



We build Pride on the Southside

RIVERSIDE EDITION

THIRD MONDAY OF THE MONTH

March 2021

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Monuments



BY TONY BOUZA

Our—or any—society is driven by values. We repeatedly extol the virtues of truth tellers and honest dealers. Our airways are clogged with boasts of integrity. Our morality defines us and we emphasize these beliefs in the artifacts of culture. There are not too many statues left of Adolf Hitler in Germany or anywhere. Civilizations collapse because of moral decay.

Secession was a profoundly traitorous act—and done for the cause of preserving the power to own another human's life and service. Locally, Lake Calhoun reminds us of this folly. Luckily it is correctible and it has been. Anyone who thinks Charles Lindbergh was a great hero hasn't read Phil Roth's "The Plot Against America." Dig it.

Though he has his adherents—and so does Adolf, for that matter (attesting to the infinite gullibility of the human animal)—J. Edgar Hoover was the worst thing ever to happen to American policing. His papers—which would have revealed the sick purpose of his instincts—will never see the light of day. His targets will

See Bouza, page 11



A demonstrator outside the Hennepin County Government Center raises her fist the morning of Monday, March 8, as a coalition of organizations staged a protest as court convened at the onset of Derek Chauvin's trial. Photo by Casey Ek

Between hope and despair

BY ELINA KOLSTAD

On the morning of Jan. 6, I woke up to the news of the Democratic candidates winning the runoff election for the Senate seats in Georgia. I knew that this gave the Democrats too slim a majority to accomplish much and I knew that the Democrats were unlikely to actually accomplish all that they could, because ... Democrats. But I chose to feel happy and hopeful for one day. After the year we'd had, my mental health needed the ability to take a day and just focus on a good thing happening. And then a violent mob attacked our nation's Capitol.

Since that day I have struggled to find hope for the future. I was relieved when Biden was inaugurated with no further loss of life and I have been pleasantly surprised by some of the Biden administration's early moves: canceling the Keystone XL Pipeline, Vice President Harris pressuring Senate Democrats who were breaking unity with the party's policy stances such as direct relief checks, and pursuing reconciliation while calling out the Republicans for their obstruction during the Obama administration.

But Senate Republicans have cemented their opposition to our very

structure of government by standing by Trump and his attempted coup. Biden and the Democrats have been in "control" for over a month now, that's one more rent payment due, and we still haven't seen the passage of a relief bill or direct checks to the millions of struggling Americans. Democrats like Manchin and Sinema stand firmly with the Republicans in making sure Americans will continue to suffer and that the Biden administration will accomplish as little as possible. Short of Trump destroying the Republican party with his own political party, this combined with numerous voter suppression

See Between, page 10

Two visions of public safety

BY ALEXANDRA CARTER

Two Zoom forums on the question of transforming models of public safety were held within a week of each other, but they couldn't have been more different. The first one, on Feb. 22, was a panel discussion hosted by a candidate for the Ward 2 City Council position, Robin Wonsley Worlobah. We at Southside Pride thought that the second one was possibly in response, because the public invitation came to us from the current holder of that position, Council Member Cam Gordon. But it turned out he was not involved in hosting or presenting it; rather it was a webinar presented by the city's Office of Violence Prevention. This occurred on March 2.

But it made a nice contrast. All of the panelists in the panel discussion were community-based activists, so they were presenting an ideal vision from the outside, as it were.



Margarita Ortega

All of the presenters in the webinar were city or police department functionaries, so they were presenting an insider's view of what may be a system on the cusp of change.

The panel for the panel discussion consisted of Raj Sethuraju (co-chair of NAACP Criminal Justice Committee and assistant professor in the Law Enforcement Department at Metro State University), Michele Braley (executive director, Seward Longfellow Restorative Jus-



Michele Braley

See Safety, page 12



**2021 Summer Camp Section
Pages 2-3**



**2021 Education Section
Pages 7, 8 & 9**

Summer Camp!



Summer camps 2021: some in-person, a lot of virtual options

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

The state of the COVID-19 pandemic is still pretty uncertain for summer 2021. Therefore, not surprisingly, there are more virtual options than ever before available. But there are still some in-person day camps and even residential traditional camps. There is actually a huge variety of choices, and so though we'll cover (briefly) a lot of them, we'll also provide you some tips for searching for exactly what you want in a summer camp.

Guides

Of course, you can always just Google for it, but as you may have noticed, paid advertisers now hog all the top pages of search results, no matter what you're searching for,

and sometimes you might not have the time to get down to what you really need. So here are some tailored searchable "directories" online dedicated just to summer camps.

The biggest database is probably at www.summercamps.com, with its straightforward, easy to remember name. Once on this site, which covers the whole U.S., you can enter a search term like "swimming," "college prep," or "arts," or you can enter a location, or you can enter both, and get targeted results. Here again, the paid ads have a link to click right through, but if your preferred result is unpaid, just Google its name for the link. If your kid wants to explore the Pacific Northwest and also learn coding, for instance, this can take you straight there.

The next three are close to home. There's Minneapolis-St. Paul Out



Cooks of Crocus Hill

and About for Kids (msp.kidsoutand-about.com/). To find the summer camp section, use the menu bar to

navigate to LOCAL LISTS>CLASSES & CAMPS>In-person Summer Camps, and click. (It actually contains two lists, in-person and virtual.) Then there's Family Fun Twin Cities, which offers year-round guides for all kinds of free, cheap, unique or fun things for kids. The dedicated summer camp guide is at www.familyfuntwincities.com/guide-twin-cities-summer-camps. And then there is SummerCamp.org, which, as its name suggests, is nothing but Summer Camps. They have two separate websites, one for each city area: minneapolissummercamps.org/ and saintpaulsummercamps.com/.

Finally, here's a guide that's only free and virtual summer camps. The search site at summercampshub.com/free-online-summer-camps has an amazing variety of ideas like Camp YouTube, Target-sponsored Maker's

Camp (a combination of tech and crafts), Wonderopolis (indescribable—you'll just have to check it out) and Virtual 4-H Camp.

For the rest of the options, we're only giving the name of the camp or program and the city, to save space. But we have spot-tested that Googling the name as given should take you straight to the web page to get more information, including a phone number if you prefer to talk to them first. We recommend calling the organizations if there are any doubts about the information offered here, especially for scheduled in-person camps, just in case there are changes.

Sports

Both cities offer summer tennis day camp and/or tennis coaching for kids through their parks departments (or a partnership, in the case of Minneapolis). For Minneapolis, look for Inner City Tennis, and for St. Paul, it's called Urban Tennis.

Classic TaeKwonDo on Chicago Avenue is now enrolling kids for Summer Day Camp, which includes not only daily classes in the Korean martial art of TaeKwonDo, but also daily field trips, crafts and other activities. Attendance options include all-day sessions Monday through Friday, or only pay for the days you need.

Twins Baseball Camps are happening again in summer 2021, as they had a safe and successful run in 2020. In fact, a lot of the more popular sites are sold out. They're offered in many cities around the state as well as the metro area.

This one could have gone under performing arts, but I decided to put it in sports. Circus Juventas in St. Paul offers a world-renowned summer day program in all manner of circus arts. There are two choices of camps for ages 6 to 15 and the high-flying adventure camp for ages 13 to 18.

Arts including Performing & Music

Articulture is an arts nonprofit linking art with healing and growth for all ages and abilities. They are offering summer day camps in week-long modules over three age cohorts. Their fees are very reasonable, and they have a great variety of themes.

Northern Clay Center in Minneapolis offers a virtual class this summer called Clay-Along. After registration, you'll be given a date window to pick up a kit, and then the instruction will be live and online. It looks like there will be adult, youth and kid versions.

Adventures in Cardboard is the local organization that combines two things the Twin Cities are known for—fantasy and cheap art. Kids of all ages imagine their own fantasy worlds and then build them, mostly from cardboard. It's wildly popular, and it's outdoors for the most part.

Summer Clay Camps in Seward!

June 14 - August 20 | Ages 6 & up

In-person & Virtual | Half-day and Full-day

Limited, need-based scholarships are available.

Register online now!

www.northernclaycenter.org

2424 Franklin Ave. E. | Minneapolis, MN 55406

northern clay center

FOCI

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AGES 9-17
\$350

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Teen Glassblowing Camp
Teen Flameworking Camp

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

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Learn More & Register Today!

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Summer theatre workshops for grades K-12!

youthperformanceco.org

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\$50/day includes: snacks and admissions for daily field trips.

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Camp Hours: 8:45-5:00 June through August (must be enrolled as a student)

3

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Summer Camp!



Circus Juventas toddler balance

School of Rock in St. Paul operates year-round. They do virtual classes for kids and youth, teaching Rock 101, songwriting, performing and specialist classes. For 2021 they will have short half-day in-person day camps. Register on their website.

Cooks Camp for Kids is offered by Cooks of Crocus Hill in St. Paul. Their Teens and Kids Summer program offers modules like Global Top Chef, Restaurant Copycat, and Baking and Decorating.

Technology & Academic

Snapology is a private company with franchises in various cities including Minneapolis. They offer online classes year-round, private parties with kids, and week-long day camps in the summer. Since it's mostly playing with Legos, albeit mixed in with learning about technology and science, it's more for the younger ages.

Saint Paul College offers career exploration day camps on campus for high school students, in areas such as "scrub camp" for kids interested in health care. There are camps for video game design, cosmetology, and more.

Groves Academy is a specialist school that supports bright students who struggle with learning disabilities and attention disorders, as well as promoting evidence-based literacy instruction for all. They will have a summer camp program in 2021.

iD Tech usually has a campus-based program at Macalester College in a wide range of tech and STEAM areas. Their website says: "With the ongoing uncertainty surrounding COVID, most of our university partners are delaying their decisions about on-campus programs until later this spring. We'll keep you informed as plans unfold. In the meantime, we invite you to join us for 1-on-1 or small-group online learning."

If you have an "indoor kid" who actually misses school in the summer, look into the virtual enrichment classes offered by the Minnesota Institute for Talented Youth. At the time of writing, the class list for the Summer Session for grades 5 through 7 was not up yet, but the older cohort, grades 8 through 12, is only summer, and is open for registration now. Some of the classes at this level include creative writing, forensic science, and genocide and human rights.

This one isn't local, but it's virtual. Idea Camp 2021 by an organization called Female Strong is just for

girls, and Idea Camp is for budding young entrepreneurs.

Outdoors & Nature

Camp Fire Minnesota operates Camp Tanadoona in Excelsior. They will have summer day camps with a few modifications there. They are also accepting applications for Junior Counselors. Camp Fire Minnesota spent the COVID year renovating their Tanadoona facility.

Dodge Nature Center in West St.

Paul is planning to have summer day camps. Their website says registration information will be available in March (so not in time for this article).

Minneapolis Parks Department does not appear to have 2021 summer camp information up yet, except for a single event in early June. If you're interested in that, I would suggest just checking back now and then, or maybe call your nearest park.

YMCA North is offering an array of day camps in several locations in the outer metro. The further out ones include bus transportation from selected stops.

Cultural & Traditional

Minnesota JCC at the Sabes Center in Minneapolis offers Camp Olami for campers entering grades K through 6. Registration is open now. They also have "partner camps" for older kids, which include ArtRageous Rock of Ages, Snapology, Timberwolves & Lynx Basketball Academy, and more.

Camp Woodbrooke is a traditional countryside camp near Richland Center, Wis., colloquially called "Quaker Camp" as it is owned and

operated by a Quaker-oriented nonprofit. They describe it as "Simple outdoor living in a non-competitive, ecology-oriented camp."

Korean Culture Camp is a local institution that was started in order to serve Korean adoptees cut off from the birth family culture, but now is a part of the Korean-American family tradition. They posted the following COVID-19 notice: "We've held the dates of July 19 - 23 at Minnehaha Academy North Campus (3100 W. River Pkwy., Minneapolis) for Kore-

an Culture Camp." The website will be updated when they open registration.

Tamahay Camp for Girls is our last item. As the name suggests, this is an all-girls camping experience. Located in Akeley, Minn., it was founded by four women in 1969. The camping is all-residential, and immersive, with no cell phones or other electronic devices. There are two-week or four-week sessions and registration is now open.



Great River School Summer Camps

Great River School offers 7 weeks of day camp for ages 4-17. We have half-day and full-day camps that focus on art, bookmaking, ultimate frisbee, nature, robotics, cooking and more! **Scholarships available to all!**
www.greatriverschool.org/summercamp



DISCOVERY DAY CAMP

Near Fort Snelling & Minneapolis
 Grades K-8 | 5-Day Sessions | 9am - 4pm
 \$190 per week

612-261-2303 or camp.northernstar.org/discovery



SUMMER TENNIS IN THE PARKS

Six weeks of tennis and fun
June 14 - July 30
 YOUTH AGES 6-17. NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!
 SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE. WWW.INNERCITYTENNIS.ORG



ArtStart Cultural Arts Camp

Grab your passport and join ArtStart artists on an unforgettable adventure to Japan through the arts.

Ages 6-12 years • 4 weeks JUNE 28-JULY 23, 2021 Held outdoors at Mount Zion	Ages 4-12 years • 2 weeks JULY 26-AUGUST 6, 2021 Held virtually on Zoom
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For more info: www.artstart.org | 651-698-2787



CODE NINJAS SUMMER STEM CAMPS!

Ages 5-15
 SPOTS FILL FAST!

Code Ninjas Edina/Richfield. Weekly Full Day & Half Day Camps
 June 7th to Sept 3rd. Call/text us at: 952-206-STEM (952-206-7836)



MUSIC LAB Summer Camp 2021

August 2nd-6th, and August 9th-13th. Monday-Friday from 9am-noon, with a special performance on Friday.

Cost of enrollment includes:

- Group & one-on-one instruction with Music Lab Instructors
- Daily refreshments
- Music Lab t-shirt,
- CD with each student's original recording
- Performance at a local music venue

An amazing musical experience!

\$250 per student, or \$225 per students in families of 2 or more.

Enroll by contacting Brian Just at brian@musiclabminneapolis.com

COVID safety protocols will be followed, including limited enrollment, socially distancing, and masks worn when indoors. Group activities will be outdoors. Location to be determined based on COVID safety requirements.

EVENTS

‘Visual Prayer’ Virtual Exhibit Through June 1, 2021 Online

Prayer has been around since the beginning of time. It is the human connection to a God personally and communally—acknowledging, blessing, asking, thanking, arguing and trying to find spiritual understanding of our existence from our birth to our death. Prayer has been expressed through music, poetry, dance and art. Visual prayer is the creative exploration and expression of prayer through images. Although this is a contemporary concept, there were illustrated and illuminated religious books from the 400s to 600s CE through the medieval and Renaissance periods. Exploring prayer through different modalities allows us to express our thoughts and feelings creatively. By exhibiting together in our Interfaith Artist Circle, our goal is to find commonality and connectivity between religions and to appreciate and respect our similarities and differences in belief and self-expression. Access this online exhibition here: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/1fe7c-ba432dc4f9d890cfb13a05c4604>. Presented by the University of Minnesota Libraries, Jay Phillips Center for Interreligious Studies, University of St. Thomas, Jay Phillips Center for Interfaith Learning, St. John’s University, and the Interfaith Artist Circle.

2021 Collegeville Connections Virtual events

Join us for Collegeville Connections – a one-hour, weekly virtual event that features the work of Collegeville Institute alumni. Grab a cup of coffee or a bagged lunch and Zoom into our events on Wednesdays from 12-1 p.m., CST. Consider it your mid-week warm up this winter, encouraging you to explore faith, ignite imagination, and renew community with the Collegeville Institute. For more info and to register, go to <https://collegevilleinstitute.org/events/>.

Christ’s Body in The Saint John’s Bible: A Lenten and Easter Reflection Wednesday, March 17, noon

Focusing on illuminations from The Saint John’s Bible, Susan Sink will use Sandra Schneiders’ book “Jesus Risen in our Midst” as a lens for understanding Jesus’ resurrection and post-resurrection appearances in the Gospel of John.

Antisemitism and White Supremacy Thursday, April 8, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Online

Antisemitism is an essential piece

of the machinery that perpetuates white supremacy, class hierarchies and other forms of oppression. That’s why Jewish Community Action is holding weekly trainings on how to combat antisemitism and white nationalism. These sessions are free, and open to members and allies. Register at <https://jca-mn.medium.com/jca-antisemitism-and-white-supremacy-trainings-a7c0dbe2221>.

Ecumenical Advocacy Days April 18-21 Online

Save the date for Ecumenical Advocacy Days 2021, and join us as we gather online to “Imagine! God’s Earth and People Restored.” Together, we will passionately advocate and reimagine a world that lives out the values of justice, equity, and the beloved community. For more information, go to <https://advocacydays.org/>.

Minneapolis Friends Meeting (Quaker) 4401 York Ave. S., Mpls.

Minneapolis Friends Meeting is looking forward to spring, and joining in silent worship together, in person, as the weather warms and pandemic subsides. We continue to monitor health concerns to determine when this can be done safely. Meanwhile, we gather online. Worship Sundays, 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. (with planned speaker). Other online activities include: Mid-morning program Sundays at 10:15 a.m., with a discussion of various social and spiritual concerns. First Day School for youth, and get-togethers that include Lectio Divina, a writing group, and other activities to help keep our community connected. Office email: office@minneapolisfriends.org. www.minneapolisfriends.org

Bahá’i Center of Minneapolis

3644 Chicago Ave., Mpls. Devotions via Zoom, Sundays at 10 a.m. and Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. Please visit the Bahá’i community of Minneapolis website at www.minneapolisbahai.org/. Here you will find information about upcoming and past Holy Day celebrations, as well as news, announcements and information.

Calvary Lutheran Church

3901 Chicago Ave. S., Mpls. Sunday Worship at 10 a.m., via Facebook Live and Zoom. See our website at www.clchurch.org for instructions.

Catholic Church of St. Albert the Great

E. 29th St. & 32nd Ave. S., Mpls. In-person Masses with limited seating on Saturdays at 5 p.m. and Sundays at 9:30 a.m. and noon. Masks and social

distancing required. Enter through church front center doors only. Please see our website at www.saintalbert-thegreat.org/ for more details. Sunday 9:30 a.m. Mass also streamed on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/StAlbertTheGreatMpls/.

Holy Thursday – Mass of the Lord’s Supper 7 p.m.
Good Friday – Stations of the Cross 1 p.m., Celebration of the Lord’s Passion 7 p.m.
Holy Saturday – Easter Vigil 8 p.m.
Easter Sunday – Masses at 9:30 a.m. and 12 p.m.
All Holy Week services will be live-streamed except Easter Sunday noon, and people are welcome in person, masked and social distanced.

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

3430 E. 51st St., Mpls. www.faithlutheranmpls.org Sunday Worship (with safety measures in place) at 9 a.m. Those who are over 65, have pre-existing conditions, or live in proximity to at-risk demographics are encouraged to remain home. We will continue to post videos online for Sunday morning for those who can’t join us yet on YouTube and Facebook www.facebook.com/felcmpls/. Bible classes on Sundays at 10:15 a.m. and Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Masks and social spacing required for worship and Bible classes. NA groups Wednesdays 7:30 p.m. (Fridays temporarily suspended).

First Free Church

5150 Chicago Ave. S., Mpls. Sunday service 10 a.m. (in person and online). Visit our website at www.first-freechurch.org for more information.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, LCMS

1720 E. Minnehaha Pkwy., Mpls. In-person worship services suspended; online services continue via our website. Service recordings, bulletins and news are available at www.holycross-mpls.org.

Living Spirit United Methodist Church

4501 Bloomington Ave., Mpls. Worship with us from home! Worship is currently being streamed on Facebook Live at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings at www.facebook.com/LivingSpiritMN/. The weekly bulletin, children’s faith formation packet, and more will be posted to our website; that’s also where you can find resources and worship recordings from previous weeks. www.livingspiritumc.org/online

Messiah Lutheran Church

2400 Park Ave., Mpls. All services now online at www.messiahlutheranmpls.org. Each week we video services, viewable anytime, please join us! Visit our website for online devotions and bulletins.

Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church

4101 37th Ave. S., Mpls. <https://minnehahacommunion.org/>. All services and programs are temporarily online. Sunday Worship online at 9:45 a.m. April 1, 7 p.m. online Maundy Thursday service April 2, 7 p.m. online Good Friday service April 4, 9:45 a.m. online Celebration of Easter service

Minnehaha United Methodist Church

3701 E. 50th St., Mpls. Online Sunday worship available, either livestreamed at 9 a.m. or afterward on-demand. And our online Taizé service is back! Join us on our YouTube channel for a service of music, prayer and meditation. Visit our website at www.minnehaha.org/ for more information.

Mt. Zion Lutheran Church

5645 Chicago Ave. S., Mpls. Sunday worship at 9 a.m. Please see our website for more information. www.mtzioninmpls.org/

New Creation Baptist Church

1414 E. 48th St., Mpls. Sunday Devotion online 10:45 a.m. on Facebook and YouTube www.facebook.com/NewCreationBaptistChurch/ <https://newcreationbaptistchurchmn.org/>

Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church

5300 10th Ave. S., Mpls. Physically distant but faithfully together. Connect with our online community on Facebook and YouTube. A new worship goes up on YouTube every Sunday at 10 a.m., and all are archived, so you can view the ones you missed. www.facebook.com/NokomisHeights/ **Midweek Lenten Worship on Zoom, Wednesdays at 7 p.m. See our website for the link: nokomisheights.org** **Maundy Thursday online worship, 7 p.m., April 1** **Good Friday online worship, 7 p.m., April 2** **Good Friday in-person reflection at church, 5-7 p.m., April 2** **Easter Sunday online worship, 10 a.m., April 4**

St. Joan of Arc

Catholic Community 4537 3rd Ave. S., Mpls. For video masses, musical performances, church bulletins, and other news, please see our website www.saintjoanofarc.org/ or Facebook page www.facebook.com/StJoanMpls/.

Trinity Lutheran Congregation

Augsburg College, Hoversten Chapel Riverside & 22nd Aves., Mpls. www.trinitylutherancongregation.org Online worship available anytime on our YouTube channel: Trinity Lutheran Congregation **Online Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Services** **Online Easter Services 11 a.m. Sunday April 4** **Contact the Trinity Offices for details**

Walker Community United Methodist Church

3104 16th Ave. S., Mpls. Until further notice, Walker Church will be closed for all non-essential operations. Services will continue online via

Zoom and Facebook Live at 11 a.m. to noon on Sundays. Visit our website at www.walkerchurch.org/ or Facebook page at www.facebook.com/walker-umc/ for more information.

SHARING FOOD

Bethany Lutheran Church 2511 E. Franklin Ave., Mpls. 612-332-2397

Soup for You! UPDATE: We are still spreading the love! The Soup for You! Café will be closed to normal dining, but we plan to distribute bag lunches at the regular entrance to the Café, to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. www.bethanyinseward.org/

New Creation Baptist Church 1414 E. 48th St., Mpls. 612-825-6933

We’re still here to serve you on the first through fourth Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. or until we run out of bags. Be safe and God bless! www.facebook.com/NCBCfoodshelf/ Food Shelf Saturdays (except 5th Saturdays) 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Brown door on the corner of 48th St. and 15th Ave.)

Greater Friendship Missionary Baptist Church and Friendship Community Service 2600 E. 38th St., Mpls. Food Hub

Free food, hygiene products, and some household goods. Tuesday and Thursday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. 2nd and 4th Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please bring ID and wear a mask. Social distancing guidelines are in place.

Minnehaha United Methodist Church

3701 E. 50th St., Mpls. 612-721-6231 Yes, the food shelf is still open! In order to fight food insecurity in our neighborhood, the Minnehaha Food Shelf is open on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. We have moved our operations outdoors, meter the flow of clients to help ensure social distancing, periodically clean our surfaces, and wear face masks. Should we have foul weather, we plan to move the distribution indoors, though still meter clients and encourage distancing. www.facebook.com/MinnehahaFoodShelf/

Calvary Lutheran Church 3901 Chicago Ave., Mpls. 612-827-2504, ext. 205

The Calvary Emergency Food Shelf is available for area residents on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon. We will hand out pre-packaged bags of food with a Walk-Up table on 39th St. and Drive-Thru model at the parking lot entrance. Please stay in your car, and we’ll bring the food to you! Volunteers will be available outside to help you. There are eligibility requirements. On our website, www.clchurch.org, click on the “Food Shelf” link in the “Outreach” tab, or call the food shelf office at 612-827-2504, ext. 205.

Groveland Emergency Food Shelf 1900 Nicollet Ave., Mpls. Plymouth Congregational Church 612-871-0277

Monday – Friday 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Entrance on Groveland Ave. between Nicollet and Lasalle. <http://groveland-foodshelf.org/>

The Riverside Religious Community Welcomes You

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CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. ALBERT THE GREAT

E. 29th St. & 32nd Ave. S. 612-724-3643 www.saintalbertthegreat.org Weekend Masses with limited seating Saturday 5 pm Sunday 9:30 am (also livestreamed on Facebook) Sunday 12 noon Masks and social distancing required Enter at church front center doors only All Holy Week services will be live-streamed except Easter Sunday noon, and people are welcome in person, masked and social distanced. Holy Thursday – Mass of the Lord’s Supper 7 pm Good Friday – Stations of the

Cross 1 pm, Celebration of the Lord’s Passion 7 pm Holy Saturday – Easter Vigil 8 pm Easter Sunday – Masses at 9:30 am and 12 pm

MINNEHAHA COMMUNION LUTHERAN CHURCH

4101 37th Ave. S., 612-722-9527 *Interim Pastor Lee Hallstrom* **All Services and programs temporarily online** 9:45 am online Sunday Worship April 1, 7 pm online Maundy Thursday service April 2, 7 pm online Good Friday service April 4, 9:45 am online Celebration of Easter service

TRINITY LUTHERAN CONGREGATION

Augsburg College, Hoversten Chapel Riverside & 22nd Aves. 612-333-2561 www.trinitylutherancongregation.org Online worship available anytime on our YouTube channel: Trinity Lutheran Congregation Online Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Services Online Easter Services 11 am Sunday April 4 Contact the Trinity Offices for details Pastors: Jane Buckley-Farlee & Alem Asmelash Office: 2001 Riverside Ave. *Reconciling in Christ*



All Directory Churches are Wheelchair Accessible

Agape: What does love look like?

BY ELAINE KLAASSEN

If you go to 38th and Chicago, the corner where George Perry Floyd Jr. was killed by a Minneapolis police officer kneeling on his neck, you will see that the people have claimed the intersection as a free state, an autonomous zone of nonviolence and anti-racism. They have closed it to traffic, and a sculpted fist now stands there, a symbol of unity and solidarity. It means “We’re here, we stand together,” said one young activist. It is popularly known as George Floyd Square.

From what I understand, and the reason I support GFS, is that the closed intersection is an ongoing reminder of what happened there; it’s a continuing statement that George Floyd MUST NOT BE just one more in a long line of victims of police brutality; it begs for Floyd’s death to be the historical turning point when racism and police brutality come to an end; and it presents a model of non-hierarchical community.

Community members meet in a circle twice a day. During the winter, logs burn in metal containers. Artwork and po-

etry are everywhere. Someone tends living plants in a greenhouse. A free clinic, 612 MASH, is available, and Black-owned businesses hang on by a thread. Delicious food can be found at three restaurants: Dragon Wok, Just Turkey and Smoke in the Pit. There are many free food distributions and free meals served as well. Conflict resolution and nonviolence are the order of the day. On Feb. 21, they commemorated Malcolm X’s work for Black empowerment and his assassination on Feb. 21, 1965.

A strong component of George Floyd Square is a non-profit called Agape—unconditional love—made up of young Black men and women, some Christian, some Muslim, some non-religious, who all believe in love. They help local youth with jobs, education, mental health and trauma, and basically simply love everybody. Their presence provides security at the square. When strangers wandering in start stuff or when kids come in there up to no good, Agape is there to de-escalate conflicts and difficult situations. It happens daily, they said. An Agape co-founder, Reggie, calls this



Agape members preparing to go out on the street to provide security. Standing from left to right: Abdirizak Abdi, Yusuf, Marquise Bowie, Rico Smith, George Coles, DeAndre Dent, Derek Armstrong, Reggie Ferguson, Casanova Richardson. At the table from left to right: Steve Floyd, Larry Dent.

work “verbal judo.”

Agape’s small building, with a couple of offices and various meeting rooms a few doors down from Cup Foods, also has a meditation room, since the kind of work they do requires a lot of prayer and meditation. Another co-founder, Marquise, spends all his time at George Floyd Square/Agape, except when he’s working at his job, sleeping or volunteering elsewhere—nurturing younger guys in sports or reading or life skills. He says it’s so important to care for children and young people because “the mind is like jello—you put everything in before it settles.”

As people go in and out of the Agape house, it feels like a family. In fact, many of them have known each other since childhood and are also related. When I introduced myself as “Elaine,” I would hear, “My favorite aunt is named Elaine,” and “My mom is Elaine,” or “Elaine, that’s my mother-in-law.” Of course, they were all talking about the same person. Nothing could have painted a better picture of how intertwined they are.

In the first days after George Floyd’s death, as people from the neighborhood poured out into the streets, everyone was traumatized and they were all looking for healing from the state’s assault on their lives. The city was on fire.

From the beginning there was a natural consensus to start daily meetings to figure out what to do. Already crazed from the pandemic, neighbors, no longer strangers if they had been before, automatically moved out to the corner of 38th and Chicago and set up tables with canopies. People started bringing stuff to donate and people started coming to collect things they needed. From the first days of spontaneous action, Marquise and his child-

hood friends Reggie and Alfonso knew even more action was required. They all knew about Steve Floyd (no relation to George) in North Minneapolis and his Agape work with youth, gang prevention and nonviolence, and together they came to the conclusion that “we needed Steve.” Agape was what was needed.

Marquise had heard Floyd speak about agape, unconditional love, at his junior high school, in 1989, and that moment had become pivotal in his life, even though between then and now, as he struggled along in survival mode, he did things “opposite of love,” he said.

He had some scrapes with the law and spent some time in a federal prison camp, but he said that’s where he learned the patience he now applies to de-escalation work. During his ups and downs since that junior high assembly, he had kept in touch, off and on, with Steve Floyd.

Within a couple of days, Floyd, who is also a professional photographer (and who had recently recovered from a kidney transplant), was at George Floyd Square taking pictures. The three friends asked him about becoming Agape. He said if they were doing great work during the day and then “doing garbage at night” it wasn’t OK. But if they were serious, he was all for it. Now he’s like their guide/mentor/consultant/partner/advisor, etc., and is very involved. (See more about the original Agape here: www.theagapemovement.com)

One of the first things the new Agape did was frightening but successful. They were coming from their first session of nonviolence trainings when they got a phone call that there was trouble downtown—not even the area they were watching over. But they went

anyway.

A Black man had shot himself as he was interacting with police. Because of general anger toward the police, protesters believed the police had killed the man.

It was a rainy day. The Agape people parked a ways away and walked to Block E. There were other peace-oriented groups there as well, such as Mad Dads.

Marquise said there was a police standoff with the young people who, “due to what they thought, were throwing stuff, yelling. They were fed up with injustice.” Agape formed a buffer—they put their bodies between the rows of young people and the line of police facing them—and gradually were able to help inch the young people from the scene and keep them separated from the police.

Generally, the police don’t go into George Floyd Square unless they are called. Agape is not opposed to a police force. But they prefer not to call the police “unless human life is in jeopardy,” as Bridget from Agape put it. Any kind of nonviolent incident such as a drug overdose or passing a fake 20-dollar bill hopefully could be resolved without police involvement and certainly doesn’t call for police aggression, they believe.

Community safety mainly has to do with looking out for each other. Bridget is proud to point out that there is less violent crime in GFS than in North Minneapolis or St. Paul. The shooting on Saturday, March 6, was an exception. Once in a while, tragically, there are things you can’t control. Marquise remembers last summer sitting out in the square playing chess, with little kids running around. He grew up in this neighborhood, living in various places along Portland, Chicago, Columbus, and he “never saw this before.” Since Saturday, he continues to feel that GFS is a safe place.

GFS has been a haven, a respite, for many people of color, as well as a chance for many, many young people to pursue an ideal—a new way for people to be community.

The City of Minneapolis plans to leave GFS as it is until after the trial. Marquise said he believes the city wants to open up the intersection in cooperation with GFS rather than by force.

Whatever happens, Agape plans to carry on with its nurture of young people and its nonviolence and de-escalation work. As they say, “Love is the most powerful force.”

Southside Pride
RIVERSIDE EDITION

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The queen on the hill

BY KATHRYN KELLY

Park Board Commissioner Steffanie Musich sits on her elevated hill over Lake Nokomis and surveys her dominion of Lake Nokomis. On her campaign website she says that her family loves “looking out over the park from our living room and seeing so many people enjoying OUR FRONT YARD.” Of course, she is talking about the park land surrounding Lake Nokomis which does not BELONG to her.

In the meantime, her “subjects” below her are suffering from water inundation and broken pipes that are costing them thousands of dollars to repair. And, the “constructed wetlands” around Lake Nokomis are growing in size, outside of their originally designed footprint. Just recently, another underground water pipe burst in Nokomis park. And water from Solomon Park has been inundating people’s yards.

But does this faze Ms. Musich?

Not at all. She is bent on wreaking more havoc on the community around Lake Hiawatha. She appears to love water more than her constituents.

Her latest plan is to turn the Hiawatha Golf Course into a much larger lake. The plan slanders Theodore Wirth, who pushed the Park Board to buy the land around Lake Hiawatha. This land was slowly being developed with over a dozen buildings and a dairy farm on the property in the early 1920s. Wirth demolished the buildings and created a mixture of park land and golf course, but the current Park Board gives Wirth no credit for saving this land from development. The current plan says it favors “preservation, conserva-



Park Board Commissioner Steffanie Musich (Photo/minneapolisiparks.org)

tion, and restoration rather than expanding acts of past disturbance or creating new development.” Really? If you actually READ the plan, “further disturbance and new development” is exactly what it does, with massive dredging to create a bigger lake, adding massive amounts of fill to the property for the proposed golf course, and building extensively on the clubhouse knoll. It appears that Wirth was really the savior and the current Park Board are the sinners.

And then there is the long history of the Black community and Hiawatha Golf Course. This community has patronized this golf course since it opened in 1934, mainly because it was one of the only places they could golf. In

1951, they fought for equal access to the golf course, resulting in the Park Board eliminating the discrimination. Since then, this golf course has provided a home for the Black community, including hosting of the Bronze Golf Tournament for over 30 years, the biggest golf tourney for the Black community in the Twin Cities. What does the Black community want? The 18-hole golf course. Does this matter to Ms. Musich? No. She’s fine with honorary plaques for the Black golfers. Instead, she wants to let developers pay the Park Board a few bucks to dump their water on the property via watershed credits.

Also, this plan still makes promises to protect the low-lying homes with no engineering details. All of this massive redevelopment will totally change the delicate balance of the topography, water drainage and pumping that now protects the homes as far away as Powderhorn Lake.

And will the promised 9-hole golf course, the fantastic ski area and the restaurant really be built? The funding mechanism makes this almost impossible since the funds for the first two will come from the golf courses and the Winter Activities department which need to come up with \$11 million and \$3.7 million, respectively. The Park Board’s history of mismanagement of these enterprises makes this nearly impossible. And what restaurant owner will pay \$6.3 million to build this fancy facility and have its profits drained for 25 years? Is this the ultimate BAIT AND SWITCH? Close the golf course and flood it, only to never have the money to build the rest of these promised amenities? It seems very likely.

So, what does Ms. Musich say to her subjects? It’s not, “Let them eat cake.” Ms. Musich appears to be saying, let them buy sump pumps and read honorary plaques.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The legacy of Lisa Bender

Thank you for your excellent piece on Lisa Bender, published a few issues back [all February editions of Southside Pride].

I’ve lived in my own home here in the Wedge neighborhood since 1995 and I’m a semi-retired architect.

I’ve also been on various neighborhood committees, beginning at the time when Bender got elected to City Council, starting with active membership (ultimately taking me to chairman) in the Zoning and Planning Committee, to being elected as vice chair (and eventually serving as acting chair) of the Wedge Board of Directors.

So, I’ve had a good chance to

watch Bender from her beginning in a city leadership role.

In one of her first appearances, as our Ward 10 rep on the City Council, she came to a neighborhood Z&P meeting to introduce herself.

Soon, as a member of Z&P I noticed a real flip in rhetoric at many of our meetings. Many “new” participants made a lot of “aggressive” statements at those meetings (in Bender’s presence), referring to homeowners as holding up the process of development, thereby having a “stranglehold” on any hope of providing people with “affordable housing.” At times the rhetoric at the meetings got so heated I wondered if us homeowners might be dragged out into the

street like in the Cultural Revolution days in China.

Next, the pro-developer group began to dismantle the NRP program. Fed funded, low interest, and forgivable loans and a grant program to help homeowners keep their neighborhoods in good repair. The program name, NRP, is no longer used, but remnants of it remain, however quite limited in comparison to previous times.

As I participated in the Z&P committee, I took note of some blatant violation of the bylaws re: “conflict of interest.” Some on the committee were not disclosing that parties (with development plans) appearing for approvals by the committee were presently or previously “clients”

of some committee members. I soon had the bylaws revised to require recusal by any member with association to parties before the committee.

When I was elected, by the neighborhood, to become a board member I found further inadequacies in city leadership.

The city planning division, by that time, had lost some of its best planners, leaving behind a “stamp and go” group, who mostly showed up at City Council considerations and final vote meetings, to state the Planning Division’s support for development proposals.

With the rollout of 2040, the neighborhood was invited to the local VFW, where:

We were given a brief glimpse of what 2040 would entail (and do to our city) ...

We were broken into “discus-

sion groups” and asked to list, in writing, those things that we found “good” about 2040 ...

All were introduced to Heather Worthington (new director of long-range planning) and she asked us where most of us planned to be in 20 years (think dead, or off to Florida, Texas, or Arizona?), and recommended that we should cash out now and leave.

Bender remained in the back of the room, surrounded by plainclothes-types pretending to be bartenders.

To me, 2040 amounts to nothing more than the opening of the (regulatory zoning) floodgates that have regulated land acquisition (by developers). It encompasses all land within an approximate two-mile radius of downtown. It allows for the combining of individual lots and the construction of apartment buildings, without which developers stay away.

Most importantly, it allows, even incentivizes, the transfer of all this land from being privately owned and occupied, to being corporate and investment group owned—never to come back to private ownership. Affordable housing becomes even further off as a hope for many.

Bender has “sold” the heart of our city—to the development and investment community.

There will be no need for a “public” police force in this future inner city. All policing will be contracted out to security firms, hired by corporate property owners.

Bender is the ultimate, and best paid, modern day Pied Piper Minneapolis has seen. And she’s taught her tune to many on the City Council, especially those from the most vulnerable communities.

—Tim Dray

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2021 Education Section



The Page Amendment; educators' solidarity; COVID-19 and safe reopening of schools

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

A big subject in local educational news has been the struggle between teachers' unions and school districts over when and how it is safe to return to in-person classes. As we explained in the October 2020 Education Section, it's a complex issue. For some teachers, in-person learning is what they want most, and for some families too. But other teachers, paraprofessionals and families rightly fear it, for the many unknowns and great potential to cause proliferation of the COVID illness.

You might want to refer back to the October 2020 article (southsidepride.com/2020/10/05/minneapolis-schools-other-issues-on-the-back-burner-but-not-cdd/) because it explains a lot that is still ongoing six months later.

In general, the majority of school boards and administrators want to get back to in-person learning as soon as possible, and

the majority of union members in the system want better guarantees of safety, or hazard pay. Families of students run the gamut. There are some who demand continued in-person learning and move their kids to parochial or other private schools to get it. There are some who demand that virtual (or remote as it's often called in the education setting) is available for all who want it. There are some who want to keep their kids home, but are dissatisfied with the quality of remote learning and withdraw for homeschooling. School districts struggle and don't fully succeed in balancing all these needs.

Previously, I spoke with KH, a school bus driver and member of the Teamsters Union, who continued working when St. Paul went all remote by picking up routes in White Bear Lake, which was then hybrid. I also spoke to Beth, who left her teaching job at a charter school then in hybrid mode (a combination of remote and in-person)



son) to take a post in the Minneapolis Public School system which was then all remote.

For this Education Section, I interviewed another education worker whom I know through

Democratic Socialists of America (DSA). They are a technology assistant paraprofessional for Shakopee Public Schools (ISD 702) and their spouse is a special ed teacher.

Teachers in Shakopee, as in most suburban districts, are represented by the union Education Minnesota, but the paraprofessionals are not.

See Schools, page 8

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2020 Education

Schools, from page 7

sionals or Education Support Professionals (ESPs) are represented by Minnesota School Employees Association (MSEA)—a union that broke off from Education Minnesota about 50 years ago, due to the feeling that Education Minnesota did not represent ESps adequately. Custodial staff in the Shakopee system are represented by Service Employees International Union (SEIU).

Shakopee schools were in hybrid mode from the COVID emergency declaration in March 2020 through Thanksgiving week, after which they switched to remote-only due to the surge in COVID. (At the start, they also created an option called K-12 Online Academy for families who wanted to be remote only.) They have been gradually transitioning back to hybrid mode since January, starting with kindergarten through second grade, and finishing when high school students

come back in March, conditions permitting.

My interviewee described the

remote” and then checking it back in when they “return” for in-person classes. It’s a big thing for school kids

the district made last-minute structure changes that meant kids weren’t isolated properly. Teachers and other staff often have to go into quarantine for exposures, even if they don’t get sick, exacerbating the already high shortage of staff. They described situations where ESps ended up in sole supervision of large classes because there were so few teachers. “Teachers, more than almost anyone, understand the need for kids to get back to classes, but they and we worry about safety. I’m a parent myself, so I understand the conflict,” they said.

More than ever before, solidarity both within and between unions is supporting education workers in these difficult times. Within the Twin Cities DSA Labor Branch, a tight-knit, very active Education Workers’ Working Group has formed. They share information and work together across districts, between public, private, charter and alternative schools, and across unions, to try to improve the situation and stand firm in demanding safety for staff and students.

When, after being all-remote for the 2020-21 year until that point, Minneapolis Public Schools announced they would be transitioning to hybrid learning in early February (and St. Paul Public Schools announced the same thing), both teachers’ unions, MFT59 in Minneapolis and SPFE28 in St. Paul, reacted swiftly, with MFT59 filing a civil injunction. The court did not grant all the demands in the injunction, but did affirm that any staff with a valid accommodation in place or in process could work from home without suffering loss.

There is another big issue facing Minnesotans interested in preserving public education and improving its quality—the proposed Minnesota Constitutional amendment called “the



Brooklyn Park, Jan. 19: K-2 students return

scrambles, complexities and sometimes chaos involved in this ongoing process. Part of their job is distributing devices, hotspots and other electronic gear to students when they “go

to be responsible for, but they said the kindergarteners were actually better at it! (Probably got more help from their parents, to be fair.)

They described situations where



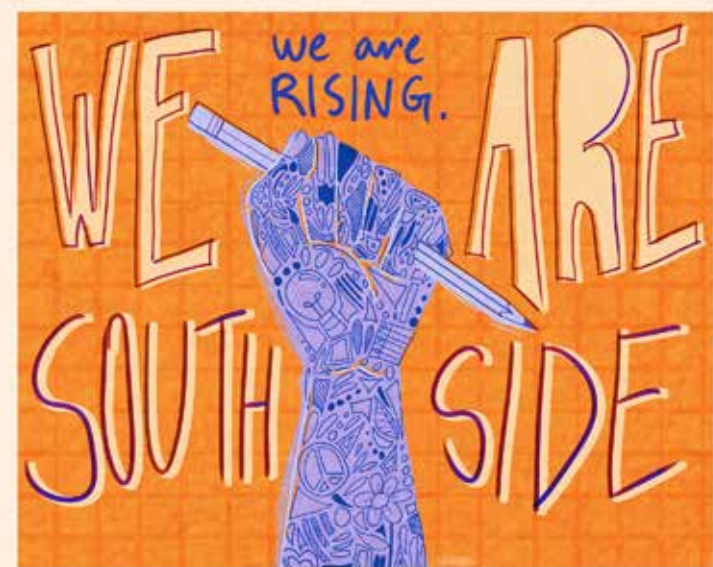
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Former Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Neel Kashkari

Page Amendment.” It’s sometimes referred to as the Federal Reserve amendment, because the other co-author, besides former Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Alan Page, is Neel Kashkari, a former Republican candidate for governor of California, now the head of the Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank.

According to the Minneapolis Star Tribune, which remains neutral on the amendment:

“To critics, Kashkari’s participation is cause for concern: As the Republican candidate for governor of California in 2014, he campaigned on vouch-

Section



ers and other free-market reforms as a means of improving public schools.

“The Page Amendment’s language does not appear to explicitly mandate the creation of a public school system at all, only that any public schools that do exist meet “achievement standards,”” University of Minnesota researchers Myron Orfield and Will Stancil wrote in a 2020 memo.”

The decidedly pro-, almost booster-



Nevada Littlewolf

ish, language of the home page of Our Children Minnesota, a group formed around the amendment with support from the Minneapolis Fed and several local think tanks, can be seen here: ourchildrenmn.com/about/. The communications chief of this group is prominent Republican Kirsten Kukowski, but there are also DFL heavy-hitters in the coalition, including Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison and Paul Wellstone protégé Nevada Littlewolf, former campaign director in Minnesota for Biden. The bill to place the amendment on the 2022 ballot is authored by DFL Rep.



ourt Justice Alan Page and

Hodan Hassan of Minneapolis, along with several DFL and Republican co-authors, according to KSTP.

But there are equally trustworthy and well-reasoned voices against it, and a consensus against it is forming, if not yet reached, among the left wing of the DFL, progressive academics, and educators’ unions, including Education Minnesota.

In the same Star Tribune piece, Denise Specht, president of Education Minnesota, said, “I don’t see the plan here. I see magic words on paper, but nobody has been able to clearly articulate to me how this would actually

work, how does this make a difference?” A union educator writing for Twin Cities DSA sums up emerging leftwing critiques and fears in this article: twincitiesdsa.org/2021/01/a-page-out-of-the-neoliberal-playbook-defunding-public-schools.

David Schultz, a well-known progressive commentator and legal expert as well as a professor of political science at Hamline University, made a more pointed criticism of the amendment’s gaps and pitfalls in MinnPost, the online news journal. Schultz starts by quoting the entirety of the proposed amendment: “All children have a fundamental right to a quality public education that fully prepares them with the skills necessary for participation in the economy, our democracy, and society, as measured against uniform achievement standards set forth by the state. It is the paramount duty of the state to ensure quality public schools that fulfill this fundamental right.”

He then puts on his legal scholar hat (he’s that, as well) and takes this apart pretty much word by word. After parsing all the shortcomings, he sums up with: “Current constitutional language does not prevent



Karen Lewis of CTU

the development of any of this; the problem has not been law but political will. New constitutional language as suggested by Page and Kashkari too will not guarantee it, but instead would potentially push critical decisions about education into the courts, where judges will have to make these decisions. It is not clear that this approach is desirable, and it leaves policy formulation up to the distortions of plaintiff legal strategy—and not one necessarily based on promoting over-

all sound educational policy.”

Another good critical analysis, more from the standpoint of political power and stakes in the game, is found in Sarah Lahm’s recent article in the Progressive: progressive.org/public-school-shutdown/privatize-education-in-minnesota. And finally, see this PDF document to get a full legal analysis by a team of experts: tinyurl.com/sspedsect.

We will close with an “in memoriam” to a brilliant educator and organizer who passed away at age 67 on Feb. 8, 2021. Karen Lewis was president emerita of the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU.) She was immortalized in the popular book on organizing by Jane MacAlevey, “No Shortcuts.” She led the successful strike against Rahm Emanuel’s school board in 2012. In honoring her, the CTU said, “Karen did not just lead our movement. Karen was our movement.”



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Gimme shelter (cont.)

BY KAY SCHROVEN

*Oh a storm is threatening
My very life today
If I don't get some shelter
Oh yeah, I'm gonna fade away*
— "Gimme Shelter," The Rolling Stones

In the 1980s when many mental health facilities were closing, 14 local churches became involved in addressing homelessness and providing services. Three of these still exist today: Our Saviour's Lutheran, St. Stephen's Catholic and Simpson United Methodist. These, in addition to the Salvation Army and Catholic Charities, form the largest continuum of services for the unsheltered and homeless communities in Minneapolis.

Simpson United Methodist has been a leader for nearly 40 years, providing shelter to those in need in the basement of their church. The not-for-profit employs 115 individuals and has an operating budget of \$10 million. The CARES Act has recently provided funding, which allows the shelter to remain open 24/7 during the COVID-19 pandemic. The organization navigates approximately 100 individuals per year into housing. Having sold their Bell House on Pillsbury Avenue in the Whittier neighborhood, the organization purchased its own building at 160 Glenwood Ave. and plans to move its administrative offices this summer (2021).

In addition, Simpson is very excited about a new project! They continue to raise funds to build a 70-bed short-term shelter and 42 units of permanent supportive housing at the Simpson United Methodist Church site (1st Avenue South and 28th Street). Given the age of the building (139 yrs.) and a dwindling number of urban parishio-

ners, the congregation donated the building to Simpson House. The new shelter project has been accepted by the Minneapolis Planning Commission and supported by the Whittier Alliance and Council President Lisa Bender (Ward 10). It is expected to open within the next few years. LHB Architects and Project for Pride in Living are engaged in the design and development of the project. The plan is to create a five-story modern and dignified facility with a commercial kitchen, a medical clinic, sleeping areas, showers, laundry rooms and common spaces with plenty of natural light, as well as very affordable apartment units.

While the church's basement shelter is not modern or dignified, it is dear to many for a variety of reasons. One resident put it simply: "hot meals, clean sheets and people who care." For nearly four decades, the 66-bed shelter has been a stable temporary home "where you stay for a night or for weeks, as needed, and are treated like a human being."

Simpson offers three key programs: Shelter, Family Housing and Single Adults Housing.

In addition to providing beds, the shelter provides three meals a day but uses caterers now during the pandemic rather than volunteers. They serve 100 per night and alums are welcome. While the church is closed due to COVID, they continue operating a food shelf.

Family Housing is coordinated with Hennepin County, and provides housing to approximately 300 families and 600 children, working with landlords and developers to secure appropriate housing. In addition, Simpson offers educational programs designed for breaking the cycle of homelessness by supporting early childhood development

through programs addressing education, financial stability, wellness, child care, language and literacy, and employment. In 2018 this program was awarded \$2.5 million toward expansion by Amazon's Jeff Bezos. They are one of 24 nonprofit agencies selected in the U.S. for this award. This award will allow them to expand their services by 20 percent.

The Single Adults program is designed for adults who have experienced long-term (four or more years) homelessness. It is built around support and advocacy and provides services to over 200 adults annually. This program supports The Women's Housing Partnership, Opportunity Housing Partnership and Rapid Re-Housing Program. The Women's Program focuses on forging ongoing relationships with women to help them develop independence and stability. The Opportunity Partnership is a collaboration amongst Simpson, AEON and Avivo to support two housing communities in downtown Minneapolis. They offer efficiency apartments and opportunities for community engagement. The Rapid Re-Housing Program is a short-term intervention program designed to provide financial assistance and services to individuals experiencing homelessness in order to quickly re-house and stabilize them.

Those in need of services can report to the basement of St. Olaf's Church in Minneapolis (215 S. 8th St.) where intake is conducted. Those looking to contribute to ending homelessness can learn more on the Simpson website, www.simpsonhousing.org, under "Ways to Help." Under "Volunteer" you will find current opportunities and an application. Donations can be made in the form of funds or

commonly needed supplies such as toilet paper, school supplies and electronics. Mark your calendar for May 12 for the 11th annual Art4Shelter event. This year's event will be virtual and will feature many local artists. Original art will be available for purchase (\$35) and all proceeds will go to the Simpson Shelter and Housing programs. You can access the event on the Simpson website.

Four Men from St. Paul

*Hey God, it is not working
out too well
This business of being alive
You never said it would be
easy
But I never thought I'd see
children on my street going
hungry.*

Between, from page 1

laws being put forward across the country, seems like a sure-fire recipe for Republican wins in 2022 and 2024. The Republican party that just de facto declared themselves the party of fascism in America.

At the local level, as preparations are made for the trial of the men accused of murdering George Floyd, state law enforcement is stepping up threats against nonviolent protestors on the issue. The state leadership and law enforcement looked at the brutality caught on that video, saw that brutality broadcast around the world, the brutality that woke up the nation and the world to the deadly consequences of systemic racism, and they have dug in their heels with business as usual. They looked at the way the Minneapolis Police Department violently attacked peaceful protestors before the officers in question

*Or four men freezing to death
after being turned away
from a shelter for homeless
people
So what happened God?
Didn't those four men rate
that night?
Did being drunk make them
disposable?*

*Oh, I still believe in you
But it's getting hard to find
you in the city
And those four men who froze
to death
didn't see your Light of com-
passion shining that night
So God be straight with me—
Is there no more room at the
inn?*
--Pam Wynn, Home Words,
St. Stephens Shelter, 1991

even faced charges and decided those demanding justice were the problem.

City leaders are no better. They have announced plans to reopen George Floyd Square to traffic after Chauvin's trial. Nothing has been done to address police brutality. Nothing has been done to change our public safety infrastructure or how we fund it. The city and state plan to have an increased law enforcement presence in the city for the trial. It is likely Chauvin will be acquitted and the city is counting on aggressively suppressing the natural reaction to the continued injustice of our system.

This is an embarrassment to all of us. This is an embarrassment playing out on a national and international stage. This is the leadership of Minneapolis and Minnesota presenting themselves to the world as supporting war crimes like the use of tear gas against protestors, standing by white supremacy and structural racism by making no efforts to change policing, and proudly boasting its callous disregard for citizens who happen to be the "wrong" color. It is imperative that we stand up and let the world know that these actions do not represent us, or we are all complicit.

So far, I have discussed my despair at length, but I also have hope. Not much, but some. I find hope in the organizers and activists for social and racial justice. I find hope in the dropping COVID cases and rising availability of vaccines. At a local level I find hope in the campaign of Sheila Nezhad for mayor, especially given her work with MPD150. I am hopeful she will be a strong contender against Frey. I am trying to lean into these hopes, but I am also well aware of the potential roadblocks and often powerful opposition to the positive. So today I will order some garden seeds and think of spring and hope that, perhaps, I can bring some beauty to a small corner of the world.

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A new Good Grocer does good on Eat Street

BY STEPHANIE FOX

For Kurt Vickman, making sure that everyone has enough food to eat has been a lifelong mission. Once the head pastor of The Upper Room, an activist church, Vickman ran a food



shelf in the church basement. He discovered that many people would ask to pay small amounts of money in exchange for their food. It was a way, Vickman said, for people facing hard times to keep their dignity.

But the rules for food banks would not allow it. His church had been required to sign a contract promising that they would not charge or exchange work for food. Vickman decided then that there had to be a better way.

The Good Grocer opened six years ago in the Whittier neighborhood on Lake Street, Vickman's innovative solution to the problem. It was a grocery store that gave customers a chance to trade a few hours of work at the store for a large discount. But when the 35W project forced the demolition of the building, Vickman focused on creating a new Good Grocer that would serve even more people, giving them a way to contribute to the cause while allowing them to purchase quality, affordable food.

The store's new home on Eat Street, at the corner of 26th and Nicollet and just five blocks from his old location, opened in late January. It's bright and sunny and at about 9,000 square feet, twice the size of the Lake Street store.

And, while the store may be new and improved, the business model is the same—it offers high quality foods for not too much money with a volunteer discount option for those who want it.

Right now, 50 percent of the food sold at Good Grocers is natural and there are large produce, dairy, meat, seafood, imported cheese and ethnic food sections in addition to the standard frozen pizzas and grocery items.

Customers can choose from dozens of cooking and hot sauces, Indian and Asian specialties, artisan pastas, coffees and teas—everything that a higher-end grocery store might carry.

There's more in the works, as well. In March, the plan is to open a Good-To-Go section with ready-to-eat choices such as sandwiches and sushi. And soon after, the store will launch Good Eatery, an in-store coffee shop serving deli-style foods.

Vickman is also planning to begin to label some products as "Good Certified," vetting companies that are doing good, not just tasting good. "The Good Grocer is defined by the word 'Good,'" said Vickman.

The store manages to keep prices low because of their mostly-volunteer staff. There are two prices listed for everything, the regular price and the 20 percent discount price for those who volunteer at least two-and-a-half hours a month. Volunteers do not need to be facing food insecurity to get the discount.

The grocery currently has 600 volunteers, but they could use more, Vickman said. "Prices are low because in grocery stores, the biggest expense is labor. Volunteers lower our costs and let us lower our prices."

"Volunteers are the heartbeat of Good Grocer," he said. "Volunteers do inventory, stock

the shelves, cashier and bag groceries, answer phones, data entry and much more."

And at least during the pandemic, curbside pickup and delivery will be available for those who want it, also provided by volunteers.

Part of the money saved by having volunteers staff the store will be funneled to the Food Outlet, a mini-version of the larger store, designed to serve those who have limited or uncertain access to sufficient or high-quality foods. Those with the need can apply for a six-month membership. Members will receive a 75 percent discount at the Outlet, which will be launching soon and will be open each Saturday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

People living in Whittier and those from outside the neighborhood are starting to discover Good Grocer. Davin Branwall, a chef and culinary instructor living in Uptown, took a bus to Eat Street, planning to shop at the Asian grocery store across the street. He saw the Good Grocer sign and dropped in to check it out.

"It's my first time here," he said. "The produce is super, super fresh. It looks gorgeous. I would put this up against high-end grocers. And look at the prices. For most people, food is the number one expense. But that cheese," he said, pointing out a package of BelGioioso mozzarella, "it's \$2.99. At Whole Foods, it's \$3.95. At Cub, it's—I'm not sure, but I think it's \$5.99."

Vickman hopes that more people like Branwall will also shop at Good Grocer for the prices, the choices and the quality. The more people who buy at full price, the more those who need discounted foods can get them, he said.

"We are glad they found a space still in the Whittier neighborhood," said Kaley Brown, executive director of

the Whittier Alliance neighborhood association.

Brown watched construction of the building and talked with Vickman about the store's mission.

"A number of residents here don't have a car. They could walk to the old location and can still walk to the new location,"

she said.

"A lot of residents here experience food insecurity, so the Good Grocer helps them, too. And the Good Grocer gives people an opportunity to volunteer, so it's a good community builder. We're glad they were able to stay in the neighborhood."



Kurt Vickman in the large fresh produce department at Good Grocer's second incarnation

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Bouza, from page 1

surface in 2027 as the FBI files on Hoover's #1 bugbear—the Reverend and revered Martin Luther King, Jr.—are released. They will probably reflect an active libido, and so what?

Every sensible historian has known and evaluated Hoover's true worth—or lack thereof. Curt Gentry's biography is the best. The FBI's current building in D.C. bears Hoover's name. That is even more shameful than our Lindbergh Terminal.

Now there is a new FBI building in the works, and we are likely to perpetuate the

atrocities. His are not the values that should perpetuate our worth.

When the King files are released, some will claim justification for their antipathy—which is really just another expression of racism.

What will not be asked is why—in a sea of Mafia violence and addiction pandemics—did Hoover train his obsessive powers on a Black clergyman fighting for human rights?

It is in wrestling with such questions that a civilization is defined.

What will history's judgment be of ours?

It all—on the surface—looks pretty harmless. Robert E. Lee was a great general and very likely a really nice guy. "Gone with the Wind" gave us a great view of the idyllic life of plantation darkies. D.W. Griffith was a brilliant director who created the most blatantly racist tract Hollywood ever made, "The Birth of a Nation."

Every monument—in whatever form: flag, song, book, film or even, yes, buildings—is an expression of our values. They are ways of conveying to our children the things we hold most dear.

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Virtual caucusing and virtual conventions this year

BY DAVID TILSEN

This year the entire Minneapolis city government is on the ballot—the mayor, all 13 council members, the Board of Estimate and Taxation and the Park Board. All of these elected officials have been through a lot as the city has been traumatized by the pandemic, the George Floyd murder and subsequent reaction, the closing down of much of our hospitality industry, the rise of unsheltered people camping in our parks, and a level of poverty, hunger, unemployment and desperation unseen since the Depression of the 1930s. There is already a lot of political activity, and most elected offices will be vigorously contested.

In November, the state DFL asked cities to design a process for caucuses and endorsements that did not include in-person meetings.

I am on the Minneapolis DFL Central Committee and we had a lot of meetings to argue, discuss and iron out a plan. This proposed plan went to the DFL State Executive Committee (SEC) for approval on Monday, Feb. 15.

In the meantime, Mayor Frey's reelection campaign was not going well. It seems that there is a lot of dissatisfaction with his lack of leadership and his inability to work with the City Council and community partners.

Over the weekend, the mayor and a few of the most con-

servative council members and Park Board commissioners sent a letter to the DFL state party chair asking that they not allow Minneapolis to do any endorsements this year. They contended that the new process was not inclusive, would degrade the party, and its endorsements would be invalid.

For a mayor who ran without the endorsement four years ago, and may have difficulty getting endorsed this year, the rationale seemed disingenuous. Also, those of us toiling to agree to the best decisions were nonplussed by the end-around to the state. Several of the complaining campaigns had been involved in the process, and they had been supportive in the meetings. The final plan reflected changes that the signers of the letter had requested. If they changed their mind, they could have picked up the phone to text or emailed the rest of us to talk about their issues.

The DFL SEC approved the plan with what some say was a unanimous vote, others say not unanimous. It was a voice vote so we don't have a record of any Nays.

Then on Tuesday night, Feb. 16, the Minneapolis DFL met to approve the final plan. Well over 70 people logged on to our Zoom meeting. Some DFL regulars who wanted to know what was going on, some first-timers who had not been to any of our meetings who had no idea

of what the plan was, and critics. There were unnecessary and unfair personal attacks on City Chair Devin Hogan, when he was just trying to do his (unpaid and volunteer) job.

Some felt the all-online process would be confusing and poor people who do not have phones or computers could be excluded. The city party has set up a phone number for people to correspond with in any language to help facilitate non-computer participation.

The majority felt that this online process would be more inclusive. They felt the old system was a hardship on people with jobs, families and other responsibilities. The caucuses required people to trek to a three- or four-hour meeting in the winter. If elected a delegate, they were then committed to a six- to eight-hour ward convention, and then another six to eight hours for the city convention. The virtual plan simply required a person to log on and cast a ballot—a fraction of the time commitment.

Here are the dates and deadlines in the plan for this year:

*March 17 - The deadline for a candidate to get on the list of campaigns seeking endorsement for the caucuses. You don't need to be on the list to run, but, well, it'll probably help.

*April 1 to April 30 - DFLers who live in Minneapolis have an entire month to log in and join their caucus, declare their candidacy for delegate for the

ward convention or the city convention. Delegate candidates will have the opportunity to declare their support for a candidate, issue, or be uncommitted.

*April 27, 7 p.m. - A virtual "caucus night" event for each ward, where DFLers can meet with campaigns and candidates, discuss proposed rules, and break bread together as Democrats. This is not required to participate in the process.

*May 12 to May 18 - a ballot will be emailed to all caucus registrants. They will vote for delegates.

*May 19 - The last date to declare for endorsement for the City Council, mayor and other races.

*June 2 to June 8 - Online balloting by delegates for ward conventions (City Council).

*"Ward conventions" are the weekend of June 5-6, 2021. One ward starting per hour, every hour. Saturday is Ward 1 through Ward 7, beginning at 11 a.m. Sunday is Ward 8 through Ward 13, beginning at noon. These will feature typical events including a candidate forum and opportunity for longer candidate speeches.

*June 9 to June 15 - Online balloting by delegates for city convention for mayor, Board of Estimate and Taxation and Park Board.

*"City convention" is on Saturday, June 12. Speeches and forums for Park Board, Board of Estimate, and mayoral races.

es.

There will be open tabulation of ballots, in virtual teller rooms, which campaigns can observe. No secret ballots for delegates.

Elections will use ranked choice voting. Delegates will have the opportunity to select first, second, and third choice, for example.

There will be virtual events for caucuses (April 27); for wards (June 5-6); and the city (June 12), in which delegates and candidates can politick, socialize and see each other on Zoom.

There will be ways for people without computers to participate by phone or text or request help.

The DFL will educate people about the process and encourage people to assist others to log in.

This process is new, and will require patience and all of us to work together. The assembling of online ballots for every precinct will be a large task, and volunteers will be needed. This is not as labor intensive as 14 conventions and 132 caucuses, but it will be unfamiliar and still require a lot of time.

3 new ways to caucus starting April 1:

Go to caucus.dfl.org
Take 10 minutes to fill out a form.

Call (612) 552-4215
Leave a detailed voicemail or let us know a good time to call back.

Text (612) 712-7461
Chat with a volunteer by text on your own schedule.

Safety, from page 1

tice), Margarita (Rita) Ortega (community organizer at Little Earth and other places, and leader in the American Indian Movement/AIM), and Bol Benjamin and Frank McCrary (organizers, SEIU Local 26).

All of the panelists were consistent in saying one thing, which could be boiled down to "police don't really keep us safe." None of these people were hardline "abolish the police" spokespersons, or at least I didn't hear that. What I heard was—our communities need more. Just not more police. More of something better than police; something, someone, some group who can do these things that police either can't or won't do. Like keep vulnerable people safe.

Although all the panelists were great storytellers and great at extracting practical points from the stories, the two women, Rita and Michele, excelled. Rita gave very concrete, fact-filled accounts of organizing Little Earth, starting in the two hours before the first curfew in the George Floyd uprising. She described how they talked agitated people out of escalating, how they faced down the National Guard without violence

erupting, how they closed Cedar Avenue and set up checkpoints.

Michele not only gave accounts of what happened throughout Seward and Longfellow during the critical time period, but related it both back to the history of the last five or so years of trying to build restorative justice, and forward into what they have done since the uprising, how it changed the terrain, and what they hope from the city and other powers for the future. Toward the end, Michele remarked that city funding over the last six years to her project has totaled only \$40,000. "So, certainly there's a lot of room to put their money where their mouth is to say what are we going to really invest in," she concluded, referring to City Council members specifically referring to Seward Longfellow Restorative Justice as part of their plans for community safety "beyond policing."

The webinar from the Office of Violence Prevention (OVP) ping-ponged around between speakers, who were not all introduced at the beginning. The most frequent speakers were Sasha Cotton, director of the OVP, and the Assistant Police Chief Henry Halvorson. The webinar was hosted by Jen White, who I believe said she works for Cot-

ton in the OVP.

In addition to the speakers, the Zoom screen displayed, seemingly at random, a small selection of interpreters. In the case of Somali and Spanish interpreters, you saw a big head talking away, but no explanation of who they were (I only figured out they were interpreters about 10 minutes in). And there were also two ASL interpreters, who took turns but often were both on the screen. Combined with the fact of no program or agenda being given out, and technical difficulties as well, it was super confusing to follow, to be honest.

So, since the whole webinar focused on talking about what the OVP is there for, what they have done so far, and what they plan to do next, and since the city has a very thorough, though strangely organized, website, I have extracted their message in my chosen way—research—on the internet. The OVP is less than three years old, but I imagine its profile within the city has shot up in importance since May 25, 2020.

As far as I could parse out from the rather stream-of-consciousness nature of the webinar, the main themes being addressed were RFPs, grants and funding

sources, where funding would be going (that was already allocated), and how to apply for some of what's not yet allocated, the Violence Interrupters, and what is going on within the MPD. About the first half hour was one-way communication of what the city wanted us to know, and the next hour was driven by citizen questions, either emailed in advance through the Facebook event, or typed in real time into the Q&A channel in Zoom.

Cotton at one point described how the OVP gathers community input by a segmented approach. One segment is called Engagement, and here she called on Cheyenne Brodeen, also from the OVP, who conducted focus groups. The results from these groups indicated concerns with ineffectiveness in community services, from police (often with racism and misogyny noted); a need for culturally specific responders; no apparent program for violence prevention; and concerns about emotional health and lack of training for community responders. Most groups expressed the need for alternatives to police, and for the city to pay communities for their ideas, and to have equitable funding.

Here are a few random facts I gleaned from the webinar or

subsequent research:

- CANDO and Corcoran (together? or each?) will be receiving \$600K for the Violence Interrupters program's work.
- The Violence Interrupters program was introduced in the fall of 2020.
- The MPD is recruiting to fill in gaps caused by a wave of resignations and is specifically trying to recruit Minneapolis residents.
- Several citizen questioners wanted the Police Activity League program to come back.
- The MPD is teaching officers a Procedural Justice Model with four main points: giving a voice, being neutral, gaining trust, being respectful.
- There was a survey of downtown Minneapolis residents. You can read the report on that here: <https://www.thedmna.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/DMNA-PSTF-Safety-Survey-Results-FINAL-1.pdf>.
- There is also an open survey that anyone can participate in. You can access that and get more information about city programs here: <https://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/programs-initiatives/community-safety/>.

• COMMUNITY CALENDAR •

Southside Pride / RIVERSIDE EDITION

EVENTS

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Talking Volumes: Talking Race 2021 Online

Minnesota Public Radio and the Star Tribune are proud to announce a special Talking Volumes series of virtual events centered around the topic of race in America. From the killing of Black people at the hands of police to COVID-19 to economic downturn, the most difficult issues we currently face are disproportionately affecting Black people, Indigenous people, and other people of color. We are bringing together a diverse group of authors to talk about their books, which all provide unique insights on America's growing racial divide.

Talking Volumes: Talking Race will be hosted by award-winning MPR News journalists Kerri Miller and Brandt Williams. All events will be held via webinar and will include an hour-long interview with the authors and a live interactive panel discussion moderated by the Star Tribune.

Tickets are Pay-what-you-can, from \$0-\$20, and are available until 10 a.m. the morning of the event. To reserve your spot, go to <https://www.mprnews.org/story/2021/02/12/talking-volumes-talking-race-2021-season-guide>.

N. Scott Momaday

'Earth Keeper: Reflections on the American Land'

Tuesday, March 16, 7 p.m.

Online via Zoom with host Kerri Miller.

Chang-rae Lee

'My Year Abroad'

Tuesday, March 23, 7 p.m.

Online via Zoom with host Brandt Williams.

Naima Coster

'What's Mine and Yours'

Tuesday, March 30, 7 p.m.

Online via Zoom with host Kerri Miller.

Rain Taxi March Events

Claudia Zoe Bedrick and Ping Zhu

Tuesday, March 16, 5:30 p.m.

Online via Crowdcast

Join us as we present a conversation with the publisher of Enchanted Lion Books, Claudia Zoe Bendrick, and the

illustrator of their new release "The Snail with the Right Heart," Ping Zhu. These two creative visionaries will discuss the joys and challenges of indie publishing for the children's market, as well as their individual paths to creating their art. The conversation will be moderated by author, essayist, and editor Bruce Handy. Free to attend, registration required at www.raintaxi.com/claudia-zoe-bedrick-and-ping-zhu/.

Timothy Brennan

Tuesday, March 23, 5:30 p.m.

Online via Crowdcast

Join us for a special event about the many sides of Edward Said, the famed Palestinian literary critic, public intellectual, postcolonial studies trailblazer, political activist, and gifted pianist. Acclaimed American composer Nico Muhly, who was taught by Said at Columbia, will interview University of Minnesota professor and friend of Said's, Timothy Brennan, about his new comprehensive biography, "Places of Mind: A Life of Edward Said." For more info and to register for this FREE event, go to www.raintaxi.com/timothy-brennan/.

Celebrate Art by Women

March events at Mia

Celebrate the exceptional historical and creative cultural contributions made by women artists with exhibitions, virtual events, stories, videos and podcast episodes. To see the entire schedule, go to <https://new.artsmia.org/art-artists/explore/making-connections/art-by-women>.

Art School is in session! Join a Mia teaching artist each week for a drop-in art-making experience. We'll explore works from Mia's collection and create art using simple materials we can find around us. Each week's session is designed with a particular audience in mind, but open to everyone! Sessions last approximately 45 minutes. No need to register, just meet us on Mia's Teaching Artist YouTube on Tuesdays at 10 a.m.! Click here to join these FREE online sessions: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjv9qWgdj_END-vARJ90b1gQ/videos?view=2&live_view=501.

Virtual Art School: Weaving (en español)

Tuesday, March 16

10 to 10:45 a.m.

Online

Join Gustavo Boada to look at works in Mia's exhibit "Unexpected Turns: Women

Artists and the Making of American Basket-Weaving." Then, make your own simple weaving project. Materials needed: fabric scraps such as old towels, handkerchiefs, or t-shirts, some yarn or ribbon, and a scissor. Paper scraps can be used in place of fabric.

Virtual Art School: Open Studio

Tuesday, March 23

10 to 10:45 a.m.

Online

A drop-in Open Studio for people of all ages inspired by Unexpected Turns: Women Artists and the Making of American Basket-Weaving. Materials needed: Fabric scraps such as old towels, handkerchiefs, or t-shirts, some yarn or ribbon, and a scissor. Paper scraps can be used in place of fabric.

Introduction to Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience (STAR) for Cultural Competence, Racial Healing and Equity

Friday, March 19, 3 to 5 p.m.

Online

When terrible things happen, like racism and COVID-19, our peace is stolen from us. Most people want to build peace into their lives and community. Our 2-hour online Intro to STAR training integrates and promotes trauma healing, resilience, and restorative justice to build peace into our lives and communities. Everyone is welcome to join us. Pay-What-You-Can; continuing education credits are available for MN social workers, teachers, and nurses for a modest fee. Register at <http://www.mnpeace.org/events.html>.

Coming to the Table: Racial Healing Talking Circles and Learning Sessions

Wednesday, March 17,

7 to 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 20,

10:30 a.m. to noon

Monday, March 22, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Online via Zoom

Coming to the Table gatherings are racial healing talking circles to address interpersonal, community, and structural racial violence and trauma. At CTTT, descendants of those who were enslaved, descendants of slave owners, Indigenous community members, and all those interested in engaging in safe constructive dialogue are invited to come together to envision Minneapolis as a just and truthful community - one that acknowledges and seeks to heal the racial wounds from the historical trauma of slavery, genocide of Native Americans, and the racism these collective traumas continue to spawn.

CTTT provides ongoing relationship engagement, leadership, resources, and a supportive environment to dismantle racism. Join Peacebuilding's Assistant Executive Director Crixell Shell for one or more of our CTTT racial healing talking circles. Until risks associated with the Coronavirus (COVID-19) have abated, all of our trainings and events will be virtual. Please register at <http://www.mnpeace.org/events.html> and a Zoom video conference link will be emailed to you before the training or event begins. If you have any questions, please direct them to info@mnpeace.org.

Walker Dialogue: Chloé Zhao

Saturday, March 20, 7 p.m.

Online

"For me, filmmaking will always be driven by my desire to learn about the world I'm not familiar with. Sometimes on that journey, I also get to rediscover who I am." —Chloé Zhao

For a very special 2021 Walker Dialogue, award-winning, Beijing-born, U.S.-based filmmaker Chloé Zhao (Nomadland) will speak with Sheryl Mousley, former senior curator of Moving Image at Walker Art Center, and Walker audiences virtually about her remarkable career, inspirations,

and influences. The writer, director, and producer will also discuss her experiential approach to emotionally intimate, humanist filmmaking. Zhao redefines and reinvents American cinema genres, creating immersive worlds with her actors and environments. In lieu of a film retrospective in the Walker Cinema, you can view Zhao's features from home. For more information and to purchase tickets, see <https://walkerart.org/calendar/2021/walker-dialogue-chloe-zhao>.

U of M School of Music

March Events

University Symphony Orchestra and University Wind Ensemble Virtual Performance

Thursday, March 25, 7:30 p.m.

Online

Musicians from University Symphony Orchestra and University Wind Ensemble present small ensemble works for winds, brass, percussion, and strings. Recorded on Friday, Feb. 12 in Ted Mann Concert Hall, the broadcast premiere features music by Antonín Dvořák, Gabriela Lena Frank, Yosuke Fukuda, Jennifer Higdon, Gustav Mahler, Quinn Mason, and Roger Zare. Mark Russell Smith, David Carrillo, Andrew Kim, Shaun Evans, David Roush, Lauren Visel, Preston Weber, conductors. Access the concert here: z.umn.edu/SOMvirtual.

Campus Orchestras Virtual Performance

Tuesday, March 30, 7:30 p.m.

Online

Recorded by Maroon and Gold Campus Orchestras on Tuesday, Feb. 23 in Ted Mann Concert Hall, the broadcast premiere features music by Grieg, Britten, Arensky, Tchaikovsky, and Handel. David Carrillo, Hisham Groover, and Andrew Kim, conductor. Access the concert here: <https://z.umn.edu/6q2f>.

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Reject the plan: testimony before the Park Board

BY PETER MCLAUGHLIN

• Your job is to create a park system for all of Minneapolis. Your plan will destroy a vital, viable historic resource that has served the community for almost a hundred years. You may not like golf, but there are people who do, people who get great pleasure from this course just as you might by biking, hiking, swimming or skating. It is essential for the park system to maintain a rich mix of opportunities for the residents of Minneapolis. This will diminish that richness, particularly in South Minneapolis.

• Financially, this plan is a disaster. You are cutting revenue at a time when the system needs revenue. Does golf pay for itself? Last year it sure did, though it admittedly hadn't always. But trees don't pay for themselves; walking paths don't pay for themselves; and on and on. Golf pays for a lot of its costs. On top of that, the

proposed plan will require tens of millions of dollars in additional capital funds that you don't have. Why is this a priority? It will consume resources needed in other parts of the system. They won't be available in North Minneapolis or Northeast. And for South Minneapolis, I ask, where are the resources for Ed Solomon Park? It's got a sign and that's about it, after how many years? So many that I fear people will forget who Ed was and walk away. On top of all that you will have to use valuable political capital to get the funding you need. It's beyond me why this should be such a high priority.

• The water. The pumping limit is a phony artifact! I've talked to the DNR. They are not going to shut down this golf course because of the pumping limit. Come up with a plan, seek a new permit for the level of pumping required, and it will be approved. There are farmers all over Minnesota who pump more water than this golf course. Why should the problem of water storage for a huge chunk of Hennepin County be borne by the people of South Minneapolis, the golfers and others who love this course. You're doing other people's bidding at the expense of golfers and the historic legacy of Black residents' use of this golf course.

• No matter how many plaques and old black-and-white pictures of Black golfers you put up, it will NOT properly recognize the historic role this course played in the tortured

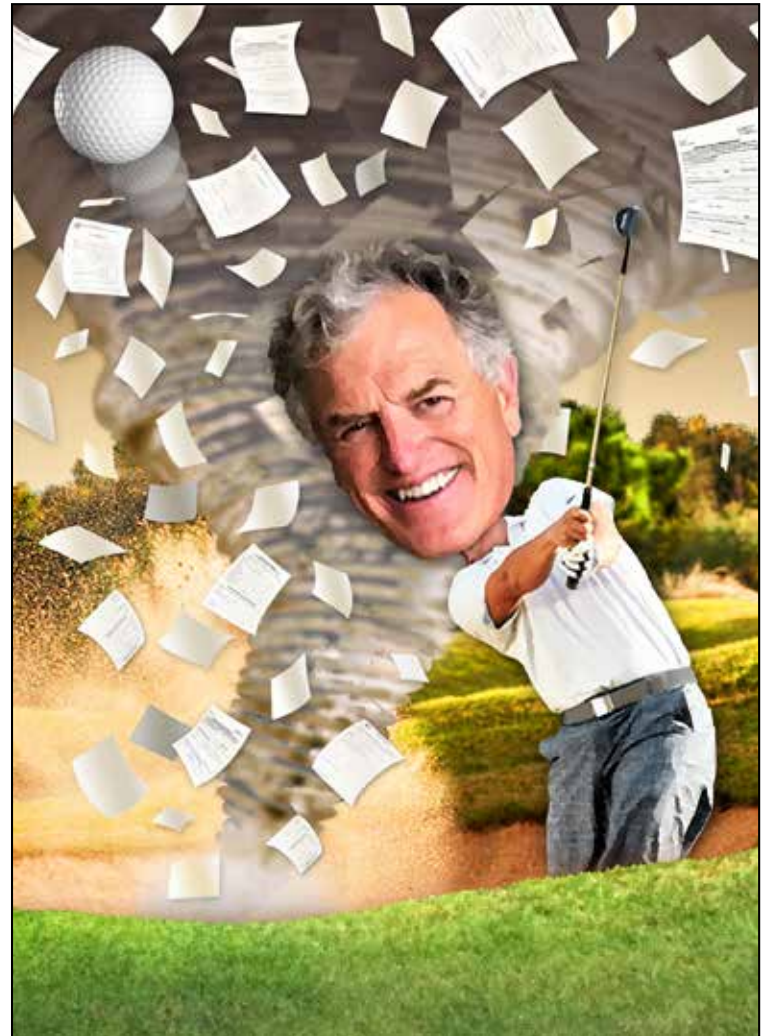
racial history of this city and this state. It's tokenism of the worst sort. I can understand some members not knowing the history, but once you knew it, to relegate it to some memorabilia and a flawed nine-hole design is inexcusable.

What do I suggest? Get a plan that preserves the course, while increasing access, improving amenities, cleaning up the water, cleaning up the pollution, preserving a revenue stream and saving tens of millions of dollars for other critical capital needs including Ed Solomon Park.

That's a path that would benefit all of Minneapolis and properly recognize the history of this course and its importance to the Black community.

I urge you to set out on a new path. Reject this plan. And don't make the only lost priority the historic 18-hole golf course.

Peter McLaughlin is the executive director of LISC Twin Cities (Local Initiatives Support Corporation) and the former state representative and county commissioner representing South Minneapolis.



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Jack Ryan: Spoiler alert!

BY ED FELIEN

I feel like Oscar in Sesame Street: "I like trash."

What's there to do during the pandemic and forced incarceration but watch trashy action flicks on Netflix? And, after you've watched all the James Bond movies and "Ocean's Eleven," you're left with the dregs at the bottom of the barrel.

Season Two of the "Jack Ryan"

discover a prisoner camp. In the process, they kill a lot of Venezuelan soldiers. One of the U.S. mercenaries gets killed, and the dictator makes a big deal about it on television, saying the CIA is invading his country. There's a national election happening, and the woman running against the dictator is billed as a progressive social activist fighting for freedom, so, of course, she needs CIA protection, which the

was "hopeful that there can be a transition in Venezuela, and the CIA is doing its best to understand the dynamic there. I was just down in Mexico City and in Bogota a week before last talking about this very issue, trying to help them." Venezuela's Foreign Minister Samuel Moncada stated the obvious: "There is a secret operation by the Central Intelligence Agency to split up a democratically elected government."

Nicolas Maduro, a former bus driver and leader of the Transit Workers Union, was vice president under Chavez. When Chavez died of cancer, Maduro was chosen by the Socialist Party to succeed him. He won the presidential election a month later, but Henrique Capriles, the conservative candidate favored by the U.S., challenged the results. Even after a recount of the paper ballots, Capriles refused to accept the results. He appealed to the Venezuela Supreme Court and they turned him down.

Maduro was re-elected president in May 2018 by 67.8 percent of the vote. The U.S. and the conservative opposition continued their efforts to delegitimize the election and Maduro. They claimed the election was unfair because Maduro supporters were telling voters if the Socialist Party lost the election, then people could lose their socialized medicine. On Jan. 23, 2019, Juan Guaido, just 18 days after being chosen to lead the Assembly, announced that he was formally assuming the role of interim president. The U.S. immediately recognized him as legitimate.

Then, on May 3, 2020, Venezuelan security forces stopped a coup attempt by U.S. Army Special Forces operator Jordan

Goudreau. He led 60 armed men, including two former U.S. Special Forces personnel, in an invasion of Venezuela from Colombia. Juan Guaido denied any involvement in the coup, but Jordan Goudreau said Guaido had signed a contract with him for \$219 million to stage the coup.

In the fevered ending of the second season of "Jack Ryan," Jack and his CIA buddies storm the presidential palace, killing a dozen people, to rescue a CIA operative. The Electoral Commission declares that the candidate running against the president (Maduro) has won with 70 percent of the vote, while an angry

three stories up on the aft deck of a U.S. battleship, like gods smiling down on mere mortals from Olympus.

This farce would be hilarious if it weren't so tragic.

Aristotle in "The Poetics" says tragedy is the imitation of an action that through fear and pity purges us of those emotions.

We watch Jack Ryan search for justice. We identify with his desire to help his friends. We are afraid when Jack faces danger, and we feel he is justified in killing anyone who threatens him.

The "Jack Ryan" series are training films for mercenaries and mass murderers. They turn



Nicolas Maduro

series is about an evil Venezuelan dictator who is making some kind of secret deal to sell mining rights for tantalum, a rare metal used in computers. Jack Ryan, a CIA analyst, gets involved because a friend of his, a U.S. senator, is assassinated in Venezuela when he is investigating this mining deal. A group of CIA mercenaries are sent into the Venezuelan jungle to find out what secret stuff the government is shipping into an isolated area. Jack Ryan finds out it's mining equipment, and they also

dictator also uses against her by saying she is a puppet of the U.S.

What's the reality behind this melodrama?

Hugo Chavez was the democratically-elected and popular president of Venezuela from 1999 to his death in 2013. He was a revolutionary socialist. He earned the hatred of the U.S. and Exxon Mobil and ConocoPhillips for nationalizing the oil industry. Obama declared Venezuela "an unusual and extraordinary threat to national security" in March of 2015. The Washington D.C. Center for Economic and Policy Research said that U.S. sanctions have killed 40,000 people in Venezuela.

Mike Pompeo, Trump's Secretary of State and former head of the CIA, told the Aspen Security Forum in 2017 that he



Jack Ryan

mob storms the presidential palace. And, in a tearful finale, the new woman president is reunited with her husband—whom the CIA had rescued from the jungle prison camp—as our CIA heroes look down on their reunion from

history on its head. They create a false narrative that convinces us that killing anyone who gets in our way is heroic, that the good guys always win, and that the good guys are always the Americans.

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