: Longfellow Climate Action Plan - call to action; and Mike Fry and George Hamm: Transitioning 8-week Series introduction and sign-up. For more SWAP info, contact Jeanne Bishoff at [jeannembishoff@yahoo.com](mailto:jeannembishoff@yahoo.com), and for event info, Annette Rondano at [annette@greatbackrubs.com](mailto:annette@greatbackrubs.com).

### ONGOING

**Uprising Theatre Company's "Doctor Voynich and her Children"**

**Through March 21**

Off-Leash Art Box

4200 E. 54th St., Mpls.

Uprising Theatre Company is proud to present the regional premiere of "Doctor Voynich and her Children," a new play by Leanna Keyes, that strives to illuminate what happens in a country where there is no sex education and abortion has been outlawed. In this complex and lovely play, Dr. Rue Voynich and her apprentice Fade travel the American Heartland dispensing herbal medications. Covertly, they perform abortions, which have been illegal since "the Pence days." Fade tries to help local youth, Hannah, complete her abortion using knowledge from an ancient manuscript before her mother and the sheriff can nail them for the "attempted murder of an unborn person." Tickets are \$20 (general admission) and are available at 612-520-1230 or <https://www.uprisingtheatreco.com/tickets/>

**"Interstate"**

**Through March 29**

**Wednesday-Friday, 7:30 p.m.**

**Saturdays, 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.**

**Sundays, 2 p.m.**

Mixed Blood Theatre

1501 S. 4th St., Mpls.

Mixed Blood Theatre will premiere the new musical "Interstate" as the headliner of its 44th season. Written by Kit Yan and Melissa Li, and directed by Jesca Prudencio, "Interstate" is a Queer Asian-American pop-rock musical about two trans people at different stages of their journeys, navigating love, family, mascu-

linity, and finding community in the era of social media. It charts Dash, a transgender spoken word performer as he goes on a cross-country tour with Adrian, a lesbian singer-songwriter, as the activist band, Queer Malady, fueled by the allure of fame and a desire to connect with the Queer Asian community. The band's fiercely political and deeply personal music touches Henry, a transgender teenage blogger living in middle America, who finds solace in their art as he struggles with his own identity and family. Tickets can be obtained in two ways: 1) Through Radical Hospitality, admission is FREE on a first come/first served basis starting two hours before every show, or 2) Advanced reservations are available online or by phone for \$35 per person. Visit [www.mixedblood.com](http://www.mixedblood.com) or contact 612-338-6131 for more information.

**Diabetes Support Group**  
**Second Wednesday of the month**  
**1 to 2 p.m.**

Trinity Apartments

2800 E. 31st St., Mpls.

Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors sponsors a monthly diabetes support group for adults with Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes. The group is facilitated by Beth Peltzer, MSW.

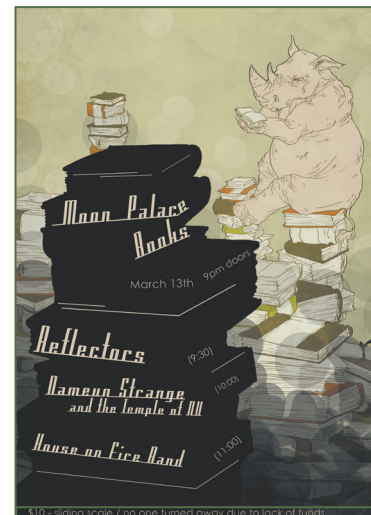
**Tai Chi for Health**

**Tuesdays, 9:30 to 10:15 a.m.**

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

2730 E. 31st St., Mpls.

Tai Chi is a low impact, slow-motion exercise that is adaptable to individual abilities. The classes vary between sitting and standing and include slow, easy movements aimed at quieting the mind, improving breathing, coordination, flexibility and strength. Registration is not required. Classes cost \$5 each.



### A Night of Music at Moon Palace Books 3032 Minnehaha Ave

Come see live music happening at Moon Palace Books on Friday, March 13th at 9 pm. The night will feature composed music, experimental soundscapes and improvisations. \$10 admission, no one will be turned away due to lack of funds. Here are the artists bringing music and some details about what they are planning:

**House on Fire Band**

House on Fire is a collection of songs written by Chris Hepola. The music has grounded melodic and harmonic roots with specific rhythmic and polyrhythmic layers. Each song has its own path of development. [www.houseonfireband.com](http://www.houseonfireband.com)

**Dameun Strange and the Temple of Nu**

Temple of the Nu is an electro-acoustic new music/jazz ensemble convened by multi-instrumentalist and composer Dameun Strange to explore the mystic sounds of the universe via original improvised acoustic and electronic music. [www.dameunstrange.com](http://www.dameunstrange.com)

**Reflectors**

Crystal Myslajek + John Marks - Crystal Myslajek is a multi-instrumentalist, who blends looping, ethereal vocals, and effects with minimalism, classical piano, and pop. [circadiamusic.bandcamp.com](http://circadiamusic.bandcamp.com)

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# The race for State Senate District 62

BY DAVE TILSEN

It's election year again. Here in South Minneapolis we will have an election for our congressional seat, our state representatives and some of our state senators. I recently got a phone call from a young man who informed me he was running for the DFL endorsement against my incumbent state Sen. Jeff Hayden. This seemed a long shot, but I was intrigued. I had heard Mr. Omar Fateh speak at a candidate forum two years ago in 2018 and was impressed, so I set a date to have coffee with him. Here are my thoughts on the two candidates.

## Sen. Jeff Hayden:

Jeff Hayden was first elected to the State Senate in 2011 to replace retiring Sen. Linda Berglin. Previously he had been serving as state representative since 2008. Before that he had served on the board of the Powderhorn Park Neigh-

borhood Association (PPNA), the Bryant Neighborhood Organization (BNO), the Council of Black Minnesotans and other civic organizations.

Since being in the Senate he has served as minority and majority whip and deputy majority leader in 2012. He's on several committees and has been author on several bills, and has secured funding for many South Minneapolis programs and progressive organizations, including the East Phillips Urban Farm, which is near and dear to my heart and which I have written about in Southside Pride in recent issues. As with all elected officials I have had my disagreements and issues.

## Omar Fateh:

Omar Fateh is the son of immigrant parents from Somalia. His father arrived in the U.S. in 1963 to study civil engineering at Montana State University; his mother immigrated later and received her

master's degree. Omar was born in the United States, and grew up in Minneapolis. He completed a master's degree in public administration from George Mason University. Mr. Fateh spent his early career serving underserved communities in education. He worked for the City of Minneapolis as a community specialist, and for the MN Department of Transportation functioning as a liaison between the state, researchers and the community on the impact of MND-OT projects on the environment, communities, etc. Mr. Fateh also worked for the MN Department of Revenue in the property tax division and has a firm grasp on the technical aspects of property taxes in our local jurisdiction.

Mr. Fateh is an Ambassador with Change the Narrative and a mentor with Tusaalo Mentoring. He served as vice-chair of the Hennepin County 2040 Comprehensive Plan. He has been active with local organizations and initiatives such as Neighborhoods Organizing for Change, VoteYes4Kids, 15Now, Minnesota Association of Public Employees,

and the DFL Somali Caucus. Mr. Fateh is running as a Democratic Socialist.



Jeff Hayden



Omar Fateh

## Contrasting the Candidates:

Mr. Fateh talks a lot about the \$15 minimum wage, believes it is a minimum to be enacted state-wide, and criticizes Sen. Hayden for not supporting it in the Minneapolis local election or at the legislature.

I asked Sen. Hayden about this and he strongly disagrees, saying that he has always supported and advocated a \$15 minimum wage. I looked on his web page. His web page says that he supports a \$9 minimum wage indexed for inflation. I then texted him and asked him about this. He said that there was never a chance to vote on \$15 at the legislature and the \$9 with indexing was the best he

could do, and that it would get up to \$15 eventually. I asked that if he did support \$15 why didn't he say that? He didn't respond. I also sent him a link to a 2017 Minnpost article where he expressed reservations about the \$15 minimum wage for Minneapolis, saying that San Francisco had a higher standard of living than we did. I said I could find no place where he advocated for or endorsed the \$15 minimum wage. He didn't respond to that either.

As a young African-American man, Fateh talks about his firsthand experiences with being profiled by the police. Like all black men, he says he lives with the daily fear that he or one of his close friends will have a negative interaction with the police. He speaks often on issues of race, criminal justice reform and policing. Fateh expressed his anger and dismay that Sen. Hayden has accepted the endorsement of the Minneapolis Police Federation.

I have to admit that this surprised me also. I talked to the senator about it. He assured me that as an African-American man he thought the Minneapolis Police Federation was a bad actor and he had never and would never accept their endorsement nor would he accept a contribution from them. I took this at face value and intended to inform Mr. Fateh that he was mistaken.

Before I did, I took a look at Sen. Hayden's website. To my surprise the Minneapolis Police Federation was listed among his endorsements in his 2016 election. I took a screen shot and texted it to the senator. He immediately texted me back, said it was on the website inadvertently. I said that didn't he think that putting an endorsement, any endorsement on his site incorrectly was a pretty serious error? I mean it is a campaign law violation. He didn't really respond, but I did notice that it was removed from the website within a day.

Then using an internet archive utility called Wayback, that archives old web pages, I found a 2012 piece of campaign literature of Sen. Hayden's that also lists the Minneapolis Police Federation endorsement.

Well, the delegates and then the voters perhaps will need to make up their own mind about this race. I must say this has been a little deeper rabbit hole than I intended to go down.

We did turn out some longtime incumbents two years ago. Commissioner McLaughlin comes to mind, so I know it can happen, but it is a rarity. On the other hand, Mr. Fateh is an intelligent, energetic, charming young man. I think he deserves a listen.



CDL & non-CDL

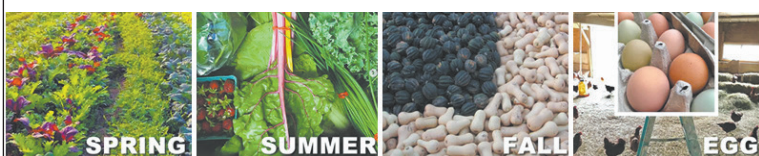
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# 2020 Education Section



## MPS has many balls in the air; meanwhile, St. Paul teachers are on the verge of a strike



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BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

Whew! I hardly know where to start. On March 10, a coalition of pissed-off parents is going to march to demand Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) go back to the drawing board on their Comprehensive District Design (CDD) and this time consult meaningfully and in advance with the community, especially parents. Meanwhile “ESPs” (Education Support Professionals) are still in contract negotiations after more than nine months and numerous informational pickets.

In other news, the Saint Paul teachers’ union, SPFE #28, voted to authorize a strike. More on that below.

**Minneapolis ESPs’ contract**  
I managed to attend an informational picket of the ESPs (they’re what used to be called paraprofessionals) at Lucy Laney School. There seemed to be a lot of public support for the union, with both foot traffic cheering and passing drivers honking in support. I eavesdropped as



**Overflow crowd at the open Minneapolis School Board meeting following release of the CDD**  
Photo: Renee Jones Schneider, Star Tribune

Shaun Laden, president of the MFT 59 ESP Chapter, the union involved, gave a brief interview to a video journalist, and then I asked him if I could take a few photos, which he gave permission for. ESPs in the Minneapolis system are absolutely vital, performing such essential jobs as special education assistant,

interpreter, physical therapist assistant, childcare assistant, and many more. Pay for most ESPs is in the low 20K to low 30K range, and yet they pay the same amount for health care premiums as colleagues making over \$100K. About two thirds of ESPs are working second or even third jobs just to survive. (One of their two picket signs carries the slogan “One Job Ought To Be Enough!”) Many qualify for benefits, and some are even housing insecure or homeless. MPS struggles to retain ESPs and are always short-staffed (duh!). And yet, the past two 2-year contracts have included step-freezes (where employees cannot move up to the next pay level despite time in the role) and zero to 2% wage increases overall. The union has not called for a strike authorization vote yet, but something clearly has to give. You can get more detailed and up-to-date information on the union’s website. Go to <https://www.mft59.org/esp-chapter>. Minneapolis Comprehensive District Design (CDD)  
Like the punishingly austere contracts with ESPs, the contents, if not the motivation,

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# 2020 Education

## Education, from page 7

of the new redesign of the MPS district is driven by shrinking revenue and increasing external costs. Of course, this is a vicious

ciencies in the workforce (teacher “churn” included) lead concerned parents to withdraw their kids from the system, and this leads to further loss of revenues. And so it goes. Sadly, between the lofty rhet-

by—yep—lack of revenue.

The impetus behind the CDD is laid out as a needed correction to years of policy that have widened the racial achievement gap. The language is unassailable, in my opinion:

“We fundamentally believe that continuing to do nothing ... and maintaining the status quo is unacceptable. Closing the achievement gap at Minneapolis Public Schools requires us to critically examine the foundation of our district, question long-held assumptions, ... and take action ... to combat institutionalized racism at all levels of the organization.

“What the Data Tells Us

- The systems in our schools are designed to disadvantage students of color, who show lower academic achievement as a result.
- Our most academically proficient buildings, and often those with the most white students and fewest low-income students, have more experienced teachers than our other buildings.
- Students in wealthier, whiter neighborhoods have more access to rigorous, advanced academic coursework.
- 80% of the students who leave MPS each year are students of color.”

Powerful stuff.



El Colegio Charter High School

cycle. As the leaflet handed out by picketing ESPs rather obviously states, poverty wages lead to staff shortages and low morale. Defi-

oric of the reason behind the CDD and the meagerness of the actual offerings to decide between, there is a great chasm. This is caused



Minneapolis Education Support Professionals and allies on an informational picket line at Lucy Laney School.

Photo: Debra K. Ramage

Despite the fact that study after study shows that both white students and students of color benefit the most from the most diverse school population, all other things being controlled for, parents of white students often protest against the mechanisms used to try to address racial imbalance and racial disparities in schools. So, we would not be at all surprised at white, middle-class, relatively privileged parents opposing the CDD. But parents of black, indigenous, Latinx and Asian-Pacific Islander students are also opposed to it in significant numbers, and often because they, too, feel that they are losing something. And

they are, because to do what the district wants to do without taking a little bit from everyone would cost more than they can raise.

Actually at this point, there are five different versions of the CDD. If you want to explore all the plans and their implications, go to <https://tinyurl.com/w872ly7> and click on your preferred language to open a PDF document. Rumors that the plans involve closing schools or eliminating magnets completely are false. But specific schools and specific magnet programs will change for the most part under most of the plans.

There is a march planned for March 10 by “a diverse grass-



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# Section



roots collection” of parents and their allies. They are not protesting the CDD so much as protesting how late in the game they feel they were consulted. See <https://www.facebook.com/events/1015905018808924> for more.

#### Other Minn. education news

There is an advocacy group called Education Minnesota that has a very useful website for education news and campaigns you can get involved in. Right now, they are working on opposing a right-wing supported bill to amend the Minn. constitution to remove the requirement to provide all students in the state a “uniform” education. And they are supporting the Teachers of

On Thursday, Feb. 20, the Saint Paul teachers’ union overwhelmingly voted for an authorization to strike, and on Wednesday, Feb. 26, announced a strike starting date of March 10, as state law requires the union to give the district 10 days notice. Talks between the union and the district were set to resume on Friday, Feb. 28, and if no deal was reached at that time, additional mediation sessions between the two sides were set for March 5 and 6. At time of publication negotiations continue, but with a strike now imminent.

#### “Schoolfinder” for Minneapolis

The Minneapolis Schoolfinder, a joint project of the private-public partnerships MN Comeback and Great MN Schools, has been

directory looks at public schools as well and gives parents tips on finding the best fit for their kids. Schools are rated High-Performing, then High-Potential, down through middle levels to the “worst,” Persistently Low. Keep in mind that the Schoolfinder defines High Performing as “better than the MN average,” and High Potential as “better than the Minneapolis district average.” It also states that “academic ratings for K-8 schools are informed by three years of MCA data, and, for high schools, a combination of ACT scores and college persistence.” Some of the ratings are not surprising: Southwest and Washburn are the only High Performing public high schools, with South and Henry coming in High Potential. One of the parochial schools rated as High Performing is Cristo del Rey Jesuit High School, which lists a 100% graduation and college acceptance rate. It also says it has 100% enrollment of students of color, but no data on the percentage of teachers of color. Although no data is given on academic performance by subject or proficiency at grade level, Cristo del Rey is also listed as one of 25 Changing-the-Odds schools, which according to the Schoolfinder means that “students at these schools who come from a low-income background are academically outperforming the Minneapolis Public Schools average and/or are growing academically at a faster rate than the

average. Students from a low-income background, who attend changing-the-odds high schools, also have higher rates of graduation and college enrollment than their peers.” El Colegio, a charter school similar to Cristo del Rey, is also almost 100% Latinx but is rated in the Limited Data category and is not a Changing-the-Odds school, perhaps because of a lower

graduation rate, although it, too, has a 100% college acceptance rate. All this is just to say, look carefully at all the data available on the Schoolfinder site, and perhaps seek out further information when choosing the best school for your child. If you want to peruse, go to <https://www.minneapolis-schoolfinder.org/#/school>.



Cristo del Rey Jesuit High School

Color Act. Check out <https://educationminnesota.org/> for more information.

Saint Paul Union update (as of time of writing)

published online. This organization assists a portfolio of schools that includes private, parochial and charter schools; nevertheless, their schools rating handbook and



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# What is the point?

BY KATHRYN KELLY

The Hiawatha Golf Course Community Advisory Committee (CAC) put together a list of 26 requests to the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) Planning Department for the Hiawatha Golf Course project.

As reported previously, the Park Board left the CAC's No. 1 priority item off of the publicly published list. It was to protect the nearby homes from flooding. When called on it, the MPRB added this item back to the list.

Another item on the list was for the MPRB to answer two questions: "Why does the MPRB want to reduce pumping on the golf course property?" and "Why is pumping bad?" The Park Board published a response which many feel was not a response at all. Instead, they told us why the berm that protects the golf course is bad, and they couldn't even correctly state the dates of the golf course's re-opening after the 2014 flooding. You can read SaveHiawatha18's assessment of their response at:

<http://www.savehiawatha18.com/commentary/savehiawatha18-response-to-MPRB-pumping-Dec-2019.htm>

A third item on the CAC's list was a request to see the new 18-hole plan created by the MPRB. At the last CAC meeting the MPRB stated that the MPRB planning group had put together a new 18-hole plan for the Hiawatha Golf Course property, but they had decided against it. The CAC asked to see this new 18-hole plan. On Feb. 14, 2020, the MPRB sent out an email stating that they will not fulfill this request from the Hiawatha Golf Course CAC.

The MPRB planning department already has a credibility problem with many people. By withholding from the CAC the 18-hole plan that they created, they lose even more credibility. Are they afraid that the CAC will vote for this plan?

A public data request has been submitted to the MPRB for a copy of the 18-hole plan that they created.



## Bergan's, from page 1

was 33 feet. Today, it is hard to find a depth of more than 12 feet. Just outside the storm sewer tunnel at the north end of Lake Hiawatha that empties street storm sewers from Lake Street to 43rd Street, from Chicago Avenue to 27th Avenue, the depth is less than 2 feet. You can sometimes see waterfowl standing in the shallow water across from the tunnel. The "fine-grained" sediment is sand—sand that is put on city streets in the winter to help provide traction for cars under icy conditions—that washes into the gutters and flows down the storm sewer system until it reaches the floor of Lake Hiawatha. Doesn't the city have some liability for degrading the water quality and swimming facilities at Lake Hiawatha by lowering the water level? Shouldn't the city make an effort to dredge the lake and restore its water quality?

I asked Johnson to forward my concerns to the city engineer for a resolution of these questions.

On Feb. 20, I received this reply from Jeremy Strehlo in Public Works:

"The proposed project is subject to review and permitting by both the City of Minneapolis and the watershed district. The floodplain review in the zoning code is specific to the first-floor

elevation, so the building does not take on stormwater. Staff have reviewed the foundation permit with the Floodplain manager and found that the proposed project complies with City ordinances. Surface Waters and Sewers has also reviewed the project and found it to be in compliance with Public Works standards and ordinances through the approved PDR application."

This does not answer the fundamental question: "Will the proposed flooding of Hiawatha Golf Course affect the foundation of the construction project?" Clearly, city staff has not considered the future envisioned by the Park Board and what effect it will have on the water table under the construction site.

Kathy Kelly, of the Citizen's Advisory Committee that was formed to make recommendations for the future of Hiawatha Golf Course (see article on this page), says, "I had heard that the builders had originally planned on building the five-story building without installing pilings under the building down to bedrock to keep the building from sinking. They later determined that they would have to install pilings."

"The houses on our block are all built on pilings due to the instability of the ground underneath. Years ago, a new person moved into the neigh-

borhood on the northeast corner of 44th and Longfellow. He had an open house and when I went into the basement, the floor was dramatically wavy. You could see exactly where each piling was. And my dad, at one point, had a contractor come in and drill holes through the basement floor to push in something (concrete?) under the basement to mudjack it, trying to make sure that there were no empty pockets developing under the basement floor. And, in talking to the owner of the house on the southwest corner of 44th and Longfellow a year ago, she said that they had just replaced the whole basement floor. This family has since moved.

"So it would be interesting to know for sure if the new building is required to be built on pilings. After all, this is not a private home that affects only one family. It is a rental building that will house at least 125 people. It should have higher standards than a home."

The flooding of Hiawatha Golf Course will greatly exacerbate the danger of flooded basements and compromised construction.

It seems the city could do a better job assuring the new tenants at the Bergan's Supervalu site that their future safety is their primary concern.

## Bouza, from page 1

themselves into prominence. Unworthy.

A juror expressed regret over participating in the conviction, but not on the basis of new evidence.

Burrell was convicted after a fair trial. He appealed. The verdict was overturned, but not on the basis of innocence—process was the issue. He was retried by a different prosecutor and again convicted. No evidence of innocence was offered.

This ain't the Innocence Project. Let's get real here.

Burrell was not found guilty beyond a shadow of a doubt. He was convicted beyond a reasonable doubt—twice. Might he actually be innocent? Yes. We are not infallible.

It strikes me as an act of supreme hubris to superimpose your ambitions on the judgment of honest citizens listening to the evidence pro and con.

The Central Park Jogger Five were framed. They were innocent of the crime, whatever our idiot president may write.

Tyesha Edwards would be 29 today. Let's focus on her for a moment. Is she entitled to justice? Has Burrell been framed?

Norman Mailer once persuaded the system to release a convicted murderer without much beyond his arrogant belief—which he did not hesitate to parse with his considerable clout.

Shortly after being sprung, the guy stabbed an innocent to death. Humility was not Mailer's strong suit.

I'm very sorry to say that I think, on the basis of my experience and observation, that black leadership in America is mostly not really worthy of the great people they presume to lead.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Editor's rebuttal:

First, I agree with Tony's basic premise: "Racism is America's #1 problem. Period."

Second, it must be acknowledged that Tony Bouza is America's leading authority on the lies and cover-ups by police in their use of excessive force. His book, "Expert Witness," details 59 cases where he testified to police

misconduct.

I remember more than 40 years ago reading Tony Bouza's succinct summary analysis: "Minneapolis doesn't have a gang problem. It has a youth problem."

How can that same Tony Bouza sit in judgment of Myon Burrell: "An innocent he ain't—gang member and utterly silent on his life or any role he may have played in the tragedy." Gone is his appreciation of gangs as a symptom of greater social problems, and also gone is his regard for the constitutional guarantees against self-incrimination.

On Tuesday, Jan. 28, the AP reported: "With no gun, no DNA, no fingerprints, the case against Burrell revolved around a teen rival who gave conflicting accounts of the shooting. Later, police turned to jailhouse informants, some of whom say they were coached and have since recanted. Alibis were not questioned. Key evidence has gone missing or was never obtained, including a convenience store surveillance tape that Burrell and others say would have cleared him. And the chief homicide detective was caught on camera offering cash for information—even if it was just hearsay."

On Wednesday, Leslie Redmond, president of the Minneapolis NAACP, speaking at a press conference that was supported by The Racial Justice Network, Black Lives Matter Twin Cities, Twin Cities Coalition for Justice for Jamar and Communities United Against Police Brutality, said: "What I need people to understand is this isn't about partisanship and this isn't about politics. This is about justice. This isn't just a situation that happened to the Central Park Five alone. This is a situation that happens all around America. This is a situation that happens right here in Minnesota. Young people, young adults were given life sentences to rot away in prison. This benefits no one. However, it does benefit politicians who use the criminal justice system to benefit their political careers. Enough is enough."

The group called for Klobuchar to end her campaign for president.

Tony Bouza says she's tough but not a racist.

During Klobuchar's tenure as county attorney, Walter Collins, a suspect in a drug deal, was chased and shot dead by officers in North Minneapolis. The shooting so outraged North Minneapolis that the U.S. Department of Justice was forced to intervene and mediate differences between community activists and the police. The officers involved were not prosecuted or disciplined.

The next year, Courtney Williams, 15, from North Minneapolis, was shot and killed by an officer. The officer said he was holding a pellet gun. His friends at the scene said he did not have a pellet gun. The officer was not prosecuted or disciplined.

According to MPR News: "Over eight years beginning in 1999, the city of Minneapolis paid \$4.8 million in legal settlements related to 122 police misconduct incidents. And police officers and county sheriffs were involved in 29 civilian deaths. Klobuchar, however, chose not to criminally charge any fatalities involving law enforcement. Instead she routinely put the decision to a grand jury, a process widely criticized for its secrecy and for mostly allowing the police version of events. Klobuchar also didn't take on any of the misconduct claims."

"The mother of a black teenager who was shot and killed by police in 2004 begged Klobuchar to file charges against the officer instead of presenting the case to a grand jury. 'The grand jury is a way of hiding that the prosecutor is not giving the full information of guilt to the grand jury,' Tahisha Williams Brewer wrote to Klobuchar at the time. 'I want this process out in the open, where everyone can observe it and make sure that it is fair to my son.'"

"It gives me pause in thinking about her potentially becoming the next president of the United States," said Nekima Levy Armstrong, a lawyer and former president of the Minneapolis NAACP. As for the past, Levy Armstrong says, "It's important for someone like Amy Klobuchar to acknowledge the mistakes that she made and the harm that she caused and to make amends."

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with  
Southside Pride

11th Annual Celebrate Spring on Lake Street  
April 6 & April 20

11th Annual Celebrate Spring on  
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April 13

For information call David  
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or email [david@southsidepride.com](mailto:david@southsidepride.com)



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Save our Planet!



# Conversations on the train



Photo: Mulad/CC BY (creativecommons)

BY ELINA KOLSTAD

The other day on the Blue Line train, a woman sitting nearby struck up a conversation with my husband and me. She started by commenting on one of the two people sleeping in our vicinity, noting the woman's nicely done nails. We all agreed that sometimes all you have in this life are the little things. Our neighbor on the train then went on to marvel that we have such a problem with homelessness. She herself is homeless. She informed us that she has a job, a good job in fact, but that she still can't find a place to live. Just the day before, she had run into a woman who had lost four fingers a couple weeks

ago during a cold snap. All of the shelters had been full. All our neighbor on the train could do was buy the frostbite victim some food and wonder at a city that allows such inhumanity.

This conversation began as the train inched away from US Bank Stadium and I couldn't help but wonder, don't stadiums usually serve as shelters to house people during natural disasters such as hurricanes? Can't the city work out a deal where we convert the stadium into an overnight shelter on those nights when it's especially cold? Shouldn't we be getting something for all the tax dollars we put into that boondoggle? I know last year the city made extra efforts during the polar vortex

to make sure people were as safe as possible, but this is Minneapolis where even an average winter night can literally kill. We need to start treating these normal circumstances as the emergency that it is.

Simply adding more condos to our city won't solve this problem. We need to put our money where our mouth is and find more emergency shelter options while at the same time putting our energy into subsidizing truly affordable housing options. I am encouraged by the work of Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Ilhan Omar on the national level, although Omar's inclusion of subsidies for "market rate" housing and prioritizing new construction over

updating existing public housing concerns me.

We all deserve better. Those of us with secure housing deserve to not be ashamed and embarrassed by the city we live in, and those struggling deserve safe housing. It's 2020 and high time to let go of puritanical idea of the "deserving poor." It's time to let go of the idea that if someone is homeless and loses four fingers, they somehow brought it on themselves. We need to recognize the role played by an unjust and traumatizing system. We need to move forward and solve this problem. In the meantime, the least we can do is make sure everyone has a safe and warm place to sleep at night.

# Grassroots Rising

BY PATRICK KERRIGAN

Did you know that a longtime Powderhorn Park resident and lifelong food, peace and justice activist is at the forefront globally in solving the climate crisis? And that he has an educational and inspiring new book that is just the resource we as caring world citizens most need to create a groundswell of hope for our collective future?

Organic Consumers Association's co-founder and Regeneration International steering committee member Ronnie Cummins passionately lays out a clear, realistic and visionary road map for how we can rise up, survive, and actually thrive in his brand-new book, "Grassroots Rising: A Call to Action on Climate, Farming, Food and the Green New Deal."

Ronnie begins his book by stating: "This is a book about how we, the United States and a global grassroots movement can rise up together and overcome the most serious threat humans have ever confronted: global warming and severe climate change."

"The driving force that informs and inspires our new grassroots revolution is Regeneration: a rapidly spreading, carbon sequestering, ecologically restorative, technologically innovative, forward-thinking worldview that takes us well beyond the now unfortunately outdated twentieth-century notions of sustain-

ability. Regeneration calls for a transition from degenerative, climate-disrupting fossil fuels to renewable energy and from industrial chemical intensive food, farming and land use to regenerative practices.

"A properly organized and executed Regeneration revolution,

our relationship to Mother Earth and one another, scaled up nationally and internationally, has the potential to revitalize public health, both mental and physical, by providing a bountiful harvest of healthy organic food for everyone, while transforming our degenerative urban and rural landscapes into regenerative landscapes and bringing us all together in a common mission."

Sign me up, but how does Ronnie actually propose that we solve the climate crisis? He asserts that the solution lies right beneath our feet and at the end of our forks through the transformation of our broken and degenerative industrial agricultural food system. Using regenerative agriculture practices that currently exist, and through the miracle of plant photosynthesis, "we can draw down billions of tons of excess carbon from the atmosphere into our soils, forests, and plants over the next few decades, and thereby avert climate catastrophe."

Coupled with an aggressive transition toward renewables, he argues that we have the power to not only mitigate and slow down climate change, but actually reverse global warming through global adaptation of food, farming, agroforestry and land use best practices, including restoration and regeneration of the world's four billion acres of agricultural croplands, eight billion acres of grazing lands, and ten billion

acres of forests.

"To do this requires that we carry out a thorough and ongoing global mapping (i.e., locating and publicizing) of the best farm and land management practices that currently exist. The good news is that these best practices are potentially applicable to billions of acres, appropriate to different ecosystems, traditions, and farming conditions around the planet, and at the level sufficient to get us out of the predicament we face."

The great news is that the primarily low-tech, shovel-ready, affordable solutions that we need already exist in every nation and region. Millions of farms are already utilizing the traditional best practices of forest agriculture and forest gardens, organic and agroecological methods, holistic grazing, and soil conservation practices, augmented by recent innovations in permaculture, agroforestry, silvopasture (re-introduction of livestock back onto agricultural lands), and landscape restoration.

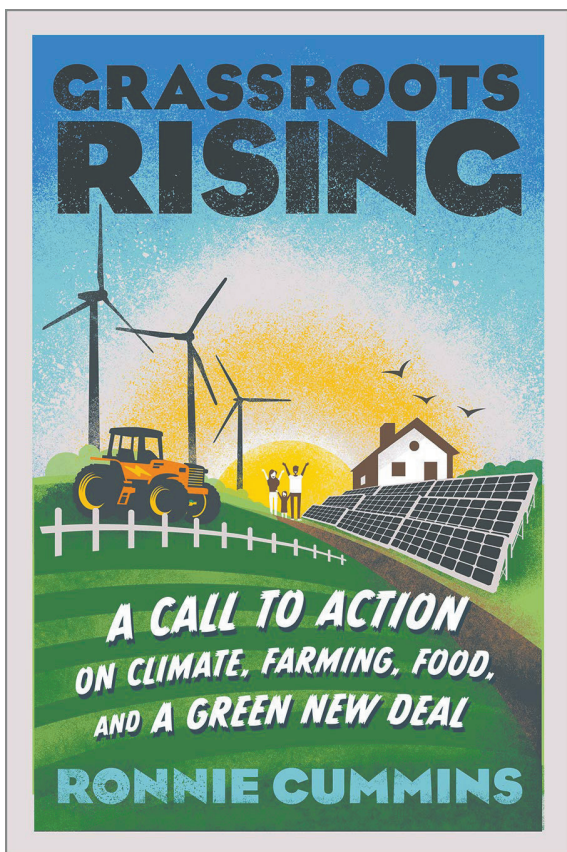
We don't need to invent new techniques. We simply need to

identify, publicize, replicate, and scale up currently existing best practices utilizing farmer-to-farmer education and training, with major support and funding from the public and private sectors.

So how can you join and help build Regeneration Nation? Ronnie lays out the five steps for becoming a Grassroots Mobilizer: 1) become a regeneration educator; 2) Form a core group with five or more people (please contact me at [patrick@organicconsumers.org](mailto:patrick@organicconsumers.org) if you'd like help); 3) Think and link up globally, such as with the 4/1000 global carbon sequestration initiative; 4) Develop an outreach plan; and 5) Scale up!

Want to join the South Minneapolis Regeneration Revolution and hear Ronnie's message in person? Join us and meet fellow Southside Regenerators at the Birchwood Cafe at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 25! See you there!

*Patrick Kerrigan is the retail education coordinator at Organic Consumers Association.*



led by global youth and a revitalized U.S. and global grassroots, not only has the awesome capacity to draw down massive amounts of excess atmospheric carbon dioxide and reverse global warming, but at the same time, has the power to clean up pollution, restore water quality, increase biodiversity and rejuvenate soils, forests, pasturelands, croplands, wetlands and watersheds.

"Moreover, this revolution in

## Get into your garden groove, save the Earth!!

Invite all types of bees, butterflies, moths, beetles, flies, hummingbirds into your yard!!



Grow a wide variety of plants native to Minnesota.

Leave bare earth patches and dead branches for insect homes.

Use no pesticides.

Inspire your neighbors!



EVENTS

**Aaron Silver Art Exhibit: Paper Cuts & Hebrew Calligraphy Through April 26**  
Mount Olive Lutheran Church  
3045 Chicago Ave., Mpls.  
Mount Olive Music and Fine Arts presents an exhibit of beautiful and intriguing works of art by Aaron Silver. Each work involves Hebrew calligraphy texts and images with negative spaces cut out of the paper. Text translations are provided as part of the exhibit. See the artist's website for more information: <http://artistaviv.com>. The exhibit is on view in the Chapel Lounge and Reception area of Mount Olive, and is free and open to the public at any time the church is open. For more info, call 612-827-5919 or see [www.mountolivechurch.org](http://www.mountolivechurch.org).

**Wednesday Soup Suppers**  
**Wednesday evenings during Lent**  
**6 p.m. Soup Supper and Worship**  
Bethel Lutheran Church  
4120 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. S., Mpls.

**Midweek Soup Suppers and Lenten Worship**  
**Wednesday, March 11 and 18**

**6 to 6:30 p.m. (soup) and 7 to 7:30 p.m. (worship)**  
Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church  
5300 10th Ave. S., Mpls.  
Come for a hearty supper of soup and bread and stay for contemplative worship of scripture readings, reflection, hymns, and Holden Evening Prayer.

**Forced Into Camps**  
**Tuesdays, March 10–31 4 to 6 p.m.**  
Plymouth Congregational Church  
19th and Nicollet, Mpls.  
Room 205  
Instructors: Joan Thompson, PhD; Seth Patterson, MDiv, MFA. Lise Yasui's documentary "Family Gathering" and Julie Otsuka's novel "When the Emperor Was Divine" examine Japanese internment, family separation and their aftermath. We will discuss these artworks alongside current journalism on immigration and families. Articles on family separation, incarceration, deported parents and government policy are all possibilities. What positions did the church and citizens take regarding Japanese internment? How might this inform our calling as church members and citizens today? Sponsored by the Immigrant Welcoming Working Group. Tuition: Free, please register at [www.plymouth.org/](http://www.plymouth.org/)

explore/adult-spirituality/. For information: [joanethompson@comcast.net](mailto:joanethompson@comcast.net).

**Fare For All**  
**Wednesday, March 11 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.**  
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
2730 E. 31<sup>st</sup> St., Mpls.  
Fare For All is a community-supported, nonprofit program that is open to all! We provide easy access to low-cost, nutritious foods—including fresh fruits and vegetables and frozen meat packages. Fare For All is open to everyone, there are no income or residential restrictions and no preregistration. Just stop by to shop! Fare For All accepts cash, credit, debit and EBT. Sorry, no checks. For more information, visit: [www.fareforall.org](http://www.fareforall.org).

**CTUL's Annual Pancake Brunch**  
**Saturday, March 28 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**  
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
2730 E. 31<sup>st</sup> St., Mpls.  
Join us for the Annual Pancake Brunch Fundraiser on Saturday, March 28, to sustain our organizing for yet another year! 2019 was a year of strategic thinking, legal wins, and ongoing organizing against wage theft and exploitation at CTUL (Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en la Lucha). We

held a subcontractor accountable for trafficking workers on the job site, won a wage theft law at the Minnesota State Legislature, celebrated our Future Fighters committee one-year anniversary, and prepared to scale up even bolder campaigns in 2020. Adelante! For tickets, go to <https://ctul.net/> pancake and donate on a sliding scale, \$5 to \$15. You can also pay at the door.

**Labyrinth Walk for Holy Week**  
**Monday - Friday, April 6-10 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.**  
Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church  
5300 10th Ave. S., Mpls.  
Labyrinth walking is an ancient practice for spiritual centering, contemplation and prayer. This Holy Week, the community is invited to walk our indoor labyrinth during the hours the church is open. The labyrinth will also be available a half hour before Maundy Thursday and Good Friday worship, from 6:30-7 p.m. on April 9 and April 10. Come walk the labyrinth and stay for worship.

ONGOING

**Events at Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**3430 E. 51st St. (kitty-corner from the Nokomis Library)**  
Blind Ministry Outreach—Saturday, March 14, noon to 2 p.m. Includes dinner, devotions and fellowship.  
Book Club, Saturday, April 4, 10 a.m.—"The Dressmaker of Khair Khana" by Gayle Tzemach Lemmon.  
Exercise class for seniors—Monday mornings at 10 a.m.  
NA groups—Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. and Fridays at 7 p.m.  
Call 612-729-5463 for questions and more information.

**Immigrant Welcoming and Working Group**  
**Third Tuesdays, 6 p.m.**  
Plymouth Congregational Church  
1900 Nicollet Ave., Mpls.

The work of the Immigrant Welcoming and Working Group (IWWG) is at heart an effort to understand current immigration issues, to connect with people whose lives are directly affected and to work toward fair and just treatment for those caught up in what's become a front-page political football game. IWWG continues to support and participate in the monthly vigils at Fort Snelling. Four Buddhist communities collaborated to host the January vigil. IWWG meets the third Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. at Plymouth. Transportation to attend deportation hearings is available on Thursdays from Plymouth. For more information about any of our work, contact Chair Tom Haigh, 763/438-2574 or [jthaigh45@gmail.com](mailto:jthaigh45@gmail.com).

Sharing Food

**New Creation Baptist Church**  
**1414 E. 48th St., Mpls.**  
**612-825-6933**  
Food Shelf  
Saturdays (except 5th Saturday) 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
(Brown door on the corner of 48th St. and 15th Ave.)

**Living Spirit United Methodist Church**  
**4501 Bloomington Ave. S., Mpls.**  
**612-721-5025**  
Community Supper  
Wednesdays, 5:45 to 6:30 p.m.



### Church of the Holy Name

3637 11th Ave. S.  
612-724-5465


**Palm Sunday Masses**  
April 4 & 5  
Sat. 5pm, Sun. 8:30am & 11am

**Triduum**  
Holy Thursday, April 9, 7pm  
Good Friday, April 10, 7pm  
Easter Vigil, April 11, 8pm

**Easter Sunday Masses**  
April 12, 8:30am & 11am

The Nokomis Religious Community Welcomes You

<p><i>Christian</i></p> <p><b>BETHEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 4120 17th Ave. S. 612-724-3693 <a href="http://www.bethel-mpls.org">www.bethel-mpls.org</a> Education for All Ages 9:20 am Sunday Worship 10:30 am Pastor: Brenda Froisland Accessible Off-Street Parking <i>In gratitude, Bethel amplifies God's grace, nourishes all creation, reaches out and builds community.</i> <i>*A Reconciling in Christ Congregation</i> <i>*Bethel CYF Ministries: Bridging generations to model, equip, encourage a foundation of trust in God's story</i></p> <p><b>CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. ALBERT THE GREAT</b> E. 29th St. &amp; 32nd Ave. S. 612-724-3643 Mass M, T, TH, F at 8:15 am Saturday 5 pm &amp; Sunday 9:30 am Sunday Morning Liturgy of the Word for Children <a href="http://www.saintalbertthegreat.org">www.saintalbertthegreat.org</a></p> <p><b>CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE HOLY NAME</b> 3637 11th Ave. S. 612-724-5465 Masses Saturday 5 pm Sunday 8:30 &amp; 11 am Reconciliation Saturday 4-4:30 pm Pastor: Fr. Leo Schneider <i>A welcoming Roman Catholic community</i></p> <p><b>FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 3430 E. 51st St. 612-729-5463 <a href="http://www.faithlutheranmpls.org">www.faithlutheranmpls.org</a> Sunday Worship 9 am (Holy Communion 1st &amp; 3rd Sundays) Fellowship 10 am Education hour 10:30 am Midweek Bible Study,</p>	<p>Wednesdays 11 am <b>Midweek Lenten Services, Wednesdays 7 pm; Maundy Thursday, April 9, Soup supper - 5:30 pm, Communion Worship - 7 pm; Good Friday, April 10, Worship - 7 pm; Easter - Communion Worship - 9 am, Breakfast - 10 am</b> Pastor: Rev. Jesse Davis</p> <p><b>FIRST FREE CHURCH</b> 5150 Chicago Ave. S. 612-827-4705 <a href="http://www.firstfreechurch.org">www.firstfreechurch.org</a> Worship 9 am &amp; 10:30 am Fellowship Time 10 am <i>Christ-Centered, Christ-sent</i></p> <p><b>HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH, LCMS</b> 1720 E. Minnehaha Pkwy. 612-722-1083 <a href="http://www.holycrossmpls.org">www.holycrossmpls.org</a> Worship 9:30 am Sunday Bible Study "Read Through the Bible" 10:45 am <b>Lenten Worship</b> <b>Wednesdays 7 pm</b> <b>Soup &amp; Sandwich Supper 6 pm</b> Pastor: Bruce Laabs</p> <p><b>HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 5728 Cedar Ave. S. 612-827-2655 <a href="http://www.hopempls.org">www.hopempls.org</a> Bible Chat 9 am Sunday Worship 10 am <i>All are welcome, no exceptions</i></p> <p><b>LIVING SPIRIT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> <i>A Multicultural, Intergenerational Church</i> 4501 Bloomington Ave. 612-721-5025 <a href="http://www.livingspiritumc.org">www.livingspiritumc.org</a> Sunday Worship at 10:30 am Community Supper Wed. 5:45 pm</p>	<p><b>MOUNT ZION LUTHERAN LCMS</b> 5645 Chicago Ave. S. 612-824-1882 Sunday Worship 9 am <b>Wednesdays through 4/1, Lenten Worship - 11:30 am</b> <b>Good Friday - 11:30 am</b> <b>Easter 4/12 - 9 am</b> <a href="http://www.mtzioninmpls.org">www.mtzioninmpls.org</a></p> <p><b>NEW CREATION BAPTIST CHURCH</b> 1414 E. 48th St. 612-825-6933 Sunday School/New Members Class 9:30 am; Devotion 10:45 am Worship &amp; Praise 11 am Tues. Youth &amp; Adult Bible Study 7 pm Pastor: Rev. Dr. Daniel B. McKizzie</p> <p><b>NOKOMIS HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA</b> 5300 10th Ave. S. 612-825-6846 <a href="http://www.nokomisheights.org">www.nokomisheights.org</a> Sunday Worship 10 am Forum/Sunday School 9 am <b>Easter Sunday Worship 8:30 &amp; 10:45 am; Breakfast 9:15-10:15 am</b></p> <p><b>ST JOAN OF ARC CATHOLIC COMMUNITY</b> <a href="http://www.stjoan.com">www.stjoan.com</a>, 4537 Third Ave. Masses: Saturday 5 pm (Church) Sunday 7:45 am (Church) Sunday, Family Mass, 9:45 &amp; 11:45 am (Church) Sunday 9 &amp; 11 am (Gym) Weekday, Tue. &amp; Thu. 8 am (Orleans Chapel) <i>We Welcome You Wherever You Are On Your Journey</i></p>
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 All Directory Churches are Wheelchair Accessible

### Please give to Minnesota FoodShare this month

BY DAVE ENGHUSEN, GROVELAND FOOD SHELF DIRECTOR

March is when winter begins loosening its grip. For us at the Groveland Food Shelf, March and December are the most important months to refill our coffers. In March, we also can benefit from a proportional match provided by the Minnesota FoodShare organization. When you see the envelopes in the pews, please give generously.

The need for food is growing. In 2019, Groveland saw a 13% increase over 2018 and the highest numbers since the Great Recession. Jobs are available, so why the increase? There is a sizable portion of Groveland's customers who are retired or suffering from disabilities or other issues that make returning to work difficult. The larger portion do work, however. We don't know for sure, but anecdotal evidence points to the sharp rise in housing costs. For example, one client was a pregnant woman with one child who found herself without housing because her building had been sold. It was being converted to senior housing. She was in her early 30s, had finished school with a vocational degree and was working in that field part-time and doing guard work part-time. Her income did not qualify her for housing in the area she was familiar with. She felt punished for doing the right thing.

For Groveland, too, over the past year much has changed. We receive food seven days a week with generous donations from Kowalski's, Trader Joe's, Lunds and a number of smaller cafes and bakeries. This food rescue provides goods that may have a short shelf life but are often more nutritious than food we've been able to provide in the past. Yet, it also is very labor-intensive because we need to sort, verify the food is good and, if it goes bad before being taken, to compost and dispose of it. We also offer clothing provided by Old School by Steeple People across the street.

This year will bring more changes. We hope to add a person and vehicle to help us with these challenges. We'll continue to evolve as we have since 1975 when Plymouth first founded the food shelf. Your generous contributions of time and money help us help others. You touch the lives of thousands of people with few resources and few options. They and we are grateful.



# Trash talk

BY ELINA KOLSTAD

The first Monday of February, about 50 people gathered at Matthews Center to talk some trash. Kellie Kish, recycling coordinator with the City of Minneapolis, Kate Marnach from Tare Market in Standish neighborhood, and Nancy Ford from Repair Lair on East Lake Street and Reuse Minnesota gave presentations about some of the ways the city and individuals are working to reduce the trash we burn and landfill.

The good news is that we are doing well compared to other cities. Ms. Kish provided a number of encouraging statistics. From 2018 to 2019 we had a 1,500-ton reduction in garbage and 2,500-ton reduction in overall waste. The city fully expects to reach a 50 percent sign-up rate for organics pickup in 2020, and annual inspections reveal a contamination rate of less than 1 percent! We also have a high rate of recycling: 97 percent of single family to four-unit housing have a recycling cart. Eureka processes our recycling in St. Paul and 100 percent stays in

North America with 90 percent staying in the Midwest and 80 percent staying in Minnesota.

While the global issues with recycling have made the process drastically less profitable, Ms. Kish pointed out that it is still less expensive to recycle what we can than it would be to burn it in HERC. Recycling also offers other benefits such as local job creation. The city has adopted a Zero Waste Action Plan, as yet unfunded, and continues to look at ways to reduce our waste stream.

Ms. Marnach and Ms. Ford focused on actions we can all take as individuals to reduce how much trash we produce. Buy less, buy used, choose quality over quantity. Ms. Marnach's background is in zero waste, defined by Zero Waste International Alliance as, "The conservation of all resources by means of responsible production, consumption, reuse, and recovery of products, packaging, and materials without burning and with no discharges to land, water, or air that threaten the environment or human health." Ms. Ford's advice for living a green-

er lifestyle was that it goes hand in hand with being cheap. She recommends: buy less, walk more, and menu plan. She also reminded everyone to consider whether they need to buy an item or whether it would serve them just as well to rent or borrow the same item.

Some points of interest from audience questions:

-Battery pickup is not done anywhere else in the country and the practice was discontinued here when some of the batteries started a fire at a Hennepin County library. All types of batteries can be taken to drop-off locations and Kellie Kish will be working hard to expand these sites this year. It is recommended that all batteries be taped with masking or painters tape on both ends.

-Cloth recycling is no longer accepted by Hennepin County. Synthetic fabric blends make reuse and recycling difficult. Fabrics are also largely recycled in other countries and there are ethical concerns about how much the fabrics were truly being recycled and whether they were a positive



the Seward Neighbor-

or a negative for local populations.

-The standard procedure for revoking a recycling bin is that if crews find something obviously inappropriate in a bin they will leave a tag on the bin and inform trash crews to pick up the contents the following week. Then the resident will get a letter from the city in the mail. If the resident continues to put inappropriate items in the bin it will be revoked.

-Plastic bags and similar thin plastic packaging is a serious problem because it catches in the machines that sort the recycling, Ms. Kish used the analogy of a shoelace in a vacuum. When this happens all the machinery has to be shut down, sometimes for as long as six hours, to clean it up.

Minneapolis is doing a good job diverting trash from incineration or landfill. Much of the credit goes to Kellie Kish, who works around the clock, and to our active and informed citizenry and organizations such as Longfellow Community Council's Environment and River Gorge Committee and

hood Group's Environment Committee, who hosted this informative event.

Interested in getting involved? Here are some resources that may interest you:

\*Bus tours of organics processing facility in Rosemount every spring. Sign up ahead of time as space is limited. Contact Kellie Kish at 612-673-3536 or [kellie.kish@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:kellie.kish@minneapolismn.gov) for more information.

\*Volunteer for annual audit of organics pickup (must have strong stomach). Again, contact Kellie Kish for more information.

\*Monthly Tours of Eureka Recycling Facility in St. Paul. You can sign up online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CFDJDCF> or contact Kellie Kish for more information.

\*Hennepin County grant to save materials from home renovation. For more information: <https://www.hennepin.us/residents/recycling-hazardous-waste/deconstruction>

## Neighborhoods, from page 1

black homeownership rates in 2019 at only 22 percent, half the national average, according to an analysis by Zillow.

Representatives from the neighborhood associations met five times to express their concerns and share ideas, but association leaders felt they'd been left out of the process, leaving many residents with their voices and concerns unheard, Miller Lopez said.

And the Council kept delaying releasing the guidelines, leaving the associations in the dark, unable to plan a response. "The new plan is supposed to help solve racial inequity problems, but the City Council hadn't asked us anything. They were supposed to start this process in June, creating a racial equity model. They didn't get started until December."

Miller Lopez wants to get local citizens involved and for people to speak their minds, but she is pessimistic about whether many members of the City Council are open to hearing them. "I don't think they'll listen. We've had a shift in government," she said. "We used to have citizen influence. The local government would listen to their constituents. Now, it's 'We know best and we'll tell you what you need.'"

While the new guidelines are meant to help solve the inequalities in the city, there is strong disagreement on whether this new plan will work as hoped. The formula for CURA funding is strict. How much an individual neighborhood could receive would depend on what percentage of the city's BIPOC population lives there. "If it is only 1 percent, you get 1 percent of the available funds. If it's 20 percent of the population, that would get you 20 percent of the available funds," said Miller Lopez.

Robert Thompson, who runs Robert Thompson Consulting, a business management service for nonprofit organization and who once worked at NCR, also sees major flaws in the study's conclusions.

"Two major issues I found in the CURA report are that they are drawing broad and very negative conclusions about neighborhood programs through NRP, which are not supported by the data they are using," he said. "And they are misrepresenting conclusions of previous studies of the NRP. CURA states in their report that there is a \$33 million NRP fund, with the implication that the funds are unused. They are not. It is in fact a very active fund."

In addition, while the neighborhood programs spent money on projects, they often came out ahead financially.

"From 1990 through 2010, the NRP Program allocated approximately \$226 million through neighborhood action plans," Thompson said. "However, neighborhoods expended \$14.7 million more than this figure. Neighborhoods developed creative home loan programs that actually generated \$35 million in additional revenue on top of the original \$226 million."

"Before the neighborhood groups were created, Minneapolis was in a free-fall," he said. "The population was dropping at a rapid rate—the population of Minneapolis dropped from over 500,000 to about 350,000 in three decades. There were large numbers of vacant and boarded houses. Crime rates were much higher."

"Neighborhood organizations used NRP funds to stabilize and improve their housing; reduced crime by organizing block clubs, block patrols and other activities; improved parks, supported improvements to commercial corridors and much

more," he said.

"Racial inequity in Minneapolis is rampant, and no single program or initiative can be blamed. But another real consequence is that the city is really creating divisions in the community, essentially pitting the interests of low-income communities against other low-income communities," said Thompson. "A primary goal of NRP was to restore the condition of housing stock in Minneapolis, focused particularly on low-income communities. So, another unintended consequence is to truly pit the interests of low-income and disempowered communities against each other."

Miller Lopez thinks that at least 30 percent of the local neighborhood associations will disappear if the plan goes through.

"I get 10 calls a week from 311 for people asking for help and information," she said. "These are seniors asking where they can get help for snow removal. I got one that needed emergency furnace repairs. Operators at 311 tell them to call their neighborhood association. We keep track of the resources. We do outreach. Who will be there to do that, then? Who will help these neighbors?"

"If we lose the neighborhood associations, there will be no more community meetings to inform residents about new developments, transportation activity and other community concerns," said Miller Lopez. "No more community events or community-wide garage sales, no more newsletters, environmental programs or programs that serve residents like home improvement loans, support for small business, emergency support, or clean-up events."

Miller Lopez said that neighborhood associations would have to reinvent themselves to survive. Her SENA office is already planning to offer business office co-working space for

a fee, to help generate the \$16,000 a year it costs to rent it. She is already rebuilding a local business association and so far, nearly 100 local business owners have expressed interest in paying membership dues to join.

SENA is hosting a second public meeting on the issue on March 23 at Lake Hiawatha Park Building from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. They are still working on the details for a joint Longfellow Community Council/SENA meeting, and are hoping that concerned neighbors will come to hear what the city is planning and if anything can be done to save their neighborhood associations. The City's Guidelines to

the 2020 Plan are here: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/www/groups/public/@ncr/documents/webcontent/wcm:sp-223035.pdf>

**All Community Meeting**  
Monday March 16  
6-8 p.m.  
Bartsch Room  
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# Justice for Terrance Franklin

BY ED FELIEN

Sen. Susan Collins justified her vote by stating that the president had learned a “pretty big lesson” from impeachment and that he would be “much more cautious in the future.”

City Council President Lisa Bender said, “I think our policy changes in the police department, leadership changes, have really created a scenario where this is unlikely to happen again, so I think it’s time to move forward and really continue with the changes that we’re making in the police department to make sure this never happens again.”

Is it déjà vu all over again?

Is Lisa Bender fooling herself about the Minneapolis police learning a lesson just like Susan Collins is fooling herself about Trump?

The City of Minneapolis has agreed to settle with the family of Terrance Franklin. “We have agreed to pay them \$795,000 to prevent a Wrongful Death suit from coming to trial.” The city agreed to settle because they knew

they’d lose at trial. They knew the officers involved in killing Terrance Franklin lied about what happened. The Franklin family attorney said, “The contention that this young man grabbed a gun and shot two police officers was something that we vehemently opposed, from practically the beginning, once we had the evidence.”

For a summary and analysis of the 200-page MPD Report and the medical examiner’s report go to <https://southsidepride.com/2013/10/29/how-did-they-kill-terrance-franklin-2/>.

Officer Meath was operating the machine gun pistol that killed Franklin and injured two officers. Officer Peterson operated the handgun that was used to shoot Franklin in the head (probably after he was already dead).

Fight Back News reported on May 12, 2018: “Minneapolis police officers Michael Meath and Lucas Peterson have 19 excessive force complaints combined—no discipline on any of them. Lucas Peterson has had 13 excessive force complaints against him since he

joined MPD in 2000, costing over \$700,000 in settlements. Peterson murdered another Black person, Christopher Burns, on Nov. 1, 2002. Peterson was also on the defunct Metro Gang Strike Force (MGSF) in 2006 and was one of the officers investigated in 2009 when the state shut down the MGSF for corruption including improper searches, seizing property without authorization (often kept for personal use or sold), and injuries to people who were not suspects. The MGSF cost the state \$3 million in settlements with victims of their misconduct.”

Why haven’t Meath and Peterson been disciplined? Why haven’t these officers been held accountable?

Former Minneapolis Police Chief Tony Bouza asked me, “Why should the city be responsible for the settlement? If you run a private business, and you hire someone, and he goes off and kills someone, why are you responsible? The person was not acting on your behalf. They were acting on their own. They’re responsible for their own actions.”

I met Chief Arradondo at a community meeting a couple of summers ago. I asked him about disciplining officers involved in the Terrance Franklin killing. He said, “Make an appointment and

come down and see me and we’ll talk about it.”

I called, made an appointment, showed up, and he came out of the office and shook my hand and walked out the door saying, “I’ll be right back.” Of course, he had no intention of being right back. I knew that. I waited for almost an hour and left.

If the mayor (who is responsible for the chief of police) and the city council refuse to accept responsibility for disciplining these officers, then they must be held accountable in city elections next year.

Further, changes must be made to the procedures for investigating a police shooting. If a group of civilians had followed Terrance

Franklin down a basement in South Minneapolis and beat and killed him, then police investigators would immediately separate the individuals in the group and take statements from them. When members of the MPD are involved in a death, they are allowed 48 hours to talk to each other and get their stories straight before making a statement.

There are some very rotten apples in the MPD, and they are spoiling the barrel and they are spoiling the trust necessary for them “To Protect and Serve” all the people in Minneapolis.

It’s no longer possible for people of conscience (in the words of

Lisa Bender and the delusions of Susan Collins) to “move forward” and pretend it’s all going to get better.

**Postscript:** I wrote the following to Alondra Cano, chair of the Public Safety and Emergency Management Committee of the Minneapolis City Council, who is charged with the responsibility to oversee the operation of the Minneapolis Police Department, before their meeting on Feb. 19, with copies to the other members of the committee: Andrea Jenkins; Steve Fletcher; Linea Palmisano; Phillipe Cunningham; Jeremiah Ellison:

“Chair Cano,

“Will Officers Meath and Peterson be held accountable to the City of Minneapolis for the wrongful death of Terrance Franklin?”



Image: Bob Millea

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# Public housing for seniors

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

Welcome to Getting About. This new monthly column will inform you about opportunities for those 60 and older to get out of ruts, make a difference, participate in exciting communities, build new communities, and have more control over your living environment. We'll be looking at "the usual suspects" such as the AARP, Nokomis Healthy Seniors, senior housing resources, faith communities, and programs at public libraries and universities, but also at lesser-known resources, new or growing subcommunities, and housing-based activities and activism, including in the endangered public housing sector.

So, the public housing sector—just how endangered is it? Well, on the one hand, we live in perilous times, so every nice thing is under threat. The wealth gap is widening daily, and you're all probably on the wrong side of it. Among the good

things under threat are: democracy, livable wages, Social Security, civil rights, affordable housing and health care, Medicare, public education, and in fact the planet itself, and the future viability of the actual human race. On the other hand, public housing is not a simple subject, and I think some of its advocates and recipients are panicking based on incorrect information and lack of trust. On the third hand, I could be completely wrong about that, and the lack of trust could be totally warranted. But for now, let's just zero in on Minneapolis, and on public housing specifically set aside for seniors, which means 62 and over.

MPHA (Minneapolis Public Housing Authority, under jurisdiction of Housing and Urban Development, or HUD) used to be severely "troubled," but now, though it still has troubles, it's considered one of the best public housing authorities in the country. It owns and operates 6,259 units of housing, comprising 42 "highrises," and 948 "townhomes and scattered sites." (Basically, single and coupled

adults live in the former, and families with children in the latter.) Of the high-rises, 12 are designated for seniors only, and seven of these provide assisted-living facilities or services. The Minneapolis Highrise Residents Council (MHRC) "is the independent (501C3) citywide public housing high rise tenant organization in Minneapolis. Its mission is to promote self-government by residents of public housing, and to represent their interests ..." (Quote from mphonline.org.) Each building has its own "local" in the MHRC and elders are often the leaders and do-ers in these organizations, even in the non-designated high-rises.

If you're interested in housing issues, you may have already heard about the battles over MPHA's plan to address its serious shortfall in capital and improvement funds by using HUD's Rental Assistance Demonstration program, or RAD, and/or their plan to upgrade scattered-site and townhome properties with another HUD program, Section 18, not to be confused with Section 8. Because both of these programs rely on partial funding from "private" (often but not always



Protesting RAD at Elliot Twins MPHA Highrise

nonprofit) sources, and because of abuses that have occurred in other authorities, these programs have been characterized by opponents as "privatization," a claim the MPHA vigorously tries to refute. Things are in a fluctuating state right now on that. Among other factors, the head of MPHA, Gregory Russ, will be leaving in a week or so, to be succeeded by Abdi Warsame, who is leaving his post as Minneapolis' first Somali city council member. Next month we should know more and we'll have a deeper dive into what's going on here, along with a look at some other senior housing options such as co-ops.

We'll leave you with a few events coming up in March:

- 55+ Book Club at Nokomis Library - First Wednesday, 3 p.m.

- AARP MN Lobby Day - at the Capitol, March 18. More information and registration at <https://tinyurl.com/qk7rqzz>
- Washburn-McReavy Chapels Pre-Planning and Pizza - at W-M Chapel, 2301 Dupont Ave. S., Minneapolis 55405, Tuesday, March 10, at noon
- Rosen Movement classes (2 hours) - most Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m., Walker Community United Methodist Church sanctuary, 3104 16th Ave. S., Mpls. 55407
- AARP Monthly Walk and Talk - Thursday, March 19, 9:30 a.m., Mall of America, AARP Info Center. Mall-walk followed by healthy coffee break with a short health-related talk
- DFL Senior Caucus Lunch - Fourth Wednesday of every month (March 25), The Egg and I, 2550 University Ave. W., Suite 125N, St. Paul 55114

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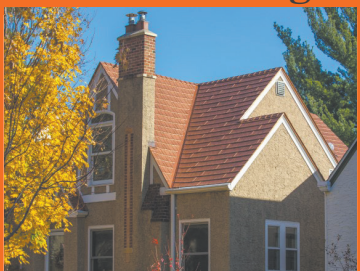
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