

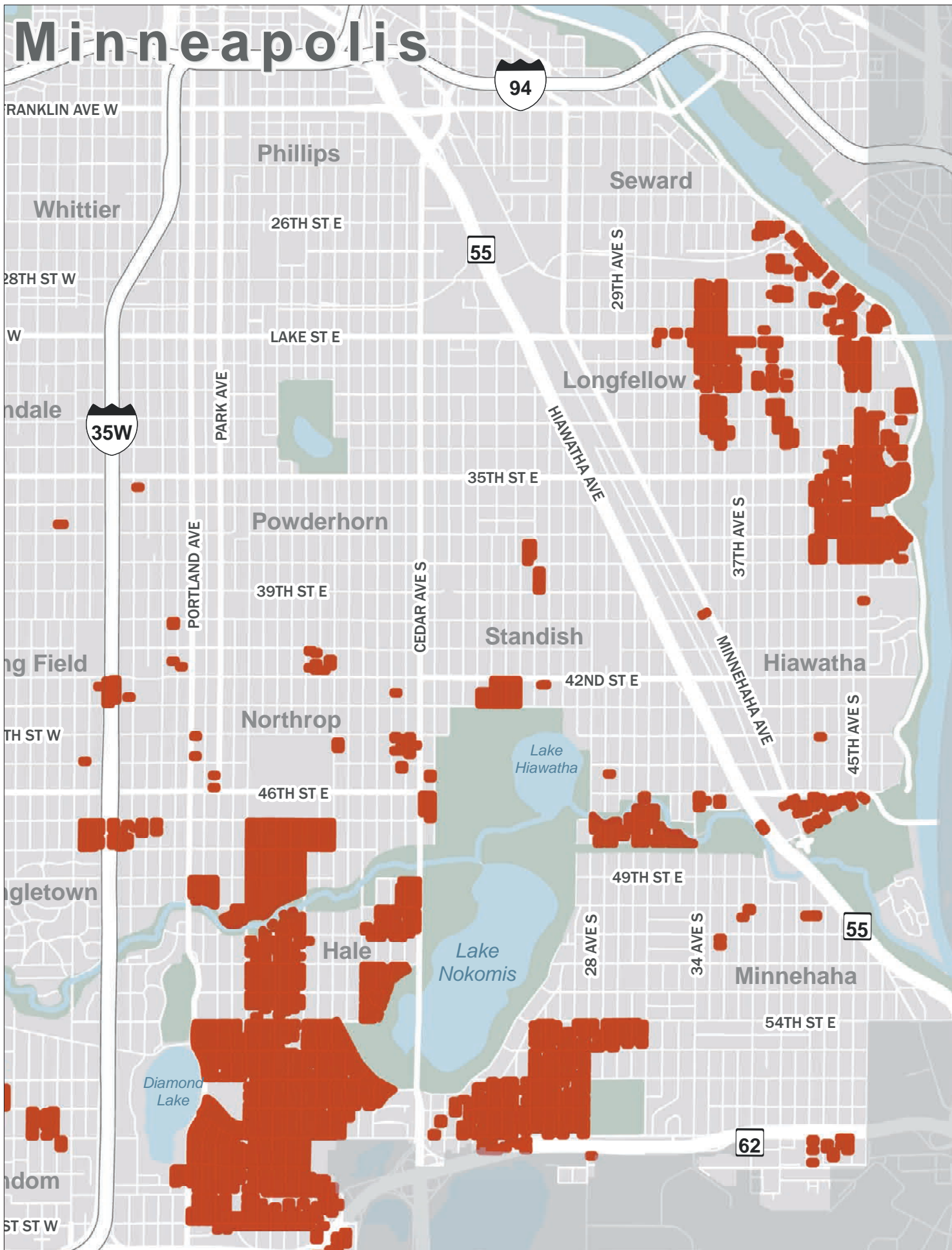


**PHILLIPS/
POWDERHORN**
FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

**JUNE
2019**

We build Pride on the Southside

VOL. XXIX, ISSUE 14



‘The beatings will continue until morale improves!’

BY ED FELIEN

This map, produced by a team of geographers, historians and social activists at the University of Minnesota (<https://www.mappingprejudice.org/>), shows the areas of South Minneapolis that had restrictive covenants written into the deeds of homes for sale: “That the said land or buildings thereon shall never be sold to or the same be occupied by persons of Negro blood,” March 20, 1945.

On July 16, 1931, the Minneapolis Tribune noted: “Angry white mob surrounds Minneapolis home”; “thousands assembled nightly at 46th and Columbus in protest, many hurling taunts and rocks at the home”; “in June 1931, Arthur and Edith Lee bought a two-bedroom bungalow at 4600 Columbus Av. in south Minneapolis. The Lees were black; the neighborhood white. Despite threats from the neighborhood association, they moved into the home in July, along with their 6-year-old daughter.”

“‘Nobody asked me to move out when I was in France fighting in mud and water for this country,’ Arthur Lee, a World War I veteran, told the Tribune. ‘I came out here to make this house my home. I have a right to establish a home.’”

The traditional and accepted area for people of color to live was between Chicago Avenue and Nicollet from downtown south to 42nd Street. There was a crepe paper barrier that informally restricted housing east of Chicago and west of Nicollet. The Lees were the first to move the boundaries south of 42nd Street.

Racism was alive and active even within the black community in South Minneapolis in the first half of the twentieth century. Nelson Perry, in

See *Beatings*, page 3

**Our 10th Annual
Celebrate Summer on
Franklin Avenue**

Pages 7, 8, 9 & 10



China has already won the Trade War

BY ED FELIEN

A trade war is when a country raises tariffs (taxes) on a product coming into the country. The business selling that cheaper foreign product then has to pass that tariff (tax) on to the consumer, and this can make the product cost the same as an American-made product.

Big retailers like Walmart and Target have been lured to China to produce their goods. They've invested billions in creating a manufacturing infrastructure. The Chinese provided special economic zones where U.S. capitalists could build factories, hire workers at low wages, and the workers even agreed to a no-strike pledge.

The only hitch in all this was that the Chinese government owned 52% of the factory.

Lenin said: "The Capitalists will sell us the rope with which we will hang them."

China has gone a step further. They convinced U.S. capitalists to give them the factories with which they will compete with the U.S. for markets in Asia, Europe, Africa and South America. The U.S. gave them the factories and showed them how to run them.

The most far-reaching and profound development in international trade hasn't been Trump's Trade War, it's been the opening of China's New Silk Road, or Belt and Road Initiative. In 2013 Xi Jinping announced a bold plan to link China to the rest of the world through new highways, harbors and airports. They're sponsoring a \$68 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor linking China to Pakistan's Gwadar Port on the Arabian Sea. They've already spent more than \$200 billion on infrastructure projects in 150 countries, and the final bill will probably be in excess of \$1.5 trillion.

So, what happens to those Chinese-owned factories in a trade war? If they manufacture drill bits, and the U.S. tariffs on Chinese-made drill bits go up by 25%, then it's easy for American consumers to switch over to U.S.-made drill bits. And it feels patriotic. And Trump can claim victory by saying he's saving American jobs. And the Chinese factory will have to find other customers for its drill bits. The New Silk Road/Belt and Road Initiative connects that product with new customers.

Customers who had been purchasing a product with a U.S. brand (for products that were probably

manufactured in China) will welcome the same product with a Chinese brand at a lower cost. And the tariffs will cause the U.S. corporation to stop production at its Chinese factory, but the Chinese factory will keep on producing and exporting and supplying the customers that once bought the U.S. products. The result will be that U.S. corporations will lose their international trade and go bankrupt, which could cause a complete collapse of the stock market.

And all because Trump believed trade wars were easy to win, he was playing a short game, and China was (as always) playing a long game. The objective of Eastern martial arts is to allow your opponent to make a mistake by attacking you. Let him lunge at you. Step back. Defend yourself. Be calm and wait it out. A protracted trade war with China will not hurt China. China already owns the factories and knows how to run them. That's why Xi rejected the latest negotiations and broke off the talks. Trump immediately increased tariffs on another \$200 million of Chinese imports, further raising prices to U.S. consumers and further damaging the manufacturing arm of U.S. corporations. The longer this goes on, the more the U.S. will suffer, and the more China will take over U.S. customers in Asia, Europe, Africa and South America.

And Trump still believes he can bully China into submission. He's saying, "If you don't give up, I'll punch myself in the other eye."



Chinese propaganda poster from the 1970s. The caption reads: Keep the world in your mind and the country in your heart.



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Justine Damond: Post mortem

BY TONY BOUZA

The Damond case is a one-in-several-decades of events. Bound to be pored over, examined, analyzed and judged. I admit to rapt fascination with its facets.

Frequently overlooked—and to my regret, by me—is the origin of it all.

Justine Damond was coming to the rescue of a human being she believed to be a victim of assault. Ms. Damond deserves a

medal and I’d have awarded her one posthumously.

The case is a potpourri of failures—notwithstanding a settlement that at least tried to make partial amends.

From the beginning the shooter should’ve been recognized as having committed a murder. Instead, the victim is deprived of her personhood by being called “the threat.” The driver was an accomplice, who not only walked but stonewalled the inquiry and supported the killer.

In order to justify such a shooting there must be a real danger of deadly injury. So the cops manufactured one, demonized it by calling it “the threat” and cast a heroine under the bus. The jury did not buy it.

The press—America’s foremost institution—was suppressed. Jefferson would have winced in horror.

The murder charge required “a depraved mind,” but the jury was in the dark. The phrase infers a reckless disregard for the con-

sequences, and the result is evil. Throwing a safe out of the window over a busy sidewalk might be an apt example.

And there is the settlement. Ah, yes—and I was wrong. The actual amount was double what I feared would be an outrage. It proved a double outrage. And guess who pays? You.

Curiously, most of the cops will be exempt. They don’t live in Minneapolis.

Respondent Superior is a legal concept meaning that superiors are responsible for the work of their servants—up to a point. A steward has general responsibilities for outcomes—but not for all. Only for those s/he should have known about—and done something to mitigate. An insurer is responsible for each separate act. A subtle, but huge, difference.

my agent when he broke the law. A very simple legal concept. The Council voted to pay.

Every citizen of Minneapolis—even Enso Benyo—should be outraged and insulted over having their pockets picked.

The case is muddled by the reversal of racial roles, but what is forgotten here is that the cop is blue—neither white nor black. I will, however, hasten to add that, had he been white and the victim black the courtroom would’ve been stuffed with cops in uniform, offering solidarity. The union supported the cops, but not with their usual passion.

That, I sincerely hope, is my final word on a case that is far from over. The appeal will be interesting for what is bound to be said about instructions to jurors.

No one will say this, but, in the end, these cases evolve into two issues—money and retribution. One of the unspoken tragedies resides in the intra-family squabbles frequently inspired by thinly concealed pecuniary motives.

Stay tuned.

Beatings, from page 1

his book, “Black Fire, the Making of an American Revolutionary,” talks about growing up in South Minneapolis and turf battles in the early ’50s between white and black gangs over in Phelps Park. He also talks about Brown Paper Bag parties in the black community where young blacks would post a brown paper bag at the entrance to a house party—signifying if you were darker than the color of the

crimination in housing.

MPR reported: “The plan will try to mitigate the effects of climate change and racial discrimination in part by increasing density in the city, particularly along transit corridors. Among other things, the document allows triplexes in every neighborhood, a provision that many residents criticized.”

Will Stancil, an attorney and research fellow at the University of

comprehensive plan, Minneapolis shows that it’s willing to take action against its own pernicious legacy of segregation.”

Council President Lisa Bender said, “I think most of my constituents agree with the overall values of the draft plan’s focus on race equity, environmental sustainability, safer streets and housing affordability.”



Edith and Arthur Lee (photo courtesy of the Lee family)

bag you were not welcome.

The Minneapolis City Council has proposed radical changes in the city’s zoning and development plans. In South Minneapolis this would mean three- and four-story apartment buildings could be built everywhere from downtown to 42nd Street. The plan is being sold as a means of compensating for previous patterns of racial dis-

crimination in housing.

Minnesota, said in an article in the Star Tribune: “The comprehensive plan is not a panacea for housing inequality. But addressing part of the problem is better than addressing none of it at all. No matter how forward-thinking Minneapolis is today, it counts for little if the city’s land-use laws indefinitely perpetuate decades-old patterns of discrimination. By adopting the

What the plan does, of course, is just the opposite. It will wipe out the communities of color that live in South Minneapolis that have not had restrictive covenants, and it will leave intact those neighborhoods and communities that discriminated against people of color. People in the inner city who have been able to rent a house with a yard will be displaced. Their landlord will be offered a handsome price for their home; it will be knocked down and replaced by a three- or four-story apartment building. The inventory of affordable homes will shrink, and the only option available will be to rent an apartment in a building with young urban professionals who want to live closer to downtown.

The communities of color that suffered most under housing discrimination in the first half of the 20th century will be the ones displaced and asked to suffer yet again.

The beating will continue until morale improves.

PHILLIPS POWDERHORN EDITION

Southside Pride Phillips/Powderhorn Edition is a monthly community newspaper delivered on the First Monday of the month for free to homes and businesses in South Minneapolis from 35W to Hiawatha, and from Elliot Park to 42nd Street. We publish 16,000 copies each month. 15,000 are delivered door-to-door to homes and another 1,000 are left in area businesses and public buildings. 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:

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• COMMUNITY CALENDAR •

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EVENTS

Sound Tour: The Quiet Room And Reverberation Chamber

Friday, June 7, 11:30 a.m. or 2:30 p.m.

Orfield Laboratories
2709 East 25th Street
Tour Orfield Lab's Anechoic Chamber (named the World's Quietest Room as certified from 2005-2013 by Guinness World Record) and Reverberation Test Suite. The anechoic chamber is made of 3.3-foot-thick fiberglass acoustic wedges and double walls of insulated steel and foot-thick concrete, and absorbs 99.99 percent of sound. The Reverberation Test Suite does the opposite—it reflects sound rather than absorbs it. A reverberation room is used to create a highly diffused acoustic measurement environment, defined as a sound field in which acoustic energy flows equally in all directions. Tickets available at eventful: <https://minneapolis.eventful.com/venues/orfield-laboratories-/V0-001-014334288-4>

Make-A-Wish Minnesota's Walk For Wishes

June 8, Registration 9 a.m. Start Time 10 a.m.

Minnehaha Regional Park
4801 South Minnehaha Park Drive
Families, friends, corporations, clubs and schools

are invited to walk and run together to raise funds for children in Minnesota who are facing critical illnesses. A wish come true helps children feel stronger, more energetic and joyful. For many, the wish marks a turning point in the fight against their illnesses. Your support helps ensure we grant the wish of every eligible child in Minnesota, so start your team today! Register at <https://mn.wish.org/ways-to-help/signature-events/walk-for-wishes>

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.

Nighttime Nature Fun Thursdays, through Aug. 29 9 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Coldwater Spring
5601 Minnehaha Park Drive South
Join park ranger Sharon Stiteler and entomologist Jessica Miller as they set up black lights and sheets to see what moths and insects visit Coldwater Spring at night. We might also hear other night active critters like deer, owls, raccoons or even coyotes. Take the trail from the main entrance at Coldwater toward the dog park. Head toward the big lights and that is where the fun will be underway. <https://parkconnection.org/events>

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

- 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. 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.

BLB PRIDE BLOCK PARTY Friday, June 21, 6 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Bryant Lake Bowl
Bryant Ave. & Lake St.
The free Friday Night Block

Party at Bryant Lake Bowl is back! Featuring MC Foxy Tann, Epitome No Question, Venus DeMars and All the Pretty Horses, Dykes Do Drag, Genital Panic featuring Tina Schlieske, Static Panic, a local artist market and more! A portion of the event proceeds will benefit OutFront Minnesota. Their mission is to create a state where lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people are free to be who they are, love who they love, and live without fear of violence, harassment or discrimination. www.outfront.org Free! Rain or Shine. All ages. Please leave your pet at home – this is a hot asphalt event! Zero waste event. More info: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2430125497209183/>

Roots & Kinship

A community gathering to revitalize our relationships with Mother Earth and each other

Friday, July 26, 6:30 p.m.

Lake Nokomis Community Center Picnic Shelter
2401 E Minnehaha Pkwy.
Lyla June, musician, public speaker and performance poet of Diné (Navajo), Tsétséshéshéshé (Cheyenne), and Scandinavian lineages, explores indigenous resurgence, reclaiming European indigenous roots, forgiveness, reconciliation, and love as a revolutionary force. The Wisdom Dancers, traditional dancers and singers drawing from Balkan, Greek, and Asia Minor lineages. Share the collective joy of traditional songs and dances as tools for healing. Through dance they connect with their roots and explore ways to live in right relationship in Minnesota. FREE. Please bring a blanket for sitting on the ground or your own chair. In the case of rain, we will meet inside the Lake Nokomis Community Center.

ASL interpreted. Accessible seating available. More information at wisdomdances.com or <https://www.wisdomdances.com/events/rootskinship/>

ART

The Wicked Arts Festival, A Multi-sensory, Multi-artistic-discipline Arts Festival Friday, June 28, 7 p.m. (doors): 8 p.m. (performance) The Hook and Ladder Theater
3010 Minnehaha Ave.
Presented by Zerobudget Records, the event will



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include two CD releases. Plague of Stars' new album, Daedalus (currently on pre-sale), is Death/Doom/Black metal fronted by clean, strong female vocals. Cwn Annwn is a metal band with dynamic female vocals, shredding twin guitars, and powerful melodies.

In the span of one evening you can hear these bands plus enjoy interlude acts showcasing belly dance, piano and burlesque; view Gothic art; look at tattoo art and steam-punk, electricity sculpture art by 33 Mad Scientists; and consider some radical hair and makeup designs. The event is 21+ and tickets are \$10 presale, \$12 at the door. Get them at: <https://wicked-arts-festival.eventbrite.com>. Complete event information is at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/595227210886926/>.

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 work-in-progress, materials and tools. This group will meet in ASI's Lindberg Stuga, or outside, weather permitting.

DANCE

6th Annual Minnesota Salsa Fiesta

Saturday, June 22

Doors: 7 p.m. / Show: 8 p.m.

The Cedar Cultural Center 416 Cedar Avenue South Start the summer with the Latin music and dance highlight of the year, the 6th Annual MN Salsa Fiesta! Featuring an all-star collection of performers from all the area salsa bands including Charanga Tropical, Salsa del Soul, Salsabrosa, Seven Steps To Havana, Q-Band, Havana Gypsies, and more. Doors open at 7 p.m. with DJs spinning salsa hits mixed to rare music videos. Then it's a lively salsa lesson from one of the best, Cuban-born instructor Rene Thompson, former lead dancer at La Tropicana in Havana. This is a standing show with an open floor. Tickets: \$20 Advance / \$30 day of show. Information at www.cedar.org

MUSIC

RIO MIRA

Sunday, June 23, 7:30 p.m.

The Cedar Cultural Center 416 Cedar Avenue South Fronted by singer Karla Kanora, Rio Mira is an exciting recording collaboration between artists from neighbouring Ecuador and Colombia, and is guided by the distinctive percussive tones of the marimba. Taking its name from the river which runs from Ecuador into Colombia, the band is living proof of the rich history of the northwestern Pacific coast. Recalling the history of the Pacific, the music is a reminder of the unity which binds together a region divided up by state borders.

In 2015, UNESCO declared the marimba music of South Pacific Colombia and Esmeraldas Province, Ecuador to be Intangible Cultural Heritage. This is a standing show with an open floor.

All Ages - \$16 Advance or \$18 day of show
Info: www.thecedar.org

THEATER

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/

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 or by calling the box office.

Drag Story Hour - Pride Extravaganza

June 22, 11 a.m.

Pillsbury House Theatre
3501 Chicago Ave. S.
Now in its second year, Drag Story Hour seeks to inspire young audiences through story telling and dramatic play. The program features Pillsbury House Theatre Resident artists Pedro Pablo (Doña Pepa) and Emily Zimmer (Old Man Zimmer) and occasional special appearances by other drag performers. Drag Story Hour seeks to inspire

curiosity in children of all ages and connect them with those that may be different in a lively, playful performance. Drag Story Hour is for children and caretakers of all ages. Free.

<http://pillsburyhouseandtheatre.org/drag-story-hour/>

Mixed Blood Presents: Luubaan Stories Project 154 Storytelling Festival

June 22, 2 - 10 p.m.

Mixed Blood Theatre is located at 1501 S. 4th Street, Minneapolis, MN, 55454. This festival will encapsulate all the stories, experiences and lessons collected by Mixed Blood's Project 154, a program which aims to address barriers to healthcare through the use of theater practices and traditional Somali storytelling. The day will include storytelling workshops, learning centered on community health needs, and will feature Mixed Blood trained storytellers.

Luubaan Stories will be comprised of storytellers, professional development workshops for both residents and providers, videos, music, face painting, kids' activities, and more.

The event is free and all are welcome. Members of the Cedar Riverside community and healthcare providers are encouraged to attend.

Visit <https://mixedblood.com/community/project-154/>, email keri@mixedblood.com, or call 612-338-6131 for more information.

Matilda

April 28 - June 23

See website for times: www.childrenstheatre.org
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 broken 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.

Photography Exhibition Opening at Modus Locus:

"Liberation Noir" By Ja'mon Kimbrough



Exhibition: June 1-30, 2019

Opening Reception: June 1, 7-10 p.m.

Address: 3500 Bloomington Ave, Minneapolis, MN

Viewing Hours: Wednesday-Friday 4-8 p.m., Saturday 12-4 p.m., and by appointment. Private rentals can affect gallery hours.

Modus Locus presents new prints of film and digital photography alongside projected short films in "Liberation Noir," a selection of works by Ja'mon Kimbrough (aka @AriesFireBomb), a queer photographer, filmmaker and DJ showing the world the importance of queer black people and their contributions to society over the past eighty years.

His "slice of life" style of photography aims to show the faceted aspects of what it means to be black in this world while evoking

raw emotions and telling stories through single frames. In a statement on his work, Kimbrough says, "As a queer black man, I want to show not only the queer community but the black community, that we can celebrate each other in everything that entails. From our fashion, to religion, to our beauty and our flaws, we are worth being celebrated and appreciated and we must start doing that with each other more often. I hope that my photos can be the kindling to stoke that fire."

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June and August service changes

BY JOHN CHARLES WILSON

Metro Transit has published the service changes for June 8, 2019, and I have some unofficial information to share about possible changes (and one sure one) coming in August.

First, the changes that affect the Southside Pride readership directly are in June:

Two additional morning trips on Route 11 will be extended to Washburn High School. (Why this is being done in the summer instead of the fall, I don't know.)

Routes 133, 156, 552, 553, 558 and 578 will have some service trimmed due to low usage. For the most part, the eliminated trips are at the edges of the a.m. and p.m. rush hours, around 6 and 9 a.m., and around 6 p.m.. Since these are express routes that have local service on the same streets or nearby, this shouldn't cause much hardship.

Route 535 will no longer run on weekends. This bodes ill for the Orange Line project coming in a few years, as it will be very similar to the current Route 535. Will it be a white elephant like the Red Line?

Route 554 is having one trip moved eight minutes later in the

morning. Go ahead, Route 554 riders, use that snooze button! (But only once ...)

Second, the change everyone is waiting with bated breath for, even though it's "over North": The C Line will have its Grand Opening! Fast, frequent buses will ply Penn Avenue North from the Floyd B. Olson Memorial Highway to Brooklyn Boulevard and on to Brooklyn Center Transit Center. Attention, Walmart shoppers! In all seriousness, however, this is really a good thing.

Now for the changes expected in August: None of these directly affect the Southside Pride readership area, but they may affect people we care about.

The Green Line will lose two trips in each direction Monday through Friday between 2 and 4 a.m. Contrary to popular belief, this isn't to yank the train out from under the homeless, but to give maintenance crews time to work on the tracks with the overhead wire turned off. And if you believe that ... Well, I actually partly believe it, as maintenance time is a legitimate issue. But I bet the Met Council considers it a nice side effect that the homeless won't be able to ride the trains all night

(except on weekends). It's just like when San Francisco BART closed all underground station bathrooms after 9/11 "to prevent terrorism"... I still think they were, at least in their own minds, spelling "terrorist" H-O-M-E-L-E-S-S. After all, the above-ground BART stations (which are mostly in higher-income areas) got to keep their bathrooms, but I digress. Anyway, the old 16 bus will run in lieu of the Green Line during those two

hours, so people who really need to go to or from Saint Paul in the middle of the night won't be deprived.

Route 62, which had a service improvement a couple of years ago as a demonstration project, apparently didn't make the cut, and will go back to the service it had before. This is very sad, as even with the improvement, Route 62 is often overcrowded. This one is not for sure yet.

Route 219 is also apparently being considered for a service cut. As the 219 is overcrowded on weekday afternoons and Saturdays, I hope this stays just a rumor unless they put bigger buses on this route. Currently, the 219 uses the same type of buses that provide Metro Mobility service.

Well anyway, that's all the transit news this month. Stay cool and be super safe!



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 another 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 lawnmow-

ers, 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 willpower 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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Northern Spark 2019 comes to the Avenue

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

For this year's Northern Spark event, the American Indian Cultural Corridor on Franklin Avenue will be one of three "nodes" of explosive and transformative art activities. If you're unfamiliar with Northern Spark, now in its ninth year, this started out as a moving art festival that took place on a single June weekend night, from dusk to dawn. Participants were given a map showing all the events in a circuit, and it was designed so that with biking or possibly a combo of driving and walking, you could see all the installations in a single night. Last year, in or-

der to make it accessible to more people, the show was redesigned to last just part of two nights, and for the events to be gathered

into a few nodes throughout the cities. (It's always been a both sides of the river kind of deal.) That was successful, so it's been



ARTIST'S MOCKUP OF MANIFEST'O PROJECTED

continued for 2019. The event is completely free, and is funded by a combination of grants and private donations. You can donate to this year's event by clicking on the Donate button at <https://2019.northernspark.org/>. (You can also volunteer, same site.) The 2019 Northern Spark consists of three nodes—Rondo neighborhood in Saint Paul, including the historic Hallie Q. Brown Community Center; the Commons in Downtown East Minneapolis; and the American Indian Cultural Corridor along Franklin Avenue from 13th Avenue to Bloomington Avenue. The dates are June 14 and 15, and the times from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. The theme for

2019 is Resilience, Renewal, and Regeneration. Neighborhood folks (Southside Pride readers) probably want to devote more time to the Franklin Avenue piece, which does include some of the most amazing acts and offerings, but if you have time, you may also want to check out the other two nodes for a while. With a total of 10 hours comprising the two nights of the show, it is only limited by your stamina and wakefulness. The Rondo node will include a mural project on the wall of the Rondo Community Library with Gita Ghei, Melvin Giles

See Northern Spark, page 8

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Celebrate Summer

Northern Spark, from page 7

and Aki Shibata; a spoken word plus open mic stage with MC Tish Jones; **Baba Jesse and Resounding Rhythms**, a drum group; the **Hallie Q. Brown Archive Project** in the HQB Center; a screening by Sherine Onukwuwe of three films at Penumbra Theater (also in the HQB Center); a shuttle between the library and the HQB Center with an optional 30-minute narrated history tour of Rondo, and other work by artists, including Kashimana, Miko Simmons, and the

Solar Peace Collective. The node at the Commons will include **Radical Playground**, an installation by two great South Minneapolis Latina artists, Candida Gonzalez and Mary Anne Quiroz; Foci Minnesota Center for Glass Arts interactive piece Neon Garden; Yilma Hailu's **"Begna At Night"**: A ceremony of Ethiopian art through different mediums; **"Let's Make Some Sounds,"** by two-person group Beatrix Jar; an Artist's Market; and further works by Jeremy Wong, Joshua McGarvey, The Exuberant Activist Body, The Weavers' Guild,

Kalpulli Yaocenotxli and Kelley Leaf.

At the American Indian Cultural Corridor, "resilience, renewal, and regeneration" takes on a sober meaning amid a community

already using the arts to manifest these traits for its very survival. And what an amazing display of art! The gallery show at All My Relations, **"Bring Her Home: Stolen Daughters of Turtle Island,"**

co-curated by Moira Villard and Angela Two Stars, will be temporarily wrapped into Northern Spark. If you haven't already seen this, be sure and include it in your night. **The Biker** is an installation with a larger-than-life sculpture of a cyclist whose wheels portray the Four Directions. The Biker is hooked up to a stationary bike and the audience may "animate" the sculpture by pedaling. This installation is conceived by Victor Yopez, and constructed along with Richard Parnell and Jon "Huckleberry" Stoike. **Hanyétu Wówapi Thípi** is Dakota for "Night Library," and for Northern Spark, a group of artists—Marlena Myles, Tamara Aupaumut, Elsa Hoover, Dawí, James D. Autio and Jess Grams—will transform the Franklin Library into the Night Library, filled with artworks and installations. It "will become a cultural embassy held as a place to welcome residents of our lands and accommodate the need for Indigenous education and community greeting."

A lot of the art on the Avenue these two nights will be performance—plays, spoken word, songs



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8

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June 2019



and more. "WEave: HERE" is a piece combining poetry, dance, costume, lights and images. The description reads: "Lead artist and

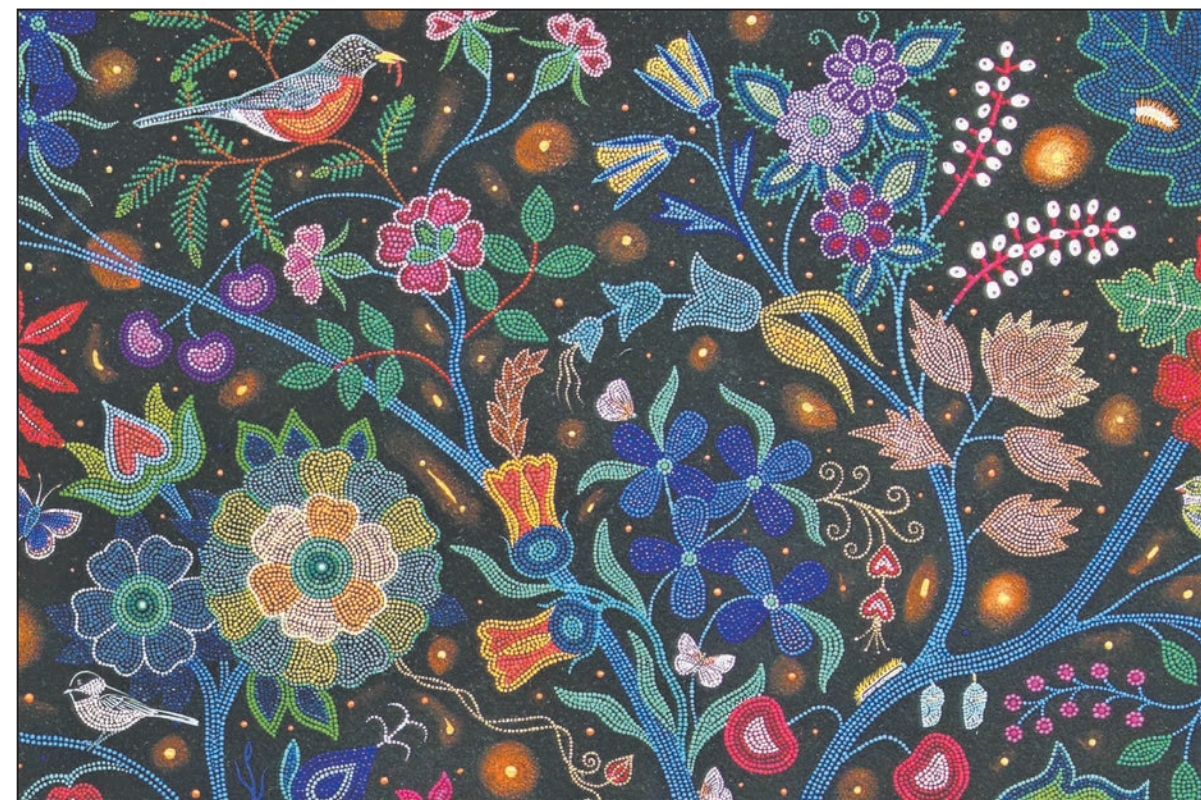
choreographer Rosy Simas directs performers in sculptural costumes, highlighted by projection, as they move through the crowd in a

procession along Franklin Avenue. The hour-long performance moves to an installation curated by poet Heid E. Erdrich and visual

artist Jonathan Thunder." Thunder also presents a solo work: "Manifest'o." We got a chance to talk with him about it at the press preview last week. Thunder is a painter, animator and sculptor. He is bringing a version of his animated installation Manifest'o, which exhibited in a gallery in Duluth, and projecting it on the wall of a three-story apartment building. (They warned the residents ahead of time and got permission.) The video consists of three vignettes based on traditional Anishinaabe tales, but with a twist—"Mishu

Bizhiw Awakens," "Gold Finch Counts the Leaves," and "Super-naut Becomes the Water Lily." Each one has a unique soundscape. For instance, "Gold Finch Counts the Leaves" has Thunder's wife counting to 100 in Ojibwe as Gold Finch represents the spirit of the Ojibwe language, while Super-naut is actually Star Woman, who arrives in a spaceship. As Thunder explained it to me, these aren't the tales themselves (which can only be told traditionally in the winter)

See Northern Spark, page 10



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Celebrate Summer on Franklin Ave.

Northern Spark, from page 9

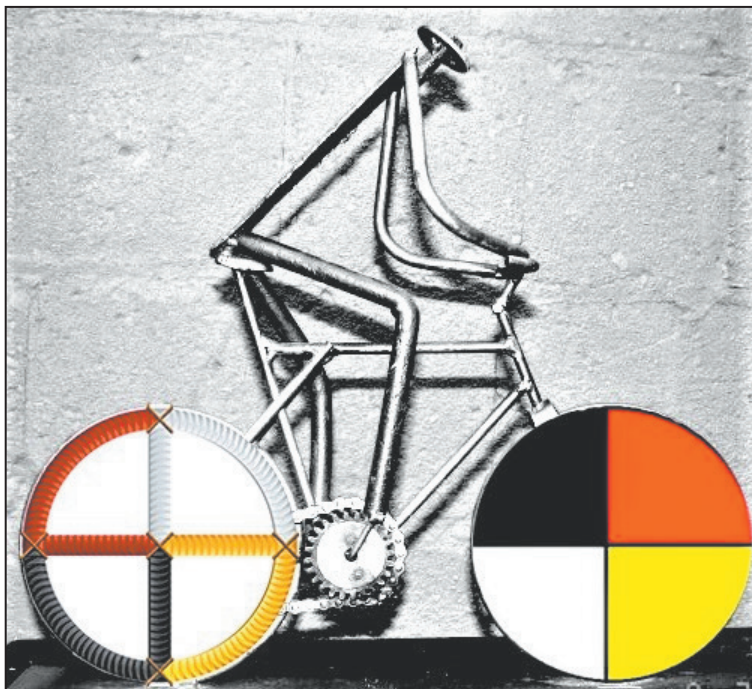
but animations referencing the tales and interpreting them for a modern urban world. New Native Theatre with Rhiana Yazzie is presenting “Time Elapsed, Time Immemorial.” This is described as an interactive telling of stories through audio and actors that blend sound and light for a never-ending looping of surprising stories. Ketzal Coatlicue is presenting “Xopantla: The Flowering of Light,” a ceremonial piece based on syncretic Indigenous Mexican traditions. The audience is invited to bring offerings of candles, flowers or fruit for the altar. Al Gross and Strong Buffalo are presenting “Reusable Graffiti,” a soundscape of spoken word, music and humor. “Native people have been blinded and blindsided, vilified and glorified, demonized and canonized, colonized and decolonized, fried bread and refried beans, admired for our culture, pitied for our oppression, stereotyped from a

daguerreotype ... cannon fodder for the capitalist.”

Minnesota Sacred Harp will present “Let All The Nations

Know: Hymns from Indian Melodies and The Sacred Harp.”

The group will use Thomas Commuck’s 1845 hymnal,



THE BIKER

“Indian Melodies,” written in the shape note style and widely acknowledged to be the first published musical work by a Native American. The piece will focus on Native melodies and shape note tradition with singing and introductory workshops. You can learn more about sacred harp/shape note singing at www.fasola.org. Finally, “Hearts of Our People: Mural Kickoff and Visioning,” with Natchez Beaulieu, is another piece folding into an existing project, in this case the Minneapolis Institute of Arts’ mural project. From the descrip-

tion: “This summer, local youth will work together to design and paint a mural inspired by *Hearts of Our People: Native Women Artists* at Minneapolis Institute of Art. Share your visions of how we can honor Native Women Artists in our community. We will project these first ideas onto the All My Relations Gallery to begin the creative process.” If you want more information about Northern Spark 2019, in addition to the website noted above, you can follow on the Facebook page www.facebook.com/NorthernSparkMN.

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Cheesy pleasures at All Square

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

All Square
4047 Minnehaha Ave. S.
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All Square is not like other restaurants; it's not even like other small neighborhood diners with an excellent but limited menu and a family-friendly vibe, though it is all those things. There are two reasons for this. First, its menu is limited quite deliberately—to grilled cheese sandwiches and their accompaniments! This still leaves considerable scope. The menu comprises 12 sandwich offerings, some of which are cheese and meat, some are cheese and vegetables or fruits, and a few can be made vegan. But the second and primary reason All Square is not like other restaurants is because of its mission and its staff. Its mission is to provide a path to work and financial stability for formerly

incarcerated people, probably the most disadvantaged sector in the job-seeking pool. So, its staff consists of such folks, with training from the organization behind All Square to enable them to advance to the level of “fellows.” Or in its own words: “All Square is a civil rights social enterprise centered on a craft grilled cheese restaurant and professional institute.”

piece is called The Institute. The Institute provides a one-year curriculum for formerly incarcerated men and women called Fellows. The Fellows go on to design dishes and cook in the restaurant. There is an impressive board of directors, including a number of high-powered lawyers and policy wonks, a few of whom have also been incarcerated, wrongly and for a long time in one case. The restaurant and the Institute are housed in a brand-new, architect-designed building on the corner of Minnehaha and 41st Street. Half of the building comprises the restaurant, and the other half, which houses the Institute on Monday and Tuesday for classes, is called the Dream Lab. The Dream Lab also hosts both internal and external events. An internal event example was a kids' movie party, at 10 a.m. last Saturday (May 18). I don't see any upcoming public events in the Dream Lab, but All Square is co-hosting, along with Surly Brewing, “We Are All Criminals,” and Squirrel Haus Arts (where

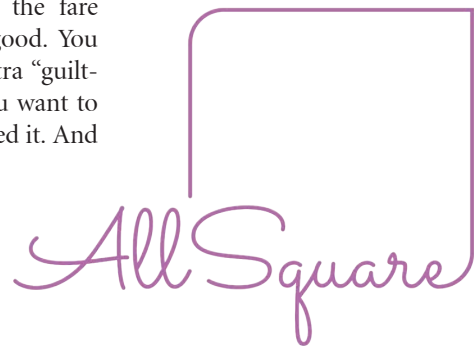
and vinaigrette. There is a small but good selection of beers and wines, as well as Coke products. On our visit we had the Basil Pesto sandwich (which contains both basil leaves and basil pesto, with mozz and provolone) with a side of Tomato Basil Bisque and a nice locally-brewed stout (the beer selection rotates). One of the sandwiches is called Kid's Grilled Cheese (cheddar blend on artisan white bread), but it doesn't say whether adults can have it too. Fancier fare includes the Apple-Brie-Pecan (with candied pecans) or the cleverly named Did My Thyme, which consists of five Mediterranean cheeses on a bed of hummus and cucumber. In the omnivore section, the Jerk Chicken is popular, according to social media, and there is the Hot Wing (pulled chicken, bleu cheese, hot sauce), the Back to BAC (bacon, avocado, cheddar), and the very elegant Charcuterie (prosciutto, Brie, almonds, onion jam). The other two accompaniments available are Chicken-Wild Rice Soup and some yummy-looking fries.

The vegetarian section denotes a few items that are available as gluten-free and/or vegan. I have a couple of suggestions about that, plus a couple more suggestions for slight improvements (although a lack of customers does not seem to be one of their problems). Vegans care about taste as much as “normal people” and not all vegan cheese is that good. The menu should say from where you get your vegan ingredients. Ditto the gluten-free bread. (And if your bread is baked in-house, for heaven's sakes, state that on the menu.) Another suggestion—the omnivore menu is chicken times three and pork times three, kind of same-y. The Tuna Melt is a classic sandwich, always good for a gourmet upgrade. How about just a single nod to the pescatarians? And maybe a nice Reuben for people who don't do pork?



TYPICAL ALL SQUARE MEAL

But criticism aside, 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.



ALL SQUARE AND PATIO DINERS

incarcerated people, probably the most disadvantaged sector in the job-seeking pool. So, its staff consists of such folks, with training from the organization behind All Square to enable them to advance to the level of “fellows.” Or in its own words: “All Square is a civil rights social enterprise centered on a craft grilled cheese restaurant and professional institute.”

All Square the restaurant is the public face of a nonprofit called All Square, and the related program

the event takes place), a gallery art show opening. This is called “Another Fine Mess,” by artist Russ White and is Friday, June 7, from 5 p.m. Squirrel Haus Arts is located at 3450 Snelling Ave. in Minneapolis.

So, what do they have to eat at All Square? The vegetarian menu has six selections, the omnivore menu has six selections, and the side dish section has three. The sandwiches all come with a very nice salad of artisanal mixed greens

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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, homemade, 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.

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

EVENTS

A SLICE OF DEAF CULTURE—Neighborhood Night: Where Everyone is a Neighbor!

Thursday, June 6, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Holy Name Church (Garvey Hall)
3637 11th Ave. S.

Come and learn more about the vibrant Deaf Community, its history, values, norms and traditions. Participants will also be exposed to language and communication challenges that impact some persons who are deaf in numerous settings. Communication strategies, technology and resources will be identified. ASL interpreter present. Our presenter is Liz Brown, Specialist at the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Metro Office in the Minnesota Department of Human Services with over 35 years of experience working with persons who are deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind. Come, learn and get to know neighbors! Coffee included. Bring a friend! No cost/no registration. Holy Name Church, Garvey Hall, 3637 11th Ave. For more info: www.churchoftheholyname.org; 612-724-5465.

HOPE FOR PARENTS: Author offers insights from the journey of raising a developmentally challenged child

Sunday, June 9, 9:00 a.m.

Hope Lutheran Church
5728 Cedar Ave. S.

On Sunday, June 9, Hope Lutheran Church welcomes Pastor Hollie Holt-Woehl to lead the adult forum at 9:00 am and worship at 10:00am. At the adult forum Holt-Woehl will share about her recently published book, *They Don't Come with Instructions*:

Cries, Wisdom and Hope for Parenting Children with Developmental Challenges. The book offers companionship for the journey with a developmentally challenged child. The mother of a son with an autism diagnosis, Holt-Woehl recognizes that parenting is never easy.

Drawing on her own experience and that of nearly forty other parents she surveyed, Holt-Woehl shares stories, information, and insights about tending to the pain, recognizing the joy, and finding ways to keep hope through the ups and downs of this path. The book focuses on the challenges of parenting children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD), and/or Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS). Not only for parents, but friends and family who seek to understand what it is like to live with a developmentally challenged child, will appreciate Holt-Woehl's down-to-earth and compassionate approach.

Hope Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and a Reconciling in Christ Congregation. Hope has sought to fulfill a promise to love its neighbors in South Minneapolis since its founding in 1928 and at its current location on Cedar Avenue South since 1969 it has been a home for music and the arts that make Christ known through the spirit of hope.

The Rev. Dr. Hollie Holt-Woehl holds a Ph.D. in Pastoral Care and Counseling. Ordained in 1993 in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), she has served congregations in rural, urban, and suburban settings. Dr. Holt-Woehl is Adjunct Professor at Luther Seminary, Saint Paul, Minnesota and serves as an intentional interim pastor in the Minneapolis Area Synod ELCA. <http://www.phholt-woehl.com> For more information please contact Eric Luedtke at 612.827.2655 or pastor@hopempls.org

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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.

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BY ASHLEY’S FRAYED

I remember when I first told my psychiatric nurse practitioner that I was hearing voices and had paranoid thoughts. She called them delusions. I knew they were real. Most of the time it still is real. People read my mind and are out to ruin my life.

I casually asked my practitioner when I would get a “clean bill of mental health.” She became very compassionate. She told me that some of my symptoms might improve with medication. However, she made it clear that these illnesses do not heal. I will have mental illness for the rest of my life.

I have made some progress but

it is never back to the mentally healthy me. She is gone. But I still am here. Here is painful. My therapist told me once that out of the 1,000 schizophrenic patients she has treated, one had returned to full-time work.

Work is one of the most important aspects of an adult’s life. Without work the days blandly blend together. If I guess the day of the week, I have a 50/50 chance of guessing correctly.

Forever. It makes me angry! Why do I have to suffer because other people have demons. Demons. When I say demons, my psychiatric nurse practitioner tells me that I am having delusions. I don’t believe that for a minute.

In June of 2003 I was “Date Raped” by a former state employee with the initials BRM. I told him he was hurting me and told him to stop. I went blackout. He continued. I have no memory of most of the attack. I also was afraid to press charges. Sometime I think my PTSD could heal if the traumas stopped happening. But they don’t.

I know I said goodbye in my last column. My job was high security clearance and would not allow me to have a second job. Anyway, I was let go from that job for whistleblowing. Maybe I could keep a job if I learned to do the “wrong thing” instead of the “right thing.” Losing my job slid me right back into poverty and scarred my psyche. Another trauma.

In addition to being date raped, I was sexually molested and raped as a small child. From the ages of 6 to 11 I have no memories. I fired my therapist. She said she could help me bring the memories back so that I could work through it. I disagreed. Having no memories

of the abuse shields me from the horror of it all. I recently have had flashbacks now that I am into my 40s. I am hoping the actual events will never haunt me. One of my abusers may still be alive. None of them were family or my mother’s lovers. They were friends’ parents. People my mother trusted because I was friends with their children. Huge mistake. One I did not make when I became a parent at age 23.

How did I function as a young adult? I was fine. I went to college and law school. I graduated with honors. I became a licensed attorney and practiced human rights and bankruptcy. There was a triggering stressor that caused my total mental collapse at the age of 35. The trigger was a death threat and a false accusation against me that was made public. Since 2010 I have been hospitalized more than 13 times. Seven months is the longest I have made it without a hospitalization. My record for holding a job continues to be two months.

What does forever mean? When I dwell on recovery, I can occa-

sionally get well and convince myself that I beat the odds. I am recovered. It never lasts more than a few days. “Let’s face it,” I tell myself. “Friendships end, lovers leave, but mental illness is forever.” Less costly than a diamond. That is the only bright side to it.

How do I wake up each day and face “Forever”? I don’t. I live in a river called De-nial. I celebrate small wins. I showered twice today. I cleaned my clothes. I took care of an old feline friend, Sophie. When I think about my longevity, I get really down. Statistically my assortment of mental illnesses may shorten my life by 20 years. I know I have a role to play in my attempts at survival to old age. The only problem is that the symptoms are so excruciating, I don’t always want those 20 years back. My goal is to live to the ripe old age of 82. I joined a community center in my suburb and now I can swim in an Olympic size pool. I have access to a gym. I can live.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Local church disagrees with larger church body

My name is Jason Emrick. I am a lifelong United Methodist and current member of Minnehaha United Methodist Church in South Minneapolis. I want to state that I, as well as many if not most of our congregants, were saddened, then outraged at our General Church conference’s decision to affirm the Anti-LGBTQIA language of our Church Discipline. I want to say that the United Methodist Church no longer speaks for this church in either opinion or policy. After the vote, many in our local church and churches across the country began considering separating from the united church we have been a part of since 1968. Though many of us would like to see our denomination choose a way forward to keeping the churches together, we will not sacrifice principle for the sake of unity. I ask that when

you consider the decision of our global church you stop to recognize that within any group there are dissenting opinions. It would be unfair to consider all Methodists complicit in this decision and equally unfair to throw derision on a local church, whose own members stand in opposition to that decision. At our church, the Sunday immediately following the general conference vote had the third most attended service after Easter and Christmas. We were disheartened at the decision and came to gather in community to share our lament. We at Minnehaha are not a LGBTQIA church. We are simply a church. A church that believes that all are entitled to God’s grace and love. A church called to share that love, for the transformation of the world.



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Exxon Mobil lied to us

BY RICHARD TAYLOR

In 1978, 11 years before NASA scientist James Hansen sounded the alarm to Congress about carbon emissions and global warming, Exxon Mobil (EM) scientist James Black reported to the top brass that, “There is general scientific agreement that the most likely way in which mankind is influencing the global climate is through carbon dioxide release from the burning of fossil fuels.” “General scientific agreement” now amounts to 97% of climate scientists.

By 1982, EM’s scientists had refined their analysis to conclude that “potentially catastrophic events would require major reductions in fossil fuel combustion.” Despite this, EM’s executives chose not to embrace James Hansen. Instead of moving away from fossil fuels, the company, knowing that sea levels would rise, opted to raise the height of its off-shore oil platforms.

Almost immediately after Hansen’s testimony, EM changed the party line “to emphasize the uncertainty in scientific data,” an uncertainty that the company itself had dispelled. In 1997 CEO Lee Raymond had his Orwellian moment when he announced to the World Petroleum Conference in Beijing that the atmosphere was actually cooling. The disinformation campaign worked all too well: As recently as 2017, a poll showed that almost 90% of Americans didn’t know that a scientific consensus existed.

Eventually, the peril that EM had detected morphed into comely opportunities: diminishing ice in the Arctic Ocean would make drilling for oil easier and cheaper; the company even postured as a grand world benefactor claiming the added carbon would boost crop production and so ease world hunger.

EM, along with Chevron, Shell and Amoco, formed the Global Climate Coalition “to coordinate business participation in the international policy debate.” More candidly, Republican consultant Frank Luntz urged the oil giants and their political supporters to “make lack of scientific certainty a primary issue in the debate.”

The Global Climate Coalition then linked up with the National Coal Association and the American Petroleum Institute in a campaign to rebuff efforts to increase taxes on fossil fuel emissions. In 2018 voters in the state of Washington leaned toward imposing a carbon tax, but the fossil fuels Leviathan spent record sums to defeat it. British Petroleum alone chipped in \$13 million.

If anyone remained uncertain about EM’s intentions, CEO Rex Tillerson, in his last address to stockholders before joining the Trump administration, stated the company’s position with alarming clarity: “The world is going to have to continue using fossil fuels, whether they like it or not.”

The actions of his successor, Darren Woods, are fulfilling Tillerson’s pledge. All the majors—EM, Chevron, Total, Shell and BP—

plan to gin up production of oil and gas. EM’s plan is especially ambitious. Indifferent to climate disruption, it has embarked on a new \$200 billion investment tsunami that intends to ramp up oil and gas production by 25% by 2025, with output continuing to grow by 2040 and beyond.

This surge promises to be most lucrative; EM is shooting for \$23 billion in profits in 2025, triple those of 2017. Crucially, this leap boosts the rate of profit.

Worldwide, the oil giants are already four of the 20 largest dividend providers, and the drive to further gin up the rate of profit serves as a magnet for investors seeking higher returns. As a result, instead of divesting from fossil fuel companies, big institutional investors are adding shares to their portfolios.

Here, we should note that the new wave of investment starts from an unfathomably high rate of oil consumption. In 2018, the world surpassed using 100 million barrels of oil per day, every day of the year—and the heat accruing daily from this combustion equals the heat of 400,000 Hiroshima atomic bombs. Given modern technology’s power to impact the biosphere, it’s hardly surprising that the Holocene Era has given way to the Anthropocene Epoch, an epoch defined as one where “human activities equal or exceed the great forces of nature.”

EM will work tenaciously to keep demand for its products growing. Indeed, it has to do so,

because a big chunk of the new investment is in expensive deep water wells. If demand flags, so will prices, leaving the oil too expensive to extract. If that happens, profits morph into losses, and losses signify lower dividend and stock prices—capitalism in reverse.

Ominously, EM’s ambitions collide with the inconvenient truth of climate disruption and the urgent calls to reduce carbon emissions. Consider just a few events from 2018: Cities in Iran and Pakistan saw high temperatures just shy of 130 degrees; a fierce heat wave in Montreal, Canada, killed more than 70 people; the Paradise fire in California razed 10,000 buildings and snuffed out the lives of 63 people; due to the encroachment of salt water born of rising sea levels, 24,000 people in Vietnam had to abandon the fertile fields of the Mekong Delta. From now on, in each coming year, thousands more will join the migration.

This gathering storm lends urgency to the need to reduce carbon emissions. In its most recent report (December 2018), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) calls for an 80% reduction of annual carbon emissions from 32 million tons to 7 million tons. Without such reductions by 2050, the target of confining the rise in air temperature to 1.5 degrees Celsius cannot be met.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) also recently issued a report, a report that reveals an unfolding reality starkly at odds with the recommendations of the IPCC.

Given the new surge in investment, the IEA sees carbon emissions rising to 43 million tons by 2040. Spewing that much carbon into the atmosphere signifies that temperatures will blow past the 1.5 degrees target and add at least 4 degrees, meaning that EM and its confederates are building a Doomsday Machine to rival the one posed by nuclear weapons.

Given that EM was a pioneer in discovering the dangers of vast fossil fuel burning, it is now giving a darkly ironic answer. Along with the other majors, the company is proclaiming boldly that the ruling principle of our economic system remains the maximization of profit. And this quest must take priority over all other values—including the survival of the human species.

In opposition to this invitation to omnicide, we are well advised to consider the ever-fresh words of Martin Luther King: “We are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history, there is such a thing as being too late. This is no time for apathy or complacency. This is a time for vigorous and positive action.”

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FROM WHERE I STAND

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

Good gun news

It’s seldom, if ever, one reads good news about guns. So, this bit of news should be well received. There exists a group with a mission antithetical to that of the National Rifle Association (NRA). It’s called GUNS DOWN AMERICA, organized in 2016 in Orlando, Fla., as a result of the mass shooting incident there. Its mission, as given by its founder and executive officer, Igor Volsky, is to compel the financiers of the gun industry banks to support gun control. The group set up a grading system for these financiers, i.e., banks and legislators. The basis for the grades was publicly available information gathered from media reports, regulatory documents, campaign finance filings and other sources. After the Orlando shooting, Delta Airlines, Hertz and several other companies broke with the NRA. Some banks have changed their positions on loans for

guns. Bank of America has announced a new policy.

A grading system was devised to indicate banks’ policy on gun loans. Six banks had failing grades. Citigroup announced it would work only with clients that restricted gun sales. Bank of America said it would stop funding companies that make military-inspired firearms for civilian use. Marianne Lake, JPMorgan Chase’s chief financial officer, said last year the bank’s link to military-style firearms has “come down significantly.” Tricia Schultz, a Wells Fargo spokeswoman, said the bank planned to invest more than \$10 million over three years in studying gun-violence prevention and in improving school safety. Her total statement, however, was somewhat ambiguous: “We do not believe that the American public wants banks to decide which legal products consumers can and cannot buy.” Overall it was good news.

Taxes and prison health care

If you haven’t read the article about health care in U.S. prisons in the March 4th edition of The New Yorker magazine, you should. Even if you’re not particularly concerned about prisons, you really should. If for no other reason than that your taxes could be reduced with an efficient system, read it. It’s not short—a full eight pages, but as I said, it’ll be well worth your time. The following are a few statistics to get you started:

1. Between 1980 and 2015, the U.S. prison population increased from about 500,000 to over 2.2 million.
 2. Today the U.S. makes up about 5% of the world’s population yet has 21% of the world’s prisoners.
 3. Though African Americans and Hispanics make up about 32% of the world’s population, they comprised 56% of all incarcerated people in 2015.
- There are more than 3,000 jails in

the U.S., which house some 700,000 people. After the passage of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, the jail and prison population jumped from about 300,000 in 1980 to more than 10,000,000—that’s 10 million—today. The standard of care that incarcerated people have a right to receive was set by the American Medical Association.

Companies that provide health care are now spending about \$10,000,000,000 (that’s 10 billion).



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Purple Rain

BY LAURA HALL

"Purple Rain" is the kind of song that makes you stop what you are doing and invokes you to sing along and sway to the epic creation.

Prince sang the song during the 2007 Super Bowl while it magically rained, making both the stage and the singer glisten. "Purple Rain" may even be considered a Twin Cities anthem because Prince truly was ours. "Purple Rain" is also the song that inspired Twin Cities visual artist Esther Osayande, a Phillips neighborhood resident, to create the Purple Raindrop sculpture in North Minneapolis. Osayande, along with two other artists, Christopheraaron Deanes and Christopher E. Harrison, was selected by a panel of community members, arts experts, city staff, and other key stakeholders to create artwork along the newly built 26th Avenue North bike path. The artwork serves as a way to connect the Northside community through

sparkling meaningful conversations and also providing tangible meeting spots in the area.

The inspiration for the raindrop came to Osayande a couple of weeks after Prince's passing. While she was in downtown Minneapolis, she heard "Purple Rain" being blasted from First Avenue. With the iconic song pulsating through the downtown streets, Osayande felt like it was a "divine intervention," leading her in the direction of creating the raindrop. Purple Raindrop now stands gloriously and proudly in Farview Park in North Minneapolis honoring both Prince (the onetime resident of North Minneapolis) and the neighborhood.

Completion of the raindrop was an all-women effort. Osayande designed the curving, flawless sculpture and chose the vibrant purple shade. Two female Twin Cities welders, Denise 'Seven' Bailey and Heather Doyle, then constructed the raindrop. Osayande feels like, "It's the year of the woman,"

reflecting on how at one time, women would never have been thought able to do a job like being a welder.

Osayande also greatly admired Prince, describing him as someone who believed in peace and getting along with one another. And prior to his fame, Osayande had met the singer. At the time, she was dating someone who was friends with a musician in a band Prince was putting together. She recalls how the young, about 18-year-old Prince quietly and shyly entered her home, politely asking her how she was and saying how it was nice to meet her. "I had greatness in my house," says Osayande.

As Prince said, "Music was put on earth to enlighten and empower us and feel closer to our center." This quote could also apply to Osayande's artwork, stirring up a similar sentiment as you ponder the beauty and intrigue while also feeling a sense of strength and hope in her work.



Artist Esther Osayande with her sculpture Purple Raindrop

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