



We build Pride on the Southside

**NOKOMIS
EDITION**

SECOND MONDAY OF THE MONTH

**January
2020**

VOL. XXX, ISSUE 2

Sartorial splendor

BY TONY BOUZA

By 1975 women were entering police ranks in great numbers. They'd been piling up at the gates for years and then the dam broke. I am very proud of my role as an expert in demolishing the barriers.

The Southern Poverty Law Center sued to eliminate the obstacles, largely artificial and intended to keep women out. I served as their expert witness and we won every case. The revolution was one of feminism's greatest successes, but it remains unheralded, unremarked and unacknowledged.

I was in charge of the Bronx (pretty arrogant construction) and had about 100 policewomen. It was the age of the miniskirt.

Michael Codd was the commissioner, and my boss. "Old school" would scarcely describe him. "Fossilized" might approach. Very Irish. Very Catholic. Very limited educationally and intellectually, but he masked it effectively behind a tall, imposing ramrod-straight mien. The image he invoked in my febrile imagination was of a Wooden Titan. I did not fear him, but always observed the obeisances.

One day a delegation of women cops came to see me to ask if they could wear pants.

Codd was a stickler

See Bouza, page 3



Photo: Brad Sigal

Minnesota joins with cities nationally to say NO to U.S. wars in Iran and Iraq

BY MEREDITH
ABY-KEIRSTEAD

On Jan. 4, over 700 people took to the streets of the West Bank in Minneapolis to protest the Trump administration's attempt to provoke a new war with Iran by assassinating Qassem Soleimani, a top Iranian military leader, and by sending more troops, further prolonging the U.S. occupation in Iraq.

The protest was a part of the ANSWER (Act Now to Stop War and End Racism) coalition's call for national protests on Jan. 4. Over 50 cities in the U.S. had protests that day, including actions in New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. The Minneapolis protest was one of the largest in the country.

Wyatt Miller, an activist with the Anti-War Committee, was the first to address the crowd: "Iran didn't destabilize Iraq, the U.S. did! And when Iraqi people try to protect their homes and fight back against U.S. occupation forces, ultimately that's not Iran's fault, that's not Qassem Soleimani's fault, that's the fault of there being an ILLEGAL, UNJUST U.S. occupation in the first place! The blood of millions of Iraqis is on the hands of Bush, Cheney, Obama, Clinton, Biden AND Trump."

He continued: "Entire generations of Iraqis have now seen their country destroyed multiple times. We have a moral duty to stop this from happening, not to Iraq (again), not to Afghan-

istan (again), and not to Iran, not to Venezuela, not to Nicaragua, not to ANYWHERE.

"I truly believe that the U.S. military and the imperialist system it enforces is the greatest obstacle to the progress of humanity. And that includes people fighting for freedom inside U.S. borders, too."

The protest was organized by the MN Peace Action Coalition, the Anti-War Committee and Women Against Military Madness. Organizers expect that there will be future days of national action and more local and national protests to stop the growing drum beats for war within the Trump administration.

Donald, the cornered rat

BY ED FELIEN

The walls are closing in on you.
Everybody knows your game.

It's all coming out now, your connections to the Russian Mob. How they bought condos at Trump Tower and had them repossessed by the feds for money laundering. How they gave you tons of money when no bank would lend you anything. How they bailed out your bankrupt casinos. How you became their American brother. They had omerta, loyalty, to you and you to them.



Image: Rebecca James

And everyone knows the Russian Mob is an agency of the Russian government, in much the same way the CIA has been working with the Sicilian Mob ever since they sprang Lucky Luciano from federal prison to help with the invasion of Sicily in 1943.

The big money in a Mob is in selling drugs. The Iran-Contra Affair illustrates perfectly the smooth connection between the U.S. government and the Mob. George H. W. Bush and Ollie North cooked up a scheme in the basement of the White House to get around Congress's prohibition on selling arms to the

See Rat, page 4

Enjoy our New Senior Section



Gracefully

Pages 8 & 9

Celebrate Mayday

Dear Ed Felien, Deb Keefer Ramage, and Dave Tilsen:

I saw the heading “Celebrate Mayday,” so of course I had to pick up this issue: the November 2019 Nokomis edition.

I am glad that you wish to see Mayday celebrations continue, and that you wish to uphold the Free Speech and Worker tradition of Mayday, and the “sacred ritual of Mayday dating back thousands of years.”

From someone who cared for these roots and tended this gathering for 45 years, I challenge these things:

—If YOU invite people to the park, it is common courtesy for YOU to provide for their well-being. The puppet theatre assured restroom facilities from the very

first year, and listened to voices from neighbors and participants asking for more toilet facilities year after year. Or perhaps those of you who live along the park are able to open your homes to people who need to pee? Is that a possibility? Maybe you want to reconsider “We will not set up porta-potties.”

—It is also common courtesy to respect the workers who tend this beautiful park by applying for a permit. There is lots of invisible work that goes into taking care of this Park, and the workers love this place and care for it as much as you do.

Thanks for listening and thank you for the many years of support of In the Heart of the Beast Theatre and Mayday.

Respectfully,

—Sandy Spieler, Lover of Mayday, Powderhorn Park and all of its kin (and former director of In the Heart of the Beast Theatre’s Mayday for 45 years)

HOBt could step back and give each one to another arts nonprofit to manage, perhaps some created just for MayDay. In a way, it would be like Open Streets, except I think it would be important

dren who outgrow their parentage, Mayday will have a different life going forward.

None of us knows what will happen. HOBt’s process envisions some new organization that



Sandy Spieler (photo: Heart of the Beast Theatre)

Debra Keefer Ramage wrote:

I didn’t get Sandy’s letter, so I am not sure of the context, but let me share my vision for the future of MayDay, which I did share with the consultant they hired in a one-to-one interview, but I felt ever so slightly condescended to and dismissed. I think MayDay’s problem is it’s way too big for its restricted venue, and I think the solution to its being too big is to do cell division and grow. But grow in separate spaces.

Perhaps my idea was dismissed because it just sounds too hard to get from here to there, but I would love to see another 45 years of MayDay, but in say 10 separate Minneapolis locations. We could still have the original MayDay at Powderhorn, but how about if there were similar smaller festivals in North Minneapolis, Northeast, Prospect Park, Seward by the Mississippi, Loring Park, Diamond Lake, MLK Park and marching along Nicollet? All of which would draw people away from Midtown, so there would be more room for parking, less exhausting walks for elders and disabled and little toddlers, fewer porta-potties required, more room for food vendors to branch out and not be intensely competing in a single space, opportunity for kids in other Minneapolis neighborhoods to have “their own” parade.

I don’t really see a downside, and many upsides. After seeding these celebrations in other areas,

that they all occur on the same day, or at least the same weekend. Because the point would be for attendees to pick only one and go to it, preferably the one closest to them, so that total driving around is reduced even as total attendance goes up, and one neighborhood doesn’t have to take the entire strain of accommodating 60,000+ people.

—Debra Keefer Ramage

David Tilsen wrote:

Thanks for your letter.

I remember back in 1973, at a meeting in an attic in what I remember as a church building near 24th and Cedar. You and Ray St. Louis and a few members of The Alive and Trucking Theater were in attendance. You presented your vision to create a new regular community traditional holiday for South Minneapolis. You (or Ray) talked about the importance that celebrations play in building and strengthening communities. This discussion led to the first Mayday March and gathering, (which I performed at). I have never missed a Mayday since. My children actually travel from wherever they live to be here for Mayday every year. This celebration is part of our family lore, discussion and arguments.

Your (PPT and HOBt) work on birthing and nurturing the festival through its infancy, youth and adolescence has been epic, artistic, courageous, and we will always owe you a great debt of love and appreciation. Like all chil-

will continue to shepherd the celebration and take care of both the artistic expression and the administration of the details of the celebration.

I believe these two roles are different, and actually inhibit each other.

I believe the Park Board needs to recognize that the community flocks to the park on Mayday and they need to be ready with porta-potties, dumpsters, etc. We pay a lot of taxes to them and we don’t even get fireworks. How often do 70,000 people gather in 12 square blocks for a day in the inner city with joy, fun, and no violence?

—David Tilsen

Ed Felien wrote:

I agree with Deb’s vision of smaller and more Mayday celebrations: Let a Hundred Flowers Blossom, Let a Hundred Maydays Contend.

I agree with David that it is the Park Board’s responsibility to provide porta-potties. Before I read Sandy’s letter I had sent the following to the Park Board:

Seasons’ Greetings:

Southside Pride readers would like to know what sort of plans the Park Board has for Mayday 2020. For almost half a century, around 50,000 people have gathered on the first Sunday in May to celebrate Mayday. Although Heart of the Beast Theater is not organizing the event this year, it is reasonable to assume thousands

See Mayday, page 5

22ND ANNUAL

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Powderhorn
Neighborhood

More cops, less hope

BY LEX HORAN,
RECLAIM THE BLOCK

The Minneapolis City Council on Wednesday, Dec. 11, approved a budget that gives the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) an \$8.2 million raise, bringing its budget to a total of more than \$193 million, while allocating comparatively insignificant funds to preventative and public health programs that build safety.

Throughout the budget process, hundreds of community members voiced their support of Reclaim the Block's demands to invest in programs like mental health response, solutions to the opioid crisis and youth homelessness programming instead of continuing to



grow MPD's budget.

Nevertheless, the city council approved a budget that has had almost no changes to MPD's bot-

tom line since Mayor Frey drafted it.

"Hearing and centering the most vulnerable members of

our communities means not investing more in the police state," said Nicque Mabrey in testimony before the council. "We're here as your friends, as people who have been with you along the way since before you were elected. We have a partnership here. To invest more money into the police is a breach of that relationship. It's disrespectful."

While the mayor has claimed a compromise for shifting his proposed 14 new hires into funding for a new MPD cadet class, that amendment will still result in a larger police budget and a

larger force. Most cadet classes include 38 cadets on the on-ramp to becoming MPD officers.

"So many of us were thrilled two years ago when we thought we had just elected one of the most progressive city councils in the country," said testifier Kristen Wiseman of Reclaim the Block. "Being progressive means making hard political decisions to move us forward, not being stuck in the status quo. You all aren't leading us forward progressive-

ly—you're not even following the lead of your constituents who spoke up last week."

To create a visual representation of the city's funding priorities, one testifier dumped 193 one-dollar bills on the dais to represent MPD's \$193.4 million budget, and held up a single quarter to represent the \$242,000 that the city agreed to move into the Office of Violence Prevention (OVP) out of MPD's budget.

The council did amend the budget to respond to some community demands, including a position to enforce wage theft, a Trans Equity staff position and additional funds for the OVP. The council also passed staff directions related to a diversion program for low-level "quality of life" crimes and researching the racial equity impacts of traffic enforcement policies and practices.

Reclaim the Block and supporters demanded that council members commit to working with the community in coming years toward more substantial change.

Before passing this year's budget, only three members of the council (Council Members Bender, Ellison and Gordon) said they would work with community to invest in non-police safety strategies.

Bouza, from page 1

for protocol and a slave to traditional ways.

The women said that every time they emerged from a squad the corner hang-outs whooped and hollered in their version of I got beaver.

The request seemed eminently reasonable, and I sent a memo recommending its adoption to the police commissioner.

Silence.

After a couple of weeks, I inquired as to the status of my request.

"It's been sent to the Uniform Committee for evaluation."

No pharaoh, entombed in a large pyramid's interior crypt, was ever more securely buried than any idea sent to the Uniform Committee. It was a place to which ideas were sent to die.

The ladies asked for an update and my conscience was pricked.

What to do?

I thought the status quo was intolerable, but I was afraid to

affront the P. C. By then my sins were many.

After several days of internal agony, I swallowed hard and told my staff to telephone (nothing in writing) each of the 11 precincts and tell them that henceforth pants or miniskirts were optional.

A remarkable transformation—overnight.

When Bronx policewomen (we'd abandoned the title in 1973 for "police officer"—an androgynous term) traversed to other boroughs they sparked a scandal.

Trousers? How come? Just the Bronx? What's the authority?

In a wink all the females in the NYPD were in trousers. The corner louts were defeated.

And the P. C.?

I cowered cravenly in anticipation. I thought I knew Codd and felt he'd swallow my mutiny if I didn't make a thing about it—and I certainly didn't.

It worked. Not a single word was ever said—not even by the women who'd sought my inter-

vention. A quiet revolution—the best kind.

As time passed, I reflected on what I alone thought was a signal event. One real regret emerged.

In the telephone message I had transmitted I had carefully parsed the language, but I neglected—I discovered later—to include the option of pants or miniskirts for everyone, even male cops. The imagery really captivated me.

Today, half a century later, all is buried and forgotten, including Codd and, soon enough, me. But for one unheralded moment the women of the Bronx blazed the trail now plodded by millions.

An essential postscript—the next year, 1976, I supervised the policing of the Muhammad Ali—Ken Norton heavyweight championship in Yankee Stadium. The cops rioted (no contract in three years) and I was accused of mishandling it. Codd forced me to leave the NYPD. So, ultimately, he got to pay me back.

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Manipulations and deceptions

BY KATHRYN KELLY

How does the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board get what they want? One way is to twist and change input from their Community Advisory Committee (CAC) members to suit their agenda. And, according to Commissioner AK Hassan, referencing the 2020 budget, it is also through “a series of backroom deals and amendments that were put forward by some commissioners after TV cameras were off.”

As a member of the Hiawatha Golf Course CAC, I was told by a member of a previous Park Board CAC that the Park Board would solicit input from the CAC members and then ignore it and do what they wanted to do. I was skeptical. I am no longer skeptical. I have found out through person-

al experience how the Park Board Planning Department manipulates and changes the CAC members’ input to suit their purpose.

On Dec. 13, 2019, the Park Board publicly published a list of Hiawatha Golf Course CAC Design Priorities. How well did it reflect the input from the CAC members?

The worst omission was the CAC’s No. 1 item: protect the nearby homes from flooding with an engineering analysis. Everyone on the CAC agreed that this was to be the most important design item, but it was not on the list.

I had three items that I requested to be on the list. In the original published list to CAC members, one was omitted and two were modified by the Planning Department to change the meaning. After a back and forth with the

project manager, he agreed to add the item that was omitted and return the other two items to their original language. In the recently published list, the one item was, again, omitted from the list. And, the Park Board added their language back to the other two items. These three items are:

Item 1: I wanted the Park Board to answer the question, “Why does the Park Board want to reduce pumping?” Twice they have omitted this question from the list. Is it because they don’t want to answer this question?

Item 2: I asked for a plan for the 37 memorials that currently exist on Hiawatha Golf Course for people. The Planning Department changed this to a plan for “people of significance,” which would likely exclude most of the people currently memorialized. The project manager agreed to remove “people of significance” from this

item, but then it was back again.

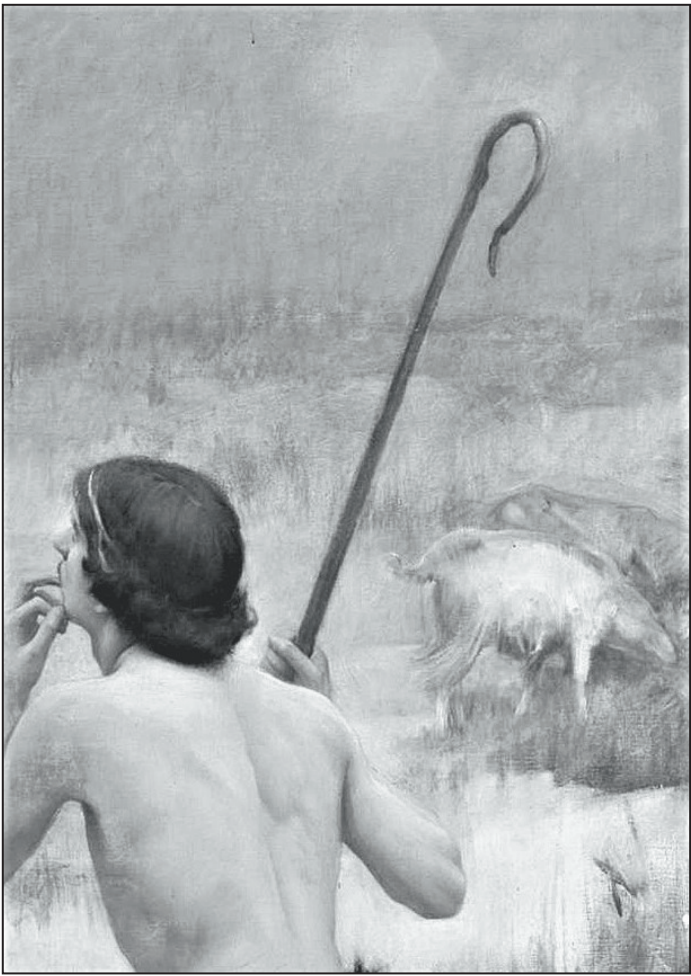
Item 3: I asked for a “New Parking and Traffic Analysis” for the neighborhood. The Planning Department changed it to “Update the current parking and traffic analysis.” There is a subtle, but important, difference between “new” and “update.” I asked for a “new” plan because I found basic flaws in the original planning and analysis, so a new plan needs to be done to correct these flaws. Also, the effect of the new Bergan’s development needs to be investigated and included.

In reference to AK Hassan’s statement, he recently voted against the 2020 budget because, as he wrote, he felt that some commissioners “stole nearly \$100,000 in funding for some of the most underserved youth in the Somali community” in a “final formal vote at a backroom in the City Hall.” He went on to say,

“I’m particularly disappointed in Commissioner Jono Cowgill and Commissioner Steffanie Musich for having one position when the cameras were on and another behind closed doors. This is not the type of representation that our community deserves and our Somali youth deserve to know when [people in] our community are being used as bargaining chips in dark rooms.”

Community input should be exactly what the community members stated, not a modification to suit the Park Board’s agenda. The Park Board doesn’t have to like the community input, but they should be honest enough with the public to accurately publish the real feedback. Plus, we need public servants whose private agenda matches their publicly portrayed agenda.

Golf



BY ED FELIEN

Obnoxious plutocrats and Donald Trump have given golf a bad name. That’s too bad, because it really has an honorable history.

It’s probably the oldest game played with a stick and a ball. Our ancestors in Egypt, thousands of years before they crossed the Sinai Desert into the Promised Land, were farmers and shepherds. Shepherds carried a long stick to prod sheep back into the fold if they strayed too far. Sometimes they would use their stick to try to hit a stone into a sheep’s butt to negatively reinforce bad behavior. If they had a friend with them, they could compete to see who could hit the sheep, and then, who could hit the tree. And then, much later, Scottish shepherds got very solemn about it, and they eliminated the sheep and gave it written rules.

Sometimes, in the morning, just before dawn, when I’m standing over a silly golf ball with a club in my hands, I wonder, “What am I doing here?” And I smile, and I think, “I am honoring my ancestors.”

Donald, from page 1

Contras in Nicaragua. The Contras shipped cocaine from Honduras to a CIA air base in Florida. The Mafia bought it for the U.S. market, and the money went to Iran to buy weapons that went to the Contras. It was a neat triangle. It should really be called the Iran-Contra-Mafia-CIA Affair to give credit to all the players.

The money that powers the Russian Mob comes from heroin, and that heroin comes from Afghanistan.

Everyone knows you’ve been using the U.S. military to deal opium out of Afghanistan. You had the U.S. Army protect trucks driving it to Pakistan to be turned into heroin and then drove the heroin back across Afghanistan to Turkmenistan to the Russian Mob who took it to Europe and the streets of New York City. It’s a \$5 billion-a-year racket in Afghanistan. That’s why Michael Flynn was your first hire, and that’s why you made him your national intelligence director.

He knew the territory. He was head of U.S. Army Intelligence in Afghanistan. His primary responsibility was to protect the opium crop from the Taliban who wanted to destroy it. He knew how to protect the convoys of contraband. He was at state dinners in Moscow, sitting with Putin. He had to quit after 24 days because he got caught lying about his Russian contacts to Vice President Pence. [Is Pence that far out of the loop that he really doesn’t know what’s going on?]

When Hamid Karzai refused to play ball with you and cut you into the \$5 billion pot of honey, you dropped the MOAB (Massive Ordnance Air Blast, com-

monly known as “Mother of All Bombs”) in his backyard in April of 2017. It was such a Mob thing to do—blow out his shop to sell him protection. Karzai shrieked to Al Jazeera, Afghanistan should not be used as a “testing ground” for weapons. He’s quieted down lately, so he must have begun to appreciate the value of U.S. military protection.

John Bolton knew what was going on. He resigned after telling Fiona Hill, “I don’t want to be part of that Ukraine drug deal.”

What was that “Ukraine drug deal”?

Isn’t the “Ukraine meddling in the 2016 elections” just a smoke-screen?

Wasn’t the Ukraine drug deal when the Mob Boss, Putin, put the pressure on you to put some pressure on Zelensky to sit down with the Kremlin Crime Boss and make a deal about Crimea?

You know, all this is becoming common knowledge, and eventually you will be tried for treason for betraying your country.

Let’s make a deal.

You plead guilty now and you get to keep Mar-a-Lago, or rather, we get to keep Mar-a-Lago,

and we keep you in there. You can have your old room, run of the place, your golf course, your old golf cart. And you can have visitors, and even conjugal visits. We’ll turn it into a federal prison palace. We will screen all your visitors because we’ll be protecting you from vengeance from the Mob.

You’ll love it. You’ll be safe and still be the center of attention.

And you’ll be a hero for sparing the country a painful ordeal.

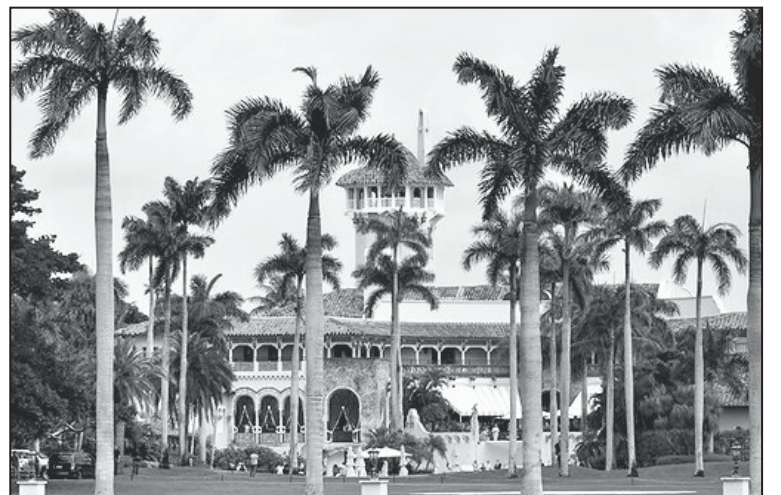
This is a good deal for you.

We’re giving you respect. We’re giving you a decent place in history. People will love you for it. People will remember you for hundreds of years. Everybody loves a story about a redeemed thief. You’ll be a greater president than George Washington.

Consider it an early retirement with full benefits and lasting immortality.

If you keep acting like you’re going to get away with it forever, then, when the crash comes, when everyone finally figures out what went on, you’re going to hate it.

Get out now and let everybody love you.



Mar-a-Lago: it already has a guard tower!

Equity is the root of it all

BY ELINA KOLSTAD

The other day while crossing the street with my family (including my 2-and-a-half-year-old) an oncoming car slowed to a stop. The car behind that one, however, sped up and aggressively passed the first car on the right. Luckily, my family had just made it to the opposite curb, but the reckless driver was definitely too close for comfort.

The intersection we were crossing is a notoriously dangerous one. Visibility is difficult for both

pedestrians and drivers owing to cars parked tightly on both sides of the street, and cars are almost always speeding through. It's also one of the few routes through the neighborhood to the freeway (other routes were largely closed off during the '80s and '90s as part of neighborhood "traffic calming" measures). A ghost bike stands as a monument to how lethal this intersection truly is.

The City of Minneapolis has adopted "Vision Zero: A Plan for Safer Streets in Minneapolis" (<https://www.visionzerompls.com/>).

"Vision Zero" originated in 1990s Sweden and has spread across Europe and now into American cities. At its heart it is a new perspective on traffic safety, where traditional road system design assumes perfect adherence and emphasizes individual responsibility. "Vision Zero" designs roadways with the assumption of user error and uses a systems approach to design roadways that decrease fatalities (<https://visionzeronetwork.org/about/what-is-vision-zero/>). As a part of this, the City of Minneapolis has included

traffic enforcement as a potential action within their plan. Open Streets has criticized this part of the plan, given the danger police pose to people of color in our communities (https://www.ourstreetsmpls.org/vision_zero_action_plan_launch).

Immediately after the asshole sped past us, my first thought was, "If we could trust the police, having a car stationed at that intersection would solve/improve the safety of this intersection." But we CAN'T trust the police. Open Streets rightly points out that increased police enforcement is problematic so long as the police

are given carte blanche with the lives of our residents. So, we need to go further.

If we as a city, and as a greater society as well, don't tackle police brutality head on, we will never be able to have complete streets that are safe for all modes of transit in walkable, livable communities. If we don't place equity at the center of all we do, we won't be able to avoid the greater catastrophes of climate change.

And can I just point out the obvious irony of using the police as a tool to save lives when they so regularly take them without consequence.

Mayday, from page 2

will still want to celebrate in Powderhorn Park. Have you made plans for that? Will you provide adequate sanitary facilities?

—Ed Felien

I received this reply:
Hi, Ed.

We have a number of staff out over the next few weeks for the holidays, but we should be able to get back to you in January 2020.

Best,
—Robin Smothers, Communications and Marketing

So, we are in discussions with the Park Board about porta-potties.

Sage Berglund wrote and said that she and her sister would be making papier mache puppets by the lake at the site of the Tree of Life.

Dhann Polnau wrote:

Upon the announcement of cancellation Jason Heisler somehow created a nonprofit and procured a parade and festival permit. His intention is just to ensure Mayday happens. He has no other agenda and wants anyone and everyone to join the table. Just the catalyst. Jason is one of the founders of the Hard Times Café.

Many parties from near and far are planning to claim that space on that day and make shit happen. This includes the HOBT sun canoe flotilla wants to paddle as well as the tree of life puppet crew wants to raise the tree! So, I was asked to create a community puppet pageant on that same footprint at the same time--are there going to be 4 or 5 "ceremonies" each vying for that spot?

—Dhann Polnau

I contacted Jason Heisler. He wrote:

Just waiting to hear from two people before I give out the date and place of the Board Meeting. We are applying for a Park permit. It's only \$1200. The food vendors will pay the Park Board 10 percent of sales. We hire the porta-potties. Our meetings have been at Hosmer Library. Board elections have been postponed till January.

—Jason Heisler

I haven't heard back from Jason since the holidays, but it seems like an organization is being formed and people are intent on re-creating Mayday in the familiar tradition. And they will take responsibility for providing porta-potties.

Southside Pride will continue to follow these developments.



This ghost bike stands as a monument at the lethal intersection.



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Noura
Jan 11 - Feb 16
by HEATHER RAFFO
directed by TAIBI MAGAR

Sponsored by
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EVENTS

Financial Peace University
Mondays, Jan. 13 – March 9
6:30 to 8 p.m.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
1720 E. Minnehaha Pkwy., Mpls.
Planning for the future is hard when you're still paying for the past! Listen — there's a better way! Join our Financial Peace University class and we'll learn how to beat debt and make a plan for the future ... together! Join us Mondays from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Jan. 13 through March 9 at Holy Cross. Open to the community—all are welcome. Anyone who is interested can register here: <http://fpu.com/1108524>.

Pathways Faith-Based
Life Skills Class
Thursday, Jan. 16, 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 any time! All are welcome and no

registration required. Questions?
Contact Julia at 612-317-3413.

Confronting Islamophobia
Saturday, Jan. 18
9 a.m. to noon

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Bartsch Room
2730 E. 31st St., Mpls.
Holy Trinity's Racial Justice Committee invites the community to learn how to talk with and inform your neighbors about the rich and varied faith and culture of Islam. The presentation features Jaylani Hussein, executive director of the Minnesota Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, and Safiya Hashi, the Youth Coordinator for CAIR. You can register online at bit.ly/HTJan18.

MLK Sunday
Sunday, Jan. 19
10:30 a.m. to noon

Living Spirit United Methodist Church
4501 Bloomington Ave. S., Mpls.
We celebrate the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Sunday, January 19. Minneapolis NAACP President Leslie Redmond will join us as guest speaker, and there will be special musical performances for the occasion.

Living into Being God's
Kindom in Minnesota
Saturday, Jan. 25
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church
511 Groveland Ave., Mpls.
Please save Saturday, Jan. 25 for an event led by Dr. Grace Pak from the General Commission on Religion and Race of the United Methodist Church. Dr. Pak will facilitate conversation and learning to bring people together across cultural differences in order to live more fully into God's Kindom. While sponsored by Twin Cities District Strategy Team, the event is open to all across Minnesota, who are invited, expected, and encouraged to join our conference leadership and attend this first conversation and learning. Hosted by Minnesota Methodists and Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church. For more info, see https://www.facebook.com/events/446045692965945/?active_tab=about

Spiritual Exploration
Opportunities
Plymouth Congregational Church
19th and Nicollet, Mpls.
612-871-7400, plymouth.org
For the complete Winter-Spring

lineup and to register: www.plymouth.org/explore/adult-spirituality/
The 1619 Project
Mondays, Jan. 27–Feb. 24
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Limited to 22; Tuition: Free, please register; Instructor: Ann Ludlow.
Last summer, the New York Times Magazine published The 1619 Project on slavery in America, which now is being widely used in high schools and college classrooms. The series builds on research by distinguished black academics, journalists and writers.
Meditation Matters
Tuesdays, Jan. 28–March 3
(intermittently)
7 to 8:30 p.m.
Tuition: Free, please register; Facilitator: John Bennett.
Try meditation methods with six practitioners on all or any of these Tuesday evenings: Jan. 28, Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25 and March 3. Scheduled presenters so far are: Todd Tsuchiya and Gail Wong, who will instruct us in Japanese Buddhist chanting; Emily Jarrett Hughes in wisdom dance; John Bennett in guided imagery; and Su Ying in a blend of Tai Chi and Qigong. Please sign up for the series by Jan. 24, or sign up for individual evenings by the Friday before each event. Classes are not sequenced.
Better Angels: Families and Politics
Saturday, Jan. 25
9 a.m. to noon
Jackman and Nancy Baltins Room
Limited to 52; Tuition: Free, please register; Instructor: Bill Doherty, PhD. Note: Prior participation in a Better Angels "Depolarizing Within" session (held last fall and announced in these pages) is required.
If our toxic political environment is affecting family bonds, this workshop will offer you:
• Insight into why family differences over politics are uniquely challenging;
• Recognition of common roles that family members play in political conversations (e.g., the Gladiator, the Defender and the Sniper);
• Skills for constructively handling family political differences.
We'll laugh and have some fun in this workshop—it won't be all serious. After all, we all come from quirky families.

Twin Cities children's choir program dedicated to providing high quality choral music education with excellence in performance. ACYC's four conductors are professional music educators and artists who nurture and challenge the 275 boy and girl singers in grades 2-12. Young singers come from across the Minneapolis/St. Paul metro area to weekly rehearsals at the Bloomington Center for the Arts. For more information about Angelica Cantanti, visit www.angelicacantanti.org.
A reception in the church's Chapel Lounge will follow the concert. This event is free and open to the public; a freewill offering may be received to support the Music and Fine Arts program. For further information, call 612-827-5919, or go to www.mountolivechurch.org.

ONGOING

Events at Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church
3430 E. 51st St. (kitty-corner from the Nokomis Library)
Blind Ministry Outreach - Saturday, Feb. 8, noon to 2 p.m. Includes dinner, devotions and fellowship.
Book Club, Feb. 1 at 10 a.m.
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.

Taizé Service
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 Feb. 14 at 7 p.m. or any second Friday of the month. Child care is provided.

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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.)

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
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Mpls. 55417
612-721-6231
Food Shelf every Tuesday 1o a.m. to 2 p.m.

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612-729-5463

www.faithlutheranmpls.org
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Fellowship 10 am
Education hour 10:30 am
Midweek Bible Study
Wednesdays 11 am
Pastor: Rev. Jesse Davis

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1720 E. Minnehaha Pkwy.
612-722-1083
www.holycrossmpls.org
Worship 9:30 am
Sunday Bible Study
"Read Through the Bible"
10:45 am
Pastor: Bruce Laabs

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CHURCH

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Pastor: Rev. Dr. Daniel B. McKizzie

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Forum/Sunday School 9 am

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Reflections

BY FRANCIS X. KRONCKE

"Your sacrifice in fighting against the war in Vietnam defined your life." Someone recently wrote that to me, and it is true. "Sacrifice"—I'm not sure about that word. At the time, I was young (mid-20s), now I'm old (mid-70s). Like the guys (some gals) who went to Nam, I was trying to be a Good American. Here's all I can say—*Follow your conscience and be true to yourself.* For me, after fulfilling two years of Conscientious Objector service at the U of MN's Newman Center under the inspiration of my peace hero, Father Harry Bury, I raided draft boards, went on trial, and then went off to federal prison ... so it went. But my most significant impact, and that of my fellow "Minnesota 8" draft board raiders, was nudging Dan Ellsberg as he made his final moral stand and released the Pentagon Papers, after being a witness at our trial (1971). For many, it was Dan's moral stand that flipped out President Nixon, who sent the future "Watergate burglars" to steal Dan's medical files ... all of which led to Nixon's self-destruction and resignation, and contributed to an eventual end to the Vietnam War.

Have conditions in America changed that much since the Sixties? Coleen Rowley (FBI) and Colonel Ann Wright are living heroes whom younger folk should meet and listen to, as is retired Minnesota State Representative Karen Clark. In many ways, things are better today in respect to the hope and courage these women represent. My own actions led to a greater awareness of the moral complexity of the ongoing social

and cultural challenges we face as "We, the People." In a sense, today, we know more of our communal Darkness ... which, somewhat ironically, enables us to see more of the communal Light that shines from every quarter of our nation. All people, especially the young (of heart!), should be strengthened by the contemporary peace-making actions of so many. Just know that *you will never be able to clearly see the impact of your witness and actions beforehand*—often only at your funeral will others properly describe your life! Possibly.

What is the legacy of the Sixties? *Look forward, not backwards!* Learn from the past but live for and into the future. That's how I survived prison. I learned to live raw and freely after a mostly stable Roman Catholic upbringing and "formation." There's little doubt that words like growing up, maturing, aging, and the like sound good, but they are fraught with growing pains, humility, self-denial, and the like. Looking forward takes grit and courage, which is ultimately rewarded with a deep sense of inner peace, *no matter what others say about you.* Remember, you only come this way once, so *kick some butt!* Especially your own. Ha.

Francis X. Kroncke, federal inmate 8867-147, is a seeker who has journeyed through the monastic life, the theological academy, federal courtrooms, a federal prison cell, and the byways of corporate America. In 1970, he took his Catholic theology into the American courts as he defended his draft board raiding crime, re: the trials of the "Minnesota 8."



Ram Dass passing

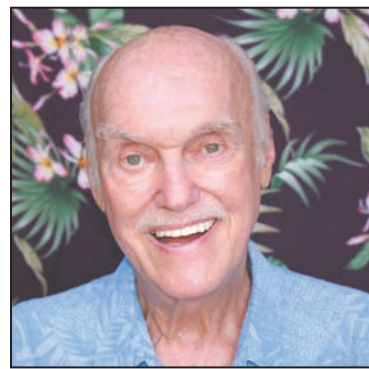
BY LAURIE SAVRAN

When Ram Dass (formerly known as Richard Alpert, sometimes known as RD), died on Dec. 22, 2019, at age 88 in Maui, I had recently returned from Maui, where I had gone to attend a retreat with Ram Dass entitled "Open Your Heart in Paradise." People considered me very lucky to have been with RD less than two weeks before his passing, and I was lucky indeed. It was my fourth time attending one of his retreats and each time was magical and uplifting.

Back in 1972 when I worked at Savran's Paperback Shop (I was married to the owner, Bill Savran), we received the book "Be Here Now" by Ram Dass. I immediately read the book and it changed my life, just like it changed the whole generation of New Age hippies, seekers, meditators and yoga practitioners. Tim Leary had coined the phrase

"turn on, tune out, drop out" several years earlier and "Be Here Now" became the blueprint on how to accomplish Leary's message.

Ram Dass' life started with privilege, along with Leary. He



Ram Dass

experimented with LSD at Harvard, got fired, went to India, met his guru, Neem Karoli Baba, came back to the U.S., wrote "Be Here Now" and numerous books, was the subject of several films, started many service orga-

nizations and then had a debilitating stroke in 1997 and eventually moved to Maui. Despite the stroke and health issues, he continued to teach until the end.

Over the years, Ram Dass came to Minneapolis many times and I never missed seeing him here. I also travelled to workshops and retreats where Ram Dass was presenting. I considered him my guru. Since his passing I have read many, many tributes to RD. The most important teaching that RD shared with the world came from his guru, Neem Karoli Baba: "Love other people and serve them all." Based on the four retreats with RD that I attended, I can attest to the fact that he practiced what he learned from his teacher. His radiant presence made each and every person he encountered feel that unconditional love we all yearn to give and to receive. The last words I heard him speak were: "I am loving awareness."

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BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

In 2008, at age 55, I lived in a small town in England. I had recently been diagnosed with high blood pressure, and my blood glucose and cholesterol numbers were high too, though not demanding treatment. I started an exercise regimen at a private gym in an old stocking mill about a mile from our house in Hinckley (UK). For over two years, until the lingering effects of the global banking crisis finally took my job and led to my return to the States, I religiously worked out. I often walked to and from the gym as a warmup, and I felt really good most of the time, at least until the stress piled on from my life's chaos. Back here in the Twin Cities in December 2011, I struggled to find stability—looking for a job in my field, fixing up the trashed condo that was the only thing I could afford with no stable income, navigating the hellscape of U.S. health care—so I never made good on my “resolution” to get back into a routine of physical fitness. I do some sporadic stuff—walking, yoga, exercise, even take a class here and there. Occasionally I get a long and exhausting walk as a side effect of political activism and I’m grateful I can still

do that—sometimes. But I know that I need routine, habit, persistence. When I was tasked with producing this new series on aging gracefully, I felt that the first topic had to be the things that express gracefulness—our bodies. Here are some tips gleaned

Silver Sneakers (SS) is a program you can join as part of a Medicare Advantage plan. It doesn’t cost anything extra beyond the premiums you pay for the plan. You can take your SS member card to the Y, Anytime, or many other fitness



Literally anyone can do guided meditation

from my searches, struggles and successes, as well as some anecdotes from friends on their healthy body routines. And by the way, if you are still under 60, this is for you as well. It’s never too early to start building a graceful aging program.

studios and get a free membership there. These clubs offer exclusive SS classes, but you can also use all their member resources. Silver Sneakers classes cover a variety of intensities. The “classic” class is a mix of stretches and body-weight resistance combined with non-impact aerobics, all performed with a chair and other simple aids. Nokomis Healthy Seniors also provides free SS classes that you can take even if you’re not on a Medicare plan that includes it. Check out both the SS home page for details at <https://www.silversneakers.com/learn/classes> and the NHS page at <https://www.nokomishealthyseniors.org/>.

If you’re more of a purist, or maybe already familiar with yoga, simple yoga practice, alone, with friends, or in a class may be your preferred route. Yoga comes in a variety of flavors nowadays. Some may be better suited to our youthful comrades—hot yoga, Bikram (a proprietary form of hot yoga), Iyengar, core yoga, power yoga—while there are also new yoga adaptations specifically for seniors, older beginners, or people with physical challenges. These include chair yoga, water yoga and restorative yoga, all of which can be found in Silver Sneakers classes, at the Y, and in low-cost community education at parks and schools. Also, some varieties of yoga are inherently more gentle, such as kripalu, vinyasa flow, kundalini, and ashtanga. Another very popular exercise style is Pilates. This has some historical

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borrowings from yoga, and also from dance training, and was actually invented as a restorative practice for ballet dancers with injuries, so it's easily adaptable for any body type or condition. There are so many

ways to do this are massage and other bodywork, acupuncture, and passive stretching. For massage, the resources are many and all you need to do is a computer search or ask a friend. For acupuncture, you can go with a sole

also walks his dog every afternoon for a mile or more.

- Jennifer, age 72, doesn't have a formal "exercise routine," doesn't like to "work out" or take classes. She thinks physical work or play is easier and more effective if it's just part of one's everyday life, walking to the co-op, parking farther away when driving, etc. She has always liked to do both housework and yard work and in winter shovels snow and does projects in the house such as painting the kitchen. She does enjoy going for walks with friends but wouldn't make it a constant practice.

- Elaine, mid-70s, is another who enjoys snow-shoveling and gardening. She also exercises at home using routines she has learned over the years from physical therapy, personal trainers and classes. Unlike Jennifer, who finds exercise machines boring, Elaine (like me) finds them meditative and inspiring. "For a while I was really hooked on exercise [at the YW]—not to get stronger, not to get better looking, not for any reason except that I liked going to the gym. It had become my ... meditation time ... I especially liked walking the track at sunset because the light in the gym is so spectacular at that hour." Although not her express purpose, she has noticed that exercise makes her feel better, controls pain and prevents falls.

- KC, looking younger than her 80 years, is a widow who had a long and impressive career as a health care administrator. She does a three-day-per-week Fit and Tone class, a well-paced class for active elders, at the YW, which for her is a social occasion as well as a workout. She also walks her little dog three times a day, and tracks her steps, aiming for 6,000 or more daily.

- Carolyn, a little past 80, single, with grown kids and grandkids, wrote an



A Silver Sneakers classic class somewhere in Minnesota

essay. Here's an excerpt:

"In my 40s I put together a program of stretches, weight-lifting, aerobic walking—all activities I could do with reasonable consistency and not much cost, along with an occasional yoga class, tai chi, etc. My favorite part of all this was the longer weekend walk that I started 20 years ago. About seven years ago, scoliosis of the spine, breast cancer, semi-blocked arteries, and a 'shower of small strokes' each took its little bite out of my stamina, my flexibility, my stability, my determination. My exercise program took a number of hits. Let's just say it has not disappeared but has shrunk. The long weekend walks are gone, to my immense dis-

appointment."

- Jesse, age 90, is a widower with three adult children who lives at the former Augustana senior care housing complex near downtown. Jesse's career was journalism, and he is now a blogger. He works out 20 minutes four days a week in the fitness studio, divided between a gentle walk on the treadmill and three strength-building machines. He also tracks steps and gets in about a mile of indoor walking daily. Read his blog at <http://augustanacare.org/get-know-us/blog/>.
- Also check out my own blogpost about my exercise routine in the UK at <https://deboramaskitchen.blogspot.com/2008/05/workouts-work-play-and-music.html>.



Mall-walking — easy, cheap, and a lifesaver

resources—TV shows, online videos, magazines, etc.—to facilitate creating your own yoga or Pilates practice at little or no cost, that this is a viable option. However, some styles include a big breath-control component, and some postures are contraindicated for those with high blood pressure, so if you have COPD, HBP or related conditions, consult your doctor first. If you're a novice or have any of these conditions, it's probably not a great idea to exercise completely alone; it might be more advisable—and safe—to at least find a buddy to practice with. The Twin Cities is awash with both yoga and Pilates studios, group trainers, personal trainers and clubs. I promise if you Google either one, you'll be inundated with possibilities.

Another way to go is to nourish the body passively. Some popular

practitioner, or you can check out community acupuncture, a network of very low-cost, low-frills, but credentialed practitioners in shared spaces. There is a very good one at the corner of Cedar and 38th Street. Passive stretching is relatively new to the area. Check out StretchLabs, which has several franchises in Minnesota, including one on West Lake Street near Bde Maka Ska.

I surveyed a few randomly-chosen, over-60 friends of mine to see what they do. I got more responses than I have room for in this piece, but here are a few samples:

- Dan, age 66, is a retired steelworker, single, with no kids. Like many retirees he travels quite a bit, including yearly long trips to Costa Rica, where he hikes and bikes, but when home he runs 4.5 miles every morning at about a 12-minute mile pace, and

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Notes from the desk of peace activist Polly Mann (b. Nov. 19, 1919)

Are the Climate Scientists You Are Relying on Really Scientists?

Robert Murray, coal mines owner and climate change denier, paid himself \$14 million, handed his successor \$4 million and earmarked \$1 million for casting doubt on man-made climate change, an event important enough to make a column in The New York Times. His company, Murray Energy, filed for bankruptcy in December, reporting

\$2.7 billion in debts and more than \$8 billion in obligations, mostly pensions, etc. Murray also funded conservative political action groups that deny the existence of climate change.

Kert Davies, the director of the Climate Investigation Center, a group funded by organizations seeking to limit the impacts of climate change, said, "I cannot name another single funder of this scale in this time period. None of this is transparent. It's a breakthrough on who is keeping the light on these major climate deniers."



The future of our trash at Lake Hiawatha

BY KATHRYN KELLY

On Nov. 15, an exhibit debuted at The White Page at East 34th Street and Cedar Avenue South in Minneapolis (<https://the-white-page.org/>). Called "Final Report—Lake Hiawatha—Anthropogenic Midden Survey," it displays a large collection of trash collected from Lake Hiawatha in South Minneapolis. This collection of trash has been gathered from Lake Hiawatha over several years by Sean Connaughty and The Friends of Lake Hiawatha. The amount and diversity of the trash is impressive and concerning.

This trash is due to the fact that Lake Hiawatha is the dumping ground for most of the storm sewer water in the Minnehaha Creek watershed. It comes from South Minneapolis and communities as far away as Lake Minnetonka. The majority of the trash enters Lake Hiawatha directly from the following sources: at least four storm sewer pipes that drain South Minneapolis water directly into Lake Hiawatha; and inbound Minnehaha Creek, which carries water and trash from a huge portion of the Minnehaha Creek watershed.

Included in the exhibit is a historical perspective of Lake Hiawatha and the area, with a short history of the lake from the time of the habitation of the Dakota people to the development of the park by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. Ethan Neerdaels



Sean Connaughty and a collection of trash

Goodroads Village gave an interesting presentation about "being a good relative," illustrating the Dakota perspective of the Dakota people's connection to the land.

A synopsis of observed wildlife at the lake and a satirical look at the items found, from a future

perspective, complete the exhibit.

This exhibit is an eye-opening look at the way we, as people and governments, do little to maintain a clean and healthy environment for ourselves. Is it time for our government officials to really take the lead in mitigating this trash?

A statement from Sean Connaughty and Friends of Lake Hiawatha:

All of the trash items here are from the Earth Day cleanup at Lake Hiawatha. The cleanup was attended by 104 volunteers on April 20, 2019, and in 2.5 hours, 350 pounds of trash were removed. Amongst that trash, 18,994 pieces of trash were cataloged. Since we started cleaning in 2015, we have removed 6,920 pounds of trash and still there is no stormwater treatment in place for the north pipe storm sewer system, which brings the major-

ity of this trash into our beloved Lake Hiawatha. We are hoping that the City of Minneapolis and The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) will begin installing a stormwater treatment system next winter 2020/2021. We have also asked the city and the MPRB to hire new staff people to clean up trash from Lake Hiawatha. We have not yet heard a response from either agency. Currently no agency monitors trash or removes trash from Lake

Hiawatha. It is only community volunteers that remove trash from the lake. But the quantity of trash is too great to address with only volunteers. Since the City of Minneapolis created the infrastructure that delivers the trash to the lake, and the MPRB is responsible to keep the parkland free of trash, it is only fair that we ask for a contribution of effort from these governing agencies that are responsible for the stewardship of Lake Hiawatha.



Changes at El Colegio

El Colegio is a small public high school in Minneapolis (Bloomington Avenue and 42nd Street) that has been serving students in English and Spanish since 2000. In 2019, Executive Director Norma C. Garcés was awarded a Bush Fellowship, so she will be leaving the school to pursue further education, while Katie Groh de Aviña steps in as the new executive director.



Executive Director
Norma C. Garcés

Garcés, in her position at El Colegio for the past nine years, created a culturally rich environ-



New Executive Director
Katie Groh de Aviña

ment from which, for the past five years, 100 percent of students have been accepted into post-secondary educational institutions. Her dream is that the Minnesota educational system will be one in which "Latinx students see themselves in their teachers, learning is relevant to their experiences and dreams, and they are safe to express themselves and their culture." As a trusted leader within

the Latinx community, she wants to scale the experience of El Colegio to communities across the state. During the two years of her Bush Fellowship she will study for a master's degree, get executive leadership training, and develop skills in community engagement, cross-cultural communication, finance and public speaking.

Groh de Aviña comes to El Colegio after having most recently served as one of the directors at Academia Cesar Chavez in Saint Paul. She has many years of leadership, experience and knowledge in charter school management and cultural competency in education. She will take the reins in January just after winter break.

Groh de Aviña has worked with the Latinx community for 20 years in multiple capacities, and has always believed in the potential of all her students. She is excited to continue the mission and the vision of El Colegio with pre-

paring our youth to be agents of change wherever their path leads them. "El Colegio has a created environment and space safe for all learners to be successful! I want to build on that and make sure more youth know about El Colegio when they are selecting their high school!"

The school is a very close-knit community where people know each other well. Students develop the necessary skills to be comfortable and to excel in a bilingual, bicultural world.

On its website, El Colegio describes its vision, aspirations and goals as follows:

Mission: In community, El Colegio honors and builds upon the talents of bilingual students and their diverse families to provide the academic rigor, leadership skills, career preparation, and community connections necessary to fulfill their potential as change makers.

Vision: Communities world-wide are transformed by the El Colegio experience of liberation.

Core Values: In community, we foster a space for healing and liberation through these values:

Identity: We support our youth and their families in recognizing and embracing their own unique histories, cultures, and languages.

Solidarity: We recognize that we all live in connection with each other; we must honor and support our youth to honor and embrace our communities.

Intellect: Success in life and community change requires critical thinking and a deeper level of consciousness.

Justice: We pursue our work not solely for the individual benefit of the youth and families we serve, but because we believe their role is critical in securing equity and opportunity for all members of society.

Palestine in the classroom

BY ISSRAA EL-KHATIB

Last November, I was invited to speak at Darcy Samek's class at St. Mary's University to explain more about Palestinian culture and history. It was a marriage and family therapy class that was interested in better understanding the context and values of Arab (Palestinian) immigrants specifically, and Muslims in general. As you can

imagine, this was a very large context to cover in one presentation, so I focused mostly on my experience as a Muslim Palestinian American.

I walked the class through a lot of what it means to hold that identity. I started with the historical context of the Israeli occupation of Palestine, explained the difference between Zionism and Judaism, talked about conditions

for Palestinians in the West Bank, Gaza and citizens of Israel. Then, I focused more on the cultural aspects and values, such as clothing, food, holidays, music, traditional dances like dabka, and values regarding marriage, divorce, parents and gender roles.

Finally, I went back to talk a little more about the occupation and how it impacts the Palestinian experience and shapes the cultural context due to the trauma. I talked about the restriction of movement, lack of access to water, the torture of children, and talked specifically about Hebron, Gaza and Jerusalem. Finally, I tried to bring it home by talking about the United States' relationship with Israel and how our government's continuous support has allowed the occupation to continue to this day.

In conclusion, I ended with symbols of Palestinian resistance and their determination to live

with rights and dignity. I also provided the class with books and websites that they could use to learn more.

The reaction was so positive! I felt the love and support from the students and I really felt like I made an impact by bringing Palestine to a space that probably has never heard about it (or cared about it) before. It really showed me the power of conversations like this and how little it can take

to bring a better level of understanding of something that may seem so foreign or complex. I did receive a little pushback from the professor who was trying to affirm that there is another narrative that is also valid. I tried to answer her questions to the best of my ability and kept the focus on the Israeli occupation and the human rights violations that affect Palestinians on a daily basis.



Dabka, traditional dance



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• COMMUNITY CALENDAR •

Southside Pride / NOKOMIS EDITION

January at Bryant-Lake Bowl
Bryant-Lake Bowl
Cabaret Theater

T

810 W. Lake St., Mpls.

Party in the Rec Room

Presented by Lorna Landvik
Through Saturday, Jan. 25

Don't make resolutions in the New Year – make reservations to PARTY IN THE REC ROOM! Join local author and actor Lorna Landvik as she throws another comedy bash, filled with characters created on the spot and margaritas created in a blender. Remember, if it's 2020 – it's time to party! Fridays, Jan. 3, 10, 17, and 24 at 7 p.m. (doors at 6 p.m.) and Saturdays, Jan. 4, 11, 18 and 25 at 7 p.m. (doors at 6 p.m.) \$20/\$18 in advance.

Too Much

Performed and Choreographed by Nic Lincoln

Sundays, Jan. 26 and Feb. 2

3 p.m. (doors 2 p.m.)

"Too Much" is an abstract dance piece performed and choreographed by Nic Lincoln. It is a mesmerizing work that cleverly evaluates the outcome of effort and action versus the art of failure. Lincoln is a humanitarian, and his new work doubles both as a performance art piece and a call to action. "Too Much" speaks of one's search to clarify what it means to be an individual at its purest state of being, and brazenly demonstrates one's ugly yet beautiful experience of discovering the importance of self-love.

Sundays, Jan. 26 at 3 p.m. (doors at 2 p.m.) and Feb. 2 at 3 p.m. (doors at 2 p.m.)

Ticket price \$15.

Cellular Cinema:

CAVE Festival

Friday, Jan. 31 and

Saturday, Feb. 1

7 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Please join us in the dark, cold depths of Minnesota winter for the Third Edition of the Festival of Cinematic & Audio-Visual Experimentation (CAVE4)! We have a fantastic lineup of visiting artists and curators again this year, coming from across North America and presenting a diverse array of screenings, performances and discussions.

Friday, Jan. 31 at 7 p.m. (doors at 6:30) and 9 p.m. (doors at 8:30) and Saturday, Feb. 1 at 7 p.m. (doors at 6:30) and 9 p.m. (doors at 8:30) \$6-\$15 sliding scale, \$5 with student ID. Artists will be announced shortly! More info at www.bryantlakebowl.com.

Nature Connections

Jan. 7–Feb. 14

Loring Park (downtown) - meet at Loring Community Arts Center

1382 Willow St., Mpls.

Jan. 7 to Feb. 13

Indoors: Tuesdays, 2 to 3 p.m.

Outdoors: Thursdays

2 to 3 p.m.

Matthews Park (Seward) - meet at Matthews Recreation Center, 2318 S 29th Ave., Mpls.

Jan. 9 to Feb. 14

Indoors: Thursdays

10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

This January, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) launches Nature Connections, a new program

designed for adults 55 & up.

Enjoy varied activities focused on nature, including bird-watching, winter tree identification and flower arranging. Get insights from an MPRB naturalist. Choose outdoor or indoor sessions – or both!

Outdoor Sessions: Enjoy a stroll or a snowshoe around the park and neighborhood. Walking poles and ice cleats available for use. Sessions focus on topics such as bird-watching and winter tree identification. Time outside depends on the weather, and we'll warm up with a beverage afterward.

Indoor Sessions: Bring nature inside with activities like bird-watching, floral arranging and growing indoor plants. All sessions for adults 55+ and FREE. Registration encouraged / Walk-ins welcome! Go online: bit.ly/MPRBnatureconnections. Call Matthews Recreation Center: 612-370-4950. Call Loring Community Arts Center: 612-370-4929. Questions? Email LBretheim@minneapolisiparks.org.

STAR-Lite Training: Learning Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience in a Single Day
Thursday, Jan. 16

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

East Side Freedom Library
1105 Greenbrier Street
St. Paul 55106

Pay-what-you-can-up-to \$40. Space is limited to 60. Optional 6.5 CEs and 5.5 CLEs available for an additional \$35. Please

FIND YOUR EVENT:

L -LIT

M -MUSIC

D -DANCE

T -THEATER

A -ART

preregister by Jan. 8, 2020. For details and registration: <https://sljan162019.eventbrite.com/> STAR-Lite is a single-day, evidence-based training integrating neuropsychology, trauma healing and resilience, restorative justice, nonviolent conflict transformation, and broadly defined spirituality. All are welcome to join us at this training. Partially funded by The Saint Paul and F. R. Bigelow Foundations. Sponsored by www.mnpeace.org with our Community Partners.

Neighborhood Night—Everyone Welcome!

Thursday, Jan. 16

7 to 8:30 p.m.

Holy Name Church
Garvey Hall

3637 11th Ave. S., Mpls.

Join us for a viewing and lively discussion of the 2019 Rick Steves documentary "The History of Fascism in Europe." This overview of the rise of fascism in Europe in the 20th century begins with WWI and includes inspirational stories of those who resisted the violence and turbulence of the times. Come, learn and get to know neighbors! Coffee included. Bring a friend! No cost/no registration. For more info: www.churchoftheholynam.org; 612-724-5465.

Carmina Burana

Minnesota Dance Theatre

Friday, Jan. 17, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 18, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 19, 3 p.m.

The Cowles Center

528 Hennepin Ave., Mpls.

Minnesota Dance Theatre audience favorite "Carmina Burana" follows a long line of sensuous inspiration, from the silent songs of 13th-century vagrant monks to Carl Orff's brilliant orchestral adaptation of the ancient words. Under the direction of Lise Houlton, Loyce Houlton's masterpiece channels the earthly rumblings of love and lust, mixed with the pangs of fortune and fate, in a hedonistic romp of bodies, music, and movement. This sizzling multimedia performance offers a spectacular display of Twin Cities artistry as MDT's sinuously prolific dancers are joined in energetic merrymaking by a powerful corps of musicians and vocalists. Tickets available at 612-206-3600 or www.thecowles-center.org.

Lunar New Year Celebration

Saturday, Jan. 18, 2 to 5 p.m.

Midtown Global Market

920 E. Lake St., Mpls.

Celebrate the Lunar New Year

at Midtown Global Market with a free public event featuring live music, a traditional Chinese Lion dance at 3:30 p.m. by Ha-Family Entertainment, Chinese Heritage Foundation activities, a free kid's craft table and more. The Lunar New Year is the largest and most important holiday in Chinese culture. During this 15-day celebration, families and friends unite to decorate their homes, watch fireworks and spend time together. In the Chinese Zodiac, 2020 is the Year of the Rat. Those born in the Year of the Rat are said to be instinctive, alert in nature, sophisticated and filled with spirit, wit, vitality and flexibility. Trung Pham and his family, owners of Pham's Rice Bowl at the Midtown Global Market, are sponsoring this annual community event. Free and open to the public. Midtown Global Market is an internationally-themed public marketplace offering groceries, great food and unique gifts. Midtown Global Market, owned by two non-profit entities: the Cultural Wellness Center and the Neighborhood Development Center, serves as a small business incubator whose mission is to provide access and opportunity for aspiring entrepreneurs. Together these entities make up a dynamic community gathering place that highlights the talent, ambition and cultural assets that characterize its neighborhood, contributing to its economic and social fabric. www.midtownglobalmarket.org

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Tribute Concert

Sunday, Jan. 19

3 to 4:30 p.m.

Ted Mann Concert Hall
University of Minnesota
2128 S. 4th St., Mpls.

The 39th annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Tribute Concert is a not-to-be-missed multi-disciplinary celebration intermixing the words of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with musical performances. This year's program focuses on the theme of "I Am Because We Are (On Being a Good Neighbor)" and is curated by U of M alumnus G. Phillip Shoultz, III of Vocal-Essence. Featuring the University of Minnesota Gospel Choir (Adrian Davis, director), Freddie Bell and Chantel Sings of KMOJ Radio, and more. This annual concert is free of charge and open to the general public; no advance tickets or reservations are required. Learn more at z.umn.edu/mlk2020.



• COMMUNITY CALENDAR •

Southside Pride / NOKOMIS EDITION

MLK Holiday Diversity Career Fair

**Monday, Jan. 20
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

U.S. Bank Stadium
West Plaza Lobby
401 Chicago Ave., Mpls.
Plan to attend and meet face-to-face with several of the Greater Minneapolis area's finest employers. All of the employers have open positions they are seeking to fill. Over 50 Minnesota companies hiring. Positions in the following areas are typically available: Sales, Customer Service, Call Center, Management, General Business, Marketing, Retail, Administrative, Insurance, Banking, Engineering, Accounting, Finance, Education, Law Enforcement, Government, Military, Hospitality, Human Resources, Technicians, Telemarketing, Healthcare, IT, and more.
Pre-register now and receive information about employers and job alerts available before the event. The MLK Holiday Diversity Career Fair is FREE and open to everyone, regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, etc. For more information, <https://www.prodivnet.com/events/mlk-jr-holiday-diversity-career-fair-1> or call (800) 390-5561, ext. 107.

"Healing Beloved Community" — MLK Event at Minneapolis College Thursday, Jan. 23 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Minneapolis College
1501 Hennepin Ave., Mpls.
Minneapolis College invites you to join us in Celebration and Engagement, in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, on Thursday, Jan. 23. The schedule for the day is as follows:
- Continental Breakfast: 8 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.
- Workshop: 9:30 a.m. to noon
- Truth and Transformation: Healing a Beloved Community
- Samuel Simmons, LADC
- Service Projects and Resource Tables: 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- Lunch: Noon to 1:30 p.m.
- Keynote Address: 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. - Dr. BraVada Garrett-Akinsanya, PhD, LP, LICSW, Psychologist
The event will be held on the first floor of the T building on the Minneapolis College campus, 1501 Hennepin Avenue, downtown Minneapolis. This event is free and open to the public. Free parking is available in the Minneapolis College parking ramp. For more information, call 612-659-6471 or visit www.minneapolis.edu/MLK2020.

Senior Living Information Sessions

Wednesday, Jan. 29

10 a.m. The Pillars of Prospect Park Seminar

12 p.m. Noon Lunch

12:30 p.m. Plan the Perfect Move/Downsizing Seminar

St. Frances Cabrini Church
1500 Franklin Ave. SE, Mpls.
Come to one or both Seminars!
RSVP: Jay at 612-623-7000.

Joshua Cunningham and Charles Lyon

Feb. 1 – March 7

Opening Reception:

Saturday, Feb. 1, 2 to 5 p.m.

Groveland Gallery
25 Groveland Terrace, Mpls.
Groveland Gallery is pleased to announce the opening of "Getting There," an exhibit of new paintings by Joshua Cunningham, and "Out West," an exhibition of new paintings and pastel drawings by Charles Lyon. The artists will be present at the opening reception Saturday, Feb. 1 from 2 to 5 p.m. Both shows continue through March 7. For more information please call 612-377-7800 or visit www.grovelandgallery.com.

Women's Prison Book Project Annual Pancake Breakfast and Book Sale

Saturday, Feb. 8

8 a.m. to noon

Walker Community United Methodist Church
3104 16th Ave. S., Mpls.
All you can eat buttermilk, vegan, and gluten-free pancakes; Southern-style grits; Fruit salad; Coffee, tea, and juice. Adults \$6-\$10 sliding scale; Children: \$3. After filling your belly, visit our book sale to fill your mind. Books \$2-\$3. The Women's Prison Book Project is an all-volunteer organization that sends free reading material to women and transgender prisoners all over the country. Our project depends on donations of free books, volunteers filling book orders, and fundraisers like the pancake breakfast to pay for book postage. For more information: <http://wpbp.org>; Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/womensprisonbookproject/>; email womensprisonbookproject@gmail.com.

Poet Sean Hill at Literary Witnesses

Monday, Feb. 10, 7 to 9 p.m.

Plymouth Congregational Church
1900 Nicollet Ave. S., Mpls.
Poet Sean Hill reads for the Winter 2020 Literary Witnesses and he brings along writers from his Minnesota Northwoods Writers Conference. Sean Hill is the author of "Dangerous Goods," a Minnesota Book Award winner, and

"Blood Ties & Brown Liquor," named one of the Ten Books All Georgians Should Read. His poems have appeared in such journals as The Oxford American, Poetry, Tin House, and the Harvard Review, and several anthologies, including "Black Nature: Four Centuries of African American Nature Poetry," "The Art of Angling: Poems about Fishing," and "Villanelles." Hill is currently the director of the Minnesota Northwoods Writers Conference at Bemidji State University and makes his home in Montana. Visit him online at: www.seanhillpoetry.com. Book signing and reception to follow.

"How to be an Antiracist" Book Discussion

Sunday, Feb. 16

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

St. Peter Claver Church
369 Oxford St. N., St. Paul
The Social Justice Committee is meeting in the Church Hall to discuss Ibram X. Kendi's book, "How to be an Antiracist." Kendi explores ethics, history, law, and science to discover how we can play an active role in building an antiracist society. This is part of the Social Justice Rising Book Discussion Series. While helpful, it is not necessary to have read the book. More info at https://www.facebook.com/events/1103156780074544/?active_tab=about

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.



POETS AND WRITERS AND MUSICIANS AGAINST THE WAR ON THE EARTH

Join us to honor the earth with words and music.

January 15
The American Swedish Institute

FREE

Doors open at 6pm, program at 7

Ruth Bly Sonam and Tenzin Dhechhen Mary Moore Easter Timothy Frantzich
Ron Leith Jim Lenfestey Freya Manfred Jeannine Ouellette Dougie Padilla
Matt Rasmussen Robert Robinson Joyce Sutphen Aby Wolf

All donations and silent auction proceeds benefit: Citizens' Climate Lobby, Climate Generation, Fresh Energy, Interfaith Power and Light, MN 100% Renewable Campaign, MN350.org, Sierra Club.

Poets and Writers and Musicians Against the War on the Earth

Wednesday, Jan. 15, 7 p.m. (doors open at 6 p.m.)

The American Swedish Institute, 2600 Park Ave., Mpls.

Join us to honor the earth with words and music! Organized by poets and writers Ruth Bly, James Lenfestey, Freya Manfred and musician Tim Frantzich, this free event presents music, poems and stories that move from grief to compassion in the face of daunting environmental challenges.

The 75-minute program opens with a children's chorus and a Tibetan blessing by Sonam and Tenzin Dhechhen, followed by performances by celebrated musicians Robert Robinson and Aby Wolf, Minnesota Poet Laureate Joyce Sutphen, and poets and writers Mary Moore Easter, Ron Leith, Jeannine Ouellette, Dougie Padilla and Matt Rasmussen, with a special tribute to Swedish Nobel Laureate Tomas Tranströmer.

All donations and proceeds from the silent auction will benefit nonprofit organizations tabling at the event: Citizens Climate Lobby, Climate Generation, Fresh Energy, Interfaith Power and Light, mn350.org, MN 100% Renewable Campaign, Sierra Club and Water Legacy.

Cost: Free, but donations welcome. www.asimn.org

No pre-registration required.

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Minneapolis Public Schools and The Tower of Babel

BY ED FELIEN

Last year the Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) District lost 1,500 students, more than 80 percent of them students of color. Enrollment was 45,011 in 2000. Today it's 35,717. How does the School Board react to this obvious vote of no confidence? They want to eliminate six more schools. They want to further centralize, eliminate the small schools and make the big schools even bigger.

Don't they know that's exactly what's driving parents away from public schools? Schools are already too big and too scary. Parents look at the size of those schools and they don't believe their child will get the attention and education they need.

It is extremely difficult to get accurate information from the MPS. I have written asking for current budgets and have received no response. The last year for which I could get data was fiscal year 2012 - 2013. The Superintendent's Office got \$1,192,291. The chief executive officer got \$675,083. The total expenditures for administration and maintenance were \$167,882,825. The total allocation for teaching was \$286,477,985. Administrative costs were 36.9 percent of the total. Generally, in evaluating charitable or government programs, any administrative costs over 15 percent are considered a waste of money. Charities are generally not funded if their costs go over 30 percent. Federal programs specify a 15 percent administrative overhead. 36.9 percent means bloat and waste and a more impenetrable bureaucracy.

Bureaucracies are a natural result of the concentration of power. The king or superintendent of schools decides they need more help doing some of the mundane stuff so they can be free to do the really more important stuff. So, kings establish a class of nobility and superintendents create area superintendents. The more layers of government one can create means the one at the top is more and more important. And, since it's efficient to have everyone under one roof, they build bigger and bigger palaces to broadcast their magnificence.

King Nebuchadnezzar ruled the very advanced Mesopotamian Empire in the 6th century BCE. He built a tower in Babylon to house his government that was the grandest structure of its kind anywhere in the known world. He had the world's greatest library, a collection of Sumerian literature

that contained the early telling of the story of Adam and Eve. He had to tax everybody to pay for it. Most countries went along with it, but the Jews in Israel refused.

In 597 BCE he besieged the city and carried away the rich and powerful. Ten years later he had to do it again, and he carried away Ezekiel and Ezra. Five years after that, he destroyed the Temple and carried away most of the people of Jerusalem.

By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down

Yeah, we wept, when we remembered Zion

There the wicked

Carried us away in captivity

Required from us a song

Now how shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?

—By Brent Dowe and Trevor McNaughton

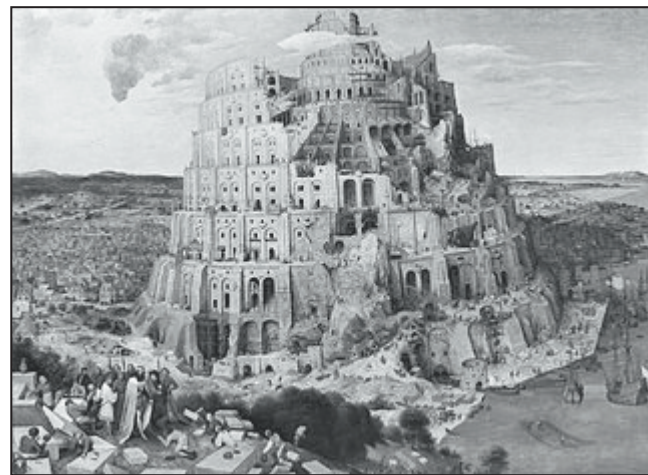
The Jerusalem royal families and their court were probably kept in the Tower in the center of Babylon. It was probably in the library there that Ezekiel and Ezra wrote the first five books of the Bible, and where Ezekiel saw the wheel inside another wheel and, probably, the story of the captivity in Babylon inside the story of the flight from Egypt.

The Persian king, Cyrus, defeated the Babylonians in 539. He freed the Jews to return to Israel, and he gave them money to rebuild their Temple. It is tempting to believe he was generous because he was grateful for the assistance the Jews might have given

him in overthrowing the Babylonians. If the Tower of Babel is a description of current events as well as a criticism of the dangers of a mountainous bureaucracy, then perhaps the seven plagues in Exodus that forced the Pharaohs of Egypt to free the Jews could be seen as a metaphorical description of the resistance of the Jews in Babylon and a handbook for guerrilla tactics.

The dangers of a swollen bureaucracy are even more apparent in the example of China. For almost 2,000 years the Chinese developed a civil service exam that produced a scholarly class that ran the government, but by the middle of the 19th century, the exam had lost touch with reality. It didn't take into consideration the industrial revolution or the interference of foreign imperial powers. French, German, English and American financial interests ruled China, and in their Foreign Concession in Shanghai the sign read, "No Chinese or dogs allowed."

The Minneapolis Public School system needs to think smaller, not bigger. They need to develop childcare and early childhood education within a block of a child's home. They need to have elementary schools small enough so every child can meet and know every other child. The middle schools and high schools should be much smaller, too. We don't need a school large enough to field a great football team be-



The Tower of Babel (Vienna), Pieter Bruegel the Elder, Google Art Project

cause, thankfully, schools aren't playing as much football as they used to.

Bigger is not better. Small is beautiful. The scale of a building and an educational program must be measured from the perspective of the intended object. Young people need to believe their learning environment is knowable and within their control.

Unfortunately, the Minneapolis Public Schools system seems

determined to go in the opposite direction and continue its death spiral into extinction.

"Let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven"; but the LORD condemned them for their arrogance and pride and "did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth."

—Genesis 11:1-9



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

3200 CHICAGO AVENUE SOUTH
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55407
CALL US AT 612-822-4662

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Millennials Gone Mad

BY ED FELIEN

What happened?

There are revolutionary changes happening in Minneapolis, and I don't remember voting on them. Robespierre had more of a mandate for his Reign of Terror than Bender and Frey do for their changes that are transforming Minneapolis.

The city's so-called "Inclusionary Zoning" has marked the inner city for extermination through gentrification. They are planning to eliminate the communities of color in the inner city in the name of integration, and they are sparing the neighborhoods that have historically discriminated against people of color. The communities included in the zoning change will be excluded and removed, and the communities excluded in the zoning change will be included in the new Minneapolis. What amazing doublethink. What a fraud.

They are raising our taxes more than they have in 10 years to pay for more cops and more bureaucrats. We have tried for months to get the city to show us a manning schedule of the Minneapolis Police Department so we could begin to hold them publicly accountable, but they have refused to send us the data.

They are reducing the lane widths on major city streets like Park and Portland and 42nd Street.

The new lanes are only 11 feet wide, which creates more "side friction." They are deliberately making the streets more dangerous in the belief that will slow down traffic. Early last month I wrote to Council Member Andrea Jenkins, who represents the area around 42nd Street: "Are the reduction of lane width for autos and enhanced space for bike lanes on 42nd Street part of the 2040 Plan to 'Reduce speed limits'?" She hasn't answered.

But that wasn't enough for the Millennials Gone Mad (MGMs). They converted Lyndale Avenue from four lanes to three and reduced the lane width to 10 feet.

Yes, fossil-fuel-powered motor vehicles need to be phased out. There are, right now, more than 5 million electric cars on the road, an increase of 63 percent from last year. It's happening, and instead of subsidizing the fossil fuel industry, the government should be doing more to subsidize electric cars, and the city should be encouraging more charging stations. A war on fossil fuels shouldn't necessarily be a war against motorized vehicles. For seniors, families, and for shopping—a car may be a necessity. The actions by the

MGM's on behalf of bikes make it seem like their bikes are aggressively trying to shove our cars off the road. Can't we have a truce and talk about this?

In Amsterdam they have separate streets for bikes with traffic signals. Instead of encouraging bikers to use Park and Portland, why don't we make Oakland a through street for bikes only? Cars could only drive for one block before hitting a diverter. That would calm traffic on Oakland and eliminate bike accidents on Park and Portland.

An incident in South Minneapolis last summer illustrates the overreach of these modern day Robespierres, these MGMs: A friend in South Minneapolis was having troubles with squirrels eating the soffit and fascia on their home and eating their garden. Squirrels are rodents, like rats and mice. The Minneapolis Code of Ordinances—Pest and Vermin Control, 229.70, says, "It shall be the responsibility of the owner of such property to exterminate the rats." So, rather than pass the vermin on to someone else by leaving

them in a park, they were exterminating them.

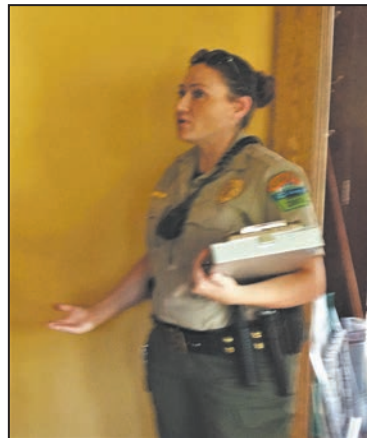
Some MGM found out about it and reported it to Megan O'Brien, animal control officer for the city. She paid a visit to them in full battle gear and informed them that it was against the law in Minneapolis to kill any animal: Chap. 64.90, Prohibited Acts: "No person shall kill or injure any animal within the city unless it be in defense of himself or herself, another person or the threat of imminent death of another animal."

My friend was incredulous. "You mean you can't kill a mouse or a rat?"

Officer O'Brien was insistent, "What you do inside your house the city won't bother you, but you are not permitted to kill a mammal outside your home."

Chap. 64.90, Prohibited Acts is an interesting chapter in City Ordinances. It also says,

"No person shall cage any animal for public display purposes unless the display cage is constructed of solid material on three (3) sides to protect the caged animal from the elements and



Megan O'Brien, Animal Control Officer, Defender of Rodents

unless the horizontal dimension of each side of the cage is at least four (4) times the length of the caged animal," and "It shall be a misdemeanor for any person who houses, possesses, or is in direct contact with an elephant to use a bullhook, ankus, baseball bat, axe handle, pitchfork, or similar device designed to inflict pain for the purpose of training or controlling the behavior of an ele-

phant." These prohibitions seem to exclusively apply to preventing cruelty to animals in circuses, and it is doubtful that the intent of the ordinance was to prohibit control of pests and vermin.

It is true that a rodent is an animal, and it seems the city has taken the side of the rodents. Chapter 64.90 is at odds with 229.70, and the City of Minneapolis has chosen to aggressively enforce, with military khaki and a fearsome utility belt, the rights of rodents.

George Orwell said, "If you want a vision of the future, imagine a boot stamping on a human face—forever."

OK, Millennials, can we talk about this?

• • • • •

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