



**We build Pride on the Southside**

**RIVERSIDE  
EDITION**

**THIRD MONDAY OF THE MONTH**

**MAY  
2019**

**VOL. XXIX, ISSUE 15**

## Big Beasts

BY TONY BOUZA

*Editor's note: Once again, I vigorously disagree with Mr. Bouza's analysis. Please read my note at the end of his essay.*

Cineaste.

Today's word—and, since confronting the English language on Dec. 22, 1937, I've grown increasingly fond of this really powerful tool. At about that time I began my affair with movies. One of the first was a horror pic that was actually a rewrite of Shakespeare's "Richard III." How tricky is that? (It was titled "Tower of London.")

I came to appreciate the artist's role as prophet—and nowhere was it more striking (for me) than on the Silver Screen. Ultimately, I came to rely on movie makers' views of the world.

So, I asked the folks here in Geezerland to get "Leviathan."

It is a contemporary view of Russian society—and a baleful one indeed.

The film depicts a society awash in vodka and corruption—yet curiously remains a rickety democracy.

The central characters lie, cheat, drink and cut every corner. The corruption—among officialdom, friends and family—is so pervasive and hopeless as to preclude any attempt at rescue, reversal or circumvention.

See Bouza, page 3



*There was a petting zoo with goats and kangaroos, ponies, hot dogs and hamburgers at the 3rd Precinct Open House on Wednesday, May 15. The Chief wasn't there, but Mike Kjos, the Assistant Chief who oversees all other Departments was, so I asked him what he thought about the conflict between Kroll and the Mayor and Chief about warrior training for officers. He said the training is being negotiated. Negotiated? Does that mean the Mayor and Chief don't set policy about the use of force by police officers, but official public policy must be negotiated with Bob Kroll? That tells us a lot about who is running the Minneapolis Police Department. - Ed Felien*

## Fire Bob Kroll!

BY ED FELIEN

When Mayor Frey announced an end to fear-based warrior training for Minneapolis police, Police Federation President Bob Kroll announced his Federation would offer that warrior training free to Minneapolis police officers.

Warrior training was cited as the principal cause of Officer Yanez's killing of Philando Castile. It was that kind of conditioning that was probably responsible for the Minneapolis police killings of Travis Jordan, Thurman Blevins, Jamar Clark and Terrance Franklin.

Tragically, the mayor and police chief acted only after

it became obvious that Mohamed Noor (a black officer) killed Justine Damond (a white woman) as a result of this training and conditioning.

Black lives didn't matter.

What Kroll did when he attempted to establish a contrary training program was to countermand a very clear policy directive from the mayor and chief of police.

Civil Service Rule 11: "Causes for Disciplinary Action: Misconduct is the failure to comply with any work rule, policy, ordinance or law or any behavior that would offend a reasonable person." "Insubordination (failure to follow a directive from a supervisor)."

The Federation labor agreement with the city says, "It is understood that the City, through its various Departments, has the right to establish reasonable work rules and regulations," and Section 8.01 says, "The Federation, its officers or agents, or any of the employees covered by this Agreement shall not cause, instigate, encourage, condone, engage in or cooperate in any strike, the stoppage of work, work slowdown, the willful absence from one's position, or the abstinence in whole or in part from the full, faithful and proper performance of the duties of employment, regardless of the reasons for so doing."

Why weren't Kroll's actions

See Bob Kroll, page 6

## Will a giant apartment complex replace Bergan's?

BY DEBORAH SMITH

Bergan's SuperValu on Cedar Avenue across from the Hiawatha Golf Course will soon be just a memory for people in the Ericsson, Northrop and Hale neighborhoods.

Developers are moving ahead to replace it with a 5-story, 72-foot-tall, 125-unit apartment building occupying the block bounded by Cedar and Longfellow Avenues, 47th Street and Minnehaha Parkway. A 23,500-square foot retail/commercial space would occupy most of the first floor. Project drawings show a grocery store in that space, but the developer, Trammell Crow, has not disclosed specific plans.

The redevelopment area does not include Washburn-McReavey funeral home, Caribou Coffee, Grand Ole Creamery or Carbone's/Cork and Dork.

While people in the neighborhoods surrounding Bergan's are sad to see it go, most are not against rede-



veloping the block, they are just concerned with what has been proposed.

There are a number of reasons this plan needs closer scrutiny and significant modification.

Part of the site is located within the FP Floodplain Overlay District, which requires that the lowest floor be elevated 1 foot and the finished fill elevation must be no lower than 1 foot below the regulatory flood protection elevation, and the fill must extend the same elevation at least 15 feet beyond the outside limits of the structure. The developers are asking for a Conditional Use Permit to reduce the minimum extension of fill from 15 ft. to 0 ft. beyond the limits of the structure. This is in an area already prone to flooding, and no environmental study has been done.

This planned building is needlessly high. The city's Shoreland Overlay ordinance, adopted in May 1988, states that buildings should not be higher than the tree line, and it gives 2.5 stories or 35 feet as the recommended height limit. Even though it appears the City Council

See Bergan's, page 6

**Our 10th Annual**

**Celebrate Spring on  
Minnehaha Avenue**

**Pages 7, 8, 9, 10, & 11**



## The Park Board wants an artificial swamp to replace Hiawatha Golf Course

BY KATHRYN KELLY

The Park Board proposal would build a “constructed wetland” on the Hiawatha Golf Course property, and they say it would become a “natural wetland” again. This plan violates Environmental Protection Agency guidelines found in EPA documents about Constructed Wetlands.

Definition:

Artificial [constructed] wetlands are wetlands that have been built or extensively modified by



humans, as opposed to natural wetlands, which are existing wetlands that have had little or no modification by humans, such as filling, draining or altering the flow patterns or physical properties of the wetland.

Based on the EPA definition of “natural wetlands,” the Hiawatha Golf Course property has not been a natural wetland since it was modified in the 1930s, and it can never again be considered a “natural wetland” because it is a product of extensive modifications by human beings and extensive changes in the neighborhoods surrounding the property.

The following information about site selection for constructed wetlands comes from EPA documents:

- The site should not be in a floodplain. Hiawatha Golf Course is on a floodplain.

- Although peats are common in natural wetlands, they are not preferred soil for establishing constructed wetlands. Hiawatha Golf Course is heavy in peat.

- A large buffer zone should be placed between the wetland and neighboring property. The wetland should not be placed next to the edge of neighboring properties. The current plans put the wetland across the street from homes, i.e., within about 30 feet, and removes the large buffer zone (the golf course) that currently protects low-lying homes.

- The effectiveness of a constructed wetland in treating wastewater or stormwater is related to the retention time of the water in the wetland. High volumes of water through a wetland reduce the effectiveness of the wetland. Lake Hiawatha has one of the highest volumes of water running through it (lowest water residency rates) of any lake in the State of Minnesota.

- Misconception: Constructed wetlands can remove significant amounts of phosphorus. Phosphorus removal in constructed wetlands is limited to seasonal uptake by the plants, which is not only minor compared to the phosphorus load in municipal wastewater, but is negated during the plants’ senescence, that is, their condition or process of deterioration with age. Within one or two years of start-up, removal of phosphorus will decline. The Park Board has

not been diligent in maintaining the 18-hole golf course or the constructed wetlands at Lake Nokomis. If the Park Board does not maintain this new wetland, how will it serve the stated purpose of phosphorus removal over time, or will it just turn into a phosphorus saturated swamp?

Find more detail at: [http://sa-](http://savehiawatha18.com/commentary/TheMPRBandTheHiawathaConstructedWetland.htm)

[vehiawatha18.com/commentary/TheMPRBandTheHiawathaConstructedWetland.htm](http://savehiawatha18.com/commentary/TheMPRBandTheHiawathaConstructedWetland.htm)

We are currently doing a petition to gain signatures of people who support retaining 18 holes of golf at Hiawatha Golf Course. At the last Park Board meeting at the Hiawatha Clubhouse, Linda Strande asked Tyler Pederson, the

project manager for the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan, why they want to close the 18-hole golf course. Pederson said it is because that is what people want. So, we want to put together a petition of 18-hole supporters. We are asking 18-hole supporters to send an e-mail to: [supporters@savehiawatha18.com](mailto:supporters@savehiawatha18.com).

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# 2040 Plan, a boon to developers

BY CLAIRE ROBERTSON

The 2040 Plan would be the biggest boon developers might have had in any major American city ever, and it will disadvantage many of the people it purports to help as well as most Minneapolis homeowners. Why?

First, allowing more than one structure on the already small lots in most of Minneapolis will reduce green space by at least half in the city, thus both worsening air and other pollution and quality of life, as pointed out in Southside Pride.

Second, those who are least able to afford houses, who own those that are affordable now, will be the first to be forced out because developers will make their houses the first targets for buyouts, and will then build more structures and convert them to rentals. Once “improved” in this way, the properties will be worth more, meaning that those forced out will either need to rent to stay in the city, or to move out farther, where they can buy an-

other house for less and commute to work, thus increasing pollution.

Third, converting whole neighborhoods to rentals in this form of “blockbusting” by developers will erode the tax base as well as the rental properties, as hard experience teaches us. Successful developers and corporations more often than not avoid taxation commensurate with their wealth, as the Trump tax “reform” bill as well as long-term U.S. trends concentrating wealth at the top, demonstrate. Plus, profits increase on rental properties when they are not properly maintained, thus degrading the neighborhood. Most landlords, for instance, do not provide tenants with lawnmowers, but code dictates that the lawn must be mowed, while keeping up with major repairs inside is all too often neglected to increase profits. Tenants do not build equity in property, and often cannot afford to buy a house. The best insurance that properties will be maintained properly is owner occupation, but

this reform [2040 Plan] seems aimed at generating a city of tenants while eroding Minneapolis’ tax base.

Fourth, making Minneapolis’ lower-income neighborhoods into exclusively rental properties is politically deadening and will increase crime, especially crimes against property. We have already seen this in many neighborhoods, but the removal of restrictions will simply increase its pace and subject more neighborhoods to it. Why maintain or improve it if you do not own it? Why worry about damaging it when landlords neglect it? Why should landlords fix it if their profits improve without doing it? What kind of stake do tenants have in local politics, especially if they are likely to be moving elsewhere, always seeking better or more affordable lodgings? But then, disenfranchising whole neighborhoods seems to be the goal the city is pursuing by getting rid of both neighborhood associations as well as affordable single

family houses.

Fifth, is the city prepared to triple or quadruple infrastructure investment in schools, roads, bridges, etc., to handle the population increase proposed? That seems unlikely, especially when the tax base erodes.

So, the removal of restrictions on residential zoning will have the opposite effect of what is intended. Throwing in the justification of promotion of diversity in neighborhoods is mere window dressing intended to pacify liberals. I presently live in South Minneapolis in a neighborhood that is already diverse and becoming more so, without the 2040 Plan. If the City Council pursues this plan, will they have the will power and courage also to pass stringent controls on landlords concerning maintenance and inspections of rental properties (funding tripling the inspectors’ numbers, for instance), as well as taxation of the income from them? After all, it seems like improving the

tax base by making Minneapolis into commercial property should be a priority of the plan, but that seems unlikely. The plan seems to involve a return to 19th and early 20th century lack of regulation; we all know what that got us—and I thought we wanted to avoid more urban pollution and congestion.

Improving the situation of those who can least afford suitable residential housing rests mainly with remedies that have been tested but not pursued as much as they should be. Funding schools and teachers, especially those in low-income neighborhoods, and improving wages are key, as well as lack of discrimination in hiring and providing affordable mortgages, which should be tax deductible again. Many other remedies are available, but making a bad situation worse for those who can least afford Minneapolis housing, while enriching those who are already advantaged, should not be seen as a remedy.

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## Bouza, from page 1

Yet the mayor worries about his re-election and the film did get made in Russia. It would never have been allowed in China.

Even the Russian Orthodox Church engages in a suave, sophisticated complicity with the system.

Portraits of former leaders—Brezhnev, Gorbachev, Yeltsin and others—are used as target practice while Putin hangs demurely on an official’s wall.

In the harbor lie the rotting hulks of once valued ships—and the skeletal carcass of a whale. Omens.

The plot is simple but one of Nicolo Machiavelli’s major concerns—the taking of a neighbor’s land by an official. Nicolo wrote you could rape a man’s wife or even kill his kids and still harbor the hope of a reconciliation, through cleverness. And didn’t the Duke of Gloucester say, “Was ever woman in this humor wooed . . . and won?” as he walked beside her behind the funeral bier of the man Richard had murdered? But, Nicolo wrote, if you take a man’s land—kill him. Hope of reconciliation is dashed.

The film ends badly for the hero. He is falsely convicted of murdering his wife. She actually committed suicide but officialdom finds it convenient to store him. His son, about 15, drinks beer with his little

friends.

Every scene is bleak—windy, overcast, raining, or just gray. Hope is not to be found, and the flick looks like a subversive metaphor for the apparent kleptocracy that is modern Russia. But who spins in the graves of this unhappy country? The czars and their minions? Uncle Joe? Rasputin? Lenin? Even Gorbachev? I don’t think so. As the shooters—of—the—portraits clearly believed, there are few Washingtons, Lincolns or Roosevelts in the nation’s unhappy history.

The whale’s skeleton on the beach is likely a symbol for the nation. The overall impact of the film conjures hopelessness and despair. The pervasiveness of decay is such as to leave no one uninfected. Hope, the one virtue in Pandora’s box, is not to be seen.

My prescription is to follow a viewing with a glance at “The Death of Stalin.” As we say in Hollywood—a laugh riot (but not without historical verisimilitude).

The whole business of assessing a nation’s prospects—as “Leviathan” plainly urges us to do—is a truly fascinating and important process. How countries are governed decides your fate and mine. There were never better-intentioned rulers than Castro or Chavez—yet look at Cuba and Venezuela,



A young Tony Bouza doing security for the NYPD for a visiting dignitary

while Scandinavia promotes freedom, inventiveness, competition and prosperity. And we do too. The joyless alcoholism and corruption of Russia dooms its citizens. China cannot win in a competition with us. How a nation is ruled decides the destiny of its people.

It is a great irony of history that cruel, merciless, greedy capitalism needs freedom while altruistic socialism has mostly been dictatorships that stifled prosperity. Deng Tsiao Peng understood the need to capitalize China’s economy, but neither he nor his successors could afford the unbridled freedom capitalism requires. Putin, meanwhile, seems to

preside over a ramshackle and ungovernable conglomerate of 30,000 clerks.

Happy viewing. Russia must be a whole lot freer than we commonly believe—or the vodka lobby has created a long commercial for its product. But the inescapable message is that a hopeless, joyless society is no place for Man The Wise.

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[Editor’s Note:

First, “Cineaste.

“Today’s word—and, since confronting the English language on Dec. 22, 1937, I’ve grown increasingly fond of this really powerful tool.”

But “cineaste” is a French word, slang from the 1920s.

What sort of perverted message

is intended here?

His first film is a horror film based on King Richard III that becomes his matrix for measuring political power relationships. So, in spite of (or maybe because of) the paranoid madness of Rasputin, Stalin, Trotsky and Lenin, he likes the Russian corrupted democracy more than the Chinese.

He calls Cuba and Venezuela failed socialist experiments. I think it’s too early to judge. They will be measured by history.

He appreciates the successes of Scandinavian socialism, but he fails to appreciate that Russia, China, Korea, Vietnam, were under attack from the capitalist government of the U.S. as soon as they declared themselves socialist. Socialism has been under attack everywhere in the world except Scandinavia, and Scandinavia is the exception that proves the rule. When you’re not being bombed or invaded, you can develop a peaceful, democratic society that has socialist and capitalist features. It is the function of the U.S. government and military to attack and undermine socialism everywhere they find it. Our government will destabilize a socialist government, create angry crowds, finance the opposition and arm a revolt. Their government will respond defensively. They may limit free speech because they can’t tell what’s a genuine protest and what’s a CIA rent-a-crowd. They are on alert. They are at war, with us, and we can’t understand why people in the world don’t like us.



# • COMMUNITY CALENDAR •

## Southside Pride / RIVERSIDE EDITION

### EVENTS

#### Sand Flats Garlic Mustard Pull

**Tuesday, May 21, 6 to 8 p.m.**

#### River Gorge Sand Flats near West River Parkway in Minneapolis

River Gorge Sand Flats near West River Parkway in Minneapolis  
Join us for an evening of invasive species removal at the Minneapolis river gorge sand flats, known for their large sandy beaches and wonderful river-edge view. Working alongside Friends of the Mississippi River staff, volunteers will remove garlic mustard—an exotic plant invading many areas of the river gorge and out-competing native plant species.

#### Where Will You Live as You Age?

**May 21, 10:30 a.m.**

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
2730 E. 31st St.  
Senior Social and Health Talks occur the third Tuesday of each month and feature guest speakers on health/wellness issues, birthday celebrations and time to socialize! Refreshments are provided. A nominal suggested donation of \$1-\$2 is appreciated.

#### The Restorative Justice 101 Training

**Thursday, May 23, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

2720 E. 22nd St.

RJ 101 teaches the principles, philosophies and practices of Restorative Justice via lecture and experiential education methodologies for empowering our communities. Professionals, paraprofessionals and laypersons are welcome to attend. Traditionally, restorative justice has been an alternative approach within the criminal justice system that focuses on the personally identified needs of the victims, the offenders and impacted community members, instead of focusing solely on satisfying abstract legal principles and/or punishing the offender. The RJ 101 Training takes restorative justice philosophies and principles and moves beyond the criminal justice system to trainees' daily personal and professional spheres of influence. The Restorative Justice 101 Training is co-sponsored by Seward Longfellow Restorative Justice and the Minnesota Peace-building Leadership Institute. Early Tuition: \$150; Standard Tuition: \$180; Optional CEs/CLEs: \$35.

#### Sushi 101

**Thursday, May 23, 6 to 8 p.m.**

Coastal Seafoods  
2330 Minnehaha Ave.  
612-724-7425

Introduction to sushi class in a demonstration-style that covers the fundamentals needed to jump head first into the sushi-making-lifestyle. In addition to learning about

and sampling the many different styles of sushi, we also cover the techniques needed to produce the perfect sushi rice, make a variety of different types of sushi (rolls/nigiri), and several other priceless techniques!

\$65. Tickets available at [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com).

#### The Tree Show

**Through Saturday, May 25**

Vine Arts Center

2637 27th Ave. S.

612-728-5745

[www.vineartscenter.com](http://www.vineartscenter.com)

The Vine Arts Center invites you to join us in celebration of our beloved teachers, the Trees. This show is a body of art work inspired by our love of trees and created by Vine Arts Center member artists. A variety of artistic media will be included, such as paintings, drawings, photography, textiles, ceramics, sculptures and installations. All events are free and open to the public.

#### Springtime Foraging

**Saturday, May 25, 12 to 2 p.m.**

Meet at Midtown Greenway & Humboldt Ave. S., Mpls. 55408

They say that April showers bring May flowers ... What they don't tell you is how many of those flowers are tasty wild edibles! Join Maria Wesseler and Four Season Foraging as we explore the Midtown Greenway and learn

what wild edibles and medicinals spring has to offer. Plants we will probably encounter include garlic mustard, burdock, dandelion, plantain, and many others! Sliding scale \$15-\$35. For more details or to register, please visit [www.fourseasonforaging.com/events](http://www.fourseasonforaging.com/events), email [info@fourseasonforaging.com](mailto:info@fourseasonforaging.com), or call 612-440-5958.

#### Intersections: 4Gotten Parts of the Whole

**Connected passages**

**Eyes Wide open**

**Embracing Rebirth**

**June 1 - 28**

**Thursdays, 5:30 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.**

**& Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

The Vine Arts Gallery

2637 27th Ave. S.

A nine-month journey into the mind and experience of native-born Minnesota artist Ellen Sweetman (Minnetonka). Honoring and embracing the art process, challenges associated with thinking, and leading with intention, the artist pioneers difficult pathways to a brighter homecoming. Sweetman dismantles her layered identity, old belief systems and education, and ideas behind acceptance. Utilizing all the tools in her toolbox, she unlearns and begins anew, discovering her own unique process of creation and becoming reborn in art.

#### Conversations with Friends (CWF) Training

**Saturday, May 25, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Conversations with Friends is a ministry to people in ICE detention. At this time, our greatest need is for pen pals, but those who attend will also be trained in visiting so that if/when we receive approval to visit at the Sherburne County Jail, they can participate if interested.

This article (<https://imm-print.com/spotlight-conversations-with-friends/>) published on 7/6/17 by CIVIC (now known as Freedom for Immigrants) describes the CWF visit ministry at the Freeborn County Jail. For more information, [www.conversationswithfriendsmn.org](http://www.conversationswithfriendsmn.org).

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#### 151st Memorial Day Observance

**Monday, May 27, 10 a.m.**

Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery.

Intersection of Cedar Ave. and Lake St.

Please join us for the 151st Memorial Day celebration at the city's oldest existing cemetery.

Our keynote speaker is Lt. Col. Lori Allert, U.S. Army, with music by the Seward Community Concert Band and Readings and Posting of the Colors by students from the Minnesota Transitions Charter School.

If possible, please bring a lawn chair. Service animals only, please.

At 1 p.m. there will be a seated history talk followed by an optional walking tour.

Light refreshments will be served.

#### American Indian Month Trivia Night

**Wednesday, May 29, 6 to 8 p.m. (doors open at 5 p.m.)**

Moon Palace Books

3032 Minnehaha Ave.

Test your knowledge at this American Indian Month-themed trivia night at Moon Palace books! Hosted by Native Governance Center (a Native American-led non-profit), this event is free and open to the public. Winning teams will receive fabulous prizes! Food and beverages will be available for purchase at Moon Palace's Geek Love Cafe during the event. Space is limited, so make sure to arrive early.

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Fresh Heir Delivery is looking for a newspaper carrier available for 2-4 residential routes per week in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area. The carrier's role will be viewed as an independent contractor.

The role pays about an average of \$13-15/hr per route. Routes are dedicated to the Minneapolis and St. Paul area.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please send your information to [FreshHeir-Delivery@gmail.com](mailto:FreshHeir-Delivery@gmail.com) including your name, phone number and resume/qualifications (if possible), or call 612-669-5520 and we will get back to you as soon as possible. Serious inquiries only.



# • COMMUNITY CALENDAR •

## Southside Pride / RIVERSIDE EDITION

For more information, email [lauren@nativegov.org](mailto:lauren@nativegov.org) or call 651-571-0826.

### Nokomis Healthy Seniors Events

**Thursday, May 30, 11:15 a.m.**  
“Lunch and Bingo.” We’ll share a meal at 11:15, followed by a spirited game of Bingo. All are welcome. Reservations required. Call 612-729-5499.

### Beastly Bash: A Wild Summer Night

**Saturday, June 8, 6 p.m. to Midnight**  
Minnesota Zoo  
13000 Zoo Blvd., Apple Valley 55124  
The Beastly Bash, Minnesota’s premier outdoor summer event, supports the Minnesota Zoo’s mission and access programs for children and families. This year’s event features exciting animal encounters, signature cocktails, delicious food stations and an inspirational program hosted by KARE 11’s Minnesota Bound co-host Laura Schara. Guests will also be treated to a special mini-concert by Prince’s former band, the New Power Generation, featuring songs by Minnesota’s beloved musical icon. The party will continue into the night with desserts and a dance party fit for the finest nocturnal revelers featuring music by award winning DJ Shannon Blowtorch.

### Free Peace Literacy Educator Training Workshop

**Friday & Saturday, June 21 & 22, 9 a.m. (coffee); 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. (workshop)**  
First Universalist Church  
3400 Dupont Ave. S., Mpls. 55408

Purpose: To inspire and empower Twin Cities teachers, counselors, social workers, community educators, charter

school leaders, home-schooling parents, pre-school teachers, public and private school leaders—to create a values-centered and trauma-informed education community. Our workshop leaders are:  
\*Paul K. Chappell, Director of Peace Literacy Education at the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation in Santa Barbara, Calif., <https://paulkchappell.com> and <https://www.peaceliteracy.org>

\*Dr. Sharyn Clough, Professor of Philosophy, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Ore., <http://people.oregonstate.edu/~cloughs/> and [sharyn.clough@oregonstate.edu](mailto:sharyn.clough@oregonstate.edu)

• Social Emotional Learning is part of the workshop.

• Continuing Education Credit Units will be available. School teams are encouraged!

• Educators from greater Minnesota and out-of-state are welcome.

• The workshop is an ecumenical space with no religious affiliation endorsed or assumed by the workshop facilitators.

The Peace Literacy Education Team at First Universalist has charted a course to make the Twin Cities one of the nation’s first Peace Literacy hubs. Our opportunity now is to make peace literacy the foundation of all education and community building in Minnesota. For more information, email Pat Gottschalk at [TCPeaceLiteracyEduc@yahoo.com](mailto:TCPeaceLiteracyEduc@yahoo.com). To Register for a free ticket: <http://tinyurl.com/PeaceLiteracy>

### The Seward Neighborhood – A People’s History

**June 18, 10:30 a.m.**  
Bradshaw Funeral & Cremation Services  
3131 Minnehaha Ave.  
Senior Social and Health Talks occur the third Tuesday of each month and feature guest

speakers on health/wellness issues, birthday celebrations and time to socialize! Refreshments are provided. A nominal suggested donation of \$1 - \$2 is appreciated.

### Makers Mornings

**Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.**  
American Swedish Institute  
2600 Park Ave

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, or outside, weather permitting.

## THEATER

### Cinema in the Cemetery

**Saturday, May 25, 7 p.m.**  
Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery  
Cedar Ave. & Lake St.  
Time for our annual Buster Keaton silent film with live accompaniment. Join us at Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery for “Sherlock Jr.” This classic film has been designated One of Best 100 Films by the Library of Congress. Gates will open at 7 p.m. Movie will begin around sundown (sometime between 8 and 8:45). Bring a blanket or lawn chair to sit on. Kids welcome. Service animals only. Tickets \$10 at the gate (cash or check only). Snacks available for purchase.

### Blood Knot

**May 17 - June 16, Wednesdays - Saturdays, 7:30 p.m.; Sundays, 3 p.m.**  
Pillsbury House Theatre  
3501 Chicago Ave. S.  
612-825-0459 (Box Office)  
[www.pillsburyhouseandtheatre.org/](http://www.pillsburyhouseandtheatre.org/)  
Athol Fugard’s “Blood Knot” is a parable of two brothers who share a one-room shack near Port Elizabeth, South Africa. Equally important today as it was at the time of its 1961 premiere, the play is a poignant, piercing metaphor for racial tension, powerfully acted by James A. Williams and Stephen Yoakam. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased at [pillsburyhousetheatre.org](http://pillsburyhousetheatre.org) or by calling the box office.

### Matilda

**April 28 - June 23**  
See website for times:  
[www.childrenstheatre.org](http://www.childrenstheatre.org)

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## AN EVENING OF STORYTELLING AND SONG

Kevin and James came of age in two circles of a small town world that intersected, and also diverged. Boy Scout troop 334 (different patrols), symphonic and marching bands (different sections) and each profoundly shaped by athletic coaches (cross country, football). Kevin starred in “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown” and James played bass guitar in the combo accompaniment. James played point guard on the basketball team and Kevin was the manager. They took separate paths,

dramatic arts and music, and fashioned lives that remain centered on their love of storytelling. Recently James and Kevin reunited at a fundraiser at their alma mater, Osseo High School, and from that wonderful experience this evening was created. Join us as we celebrate that brief and glorious time in Minnesota we call “summer”, that season dedicated to the sensual world, where we are driven to adventure, romance and profound acts of stupidity.

**Saturday, June 1, 2019**  
**6:30 pm Doors // 7:30 pm Show**  
**\$18 Advance // \$22 Door**

Children’s Theatre Company  
2400 3rd Ave. S., Mpls. 55404  
Inspired by the twisted genius of Roald Dahl, this is the story of Matilda. Her dreadful parents can’t stand her. Her headmistress is a horrible, nasty, name-calling, life-sucking tyrant who puts kids in cupboards with nails and bro-

ken glass. (And you thought you had it bad.) This captivating kid-power romp revels in the anarchy of childhood. Celebrating the tenacity of the small, Matilda proves that the strength to be yourself (along with a little telekinetic power) will prevail at the end of the day.

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# I am fighting for the future my daughter deserves – and now I am facing eviction

BY VANESSA DEL CAMPO  
CHACON

Four years ago I moved here from Mexico with my family and four friends. When we arrived, everything was new and foreign. We didn't know where to go or how to start our lives over. But we found this apartment. I liked it because the neighbors speak Spanish, there are Mexican stores nearby, and it made us feel a little less lonely. So we made it our home.

It hasn't been easy. My husband works long hours to scrape money together so I can support my son who is studying to be a chef in Mexico. I stay home with my daughter, Regina, but she is only 1 year old and I get lonely.

It's not what I pictured when I moved here, but I have gotten to know the women who stay home and my other neighbors. I look after my neighbors' kids while they work, and we are a community now. My home and my community are what keep me going; I don't know what I would be without them.

My neighbors and I are united around a dream. We have been organizing, training ourselves and raising money to purchase our homes so we can own them as a housing cooper-

ative. Our landlord, Steve Frenz, has ignored our buildings for a while, so we have learned how to make a lot of our repairs ourselves and we take care of each other. About a month ago my door broke, and I was desperate because I felt unsafe because I was unable to lock my door. My other neighbor came over and fixed the door for me, and even taught me how to do it myself next time.

We have met with Frenz about our concerns many times. We have raised over \$126,000 and allocated over \$4.78 million in financing to purchase our homes. Unfortunately, he still hasn't agreed to sell us our buildings. Instead, my family and three other families are now facing eviction.

At the end of March, my neighbors and I received court summons for eviction proceedings. I knew this could happen, but it still broke my heart that Steve and Jennifer Frenz are trying to break up our community. My neighbors and I are like a family. Our children are growing up together, we look out for each other, and we stand united when we face struggle. Steve and Jennifer Frenz aren't just evicting four families from our homes, they are tearing apart a community.

Our first appearance in court was

on Friday, April 5, and since then we have had two other pre-trial hearings. At all three hearings, we have been greeted by amazing community support. It is very empowering to have so many people caring for one another and being there to support each other in court. After the most recent hearing, the referee is deliberating about whether or not to allow us a jury trial and hopefully we will find out what will happen next to our homes.

Even as Steve and Jennifer Frenz are moving forward with evictions, we have continued to build our community and care for our homes. Recently, we organized a brief rally and protest to pay for our buildings' water bill. Steve Frenz hadn't been paying the water bills for our five buildings since January 2019 and our water was about to be shut off. We decided to pool our money together and pay the water bill of over \$6,000 dollars. While Steve Frenz has been neglecting our buildings for years, we know our homes better than he does and we are ready to own them as a housing cooperative. We held a rally on the second floor of the Minneapolis Public Service building and then paid the bill to set the path for the cooperative ownership we soon hope to achieve in our

buildings.

In mid-April we decided to have a community celebration, to connect with supporters throughout the city and to celebrate our homes and community. We held a gathering in my home, in my building. Thanks to the warmth and love that we have created as a family in our homes, the party was a beautiful celebration of home and community.

Over 200 tenants and community members gathered and shared food, music and built closer relationships. I was amazed by how many people came out to support us and to see where we live. I was happy that so many people were able to witness that we are making Steve Frenz a good, market-rate, reasonable offer that will allow everyone to win. We are ready to purchase our buildings to run them as a housing cooperative, allowing over 35 families of color to stay in our neighborhood and build a culture of cooperation across the city. We were also joined by Hennepin County Sheriff Dave Hutchinson. He spoke to why he doesn't want to carry out evictions in our homes, and why he thinks our offer to Steve Frenz is a fair offer. "I support the sale because it makes the transition easier, and we (the sheriff's office) don't have to get involved," said Sheriff Hutchinson during a brief speech in front of my neighbor's home that is facing eviction. He added: "Everyone in the City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County talks about the dream



photo: Steel Brooks

of homeownership and that we are all together united as a community regardless of what we look like, who we love or who we pray to. If we can get this sale, it's going to make families' lives better, it's going to make the community better."

Now, more than ever, we need the support of our neighbors and allies across the city. Depending on the referee's decision, I could face eviction as soon as May. We will continue to organize to protect our homes, and for the cooperative we deserve. Join us in fighting for long-term, dignified, affordable and safe housing for everyone in Minneapolis. Sign our pledge to act by sending a message with the word "Stay" to the number 474747. For more information on our campaign and how to get involved visit [www.defend22avecoop.info](http://www.defend22avecoop.info).

### Bergan's, from page 1

has usually ignored the Shoreland Overlay rules, the variance requested for this project is stunning: the developer wants to DOUBLE the allowable limits, to 64 feet for the roof deck and 72 feet to the top of the stair and elevator towers.

They are also asking for a variance for the building taking up more of the site than is currently allowed: to increase the maximum (usable) floor area ratio (F.A.R.) from 2.38 to 2.5.

The city's new comprehensive plan, Minneapolis 2040, is currently under review by the Metropolitan Council. The Planning Department's staff report on this project states that the proposed future land use classification is "corridor mixed use," which intends the property to serve a larger market area and encourages mixed-use, multi-story development.

"The proposed built form for this site is Corridor 4, which directs new and remodeled buildings to reflect

a variety of building types on both small and moderate-sized lots," the staff report states. "Building heights should be 1 to 4 stories. Requests to exceed 4 stories will be evaluated on the basis of whether or not a taller building is a reasonable means to further achieving Comprehensive Plan goals."

So, this project has also blown past the city's new higher-density rules, which aren't even official yet.

Where's the affordable housing?

As people of modest incomes are painfully aware, there is an affordable housing crisis not just in Minneapolis but across the metro area and nation. The City Council has pressed hard for new developments to include at least 10% of the units as affordable at 60% of Area Median Income. None of the proposed apartments in this project would fall into the affordable category. Supposedly, the reason for increasing the density of Minneapolis is to make housing more affordable.

So, how do market-rate apartments crammed into this block help to solve that problem?

In addition, there are three businesses on that block which will be negatively affected by a building of this size. There will be almost no parking for the Washburn-McReavy funeral home facing the Parkway, and minimal spots for both Carbone's restaurant and the Cork and Dork liquor store.

It is also apparent that the "modern" style of the proposed building is nothing like anything near it. Even the SuperAmerica (now Speedway) station tried to make its remodeled building fit into the neighborhood. The Shoreland Overlay District rules also require that the city consider the scale and character of surrounding uses.

The Standish-Ericsson Neighborhood Association hosted a public meeting about this proposal on Wednesday, May 8, at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1720 E. Minnehaha Pkwy. Even though it was stated that this was just an informational meeting, we felt like the project was a done deal. We did find out that Lunds/Byerlys is the grocery store that will be moving into the proposed store, and that there will be no affordable housing included. The developer's representative made it very clear that they had no intention of reducing the height of the building, and it was made even more clear that, since this is entirely up to the city planning commission, it will be approved.

### Kroll, from page 1

misconduct and insubordination, a violation of the city's right to establish reasonable work rules and a direct attempt to interfere with the "faithful and proper performance of the duties of employment?"

Why hasn't he been fired?

I asked former Minneapolis Police Chief Tony Bouza what he thought about warrior training. He said the training didn't really matter. It was about discipline and accountability.



Tycel Nelson's son

He never had a police shooting in the nine years he was chief, "I ruled with an iron hand. They feared me, and they knew what would happen

if they stepped out of line."

Police work is tough.

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USA Today did a study, and they concluded cops were in the 14th most dangerous occupation in the U.S. There were 14.6 fatal injuries per 100,000 officers in 2016. The median annual wage is \$59,680.

The seventh most dangerous job in the U.S. was collecting garbage and recyclables. They had 34.1 fatal injuries per 100,000 workers. Their median annual wage is \$35,270.

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Council Member Alondra Cano, chair of the Public Safety Committee, responded to this commentary:

"I invite Police Federation President Bob Kroll to join the much needed work of police reform to better serve our communities. However, calling for free 'warrior training' that our Mayor has stood up against goes completely against the values of helping to establish more connections and understanding between our rank and file police officers and our Minneapolis residents. We can and should do better than that."

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# Celebrate Spring on Minnehaha Ave

## special pullout section

## Moon Palace Books and the Midtown Farmers Market—we have a match! ... plus a couple of other gems along Minnehaha Avenue, so read on ...

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

In 2016, the leadership of the Midtown Farmers Market (MFM) knew they were going to have to either find a new location for 2019-2020 or pause the operation for two years. The market, which has been in existence for 16 years now, was re-

ally beginning to "take off" in terms of popularity and a solid base of both vendors and customers. Most people felt instinctively that a two-year hiatus would be very damaging, if not fatal. So the search began for a spot. The first place they tried, and spent most of the time pursuing, was the Target parking lot, but unfortu-



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nately after months of negotiations, Target decided to withdraw—a firm no. At about this time, Moon Palace approached the market staff to offer consideration of an extra parking lot they happen to have, between Moon Palace and the bike co-op. Moon Palace and MFM were already in business together, as Moon Palace

has been a frequent non-food vendor at the market, dating back to the time when they were tiny, and hidden away behind Peace Coffee, and barely had a couple of parking spaces. Terms were agreed upon and the market staff could breathe easy and start spreading the word.

According to Jenna Yeakle, the

manager of the market since November, the relationship is about as perfect as you could ask for. She says their contract is more of a partnership than a simple lease. The market's spring grand opening was May 4 and Southside Pride cruised by for a look. We were only there a short while, but we saw food trucks (K-Town, and Taqueria el Victor); we saw produce, bread, honey, granola; we saw adorable baby goats. We saw handmade furniture; cute little birdhouses that look like campers; and lots and lots of bedding plants. We saw a big blood donor van doing a brisk business. And we saw crowds. They easily meandered

**See Minnehaha Avenue, page 8**

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# Celebrate Spring

## Minnehaha Avenue, from page 7

from Moon Palace to the market, and sometimes they bought stuff both places, and they were very happy. Then there were the things we missed. There was music. Lonnie and the L-Train, and the Brass Messengers. Those baby goats? There was goat yoga. There were prominent electeds and local celebrities. Angela Conley, Alondra Cano, Aisha Gomez and R. T. Rybak. Oh, yeah—those baby goats? R. T. got in there with them and did goat yoga. No, seriously.

Midtown Farmers Market has been in existence since 2003. It's a program of Corcoran Neighborhood Association (CNA). The executive staff of the market is the executive director of CNA, Jenna, and her part-time assistant manager, Kate Sheldon. Operations are assisted by an advisory committee, which includes, along with CNA members, activists from other neighborhoods, including engaged shoppers and food activists. Jenna says that in the past year, things are tightening in focus, such as programming. In the past, the non-food vendors and



Jenna Yeakle at Moon Palace

information tables were somewhat random, and a large number of organizations have passed through. Now they know what really fits with their programming and can be more selective. An example of programming is the Try-it program, funded by a community grant. Ten new vendors a year get a fee-free spot for two market days, to test the market and learn the ropes. The market even provides them with a canopy and supplies and advice. If it works for them, they sign on as a regular vendor. Recent Try-it vendors have included D'Argent French Bak-

ery, tamale vendor Comidas Cruz, and an urban farmer from Corcoran neighborhood.

It takes about \$125K per year to run the market, and vendor fees only bring in about \$30K. The rest is made up by a combination of business or organizational sponsorships, grants and individual donations. Sponsorships can be a very hard sell, and grants come with a lot of restrictions on the work and time period they cover, and create a large workload for the tiny staff, so individual donations are absolutely vital to the market's survival.

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# on Minnehaha Ave!

al. The market is also always in need of volunteers. Most of the people you see working at the market besides vendors are volunteers, but there is also a lot of behind-the-scenes work. So consider—as well as patronizing the market regularly if you think it's worth keeping around—becoming a donor and/or volunteering.

Moon Palace, the parking-lot-providing hero in this saga, is also experiencing an explosion of community love and business success. The Geek Love Cafe may have been a bit of a gamble but it's a gamble that has paid



Geek Love Cafe

off. We may do a more in-depth review of their food in a Dish column, but let's just say, it's a wonderful space. If browsing books makes you a little peckish, you can have anything from a simple coffee drink, to a muffin, to an entire personal pizza with rad gourmet toppings, maybe with a beer. All of the specialty pizzas and most of the salads are given literary names, and the tabletops are decorated with what looks like a decoupage of pulp fiction and Penguin classics covers. There is a bistro sort of space at the back of the store that fills four functions—over-

flow seating for Geek Love, a space for the bookstore's literary events and gatherings (which are many!), a space for hosting its own music program, and a space for rent for parties or other events.

Here is just a partial list of programs upcoming at Moon Palace, a mix of music and literary.

- May 23, 7 p.m., The Well-read Black Girl Book Club (a recurring event group)
- May 24, 9 p.m., Kitten Forever, GRLwood (KY), Oyster World, Inhumanity (music)

- May 26, 7:30 p.m., Dreamland Faces, Jarelle Barton (music)
- May 31, 7 p.m., My Caesarian, readings from the anthology by editors/authors
- June 3, 7 p.m., Queering the Tarot with author Cassandra Snow, readings and class
- June 11, 7 p.m., Books and Bars (a recurring event group) discusses The Nix PLUS Book Swap (concurrent with Tuesday night farmers market)
- June 21, 7 p.m., Ann Reed and Lar-

See Minnehaha Avenue, page 10

ed to bringing peace by pleasing the palate"

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## Minnehaha Avenue, from page 9

ry Long in a Summer Solstice New Longfellow Serenade (the local superstar folk singers happen to be Longfellow neighbors!)

• June 22, 9 p.m., KFAI MSP Monthly Sound Showcase

Another interesting strip of Minnehaha Avenue, between 41st and 42nd Streets, is home to a collection of alternative healers and other ancient wisdom purveyors, including a small yoga studio and a variety of massage therapists. Anchoring this block is the corner store called Awakenings. This is the current Twin Cities base of a pair of psychics and teachers who operate under the name of 2GuysInTheKnow, and since their website explains them pretty well, we'll just quote it. "2GuysInTheKnow LLC is a Minnesota based company that provides professional psychic/medium and spiritual healing services. Eric Earll and Bert Allen (the "2 Guys") use their psychic toolboxes collaboratively to provide you with unique, multi-perspective messages that will enhance and deepen your connection with your higher self, spirits, guides, angels, and loved ones that have passed. Eric's quick wit and 'tell it like is' approach coupled with Bert's laid back and calm style help you gain insight and foster



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# Celebrate Spring on Minnehaha



*Peanut the Pup at Awakenings*

hope in a fun, relaxed, and positive atmosphere. Bert is also a healer and is able to channel spiritual healing to clients."

Awakenings sells all the tools and artifacts you can possibly imagine will help you learn, heal and explore in the realms of spiritual healing, psychic awareness, etc. Even though they are also on the road a lot doing shows, expos and workshops, Eric and Bert also offer programs in the

store, such as classes, group readings/talks called Psychic Gallery, and individual readings and healings. Awakenings has a separate website from 2Guys at [//www.awakeningsmn.com](http://www.awakeningsmn.com), so you can check there for upcoming event information. Or just drop in. They are closed Sunday and Monday, but open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. other days. It's worth a visit; they have only rave reviews on Yelp and other platforms.

Quite close to the Awakenings strip is All Square grilled cheese restaurant and its connected Dream Lab/ Institute, in a classy (quite square) architect-designed building on the corner of 41st and Minnehaha. All Square is not like other restaurants; for one thing, its menu is limited quite deliberately – to grilled cheese sandwiches and their accompaniments! For another thing, it has a mission and a non-profit behind it, which is the reason for its slogan about "guilt-free" dining. In the actual words of the mis-

sion statement: "All Square is a civil rights social enterprise centered on a craft grilled cheese restaurant and professional institute." All Square focuses on providing a path to employment and stability to formerly incarcerated people, probably the most disadvantaged sector in the job-seeking pool. So, its staff consists of such folks, who bear the title of "fellows." The menu consists of twelve unique sandwich offerings which all are grilled, contain cheese, and are cut into squares, plus some side dishes and desserts, wine, Coke products and a rotating selection of beers. One half of the building, called the Dream Lab, houses the Institute on Mondays and Tuesdays, when the restaurant is closed. The fare at All Square is very good. You don't even need the extra "guilt-free" hook to make you want to go back once you've tried it. And maybe slide them some cash on their website too, to keep this worthy idea in operation.

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# Peace of Pie Festival

BY ELAINE KLAASSEN

One day a member of Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church (MCLC) said out loud, “I want to feed people pie,” and her thought did not fall on deaf ears.

The Peace of Pie festival was born, and will be held in the fruit tree orchard of Adams Triangle across the street from the church on Sunday, June 9, from 1 to 4 p.m.

Everyone is invited to have free pie and coffee while celebrating and learning more about special organizations in the community. Tables and booths will be set up representing wonderful resources: MCLC’s Healing Hub and Sensory Library; Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly; Midtown Farmers Market; Adams Orchard Group; Longfellow Restorative Justice Organization; Transition Longfellow and more.

Throughout the afternoon there will be live music including Zac Harris and his jazz trio.

You can sign up in advance to enter the pie-baking contest, which will be judged by local chefs. After your pie is judged, you can either share it at the event or take it home for your family. The other free pie will be provided by members of the congregation, or businesses— whoever wants to donate.

You can also show up in your favorite apron, be it heirloom, funny, home-

made, or whatever, and show it off in a “runway” fashion show.

MCLC is now working with the Longfellow Community Council (LCC) on a grant for the event, and hopes for them to be a partner.

The LCC

sponsors the orchard of fledgling trees, only 3 years old, which have yet to bear fruit. Unlike most orchards where all the trees are of the same kind, this one is a mixture of peach, pear, plum, serviceberry, apple, apricot and cherry. (All those nearby fruit trees must have inspired the PIE idea.) They were planted with a grant to the LCC and are maintained by a volunteer committee. MCLC provides water and a hose. The long-term goal is to have a community source of fruit free to everyone, and to make people more aware of trees.

The Peace of Pie Festival sounds like a great occasion. Anyone can sign up to participate on any level at [longfellowpop.org](http://longfellowpop.org).

The church is located at 4101 37th Ave. S.



## EVENTS

**Conversations with Friends (CWF) Volunteer Training**  
Saturday, May 25, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Contact [stevekraemer@outlook.com](mailto:stevekraemer@outlook.com) for location.

Conversations with Friends (CWF) is a volunteer organization dedicated to visiting and supporting detained immigrants in Minnesota, primarily through letter writing and detention center visits. Unitarian Universalism’s First Principle calls on us to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person; the Second Principle calls on us to act for justice, equity and compassion in human relations. The message of Steve Kraemer, director of CWF, speaks of these Principles: the interconnections that bind us all together, regardless of where we were born or the languages that we speak, and the way that we can be a source of light for others during their darkest days.

The following statement is from a current CWF volunteer: I’ve been volunteering for over a year and have found the experience to be quite profound. I’ve had 5 pen pals in this time, some for only a month or two and some for many months. It really is possible to build a friendship through letters and to provide comfort and moral witness to these friends. Our immigrant neighbors are suffering, and detention is spiritually and morally crushing. Our acts of kindness can be a lifeline. --Amy L. Our volunteers are 22 years and older, post-college, since they are more likely to be able to meet the weekly, letter-writing commitment.

For additional information: This article published on 7/6/17 by CIVIC (now known as Freedom for Immigrants) describes the CWF visit ministry at the Freeborn County Jail: <https://imm-print.com/spotlight-conversations-with-friends/>.

sations-with-friends/. Also, you can visit [www.conversationswithfriendsmn.org](http://www.conversationswithfriendsmn.org).

## ONGOING

**Sharing Food**  
\*Bethany Lutheran Church  
2511 E. Franklin Ave.  
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!

**Support Group for Soldiers and Veterans**  
Thursdays, 6 to 8 p.m.

Bethany Lutheran Church (lower level)  
2511 E. Franklin Ave.  
The Mission Project was founded in 2005 by Mary Bergerson, the disabled widow of Sgt. Douglas Bergerson, in order to honor his memory and military service following his suicide. We lose 23 soldiers/veterans to suicide every day. It is her vision to put an end to this by keeping others from following in his footsteps. The most important thing soldiers need from us is to know they are not alone, that people care and that we are here to help and support them. We are committed to mental health, advocacy, reintegration, suicide prevention, camaraderie and fellowship. Veteran-driven support groups, sponsored by the Mission Project, meet weekly and provide free resources such as massage, chiropractic, acupuncture, live music, a community meal and veteran resource tables. Families, friends and support systems are welcome to come along. One group meets in Lakeville, and the other at Bethany Lutheran Church. Call 952-393-7524 for more information.

**AA AND NA Meetings**  
Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church

4101 37th Ave. S.  
Every Monday night there is an AA meeting at 7 p.m.  
Every Tuesday and Wednesday night there is an AA meeting at 7:30 p.m.  
On Thursday night, there is an NA meeting at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

**LGBTQ Support Group**  
Saturdays, 1 to 2:30 p.m.  
Living Table United Church of Christ  
3805 E. 40th St.

A support group for LGBTQ adults living with mental illness meets weekly. This free support group is sponsored by NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) and led by trained facilitators who are also in recovery. For information call David at 612-920-3925 or call 651-645-2948.

**Gamblers Anonymous**  
Wednesdays, 6 to 7 p.m.  
Living Table United Church of

Christ (Hope Room)  
3805 E. 40th St.  
Anyone with a desire to stop gambling is welcome.

**Adoption Support Group for Teens and Parents**

\*First Tuesdays, 6:30 to 8 p.m.  
Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church  
4101 37th Ave. S.  
The Adoption Support Network holds monthly support groups for parents and teens who have been adopted. Adoptive parents are provided with a confidential, nonjudgmental environment where they can support each other and share resources. Teens are invited to meet with other teens who understand what it’s like to be adopted. The teen group is not a drop-off group—parent(s) must attend the parent support group. For more info and to RSVP contact Ginny Blade at 651-646-5082 or [ginnyblade@nacac.org](mailto:ginnyblade@nacac.org) (parents); Christina Romo at 651-644-3036, ext. 17, or [christinaromo@nacac.org](mailto:christinaromo@nacac.org) (teens). \*Meetings are usually the first Tuesday of the month, but call ahead to check.

**Coming to the Table (CTTT)**  
Third Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Sumner Library  
611 Van White Memorial Blvd., Mpls. 55411 (To reserve your seat please RSVP at [www.cttt-northmpls.eventbrite.com](http://www.cttt-northmpls.eventbrite.com).)  
Fourth Mondays, 7 to 8:30 p.m.  
Wedge Table Classroom  
2412 Nicollet Ave. (To reserve your seat, please RSVP at [www.cttt-southmpls.eventbrite.com](http://www.cttt-southmpls.eventbrite.com).)  
At Coming to the Table (CTTT, [www.comingtothetable.org](http://www.comingtothetable.org)), descendants of those who were enslaved and descendants of slave owners and all those interested in engaging safe constructive dialogue, come together to envision the U.S. as a just and truthful society that acknowledges and seeks to heal the racial wounds from the historical trauma of slavery, and the racism it continues to spawn. Join Peacebuilding Associate Trainer Crixell Shell and others invested in transforming trauma into nonviolent power. Since seats are limited, please sign up for this free event at [www.cttt-mpls.eventbrite.com](http://www.cttt-mpls.eventbrite.com). Questions? Email [info@mnpeace.org](mailto:info@mnpeace.org).

**Weekly Talmud and Bible classes**  
Thursdays, 6:30 (Talmud) & 7:30 (Bible)

Temple of Aaron  
616 S. Mississippi River Blvd., St. Paul 55116  
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](http://www.templeofaaron.org).

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[www.saintalbertthegreat.org](http://www.saintalbertthegreat.org)

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**MINNEHAHA COMMUNION LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
4101 37th Ave. S. \*612-722-9527  
9:45 am Sunday Worship  
**1 pm Peace of Pie Event June 9**  
**6 pm Community Meal & Songs of My Life gathering June 13**  
*Everyone welcome!*

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Riverside & 22nd Aves., 612-333-2561  
[www.trinitylutherancongregation.org](http://www.trinitylutherancongregation.org)  
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## Powderhorn resident volunteers at Humanitarian Respite Center in Texas

BY ELAINE KLAASSEN

When people come into the U.S., through various entry points at the southern border, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) considers them a danger until proved otherwise. Once an asylum seeker has passed the “credible fear” interview and can show they have a family member or sponsor somewhere in the U.S. who will take them in, they are given a court date and loaded into buses and often dropped off at some kind of charitable volunteer facility that will help prepare them for the next leg of their journey.

Ten miles from the border, in McAllen, Texas, that charitable facility is the Catholic Charities Humanitarian Respite Center, which is staffed by Catholic Charities and assisted by thousands of volunteers, most of them from McAllen and the others from across the country. Since 2014, when the center opened, roughly 100,000 people from south of the border have passed through its doors, receiving food, clothing, showers, respect and kindness.

My friend Andi Kuenning, who lives in the Powderhorn neighborhood, went there as a volunteer for two weeks in November 2018. She went through Children’s Disaster Services (CDS), a mission of the Church of the Brethren. Her task was to care for the children of migrants as they transitioned from ICE detention to a completely new culture.

Volunteers from CDS are “Specially trained to respond to trau-

matized children, and provide a calm, safe and reassuring presence in the midst of the chaos created by tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, wildfires, and natural or human-caused disaster,” according to the CDS website.

Andi speaks Spanish and was a teacher of young children with special needs before retiring last year. After completing the rigorous CDS training she was then assigned to a team with three other CDS-trained women.

When the team arrived, the Humanitarian Respite Center was extremely busy, and there was no one available to give them any orientation. Somebody had them sign in and gave them a parking permit to put on their rental car and then they went straight to the area designated as Children’s Play Area and got set up. (They never did meet their contact person, nor did they meet the famous nun, Sister Norma Pimentel, who directs the Rio Grande Catholic Charities and founded the center.)

In Andi’s report, she wrote, “We ask the children, ‘Do you want to play?’ and most come in to play with us. Only a few stay away.

“We brought with us a large suitcase full of toys and materials, but used mostly crayons and colored pencils, paper and coloring books, playdough, puzzles, playing cards, and dominoes. We got adult coloring books and colored pencils and asked the teenagers if they want to color. They mostly do. Some of them play cards together. When we give out blank paper to color on, we get lots of

pictures of butterflies, flowers, houses, trees, suns, and rainbows. The little girls start giving them to me, and sometimes write on them, ‘yo te quiero Andrea.’ Occasionally we read stories; one day a young boy asked me to read him a book, by the time we got going, several other boys were listening too, some of them older. At times the kids asked for a book to read, other children said they didn’t know how to read. There were some children who did not speak Spanish, but an Indigenous language.”

Buses coming from the detention center arrived every afternoon, dropping off about 300 exhausted people. Most had been in ICE detention for two to five days. Many were sick and throwing up. They had been kept in the infamous “freezers” or “hieleras.”

When people arrive, they are always given new shoelaces right away, since all shoelaces are taken away in detention. Children are given stuffed animals and many women request hair ties.

It is very difficult to maintain hygiene in such a crowded area as the center. The CDS team did what they could by bleaching down the tables in the children’s area. Hand sanitizer is always available and the floor in the main area is swept regularly. There are showers in the building and also in a truck (trailer) in the parking lot. People are given clean clothing. But for sleeping, people have to use the sleeping mats, pillows and blankets piled off to one side of the large, main room. Everyone sleeps wherever there is room. There is an overflow

space that holds about 90 people. Andi was told that as many men as possible sleep in the smaller back room, leaving mostly women and children in the larger area.

Most stay one night and then leave as soon as their relatives/sponsors send them a bus ticket, and in some cases a plane ticket.

Andi describes what lies ahead for the weary travelers: “Each adult is given a red bag (a reusable grocery store bag) filled with supplies—snacks for the bus ride, hygiene products, etc. Each family has a large manila envelope. On one side it says in large letters: ‘Please help me. I don’t speak English. What bus do I need to take?’ The other side has their bus schedule written on it. Most are taking three or four buses to get to their final destination.”

The number of children in the play area varied throughout the day—there were fewer after buses left in the morning and more in the afternoon after buses arrived, sometimes up to almost 50.

“The children are glad to play, to have something to do,” Andi writes. “I am amazed at how so many of the children just settle in and play happily, despite all they have been through on their journey to us. Sometimes when new kids come in, other kids recognize them from the detention center, and they reunite excitedly and with hugs, so happy to see their friends.

“Sometimes the littlest ones would want their parents ... We would just go to the front and hold them up to see if someone claimed them. We always found them. But

one day a somewhat older boy, maybe 7 or 8, was looking for his mother, crying hysterically. He was so upset he couldn’t talk. A staff person finally took him and was able to help him look for his mother and reunite them.”

Andi will never forget “the mother who had been separated from her adult son at the border because he was sick—She had no way to find him because she happened to be carrying his phone when they were separated; the father traveling with a daughter (maybe 12 or 13 years old) because he needs to get her away from the gangs in Honduras; the man who talked about how they treated them ‘like animals’ in the hielera; the many parents who were with just one child, and had left others back in Honduras or Guatemala.”

Andi wrote, “Each night we went back to our motel totally exhausted. It was intense work but gratifying. Many parents thanked us (I felt like we did so little for them, but after their experience in detention, having people who showed them respect and compassion meant a lot). Much of what we did seemed to be handing out coloring pages, sharpening pencils, and helping kids do puzzles, but it was providing a safe and nurturing space for the children to be, as they waited for the next step of their journey.”

Andi is on the list to be called again by Children’s Disaster Services.



# The Democrats and the Farmer-Labor Party

BY STEPHANIE FOX

While most states have their Democrats, only in Minnesota do we have the Democratic Farmer-Labor Party, the DFL, the result of the coming together of the far left Farmer-Labor Party and the more moderate Democrats, 75 years ago this month. On April 15, 1944, the two parties joined forces in a political marriage that still exists today.

Led by the then-college professor Hubert Humphrey, members of both parties voted to change their name to the Democratic Farmer-Labor Party, or the DFL.

The two parties had been splitting the popular vote for years, which allowed the Republicans to control Minnesota's state government. The Democrats hadn't

elected a governor in 30 years or a senator in 80 years. The Farmer-Labor Party had lost both U.S. Senate seats and four out of five seats in the U.S. Congress to Republicans.

The Farmer-Labor Party had advocated for workers, farmers and the unemployed during the early years of the 20th Century and the Great Depression. The Democrats played second fiddle during that time, but post-war, pragmatism was needed to advance Minnesota's liberal politics.

Separate, they were losers. Together, they became a formidable political party.

To celebrate, party members and members of various labor unions came together on Tuesday evening, April 16, for one of many gatherings planned for 2019. The

event was led by Jim Beers, chair of the Minneapolis Regional Retiree Committee (MRRC), History Committee and the Retiree Council Executive Committee, at the Communications Workers of America Union Hall on Lake Street in South Minneapolis.

The evening included entertainment by the Twin Cities Labor Chorus and a few teaser scenes from an in-progress upcoming documentary, "The Farmer-Labor Movement—a Minnesota Story," presented by filmmaker Randy Croce, who along with Tom O'Connell wrote and produced the film. The film included interviews at the Minnesota State Fair of people answering questions about the origins of the Farmer-Labor part of the DFL. (Most didn't know.)

The two filmmakers currently



Chelsie Glaubitz Gabiou, President of the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation AFL-CIO; Veronica Mendez Moore, Co-Director at Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en la Lucha (CTUL), a Workers Center in Minneapolis; Ken Martin, Chair of the Minnesota DFL; Jamie Gulley, President of SEIU Healthcare; Keith Ellison, Minnesota Attorney General; Amy Bacigalupo, Farm Beginnings Program Director at the Land Stewardship Project

are funded by three grants and are hoping to receive another from the Minnesota Historical Society. "We have to pay for some of the historic photos and film we use and we're renting equipment. It can be more expensive than many people would think," says Croce. The documentary is expected to be released next year.

The evening also included a panel discussion where local political figures and organizers answered questions from the audience. Panel member Keith Ellison spoke against large monopolies, something he says is again becoming a problem, especially in the information and tech industries.

Beers says that Minnesota's liberal political history is still important, even today. "For me, the Farmer-Labor Party is inspirational. Its legacy still inspires today's organizers, young union leaders and other progressives," he says.

More events commemorating the Farmer-Labor Party and the DFL will be held throughout 2019,

dates to be announced during the summer and fall.

Those who wish to donate to "The Farmer-Labor Movement—a Minnesota Story" can send contributions to Tom Beer, treasurer, FLEC%, 2421 29th Ave. S., Mpls., MN 55406.

## Theodore Wirth's legacy is crumbling!

BY KATHRYN KELLY

It's a beautiful spring evening. The nets are up and people are playing tennis on the courts at East 43rd Street and 26th Avenue South. But, if you venture east along 46th and 47th Streets you will see three sets of tennis courts that are dismal and crumbling. They look abandoned, with no nets and no tennis players. How can this be??!!

When Theodore Wirth became superintendent of the Minneapolis Parks & Recreation Board (MPRB), in 1904, one of his goals was to provide recreation within walking distance of every child in the City of Minneapolis.

These tennis courts are one of the biggest parts of his legacy. Yet, the current MPRB commissioners have, apparently, abandoned them.

So, why is the court on 43rd Street so well maintained? The MPRB DOES NOT maintain it. A private tennis club maintains it and teaches tennis to kids. With this, the club gets exclusive blocks of time on these courts during the summer. This is a laudable endeavor, and these reserved times would not be so egregious if it weren't for the fact that the nearby tennis courts are in disrepair and unusable when the "good" courts are reserved.

Where is the MPRB spending

our taxpayer money? The MPRB is allocating \$275,000 in 2019 to the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan, which will destroy another of Theodore Wirth's legacies, the Hiawatha 18-hole golf course, and turn it into a swamp. How many of these tennis courts could be refurbished and maintained with this money?

The MPRB needs to take responsibility for MAINTAINING their existing assets BEFORE chasing new, shiny "pie-in-the-sky" projects.

Note: Just like the tennis courts, Theodore Wirth built golf courses in every part of the city so that golf was accessible to all City of Minneapolis residents, especially kids.

St. Paul native, Nick Diffatte, has won multiple national awards for both magic and comedy. At only 23, he's already headlined on the Las Vegas strip, at the famous Magic Castle in LA, and on the Late Late Show with James Corden

Nick views the world through his Spectacle Shoppe glasses. ...Even as he makes some of it disappear.



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# PRIDE program helps sex trafficking survivors

BY LORENA PINTO

As a native of Peru, I never imagined living in sub-zero temperatures, let alone walking snowy streets to provide outreach to sex trafficking survivors. But every week, staff from The Family Partnership's PRIDE program and the Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center (MIWRC) walk in the Phillips and Powderhorn neighborhoods to meet sex trafficking survivors where they are.

**The Family Partnership**  
**PRIDE**  
**Sex Trafficking Survivor**  
**24-Hour Crisis Line**  
**612-728-2062**  
OR  
**888-774-3399**

You may see us with purple clothing or "On the Streets" outreach bags. Our goal is to connect with people and offer services and sup-

port. We lend a hand with immediate needs, such as offering gloves and hygiene products, or helping to find shelter. Some survivors need access to taking a Rule 25 chemical assessment, which is the gateway to accessing alcohol/drug treatment.

When victims of sexual exploitation are ready, the PRIDE program (which stands for Promoting Recovery, Independence, Dignity and Equality) offers comprehensive services in a non-judgmental environment. We know we need to be persistent (we are in our 41st year) because this issue is persistent. Last year, our program increased outreach and service delivery to survivors of sex trafficking by 42% over 2017.

**What are barriers to leaving sexual exploitation?**

1) Poverty. In 2018, 98% of the people PRIDE served were living in poverty. Of those, 56% were living in extreme poverty (\$25,750 for a family of four) and 42% were living in poverty (\$51,500 for a family of four) as defined by 2019 Federal Guidelines.

2) Housing and employment.

If survivors have criminal records, that can be a big barrier to employment and housing. We help survivors get their criminal records sealed or expunged.

PRIDE also offers an evidence-based coaching program, Mobility Mentoring, as a way to help participants develop skills to escape inter-generational poverty.

3) Populations facing disparities. Populations served by the "On the Streets" outreach program face multiple disparities, including higher rates of incarceration, addiction and homelessness than the general population. Of those reached, 68% were American Indian, and 22% African American. For PRIDE overall, 36% of people served were African American, 26% Caucasian, 16% American Indian and 15% were multiracial.

**What we are doing to help**

1) Serving all ages, from 10 to 56 years old. PRIDE is one of the few programs that provides services across the lifespan, because it may

take years for someone to fully leave. In 2018, 61% of survivors we served were from age 25 to age 65. That is an important service distinction,



Lorena Pinto

since the Minnesota Safe Harbor legislation covers services for those age 24 and younger (with no criminal charges for those 18 and under), leaving a significant gap for those age 25 and older.

2) Increasing public awareness. Our staff increased educational trainings on recognizing signs of sex trafficking and what to do if someone is sexually exploited by 522% in 2018 (859 people reached vs. 138 in 2017).

3) Engaging with businesses and residents. We regularly engage with residents and business owners about our activities through the Love East Lake and Phillips/Powderhorn neighborhood associations. We have an intern who brings a lived experience voice to these meetings. Many business owners have our materials on hand, or call us when we may be needed to help someone. For exam-

ple, we are working with a laundromat owner to establish a new "Clean Clothes for All" project.

4) Continuing the Street Outreach program. Warmer weather means more street activity. Our program started in late 2017, and will continue this year thanks to funding from the City of Minneapolis Health Department. In 2018, the PRIDE and MIWRC teams provided outreach to 317 individuals. Of those, 91% of survivors were engaged on the streets of the Phillips and Powderhorn neighborhoods of Minneapolis and 9% on Minneapolis' Northside.

I chose to move to Minnesota because of our state's progressive work to end sexual exploitation—but there is much more to be done. I believe in the power of a community to make changes to the underlying issues that families with low incomes face, from access to affordable housing, to resources for education and economic mobility.

It's my belief that we are creating change that gets me out of bed in the morning, and motivates me to walk the streets and listen to more survivor stories.

How to connect with us: I am the director of the PRIDE program and can be reached at [lpinto@thefamilypartnership.org](mailto:lpinto@thefamilypartnership.org). Our 24-hour Crisis Line is 612-728-2062 or 888-774-3399. You can view our full PRIDE report for 2018 at [www.thefamilypartnership.org/media](http://www.thefamilypartnership.org/media).

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by Tom Seemon  
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