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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 10



Rest in Power, Brother Mel Reeves

BY ED FELIEN

The following is correspondence between Mel Reeves and me.

On Aug. 2, 2013, I wrote to Mel, "We're planning a demo at the MPD Federation headquarters under the slogan: 'Get rid of bullies, racist thugs and murderers!' Would you like to

participate? Speak about Terrance Franklin? Can you help us (the FLA) organize? Do you have a good time? We're still open about that. Please get back to me."

On Dec. 4, 2013, Mel wrote back, "**when are you planning this action and who is the FLA?**"

I wrote back, "Please go to the Farmer Labor Caucus Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/MplsFLCaucusOC/> and tell us what you think."

"Who the hell are we?"

"Let's take some time to discuss who we are and where in the hell we're heading."

"Here's my analysis: The

See Brother Mel, page 5

Open letter to the new City Council

Email sent by Chuck Turchick to the new City Council:

Dear City Council Members,

For too long now, I have been urging the Minneapolis City Council to hold public discussions about what lessons were learned by the MPD and by the City from MPD officer-involved killings that resulted in large civil settlements approved unanimously by the Council.

To fill in the seven of you who are new to the Council, I first made this suggestion shortly after Hennepin County District Court Judge Kathryn Quaintance, on June 7, 2019, sentenced Mohamed Noor for the killing of Justine Ruszczyk Damond. She began her sentencing statement with questions about policing in Minneapolis that the jurors told her they felt had not been answered during the trial and concluded: "The jurors and the people of Minneapolis need and deserve answers."

The next day, I began contacting Minneapolis City officials, requesting that someone in City government respond to those questions. I have written dozens of emails about this since then – to the Mayor, to the Chief of Police, to the Council as a whole, to two different versions of the Public Safety Committee of the Council, and to the Police Conduct Oversight Commission (PCOC). I have also made this request numerous times in person in the Council's Public Safety and Emergency Management Committee meetings, in PCOC meetings, and in individual meetings with seven Council members and one staff aide who agreed to meet with me.

I began those requests by mentioning only the Damond case, figuring that if the City was unwilling to discuss lessons learned in a case of a white, female 9-1-1 caller when a District Court judge had also raised questions, it surely wouldn't do so in cases that involved black, male suspects. But I soon began adding several cases where the Council, with no public discussion or explanation, had unanimously approved large civil settlements, namely, the cases of David Smith, Terrance Franklin, and Jamar Clark. When it had a regular public comment agenda item, I began attending every bi-weekly Public Safety Committee meeting, making this request. Later, I began writing weekly emails to that committee, with the same request.

And that was all before the killing of George Floyd. And the Council, the Mayor, the Police

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Valentine's Day
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There's No Place Like Home
Pages 7 - 9



From blood sacrifice to heart-shaped candy boxes: 2,000 years of Valentine's Day

BY STEPHANIE FOX

So! What's love got to do with it? What does love have to do with Valentine's Day? Today, Valentine's Day is celebrated with gifts of chocolate and flowers and sentimental love poems. It is not, as some like to claim, an invention of Hallmark and greeting card companies, a sinister plot to make money.

The actual origins of this holiday go back more than 2,600 years and for much of that time, had little to do with romance.

Valentine's Day began in ancient Rome, a fertility festival dedicated to Faunus, the god of agriculture and to the mythical founders of the city, Romulus and Remus.

The holiday, called Lupercalia, is thought to have been celebrated as early as the sixth century BCE with blood sacrifices of male goats and a dog. After the sacrifices, two naked male pagan priests would smear themselves with the animals' blood. And then, the feasting began.

After the feast, the priests would run through the streets, still naked, using strips of the goatskin to lash women, a gesture that was thought to increase a woman's fertility. Most women welcomed this. Later, the priests and other men would each draw a woman's name from a jar and the lucky woman would have a romantic (and sexual) encounter with the lottery winner. The woman would stay with

the man for a year and often the two would marry after (maybe) falling in love.

Other deities also became connected with the holiday. Originally, Cupid was not the chubby little baby with a bow and arrow. He had his roots in the Greek god Eros, a tall, handsome deity who shot golden arrows, forcing people to fall in love. During the later Hellenistic period, the cute baby became the standard.

By the third century CE, the holiday changed. Some stories say that two (or more) Christian men named Valentine were executed by the anti-Christian Emperor Claudius II, but when Christianity became the state religion, the two Valentines became one saint, and their day was officially celebrated in mid-February. The pagan celebration was outlawed, replaced by St. Valentine's Day.



Images of Saint Valentine (left) and the pagan festival of Lupercalia in ancient Rome (right)

his mate," the first example of a written Valentine's Day card. Soon, written valentines became popular.

The first romantic valentine is thought to have been written by the Duke of Orleans to his wife, while he was in an English prison after being defeated at the Battle of Agincourt. The 1415 letter can still be seen in the British Library's manuscript collection.

In the 1660s a new custom emerged. Family and friends would get together for a Valentine's Day party. Men would give gloves as a gift, as a proposal to a special woman. The man would have to wait until Easter Sunday

to find if the answer was "I do" or "I don't." If the woman wore the gloves, she was saying, "Yes, you are my true love."

Gloves became a tradition. Not winter gloves, but dress gloves, the kind that proper and well-dressed women continued to wear into the 20th century.

In old movies, you can see women dropping a glove, considered a symbol of love, and waiting for a favored male to pick it up and return it to her. A Valentine's Day card from 1834 said, "If that from Glove you take the letter G, then Glove is Love and that I send to Thee."

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A return to love and fertility

A thousand years later, the holiday began to take on some secular attributes. In parts of Europe, people believed that the mating season for birds began on Feb. 14, a return to the idea of fertility. The idea morphed from fertility to romantic love. In 1375, Geoffrey Chaucer wrote, "For this was sent on Seynt Valentyne's day / Whan every foul cometh ther to choose

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Valentine's Day becomes international

The holiday has now spread around the world. In Japan, women give their male friends inexpensive chocolates, saving the fancier candies for their romantic partners. In Germany, traditional Valentine's symbols are cute pig keepsakes and cartoons, considered good luck. In Ghana, a major producer of cocoa beans, Valentine's Day is officially National Chocolate Day.

Finland and Estonia celebrate "Friends Day," exchanging gifts and cards for a not-so-romantic holiday. In Norway, men write po-

From sweet to sophisticated to funny

In the 20th century, giving cards became more popular with the introduction of an elementary school tradition to exchange friendship-themed Valentine's Day cards. In many schools, students create a decorative box for classmates to drop cards and sometimes candy (remember SweetTARTS?). Teachers also get cards and small gifts from their students.

For many in the United States, exchanging Valentine's Day cards is the most popular of holiday traditions. Half of Americans (ex-

Once, making a Valentine's Day card was a do-it-yourself affair. The first commercial mass-market Valentine's cards didn't appear until 1849 when Esther Howland hired women artists to assemble cards in her home, selling them at her family's stationery store. Soon, with new printing presses making the cards affordable, almost anyone could afford to send the romantic messages to their special friends. Before she sold her company in 1881, Howland was selling nearly \$2 million worth of cards each year in today's dollars. It took Hallmark until 1916 to start mass-producing Valentine's Day cards.

Even best friends, parents, grandparents and kids expect to get a card from the people close to them. In the United States, even in these days of e-cards, sending a non-virtual card to a special person is a social requirement, even for millennials who now make up 20% of the greeting card (and Valentine's Day card) market.

For those looking for a very special card, artist Rosemary Buczek offers handmade Valentine cards, decorated with 23-karat gold and Swarovski crystals, starting at about \$400, and made-to-order cards selling for more than \$4,000.

So, Valentine's Day really is for everyone, not just the romantically connected and the romantically inclined. While couples often observe the holiday by exchanging gifts and eating at fancy restaurants, everyone can celebrate – even our four-legged best friends.

While dogs and cats seldom get Valentine's Day cards, a growing number of Americans buy treats, toys or other gifts for their pets at



A box of chocolates made by the Dutch chocolate company Droste to celebrate the silver jubilee of Queen Wilhelmina in 1923

Valentine's Day, spending nearly \$2.14 billion in 2021 on their special friends, more than twice what they spent in 2020. Nearly 16% of Americans will spend an average of \$31.24 for Valentine's gifts for

their dog, with 12.3% spending \$27.42 for gifts for their kitties.

Don't worry, though. If you forget to get Fido or Fluffy a gift, you'll be forgiven, and they'll still love you.



A COVID-era mass wedding of 220 couples at Bacolod City, Philippines, in February 2020

ems and create elaborate cards, called Gaekkebrev. Instead of a signature, they ink small dots, one for each letter of their name, and include a snowdrop flower with the card. If the recipient can guess who sent the card, he will give her a decorated egg at Easter. If she guesses wrong, she has to give him one instead.


In the Philippines, hundreds of couples gather in public places for mass marriages. Another tradition calls for couples to gather for a midnight kiss, hoping to beat a world kissing record. In 2020, COVID didn't cancel the event, but changes were made with couples kissing and exchanging vows through blue surgical masks.

In Slovenia, where St. Valentine is considered the patron saint of spring, the old idea of the day as the beginning of the mating season of birds has been revived. It's a tradition for people to walk barefoot through frozen fields to watch the birds propose marriage to each other and to connect to the coming spring. (Sounds like the kind of thing that would appeal to Minnesotans, especially those who head out in shorts when the mercury dips below zero.)

In Islamic Pakistan, the sale of Valentine's Day-themed merchandise is banned, but the state has not been able to ban the exchange of flowers, a custom that has become increasingly popular.

And while for many Christians this is not a religious holiday, some Catholic churches in the United States will hold a blessing for couples as a dedication of their relationship.

cluding school card exchanges) will send at least one Valentine's Day card. More than 13% will mail cards to more than three people. An estimated 145 million Valentine's Day cards are bought in the U.S. each year. Only Christmas card buying is bigger. That means 145 million cards will be delivered by the post office, costing post office patrons almost \$8 million to spread the love.



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Let's do it!

BY ED FELIEN

The North Star Caucus of the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) has recently circulated, for discussion and approval, an outline of strategic objectives for 2022.

They call for a United Front Against Fascism and the need to “jettison a growing tendency towards a ‘go it alone’ approach that devalues coalition work

and strengthening its hold on state and local governments. We cannot accept the conventional wisdom predicting inevitable Democratic Party defeat. A Republican takeover would shut down investigations of the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol and set the stage for the House of Representatives choosing the next president. To prevent a Republican takeover, efforts should focus on winnable races.”



Jim Hagedorn



Gene Dornink

and glosses over the importance – indeed, the necessity – of a center-left coalition to defend democracy from neo-fascism.

“The immediate task is mobilizing to prevent the Republican Party from retaking Congress in this year’s midterm elections

Let’s get to work.

Congress:

What’s a “winnable race”?

Senate: no race.

Tina Smith re-elected 2020.

Klobuchar up for re-election 2024.

House: Ilhan Omar and Betty

McCollum should have no trouble. Dean Phillips (one of the richest men in Minnesota) won by more than 10 points in 2020; he shouldn’t have any trouble getting re-elected. Angie Craig had a close race. She won by 2.3%, but a Legal Marijuana Now candidate, Adam Weeks, got 5.8% of the vote. He died before the election, but in a voicemail recording to a friend he admitted Republican operatives had paid him \$15,000 to run to siphon off votes from Democrats.

Although the strategy didn’t work in Angie’s 2nd District, it worked just fine in the 1st District. The Republican, Jim Hagedorn, won that race with 48.6% of the vote to Dan Feehan’s 45.6% – with a Grassroots-Legalize Cannabis Party candidate, Bill Rood, winning more than the difference with 5.8%. Hagedorn is currently under investigation by the House Ethics Committee for funneling \$100,000 in government printing to a staffer and for not reporting an in-kind political contribution of office space for his campaign.

Redistricting is going to change all the congressional districts. The new maps won’t be available until after Feb. 15,

but most drafts have shown the 1st District shrinking its rural areas and adding more urban areas. Population in rural areas has been relatively stable for the past 100 years, but urban growth has been consistently increasing. All new maps of the 1st District include the cities of Mankato and Rochester. The population of Mankato went from 39,309 in 2010 to 44,488 in 2020. The population of Olmsted County (Rochester) went from 144,248 to 167,450. That urban growth should help Democrats.

Another factor that should help is that Tim Walz, who used to represent the 1st District in Congress, will be at the top of the ticket running for re-election as governor.

State Senate:

The Republicans control the State Senate by one vote. In 2020 Tyler Becvar was the Legal Marijuana Now candidate in Senate District 27. He posted a video on his Facebook page promoting the Republican candidate in that race, Gene Dornink, who beat DFL Sen. Dan Sparks by 1,902 votes. Becvar got 2,500 votes.

Although the district will be redrawn it will most likely include Austin and Albert Lea.



Austin gained 1,456 people in 2020, and Albert Lea gained 436 people even while its surrounding rural area lost population.

If you have time and/or money, the best places to put your energies would be Congressional District 1 and Minnesota State Senate District 27.

The DSA document says, “DSA should help to build a ‘Mississippi Summer’-style mobilization, actively seeking joint leadership with organizations focused on racism, labor, climate change, immigration, reproductive rights and other leading priorities.”

Let’s do it.

Let’s get to work.

Turchick, from page 1

Chief, and the PCOC all remained silent. Either there were no lessons to be learned – it certainly is possible that every one of those cases involved totally unique, unrepeatable circumstances – or the City didn’t want to air its dirty laundry about those tragedies in public. But oh were Council members ever ready to dole out millions of dollars of the taxpayers’ money.

The rationale for my request was and is simple: If you want to prevent something from happening in the future, look at what you could learn – or should have learned – from similar incidents in the past. This is not rocket science; it is common sense, something we all do time and again in our personal lives.

After 13 months of urgings, finally, on July 17, 2020, Council Member Cam Gordon asked Chief Arradondo the following:

I also think we had an opportunity, and I think there probably was some internal work that was done on what could we learn from past police-involved killings. And we certainly have had a string of them, and we’ve looked at them carefully, and some of them have gone through trials, and so there’s a lot of information that we got. And I think, as we’re kind of poised, if you will, to re-invent public safety in our city, I think it would be important if we could learn from that. So what did we learn from and what could we learn from past police misconducts, and especially po-

lice-involved deaths?

And the Chief responded:

The second piece that you mentioned about, yes, we absolutely need, and as Chief, I have to learn, and make sure our department learns, from any of these officer-involved killings or shootings or what have you. The one more recently that you’re referring to, where there’s a little bit of a time delay, that matter is still being appealed in the District Courts, so we are not able to – typically, we’re able to get all court transcripts to help us in terms of the review – everything from the training perspective, lessons learned – and I’m referring to the Justine Damond Rusczyk case. So while those appeals are still in place, we are not given access to all those court transcripts, so that is a very key piece – the officers’ testimonies and statements. So the review has been started, but it’s not complete because there’s some vital testimony in transcript from officers and former officers that we need to get. But it’s critically important to learn from those, and so I plan to do that. And also, as much as we can, and I’ll certainly work with our City Attorney’s Office, and make that lessons-learned a more forward-facing document for the public as well.

Gordon replied:

If I could just follow up, I can appreciate that. I think if there’s – so there might be more infor-

mation we can share from some of the other incidents. And so, I’m not sure when the right time is. I can appreciate we can’t get all that information about more recent police killings. But Thurman Blevins or Travis Jordan, or there might be other lessons that we could learn. So let’s think about when that might be ready, or what level of conversation we could have about it. Because I do think, probably a good practice would be to do some in-depth, kind of after-action reports and look at it kind of like hospitals do mortality reviews whenever anybody dies there. So, anyway, that’s a thought. And I appreciate that the Council President and Chair of the POGO Committee is interested and willing to bring these up through the committee process, which is really where we should discuss them in detail and not here. Thank you.

The Chief was wrong about the availability of that transcript. I emailed the Minnesota Court of Appeals, and, within half an hour, received a response that the transcript had been available since December 2019. Not that the transcript should have been needed at all, since the questions that Judge Quaintance relayed from the jurors dealt with issues they felt had not been answered during the trial.

Since that question from former Council Member Gordon on July 17, 2020, no City Council member has ever raised this issue again in any Council meeting or in any Council committee

meeting. For me, that is almost criminal negligence on the part of the Council. Mayor Frey has likewise been silent.

Council President Bender told me that she did schedule a Council study session to discuss lessons learned, but that Council Member Johnson sidetracked the discussion during that session. I looked at the agenda for that alleged lessons-learned study session, and I watched the entire meeting, nothing of the sort was scheduled or happened. The Council President was simply blowing smoke. The Minneapolis City Council has never held such a public discussion.

Gordon’s position was that the Chief should have gotten back to him when he was ready to make such a report to the Council. But that is absurd. Neither Gordon individually nor the Council as a body ever formally requested such a report from the Chief.

And even more absurd is that no City official has ever responded to Judge Quaintance’s statement relaying the jurors’ questions. No City official has publicly told the Judge to mind her own business. No City official has publicly apologized for not answering those questions. No City official has ever acknowledged publicly that those questions even exist. Publicly, when it comes to those questions, City officials have all put their heads in the sand.

After a partially successful appeal, Mohamed Noor was resented on Oct. 21, 2021, and Judge Quaintance again mentioned those unanswered questions. And

again I wrote the Council and the Mayor. And again they remained silent.

Thoroughly examining past incidents in public does not require any “reimagining” of public safety. In fact, it’s a prerequisite for such reimagining. The Council has access to information the public doesn’t have. The Council knows – or should know – why these cases were settled with huge payouts. The Council knows – or should know – which allegations in every one of those civil complaints were provable in court. The Council is asking for “public engagement” in this reimagining process without giving the public all of the information it needs to inform that engagement. That’s hardly fair, certainly not democratic, and makes the call for public engagement appear to be pro forma, if not disingenuous.

Although I am sending this email to all 13 Council members, it is primarily directed to the seven new members. I am sure the other six feel they’ve heard this from me far too many times. But if no one can explain to me why this would be silly to do, you can expect to continue to hear from me throughout the next two years. Those future emails should be shorter. I needed to lay out all of the facts in this first email to the new Council members.

Good luck during the next two years. I do hope you’re not as negligent as the previous Council.

Yours,
Chuck Turchick

Democratic Socialists in the DFL - the story so far

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

A little over a year ago, I heard of an effort to launch a Democratic Socialist Caucus in the DFL. I have called myself a democratic socialist since about the mid-1980s. I made the transition from anarchist (because of Ursula K. Le Guin, Emma Goldman, and my small but intellectually broad social circle in Atlanta) through anarcho-syndicalism (because it sounds so cool, right?) to socialism itself.

I didn't actually join Democratic Socialists of America until 1986, when I encountered Twin Cities DSA at a MayDay festival. I have been a member at heart ever since, although I have let my dues lapse for long periods, especially when I lived abroad. But, since 2011, when I returned here from England, I have been an extremely active member, and was a co-chair

from 2016 to 2018.

I have also been very active in the DFL. I have attended all my caucuses and several conventions as a delegate. I have been a volunteer and/or precinct captain for a number of candidates. I have been a nominal member of the DFL Senior Caucus.

So, the idea of a Democratic Socialist Caucus, or let's say DSC for short, seemed like a good idea. The people organizing it were a good mix of ages, genders, agendas, ideologies and backgrounds, and were statewide, though concentrated in the Twin Cities, and probably 50% or higher were millennials. As far as I know, all of them are people with solid DFL organizing history, and none of them (the organizers of it, not the members they signed up) are active DSA members except for me.

To be clear, I was not one of

the initial organizers. Due to my high visibility in DSA, I was not planning to have any role beyond rank-and-file member in the DSC, but there was a vacancy for treasurer, and I somewhat reluctantly volunteered. Membership was still pretty low at that initial meeting, and it would have been hard to get a quorum on the Steering Committee with a permanent vacancy. And, I reasoned, by the time the organization was even legally entitled to spend money, I could pass the role on to someone better.

I am giving all this personal and trivial information for context, so you can understand what a shock and a blow it was, not just to me, but to all the DSC organizers who had followed all the rules and been thoughtful and sincere, when our chair and a few other DSC Steering Committee members attended a DFL State Executive Committee

(SEC) meeting on Dec. 8, 2021, at which they were, not to put too fine a point on it, attacked



Ken Martin

and slandered as sneaky DSA infiltrators out to destroy the party.

In case you're not familiar with how a DFL caucus is formed, after an initial meeting, the group elects interim officers and drafts bylaws, and then after a year or so of internal organizing, begins to petition the DFL for recognition as a caucus. The first step is to be voted recognition as a DFL-sanctioned "community outreach organization." It's not the SEC, but the much larger group, the State Central Committee (SCC), that takes this vote. However, to be placed on the SCC's agenda, the petitioning organization has to petition the SEC to put them on it, at the SEC meeting immediately preceding the SCC by several days.

The DSC Steering Committee met several times in preparation for that crucial Dec. 8 meeting. People worked their own DFL networks and sounded out SEC members they knew. A PowerPoint was prepared with our arguments about why the DFL should have a Democratic Socialist caucus. It pointed out that since 2016 and the Bernie Sanders presidential candidacy bid, democratic socialism, or the potential for it, has been a huge factor in a flood of new DFL activists and a few candidates, and even a few winning candidates.

The fact that many of those candidates were cross-endorsed by the DSA is possibly what has put the fear into the marrow of Ken Martin's bones. Ken Martin is the chair of the DFL SEC and was the leader of the attack at the meeting. But I am here to tell you that his fear is ironically and insanely misplaced.

In the week or so before the SEC meeting, we had received very encouraging communications from other DFL committees, including the one critiquing our proposed bylaws and suggesting some changes, which we incorporated. So going into the SEC meeting we were unprepared for outright

hostility. But that's what we got, not from every SEC member but, sadly, from a solid majority of them. Their fear of and hostility toward this nascent caucus is ironic on many levels.

The basis of Ken Martin's response to our petition was to state that this was an incursion from the DSA, an organization that, while not a party, he claims is operating as one. Both prongs of this statement are documentably false. As support for his accusations, Martin cited the fact that DSA members have verbally attacked the DFL and stated their hostility to it, and that the DSA intends to run candidates against DFL incumbents.

But the irony comes into it due to a massive misapprehension of DSA's nature. It's true there is a sizeable and outspoken minority of Twin Cities DSA that opposes the DFL. However, this faction does not want to take over the DFL but, rather, wants nothing to do with them. In any case, it is not in leadership, and not driving electoral policy at all.

On the other side of the coin, the DSC group is not only not a project of DSA, but it also has little overlap in membership with DSA. I am, as far as I know, the only person who is a perceived leader in both Twin Cities DSA and the DSC, and I am not on the Twin Cities DSA Steering Committee. And to further the irony, I doubt if Ken Martin even knows my name. If there were to be a DSA conspiracy to take over the DFL, I am possibly the only person in Minnesota positioned to make



that happen, and I have always stipulated that that could never happen and would be a suicidal move for Twin Cities DSA.

All the people that this myopic faction of DFL leadership thinks are out to take them over are completely absent from the DSC. All the actual DFL activists who hold democratic socialist values and make up the core of the DSC have either rejected DSA as not a good fit for them, or only joined it as an avenue to organize more socialists into the DFL, an avenue they would not need to take if they had a DFL-approved Democratic Socialist Caucus.

In a further irony, the DSC experienced a surge in new member applications in the week following the SEC debacle, so that was nice.

Brother Mel, from page 1

Farmer Labor Caucus agrees with the Farmer Labor Association Platform of 1934 that 'Capitalism has failed and should be abolished, and we mean to establish a Cooperative Commonwealth.'

"We believe we can be most effective working within the DFL to support candidates who agree with our principles and platform, however, if there are more progressive alternatives outside the DFL we will support those candidates."

"I think the work we did at the DFL city convention to push the idea of eminent domain to save homeowners from eviction was very useful in advancing consciousness on that FLA platform idea, and I think our political work on that helped recruit new members. I think Southside Pride's endorsement of Doug Mann for mayor advanced our platform calling for a referendum on the Vikings stadium, and our endorsement of Betsy Hodges acknowledged the reality that it really was coming down to a race between her and Mark Andrew. I think those endorsements were principled, correct and politically savvy."

"I think Southside Pride's support of Ty Moore (Socialist Alternative and Green Party candidate) over Alondra Cano (DFL-endorsed candidate) recognized that we will support left alternatives especially when they come out of grassroots organizing efforts that support our principles."

"I feel strongly that there needs to be a left critique within the DFL in 2014 for the precinct caucuses, the legislative district conventions, the School Board city convention and for the state

DFL convention that will endorse candidates for governor, U.S. senator, etc. If we are to become a meaningful force and a genuine left alternative to the status quo, then we need discussion of these ideas."

"It is essential that you all chime in."

"Please."

On June 23, Mel wrote back, **"Hey Ed we ought to have lunch sometime. I appreciate what you are trying to do. I have a bit of a different perspective. I don't really do DFL. I like the fact that you supported Ty over Alondra. I am still old school I don't believe that capitalism can be reformed and from my perspective there is plenty of evidence to support that notion. I think that rather than struggling inside the parties of capital that working folks ought to create their own."**

On June 24, 2018, I wrote to Mel, "Do you have any photos of the Thurman Blevins rally yesterday? Do you know where we could get one?"

The next day, Mel wrote, **"Hey man I will see if i can get you some."**

The next day I wrote, "we're going to go with this for the cover":



Mel: **"ok I got some pics but can't get them off my phone."**

Me: "stay cool. take power. how are Jeremiah and Phillipe on this? Do you want to write something for us on this? Please move beyond protesting to taking over the goddamned government."

Mel: **"Well brother I don't think the Democrats are down for that lol. but yes you can use my blog that is posted on my page. or go to the blog fight-thepowerjournal.com."**

Me: "Mel, you have the most developed analysis of anyone in this city about the function of cops and capitalism - you need to lead a way out of the wilderness. Protest is just whining and wringing our hands. I believe there is a left wing in the DFL that can be an effective vehicle for socialism and justice. You might find common ground in Socialist Alternative. But let's find a way beyond protest. Let's have lunch someday."

Mel: **"thanks sounds like a plan lets def do lunch sometime soon."**

Me: "How about Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday at Modern Times, 3200 Chicago Ave. I'm buying."

I never heard back. And we both got too busy to take time for a leisurely lunch. But we were always fighting on the same side. And the fierce militancy of the movement for justice that we see evident today owes something to an earlier articulation by Mel Reeves.

I will always remember that he called me "Brother."

Snow – a white conspiracy

BY DWIGHT HOBBS

It is a little known but very true fact: long before Christopher Columbus made that famous wrong turn, this land was already in for a bad experience. Half a millennium earlier, Leif Ericsson, whose Norse nickname was Leif the Lucky but whose real name was Leroy Jones, got to Minnesota on purpose. And

didn't even have a problem with people already being here. His attitude was, How you gon' discover something that's inhabited and being put to good use when you "discover" it?

That's like me and my cat walking along, see your brand-new car and she says, "That sure is a beautiful automobile. Wish it was mine." So, I say, "Well, Onyx, let's discover it." Accord-

ingly, everyone got along just fine.

Thing is, Leroy and his boys were invited to party by the Natives one night, the peace pipe got passed and had wacky tobacco in it. After that little throw-down nothing was the same again. Unlike the folk who cultured and grew the herb, Leroy and them had an odd biological reaction. It sort of changed their brains. I guess you could say they began to develop what could be called Columbus-itis, started giving each other funny looks, trading shifty glances. After the Americans had turned in to get some shut-eye, their new Norse neighbors got a bright idea. They'd noticed these friendly folk who'd welcomed them to the land didn't wear a whole lot of heavy clothes. In fact, they pretty much were just enough to not to be walking around in the completely altogether. Next morning, there was a note left on their lodgings from the Norsemen and Norsewomen. "Had a great stay. Thanks for the smokin' good time. We'll be back." Naturally, not having seen "The Terminator," the Natives thought nothing of those last words, shrugged and went



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back about their lives.

Well, when, Leif, Leroy or whoever came back with his crew, they had gone clear to Norway to retrieve some of the most God-awful cold weather, including their own invention, snow. They figured if they made the place freezing, it'd drive the Natives off and that way the place could be claimed fair and square with no qualms of conscience. What they didn't count on was that these was some resilient folk who simply put on long-johns, fur coats, scarves and gloves, adapting quite comfortably to the new conditions. The Norse folk then looked at one another, sighed, threw up their hands and said to hell with it. They shook hands with the Natives, got back in their boats and was never seen again. They forgot, though, to pack up the miserable weather, especially the snow, and take it with them. So, thanks to a sneaky, white conspiracy that never worked out but left a lasting condition nobody but them had any use for, we now have Minnesota. Or as it is commonly known, Minne-snow-ta. True story.

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There's No Place Like Home

There's truly no place like it!

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

Home safe home

These days, for a lot of us, our homes are a refuge from the dangerous world out there. The experience many of us had of “sheltering in place” has possibly given us a new appreciation of the good points as well as the not so good points about our homes. This month, we're looking into ideas to make changes or addi-

tions to your home that make it a safer place or more healthful place. We'll also include ways you can upgrade your home even if you don't own it – either things you can pack up and take with you, or easily reverse when you move, or ways to ensure you don't end up paying twice by “breaking your lease.” For homeowners, a lot of these ideas will also add value to your home if you're planning to sell it.

Lighting and windows

New windows can really transform your home. I have experienced this twice so far. In the U.K., my spouse and I updated our 99-year-old home with modern “double-glazing” and then a year or so ago, I replaced all the windows in my aging 1985 senior condominium. Modern technology can allow maximum light with minimum heat loss (or in my case, the more vital air-conditioning loss). Combine your anti-glare, well-insulated windows with a modern cellular shade, or blackout curtains in your bedroom, for the best combination. Indoor lighting can make a significant difference in health as well as safety. Migraines and other unpleasant conditions can be triggered by the wrong kind of artificial lighting. If keeping cool in summer matters to you, there is a huge difference in the amount of heat generated by various types of light sources. Motion-sensing strong lights for basement stairs are an important safety measure, as is effective lighting in the kitchen.



Waist-high raised beds make gardening accessible for all.

Floors, doors, and accessibility

The surface of a floor – i.e., whether it is hard or soft or carpeted, non-slip or not, and what material – becomes far more than an aesthetic consideration for older people, babies, and people of any age with mobility impairment. I found a wonderful

source online for a concept called Universal Design (UD), which is something that grew out of ergonomics, and is vital to both the disability rights community and the aging-in-place community. UD (aginginplace.org/how-universal-design-creates-a-seamless-aging-in-place-ex

See Home, page 8



An indoor sauna in a huge bathroom – photo from Voyageurs Saunas

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There w

Home, from page 7

perience) comprises seven “principles”:

- Principle 1: Equitable Use
- Principle 2: Flexibility in Use

Error

- Principle 6: Low Physical Effort
 - Principle 7: Size and Space for Approach and Use
- These principles apply to every-



Ramps are not only for wheelchairs.

- Principle 3: Simple and Intuitive Use
- Principle 4: Perceptible Information
- Principle 5: Tolerance for

thing from designing spaces for public use to buying products for your home to designing software and web applications.

Applied to floors, UD tells us to opt for flooring such as cork, tiles

or Marmoleum™ that don’t have edges, level changes, high thresholds, or nap-like carpet. (Carpet might seem like a good choice, until you get a wheelchair or walker. It’s hard to roll wheels on carpet. Also, with small children or animals, there are going to be spills.) If you do want carpet, get a low-nap type.

Floors also mean levels. All on one floor is ideal for the elderly or disabled or young children, but not always possible. Still, you can provide alternatives. Build a ramp to make rolling your baby’s stroller into the house easier, but leave it there for when grandma comes to visit. Older people find it easier to use a ramp even if they are walking. If designing a home with stairs, make them wide enough that you can add a stairlift if it ever becomes necessary.

Speaking of width, the width of doors, both exterior and interior, is a consideration in UD. Besides being more inviting in appearance, and accessible to all, you’ll appreciate a wide door when you decide to rent a grand piano or install an indoor hot tub.

Making kitchens less dangerous

Kitchens can be dangerous. If you’re updating your kitchen, consider safety, health, and UD in your plans. Here are some random home safety statistics I picked up on the internet:

- 90% of kitchen cloths failed cleanliness tests.
- Foodborne disease causes 76 million cases of illness in the United States alone, according to the centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

• Over 150,000 kitchen fires every year are caused by cooking equipment – with 460 fatalities.

• Lacerations from kitchen tools account for 42% of hand injuries that are seen by ER professionals.

• A home without a fire alarm is twice as likely to have a fire, according to the U.S. Fire Administration.

• Unattended cooking equipment accounted for 45% of home fatalities from 2002 to 2005.

• 34 fatal burn injuries occur each year from scald burns out of the kitchen.

• After age 65, falling becomes the leading cause of death in the home, with many slip-and-fall accidents occurring on wet kitchen floors.

One modern innovation, though pricey, is probably worth it – induction burners on your stove or counter cooktop. Induction burners prevent burns by directly conducting heat into the material of the cooking vessel.

Kitchen remodels often turn into bigger projects than you think. Although the best contractors will let you save money by doing part of the work yourself, it’s probably best not to go it alone, especially with kitchens and bathrooms.

Bathtubs, saunas, and luxury showers - oh my!

My favorite part of house remodeling is the bathroom. It makes such a difference in your



A beautiful bathroom remodel with a rain shower



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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day-to-day life if you can add these luxury self-care touches to your home. Referring again to my home in England, which we did two big remodels on, I replaced a repellent chocolate-brown fiberglass shallow tub with a fully enclosed clawfoot tub and ceramic wall tiles floor to ceiling and even in the deep window well over the new tub. It was my little retreat to paradise every day.

A simple upgrade might be a rainfall shower. Although it has long been conventional wisdom that showers are for quickly getting clean and only bathtubs are for relaxing, researchers (and the realtors who listen to them) are finding more and more people get relaxation in the shower. You can add a bench inside and have a seated shower. You can use a massaging, hand-held shower head.

Another conundrum of aging is if you at some point have to give up your deep soak in a clawfoot tub, because it’s no longer safe or even attainable. Walk-in bathtubs could solve this problem, but the jury is still out on whether they add to or detract from the resale

There's No Place Like Home make it even better!



Induction cooktops protect you from burns.

value of your home, and like jetted hot tubs (which they sort of are) they can have cleaning and maintenance issues.

A major upgrade (if you have the space for it) could include a sauna, a steam room, or the aforementioned hot tub. Saunas or hot tubs can also go outdoors if you don't have the space indoors. You can even get a mobile sauna and take it with you on road trips or up to the lake.

The joy of decluttering

Decluttering is something you will have to do if you remodel or sell your home. So why not do it now, while you're still thinking about whether to do those things or not? Although I have never managed to declutter myself, many people have rhapsodized to me about how liberating and life-altering it is. Hiring a helper

makes it less overwhelming.

Better gardens

The exterior of your home and surrounding land is where you can really make a significant difference. Devoting part of your lawn to raising flowers, herbs, pollinator attractors or food crops has a substantial impact on your health in many ways. If you want to do this, but have mobility concerns, consider a raised bed, especially one raised high enough that you can tend it standing. Here again, a consultation with a specialist may help, which could be a landscape business, a county master gardener, or just the staff at a local garden center, of which we have many.

Home improvement for renters

If you're renting, you can still

make changes to improve your home. If you have a specific need, such as a new or temporary disability, there are agencies that can help you negotiate with your landlord, and also possibly help pay. In general, though, options range between working with your landlord to doing reversible changes and putting it back the way it was if you move out, or maybe a little bit of both. You can find some ideas here: www.moneytalksnews.com/9-ways-to-remodel-your-rental-without-breaking-your-lease.

WTF? (Where To Find?)

How do you find any help you may need to do the remodel or upgrade of your dreams? Or just to make a major purchase for your home? Google will only get you so far. Here are some ideas:

- Using a directory or the internet, find a contractor who gives free or affordable consultations.
- For a decluttering expert, check ads in local papers, classifieds and actual bulletin boards.
- If you're thinking of selling, consult your realtor about what helps with resale values.
- Consider contacting volunteers at AARP, a disability advocacy group if applicable, or the VA if you are a veteran.
- Use your public library to find resources. Ask a librarian for help to get you started.



A detail from a kitchen remodel — photo from Castle Building and Remodeling

- Ask your neighbors, via email on e-democracy or Next-Door, or on a neighborhood Facebook Chat group if you have one, about their experiences doing remodels and working with local

businesses.

- Talk to personal friends and family who either work in the industry or have done a remodel themselves.

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EVENTS

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration
Monday, Jan. 17, 6:30 to 8 p.m.
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Recreation Center
4055 Nicollet Ave., Mpls.
Join the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) for their annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration on Monday, Jan. 17 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Recreation Center (4055 Nicollet Ave. S, Minneapolis, MN 55409).
The celebration will be emceed by Chad Jackson, Senior Manager, Brand Partnerships, with the Minnesota Twins. Adair Mosley, President and CEO of Pillsbury United Communities, will be the keynote speaker. Musical performances that evening will come from “VocalEssence Singers of This Age.”
The MPRB will present its “Living the

Dream” award, which honors an individual, business or community group who has demonstrated dedication and distinguished service to the MPRB and the lives of Minneapolis residents. This year’s recipient is Willie B. Jasper. The celebration will also mark the conclusion of the 12th annual “Feeding the Dream” Food Drive. Residents are encouraged to drop off non-perishable food items at their local MPRB Recreation Center through Jan. 17. The community service project was initiated in the fall of 2009 and since then more than 14,000 pounds of donations have been collected. This year, all donations will go to Sabathani Community Center and NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center. After a virtual event in January of 2021, The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration is once again live, free and open to the public. Attendees must wear a mask while attending the event. Attendees are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item to donate. Refreshments will be available following the

program. For more information, please visit www.minneapolis-sparks.org or call (612) 230-6400.

Leonardo’s Basement
All-Day Workshops for Kids
Jan. 17, Jan. 28, Feb. 21
9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Leonardo’s Basement
150 W. 60th St., Mpls.
All-Day Design and Build Workshop
Choose to work with wood, metal, plastic, motors, LEDs, and fun new and repurposed building materials as you design and create projects to take home. Use a host of hand and power tools to build from your imagination! Make something for fun, for a gift, to learn a new skill, or to complete a school project.
For ages 6 -16. Work independently with instructor support to design and build projects to take home using extensive tools and limitless materials in the workshop. 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., bring a lunch! Register at <https://leonardosbasement.asapconnected.com/#>.

Congressman Adam Schiff presents ‘Midnight in Washington’ Book Tour
Monday, Jan. 17, 7 p.m. (doors at 6 p.m.)
Granada Theater
3022 Hennepin Ave. S., Mpls.
Magers & Quinn presents an exclusive in-person event and signing with Congressman Adam Schiff for his new book, “Midnight in Washington: How We Almost Lost Our Democracy and Still Could,” at the Granada Theater in Uptown.
Congressman Schiff led the first impeachment of Donald J. Trump and his new book, “Midnight in Washington,” is the vital inside account of American democracy in its darkest hour, and a warning that the forces of autocracy unleashed by Trump remain as potent as ever. Each ticket includes one copy of “Midnight in Washington” and one seat at the event on Monday, Jan. 17, 2022. For this seated event, Granada Theater & Uptown Lobby ask that if you are not actively eating or drinking that you kindly wear your mask. Doors will open at 6 p.m. and all books will be available to pick up at the event. More info and tickets available here: <https://www.magersandquinn.com/event/An-Evening-with-Congressman-Adam-Schiff/35>.

Readings by Writers
Tuesday, Jan. 18, 7:30 to 9 p.m.
University Club of St. Paul
420 Summit Ave., St. Paul
Tim Nolan hosts an in-person reading with Lee Colin Thomas, Carolyn Holbrook, Margaret Hasse and Melissa Cundieff. You must be vaccinated, boosted, masked. If not don’t come! <https://www.facebook.com/events/695762771783310>

‘Mother and Son Carve Out Women and Girls’
Zimbabwe Shona Stone Sculpture
Through 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. On view through Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2022. <https://www.facebook.com/mhiripirigallery/> or (952) 285-9684.

‘Amplifying Beloved Community’
Minneapolis College celebrates Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Thursday, Jan. 20, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and 3 to 4 p.m.
Online
Join a virtual celebration of voices “Amplifying Beloved Community.” Minneapolis College will host a virtual celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. on Thursday, Jan. 20, to encourage reflection on King’s dedication to equality and the civil rights movement. During the first portion of the event, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., there will be a virtual student art exhibit, performances by the Minneapolis College Choir and celebration of the College’s Second Annual Student Oratorical Contest. This year’s contest showcase is the “center-piece of the program” and focuses on the power of the vote and using one’s voice. The College choir’s performances will be on the theme of “Amplifying Beloved Community,” which is also the theme for this year’s MLK event. Then, following a two-hour break, the celebration will continue from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. with a virtual Town Hall Meeting focused on social justice and racial healing. The conversation will be facilitated by Minneapolis College President Sharon Pierce and Raymond Wise, Professor of Practice for African American and African Diaspora Studies at Indiana University, followed by a Q&A. The event and Town Hall will take place at minneapolis.edu/mlk.

Free Vaccine Clinics
Thursday, Jan. 20 and Jan. 27, 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Cultural Wellness Health Hub, Midtown Global Market
920 E. Lake St., Mpls.
MGM has partnered with the Cultural Wellness Health Hub for a month-long vaccination event. Every Thursday in January, from 3:30-6:30 p.m., come in for your first, second, or booster shot. Vaccinations can be made by appointment or walk-ins.
Appointment number: 612-249-9528.
Ages: 16+ (anyone under 18 needs parental consent).
Location: Cultural Wellness Center Community Hub (137 E), located next to the Art Shoppe (Lake Street side of the Market).

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‘Rainbow-ish’
On view through March 5
Opening reception Friday, Jan. 21, 6 to 8 p.m.
Fresh Eye Gallery
900 Ocean St., St. Paul
Fresh Eye Gallery presents “Rainbow-ish,” an exhibition exploring joy and exuberance. Throughout history and in many cultures, rainbows have represented optimism, promise and hope. “Rainbows represent happiness, abundance, and togetherness, as well as family, equality, and awakening,” says “Rainbow-ish” artist Danielle Day.
We are living in unprecedented times. With all the daunting challenges that face humanity worldwide – COVID-19, climate change, racial and economic inequality – optimism seems to be in short supply. This exhibition features work that is bright, colorful, and generated for the sheer joy of creating something from nothing.
The exhibiting artists are Danielle Day, Deja Day, Dede Decker, Ryan Suckow and Lucas Williams. All are self-taught artists supported by Fresh Eye Arts, a progressive art studio supporting artists with disabilities. The opening reception is free and open to the public.
Fresh Eye Gallery is an intentionally inclusive community space. The gallery is an extension of our Fresh Eye Arts progressive art studio program and encourages radical inclusion. We are owned and operated by MSS, a local nonprofit organization supporting individuals with disabilities.

MPRB 20th Annual Kite Festival
Saturday, Jan. 22, noon to 4 p.m.
Lake Harriet (north end)
4135 W. Lake Harriet Pkwy., Mpls.
The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board presents the 20th Annual Kite Festival. Kites of all shapes, sizes, colors and themes will fly over frozen Lake Harriet! Fun family festival activities include art activities provided by the Minneapolis Institute of Art, ice fishing provided by Tips Outdoors and a marshmallow roast. Minnesota Kite Society experts will demonstrate maneuvering spectacular kites throughout the day, offer their expertise to kite-flying enthusiasts and to those who are new to the pastime. Bring your own kite, or buy an inexpensive one at the lake.
The Kite Festival is a FREE family-oriented, outdoor event which takes place on Saturday, Jan. 22, from noon to 4 pm. The Kite Festival is great for all ages and



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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 caretaker 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 politicians 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.

But we did get a lot more Black faces onto TV.

• COMMUNITY CALENDAR •

Southside Pride / RIVERSIDE EDITION

abilities. Held at the north end of Lake Harriet near the Bandshell (4135 W. Lake Harriet Pkwy.). Free shuttles are available from the Calhoun Executive Center (3033 Excelsior Blvd., Minneapolis) from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. throughout the course of the event. There will be no parking on either side of Linden Hills Blvd. from W. 43rd Street to W. 40th Street, please plan accordingly. Allow ample time to find a spot and walk to the venue.

Mass Graves: From Exhumations to Justice in Bosnia and Florida

Sunday, Jan. 23, 1 to 3 p.m. CT
Online via Zoom

World Without Genocide will host a webinar on Jan. 23, 2022, about exhumations of mass gravesites for evidence to prosecute genocide perpetrators. Featured speakers are Nihaud Brankovic, Senior Manager at the International Commission on Missing Persons which conducts investigations around the world, and Dr. Erin Kimmerle, Forensic Anthropologist at the University of South Florida who worked on exhumations in Bosnia, Kosovo and at the Dozier School for Boys in Florida.

This Zoom event will be held on Sunday, Jan. 23, from 1 to 3 p.m. CT. The program is open to the public. Registration is required by Saturday, Jan. 22 at worldwithoutgenocide.org/missing.

\$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 (pending). Early registration is recommended.

This is a live webinar program and a recording will not be available. More information – info@worldwithoutgenocide.org, www.worldwithoutgenocide.org, or 952-693-5206.

'Playing the Game: Problems and Possibilities for Black Men in the U.S.'

Lecture by Professor Gary Green, United Theological Seminary

Tuesday, Jan. 25, 7:30 p.m. CT
Online via Zoom

This lecture captures Professor Gary Green's current effort as a scholar and a Black man to understand what is necessary for Black men in the United States to survive and flourish. Green analyzes the intersecting politics of race, class, gender and sexuality as they relate to the unique struggles of Black men, focusing specifically on the connection between historical myths, political circumstances, and the relational re-creation of a society designed to undercut Black men's attempts to survive and flourish at every level. Despite this cultural onslaught, however, Green finds unexpected pockets of hope that offer possibilities for new futures to be created where all can survive and flourish. Gary Green is Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology and Social Transformation at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. You can register for this free event at <https://content.unitedseminary.edu/gary-green-spring-faculty-lectures-2022>.

Contemporary Poetry of South Korea: Kim Ki-taek and Yi Won

Wednesday, Jan. 26, 5:30 p.m. CT
Online via Crowdcast

Rain Taxi's first event of the year is a virtual gathering with two acclaimed South Korean poets and the English language translators of their new releases – not to be missed! Kim Ki-taek joins us to celebrate the publication of "Smiling in an Old Photograph," a chapbook newly published by Rain Taxi's OHM Edition; Yi Won joins us to celebrate the publication of "The World's Lightest Motorcycle," a bilingual book recently published by Zephyr Press.

Participating in this celebration along with Kim Ki-taek and Yi Won are translators Ed Bok Lee, Yang Eun-mi, E. J. Koh, and Marci Calabretta Cancio-Bello. Poet Lee Herrick will moderate, and interpreting for our Korean guests will be Bomi Yoon. Free to attend, registration

required. We hope to "see" you there! <https://www.raintaxi.com/contemporary-poetry-of-south-korea-kim-ki-taek-and-yi-won/>

Winter 2022 Mizna Film Series

'Route 181: Fragments of a Journey in Palestine-Israel'

'Part One: The South'
Jan. 26 – 30

Wednesday, Jan. 26, 7 p.m. in-person screening

Trylon Cinema
2820 E. 33rd St., Mpls.

Available virtually Jan. 27- 30 in U.S. only

To kick off the winter 2022 Mizna Film Series season, we present "Route 181: Fragments of a Journey in Palestine-Israel," a three-part film with a focus on daily life in occupied Palestine. Mizna Film Series will screen all three parts between January and March.

In "Part One: The South," filmmakers Eyal Sivan and Michel Khleifi begin their cinematic journey through the southern parts of Palestine-Israel from Ashdod to Gaza, interviewing a juice seller, a candy seller, an engineer, and a manager, gaining perspectives from Israelis and Palestinians about everyday life. They visit a kibbutz, travel to Gaza, and hear residents' understandings of the Zionist project alongside discussions of Palestinians' right to return. Their task as filmmakers is to document, to convey what is desired and what is experienced, to distinguish people's dreams from political projects, to hear what one wants to forget, and to listen to the other – this is how the journey begins.

For tickets and more info, go to <https://mizna.eventive.org/welcome>.

A Feast of Words, featuring Minnesota Transform

Thursday, Jan. 27, 7 p.m.
Online

Join University of Minnesota Libraries online on Thursday, Jan. 27 at 7 p.m. for "A Feast of Words," featuring Minnesota Transform and the project's central belief that deep engagement with community can enrich and challenge humanistic knowledge and the practices of the University. This event brings together panelists Mike Hoyt of Pillsbury House Theatre; Tracey Deutsch, Professor of History at the University of Minnesota; Jigna Desai, Professor of Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies at the University of Minnesota; and Kat Nelsen, a Social Sciences Librarian at the University Libraries. The event is presented by the Friends of the Libraries and the Campus Club. More info at <https://www.facebook.com/events/1085086582315354>.

Dance Theatre of Harlem

Friday, Jan. 28, 7:30 p.m.
In-person

Carlson Family Stage,
Northrop Auditorium
84 Church St. SE, Mpls.

The 17-member, multi-ethnic company performs a forward-thinking repertoire that includes treasured classics, neoclassical works, and innovative contemporary works that use the language of ballet to celebrate African American culture. This program includes the Northrop Centennial Commission, "Higher Ground," with choreography by Robert Garland and music by Stevie Wonder, and "Balamouk," choreographed by Annabelle Lopez Ochoa with music by Les Yeux Noirs. "Passage," choreographed by Claudia Schreier with a commissioned score by Jessie Montgomery, offers a moving reflection on the fortitude of the human spirit, created in recognition of the 400th anniversary of the arrival of enslaved Africans to Virginia in 1619. This event will be captioned, with other accessibility services available upon request. More information and tickets at <https://www.northrop.umn.edu/events/dance-theatre-harlem-2022>.

Patrick's Cabaret Presents:
'Dancing Upstairs – Then and Now'

Saturday, Jan. 29, 7 p.m. CT

Online via Zoom

Back in the heyday of Block E, Patrick Scully had a loft in the very heart of Minneapolis – on Hennepin Avenue, above the Best Steak House, next door to Shinders on 7th. Three friends, all dance colleagues, joined him in presenting a show there called "Dancing Upstairs." Now they are joining together again to share a show – "Dancing Upstairs – Then and Now." Each artist will show work from the original show, and new work created for this show. Starring Terry Kruzan, Atlanta, Ga.; Wendy Morris, Minneapolis; Wendy Oliver, Providence, R.I.; and Patrick Scully, Minneapolis. Tickets are pay what you can (\$15 suggested). More info, video teasers and tickets available at: <https://mailchi.mp/1f08a88b5bdb/patricks-cabaret-jan-29-2022-dancing-upstairs-then-and-now?e=738a0f3db2>

'Latins on Ice'

Saturday, Jan. 29, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 30, 11 a.m.

Lake Nokomis

4955 W. Lake Nokomis Pkwy., Mpls.

Presented by The Great Northern and Teatro del Pueblo

Five local Latin performers reflect on their distinct Minnesota winter experiences in a comedic, tragic and passionate variety show set on the frozen Lake Nokomis during the U.S. Pond Hockey Championships. This event is set out to create heat—including ice skating attempts and shared stories surrounded by what the performers call a "feigned natural habitat" setting made of colorful beach towels, blow-up palm trees, sombreros and beach balls. Join us in celebrating Latin culture in this exhilarating performance. Featuring local artists Sabrin Diehl, Isabella Dunsieith, Antonio Rios-Luna, Xochi de la Luna and Alex Barreto Hathaway. Directed by John Gebretatose. Free and open to the public. Register at: <https://thegreatnorthernfestival.com/2022/latins-on-ice>



Children's Theatre Company

January 11 – February 13, 2022

Best For Everyone Ages 9 and up

Children's Theatre Company (CTC) is proud to announce the cast and creative team that will bring to life the world premiere of "Bina's Six Apples" written by Lloyd Suh and directed by Eric Ting, running January 9 through February 13, 2022. This is a co-production with the Alliance Theatre in Atlanta and will transfer to their mainstage March 11-27, 2022.

Bina's family grows the finest apples in all of Korea. But when war forces her to flee her home, Bina is alone in the world with just six precious apples to her name. Can these meager possessions help her find her family? Join Bina on her adventure that ranges from the heartbreaking to the humorous. Encountering new challenges at every turn, Bina is forced to rely upon her apples and their meaningful legacy as she begins to discover the power of her own resilience. Often mesmerizing, always heartwarming, Bina realizes she's not the only one on a difficult quest for a place to call home.

"Bina's Six Apples" runs January 9 through February 13, 2022 on the Cargill Stage. Tickets can be purchased at childrenstheatre.org/binas or by calling the ticket office at 612.874.0400. Ticket prices currently range from \$15-\$63.

Tickets:

The Ticket Office is accessible by phone two hours prior to most performances. These posted hours are subject to change.

Email: tickets@childrenstheatre.org (inquiries only, no ticket processing)

Phone: 612.874.0400

Website: <https://childrenstheatre.org>

Subscription packages are available. Please see website for complete details: childrenstheatre.org/open





(Photo/metrotransit.org)

Is racism driving transit planning?

BY ELINA KOLSTAD

Anyone who has ever ridden the Route 21 Metro Transit bus, especially the stretch between Hennepin Avenue and Hiawatha Avenue, knows that it has some of the highest demand of all Metro Transit's bus routes. The numbers bear this out. In the fall of 2018, Metro Transit reported over 10,000

saw over 10,000 average weekday rides on the Route 21 bus, the Northstar Line saw 2,814 average weekday rides. We need to stop fooling ourselves that the law of supply and demand is the main factor that determines what public transit gets funding and how much.

The Northstar Line has always had disappointingly low numbers and in the wake of COVID those numbers have plummeted further still. The Northstar was built to be a commuter rail line, it's right there in the title. It was built to bring people from Big Lake and the surrounding area into downtown Minneapolis to work and then home again. Nothing else. Not only was there basically only one destination, downtown Minneapolis, the line was only ever designed to take passengers to and from work.



Route 21 Metro Transit from St. Paul and down Lake Street (Photo/move-itapp.com)

average weekday rides on the 21, making it the second highest Metro Transit ridership route. And yet, we are only now seeing plans being developed to improve this transit corridor for the first time in decades. If we are lucky, in 2024 we will see B Line Bus Rapid Transit service begin, hopefully leading to faster and more reliable service. The preliminary estimated cost of the B Line is \$54 million.

On the other hand, in 2009 the Northstar Commuter Rail Line was completed from Big Lake, Minn., to downtown Minneapolis. The total cost of the Northstar project was \$317 million. In 2018, the same year that

I know someone who took the Northstar up to Big Lake when it first opened. He went up from Minneapolis in the morning, thinking that a train trip and some exploration of a small town would be a fun way to spend the day. He ended up in a park and ride lot in an area isolated from any amenities like cafes or restaurants and no indication of how to get to any. He waited a few boring hours before he could catch the next train to the city and never went back.

One might think that this is a story about how those who planned and built the Northstar mistakenly built a line that


would ultimately fail to attract the ridership needed to sustain it. But what if this aspect of the design was seen as a feature, not a flaw?

In 2017, Bob Ivers, then running for mayor in Hopkins, said of the Southwest Light Rail Line, "The light rail to me is nothing but a tube that is going to bring nothing but riff raff and trash from Minneapolis." He went on to state, "All the Chicago and Detroit riff raff who have moved into 'Welfare-apolis,' they are going to get on that train and you know where they are going to end up - at the Depot with yours and yours and yours granddaughters and grandsons." Ivers followed this statement with, "Hopkins is 90% white, okay. The 10% coloreds and Mexicans and Asians who are here. Great. Bravo. But the problem is your little yellow train that you are all bravo about, you are going to have all the ethnics [sic] you want." This man was actually wrong about how little diversity Hopkins has and only received a tiny percent of the vote, but looking at his comments and looking at the design of the Northstar Commuter Rail Line certainly makes one think: Why are all the Northstar stops outside of the urban centers of the cities they serve?

We need to stop fooling ourselves that our transit system works in a vacuum where the law of supply and demand is the only factor that determines which routes get funding and which routes take the back seat. Supply and demand doesn't influence how frequent or reliable our transit is nearly as much as the skin color of those who ride

it. If you still don't think officials would purposely pursue a design destined to fail rather than allow "ethnics" from "Welfare-apolis" into their commu-

nity, I would recommend looking into Heather McGhee's book "The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together."



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
 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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EVENTS

TRUE Tuesdays: Healing Minnesota Stories

Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2:30 to 4 p.m. Online

In 2020 the Minnesota Council of Churches adopted a bold initiative to move their member congregations forward in the area of racial justice. Co-Directors Rev. Pamela Ngunjiri and Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs are building a program to include truth-telling and reparations for the African American and Native American communities in Minnesota. Join Blandin Foundation TRUE Tuesdays attendees as they present on their vision to carry this out. To register, go to <https://blandinfooundation-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEld-eggqzouE9Ld7ZeNHXixwJ40K4fIT8h0>.

Collegeville Institute Summer Writing Workshops

Each summer, the Collegeville Institute opens its doors to pastors, ministers, lay leaders and other thinkers and writers for week-long, intensive workshops geared toward various levels of writing skill, genre and interest. Two writing workshops will be hosted by the Collegeville Institute in Minnesota this summer:

Apart, and Yet a Part: A Workshop with Writing Coach Michael N. McGregor

June 7 – 16, 2022

Independent, unstructured work in community. **Applications due Sunday, Jan. 16.**

Women Writing: A Week with Lauren Winner

July 6 – 15, 2022

A workshop for women fiction and nonfiction writers. **Applications due Sunday, Jan. 30.**

Both workshops will be held at the Collegeville Institute in Collegeville, Minn.

To learn more and to apply, see <https://collegevilleinstitute.org/writing-workshops/>.

Collegeville Connections

‘The End of Burnout’ with author Jonathan Malesic

Wednesday, Feb. 2, noon to 1 p.m.

Online

How can we overcome burnout culture and find moral significance in our lives beyond work? Join Collegeville Connections for a conversation with author Jonathan Malesic about his new book “The End of Burnout.” Through research on the science, culture and philosophy of burnout, Malesic explores the gap between our vocation and our jobs, and between the ideals we have for work and the reality of what we have to do. He eschews the usual prevailing wisdom in confronting burnout (“Learn to say no!” “Practice mindfulness!”) to examine how our jobs have been constructed as a symbol of our value and our total identity. He argues that we can look to communities of monks, intense hobbyists and artists with disabilities to see the possibilities for resisting a “total work” environment and the paths to recognizing the dignity of workers and nonworkers alike. Register for this free online conversation at <https://collegevilleinstitute.org/events/event/feb-2-the-end-of-burnout/>.

JRLC Housing Webinar Series

Thursday, Feb. 3

6:30 to 8 p.m.

Online

Are you concerned about persons impacted by homelessness, the high cost of rent and the scarcity of affordable or supportive housing? Do you want to understand these issues from a variety of perspectives – and make a difference? Then join us for the last of our monthly Housing Webinar Series offered by the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition. Register now for the program and small group discussion at <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcucOigr-TiHdWaRONrsnxNmYUW7PYaVuUO>. For more information or to RSVP by email contact Joan Miltenberger, JRLC Organizer at jmiltenberger@jrlc.org, (612) 230-3232.

Taizé Service

Friday, Feb. 11, 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 Taizé 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 next month on Feb. 11 (masks are required). You can also catch a live-stream of the service by finding the Taizé button on our website. <http://www.minnehaha.org/>

Remembering and Restoring the Past

Tuesday, March 8, noon to 1:10 p.m.

University of St. Thomas, St. Paul What do the histories of, and the continued research on, various local congregations and houses of worship in Minneapolis-St. Paul teach us about how communities are created, relationships are built, and how inter- and intra- congregational interactions are lived out? In this presentation, Dr. Marilyn J. Chiat and Dr. Jeanne Halgren Kilde will draw upon their Twin Cities Houses of Worship Project, which brings together data on over 250 congregations and over 500 sites related to religious and ethnic groups who settled and developed nine neighborhoods along the Mississippi River in St. Paul and Minneapolis between 1849 and 1924. Learn more and register at <https://stthomas.force.com/applicantportal/USTEventRegister?instanceID=a345b-000003zmUGAAY>

JRLC Virtual Day on the Hill

Tuesday, March 15, 6:30 to 8:45 p.m. Online

We are looking forward to a powerful day of interfaith advocacy! JRLC 2022 Day on the Hill: “For Such a Time as This,” will take place on Tuesday, March 15, as a virtual evening program from 6:30 to 8:45 p.m. The keynote speaker is Maharat Rori Picker Neiss, ordained clergy, Orthodox Judaism, Executive Director St. Louis Jewish Community Relations Council. She will inspire and call us to action, reflecting the Day on the Hill theme “For Such a Time as This,” from the book of Esther. Find more details here: <https://jrlc.org/2022-day-on-the-hill>. Invite your congregation, social action members and community organization. Make your faith-based values and voices known. Shape, influence and support public policies for dignity, justice and the common good. Be a change agent and ally for and with struggling Minnesotans. We belong to each other “For Such a Time as This”!

Saving Mother Earth: Treasured and Endangered

On view through March 31

Howard Conn Gallery Plymouth Congregational Church 1900 Nicollet Ave., Mpls. We are privileged to be hosting “Saving Mother Earth,” a group exhibition showcasing artists from varied backgrounds, using diverse materials to express their concerns, champion activism and cherish the beauty and abundance of our earth. The exhibition includes works by Janet Essley, Claudia Poser, Deb Miner and Rob Larson. <https://www.plymouth.org/explore/arts/>

Gift cards for recent arrivals

From the Minnesota Council of Churches: We are incredibly grateful for the abundance of donations coming in from our communities! We are currently in the midst of distributing donated items to new arrivals. At this time, we are holding off on donation drop-offs until later in January. If you are interested in donating items, please contact us starting Jan. 4 to schedule an appointment.

If you are still looking for an opportunity to help out our newest arrivals, please consider a donation of gift cards to Cub Foods, Target, and/or Aldi as families are experiencing delays receiving EBT cards and SNAP benefits. These can be mailed directly to our offices at Minnesota Council of Churches, 122 Franklin Ave. W., Ste. 100, Minneapolis, MN 55404, Attn. Refugee Services.

SHARING FOOD

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/>

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. or until we run out of bags. Currently, we are distributing boxes and bags of food at the door. Be safe and God bless! <https://www.facebook.com/NCBC-foodshelf>. 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. Note: In response to the COVID-19 virus we have changed many things to protect both our guests and our volunteers – more rigorous cleaning routines, streamlined procedures, moved outside and encouraged the 6-foot (social distancing) guideline. Please be patient as we continue to improve what we do. We will be pre-packing most of the food so there will be fewer choices. Also, we continue to look for ways to decrease contact between people and that means each week might look a little different from the previous week. <https://www.facebook.com/MinnehahaFoodShelf/>

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.

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. Due to COVID-19, we are currently operating a drive-thru and walk-up model. No appointments are needed – just come to the parking lot. Eligibility is based on self-reported income and need. We ask that households come only ONE TIME A MONTH to allow everyone access. The Calvary Food Shelf has no geographic boundaries – all are welcome! If you have any questions, please email foodshelf@clchurch.org or call 612-827-2504, ext. 205. For more information and to see eligibility guidelines, go to <https://www.clchurch.org/food-shelf>.

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>

The Riverside Religious Community Welcomes You

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. ALBERT THE GREAT

E. 29th St. & 32nd Ave. S.

612-724-3643

www.saintalbertthegreat.org

Weekend Masses with limited seating

Saturday 5 pm

Sunday 9:30 am (also live-streamed on Facebook)

Sunday 12 noon

Front door entry preferred

Weekday Masses M, T, TH, F at 8:15 am in the Chapel, east door and elevator entry

MINNEHAHA COMMUNION

LUTHERAN CHURCH

4101 37th Ave. S., 612-722-9527

Interim Pastor Steve Olson

9:45 am Sunday Worship in person & livestream

Go to church website for info 12-step groups Tuesday through Friday evenings

TRINITY LUTHERAN CONGREGATION

Augsburg College, Hoversten Chapel

Riverside & 22nd Aves.

612-333-2561

www.trinitylutherancongregation.org

Sunday Worship 11 am

Pastors: Jane Buckley-Farlee & Alem Asmelash

Office: 2001 Riverside Ave.

Reconciling in Christ



All Directory Churches are Wheelchair Accessible



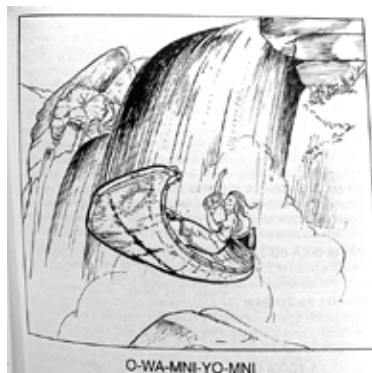
Please send news of your faith-based community to katherine.southsidepride@gmail.com

Food news, plus a mini-review of Fair State Brewing Cooperative taproom

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

Owamni is everywhere

The January issue of The Dish may strike a discordant note. Written, as per the iron deadlines of local journalism, in the dying days



An illustration of “Owamni-omni” or “place of swirling water” in an influential book on Native American place names by Dana Thompson’s grandfather

of a year too full of dying, it still strives to strike a note of hope for 2022, and to celebrate what resilience and creativity we see in the local restaurant, craft beverage, and food production scenes. Of which there is a lot.

A case in point: the restaurant news from about October to year’s end was absolutely dominated by the Owamni restaurant (see our mini-review here, by no means the first time we mentioned it – southsidepride.com/2021/11/01/restaurant-and-food-business-news-consciously-eating-insects-and-an-owamni-mini-review/) and NATIFS (North American Traditional Indigenous Food Systems, a nonprofit), the two projects of Sean Sherman and Dana Thompson. A lot of it’s local, but it goes way beyond that, especially since Owamni was featured in The New York Times 50 Best Restaurants award for 2021.

For the local coverage, it started right at the beginning of 2021, six months before Owamni opened in mid-July. The Star Tribune (Strib), the St. Paul Pioneer Press, the Min-



Portrait of Anders Bloomquist, a pretty big deal in the craft beverage union organizing movement

neapolis/St. Paul Business Journal (bizjournal) and bringmethenews.com were among those profiling Sean Sherman and Dana Thompson, their nonprofit NATIFS, their work feeding people in the spring and summer of 2020, Sherman’s James Beard-awarded cookbook, and the upcoming restaurant. The best of the pre-opening local coverage was MinnPost’s great interview with Sherman and Thompson (see <https://bit.ly/3z5OOIg>).

After the opening in July, KARE 11 was the first off the block, then the Strib, the Circle, and Eater Twin Cities had reviews in August, followed by the Pioneer Press in September, MPR in October, Lavender and our own review in November, and many more. Reservations were a month out almost from the start, and they are even longer now. And then – Owamni made The New York Times list of the 2021 Fifty Best Restaurants in America. Among the outlets covering that were bizjournal (mentioned while including Owamni in their own year-end “most noteworthy” list), Eater TC, the Strib, Bring Me the News, and The Patch.

National coverage and beyond was even more staggering. One of the best was the Vogue review on Oct. 11. Other good ones included Esquire’s pre-opening piece (and they included Owamni in their 2021 “best-of”), and AFAR, an online travel magazine. Other coverage included another piece in The New York Times, Axios, the Chicago Tribune, Atlas Obscura, Forbes, the National Post, Indianz.Com, Upworthy, National Geographic, Saveur, Zagat, The Counter (a food news journal), and MSNBC’s TODAY Show.

Speaking of Zagat ... and the awesome power of TikTok viral recipes

Zagat did a major year-end piece on new restaurants and trends within the industry. Besides again mentioning Owamni, they focused a lot on equity – both pay equity, tip-sharing and the trend toward ending tipping in favor of more decent pay, as well as eliminating the often-toxic work culture at some of the great restaurants and most of the everyday ones. Anthony Bourdain would have been happy about that, I like to think. Check it out here: <https://bit.ly/3FR4jXn>.

The Eater (the national edition) did a great piece on the awesome power of TikTok when one of their recipes goes viral. It has actually been causing weird and sporadic food shortages. The author was clued into this when she could not find her favorite Japanese mayonnaise Kewpie anywhere in her large metro area or online.

Closings and moves

I sort of had Augustine’s in St. Paul on my to-visit-and-review shortlist, but darn it, they announced permanent closure last month, after failing to reopen af-

ter Thanksgiving. The French bistro, helmed by chef Derik Moran, was a pioneer in equity for restaurant workers, with everyone front and back of house starting at \$20 an hour. Moran says he is going to open his own new place, no details yet, while the trio that owns the space say they are looking for a new restaurant direction to move in.

A notable move (it was all over Facebook) is Asa’s Bakery, which produces authentic New York-style bagels and hard-to-find-here bialys. Asa’s was just a few blocks from me, on 23rd Avenue between 35th and 36th Streets. It hasn’t moved far from me, either, but in the other direction. Look for them when they reopen in late January on the strip of 34th Avenue just south of 50th Street.

New restaurants and other new things – two brand-expansion bakery-cafes, two supper clubs, and a Tibetan-Sushi fusion place

The highly popular, small local chain Yum Bakery and Kitchen has opened as a ground-floor tenant in the medium-rise apartments at Selby and Snelling in St. Paul.

Destinee Shelby and her existing company, Baked Brand, has opened The Kitchen in the former Andy’s Garage space (it moved to a bigger space) in the Midtown Global Market. They are serving all-day breakfast, smoothies, fresh juices, fried chicken specialties including a vegan cauliflower-based option, and also Baked Brand foods and pop-ups of other small local food producers.

The Creekside Supper Club is either open or just about to open in the former Pepito’s space by the Parkway Theater. In Edina’s Market Street, just off France Avenue, Mr. Paul’s Supper Club recently opened, serving Cajun food, and with a Po’ Boy shop next door.

Also near 50th and France, a new place called Ama Sushi combines Tibetan food with sushi.

January mini-review - an outdoor social at the Fair State Cooperative Beer Garden, with pizza to take home and cook

The DSA local chapter that used to be a big part of my social life, when I had a social life, held a social on Saturday, Dec. 18, at the Fair State Brewing Cooperative (FSB) in Northeast Minneapolis. Since I am really not getting out that much now, and have even cut way back on ordering food delivered, I decid-

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Fair State's Beer Garden in winter

ed I could use that for The Dish.

FSB is not only a worker-owned and consumer-owned cooperative (you can buy shares, which come with many perks, at fairstate.coop) it is also a union shop, and was the first win in the wave of craft beverage unionizing which I have mentioned before. My comrade Anders B. is a worker-owner there and was instrumental in the organizing, and he was profiled recently in a craft beverages and travel publication, GoodBeerHunting.com.

Nevertheless, this was my first visit to the actual place, although I had bought a couple of cans over the years. The taproom and beer garden are all in the same location as the brewery itself, which is not in one of those vast industrial complexes like so many of them, but on a busy, mixed commercial-residen-

tial street, Central Avenue NE. So, the taproom is not huge, about the size of a small coffee shop.

This being a restaurant review, I wasn't even sure if they served food. The only mention of food on the website is to say you are welcome to bring your own or outside vendor food to eat with your beverage, which is nice. Apparently, they have guest providers of just a minimal amount of something to munch, much like the larger places I have been to that have food trucks. When I was there, they had just two offerings – warm pretzels

with a mustard sauce, and pizza. I took a flying leap and ordered a pizza (anything vegetarian? Is a Margherita OK? Perfect!) to take home with me. More on that later.

Coming in the door, these days, you will encounter a check-in table where they will check your COVID status. As per usual, a vaccination card or a negative test result within 72 hours is required. It's also the culture there to wear your mask until you actually start eating or drinking. We DSA-ers are sticklers for COVID protocols, especially since having lost our beloved treasurer Ezra to the disease, so there were no problems there. All triple-vaxxed with a veritable wardrobe of masks.

I had a single pour. I didn't want to get drunk. Being under the influence has not been fun since about 38 years ago, yet I like the taste of many alcoholic drinks, and enjoy pub culture, sometimes with just a root beer. It's a balancing act. My plan from the outset was to have just one, and I would be there for two hours at the most (we were outside in the beer garden and the temps were around 30 degrees, but thankfully no wind). I forgot to check the ABV of the (very delicious!) imperial stout I ordered,

and I did get a bit tipsy on just the one. So, my guarded recommendation, and this is time-limited, as it is a one-off brewing, is You Can Have the Crown. It's double malted, with a tiny addition of brown sugar. It tastes like a first-tier imperial stout, with a small amount of char for bitterness and just a wee back note of earthy sweetness.

I found the pizza to be super thin-crust, but a tasty crust, which is not always the case. And it was cook-and-eat, so I chopped it in two and cooked half in my toaster-oven on fan-bake. It was very good, but I don't have a clue who

made it. Sorry.

FSB has events! Every Sunday is Union Sunday, where you get a discount on your first pour by showing a union card. The first Sunday of the month is also Stand-up Sunday, with a comedy show from 7:30 p.m. Every Monday is Co-op Monday, where you get a twice as deep discount on your first pour by showing membership in any co-op at all (in addition to the discounts you get as a member of FSB itself). And every Wednesday is Trivia Wednesday, with a Pub Trivia game starting at 7 p.m.

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