



We build Pride on the Southside

RIVERSIDE EDITION

THIRD MONDAY OF THE MONTH

**July
2021**

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Exile



BY TONY BOUZA

Policing in America, today, is about where medical science was in the 19th century—desperate for reform but staggering blindly under the problems. Hacksaws, in the Civil War, got plenty of mileage. Wounds got fingered and microbes ignored.

Progress came and discoveries flowed with surprising ease, right? Actually, not so much. But come they did. The expansion of human knowledge exacts a toll.

Today, America's police are out of control. What does that mean?

It means the inmates are running the institution. Bedlam.

Mayors are unknowing, uncaring and uninterested. Except for these, everything is jake. Police chiefs are up-from-the-ranks functionaries with little appetite for taking on police unions. These organizations lurk legislative halls. Endorse allies, provide funding and other help and play the system forcefully, if not subtly. Internally, thumpers (maybe Trumpers too, it's only one little letter away) set the tone, create the climate and

See Bouza, page 4

RENT IS TOO HIGH



DON'T LET CITY HALL BLOCK

RENT CONTROL

TELL YOUR COUNCIL MEMBER: LET US VOTE!

The struggle for rent control

BY GINGER JENTZEN AND JOE HESLA

The Minneapolis City Council is the ultimate decider on whether Minneapolis gets to vote on a path for rent control in the fall of 2021.

Minneapolis is a majority renter city, and the rents have never been higher. According to Rent Café, in April, the average one-bedroom apartment in Minneapolis went for over \$1500 a month. And people feel that something has to be done against out-of-con-

trol rents, to keep the city a place where people can afford to stay.

Minneapolis United for Rent Control (MURC), a coalition of faith, labor and community groups fighting for strong rent control, has been warning for months: big developers and real estate lobbyists are working overtime behind the scenes to pressure the City Council to back away from their two proposed charter amendments laying out two paths for rent control. Back in February, the City Council passed both pro-

posals – with a veto-proof majority – on to the Charter Commission for review, although ultimately it's the Council's decision as to what goes on the November 2021 ballot to voters. The Council will vote at their late July or August 6 meeting whether to move forward one, both, or neither of these proposals to clear a path for rent control in Minneapolis.

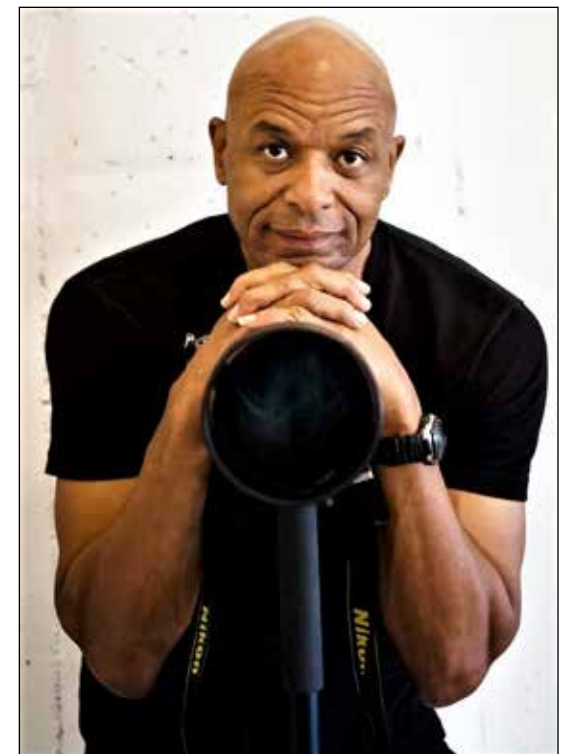
One proposal puts the decision into the hands of City Hall. One makes possible a renter-led petition. On Wednesday, July 7, the

See Rent control, page 11

Brought together in sorrow and a hope for justice...

BY ELAINE KLAASSEN

The day before Easter, 2021, I went to George Floyd Square to meet with Marquise Bowie, a member of Agape, and Marcia Sarnoden, a “make-the-world-a-better-place” reader of Southside Pride, to talk about her offer to volunteer at Agape and what that might encompass. But we didn't sit around talking. Marquise said she could start right now – and so could I. We could go out into



Steve Floyd, one of the founders of Agape

the square with him as he welcomed visitors. He had been doing this since George Floyd Square was closed to traffic and he felt that a lot of those interesting, valuable, meaningful conversations were being lost, so he asked both of us to take notes, which we did.

Marquise introduces himself, “Hi, I'm Marquise. I'm with Agape. Agape means love in Greek. We're out here to spread love ... We're turning street energy into community energy ... We're trying to spread love out here.” He gives everyone a flyer about Agape

Manuela is from Minneapolis. “This makes

See Agape, page 14

Life is Short — Play Hard!



Pages 2 & 3

Our 12th Annual Cross Over the Bridge



Pages 8 & 9



Local sports and fitness venues begin to resurrect as the pandemic fades

BY STEPHANIE FOX

Minneapolis YWCA

The YWCA has three Minneapolis locations, Downtown, Midtown and Uptown, and all were busy with activities and events. Then came the pandemic and things changed.

During the governor's shutdown the only thing open was child care. While the mandate eliminated most sports, activities that could move to online, did so.

"Within two weeks of the gov-

ernor's shutdown mandate, we had begun offering group fitness classes through livestreaming on Zoom," said Kelli Klein, program coordinator and fitness instructor at the YWCA. The Zoom classes were popular with members and increased into the fall of 2020, giving a chance for people to interact with instructors and, she said, a chance to see the faces of their friends.

The YW offered 25 classes a week, each with up to 60 participants. During last winter, the YWCA's live-

stream classes were averaging 2,000 check-ins each month.

When the vaccine became widely available, many restrictions were lifted but livestream fitness classes remain popular. "But now our focus is on the slow rebuilding of in-person classes," said Klein.

The YWCA Triathlon was canceled but a smaller event, the Race against Racism 5K, originally scheduled for May, will be held on Aug 8. The pool and basketball courts are open by reservation only for non-members. Members need no reservation.

And, while youth sports are on hold, the summer youth program and Kids Day Camp are still operating, as are many adult outdoor fitness classes, free of charge and open to the public.

"The facilities continue regular cleaning and disinfecting of equipment, and we are still enforcing limits on the number of people who can be in the studios at one time," Klein said. "We want to do whatever we can to help people feel comfortable and safe in our facilities."

YWCA Downtown
1130 Nicollet Mall
YWCA Midtown
2121 E. Lake St.
YWCA Uptown
2808 Hennepin Ave.

Vertical Endeavors

Even the most devoted rock climbing fans find that it's not always practical to find a suitable cliff, or to put up with rain, snow or a pandemic. For expert climbers (or even beginners wanting to learn rock climbing) an indoor facility is a welcome option. Vertical Endeavors in Minneapolis draws climbing fans where they can choose any one of 90 vertical rope routes, the tallest at 65 feet at the facility's peak.

Vertical Endeavors had to close for several months because of Covid, first in the spring of 2020, with a short reopening and then, following Gov. Walz's directions, again last November.

They first reopened with some pandemic restrictions, including 25% capacity and social distancing, but these restrictions have been lifted. The non-vaccinated are still asked to wear face masks. But temperature checks are no longer required when checking in and The Climb Team and Climbing Club will be starting up soon.

Now, people are returning, eager to climb walls and, more importantly, socialize. It's a perfect sport for

people like Kevin Scott, the facility manager at the Minneapolis location, who said he was the kind of kid who would climb on anything he could find. He started sport climbing in 2006 and signed on with Vertical Endeavors nine years ago.

"Climbing is a great way to get a workout," said Scott. "And it's a social environment. People come to climb, but then hang out and make friends."

Members looking for climbing partners can join the Adult Climb League, meeting once a week. New leagues are starting, and old leagues are beginning to get together once again.

There could be up to 180 people climbing once they completely open up, Scott said. That includes classes and kids, many who come with their parents to learn the sport.

"The busiest times," he said, "are Saturday mornings, after work, and during, of course, bad weather."

Vertical Endeavors
2560 Nicollet Ave. S.

The Center for Blade Arts

This Minneapolis club offers sword combat classes, including traditional European historical fencing, Olympic fencing, Japanese Tameshi-giri (using sharp metal swords) and traditional Kendo (using bamboo swords). Many of the classes are offered for kids, teens and adults.

"We were and are fortunate, even during the Covid shutdown," said owner Tyler Clayton. "We have an active community that is very engaged. In March 2020, we closed for three months, and then resumed in the summer. We had video classes every day."

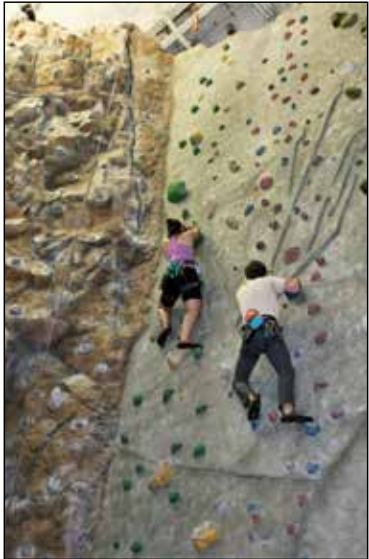
Coaches spent hours filming solo videos. Sometimes two of them would meet, wearing masks, to create online lessons.

When the Center started to reopen as guidelines changed, they kept tight regulations, including 25% capacity, usually about 10 students at a time. "I couldn't abide someone getting sick because they came here," Clayton said.

"We were doing OK when Covid first hit. But our revenue from March



YWCA banners



The tallest of Vertical Endeavors' climbing walls is 65 feet at the peak of the gym.

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July 2021



Life is Short — Play Hard!



Center for Blade Arts

2020 until 2021 is down 40%. It's slowly been getting better as people are more comfortable training with others," he said.

Currently, class sizes run from 5 to 15 students and with 10,000 square feet of space, there is room for more than one class at a time. Students range in age from 8 years to people in their 60s, some of whom

still attend competitions, their trophies on display at the Center. Right now, all programs are accepting new students, and some have a waiting list.

*Center for Blade Arts
4744 Chicago Ave.*

Inner City Tennis

A huge white dome dominates the area at Martin Luther King Park in South Minneapolis. But while it's been there for decades, many people have no idea what goes on inside. What's happening within the dome is an outreach and educational program giving Minneapolis kids a chance to learn tennis and much more. Much of the programming is financed through donations.

Inner City Tennis began in 1952, as a Minneapolis Parks program. Today you can find it in 21 city parks, two sports domes and 11 full-size tennis courts where kids (and adults) can find lessons, leagues, open play and tournaments. "Our focus is outreach into the community," said Executive Director John Wheaton. "We go to schools and deliver tennis and educational programming to youth."

When the pandemic began, the

tennis program was forced to shut down from last March to mid-June and again in the fall. "But we were able to teach tennis to kids, free of charge, in various places in the community," he said. "Some parents found having kids at home was a challenge. So, we organized learning pods for classroom work at the sports center in North Minneapolis, some in classrooms and some in open spaces, matching four kids with a mentor overseeing their studies both on and off the tennis court."

"The kids would come to our place at 8:40 in the morning and they'd get picked up at 4 in the afternoon. They would have access to online school programs, which they may not have had available at home."

Before Covid, the program had 6,000 members. It's down to 1,000 now, but more kids join the summer program every day. It's certain, Wheaton said, that the program will be back at that level soon.

Students, from beginners to expert players, can take tennis lessons. Coaches are certified and can help the kids get introduced to the tennis court. There are also group tennis lessons for adults who want to learn tennis fundamentals. And, for kids in need, there are scholarships available.

*Inner City Tennis
4005 Nicollet Avenue South
(And other locations)*

Nokomis Yoga

Just up the hill from the east beach at Lake Nokomis is Nokomis Yoga, a small but vibrant yoga studio. The studio was founded by yoga instructor Solveig Corbin, an experienced Svaroop yoga teacher.

Covid shut down classes at the

busy studio in March 2020. Corbin moved the classes to Zoom, with mixed success. She found that some people spent hours on Zoom for work and didn't want to Zoom anymore. Others couldn't understand the technology.

Some Zoom students found they didn't have needed accessories such as yoga blankets, bolsters and blocks. Corbin showed students how to use folding chairs and pillows instead. "It's been a challenge," she said. "But it's good for people to get

without knowing if I could," she said.

Corbin continued to pay rent, made possible because of the generosity of many, including some students who paid ahead for future classes. Neighborhood businesses donated money, too. "I don't know who it was, but someone put an envelope with money in my door. It was so great. I felt very supported."

Nokomis Yoga is now beginning to reopen. "I have been here for 12 years and am now rebuilding," says Corbin. Some classes are now mov-



Nokomis Yoga

access to yoga at home, especially during the pandemic. I was able to have my yoga therapy classes, one on one, online, helping people deal with the pain and stress in their bodies and then to release it."

But there were hardships. She had to cut back her 10-member teaching staff. "And the worst thing was knowing I would have to rebuild

ing from Zoom to the studio, including Vinyasa Flow Yoga, Yoga Basics and Yoga for Seniors, all open to drop-in students. More classes will again be live and in-person, soon. Beginners are welcome.

*Nokomis Yoga
2722 E. 50th St.*



Tennis player Heston Anderson, 13 years old, a student at Justice Page Middle School

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The Dish – a takeaway, a trip to the mall, and a vision of the future

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

Where I get information about restaurants

In case you wonder where I get information about restaurants, either to pass on news of the restaurant world here or to decide what to review next, I mostly get it from the same place I get a lot of my information – internet-based media. Not social media, but either online outlets of magazines and journals, or wholly online publications. One of the most important currently is The Eater. They have city or regional-based sub-sections, and they also can send you an email newsletter if, like me, you love having a cluttered and overfull inbox.

Rather than using it as a source, I'll just share with you a recent piece I read there about the ten essential restaurants and one food hub for Mexican food along south Minneapolis's Lake Street. (Two of them are taqueria/café inside grocery stores and one is a food truck, so really only seven. twinities.eater.com/maps/best-mexican-restaurants-east-lake-street-minneapolis) You can find this piece and much more about the Twin Cities restaurant scene at twinities.eater.com.

Another major source I use is the Minneapolis-St. Paul Business Journal. This is a high-priced physical weekly paper, and though it publishes online too, the online articles are only available to paper subscribers. Here I learn about openings, closings, the careers of chefs, business-related things like unionization or impending bankruptcy, and general food news. This has been super useful during the pandemic and uprisings.

I also get lighter, almost gossip news there, like what's new at the 2021 Minnesota State Fair. Bison ravioli bites, for one thing. At least three Midtown Global Market vendors will have State Fair offerings. Hot Indian is selling a Kerala Chicken Kati Roll or Paneer Pakora. Andy's Garage is offering a sort of vegan corn dog, where the "dog" is a chipotle from Herbivorous Butcher, or a bacon cheeseburger on a sweet waffle. Los Ocampo will offer esquites, a sort of off-the-cob version of elotes.

A few minor adjustments from last issue

Of three new restaurants I mentioned in the June issue, two have actually not opened yet even though normally reliable sources said they had, and the third – well, it's complicated. The first one – Mason's Famous Lobster Roll at the Mall of America – is listed in the Mall's own directory as "Coming Soon," not open, as several newspapers said.

Infused Life (in the old A

Cupcake Social space) looks open but actually isn't ... quite. I spoke to the proprietor when she saw me peering quizzically through her front window. You would think I was peeping at her house instead of just legitimately trying to figure out what's going on with a public eatery. Anyway, she said they would be "open soon." Which is what the sign at the old Midtown Global Market said several months ago. I don't know what to tell you. Their products were great, so I hope they manage to open. Soon. Actually.

The last one is kind of up and down. It's A Dripping Root, a shop selling all raw and vegan juices and smoothies. I drove past their opening on the announced opening day of May 29, and there was a massive line. So they definitely were open on time and with a great response. A few weeks later there was a news item that someone had vandalized the business and it was temporarily closed. And just this past weekend, there was a news item that it had reopened and after a short while was vandalized a second time. This is disturbing. I will try to keep on top of it.

Tiny Diner may be changing

There is a move afoot to create a community-owned (and hopefully also worker-owned) co-op for Tiny Diner's future. This writer has been in communication with Kim Bartmann and also Ixchel McKinnie, who does Enterprise Development for Social Impact Strategies Group (SISG) and is now heading up the Bartmann Group's project to explore and hopefully activate a conversion of the business to a cooperative.

McKinnie gave me some background on the project and how it came about. Bartmann is not at, but is approaching, an age where she may want to step out of the role of restaurant owner. She contacted the CEO of SISG, Elaine Rasmussen, who is also a board member of the Nexus Group. The Nexus Group has a mission of helping communities of color and other disadvantaged communities build community wealth and stable environments. One path to that goal which they promote is community cooperatives and worker ownership. SISG has a closely aligned mission. That was how McKinnie came to manage the project.

The project is still in an early stage. If you want to be part of the early process to build this, you can get on the mailing list by visiting socialimpactnow-2570242.hs-sites.com/tiny-diner-cooperative-interest and signing up there. McKinnie has been working three months on the project, which has had two community meetings, one virtual and one in person. They will continue to

offer information sessions and start to build the steering community, the group which will do the work to determine the feasibility of forming a cooperative, create a business plan, and make recommendations for the cooperative structure.

McKinnie told me: "Kim thinks Tiny Diner is the perfect restaurant to convert to a co-op. Located just a few blocks from George Floyd Square, I can't think of a better place to be in the hands of the community, as a black woman. Located close to four neighborhoods (Powderhorn, Central, Bancroft and Bryant), we hope that membership reflects the rich diversity of those communities. Ultimately those who show up and want to participate will define the community."

The exact timeline is still to be planned, but typically it takes about 18 months or more to establish a cooperative. McKinnie hopes that the plan will include the property as well as the business, will also be highly inclusive of and attractive to BIPOC and LGBT+ communities, and will have a part-ownership role for workers.

Other things to look forward to

- The Minnesota State Fair.
- Still looking forward to The Sioux Chef's restaurant in the new riverside park near St. Anthony Falls.
- Trying to decide which of several fabulous-sounding new (to me) restaurants to visit in

person and review in August.

- Summer has hardly started and I'm already looking forward to fall!

Actual sitting-in-a-restaurant-dining mini-review – Masu Sushi & Robata (Mall of America)

I went to the Mall and all I had was some sushi. Actually, I had some sushi (sake, which is salmon, not rice wine) and also a real seaweed salad and a side called burokkori, which is charred broccoli with togarishi glaze. I also had a non-alcoholic cocktail called Singing Mountain, made of green tea and rhubarb syrup. The only slight disappointment was the burokkori. I love broccoli, so this is hard to completely mess up, but it was both undercooked and under-seasoned in my opinion. And I am someone who usually considers vegetables overcooked and over-seasoned.

Take-out review – Curry in a Hurry via Bite Squad

I used Bite Squad to order a very basic meal from Curry in a Hurry. I got a mango lassi, which was large and perfect. I got a basic lunch bowl of vegetable curry. It was a little overcooked, I think, and a high rice-to-curry ratio. I initially ordered a pakora as the free side, then changed my mind and changed it to a plain naan (before I hit "Place Order"). But even though the receipt and the bag said "naan," I



Masu Sushi & Robata at the Mall of America



Owner Ruhel Islam and a friend relaxing on the patio of Curry in a Hurry

got a pakora. Maybe it was Bite Squad's software's fault. Who knows? It was still good (the pakora, that is). I also got a single lentil samosa, which was only \$3. I am still eating leftover curry two days later, so I have to say, Curry in a Hurry gets 10 out of 10 for "value for money." And a 10 for the lassi, and an 8.5 for the curry, so it averages out to a 9.

Bouza, from page 1

shape the culture.

Thumpers' identities are not secret. These are the alpha males with chests full of medals, elaborate chronicles of complaints of racism or other abuses and real leaders within the ranks. Actually, they are sometimes not even males these days, given the successful revolution of women in policing. Black recruitment has not been as big a hit—mostly due to the Black leadership's labeling of the police as the enemy. Who wants to join those ranks? All, however, are blue.

Reform means fighting the union.

Policing's parlous state and the power of the unions has driven the reformers out.

A really dramatic example of the paucity of wit or study in policing occurred in 1973. A crime earthquake occurred that was neither noted nor discussed—Roe v. Wade. It would deliver history's biggest crime/peace dividend ever—17 years later.

Avoided as racist or irrelevant, it received no notice—criminologically.

The equation is simple—impoverished and uneducated teenage Black and Hispanic girls get pregnant and deliver babies who, born into hopeless poverty and ignorance, inevitably turn to escape like drugs and alcohol, and finance their meager lives with crime. Abort these boys and street crime plummets.

This is a view that no one dares express. There was never a shortage of police chiefs claiming credit for the sharp reductions in crime, but any reference to Roe v. Wade was toxic and avoided.

Those are the kinds of findings rigorous scholarship brings to the table. They also taught me how hopelessly irrelevant the cops were to crime's causes and levels.

A prophet is not without honor—save in his (her?) own country.

And our prophets? Exile.

America's foremost criminologist and police reformer is a 71-year-old guy named Lawrence W. Sherman.

Internationally famous. The genius behind endless experiments, reforms and vital ideas. Women batterers are

arrested because of his work. Countries all over the world seek his help. He is at the top of his game.

So, where is he and why is this news to you (but not to America's criminologists)?

He runs the Criminal Justice Program at Cambridge University in England.

Larry personifies America's real interest in police innovations, reforms and progress—zilch.

New York City is currently in a heated mayoral race. Smart people involved. Not one even knows who Sherman is, or would use him if they could. He should be their choice for Police Commissioner.

This guy is the living embodiment of all that is wrong with American policing—a positive aversion to the heavy lift reform requires.

The answers are out there, only no one is asking or listening.

In the meantime, the Dance of Death plays on. And is there anyone with a soul so dead that never to themselves have said, "This is my own, my native land."

A supernumerary encomium-[What?] A review of Tony Bouza's autobiography

BY ELAINE KLAASSEN

Former Minneapolis Chief of Police Tony Bouza at 92 has written "Confessions of a Police Misfit," a short autobiography that covers a long life filled with remarkable experiences and observations. Along the way, he has much to say about history, current affairs, his peers, anyone else on the scene, and the arts. He is a chronic chronicler, that is, a recorder of events, and brings his considerable wit (and wits) to bear. He has investigated and recorded major historic cases such as the one involving a missing Spanish spy and the brutal dictator Rafael Trujillo.

From his childhood on the Atlantic coast of northwest Spain (the dictator Francisco Franco's homeland), to his adolescence as a poverty-stricken immigrant in New York City, to his assignment to BOSSI (Bureau of Special Services and Investigations, NYPD's surveillance division at that time) to his immersion in the Federal Executive Institute (an intensive transactional analysis, self-awareness seminar), to his run for governor of the state of Minnesota, he keeps asking, "Who am I?" and "What am I supposed to be doing with myself?" He describes a surprising push and pull between his absolute self-confidence in his instinctual ideas and his absolute self-doubt about his place in the world. (The one thing he has no unsettled questions about is his family. He writes about their unity and his unflinching, steady dedication to them.) The story is very intimate and personal, while at the same time encompassing vast and unsentimental concerns about the world. He has no illusions about human nature.

This book has come out at a time that couldn't be more opportune. U.S. policing is under attack, and our whole notion of what we as citizens need from our police force is under construction. As an intellectual, a culture vulture, who weighs

questions of criminality and illegality in the light of morality, the common good, aesthetics and history, Bouza presents a picture in which good policing is more interested in the spirit of the law than the letter of it. He's a liberal arts cop. In the book, he cites someone who didn't approve of his "sociological approach" to police work. He wrote in the book that he loves cops, but critically. There are many changes he sees as necessary, the main one being an end to racism in departments across the country. Change, across the board, he says, comes out of growth in the inner life.

For all of his spiritual, psychological and intellectual wisdom (and maybe because of it), many decisions he made over the years seemed impressively practical. For example, in the Bronx he initiated tree-planting and river cleanup. As another example, in Minneapolis, random traffic stops described as "driving while Black" ended when he required officers to write reports citing "probable cause" and "articulable grounds" for every traffic stop.

You'd think someone who had spent his entire career within police departments would be more interested in criminality. While the book does delve into crime-stopping, there wasn't as much about the street as I expected. More than criminals, Bouza writes about the interior intricacies of police departments and the political operation of city government, showcasing the heights and depths of those characters peopling the bureaucracies. Human foibles

are mordantly exposed in the story of the African violets. Read the book to find the African violets. It takes the cake. I laughed so hard I almost cried (I'm still laughing).

There are many laugh-aloud moments in the book. Bouza is adept at wrapping it up, whatever it is, in a single sentence. There are some real "zingers" that interpret what just happened. Not all of them are original to him, but they are perfect for the moment, such as, "If you see the light at the end of the tunnel, it's an oncoming train."

The book is erudite but not academic; there's no index. In a way I wish there were, just to be able to find references to people Bouza coincided with: Prince Philip, Khrushchev, Lyndon Johnson, Fidel Castro, JFK, Sukarno, John Glenn, Bob Hope, Rudy Perpich, Mayor Fraser ...

If you've been dazzled for years, as I have, by the columns Bouza writes for Southside Pride, you will know he has created his own distinctive writing style, which is heady, sometimes too succinct and therefore cryptic, as well as full of million-dollar words. (He's a bit sesquipedalian-speaking of which.) The reader might have to look up some words as well as some unfamiliar historical or literary characters.

There is a cast of thousands, from people you've never heard of to the rich and famous, plus the cultural/historical references, such as Tomas de Torquemada, Oliver Twist, Machiavelli, Marlene Dietrich in "Blue Angel," Beethoven's



The young Tony Bouza doing security for Fidel Castro in New York City

Ninth Symphony ... It's a lot, and kind of makes your head swim and spin. Another cause of head spinning, at times, is the hairpin-curve chronology of the story. However, I was willing to ride along to enjoy the booming strength of his most unique and honest voice. I would never accuse Bouza of tergiversation. He would always give you a straightforward, honest answer even though you might not know exactly what he means.

Bouza censures the actions of many, he makes fun of many, but he also criticizes his own actions and is gifted at laughing at himself - especially the nine "boring, soporific" books he has written. I wonder how boring they really are.

Bouza's interest in culture,

especially film, and his overarching view of policing led him to participate in various films, mostly after retirement. The latest is a six-part Netflix series called "Who Killed Malcolm X?" in which interviews with Bouza find him denouncing the botched investigation of Malcolm X's assassination. A CNN headline from February 2020 reads: "The assassination of Malcolm X is being reinvestigated after questions raised in a Netflix series."

"Confessions of a Police Misfit" is not available in bookstores. Bouza's son, Dominick, has a bundle of them. He'll sell you one for \$10. Call him at (612) 297-0767.



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SOUTH SIDE!!!

EVENTS

2021 Plymouth Summer Music Series The Steele Sisters, with Sanford Moore, piano, Tuesday, July 20, 7 p.m. (Rain date: July 21)

Plymouth Congregational Church
1900 Nicollet Ave., Mpls.
The final concert in the 2021 Plymouth Summer Music Series! On Tuesday, July 20, Jearlyn and Jevetta Steele, vocalists extraordinaire, will perform with pianist Sanford Moore. The program is 75 minutes, 7 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. This is an outdoor event, with a July 21 rain date. Free of charge with a freewill offering collected. <https://www.plymouth.org/event/july-summer-music-series-2021-07-07/>

Pastors for Peace Caravan to Cuba Presentation Sunday, July 25, 3 p.m.

Walker Community Church
3104 16th Ave. S., Mpls.
Minnesota Cuba Committee will host a presentation and fundraiser for the 31st Annual Pastors for Peace Caravan to Cuba at Walker Community Church. Presenters include Thalya Reyes, participant in 2019 Cuba Caravan; Leni Villagomez Reeves, activist with Pastors for Peace Caravan and retired pediatrician; and Samira Mifatou Addey, 2020 graduate of the Latin American School of Medicine from Ghana and IFCO/Pastors for Peace ELAM Scholarship Program Coordinator.

Refreshments will be served, and donations will be accepted to help IFCO's mission of sending low income BIPOC medical students to Cuba's Latin American Medical School in order to receive training to become medical doctors in low-income communities in the U.S. The Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO) has been working since 1991 on a variety of projects to bring about reconciliation and normalized relations between the United States and Cuba and to challenge the immoral U.S. economic blockade of Cuba. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact (612) 367-6134 or MNCuba@gmail.com.

Community BBQ and Bake Sale Saturday, July 31, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Living Spirit UMC
4501 Bloomington Ave., Mpls.
It's back! Join us for Living Spirit's annual community BBQ and bake sale. We sell ribs, baked beans, coleslaw, and garlic toast to enjoy here or take home. It's in the alley behind the church (off 45th between Blooming-

ton Ave. and 16th Ave.). New this year – preorders (not required) at livingspiritumc.org/bbq.

Worship at the Falls

Sunday, Aug. 1, 10:30 a.m.

Minnehaha Falls Park Bandshell
4801 Minnehaha Ave., Mpls.
Sponsored by Minnehaha UMC
Our annual ecumenical worship service at the bandshell at Minnehaha Falls is back on for this year! Join us at 10:30 a.m. (it will also be live-streamed). Rev. Sara Spohr, the new pastor at Lake Nokomis Lutheran, will be preaching, and members from Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church and Bread of Life Deaf Lutheran Church will also be joining us. If you want to hang around to greet old friends and make new ones, bring a lunch and eat with others at the picnic tables behind the bandshell when the worship service is over.

A “Warm” Welcome for New Refugee Arrivals

MCC Refugee Services is busy building up capacity as we prepare to welcome what may be our largest number of arrivals in the coming year. To help meet the needs of families arriving this summer, we are in need of new, standard-sized bed pillows, sheet sets – particularly twin size – but also full and queen, electric alarm clocks, laundry detergent. These items can be dropped off in person or ordered online and shipped directly to our office. For more information, please contact Kathryn at rsvolunteers@mnchurches.org.

4th Annual Challenging Islamophobia Conference Tuesday, Oct. 12, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Online

Save the date! The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) Minnesota has announced that the 4th Annual Challenging Islamophobia Conference will take place virtually on Tuesday, October 12, 2021, from 8.30 a.m. to 4 p.m.. If you purchased tickets for the 2020 event, they can be used to participate in this year's rescheduled conference. To share your thoughts about the upcoming conference, including topic ideas, please complete their survey form at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd6-8D_K25oDE2_Ogs9WtiBKsSA-We_01061JGelj7gEDgl7w/viewform.

Minneapolis Friends Meeting (Quaker)

4401 York Ave. S., Mpls.
Minneapolis Friends Meeting is looking forward to summer, and continuing to join in silent worship together, via Zoom. Worship services are Sundays, 10 a.m. Other Meeting activities will resume in the Fall. Office email:

office@minneapolisfriends.org.
www.minneapolisfriends.org

Bahá'i Center of Minneapolis

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

Calvary Lutheran Church

3901 Chicago Ave. S., Mpls.
Sunday Worship at 10 a.m. See our website at www.clchurch.org for more information.

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. Front door entry preferred. Weekday Masses M, T, TH, F at 8:15 a.m. in the Chapel, east door and elevator entry. Please see our website at www.saintalbertthegreat.org/ for more details. Sunday 9:30 a.m. Mass also streamed on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/StAlbertTheGreatMpls/.

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

3430 E. 51st St., Mpls.
www.faithlutheranmpls.org
Sunday Worship (with safety measures in place) at 9 a.m. We will continue to post videos online for Sunday morning for those who can't join us yet on YouTube and Facebook www.facebook.com/felcmpls/. Bible classes on Sundays at 10:15 a.m. and Wednesdays at 10 a.m. NA groups Wednesdays 7:30 p.m.

First Free Church

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

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, LCMS

1720 E. Minnehaha Pkwy., Mpls.
Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship recordings available online at www.holycrossmpls.org.

Living Spirit United Methodist Church

4501 Bloomington Ave., Mpls.
Worship In-Person or Online at 10:30 a.m. Sundays
Online: livingspiritumc.org/live.

Messiah Lutheran Church

2400 Park Ave., Mpls.
9 a.m. in-person service 1st and 3rd

Sundays
11 a.m. in-person service every Sunday
www.messiahlutheranmpls.org

Mindekirken (the Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church)

924 E. 21st St., Mpls.
Beginning Sunday, June 20, we will be offering an in-person worship service each Sunday at 11 a.m. This will initially be one bilingual service for the first summer months. All attendees will be asked to keep their masks on for the time they are inside the building. This is offered in addition to the two regular online worship services for now. Find updates on www.mindekirken.org.

Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church

4101 37th Ave. S., Mpls.
<https://minnehahacommunion.org/>.
Sunday Worship at 9:45 a.m.
Go to church website for live and online info.

Minnehaha United Methodist Church

3701 E. 50th St., Mpls.
Outdoor worship Sundays at 10 a.m. in the Minnehaha Side Lawn. Bring a chair (we have chairs if you don't have one). You can also worship with us online, we'll be livestreaming the service and you can find it live at 10, or any time after. If it's raining, we will be moving the worship service to the sanctuary, where you won't need your chair, but will need a mask. Visit our website at www.minnehaha.org/ for more information.

New Creation Baptist Church

1414 E. 48th St., Mpls.
Sunday Worship in person at 10:45 a.m. and also on Facebook: www.facebook.com/NewCreation-BaptistChurch/
<https://newcreationbaptistchurchmn.org/>

Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church

5300 10th Ave. S., Mpls.
Join us each Sunday at 10 a.m. for worship (online and in-person)!
Outdoor, in-person worship on the church lawn this summer on the 1st, 3rd & 4th Sundays of the month (weather permitting).
Outdoor, in-person worship at Pearl Park on the 2nd Sunday of each month.
Online worship continues every Sunday. Find us on Facebook and YouTube!
www.nokomisheights.org or www.facebook.com/NokomisHeights/.

St. Joan of Arc Catholic Community

4537 3rd Ave. S., Mpls.
We're Open –
Saturday, 5 p.m. in the Church
Sunday, 7:45 a.m. in the Church, 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. in the gym
Video available on our website at www.saintjoanofarc.org/ or Facebook page www.facebook.com/StJoan-Mpls/.

Trinity Lutheran Congregation

Augsburg College, Hoversten Chapel
Riverside & 22nd Aves., Mpls.
Sunday Worship 10 a.m.
www.trinitylutherancongregation.org

Walker Community United Methodist Church

3104 16th Ave. S., Mpls.
Walker Church has begun the reopening process using a phased approach. Visit our website at www.walkerchurch.org/ or Facebook page at www.facebook.com/walkerumc/ for more information.

SHARING FOOD

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

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

Minnehaha United Methodist Church 3701 E. 50th St., Mpls. 612-721-6231

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

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

We're still here to serve you on the first through fourth Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. or until we run out of bags. Be safe and God bless! www.facebook.com/NCBCfoodshelf/
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Greater Friendship Missionary Baptist Church and Friendship Community Service 2600 E. 38th St., Mpls. Food Hub

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

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

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

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

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

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MINNEHAHA COMMUNION LUTHERAN CHURCH

4101 37th Ave. S., 612-722-9527
<https://minnehahacommunion.org/>
Interim Pastor Lee Hallstrom
9:45 am Sunday Worship
Go to church website for live and online info

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www.trinitylutherancongregation.org
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Office: 2001 Riverside Ave.
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Civil disobedience and civil disorder

BY ED FELIEN

On Sunday, June 27, Andrea Jenkins, the Black trans Minneapolis City Council Member, had her car surrounded by about a dozen protesters as she was trying to leave a Pride event in Loring Park. The ward she represents includes three of the four corners of George Floyd Square at 38th and Chicago. The protesters wanted her to sign and agree to their demand to “leave George Floyd Square alone!” After being held hostage for almost 90 minutes, Jenkins signed the demand and the protesters said she was free to leave.

The action by the protesters was almost universally condemned by the media.

Donald Hooker Jr. was probably the loudest of the protesters and he wrote on his Facebook page:

“Andrea Jenkins is nothing but a playground bully. She starts off by bullying me and when I stand up for myself she tells the teacher I’m the bully. She is the first one that blew up in my face while we were having a civil discussion. And when someone jumped in between us she went around them to jump in my face again. So she could scream that on the literal day of Pride how she was going to call the cops on me if we had a peaceful protest at her house cause of her lack of action in the last year. The irony that a Black Trans woman said

she would call the cops on a gay Black man on the day that Black Trans Woman fought the cops is mind-blowing to me. While she knows that she has done nothing in the last year but give them more money. Which has resulted in the death of Dolal Idd, Daunte Wright, Winston Smith.



Andrea Jenkins. Photo from Donald Hooker Jr.’s Facebook page

“Now she is saying she was traumatized for 90 minutes.”

Jenkins wrote to her constituents:

“Last Sunday afternoon while attending a Pride event in Loring Park, something I’ve done on the last weekend in June for the past 20-plus years, I was verbally attacked, berated and held against my will by a group of angry protesters.

“I am a public servant. I represent 31,000 people that live in Ward 8. We need answers related to the deaths of Dolal Idd, Daunte Wright and Winston Smith. I have always believed in open dialogue where people can talk and be respectful of

differences. I refuse, however, to be bullied and held hostage to somehow accomplish that. Every citizen of this City has a right to bring forward their concerns, but no citizen has the right to detain and coerce anyone to do anything, including elected officials.”

George Floyd Square is now open. The Fist remains in the center of the intersection. Traffic has to slow down to go around it—a respectful genuflection.

Progressive activists are frustrated with Andrea Jenkins and Council President Lisa Bender and Mayor Jacob Frey and Chief of Police Arradondo. They talk, talk, talk about racism and police brutality, yet they won’t hold Lucas Peterson responsible for the murder of Terance Franklin, even though the city paid out over a million dollars in the settlement to Franklin’s heirs rather than refute the plaintiff’s argument that Peterson murdered Franklin in cold blood. They won’t hold Officers Schwarze and Ringgenberg accountable for obvious breaches of protocol in their killing of Jamar Clark. They won’t hold public hearings to establish whether it was necessary to shoot Thur-

man Blevins in the back because he was acting drunk and disorderly. They won’t hold hearings to establish correct protocol for dealing with depressed people threatening suicide, so their silence becomes assent to the killing of Travis Jordan by the Minneapolis police.

Instead of actually dealing with these instances of the MPD killing young Black men, Andrea Jenkins and the rest of them talk, talk, talk about how serious the problem is. Jenkins concludes her letter to constituents:

“I am proud of our work at the City and in leading the Strategic Racial Equity Action Plan, declaring racism a public health crisis and spearheading the formation of a Truth and Reconciliation workgroup which presented its recommendations for a full on Truth and Reconciliation Commission to the City Council this past week. Through this work, we will redress the original, undeniable harms against American Indians and Black/African descendants who still bear the impacts of genocide, theft of land, labor, culture and personhood which props up the foundation of this country. I am proud that we adopted Juneteenth as a holiday this year at the City of Minneapolis, in recognition of enslaved Black/African descendants who were denied their freedom some two years after



Donald Hooker Jr. Photo from Donald Hooker Jr.’s Facebook page

the presidential issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation had declared them free. I recognize this is not enough. I remain steadfast in my commitment to justice and racial equity and will continue to sit down with activists, advocates and protesters to understand and work toward shared policy change demands and recommendations.”

Rather than set up commissions to talk this problem to death, maybe it would be more useful and more productive for Jenkins to hold hearings on the actual killings of young Black men by the MPD and begin to hold those particular MPD officers accountable.

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Lake Nokomis 612-729-1127
Richfield - Veterans Park
612-861-9348
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CELEBRATE SUMMER: CROSS OVER THE BRIDGE

Highland Park – revisiting old favorites, discovering new ones

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

When you live in south Minneapolis, your only knowledge (if any) of Highland Park in St. Paul may be Ford Parkway and its mostly upscale businesses. That's because Ford Parkway is accessed via the bridge over the Mississippi River which is at East 46th Street on the Minneapolis side. But Highland Park is a huge neighborhood compared to any Minneapolis neighborhood, and even coming from Minneapolis there are other ways to

get there.

To the south, you could cross the river on state Highway 5, accessing that from either the Crosstown (Highway 62 eastbound) or Cedar Avenue and Highway 77 southbound. This will get you to West 7th Street in St. Paul, another main road with lots of businesses and restaurants on it. Or from the more northern end of south Minneapolis, you could cross the river on the Marshall Avenue bridge (Lake Street in Minneapolis) and then head south on one of the major cross

streets such as Cleveland Avenue.

So, broadly speaking, we will now look at the business scene north of Ford Parkway, south of Ford Parkway, and along Ford Parkway, but saving all the dining and drinking establishments for the end. Oh, and before any of that, grocery stores.

Grocery stores

On Ford Parkway itself, there is a Lunds & Byerlys. This was the first business I ever patronized in Highland Park, not counting Baker's Square, where I only went as a guest and not on my own. Lunds & Byerlys are all a lot the same, don't you find? It's very convenient too. There is also a tiny Target on Ford Parkway, but it's so tiny, you could probably find more grocery choices at the Walgreen's across the street.

South of Ford Parkway, along West 7th Street, there are several grocery stores, probably more than the ones showing on my map. (I have explored West 7th but it's easy to miss stuff when you're driving.) I should mention that not all of West 7th Street is in Highland Park, because the adjacent neighborhood to the east is



Oxendale's on Randolph, with fresh paint by Brushed Monkey in July 2020



Inside Storied Owl Books around opening day

called West Seventh and includes about two-thirds of its length from the river to downtown St. Paul.

There is a co-op, a branch of St. Paul's largest one, Mississippi Market, on West 7th, but I think not in Highland Park. In Highland Park on West 7th, there is an Aldi. There is also a small Ethiopian market on the ground floor of the Sibley Manor Apartments, according to Google Maps. It might be worth it to check that out. North of Ford Parkway, there is a branch of the hyperlocal chain Oxendale's on Randolph Avenue, and there is a Trader

Joe's at 484 Lexington Parkway. So, quality more than quantity.

North of Ford Parkway

There are lots of interesting businesses north of the Parkway, especially along Cleveland Avenue, up to Randolph, which is the northern boundary of the neighborhood. Just north of the Parkway, practically on it, are a row of businesses that have all been there for many years, some longer than others. One is the Highland 1 and 2 (Mann) Theatre (cinema). You'll be happy to hear that like

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FORD PARKWAY

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Left: Chef/owner Karyn Tomlinson outside Myriel during renovation. Right: Inside Myriel

other movie theaters, it is open more or less as before the pandemic. Check the web for shows and times. On Tuesdays, tickets are only \$5 all day for everyone.

Another is The Fixery, a nice old-fashioned watch repair place. It's been in business for 40 years in this spot. The Fixery is the place to go for expert repair of all types of watches, from mechanical to quartz, providing on-location, in-house service, including battery and band replacements. They also work on clocks and jewelry items, and can repair or replace broken clasps on necklaces, bracelets, etc.

This corner of Ford Parkway and Cleveland Avenue saw a lot of looting going on the last couple of nights of May 2020, and unfortunately The Fixery was one of the victims, along with a nearby jewelry store, R.F. Moeller, and a Verizon mobile shop. Mark Wilsey, a Fixery employee who has worked there for 27 years, being hired right out of high school when his father also worked there, set up a GoFundMe page which got amazing support from neighbors, other staff, and customers. This was credited with saving the business, which would have otherwise had to close.

Finally in this group is a relatively new concern, Menchie's Frozen Yogurt, which sells yogurt soft-serve as well as sorbet in numerous yummy flavors. Across Cleveland Avenue is Quixotic Coffee, my personal favorite St. Paul coffee shop.

There is a gym-type of thing called Alchemy 365. This is a national chain, and they have a unique training regimen that combines yoga, cardio, and weightlifting all in one session. They are now operating in dual mode, having reopened some time ago, but retained their on-demand virtual classes. You can subscribe only to the on-demand without being an in-person member.

Down Cleveland Avenue a bit, across the road from the St. Catherine's campus, you will find Sister Rosalind's Massage, which is run by an actual nun/massage therapist. She says there is no contradiction in Christian ministry and massage therapy, and I heartily agree. It's not just her, there is a whole staff of deep tissue massage, chiropractic and acupuncture providers, and a second office in Burnsville. They all acknowledge a spiritual calling, however, and will optionally offer prayers before and after the treatment.

Right on the northern edge of the neighborhood, there is an indepen-

dent bookstore that actually opened in 2020 and lived to tell about it. It has a great name too – Storied Owl Books. Can't tell you much about it because I haven't visited yet, but you bet I will soon.

South of Ford Parkway

On West 7th Street you will find the garden center known as the Highland Nursery. They are now open seven days a week for in-person browsing and shopping. Although you can't use it for online shopping, they have an interesting website. The merch is divided up into broad categories like Flowers, Herbs, and within flowers, into Annuals, Wildflowers, etc. On the corresponding pages, you can download an inventory list (without prices). If you are looking for an item not on the list, you can "click the pencil" and leave them a request. Highland Nursery is a true family business, being currently run by the daughter of the original owners, along with her daughter and granddaughter.

On Ford Parkway

With three or four strip malls just in one half-mile stretch of Ford Parkway, there are way too many businesses to cover them all. We'll highlight a few that we like (not an exhaustive list of the ones we like, even).

Three establishments are among the public's favorites. One of them I cannot visit because of my death-cleaning project – I cannot buy cute things. This is the classy gift store Patina. But the other two I will be visiting shortly. One is Schuler's Shoes, which I will visit because I have been wearing the same pair of sandals for 18 months now and that's not good. The other is Half Price Books. Yes, I know it's a chain. I am hoping to sell some stuff to them. They have one of the best buying policies – fair and clear – of any used goods store.

Restaurants, etc.

As it happens, all the restaurants I have room for are on Cleveland Avenue or very nearby. One that's in that same little section as The Fixery, is Vina, a venerable and still excellent Vietnamese restaurant. There is now a second location of this restaurant in Richfield. Despite being very snug, they're open for indoor dining – or takeaway.

Not too far north of there is another place that's been in the neighborhood forever, even more forever in fact. I just visited it for the first time in ages last week. This is Cecil's Deli, a good old-fashioned deli/diner with all your favorites, including house-made soups and breads, and Jewish deli standards like latkes, blintzes, and bagels with lox. They brew their own iced tea, too, always a plus in my book.

The last one is one I have not had a chance to visit yet, as it just opened earlier this month. Myriel is



Inside The Fixery

on Cleveland Avenue, but not technically in Highland Park; it's just a block or so north of the boundary. It's named after the kindly bishop in Victor Hugo's "Les Misérables," and is the conception of Karyn Tomlinson, a wildly popular local chef. There is a website for reservations – myrielmn.

com – but you can't see the menu online. A recent preview piece in Mpls. St.Paul magazine by Stephanie March described the food (in the chef's own words) as "old peasant French meets New Nordic." (They have egg coffee, if that's your thing.)

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Mayday, Mayday!

BY CRAIG WOOD

"Loneliness does not come from having no people about one, but from being unable to communicate the things that seem important to oneself, or from holding certain views which others find inadmissible."

— Carl Jung

Underground writers have found ways to circulate reading material since the 17th century. In the U.S., many outlets that openly distributed this work are now closed. MayDay Books, located next to the University of Minnesota on the West Bank of Minneapolis remains open, part-time.

For over 30 years, this store

make protest signs. Craig Palmer has volunteered at MayDay (in various locations – at one point in what was to become the offices of Southside Pride) for over 41 years and jokingly refers to it as “my bunker.”

Before he became interested in politics, Palmer worked as a heavy vehicle operator for two years in a combat engineer battalion attached to the 101st Airborne Division west of the city of Hue in Vietnam. He was the only person in his company with a high school diploma and was called “the professor” by the company clerk.

Palmer’s job was to build and maintain roads that connected fire bases. He saw a lot of soldiers wearing helmets with

emotionally mangled from war and things were not good at home. Although he now believed the Vietnam War was wrong, he was drinking heavily, and it wasn’t long before his parents told his siblings to stay away from him. Feeling alienated and, at times, suicidal, he sought solace with other vets or workaday guys who were into cars and bought cheap beer by the case. He stopped believing in the “Buick-by-the-breezeway American dream” and used money from his five-dollar-an-hour job to buy a house so he and his new friends would have a place to party. He was pleased he’d found a new gang that understood him and “I still had enough money left over to eat out all the time,” quipped Palmer.

He drifted into the West Bank taverns later in the ‘70s and began talking with counterculture types and barstool revolutionaries who were also experimenting with beer ... on a regular basis. He enjoyed those conversations and took more of an interest in progressive ideas and recalled influential chats with longtime activist and Irish dance instructor Mike Whalen, whom he met at MayDay about 40 years ago when it was located on Franklin Avenue in Minneapolis.

Whalen remembered the old bookstore as a socialistic, diverse organization that was “cold and had rats” and Palmer as a smart, quiet fellow who didn’t say much but when he did, “it was the right thing.” Palmer estimates that over half of the new store customers still identify as socialists and believes it’s anyone’s guess who might walk in next.

He mentioned being surprised



Craig Palmer at MayDay Books (photo/Craig Wood)

by a former Chilean palace guard for Augusto Pinochet who stopped in five years ago and delivered a long-winded polemic about communism and American culpability. And he was surprised recently by two national guardsmen in full combat gear who claimed they were socialists and bought an armload of books this spring during the murder trial of former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin.

While the store remains a nonprofit, volunteer-run cooperative, Palmer is the information linchpin that customers usually go to because he’s the one who shows up for work nearly every day. So, on any given workday, he might field questions that go back and forth between Marxism, political actions or the whereabouts of area potluck fundraisers, and connecting the dots for customers that mark and measure subversive ideas.

And, he knows books. Few know content differences between old and new copies of “The Anarchist Cookbook,” but he does. “That was a rotten book written by a right-winger with

unreliable recipes,” said Palmer, emphatically adding that the core of MayDay revolves around anti-war and anti-capitalism – not mad bombers. Those with an interest in a book entitled “How to Blow Up a Pipeline,” published in 2021, might be referred to military surplus stores to browse through old government manuals. Community outreach can work in mysterious ways.

Palmer with his characteristic ethos let me know before the end of the interview that this story wasn’t just about him and rattled off a long list of names, including deceased activist Tom Dooley, before pointing to a photograph of Earl Balfour, who was also a store volunteer and dedicated union advocate.

Having lived as a simple-lifer who hasn’t driven since 1991, Palmer figures his worldly possessions will fill up about half a dumpster after he’s gone. Until then, he plans on holding down the fort with like-minded friends in the cozy sanctuary that continues to boast “NOT MAKING A PROFIT SINCE 1975.”



Craig Palmer

has helped keep the neighborhood’s bohemian tradition alive by providing a space where contrarian thinkers can find out-of-the-mainstream books and periodicals. Equipped with tables, comfortable chairs and free coffee, MayDay is an unofficial headquarters for area lefties seeking political/literary events, or activists looking for a warm basement to hold meetings and

with the dangers of loading and unloading heavy equipment or feeling the ground shake during bombing campaigns. Beer and marijuana seemed to soothe his nerves, but it was the camaraderie he shared with his buddies that pulled him through.

Palmer was discharged and returned to St. Paul in 1970. Making the switch back to civilian life was difficult. He was

Rent control, from page 1

Minneapolis Charter Commission undemocratically rejected the renter-led option, effectively attempting to block the clearest path to strong rent control. Organizers with MURC point out that the Minneapolis City Council is not bound or obligated to follow the recommendation of the un-elected Charter Commission.

On Saturday, July 10, Minneapolis United for Rent Control organized a postering and door-knocking blitz to spread the word on what it will take to overcome opposition in City Hall. The day began with a brief rally co-hosted by the Cedar-Riverside Community Council and included speeches from Bishop Howell with Shiloh Temple International Ministries, Alicia Smith from the Corcoran Neighborhood Organization, and Chris Smith from the Minnesota Association of Professional Employees.

While the Charter Commission has no formal legislative power, they can create the political cover for the City Council to go back on their vote from earlier this year. For example, Ward 6 Coun-

cil Member Jamal Osman now says “I have reservations” about the renter-led pathway to passing strong rent control (<https://twitter.com/JamalOsmanMN/status/1401242525772304391>), even though Osman supported that pathway earlier this year (<https://twitter.com/mps4RC/status/1365380597154082816>).

Mayor Jacob Frey told the Star Tribune that he doesn’t support the renter-led option, indicating that the proposal will face a mayoral veto if it receives fewer than nine votes from the council. “Mayor Frey says that he doesn’t trust working people in Minneapolis to address the housing crisis, clearly doing the bidding of the big developers and corporate landlords who have been cashing in on Minneapolis’ housing crisis,” said Ginger Jentzen, a member of Socialist Alternative MN and an organizer with Minneapolis United for Rent Control. “With the disproportionate influence of corporate landlords in the back rooms of city hall, it’s clear that we need a renter-led option. Minneapolis United for Rent Control is building the multiracial movement of renters, united

with homeowners, all across the city to win the strongest possible rent control.”

Don’t Believe the Landlord Lobby

A recent study by the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) confirmed what renters have been saying for years: a strong rent control in Minneapolis would be a hugely stabilizing tool for working and middle-class renters and homeowners. In fact, the study found that if Minneapolis had enacted a rent control which capped any rent increases to no more than 3% in any given year, comprehensively applied to all units in the city, this would have cut into the heart of some of the city’s dramatic racial inequities in housing. Additionally, the CURA study found that if Minneapolis had implemented a rent control policy in 2009 similar to what MURC is fighting for (capping rent increases at no more than 3%, universally applied, covering all units, not individual renters), investors still would have made a profit.

When renters and working people fight for rent control,

corporate landlords and the real estate lobby threaten to leave the city and scaremonger that any regulation will make their business unprofitable. Rent control in itself is a powerful tool to keep units affordable for the long term, if used in an effective way. Contrary to myths pushed by the landlord lobby, rent control in New York City and San Francisco – or any other city that has had it – has been a veritable lifeline for tenants who would have been completely priced out of the city. However, over decades, the landlord lobby and big developers have succeeded in eroding these rent control policies. The claim that rent control reduces the quality and quantity of available housing is a myth perpetuated by the real estate lobby. Multiple research studies have stated there is no evidence that cities with rent control have seen a decrease in development.

Qannani Omar, an organizer with MURC and the Harrison Neighborhood Association, said, “We can’t let City Council walk back its support for a renter-led pathway to passing a strong rent control policy, which ties rents

to cost of living, applies to every unit, and is free from developer-friendly loopholes like ‘vacancy decontrol,’ which means rent control expires when the renter moves out. These are the types of corporate loopholes fought for by the landlord lobby in the back rooms of City Hall. Without the renter-led option, working people, Black, and immigrant renters in Minneapolis have no guarantee that we’ll ever see strong rent control.”

Minneapolis United for Rent Control coalition partners include Harrison Neighborhood Association, Socialist Alternative, Inquilinx Unidxs por Justicia, Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en Lucha (CTUL), the Minnesota Association of Professional Employees (MAPE), Minneapolis Federation of Teachers, the Minnesota Nurses Association (MNA), Unite HERE, the Restaurant Opportunity Center, Black Visions, Reclaim the Block, Corcoran Neighborhood Organization, Twin Cities Democratic Socialists of America, and numerous faith based organizations, led by Shiloh Temple International Ministries.

The foolish public servant who wants to do good

BY ED FELIEN

When I was a small boy attending Mass at St. Helena's Church, I remember a sermon by my favorite priest, Father Don Schnitzius. The way Father Don told the story of The Ten Talents was slightly different from Matthew, Chapter 25, but the message was essentially the same. A man has to go on a journey and he entrusts each of his three stewards with ten talents of silver. The first steward invests the talents and makes a profit of ten more. The second invests the talents and loses them. The third buries his talents. When the man returns he asks his stewards for an accounting. When they tell him what happened, he congratulates the first steward and tells him to take the twenty talents and invest them. When the third steward tells the man he buried the talents so he wouldn't lose them, the man takes the talents away from him and casts him out where there is wailing and gnashing of teeth. When the second steward tells the man he invested the talents but lost them, the man says it is good he tried and he gives the steward the ten talents that the third steward had buried.

I can't help but think of that parable when I see the City Council wrestle with their responsibility to protect and serve the public. And none seem as earnest and serious about their task as Jeremy Schroeder.

Jeremy Schroeder wouldn't vote to increase the Minneapolis Police Department budget by another \$500,000 until he knew how the money would be spent. He didn't think it was his job to give any department a blank check. He and Council Members Phillippe Cunningham and Steve Fletcher wrote a charter amendment to transform the MPD. Just last week he withdrew his charter amendment in favor of the similar one proposed by Yes4Minneapolis.

No one can doubt Jeremy Schroeder means well.

Here is the proposed charter amendment:

"Department of Public Safety
Shall the Minneapolis City Charter be amended to remove the Police Department and to create a Department of Public Safety that employs a comprehensive public health approach, and which would include licensed peace officers if necessary, to fulfill its responsibilities for public safety, with the general nature of the amendments being briefly indicated in the explanatory note below, which is made a part of this ballot?

Yes _____

No _____

Explanatory Note: This amendment would create a new

Department of Public Safety, which would:

(1) Combine public safety functions of the City of Minneapolis into a comprehensive public health approach to safety, with the specific public safety functions to be determined.

(2) Include licensed peace officers (police officers) if necessary to fulfill the responsibilities of the Department of Public Safety.

(3) Be led by a Commissioner. The appointment process for the Commissioner would include a Mayor nomination and a City Council appointment.

This amendment would also do the following:

(1) Remove from the Charter a Police Department that is led by a Police Chief.

(2) Remove the City Council requirement to fund a police force of at least 1.7 employees per 1,000 residents.

(3) Remove City Council authorization to impose additional taxation on taxable property in the City of Minneapolis of up to 0.3 percent of its value annually to fund the compensation of employees of the police force."

Yes, it is important to recognize that many of the threats to public order are the result of crises in public health: too much alcohol or drugs, too little money, too few options and too much mental health trauma. It makes sense to transfer many of these public health problems to professionals trained to deal with them, rather than dumping them on the police. The police are a hammer in the toolbox, but not every public problem is a nail.

But the great problem with the proposed Charter Amendment

is that it creates another layer of bureaucracy that further obscures accountability. It will be even more difficult to hold individual officers responsible for their actions.

Under the present system the chief of police is responsible for the discipline of his/her officers, and the mayor is responsible for the performance of the chief.

The chief and the mayor did nothing to hold Officer Lucas Peterson accountable for the murder of Terrance Franklin. Mayor Frey and Council President Lisa Bender said everyone had learned a very serious lesson from the million-dollar judgment against the city on behalf of the heirs of Terrance Franklin. The lesson white racists in the MPD learned was that they could get away with the murder of Black men, and that set up the murder of George Floyd.

And Chief Arradondo spends his energy trying to get along with the Police Federation, rather than understanding it is an adversarial relationship. In 2006 the FBI warned that white nationalists were infiltrating police departments nationwide. Bob Kroll, twice elected president of the union, was also the leader of City Heat, a motorcycle gang made up of metro police officers who wore Nazi war medals and flew Confederate flags. Tony Bouza, former chief of the MPD from 1980 to 1989, said you don't try to get along with them, you rule them with an iron hand. While he was chief there were no complaints of police brutality. Cops no longer stopped cars because the driver was Black. Any time they stopped a car they had to write a report and explain



why. He doubled patrols by instituting single-officer squad cars. Cops worked five days a week, eight hours a day, rather than the ten-hour, four-day work week of today.

There's nothing wrong with the current structure of the MPD. What's wrong is the people running it don't want to make it work.

Schroeder and other progressives on the City Council want to throw the baby out with the bathwater. They want to tear up the MPD and start all over again from zero. They have to be given credit for realizing there is a problem, and they should be ap-

plauded for their courage and determination to do something to solve the problem. But why haven't they simply tried to make the current system work? Why haven't they asked the chief in public hearings whether he has disciplined Officer Lucas Peterson for the murder of Terrance Franklin? Why haven't they asked the chief whether Officers Schwarze and Ringgenberg observed proper protocol in their killing of Jamar Clark? Why haven't they asked the chief if the officers who killed Thurman Blevins acted according to protocol? Why haven't they asked the chief if the MPD has sought help from mental health professionals in confronting suicides to avoid further killings of troubled victims like Travis Jordan?

Why haven't they tried to make the present system work, rather than tearing it down and starting over?

They are like the stewards who saw an opportunity and took it and fell short in their efforts.

It will be up to the voters in November to determine whether they should be entrusted with another ten talents for another four years.



RIVERSIDE EDITION

The Southside Pride Riverside Edition is a monthly newspaper containing neighborhood news, religious events and a community calendar delivered on the third Monday of the month to over 100 locations in and around the Riverside 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:

Southside Pride

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• COMMUNITY CALENDAR •

Southside Pride / RIVERSIDE EDITION

EVENTS

'Free the Deeds'

Minneapolis Public Art Project

'Free the Deeds,' an artist-driven initiative, is launching a city-wide project this month to build awareness of the history of racial covenants in housing in Minneapolis and to encourage action to repair the harm done by these covenants. Homeowners whose houses have a racial covenant will be encouraged to display a lawn sign in their yards that says "This house had a racial covenant" on one side and "Building equity, one deed at a time" on the other. All Minneapolis residents, whether your home had a racial covenant or not, will have the chance to donate to down payment assistance for households who purchase homes through the African American Community Land Trust (AACLt). The AACLt is an initiative focused on significantly decreasing the historic racial disparities in the homeownership rate while increasing access to perpetually affordable homeownership in Minneapolis. Check out our website, freethedeeds.org to learn more about what racial covenants were, how to find out if your home had one, how to discharge it, ways to interact with this history, and how to participate with this city-wide project. freethedeeds.org

The 1934 Minneapolis Teamsters' Strikes and Today's Challenges

Tuesday, July 20, 7 to 9 p.m.

Free online event

Sponsored by the East Side Freedom Library, as part of San Francisco LaborFest 2021. The 1934 July Minneapolis Teamsters' strikes were part of a mass movement of workers in the U.S. that brought the greatest unionization in the history of the nation. We invite you to watch John DeGraaf's compelling film, "Labor's Turning Point," and then engage with a panel which will discuss the strike's relevance to the challenges facing working people and the labor movement today. The panelists will include ESFL's Peter Rachleff, David Van Deusen, president of the Vermont AFL-CIO, and Kieran Knutson, president of CWA Local 7250 (AT&T workers, Minnesota). The Vermont AFL-CIO has been in the news for its passage of a resolution in November 2020 which called for a nationwide general strike if then-President Trump had tried to have a coup. Help us explore what we can learn from the Minneapolis Teamsters' strikes in 1934 and their impact throughout the local and regional labor movements. Register to join this event on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/joining/register/tZMtc--vqz0uHNBD-Sw-1f17HncXv6F9Hn-Ax?fbclid=IwAR2Sr-sOrx8cSStp3yXOCArkCENb7rJB0H-792HYIfpskm7TWthxkf0rKKARO>

July Virtual Events at Magers & Quinn 'United States of Grace,' with author Lenny Duncan in conversation with Marya Hornbacher

Wednesday, July 21, 7 p.m.

FREE, livestreamed on the Magers & Quinn Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/magersandquinnbooksellers/>) and YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9hl-4wPDtsbpur9VdOH7JmA?view_as=subscriber). Facebook RSVPs appreciated at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/603529413952230>.

Virtual Launch party with Daniel M. Bensen, Trilby Black and Neil Sharpson

Tuesday, July 27, 11 a.m.

Celebrate recent releases from three sci-fi authors at this virtual launch party! \$5, registration required at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/virtual-launch-party-with-daniel-bensen-trilby-black-and-neil-sharpson-tickets-160632888293>.

July Green Roof Poetry

Thursday, July 22, 7 to 9 p.m.

Walker Art Center

Wurtele Upper Garden

The Twin Cities is home to some of the most prominent poetry publishers in the nation. Green Roof Poetry brings together some of these dynamic literary houses for a live poetry reading series in the Walker's upper garden. Relax on the hillside for an evening of live readings by four poets selected by four different literary organizations: Coffee House Press, Graywolf Press, Milkweed Editions and Mizna. Grab your picnic blanket and quarantine bubble buddy, we'll see you on the hillside! The July event features local poets **Tarik Dobbs, Michael Kleber-Diggs, Gretchen Marquette, and Lara Mimosa Montes**. Black Garnet Books will have a pop-up shop starting at 6 p.m. More info at <https://walkerart.org/calendar/2021/july-green-roof-poetry>.

Belfast Cowboys

Friday, July 23, 7:30 to 9 p.m.

Lake Harriet Bandshell

4135 W. Lake Harriet Pkwy., Mpls.

The Belfast Cowboys, a 9-piece horn-driven rock band, perform at the Lake Harriet Bandshell, sponsored by Minneapolis Music and Movies in the Parks. Free and open to the public.

Minnesota Sinfonia Orchestra Free Concert at Gibbs Farm

Friday, July 23, 7 to 8 p.m.

Gibbs Farm

2097 Larpenteur Ave. W., St. Paul

After a year and a half of not playing, the Minnesota Sinfonia musicians will finally be performing together again in front of live audiences throughout the metro including at Gibbs Farm in St. Paul. The Sinfonia will be performing outside on Friday, July 23. Enjoy the sounds of "Music on the Lighter Side" with your family. This concert will include music from the movies, Broadway, waltzes, tangos, marches and much more!

The concert is from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m., but please feel free to arrive as early as 6 p.m. and bring a picnic dinner to enjoy with your friends and family. Please bring your own seating such as lawn chairs or picnic blankets for this event. We ask that you set up your seating area 6 feet from other family groups. There will be limited picnic tables. Looking to purchase a ticket to a Minnesota Sinfonia concert? No need, none are required. All Sinfonia concerts are performed free of charge and of course, all ages including children are welcome! While reservations are not required, the Farm would love to know if you plan to attend. RSVP at <https://www.rchs.com/event/minnesota-sinfonia-concert-at-gibbs-farm/>. In the event of inclement weather, a rain date has been set for Monday, July 26.

JonnyPops Pop In – A Free Sweet Treat Giveaway

Saturday, July 24

Midtown Global Market, Center Court 920 E. Lake St., Mpls.

Minnesota's own JonnyPops®, the self-proclaimed "smoothie on a stick" company, is providing their wholesome frozen treats for FREE to the first 1,000 visitors to Midtown Global Market. Guests may also enjoy the music of Charmin and Shapira. This event is in partnership with the Minneapolis Aquatennial celebration. It is free and open to the public to attend.

Katia Cardenas at the Granada

Friday, July 30, 8 to 10:30 p.m.

The Granada Theater

3022 Hennepin Ave., Mpls.

St. Paul-based jazz and R&B vocalist Katia Cardenas performs at the historic, recently restored Granada Theater in Uptown Minneapolis on Friday, July 30 from 8 to 10:30 p.m. This is Cardenas'

first in-person concert in three years, following a hiatus brought on by a vocal injury she sustained in 2018. The band will feature leading performers from the local jazz community: Ted Godbout (keys), Yohannes Tona (bass), Beth Varela (drums), and Stephanie Wieseler (saxophone). The Granada venue is a must-see. Patrons will love the midnight-blue starry-sky ceiling and hand-painted details in the recently restored, 100-year-old theater. Tickets are \$20 and on sale now at <https://granadamps.com/calendar/>. Katia Cardenas can be found online at KatiaCardenas.com and Facebook.com/KatiaCardenasSings, and on Instagram and Twitter at @katiasinging.

Open Eye Theatre's 8th Annual Ice Cream Social

Saturday, July 31, noon to 3 p.m.

Open Eye Theatre

506 E. 24th St., Mpls.

In the theatre and in the garden! Fun for all ages! Rain or shine! FREE!

Join us for one of the most fun-filled community events of the summer! We'll have performances of our Driveway Tour show "The Amazing Cowboat" and "Penguin in My Pocket" by Kurt Hunter, carnival games, music, and make-and-take puppet crafts. And, of course, ice cream! Enjoy a fun afternoon with family and friends! More info at <http://www.openeyetheatre.org/ice-cream-social>.

Patrick's Nicollet Island Cabaret

Sunday, July 31, 7:30 p.m.

Central Park, Nicollet Island

Corner of Maple Pl. and Nicollet St.

Join us, in person, for Patrick's NICOLLET ISLAND Cabaret! What better place to have Patrick's Cabaret happen in person for the first time since COVID, than outdoors on Nicollet Island?! Everyone in this show has lived on the island this summer, and we are inviting our neighbors and friends – including you! – for



We are in the thick of a major fight against Big Oil in Northern Minnesota. #StopLine3

Through the winter Larry Long composed and produced "No More Pipeline Blues (On This Land Where We Belong)" featuring Waubanewquay, Winona LaDuke, Day Sisters, Mumu Fresh, Pura Fe, Soni Moreno, Jennifer Kreisberg, Indigo Girls, Bonnie Raitt and Joy Harjo.

Music video –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zjoRB7ETaGk>

Produced by Keri Pickett

Call to action: Send a letter to President Joe Biden's administration, the White House, by visiting [STOPLINE3.org/Biden](https://stopline3.org/Biden) telling him to #StopLine3

this lovely get together. The lineup for this 90-minute show (with intermission) includes:

- Maria Benson, 3 songs and a little banter.
- Oliver Case singing "Somewhere Over the Rainbow."
- John Chaffee brings us his mandocello, three old songs, and a few remarks about them.
- Prudence Johnson will sing and play ukulele.

- Ross Sutter & Laura MacKenzie will present Scottish and Irish songs and tunes featuring two voices, guitar, wooden flutes, Scottish small pipes, whistle and Irish bodhran drum.
- Patrick Scully will screen a 6-minute edit of the 2015 Mississippi River Boat Ballet.

Tickets are pay-what-you-can (\$15 suggested), purchase at <https://linktr.ee/PatrickScully>.



Publishing the truth is not a crime

BY AMY BLUMENSHINE

Independence Day reminds us of the democratic leap forward made by an audacious set of colonies to free themselves from the rule of the king. The Bill of Rights of the Constitution insisted on freedom of the press and prohibits indefinite detention and cruel and unusual punishment. Two Australian family members of Julian Assange came to our area June 21 to remind us of that if we don't protect those rights, the rest of the world will suffer.

Southside-based organizations and citizens, including Women Against Military Madness, Veterans for Peace, and Tackling Torture at the Top, hosted John and Gabriel Shipton as they schlep across the U.S. to highlight the treatment of their son and brother. (Video at <https://assangedefense.org/tour/#minneapolis>. See also statements of support by Daniel Ellsberg <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cMIwLLrY8Ao&t=13s> and Roger Waters <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vw6LodTOzII>).

watch?v=vw6LodTOzII).

Assange was the mastermind behind the transparency-engine Wikileaks as it made available tremendous disclosures of malfeasances of governments ten years ago. Citizens around the world learned of truths about their governments and demanded changes. (The resulting uprising in Tunisia received the Nobel Peace Prize.) The Iraq War Logs, Afghan War Diary, and Guantanamo Bay releases, however, told the truth about U.S. war lies, crimes and torture. In response, the U.S. attacked Assange in ways official and unofficial.

Not only has Assange lost his personal freedom for the last ten years and suffered what the U.N. deems as torture, but journalism around the world has been chilled, as told by the Shiptons and panelists at their local events.

Moderating the outdoor venue was Time magazine Person of the Year and former FBI whistleblower and Minnesota congressional candidate, Coleen Rowley. She

urged the crowd to call the Department of Justice (DOJ) to affirm our right to a free press and dismiss charges against Assange. The DOJ comment line is (202) 353-1555, for civil and constitutional rights, press 1. Rowley also urged the public to contact our congresspeople to tell them we're urging Assange's freedom.

A British court is holding Assange in a maximum-security prison without bail in anticipation that the U.S. will appeal their judge's January decision to not extradite Assange to face U.S. charges of violating the 1917 Espionage Act. The Espionage Act prohibits defendants from explaining their intentions and could result in a sentence of 175 years. Astoundingly, the British judge rejected the U.S. request for extradition on the grounds that U.S. prison conditions could be expected to result in Assange's death by suicide (a clear condemnation of the U.S. prison system). So effectively, Assange is experiencing indefinite detention, or "punishment by process," as the Shiptons described it, with nary a day in court on the actual charges.

Assange is allowed only one ten-minute phone call a day with his father. Rowley skewered what she called the common misbelief that government secrecy protects citizens, pointing out that the 9/11 skyjackings and destruction could have been prevented if she and her colleague's attempts to get appropriate authorities to act had been heeded. (<https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm2010-oct-15-la-oe-rowley-wikileaks-20101015-story.html>)

The Shiptons noted that Wikileaks' revelations have also resulted in the eventual stopping of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the release of prisoners at Guantanamo. The crowd of 100 appreciated the new term suggested for such significant leaks: "revelations for democracy and security."

Top editors of major media, like The Washington Post and The New York Times, have expressed concern over press freedom and the silencing effect of charging Assange with espionage by publishing truths that the government would prefer to hide. This chilling also affects potential revealers for democracy and



Julian Assange's father and brother, John and Gabriel Shipton, spoke locally at an event hosted by Southsiders, including Thomas Dickinson (right).

security - insiders seeking to bring needed attention to fraud and lies.

What's the point of taking such great personal risk if the material is not going to be published anyway? And Russia has rejected criticism of their treatment of Alexei Navalny since they say that the U.S. also puts journalists like Assange in jail. Two Australians traveled to our area to remind us that Americans revolted against a legal system where merely contradicting the word of the king was considered treason, and the press was censored. They noted that it was our independence leader, Thomas Jefferson, who wrote that if forced to choose, he would prefer a free press without a government to a government without a free press.



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Agape, from page 1

me want to cry ... I feel very comfortable here," she says.

Marquise tells her little boy, "Tie your shoe ..." and then gives him a sucker. Marquise is carrying a bag of suckers that reaches from his waist almost to the ground.

Many of the people Marquise talks to have been watching Chauvin's trial. Two women from

St. Louis Park declare, "It should be first-degree murder. Chauvin should be in jail forever."

I'm surprised Marquise doesn't echo their sentiment. He says, "We extend mercy, he's a human being ... Naturally he has to be accountable ... If he can be rehabilitated and learn ..." But I shouldn't have been surprised, since one of the things I've known about Marquise since we met is the prominence of his Christian faith.

Many people talk to Marquise about the importance of this place and its capacity to mark the point when the comatose conscience of this nation was awakened.

A family from South Dakota says, " ... This is beautiful. A roundabout would be great - let it be an inconvenience - so we don't ever forget!"

Marquise says he would like to see a permanent memorial and a roundabout, keeping the fist. He agreed, "We don't want people to forget. Over the past 10 to 11 months, we've seen God turn a mess into a message. We don't leave - we try to make it better."

Marquise flirts with some dazzling young women who look like rock stars. He playfully asks for their autographs.

One is from California, Autefeh, and the other from North Carolina, Ebone, but they've lived in Minneapolis since before George Floyd was killed. They are training to be surgeons. Ebone was working at HCMC in trauma on May 25, 2020, and for the following four days during the protests, when many protesters were injured. She says it's so important to write down the history of what has happened and what is happening. "We have to keep the truth, so the truth stays true."

Marquise always greets people, explaining that Agape means love in Greek and Agape wants

to spread love - "no community without unity." "People want to bring us down. People think GFS is a dangerous place. Hopefully, it is life-changing for people to come here."

Interracial couple Max and Stefanie Kolin and their 6-month-old baby Lily are from Chicago. They are on a pilgrimage. They love that it's blocked off. "It's a powerful place," they say.

Dora Jones Robinson and her friend Darnella Wade were handing out campaign literature for Robinson, who is running for mayor of St. Paul. "I am the first African American woman to run for this position." One of her major issues is gun violence. Wade said, "My son got shot on the East Side of St. Paul in 2016."

A middle-aged couple from St. Paul, Scott and Chris, came to pray the day before Easter, "the day of resurrection. We pray for grace from tragedy. We're glad they've kept the space. We came here to pray and give respect."

We ran into Charles McMillian, one of the witnesses at 38th and Chicago on May 25, 2020. He said he had a third-grade education and was originally from Mississippi where things were "always swept under the rug. So I was raised to pay attention. ... I'm not afraid to tell the truth. I don't tell lies. It's how I am and what I did the other day." [He had just testified in court the previous Wednesday.] "I was afraid at first and pled the fifth. Then the lawyers convinced me that the police were not going to bother me. I came here to get chicken wings and I'm still here. The other day an 86-year-old man from Atlanta called me. He said, 'You made me cry.'"

After that, I went inside the Agape building. Agape member Larry Dent (whose given name is



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See Agape, page 15

• HOME IMPROVEMENT •

Southside Pride / RIVERSIDE EDITION

Agape, from page 14

Gamel), his mom, Eartha, his sisters, Donna and Arianne, and his niece, Samaya, were there. Samaya lives in North Minneapolis and doesn't come here much. She finds it sad yet feels something good has come out of it [the tragedy].

They were talking about a terrible attack on Larry by the police. Arianne found a newspaper account online in which it was mentioned. What I could gather from the conversation was that the police mistook Larry for a suspect. They hog-tied him and slammed him against the police car door. A group of white citizens physically fought with the police and saved his life. (Talking with Gamel another day I learned they knocked out his teeth, slammed

his foot in the door and threatened to kill him. A reporter from WCCO filmed what was happening and later it was on the news. Although it occurred in 1992, and Gamel went on to go to college and become a behavior specialist in the public schools, he said he never got help for the trauma of that event and it has interfered with his life.)

After Larry and his family members left, Marquise got two phone calls in a row from a cousin who is incarcerated. Marquise is a great encourager and seems to be a rock for others, giving love and wisdom in abundance. He himself was imprisoned for 11 and a half years and has been out for two years now, so he's especially aware of their situation. He's "on a mission to help the next generation not go through what we went through."

Outside again, Marcia and I met a young Black man, not a member of Agape, named Tredis Adams, who laughingly said he

had paid a \$10 fine to the curser at the Agape office – no cursing is allowed in there.

Then he started talking about money, the power of money. He wants the Black community to have that power. I was struck by his statement that nothing and nobody had ever kept him from doing what he wanted to do. He said the formula for success is to work 100 hours a week, have no bad habits and be honest – a person can be successful through planning, saving, creativity and resourcefulness. He bought his first apartment at age 16 and bought a duplex at age 18. Despite financial ups and downs, he was able to take a month off every year and take his family all over the world. And, when he was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer a year and a half ago, he had the capacity to pursue alternative treatments.

When I first saw him, I thought he was about 25, so I was surprised to learn he is 55 and in the midst of cancer treatment right now. He used alternative treatments from the beginning,

not as a last resort. A year ago, he weighed 120 pounds. He has written a book about his astounding journey, "How Cancer Did Me a Favor."

The next weekend, the day got away from me, but as night fell, I decided to go to GFS and take notes anyway. By the time I got there it was dark and pretty cold, so I went with Marquise to the Agape office building. His cousin Joe Edwards was there. At 49, Joe had spent his last 14 years in federal penitentiaries all over the country, convicted in the same case as Marquise: "conspiracy to sell drugs." (Joe didn't take the plea deal since he was sure he'd be found innocent in a jury trial, but he was convicted and originally sentenced to 30 years, which, for many reasons, ended up being 14 years.) Because of the First Step Act (FSA), passed in December 2018, his sentence was suddenly shortened, and at the end of this past January, prison authorities took him to COVID quarantine for two weeks and then opened the doors and let him walk out. When it happens like that it's called immediate release and it's a shock.

Since he grew up around 38th

and Chicago, Minneapolis is definitely his HOME. Immediately he left Kentucky for Minneapolis on the Greyhound bus. He had no ID, transportation, work or housing. With difficulty those things are falling into place.

For Joe, the hardest thing during his 14 years of incarceration was not being allowed to go to the funerals for his auntie, who was his biggest supporter, for his grandma, for his mother and for his 24-year-old son, who was murdered.

Now he is reconnecting with his three other children. He says, "By the grace of God, I've been able to convey to them how much they mean to me."

I ran into so many lives that display extraordinary strength and resilience. Another one, Derek Armstrong, a member of Agape, has eight children. He expected five, but got a set of triplets and a set of twins. He has a great sense of humor. He'd have to.

And there's the man with great vision, Steve Floyd, who for unexplained reasons looked to God (or the Universe) and basketball to find his calling to nurture young Black men who didn't see a clear path before them. He helped found the Agape Movement 40 years ago, and although his artistic passion for photography tugs at him and he has survived a kidney transplant, he continues his community work today.

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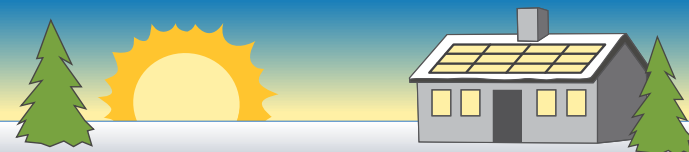
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