



We build Pride on the Southside

**NOKOMIS
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**December
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Transactional Analysis

BY TONY BOUZA

Once a guy gets to my age, he needs to ask himself whether he's ever engaged in sexual harassment, in any form: "An unexamined life . . ."

Well?

After a mental search, I remembered. It was August 1994. Erica was selling her jewelry at the Uptown Art Fair. I spelled her for a latrine break.

I was sitting in the empty stall when a middle-aged woman led a tall, younger girl inside by an insistent hand. A kinetic scene.

"What do you mean by telling my daughter a big-breasted girl like her needs large earrings?"

Knocked back by this furious accusation, I thought frantically. I apologized profusely for what I was sure was a misunderstanding, but she'd have none of it and sustained her assault.

Angrily, she led her daughter out with a final message: "You'll never get my vote."

I was then engaged in an amateurish and quixotic doomed quest for public office.

I searched my memory and finally remembered: "A statuesque woman like you should have large earrings."

What the daughter had heard was some grotesque version.

I'd attended a course on Transactional Analysis in 1973, and it



From the 2040 Plan adopted by the City Council:

"In neighborhood interiors that contain a mix of housing types from single-family homes to apartments, increase housing choice and supply by allowing new housing within that existing range."

'Git outta here!'

BY ED FELIEN

That's what it sounds like: "Git outta here!"

The Planning Commission last month just approved zoning changes that will ultimately mean the removal of communities of color and those of us who live in the inner city in affordable housing and replace us with Young Urban Professionals in five-story apartment buildings.

I wrote the following to the Planning Commission and the City Council:

You are being asked to approve staff recommendations for guidelines for development projects of 20 or more units that will accompany inclusionary zoning changes anticipated in December. The recommenda-

tions are from your consultant, Grounded Solutions:

"Draft Policy Recommendations—Minneapolis Inclusionary Zoning, October 2019, On-site Affordability Requirements, Rental—

- Option 1: 8% of units affordable at 60% of Area Median Income (AMI); no City financial assistance; revisit after 18 months

- Option 2: 20% of units affordable at 50% of AMI; City financial assistance (Tax-Increment Financing) available

- Option 3: Half the 60% AMI requirement (4% of units) affordable at 30% of AMI; no City financial assistance."

The area median income for Minneapolis is \$60,789. In an apartment build-

ing of 20 units, Option 1 would require 1.6 units be made available to people earning \$36,473.40 or less a year. Option 2 would require 4 of the units be made available to people earning \$30,395.50 or less a year. And Option 3 would make 8/10 of 1 percent of 1 unit available to persons earning \$18,236.50 or less a year.

This cannot seriously be called creating affordable housing.

The proposed inclusionary zoning changes will allow three-, four- and five-story apartment buildings in the inner city, from Broadway to 42nd Street South. These changes will not affect the traditionally white neighborhoods. Renters who live in the affected areas who have found af-

We're changing

BY ED FELIEN

Beginning in January we're going to change the way we deliver Southside Pride. We'll be at over 100 locations around the Nokomis Community: at local businesses, libraries, churches and community centers, and we will discontinue home delivery. It was a lot of hard work, but in spite of the best efforts of our heroic delivery people, the papers didn't always make it up to your front door. Now, we're asking you, if you see us when you're out and about, and you want news about your neighborhood, church events and a calendar of things happening in our community, then pick us up at one of these locations:

Portland Market	3751 Portland Ave. S.
Seward Friendship Store	38th St. & 3rd Ave. S.
Sabathani Community Center	310 E. 38th St.
Nighthawks	3753 Nicollet Ave. S.
Five Watt Coffee	3745 Nicollet Ave. S.
Dragon Wok	3752 Nicollet Ave. S.
Salvation Army	3740 Nicollet Ave. S.
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St. Paul Bagelry	5426 Nicollet Ave. S.
Washburn Library	5244 Lyndale Ave. S.
South Lyndale Liquors	5300 Lyndale Ave. S.
Kowalski's Market	5327 Lyndale Ave. S.
Starbucks	5351 Lyndale Ave. S.
Lakewinds Co-op	6420 Lyndale Ave. S.
Diamond Lake Clinic	5939 Portland Ave. S.
Speedway	6000 Portland Ave. S.
Know Name Records	6009 Portland Ave. S.
New Wave Laundromat	1115 E. 66th St.
Richfield Liquors	6600 Cedar Ave. S.
Chipotle	1830 E. 66th St.
Starbucks	6445 Richfield Pkwy.
Target	6445 Richfield Pkwy.
Fat Lorenzo's	5600 Cedar Ave. S.
Kowalski's Market	5615 Chicago Ave. S.
Southside Chiropractic	5536 Chicago Ave. S.
El Burrito	4820 Chicago Ave. S.
Town Hall Tap	4810 Chicago Ave. S.
Turtle Bread	4762 Chicago Ave. S.
Office building	4748 Chicago Ave. S.

See Bouza, page 5

See Git Out, page 14

See Changes, page 5



Happy Holidays!

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Cooking with Pride – Staff Recipes

Recipe for the Republic

George Washington, on Oct. 3, 1789, issued a Proclamation declaring the last Thursday in November to be a day of Thanksgiving “for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty, which we have since enjoyed—for the peaceable and rational manner, in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national One now lately instituted—for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed; and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and in general for all the great and various favors which he hath been pleased to confer upon us.”

But it was not perfect harmony in the early Thirteen Colonies. Thomas Jefferson and John Adams fought nasty electoral battles. Aaron Burr shot and killed Alexander Hamilton to settle political differences.

But the Republic survived.

Today, the Republic is being tested once again. Are we to continue to be a nation governed by laws enacted for the common good, or are we to be subject to the whims of a mad king? We are undergoing a trial now to test the strength of our Constitution. Congress is exercising its right and responsibility to hold our President accountable.

We should all be thankful that it works as well as it does.

—Ed Felien

Slow Cooker Stuffing with Extra Veggies

This stuffing is packed with flavor and veggies. The veggies are cut small so they don't overpower the stuffing. This recipe uses the slow cooker to save much coveted oven and stove space for other Thanksgiving goodies. Makes about 12 servings.

Ingredients:

- ¼ cup butter
- 2 cups chopped onion
- ½ cup chopped green onion
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 12 ounces sliced mushrooms
- 2 cups finely chopped greens (tatsoi and spinach work well)
- ½ cup chopped fresh parsley
- 12 cups bread, cut into bite-size cubes (Sourdough tastes great in stuffing. You can also mix in half whole wheat bread for extra fiber. Make sure to use day-old bread for better texture.)
- 2 tbsp. mixed fresh herbs (e.g., sage, rosemary and thyme)
- 2 cups vegetable or chicken stock

2 eggs, beaten
salt and pepper to taste

1. Melt butter in a pan over medium heat. Cook onion, green onion, celery and mushroom for several minutes until soft. Add salt and pepper to taste.

2. Place bread cubes in slow cooker. Add cooked vegetables, greens, parsley and herbs. Mix well.

3. Add just enough broth to moisten bread (about 1½-2 cups). It's better to start with less and add more later if needed.

4. Pour in eggs and mix well.

5. Cook on high for 2 hours. Check halfway through to see if more broth is needed. Add more salt and pepper if needed.

—Raina Goldstein Bunnag

Fake Cheese Cake

I've been making this simple dessert for 40 years at least. In the family we call it “lemon cheese cake” even

though we know it's not. It's a delicious fake cheese cake (a jello dessert) made from stuff in cans and boxes. It might be a pleasant surprise at Thanksgiving if you want to present it along with the traditional mincemeat and pumpkin pies.

You can buy a graham cracker crust or make your own with 15 or 16 two-part graham crackers, crushed, and 1 stick (½ cup) of melted butter. Put the crackers in a large freezer bag and roll over them with a rolling pin. Children find this very satisfying. Mix with melted butter and press into a large (10-inch) pie pan. Save some crumbs to sprinkle on top when the filling is almost set.

Add 1 cup boiling water to a package of lemon jello (or mango jello) and stir for five minutes, or maybe three. Just make sure it's long enough to prevent rubbery jello. Stir in the juice of one small lemon or lime. Whip together an 8 oz. package of cream cheese (room temperature) and 1 cup of cold evaporated milk. When jello has cooled, fold it into the cream cheese/evaporated milk mixture. Very patiently, spoon the liquid by small spoonfuls into the crust (if you pour it, the crust will be displaced) and put it in the refrigerator to set. Voila.

—Elaine Klaassen

Aunt Betty's Polish Rolls

Eastern European cookery is known for its delicious sweet “rolls” with a rich butter-and-sour-cream-laden yeast pastry, rolled up jellyroll-style, filled with nut paste, poppy seed paste, or pureed dried fruits such as prune or apricot. With names such as potica in Slovenian, strucla or makowiec in Polish, and tons of other names such as diosbeigli, povitica, or orehnjaca, these have migrated to America under names like prune roll, or Pittsburgh nut roll. But my family always called them Polish rolls. We didn't actually have any Polish heritage to speak of in our family, but our beloved Aunt Betty (one of my Dad's four younger sisters) married a Polish guy and got this recipe from her mother-in-law. You think of it more as a Christmas or Easter treat, but I get impatient to have some as soon as the weather turns cold and so to me it's perfect for Thanksgiving. My whole extended family has decided they agree. We often used canned filling to make the poppy seed or prune variety, and our nut filling (pecan instead of the more common walnut) is simplicity itself with just five ingredients.

A lot of recipes for this—OK, every one I have ever seen except my own—recommend such quaint practices as proofing the yeast, scalding the milk, and various periods of resting the dough overnight in the fridge, or letting it rise and punching it down. Some of the recipes use powdered sugar instead of flour for dusting, or have a confectioner's glaze or even icing. That's all well and good, but our recipe dates from the 1950s and



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doesn't have any of that. And it works, so just trust.

Pastry ingredients for two large or three small rolls
½ lb. unsalted butter (2 “sticks”)
1 tbsp. sour cream
3 cups all-purpose flour
3 tbsp. granulated sugar
½ cup milk
4 eggs, separated
1 pkg. active dry yeast

Filling of your choice (Solo poppy seed, Solo prune, or nut filling (below))

Nut filling ingredients (enough for two rolls)
1½ cups pecans, ground coarsely
1 egg white
1 cup brown sugar
½ tsp. vanilla
Pinch of salt

Put two of the egg whites into a small container and whisk them until just frothy, not foamy. Make the filling, if using, with half the remaining egg whites (i.e., one). Just combine the ingredients. Open the cans and check the filling if using that. (Sometimes these things sit on the shelf for decades.)

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Grease a large sheet pan and line it with parchment. For the rest, you'll need three bowls, a rolling pin (floured), a floured surface for rolling, a candy thermometer, and a small saucepan. In the largest bowl, cream the butter and sour cream together. In the medium-sized bowl, put the flour in, add the sugar, and whisk them together. Put the milk in the saucepan and warm it to exactly 100 degrees F. Put the milk into the smallest bowl and add the egg yolks and the yeast, and whisk it until smooth.

Add 1/3 of dry mixture and 1/3 of milk mixture to the large bowl with the butter mixture and stir with a wooden spoon until combined. Repeat twice more so it's all in. Rub a little butter on your clean hands and knead the mixture in the bowl very well, at least five minutes, until it's elastic and glossy. Divide the dough in half (or thirds for smaller rolls).

Roll each portion out into a rectangle about half an inch thick, about 9 by 12 inches if you divided dough into two parts. Spread filling from one short edge to about an inch shy of the opposite edge, and ½ inch in from the two long edges. Roll from the full edge to the other short edge, tucking the ends in so no filling shows. (At this point you can freeze the dough if you want to bake some or all later.) Place the rolls far enough apart to allow some expansion in baking, seam down. Bake them for about 50 minutes, then remove them and paint the top and sides with egg wash. Return to the oven for 10 to 15 more minutes. Keep checking because oven temperatures vary and you don't want them to get too brown. Let the rolls cool to room temperature on a rack if you have one, then cut them into thin slices for serving. If you're keeping one for later, leave it unsliced and wrap it tightly in foil.

—Debra Keefer Ramage

Fresh Cranberry/Raspberry Relish
1 c. fresh cranberries, finely chopped in food processor (plus 1/2 c. whole cranberries)
1 green apple, peeled, cored, finely diced
1/3 c. sugar
1/3 c. frozen raspberries, thawed
juice of 1 lemon wedge

Mix ingredients together. Chill.

This is a favorite at our Thanksgiving table, and is usually the first leftover to disappear.
—Bridgit Jordan

Mom's Tomato Mac & Cheese
4 cups uncooked medium shell pasta
1 cup milk
1 egg
4-5 medium tomatoes
16 oz. sharp cheddar, shredded
Preheat oven to 375.
Cook pasta al dente.
Blanch and peel tomatoes, then dice.

Whisk egg into milk.
After pasta is done, drain and cool a few minutes, then mix with egg/milk mixture, tomatoes, 2/3 of cheese, salt & pepper,

Pour it all into a buttered (or sprayed) casserole dish, cover, and bake for about 40 minutes.

When knife comes out clean (so you know the egg is done), remove the cover and sprinkle on the rest of the cheese. Put it under the broiler until cheese melts and begins to brown. Delicious warm, but also great for leftovers!

The first family Thanksgiving after I became a vegetarian, I came home to find my mother making MOUNTAINS of her mac & cheese. She said she knew I would eat that, even if I didn't eat any of the other holiday foods!

Jackie Schmidt's Quick Cobbler
¾ cup flour
¾ cup sugar
¾ cup milk
4 tbs butter
tsp baking powder
dash of salt
2 cups fresh sliced peaches (or one large can if fresh not available)
Cinnamon-sugar (1/2 cup sugar with

1 tablespoon cinnamon)
Set oven at 350.

Put butter in 8-inch casserole dish, and set into warming oven to melt.

Remove dish from oven when butter melts, and put sliced peaches into butter.

Mix flour, sugar, milk, baking powder & salt.

Pour mixture over peaches, and sprinkle with about 2 tbs of cinnamon-sugar.

Bake in 350 oven until cobbler browns and fruit is soft, about 50 minutes. Delicious hot, alone or with vanilla ice cream.

When I was a kid, I liked cold leftover cobbler with milk on it for breakfast.

—Rebecca James

This is a tale of the recipes of three women: my grandma, my mom, and my mother-in-law, and the piquant red dishes they served to accompany Thanksgiving turkey and stuffing. Grandma's was the easiest, and also the most unappealing to me as a kid: Open a can of jellied cranberries from both ends, slide the quivering red mass onto a pretty china plate, and set it on the table. Make sure to leave it intact, so the indentations from the can add a decorative touch. Voilà.

My mom, on the other hand, always cooked fresh whole cranberries from a recipe straight out of the Betty Crocker cookbook. Here it is if you don't have it. I still make it myself every year.

Cranberry Sauce
Wash 4 cups fresh cranberries. Stir together 2 cups water and 2 cups sugar in saucepan. Heat to boiling; boil 5 minutes. Stir in cranberries. Heat to boiling; boil rapidly 5 minutes. Cool. Cover; refrigerate at least 8 hours.
This is super easy to make; the best

part is hearing the cranberries pop their skins in the boiling water. I never make a whole batch, or else I would have cranberry sauce till Groundhog's Day. Just cut the recipe in half. Don't skimp on the sugar! I know 2 cups is a lot, but just go with it. Also, it doesn't have to be refrigerated for a full 8 hours—half that time is plenty.

Those years when my mom and my grandma were together at the same Thanksgiving dinner, we had both kinds of cranberries, the jellied canned ones and the fresh cooked ones. Everyone remained civil.

Enter my mother-in-law. Her proud Danish heritage required her to make Rødkaal (Red Cabbage) for holiday meals that involved roast fowl, whether Thanksgiving or Christmas. I had my misgivings at first, but quickly came to love the dish. Here's the recipe:

Red Cabbage (Rødkaal)
Shred 1 medium red cabbage. Heat 2 tbsp. butter (or bacon fat if you want to go big) and stir in cabbage until all parts are touched by the hot fat. Add ½ cup vinegar, ½ cup water, ¼ cup sugar, 1 tsp. salt, a pinch of ground cloves, and a bay leaf. Cover and simmer until tender. Stir in ¼ cup currant jelly.

This recipe also can be easily cut in half, to fit the size of your gathering. I love the way the aroma fills the house, so I make it now, too, every year. My Thanksgiving plate always has two spots of red on it—my mom's bright magenta, sweet-tart cranberry sauce, and my mother-in-law's deep maroon, sweet-and-sour rødkaal. The best of both worlds. But as for the jellied cranberries in a can? Sorry, Grandma—I love you dearly, but no can do.

—Katherine Schaefer

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

HOLIDAY HOOP-LA

Among the many catalogs I receive at Christmas is one from Hammacher Schlemmer. Just why I don't know. I've never bought so much as a pin cushion from them. It's filled not only with things I can't afford but even more with things I don't want. You can see for yourself.

1. The Advanced Foot/Leg Stimulator. It looks like a body scale. That is, you step on it. It uses transcutaneous electrical stimulation. It costs \$189.95, plus, I suspect, postage.

2. The Proper Toe Alignment Socks. They have built-in dividers which push the toes apart to promote proper alignment. Cost: \$49.99/pair.

3. Electrostimulation Neck Pain Reliever ... Combines electro-stimulation with heat therapy for drug-free relief. Cost: \$169.95.

4. The Rolling Sit-On Tool Chest. Also functions as an organized tool chest with three pull-out drawers on a frame that can support up to 350 pounds. Cost: \$119.95.

5. Monogrammed Award-winning Glencairn Whisky Glasses. Winner of the Queen's Award for Innovation. Set of four costs \$69.95.

6. The Non-Slip Furniture-Protecting Pet Covers. Machine washable, covers provide protection from pet hair and other possible damage without slipping or bunching. Cost: Recliner, \$84.95. Sofa, \$119.95. King bed, \$119.95.

7. Flight Attendant Comfort Shoe. Have shock-absorbing gel. Are treated for fungus and bacteria, anatomically correct and shock-absorbing gel in the heels. Cost \$149.95

8. Cordless Twinkling Chair Back Sleeves. Twinkles with the light of a starry night. Made with rich velvet that protects a chair's back. Each sleeve contains fiber active lights and a large satin bow. Cost: Set of four, \$149.95.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!

A Positive Corporate Direction

My cynicism about the one-sided motives that corporations display in their transactions is sometimes challenged—not very often but once in a while. That happened yesterday when I was reading The New York Times. The headline of the half-page article read: “Bringing a Focus on Doing Good and Not Only Doing Well.”

The heroes of the story were three middle-aged and prosperous business men who had been friends since their Stanford University days (Andrew Kassoy, Jay Coen Gilbert and Bart Houlah-

an). They left their jobs to form an organization they named B Corps, which certifies companies that operate for social good as well as making money. Every three years they analyze and revise their methods. They have to be satisfied that they have accomplished what they set out to do.

Right now, they're trying to build a more inclusive, long-lasting and creative enterprise. For example, they do not have employees; they're workers. It's a new ballgame, well, not exactly a game, but doing good as they play and profit.

CIA: A Small Look at Agents of Deception

The act, NC 10/2/49, placed U.S. authority over espionage and counter-espionage operations abroad during war time and peace time under the control of the CIA director. Such operations were to be conducted by the Office of Special Projects.

Under Section 6 of the 1949 CIA Act, that organization was exempted from the obligation to disclose any information regarding its funding. The case of US v. Richardson, showed that some entities in the nation (*CIA?) are free from all scrutiny and the less the population knows about it the better. The most famous example of the CIA treating American citizens as guinea pigs is the MK-Ultra program. For example, Ted Kennedy told the Select Committee on Intelligence during a 1977 hearing: “The CIA drugged American citizens without their knowledge or consent.”

Pilots who delivered arms from the U.S. to Nicaragua (during its latest revolution) could “bring back their own cargo,” that is, marijuana and cocaine. The CIA made sure they were not searched on arrival. Moreover, the drugs en route to America were provided by the CIA and a “friend,” drug trafficker George Morales, whom the CIA had pressured into providing planes and money to the Contras in exchange for benefits during his jail time. In 1953, the CIA implemented the TPAJAX project in which Iranian Prime Minister Mohammad Mosaddegh and the Shah worked together. Because of this overthrow of a democratically-elected official, the Iranians were perceived as pro-American. But after 26 years, the CIA's efforts to secure Iran as a secular and U.S.-friendly state were nullified at the advent of the Iranian Revolution.

The CIA continued its policies time and again. Nobody was punished for the events that transpired under the MK-Ultra project

and many more I'm sure. Today, there's little to be done to change this situation and the CIA wants to sweep under the rug all information about every country that has suffered because of its machinations. I wonder what individuals are in their files.

I have demonstrated for things I believe in—like a peaceful world and I think if going to jail would bring this country any closer to peace, I'd do it again. We'll see.

How About a Teeny Tax on Wealth?

For several years I've been receiving a monthly four-page (that's front and back) periodical called “The Hightower Lowdown” which politically is somewhere between radical and progressive. It's well-researched and well-written and I trust its information. The September edition was entitled “It's time for a (teeny) tax on Wealth.”

During the past half-century, myriad corporate and governmental decisions have methodically slanted America's economic and political systems so that money and power flow from the many to the few. America's tax code no longer adheres to the principle of ability to pay. Nearly 70 percent of capital gains are made by America's richest 1 percent so they, obviously, would be the target of a campaign to make this a reality and not “pie in the sky.”

As the average U.S. worker's real wages have stagnated for more than a decade, income disparity has become enormous. Today, such a worker, most likely, would pay the top tax rate of 30 percent on an average income while America's richest will pay 1 percent.

This country has a moral and ethical responsibility to tax its citizens fairly. The proposal should be for a bold, unabashedly progressive wealth tax based on income. Should legislation be proposed to enact a program to bring the plan to fruition, we middle-income taxpayers would have to really campaign to make it a reality.

Guns and Common Sense

The topic of guns is ongoing in this country—whether pro or con, among individuals or corporations. Recently the Supreme Court cleared the way to allow relatives of victims of gun violence to sue perpetrators of the violence. Prompted by a plethora of gun violence, 145 corporate executives, including Levi-Strauss, Twitter, Uber and Citigroup,

See Polly Mann, page 14



Polly Mann at her 100th birthday celebration

Celebrating 100 Years of Polly Mann

BY LUCIA WILKES SMITH

A joyful party at the Kenwood Isles condominiums in Minneapolis celebrated Polly Mann's 100 years on a November afternoon with live music, sing-along and rap songs, original poems, pretty flowers, laughter, foods, bubbly beverages and memories. There were SPEAK TRUTH TO POWER fortune cookies, sugar cookies in the shape of 100, giant-sized cards for everyone to sign that stated “Speak Truth to Polly” and delicious sheet cakes adorned with peace signs. A Certificate of Recognition from the State of Minnesota, signed by the governor, was presented. Polly, of course, is best known as a founder of WAMM (Women Against Military Madness) in 1982 and as a current columnist for Southside Pride <https://southsidepride.com/columnists/polly-mann/>.

During the gathering, 200 admirers listened to brief stories related by family members and several people who have been touched by Polly's life and activism over the years. In the background, a slide show projected images from those very full years while people spoke about Polly's campaign for U.S. Senate in the late 1980s; the years of WPA (Women's Political Alliance) that Polly initiated for lobbying and advocacy at the State Capitol; and Polly's crisp decline of the invitation for WAMM women to appear on The Oprah Winfrey Show because promotional material had

described them as “communist housewives.” (They were offended, saying, “We're not ‘housewives’!”)

One man recalled Polly's support and advice in 1967, when she worked in the book store at Southwest State University, Marshall, Minn., where he was a student. He protested the war in Vietnam and had been arrested on several federal charges for his resistance actions. Polly raised his bail, helped him weigh his decisions, and became “the only light in that dark time of my life.”

Polly—ever the gracious lady—thanked all who arrived, made donations to WAMM in her honor, and sang or spoke lovely tributes. She recalled the impact of seeing a vicious session of bayonet practice when she was a young woman working at an Arkansas army base. That, and the history books she read, “set me on a path and I've never stopped.”

One of the speakers suggested, “WAMM is Polly's gift to all of us. Because, if it weren't for WAMM, how would we all have found each other?” And because one of Polly's slogans for WAMM is “never a meeting without an action,” all present—and all reading this article or watching the festivities on the WAMM Facebook page—are encouraged to call the offices of Senators Amy Klobuchar (612-727-5220) and Tina Smith (651-221-1016), this month, to press for their support of the U.S. signing the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons Treaty.

Stopping the blockbusters

BY EARL NETWAL

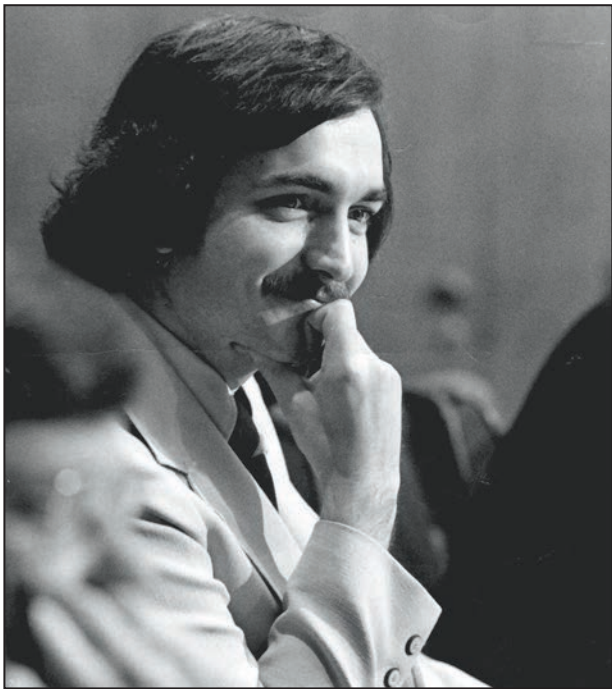
Prior to being elected to the City Council in 1973, I was an elected and active member of the Minneapolis Model City Planning and Policy Board, which was made up of citizen representatives elected by precincts within the Model City area (a broad area roughly between Cedar and Lyndale and I-94 to around 38th Street).

Housing was a big deal. The area consisted of some of the oldest housing in the city. There was a big demand for housing, and the leading edge of the baby boomers started flooding the area because it was close to downtown jobs and close to the university. The area had relatively low rents, although they were increasing in the face of the demand. The downside was that much of the housing was clearly substandard, with many houses dating back to the late 1800s and pre-WWI era.

As would be expected, much of the attention was on ideas to upgrade the housing stock with loan and grant programs aimed at housing rehab; political support for ideas like rent control and tenants' rights; and ending redlining. Also explored were new housing utilizing defensible space for security, as well as innovative ownership structures. Less flashy was an examination of just how the area slipped into decline.

People tend to like to find villains, and two were identified: absentee landlords and two-and-a-half story walkups.

While a significant majority of



Earl Netwal, 1975

the entire area had already been converted to rental property, there were still sections of the neighborhoods I represented with a core of owner-occupied single-family homes and owner-occupied duplexes. These residents were concerned about their neighborhood and its short- and long-term prospects. These people tended to fall into two groups: long-term survivors and young urban pioneers—demographically, the old and the young.

The young within the model city effort looked to the old to explain what had happened and why. They heard tales of one and then another owner-occupied home on their block selling to investors as urban

flight and the suburban life lured people away, not to be replaced by homeowners. Tales of tall grass and peeling paint diminishing the overall look of the neighborhood. And a cycle began, as one after another escaped before their property values declined further, except for those who could not or would not.

They told stories of developers acquiring two or three adjacent properties and then informing the adjoining neighbors that they would be building an apartment building and to either sell now or suffer the increase in traffic and un-

known new neighbors. The process was called blockbusting and it occurred throughout the area.

At that time, the entire residential area of my ward was zoned R-6 under the then-in-effect zoning. That was the highest possible density level and was the same as was required for the Cedar Square West complex, also in my ward.

In essence, it was as if there were no zoning restrictions at all. The result was that many, many blocks of previously single-family or duplex housing were host to at least one apartment building. This added to street congestion, mobility rates and coincidental crime issues—and a transformation of the neighborhood from being family-oriented to one less so.

Within my ward, the area with the largest residual base of homeownership was in the Whittier neighborhood. Together with activists from the community, we began what was called a 40-acre study. This was required because courts have ruled that a city cannot reduce the zoning on a property “capriciously.” Changing the zoning on a block of single-family homes from Cedar Square West densities to that of single-family homes, according to the courts, constituted an illegal taking of property rights from the property owners without compensation. The typical city block is approximately 3.5 acres, meaning that an area of 12-14 blocks would satisfy the courts. The actual study area

was much larger.

The study started with a property-by-property identification of the actual use for every parcel in the study area. This was done by city staff and then presented at neighborhood meetings, along with recommended new zoning classifications. These recommendations generally reduced the zoning level to that of the existing uses. Several well-attended neighborhood meetings ensured that the stakeholders in the community were informed and demonstrated support for the change.

The resulting zoning changes made homeownership a less risky endeavor in the “inner city” and may have indirectly assisted in improving the availability of mortgages in the area. Equally important, the process allowed citizens an active role in claiming and defending their neighborhoods.

In hindsight, if I were to go back and make a change to the results, it would have been to allow more density along arterial streets, while protecting the interior blocks. This happens to be my idea for the current situation in Minneapolis as well. Blanket higher zoning leads to disruptions and potentially disinvestment by owner-occupants. This, in turn, leads to eventual decline in the quality of the housing stock. That was the lesson we learned back in the Model City days, and it remains true today.

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Changes, from page 1

Health Partners	4730 Chicago Ave. S.
Wells Fargo	4712 Chicago Ave. S.
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Minnehaha Animal Hospital	4809 Chicago Ave. S.
Our Lady of Peace Church	5426 12th Ave. S.
Hot Plate	5204 Bloomington Ave. S.
Sift	4557 Bloomington Ave. S.
Caribou Coffee	4745 Cedar Ave. S.
Carbone's	4705 Cedar Ave. S.
Cork, Dork, Wine	4703 Cedar Ave. S.
Southside Vintage	1832 E. 42nd St.
In the Kut	1828 E. 42nd St.
Cedar Inn	4155 Cedar Ave. S.
WAMM	4200 Cedar Ave. S.
Permanent Make-up	4204 Cedar Ave. S.
ie-Italian Eatery	4724 Cedar Ave. S.
Speedway	4740 Cedar Ave. S.
Lake Nokomis Community Center	2401 E. Minnehaha Pkwy.
Mel-O-Glaze Donut	4800 28th Ave. S.
Nokomis Beach Coffee	4956 28th Ave. S.
Berry Sweet Kitchen	5406 34th Ave. S.
Nokomis Library	5100 34th Ave. S.
Oxendale's Market	5025 34th Ave. S.
McDonald's Liquor	5010 34th Ave. S.
Town Hall Lanes	5019 34th Ave. S.
US Bank	4930 34th Ave. S.
Wells Fargo	4943 34th Ave. S.
SENA	4557 34th Ave. S.
Twisted Groove	4503 34th Ave. S.
Cub Foods	4601 Snelling Ave.
Oaks Hiawatha Station Apts	4540 Snelling Ave.
Falls Liquor	4604 Minnehaha Ave.
Holiday Stationstores	via E. 46th St. & Snelling Ave.

US Cleaners	4701 Hiawatha Ave.
Walgreen's	4547 Hiawatha Ave.
Elevated Beer, Wine & Spirits	4135 Hiawatha Ave.
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Chicago's Taste Authority	3101 E. 42nd St.
Nokomis Pet Clinic	2917 E. 42nd St.
Hudson Hardware	2900 E. 42nd St.
Flag Foods	2820 E. 42nd St.
Shear Art Hair	2806 E. 42nd St.
Bill St. Mane	4159 28th Ave. S.
Dokken's	2809 E. 42nd St.
Angry Catfish	4208 28th Ave. S.
Buster's	4204 28th Ave. S.
Baker's Wife	4200 28th Ave. S.
Roosevelt Library	4026 28th Ave. S.
Key West Bistro	2803 E. 38th St.
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Ted Cook's	2814 E. 38th St.
Northbound Smokehouse	2716 E. 38th St.
Splash Laundry	3756 27th Ave. S.
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Tom Thumb	2402 E. 38th St.
Action Auto Systems	2328 E. 38th St.
Dreamhaven Books	2301 E. 38th St.
Courageous HeARTS	2235 E. 38th St.
Sisters Sludge	3746 23rd Ave. S.
BlackEnd Tattoo	3742 23rd Ave. S.
Everett's	1833 E. 38th St.
Candy Jar	3805 Cedar Ave. S.
Duck Duck Coffee	1830 E. 38th St.
Cedar Small Engine	3804 Cedar Ave.
Vintage Music	1820 E. 38th St.
Mama Shiela's	3744 Bloomington Ave. S.
Urban Touch	1401 E. 38th St.
The Tiny Diner	1024 E. 38th St.
Fire Arts Center	3749 Chicago Ave. S.
Blackeye Roasting	3740 Chicago Ave. S.
Speedway	3744 Chicago Ave. S.

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Bouza, from page 1

changed my life.

Now, I reflexively studied the exchange and concluded the mother and daughter mistook my language. They responded honestly and correctly. Confrontation.

So, whose fault, as we like to ask?

I concluded—with little doubt—it was mine. I'd been airily flip and disrespectfully familiar with an innocent young woman who misconstrued my words and intent.

The temptation to wallow in self-pity was strong, but I demurred. I had been wrong and they'd responded honestly.

A quarter century later a friend reported that his son's girlfriend had told him I'd been flirting with her at a cookout.

OMG, in today's parlance.

I had to, once again, review my conduct.

She'd asked me to opine on her ex-husband's wish to be a cop.

With fatal consistency my response was flip, dismissive and obsequious to lame humor.

Again, the woman had re-

sponded honestly, forthrightly and even courageously. Another wallowing temptation to resist for me.

What I could never resist, to my real regret, is to subvert everything to the service of humor. I do love humor. But do I love it too much?

Very likely, yes.

The exercise is important for its contribution to the examined life. In these two incidents I felt the strong urge to self-righteous indignation. How comforting! How helpful!

Really? Helpful?

The very opposite.

To become real persons, we must look first within for the flaws. I've found that I've rarely had to look further.

The T. A. course taught me a number of things: There are no simple transactions; question everything; look within first and try to become a more effective worm. Or is it gorilla?

And to conclude with my first question—I really think that most female accusers are acting in good faith and telling the truth as they've experienced it.

EVENTS

Soup Supper and Taizé Worship
Wednesday, Dec. 11 and
Wednesday, Dec. 18, 6 p.m.
Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church
5300 10th Ave. S., Mpls. 55417
Nokomis Heights Lutheran invites you to Wednesday evenings (12/11 and 12/18) in Advent for soup supper and Taizé worship, under the theme, “What Are We Waiting For?” Soup and bread



Church of the Holy Name
3637 11th Avenue South
Minneapolis MN 55407
612-724-5465
Rev. Leo J. Schneider, Pastor

Christmas Mass Schedule:

Christmas Eve
5 pm & 10 pm

Christmas Day
10 am

All Are Welcome

and bars will be served from 6:00 to 6:30, with worship at 7 p.m.

Blue Christmas Taize
Friday, Dec. 13, 7 to 8 p.m.
Minnehaha United Methodist Church
3701 E. 50th St., Mpls. 55417
Take an opportunity to slow down, to rest in silence and music. On the second Friday of each month at 7 p.m. from October through May, Minnehaha United Methodist Church offers a Taize service; a time of sanctuary, a time for prayer, a time for community, and a time for silence. As we sing and pray, our hearts are opened so that we may hear God speaking to us.

Santa Lucia Pageant
Friday, Dec. 13, 7 p.m. and
Sunday, Dec. 15, 11 a.m.
Mindekirken, the Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church
924 E. 21st St., Mpls. 55404
Velkommen to the Mindekirken Santa Lucia Pageant. Two performances this year! Friday, Dec. 13 at 7 p.m., on the actual St. Lucia day, the pageant will be joined with Hardanger fiddlers from the Twin Cities Hardingfelelag. On Sunday, Dec. 15, the pageant will be part of the 11 a.m. Norwegian worship service. The Pageant

is a Norwegian (and Swedish) tradition of music and readings by youth, which celebrates light and hope during the darkest time of the year. Also join us for Santa Lucia Coffee in Fellowship Hall at noon.

Neighborhood Caroling and Chili Dinner
Saturday, Dec. 14 3:15 p.m. (caroling) 5 p.m. (chili dinner)
Living Spirit United Methodist Church
4501 Bloomington Ave. S. Mpls. 55407
Want to get into the Christmas spirit? We will be caroling door-to-door around the neighborhood, and we would love to have you join us; meet at Living Spirit at 3:15 p.m. if you want to participate. Later we'll gather back at the church for a chili dinner. There will be at least five different types of chili (including a vegetarian option). If you can't make the caroling, that's okay—join us at the church when the chili portion of the event starts at 5 p.m.

Minnesota Boychoir Holiday Concert
Sunday, Dec. 15 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Plymouth Congregational Church

1900 Nicollet Ave., Mpls. 55403
The Minnesota Boychoir boasts 140 members ages 6 to 18 years old from 40 communities around the Twin Cities. On Sunday, December 15, 2019, they will perform at Plymouth Congregational Church in Minneapolis. The 7 p.m. concert is free and open to the public. No ticket is required. The Boychoir's repertoire includes classic holiday tunes, sacred music, and songs to get you in the holiday spirit. A freewill donation will be collected. If you know a young man 6 to 13 years old who loves to sing, encourage him to learn more about the Minnesota Boychoir. Mid-season auditions take place in January. You can learn more at <https://boychoir.org/programs/audition.html>.

35th Annual Minnesota Homeless Memorial March & Service
Thursday, Dec. 19 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Plymouth Congregational Church
1900 Nicollet Ave., Mpls. 55403
Honoring people who have died while homeless in Minnesota, and hosted by Simpson Housing Services. 5 p.m. March and Silent Vigil at the Hennepin County Government Center; 6 p.m. Service of Remembrance at Plymouth Congregational Church; 7 p.m. Community Meal, lower level of Plymouth Congregational Church. Please go to www.simpsonhousing.org for information on parking and bus transportation.

Sara Thomsen Solstice Gathering
Friday, Dec. 20 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Plymouth Congregational Church Guild Hall
1900 Nicollet Ave., Mpls. 55403
Join Sara Thomsen and friends for a special gathering to mark the longest night of the year—the winter solstice—with song, good feelings and seasonal treats. Her latest recording, “Song like a Seed,” will be available. Tickets are \$20, and are available at <https://songlikeaseed.brownpapertickets.com/>.

Children's Christmas Pageant
Sunday, Dec. 22, 10:30 a.m.
Living Spirit United Methodist Church
4501 Bloomington Ave. S. Mpls. 55407
Join us for worship and experience the beloved Christmas story as told by the children of Living Spirit. Expect creative storytelling, joyful music, and messy, imperfect moments that will fill you with Christmas spirit.

Nordic Julekonsert
Sunday, Dec. 22, 2 p.m.
Mindekirken, the Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church
924 E. 21st St., Mpls. 55404
The annual Christmas concert at Mindekirken features the voices of the Mindekirken Choir, plus

“Kvinnekor” Women's Choir; Norwegian Glee Club of Minneapolis; American Swedish Institute Male Chorus; American Swedish Institute Cloudberries. Freewill offering with refreshments following the concert.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
Tuesday, Dec. 24, 10 p.m.
Living Spirit United Methodist Church
4501 Bloomington Ave. S. Mpls. 55407
Come hear the Christmas story and sing familiar carols. At the end of the service, everyone will receive a candle so we can flood the darkness with glowing light while singing “Silent Night.”

Christmas Day Worship and Coffee
Wednesday, Dec. 25, 10 a.m.
Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church
5300 10th Ave. S., Mpls. 55417
Christmas Coffee follows worship on Christmas Day at Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church. Join us for worship at 10 a.m., with an array of Scandinavian and other holiday delights afterward. All are welcome!

ONGOING

Events at Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church
3430 E. 51st St. (kitty-corner from the Nokomis Library)
Blind Ministry Outreach
Saturday, Dec. 14, noon to 2 p.m. Includes dinner, devotions and fellowship.
Book Club, Jan. 4, 10 a.m.
“There's Something about Christmas” by Debbie McComber. Exercise class for seniors Monday mornings at 10 a.m. NA groups - Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. and Fridays at 7 p.m. Call 612-729-5463 for questions and more information.

Sharing Food

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

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

Minnehaha United Methodist Church
3701 E. 50th St. Mpls. 55417
612-721-6231
Food Shelf every Tuesday 1o a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Nokomis Religious Community Welcomes You

<p><i>Christian</i></p> <p>BETHEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH 4120 17th Ave. S. 612-724-3693, www.bethel-mpls.org Advent Services Sundays at 10:30 a.m. Christmas Eve Service at 5 p.m. Christmas Day Service at 9:30 a.m. Dec. 29 Lessons & Carols at 10:30 a.m. Jan. 5 Epiphany at 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Brenda Froisland Accessible Off-Street Parking <i>In gratitude, Bethel amplifies God's grace, nourishes all creation, reaches out and builds community.</i> <i>*A Reconciling in Christ Congregation</i> <i>*Bethel CYF Ministries: Bridging generations to model, equip, encourage a foundation of trust in God's story</i></p> <p>CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. ALBERT THE GREAT E. 29th St. & 32nd Ave. S. 612-724-3643 Mass M, T, TH, F at 8:15 am Saturday 5 pm & Sunday 9:30 am Sunday Morning Liturgy of the Word for Children www.saintalbertthegreat.org</p> <p>CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE HOLY NAME 3637 11th Ave. S. 612-724-5465 Masses Saturday 5 pm Sunday 8:30 & 11 am Reconciliation Saturday 4-4:30 pm Pastor: Fr. Leo Schneider <i>A welcoming Roman Catholic community</i></p> <p>FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH 3430 E. 51st St. 612-729-5463 www.faithlutheranmpls.org Sunday Worship 9 am (Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays)</p>	<p>Fellowship 10 am Education hour 10:30 am Midweek Bible Study Wednesdays 11 am Pastor: Rev. Jesse Davis Advent Services Dec. 11 & 18, 7 pm service only Dec. 24 Candlelight Service 7 pm Dec. 25 Communion Service 9 am</p> <p>FIRST FREE CHURCH 5150 Chicago Ave. S. 612-827-4705 www.firstfreechurch.org Worship 9 am & 10:30 am Fellowship Time 10 am <i>Christ-Centered, Christ-sent</i> Christmas Eve Services 3 & 4:30 pm</p> <p>HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH, LCMS 1720 E. Minnehaha Pkwy. 612-722-1083 www.holycrossmpls.org Worship 9:30 am Sunday Bible Study “Read Through the Bible” 10:45 am Dec. 24, 6 pm & 10 pm</p> <p>HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH 5728 Cedar Ave. S. 612-827-2655 www.hopempls.org Bible Chat 9 am Sunday Worship 10 am <i>All are welcome, no exceptions</i></p> <p>LIVING SPIRIT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH <i>A Multicultural, Intergenerational Church</i> 4501 Bloomington Ave. 612-721-5025 www.livingspiritumc.org Sunday Worship at 10:30 am Community Supper Wed. 5:45 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship at 10 pm (Dec. 24)</p>	<p>MOUNT ZION LUTHERAN - LCMS 5645 Chicago Ave. S. 612-824-1882 Sunday Worship 9 am Christmas Eve Worship 4 pm www.mtzioninmpls.org</p> <p>NEW CREATION BAPTIST CHURCH 1414 E. 48th St. 612-825-6933 Sunday School/New Members Class 9:30 am; Devotion 10:45 am Worship & Praise 11 am Tues. Youth & Adult Bible Study 7 pm Pastor: Rev. Dr. Daniel B. McKizzie</p> <p>NOKOMIS HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA 5300 10th Ave. S. 612-825-6846 www.nokomisheights.org Sunday Worship 10 am Forum/Sunday School 9 am Midweek Advent Worship, Dec. 11 & Dec. 18, 7 pm; Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship, with Communion, 4 pm & 10 pm; Christmas Day Festival Worship, with Communion, 10 am; Lessons & Carols, Dec. 29, 10 am</p> <p>ST JOAN OF ARC CATHOLIC COMMUNITY www.stjoan.com, 4537 Third Ave. Masses: Saturday 5 pm (Church) Sunday 7:45 am (Church) Sunday, Family Mass 9:45 & 11:45 am (Church) Sunday 9 & 11 am (Gym) Weekday, Tue. & Thu. 8 am (Orleans Chapel) <i>We Welcome You Wherever You Are On Your Journey</i></p>
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Redemption

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

This holiday season, I am contemplating redemption. I am initially inspired by a nontraditional modern Christmas carol by Bruce Cockburn, dating from an album released in the early 1990s, “Cry of a Tiny Babe.” The chorus proclaims,

BUY \$50 GET \$10
BUY \$100 GET \$20

Carbone's Pizzeria
 4705 CEDAR AVE. S. MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55407



Douvres-la-Délivrande Black Madonna

“Redemption rips through the surface of time in the cry of a tiny babe.” Cockburn is a devout Christian (as well as a radical leftist), but I am concerned with more than the concept of redemption in traditional Christianity, broad as that may be. Before we distinguish other concepts of redemption, let’s examine what the currently orthodox Christian view of redemption, and set of “beliefs” about the birth of Jesus, are. Cockburn’s song casts familiar scenes in a different light. It starts out with a shocker: “Mary grows a child without the help of a man. Joseph gets upset because he doesn’t understand.” Interestingly, his view of the miracle of Mary’s pregnancy is a lot closer to the Islamic view of it than the Christian. Wait, Islam has a “view” of Mary and Jesus? Oh, indeed, and I will go into that more in a few paragraphs, except they are respectively Maryam and Isa. Islam, however, does not have a view of Joseph, at least he’s not part of Isa’s story in the way he is of Jesus’ story. In Islam, the entire people of Nazareth get upset because they don’t understand.

More on that later.

Continuing with our carol, the baby is born in the “fullness of time,” is visited by three “wise astrologers” who “get pretty close to wrecking everything,” because Herod, “a paranoid man” sends “death squads” after them, and they are forced to “head out for the border and get away clean.” In an interview on NPR 14 years after his song first came out, Cockburn explained: “I had this idea that, listening to the existing world of Christmas music, something I could contribute to it would be to try to retell the biblical story in contemporary terms, and I thought of it as a spaghetti Western in a way. You could take the same elements of that story and put them in a Sergio Leone film and it would be powerful. And in doing that, I brought the people into some sort of different perspective than you get from the biblical stories. The vision of Mary that we’ve inherited through history, for instance, doesn’t sound like any Jewish woman I ever met, so in the song she kind of

See Holiday Guide, page 8

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Persian image of Isa and Maryam

Redemption, from page 7

has a bit more of a personality. ...But Mary and Joseph are—I tried to make them human characters and multidimensional characters and Herod and the song just basically tells the story, but in different terms than we’re used to hearing it.”

There have always been some Christians who accept parts of this story and reject others. (Even the four Gospels have different stories.) Of course, a major debate about Jesus, which reflects on the philosophical debate about redemption, is his relationship to God. Jews and Muslims agree on rejecting, not the existence of Jesus, but his

divinity, his being the “son” of G-d or of Allah, of the existence of “the Trinity” and whether that crosses a line into polytheism. Seriously, wars have been fought and people have died over these questions, and that is just among the self-avowed Christians. In modern times, we have theologians who research the “historical Jesus” and therefore have other quibbles, doubts and strained explanations. The late Marcus Borg was one of the most eloquent and beloved of these modern-day doubters. After recounting the list of Christmas miracles—virgin birth, star of wonder, wise men, prophecies—he wrote: “To be candid, I do not think that any

of this happened ...Yet I am not a ‘debunker’ of these stories. I do not dismiss them as ‘fables’ or ‘fabrications’ or ‘falsehoods.’ Many in the modern world do see the two options as ‘it happened this way’ or ‘it didn’t’—and if it didn’t, then we are dealing with delusions and deceptions ... There is a third option. Namely, the Christmas stories with their miraculous elements were not intended to be ‘factual’ in the sense of reporting what actually happened. Rather, they are early Christian testimony, written roughly a hundred years after Jesus’ birth. They testify to the significance that Jesus had come to have in their lives and experi-

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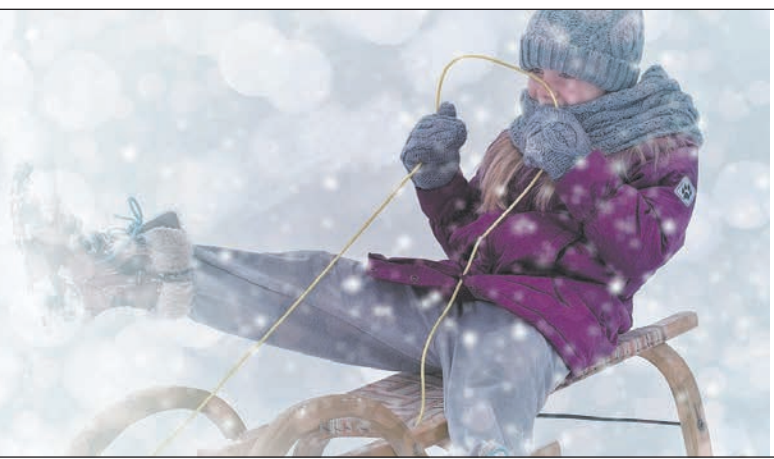
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ence and thought. The stories are parabolic, metaphorical narratives that can be true without being factual." Not surprisingly, this third way does not appease the fundamentalists, who label Borg as a "false prophet."

In Judaism, the concept of a redeemer is part of Mosaic law. There is the goel or kinsman-redeemer, who is a family member with the duty to redeem things lost to debt or disaster and keep them in the family. This is the basis of the story of Ruth, and how she, a polytheistic woman of Moab, a very young widow, came with her Jewish mother-in-law to Israel and married Boaz, which led to the founding of the line

of King David, and ultimately to the birth of Mary/Maryam who bore Jesus/Isa. So that was some act of redemption on the part of Boaz, who is barely known and yet, in a sense, altered history. We know that there must have been a non-transactional, spiritual meaning to redemption as well, because in the book of the same name, Job suffers on his bed of ashes but cries out, "I know that my Redeemer lives!" This came to be identified by Christian scholars as yet another Jesus prophecy, but whatever, that's what they do.

The concept of redemption and the concept of sacrifices are closely aligned in both Jewish and

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The Jordan River where Jesus/Isa was baptized
Photo by Beivushtang at the English language Wikipedia [CC BY-SA 3.0]

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Redemption, from page 9

Christian scripture. This is how we get Jesus, possibly (in my view) “just” a prophet, but one whose main message was “God does not want your burnt offerings and legalistic piety, just love one another,” and yet who was apparently made a sacrifice himself. One part of the Mosaic law on sacrifices relates to the red heifer. In a marvelous display of sibling rivalry, the Quran shows Allah thoroughly trolling the Jews over this red heifer business in Sura 2 “Al-Baqara” (the longest sura in the Quran). To shorten the tale, Moses says they need to sacrifice a cow, and the people say “what kind of cow?” Moses goes back to God and comes back with “a heifer.” But what color of heifer? A golden shining yellow one. That’s pretty rare right there, but no, they demand even more

restrictions. “We can’t tell one cow from another, how do we know?” It’s never plowed a field or worn a yoke, and has no blemish on it. According to Islamic scholars, this “displayed the stubbornness of the Children of Israel, who asked unnecessary questions of the prophets without readily following any commandment from God; had they slaughtered a cow, any cow, it would have been sufficient for them, but instead, as they made the matter more difficult, God made it even more difficult for them.” It’s worth noting that some (Christians again, surprise!) equate the red heifer with Jesus. Also, some believe the second coming of Jesus cannot occur until the Third Temple is built in Jerusalem, which requires the appearance of a red heifer born in Israel. Clyde Lott, an American cattle

breeder, is attempting to breed red cows (which are currently nonexistent) and export them to Israel in the hope that this will—ahem—immanentize the eschaton. (Google it.) So, the Islamic stories of Isa and his mother Maryam are intriguing, including many of the same elements as the Christian story (virgin birth, cousin John the Baptist, miracles, Bethlehem birthplace) and lacking many others (no manger, no betrothed husband, no wise men, no shepherds). Instead of a manger, Maryam, who fled to Bethlehem to escape the angry neighbors and relatives



Jesus is the most-mentioned person in the Quran by reference; 187 times in all, 25 times by the name Isa directly.



Red Heifer

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Happy Holidays!



who didn't believe she was still chaste, was provided by Allah with a formerly dead date palm tree to labor and give birth under, and a magic holy spring for water. She was told

to pat the tree if she needed dates and they would fall into her lap. Later she went back to Nazareth to try to rejoin her family. The people wanted to punish her for having a baby

out of wedlock, but the infant Isa spoke from his cradle to defend her and they withdrew in awe. This was Isa's first miracle. He went on to fashion a live bird from clay, to heal

lepers, to raise four people from the dead, to call a giant cooked fish down from heaven to feed a multitude, and to be given a Book from Allah, the Injil (gospel), which makes him a Messenger, at least on a par with Muhammed.

The date palm tree and Isa speaking from the cradle recall another lesser-known Christmas carol, the Cherry Tree Carol. Here, Joseph is again

doubting Mary's chastity, and refusing to gather cherries for her, at which Jesus speaks from the womb, and commands a cherry tree to bow down so that his mother may have cherries. Unlike Marcus Borg, with all due respect, I believe each and every one of these stories, although the one about Clyde Lott really strains my credulity. Have a happy and peaceful holiday, whatever you believe!



Lavish, often full-size Nativity scenes popularize the Christian narrative. This is one of scores to be found in Bamberg, Germany.



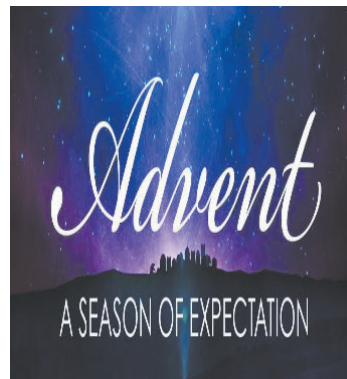
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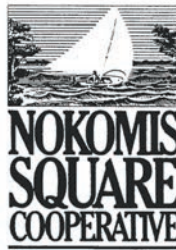
Christmas Eve Service: December 24th, 4:30 pm
Christmas Day Service: December 25th, 10:00 am
Youth Christmas Worship: December 29th 11:00 am

All other Sundays in December
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• COMMUNITY CALENDAR •

SouthsidePride / NOKOMIS EDITION

Earth-friendly gifts featured at Textile Center Through Dec. 24 **A**

Meet the Maker Fest, Saturday, Dec. 14

2019 Holiday Gallery Shop
3000 University Ave. SE
Mpls. 55414

At a time when protecting the earth's natural resources, ecosystems, climate and atmosphere for the next generation is top of mind, Textile Center's 2019 Holiday Gallery Shop will feature a plethora of earth-friendly fiber gifts. The Shop showcases an abundance of eco-friendly merchandise, ranging from sustainable, organic, or local fibers; naturally or over-dyed textiles; repurposed materials, upcycled fashions, and even items to help one live a more sustainable life.

The 2019 featured artist, Wendy Richardson of Brooklyn Park, Minn., showcases hand-dyed and embroidered vintage linens. Her motto is "Seduced by Color," and she specializes in over-dyed vintage textiles, accessories, apparel and quilt fabrics. New for 2019 are Indian artisan textiles. Abdul Jabbar Khatri and Sufiyan Khatri, artisans from Bhuj, Gujarat,

India, bring a selection of accessories and textiles made from historic techniques, which provide incredible opportunities to support Indian artisans, mainly women, in their communities.

MEET THE MAKER FEST:

On Saturday, Dec. 14, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Holiday Gallery Shop hosts artists in person with trunk shows, demonstrations of their technique, hands-on "try it" opportunities, prize drawings and more.

Textile Center is unique as America's national center with a mission to honor textile traditions, promote excellence and innovation, and inspire widespread participation in fiber art. The Center's facility includes fiber art galleries, an artisan shop, the region's only accessible professional-grade dye lab, and one of the nation's largest circulating textile libraries. Textile Center produces more than 200 classes a year and the Youth Fiber Art Guild™. A dynamic hub of fiber activity for 25 years, Textile Center is located in the Prospect Park neighborhood of Minneapolis—centrally located and easily accessed via public transportation or car—

and brings people together in community to learn, create, share and be inspired by fiber art. For more information: <http://textilecentermn.org> or call 612-436-0464.

Edina Chorale's Holiday Concert: Love, Joy, and Peace Saturday, Dec. 14, 3 p.m. **M**

Calvary Church

5300 France Ave., Edina, 55410

The Edina Chorale will open its 2019-2020 Concert Season on Dec. 14 at 3 p.m. with its holiday performance of "Love, Joy, and Peace." This concert is the first in a 3-part series entitled "The Legacy of Music," celebrating the choir's 35th year anniversary. The Edina Chorale's new Artistic Director, Paige Armstrong, will be making her directorial debut with a variety of traditional, spiritual, and familiar holiday pieces. "Love, Joy, and Peace" is a musical journey exploring each theme as an important part of the holiday season. The program features movements from larger masterpieces such as Handel's "Glory to God" from the Messiah and the final movement of Dona Nobis Pacem by Ralph Vaughan Williams. Also included are modern arrangements of traditional holiday tunes such as "Joy to the World," "Little Drummer Boy," "Deck the Hall," and "Silver Bells," along with several holiday choral favorites. This concert is the perfect way to celebrate the holiday season!

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A brief reception will follow each concert. Tickets are Adults \$20, Seniors \$15, Students K – 12 free.

Please visit www.edinachorale.org for more information.

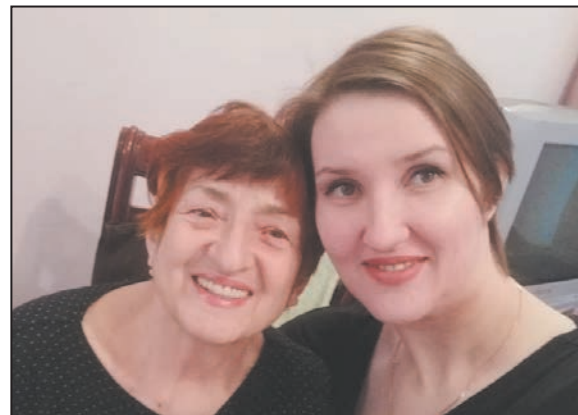
Against the Possibility of War: A Conversation with Visitors from Siberia

Saturday, Dec. 14, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

WAMM Offices
4200 Cedar Ave. S.
Mpls. 55407

Olga Fleshler and Elena Pishcherskaia, visiting the Twin Cities from eastern Siberia, are friends of pianist, activist, practicing Buddhist and Powderhorn resident Tom Dickinson. Dickinson says, "The most effective tool against war is direct encounters with those perceived in one way or another to be a threat or an enemy. The U.S. currently has a very poor relationship with

Russia, another nuclear power, and the relationship gets worse by the day." WAMM has the rare opportunity to offer a direct encounter with these two visitors from the Siberian city of Chita. This will be the second opportunity for members of WAMM to meet these women. The first was by Skype two years ago in the home of Tackling Torture at the Top (TTT) committee member Tom Dickinson. (TTT is a committee of WAMM.) Olga Fleshler and Elena Pishcherskaia are English teachers at college level in Chita, the capital of Zabaikalsky Krai. Olga is retired and Elena teaches at The Chita Institute, a branch of Baikal State University, which is located in Irkutsk. Both have been deeply involved in efforts to create relationships between their country and region and the United States, much of



Olga Fleshler and Elena Pishcherskaia



NOKOMIS EDITION

Southside Pride Nokomis Edition is a monthly community newspaper delivered on the Second Monday of the month for free to homes and businesses in South Minneapolis from 35W west to Hiawatha Ave., and from 42nd Street to the city limits at 62nd Street. We publish 18,000 copies each month. 17,000 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:

Southside Pride

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• COMMUNITY CALENDAR •

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them through an organization whose mission is to foster such relationships, Siberian Bridges, founded by Tom Dickinson in 1994.

While not particularly political, both women are well-informed and can offer the unique perspective of Russians who are also Siberians born and raised. For more information, see www.siberianbridges.org.

The Viking and The Gazelle Through Dec. 15

T Mixed Blood Theatre 1501 S. 4th St., Mpls. 55454 "The Viking and The Gazelle" is a romantic comedy about the budding courtship of a Twin Cities couple with the role of race thrust upon their relationship. African-American Michelle was born and raised on Chicago's Southside, while White Robert is from the Minneapolis suburb of Hopkins. Sparks fly in the hearts of the new couple, yet a happy ending is no foregone conclusion. With a cast of seven characters overall, Michelle and Robert find love's battlefield surprisingly fraught with the biases of society, including with their trusted confidants, not to mention Robert's deep dark secret. In a space and time in the land of "Minnesota Nice" where racial bias is seemingly diminishing, tough and relevant conversations erupt in this wonderful play that, though pointedly frank, does not take itself too seriously. Go to www.thewaterfrontproductions.com for tickets and show times.

The Rose Ensemble presents "And Glory Shone Around: An Early American Christmas"

M Sunday, Dec. 15, 7 p.m. Saint Joan of Arc Chapel 4537 Third Ave. S. Mpls. 55419 Discover the music that gave birth to Bluegrass. The Rose Ensemble evokes the warmth of hearth and home. With special guest Dan Chouinard, singers Alyssa Anderson, Bradley King, Daniel Mahraun, and Jordan Sramek, plus instrumentalists Ginna Watson, David Burk, Josh Schwalbach, and Luke Pickman. Tickets can be purchased at www.stjoantickets.com, or by calling 612-823-8205.

The Diary of Immaculee Illibagiza

T Wednesday, Dec. 18, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Holy Name Church, Garvey Hall 3637 11th Ave. S., Mpls. 55407 Everyone is welcome to Neighborhood Night! Join us

for viewing and lively discussion of the documentary story of Immaculee and her escape from the Rwandan Genocide. This is an inspiring story of bravery and hope. Come, learn and get to know neighbors! Coffee included. Bring a friend! No cost/no registration. For more info: www.churchoftheholyname.org; 612-724-5465.

Holiday Party

Thursday, Dec. 19 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Bethel Lutheran Church 4120 17th Ave. S., Mpls. 55407 Get your picture taken with "Santa Vern," enjoy a delicious lunch provided by Minnehaha Senior Living, and enjoy entertainment by "Rick and the Resisters." You can also visit with our nurse and get your blood pressure checked and take home a holiday gift! Pre-registration is required. Call 612-729-5499 or email info@nokomishealthy-seniors.org,

December at

Bryant-Lake Bowl

T Bryant-Lake Bowl Cabaret Theater 810 W. Lake St., Mpls. 55408

A Very Die Hard Christmas Through Dec. 21

"Yippee Ki Yay, Father Christmas!" Back for the eighth year comes the holiday treat with all the trimmings: singing, dancing, and bloodshed! Don't miss this yuletide tradition combining the action and suspense of Die Hard with the sentiment of everyone's favorite TV Christmas specials loaded with music, magic, and mayhem! Tickets \$20/\$18 in advance. Reservations at 612-825-8949 or www.bryantlakebowl.com. "Letters to Santa... ASSEMBLE!"

Dec. 5 - 27

One Woman. 10 Characters. Viciously Funny. This critically-acclaimed holiday show hits the Bryant-Lake Bowl stage at full tilt. Janelle Ranek is a literal one-woman sketch comedy tour de force. "Letters to Santa... ASSEMBLE!" is driven by Ranek's fearless comedy style. Each character has their own bizarre requests to Santa, some naughty, some nice and some downright ridiculous. This is NOT your ordinary holiday show. Tickets \$15/\$12 in advance. More info at www.bryantlakebowl.com.

Studio Pintura's Small Works Salon Through Jan. 4

A Studio Pintura Fine Art Gallery Northrup King Building #293 and #294

1500 Jackson St. NE Mpls. 55413 At Studio Pintura we are opening one of our favorite exhibitions of the year, the Small Works Salon, featuring over 90 works by more than 30 artists. There are paintings and drawings, collage, and sculpture, all under 12" x 12". A perfect place to browse, shop, or relax during the busy holiday season. Gallery Hours: Thursdays and Fridays, 2 to 6 p.m.; Saturdays, noon to 6 p.m.; or by appointment. www.StudioPintura.com

Minnehaha Food Shelf Pasta Dinner Fundraiser Wednesday, Jan. 8 5 to 7 p.m.

Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church 5011 31st Ave. S., Mpls. 55417 Treat yourself to a great meal and help your community at the same time. There will be a band and opportunities to win prizes. Join us for good food and fun! For more information: www.minnehaha.org/foodshelf.html. Tickets are \$15 per person and children (ages 10 and under) are free.

Women's Art Institute Exhibition Through Jan. 15

A Plymouth Congregational Church 1900 Nicollet Ave. Mpls. 55403 Join in celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Women's Art Institute (WAI) with a special exhibition by 12 artists from the class of 2018. The Women's Art Institute was founded to encourage and deepen the art practice of advanced women artists of all ages and backgrounds. WAI is a rigorous four-week studio intensive, which combines open studio work, individual tutoring, critiques and presentations from visiting artists, art historians, critics and museum curators, as well as visits to the studios of prominent local women artists. Issues of inclusion of women artists' work in art history, museums and gallery representation, in the past as well as in the contemporary art world, are explored. In addition, thought-provoking conversations, reflective writing sessions and critical thinking are encouraged. Elizabeth Erickson and Patricia Olson founded WAI at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. It currently resides at St. Catherine University, St. Paul. Exhibiting artists are Shari Albers, Lynnette K. Black, Susan SkachBejarano, Martha Bird, Chris Cinque, Colleen Cosgrove, Kathleen


Daniels, Cyndi Kaye Meier, Julia Nellesen, Brenda Olson, Kristin Palm and Kathleen Yennie.

For more information on Women's Art Institute (WAI): www.stkate.edu/events/wai

Safe Place: Homework Help Monday - Friday, 3:30 to 6 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Congregation 2001 Riverside Ave. Mpls. 55454 Adult students and children are all welcome. Tutors are available for all levels. If you are interested in being a volunteer or tutor or if you need more information, contact tutoring@trinitylutherancongregation.org or 612-333-2561.


Makers Mornings Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to noon American Swedish Institute 2600 Park Ave., Mpls. 55407 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.



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Git Out, from page 1

fordable housing will be evicted and removed. Communities of color will be gentrified and be replaced by young urban professionals.

One out of every five people living in Minneapolis (20.7 percent) is living in poverty. They earn less than \$25,750 a year for a family of four. <https://datausa.io/profile/geo/minneapolis-mn/>

By eliminating existing affordable housing, this new policy will dramatically make things much worse.

It is critically important for the Planning Commission and the City Council to appreciate that the author of this plan, Grounded Solutions, is the creature of the same banking interests that created the housing crisis of 2008. Last month's National Conference was sponsored by Wells Fargo (a "Game Changing Sponsor"); Citibank (a "Visionary Sponsor"); Fannie Mae and JPMorgan Chase & Co. ("Benefactor Sponsors"). The chair of the Executive Committee of Grounded Solutions is Robert Burns; he is also the senior vice president of Community Development for Citibank.

As you know, it was racist redlining by Wells Fargo and US Bank that enabled high closing costs and high interest rates that doomed the African-American community in North Minneapolis and created economic hardships in South Minneapolis.

We reported in Southside Pride:

"The wheels of justice grind slowly but exceedingly fine.

"Sometimes it takes an earthquake to shake up City Hall. In this case it was Myron Orfield's report on housing discrimination in the Twin Cities metropolitan

area, which documented that the area lost \$20.5 billion as a result of racist redlining in lending practices by mortgage bankers in the Twin Cities. Most of that money was lost to homeowners who had to pay higher interest rates and higher origination fees, but a lot of money was lost to municipalities and counties that saw their tax base shrink as a result of foreclosures."

<https://southsidepride.com/2014/06/02/racism-redlining-and-reparations/>

The municipal elections also spelled doom for the re-election hopes of Betsy Hodges and Blong Yang, who had refused to prosecute Wells Fargo and US Bank for their racist crimes against the people of Minneapolis.

But now, this City Council, after the fox has eaten the chickens, wants advice from the fox about what to do next and how to get more chickens.

This City Council has the power to end homelessness in Minneapolis. It could require all new apartment construction be required to rent only to people living in poverty. Rents would be subsidized by federal, state and county funds, but the program would actually save those governments money because it would be treating one of the principal causes of legal and medical problems for homeless people, and an ounce of prevention would be worth a pound of cure.

There are all sorts of possibilities, but the Grounded Solutions plan seems to offer too little empathy for affordable housing for the people who can least afford it. The banks need to be at the table, but they shouldn't monopolize the conversation. We need to take some time to listen to solutions from people who have had some

experience with poverty and homelessness.

I would respectfully request that the Planning Commission advise the City Council to pause in their deliberations and consider the effect these changes will have on the inner city.

Further, the Planning Commission might consider directing staff to consult with those communities most affected by the lack of affordable housing and design housing priorities that best offer solutions to their problems.

Finally, there is a great deal of concern in the Powderhorn community about the dramatic increase in property taxes for next year caused by increased valuation. Are the city assessors already anticipating the speculative prices of anxious developers?

It is sad to think our houses are worth more if we're not in them.

A response from Council Member Cam Gordon:

People are right to be concerned about displacement and gentrification in our City. As more people move to Minneapolis, current low-income residents are at a greater risk of being displaced. So-called "Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing" is being converted to higher-rent housing. It is getting harder for families to be able to afford to buy a home, and the homeownership gap between whites and people of color in Minneapolis is among the widest in the nation. Renters are often trapped in an exploitative rental market with unstable, unhealthy and undesirable housing options. People continue to experience homelessness in Minneapolis. Family homelessness has declined, but the number of unsheltered single adults has increased.

This crisis has many different causes, including the overall economy, the lack of affordable housing units, and particular barriers that some people experiencing homelessness—including the opiate crisis—are facing. This has put tremendous strain not only on service providers but also on neighborhoods, public safety services and more.

Buildings continue to be the main driver of carbon emissions in Minneapolis, with housing as a significant subset. Energy burden is part of overall housing cost burden, and falls disproportionately on the poorest residents. It is also often a "hidden" cost of housing, not included in the rent or mortgage payments that are communicated at the time someone chooses a home. Increasing energy efficiency reduces not only climate impacts but overall housing costs. And housing that is badly maintained can lead to a number of different health problems, including lead poisoning, asthma and more.

To address these problems related to housing, the City of Minneapolis has taken a number of actions since 2017 to build, rehab and stabilize affordable housing; to promote home ownership; to reduce racial disparities; to address homelessness; and to increase energy efficiency in housing—and we need to do more.

We have accelerated investment in affordable housing, passed renter protections, initiated a Missing Middle Housing pilot program, approved an energy disclosure ordinance, provided energy efficiency support, created a 4d program to provide property tax reductions for landlords who offer lower rents, passed an advance notice of sale ordinance, and funded renter legal services

for those who need them.

Still, we need to do more.

To meet this ongoing challenge, the City of Minneapolis should consider a number of additional policy solutions, including: an inclusionary housing ordinance that would require some affordable units to be included in new apartment buildings; a tenant opportunity to purchase policy that would give renters the right to purchase the buildings they live in when the owner of the building wants to sell it; rent stabilization laws that would limit rent increases; inclusive financing tools that would allow residents—both homeowners and renters—to pay for energy efficiency improvements through energy savings; tenant relocation assistance rules that would require relocation costs for tenants to be paid by owners of buildings that lose their rental licenses; a sustainable building policy that requires all buildings—including housing—that are supported by the city to meet a higher energy and environmental performance standard; bigger investments and a new levy dedicated to public housing; greater flexibility to allow more affordable and innovative housing options like intentional community cluster developments, accessory dwelling units on more properties, and single room occupancy.

As the number of people who want to live in Minneapolis grows, the rising cost of housing has resulted in too many families struggling, and often failing, to cover housing costs. The free market system has failed to meet the housing needs in our city. Our city government can and should do more to ensure that all our residents have a healthy, safe and decent home to live in.

Polly Mann, from page 4

wrote the U.S. Senate urging stricter background checks and laws to prevent people who pose a threat from buying guns. Edward Skyler, the vice president of Citigroup's Public Affairs, explained: "This isn't a question of keeping guns away from legal customers; this isn't a challenge to the Second Amendment. This is trying to put in place best practices about trying to reduce risk."

Guns—Again

The U.S. Attorney General William Barr is and has been concerned about growing gun violence in this country. He plans to combat it with an initiative, Project Guardian, which will consist of representatives from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and state and local law enforcement. It will also create partnerships with community organizations aimed at preventing gun violence and increase scrutiny of people

convicted of violent felonies or domestic violence, potentially reducing their access to firearms. At a news conference he explained that Project Guardian is intended to "better target offenders who use guns in crime and those who try to buy guns illegally."

The reactions from organizations supporting gun usage generally would question Project Guardian. Kris Brown, the president of Brady, a gun control advocacy group, responded, "An initiative that focuses on enforcement and increased policing makes no serious effort to address the supply of guns and how they fall into the hands of individuals who have proven themselves a danger to themselves or others." I suspect that the relatives of people who have been killed by gun violence would ask for more details from the Brady group.

Iceland—Almost Violence Free

According to the 2011 Global Study on Homicide by the United

Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Iceland's homicide rate from 1999 to 2009 never went above 1.85 per 100,000 population in any given year. (The U.S. had homicide rates between 5.0 percent and 5.8 percent per 100,000 population during that same period.)

No. 1) There is virtually no difference among upper, middle and lower classes in Iceland and so tension among those economic groups is nonexistent.

No. 2) A study done by a University of Missouri student found only 1.1 percent of participants identified themselves as upper class, while 1.5 percent saw themselves as lower class. The remaining 97 percent identified themselves as upper-middle class or working class.

Babies in Iceland are often unattended, left in a carriage alone, for a few minutes. GunPolicy.org estimates there are approximately 90,000 guns in a country with a population of just over 300,000.

Police are also unarmed. The

only officers permitted to carry firearms are the Viking Squad, and they are seldom called out. There are few hard drugs in Iceland. A 2012 study of people from the ages of 15 to 64 found that users of cocaine were 0.9 percent. In the past, when drugs seemed to be a burgeoning issue in the country, the parliament established a separate drug police, and in the first 10 years of its existence, roughly 90 percent of cases were settled with a fine.

Is it possible that other countries could adopt the same measures?

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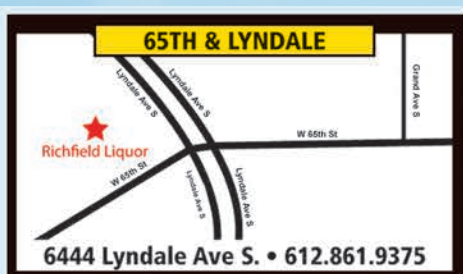
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