



We build Pride on the Southside

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Cam's Corner



MPD staffing

BY CAM GORDON

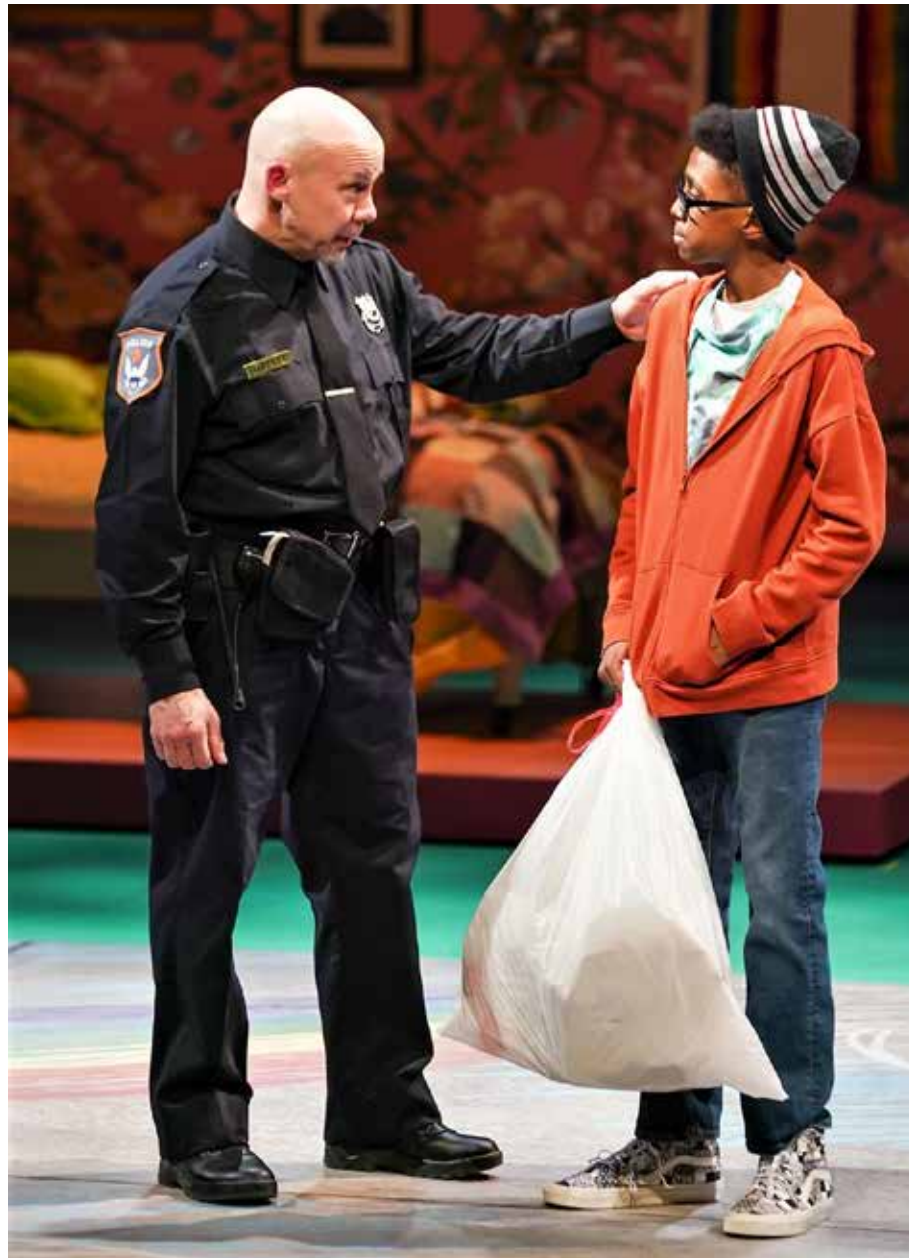
On Feb. 2, the City Council received a report on police department staffing that recommends steps the mayor and Council could take to improve public safety in Minneapolis.

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

See Cam, page 4



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

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

See Our Town, page 6

Lake Street Council awards grants to rebuild Lake Street

The Lake Street Council announced it has awarded funds to 20 business owners and non-profit organizations to help them rebuild and invest in property on Lake Street.

"In 2020, Minneapolis and St. Paul sustained more than \$500 million in damages," said Allison Sharkey, executive director of the Lake Street Council. "This has had a tremendous toll on hundreds of local business owners and significantly disrupted their ability to make a living, much less support our region's economy. Small business owners are committed to staying and rebuilding in their communities, but they can't do it alone. This funding program is one way we're helping them purchase property - some for the first time - and invest in Lake Street."

A total of \$710,000 in acquisition funding and \$600,000 in predevelopment funding has so far been distributed or committed to recipients, including:

- Adenal: To replace the historic Odd Fellows building that was destroyed with a new mixed-use development.
- Du Nord Social Spirits: To rehabilitate a two-story industrial building into a production center and culinary arts education and support space.
- El Rey Car Audio: To rehabilitate a single-story commercial space into a new home for El Rey Car Audio.
- Gandhi Mahal: To create a new mixed-use, multi-story construction building that will serve as the new home for the restaurant Gandhi Mahal, among other businesses.
- Holy Trinity Lutheran Church: To secure land that will serve as a permanent home for the Pan-gea World Theater in concert with the Center for Peace and Justice project.
- LV's Barbershop: To purchase an existing building to be used as the continued Minnesota School of Barbering.

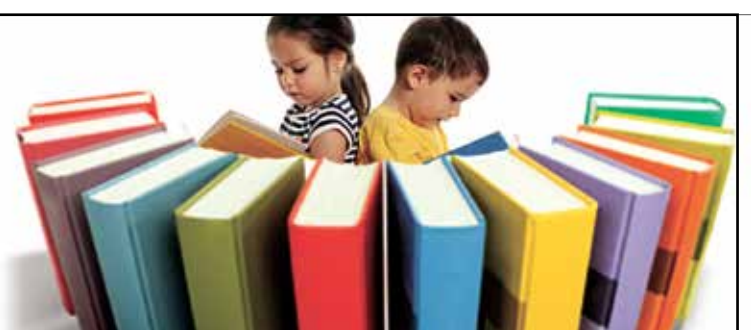
• MIGIZI: To support a renovation and expansion of an existing commercial building to become the new home for MIGIZI, a recently displaced organization that serves Native youth.

• Seward Redesign: To bring the historic Coliseum Building back to life under Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BI-POC) leadership and visioning, to ensure long-term commercial space affordability for 25 local BIPOC entrepreneurs and small businesses.



2022 Education Section

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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

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 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?



feet if you are in a chair. Without the cuts, what is for most a thoroughway stretching from my Northeast Minneapolis condo to

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 wheelchair-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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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 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 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



Seward School picket line (Photo/Elina Kolstad)

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 function 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.

Our Town, from page 1

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 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 de-

partment 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 "Something 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/>

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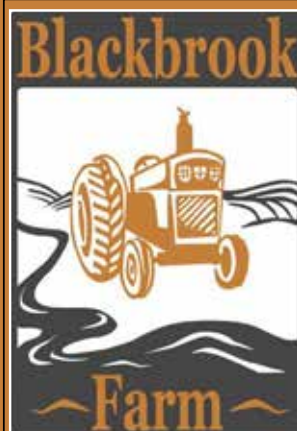
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(Photo/minneapolisparks.org)

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 de-

veloped 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 imple-

ment 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.

.....

Cam, from page 1

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 ser-

vices 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."

Licensed Peace Officers & Minnesota State Statutes

- Each police department must develop a protocol regarding domestic violence cases (MN Stat. 629.342) and an officer who finds probable cause that a domestic abuse crime has occurred must do a police report (MN Stat. 629.341).
- "Peace officer" means: an employee or an elected or appointed official of a political subdivision or law enforcement agency who is licensed by the [Peace Officer Standards and Training] board, charged with the prevention and detection of crime and the enforcement of the general criminal laws of the state and who has the full power of arrest (MN Stat. 626.84).
- 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.

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

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 were just at their peak of global

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

One of my favorite sources for



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



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

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. 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 man-

See *The Dish*, page 12



Seward "Cooop," the early years

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.

Also, put a thumbtack on your calendar for the Annual CSA Fair, which will be especially

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/remembering-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.

Starbucks organizing

In case you haven't heard, the unionization trend has come to Starbucks workers. According to Eater:

"The massive, Seattle-based



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 headed 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: in pickup hockey, good players realize there is no challenge in taking the puck away from a kid, a beginner, a retiree. So they be-



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

come 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 play-

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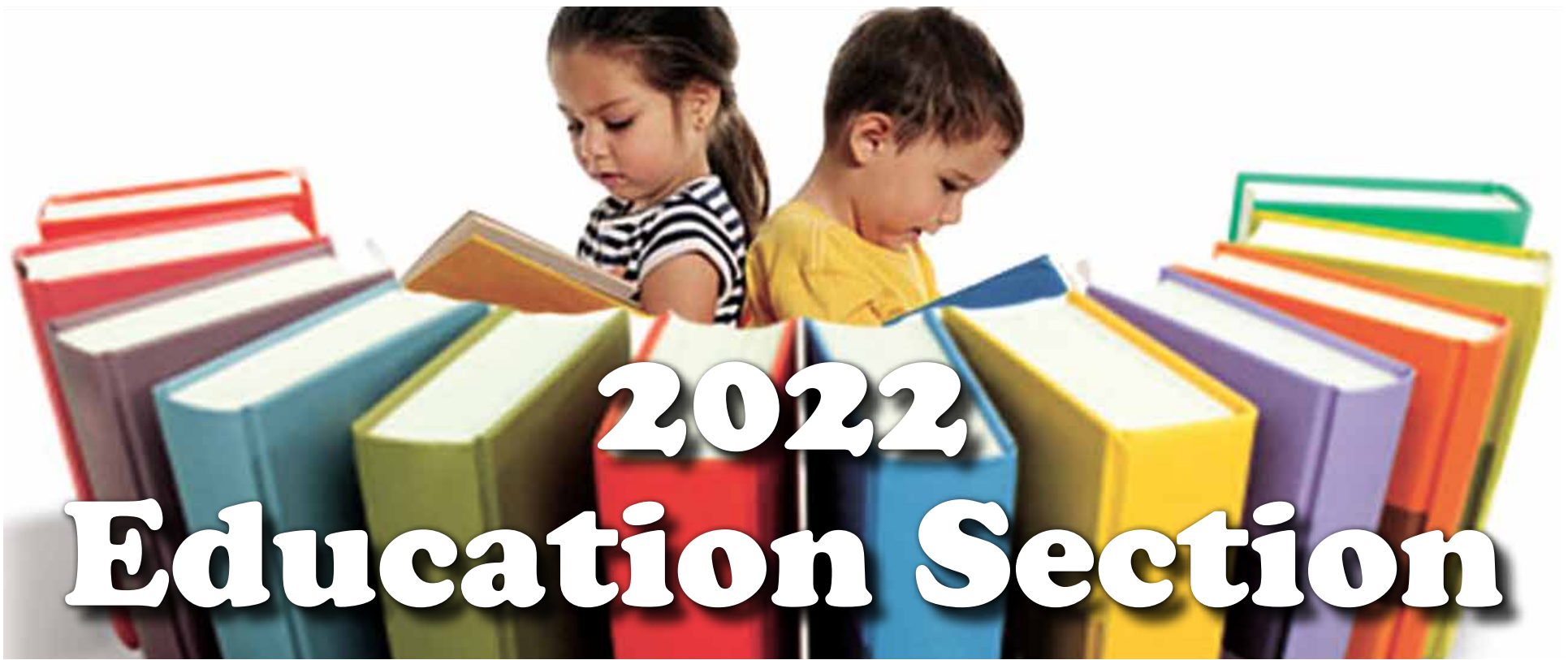
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Even if coordinated strikes don't happen, this is historic (and at the last minute – they didn't!)

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



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

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 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

See Strike, page 8

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2022 Education

Strike, from page 7

system is committing to a pick-up 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.



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

The backstory

On Saturday, Feb. 12, the two 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 “inflate” 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 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) 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 insecure.

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

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Section



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.



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

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

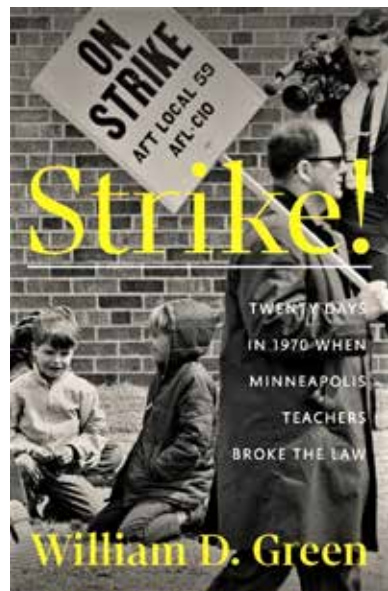
talking to friends who had been teachers at MPS at the time of the strike, and his surprise that a 20-day strike, ultimately successful, in which no one died, bled or starved, could be so terribly traumatic. He noted that veterans of that strike had the look of veterans of wars when they spoke about 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 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 staking 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 Minneapolis 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 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 online paper Workday Minnesota at workday-minnesota.org. You can contribute to the Minneapolis strike fund at 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 re-

sign 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 in-

forming 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?



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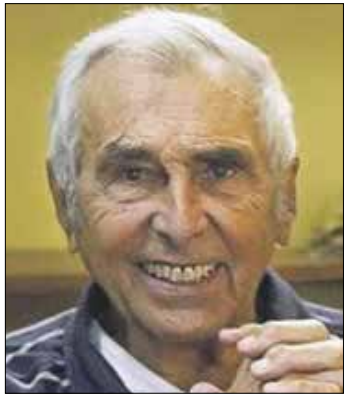
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Oedipus the King



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 anti-

dote? 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 Gezerland. 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 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 vio-

lently. 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 flagrante 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.

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 ahis-

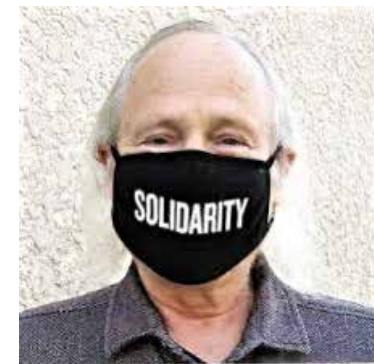
torical assumption. 2) It's metaphysical (i.e., it fails to see the big picture). 3) It reflects a narrow empiricism. 4) It fails to take the long view.

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 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



Peter Molenaar

us! Hey Tony, how much longer?

Post Published: 01 March 2022

Posted by: the alley

Found in section: Raise Your Voice



A mural featuring the colors of the Ukraine flag and its capital Kyiv has appeared on a street in Cardiff, Wales. The artwork features Ukraine's flag and appears to show Kyiv under siege reflected in a person's crying eye. The mural on Northcote Lane in Cathays was painted by artist My Dog Sighs on February 28.

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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 HerSiliency, 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 or (612) 728-2000. Also contact the Minneapolis American Indian Center at www.maic.org or (612) 879-1700.

Spanish-speaking/Latino

communities can access care at Un Pueblo 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 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 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: 18odegrees.org, (651) 968-8908.

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

The Dish, from page 5

agement 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 dis-

cretionary 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 Ragoth 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.

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 believe these things came from a packet when you eat them. The spices are vivid and the over-



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

all 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 ex-

pats, 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.

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!

EVENTS

**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://mn-multifaith.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.mnpl.org/event/ecofaith-summit-2022/>.

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!

'Apocalypse After All? Climate, Politics and Faith in the Possible'
Dr. Catherine Keller
Monday, April 4, 7:30 p.m. CT
In-person or online
United Theological Seminary
767 Eustis St., St. Paul
United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities is pleased to welcome Dr. Catherine Keller to its campus as the keynote speaker for the Picard Lecture on Environmental Theology and Ethics on April 4, 2022, at 7:30 p.m. CT, available on campus or online, free of charge. A well-known and sought-after thought leader in eco-theology, the George T. Cobb Professor in Constructive Theology from Drew University will deliver a message on "Apocalypse After All? Climate, Politics and

Faith in the Possible." The public is invited to attend this important discussion.

This is a unique opportunity for the public to reflect on social and environmental resonances of the symbol "apocalypse," as more and more faith leaders are speaking about looming climate crises and viable solutions for our earth and future generations. Register here: <https://content.unitedseminary.edu/picard-lecture-catherine-keller>
Questions? Contact Ashley Hovell at ahovell@unitedseminary.edu or (651) 255-6162.

Personal Dignity Items for Minnehaha Food Shelf
Minnehaha United Methodist Church
3701 E. 50th 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/Minnehaha-FoodShelf/>

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 mid-size 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

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/>

New Creation Baptist Church
1414 E. 48th St., Mpls.
612-825-6933
We're still here to serve you on the first through the fourth Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. or until we run out of bags. Currently, we are distributing boxes and bags of food at the door. **We will re-open the food shelf to choice shopping on Saturday, April 2.** Be safe and God bless! <https://www.facebook.com/NCBCfood-shelf>.
Saturdays (except 5th Saturdays) 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
(Brown door on the corner of 48th St. and 15th 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. 50th St., Mpls.
612-721-6231
Yes, the food shelf is still open! In order to fight food insecurity in our neighborhood, the Minnehaha Food Shelf is open on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Note: In response to the COVID-19 virus we have changed many things to protect both our guests and our volunteers – more rigorous cleaning routines, streamlined procedures, moved outside and

encouraged the 6-foot (social distancing) guideline. Please be patient as we continue to improve what we do. We will be pre-packing most of the food so there will be fewer choices. Also, we continue to look for ways to decrease contact between people and that means each week might look a little different from the previous week. <https://www.facebook.com/MinnehahaFood-Shelf/>

Calvary Lutheran Church
3901 Chicago Ave., Mpls.
612-827-2504, ext. 205
The Calvary Emergency Food Shelf is available for area residents on Saturdays from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Due to COVID-19, we are currently operating a drive-thru and walk-up model. No appointments are needed – just come to the parking lot. Eligibility is based on self-reported income and need. We ask that households come only ONE TIME A MONTH to allow everyone access. The Calvary Food Shelf has no geographic boundaries – all are welcome! If you have any questions, please email foodshelf@clchurch.org or call 612-827-2504, ext. 205. For more information and to see eligibility guidelines, go to <https://www.clchurch.org/food-shelf>.

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.

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/>

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8:15 am in the Chapel, east door and elevator entry

MINNEHAHA COMMUNION LUTHERAN CHURCH
4101 37th Ave. S., 612-722-9527
Interim Pastor Steve Olson
9:45 am Sunday Worship in person & livestream

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

TRINITY LUTHERAN CONGREGATION
Augsburg College, Hoversten Chapel
Riverside & 22nd Aves.
612-333-2561
www.trinitylutherancongregation.org
Sunday Worship 11 am
Good Friday Service
April 15, 7 pm
Easter Worship April 17, 11 am
Pastors: Jane Buckley-Farlee & Alem Asmelash
Office: 2001 Riverside Ave.
Reconciling in Christ



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Church of the Holy Name
3637 11th Ave. S.
612-724-5465

Palm Sunday Mass
Sunday, April 10, 9am

Triduum
Holy Thursday, April 14, 7pm
Good Friday, April 15, 7pm
Easter Vigil, April 16, 8pm

Easter Sunday Mass
Sunday, April 17, 9am

• COMMUNITY CALENDAR •

Southside Pride / RIVERSIDE EDITION

EVENTS

'Parks: A Portrait of a Young Artist' March 19 – April 10, 2022 In-person or online

History Theatre
30 E. 10th St., St. Paul
"Parks: A Portrait of a Young Artist," a world premiere drama about the life of Gordon Parks, opens March 19 and runs through April 10 at the History Theatre in St. Paul. 1926. Fort Scott, Kansas. Gordon Parks, age 14, left home for St. Paul after the death of his mother. He lived with his sister, until her husband kicked him out of the house and into the streets. While struggling to survive, his mother's words would echo in his head, "Make a good man of yourself, 'cause you have a choice. You always have a choice." Inspired by Parks' book, "A Choice of Weapons," playwright Harrison David Rivers takes us into the world of young Gordon, who would choose a camera to fight back hatred and discrimination. His passion as an artist would lead him to become a major figure in the American cultural landscape. Featuring Kevin Brown, Jr. as Gordon Parks, and James A. Williams as Pigeon Man. By Harrison David Rivers, in collaboration with Robin P. Hickman-Winfield. Directed by Talvin Wilks. For more information and to reserve tickets (for either in-person or online streaming), go to <https://www.historytheatre.com/2021-2022/parks>.

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.supportthclib.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. CEs for Minnesota nurses, teachers and social workers. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/introduction-to-talking-circles-for-building-community-tickets-287865672977>.

'Generic Minneapolis'
A warm-up for 'Generic Specific'
by Emily Gastineau
March 24 – 26, 7 p.m.
Red Eye Theater
2213 Snelling Ave., Mpls.
"Generic Minneapolis" is a research extravaganza, a collective brainstorm, a conceptual swap meet, a provocation. It greases the gears for the premiere of Emily Gastineau's work "Generic Specific" in April 2022. It includes artist talks, lectures, comedy, poetry and a score-based, improvised performance with a different cast of performers, DJs and lighting designers each night. More info and tickets at redeyetheater.org.

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://the-hookmpls.com/event/a-holy-place-to-be-acoustic-bowie-2022/>.

The Power of Nonviolence in Attaining Peace
Saturday, March 26th
10 to 11:30 a.m. CDT
Online via Zoom
Middle East Peace Now presents an online forum, "The Power of Nonviolence in Attaining Peace," with Dr. Mubarak Awad, a Palestinian educator, author and psychologist. Now a U.S. citizen, Dr. Mubarak has founded numerous programs, centers and NGOs whose common theme is the power of nonviolent approaches to effect social change, justice and peace in Israel/Palestine and in the international community. In his talk, Dr. Awad will review his early adoption of nonviolent action to deal with political and social issues. Viewed by many as the Palestinian Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Awad will describe the other influences on his philosophy and life's work, including the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, the Quakers and the Mennonites, in addition to Gandhi. He will explain, with the passion of a lifetime of work behind him, why and how the theories and methods of nonviolence can work to resolve the impasse in Palestine today. Sponsored by Jewish Voice for Peace – Twin Cities, Northfielders for Justice in Palestine and Israel and Woman Against Military Madness. Please direct questions about this event to mepn@mepn.org. Register at https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_BZ-FaLWP2RR6gtGAR-3BVOA.

'EmergenSing'
Twin Cities Women's Choir and Encore
Saturday, March 26, 2 p.m.
In-person or online
Como Lakeside Pavilion
360 Lexington Pkwy. N., St. Paul
The Twin Cities Women's Choir presents its first live concert in two

years, "EmergenSing" – Emerging from an emergency to sing joyously together! Join us as the Twin Cities Women's Choir and Encore share live music once again, with songs to reimagine our world today, to look toward a future of peace and justice, to acknowledge what we have left behind, and to celebrate the gifts of the present. Bundle up and get ready to join in the fun at St. Paul's Como Pavilion! This concert will also be live-streamed. Subscribe to our YouTube channel today to not miss a note!
Tickets: Free (suggested donation of \$25) <https://hervoicedproductions.org/buytickets>.

16th Annual Global Chili Cook-Off
Saturday, March 26
Noon to 2 p.m.
Midtown Global Market
920 E. Lake St., Mpls.
Eleven Midtown Global Market chefs will create their own take on comfort food to compete for the title of Best Chili of 2022. Guests will have the opportunity to try their chili recipes with influences from around the globe. A donation of \$20 is requested for a full set of 11 chili samples. Proceeds will benefit our charity partner, Friends of Global Market. Friends of Global Market's mission is to support the Midtown Global Market as a vital community resource that supports small business, cultural diversity and free/low-cost programming. There will be a limit of 150 chili sampling sets produced, so reservations are recommended in advance. Limited tickets will be available on-site. Order here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/234948927567>
Chili sets will be available for pick-up on Saturday, March 26, between noon and 2 p.m. Guests are welcome to stay, enjoy and vote for their favorite chili at the Market. The top three winners will be announced on the Market's social media.

 *Earth Dance Farm*
Spring Valley, MN
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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. Heart-break 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/>

• HOME IMPROVEMENT & MORE •

Southside Pride / RIVERSIDE EDITION

'Once Upon a Winter Night' Through March 27

Open Eye Theatre Mainstage
506 E. 24th 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/>.

Aftermath: A Widow's Story Meet the artist: Thursday, March 31, 6 to 8 p.m.

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://artistrymn.org/current-exhibitions#atrium-gallery> or (952) 563-8575.

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



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 or by calling 612-332-1010

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/>.

'Canary, Crimson, then Emerald' Friday, April 8, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 9, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 10, 2 p.m.

The Cowles Center for Dance 528 Hennepin Ave., Mpls. Black Label Movement returns to The Goodale Stage in The Cowles Center for Dance & the Performing Arts at 528 Hennepin with an exhilarating new evening-length experience, "Canary, Crimson, then Emerald," created by Artistic Director Carl Flink. The technicolor piece explores the energies swirling before (Canary) and during (Crimson) the COVID winter and offers a vision (Emerald) of glorious reconnection and physical embrace

as essential bridges to imagining and manifesting a renewed and recharged community on the other side of the pandemic.

Black Label is a Minnesota dance company that makes wildly physical, naturally virtuosic, intellectually and emotionally engaging movement-driven art and embodied activities that examine and engage the human condition to inspire vivid lives.

Learn more and buy tickets at <https://www.thecowlescenter.org/tickets/black-label-movement>.

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Southside Pride / RIVERSIDE EDITION



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