



**We build Pride on the Southside**

# NOKOMIS EDITION

SECOND MONDAY OF THE MONTH

**March 2022**

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## Oedipus the King



BY TONY BOUZA

The Greeks were the finest expression of civilization ever. Why? Because they made their citizens better humans. How? By cautioning against hubris (pride) and avoiding hamartia (the critical flaw). The antidote? Merciless introspection.

Oedipus was the toughest, smartest, most admirable—yet, came a cropper, wandering blindly in the wilderness. He failed to question his actions or himself and stumbled into fathering children with his mother.

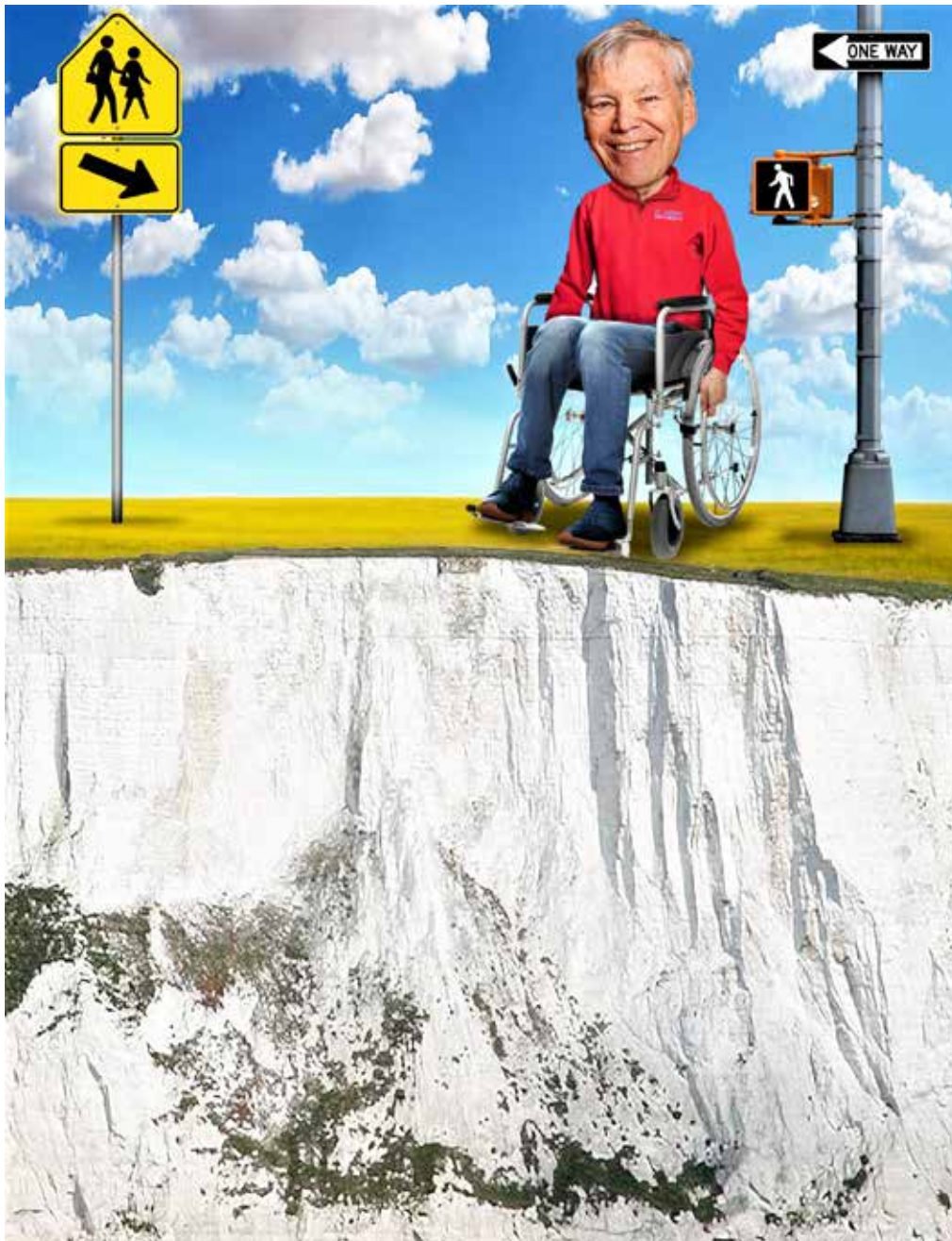
How's that working out for ya?

Oedipus is rarely far from my thoughts. It was brought again to mind when I read they'd show a documentary of the Attica prison riot here in Geerzeland. The event was horrific—many deaths, an endless lawsuit (in which I was an expert witness testifying against the authorities). So, where was Oedipus?

In the body of the governor who triggered the event.

Nelson Rockefeller was the toughest, smartest, ablest, most accomplished guy in town. Not excessively

See Bouza, page 5



## In praise of curb cuts

BY TOM O'CONNELL

"Curb cut: (noun, North American) A small ramp built into the curb of a sidewalk to make it easier for people using strollers or wheelchairs to pass from the sidewalk to the road."

– Lexico.com

I never paid much attention to curb cuts until a few years ago. Fact is, I don't think I even knew the term. That's because the short

downward distance from sidewalk curb to street was of little consequence to me. I could hop down or scramble up with hardly a second thought. Until I couldn't.

Now that I have a wheelchair, curb cuts have become even more important. The six inches that separate sidewalk from street might just as well be six feet if you are in a chair. Without the cuts, what is for most a thoroughway stretching from

my Northeast Minneapolis condo to the city limits would be for me, and many others, disconnected blocks separated as if by moat from the houses and shops just across street.

Not that I especially want to walk or wheel to the city limits. But even if the destination is the neighborhood grocery store, barber shop, coffee shop or pub, it doesn't take a Jane Jacobs to realize that curb cuts make urban

See Curb cuts, page 3

## On strike!

BY ELINA KOLSTAD

My daughter is home from school, as many children in Minneapolis are, because of the teachers strike. Every indication is that the district didn't take the negotiations seriously. Neither my school board member nor Superintendent Ed Graff responded when I reached out to them as a concerned parent. The district did, however, take the time to email teachers asking them to break the picket lines, making it seem that they had no expectations of reaching a deal. Teacher Andrew Tralle has gone viral locally by making the letter he received into a song and posting it on Facebook.

Anyone who has an elementary school-age child, or knows someone who does, knows that the past few years have meant very specific challenges for those with young children. Parents as a group are burned out and at their



Seward School picket line (Photo/Elina Kolstad)

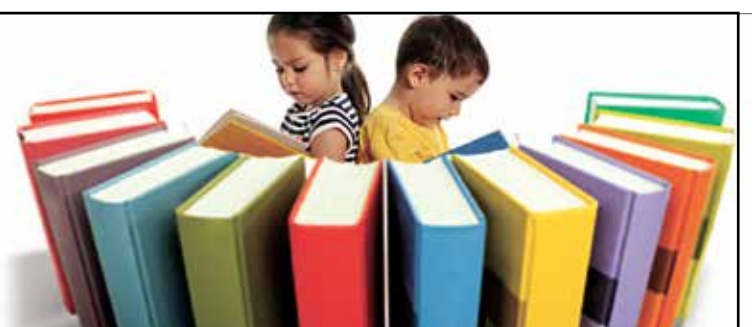
wits' end. While the district pays lip service to teachers and Educational Support Professionals (ESPs) they seem to think that if the teachers strike, already overburdened parents will turn against the teachers and push the union to give up on their hard-line demands, such as a living wage for ESPs and concrete policies in writing to protect teachers and ESPs of color from layoffs.

The district has said that they agree with the teachers on these issues, but there just isn't enough money to go around. For example, the union wants to increase starting pay for 90% of ESPs to \$35,000 a year. This doesn't seem like an exorbitant amount of money to me, but apparently the difference between that number and the current starting pay for ESPs is enough to break the Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) budget. Meanwhile, Superintendent Graff drew a starting salary of \$225,000 in 2016, which was about 18% higher than the former superintendent Bernadeia Johnson's salary. While one could argue that we need to pay top dollar for top talent, having the first

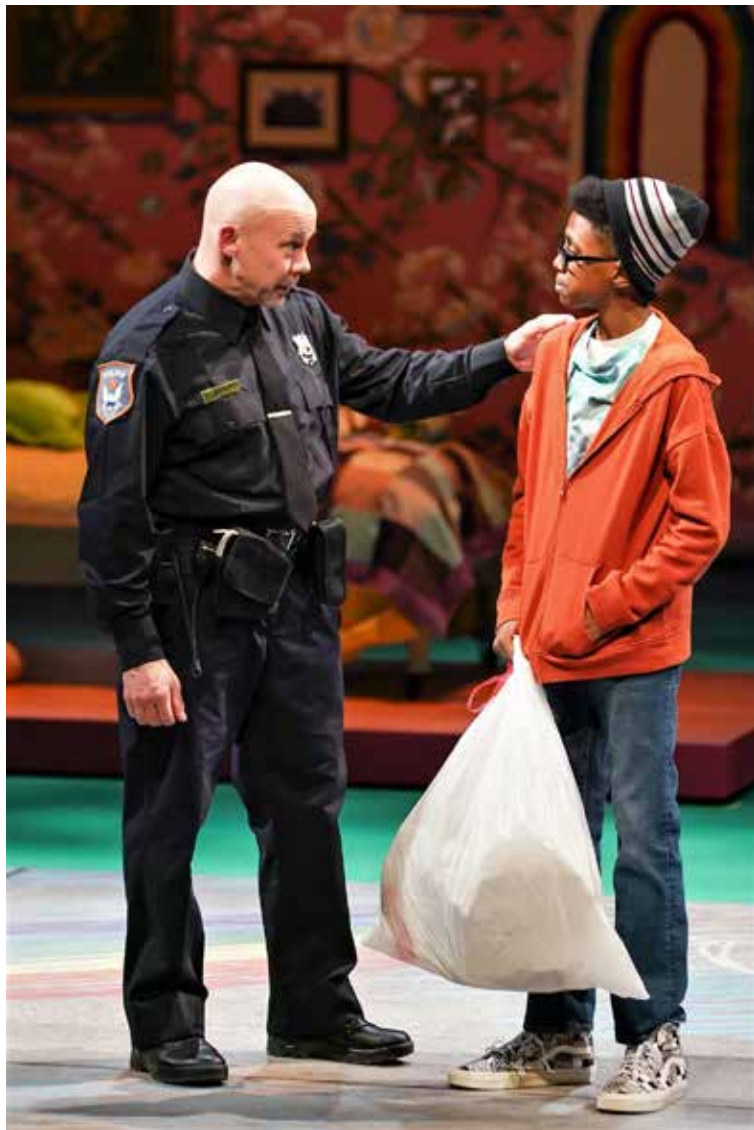
See Strike, page 11

**2022 Education Section**

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# The Children's Theatre's new production might help kids understand race and racism

BY STEPHANIE FOX

At first glance, the Children's Theatre's latest production, "Something Happened in Our Town," seems to have been written for the Twin Cities, but it's bigger than that. The plot revolves around two families, next-door neighbors. The Perkins family is Black, the Hartleys are white, and the play follows both families' reaction to the news of the killing of a Black man by a white cop.

Both families have young children in the same class at school, and the two have become fast friends. Emma, a white girl, (played by Lola Ronning) and Josh, a Black boy, (played by De'Anthony Jackson) need each other. Other students bully them both and they don't have friends at school.

Josh's 16-year-old brother Malcolm (played by Calvin Zimmerman) is like many boys who are becoming men, ready to stand up to injustice but not really sure how. He wants to go

to the protest, but his father is against that, afraid for his older son's safety.

The two mothers are friends because of their children's strong bond, but things get strained because the families see the events so differently.

Emma's father is never seen or mentioned, but her Uncle Manny (played by Dean Holt) is a surrogate father. He's also a police officer. Emma's mother, Sue (played by Autumn Ness) mentions that she comes from generations of police officers, and she worries about her brother.

Josh and Malcolm's parents, Calvin, a school principal (played by Kevin D. West) and Bella (played by Rajane Katurah) have different worries, concerned that by simply walking down the street, their sons could be profiled and killed by the authorities.

"It's a different system," says Calvin Perkins. "Black people get arrested at nine times the rate of white people." He's angry, he says, because 30 years later, he

has to have the same talk with his sons that his father had with him. "Black men aren't valued for being strong and smart. We get killed for so much less."

But Sue Hartley insists that most police are not like the one who shot the Black man (we hear no details about the shooting). Most cops, she insists, chose their profession because they want to help people. Uncle Manny seems to embody that idea. He's sent to restore order at the protest, which has turned violent.

There, he finds Malcolm, who behind his parents' backs, drove his father's car to join the demonstration. To keep Malcolm from getting arrested (and maybe hurt) he brings him back home to his parents. And then, Manny sits down to talk with Malcolm's mother over a cup of coffee. They try to understand each other's views but it's difficult for both.

"We risk our lives every single

See Our Town, page 12

Uncle Manny (Dean Holt) and Josh (De'Anthony Jackson) in CTC's 'Something Happened in Our Town'

## Seen elsewhere:

"Raise Your Voice, Silica Dust & Molten Iron" first appeared in the March 2022 edition of the alley community newspaper. It is reprinted here by permission.

By Peter Molenaar

Upon retiring from Smith Foundry, this writer undertook

distribution of the Alley to the various agencies and businesses of the Phillips Community and surrounding neighborhoods. In the realm of said distribution, a sometimes annoying competition for space exists with our friends from Southside Pride.

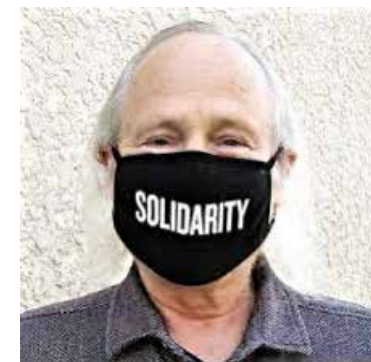
However, of greater concern is Tony Bouza's column in the

February issue of that paper, "How to get rich." "Capitalism is very cruel," writes Bouza, "its only saving grace is that it accords with human nature... My reaction to such cruelty? Bravo!... Altruism doesn't work ... is this so complex?"

"Look around you, for God's sake. I didn't invent it and I'd much rather socialism worked." He appears even to slight Jesus for manifesting communistic proclivities! And then, "Stop kidding yourself... if you are so smart, why aren't you rich?"

Is the man being facetious? Golly, in my case I worked long arduous overtime hours for many years to barely cover a mortgage payment. Truthfully, most of us lack the funds and the necessary time needed to invest wisely in stock purchases. You will allow me then to push back philosophically on behalf of us "masses."

Actually, the belief that only capitalism works in accordance with "human nature" is flawed in several ways: 1) It is an ahistorical assumption. 2) It's meta-



Peter Molenaar

physical (i.e., it fails to see the big picture). 3) It reflects a narrow empiricism. 4) It fails to take the long view.

A historical assumption? In fact, for the greater part of human existence (the hunter-gatherer phase) a matriarchal order prevailed in the village. Said order was a reflection of maternalistic altruism. Hey, if a man killed a buffalo, he fully intended to share it.

Metaphysical? Success or failure occurs within a context. The first socialist county sacrificed 26 million people and a third of its productive infrastructure in the war against fascism. Factor that in, please.

Narrow empiricism? The eye sees merely the outward appearance of things, but fails to see the inner essence, i.e., fails to recognize the struggle of opposing forces beneath the surface. In other words, Tony, altruism and

See Elsewhere, page 12



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(Photo/minneapolisparcs.org)

# Lake Hiawatha, the dumping ground

BY KATHRYN KELLY

Why won't the city of Minneapolis and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board care for their own residents? Since the 1940s, people in the southeastern portion of South Minneapolis have suffered from storm water problems, and the city of Minneapolis and the Park Board have failed to implement comprehensive solutions.

In the 1940s, Harold Burnside, who lived by Sibley Park, petitioned the city to implement a realistic solution to the storm water problems. By 1979, the city of Minneapolis had developed a plan to build a storm water tunnel underneath East 39th Street to the Mississippi

River to relieve South Minneapolis neighborhoods of the water. But the city abandoned the 39th Street plan, saying that it cost too much money. Instead, they just continued to send water to Lake Hiawatha.

In 1987, Harold Burnside drowned in his home when the basement wall of his home collapsed on him due to excessive flooding in his neighborhood. What did the city do? They just bought out homes by Sibley Park and on Bloomington Avenue.

When the sanitary sewage plant in St. Paul told the city of Minneapolis that they had to separate storm water from sewage because the plant was getting too much water from Minneapolis, the city did just that.

The city directed the storm water into the storm sewer system, thus sending more water to Lake Hiawatha. And, in 2012, the city upgraded the storm sewers to the west of Lake Hiawatha which resulted in dumping over 60 million gallons of water into the Hiawatha Golf Course every year. This water now amounts to about 25% of the water being pumped out of the golf course.

Now, the Park Board wants to implement "watershed credits" which would allow developers to pay the Park Board to dump their water into Hiawatha Park rather than making them fulfill their legal requirement of mitigating the water on their own property.

Some people say that the golf

course and some of the low-lying homes around Lake Hiawatha need to go – that they should have never been built there in the first place. Well, there are hundreds of homes that could qualify, from Lake Hiawatha to Powderhorn Lake. Should they all go? Or maybe the city of Minneapolis should finally implement real solutions to the storm water problems in these neighborhoods instead of using Lake Hiawatha as a dumping ground.

Seventy years after Harold Burnside asked for solutions, the city has not solved the problem. New storm water infrastructure has recently been built under I-35W, and the city is expanding the Franklin Avenue storm water tunnel. It is time for the city to build the 39th Street tunnel for Harold Burnside and the Hiawatha-Nokomis neighborhoods before more people and homes are destroyed.

## Curb cuts, from page 1

life possible for lots of people who would otherwise miss out on what a vibrant urban community has to offer.

So, who invented curb cuts anyway? How widely are they in use? Does Minneapolis have more curb cuts than St. Paul? Do we have professional urban planners to thank for curb cuts? Or were curb cuts a response to citizen demand?

I don't have the answer to all of these questions, and lucky for



me, this is a commentary, not a research paper. When I googled "curb cuts" I did learn a few things though. As I expected, curb cuts were a response to the emergence of a disability rights movement in the 1960s and '70s. And as was often the case, one of the early scenes of engagement was Berkeley.

Ed Roberts was a wheel-

chair-using graduate student at Berkeley. He founded an organization called the Rolling Quads. Stories began circulating about squadrons of wheelchair riders wielding sledgehammers and applying bags of concrete in a do-it-yourself approach to public works. The Berkeley City Council responded with a policy mandate supporting curb cuts in all major commercial areas and designating 15 specific corners for immediate remediation.

The Quads were part of a developing national movement that eventually led to the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990. When the legislation appeared stalled in the House of Representatives, disability activists crawled out of their chairs and up the Capitol steps. Good

thing the Cold War was over; the Soviets could have scored some major propaganda points out of those images.

Despite my obvious self-interest in the matter, I never became a disability rights activist. Shortly after graduating from college, when I was trying out my role as a '60s-era "movement leader," I got a call from John St. Marie. John had been my roommate

as a kid when both of us spent long months at Gillette Hospital along with scores of others who had come down with polio. St. Marie relied on an iron lung to breathe. He had it much worse than me, yet through gulps of air he kept up a cheerful banter and a relentlessly hopeful outlook on life.

I hadn't spoken to John for years when he tracked me down and wanted to know if I would be interested in joining this new organization he was helping get off the ground. It was called the United Handicapped Federation. I thanked John for thinking of me but told him that I was simply too involved in other activist causes to have any energy left over for this.

The truth, of course, was more complicated. From the time I was a kid up until then (and up until now) I have chosen not to identify as a handicapped person. I figured that whatever oppression I experienced from my disability was a personal matter and a trivial one at that. Racism, sexism, classism, imperialism – now those were the real deal!

Older, if not always wiser, I've now added curb cuts to my list. Too bad we don't have a more poetic word for this and so many other elements of our urban infrastructure that make city life possible for so many.



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# What about Umbrella Man?

BY ALLISTER ROSE

“We have evidence that extremist agitators were hijacking protests to pursue their own separate and violent agendas.”  
– William Barr, The Wall Street Journal, 7/28/20

## The video

In the spring of 2020 we saw the images: a tall, white man dressed in black, wearing a gas mask, carrying a sledgehammer and a black, open umbrella in front of the AutoZone on East Lake Street, near the 3rd Precinct. Flames burgeoned in the background, engulfing “Umbrella Man” (UM) and the demonstrators who were protesting the Minneapolis police murder of George Floyd. This took place on May 27, 2020, two days after Floyd’s death. Once the video hit social media, it went viral and the world saw it.

Rumors and theories about who Umbrella Man (UM) was – and what he was – flooded social media. Articles appeared in mainstream as well as unconventional media. Speculation included: a member of ANTIFA (anti-fascists)? A right-wing extremist? A police officer? Local hooligans? A BLM protestor? Two months later UM was identified in a police search warrant submitted by Minneapolis police

officer Erika Christensen (on the force 28 years, 13 of them in arson investigation). The Hennepin County District Court granted the warrant based on “probable cause.” Probable cause means “reasonable grounds.” There was a flurry of coverage, and then nothing. No arraignment, charge or arrest. It seems to remain an open investigation.

The video revealed that the infamous Umbrella Man used his sledgehammer to systematically break the windows of the AutoZone store. Prior to breaking the windows he spray-painted “Free Shit for Everyone Zone” on the front door. This gave rise to looting. Soon the AutoZone was on fire. Police believe that UM’s actions set off the first fire and a chain reaction (planned?), leading to additional arson and looting, including the fire that destroyed the 3rd Precinct building. The rest is history: deaths, hundreds of arrests, criminal charges and approximately 1,500 buildings damaged or destroyed, costing in excess of \$500 million. Protests spread beyond Minneapolis, creating the largest protest in U.S. history, with 26 million people participating from coast to coast. The protests were felt around the world and were the second most destructive in the U.S. after the Los Angeles riots of 1992.

Also in the UM video we see a

young, Black man in a pink shirt (later identified as Elijah Easley, aka EJ) approaching UM and, while we cannot hear the conversation, it appears that Easley is asking him who he is and gesturing, encouraging him to stop what he’s doing. UM yells at the man in the pink shirt but what he says is indecipherable. Later, in an interview with Loud News (9/7/20), Easley revealed that UM was challenging him to fight if he didn’t leave him alone. Also on the video it is observed that UM has a white substance on the right index finger of his glove, which would be a match for the white spray paint used to write on the AutoZone doors.

## The warrant

The July 27, 2020, search warrant identifies Mitchell (Mitch) Wesley Carlson, from Ramsey, Minn., as Umbrella Man. The warrant requests information regarding a particular Sprint phone number believed to be Carlson’s. Incoming and outgoing phone and text records are requested for May 27, 2020, along with cell



to of Umbrella Man.” Carlson is 6-foot-2 in height which also matches the images of UM. He has not been charged with this crime and of course remains innocent until proven guilty. Beyond this warrant and Carlson’s Facebook page no one seems to know much about Mitch Carlson, regardless of his 903 Facebook friends.

## Facebook

Mitch Carlson has a Facebook presence; his last post was in 2017. A cursory scroll through his posts reveals images of skeletons with clothes; women shooting hand-

tower locations, pings and so on. The warrant further states that prior to UM’s actions the demonstrations were relatively peaceful. That is, that the actions of UM incited hostility, tension and violence. The research in support of the warrant involved hours of watching video and social media such as TikTok, Snapchat, YouTube, Instagram, all to no avail regarding the solid identification of UM. The police also worked with the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms National Response team but were unsuccessful. Then came a tip that was emailed to the Minneapolis police. Additional research identified the tipster and the police were able to speak directly with this person, who was passing the information along for another individual who preferred to remain anonymous out of fear of Carlson. The informant stated that Carlson is a member of the Hells Angels Motorcycle Club and associated with the Aryan Cowboy Brotherhood (ACB), a small, white supremacist prison/street gang based in Minnesota and Kentucky, whose symbol is a helmeted and winged skull with the initials ACB. “He wanted to sow discord and racial unrest,” the informant told police.

## Rap sheet

Carlson’s past convictions include disorderly conduct, brawling, fighting, assault in the fifth degree, terroristic threats, reckless disregard and domestic abuse. Charges that were dismissed include assault in the second degree and domestic assault by strangulation.

In addition, it seems Carlson was present during a June 27, 2020, “incident” in Stillwater, Minn. A young Muslim woman who was with her toddler was harassed by a motorcycle group wearing Aryan Cowboy leather vests. Carlson was photographed in this group. The affiant (of the warrant) compared various photos of Carlson to photos of Umbrella Man and notes “there is a striking resemblance in the eye, nose, bridge and brow including a slight variation in Carlson’s left eyebrow, also present in the pho-

## More questions than answers

If Mitch Carlson is not Umbrella Man, why hasn’t someone come forward to defend him? Presumably someone knows where he was on the day in question. Are there other suspects? If so, who are they? Was the warrant executed – that is, acted upon? If so, what were the results?

Why is Carlson unreachable? Is he being investigated? Multiple calls to Officer Christensen and the lieutenant allegedly in charge of this investigation go unanswered. With regard to the 2020 riots, at last check 37 individuals were facing felony charges, 43% of them from the Twin Cities with an average age of 27. Carlson was not among them. The protests around the murder of George Floyd were a perfect opportunity for right-wing extremists to infiltrate the crowd and sway public opinion against BLM and African Americans in general. Was it an attempt to discredit the BLM movement?

The powers that be should let us know.



# New Filipino restaurant, nostalgia, Starbucks organizing, and an unusual mini-review

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

## Now we know what's going where Augustine's was

A new restaurant under development by a couple with a recognized track record of great restaurants has been announced for the space on Selby Avenue in St. Paul previously occupied by the French bistro Augustine's. Kalsada, which means "street" in Filipino, will be a modern restaurant serving the food of chef Leah Raymundo's native Philippines.

Raymundo and chef John Occhiato, who are partners in life as well as business, said the space is perfect for their concept. "We've been toying around with this idea for a number of years," Occhiato said. "Filipino cuisine is widely under-represented and super delicious, and we just kind of wanted to show it off." The couple currently own and run Stella Belle and Cafe Astoria. They are expected to open Kalsada in April.

## The Seward Co-op at 50

They're being a little bit coy about the actual "birth" date. Perhaps it's disputed, or perhaps they just literally don't know. But sometime in the past month, or maybe a near-future month, the Seward Co-op will turn 50 years old. Celebrations will be low-key and directed outward to the co-op's valuable and needed community.

In January, the co-op hosted

a showing of "The Co-op Wars," a recent film by Erik Esse and Deacon Warner documenting the weird chapter in Twin Cities and cooperatives and leftist politics history of that name, a "war" that the Seward fought a major battle in (and won).

They are also offering a free download in PDF form of a book about their specific history, written by Patricia Cumbie and Kari Cornell, on the occasion of their 40th anniversary. It's really great, profusely illustrated, and featuring all the food and co-op heroes that have made the Seward what it is today. Here's the link to download it: [seward.coop/wp-content/uploads/Growing-with-Purpose-final.pdf](http://seward.coop/wp-content/uploads/Growing-with-Purpose-final.pdf).

Also, put a thumbtack on your calendar for the Annual CSA Fair, which will be especially celebratory, happening on Saturday, April 23 from 11 a.m. in the Seward Co-op Creamery parking lot and online.

## In praise of coloring at the table

I am too old to remember coloring at the table in a restaurant. Not to say that I can't remember stuff about my childhood (although, in truth, I can't) but because my childhood dates to before restaurants were that family-friendly. Real restaurants were for adults, and when you got to go to one with your parents, you were expected to act like a little adult, a thing I pretty much excelled at. I do remember

my much younger siblings coloring at a restaurant or two, and definitely my kids, who were babies and toddlers during a period of my life when restaurants were cheap and life was hard, so we went out to eat almost constantly.

Recently I have come to find out that, according to the online magazine Eater, coloring at the table is for adults now, too! Well, bring it on, I say. For me it's not nostalgia, it's making up for lost time. Or just call it my long overdue second childhood.

## Fondly remembering the Two Fat Ladies

I first saw "Two Fat Ladies" on TPT Channel 2 while I still lived in the U.S. When I moved to the U.K. in the fall of 1998, they



The 'Two Fat Ladies,' a popular cooking show from the late 1990s

were just at their peak of global popularity, soon to be eclipsed in the U.K. by the likes of Jamie Oliver, Nigella Lawson and Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall (whom my British wasband called Witless Hugh Fearningsstall).

To me, they will always hold a special place in my heart. I found myself totally agreeing with this piece in Eater - [www.eater.com/22921882/remem-](http://www.eater.com/22921882/remem-)



Starbucks workers in Buffalo, N.Y., celebrate the first union victory for the coffee chain.

bering-two-fat-ladies-the-perfect-cooking-show. My favorite recipe of theirs is muttachar, a kind of coconut milk-based curry with hard boiled eggs as the protein.

Eater:

"The massive, Seattle-based coffee chain has seen a wave of unionization across the country, with workers in more than 100 locations in more than 19 states organizing unions. The company hasn't exactly been welcoming of these new unions, and organizers say that Starbucks has engaged in a wide range of union-busting practices, from actively encouraging employees to vote against unionizing to allegedly firing workers who were involved with union organizing." [www.eater.com/22925565/starbucks-union-wave-explained](http://www.eater.com/22925565/starbucks-union-wave-explained)

One of my favorite sources for food and beverage news (well, 99% beverage, in fact) is a blog called "Fingers," authored by a craft brewing enthusiast named Dave Infante. His tally, quoting from Huffpost's Dave Jamieson, is 97 locations in 26 states as of mid-February, but Eater just updated their posting on Feb. 28, so all told I think it's over 100 in at least 26 states now. (And Minnesota is one of those states.

See The Dish, page 10



Seward "Cooop," the early years

## Bouza, from page 1

reflective, but when did that ever matter to us?

I'm not his biographer, so I can only deliver an impressionistic assessment. I never met him.

My rough recollection is that he met a hot doctor's wife, divorced his spouse of decades and betrayed the new one. He could do anything he wanted—and did.

In 1971 inmates at Attica prison begged Gov. Rockefeller to negotiate: overcrowding, hygiene products (toilet paper, etc.) scarcity and abuse by guards. He refused to meet, and the inmates rioted, took guard-hostages and created a crisis. The state reacted violently. At the end, there were

43 dead (32 inmates and 11 guard-hostages).

A bloody and abusive take-back followed. The inmates sued and I was hired as their expert. They won about \$8 million. I was then in the NYPD and did it pro bono.

And the governor?

He continued blithely forward and ultimately joined a distinguished and truly enviable (albeit small, I think) list of men who expired in flagrant delicto.

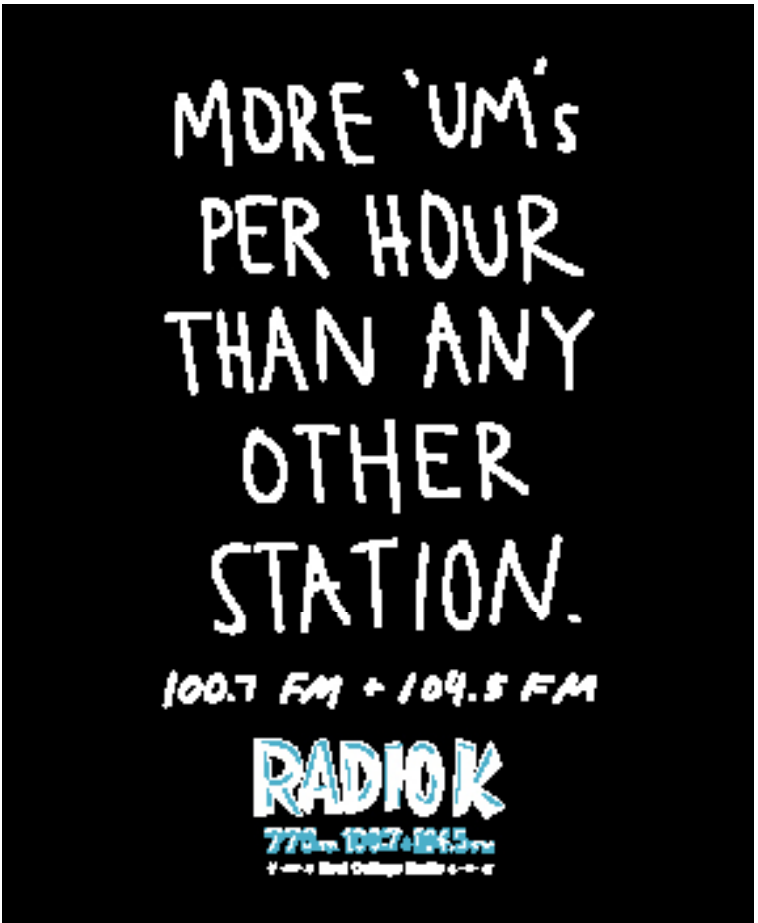
Rockefeller would've achieved his greatest ambition—the presidency—if he'd only been a little patient. He was Nixon's V. P., but quit, refusing to be "stand-by equipment." He made way for Jerry Ford. Hubris at its most sublime.

The governor's staff reported to The New York Times that he died working over an art book late at night. Some art. Some book. Culture in the service of arrogance.

The 911 call revealed otherwise, and later investigation confirmed the tryst. The Times was furious and showed it—repeatedly condemning the deception. The co-respondent, Megan Marshack, immediately submerged into anonymity and was never heard from again.

Attica is a remote white hamlet in upstate New York. The guards are white. The inmates are Black. Do the math. Its very name evokes a Hellenic theme.

The Greeks would've loved it.





# Who's using our hockey rinks?

BY ERIC SKOGLUND

I saw the kindness of middle school boys make a grandmother cry. It happened on a hockey rink, at a pickup game at Hiawatha School Park a few hours before the Cincinnati Bengals would win a football game and advance to the Super Bowl.

Pickup hockey is different from organized hockey; a pickup game in any sport happens when the game is played with the players who just happen to be there. There are pickup hockey games happening all across Minnesota.

If you drive by Matthews, Sibley, Longfellow, Hiawatha or any of the Minneapolis parks and you see people playing hockey who are not in uniforms, in all likelihood it's a pickup game. The game occurs because those people decided to have a friendly game of hockey. I know this firsthand.

Prior to a game, a few hockey players show up and toss a puck around, take a couple of shots, get the legs moving, stretch the back, check out the ice conditions. "How's the ice?" people ask. "It's crunchy in the corners, rough behind the nets, otherwise not too bad." Mostly people are waiting and hoping others show up so a game can get started.

In early winter, spots on Minnehaha Creek freeze first, then Lake Nokomis, then brave or dumb hockey players test the ice and start playing games, using boots or tennis shoes as goals. By December word starts to spread that the ice is nearly ready, boards are up, nets are out. This year Sibley Park had hockey-ready ice first, so I head-

ed over. Sure enough, some guys, several of them pretty talented players, were playing hockey ... and the beauty of a pickup game is if players are needed, everyone gets an invite. So I was in - better yet, a couple of guys who remembered me from last year said hello.

How can a person play pickup hockey? Simply put - manners, etiquette, need. That's right, the sport of fighting and broken teeth has a beautiful friendly side - inclusivity.

Yes, the sport of wealthy suburban boys and girls has a variety of players showing up at the parks. Some players represent "woke" inclusivity, but the inclusiveness I'm thinking about is the inclusiveness of abilities, such as inexperienced hockey players and very good players, awkward 40-year-old men in bicycle helmets and slick teenagers with \$500 skates. The rink belongs to those who show up and this ethos allows for young and old alike to play together.

My friend Paul and I were out for a skate hoping for a game and we ended up in a pickup game at Lake Hiawatha Park with some retirees - retired from the traditional workforce, that is, not from hockey. They used an email list to announce when and where they were going to play. They invited us to play, and we decided on boys against girls. We didn't have enough players for a full-ice game, so we played cross-ice instead. That is another feature of the pickup game - adaptability. The group takes suggestions and confers. We went with cross-ice, boys vs. girls.

Back to the inclusiveness of the skill level - here's the thing:



Matthew Arifin tries to block Jack Skoglund from taking a shot to the net at Pearl Park.

in pickup hockey, good players realize there is no challenge in taking the puck away from a kid, a beginner, a retiree. So they become playmakers. The more experienced players get the puck, carry it toward the goal and then pass it off to a younger sibling or an adult. Sure, the good players go hard at one another when they recognize the challenge. You might see two 23-year-old former high school players challenging each other from end to end, for a bit ... but fatigue sets in and they realize the bumpy outdoor ice with chicken wire at each end to keep the pucks from flying off of the rink belongs to

everyone. Mind you, when a better player passes a puck to a less skilled player it is never out of pity - everyone on the ice had their own first experience playing hockey, their own first goal, their own first pass from an older or more impressive player. It feels good, at any age, making a pass or catching a pass. I guess it is the beauty of teamwork.

Recently my friend Keith brought his grandson to see some of us play hockey at Hiawatha School Park. Keith and his grandson Levi had never played hockey together before. Levi, 4½ years old, was probably more eager and less nervous

than Grandpa. Mom and Grandma stood in the snow along the boards and watched and took photos as kids, adults and neighbors gathered on the rink to play some hockey.

Chico, a neighbor I'd met the day before, now a new hockey buddy, and I were the oldest. We loosely organized the start of the game by sorting out some teams. As an add-on I told Chico that Keith and Levi wanted to play. "Of course," he said. Chico was on the other team and jumped in net to play goalie. Keith and Levi were on my team. I told them to go down in front of the net (something not allowed in regulation hockey) and we would get the puck on Levi's stick. We skated back and forth and end to end. Then from our end of the rink we sent a pass to Grandpa who passed the puck to Levi. So Grandpa and grandson, in their first hockey game, were now at the mouth of the goal with the puck. A couple of seventh graders on the other team raced toward them and then slowed down, quickly understanding what was about to happen. Chico, the other team's goalie, skated toward Levi, the youngest kid on the ice. Chico, like a good goalie, squared up preparing to make the save, but Levi slid it past him into the net. GOAL!

Grandma saw the boys slow for Levi and I heard her say, "These boys are so sweet, it makes me cry."

Of course, I've seen some pretty poor behavior too. I've even been the target of it, in fact, but not very often. No, mostly we divide into teams and play for fun and only a few little kids keep score.

[Editor's Note: Congratulations to the Minneapolis Boys Hockey team on making it to the State Tournament. They haven't been there for 28 years.]

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# 2022 Education Section

## Even if coordinated strikes don't happen, this is historic (and at the last minute – they didn't!)

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

### The big story

In a deliberately coordinated effort, MFT59 and MFT59-ESP, representing teachers and other professionals in the Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) respectively, and SPFE (SPFT 28) representing both sections in St. Paul Public Schools (SPPS), filed

“intent to strike” paperwork on Wednesday, Feb. 23. As I wrote in the original piece for March 7, we were then halfway through the 10-day (working days) “cooling off” period and the temperature appeared to be heading up, not down. An across-the-board walkout of teachers and Education Support Professionals (ESPs) in both cities could have started as soon as March 8.

At approximately 9 p.m. on Monday, March 7, both SPFE and SPPS announced that their negotiating teams had reached a tentative agreement (TA). At that point, almost literally at the last minute, SPFE called off the strike, and Joe Gothard, superintendent of schools, announced to parents and other workers that school would open as usual on Tuesday, March 8. Note that



Striking teachers in Minneapolis on Tuesday, March 8 (Photo/Tim Nelson, MPR News)

this does not mean the strike is canceled – yet. The school board must ratify the school’s (management’s) position, while a vote will be taken for SPFE member ratification. If both sides accept the negotiating teams’ TA, the strike is canceled.

Massive numbers of parents, students and supportive community members showed up at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 8, at the designated Minneapolis school picket sites, along with teachers and ESPs. Cafeteria workers and bus drivers will be voting soon whether to strike for their own demands. Meanwhile, the school system is committing to a pickup breakfast and lunch service for students, so presumably cafeteria members are hard at work to supply that. There is a lot more pressure on the management side than on the union side in this strike, another historic anomaly.

In our original piece from March 7, we noted:

“Although there are historical, cultural, and other differences between the workforces of the two school systems ... there

is also a lot of overlap in their demands. This is why the educators’ unions from the two cities are working as much as possible on the same timeline. (However, with or without a strike preceding it, it is likely that the agreements eventually reached will not happen at the same time.)”

The coordination and synergy between the two cities’ unions does not stop just because St. Paul will probably settle and not strike. If the SPFE ratifies the TA, which they will only do if it substantially meets their key demands, this will only increase the pressure on MPS to up their offers and reach an agreement. MFT spokespeople claimed that MPS seemed to not even want to avert the strike. Perhaps they were “bargaining” on the public following the usual playbook and blaming the teachers for everything. It looks like we’re done with that nonsense.

### The backstory

On Saturday, Feb. 12, the two

See *Strike*, page 8

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# 2022 Education

## Strike, from page 7

unions, Minneapolis dressed in bright blue, and St. Paul in bright red, held a joint mega-rally in sub-zero windchills. A couple

thousand turned out for “purple power” – the effect of combining the strength of educators in two twinned cities at a time of extraordinary need, not only due to COVID, but also other forces that

are pushing public education everywhere into a “race to the bottom.”

The MFT vote occurred at scattered sites on different days over a period of about a week, with results coming in the morning of Feb. 17. The SPFE vote occurred all in one day just after voting in Minneapolis closed. When the MFT results came in, union experts were astounded: the teacher chapter had a 96% turnout with 97% voting Yes, while the ESP chapter had a 93% turnout with 98% voting Yes. This is effectively unanimous. SPFE’s figures were not quite so overpowering, but still a clear indication of very high support, with the turnout and Yes votes both approaching 80%.

### The view from St. Paul

SPFE has had several Yes strike votes in the past decade, and in fact did go out for three days in early March of 2020. They were able to win wage increases and other workplace improvement demands from SPSS through these actions. But for some reason, the administration of this system thought that the time was ripe to claw back some goodies from the union, so they hired a notorious union-busting consultant firm and came to the 2022 bargaining session demanding givebacks on several key existing contract points.

One of the arguments the school system made is so insulting and disrespectful that it counts as bad faith bargaining right out of the box, in my opinion. They attempted to claw back something called

“weighted caseloads” that allows for adjusting the maximum student-to-special ed professional ratio based on the severity of the needs of the individual students. In other words, for instance, 500 high-needs students would be equivalent to 1000 students with just average needs. Bargainers for SPSS said that ESPs would “in-

Justice Working Group, a subgroup of the Labor Branch of Twin Cities Democratic Socialists of America, SPFE’s spokesperson Jeffrey Garcia said that Minnesota is becoming known as the epicenter of a kind of corporate raider mentality about schools. Decisions about things such as what is a rational (or indeed even possible)



Drone image of the Teachers’ March setting out from the Wabun Picnic Area on Feb. 12



U. S. Rep. Ilhan Omar addresses a joint educators’ rally on Feb. 12.

flate” the needs of their students so they wouldn’t have to work as hard.

Another clawback the SPSS bargaining team is going for is to remove the ability of a worker to waive their insurance coverage if their spouse is in the same system and covered by the same insurance as a family.

On a webinar titled “Why We Strike” hosted by the Education

caseload of special ed students are made by financial professionals rather than education professionals. When the outcomes are terrible, students and teachers and especially ESPs are admonished that it’s their fault because they’re not working hard enough.

### The view from Minneapolis

In contrast to SPFE, MFT59 has not even threatened to strike for decades, and last held a strike in 1970, when it wasn’t even legal. The contract has not kept up with the changing needs of educators, and the COVID pandemic accelerated this problem to a breaking point. In a recent article in the Minneapolis Star Tribune, MFT59 teacher division president Greta Callahan noted that the two groups, teachers and ESPs, have come together to demand that ESP starting salaries are raised from the frankly insulting \$24,000 per year to \$35,000 per year, and that salary scales for teachers be raised to compete with surrounding school districts.

Callahan noted that the system has lost a staggering 650 teachers in the past year and a half, including 120 teachers of color. It’s hard to see how they have any ESPs left at all. For instance, an ESP making \$24,000 per year pays exactly the same health insurance premiums and has the same deductible as a system administrator making \$400,000 per year. And many ESPs have second or third jobs just to stay afloat, or, if their circumstances preclude that, they are often housing and food inse-



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# Section



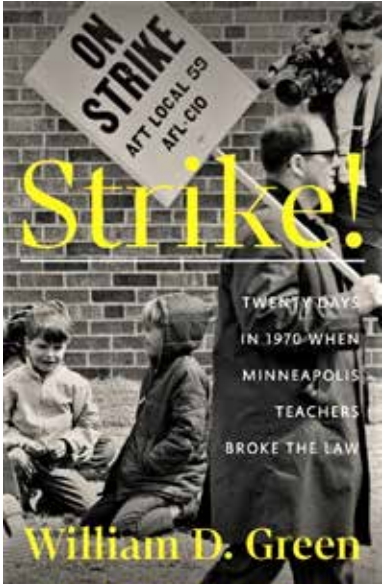
cure.

Building up and retaining educators of color is another key point in the negotiations for a new contract. MPS claims it's one of their highest priorities. But sensible proposals such as exempting teachers of color from layoffs are met with specious objections, such as the fear they would face a lawsuit if they did that. One wonders – who do they think would sue them? White teachers who put it all on the line this year to demand that exemption? You see what I mean? It's insulting, gaslighting, and ultimately destructive.

### A perfectly timed new book from former superintendent Green

Speaking of the last time MFT members struck, there is quite a tale hanging thereby. And who is better suited to write that tale than a person who once sat on the Minneapolis school board, stepped in to rescue the school system as superintendent for four years when it had a leadership crisis, and was a professor of history at Augsburg College both before and after his stint as MPS superintendent? That very person, Dr. William (Bill) Green, has done just that.

In an interview with Em Casel of the online paper Rackett, Dr. Green talks about why he had to write this story. For one thing, there is a dearth of other writing



about it. For another, it started with him just talking to friends who had been teachers at MPS at the time of the strike, and his surprise that a 20-day strike, ultimately successful, in which no one died, bled or starved, could be so terribly traumatic. He noted that veterans of that strike had the look of veterans of wars when they spoke about it.

Of course the thing about it is, it was actually illegal at the time. The striking MFT members lost friends who were with the less militant teachers union that also

existed and did not join the strike. They also risked immediate loss of their job and retirement benefits, and the social death of disapproval for their radical, illegal action. The state of Minnesota had passed a law in the 1950s outlawing all strikes by unionized public employees.

Asked if the strikers got their demands in the end, Dr. Green revealed the third reason he had to write this book:

“They did, and here’s the thing that makes that strike historic, in my opinion: They changed the law of the state. ... And in a sense, that was much more important than the other issues they were bargaining for. The law that was

ing a position and being viewed as equals, as people. There was an incremental improvement over the quality of life – and that’s one of the reasons you haven’t seen strikes. ... When these people, who had invested decades of their lives to an institution and had accrued reasonable retirement funds, benefits, and things of that nature – when they threw it all out to pick up a placard and go to the streets to fight for something like the change of a law, that, to me, means you’re talking about a lot of heroes here. Ordinary people acted heroically. That’s what the story, for me, is about.”

The book is titled “Strike! Twenty Days in 1970 When Min-



1970 Teachers’ strike pickets at Roosevelt High School

changed basically placed the state on the side of labor in a way that it hadn’t been in the past, whereas before, the state was anti-labor because it kept labor from stak-

neapolis Teachers Broke the Law.” It is published by the University of Minnesota Press and is available to pre-order now. You can pre-order for shipment from Amazon



MFT-SPFE march approaches the Ford Bridge on Feb. 12.

or from your favorite local indie bookstore using bookshop.org.

More information or get involved

Check any of the following Facebook pages for information: MFT 59, St. Paul Federation of

Educators, Education Justice MN. In addition to your choice of daily news media, check out the on-line paper Workday Minnesota at workdayminnesota.org. You can contribute to the Minneapolis strike fund at [www.mft59.org/strike-fund](http://www.mft59.org/strike-fund).



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# Amir Locke

BY ELINA KOLSTAD

The Minneapolis Police Department has once again killed a young Black man, practically in his sleep, when officers served a “no-knock” warrant – a type of warrant the voters of Minneapolis had been led to believe was banned by Mayor Frey. How did this happen? In spite of Mayor Frey talking about the need for strong leadership, transparency and accountability, we have seen very little. The one exception is the leadership shown by Nekima Levy Armstrong when she got up and held the mayor and interim Police Chief Amelia Huffman to account as they tried the “business as usual” tactic of deflecting blame from the shooter, Officer Mark Hanneman, or the system by criminalizing Amir Locke, the victim.

There has even been talk about whether Mayor Frey should resign over this incident when the claim to have banned no-knock warrants was perceived

by many to be an important part of his campaign for re-election. In fact, his November 2020 policy only required that the police announce themselves before they cross the threshold into a residence, but even that was “most cases,” which allowed for no-knock warrants to basically continue unchanged. I think he should resign; I also don’t think he will.

The idea that in this country we have the “castle doctrine” wherein homeowners are permitted to shoot home intruders while at the exact same time we have a method of warrant where police officers barge into people’s homes would seem to be the definition of insanity. But, as Ijeoma Oluo points out in the title of her introduction to “Mediocre: The Dangerous Legacy of White Men in America,” the system works as it is designed to. It is seen as acceptable to shoot Black and brown people in their own homes because we as a society criminalize them for their

skin color. This was on full display when the MPD listed Amir Locke as a “suspect” in their initial press release and, when confronted on this, doubled down and insisted they were “still investigating” his role in the crime. If we accept that explanation then everyone tangentially connected to any person under investigation is technically a “suspect.” That seems legally untenable to me and perhaps even unconstitutional.

For many of us, this feels like an inevitability. Over and over again we see claims of reforms made, only to find out that somehow the touted reforms have no real impact on policing. In the past few years we have seen the same thing again and again: a person is killed, “reforms” are made, a few months pass, another person is killed. Whether it’s improved training, body cameras, or claims of getting rid of no-knock warrants, somehow the “reforms” that are possible end up not changing a

damn thing. This is why some of us don’t believe that reform is possible. This is why efforts to defund the police, meaning allocate some of the financial resources now going to the MPD to things like mental health resources and crime prevention, have gained support in recent years. The more these incidents occur, the more people will shift from a position of “defund” the police to a position of “abolish” the police. Hint: “abolish” the police IS what the establishment hacks said “defund” was.

But some things are changing – have changed. In 2016 when Philando Castile was shot dead by an officer during an unnecessary traffic stop for lawfully owning a gun and lawfully informing the officer of that fact we heard not a peep from traditional gun rights advocates. This time the Minnesota Gun Owners Caucus has released a statement affirming Amir Locke’s rights as a law-abiding gun owner. While City Question 2 on the ballot last

fall didn’t pass, it didn’t fail either. Over 43% of voters wanted to replace the Minneapolis Police Department with a Department of Public Safety, and that was with a concerted disinformation campaign claiming that it would get rid of the police completely.

Maybe police reform can solve all of the problems of policing and we won’t need to make major changes like defunding or abolishing the police. But that means those in power have to actually make those changes. This isn’t something that can be solved with PR or spin. This past fall voters also moved Minneapolis to an executive mayor system, which means Frey has no more excuses. The buck stops with him or not at all.

Stop killing Black people!  
How is this so difficult?  
Is it because the system is working as it was designed to work, and too many of us are OK with that?

## The Dish, from page 5

Last month it was announced that the Starbucks on Cedar Avenue in Minneapolis and Snelling Avenue in St. Paul are undertaking a union drive.)

Infante has a great time dumping on Starbucks management for its clumsy online attempts to fight the wave in his piece, “Wake up, Babe, new Starbucks anti-union website just dropped!”

The coffee giant aggressively fought the inciting drives at three of its Buffalo-area stores in December 2021 with conspicuous in-person visits from executives, but with the labor-organizing flames lapping at its corporate control of locations across the country, a more scalable strategy was in order.

Thus: One.Starbucks.com, a slapdash website chock-a-block with warm ‘n friendly graphics and content designed to “help their store partners to get informed” (read: scare their workers out of unionizing). It’s a momentous occasion in the life of any corporate anti-union campaign in the online age, and though Starbucks was a bit “late to the party” (as labor reporter Kim Kelly put it drily), it made

its inevitable digital debut earlier this week.

## Mini-review – The Cumin Club, a really different meal kit

I really haven’t been out to eat or drink anywhere in two months now. And my enthusiasm for having food delivered has dried up, along with the discretionary funds for such speculative indulgence, as the long, cruel winter ground on.

So I’m back, just briefly, to trying out new things, this one a sort of a meal kit. The Cumin Club is the brainchild of Ragorth Bala, who, as a graduate student in Chicago, missed his family’s home-cooked Indian food and found that Indian food in the U.S. just wasn’t the same. In 2019 he founded The Cumin Club, aimed mainly at other Indian expats in the U.S., but it has caught on with us European types and others.

The Cumin Club has now branched out into virtual restaurants called The Cumin Bowl. These are based on three things – The Cumin Club for recipes and inspiration; Chipotle for the “build your own bowl” concept; and the pandemic for the

idea behind virtual restaurants, where there is a delivery system, an online ordering system, and a “ghost kitchen” to prepare the fresh food. So far, there are only two cities with Cumin Bowls – Chicago and Atlanta – but the plan is to roll it out to most metro areas by the end of 2022.

For now, our only option here in Minnesota is The Cumin Club. These meals are very affordable at around \$5 per serving, but apart from the exotic taste, they are kind of bare bones, leaving such trappings as side dishes and dessert up to you. Although the website doesn’t say this outright, they are all vegetarian, but most contain dairy. You can check out the menu (which is growing all the time) and the FAQs and figures, at [www.thecuminclub.com](http://www.thecuminclub.com).

On the other hand, besides being cheap, they are fast. I ordered six meals and have so far had three of them. For each one, the total prep time was less than ten minutes. All were prepared the same; bring 9 ounces of water to a boil, stir in the contents of the packet and reduce heat to simmer, stir while cooking for 2 to 5 minutes, turn off the heat and let it sit covered for a few more minutes while you warm up the “bread” (roti for some, and these papad things which are like thin crackers of chickpea flour for others). The ones that contain paneer have a two-step process where you cook the paneer a few minutes longer by starting it first, but still it’s never more than 10 minutes.

This is not the usual dehydrated food; it’s a far cry from cup-a-soup or ramen noodles. The claim is that the meals are prepared in restaurant-grade kitchens in India and preserved by an ancient technique the founder calls “dry-and-fly.” The proof is in the eating, and it is hard to



Cumin Club “Taste of Home” founder Ragorth Bala’s home in India

believe these things came from a packet when you eat them. The spices are vivid and the overall effect is of freshly prepared food.

The six meals I am trying out are Pav Bhaji, Paneer Bhurji, Kadhi Chawal, Dal Chawal, Palak Paneer and Veg Mili Juli. I have tried the last three already and will do the other three soon. I usually have some yogurt and a cool lemonade or iced tea along with them, and also make rice if the meal doesn’t already contain it, and maybe add some fresh cilantro garnish if I have it on hand. The meals are single serving packets, so take that into account if you are more than one. You can combine them in preparation, but only if they’re the same meal.

In case you’re skeptical that I can be qualified to review a

meal kit designed for Indian expats, I did manage to rummage up one Indian-American food blogger who positively reviewed The Cumin Club : Ann Ittoop who published this review in Brown Girl magazine – [brown-girlmagazine.com/2020/01/if-youre-missing-homestyle-indian-food-cumin-club-should-your-weekly-meal-plan](http://brown-girlmagazine.com/2020/01/if-youre-missing-homestyle-indian-food-cumin-club-should-your-weekly-meal-plan).

Although I wouldn’t want to have an active meal plan with them and eat their meals constantly (but that’s true of anything, even, say, my 10 favorite dishes) I will order some more from time to time. Your order is completely customizable, based on what is available at the time, and for now they have around 20-plus choices. And I am eagerly looking forward to The Cumin Bowl coming here!



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# MPD staffing

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- Notwithstanding sections 12.03, subdivision 4, 12.25, or any other law to the contrary, no individual employed or acting as an agent of any political subdivision shall be authorized to carry a firearm when on duty unless the individual has been licensed under sections 626.84 to 626.863.

- Except as specifically provided by statute, only a peace officer and part-time peace officer may: issue a citation in lieu of arrest or continued detention unless specifically authorized by ordinance; ask a person receiving a citation to give a written promise to appear in court; or take a person into custody as permitted by section 629.34 (Minn. Stat. 626.862).

- Only a person who is licensed as a peace officer or part-time peace officer may use a motor vehicle to stop a vehicle as defined in section 169.011, subdivision 92 (MN Stat. 169.98).

- Except as otherwise permitted, a motor vehicle governed by subdivision 1 may only be operated by a person licensed as a peace officer or part-time peace officer under sections 626.84 to 626.863.

– Adapted from the City of Minneapolis 911/MPD Workgroup Recommendations report.



BY CAM GORDON

On Feb. 2, the City Council received a report on police department staffing that recommends steps the mayor and Council could take to improve public safety in Minneapolis.

The \$170,000 study grew out of a City Council directive from 2019 and its results are reminiscent of the city's 911/MPD Workgroup information that was presented then, and the final recommendations that were presented in November 2020 by the city's Office of Performance and Innovation.

There is likely no one outside of City Hall who knows more about those recommendations than Andrea Larson, who was Director of Strategic Management at the time. Larson led the workgroup, made that presentation in 2020, and helped draft the request for proposals that resulted in the report the Council received from CNA Analysis and Solutions in February.

Today, living in Minneapolis and working in the private sector, Larson cares about the city and is happy to talk about the place she calls home.

The day the report came out she wrote on Twitter, "MPD utilization report came out, and it is later than we'd wanted, but also staff gave basically this same information on 11/13/19. Really hope the next step isn't to keep studying the problem."

The researchers reviewed all 1,794,408 calls made to 911 from 2016 to 2020. They found that roughly 500,000 of those calls were initiated by patrol officers themselves and the rest were calls for service from residents, businesses or visitors to the city. The study focused on the patrol division and the researchers were unable to analyze staffing in other police divisions, including investigations, because data on staffing levels

and officer time use was not available.

One thing that stood out to Larson, she said, was that "the study reiterates that 27% of the volume of calls could move out of the MPD."

The report broke calls for service into four subgroups. Most of the calls, 72.3%, fell into the category that require a licensed officer response according to state law. A much smaller number, 5.4%, were identified as calls involving a behavioral crisis that did not statutorily require a licensed officer response. A third group, theft-reporting calls, made up 5.6% of the calls, and the last group, making up 6.6%, included all other calls, like those involving animal complaints, to which an alternative agency or group could respond.

During the presentation, Zoe Thorkelson from CNA said, "If all behavioral health calls were taken off of the MPD response list, that would reduce the patrol staffing needs by 23 officers." Adding the other two groups, theft-reporting and the other calls, could reduce the need by another 50, she estimated.

Although there was little data regarding other divisions, through observations and interviews the report concluded that since 2020, while the number of patrol officers was generally adequate, many other divisions, including investigations, were understaffed.

There was discussion at the meeting about the "discretionary" time that was estimated to take roughly 50% of the current patrol officers' time, who generally work four 10-hour shifts a week. Discretionary time included any time spent not responding to calls, like patrolling, traffic stops and community engagement. The more discretionary time there is, the more officers are needed. If, for example, 33% of the time was spent responding to calls, the department should have closer to a total of 416 officers assigned to work in the patrol division to fill all the shifts. If 50% of their time was spent responding to calls, 278 officers would be sufficient. If their only assignment was to respond to calls, that number could be lower.

Committee members asked for clarity about what officers were actually doing during discretionary time and it was unclear if the department had any policy or guidelines on it whatsoever. There was no one from the mayor's office or

the Police Department available at the committee meeting to answer questions.

Larson said, "We want them to focus on those things that they are statutorily required to respond to." She pointed out that non-licensed, or "civilian" alternative personnel doing some of the work would be less expensive, more efficient and "allows MPD to do the things they are supposed to be doing," and that, "the fewer exposures MPD has to residents the less likely there is going to be a death."

If there is funding, alternatives such as increasing (24/7) 311 staff to take theft reports, doubling the number of behavioral health response teams, using animal care and control staff, unarmed community service officers, or traffic control officers to respond to other low-risk calls have all been noted as possible options.

One of the big questions is, "How do we pay for it?"

The answer is likely one of three options: (1) cut services in other departments in the city; (2) raise taxes; or (3) take the money from the MPD. Larson prefers the third option, saying, "If MPD isn't doing the work of responding to the calls, the cost of providing those services should move from MPD to the alternative responders so we're not paying for the same services twice."

This is more complicated, Larson observed, because, as this study also concluded, right now the department is understaffed and because of the charter provision that requires a minimum number of licensed officers. Larson admits that "the minimum offers a policy for residents to hold the city accountable" but believes that it is "old and rigid." "The minimums were established in the '60s and were not based on data," she said. "Continuing to implement policies set in the '60s is not helping us address the structural racism we find in our city today."

While some hold a longer-term hope that deep cultural change is possible within the department, and others hope that this charter provision could be changed in the nearer future, Larson wants to see action taken now. "The mayor could actively work to move more work out of MPD," she said, "and make sure police can focus on the work they are supposed to do."

## Strike, from page 1

strike in 50 years under your watch doesn't exactly seem like top talent to me.

According to openthebooks.com, MPS principals make anywhere from \$119,000 to \$150,000. The same website lists MPS as having 138 employees making over \$100,000. The district can find the money to pay these salaries, but when it comes to the people who interact with our children on a daily basis somehow there's no money left. And let's not forget the fact that the school board voted to redistrict last year knowing it was estimated to cost \$11.5 million in the first year alone. Compare these numbers to the realities facing ESPs. As one ESP told me, "an ESP shouldn't have

to work more than one job."

By not even trying to find the money, the district is trying to pit parents against teachers. But there's a problem with this tactic. Yes, in many ways parents depend on schools as a form of day care, but that's not why we send our children to school. We send our children to school largely so that they can get an education. We also send our children to school so that they can learn socialization and how to function in the world. For parents, the people who are teaching our children and how they are treated are vitally important because those things will directly impact how well our children learn in school. If our teachers and ESPs are underpaid and struggling to make ends meet, how do we expect them to func-



Seward School picket line (Photo/Elina Kolstad)

tion in the classroom?

If we have learned anything in the past two years, it's this: we

need each other, we're stronger together, and everything we're told is impossible is somehow

suddenly possible when it benefits those at the top. Working from home was IMPOSSIBLE for the vast majority of office workers until it was implemented in under two weeks. The money is there to fix this – we just need the right priorities.

*Publisher's Note: We have, for years, asked to see a line-item budget for the Minneapolis Public Schools. We know from other documents that the budget contains almost 20% bureaucratic bloat. Acceptable bloat is 15%. Area superintendents have to go. Assistants to assistants have to go.*

*Get rid of the bureaucrats and pay the teachers more.*



# Mental health for all

BY LYDIA HOWELL

It is estimated that 25% to 50% of people killed by police were in a mental health crisis. Despite Mayor Frey's promises, diverting such calls away from police remains disorganized. Since 2005, COPE (Community Outreach for Psychiatric Emergencies) responds 24/7. You can reach them at (612) 596-1223.

COVID-19 created uncertainty, social isolation and loss, with psychological impacts of anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. Could stigma be replaced with seeing a spectrum of human experiences needing support?

Dr. Sherry Benton, Ph.D. and founder of TAO (Therapy Assistance Online) Connect, observes, "Most of us have some levels of well-being and some challenges. But the U. S. payment-created, one-size-fits-all model doesn't meet a lot of people's needs."

Midwest Higher Education Compact is adding TAO Connect programs of exercises, mediation and journaling to college student counseling services, as have some workplaces. Online options are bridges while on waiting lists, reach rural areas without services, and being home-based, make finding transportation and child care unnecessary.

In 1935, Alcoholics Anonymous broke ground by recognizing healing can come through sharing experiences. Although

not therapy, free support groups take on many life challenges: addiction; trauma (including sexual assault, child abuse and/or domestic violence); former prisoners' re-entry; and diagnosed mental illness (bipolar disorder or long-term depression).

More than ever, therapists and support groups acknowledge race, gender, and sexual orientation and identities as key to addressing access for underserved communities, building contexts for healing. Women in the 1970s broke silences and built responses to sexual assault and intimate partner violence, making breakthroughs that continue rippling out today in what's now called "trauma-informed care." Contact the Sexual Violence Center at (612) 871-5111 (all genders and orientations welcome). Resources for domestic violence include the Tubman Center at (612) 825-0000. Black women can access culturally-specific support to address domestic violence at SAFE (612) 289-2169.

"2020 was an unprecedented year, a perfect storm of collective distress. The election, COVID-19, the aftermath of George Floyd's murder," Dr. Willie Garrett, president of the Minnesota Association of Black Psychologists, told KARE 11 News. "People are totally overwhelmed. Children are struggling." With only 2% of therapists being African American, there's a looming crisis.

"Community access to wellness and healing are what we

need to keep protesting in the streets. Instead of just survival, we have a right to thrive. Continuing the marathon of our journey to justice, wellness is essential," says facilitator Shaundelle Davis, who is working to solve those gaps by founding HerSilency, with Black focus, at (612) 548-4085.

"Intergenerational trauma has been inflicted on our people from colonialism," observes Marisa Miakonda Cummings, executive director of Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center (MIWRC). "We all have degrees of healing to do." The Phillips neighborhood center offers a range of material resources and services, including "Healing Spaces," which takes a holistic approach to addressing mental illness, addiction and surviving violence.

"Emphasis is on a woman's relationship with creation, family, tribe, community and culture," Cummings explains. "Natives look at our holistic selves: spirit, heart, mind, body. Each of us has original teachings that attend to all four components simultaneously. Our worldview is holistic and interconnected." More information at [www.miwrc.org](http://www.miwrc.org) or (612) 728-2000. Also contact the Minneapolis American Indian Center at [www.maic.org](http://www.maic.org) or (612) 879-1700.

Spanish-speaking/Latino communities can access care at Un Pueblito Counseling, (612) 314-3210.

Rigid gender role expectations block many men from seeking therapy. Since 1975, the Twin Cities Men's Center has expanded men's wellness.

"Instead of multiple masculinities, the dominant culture has a single definition of masculinity, where men are told to 'be self-sufficient' and 'don't ask for help,'" says TCMC board member Andy Mikel. "We get lots of referrals from the mental health community. In the last 10 years, healing from trauma is more and more the model. Human reactions to trauma are fight, flight or freeze. The good news is that this can be healed relatively quickly."

TCMC support groups include divorce/ending relationships, gay/bisexual men's issues, sexual trauma/abuse, retirement and more. TCMC also hosts conferences, a wellness group and other affirmative events. Hennepin County refers men to TCMC Anger Management for Men, a 12-week class. A new follow-up class called "Reclaiming Your Fire," inspired by Native American practices, starts in April. For more information on groups and events, contact [www.tcmc.org](http://www.tcmc.org) or (612) 822-5292.

Her family history of depression sparked Dr. Sherry Benton to become a psychologist. "We don't wait until it's Type 2 dia-

betes or stage 4 cancer to pay attention! But, with mental health, we wait until people can't function. Prevention works better."

Besides public policy work, NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) offers diverse referrals and resources for individuals, families and youth, including free support groups in the metro area for families with a loved one struggling with mental illness. They also host a podcast called "Wellness in Color," a series that explores perspectives on mental health to reshape the cultural language of mental illness. Check out their website at [www.namimn.org](http://www.namimn.org) or call 1-888-626-4435.

## Other resources:

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255.

Minnesota Warmline: Peer support from someone who's also living with mental illness, (651) 288-0400.

180 Degrees, serving Minnesota youth and adults: [180degrees.org](http://180degrees.org), (651) 968-8908.

*Lydia Howell is an independent Minneapolis journalist, activist and winner of a Premack Award For Public Interest Journalism.*

## Elsewhere, from page 2

egoism are interpenetrating aspects of human nature which relatively manifest in conjunction with social existence.

The long view? Some 40-plus years ago a co-worker asked

how things would be better under socialism. I explained that public ownership of the means of production would inspire labor for the sake of the whole nation. Socialism will render us free men and women, and the

bosses will then be employed by us! Hey Tony, how much longer?

Post Published: 01 March 2022  
Posted by: the alley  
Found in section: Raise Your Voice

## Our Town, from page 2

day," he tells her. "I brought Malcolm home so he could be safe."

The play's action moves from house to house and then to the younger children's classroom and playground. The class is made up of children of various ethnic groups, but the bullying does not seem to be connected to those differences.

Playwright Cheryl L. West adapted the script from a book of the same name, written to help younger children understand racial justice. The theater is only a couple of miles from where a white Minneapolis cop knelt on the neck of George Floyd, killing him.

"Something Happened in Our Town" was in early rehearsals when yet another Black man, 22-year-old Amir Locke, was shot and killed by a member of the Minneapolis police department delivering a no-knock warrant. For cast members, the event hit very close to home.

The theater brought in a mental health clinician to help the cast and crew cope. Even the play's director, Timothy Douglas, said he was feeling traumatized and turned the rehearsal area into a space to let the cast and crew talk out their emotions.

It seems to have worked. If you are wondering how to talk to your children about race and racial bias let the cast of "Some-

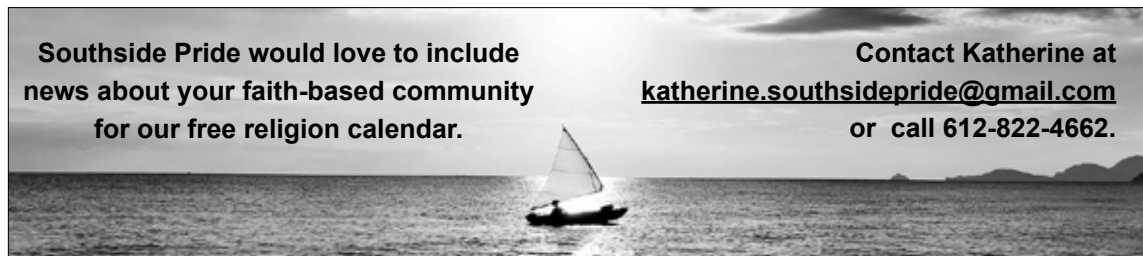
thing Happened in Our Town" help you. A post-play discussion session had young audience members asking questions. "Do Black people still sometimes get shot?" one asked. "Yes," he was told. "In our city, where we all live."


This is a hard discussion for any parent to have with their children, but this play might be a way to start the discussion. It's recommended for kids aged 7 and older.

The play runs through March 27 at the Children's Theatre, 2400 Third Ave. S., Minneapolis. Wear a mask and bring your vaccine card. <https://childrenstheatre.org/whats-on/something-happened-in-our-town/>

**Southside Pride would love to include news about your faith-based community for our free religion calendar.**

**Contact Katherine at [katherine.southsidepride@gmail.com](mailto:katherine.southsidepride@gmail.com) or call 612-822-4662.**





## NOKOMIS EDITION

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

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

**Southside Pride**  
3200 CHICAGO AVENUE SOUTH  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55407  
CALL US AT 612-822-4662  
email us at [editor@southsidepride.com](mailto:editor@southsidepride.com) or [edfelien@southsidepride.com](mailto:edfelien@southsidepride.com)

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EVENTS

**Flourishing in the Clearing: Womanist Approaches to Spiritual Care**  
**Tuesday, March 15, 7:30 p.m. Online**  
Lecture by Jessica Chapman Lape, Assistant Professor of Interreligious Chaplaincy and Program Director for Interreligious Chaplaincy at United Theological Seminary  
In Toni Morrison’s novel, “Beloved,” we see the character Baby Suggs, an ex-slave and spiritual leader, facilitate healing and flourishing for her African American community deep in a forest clearing. Through the use of sources such as Black literature like the works of Morrison and Zora Neale Hurston, to the scholarship of womanist scholars and pastoral theologians, this lecture will discuss distinct and embodied characteristics and practices of contemporary womanist spiritual caregivers who work to facilitate healing and flourishing for African American women. This lecture will also explore the broad implications of inviting all spiritual caregivers into the work, awe, and abundance of womanist care – so that all Black women may flourish in the clearing. You can register for this free online presentation at <https://content.unitedseminary.edu/spring-faculty-lectures-2022>.

**Holden Evening Prayer Service**  
**Saturday, March 19, 5:30 p.m.**  
Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church  
5300 10th Ave. S., Mpls.  
Holden Evening Prayer Service, followed by soup supper, on Saturday, March 19, at 5:30 p.m. Join us for worship and stay for soup! Free-will offering.  
**Lenten Bible Study on the Book of John**  
**Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., through April 6**  
Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church  
5300 10th Ave. S., Mpls.  
No Bible experience necessary! Join us for conversation around God’s word!

**Braver Angels “Common Ground” Workshop – School Issues**  
**Saturday, March 19**  
**9 a.m. to noon CT Online**  
Join us for a Common Ground Workshop on School Issues. The Braver

Angels Common Ground Workshop brings together equal numbers of Conservatives and Liberals – Reds and Blues (4-8 of each) – for a deep dive into a problem, such as addressing climate change, electoral reform or abortion. Together participants talk about their connection to the issue and their opinion on solutions. By the end of the 3-hour online event they have come up with jointly and unanimously held Points of Agreements on values, concerns and policies.  
Goals:

- To delve into a single issue where citizens differ, and learn how each other sees the problem.
- To delineate areas of common ground and points of agreement.
- To learn something that might be helpful to others in our community and the nation.

Who can come? Anyone interested in developing a deeper understanding of, and connection with, people whose political beliefs differ from their own. You should honestly be able to answer “yes” to the following question: “Are you willing to listen to the other side, and are you willing to speak to the other side with respect?”  
For more info on ways to participate, and to register, go to <https://braverangels.org/event/common-ground-workshop-school-issues/>.

**From Problem to Promise: Reframing Social Issues**  
**Thursday, March 24, noon to 1:30 p.m. Online**  
From the Minnesota Multifaith Network: The world is in profound need of healing. Headlines are filled with critical issues which demonstrate our brokenness – racism, climate change, police brutality, voting rights, sexism, gun violence, health care access, affordable housing, white supremacy, LGBTQ equity and inclusion, reparations, and treaty rights to name just a few. How do we, as spiritual people, engage these issues as opportunities to deliver on promises that reflect our deepest spiritual values and commitments? Join a lively conversation with Rev. Dr. Steve Newcom, founding director of the Kaleo Center for Faith, Justice and Social Transformation. Learn more and register at <https://mnmultifaith.org/>.

**EcoFaith Summit 2022**  
**Saturday, March 26**  
**9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Online via Zoom**  
Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light is proud to co-sponsor EcoFaith Summit 2022! This year’s theme is “Holy Ground, Holy Table: Regenerative Practices for the Wholeness of the Earth.” The keynote presenters, George and Annaliese Walker (of Walker Farms), are Minnesota farmers and international leaders in the regenerative agriculture movement. In addition, a diverse group of seven storytellers will share their direct experience of regenerative practices with food, from our farms to our tables. The morning will also include original music videos featuring Susan Palo Cherwien’s and Robert Buckley Farlee’s hymn “In Sacred Manner” with the paintings of Robyn Sands Anderson and Charlotte Schuld. Three breakout group sessions over the morning will give participants the opportunity to relate and respond to what they have heard. More info and registration here: <https://www.mnipl.org/event/ecofaith-summit-2022/>.

**Personal Dignity Items for Minnehaha Food Shelf**  
Minnehaha United Methodist Church  
3701 E. 50<sup>th</sup> St., Mpls.  
The Minnehaha Food Shelf does a special drive every year during Lent. This year, like many of our past years, we are collecting personal dignity items for the Food Shelf. These items, like toothpaste, bar soap, shampoo, etc., are not provided to the Food Shelf from Second Harvest Heartland, and so they are in short supply. Items that are the most popular at the Food Shelf are feminine hygiene supplies and diapers. You can bring these supplies to Minnehaha United Methodist Church during Lent and put them in the blue barrels. And, you can donate personal dignity items to the Food Shelf any time of the year! <https://www.facebook.com/MinnehahaFoodShelf/>

**Lenten Sock Drive**  
**Through Sunday, April 17**  
Saint Mark’s Episcopal Cathedral  
519 Oak Grove St., Mpls.  
During Lent, Saint Mark’s will be collecting socks to support the Minneapolis College Student Resource and Referral Center and Community Aid Network of MN.

Needed: Brand New Athletic Cotton Socks (high tube or midsize or half calf – no short socks, please) in the package or with tags, any size for men, women, and children of all ages! Please, no used socks!  
When and Where: Drop off new socks when you come to Saint Mark’s to worship on Sunday (place them in the blue bin located just outside the inner door as you enter our worship space) OR drop them at the Saint Mark’s Welcome Desk during regular business hours.  
Socks will be collected from March 2 (Ash Wednesday) through April 17 (Easter Sunday)!  
<https://ourcathedral.org/community-aid-network-of-mn/>

**Racial Justice Vigils**  
**Tuesdays, noon to 12:30 p.m.**  
Plymouth Congregational Church  
Jones Commons  
1919 LaSalle Ave., Mpls.  
Racial Justice Initiative justice vigils are now being held from noon to 12:30 p.m. every Tuesday. Plans are to continue the vigils through the winter, weather permitting. Please join us when you are able. We always meet by Door 1 near Jones Commons, 1919 LaSalle Ave. <https://www.plymouth.org/event/racial-justice-vigil/2022-03-08>

SHARING FOOD

**New Creation Baptist Church**  
**1414 E. 48<sup>th</sup> St., Mpls.**  
**612-825-6933**  
We’re still here to serve you on the first through 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. **We will re-open the food shelf to choice shopping on Saturday, April 2.** Be safe and God bless! <https://www.facebook.com/NCBCfoodshelf>.  
Saturdays (except 5<sup>th</sup> Saturdays)  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
(Brown door on the corner of 48<sup>th</sup> St. and 15<sup>th</sup> Ave.)

**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>.

**Minnehaha United Methodist Church**  
**3701 E. 50<sup>th</sup> St., Mpls.**  
**612-721-6231**  
Yes, the food shelf is still open! In order to fight food insecurity in our neighborhood, the Minnehaha Food Shelf is open on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. 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/>

**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](mailto: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>.

**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.

**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/>

**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 Nokomis Religious Community Welcomes You

**CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. ALBERT THE GREAT**  
E. 29th St. & 32nd Ave. S.  
612-724-3643  
[www.saintalbertthegreat.org](http://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

**FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
3430 E. 51st St.  
612-729-5463  
[www.faithlutheranmpls.org](http://www.faithlutheranmpls.org)  
Sunday Worship 9 am and online on Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/felc-mpls/>  
Sunday School – Sundays 10:30 am  
Bible classes – Sundays at 10:15 am  
**Wednesdays through April 6 – 1 pm Midweek Lenten Service,**

**2 pm Midweek Bible Class**  
**Maundy Thursday Service – 7 pm**  
**Good Friday Service – 7 pm**  
**Easter Service – 9 am**  
NA groups Wednesdays 7:30 pm  
Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Peter Preus

**FIRST FREE CHURCH**  
5150 Chicago Ave S.  
612-827-4705  
Sunday services at 9 am and 10:30 am (in-person and online)  
Child care provided during both services  
Student ministries during 9 am service  
[www.firstfreechurch.org](http://www.firstfreechurch.org)  
*Christ-Centered, Christ-sent*

**HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)**  
1720 E. Minnehaha Pkwy.  
612-722-1083  
Sunday Worship at 9:30 am  
Bible Study at 10:30 am  
**Wednesday Worship at 7 pm**  
Sunday Worship recordings online at [www.holycrossmpls.org](http://www.holycrossmpls.org)

**LIVING SPIRIT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
4501 Bloomington Ave.  
612-721-5025  
Multicultural/Intergenerational Justice – Generosity — Faith Worship In-Person or Online  
10:30 am Sundays  
Online: [livingspiritumc.org](http://livingspiritumc.org)

**NEW CREATION BAPTIST CHURCH**  
1414 E. 48th St.  
612-825-6933  
In-person Sunday Worship, 10:45 am  
Also on Facebook at: [www.Facebook.com/NewCreation-BaptistChurch](https://www.Facebook.com/NewCreation-BaptistChurch)  
<https://newcreationbaptist-churchmn.org/>  
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Daniel B. McKizzie

**NOKOMIS HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH –ELCA**  
5300 10th Ave. S.  
612-825-6846  
[www.nokomisheights.org](http://www.nokomisheights.org)

Sunday worship 10 am, in Sanctuary  
Adult Forum 9 am, in Fellowship Hall  
Sunday School 9 am, in Nokomis Room  
Confirmation 9 am, in Youth Room  
Online worship premiers Sundays at 10 am on Facebook and YouTube

**ST. JOAN OF ARC CATHOLIC COMMUNITY**  
[www.stjoan.com](http://www.stjoan.com), 4537 Third Ave.  
We’re Open – Saturday, 5 pm in the Church  
Sunday, 7:45 am in the Church, 9 & 11 am in the gym  
Family Mass - 9 & 11 in the Church  
Video available on our website and Facebook page  
*We Welcome You Wherever You Are On Your Journey*



**All Directory Churches are Wheelchair Accessible**



# • COMMUNITY CALENDAR •

## Southside Pride / NOKOMIS EDITION

### EVENTS

#### Aftermath: A Widow's Story

**Meet the artist: Thursday, March 31, 6 to 8 p.m.**

Exhibition on view through April 24  
Bloomington Center for the Arts  
1800 W. Old Shakopee Rd.  
Bloomington  
“The Widow Series” – Self-portraits by Shari Albers explore the devastation, numbness and even humor known by anyone who has lost a life partner. More information at: [sharialbers.com](https://sharialbers.com), <https://artistrymn.org/current-exhibitions#atrium-gallery> or (952) 563-8575.

#### 2022 People for Parks Fund Grants Applications due March 15

Are you a community member or group with a great idea for improving parks in your neighborhood? Then you're invited to apply for a People for Parks Fund grant!  
This year, the People for Parks Fund Advisory Committee authorized a minimum of \$35,000 in funding for community-grown projects and programs throughout Minneapolis. Most grants will be between \$1,000 and \$10,000 and will be awarded to 501c3 and 501c4 organizations, government agencies, and community groups and others with a fiscal agent. Applications are due by March 15 and applicants will be notified in May. For grant guidelines, criteria, and a link to the online application form, please visit our People for Parks Fund page. Applications and FAQs are available in English, Spanish and Somali. <https://mplsparksfoundation.org/initiative/people-for-parks-fund/>

#### Intro to Self-Care for Resilience: Training for Practice in Everyday Life Tuesday, March 15, 9 to 11 a.m. Online

Pay-what-you-can 2-hour online training  
From the Minnesota Peacebuilding Leadership Institute: When terrible things happen and our peace is stolen

from us, most people want to build peace back into their lives. Join us to learn, explore, and apply strategies to build peace into our personal and community lives with self-care practices for resilience.

The standard tuition for this training is \$50. Because of our commitment to economic justice, if you are facing financial hardship, please make a donation of \$5 or more. However, no one will be turned away due to lack of funds. Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/intro-to-self-care-for-resilience-training-for-practice-in-everyday-life-tickets-287863947817>.

#### Teacher Strike Workshops for Kids School days till end of strike 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Leonardo's Basement  
150 W. 60<sup>th</sup> St., Mpls.  
Registration is open for workshops for Minneapolis families beginning Tuesday, March 8. All-day (9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.) workshops will be offered throughout the strike. You will need to register for each day separately, with registration open as soon as we know that schools will not be open the following day. The fee is \$85/child/day, and less for families eligible for free and reduced-fee lunch (\$30/child/day). Reminders: 1) Wear a mask and bring a lunch! 2) Drop-off and pick-up are contact free. Pull up to the driveway in front of the shop and show a paper sign with your child(ren)'s first name to the person doing check-in. Same process at the end of the day. Questions? Contact Tracy at [tracy@leonardosbasement.org](mailto:tracy@leonardosbasement.org).

#### Talk of the Stacks:

**Author Kaitlyn Greenidge, in conversation with Lissa Jones**

**Tuesday, March 22, 7 p.m.**

**Free virtual event**

Critically acclaimed novelist Kaitlyn Greenidge will discuss her latest novel, “Libertie,” in conversation with podcaster Lissa Jones. “Libertie” is inspired by the life of one of the first Black female doctors in the U.S. Rich with historical detail and lyric storytelling,

Greenidge immerses her readers in Reconstruction-era Brooklyn where her protagonist, Libertie Sampson, struggles to find her true calling under the imposing shadow of her mother, a practicing physician. When a young man from Haiti proposes, they move to the island together, where she finds her new life is no freer than her first. In her new home, Libertie fights for power and autonomy within the tight constraints of her environment, both for herself and for generations to come. This virtual event is FREE and open to the public, but registration for is required. For more information and to register, go to <https://www.support-hclib.org/talk-stacks>.

#### Intro to Talking Circles for Building Community Trust and Peace Tuesday, March 22, 9 to 11 a.m. Online

Pay-what-you-can 2-hour online training  
From the Minnesota Peacebuilding Leadership Institute: This 2-hour online training teaches the basic philosophy, principles, vocabulary and practices of the Indigenous talking circle process for virtual and in-person applications. Since ancient times many Indigenous communities have utilized the talking circle process for community building, decision-making, problem-solving and conflict transformation. It is designed for those wanting to work with others to build trust and peace within their spheres of influence. This training is for everyone: laypeople, paraprofessionals and licensed professionals. Everyone from everywhere is welcome to join us. The standard tuition for this training is \$50. Because of our commitment to economic justice, if you are facing financial hardship, please make a donation of \$5 or more. However, no one will be turned away due to lack of funds. CE's for Minnesota nurses, teachers and social workers. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/introduction-to-talking-circles-for-building-community-tickets-287865672977>.

#### A Holy Place To Be: Acoustic Bowie with John Eller, Chris Perricelli and Friends

**Celebrating The Life Of David Bowie Friday, March 25**

**Doors 7 p.m. Music 8 p.m.**

The Hook and Ladder Theater  
3010 Minnehaha Ave., Mpls.  
Join us for A Holy Place To Be: Acoustic Bowie, an acoustic performance and sing-along with John Eller (The Shiny Lights), Chris Perricelli (Little Man) and friends in celebration of one of the most influential musicians of the 20th century, David Bowie. Let's dance! Note: Due to concerns of the omicron variant this concert was rescheduled from Jan. 8 to Friday, March 25. All tickets purchased for Jan. 8 will be honored. For tickets and more info, go to <https://thehookmpls.com/event/a-holy-place-to-be-acoustic-bowie-2022/>.

#### Theatre Pro Rata presents: 'Orlando' Through March 27

The Crane Theater  
2303 Kennedy St. NE #120, Mpls.  
Adapted by Sarah Ruhl, based on the novel by Virginia Woolf, and directed by Carin Bratlie Wethern.  
In a magical dream through time, Orlando lives from the Renaissance to the 20th century. As a charismatic young nobleman he is a favorite of Queen Elizabeth and the lover of a Russian princess. Heartbreak and hunger for adventure lead him to Constantinople where a night of debauchery sparks a remarkable transformation: Orlando becomes a woman. From there she continues her search for poetry and belonging in a world that is constantly changing. Ruhl's adaptation of Woolf's

novel is sexy, blithe and earnest as it plays with gender, sexuality, identity and freedom. Tickets \$16-\$61, sliding scale, must be purchased online in advance. Proof of vaccine or negative COVID test and a mask are required. <https://www.theatreprorata.org/orlando/>

#### 'Once Upon a Winter Night' Through March 27

Open Eye Theatre Mainstage  
506 E. 24<sup>th</sup> St., Mpls.  
A chamber symphony for piano, cello, voice and puppet theatre, created and designed by Open Eye co-founder Michael Sommers, with original music composed by Eric Jensen. Watch the playful and perilous story of Sister Winter unfold within a meticulously designed snow globe, where crows take roost, icicles grow, and the moon sings above the forest and the fields. “Once Upon a Winter Night” uses a variety of puppetry styles to conjure comedic crows, a singing snowman, owls and snow spirits, while projected etchings evoke images from an antique storybook, and beautiful music for cello and grand piano underscores the scenes. See the full schedule and order your tickets at: <https://www.openeyetheatre.org/once-upon-a-winter-night>.

#### Club Book: Author Julia Otsuka Wednesday, March 30, 7 p.m. Virtual event

Hosted by Ramsey County Library  
Chart-topping novelist Julie Otsuka is the daughter of Japanese immigrants, and a poignant chronicler of the Japanese American experience across the first half of the 20th century. Her breakout debut “When the Emperor Was Divine” (2003) shines light on California's dehumanizing Japanese American internment camps – a shameful and often overlooked chapter of American history. Otsuka's follow-up, “Buddha in the Attic” (2011), about the untold story of Japanese “picture brides” in the early 1900s, was a PEN/Faulkner Award winner and National Book Award nominee. Otsuka's latest novel, “The Swimmers,” revisits the theme of WWII internment camps – this time, through the fractured lenses of retrospection and memory loss. More info and registration at: <https://www.clubbook.org/portfolio-posts/julie-otsuka/>.

#### Music in the Chapel, a Concert Series from Lakewood Cemetery

**David Huckfelt and Annie Humphrey Sunday, April 3, 3 to 4 p.m.**

Lakewood Cemetery Chapel  
3600 Hennepin Ave., Mpls.  
Lakewood Cemetery, located in Uptown Minneapolis, is proud to bring back “Music in the Chapel.” This series, created in 2018, was designed to showcase and share Lakewood's unique charms with a broader audience, people who may not have experienced the beauty and serenity of Lakewood, which is open to the public. “Music in the Chapel” offers an eclectic range of performers who appeal to diverse music tastes, with an emphasis on local talent.  
The series kicks off on April 3 with David Huckfelt and Annie Humphrey, and runs monthly on Sunday afternoons from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. through December. The historic and stunning chapel creates an intimate and acoustically superior setting for up to 160 guests. Each will have the chance to take in the 65-foot dome of the Byzantine-style chapel and awe-inspiring interior with its 10-million-piece mosaic. Lakewood's chapel was built in 1910 by renowned architect Harry Wild Jones. More information and tickets at <https://www.lakewoodcemetery.org/events-calendar/music-in-the-chapel/>.

#### Caritas Vocal Ensemble: Inspiring Harmony

**Sunday, April 10, 4:30 p.m.**

Richfield Lutheran Church  
8 W. 60th St., Mpls.  
Join Caritas Vocal Ensemble as they present an eclectic program of a cappella choral music, including innovative arrangements of traditional melodies and modern choral gems. The group will perform inspiring works by composers such as C.H. Parry, Rene Clausen and local composer Jake Runestad. Now in its 20th season, Caritas has raised more than \$200,000 for local charitable organizations. The performance is open to the public, with a free will donation benefiting TRUST, Inc., a local, nonprofit organization. Safety protocols for Covid will be required for audience members. For additional information, please visit [www.caritasvocalensemble.org](http://www.caritasvocalensemble.org) or email [caritasvocalensemble@gmail.com](mailto:caritasvocalensemble@gmail.com).

#### 'Today I'm Alright'

**Free Workshop**

**April 16, 9-11 a.m. or 1-3 p.m**

The I.C.O.N./TODAY, I'm Alright healing workshop invites all experiencing trauma to join the licensed counselor/art teacher /survivor team for two hours of resource sharing, art-making, conversation, and importantly – identifying strategies for change.  
Workshop leaders are Sandra Rear-don, a psychotherapist working with mindfulness and sensorimotor therapy; Barbara Bridges, who has been an artist and an art teacher for over 40 years; and Bianca Dawkins, a founder of I.C.O.N. (I Can Overcome Negativity). Limit of 6-8 people. Family groups encouraged. Regular price: \$200 but now FREE thanks to Minnesota State Art Board Funding. Read More: <https://www.arttochangetheworld.org/i-c-o-n-today-im-alright-partnership/>  
Apply: [Barbara.Bridges@bridges-create.com](mailto:Barbara.Bridges@bridges-create.com)

#### Seward Co-op CSA Fair

**Saturday, April 23, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Seward Co-op Creamery parking lot  
2601 E. Franklin Ave., Mpls.  
As Seward Co-op celebrates 50 years, you're invited to reflect on the co-op's legacy and continued work to support a thriving and resilient local food system. This year is the return of their in-person fair, held on Saturday, April 23 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Seward Co-op Creamery parking lot at 2601 E. Franklin Ave. Visit [www.seward.coop](http://www.seward.coop) to participate in the CSA Fair virtually.  
Attendees will hear from farmers, producers and other community partners about Seward Co-op's impact over the past decades. You'll also have the opportunity to learn about local farms and speak directly with nearly 30 farmers available to help you choose a CSA share that is right for you and your household. Enjoy treats, prizes and an activity area with Midwest Food Connection for the kids as we celebrate and look to the future. Online, we will be featuring stories, videos and photos from local CSA farmers. The Virtual CSA Fair will take place on Seward Co-op's website and social media the weeks leading up to April 23.  
This event is open to all – RSVP is not required, but if you register via Eventbrite, we will send you a reminder email the day before the event. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/celebrating-50-years-seward-co-ops-21st-annual-csa-fair-tickets-276924758407>

**Safe Place Homework Help School Days 3:30 to 6 p.m.**  
2001 Riverside Ave., Mpls.  
By appointment only – contact [tutoring@trinitylutherancongregation.org](mailto:tutoring@trinitylutherancongregation.org). Free tutoring for grades K- 12.



The Object, an award-winning podcast produced by the Minneapolis Institute of Art (Mia), begins its fourth season on Monday, March 14. Written and hosted by Tim Gihring, a writer at Mia and long-time journalist who has covered arts and culture for more than 25 years. The Object unearths the true, often surprising stories behind the artwork in Mia's collection.

Season Four of The Object opens with an episode about the Jade Mountain Illustrating the Gathering of Scholars at the Lanting Pavilion—a beloved fixture at Mia better known as Jade Mountain. The story traces the sculpture's improbable journey from the Chinese emperor's palace to the home of Minnesota lumber baron T.B. Walker, a story of power and obsession, beauty and loss.

Future episodes will explore the myth of Georgia O'Keeffe, the lost history of the first African-American artist, and our remarkably strange habit of using animals to tell stories about ourselves.

The first episode of Season Four is available now. New episodes will debut every month. Learn more at <https://new.artsmia.org/the-object-podcast/> and listen on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Stitcher, and wherever podcasts are available.



# • HOME IMPROVEMENT & MORE •

## Southside Pride / NOKOMIS EDITION

**Noodle Pie Island: Season 2**  
Saturdays through May 14, 11 a.m.  
Online  
“Noodle Pie Island” is a YouTube-based interactive children’s television show. Join Captain Laroo (Lauren Anderson) and the rest of the NoodleHead Crew on the island each week, as they use the power of imagination to go on adventures and help each other! Each episode features an up-on-your-feet adventure and includes a guided craft project using simple household items. Kids will laugh and learn soft skills such as patience and empathy, while getting active with singing, dancing, and the power of play! Join “Noodle Pie Island” live on Saturday mornings for a chance to interact directly with the host. Kids can answer questions and watch their ideas play out onscreen through the power of the internet! Brought to you by Creator and actor/comedian Lauren Anderson (Brave New Workshop), artist and Executive Director Joe Dressel (Netflix), and Associate Producer Nissa Nordland Morgan (Twin Cities Horror Fest, Special When Lit). Streaming live for FREE on Noodle Pie Island’s YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/c/noodlepieisland>.

**Walk & Talk with a Naturalist**  
Fridays through May 27, 1 to 2 p.m.  
Meet at the Water Works Pavilion 425 W. River Pkwy., at the foot of the Stone Arch Bridge  
From Minneapolis mills and St. Anthony Falls to native plants and wildlife: explore history and nature along the Mississippi riverfront. Starting Friday, March 4, people ages 18 and up are invited to join an MPRB naturalist for a FREE series of afternoon strolls on and near the Mississippi River. The leisurely pace includes stops to observe and discuss a different topic each week, such as: History of the Falls and Mills; Winter Animal Adaptations; Sketching in Nature; Bird Migration on the River; Spring Flowers and Native Plants; Mindfulness in Nature; Wildlife and more!  
Walk & Talk sessions are free, but registration is required:  
Online: [bit.ly/WaterWorksWalkTalk](http://bit.ly/WaterWorksWalkTalk) or [minneapolis-sparks.org/register](http://minneapolis-sparks.org/register) (event #132013)  
Phone: 612-230-6400 (Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)  
In person: visit any recreation center

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**‘Art Speaks’**  
Through July 31  
Minnesota History Center  
345 W. Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul  
The collections of the Minnesota Historical Society include more than 7,000 works of art – and counting. “Art Speaks” reveals the stories of paintings, sculptures, photos and more collected over the past 15 years. What do these works say about their makers, about us and about Minnesota? More than 150 works — including paintings, sculptures, photographs, drawings and mixed media – in sections including faces, places, abstraction and contemporary voices. Voices of yesterday and today are included, with recently acquired pieces created in different eras, including many works from living artists. Ticket price includes admission to all History Center exhibits. <https://www.mnhs.org/historycenter/activities/museum/art-speaks>

**‘Local Vibes’**  
Wednesdays at 8 p.m. CST  
On YouTube  
“Local Vibes” – come for the music, stay for the stories. “Local Vibes” is a one-of-a-kind show documenting and creating space for the Twin Cities hip-hop community and their voices through performance and interview. It’s music that sounds like Minnesota, and it’s only on the Vanguard, Radio K’s 24-hour, college-student curated online hip-hop stream. “Local Vibes” opens a door into the vibrant local hip-hop scene that you won’t be able to find anywhere else on commercial airwaves. The show’s unique performance setup and fun yet informative interviews make for memorable content you won’t find anywhere else in Minnesota. You’ll hear voices that are enhancing the Twin Cities culturally and socially, and are testing the bounds of music as we know it. Tune in to watch interviews from your favorite Twin Cities artists, and to discover up-and-coming artists that you’ll want on your radar. Twin Cities hip-hop has something special to offer, and we want to let you in on the ground floor.

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## American Roots Revue at the Dakota on Friday, April 8 for two shows

American Roots Revue reunites at the Dakota for two shows on April 8, 2022, with a spectacular lineup of featured artists: Claudia Schmidt, masterful weaver of song; Robert Robinson, Pavarotti of gospel; Tonia Hughes Kendrick, powerhouse of soul; and American Troubadour Larry Long. The American Roots Revue band is led by former Prince and current Soul Asylum drummer Michael Bland and keyboardist Billy Steele of the legendary Steele family and Sounds of Blackness. The group also features Joe Savage on pedal steel, Larry Dalton on bass, George Parrish on guitar, and Daryl Boudreaux on percussion.  
Show Times: 7:00 & 9:30 p.m. Ticket Sales: [www.dakotacooks.com](http://www.dakotacooks.com) or by calling 612-332-1010

The Vanguard is a student-curated, uncensored, 24-hour online stream dedicated to hip-hop. It’s one of the first non-commercial stations in the county to exclusively feature hip-hop, and it’s the only place to hear hip-hop 24/7 in the Twin Cities. Tune in to watch “Local Vibes” in a late-night talk show format on Radio K’s YouTube channel each Wednesday at 8 p.m. CST and catch updates on the Vanguard’s Instagram (@radiokvanguard). Stream The Vanguard here: <https://www.radiok.org/the-vanguard/>.

**Kamoda Shōji: The Art of Change**  
On view through April 17  
Mia, Cargill Gallery  
2400 Third Ave. S., Mpls.  
Free Exhibition  
Kamoda Shōji (1933–1983) became

one of Japan’s most celebrated potters. His groundbreaking approach to the interplay among material, form and surface helped revolutionize the way Japanese artists approached ceramic production. Inquisitive, thoughtful and tireless, Kamoda was driven to innovate and experiment. His astonishing output and creativity garnered him a considerable following in Japan, and more recently in the United States. Despite his untimely death at the age of 49, this admiration continues today. This exhibition, the first outside of Japan, features nearly 50 works from 10 private American collections and spans the breadth of his brilliant artistic career. <https://new.artsmia.org/exhibitions>

**NAMI Mental Health Support Groups Online**  
NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) offers a variety of free online peer support groups for adults and young adults living with a mental illness, their families, friends, spouses/partners, as well as parents of children and teens. African American, GLBTQ and BIPOC community focused groups are also offered. Led by trained peer facilitators, the support groups help individuals and families learn coping skills and find strength through sharing their experiences. Find a complete listing of group meetings and how to join in by going to [namimn.org](http://namimn.org) and clicking on “Support Groups” or go straight to <https://namimn.org/support/nami-minnesota-support-groups/>.

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**CSA Delivery Team Member:**  
Seasonal position available Thursdays, May-December 2022. Help us deliver organic vegetables in the Twin Cities Area through our Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program! Seeking someone who is attentive to details, works well on a team and likes a physically active job. Compensation includes a box of vegetables with every delivery.  
Full details at [www.harmonyvalleyfarm.com](http://www.harmonyvalleyfarm.com).



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[www.minneapolis-sparks.org/jobs](http://www.minneapolis-sparks.org/jobs)

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