



**We build Pride on the Southside**

# NOKOMIS EDITION

SECOND MONDAY OF THE MONTH

**April 2021**

VOL. XXXI, ISSUE 11

*This newspaper is recyclable. It is made with renewable resources--pulp wood and soy ink.*

## Cindy Gerdes



BY TONY BOUZA

The awful, awful thing about bureaucracy is its cold indifference. Many of my colleagues sought comfort, salaries and pensions while wallowing in self-pity and whining like gold medalists. Humanity was the great missing thing.

Shortly before I left policing—for the first time voluntarily—we had an awful murder—Cindy Gerdes.

A beautiful young woman most foully and cruelly slain by what was very likely a sex fiend (not a construction in wide use these days).

Just as I'd done with the first Son of Sam killings in the Bronx, in the early '70s, I had the detectives come in to see me, every week, to discuss progress. These importunities were a great pain in the ass to the sleuths, but it pressured them to really delve.

Naturally, nothing came of the efforts, but those victims were not going to vanish into bureaucracy's mists.

Ultimately, the Son of Sam was caught—

*See Bouza, page 10*



**"It's not part of our training, and it is certainly not part of our ethics and our values,"—Chief Arradondo on the killing of George Floyd by Derek Chauvin**

## Go to your precinct caucus

BY ED FELIEN

Go to your precinct caucus ... and never leave your couch. Now you can register to become a delegate to the DFL ward and city conventions and never leave the peace and serenity of your living room.

You can go to [caucus.dfl.org](http://caucus.dfl.org) and it will direct you to your precinct and allow you to register. If there are more delegate spots than participants, then you're elected. If more people than spots, then there will be an online election of delegates May 12-18.

Or, you could call 612-552-4215, leave a message and they'll call you back.

Or, you could text 612-712-7461 and someone at the other end will walk you through the process.

You have until April 30 to register.

Ward-endorsing conventions will be June 9-11.

### Ward 8

There probably will be no contest for DFL endorsement for City Council in the 8th Ward. Andrea Jenkins is running for endorsement unopposed, so far. From her website: "[She] has more than 30 years of public service experience as a Minneapolis City Council policy aide, nonprofit executive director and consultant, and Hennepin County employment specialist. She has lived in the Bryant neighborhood for 20 years."

"Voted to support the Minneapolis 2040 Plan,

"Authored and passed a citywide resolution declaring racism a public health crisis."

We have been critical of the 2040 Plan for up-zoning the inner city to allow four- and five-story apartment buildings to displace communities of color. We are not fans of unlimited

growth at the expense of existing affordable housing. And we believe a resolution declaring racism a public health crisis is meaningless and empty rhetoric when the City Council refuses to discipline Minneapolis police officers for the killing of Terrance Franklin, Jamar Clark, Thurman Blevins and Travis Jordan.

Jenkins may or may not be opposed in the November general election by a Green Party candidate, Terry White. His website listed on his Facebook page, [terryforward8.org](http://terryforward8.org), is nonexistent, and his Twitter link, "This questionnaire highlights some of the differences between myself and my opponent: <http://mnnoc.org/ward8>," leads to a bitcoin casino.

### Ward 11

Jeremy Schroeder, the incumbent, says, "You de-

*See Caucus, page 10*

## Charles Rodgers is running for Park Board

BY ED FELIEN

Charles Rodgers is running for Park Board. That's good news for people in South Minneapolis who want a park system that works for all of us.

He says, "Growing up in Memphis, the only child of a single mom employed long hours as a domestic to a wealthy family, the parks were a refuge from the crime and poverty



**Charles Rodgers**

in my neighborhood. It was there that I first learned to golf, a passion of mine still today. I learned how to play basketball and run track through the sports the park offered. I also benefited from the mentoring of the older kids and adults who frequented the park. It was there I learned the importance of com-

*See Rodgers, page 11*

### David Tilsen Conversations with Mayoral Candidates

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Our 12th Annual  
**Celebrate Spring on  
48th & Chicago**  
Pages 2 & 3

**Earth Day**  
Pages 7, 8 & 9

Our 9th Annual  
**Celebrate Spring on  
Hennepin Ave.**  
Pages 14 & 15



# Celebrate Spring on 48th & Chicago

## Chicago and 48th Street — who made it through?

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

Despite its genteel relative prosperity, the business and residential hub around Chicago Avenue and 48th Street has had a rocky year and a bit. It's only a few blocks south of George Floyd Square, so there has been some disruption to traffic flowing through. There were some closings; it's impossible to say how many, since a lot of the businesses there don't have a direct street frontage and are very small anyway. But here's what we found out.

Since this neighborhood is getting its second COVID focus, I had a look at last year's article. (<https://southsidepride.com/2020/04/20/chicago-avenue-in-the-time-of-covid-19/>) Of course, this piece was a month before the murder of George Floyd. And it was during the "stay-at-home" period. Although COVID cases and deaths were rising then, looking back now it was still in very low numbers. Walgreens and Kowalski's were open normal hours, and masks were just "suggested." I made one trip to the Chicago Avenue Wal-

greens that month. They were out of toilet paper and alcohol, and no one was wearing a mask.

For some reason, someone involved in the looting of stores in the peak days of the early summer uprising really had it in for Walgreens. The three Walgreens pharmacies in South Minneapolis east of I-35W were damaged to the point that they were closed for months, and then had mobile pharmacies in their parking lots for a few more months. Although the one at Hiawatha and 46th is now fully reopened, the one at Chicago and 43rd is not. It's still operating out of a glorified trailer, and is also surrounded with cement barricades and other daunting security apparatus. I guess this is because it's only five blocks from George Floyd Square. Other businesses in the immediate vicinity are unaffected.

In April 2020, retail shops other than vital necessities, movie theaters and all performance venues, bars, gyms and personal services such as hair salons were all completely closed. Virtual entertainment was not fully set up, and ordinary people were just learning how to Zoom and use other now ubiquitous online connections. Reading last year's cov-



Acupuncturists Without Borders

erage and trying to decide what to say now is like reading a dystopian novel that I dreamed I lived in.

Services in the area are generally more available than they were in 2020. There is a newish barber shop at the far end of the little row of shops that includes Ken and Norm's Liquor Store and the Minnehaha Animal Hospital — Southside Barber Lounge. This is an extension of an existing shop at 38th and Bloom-

ington, and they opened the new location in early June 2020. They advertise as LGBTQ-friendly and have many glowing reviews online.

Speaking of Minnehaha Animal Hospital, the usual protocol around here for veterinary services is that the lobby and waiting room only is closed. Usually you'll be asked to wait in your car or outside with your animal, and they will come out and get them. A few vets will do house calls for very sensitive services, such as euthanasia. Another great animal service in the Shenandoah storefronts (except it's around to the side, just off the parking lot) is Bubbly Paws, a pet grooming self-service facility.

Pedego, the dealer and renter of electric bikes, has moved out of Minneapolis and now only operates from Eden Prairie. In their space (more or less) there is a new shop that sells nothing but sneakers—very pricey and high-style sneakers—and sports fan gear. It's called undrgrnd MPLS.

In retail terms, 14 Hill kind of dominates the intersection now. It's one of those unclassifiable shops that are often called gift shops, but that's a bit of an undersell. I have to not go there unless it's for, literally, a gift, and even then, I am prone to impulse buying. They just have so many clever, or cute, or otherwise subtly desirable objects. Just the sort of thing my apartment is already stuffed with, and I am trying to responsibly thin out. Things like cookbooks, and very arty jigsaw puzzles, games, journals and stationery.

Echo Bodine's shop, which was down the road a ways, the Center for Intuitive Living, closed about a year ago. Her books and some classes are still available online. Kowalski's, the main grocery store for this neighborhood, has been open almost as usual for the entire period. They were one of the first to enforce a



Adorable socks at 14 Hill

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Heather's patio

mask policy. They also developed a delivery service early on, using a service called Shipt. I have used this service a couple of times and it was a very good shopping experience, as is in-store shopping.

The Parkway Theater has managed about as well as most of our neighborhood film theaters. Numerous in-person events were hopefully scheduled, then prudently canceled. Meanwhile, the pivot to virtual events was successful. Now they have some events described as hybrid, with two levels of ticketing. Higher priced, very limited indoor seating, plus unlimited streaming tickets to make up the numbers.

Calvary Lutheran and Urban Refuge churches have both been going strong in online mode as well as providing food and other missions to the neighborhood. One service Calvary Lutheran was providing since last summer and up to at least February is called Acupuncturists Without Borders and is free or pay-what-you-can acupuncture and a healing circle.

We'll finish off with the food service establishments, where there is a bit of news. Two good (quick, cheap, high quality) places that closed over the past year are Burrito Mercado, next to the Parkway, and R. A.

MacSammy's Elbow Room, a unique concept combining mac and cheese with sandwiches.

Bagu Sushi and Thai has made it through OK so far. Last I heard they were still in takeout or delivery-only mode. But patios are opening fast, and they have one, so maybe call and check. They open at 5 p.m. Pumphouse Creamery is still around, and can be delivered by Bite Squad. They were only open three days a week and limited hours through the winter, but they recently updated to noon to 5 p.m. seven days a week! (I highly recommend the Lemon Olive Oil ice cream.)

Turtle Bread is one place that's been open as much as allowed for indoor dining, and also for in-store ordering to grab and go. Biga Pizza was closed for many months but is now open for takeout. There is a sidewalk seating area shared by Turtle Bread and Biga Pizza, now that the weather is good.

Town Hall Tap is part of a small chain of Town Hall establishments, serving their own craft-brewed ales as well as other good food and drink. While the chain kept one or more places open as much as possible, the Tap was one that was closed for

quite a while. It is now fully open for patio or indoor dining, according to Google and my streetside observations.

Sovereign Grounds has recently opened limited indoor dining, and they also have a small patio. This is after having been takeout only for a long stretch. Their parent-child playroom is still closed. I dropped by a couple of weeks ago and it was busy with happy neighbors.

Heather's, way down south at 52nd and Chicago, is still going strong. They also recently reopened their patio, which requires reservations. Check out [www.heathersmpls.com](http://www.heathersmpls.com) to see their tempting menu and hours and to make a reservation or order takeout.

Saving the really big news for last, a fried chicken outlet with a major difference is coming soon to the former R. A. MacSammy's space. What major difference? Here's a clue: it's called Herbie Butcher's Fried Chicken. Still don't get it? This will be vegan fried chicken, brought to you by Aubrey and Kale, the sister-brother team that founded and owns the wildly popular Herbivorous Butcher. This is one I look forward to with eager anticipation.



Pet gift shop Bubbly Paws



Coming soon: Herbie Butcher's, vegan fried chicken from the owners of The Herbivorous Butcher

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## The queen on the hill

I am writing about the article Ms. Kathryn Kelly wrote for Southside Pride about Minneapolis Park Board Commissioner Steffanie Musich that appeared on the front page of the March 2021 Nokomis edition.

I want to express two concerns I have about the piece:

It was written by a member of the SaveHiawatha18.com organization (Ms. Kelly). I learned this after doing a Google search when it became clear to me that Ms. Kelly had an axe to grind, and I was curious about who she was. Her identity as a member of this group was not disclosed as part of the article and should have been.

This article was a very personal and vicious attack on an elected official of the Park Board (Steffanie Musich). While Ms. Kelly has every right to publicly disagree with decisions made by elected officials, including Steffanie Musich, the tone of her writing struck me as nasty. This is not journalism; it is a targeted smear campaign.

I expect more from Southside Pride than to print such

a malicious piece and I do not think it deserves a place on the front page of your paper.

—Sheila McGinley  
Northrop Neighborhood

## Response from Kathryn Kelly:

To Ms. McGinley,

I might say that I don't know what to say to your letter, but I do. I have a lot of axes to grind with Commissioner Musich—four years' worth.

I have seen Musich ignore a woman standing before her crying because her home was being destroyed by water problems caused by Park Board property, namely Solomon Park, and Musich wouldn't even respond to her, much less help her.

I have seen no concrete plans that are vetted by engineering data to protect my family's home from Musich's plan that will, most likely, flood our home.

I have seen Musich ignore the Black community, taking away Hiawatha Golf Course, an important resource they cherish, while talking about

how she supports diversity and equity.

I have seen the documentation for this plan continue to denigrate Theodore Wirth with lies about what was happening with this property before he had the Park Board buy it. I grew up across the street from Hiawatha Golf Course, and have since researched this property, probably more than Musich and her staff ever have. I have found them to be very ignorant with respect to this property.

I have seen lie after outright lie being presented by Musich and her Park Board staff about reasons why she needs to destroy this 18-hole golf course.

I have spent hundreds of hours researching the misinformation that Musich and her staff have spewed out so that I could have enough knowledge to vet it, and fight it where necessary. An example was her claim that this project would mitigate phosphorus pollution. I researched pollution mitigation from various sources like the Environmental Protection Agency, and found out that an area performing phosphorus mitigation is called a constructed wetland, and this plan does NOT create a constructed wetland. Therefore, it does NOTHING to mitigate phosphorus. When I wrote an article about it, Assistant Park Board Superintendent Schroeder changed his language at a CAC meeting, saying that they were not doing a constructed wetland; they were doing wetland restoration. So, no phosphorus mitigation.

I have read their lie that it cost \$4 million in repair costs and lost revenue to bring back the Hiawatha Golf Course after the 2014 flood. I sat down and did the calculations using their data, and found out that, at most, it may have been about \$600,000. And, it should have cost much less because they kept half of the golf course closed a year longer than necessary. We believe that they did this so they could get \$1.1 million in FEMA money for repairs. This money was taken from the federal government but never spent to bring the golf course back. So, the Park Board basically requested and took money from the federal government that they didn't need.

And, the biggest lie of all is that the golf course pumping exceeded their pumping permits. After a group of us researched this, we found out, and the DNR confirmed, that Hiawatha Golf Course has NEVER violated their pumping permits, never ever. Yet, the Park Board staff still includes language in their documents

that insinuates this lie.

And, yes, I am a proud member of SaveHiawatha18, a very dedicated group of people, some golfers and some homeowners, around Lake Nokomis and Lake Hiawatha who have been working very hard to make sure THE RIGHT THINGS are being done in the City of Minneapolis. During this process, we have all become more expert than we ever wanted to be about this area of South Minneapolis and the problems that exist which are not being addressed by Park Board and City of Minneapolis officials. And, we found that these problems are certainly not being fixed by Musich's plan for the Hiawatha Golf Course property.

After four years, and little to no coverage by the Star Tribune and other mainstream media of the other voices on this subject, I am frustrated. Musich is running for re-election, and it is time that people understand what she HAS NOT done as a public servant. After all, my family's home is at risk of being destroyed, so I take her attitude and lack of public service personally as do other homeowners that are at risk from her plan in the neighborhood. A really terrible part of the plan would start dumping storm sewer water into an open trench right across the street from homes at the corner of 19th Avenue South and East 43rd Street. The EPA specifically states that this should not be done. Again, another example of totally bad public policy coming from Musich.

I am guessing that you have never talked to Musich. I have, and I have talked to other people who have had encounters with her. Musich can be very dismissive to people that disagree with her. She was dismissive to me when I first met with her about the golf course in 2017.

And, you may call it a smear campaign, but it is not a smear campaign when it states the facts of the situation. The tone may be rather severe, but the facts are accurate. People in her neighborhood have spent thousands of dollars fixing infrastructure due to water problems, and they have received no help from her. There is another South Minneapolis neighborhood on Minnehaha Creek by Morgan Avenue that is also suffering from too much water, and the Park Board wants this neighborhood to retain more water. I've met and corresponded with people from this neighborhood, and they are also looking for valid solutions to their problems, while I see no viable solutions coming from the Park Board,

the City of Minneapolis and the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District.

SaveHiawatha18 was started to try and save the golf course, but our efforts have uncovered MAJOR problems in this area of South Minneapolis that many people don't even realize exist. And, we have spent countless hours trying to promote the right ideas and solutions to public officials rather than the useless and dangerous plans that Musich is pushing.

If you live in a low-lying area of the Northrop neighborhood, you are affected by her plans, maybe more than you know. If you have any questions for me, I will try to answer them.

—Kathryn Kelly

## The legacy of Lisa Bender

I read your latest commentary on Lisa Bender. I agree with you on the 2040 Plan; many of my friends in Our Revolution were ardent supporters. I've made the same arguments as you have.

And it's ironic they cut off revising zoning laws at 42nd Street. Those farther south neighborhoods in the early 20th century prohibited Blacks and Jews from moving into those neighborhoods.

You're wrong about the bicycling lanes. I've ridden the length of Park and Portland. They formerly had three traffic lanes, now they have two, not one as you said. Riding on Columbus or other side residential streets is impractical because those streets don't cross over the Greenway.

You'd have to put extra traffic lights on Lake Street. I believe side streets would be more dangerous for everyone as they are much narrower.

Bikes and cars can and will co-exist. We need to encourage cycling. There have to be practical routes for commuting.


There are some other places where bike lanes cause congestion—on 26th and 28th Streets between Hennepin and Lynedale where two traffic lanes were reduced to one.

I wouldn't blame the Defund the Police crowd any more than AOC being the first socialist elected besides Bernie.

The Republicans ran against Defund the Police and Socialists. Did Colin Peterson and rural Democrats running for the legislature really lose because of them?

The reality is the Democrats are losing outstate but gaining in the suburbs.

—Phil Willkie



**Southside Pride**

**NOKOMIS EDITION**

Southside Pride Nokomis Edition is a monthly community newspaper delivered on the **Second Monday of the month for free to over 100 locations in and around the Nokomis community. We are proud of the racial and cultural diversity of the Southside, and we oppose racism and other efforts to keep us apart as a community.**

*If you want to share some news of your church, school or organization, please write us at:*

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# 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 poetry 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. At the corner of 37th and Chicago, Harrison, the owner of Dollar & Up, says he wants to be there for the community and help with job training for youth. 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 work “verbal judo.”

Agape’s small building, with a couple of offices and various meeting rooms a few doors



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.

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 childhood friends Reggie and Alfonso knew even more action was required. They all knew about Steve Floyd (no relation to George) 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](http://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 Bridgette 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. Bridgette 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.”

## Bouza, from page 1

but not before his depredations caused such a stir as to force the cops to work—and they did a great job of it. Mostly due to the power of the fourth estate.

Ms Gerdes was killed just as DNA evidence was coming into vogue and I pushed for its collection. The process was totally analogous to fingerprint evidence.

Unfortunately, Cindy Gerdes had no champions—press or family—clamoring for results. These interventions can matter.

My guess is that her killer has been collaterally arrested many times in the intervening decades—yet there is no evidence of any police interest.

This is a tragedy and an outrage.

I know I am a common scold—but why become a cop if you’re indifferent to justice? Doesn’t simple humanity require you to care? Is survival the only objective?

I wonder if we’ve lost our sense of outrage. This is where

the bureaucracy fails. If it can remain indifferent to the tragedy Cindy Gerdes represents, why does it exist?

Policing’s mission is noble—to serve humanity. What human effort can aspire to such lofty ideals? The Gerdes case illustrates how far they’ve wandered. We consistently forget that racism—like Nazi-ism—twists, corrupts and infects its practitioners.

Am I crazy?

I’m sure I’ll be dismissed as a crank, but the spirit of Cindy Gerdes hovers over the Minneapolis Police Department demanding justice. Indifference confirms the critics and dismays the supporters.

Left unaddressed, the searing murder of Cindy Gerdes stands as a damning indictment of our indifference to our neighbor’s plight.

Think of the great empires—their demise was usually triggered by an inner collapse—the hedonism, religiosity, corruption. Good, healthy civilizations discuss, debate, vote.

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EVENTS

**Race and African Religious Practices in Christianity**  
**Tuesday, April 13**  
**11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.**  
**Online**  
Dr. Katharine Gerbner Ph.D., author of “Christian Slavery: Conversion and Race in the Protestant Atlantic World,” will give a brief presentation on the origins of modern racial categories, the role of missionaries in creating American slave societies, and the integration of African religious practices into Christianity. Join a great conversation. Free and open to the public. For more info and to register, go to [https://stthomas.force.com/applicantportal/USTEventRegister?instanceID=a340a0000035bemAAA#\\_toga=2.92444637.1979110778.1611697129-169969825.1565373670](https://stthomas.force.com/applicantportal/USTEventRegister?instanceID=a340a0000035bemAAA#_toga=2.92444637.1979110778.1611697129-169969825.1565373670). Event sponsored and organized by Jay Phillips Center for Interreligious Studies at the University of St. Thomas and Jay Phillips Center for Interfaith Learning at Saint John’s University with generous support from Jay and Rose Phillips Family Foundation of Minnesota.

**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, 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/>.  
**Jazz for the Soul: The Life and Music of Mary Lou Williams**  
**Wednesday, April 14**  
**Noon to 1 p.m.**  
**Online**  
Mary Lou Williams believed that jazz music has the power to heal individuals and communities. At age forty-seven, she converted to Catholicism, and chose voluntary poverty in order to rehabilitate the sick in her community. Her gospel message that “jazz is love” lives on through her extraordinary—if little heard—catalog of recordings and compositions. In this event, jazz pianist-composer Deanna Witkowski will share excerpts from her forthcoming biography, “Mary Lou Williams: Music for the Soul” (Liturgical Press, August 2021) and perform live

selections from her recently recorded Williams tribute album, “Force of Nature” (MCG Jazz, release date TBA). More info and link to register at <https://collegevilleinstitute.org/events/event/jazz-soul-mary-lou-williams/>.

**Who Are We? Christian Nationalism, White Supremacy and Pathways of Liberation**  
**Thursday, April 15**  
**11:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.**  
**Online**  
The insurrection at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, opened the eyes of many people in our nation—and the world—to the religious views, politics and aims of Christian Nationalism and its intersections with bigotry, violence and white supremacy. To unpack and understand what happened against the larger movements of history, religious traditions and injustice, the following special guests have been invited to share in a panel of conversation as Hamline University’s 2021 Mahle Panel in Progressive Christian Thought: The Very Rev. Kelly Brown Douglas, Rev. Adam Lawrence Dyer, Robert P. Jones and Katherine Stewart. For more information and to access the link to the livestream, go to <https://www.hamline.edu/HUNewsDetail.aspx?id=4295050365>.

**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/>.

**Ready for Welcome**  
Under President Biden’s leadership, we at the Minnesota Council of Churches are looking forward to renewed refugee arrivals. His February executive order signaled his intention of rebuilding the program to once again welcome a robust number of refugees, but after four years of dramatic cuts, it will take time to regain momentum. As we prepare for the individuals and families we expect to greet in the coming months, we are in need of small/medium men’s winter coats, new bed pillows, and liquid hand soap pump bottles. If you are able to donate any of these items, please contact us at [rsvolunteers@mnchurches.org](mailto:rsvolunteers@mnchurches.org) to coordinate a drop-off. Thank you!

**‘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.

**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](mailto:office@minneapolisfriends.org). [www.minneapolisfriends.org](http://www.minneapolisfriends.org)

**Bahá’í Center of Minneapolis**  
3644 Chicago Ave., Mpls.  
Devotions at the Bahá’í Center and via Zoom, Sundays at 10 a.m. Please visit the Bahá’í community of Minneapolis website at [www.minneapolisbahai.org/](http://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](http://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.saintalbertthegreat.org/](http://www.saintalbertthegreat.org/) for more details. Sunday 9:30 a.m. Mass also streamed on our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/StAlbertTheGreatMpls/](http://www.facebook.com/StAlbertTheGreatMpls/).

**Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
3430 E. 51st St., Mpls.  
[www.faithlutheranmpls.org](http://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/](http://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 services at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. (in person and online). Visit our website at [www.firstfreechurch.org](http://www.firstfreechurch.org) for more information.

**Holy Cross Lutheran Church, LCMS**  
1720 E. Minnehaha Pkwy., Mpls.  
Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship recordings available online at [www.holycrossmpls.org](http://www.holycrossmpls.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/](http://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/](http://www.livingspiritumc.org/) online

**Messiah Lutheran Church**  
2400 Park Ave., Mpls.  
All services now online at [www.messiah-lutheranmpls.org](http://www.messiah-lutheranmpls.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.

**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/](http://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/](http://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/](http://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/](http://www.facebook.com/NokomisHeights/)

**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/](http://www.saintjoanofarc.org/) or Facebook page [www.facebook.com/StJoanMpls/](http://www.facebook.com/StJoanMpls/).

**Trinity Lutheran Congregation**  
Augsburg College, Hoversten Chapel  
Riverside & 22nd Aves., Mpls.  
[www.trinitylutherancongregation.org](http://www.trinitylutherancongregation.org)  
Online worship available anytime on our YouTube channel: Trinity Lutheran Congregation

**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/](http://www.walkerchurch.org/) or Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/walkerumc/](http://www.facebook.com/walkerumc/) for more information.

SHARING FOOD

**New Creation Baptist Church**  
**1414 E. 48<sup>th</sup> 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/](http://www.facebook.com/NCBCfoodshelf/)  
Food Shelf  
Saturdays (except 5<sup>th</sup> Saturdays)  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
(Brown door on the corner of 48<sup>th</sup> St. and 15<sup>th</sup> Ave.)

**Minnehaha United Methodist Church**  
**3701 E. 50<sup>th</sup> 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/](http://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](http://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/>

**Greater Friendship Missionary Baptist Church and Friendship Community Service**  
**2600 E. 38<sup>th</sup> 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.  
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The Nokomis Religious Community Welcomes You

*Christian*  
**CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. ALBERT THE GREAT**  
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[www.saintalbertthegreat.org](http://www.saintalbertthegreat.org)  
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Sunday 9:30 am (also live-streamed on Facebook)  
Sunday 12 noon  
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**FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
3430 E. 51st St.  
612-729-5463  
[www.faithlutheranmpls.org](http://www.faithlutheranmpls.org)  
Sunday Worship 9 am and online on YouTube and Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/felcmpls/>  
Bible classes - Sundays at 10:15 am and Wednesdays at 10 am  
Masks and social spacing required  
NA groups Wednesdays 7:30 pm, Fridays temporarily suspended  
Pastor: Rev. Jesse Davis  
**FIRST FREE CHURCH**  
5150 Chicago Ave S  
612-827-4705

Sunday services at 9 am and 10:30 am (in-person and online)  
[www.firstfreechurch.org](http://www.firstfreechurch.org)  
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**HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH, LCMS**  
1720 E. Minnehaha Pkwy.  
612-722-1083  
Sunday Worship at 9:30 am  
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**LIVING SPIRIT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
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612-824-1882  
[www.mtzioninmpls.org](http://www.mtzioninmpls.org)  
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**NEW CREATION BAPTIST CHURCH**  
1414 E. 48th St.  
612-825-6933

Sunday Devotion online 10:45 am on Facebook and YouTube  
<https://newcreationbaptistchurchmn.org/>  
[www.facebook.com/NewCreationBaptistChurch/](https://www.facebook.com/NewCreationBaptistChurch/)  
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Daniel B. McKizzie  
**NOKOMIS HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA**  
5300 10th Ave. S.  
612-825-6846  
[www.nokomisheights.org](http://www.nokomisheights.org)  
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# Celebrate our Planet on Earth Day

## Saving the Earth like we mean it - Part II

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

You probably did not guess when you read my “Saving the Earth like we mean it” piece a year ago (<https://southsidepride.com/2020/04/13/saving-the-earth-like-we-mean-it/>) that it was only Part I of an ongoing exhortation. Even worse, this is the agitprop equivalent of a good-cop-bad-cop routine, and last year was the good cop.

A consensus is developing among scientists and theore-

ticians addressing the climate catastrophe. I have been called a “catastrophizer” several times over the past year, and have decided to go with it. After toying with the term “climate chaos” for a while, I am going full hysteric and officially renaming the phenomenon the “climate catastrophe.” But I’m not the only one.

The consensus-in-the-making is roughly this:

- Despite all the focus on climate chaos, publication of studies and formation of pres-

sure groups, we—the global population—have consistently and vastly underestimated both the scope and the speed of global warming and all its chaotic manifestations.

- Ditto soil depletion, waste management failures, ocean death and species extinction.

- None of the well-meaning efforts to address the problem have had more than a tiny, as in barely measurable, effect.

There should be several more bullet points in that. The next bullet would be an insight, or at least a progress report on gaining an insight, as to why. Then hopefully further bullet points would be plans A through Z of how to proceed. But there is no consensus there. Why is this?

A choice quote I lifted from the March issue of The New Republic’s piece by Ben Ehrenreich, “Hurling Toward Suicide” (link at the end), sums up what’s stopping them (us?) from proceeding past the point of describing the oncoming



Wild salmon

scenario:

“Even as they acknowledged levels of atmospheric carbon unseen in the last three million years, they were unable to conceive of an economy that does not perpetually expand. Fredric Jameson’s oft-cited dictum that it is easier to imagine the end of the world than the end of capitalism was baked into the actual modeling.”

It actually takes years of practice to conceive of an economy that does not perpetually expand. Although, if you follow this thought further, it takes you to the inevitability of the title of the above piece—human species suicide. Will it be human species extinction? It’s pretty likely, but it could also just be a massive die-back. It could be a scenario where a better adapted hominid emerges, and although homo sapiens goes extinct, our genes are preserved in the new version, as the extinct Neanderthal genes are preserved in us.

Whichever ending comes to capitalism-as-we-know-it, it will be the hardest of hard landings. If the population is reduced from say, ten billion, to less than one billion, or to zero, in the span of a lifetime or more or less, I assure you that the economy will stop growing, and pretty early on in that process.

The few and barely known organizations that are attempting to hold out hope for a soft landing, while acknowledging that “green energy” and “green capitalism” are not going to deliver that, are trying to get we who loll in the comforting but fickle bosom of capitalism to imagine life without it. Without “growth” as the vital life sign. Without capitalism, because without growth, it’s not capitalism. (Yes, these are “just” labels, but one cannot

See Earth Day, page 8



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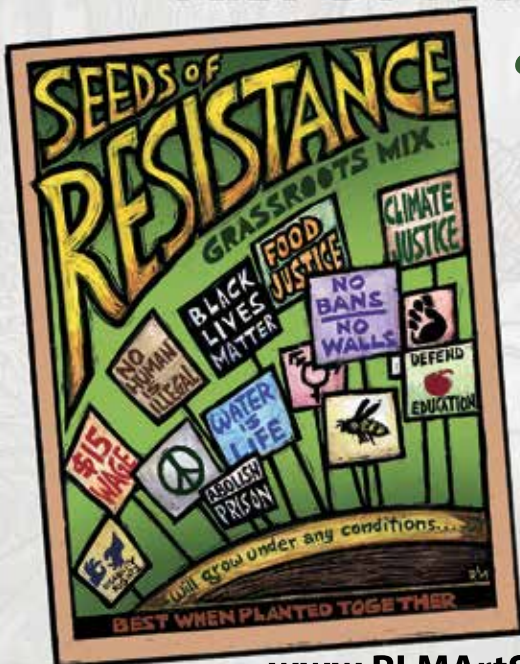
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# Celebrate our Planet

**Earth Day, from page 7**

argue cogently about abstract things without rigorously defining labels. And since capitalism is both the core problem to be solved, and also the very air we breathe and ground we walk on, it's hard to see it clearly and call it by its name.)

One such organization that I have been a member and supporter of for several years is GrowthBusters. (Warning—speaking of labels, you have to spell it just like that, because there are several pro-growth groups and corporate entities with similar names.) GrowthBusters' main engine of propaganda is a movie produced by their founder, Dave Gardner. I saw this film with a large group of friends at Walker Church in 2018 (and if the website is to be believed, that was the last public screening of it).

GrowthBusters and Dave are still around, though. You can buy the film on the growthbusters.org page, or subscribe to the GrowthBusters YouTube channel (link below) and there is now a podcast. The website is not maintained very much,

but you can also subscribe to a newsletter to keep up to date (link below.)

GrowthBusters has spawned another organization called GrowthBiasBusted.org that focuses on media bias toward contextualizing climate catastrophe discussions in the context of reforming capitalism and consequently taking growth as a given and a good. See above about it being easier to imagine

the end of the world, etc.

Another organization separate from GrowthBusters but in step with it is CASSE (Center for the Advancement of a Steady State Economy). See <https://steadystate.org/>. Their home page is topped by an arresting

"CASSE's GDP Meter was reset on March 1, 2020, to reflect the COVID-caused recession. Until further notice, it will run in reverse at a rate of 20% per annum. Read why this reversal of GDP growth is a good thing, or listen to the GrowthBusters podcast ..."

The COVID-caused recession has created a lot of pain, especially for those already suffering capitalism's growing wealth inequality. It has even caused uncountable, because hard to identify, deaths. But it has also had some amazing side effects that are good. It has slowed the rate of species extinctions and CO2 growth, and even in its negative effects, has opened some eyes as to the hard link between positive growth in the economy and climate catastrophe and other environmental negatives. And as a foretaste of what could happen on a much larger and more terrifying scale, it has brought a lot of people around to getting serious about the climate catastrophe.

Following my own good-cop advice, I have done some more research. One question I am investigating constantly is the role of food production

and consumption in climate catastrophe. We could cut energy consumption to almost nothing and most of us would survive. We could stop driving and stop taking airplanes, but could we stop trucks and planes shuttling foodstuffs around the globe and still get enough to eat? There is only so far we can cut back on our consumption of food and not die. But how effective would it be to change our diet to those items that nourish our bodies without destroying our planet (so much)?

So I was excited to see the article "How much of global greenhouse gas emissions come from food?" by Hannah Ritchie of the Our World in Data project (links below).

Within the article, there are several breakout articles, but the one I loved, because it provides striking visual confirmation of my long-held suspected belief, and the core of what I preach in sustainable diet teach-ins, is the one titled "You want to reduce the carbon footprint of your food? Focus on what you eat, not whether your food is local" by the same author.

This doesn't mean local food is not a net-good choice to make. But it shows pretty conclusively that almond milk from California has a dramatically smaller greenhouse-gas footprint than dairy milk from 30 miles away. And also, that dairy milk has a lower footprint than almost any



**Pipeline-free wild rice from Winona LaDuke's Honor the Earth**

visual—a global GDP meter, incrementing slightly faster than the human eye can track, in real time. Initially it was going up all the time, at changing rates of speed. Then this happened:

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On using all the gas—  
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April 2021



# et on Earth Day

meat product except fish. And also, that it's definitely worth it to pay the extra price for wild-caught over farmed fish.

But really, we need systemic change in the food industry, as elsewhere. Not eating beef, pork and dairy may make the individual feel good, but it's not going to save the planet until enough individuals make that choice to radically diminish the industry itself, ideally to

the pandemic. And a final plug for Tare Market, our own local zero-waste shop.

## Links for further information:

Environmentalists are either vegan or hypocrites - <https://sentientmedia.org/meat-eating-environmentalists/>

Etee - a shop for eliminating plastic - <https://www.shope-tee.com/>

Dropps - a sustainable laundry solution - <https://www.shope-tee.com/>

Honor the Earth - Winona LaDuke's nonprofit's wild rice and more - <https://www.hon-ortheearthmerchandise.com/harvest>

From The New Republic's Earth Day issue - <https://newrepublic.com/article/161575/climate-change-effects-hurting-toward-global-suicide>  
<https://newrepublic.com/article/161579/moonshot-mariana-mazzucato-climate-capitalism-crisis>

From 2010 Monthly Review about growth and the need to bust it - <https://monthlyreview.org/2010/03/01/whatever-environmentalist-needs-to-know-about-capitalism>

From the Guardian March 2021, focus on oil - <https://www.theguardian.com/>



## Plastic reducing products from Etee.com

[commentisfree/2021/mar/19/planet-pursuit-profit-oil-companies-damage](https://commentisfree/2021/mar/19/planet-pursuit-profit-oil-companies-damage)

Some great book recs from Climate & Capitalism - <https://climateandcapitalism.com/2021/03/25/ecosocialist-bookshelf-march-2021-part-two/>

Our World in Data project on climate and food - <https://ourworldindata.org/greenhouse-gas-emissions-food#licence>

[ourworldindata.org/greenhouse-gas-emissions-food#licence](https://ourworldindata.org/greenhouse-gas-emissions-food#licence)  
<https://ourworldindata.org/food-choice-vs-eating-local?country=>

Growthbusters newsletter sign-up - <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/umptf6w/signup>

Growthbusters' YouTube - [youtube.com/Growthbusters](https://youtube.com/Growthbusters)



## Dave Gardner directing GrowthBusters, the movie

nothingness, which is a win for the eaten species of animals as well. (Same thing goes for reducing your own driving AND eliminating pipelines. We must STOP LINE 3!)

As a follow-up to my rant last year against Grove products and their pathetic one million trees, I offer in the links below some online companies with a better product and no greenwashing that I have discovered during

Celebrity vegans - <https://www.onegreenplanet.org/vegan-food/sarah-silverman-talks-food-equity-and-going-vegan/>



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# Bryan Ring

BY ED FELIEN

There was a lovely piece in the Pioneer Press in February about Bryan Ring bringing help and hope to the homeless camped out near Sheridan Park in North Minneapolis: “Stillwater man is godsend to people living in Minneapolis homeless camps.”

“He brings sleeping bags, food, hand warmers, propane tanks and winter clothes, neatly labeled in bins. One huge black garbage bag was filled with men’s winter coats; another had sweatshirts.”

He uses Facebook and Nextdoor in his hometown of Stillwater to get people to donate essentials, and then he drives down once a week in his Ford pickup truck and brings comfort to people left out in the cold Minnesota winter.

“Ring said he has been moved to tears by the people he has met in the camps, especially a 3-year-old boy named Ian and a woman in her 70s. ‘I’m tearing up just now thinking about her,’ he said of the woman. ‘When I left her at camp, I honestly felt like I left my mother there. I cried the whole way home.’”

I knew Bryan’s grandmother. She operated Ring’s Hobby Center on 42nd Street and 29th Avenue South, just across the street from where I grew up. I used to go over and talk to Mrs. Ring when I was 10 years old. She taught me about making plaster of Paris statues. She showed me how I could make money by mixing the powder into paste, pouring it into a mold, painting it

and selling them. She gave me my first lesson in classical economics. I could buy raw materials from her and make them into a product I could sell. I would be a manufacturer. In Marxist terms, I would own the means of production. My labor would be the significant factor in adding value to the product. I could make a fortune. There was no limit to the amount of statues I could produce from just one mold.

But, of course, there was a limit to the number of little Santa Claus statues I could sell. My dear maiden aunts bought one for a dollar, and that was the extent of my sales and the end of my career as a figurine manufacturer. I lost money on the experience, but I learned a valuable lesson, and I will always be grateful to Mrs. Ring for teaching me how the world works.

And now, her grandson Bryan is showing how, for some of us, the world doesn’t work.

She taught me about capitalism, and he demonstrates social responsibility.

“Every once in a while, I’d get the strange eye from somebody, and I’d have to let them know, ‘I’m Powderhorn. I’m Southside,’ you know what I mean? From there, realistically, relationships were built. For me, it’s where I grew up. I genuinely care about these people.”

I grew up with Mrs. Ring’s two oldest sons, Harvey and Ken. Harvey ran Dick and Harvey’s Appliance store just across the alley from our home. He was a gruff guy with a heart of gold. He’d fix the belt

on your washing machine and not charge you for it. Ken was a big help when I was running for office. He is Bryan’s father.

The Pioneer Press article ends: “Ring said he would like Gov. Tim Walz and Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey to tour the camps with him and other volunteers and see firsthand how people are living. ‘They should get to know the people in these camps,’ he said. ‘We shouldn’t have to be out here. It is mind-boggling that there is so much devastation, depression, drug usage and mental illness and no real solution to help these people. Housing is the first step, of course. Real hands-on treatment and job placement are next.’”

“You look someone in the eyes, and you see that they are at their absolute lowest, but they see you, and then, all of a sudden, they’re like, ‘Oh my God, there is hope in my life.’ I’ve just done the work, made the connections, never judged. I honestly believe that God puts you where you are needed.”

I don’t expect to see Gov. Walz or Mayor Frey talk to the homeless in the northside camps. And I don’t know much about God’s plans for where



Bryan Ring

Bryan is needed, but the homeless and the helpless could sure use someone like Bryan Ring in Congress rather than

the Trump-supporting-anti-relief-bill Tom Emmer.

.....  
**Caucus, from page 1**

serve a leader who moves beyond talking points and implements sensible policy solutions. You deserve a leader who will put progress ahead of politics.” Schroeder was one of three council members who gently nudged the MPD in a more humane direction with their restructuring plan that joined policing with an emphasis on public health. We would argue the change was too modest and would have even been unnecessary if the City Council would have only used its bully pulpit to hold offending officers accountable, but Schroeder must be given credit for his earnest efforts at trying to solve a problem that predated his tenure as a council member.

Dillon Gherna is challenging Schroeder for the DFL endorsement, but he seems to agree with him that defunding the police is not the answer, and there is a need for “comprehensive police reform.” He is light on specifics, but he says he is “working with community leaders, neighbors, public safety professionals, and other leaders to guide my public safety policy platform.”

Emily Koski is also seeking DFL endorsement, and, although she seems to agree with Schroeder’s approach, she manages to make her vague generalities seem dramatic: “Right now, we are at a crossroads that demands that our city comes together to create a new way forward. Our path forward must be a product

of deep engagement with our community, inclusive conversations, strategic problem solving, and comprehensive planning. Defunding or abolishing the Minneapolis Police Department is not our path forward. We must reform our public safety system so that it works for everyone.”

**Ward 12**

Andrew Johnson is seeking re-election. He lists the following accomplishments in Transforming Public Safety:

“Established the 911 Workgroup which laid the groundwork for a mental health responder program and other alternative responses beyond policing; Co-authored a budget amendment funding an independent staffing study of the MPD, enabling data-driven decisions on staffing levels moving forward; Engaged in thousands of conversations with constituents, listening to your hopes, concerns, and ideas for how we can transform our public safety system, and brought them into the conversations at City Hall; Voted to move toward a more effective, equitable, and just system via alternative responses, crime intervention strategies, and addressing root causes, while also ensuring we have the resources in place to respond to emergency calls today.”

Challenger Brianna Thull seems to have genuinely heartfelt sentiments but little in the way of specific and concrete proposals: “A long history of

attempts have proven that our current systems of policing and criminal justice cannot be reformed. These institutions are violent, punitive and exploitative, and they are particularly targeted towards BIPOC, queer, mentally ill, and other marginalized individuals. We must work quickly and decisively to implement alternative strategies so that we can then safely abolish the police and prison industrial complex as we know them today. To ensure all members of our community are afforded their constitutional rights and can live without fear, we must work towards a new system of public safety. Going forward our focus must be on de-escalation, rehabilitation, and preventing the circumstances which lead to crime.”

Finally, Willy Lee is also running for City Council “because the 12th Ward deserves a choice. After the murder of George Floyd, I fear the City Council is retreating to white comfort, and the ‘veto proof majority’ is no longer dedicated to defunding the police.”

“Willy Lee is running for City Council; a cyclist; queer; on Twitter too much; Chinese; a pizza enthusiast; tired of helicopters; a cat owner; ready to defund the police.”

Of all the candidates, she seems the most fun, but I disagree with her statement that she is a cat owner. Cats don’t have owners. Dogs have owners. Cats have staff.



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# Unity starts with education

BY ADRIANA CERRILLO  
DIRECTOR, BOARD OF  
EDUCATION, MINNEAPOLIS  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

From the insurrection at the Capitol in Washington, D.C., to the barbed wire lining the streets of downtown Minneapolis, 2021 has been a grim reminder of the divisions in our communities. Unless we make a strong effort to bridge our differences, there will be more unrest for years to come. A path forward is in the education of our children.

Ethnic studies, a range of courses offered in Minneapolis public high schools for the last six years, is an example of one such effort—for which we have Kim Ellison, chair of the Board of Education, to thank. It is part of an initiative called for by voters to update the curriculum and give students the opportunity to learn about the contributions of the many peoples within the United States. Students right now are studying the history of racism along with the richness of Black, Latino, First Nations, Somali, Vietnamese and Hmong cultures that are present here in Minnesota.

But it is not enough. I ran for the School Board because this city has become an increasingly diverse place, and schools need help in adjusting. As a mother, activist, and now a public servant, my priority is always the children.

Broadly speaking, I want to do for District Four what I did for the Parent Teacher Associa-



Adriana Cerrillo being sworn in as a Director of the Minneapolis Public Schools Board of Education

tion at Emerson School in Loring Park—include families of color in the education of their children.

Language and cultural barriers between schools and families must be overcome if we are ever to close the achievement gap between white and brown students. We have many talented, hard-working teachers in this city—but even in the best of times they only see students for less than seven hours a day. Parents are the best resource a child has, and I will work to make sure schools are doing everything they can to support us.

Any teacher will tell you

that, in order to learn a language, one-on-one instruction is critical. However, in Minneapolis Public Schools, this type of instruction for students who speak English as their second language is almost non-existent. The reason is, of course, a lack of funding. By its own estimate, our school district and children are not receiving a necessary \$17 million to address the inequities with English Language Learners.

A child struggling to learn English needs extra support. Teachers have a much harder time with classes where one or more students do not understand the language, let alone,

the lesson. That language barrier, in turn, creates divisions between the students who speak fluently and those who do not.

We must call upon our state legislature leaders to increase funding above what the governor recommends.

Every day that English Language Learners do not receive adequate instruction is another day they fall behind. We must act now and do what is just and fair! Funding ELL education is ensuring success for all students.

#### Editor's Note:

Readers who are concerned about fairness and equity in opportunities for all our children should contact their state representative and ask them to increase funding for English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction.

But the School Board should also look in its own backyard.

The General Fund Budget for 2019-20 was \$632,192,699. At one point they say administration costs were only \$15,596,646. But, in a differ-

ent place they say, "District and School Administration includes all costs for general, instructional, and school site administration for the district: BOE, Superintendent, instructional department directors, and principals' salaries." And Instructional Support is \$43,713,285 and Pupil Support is \$66,554,156. That's a total of \$125,864,087, or 19.9% of the total budget. And that number probably doesn't include legal services, outside consultants, accounting services, etc. There is no line-item budget that fully defines each position and how much it costs in order to evaluate where there is bureaucratic waste. Generally, 15% is all that is allowed for administrative costs in federal budgets. Given just the facts we have, we should be demanding MPS cut administrative staff by 4.9% and turn that money over to direct instruction for our kids.

And the MPS should provide a line-item budget to show the public where their tax dollars are being spent.

#### Rodgers, from page 1

munity, a commitment that has guided me since."

Our park system is in a state of crisis, Rodgers says. "The vision of the park system that meets the needs of individuals, families and communities is becoming dimmer by the moment," he says. "There needs to be more accountability for where and how the park's revenue is allocated. I believe there needs to be more accountability for equitable outcomes."

The incumbent Fifth District park commissioner, Steffanie Musich, has been pushing a plan to turn Hiawatha Golf Course into a swamp. She says it's more natural. But there's nothing natural about the city dumping sand on the streets in the winter that washes down the storm sewer system from Lake Street to 43rd Street, from Chicago Avenue to 27th Avenue and ends up in Lake Hiawatha. The sand has reduced the depth of Lake Hiawatha from 33 feet in 1929 to 3 feet in many places. There's nothing natural about that. The dam at the outlet at 45th Street and 27th Ave-

nue traps heavy chemicals used on lawns that travel the length of Minnehaha Creek from Lake Harriet to Lake Hiawatha, creating a toxic stew that makes the lake unsafe for swimming. There's nothing natural about that.

Of all the golf courses in the Minneapolis system, Hiawatha gets the least amount of money for maintenance, and it's the only course actually inside the city. Columbia is inside the city limits but on the border of Columbia Heights; they got \$665,645 for maintenance last year. Meadowbrook Golf Course in St. Louis Park got \$653,671. Wirth in Golden Valley got \$671,124 and Gross in St. Anthony Park got \$700,854. Hiawatha only got \$585,265—13% less than the average of the other courses. That systematic discrimination has persisted for years.

The Citizen Advisory Committee, which discussed the plan, didn't include people from north of 42nd Street—including the Midtown neighborhoods of Bryant, Bancroft, Central, Powderhorn, and Corcoran plus the entire Phillips Community. About

52,000 people live in these inner-city neighborhoods.

The Park Board asked residents in an area-wide survey what they thought of the plan, and the respondents resolutely rejected it.

The park commissioners, after spending four years and almost a million dollars on developing the plan, couldn't find the votes on the Park Board to approve it, and it looks like the plan is dead, but there's a possibility that the Swamp Monsters will try to revive it.

The Hiawatha Golf Course in South Minneapolis was the home of the first national golf tournament open to African Americans. It was called The Bronze. Since then, Hiawatha has been a comfortable home to African American golfers. Park Board planning staff have said they would like to put up a plaque somewhere commemorating Hiawatha's cultural history after they turn the course into a swamp. But isn't that a bit like starving someone, shooting them, and then pinning a medal on them?

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# • COMMUNITY CALENDAR •

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## EVENTS

### Safe Place: Homework Help

Free online one-on-one tutoring available for grades 1 through 12. Contact Destiny at [tutoring@trinitylutherancongregation.org](mailto:tutoring@trinitylutherancongregation.org).

### Celebration of

Douglas Kearney's 'Sho'  
Monday, April 12, 4:30 p.m.

#### Online

Join us for a celebration of University of Minnesota Assistant Professor Douglas Kearney's new poetry collection, "Sho" (Wave Books). Kearney will be in conversation with

poet and scholar Evie Shockley. "SHO is raucous theater, a party whose rhythms contain a meditation on what it means to have a body in public space," says NPR. Presented by the Department of English and the English EDI Graduate Workshops, at the University of Minnesota. More info and a link to register can be found here: [https://umn.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_R1FellZJS82EGv\\_odwH-HBA](https://umn.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_R1FellZJS82EGv_odwH-HBA).

Sara Kamali presents 'Homegrown Hate' in conversation with Alexander Reid Ross  
Wednesday, April 14, 5 p.m.  
Online

"Homegrown Hate" is a groundbreaking and deeply researched work that directly compares White nationalists and militant Islamists in the United States. In this timely book, scholar and holistic justice activist Sara Kamali examines these Americans' self-described beliefs, grievances, and rationales for violence, and details their organizational structures within a transnational context. To watch, tune in to the Magers & Quinn Facebook page or YouTube channel on April 14. <https://www.facebook.com/magersandquinnbooksellers>

Kashimana: A One-On-One Concert with Music in Minnesota on The Cedar Public Access Channel  
Thursday, April 15, 7:30 p.m.  
Online

Next up on The Cedar Public Access Channel, singer-songwriter and composer Kashimana performs a short set of songs at The Cedar as part of Music in Minnesota's series of one-on-one performances. As a way to highlight audience members' love of live music and the empty state of many venues, Music in Minnesota created a concert and interview series where one lucky audience member won the opportunity to see local musicians perform live. In this time of waiting for venues to reopen, we're excited to share Kashimana's soulful performance for audience member Andrea Buekelman recorded earlier in March—we hope these songs help spread some of the magic of hearing music from The Cedar stage. All Cedar Public Access Channel programs will be available for free with a suggested donation of \$10 to cover the costs of the program. You can tune in through The Cedar's Facebook or YouTube. Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/the cedar/>

[book.com/thecedar/](https://www.youtube.com/user/MadeofCedar)  
YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/user/MadeofCedar>

Coming to the Table: Racial Healing Talking Circles and Learning Sessions  
Saturday, April 17, 10:30 a.m. to noon  
Wednesday, April 21, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Monday, April 26, 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](mailto:info@mnpeace.org).

STAR-Lite Training: Learning Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience in a Single Day  
Tuesday, April 20  
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Online via Zoom

STAR-Lite is a single-day, evidence-based training integrating neuropsychology, trauma healing and resilience, restorative justice, nonviolent conflict transformation, and broadly defined spirituality. It is designed for those who wish to learn the basics of becoming trauma-informed, resilience-oriented, and restorative justice-focused within a

shorter time frame than the full STAR Training. All are welcome to join us. Continuing education is available for mental health professionals, teachers, nurses, and attorneys for a modest fee. To learn more and to register, go to <http://www.mnpeace.org/star-lite-training.html>.

'Lettuce' Celebrate Earth Day at Midtown Global Market  
Saturday, April 24, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Midtown Global Market Central Court  
920 E. Lake St., Mpls.  
Gertens and Midtown Global Market are celebrating Earth Day with a fun and educational planting party. Kids (12 and under) are invited to bring their favorite grown-up to Midtown Global Market's central court on Saturday, April 24. Supplies are limited. There, they can pick up a lettuce planting kit including a pot, dirt, and seeds, all free thanks to the good folks at Gertens. The young gardeners can pot and plant their lettuce on-site on socially-distanced tables with the help of a Gertens expert or take it home. Recipes will be available for the kids to be able to grow their own lettuce and plan to prepare a meal with their harvest. [www.midtown-globalmarket.org](http://www.midtown-globalmarket.org)

Twin Cities Cohousing Network Quarterly Event  
Wednesday, April 28, 7 to 8:15 p.m.  
Free virtual event

Are you curious about cohousing? Join us for viewing and discussion of "Cohousing and the Future of Community and Human Connection," a TEDx Talk by Trish Becker-Hafnor. The speaker is an educator, activist, entrepreneur, parent and community co-founder. In her short, engaging talk, Becker-Hafnor shares what is groundbreaking about cohousing and how it has affected her family and neighbors. Local cohousing groups will give brief updates. Cohousing is community designed to foster connection. Physical spaces allow neighbors to easily interact with others just outside private homes. Common areas, including kitchen, dining space and gardens, bring people together. Collaborative decision-making builds relationships. Free and open to the public. To register and receive access info, please go to [www.tccoho.org](http://www.tccoho.org).



## Passages of Rebellion

"Fran Shor has created a debut novel that not only tells the story of the birth of a radical antiwar activist through the life of Frank Goodman, but he has constructed a literary time machine back to a decade of rebellion, lost innocence, and the struggle for change and hope."

- Marly Rusoff, a founder of the Loft Literary Center

"Passage of Rebellion." Available from Smart Set Printing, 1209 Tyler St. N.E. Suite 100, Mpls 55413 for \$10 cash.

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## We share the torment of the damned

BY ED FELIEN

Two tormented 21-year-olds unleashed a storm of death and sorrow last month in Atlanta and Boulder.

Why?

There are no easy answers.

They were both victims of bullying.

Robert Aaron Long was bullied by his evangelical church to hate and fear his natural need for sexual expression. He was convinced he was a sex addict. He was in and out of treatment for the last two years. He checked into a halfway house for five months beginning in August of 2019. His former roommate said Long would confess to relapsing once a month and go to a massage parlor to have sex, and then rant about God and his parents and the Bible. He told police he wanted to “eliminate temptation” by murdering sex workers.

Ahmad Al Aliwi Alissa was bullied in high school. His classmates made fun of his name and his religion, Islam. He had become withdrawn and paranoid. Friends said he often thought people were following him.

Both men deserved to be comforted, not shamed and made to feel like outcasts.

They grew into manhood in the Trump years. It was a dog-eat-dog world. Social Darwinism. Covid-19 was a gift, a way



to cull the herd, get rid of the sick and the elderly, the dregs of society—a way to build the Master Race. Survival of the fittest.

Trump was the strong man. He crushed anything in his way. He never backed down, never gave up, never admitted defeat. He encouraged thousands of his supporters

to storm the Capitol and stop the government from certifying Biden as president. The rule of law was for sissies. His will was all that mattered. And when Kevin McCarthy, the Republican Minority Leader in

the House, called Trump and asked him to call off his thugs, Trump said, “Well, Kevin, I guess these people are more upset about the election than you are.”

Was Long upset about the election? As a fiercely fanatical white evangelical, one can assume he was anti-choice and a Trump supporter. As a Georgian, he must have felt that his state was turning its back on Jesus—electing Biden over Trump and then electing two Democratic senators. Was this part of the trauma pushing him over the edge?

Did politics play any role in Alissa’s act of horror? Did he drive from Arvada to Boulder just because Boulder is a bastion of liberalism, and he was going to teach those elitists a lesson? There’s a copycat quality to Alissa’s act. On the same day Long committed his mass murders, Alissa purchased a Ruger AR-556 machine gun pistol.

Clearly, we have to change our gun laws. Weapons of war and mass murder must be immediately banned. They have no place in a civilized society. America, with 4% of the world’s population, owns half of the civilian-owned guns. We have eight times the number of deaths as a result of gun vio-

lence as Canada and a hundred times more deaths than Britain. Forty thousand American lives are lost every year from gun violence.

But we also have to change the way we think of ourselves as a community. It can’t be dog-eat-dog any more. Capitalism has to become more humane and less aggressive and predatory. It can’t be a zero-sum game—where there’s only enough pie for one of us and the other one starves. There’s enough for everyone.

When I was a child attending Mass at St. Helena’s Church, Father Don told the story of a young man led down the corridors of eternity. The angel pushed open the first door, marked Hell, and there was a great table piled high with wonderful food and people sitting on high stools with knives and forks too long for them to feed themselves. And the people were starving and the door closed. And the angel opened another door marked Heaven, and there was a room with a great table piled high with wonderful food, and the people were seated on high stools with long knives and forks too long to feed themselves, but they had all learned to feed the person sitting across from them.

I think that’s the way out of our torment.

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# Celebrate Spring on Hennepin Avenue

## Hennepin Avenue, downtown and uptown, a “main street” in flux

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

Hennepin Avenue has had more than just a global pandemic to deal with in the past year. Both downtown Minneapolis and the former shopping mecca known as Uptown were heavily targeted by civil unrest and looting in the wake of the George Floyd murder. The “mall” off the Greenway near the Uptown Transit Station was the scene of encampments of houseless persons, and the rough displacement of them at some point by city authorities.

The commercial anchor of Hennepin and Lake, formerly known as Calhoun Square but now appearing to be nameless (it isn't really), as well as boarded up and



Temple Israel, Minneapolis

more than half empty, was put up for sale some time ago and purchased in October 2019 by Northpond Partners. Now the avenue

is in the early stages of an urban redesign, and merchants are dismayed by the tentative plans to reduce street parking very significantly. A lot is still up in the air, but here's what's still standing (and not) after a fraught year.

### Downtown

Hennepin downtown is not known for office buildings, but the big trend downtown is wondering which companies are coming “back to the office,” when, and in what numbers. Everybody

remarked all the past year about how “dead” the skyways are. There were a couple of instances of fairly widespread looting and property destruction downtown.

And of course, downtown restaurants are in an even worse state than neighborhood and suburban ones, for all those reasons, plus the recession. The Bird on Harmon Place closed even before COVID-19, and the Bachelor Farmer on 2nd Avenue early on. Summer saw Moose and Sadie's and The 508 in the North Loop and McCormick and Schmick's on Nicollet Mall close, followed by The Butcher and Boar on Hennepin and Izzy's Ice Cream on South 2nd Street. All three skyway Peace Coffee locations recently announced they are not reopening.

Minneapolis Community and Technical College is part of the story about how community colleges have had worse enrollment declines than universities, which is the reverse of how it usually works in a recession. According to a November 2020 piece in the Minneapolis Star Tribune, overall state enrollment for community colleges is down 6%, while it's

9.5% nationally.

### Hennepin Avenue Methodist and the Walker Art Center

Hennepin Avenue UMC (Methodist church) is not actually on Hennepin Avenue, and don't try to get to it that way. Like virtual-



### Chai on the patio at Namaste

ly all Twin Cities congregations, it's been doing remote online everything except for mission work. One of their missions I have had occasion to use and really appreciate is hosting a free veterinary clinic staffed by students from the U of M once a month. This continues.

The Walker Art Center has been impacted greatly by COVID-19. They closed their wonderfully quirky artists' mini-golf course and there's no word on whether it will reopen. I hope so; I was planning to go sometime. As we get south of downtown and the dreaded spaghetti junction, we'll pass another sad 2020 loss—Liquor Lyle's, the iconic dive bar.

### Temple Israel

Temple Israel isn't really on Hennepin Avenue either, although you can see it as you drive by. The official address is on Emerson Avenue, but it's right where Emerson sort of merges into Hennepin at 24th Street.

Temple Israel has several notable or historical things about it, including being the oldest synagogue in Minneapolis, and one of the largest in the U.S. Now a Reform congregation, it was founded as Shaarai Tov in 1878 by German-speaking immigrants, and housed in a long-gone Moor-



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ish Revival building downtown. The present building was built 50 years later, in 1928.

Temple Israel has a tradition of very distinguished and, in some cases, very long-serving rabbis. Rabbi Samuel N. Deinard served from 1901 until his untimely death in 1921, during which time he greatly grew the congregation, oversaw the switch to Reform Judaism and the change of the name to Temple Israel, and founded the American Jewish World, which is

The third highlight is a full menu restaurant that also has a chai thing going on the side. This is Namaste Café, a Nepalese-Indian restaurant that is omnivorous but with a strong vegan selection and a correspondingly strong vegan fan base. And also, chai. I have dined there, in pre-COVID days, with a vegan meetup group. I highly recommend their food. According to their social media, they are now also open for patio dining as well as takeout or delivery (via

don't need to be yet. The entire Hennepin County system has recently gone fine-free.

According to the signage, the Uptown Theatre has "movies to go." I'm not sure what that is, so call them or see their website. They appear to at least have virtual screenings of current movies.

Magers & Quinn is open for limited browsing, and according to their sign out front, they're even buying books. They are also doing a lot of their business online with shipping, as has been going on all year. I got an M&Q gift certificate, so I had occasion to use their website, and it works very smoothly.



**Ines Rosales sweet olive oil tortillas**

still in publication today.

Rabbi Deinard's successor served as head rabbi for 41 years. Rabbi Marcia Zimmerman was hired as assistant rabbi in 1988 and named senior rabbi in 2001, making her the first woman senior rabbi of a congregation of more than 2,000 families in the United States.

**Kowalski's, Cafe Meow, Namaste, Sencha Tea Bar**

There's a Kowalski's grocery store on Hennepin that I had never shopped at before. I tried it out and liked it. I am somewhat addicted to an expensive but delicious international treat that is only available (as far as I know, besides online) at Kowalski's—Ines Rosales Tortas. I got a package and made it last almost a week.

I'll also mention three eating-drinking establishments in the vicinity. They all three have chai. One is the Café Meow—a cat cafe, which means a coffee shop where you can hang out with cats. Their unique thing is you can also adopt a cat or two if you're worthy of it (and pay the adoption fee, usually \$150). After a few months of doing video cat visitations, they opened up last spring with socially-distanced indoor operations with reservations to limit numbers and time. This is still available; check the website for hours, rules and booking.

The next is Sencha Tea Bar. I have not managed to visit them yet, but they're on my radar. Their online menu, blog, Facebook page and Instagram feed are distinguished by the most beautiful photography and artful displays. The array of international styles of tea they serve is amazing. Currently they offer takeout only, or you can buy tea and merchandise online, with free shipping with orders over \$49.

GrubHub).

**The Walker Library, the movie theaters, Magers & Quinn**

Libraries, bookstores and movie theaters have all suffered similar depredations under COVID. The ones in Uptown are no exception.

The Walker Library is open for "grab and go," which is explained on the website hclib.org. Their hours are: Closed Sunday and Monday; noon to 9 p.m. Wednesday; and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. other days. Meeting rooms are not available, but short computer use is. Materials can be returned but

**Uptown, Seven Points and west of Hennepin Avenue**

The shopping center at Hennepin and Lake has been renamed Seven Points, but there is no signage as yet that I could see in a recent drive-by. Sushi Tango and Fig and Farrow, which were located within, closed at various points during the pandemic. Also closed, and in the vicinity, were Chino Latino and Truce Juice Bar. Truce was part of a local chain, and all of them closed at once. Dining establishments are getting a bit thin on the ground around there.

One option is to go a few blocks west on Lake Street where you will find Barbette, a French bistro sort of place. According to Google, it is once again open for limited indoor dining, as well as patio dining and curbside pickup.

**South of Lake Street**

Between Lake Street and 36th Street, where Hennepin Avenue ends at the gates of Lakewood Cemetery, there are a few small businesses. One of them, a con-



**Visiting cats at Cafe Meow**

cern called Health Recovery, was a healing center using the very alternative and sometimes controversial modality called orthomolecular medicine to treat addictions and chronic conditions. (Orthomolecular medicine is characterized by extremely high doses of vitamins and supplements.) Although the clinic is closed permanently, there is still an online store selling the remedies and books of its founder.

Another healing center, and this is one I unreservedly recommend, is Pathways. I was practically a founding member/participant at Pathways when it was just a year or so old. I drifted away from it after a few intense years, and then

moved out of the country for a spell, and they have evolved (gotten much bigger, and more formally organized) in the meantime, but they still seem to have the same ethos of inclusive service.

Pathways is a healing center running on donations and grants, and serving people who have either life-threatening or chronic conditions. They offer a wide variety of healing modes and practical help, from Reiki to yoga to mindfulness, from creative visualization to standard psychotherapy to studying the enneagram. They are operating only in remote mode for now, it appears, but still welcome new member/participants.



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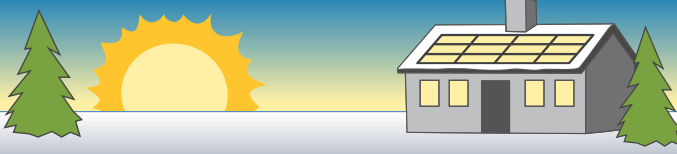
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