



We build Pride on the Southside

POWDERHORN EDITION

FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

March 2020

VOL. XXX, ISSUE 7

This newspaper is recyclable. It is made with renewable resources--pulp wood and soy ink.

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.

Myron 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 cata-

See Bouza, page 10



Image: Bob Millea

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 Wrong-

See Justice, page 11

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 Neighborhood Association (PPNA), the Bryant Neighborhood Organization (BNO), the



Jeff Hayden



Omar Fateh

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.

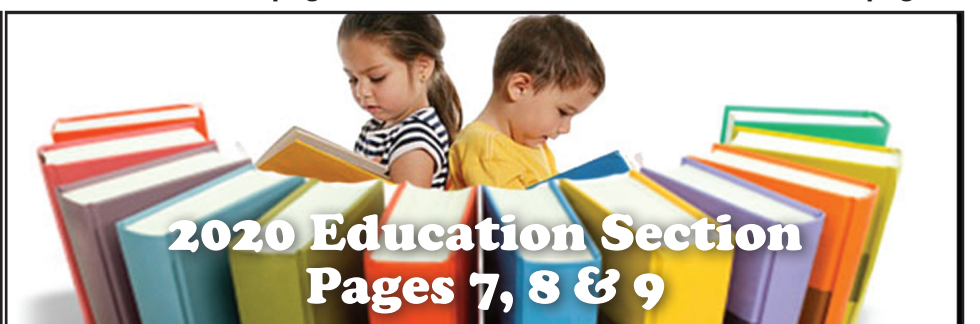
Omar Fateh:

Omar Fateh is the son of immigrant parents from Somalia. His father arrived in the U.S. in 1963 to study

See District 62, page 11



**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. 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. Registration had not begun yet at the time of writing. Contact the park directly or keep an eye on the website 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, then go to "Community," then "Training Camps." The Twin Cities has a metrowide program called Revolutionary Sports that began in



Leonardo's Basement

2001 as a Minneapolis Park-based soccer class, and now spans multiple locations and cities with over 100 coaches in all major sports. You can access their summer camps at 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 immersion 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.

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.

Another interesting possibility is Law Camp. Hamline University offers summer camps in a variety of subjects



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2020 Summer SOCCER CAMPS
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Boys & Girls ages 5 to 16

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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

camps start at \$140



Summer Camp!



including Mock Trial Camp: “This weeklong day or overnight camp is for 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

Robotics and “Creative” (Graphic Design-Digital Media.) 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, homegrown, 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

an intensive year-long circus course, but summer camps give students a 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.

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



Circus Juventas

your child to experience the real deal—overnight camping with a focus 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

teams up with technical institutes and universities to provide an ever-growing 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,

worlds. Go to leonardosbasement.org/summer-schedule/ to download the 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

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• COMMUNITY CALENDAR •

Southside Pride / POWDERHORN EDITION

Lawns to Legumes: Training Resilient Yard Workshop Volunteers Thursday, March 5 6 to 9 p.m.

Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church
5011 S. 31st Ave., Mpls.
Join Master Gardeners, Master Water Stewards, and Blue Thumb Partners to learn how to help residents across the metro access the new "Lawns to Legumes" program to create pollinator habitat and make their yards more resilient as a volunteer at our 2020 workshops. We'll begin with an overview of the 2020 Resilient Yards workshop, and follow that by breaking into groups to discuss how you can best help residents plan projects on their property during the 1-on-1 component of the workshops. If you have knowledge to share about native plants, capturing runoff, and/or landscape design, we want you! Free. RSVP at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lawns-to-legumes-training-resilient-yard-workshop-volunteers-tickets-93117726627>.

March at Bryant-Lake Bowl

Bryant-Lake Bowl
Cabaret Theater

T

I believe in you, I just don't think we can do it OR Use Me
Thursday, March 5
8 p.m. (doors at 7 p.m.)

Presented and Performed by Anat Shinar

In Anat Shinar's newest project, she invites performance-makers Amal Rogers (Miami), Emily Gastineau (Mpls), and Theo Langeson (Mpls) to create something under the prompt: What is a dancer? How does it look and feel to succumb to someone else's vision? What does it mean to succumb? The result is an exqui-

site-corpse-style show, threaded together through Shinar's solo performance, exploring ideas of memory, distance (in space, time, and other), sincerity, subjective and objective feelings, risk, rules, authenticity, control, and cumulative knowledge coupled with acute execution.

Tickets: sliding scale \$10-\$15.

More info: https://www.bryant-lakebowl.com/theater/i-believe-in-you-i-just-dont-think-we-can-do-it-or-use-me/?mc_id=1717

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

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

March 6-21

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"

March 6 - 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, masculinity, 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 Hos-

FIND YOUR EVENT:

M - MUSIC

D - DANCE

T - THEATER

A - ART

L - LIT

pitality, 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 or contact 612-338-6131 or boxoffice@mixedblood.com for more information.

Dan Pfeiffer presents

"Un-Trumping America"

Tuesday, March 10, 7 p.m.

The Parkway Theater

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"

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.jungletheater.org.

The Fight for Women's Rights

Thursday, March 12

7 to 8:30 p.m.

Holy Name Church

(Garvey Hall)

3637 11th Ave. S., Mpls.

Everyone is welcome to attend 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

The future of Franklin Avenue

By Ed Felien

Thursday, March 5, from 4 to 7 pm, Hennepin County will be sponsoring a Franklin Ave. Open House at Plymouth Congregational Church, 1900 Nicollet Ave. The county will be presenting, for public review, designs for the future of Franklin Avenue.

Our Streets has had a profound effect in pushing cars off the streets on Park and Portland Avenues. Lyndale Avenue was their latest conquest. Now they have set their sights on Franklin Avenue.

They are proposing the county reduce car lanes to 10 feet and increase sidewalk widths to 8 feet in their ongoing struggle against autos.

First, yes, cars are a major source of pollution. But let's not throw the baby out with the bathwater. Mechanized travel was a wonderful development in the 19th century. The internal combustion engine was an advancement over a horse and buggy. But we don't need the explosions of fossil fuels to power our automobiles, we can use the hydrogen explosions on the sun 92 million miles away for all the power we may ever need for almost everything. Going solar and building electric cars need to be major objectives of all levels of government—including the Hennepin County Board.

Second, yes, we should do everything we can to prevent accidents between cars and bicycles. The original reason given for eliminating automobile lanes and dramatically increasing the bike lanes was that cyclists deserved a wider margin of safety. With human lives at stake it's hard to argue against that reasoning, but maybe there's a better and safer alternative to bikes and cars fighting it out on major arteries. The Dutch have been working on this problem for almost a hundred years. They do everything they can to separate car and bicycle and pedestrian traffic. There are separate streets and separate traffic signals for bikes and cars. Instead of Park and Portland, why didn't the traffic engineers give them Oakland Avenue with right of way and diverters to stop cars from cutting through the neighborhood? They could have designed it so you could cross Oakland at only 24th, 26th, and 28th Streets. Instead of wider bike lanes on Lyndale, why not make Aldrich Avenue a limited access bicycle right of way?

If you're interested in the future of traffic of all kinds on Franklin Avenue, you should go to the meeting Thursday.



• COMMUNITY CALENDAR •

Southside Pride / POWDERHORN EDITION

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; 612-724-5465.

Stories of SEVEN Women

Monday, March 16, 7:30 p.m.

The O'Shaughnessy **T** 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 or 651-690-6700

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 Lara Mimosa Montes is the author of "Thresholds" (Coffee House Press, 2020) and "The Somnambulist" (Horse Less Press, 2016), and is a senior editor of "Triple Canopy." Lara is a fiscal year 2020 recipient of an Artist Initiative grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board. This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

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.

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 handmade 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, and for event info, Annette Rondano at annette@greatbackrubs.com.

ONGOING

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.

Safe Place: Homework Help

Monday - Friday, 3:30 to 6 p.m.

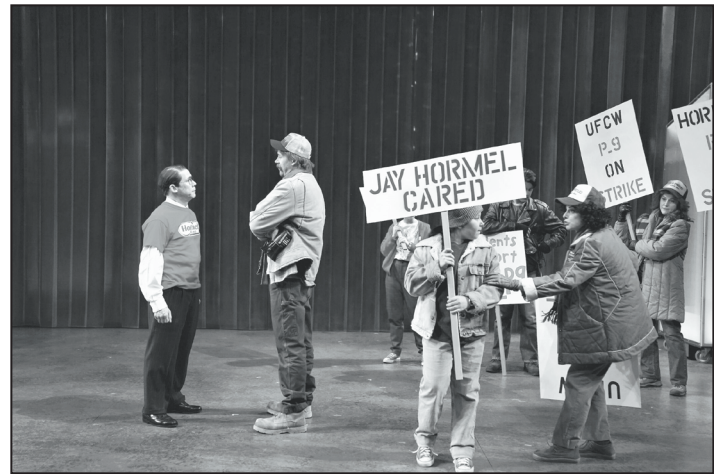
Trinity Lutheran Congregation 2001 Riverside Ave., Mpls. Adult students and children are all welcome. Tutors are available for all levels. If you are interested in being a volunteer or tutor or if you need more information, contact tutoring@trinitylutherancongregation.org or 612-333-2561.

Makers Mornings

Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to noon

American Swedish Institute 2600 Park Ave., Mpls. Join other makers for this new weekly opportunity to work, share and learn in a relaxed, communal setting. Whether you knit, carve, weave, sew, spin, crochet or do some other fascinating thing with your hands, we invite you to bring a project to work on. All are welcome, regardless of level of ability or craft of choice! Come for as long as you like and bring your own works-in-progress, materials and tools. This group will meet in ASI's Lindberg Stuga.

Children's Theatre Company (CTC) is proud to announce the world premiere production of Spamtown, USA



February 16, 2020 through April 5, 2020

2400 3rd Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55404

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, Minnesota 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.

"My wish is for our audiences to leave the theatre inspired to collaborate with their neighbors for the good of their communities," stated the director Will Davis.

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 or call the ticket office at 612-874-0400.



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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 stat-

ing: "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 sustainability. 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, 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 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 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.



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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

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. Mean-

while “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 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 hous-



Overflow crowd at the open Minneapolis School Board meeting following release of the CDD

Photo: Renee Jones Schneider, Star Tribune

ing 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 increas-

es 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, of the new redesign of the MPS district is driven by shrinking revenue and increasing external costs. Of course, this is a vicious cycle. As the leaflet handed out by picketing ESPs rather obviously states, poverty wages lead to staff shortages and low morale. Deficiencies 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 rhetoric of the reason behind the CDD and the meagerness of the actual offerings to decide between, there is a great chasm. This is caused 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



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2020 Education

Education, from page 7

language is unassailable, in my opinion:

“We fundamentally believe that continuing to do nothing ... and

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



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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

designed to disadvantage students of color, who show lower academic achievement as a result.

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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.

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



Minneapolis Education Support Professionals and allies on an informational picket line outside Laney School. Photo: Debra K. Ramage

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 grassroots 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



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Section



formational picket line at Lucy

remove the requirement to provide all students in the state a “uniform” education. And they are supporting the Teachers of Color Act. Check out <https://educationminnesota.org/> for more information. Saint Paul Union update (as of time of writing)

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 are set for March 5 and 6. So, negotiations continue, but with the threat of a strike now in play.

“Schoolfinder” for Minneapolis

The Minneapolis Schoolfinder, a joint project of the private-public partnerships MN Comeback and Great MN Schools, has been published online. This organization assists a portfolio of schools that includes private, parochial and charter schools; nevertheless, their schools rating handbook and 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,



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>.

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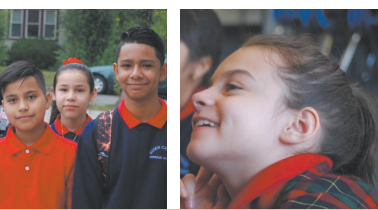


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NOW ENROLLING

Bouza, from page 1

pult 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 Myron 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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Conversations on the train



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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.

District 62, from page 1

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 MNDOT 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.

Contrasting the Candidates:

Mr. Fateh talks a lot about the \$15 minimum wage, believes it is a minimum to be enacted statewide, 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.

Justice, from page 1

ful 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?”

EVENTS

Aaron Silver Art Exhibit: Paper Cuts & Hebrew Calligraphy
Now 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.

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

Midweek Soup Suppers and Lenten Worship
Wednesday, March 4, 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.

St. Albert's Famous Fish Dinners
Fridays, March 6—April 3
4:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Church of St. Albert the Great
E. 29th St. at 32nd Ave S., Mpls.
St. Albert's Famous Fish Dinners on the six Fridays of Lent,

Feb. 28 through April 3. Full dinner of baked or fried, responsibly-sourced tilapia, potatoes, meatless spaghetti, coleslaw, rolls, desserts and beverages for just \$15. Children ages 6-12, \$7. Kids 5 and under free. That night's volunteers can also eat for \$7 – call 612-724-3643 if you'd like to volunteer. Bingo from 5:30 to 7:30 pm, plus raffles and live music. Additional parking one block north at Anne Sullivan School, served by shuttle bus. www.saintalbertthegreat.org.

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/explore/adult-spirituality/. For information: joanethompson@comcast.net.

Fare For All
Wednesday, March 11
3:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
2730 E. 31st 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.

Taizé Service
Friday, March 13, 7 p.m.
Minnehaha United Methodist Church
3701 E. 50th St., Mpls.
With all that is going on around us, it is important to slow down and make sure we are feeding our souls and listening for God periodically. Take an opportunity for renewal through prayer, song, and silence at our monthly Taizé services. Join us on March 13 at 7 p.m. or any second Friday of the month. Child care is provided.

Sofia presents "Chambers of the Heart"
Sunday, March 15, 7 p.m.
St. Joan of Arc Chapel
4537 3rd Ave. S., Mpls.
Healing through song. Song through healing. Giving. Receiving. Nourishing. Transforming. The Beatitudes of Jesus, the poems of Rumi. These are the language and inspiration of this transcendent trio: vocalist Carin Vagle, singer-songwriter Tim Frantzich and guitar wizard Dean Magraw. Tickets available at www.stjoantickets.com or 612-823-8205.

Spring Equinox Tea Ceremony and Grief Circle
Thursday, March 19
4:30 and 6:30 p.m.
Lakewood Cemetery
3600 Hennepin Ave., Mpls.
Life is filled with transitions and losses, and grief often accompanies them. Yet little space is set aside to acknowledge and process this powerful emotion. On this special threshold day, come experience a silent, meditative tea ceremony where grief is welcomed,

in one of the most beautiful and sacred spaces in our city—the Lakewood Memorial Chapel. This ceremony will be offered at two times on the Spring Equinox, Thursday, March 19, at 4:30-6 p.m. and 6:30-8 p.m. Cost is \$35* (plus tax and service fees). Please bring a journal for post-ceremony reflection. Dress comfortably and come as you are. Your guide, Christin Ament, provides grief and end-of-life support as a palliative care, hospice provider and death celebrant. She was trained in Taiwan by Buddhist Monks on Cha-Dao, the art of Tea, and has led tea ceremonies around the globe. This event will be held in Lakewood's historic chapel, a short distance from the front gates at 36th & Hennepin. Parking is available along roads near the building. There is a handicap-accessible entrance to the chapel. For questions about the event, call Lakewood at 612-822-2171 or email info@lakewoodcemetery.org. *Lakewood is a nonprofit association. We use proceeds generated from activities and events toward preserving and enhancing our grounds and architectural treasures.

CTUL's Annual Pancake Brunch
Saturday, March 28
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
2730 E. 31st 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.

Call 612-729-5463 for questions and more information.

Weekly Talmud and Bible classes
Thursdays, 6:30 (Bible) & 7:30 (Talmud)
Temple of Aaron
616 S. Mississippi River Blvd. St. Paul
Weekly Talmud and Bible classes are taught by Larry Eisenstadt, Temple of Aaron's ritual director and experienced educator. The classes are free and open to members and non-members. Hebrew language proficiency is not required. No reservations necessary. For more information call 651-698-8874. Or visit www.templeofaaron.org.

Pathways Faith-Based Life Skills Class
Thursdays, 6 p.m.
Basilica of St. Mary School
Room LL7
1601 Laurel Ave., Mpls.
Make a positive change in your life in just 10 weeks! Did you know that every Thursday evening from 6 to 8:15 p.m., a team of dedicated volunteers hosts "Pathways," our faith-based series of life skills classes? Stop by anytime! All are welcome and no registration required. Questions? Contact Julia at 612-317-3413.

Sharing Food

New Creation Baptist Church
1414 E. 48th St.
Mpls. 55417
612-825-6933
Food Shelf
Saturdays (except 5th Saturdays)
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
(Brown door on the corner of 48th St. and 15th Ave.)

Bethany Lutheran Church
2511 E. Franklin Ave.
Mpls. 55406
612-332-2397
Soup for You serves a free community meal every weekday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The meal is open to everyone—no exceptions! Volunteers will take your orders and serve you at the table. This is not a soup kitchen, but rather a space to build community! Donations are of course welcome!

Living Spirit United Methodist Church
4501 Bloomington Ave. S.
Mpls. 55407
612-721-5025
Community Supper
Wednesdays, 5:45 to 6:30 p.m.

Minnehaha United Methodist Church
3701 E. 50th St.
Mpls. 55417
612-721-6231
Food Shelf every Tuesday
10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Powderhorn Religious Community Welcomes You

Baha'i
BAHA'I CENTER OF MINNEAPOLIS
3644 Chicago Ave. S., 612-823-3494
Minneapolis.Bahai@gmail.com
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Sunday 10 am
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Christian
BETHEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
4120 17th Ave. S.
612-724-3693, www.bethel-mpls.org
Education for All Ages 9:20 am
Sunday Worship 10:30 am
Pastor: Brenda Froisland
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In gratitude, Bethel amplifies God's grace, nourishes all creation, reaches out and builds community.
**A Reconciling in Christ Congregation*
**Bethel CYF Ministries: Bridging generations to model, equip,*

encourage a foundation of trust in God's story

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
3901 Chicago Ave. S.
612-827-2504 or www.clchurch.org
Sunday Worship at 10 am
Pastor: Hans Lee
A Reconciling in Christ Congregation

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE HOLY NAME
3637 - 11th Ave. S., 612-724-5465
Masses Saturday 5 pm
Sunday 8:30 & 11 am
Reconciliation Saturday 4-4:30 pm
Pastor: Fr. Leo Schneider
A welcoming Roman Catholic community

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
The Center for Changing Lives
2400 Park Ave. S., 612-871-8831

Worship 9 am (traditional) & 11 am (praise, gospel) every Sunday
Children's Ed. during 11 am service
Community Bible Study Tue. 10:30 am (lunch follows)

ST JOAN OF ARC CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
www.stjoan.com, 4537 Third Ave.
Masses: Saturday 5 pm (Church)
Sunday 7:45 am (Church)
Sunday, Family Mass, 9:45 & 11:45 am (Church)
Sunday 9 & 11 am (Gym)
Weekday, Tue. & Thu. 8 am (Orleans Chapel)
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ONGOING

Events at Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church
3430 E. 51st St. (kitty-corner from the Nokomis Library)
Book Club, Saturday, March 7, 10 a.m.—"The Zookeeper's Wife" by Niki Caro.
Blind Ministry Outreach—Saturday, March 14, noon to 2 p.m. Includes dinner, devotions and fellowship.
Exercise class for seniors—Monday mornings at 10 a.m.
NA groups—Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. and Fridays at 7 p.m.

You can send your Religion news to katherine.southsidepride@gmail.com or call Katherine at 612-822-4662.

Young principal leads high school in Malawi

BY ELAINE KLAASSEN

My friend Chikondi Elvis Chabakha is 30 years old. He's the principal of Cornerstone Christian High School (CCHS) in Salima, Malawi, on the continent of Africa. When the school opened a few years ago there were seven students and one large room (building). But, given the great need for secondary education in the Salima district as well as the values and standards of CCHS, news of the new school traveled quickly. Now enrollment is close to 250, and three more rooms (buildings) have been added.

School starts at 7 a.m. and ends at 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Since the school had no electricity until the very end of 2019, the schedule was designed to take advantage of daylight. Although still wisely using natural daylight, the school has now received a solar investment big enough to charge laptops and provide light in the evening, which allows students who don't have electricity at home to study in the school at night. Most of the students live within 10 kilometers of the school. They walk, bike or take bicycle cabs (dampa or kabaza). Of those who walk, some set off in darkness in order to cover 10 kilometers (about seven miles) by 7 a.m. Chikondi spends the entire day during the week at the school. Then he rides his bicycle home, where he has electricity. Now that the school has some electrical power, he can do more of his online work at the school instead of everything at home in the evenings.

Students are divided into four groups. Each group spends the day in one building and the teachers rotate as they bring their classes to the students: pure sciences, maths, humanities, arts and languages (English and ChiChewa). All classes are in English except for ChiChewa language classes.

The flyer for Cornerstone Christian High School describes its program as high quality, college-prep and holistic. In the video Chikondi made about CCHS, the kids speaking to the camera are exuberant and full of hope. They speak of what they hope to offer once they have an education. One wants to be a doctor, one a teacher. One girl is determined that all girls should have access to education. One is grateful that a benefactor showed up to pay her tuition.

Malawi is a beautiful country, from what I've seen on the internet. It is bordered by Tanzania, Mozambique and Zambia. A long lake, part of the chain of African Great Lakes, lies on its long border with Mozambique.

The country is relatively peace-

ful. The most civil unrest occurred recently when President Peter Mutharika was re-elected and the results of the election were in dispute. There were riots and violence. The country also suffered upheaval in March of 2019 because of heavy flooding.

It's a poor country. With a population of 15 to 16 million, and rapidly growing, half the people live below the poverty line. There is a shortage of schools, teachers and materials but no shortage of a desire to learn.

The government provides primary education, so there's no charge to go to grade school. Pre-school, though, is not provided by the government, but since it is highly valued, many volunteers offer whatever they can, without facilities, supplies or teacher training. High school and college are different. There are some public facilities, and some schools that charge tuition, but altogether not enough. Less than 35% of Malawi's young people go to high school. Around 1% go to college.

Chikondi was not only fortunate enough to obtain a college degree but a master's degree as well, from Eastern University in Pennsylvania. His college major is in biblical studies and his minor in education. His master's degree is in organizational leadership. While he was finishing his course work in the U.S., a team from the Malawian organization Cornerstone Ministries Malawi was starting to establish Cornerstone Christian High School. When Chikondi finished his degree, he joined the team and became principal of the school.

I met Chikondi at ARK for Peace, an innovative global youth



Chikondi Elvis Chabakha

organization (with a few older participants) begun in Minneapolis by Presbyterian church leader Judy Maghakian.

The goal of ARK is to create a global "family" where everyone loves each other and cares deeply about each other's lives and doesn't see each other primarily as "Guatemalan" or "Palestinian" but simply as a friend and brother/sister. As the global family coalesces, we all now read the news differently and are tuned in to the situations and challenges of our global family members' countries.

Chikondi started in ARK as a teenager and I only started in the summer of 2015 when the group (about 40 people) met in New York City near the United Nations. ARK has been meeting for 10-day gatherings in different worldwide locations since the early 2000s. Although members now come from Guatemala, Palestine, Lithuania, Malawi, Iran and Pakistan plus Minneapolis, meetings have never yet been held in Lithuania, Malawi, Iran or Pakistan. In 2019 we had intended to meet in

Armenia, but the world political situation was not conducive and we met at Macalester College in St. Paul instead.

Chikondi and I didn't get to know each other much in New York. Our friendship really started at Macalester. I was going on about the environment and conservation (something I talk about all the time) and how I wouldn't be opposed to the rationing of electricity since there is no way the world will ever be able to sustainably meet the "growing demand" for electricity, etc., etc. Chikondi couldn't stop laughing.

"You are talking to the wrong person," he said. "I come from a place where less than 20% of my country is even electrified." I of course didn't know that, but I was impressed that his country is part of the climate solution—Malawi is clearly doing its part in not wasting electricity. I thought they should get a prize. He joked, "I would buy a car [if I got a prize for being poor]." Very funny.

One evening, at Macalester, Chikondi spoke to the group about the need for education in Malawi and how CCHS had been established. Everything he said grabbed my attention.

In November and December of 2019, Chikondi was here in the

U.S. to raise funds for his school. He has many friends, some originally from Malawi and many from his student days in Pennsylvania, who support his work to the extent that they can. Some church groups have done small things like send pencils and school supplies. Others have created large monetary grants. So, he was connecting with supporters and hoping to gain more.

I had offered Chiko a place to stay, but I didn't know when he was coming. Since he communicates using messages on Facebook and he doesn't always have access to it, it's not a connection to count on. So, in November I heard in a roundabout way from some Minneapolis ARK people that Chikondi was going to be here in a few days and he was staying at my house. Yikes, gotta wash some floors and get some groceries!!!

Anyway, we had a great time and got together with other ARK people at Parkway Pizza. I learned a lot more about his work and his life, which, from what I could feel and observe, is based in faith, hope and love.

If anyone has an interest in supporting the school, here is the contact information: <https://www.urbanpromiseinternational.org/cornerstone>.



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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 reopening 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.

Pennies for the poor, big bucks for the rich

The city is taking money out of poor neighborhoods and giving it to the rich

BY ROBERT THOMPSON

In late 2019, Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA), a department of the University of Minnesota, announced that it had been hired by the City of Minneapolis in response to the City Council's call for a consultant to "complete the resident-led process of furthering the Neighborhoods 2020 framework and developing program guidelines at the 'Collaborate' level of engagement based on the International Association of Public Participation Spectrum."

In response to recent public reporting by CURA and recent statements made by CURA spokespersons to media, we conducted an analysis to test several findings reported by CURA:

- Historical allocations were not based on a racial equity premises [sic].
- The primary benefactor [sic] of this work is white homeowners.
- The outcome of the work is racial inequity (institutional racism) largely driven by the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) allocations.

The City of Minneapolis Community Participation Program (CPP) for neighborhood organizations is more equitable than NRP.

Our analysis relies on a more complete data set than that apparently used by CURA, including demographic data from Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS), NRP PlanNet data for neighborhood allocations, and NRP PlanNet data for contracts and expenditures. We also reviewed previous studies of the NRP program. Our analysis finds

that:

- NRP allocations were more heavily weighted to the most diverse and low-income neighborhoods in Minneapolis.

- CPP allocations were not more equitable than NRP allocations, and were, unlike NRP allocations, neutral in regards to neighborhood diversity or average household income.

• CPP allocations represented a major disinvestment in the most diverse and low-income communities when compared to NRP allocations.

• White affluent homeowners were not the primary beneficiaries of NRP home loan and grant programs. More complete data shows that, particularly in early years of NRP, black and low-income homeowners were major beneficiaries of NRP home loans.

• Many other types of neighborhood NRP housing programs directly benefited communities of color, low-income communities, and special needs communities (addiction, living with HIV/AIDS, seniors and disabilities as examples).

Our examination finds that CURA was negligent at best in their use of data and subsequent analysis of facts. Their use of data raises concerns about cherry-picking of data, and bias in their analysis. Because CURA apparently did little to verify the accuracy or completeness of their data, or to show any independence from the city in collecting

data, their study is neither valid nor reliable. We believe CURA's conclusions, particularly about the primary beneficiaries of NRP



Image: Bob Millea

home loan programs, and racial inequity of NRP allocations, are simply not supported based on all of the evidence available.

Why the attack on NRP? Because it is not just an attack on NRP. It is an attack on the idea that NRP represented.

NRP was based on the idea that residents are valuable partners in identifying the needs and shaping solutions for their communities. But the city has long embraced the idea that, to be as efficient as possible, community decisions should be left to the "experts" at city hall. In that model, residents are reduced to the role of "customers" or "clients." This model puts most, if not all, of the power in the hands of the city.

Interestingly, CURA's recommendations say nothing about actually changing the relations of power between the city and the community. Their recommendation: Keep the "experts" (like themselves) in charge.

Robert Thompson has a master's degree in public administration, a master's degree in nonprofit management and 30 years' experience serving nonprofit organizations and community engagement practices. www.rthompson.net

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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 mphaonline.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 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



Protesting RAD at Elliot Twins MPHA Highrise

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 Series - at the Capitol, March 5 and 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

If you have things we should share in this column, or tips, or ideas, contact Debs at deborama@gmail.com.

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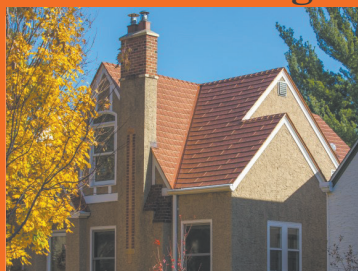
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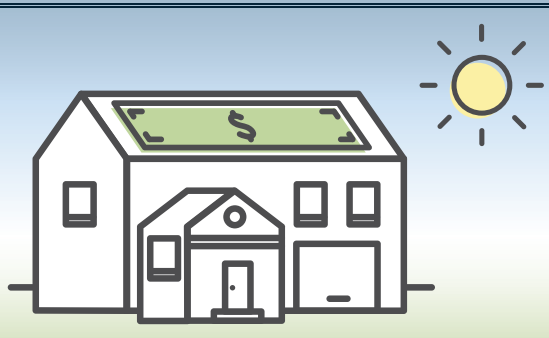
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