



We build Pride on the Southside

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**Accountability
and other
myths**



BY TONY BOUZA

America is in the throes of an agonizing debate—police reform—and it has no answers.

Yet that's how the U.S. tackles its problems—and often solves them—through heated fulminations and some final distillations into changes. The biggest problems—today—are racism and income disparity.

George Floyd launched the discussion on race through the vehicle of illustration. He served as the symbol. His case had everything: race, thumperism, official indifference and egregious cruelty.

Colin Kaepernick was sacrificed—unheard. George Floyd—through the heroics of a Black child's recording—was emblazoned to stardom. Irony.

Withal, no sensible police reforms have surfaced. A lot of idiot notions, however, have:

Defund the police.

How clever.

Charter reform.

Innovative and slick—but mindless.

The race to invent nostrums became a hysterical marathon.

The simple, capitalist, answer would not be heard. It is accountability.

See Bouza, page 5



**Sen. John Kennedy,
King of the Trolls**

BY ED FELIEN

Democrats are being seriously trolled by Republicans.

Paul Gosar sent out a crudely modified anime cartoon depicting him cutting the head off Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (AOC).

Marjorie Taylor Greene, during the 2020 campaign, posted an image on her Facebook page of her holding an automatic rifle

alongside photos of AOC, Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib, saying she was going on “offense against these socialists.”

Lauren Boebert made up a story about being in an elevator with Ilhan Omar and remarking to a security guard or an aide (depending on which version of her story she is telling), “Well, she doesn’t have a backpack; we should be fine,” implying that Omar is a sui-

cide bomber and a terrorist. One of Boebert’s fans was so inspired by her “joke” that he sent this voicemail to Omar: “I would love the opportunity to take you off the face of the f*cking Earth, you Muslim piece of sh*t jihadist. We know what you are, you’re a f*cking traitor. You will not live much longer, I can almost guarantee you that.”

The reason these Republican members of Congress

**Modest steps
to stopping
violence**

BY CHARLEY UNDERWOOD

The other day on a forum that I read and contribute to, a former Minneapolis police officer linked a report at https://protectmn.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/The-Economic-Cost-of-Gun-Violence_FINAL-1.pdf, citing a study that showed that gun violence causes economic harm to cities as well as suffering for victims and those who love them. Statewide, it comes to \$764 million a year. I was suspicious that here was yet another argument for valuing money and property over human life. Being curious, however, I read on.

What I found astounded me. The optimistic part of the report is that both the carnage and the business costs have solutions, including:

- Universal background checks (to eliminate the private-seller loophole).
- Community investment strategies (to lower the poverty/hopelessness causes).
- Hospital-based violence intervention programs (a public health approach to intervene



during victim treatment, reducing both future revenge shootings and recurrence shootings for the initial victims).

Please note: I looked and looked in this report, but at no point did I find that the solution to gun violence was more armed or more heavily armed police officers. It was remarkable to me that this report began with approaches that right-wingers typically call “gun control” and continued with programs that look very much like the language in Amendment Question #2, which Minneapolis voters just defeated.

I want to be very clear here. I am not personally advocating for an abolition or complete defunding of the Minneapolis police department. Nor am I trying to “re-litigate” the defeat of Question #2. Nor am I suggesting that police officers are universally or even mostly bad actors. Rather, I firmly believe that most probably have noble civic impulses, motivated by a deep desire

See Kennedy, page 5

See Violence, page 13



Enjoy our Senior Section

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Gracefully



**Happy
Holidays**

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The vital role of a spiritual practice and more

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

The case for a spiritual practice for good mental health

In recent years, there has been a merging between the body of knowledge of spirituality and spiritual practice and that of mental health and wellness. In a way, they were never separate. After all, the



root of psychiatry and psychology – psyche – means soul. And philosophers as well as practitioners have been known to blend the two together in the 150 years or so that

psychology as a valid field of study has been around.

Among the theorists of psychology and psychiatry who have embraced some facets of the transpersonal, the numinous, or the collective “oversoul” of all humanity are Carl Jung, Alfred Adler, Roberto Assagioli, Fritz Kunkel, Thomas Szasz, Abraham Maslow, Victor Frankl, Rollo May, R. D. Laing, Wilhelm Reich, Carl Rogers, Ken Wilber, Virginia Satir, Erich Fromm, Elisabeth Kübler-Ross and Timothy Leary. The convergence of the modern “psyche” (mental health, personality) with the historic concept of soul is also a theme touched on by several 19th and 20th century philosophers, including Henry James, Aldous Huxley, Paul Tillich, Martin Buber, Søren Kierkegaard, Shunryu Suzuki, Thomas Merton, Dorothy Day, Thich Nhat Hanh and Jacob Needleman.

Since obviously this is too wide a net for this simple article, we are going to focus on the recent phenomenon of mindfulness meditation being offered (and finding some success) as a treatment for anxiety and other less-than-optimal mental states. (Mindfulness is not

originally a psychological concept, but rather a spiritual one.) But this is not as great a leap in the subject as it may seem at first glance. Psychology-psychiatry began, despite its “soulful” etymology, as a quasi-medical model for treating extreme problematic mental pathologies. As such, it saw itself as enlightened science replacing superstitious religion (i.e., viewing mental illness as evil or demonic). But the later strands of existential, positive and humanistic psychology, founded or championed by those named above, came to focus on making the well better – happier, more loving, more effective socially – rather than just making the sick well, or as it usually played out, merely compliant.

Transpersonal psychology – beyond the “person” – set the sights even higher, and thus psychology began to presume to treat symptoms of existential angst, spiritual emptiness and the wholly rational anxiety of living in an insane world. To do this, it had to do a 180 and go back and consider the “perennial philosophy,” humankind’s whole history of spiritual wisdom. Psychotherapists learned to meditate, and to teach their clients how to do it as well.

I have found in my own life, especially since the pandemic began, that meditation, even without a teacher (even, in fact, with myself as the completely uncredentialed teacher of others) has in fact been a good treatment for anxieties, both personal and global. I think it’s central to my own quest to age gracefully. If you’re still having doubts, scientists say that a regular meditation or similar practice slows aging symptoms in the brain, as well as bestowing better sleep and a more positive outlook.



Shunryu Suzuki-roshi and his wife Mitsu in California, 1970

Some options for a spiritual practice

Although the spiritual practice I choose currently is meditation, influenced mainly by Suzuki-roshi in his book “Zen Mind, Beginner’s Mind,” I identify as Christian, specifically as Methodist. I sympathize

with those who have rejected the religion of their childhood, if any, and I understand there are a lot of folks nowadays who have a purely secular upbringing. The good news is that Christianity and Buddhism are not the only religions to have a contemplative practice, and almost none of them require the practitioner to embrace all, or indeed any, of the dogma of the faith.

If Zen Buddhist practice feels like the wrong path for you, there are contemplative practices in Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, other branches of Buddhism, Sikhism, Shinto, secular humanism, many pagan faiths, and many (and varied – you wouldn’t believe how varied) Native American spiritualities. There are probably some in religions so esoteric I have never heard of them.

I have found it very hard to meditate on my own. Even in monasteries, contemplatives meditate in the context of a community. And for me, even being online on Zoom with only one other person has helped

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Wendy Wolff is a Relocation Consultant and founder of BLISSworks. As a Counselor specializing in transitions for almost 20 years, she has developed a passion for helping people downsize and create intentional living spaces. With humor and compassion, she shares her experience “rightsizing” her own life, she can help give you practical tips to redesign your new home. Beautiful living. Simplified spaces.

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Dr. Cornel West

me stay more consistent in my meditations. Online meditation, as well as phone apps (see below) are available in various flavors. Here's a link to a recommendation of 10, some free and some with a cost: www.healthline.com/health/meditation-online#our-picks.

Being in the Twin Cities, we are lucky to have numerous meditation centers as well as wellness centers that offer mindfulness as a treatment, and chapels, churches and temples that offer free, non-proselytizing meditation groups. Just to mention a few I know about: The Meditation Center (Yoga, Northeast Minneapolis), Common Ground Meditation (Yoga, Seward, Minneapolis), the Minnesota Zen Center (Zen, East Calhoun, Minneapolis), Sophia Wisdom Center (Christian, Whittier, Minneapolis) and Clouds in Water (Zen, St. Paul).

Since the early pandemic, most of these offer both in-person small groups and online options. There are even groups in Meetup.com that do meditation – see this list: www.meetup.com/topics/meditation/us/mn/minneapolis/. If you want to try apps, the most prominent two are Calm and Headspace (check out your favorite online app store). Another one I am getting a lot of push ads from is a Catholic Christian app called Hallow. (Yes, praying the rosary is technically a meditation – a contemplative practice for the laity.)

There are loads of books that can guide you on your contemplative/mindfulness therapy path, some more spiritual and some more psychological. Three that I use as I guide others in meditation are:

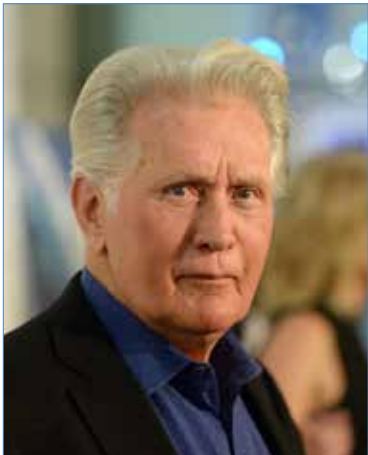
- “Zen Mind, Beginner’s Mind” by Shunryu Suzuki.
- “Roaming Free Inside the Cage” by William M. Schafer, Ph.D. (actually more of a book on the Enneagram but the two appendices on Taoist meditation are incredibly helpful).
- “Volume One, Sunday Morning Services on the Farm” by Stephen Gaskin (so now you know what a hippie I really am).

More people who are (or were) aging gracefully

I am varying from my rules for “Aging Gracefully” role models, established in last year’s piece, in two

ways. One broken rule is that I am including a few recently deceased people (well, by recently I mean fewer than 10 years ago.) And for just one person, I am breaking the rule that they have to be older than me to be included. I’ll start with that guy.

I feel a lot of affinity with Dr. Cornel West. Although my achievements, such as they are, cannot approach his, he works in a mental space that I also occupy a lot of the time – a space where religious and political ideals overlap so completely and seamlessly that I cannot understand how everyone can’t see it, and that, frustratingly, religion and leftist politics are perceived as antitheses. I was astonished to learn that Dr. West is less than a year younger than I am, as I always perceived him as a wise elder. One thing we have in common is long-time membership in Democratic Socialists of America (DSA), although



Martin Sheen

he was prominent (and an honorary co-chair, back when we had such) while I was practically unknown. Another thing we have in common is dabbling in the arts and expression of younger generational cohorts. Dr. West, in addition to his public activism, his 23 published books and essays, and his appearance in numerous documentaries, has also served as a consultant on the Matrix film series along with existential psychologist Ken Wilber, and appeared as a character named Councillor West in two of the sequel films. Even more amazingly, he has produced three hip-hop albums and been a guest performer for a num-

ber of soul, funk and hip-hop artists.

This leads in turn to another rule-breaker, the late Ed Asner (1929 – 2021). He probably shared a platform with Dr. West more than once. Asner was also a DSA member, having been grandfathered in as a founding member of DSOC. And, like Ronald Reagan, he was a two-term president of the Screen Actors Guild (SAG). However, Asner used this position to sway the union and the industry to support left-wing causes, such as opposing the “low-intensity wars” in Latin America. Asner continued to pursue left-wing advocacy until his health declined, long after he had virtually retired from acting.

Another left-wing actor who also definitely shared a stage with Asner is Martin Sheen. Still very active both politically and professionally at 81, Sheen was born Ramón Antonio Gerardo Estévez in Dayton, Ohio, the son of an immigrant from Spain and his Irish-born wife. Neither appearing nor sounding “Hispanic,” the young Sheen found he could not get hired with his very Latino name, so he assumed his stage name, although he has never legally changed it. Of course, most of my readers will remember Sheen as fictional president Jed Bartlett from “The West Wing,” although he is also known for his breakout role in the independent film “Badlands” and his role in “Apocalypse Now.” Sheen makes the list as someone who combines a deep Catholic spirituality with his firm left-leaning liberalism (in his youth, before he settled on a coherent philosophy, he was active in the Dorothy Day-led Catholic Worker Movement) and uses his privilege and power to aid youth and many marginalized communities.

Two British actors, both “Sirs,” made my list. The first is Sir Ian McKellen, who needs no introduction. Only surprising if you don’t know gay history, McKellen, although out to his close-knit theater community, did not come out to the general public until 1988, goaded by an attempt to pass a horrid law against LGBTQ rights, “Section 28.” (Sadly, it passed, but was repealed in 2003.) McKellen is an absolute Renaissance man, and another one who stays young by participating freely and happily in youthful are-



Sir Patrick and Sir Ian in ‘Waiting for Godot’ in 2013

nas, such as, in his case, Twitter. (Follow <https://twitter.com/IanMcKellen>, and also check out his awesome website.) Although he still acts, he is most known now for his witty talk and writings. Here he is on all the names he is called:

“Serena was wittily coined by Stephen Fry at a gay fundraiser,” Sir Ian told The Independent a few years ago. “Others favour [calling me] Damian. In the U.S., impressed and unused to titles, I am invariably Sir McKellen.* Computers address me as Siri McKellen. I answer to all.”

[*I don’t think we are impressed, just confused. “Lord/Lady” can be used with the surname in most cases, but “Sir/Dame” are applied only to the first name. And as Americans, we are actually not supposed to acknowledge civilian rank titles at all!]

I can’t talk about Sir Ian without also including Sir Patrick Stewart. As you may know, the two are great

friends, as well as appearing in several notable stage shows together. You might think they became friends because both are involved in a lot of modern science fiction and fantasy films, both are left of center, and they’re getting to an age where a lot of their counterparts have died off or disappeared. But no! They were friends from youth, both being working-class northern boys who got into Cambridge. In 2013, McKellen actually joined the Universal Life Church and “married” Stewart – to his third wife, jazz singer Sunny Ozell.

Well, I’ve run out of space. I was going to tie this back to the spirituality theme by including a trio of Canadian-American songwriters with spiritual and political leanings, (one deceased, so another rule-breaker). You’ll have to come back for the next installment which will highlight Joni Mitchell, Buffy Sainte-Marie and Leonard Cohen as aged and graceful.



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Lake Street is coming back

BY KAY SCHROVEN

A year or two from now, can you picture yourself waltzing into the Longfellow neighborhood's Coliseum Building at 2700 E. Lake St. for a cocktail, to shop for goods and services, secure a job, or view an art exhibit? Taylor Smrikárova, project manager for Redesign, Inc.

office furniture and renamed the building for himself. While Podany did not invest much in the property, he preserved the ballroom on the third floor and rented it to rock bands, including The Suburbs, for practice space. When Podany sought to sell to a known slumlord, the Longfellow Community Council (LCC) stepped up and searched

of experience in the Seward and Longfellow neighborhoods. It is also one of 16 nonprofits that received access to an acquisition loan program called CAT (Community Asset Transition) created by LISC (Local Initiatives Support Corporation) in partnership with Hennepin County, JPMorgan Chase, and the Minneapolis, Bush, and McKnight Foundations, to assist with the recovery from the riots and the ongoing pandemic. Redesign and its partners are also seeking funds from We Love Lake Street grants, PACE Equity, New Markets Tax Credits, tax increment financing, historic tax credits, the Minneapolis Commercial Property Development Fund and Xcel Energy rebates.

Redesign also purchased the Elite Cleaners property at 3101 Minnehaha Ave. Smrikárova and others have a vision of what these properties can be, and well-laid plans. Smrikárova describes not just a restoration of buildings, but a “resurgence and revitalization” much like H Street in Washington, D.C., where the 1968 riots following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. burned the neighborhood to the ground. Following that event, businesses faced disinvestment (in the 1970s and ‘80s) and ultimately fled to the suburbs until the early 2000s, when a renewed interest in city living and a resurgence took place making it the vital destination it is today, known for its nightlife, festivals, restaurants, pop-ups and communal atmosphere. “We do not want this iconic building to sit empty for long. Bringing the Coliseum back online is part of the healing process happening across Lake Street,” Smrikárova said.

Smrikárova and Redesign are energized by the challenge and enjoy working with other organizations, coalitions and individuals who share their vision. “This time it will be different.” This time it will be an organic process “not happening to the community but being of the community,” Smrikárova said. This time, plans are being built on cultural assets, equity and transparency. There will be coalitions, community involvement and investment with a focus on opportunities for business and talent in the Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) communities. That is, entrée for people who may have been shut out in the past for a variety of reasons, including financial ones. The goal is community ownership and wealth building, especially for those who have been shut out due to prejudicial lending practices and systemic racism.

The Coliseum will welcome diverse entrepreneurs. Former tenants, as well as new ones, will be invited in and offered affordable leases. Already three anchors have been established

who will co-own and operate the 70,000-square-foot building – a new bar, restaurant and event space from the owners of Du Nord Social Spirits; Urban Design Perspectives, a Black woman-owned architecture firm; and Commonsense Consulting@Work, a Black woman-owned consulting firm. Redesign is also in the process of registering the Coliseum with the National Register of Historic Places. The first step of making the application has been completed. Step two is in process and involves design approval. If approved, this status allows for state and federal tax credits.

Peter McLaughlin, former Hennepin County commissioner and Minnesota state representative, has been the executive director of LISC since 2019. LISC is dedicated to supporting projects to revitalize communities and bring greater economic opportunities to residents. This is done through capital, strategy and know-how. LISC is funded by foundations, businesses and governments. With respect to East Lake Street, McLaughlin said the goal is to “gain local control of damaged properties” rather than allow outside investors to come in who would not have an understanding of, or commitment to, the community. This is done using financial lending to community members, particularly BIPOC members seeking to become stakeholders. “It’s not just about financing, it’s about place-making,” McLaughlin said, which may be described as preserving and nourishing the soul of the community. Now that the Coliseum building has been secured, LISC is raising funds for the renovation, which is estimated at \$16 million. Construction is expected to take a year and will be done by two local community-oriented companies, minority-owned TRI-Construction and Watson-Forsberg, with a goal of opening the summer of 2023.

Redesign is also buying the Elite Cleaners property just south of Lake Street and Minnehaha Avenue, thanks to an \$827,250 loan from LISC. The property was heavily damaged during the same civil unrest and now sits amongst other vacant buildings including the former post office, the Odd Fellows building and the Coliseum. Within a day of the destruction, the Lake Street Council was on site to help secure the building and a disaster grant, but Samir and Pinky Patel, who own the cleaning business, could not afford to rebuild without assistance. A \$1.1 million renovation/expansion began in November 2021, a small fraction of the estimated \$350 million in commercial destruction wrought in the riots. Redesign will eventually sell the dry-cleaning property to the Patels for approximately \$475,000. Redesign will also retain an adjacent piece of land

with the intention of developing what’s known as “missing middle housing.”

When Samir and Pinky Patel contacted the Lake Street Council for assistance they were referred to Nancy St. Germaine. St. Germaine, a member of the Turtle Mountain Ojibwa of North Dakota, has a college background but said, “that has little to nothing to do with what I do today. I learn by doing and started by laying tile in bathrooms throughout college.” Today she is the owner of six-year-old Raven Construction and Jack’s Hardware on Franklin Avenue (the former Welna II Hardware store). With the assistance of the Community Property Development Fund (CPDF), Raven was able to secure a 40-year, forgivable loan with 0% interest. Raven Construction has joined Elite in the reconstruction plans and will relocate warehousing and offices into the back of the Elite property. St. Germaine, along with her team of 10, is working with the Patels on the redesign, expansion and construction of the Minnehaha Avenue property.

Ironically, the hollowing out via riots of neighborhoods with many immigrant-owned businesses has created opportunities for minority-owned businesses as rebuilding takes place. Raven has been growing rapidly, often through networking and community engagement, and has plans to branch into the mechanical and electrical areas. Unlike large projects with one owner, this type of reconstruction involves hundreds of small business owners with their own goals. Smaller, minority-owned construction firms often have difficulty obtaining bank loans; barriers still exist, access to capital is still a challenge, and competition, especially with large construction companies, is tough. Only 2.8% of state procurement in the construction field goes to minority-owned businesses and just .02% to Black-owned businesses. As St. Germaine said, “This is why we need cooperatives, partnerships and shared services.” She is also in the process of developing an internship/mentoring program to give BIPOC and women a fresh start – an opportunity to learn the skills and business of construction.

In the meantime, as construction gets underway, watch for art projects in and around the Coliseum, designed to alert us to the coming changes and inspire us toward a better day. Redesign is working closely with fivefive Public Art Consultants. Robyne Robinson is the principal of fivefive, whom you may remember from her career as a TV journalist. fivefive will engage local BIPOC artists to create a tangible invitation for the community and a message of hope regarding what’s to come.



(aka Seward Redesign) can. “The Coliseum has good bones, it just needs help,” she says. Smrikárova, who has a background in architecture and real estate, envisions an open, welcoming lobby, a rooftop space, as well as a varied and diverse renter population. She is excited and hopeful about the redevelopment of East Lake Street following the 2020 civil unrest when 150 buildings were set on fire and dozens burned to the ground after the murder of George Floyd.

The Coliseum has had multiple lives: It was built in 1917 and opened as Freeman’s Department Store, successfully operated as a family business until the 1940s when it was sold to the May Department Stores Company based in St. Louis. This sale did not work out and by 1956 the property fell back to the Freemans. In 1975, Freeman sold to Roger Podany, who sold used

for a community-based developer. Enter Fred Lehman. Lehman forged a partnership with a wealthy physician who eventually pulled out of the deal. The LCC came to the rescue in conjunction with the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP). This, along with bank and additional city and neighborhood funds, allowed Lehman to purchase and rehab the property. In 2001 the building reopened with tenants such as Denny’s Restaurant, a Latino health clinic and the 3rd Precinct police station in the basement. The 3rd Precinct moved after a torrential rain flooded the basement. An out-of-town financial group then bought the building and managed it until 2020 when civil unrest upended the building. Enter Chris Romano, executive director of Seward Redesign.

Redesign is a nonprofit community developer with 50 years



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It blew up in our faces

BY ED FELIEN

We were feeling so hopeful, so optimistic. We were congratulating ourselves on our great victory over ignorance. We lit a cigar to celebrate.

And then it blew up in our faces.

We made some terrible mistakes. The banner across the front of the stage in Powderhorn Park was the beginning. “Defund the Police” was never going to win friends and influence voters. And the public humiliation and rejection of Jacob Frey when he came down to talk to people in the streets just strengthened his support and got him a lot of sympathy votes. But the biggest problem with the amendment to change the police department was that it wasn’t clear where it was headed. Voters thought they were being asked to jump off a cliff, and they weren’t even promised a soft landing. The incumbents who supported the amendment in the more conservative wards were crushed by their opponents. Fletcher,

Cunningham and Schroeder lost big-time to Rainville, Vetaw and Koski.

Conservatives on the City Council are now in a strong position. Rainville in Ward 3; Osman in 6; Goodman in 7; Jenkins in 8; Koski in 11 and Palmisano in 13 give them six solid votes. But it takes seven votes to organize the Council. It is possible that Andrew Johnson in Ward 12 could organize the other six progressives into a caucus that could run the City Council, but it’s much more likely that the older, more experienced council members will run the show and give patronizing lip service to progressive aspirations.

Was anything gained in this desperate suicidal effort?

The re-election of Jacob Frey as mayor was not an endorsement of his administration of the police department. People want change. Even Frey’s mentor, former mayor R.T. Rybak, told reporters: “He said he wants to make major reforms, so let’s go.” The city should get the U.S. Department of Justice to

put the MPD in receivership, invalidate the union contract and help the department remove cops for cause, he said.

Frey needs to clean house. He needs to publicly deal with the grievances against officers involved in the killing of young Black men in order to restore trust in the department.

What really happened in the basement of that home in South Minneapolis where officers shot and killed Terrance Franklin? The city never answered the charge in district court that Officers Lucas Peterson and Michael Meath executed Franklin. We deserve to know what happened, and the mayor and the chief of police need to give us a satisfactory explanation.

Did Officer Ringgenberg observe proper MPD protocol when he tackled Jamar Clark from be-



hind when he was walking away from him? Did he have control of his weapon at all times?

Did the officers who shot and

killed Thurman Blevins as he was running away from them saying, “I didn’t do nothing bro. Please don’t shoot. Leave me alone,” observe proper protocol?

Does the MPD have new protocols to prevent them from killing mentally disturbed and suicidal citizens like Travis Jordan?

Frey and Arradondo have to publicly admit there is a problem with endemic racism in the MPD that doesn’t value the lives of young Black men. And they have to show us concrete steps they are taking to stop these continued murders.

The issue of police accountability is not going away. The MPD will not be dismantled this time around, but we have a right to expect the house will be cleaned, and that it will protect and serve all of us without exception.

Kennedy, from page 1

do this is because it excites and delights their base. Trump has shown there’s money to be made in going as low as you can with fear and loathing: “Brown people are coming across our borders to take our jobs. Send me money!”

The attacks are crude and stupid. They aim for the lowest common denominator, and they hit it. They have all the elegance of a street brawl.

On the other hand, Sen. John Kennedy of Louisiana has all the charm of a Southern gentleman and the venom of a rattlesnake.

He’s smarter than the brawlers. He graduated magna cum laude from Vanderbilt, president of his class, got a law degree from the University of Virginia, was executive editor of the Virginia Law Review, earned a Bachelor of Civil Law degree from Oxford and has published numerous books on technicalities in civil law. But he can play the hick to appeal to the street brawlers.

On Nov. 18, at the hearing before the Senate Banking Committee to confirm Saule Omarova as Comptroller of the Currency, Kennedy took a star turn in his questions for the nominee. Omarova was born in the Soviet Union, came to the U. S. as a college student and became a U. S. citizen. All elementary school-age children in the Soviet Union were automatically enrolled in Komsomol, the Communist Youth League.

Omarova is supported by progressives because she favors stricter regulation of banks to prevent another 2008 credit collapse, so the Wall Street Journal called her “A Banking Regulator

Who Hates Banks.”

When it came time to ask his questions, Kennedy said, “You have the right to believe every one of these things. You do. This is America, but—I don’t mean any disrespect—I don’t know whether to call you professor or comrade?”

He effectively accuses her of being a communist and forces her to deny it.

When LBJ was president, a young man came to see him. He was interested in running for a congressional seat in Texas, and he was asking for advice about how to run against a popular incumbent. LBJ told him, “Accuse him of sleeping with hogs.” “But,” the young man protested, “he doesn’t sleep with hogs.” “Of course not,” LBJ said, “but he’ll have to deny it.”

Once you start denying something, some people will believe there must be some truth in the accusation.

The last time Kennedy prefaced one of his zingers with, “Now, I don’t mean any disrespect,” he was talking about Nancy Pelosi, and he continued, “but it must suck to be that dumb.”

Kennedy’s attack on Omarova probably doomed her candidacy. Some moderate Democrats have said they can’t support her, and there is no expectation that any Republicans would, so it seems likely her nomination will fail—a singular victory for Republicans in a Congress run by Democrats and a personal victory for John Kennedy.

It’s possible that the farce about communists in the banking regulatory agency last week was just a tryout in the auditioning for vice president that seems to be going on in the Republican

party. The governor of Texas versus the governor of Florida versus the governor of South Dakota. Maybe Kennedy thought, “There’s room in that clown car for one more act. I can scare the hell out of them with stories of elitists who think they’re better than we are and who want to take our money and give it to minorities and immigrants and people who haven’t worked and don’t want to work.”

Nobody has commented on the striking congruency of the Senate hearing with the QAnon conspiracy theory at about the same time that John F. Kennedy (or maybe John-John, JFK’s son) would reappear in Dallas in November and run as vice president on the 2024 ticket with Trump. What an amazing coincidence. Or was that Kennedy’s clever way to plant the idea in QAnon that John F. Kennedy, or maybe his son, or maybe, just maybe, a reincarnation of John F. Kennedy (or someone with the same name) would be Donald Trump’s running mate in 2024?

It’s a long way to 2024. Most of us haven’t recovered yet from 2020. But it is interesting to see Republicans race to the bottom and throw mud. The trick is to throw mud at the Democrats without getting too much of it on yourself. Gosar, Greene and Boebert dirtied themselves throwing mud, but Kennedy, sounding like hominy grits and biscuits and gravy, comes off as homespun and sincere. It played well for his voters, and it played well for his funders—the banks.

At this point, you’d have to concede Sen. John Kennedy is the leading candidate for vice president on a Trump ticket next time around.

Bouza, from page 1

Every enterprise is based on it, except for very benign and tolerant socialism. And policing is socialism in drag.

I digress.

In the late ‘80s I decided I’d leave the Chief’s job after nine years. They’d all suffered enough.

Would I have any suggestion for Mayor Fraser if he asked me?

It had to be yes—so I thought and thought and finally emerged with an obvious solution—my number two. He’d do a good job.

So, I asked him—expecting a teary acceptance.

He shocked me.

“I can’t work with that Council. Don’t even suggest me!”

That was it. I was floored.

Fraser never asked.

My choice became a chief elsewhere and served with distinction for about a decade.

Fraser chose a feckless care-

taker who, with one exception, began a parade of get-alongs, go-alongs who brought us Justine Damond, George Floyd, Terrance Franklin and countless others.

The thumpers rolled on; the union held sway, the politicos congratulated themselves and you got screwed.

And all that needed to be done was to hold someone accountable for how they fought street crime, responded to 911 emergencies and controlled traffic.

One knowing look at the MPD budget and you’ll know you’re in the hands of idiots and fools. Yes, reducing that budget 10% would—in the hands of knowing, willing executives—produce miracles of efficiency through accountability.

It ain’t gonna happen.

The band plays on.

With all the debates, riots, pillages, burning and urban unrest, not a thing—in policing—has changed.

WARNING

Powderhorn Lake Aerator Operation

An aeration system will be operated on Powderhorn Lake, located in Minneapolis (Hennepin County). Operation will begin on approximately December 20th, 2021 and will continue through April 30th, 2022. Thin ice and open water may be present. Please stay clear of marked areas.

For questions regarding the operation of this aeration system, please contact the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board—Environmental Operations at 612-230-6400

Scholar coaches are needed in the Twin Cities to help bridge the Minnesota educational gap

BY STEPHANIE FOX

Minnesotans can boast about being number one in a lot of positive categories, but having some of the largest educational disparities among minority and low-income students in the

country is no reason to brag. One factor in this disparity is that where white parents have higher incomes and more education than Black parents, they can provide more educational support for their kids. This is true in the Twin Cities.

The Minnesota Reading and Math Corps wants to change the outcomes for these students. Right now, they are looking to expand the number of scholar/coaches to attend classrooms in Minneapolis and St. Paul, working alongside licensed teachers

in kindergarten through third grades, beginning in January 2022. They hope to recruit 25 people for schools in Minneapolis and 22 in St. Paul. The program is asking those who are interested to apply by Dec. 15.

Scholars need to be 18 years old and have a high school diploma or equivalency. But older people, even those retired, are welcome to apply.

This is not a volunteer position. Scholar/coaches work 40 hours a week, making \$16.66 an hour, and those who haven't

already earned an associate degree can complete a degree in early childhood or elementary education at little or no cost, as part of a new Education Fellowship in partnership with PNC Bank and Minneapolis Community and Technical College. Scholars also qualify for individual health insurance at no cost. Scholars who are age 55 or older may choose to gift the money they earn for tuition to a child, to help them cover their college costs. Those who are accepted to the program will receive two weeks of paid training.

Each scholar will work one-on-one for 20 minutes a day with a minimum of nine students, helping to improve literacy skills. They will also work with groups of students, partnering with the classroom teacher.

"This experience is valuable for the kids when they get to have an adult focused and interested in them," said Laura Isdahl, the Corps program manager. "Across the country, the program has helped 30,000 students. We are looking for people who are passionate about working with the community, particularly for people interested in getting into the education field or other kinds of public service."

"The need is great in the metro area," said Gary Young, media relations director with the Corps. "This has been an especially tough year for school staffing. And, while COVID has impacted learning for all students, the impact has been disproportionate for populations already experiencing educational disparities. The Corps is looking for people who students can

See *Scholars*, page 13



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Jonathan September 2021

Moving to the Twin Cities, I was surprised to learn not many Peruvians live here. I'm from DC and of Peruvian/Salvadoran heritage so this restaurant caught my attention. It was the closest thing to Peruvian I could find. The owner was amicable, the ceviche was also pretty good and reminded me of my grandmother's recipe complete with yam and "chocolo".

Hyrum and Anita Blake September 2021

If you want legitimate high-quality Ecuadorian food, then try this restaurant! Don't even give it a second thought. Go now! I lived in Ecuador and my wife is from there. It has our approval!

Anthony B. September 2021

Excellent food, I ordered Through door dash and I am a returning customer. something very different and very delicious meals.



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South Minneapolis Schools looking for Reading & Math Tutors

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Happy Holidays

Getting dark and philosophical about the holidays

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

The title of this article is meant to gently lead you into a dark place. If I had titled it “Dying During the Holidays” you probably would have skipped it, right? Sorry about that. But now that you’re here, let me explain.

If you’re one of my regular readers or friends, it probably won’t surprise you to learn that I was a deeply weird kid. It’s considered cute nowadays, but it wasn’t at all cute in the 1950s. One of the ways I was weird was that I thought about death a lot. And not be-

cause I had much experience with it – it just arose from somewhere deep in my childish soul, usually when I was supposed to be falling asleep at night.

One of the many things I brought myself to tears about (along with thoughts of lambs to the slaughter, or how some kids lost their mothers while they were still kids) I worried about people dying right before or in the middle of an anticipated celebration, like Christmas. Because even as a very little one, I realized people were dying all the time, so some of them had to die on

Christmas! (Also, as a white Christian American child with very conservative parents, I thought the entire world celebrated Christmas.)

It turns out that some social scientists pondered this too, but from a public health perspective rather than from an insomniac sentimental child perspective. And they didn’t start with Christmas at all, but with three other times that constitute “ceremonial” events.

The earliest study I found (in a very lengthy but not

See *Holidays*, page 8



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Happy

Holidays, from page 7

at all academically informed search) was a 1973 study by two sociologists of death trends around the decedent's birthday, around the presidential election in election years, and around Yom Kippur, also known as the Day of Atonement. I'll say more about that below, but for now, let me

mention that the authors of this study were David Phillips and Kenneth Feldman of State University of New York (SUNY) Stony Brook.

The first study I found, however, was quite recent – from 2010 – and did concern Christmas, as well as New Year's Day and the interim week. The authors of this study were David Phillips, Gwendolyn Barker and K. Brewer, of UC San Diego, and this study found a spike rather than a dip in certain types of deaths on the target dates.

Noticing the same name

leading both studies, and that the David Phillips of UCSD was earlier at SUNY Stony Brook, I surmised this might be the same person, and it was. I eventually found a piece from the Los Angeles Times in 1992 about Phillips, who even then had the nickname of "Dr. Death," and had published numerous, often controversial, studies on what he was postulating was a behavioral timing of death in various populations and for different cultural reasons.

Among the many correlations Phillips studied over the

years, was a spike he found in suicides following any highly publicized celebrity suicide (1974), that more American women die the week after their birthday than normal, while American men do the same but the week before (1992), that Jewish men (but not women) "postpone their death" until after Passover (1988), that elderly Chinese women (but not men) do the same in relation to the Harvest Moon Festival (1990) and that there was a big spike in fatal medication errors every year for decades around the first of every month

(2004).

In the Passover study, Phillips' co-author was Elliot King, also of UCSD, and a 2014 piece in The New Republic stated, "Phillips and King conclude, 'that the "will to live" is associated with reduced mortality, and that communal social events can have a beneficial impact on the course of disease.'" This seems to be the driving factor in Phillips' research and academic career. He began with the simple question of whether being embedded in communal life, which is characterized in part by placing



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Holidays

meaning in public ceremonies, whether religious or secular, made a difference in health and mortality, and he ended up focusing on trends in the timing of death.

To go back to that 1973 study as promised, recall that data processing technology was still more or less in its infancy then. The worldwide web was a decade in the future, and “computer” meant a large room filled with hard-wired components that took an hour to do what your cell phone can do in a nanosecond.

Thus the data selection will seem impossibly crude by today’s standards. For determining whether there is a “death-dip” before the birthday, the researchers used data from an almanac of famous Americans (bet you anything they were 90% or more white males) and a sample size of just over 1300 subjects. They justified using “famous” Americans because it was not even possible to gather birth and death dates for a large, random sample of people.

For data selection on the presidential election’s hypothesized “death-dip,” at least here they could use public statistics, and from the entire U.S., since they were interested only in the death date, and not birth date or any demographic factors. The years examined were presidential election years and



Christmas in the ER

the years before and after each one, as controls, from 1903 to 1969. In both of these cases, a “death-dip” of significant size was found.

But the one we’re most interested in, because it’s a holiday

(albeit a fall one, not a winter one) is the Yom Kippur data set. Note that Dr. Phillips collaborated on another study of a major Jewish holiday somewhat later, when he tested whether Passover was associated with

“postponed death.” In both studies, the ideal would be to have a large sample of people who were 1. Jewish, 2. noting whether they observed the holiday, and 3. divisible by gender and age. We can compare the data selections of the two studies to see how data tools had progressed in the interven-

ing 15 years. (In neither case was the data he wanted easily enough obtainable, although items 1 and 3 probably would be today, and a global average could be used for item 2.)

In 1973, Phillips and his collaborators solved the problem

See *Holidays*, page 10

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Happy Holidays

Holidays, from page 9

of Yom Kippur being specific to Jews by using statistics from New York City only, which was at an average of 28% Jewish during the years sampled, 1921 through 1969. They then added an extra layer of validation by seeing if results using Budapest in the

years 1875 to 1915, where the proportion of Jewish residents to all residents was similar, corresponded closely. (It did.)

Another problem with data in the early 1970s was its lack of granularity. Death statistics were only compiled monthly, whereas the holiday “moves around” due to the use of a lunar calendar. To

remedy this, they had to cut the data more. They counted only years where Yom Kippur fell within a week either way of the end of September. The rate of deaths in September of these “Y years” could be expressed as a fraction of the number for the whole year. And finally, the control, since Yom Kippur comes every year, to “eliminate” any merely seasonal effects, was to compare a similar rate for the U.S. to the rate for just New York City. A definite “death-dip” was discovered.

In 1988, when Phillips and Elliot King studied death rates around Passover, things were a bit easier. Personal computers were still a relative rarity but at least you didn’t have to submit massive decks of punch cards to run your statistical package on the university mainframe. For this study,



David Phillips, Professor Emeritus of Sociology, UC San Diego

they went to Israel, where the proportion of observant Jews is much higher than that found anywhere else. Also, increases in the granularity of public databases meant they could study all occasions of Passover, no matter where it fell on the Gregorian calendar, and by cutting the data along gender lines, they discovered an interesting thing. Although

there was a very significant “death-dip” overall, the data for women showed no significant dip at all, so the “overall” rate was actually all men.

This gender divide also played a part in the very interesting findings of Phillips et al.’s 1992 study of the birthday effect on mortality. In response to the finding that men tend to have a death spike before their birthdays while women tend to have a death dip, Phillips, in an interview, speculated that men in a capitalist and individualist society see their birthdays as “deadlines” while women tend to see still being alive for each birthday as a “lifeline.”

Although the senior author of the 1973 study, Phillips was only a few years beyond attaining his doctorate (where his unpublished dissertation was “Dying as a form of social behavior”). When he was nearing the end of his active professorship at UCSD (he’s currently Emeritus Faculty there), he was already quite well known due to the intervening publications, some of which spawned much media coverage and many follow-up studies and even policy changes, particular his work on suicide. So, his last major paper, the one on Christmas death trends, gained a lot of attention.



By 2010, Big Data and big tools were available to the social scientist. The Christmas study of that year is still being discussed in the Big Media today. Contrary to popular belief at the time, it was found that deaths from suicide and homicide dip dramatically from mid-December through January 1.

However, other death increases make up for it. Magazine articles tend to stress that “Christmas is dangerous.” Different gender, age, and economic cohorts have dramatically different death rates and causes. In terms of causes of death, the big three are heart ailments, traffic accidents, and accidents in the home. Cancer death rates overall appear neutral, but deaths of cancer patients in the home exhibit the same “death-postponement” dip as Yom Kippur, Harvest Moon, and women’s birthdays. However, cancer deaths in hospital and institutional settings have an offsetting spike.

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Happy Holidays



Clarence (Henry Travers) helps George Bailey (Jimmy Stewart) when he contemplates a Christmas suicide in 'It's a Wonderful Life.'

I tried to find some studies on other winter holidays such as Diwali. (Just this year, Diwali gained recognition as an official American calendar holiday, although it's not a U.S. federal holiday.) Now I'm running into a data problem of the current day, the tendency of big media and monetized sources to overwhelm search engines. I am considered a Google search expert, but the COVID disaster in India means that any search containing the

words "Diwali" (which was early November this year) and "death" is going to be all COVID news.

I did find a major study on death rates during Ramadan, which, not surprisingly, spike in a similar way to Christmas. There are some major differences in the size of the spike, by geography (Muslims are probably the most geographically spread religion now), gender, age, cause of death, and where on the Gregorian calendar Ramadan falls.

As at Christmas, both suicide rates and homicide rates during Ramadan in areas where the population is predominantly Muslim go way down. Also as at Christmas, a lot of the natural-cause deaths are probably because of the subject postponing care until after Ramadan. Some of the deaths are simply due to the

rigors of observation, especially for a male adult (with their extra pre-dawn prayers) in a time and place where the daylight hours are very long.

I guess this is a lot to digest. I guess I'm still a weird kid, looking at solemn public holidays and wondering if this

is a good day to die, statistically speaking. I hope I haven't ruined your Christmas. You should be fine as long as you get a checkup now, avoid alcohol, cars, travel, and hospitals, and remember to take your medicine.

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EVENTS

Advent Retreat: Spiritual Imagination and the Nativity Tuesdays in Advent, 7 to 8:15 p.m. Online via Zoom

From Plymouth Congregational Church: Based on Richard Rohr's Advent teachings as well as the Ignatian practice of imaginative prayer, this weekly retreat will use storytelling, music and guided visualization to bring participants deep into the heart of the meaningful metaphors of the Christmas story. Tuesdays, 7 to 8:15 p.m., on Zoom, with Carolyn Kolovitz.

Dec 7: The Epiphany: Our Journey

Dec 14: The Nativity: Wonder & Awe

For more information and to register, go to <https://www.plymouth.org/2021/10/21/advent-retreat-spiritual-imagination-and-the-nativity/>.

Blue Christmas Taize Service

Friday, Dec. 10, 7 p.m.

In-person or online

Minnehaha United Methodist Church 3701 E. 50th St., Mpls. It's easy to get caught up in the daily demands of life. In our busyness, we can lose track of ourselves, and of what God is calling us to be and to do. Take an opportunity to slow down, to rest in silence and music. On the second Friday of each month at 7 p.m. from October through May, Minnehaha United Methodist Church offers a Taize service; a time of sanctuary, a time for prayer, a time for community, and a time for silence. As we sing and pray, our hearts are opened so that we may hear God speaking to us. Please join us this month on Dec. 10 (masks are required). You can also catch a livestream of the service by finding the Taize button on our website. <http://www.minnehaha.org/>

Saint Mark's Music Series

Sunday, Dec. 12, 2:30 p.m.

Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral 519 Oak Grove St., Mpls. Saint Mark's Music Series returns with live performances! On Sunday, Dec. 12, at 2:30 p.m., Olivier Messiaen's nine-movement cycle of meditations on the Incarnation, "La nativité du Seigneur," will be performed by Raymond Johnston. <https://ourcathedral.org/concerts/>

White Saviorism: Knowing Your Role in Anti-Racism, Equity and Inclusion

Thursday, Dec. 16, noon to 3 p.m.

Virtual, Live/Online

As White folks, we often do not seek to understand what our role is in anti-racism, equity and inclusion, even in our own workplaces and community spaces. This training will help you understand the Eight White Identities and find your role in the ongoing work of racial and social justice in our communities. All learner types were thought of when planning this training, with times for individual reflection, small group work, and full group sharing. Join us to say no to white saviorism and commit to working toward being an ally and accomplice. Sponsored by the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits. For more information and to register, go

to <https://www.minnesotanonprofits.org/events/event-detail/2021/12/16/default-calendar/white-saviorism-dec-2021>.

CommUnity Christmas Sing-Along

Sunday, Dec. 19, 1 p.m.

Unity Minneapolis

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Bring your voice for the sing-along with Lori Dokken and Erin Schwab! This event is for all ages. We can't wait to see the kiddos! More information at <https://www.unityminneapolis.org/events/community-christmas-sing-along/?occurrence=2021-12-19>.

Annual Epiphany Service of

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Sunday, Jan. 2, 4:30 p.m.

In-person and online

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The Old Salem Shrine Annual Epiphany Service of Carols and Candlelight will be held Sunday, Jan. 2, 2022, at 4:30 p.m. Join us for an experience reminiscent of days gone by at historic Old Salem. Your heart will be warmed by the hymns of the season, beautiful special music and a timely message in the candlelit setting. Given ongoing Covid concerns, at this time, we ask that only vaccinated persons attend in-person and everyone wear masks while inside Old Salem. If you're unvaccinated or are ill, please participate in the service via the publicly available live stream on Facebook (no Facebook account needed). Simply go to our page (<https://www.facebook.com/oldsalemshrine>) at the service time to access the live video.

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For more information or to RSVP by email contact Joan Miltenberger, JRLC Organizer at jmiltenberger@jrlc.org, (612) 230-3232.

Make a Difference for Refugees – Donations Needed for Recent Arrivals

From the Minnesota Council of Churches: Interested in donating items for the most recent arrivals at MCC Refugee Services? Please find below our up-to-date list of our top needs. Thank you!

- Tall trash cans/wastebaskets
 - Pillows (new)
 - Bedding (Twin/Queen sheets; comforters)
 - Snow shovels (up to 5 needed)
 - Deodorant
 - Feminine hygiene products (pads)
- Items can be shipped to our office at: 122 W. Franklin Ave. Ste. 100 Minneapolis, MN 55404 Or delivered in person by appointment: email rsvolunteers@mncchurches.org.

'Sundays at Five'

Every Sunday, 5 p.m.

Plymouth Congregational Church 1900 Nicollet Ave., Mpls.

Plymouth invites you to a new worship offering each Sunday evening at 5 p.m. Rooted in contemplative practices, "Sundays at Five" will feature a slightly different focus and style each Sunday evening at 5 p.m. This worship service is designed to be quieter and more intimate than our Sunday morning services. These opportunities will include: Evensong (first Sundays) – worship that features thoughtful singing, periods of brief silence and contemplation, and a series of contemporary and scriptural readings for reflection. Sensing the Sacred (second Sundays) – a time for resting in centering prayer/meditation; participating in the sacred reading (Lectio divina) of word, art, or nature; and the sharing of group prayer. Celtic Weavings (third Sundays) – a service that celebrates the cycles of land, sea, and sky, affirming our connection to and the presence of Mystery within it. Testimonies: Transformation through Stories (fourth Sundays) – an opportunity to explore the narratives of our lives as pathways for growth or hindrance and the spiritual freedom found in sharing them. Taize Worship (fifth Sundays) – a gathering focused around simple melodic singing that also includes readings, prayers, and periods of quiet. We invite you to join us for any or all of these services. Please invite your friends to join us! "Sundays at 5" represent a way of connecting with the Holy that will appeal to many. <https://www.plymouth.org/worship/>

SHARING FOOD

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 to 11:30 a.m. 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, <https://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. <https://www.grovelandfoodshelf.org/>

Greater Friendship Missionary Baptist Church and Friendship Community Service

2600 E. 38th St., Mpls.

Food Hub

Free food, hygiene products, and some household goods.

Tuesday and Thursday,

1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

2nd and 4th Saturdays,

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Please bring ID and wear a mask.

Social distancing guidelines are in place.

Du Nord Foundation Community Market

3140 Snelling Ave., Mpls.

612-460-8123

We are a community-supported food shelf that is a welcoming place for neighbors to find free, healthy food for their tables and supplies for their homes. We invite neighbors to order online and choose the day and time that works for

you for curbside pickup.

Mondays and Wednesdays 3 to 6 p.m.

Thursdays noon to 2 p.m.

All are welcome, no restrictions or proof required.

To place an order, visit <https://www.dunordfoundation.org/get-food>.

New Creation Baptist Church

1414 E. 48th St., Mpls.

612-825-6933

We're still here to serve you on the first through the fourth Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. We're back to our client choice shopping and require clients to have their temperature checked, wear a mask, and follow social distancing. Be safe and God bless! <https://www.facebook.com/NCBCfoodshelf>. Saturdays (except 5th Saturdays) 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Brown door on the corner of 48th St. and 15th Ave.)

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. <https://www.facebook.com/Minnehaha-FoodShelf/>

Soup for You! Café at Bethany

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. <https://soupforyou.info/>



POWDERHORN EDITION

Southside Pride Powderhorn Edition is a monthly community newspaper delivered on the First Monday of the month for free to convenient locations in and around the Powderhorn 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

3200 CHICAGO AVENUE SOUTH

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55407

CALL US AT 612-822-4662

email us at editor@southsidepride.com

or edfelien@southsidepride.com

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days via Zoom 6:30 pm

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See www.minneapolisbahai.org

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-Baha'u'llah

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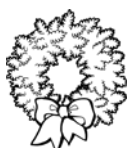


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Christmas Eve 6 p.m.

Christmas Day 10 a.m.

Masks strongly recommended

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• COMMUNITY CALENDAR •

Southside Pride / POWDERHORN EDITION

EVENTS

Indeed We Can: Fundraiser for the Greenway
Wednesday, Dec. 8, 3 to 11 p.m.
Indeed Brewing Company
711 15th Ave. NE, Mpls.
Raise a glass for the Greenway! Join us on Wednesday, Dec. 8, from 3 to 11 p.m. at Indeed Brewing Company. They have an outdoor patio with heaters and fireplaces, where you can enjoy tasty craft brews. (Please bring your mask for ordering inside.) All net proceeds will be donated to the Midtown Greenway Coalition to support our work for the Greenway! Stop by our table outside on the patio, between 3 and 7 p.m., to meet our executive director, Soren Jensen. Get updates on our efforts to convince Minneapolis Public Works to Re-Do the Re-Pave. Plus our work to Extend the Greenway and more! <https://www.facebook.com/midtowngreenway>

U of M School of Music December Events
World Music Ensemble Holiday Concert
Wednesday, Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m.
In-person and online
Lloyd Ultan Recital Hall
Ferguson Hall
2106 4th St. S., Mpls.
Join the World Music Ensemble for a program of tropical Jamaican reggae, ska and rocksteady to blow away those wintry Minnesota blues. This performance is free and open to the public. Scott Currie, director. A live stream will be available for this event, visit <https://cla.umn.edu/music/research-creative-work/watch-listen> to view it (click on “Lloyd Ultan Recital Hall events” in the right call out box).
University Symphony Orchestra
Wednesday, Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m.
In-person and online
Ted Mann Concert Hall
2128 4th St. S., Mpls.
The University Symphony Orchestra will perform on Wednesday, Dec. 8 at 7:30 p.m. in Ted Mann Concert Hall. This performance is free and open to the public. Mark Russell Smith, conductor. A live stream will be available for this event, visit <https://cla.umn.edu/music/research-creative-work/watch-listen> to view it (click on “Ted Mann Concert Hall events” in the right call out box). Both events are free and open to the public. For more information, visit <https://cla.umn.edu/music/news-events/events>.

Blair Braverman presents ‘Dogs on the Trail,’ with Quince Mountain
Thursday, Dec. 9, 7 p.m.

Scholars, from page 6

identify with as they work on building their own success stories.”
National experts are studying the opportunity gap in Minnesota. “What’s exciting is we have a solution that works to bridge this gap. Independent re-

Violence, from page 1

to serve their fellow citizens.
What I DO want to point out is that this particular study does not conclude that the solution to gun violence lies in more authoritarian, armed and lethal remedies. What I DO want to advocate is that Mayor Frey and the City Council members get serious and begin dealing with the actual causes of violence, outlined so well in “The Economic Costs of Gun Violence.” And what I very much DO want to argue is that we have not actually solved a single bit of the lack of police accountability which has led to so much mistrust, civil

Virtual event
When Blair Braverman, author of “Welcome to the Goddamn Ice Cube,” started posting pictures of her sled dog team on Twitter, she had no idea the response she would get. Being a musher, after all, isn’t just about racing—raising dogs from puppyhood to retirement (and beyond) is a full-time job. She and her husband, musher Quince Mountain, wanted to share stories about life with their dog team. And not just the big stuff, like expeditions and wild animal encounters, or the fact that both of them have raced the Iditarod, but also the everyday things: the challenge of storing a thousand pounds of raw meat, scouting new trails with the dogs, the decisions that go into putting a team together, and how they train puppies to be brave. These were goofy stories, scary stories, heartfelt stories, stories that clearly connected with people and kept going viral. Inspired by those connections, “Dogs on the Trail: A Year in the Life” is a chronicle of a year alongside the BraverMountain mushing team. An irresistible adventure, “Dogs on the Trail” will delight and entertain while taking readers inside a musher’s world and showing them why the wilderness isn’t simply a place to visit but also a home to return to. Free virtual event, registration required at: <https://www.magersandquinn.com/event/Blair-Braverman-presents-Dogs-on-the-Trail/25>.

‘Mother and Son Carve Out Women and Girls’
Zimbabwe Shona Stone Sculpture
Dec. 9, 2021 – Jan. 18, 2022
Mhiripiri Gallery
9001 Penn Ave. S., Bloomington
After closing our doors for 13 months because of COVID, Mhiripiri Gallery reopens with “Mother and Son Carve Out Women and Girls,” Zimbabwe Shona stone sculpture by the late Colleen Madamombe and her apprentice son, Washy. Opens Thursday, Dec. 9 through Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2022. <https://www.facebook.com/mhiripirigallery/> or (952) 285-9684.

Malamanya Live @ the Granada
Friday, Dec. 10
Doors 8 p.m., Music 9 p.m.
Granada Theater
3022 Hennepin Ave., Mpls.
Malamanya is a U.S.-based band comprised of musicians who share a mutual respect and enthusiasm for traditional rhythms and melodies from the Caribbean and Latin America. Their onstage energy and compositions reflect the communal, complex and celebratory spirit prevalent in these musical genres. Join us at the Granada in Uptown for their last

search shows that by providing students a tutor for extra practice and skill building, students make incredible progress, more than their peers who don’t receive tutoring,” Young said.
Anyone who is interested in applying should go to readingandmath.org and then click on “apply.”

unrest, huge liability exposure, massive police resignations and PTSD and disability claims. These problems have been festering for decades, with no real solutions. It is time to stop posturing and start addressing this unacceptable situation.
Some who read the original forum post but neglected to read the link might conclude that we simply need to support the police more, with more funding, more recruitment, more praise, less criticism. That’s not what the report says, however. It is well worth the read. The problem of gun violence is real, critical, urgent. But it will not be solved with more guns.

concert of 2021! All ages.
Granada Policy requires a valid ID and proof of vaccination or negative covid-19 test results within 72 hours of show date for entry. Physical vax card or photo of vax card on your phone are accepted. Tickets and more details at <https://granadampls.com/calendar/>.

‘Birth, Sex, and Abuse: Women and Children under Nazi Rule’
Wednesday, Dec. 15, 7 to 9 p.m. CT
Online webinar
World Without Genocide will host an online program in December. “Birth, Sex, and Abuse: Women and Children under Nazi Rule” will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 15 from 7 to 9 p.m. CT. This program commemorates the 73rd anniversaries of the signing of the U.N. Genocide Convention on Dec. 9, 1948, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on Dec. 10, 1948. Register at <http://worldwithoutgenocide.org/>. \$10 general public, \$5 students and seniors. “Clock hours” for teachers, nurses and social workers. Free to Mitchell Hamline students (diversity credits available). \$25 for 2 Elimination of Bias CLE credits for Minnesota lawyers. Space is limited; early registration is recommended. This is a live webinar, and a recording will not be available.

10th Annual Kinda Kinky & Friends Holiday Show to Benefit the Food Group
Friday, Dec. 17, 7 p.m. doors, 8 p.m. show
The Parkway Theater
4814 Chicago Ave., Mpls.
The beloved holiday tradition returns! Rock out to the music of The Kinks with special guest cameos all night long! Now in its tenth year, this super swingin’ holiday benefit moves to The Parkway Theater with plenty of crowd-pleasing guest vocalists! This star-studded event has made the Star Tribune’s Big Gig list for nine years running for good reason. Not only is it a food drive and fundraiser for The Food Group MN — a culturally driven food bank — it’s a rocking’ good time. Kinda Kinky are a band exclusively

devoted to the music of The Kinks. Mixing the hits like “You Really Got Me,” “Lola,” “All Day & All of The Night,” “Waterloo Sunset,” “Come Dancing” (and dozens more) along with deeper album cuts, the guys transport the audience on a rockin’ journey back in time. Please bring a non-perishable food donation. \$20 advance general admission, \$27 at the door. All ages. Tickets available at <https://theparkwaytheater.com/live-events>.

Yuletide Sweater Ball
Friday, Dec. 17
7 p.m. doors, 8 p.m. music

Hook & Ladder Theater
3010 Minnehaha Ave., Mpls.
Join us as the Pistol Whippin’ Party Penguins return to the Hook & Ladder for their annual Yuletide Sweater Ball! In addition to hosts PWPP, special guests Sans Souci plus Doug Otto & The Get-aways will be joining in on the festivities. These three talented groups will keep the holiday party jumping throughout the evening. Ages 21+ General admission \$20 advance, \$25 day of show. For more info, tickets, and a complete list of upcoming Hook & Ladder events, go to <https://the-hookmpls.com/events/list/>.

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

JFK and the nuclear bomb

The New York Times recently ran an article about the nuclear bomb which, in my opinion, pretty much sketched where this country is with regard to nuclear weapons. It clarified so much for me. A new study, based on recently declassified documents, offers insights into how President John F. Kennedy resolved a comparable dilemma. "It went all the way to the top," Andrew Cohen, a nuclear historian at the Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, N.J., and the study's author, said in an interview. "It's clear that Kennedy was on the fence. But he decided not to go in the bomb direction." Mr. Cohen's book, "Two Days in June: John F. Kennedy and the 48 Hours That Made History" lays out the president's 1963 pivot to diplomacy that helped make the groundbreaking arms treaty possible. He added that the disclosure of Kennedy's calculated response to the Soviet's demonstration of dropping a nuclear bomb showed his "deep revulsion for nuclear weapons."

The explosive force of the Soviet device (set off on Oct. 30, 1961) was 50 megatons or equal to 50 million tons of con-

ventional explosives. Recently the Russian nuclear energy agency, Rosatom, released a 30-minute, formerly secret documentary video that showed preparation and detonation of the mega-weapon. According to the Times article, "The blinding flash and churning mushroom cloud hinted at its gargantuan force. Its radioactivity shot into the stratosphere and circled the globe for years."

Today, this is all history, and this is what we desire – nuclear weapons as past history.

Alex Wellerstein, a nuclear historian at the Stevens Institute of Technology, in a study published in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, states that the Soviets were not the only power to contemplate using nuclear power. Edward Teller, one of the main scientists working on nuclear weapons, announced at a meeting that he was working on two super bombs – one would be 10,000 megatons, or 20 times as destructive as previously known. However, later, scientists and even the president, began to question the use of the bomb and called for a treaty to support him. In 1963 President Kennedy signed a treaty with Moscow.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Response to Tony Bouza's criticism of Arradondo

First, let me thank you for continuing to publish the Southside Pride. For more than 30 years, you have provided a consistent forum for local news, strong advocacy and a place where local businesses can advertise.

When I became police chief at the airport in 1985, Tony Bouza was the police chief in Minneapolis. His willingness to tackle tough issues impacting policing in Minneapolis was inspirational. His command of the language and his wit allowed him to communicate with a wide range of constituents. I admired and respected the police chief who would bring donuts to his wife Erica at protests outside Honeywell's headquarters. I also was proud of his willingness to stand up to the police union in the interest of providing better police services and wiser expenditures of the MPD budget.

I was, however, disappointed in his piece "The MPD Budget" published in the October Southside Pride. His choice of words seemed designed to tear down the current police chief at every opportunity and build himself up for how he operated when he was police chief. Instead of being thoughtful in his criticism and offering constructive changes, he relied on charged words to inflame the reader. That style of writing is, unfortunately, in no short supply either locally or nationally.

I am reminded of an early essay I wrote as a freshman in high school. The piece was filled with criticism and cheap shots at the school's administration. My professor suggested I had taken the easy way out by using harsh and colorful words but failing to reflect on and offer constructive changes.

Regards,
Jim Welna

.....

New City Council must act on ADA initiatives

2022 is just around the corner, which means a whole different looking City Council in Minneapolis is about to take over, albeit with a little less power. That does not mean that their voices won't be heard. With all the new faces and perspectives, now is the perfect time to listen and discover fresh ways to make all residents feel that their voices are being heard in the City of Lakes. One of the many things on their list should be to revamp services and amenities that support the 11% of residents with disabilities that currently live in Minneapolis.

With that being said, the City Council should look at making the Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities more prominent and rejuvenate it so that the group can be more useful. In addition, they should consider enhancing services to improve the lives of all residents with impairments: create more recreational activities, transportation and housing options, job opportunities, and improve the city's pathways for those who use wheelchairs and other mobility devices. Now would be a great moment to start anew and really listen to all residents to see what they need to thrive in everyday life.

One of my projects that I started this year was founding the Minneapolis Sidewalk Repair Hunters (mplssrh.org). The community-led effort asks residents to locate sidewalk and curb cut deficiencies and then report them to the city for repairs once every month or so. The newly elected City Council should find a way to improve city paths without having residents pay the bill for new sidewalks.

This is the opportune moment for Minneapolis to go in a better direction. This must involve council members communicating with all their constituents to find out what is important to them!

Michael Sack,
Minneapolis

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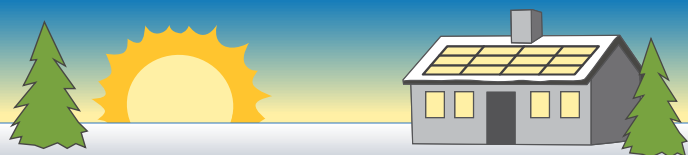
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