



**We build Pride on the Southside**

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## Declining civilizations



BY TONY BOUZA

My very unscholarly appreciation of history includes the bromide that great civilizations implode through moral rot rather than outside challenges. As the saying goes, "All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good people to do nothing." I agree.

A recent case illustrated the point.

A Star Tribune reporter asked me to review an incident and furnish my analysis of the event. It was what I did as an expert witness for about 30 years.

It seemed to me that a mysterious tipping point occurred—through a number of failures to act morally—that plunged great societies into decline. The mental image was of a long line waiting patiently to see a movie. Someone cuts in. Okay. Then several more. Antsiness. A few more, and the line dissolves in chaos. That is the sociological metaphor that works for me.

A Chinese mogul comes to attend a prestigious business course at the University of Minnesota in 2018. One of the richest, most powerful men in China. The school moves swiftly to accommodate his comfort, serving as pimp to his needs.

See Bouza, page 5



## So far, so what?



BY ED FELIEN

**Tulsi Gabbard**

Did you see Tulsi Gabbard's takedown of George Santos, the pathological liar and newly elected congressman from Long Island, on Fox News? Tulsi is a lot more complicated and harder to figure out than most of the noise on Fox. Her anti-war votes and speeches against the Iraq and Afghanistan wars were a nice answer to the BS we were handed daily by Bush and Obama. I loved her leading an impromptu cavalry on horseback against the Keystone pipeline a couple of years ago while she was still

in Congress. She is very much a Hindu nationalist and Islamophobe. She was raised in a Science of Identity/Hare Krishna cult, and she and her father, a state senator in Hawaii, were once quite homophobic (but not now). Tulsi's stiff backbone and no-nonsense military bearing can be attributed to her religious fanaticism and her tours of duty in the military police. She's drop-dead gorgeous, brilliant and tough as nails.



I love it that she's been picked up by Fox News. Her takedown of Santos will have major repercussions. I

expect the unexpected and hope for clarity in the contradictions.

**Municipal elections this November**

Again, so soon? Didn't we just do that?

Personally, I wish we had municipal elections every two years.

The more democracy the better.

But Don Fraser, while he was mayor, managed to persuade the voters to change the charter and make city elections every four years. This worked until Rep. Phyllis Kahn passed an amendment to a redistricting bill in the legislature that required the city to hold a new election for City Council that conformed to a new population census, so every 10 years the City Council has only a two-year term after a census.

It looks to be a rather ho-hum affair. Most of the

See So far, page 15

## Competing options for rent control

BY CAM GORDON



The rent control debate is heating up. With the city's rent stabilization workgroup completing its work in December, it now falls to the City Council to approve a policy and draft an ordinance if we are to have rent stabilization in Minneapolis.

On Dec. 13, the 25-member workgroup took a vote between two competing frameworks and voted 14-11 in favor of a framework (Option 5) that would limit rent increases to three percent per year with exceptions for "substantial capital improvements" and for "deferred maintenance and habitability."

The other framework (Option 7) calls for variable rent increases starting at five to seven percent plus a cost-of-living increase and would have no controls in place when there was a vacancy, meaning landlords could set rents at any level they wanted. It would allow rental license holders to "bank" annual increases to be used later, and would exempt affordable housing, all new construction for 30 years and all owner-occupied rental housing. It also calls for rental subsidies for renters making 30% or less of the area's median income.

With the full report not coming until early 2023, many elected city officials have chosen not to respond. Others have been quick to react.

Mayor Jacob Frey said the day after the workgroup's final vote that he would veto the recommended framework (Option 5) that set a three percent cap. He was concerned that it would hurt the rental market, pointing to what happened in St. Paul.

Ward 2 City Council Member Robin Wonsley was quick to praise the group's recommendation. "Minneapolis is ready for strong rent control with a three percent cap, no exemptions," she wrote. "Renters and small landlords voted to advance this policy to the City Council because it's what Minneapolis needs to keep people in their homes."

Organizations are also weighing in. The interfaith group ISAIAH called it a "big win in Minneapolis" and gathered with other coalition partners the next day to celebrate, calling on the council to "listen to voters and their workgroup."

See Cam, page 6







# This Valentine's Day, what to do? And where to go with your boo?

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

## Good places to hear music on or around 2/14

There are lots of diverse choices for a concert or performance to share with your Someone Special the week around Valentine's Day. Valentine's Day is on a Tuesday this year, so maybe not the ideal night for stepping

out. Here are some shows taking place between Feb. 9 - 19.

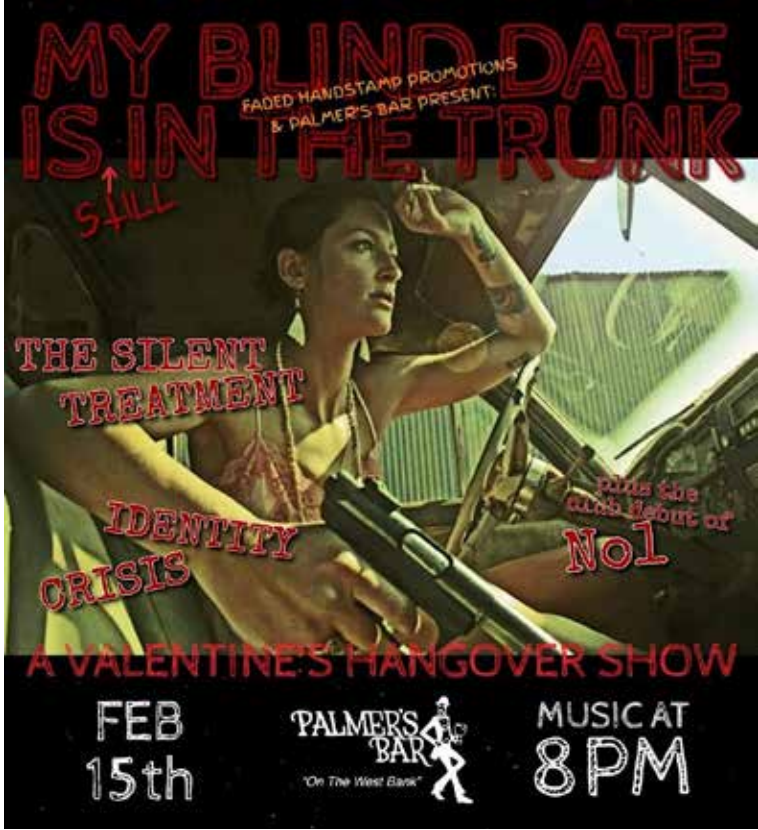
At the Minneapolis Armory on both Feb. 9 and 10, the wildly popular country star Parker McCollum is appearing. On Feb. 11, the 7th St. Entry is hosting the recurring event called KPop Night (18+) with a popular DJ and several dance crews.

The Granada Theater in Uptown is hosting a trio of events

to choose from. On Thursday, Feb. 9, will be "Candlelight," a performance of romantic jazz favorites à la Billie Holiday, Frank Sinatra and Ella Fitzgerald, at 6:30 and 9 p.m. The following night, Friday, Feb. 10, you can release your inner rockstar with live music karaoke. Whether you celebrate Valentine's, Galentine's, Palentine's, or you just need a moment to glow, Hurricane Karaoke will make you a star! Doors at 7 p.m., live band at 8 p.m. Finally, on Valentine's Day proper, Tuesday, Feb. 14, "Willie Wisely Plays For Lovers," offers an evening of dining and music under the Granada's historic starlit ceiling. Tickets are available at [granadamps.com](http://granadamps.com).

The Hook and Ladder Theater & Lounge is having a Valentine's Day party, but it's not on the actual day. It sounds really good; the party is 21+ and features the ever-popular Belfast Cowboys. Saturday, Feb. 11. Doors at 7 p.m., music starts at 7:30.

On Sunday, Feb. 12, the Fine Line Music Cafe presents Adore Delano, a two-season veteran of "RuPaul's Drag Race." She has four studio albums to her name, the latest being "Dirty Laundry"



Poster for Valentine's Hangover show at Palmer's Bar, "My Blind Date Is (Still) in the Trunk"



The Belfast Cowboys hamming in the mirror in the Hook & Ladder green room in 2019

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in 2021. (You'll notice that this is the only event on Sunday, Feb. 12. I think there's also some ma-

jor sportsball thing on that day?)

On Saturday, Feb. 18, the Minneapolis Armory presents indie-pop folk artist Maggie Rogers. On Sunday, Feb. 19, you can choose between two intriguing shows. At the State Theatre, Australian indie-folk singer-songwriter Vance Joy is appearing for the world tour of his 2022 album "In Our Own Sweet Time." Meanwhile, at First Avenue, the local Americana singer-songwriter Margo Price will perform. Price has been described as "honky-tonk's new queen of heartache," and has been favorably compared to Loretta Lynn and Dolly Parton for her soulful voice and songs of struggle, both career-related and romantic.

On Thursday, Feb. 16 at 11 a.m. and Friday, Feb. 17 at 8 p.m., the Minnesota Orchestra is presenting a show that sees the debut of a conductor, a composer's latest piece, and a solo pianist all at once. First, French pianist Alexandre Kantorow makes his debut appearance at Orchestra Hall, performing Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 2.

Then, Japanese conductor Kazuki Yamada makes his debut leading the orchestra in Tōru Takemitsu's breathtaking piece, "How Slow the Wind,"





Willie Wisely will perform at the Granada Theater for an evening of music and dining on Valentine's Day.

also receiving its first performance here, before conducting the classical favorite, Dvořák's "New World" Symphony. The Friday night performance will be broadcast live on NPR local stations if you want to have a romantic date at home.

Films to stream or see in a theater on Valentine's Day

Seeing a film together is a classic date move. Nowadays you can choose between a new movie at a theater for something special, or you can stay home and stream both new movies and classics. Here are a few of each.

The Parkway Theater will present classic rom-com movies preceded by live music or film trivia events every Thursday night in February. The one closest to Valentine's Day, on Thursday, Feb. 16, will be "When Harry Met Sally" (1989), with an hourlong set of soulful love songs by vocalist Leslie Vincent and pianist Ted Godbout before the film screening. Doors at 6:30 p.m.

"When Harry Met Sally" was directed by Rob Reiner and written by Nora Ephron, with Meg Ryan and Billy Crystal starring. The other three films in the Parkway's Date Night Series (all films start at 8 p.m.) and their accompaniments are:

- "Groundhog Day" (1993) with pre-movie trivia at 7:30 on Feb. 2.
- "Harold and Maude" (1971) with pre-movie music by Mark Joseph at 7 p.m. on Feb. 9.
- "The Princess Bride" (1987) with pre-movie trivia at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 23.

If you buy the \$36 Date Night Month Pass by Feb. 2, you also get a large popcorn with each screening. All shows are \$9 per

person in advance or \$12 at the door.

As for really new movies, the only one that sounds appropriate to me is debuting on Valentine's Day and there's not a lot of press about it yet. It's an American film called "What About Love" from writer, director and producer Klaus Menzel, and stars an international cast including two young principals (in love? maybe), Marielle Jaffee and Miguel Ángel Muñoz, and their four parents (Sharon Stone, Andy Garcia, Jose Coronado and Maia Morgenstern.) This is an indie film on limited release.

Turning to streaming, I have two personal recommendations, both incredibly poignant (be-

cause I prefer my love stories a bit sad), one new and one exactly 30 years old. Both are currently available on Amazon Prime.

The newer one is "Cyrano," starring Peter Dinklage in the title role. As a massive Cyrano fan since the age of 15, I can attest this should become the definitive version. The older one is a terribly underrated love story from director Peter Bogdanovich, "The Thing Called Love" (1993). It stars River Phoenix and Dermot Mulroney matched up with Samantha Mathis and Sandra Bullock, as four aspiring country music stars trying to make it in Nashville. (Phoenix and Mathis became a couple in real life while making this movie and she was with him at the Viper Room where he died less than a year later.)

Weirdly Minnesota events

One of the things I love most



A scene from 'The Thing Called Love'



A scene from 'Cyrano,' with Peter Dinklage as Cyrano and Kelvin Harrison, Jr., as Christian

about Minnesota is the way our entrepreneurs and educators and artists lean into the eclectic interests of the Minnesota public. Here are some events that I'm pretty sure would not catch on in most states. (Tickets for all three of these are available on eventbrite.com.)

Seward Co-op - DIY Soap Making Date Night on Feb. 14. Includes chocolates and sparkling juice plus a soap mold and manual to take home.

Urban Forage - Tuesday Trivia on Hollywood Classic Romances on Feb. 14. Regular Tuesday trivia is given over to a special date night version, where one \$49 ticket gets two people entry into the contest, plus a bottle of wine and a cheese tray.

Palmer's Bar - "My Blind Date Is (Still) in the Trunk" Valentine's Hangover Show on Feb. 15. Created by a production outfit called Faded Handstamp, which crafts events that pair three or four seasoned bands or artists with a novice one to create a themed experience. The bands are The Silent Treatment (loud punk), Identity Crises (young punk), Life Skills (art punk duo) and No. 1 (debut show, so unknown).

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# Dream Sequences

At the northwest corner of East Lake Street and 36th Avenue South, Elsa's House of Sleep – a furniture, rug and mattress store – has been shuttered and dark since 2019. But last month a group of volunteers installed “Dream Sequences,” a pop-up public art project intended to beautify the corner as the property owners begin a

major renovation of the building and the store.

“Dream Sequences” is a production of 36th A.R.T. (Avenue Revitalization and Transformation), a volunteer group of neighborhood residents working to address safety, accessibility, aesthetics and interpretive wayfinding along 36th Avenue, from Lake Street to 25th

Street.

“Dream Sequences” was inspired by the name of the store as well as a quote from Elsa Rezene herself as recalled by her son, Tetra Constantino: “It’s never too late to start dreaming.”

.....

# The women who moved a castle



The historic White Castle Building No. 8

BY WILLIAM BURLESON

Much has been written about the former White Castle on the corner of 33rd and Lyndale in South Minneapolis. It is certainly a curiosity. Something about it says it doesn’t belong there, this prefab fast-food restaurant in a largely residential neighborhood on a shady tree-lined street. It feels like the iconic little metal building is simply not in its native habitat, like a slider at a Minikahda Club wedding.

However, as story-worthy as this small building is, the better story is about the people who moved it: South Minneapolis’s Calamity J. Contracting.

The building, now located at 3252 Lyndale Ave. S., was constructed in 1936. Known as Building No. 8, the Southside is its third home, the first being Washington Avenue in Stadium Village. The small metal building was one of the few made to be portable, with the idea that with the land under

it rented, it could be disassembled and moved to another location easily. This is in fact what happened, when in 1950 it was moved to 329 Central Ave. in Northeast Minneapolis. There the tiny building stood, serving the iconic square burgers into the 1980s, when it was decided they needed a bigger location. Apparently, 28 by 28 feet wasn’t cutting it any longer. A new White Castle opened in 1983 a few blocks away.

There was a groundswell of interest in saving the building. The Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission went looking for a buyer who would move the building once again. They found Calamity J. Contracting, who bought it for \$10.

Calamity J. Contracting started out in 1978 as a feminist collective founded by Rose Morin, Cathy Bryson, Joan Meyer, Kristin Wilson and Rita Pippinger. They had their office in South

See *White Castle*, page 6



# Support Ukraine

BY ED FELIEN

As of November, 33,476 Ukrainian civilians have been killed by Russian bombs and missiles. And the unspeakable slaughter of innocents continued through Christmas Day and New Year's. In contrast, the bombing of Guernica in 1937 by the German Luftwaffe that inspired Picasso's painting killed only 1,654 people.

The peace movement in Minneapolis and the U.S. is confused by these events. They reflexively blame the U.S. This is understandable. Ever since the first marches from Loring Park to the Minnesota state Capitol in 1964 to protest the U.S. war in Vietnam, through demonstrations against Bush's Gulf War (reaction to that war was the inspiration for us to begin Southside Pride in February of 1991), to the 20-year war in Afghanistan, the U.S. has been the imperialist aggressor.

The peace movement justifies its opposition to the war in Ukraine by reminding us that Clinton agreed not to expand NATO without Russia's understanding and agreement in their Partnership for Peace agreement signed in Budapest in 1994. Clinton assured Yeltsin that any NATO expansion would be slow, with no surprises, building a Europe that was inclusive and not exclusive and in partnership with Russia. Then, in 1999, the Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary joined NATO, and in 2004 Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia joined.

Russia was solidly encircled. Then, in 2014, Russia invaded

and occupied Crimea. They justified the annexation by claiming it was part of Russia dating back to Catherine the Great. The population is mostly ethnic Russian. They held a referendum in which 83% of the population voted, and 97% voted in favor of integration with Russia. Most independent observers considered the results forced, and 13 members of the United Nations Security Council voted in favor of a resolution declaring the referendum invalid. Russia vetoed the resolution and China abstained.

Probably in reaction to the Russian invasion and occupation, Albania, Croatia, Montenegro and North Macedonia joined NATO in 2020.

In reaction to the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the last historically neutral European countries, Sweden and Finland, joined NATO on July 5, 2022.

As a further justification for their most recent invasion of Ukraine, Russia claimed the ethnic Russians (which make up the majority of the population in Eastern Ukraine) were being persecuted by neo-Nazis. Russia officially annexed Crimea in March of 2014. Two months later alt-right neo-Nazis formed the Azov Brigade to defend Mariupol and the Donbas region. A few months later the Brigade was incorporated into the national army and the neo-Nazis lost their influence. But the Russians used its original character to claim the Brigade was killing ordinary Russian-Ukrainians. There is some evidence that some Russian special operations agents were committing



A detail from Picasso's 'Guernica'

acts of sabotage and (in a false flag operation) blaming it on the Azov Brigade.

Putin's attempts to call the Ukrainians Nazis falls a little flat when you remember Zelensky is a Jew.

Putin wants Russians to recall the Great Patriotic War when Russia repelled the German Nazi invasion—which echoed the Russian Civil War when 20 European countries invaded Russia from 1918 to 1920 through Ukraine to unsuccessfully try to defeat the Russian Revolution.

The taking of Crimea in 2014 had been fairly easy. There wasn't much local resistance, and the sanctions the West imposed were offset by oil exports and a lucrative opium trade. The Russian high command was so confident that a show of force would frighten the Ukrainians into submission that they packed dress uniforms for a victory parade rather than extra food rations and ammunition.

The Ukrainians have pushed

the Russians back across the Dnipro River in southern Ukraine, but the Russians still control large areas in Donbas and eastern Ukraine. They still control the 10,425 square miles of Crimea. They took another 46,000 square miles in the March 2022 invasion, but Ukrainian forces have since taken back 28,743 square miles.

The peace movement, here and nationally, wants an immediate cease-fire. But a cease-fire would mean the present battle lines would become new national borders. It would mean surrender of Ukrainian national sovereignty. And it would not end Russian imperialist aggression. You do not get rid of a mad dog by throwing it a bone, you only increase its appetite.

Ukraine wants peace, but only after all Russian troops leave Ukraine and the criminals who began these atrocities are brought to justice.

Biden and the Democrats have been supporting the Ukrainian

resistance with defensive military equipment. They have been careful not to supply offensive weapons that could attack inside Russia. Trump and the Republicans have been critical of giving a blank check to Zelensky. One has to wonder if Trump is still bought by the Russian mob that bankrolled his casinos and bought floors of Trump Tower in Manhattan.

If you want to help ease the suffering in Ukraine, consider giving money to the Ukrainian American Center: 612-379-1956, <https://uacmn.org/>. So far, they've collected more than half a million dollars to buy ambulances and medical supplies.

For a clear analysis of events in Ukraine, listen to Eric Draitser on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B53WjjzeNU>.

You can also listen to Ukrainian Pie: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=18jJkX-KGsZM>.

## Assessed Control of Terrain in Ukraine and Main Russian Maneuver Axes as of January 4, 2023, 3:00 PM ET



\* Assessed Russian advances are areas where ISW assesses Russian forces have operated in or launched attacks against but do not control.

(Graphic/ <https://understandingwar.org/>)

### Bouza, from page 1

An unworldly, 21-year-old hottie is pressed into volunteer service as a kind of escort.

A dinner party is arranged for 16 people (15 of them male) at a fancy restaurant. Lots of coerced toasts of wine. The volunteer gets drunk. She's consumed more than one and a half bottles. A limo drive to her apartment follows. The mogul, now lusty, accompanies, groping her energetically. She is delivered into her apartment.

The woman is raped by the mogul. She, now pretty sober, reports the crime. She is thoroughly examined by U of M

medics. The mogul is arrested. Big events are set in motion.

The police hierarchy trembles and arranges for the dropping of the charges, releases the victim's phone number to the mogul's attorney, and withdraws. Altogether, a pathetic betrayal of duty.

The university—except for its medical attentions—similarly withdraws, clearly anxious to accommodate a patron. Uriah Heep would have loved it.

The prosecutor is energetically absent and uninvolved in a case central to his existence. The Invisible Man.

The mogul is scot-free. The woman is scarred for life, and everyone else is in survival

mode. Not one official takes up her case.

But it is the societal cost that intrigues me. That's a lot of people doing nothing. The triumph of evil is assured.

When our institutions—police, educational, prosecutorial—fail, deliberately, to dispense justice and honor their oaths, evil triumphs. The case—parenthetically and significantly—contrasted sharply with a similar case in Australia, where the authorities did meet the challenge.

How many such corrupt actions and neglects constitute the moral erosion guaranteeing decline? So much for Minnesota Nice.



# The divide between urban and rural

BY JOHN RYKHUS, JR.

Many consider the oft-quoted phrase by Abraham Lincoln, “A house divided against itself cannot stand,” as almost cliché. But in reality, it may contain nearly as much relevance and be as applicable today as in Lincoln’s time. Taking into account the social upheaval and political events in just the last several years alone, one detects shades of a societal climate that existed in the late 1850s and later during Reconstruction. The racially charged discourses of the abolitionists versus their Southern counterparts and later Jim Crow are reflected in today’s actions and reactions regarding the Black Lives Matter movement and the passage of laws in several states to restrict voter access to the polls, as just a couple of examples. But while pundits and other media usually comment on issues involving race, women’s rights or gender identity, there is one demographic that is often overlooked, that is, until the most recent presidential election. We are talking about rural America, a segment of the political and societal map whose attitudes and shifts in political leanings can have far-reaching implications nationally.

There is a long history, of course, of rural dwellers being written off with the help of stereotypes as being rubes, rustic, ignorant, unsophisticated and isolated. But with the development of better schools in rural areas and the proliferation of public media, rural citizens have become much more connected and savvy than they were,

say, 70 years ago. Yet there still remains a wide gulf between what I define as City Culture and Rural Culture. It consists of differences in values, attitudes, lifestyle and worldviews. As someone who spent 12 years in the Twin Cities and then the past 25 years in rural Wisconsin can attest, these differences can be quite pronounced.

As an example, when I first emigrated from what John Hartford referred to as the “land of tall buildings” to western Wisconsin to edit a few small-town newspapers, I wore a jacket and tie to work. In Minneapolis I was an associate editor at this newspaper and an ad sales representative. The jacket and tie were the uniform of my profession. I soon learned that out here in God’s country, the only people who wore a jacket and tie were lawyers and car salesmen, not to be trusted. Not to alienate my readership, I quickly ditched the tie.

But the jacket-and-tie example serves mainly as a metaphor for a wider rift between City Culture and Rural Culture. While I am generalizing here, Rural Culture tends to possess a healthy distrust of government, while City Culture tends to feel more empowered and engages more in politics. Rural Culture is certainly more parochial and xenophobic in general, while City Culture tends toward a cosmopolitan world view. Rural Culture is more engaged with the land and its environmental surroundings, while City Culture makes decisions on environmental policy from its ivory towers whether those decisions make



sense or not. (This is one complaint I hear constantly from hunters and fishermen.) It is the down-to-earth folks versus the people who live in their intellectual bubble.

But these differences are not innate, nor are they universal. It is not a deep gorge that separates the two cultures but more like a soft sloping valley. Still, many of the values and attitudes that are prevalent in Rural Culture derive from both historical factors and present circumstances. There is an underlying current of frustration and fear that is as much economic as political. Insurance companies and other large corporations buy up the farmland and create “megafarms,” pushing out the family farmer. Retail giants like Dollar General and Kwik Trip and Walmart shut down exist-

ing small businesses, while fast food corporations like A&W and McDonald’s spring up to replace mom and pop cafes. People who once had economic freedom are forced to work long hours at low wages to support their families. It is like living in economic jail. While City Culture has some parallel problems, (and some which Rural Culture is happy to avoid), there is certainly more economic opportunity in urban areas.

How is Rural Culture facing these fears, frustrations and anxieties? For one, there has been a huge political shift. Once a bastion of Democratic political leanings, in the last presidential election they threw their support at then-President Donald Trump. Emboldened by the demagoguery of the former president, they found a voice to their frustrations where previously

they felt marginalized, disenfranchised and left behind by the American dream. Lest the Democratic party make the fateful mistake of losing this large bloc of American voters forever, they had best find a way to speak to these independent-minded citizens and address their particular issues and concerns.

*John Rykhus, Jr., is the former news editor of the Morris (Minnesota) Weekly, a frequent contributor to the Morris Tribune, a former associate editor at Southside Pride, and the past editor of the Cornell and Lake Holcombe Courier and the Cadott Sentinel newspapers in western Wisconsin. He can be contacted at rykhusjohn@yahoo.com.*

## White Castle, from page 4

Minneapolis at 24th and Lyndale.

“When I joined in 1979, they were all there working away,”

says Kathy Berven, formerly of Calamity J. and a longtime Southside resident. “I was playing on the amazing Amazon [bookstore] softball team that summer ... and they said,

‘Kathy, come and join us. You want a job?’” At the time, Berven was going to school at the U of M and working nights at UPS. “I said, ‘Well, yeah!’”

At the time Berven knew little about construction, and neither did many of her co-workers. “We started out painting houses ... up on 40-foot ladders, hauling those things around.” But they learned. On a bathroom remodel, Berven remembers how she and a coworker had to look up in a book how to put in a window. “Thank God homeowners are away during the day,” Berven said.

Being a woman-owned construction company garnered a lot of attention. Berven remembers working on a roof and people going by, then circling the block for another look. However, Berven doesn’t recall getting a lot of flak. “Maybe I just wasn’t aware of it ... I think we got a lot of credibility from just being in business, being visible and being respectable and respectful.”

As their business grew, they started thinking about ways to get noticed. They were “reaching for anything to differentiate ourselves, to put our name out there,” says Berven. The idea was hatched to buy the White Castle and use it as their office. “I remember going down to Central Avenue and looking at that thing, and it looked pretty sore.”

They bought it but needed to move it. So they did. Down Central Avenue, across the Mississippi, through downtown, and finally to South Lyndale. They didn’t take advantage of its design allowing for it to be disassembled. Instead, “we just lifted it up and wheeled it down the street. It cost like \$10,000 to move it, I think,” Berven recalled. As it went down Blaisdell Avenue, it passed the White Castle on Lake Street. “The workers came running out with bags of hamburgers for us. It was so cool!”

Once in its new location, the old White Castle made a good office and even served as a showroom. Unfortunately, Calamity J. Contracting wasn’t long for the world, closing just two

years later in 1985. According to Berven, “We just didn’t have the business acumen, we didn’t have the capital, we didn’t have enough projects with enough profit built in, and it just started sinking down.” She adds, “It’s really a tough business.”

After Calamity J. Contracting left, the building has been home to a variety of businesses, from antiques to musical instruments to jewelry.

However, Calamity J. left its mark in more ways than one.

Four decades later Berven is still working construction, although perhaps starting to slow down, moving incrementally into retirement with her life partner, Barb.

“We just thought we could do anything. It was the women’s lib era, and we were just doing whenever we wanted to do,” Berven adds, “The seventies were like a golden era.”

While Calamity J. Contracting is long gone, signs of this golden era remain, with one woman’s career and one oddly situated, tiny White Castle, now on the National Register of Historic Places.



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# There's no place like home – finding “inspo”



Custom-made bunk beds

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

Inspo is not a tropical fish, like Nemo. Inspo = “inspiration” in millennial slang. Thanks for attending my tiny Ted Talk. In the throes of winter, even in the supposedly hopeful post-solstice part, it’s kind of hard to think about redecorating, remodeling, or (shudder) moving to a whole new home. This is hunker-down time, grit-your-teeth and make-it-through time. But also dream time. So here are some ideas about getting fuel for your dreams, input for your plans, inspiration, or even inspo, if you prefer.

### Expos, shows and fairs

January through March is a good time for home improvement expos and fairs. Local and national remodelers, materials providers, designers and home builders flock to the convention centers to show you what’s on trend or the latest

idea in home improvement or new homes. Some of these include gardens and landscaping. Some focus on second homes. Here are a few

lis Home and Remodeling Show takes place from Feb. 3 - 5 at U.S. Bank Stadium in downtown Minneapolis. This one has a mod-



Office nook idea from the Home and Garden show blog

big ones coming our way. In January, the Shakopee Home Show is a one-day only event on Jan. 21 at Canterbury Park. Unlike most of the other shows, fairs and expos, it is free to attend, and you even get a goody bag of samples and discounts. You can find more details on this one at [minnesotahomeshows.com/2023-spring-shakopee](http://minnesotahomeshows.com/2023-spring-shakopee). A really big show kicks off in early February. The Minneapolis Home and Remodeling Show is a one-day only event on Feb. 3 - 5 at U.S. Bank Stadium in downtown Minneapolis. This one has a mod-

See Inspo, page 8

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# There w

## Inspo, from page 7

highlight Twin Citians’ crafting talents, where local individuals will be upcycling a small item to be displayed at the show and guests will choose a winner.

Another hyperlocal event is the Lake Home and Cabin Show, which happens only in Wisconsin and Minnesota. Minneapolis’s version takes place on Feb. 10 - 12 at the

Minneapolis Convention Center. In addition to homes, from tiny one-room cabins to vast compounds, this show covers camping and boating with such items as teardrop camper-trailers and boats and boat docks. You can also get information about lodges, cabins and campgrounds for rent, and build-your-own cabin kits. The National Eagle Center of Wabasha, Minn., will be presenting live eagle programs ev-

ery day during the show. There is a Facebook page called Lake Home and Cabin which is your portal to the show and more.

On Feb. 26, another one-day event is the West Metro Home Remodel Fair, happening at the Eisenhower Community Center in Hopkins. This one is also admission-free and is sponsored by three west metro cities. Although this show is focused on west metro homes and businesses, there is a lot of overlap in the exhibitors to the various events.

Co-sponsored by the St. Louis Park Community Education Department, this fair is rich in seminars. The 2023 seminars are not set yet, but the 2022 list gives an idea of what to expect, and one really stands out: the presentation by Just Deeds Coalition, with Maria Cisneros and Kiarra Zackery of the City of Golden Valley. Here’s the description:

“Discriminatory covenants have been used to keep people of color from buying houses in certain Minnesota neighborhoods, re-



Imperial white currant for your edible perennial garden from the Experimental Farm Network

sulting in a century of segregated communities. Though racial covenants have been illegal for decades,

they remain on the titles of these properties. The impact has been made apparent through the work of Mapping Prejudice and the PBS documentary, ‘The Jim Crow of the North.’ In this session, you will hear a brief summary of the history of these practices, and learn about the Just Deeds Coalition, helping property owners remove the racial covenants from their deeds and educating about this hidden history.”

The biggest expo will be the Minneapolis Home and Garden Show, running March 1 - 5 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Even though it has a completely different URL, the website for this fair is identical in look and structure to the expo at the U.S. Bank Stadium. So I went through the virtual interactive list of exhibitors and “hearted” all the ones I want to check out. (Go to [bit.ly/3QccAea](https://bit.ly/3QccAea) to see my list and access more information about the show.)

## Parade of Homes Twin Cities and Minneapolis - St. Paul Home Tour

Another kind of event geared toward giving the potential home remodeler (or home buyer) information and inspiration is the proverbial Parade of Homes or Home



Home gym in a newly built home



Minneapolis Home and Garden Show

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

Tour. The Twin Cities has two major events of this nature, one for newly built homes and one for remodeled homes. They both have a fairly interesting history and sponsorship.

The MSP Home Tour is the one for remodelers. Here is the history summed up on its website:

"The tour started in the late 1980s as a program of the City of Minneapolis, joined by the City of St. Paul a year later. The Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP), created in 1990 to revitalize the neighborhoods of Minneapolis, became a major sponsor of the Home Tour in 1992 and provided funding and staff support.

"Neighborhood organizations used their NRP monies for various programs to help renovate homes and complete other community improvement projects, and the MSP Home Tour served as a showcase for these projects and the neighborhoods. It was natural for NRP to take over leading the tour from 2003 to 2011, evolving it from being supported mostly by governments and nonprofit agencies, to a Min-

neapolis and St. Paul public/private partnership focused on showcasing homeowners and neighborhoods.

function. In 2021 Pro Media transferred care and custody of the tour to the National Association of the Remodeling Industry of MN (NARI MN)."

The MSP Home Tour this year will occur April 29 - 30, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days. The tour is self-guided and paced, with the website providing a map of all the

a suggestion that might improve your wintry outlook as well. Visit the Como Park Conservatory Sunk-en Garden for its Winter Garden period, Jan. 14 through March 19, featuring cyclamen, azaleas, camellias, veltheimia, cineraria and fox-gloves.

Then take that inspo shopping with you, as you visit Mother Earth



Countertop created from wood scraps

homes and you choosing the ones you want to visit and when. This is also a different kind of event because it still retains its sociable and neighborly quality, with the homeowners playing host and answering your questions.

The Parade of Homes Twin Cities is also presented by a trade association, Housing First Minnesota, an association of new home builders. All of the homes on the parade are newly built and empty, although some are presold. Check out the website [paradeofhomes.org](http://paradeofhomes.org) to get a list of the sites and the timing of open periods which is usually a five-week stretch starting in March and then another four-week period in the fall.

#### Online inspiration

If all this is too much for you, you can always find inspiration online as well. The home improvement channels have spawned lots of baby remodeling shows on YouTube and the like. Home and garden magazines have online spreads. Remodelers and other businesses in the trade (including many of our advertisers and most of the exhibitors at the shows) often have gorgeous photo galleries of their work.

A website of woodworking artists has some amazing and inspiring projects. Bored Panda did a piece on them, selecting some of the most awe-inspiring: [www.boredpanda.com/wood-tech-craft](http://www.boredpanda.com/wood-tech-craft). Or you can go straight to the source at [www.reddit.com/r/woodworking](http://www.reddit.com/r/woodworking).

#### Anticipating spring, and other mental health moves

Maybe you like to plan your garden in the depths of winter. Instead of doing it just in your head, here's

Gardens, the Highland Nursery, Egg/Plant or any of the other amazing garden centers we have in our area. I am excited to have discovered the Agrarian Seed and Garden store at 5152 Hiawatha Ave. (closed now but reopening in April 2023).



Traditional style in a newly built home from the Parade of Homes

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A handcrafted rocking chair

neapolis and St. Paul public/private partnership focused on showcasing homeowners and neighborhoods.

"As NRP ended its operations, it looked for an organization that could continue the Home Tour in the spirit and traditions of the previous 24 years and selected Pro Media Inc. to perform the coordination



from the Parade of Homes

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# • COMMUNITY CALENDAR •

Southside Pride / RIVERSIDE EDITION

## EVENTS

### Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration

**Monday, Jan. 16, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.**  
Powderhorn Park  
3400 15<sup>th</sup> Ave. S., Mpls.  
Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association invites you to an MLK Day celebration! Enjoy performances, art activities, lunch, giveaways for kids and more. Free and fun for all ages, the celebration will showcase local artists whose performances are dedicated to ideals of community well-being like housing and environmental justice, and the elimination of race-based disparities to honor the work and vision of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. If you need any accommodations to access the event please contact PPNA at [info@ppna.org](mailto:info@ppna.org) or 612-722-4817 by Jan. 3. More details on schedule of events at <https://www.ppna.org/mlkcelebration>.

### Make your voice heard at the Minnesota Capitol

The Land Stewardship Project is participating in two exciting upcoming legislative events at the Minnesota Capitol and we're inviting YOU to be a part of them!  
The first event is a rally and press conference with the "We Choose Us" campaign, advocating for a people-centered and multi-racial democracy in Minnesota, on **Tuesday, Jan. 17, from 9:30 a.m. to noon**. This will be a time to create relationships with others, engage our legislators and build our strategy to win pro-democracy policies this session. Click here to register: <https://www.wechooseusmn.com/events-1>.  
The second event is the 100 Percent Campaign's "Lobby for the Future" lobby day to leverage the historic opportunity at the Capitol to win a bold and equitable clean energy transition

in Minnesota. This is the moment to take great strides for the climate by transitioning to 100% clean renewable energy via passage of the 100% Bill. Join us **Wednesday, Jan. 25, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**, at Christ Lutheran Church on Capitol Hill. Carpooling may be available. Click here to register: <https://fresh-energy.org/event/lobby-for-the-future-a-climate-day-at-the-capitol>.

### Minneapolis Public Schools host community listening sessions

The Minneapolis Public Schools Board of Education invites the community to participate in upcoming listening sessions as part of the superintendent search. The information gathered from these meetings will be used to develop an overview of the most desired characteristics of and priorities for the new superintendent.  
Upcoming session date and times are listed below:

**Wednesday, Jan. 18, 6 to 7:30 p.m.**  
at Emerson Dual Language School  
1421 Spruce Pl.

**Thursday, Jan. 19, 6 to 7:30 p.m.**  
at Division of Indian Work  
1001 East Lake St.

**Friday, Jan. 20, 6 to 7:30 p.m.**  
at North High School  
1500 James Ave. N.

**Saturday, Jan. 21, 10 to 11:30 a.m.**  
at Urban Ventures, 2924 4th Ave. S.  
Interpretation as well as child care will be available for those who need it. More information is available on the MPS website at [https://board.mpls.k12.mn.us/supt\\_listening\\_sessions.html](https://board.mpls.k12.mn.us/supt_listening_sessions.html).  
The community is also invited to share their feedback before Jan. 23 via an online survey here: [https://board.mpls.k12.mn.us/december\\_22\\_2022\\_update](https://board.mpls.k12.mn.us/december_22_2022_update).

### Personifying Beloved Community Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration

**Thursday, Jan. 19, 11 a.m.**

#### Virtual Event

Minneapolis College will host a virtual celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. on Thursday, Jan. 19, to encourage reflection on King's dedication to equality and the civil rights movement. "I am mindful of wanting to make King contemporary," said African American Empowerment Program Coordinator Charles Watson. "The legacy of Dr. King lives on." The event will showcase winning scholarship entries from students' essays on King's work and how it paved the way for overcoming today's barriers to equity and justice. It connects youth from various communities with the ideologies of this incredible leader whose work is equally as rele-

vant today as it was during the peak of the movement he led. Visit this webpage to join the virtual event: <https://minneapolis.edu/mlk#>.

### City makes call for pet adoptions – Minneapolis Animal Care & Control is at capacity

Due to the extremely high number of dogs and cats currently being sheltered, Minneapolis Animal Care & Control is asking for the public's help in finding new homes for all of its adoptable animals. The City's animal welfare division is now at capacity, with 98 animals being housed – a 47% increase from this time last year. This number includes animals at the City's shelter and those being cared for through Animal Care & Control's foster program, which is also facing capacity issues.

Animal Care & Control is seeking people who are willing to adopt or foster any of its adoptable dogs and cats. They're particularly interested in seasoned pet owners who can take care of dogs that require more experienced handlers. New animals are being made available to adopt every day, as Animal Care & Control staff examines strays and gives them full medical workups. All adoption fees continue to be waived, and animals will be completely vaccinated, sterilized, micro-chipped and ready to go.

Animal Care & Control accepts every animal regardless of health, age, breed or behavior. Staff are committed to providing humane care and always strive to do what is right for each animal in our care. When animals cannot be adopted by the general public, staff calls on the help of partner rescue groups and sanctuaries to help.

Information on adopting animals, volunteering and supporting Animal Care & Control is available on the City website at <https://www.minneapolis.mn.gov/resident-services/animals-pets/>.

### Northrop Presents

#### The Joffrey Ballet

**Friday, Jan. 20 and Saturday, Jan. 21, 7:30 p.m.**

Northrop  
Carlson Family Stage  
84 Church St. SE, Mpls.  
The Joffrey Ballet returns to Northrop with a dynamic program of three works: "Serenade," the first ballet George Balanchine created in America in 1934; an electric "sneaker ballet" from Tony Award winner Justin Peck; and the Northrop Centennial Commission "Of Mice and Men," adapted by choreographer Cathy Marston. This new take on John Steinbeck's tender tale of friendship, perseverance, and sacrifice features an original score by 14-time Academy Award nominee, Thomas Newman (The Shawshank Redemption, Skyfall, Finding Nemo), played live by

Northrop's ballet orchestra. Purchase tickets at [www.northrop.umn.edu/events/joffrey-ballet-2023](http://www.northrop.umn.edu/events/joffrey-ballet-2023).

### Highpoint Presents:

#### 2022 McKnight Printmaking Fellowship Exhibition

**On view Jan. 20 – Feb. 25**

**Opening Reception Friday, Jan. 20, 6:30 to 9 p.m.**

**Public Conversation: Friday, Feb. 3, 6 to 7 p.m.**

Highpoint Center for Printmaking  
912 W. Lake St., Mpls.  
Highpoint is celebrating the 2022 McKnight Printmaking Fellows, Nicole Sara Simpkins and Amy Sands. This exhibition, opening Jan. 20, will feature prints, objects and moving images created during their year-long fellowship experience. Come meet the artists, celebrate their work, and enjoy refreshments during the opening reception on Friday, Jan. 20 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. A public conversation will take place on Friday, Feb. 3, from 6 to 7 p.m. with the McKnight fellows featuring Amy E. Elkins, Associate Professor of English at Macalester College and author of "Crafting Feminism from Literary Modernism to the Multimedia Present." Admission is free, but space is limited so please RSVP: <https://www.highpointprintmaking.org/calendar/2022/mcknightconversation>.

### Lunar New Year Celebration

**Saturday, Jan. 21, noon to 3 p.m.**

Midtown Global Market  
920 E. Lake St., Mpls.  
Midtown Global Market will host a free, family-friendly event in celebration of the 2023 Lunar New Year (Year of the Rabbit) on Saturday, Jan. 21, from noon to 3 p.m. The sign of Rabbit is a symbol of longevity, peace and prosperity in Chinese culture. The Market's Central Court will feature educational presentations, traditional dances and music, as well as kids' crafts. [midtownglobalmarket.org](http://midtownglobalmarket.org)

### Northrup King Nights:

**All That Glitters is Cold Saturday, Jan. 21, 5 to 9 p.m.**

Northrup King Building  
1500 Jackson St. NE, Mpls.  
The Northrup King building—Minnesota's largest art complex—begins the new year with an open studio event offering visitors a chance to browse works from hundreds of creative studios.  
In January, all that glitters is cold! But NKB has taken some inspiration from the fractals of winter and directed it towards an enchanting evening that will leave visitors feeling nice and warm. The Minnesota Jewelry Arts Guild will be the special guests of the evening and offer beautiful creations and possible Valentine's Day gifts from multiple local jewelers in the

spacious third-floor gallery. Fan favorite, Wintercraft, returns to share stunning ice luminaries, demonstrations and at-home decoration kits. All this and more will be found under one enormous (and warm) roof. Come find a little something beautiful to add to your collection and keep those cold days bright. [www.northrupkingbuilding.com/events/northrup-king-nights](http://www.northrupkingbuilding.com/events/northrup-king-nights)

### Wearable ArtCar and Contraptions Parade on ICE!

**Saturdays at 12:30 p.m.**

**Jan. 21 & 28, Feb. 4 & 11**

Bdé Umánj /Lake Harriet Bandshell  
4135 W. Lake Harriet Pkwy., Mpls.  
It is happening again this year at the Art Shanty Projects! Bring last year's creation or make a new one and join us each weekend! Meet at the Bdé Umánj/Lake Harriet Bandshell.  
"The weekly parade around the Art Shanty Village features a convoy of regional artists wearing whimsical handcrafted outfits—ArtCars and Contraptions—made from recycled and repurposed materials. In addition to many of the colorful creations that debuted last year, this year's parade will feature wearable contraptions produced by youth and students from the Twin Cities. And once again, anyone can make an outfit to bring and join in or borrow one of the outfits available on site!" <https://artshantyprojects.org/2023-schedule-of-performances-and-art-actions/>  
<https://artcarparade.com/>

### Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theater

#### Free Workshops for Kids

**Jan. 22, 29 and Feb. 5**

#### Online

Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theater is sponsoring these FREE workshops for kids. Graci Horne and Ifrah Mansour are co-creating an online workshop series Jan. 22, 29 and Feb. 5. Workshops will explore feelings, findings and footprints using discarded items in your home to make memorabilia for your very own time capsule. Through artmaking, you will explore what it means to be an ancestor and reflect on our collective role and impact on the climate change crisis. To learn more call 612-721-2523 or go to [hobt.org/virtual-workshops/](http://hobt.org/virtual-workshops/).

### The Minnesota Musicians Concert Series

**Lt. Sunnie, Mpls Drew, & GrayBeat Thursday, Jan. 26**

**Doors 7 p.m., Music 7:30 p.m.**

The Hook and Ladder Theater  
3010 Minnehaha Ave., Mpls.  
Hook & Ladder Theater and Minnesota Music Coalition come together to feature amazing Minnesota talent across a variety of genres. Join us monthly (every fourth Thursday) to catch some of your favorites as well as some musicians you may not have seen yet! Lt. Sunnie is a dynamic multi-disciplinary artist from the heart of Minneapolis! Through her passion for rap, singing and dance, Sunnie creates art for all people to pull inspiration and light from. 21+ show, general admission \$5 early / \$10 advance / \$15 day of show. Tickets at <https://thehookmpls.com/event/230126-mmcs/>.

#### 'Cumar'

**Friday, Jan. 27 and Saturday, Jan. 28,**



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# • COMMUNITY CALENDAR •

## Southside Pride / RIVERSIDE EDITION

**7:30 p.m.**  
Southern Theater  
1420 S. Washington Ave., Mpls.  
An innovative fusion of traditional music and dance from West Africa and Ireland. "Cumar" ("Confluence" in Irish Gaelic) brings together the complex rhythms and fluid, expressive movement of West Africa with the flowing melodies, percussive footwork, and intricate dance figures of Ireland, in an exuberant celebration of multi-cultural collaboration. The group features an outstanding ensemble of Twin Cities dancers and musicians, ranging from internationally recognized masters to dedicated young artists carrying these traditions into the next generation. Tickets are available at [www.southerntheater.org/shows/cumar-at-the-southern-theater](http://www.southerntheater.org/shows/cumar-at-the-southern-theater).

**Lorna Landvik's 'Pages and Stages' Through Jan. 28**  
**6 p.m. doors, 7 p.m. show**  
Bryant Lake Bowl  
810 W. Lake St., Mpls.  
Start out the new year with a new bang! Performer/author Lorna Landvik is serving up an evening's entertainment in "Pages and Stages," a brand-new show that combines derring-do improv, set pieces, music, and stories/confessionals about her Hollywood days and writing career. It's highbrow, it's lowbrow, it's a Tony\* award contender! (\*says Tony di Commedia, avid theater fan who bestows awards — gift cards to Olive Garden — to his favorite performers).  
"Pages and Stages" plays every Friday and Saturday night in January,

beginning Jan. 6 at the Bryant Lake Bowl. Tickets are \$20 in advance (\$22 day of show) and can be purchased online at [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com). For more information, contact the Bryant Lake Bowl, 612-825-8949 or online at [bryantlakebowl.com/theater](http://bryantlakebowl.com/theater).

**'The Root Beer Lady' Jan. 28 – Feb. 19**  
History Theatre  
30 E. 10<sup>th</sup> St., St. Paul  
"The Root Beer Lady" is the story of Dorothy Molter, the last legal non-Indigenous resident of the Boundary Waters. The play, funny and passionate, explores her independence, fortitude and love of nature, and pushes back against the premise that her time in the North Woods made her the "Loneliest Woman in America," as the Saturday Evening Post claimed in 1952. Dorothy Molter's story will delight all, young and old. For more information and tickets, go to [www.historytheatre.com/2022-2023/root-beer-lady](http://www.historytheatre.com/2022-2023/root-beer-lady).

**Beyond the Page: Poets as Artists in the New Year Through Jan. 30**  
Friedli Gallery and Studio  
943 W. 7<sup>th</sup> St., St. Paul  
Four Twin Cities poets/artists — Deborah Keenan, Morgan Grayce Willow, Paula Cisewski and William Reichard — working in collage, photographic prints, artists' books and zines, create portraits, landscapes and abstractions that speak to the world around them, and give form to those things they cannot find a way to forge with language. Learn more at [friedliartsgallery.com](http://friedliartsgallery.com).


**Hearts+Minds Wellness Program Tuesdays, Jan. 31 – Feb. 28 3 to 4:30 p.m.**  
**Online via Zoom**  
NAMI Minnesota offers a free, high-quality mental health and wellness education program for all people in Minnesota called Hearts+Minds. The program is designed to educate and empower individuals to manage their mental and physical health. Hearts+Minds provides current research and information on how mental and physical health intersects, focusing on how nutrition and physical activity can address symptoms and conditions effectively. It includes information on managing medications, chronic pain, and improving sleep. Additional health topics and areas of interest are discussed, along with actionable ways to improve health and wellness with tools, strategies, and simple steps that make sense and aren't overwhelming. People from all over Minnesota can participate online. From Tuesday, Jan. 31, to Tuesday, Feb. 28, (every week for five sessions), from 3 to 4:30 p.m., Hearts+Minds uses the Zoom format. If you are joining, you will need a computer or tablet with a camera and high-speed internet. Register at [namimn.org/event/heartsminds](http://namimn.org/event/heartsminds). It is advisable to register as soon as possible. New year, new life! It's time to correct the idea that mental and physical health are separate conditions: NAMI Minnesota believes that mental health is physical health. For more information or to request a special class, contact Danielle Thornton, [communityeducationcoordinator@namimn.org](mailto:communityeducationcoordinator@namimn.org).

**Neighborhood Roots Winter Market Saturday, Feb. 4, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**  
Bachman's Floral, Gift, and Garden  
Indoor greenhouse  
6010 Lyndale Ave. S., Mpls.  
Neighborhood Roots Winter Markets return to Bachman's! Enjoy music and fresh, ready-to-eat food and beverages, and stock up on produce, sweet treats, crafts and gifts from local farmers, bakers and artisans. This market series will take place indoors (January – March) at Bachman's Floral, Gift, and Garden and will feature all your favorite vendors from the Kingfield, Fulton and Nokomis Farmers Market. Pets are not allowed at the market. Service animals are always welcome. For more information, visit [www.neighborhood-rootsmn.org/winter-markets](http://www.neighborhood-rootsmn.org/winter-markets).

**'The Stories Whiteness Tells Itself: Racial Myths and Our American Narratives'**  
**David Mura book launch event Wednesday, Feb. 8, 7 to 8:30 p.m.**  
Minnesota Humanities Center  
987 Ivy Ave. E., St. Paul  
"The Stories Whiteness Tells Itself," available from the University of Minnesota Press on Jan. 31, is the newest work of nonfiction from Mura and uncovers the pernicious narratives white people have created, and continue to create, to justify white supremacy and sustain racist oppression. From the country's founding through the summer of Black Lives Matter in 2020, Mura unmasks how white stories about race attempt to erase the brutality of the past and underpin systemic racism in the present. He shows how deeply we need to change our racial narratives to dissolve the myth of

Whiteness and fully acknowledge the experiences of Black Americans. Following a reading of selections from the new book, Mura will be joined by best-selling author Alexs Pate for a discussion on the issues of race, history and education. A book signing will follow the talk. The Minnesota Humanities Center will be offering a limited number of complimentary copies to those in attendance, and the University of Minnesota Press will have additional copies for purchase. The event is open to the public and will include a moderated conversation with the author.  
Tickets: Guests will need to register for this FREE event at: <https://www.mnhum.org/event/mn-writers-series-stories-whiteness/>.

**'Sad Song Sing-Along' Feb. 9-14**  
Open Eye Theatre  
506 E. 24<sup>th</sup> St., Mpls.  
Created and performed by Michael Sommers. Michael Sommers revisits the Open Eye stage for a solo show with a Sad Proposition. An animated discourse with objects, images, fellowship and refreshments! Open Eye's co-founder is renowned for animating the inanimate, with a body of visually-driven work that incorporates elements of live performance, puppetry, music, clever puzzles and wordplay. Join Michael for a pitch-perfect artistic event sure to enliven your winter doldrums. Tickets available at <https://www.openeyetheatre.org/sad-song-sing-along>.




## RIVERSIDE EDITION

The Southside Pride Riverside Edition is a monthly newspaper containing neighborhood news, religious events and a community calendar delivered on the third Monday of the month to over 150 locations in and around the Riverside community. We are proud of the racial and cultural diversity of the Southside, and we oppose racism and other efforts to keep us apart as a community.

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

**Southside Pride**  
2721 E. 42ND STREET SUITE B  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55406  
CALL US AT 612-822-4662  
email us at [editor@southsidepride.com](mailto:editor@southsidepride.com)  
or [edfelien@southsidepride.com](mailto:edfelien@southsidepride.com)

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## MPLS. - ST. PAUL - THE WORLD



EVENTS

**International Holocaust Remembrance Day**  
**Friday, Jan. 27, 1 to 2:30 p.m.**  
Plymouth Congregational Church  
1900 Nicollet Ave., Mpls.  
In honor of International Holocaust Remembrance Day, hosted by the Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas, a conversation with historian Rebecca Erbelding and JCRC Executive Director Steve Huneags around “The U.S. and the Holocaust,” a film by Ken Burns, Lynn Novick and Sarah Botstein. Guests are encouraged to watch the full three episodes of “The U.S. and the Holocaust” before attending the conversation. “The U.S. and the Holocaust” can be found on TPT.org via TPT Passport or on TPT2. #101 - The Golden Door (Beginnings - 1938), **Friday, Jan. 13 at 8 p.m.** on TPT 2.  
#102 - Yearning to Breathe Free (1938 - 1942), **Friday, Jan. 20 at 8 p.m.** on TPT 2.  
#103 - The Homeless, The Tempest-Tossed (1942- ), **Friday, Jan. 27 at 8 p.m.** on TPT2.  
Additional broadcast dates can be found on TPT.org. If you have any questions about this event, please reach out to TPTevents@tpt.org.

**The Listening Ear at Living Spirit: Mental Health for Everyone**  
**Wednesday, Jan. 18, 6:30 p.m.**  
**In-person and online**  
Living Spirit United Methodist Church  
4501 Bloomington Ave., Mpls.  
Living Spirit offers a monthly night of mental health education and check-ins on third Wednesdays. The event on Jan. 18 begins at 6:30 p.m. with a half-hour education session, followed by some practical exercises. At 7:30 p.m., participants can meet one-on-one with a trained listener to check in about their mental health in general or discuss a particular issue. The event is free and open to people of any (or no) faith traditions. Participate in person at Living Spirit or online via our livestream/Zoom. More information at our website: <https://livingspiritumc.org/listeningear>.

**Taizé Service**  
**Friday, Feb. 10, 7 p.m.**  
Minnehaha United Methodist Church

3701 E. 50<sup>th</sup> St., Mpls.  
With all that is going on around us, it is important to slow down and make sure we are feeding our souls and listening for God periodically. Take an opportunity for renewal through prayer, song and silence at our monthly Taizé services. Join us on Feb. 10 at 7 p.m. or any second Friday of the month (October through May). In addition, we will be livestreaming our services as well, so you can catch Taizé from your home (or cabin or wherever you are) in real time, or anytime you want. [www.minnehaha.org](http://www.minnehaha.org)

**Saint Mark’s Music Series**  
**In Recital: Andrew Kane**  
**Sunday, Feb. 12, 2:30 to 4 p.m.**  
Saint Mark’s Episcopal Cathedral  
519 Oak Grove St., Mpls.  
Baritone Andrew Kane with accompanist Raymond Johnston perform a varied program, to include Dichterliebe by Schumann. <https://ourcathedral.org/concerts/>

**The Praxis of Hope: Ricardo Levins Morales**  
**Wednesday, Feb. 15**  
**In person and online**  
United Theological Seminary  
767 Eustis St., St. Paul  
“The Praxis of Hope: An Evening with Ricardo Levins Morales” will be presented to both in-person and online audiences on Feb. 15. Based in South Minneapolis, Morales is an artist and organizer who uses art as a form of political medicine to help people heal from the injuries and realities of oppression. This event, the second in a three-part “Praxis Series” aimed at helping participants embody and live into lessons about Love, Hope, and Faith that are foundational for justice work, is sponsored by the Leadership Center for Social Justice at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities in order to broaden its social justice outreach to a wider community. For more information, visit [www.unitedseminary.edu](http://www.unitedseminary.edu).

**Ongoing events at Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
3430 E. 51st St., Mpls.  
Blind Ministry – Saturday, Feb. 18, noon to 2 p.m.  
AA group – Mondays 6:30 p.m.  
Senior Exercise Class – Mondays 10 a.m.  
NA groups – Wednesdays 7:30 pm  
[www.faithlutheranmpls.org](http://www.faithlutheranmpls.org)

**Lent Procession Service**  
**Sunday, Feb. 26, 4 p.m.**  
Mount Olive Lutheran Church  
3045 Chicago Ave., Mpls.  
Mount Olive’s Music and Fine Arts Series is an artistic gift to God and the Twin Cities community. Each year Mount Olive produces a Music and Fine Arts Series aimed at the wider Twin Cities audience. Lent Procession is a contemplative service of lessons and carols for Lent. It is an opportunity to withdraw from the busyness of life; a time to sing, pray, listen, smell—a time to fully enter into the season of Lent, renewing our lives as children of God. Mount Olive Cantorei and David Cherwien, organist and director. [www.mountolivechurch.org/music/music-fine-arts-series/](http://www.mountolivechurch.org/music/music-fine-arts-series/)

**‘Transfer of Memory’**  
**On view through Feb. 28**  
Plymouth Congregational Church  
Jones Commons  
1900 Nicollet Ave., Mpls.  
In partnership with the Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas (JCRC), “Transfer of Memory” is a touring exhibition of portraits and accompanying stories of Minnesota Holocaust survivors. While each person has a story of survival under exceedingly difficult circumstances, the color photographs focus on life and hope. Their lives are reminders of the value of freedom and the enduring human spirit. On Friday, Jan. 27, at 1 p.m., Plymouth will also host the International Holocaust Remembrance Day in partnership with TPT and the JCRC.

**Donate items to newly arrived refugee families this winter**  
It’s getting chilly out there! MCC Refugee Services is currently collecting warm bedding to help our families stay nice and warm this winter. We are collecting comforters, queen- and twin-sized sheets, and pillows. A unique request: we are also looking for a coffee table for one of our clients for her family to gather around for meals. Do you have items you would like to donate? Please email [RSVolunteers@mnchurches.org](mailto:RSVolunteers@mnchurches.org) or call 612-230-3219.

**Contemplative Meditation**  
**Thursdays at 9 a.m. online**  
**First Monday of the month, 7 to 9 p.m. in person**

Plymouth Congregational Church  
1900 Nicollet Ave., Mpls.  
The Plymouth Contemplatives are an affinity group committed to personal and collective transformation. Together we share in contemplative movement, silence, and group discernment as ways to be present to God dwelling in our hearts, in Plymouth’s congregational life, and in our wider community. We participate in a variety of practices with the common intention of releasing attachments to our smaller selves and consciously consenting to the movement of the Spirit through us. These exercises can help us step off the emotional roller coaster of our times. The practice of focusing on the Spirit’s movement helps us find our way through a topsy-turvy world. Everyone is welcome. Learn more about how to participate either online or in person at <https://www.plymouth.org/connect/contemplatives/>.

**Minneapolis Friends Meeting**  
**Fall-Winter Schedule**  
4401 York Ave. S., Mpls.  
The Fall-Winter schedule for Minneapolis Friends Meeting is now in effect. Unprogrammed worship 9 to 10 a.m.; Mid-morning program 10:15 to 11 a.m.; Semi-programmed worship 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Services will continue to be hybrid – join us on Zoom or at the Meetinghouse. Please go to our website at [minneapolisfriends.org](http://minneapolisfriends.org) for more information. All are welcome.

SHARING FOOD

**Soup for You! Café at Bethany**  
**2511 E. Franklin Ave., Mpls.**  
**612-332-2397**  
Soup for You! operates out of the basement of century-old and deeply rooted Bethany Lutheran Church that we honor in our name. After two years of COVID lockdown and serving our community through a set of three glass doors, Soup for You! Café is back to an open dining room. Monday through Friday, noon to 1 p.m. Wednesdays, groceries, noon to 1 p.m. Large space, high ceilings, only four chairs per table, all volunteers vaccinated/boosted. <https://soupforyou.info/>

**Groveland Emergency**  
**Food Shelf**  
**1900 Nicollet Ave., Mpls.**  
**612-871-0277**  
Monday – Friday  
9:30 a.m. to noon  
On Groveland Avenue between Nicollet and Lasalle (Temporary entrance on Nicollet Avenue)  
Hosted in the basement of Plymouth Congregational Church  
Delivery is available for individuals who are housebound due to disability.  
<https://www.grovelandfoodshelf.org/>

**First Nations Kitchen**  
**3044 Longfellow Ave., Mpls.**  
**612-791-1253**  
First Nations Kitchen welcomes our neighbors to our weekly produce giveaway! Every Sunday from 4 to 5 p.m. you can come get primarily organic produce outside FNK. We are trying to provide cooked meals as often as possible, but currently have not been able to schedule cooks

regularly. If you want to donate or volunteer, email us at [communications@firstnationskitchen.org](mailto:communications@firstnationskitchen.org). <https://firstnationskitchen.org>

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

**Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church**  
**5300 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. S., Mpls.**  
**612-825-6846**  
Serving Loaves and Fishes free community meals on Wednesdays from 5 to 6 p.m. The meals are all “to-go” meals, served from the northwest door on 53<sup>rd</sup> Street. These meals are free to anyone, no questions asked. You might have had a hard day and simply cannot cook dinner. Or maybe you’ve paid your last bill for the month and cannot buy groceries. Whatever your circumstance, you are welcome. You can simply drive or walk up to the church and receive a meal any Wednesday evening between 5 and 6 p.m.

**Minnehaha United Methodist Church**  
**3701 E. 50<sup>th</sup> St., Mpls.**  
**612-721-6231**  
The Minnehaha Food Shelf serves food for the hungry on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. We help distribute up to 30,000 pounds of food each month. In response to the COVID-19 virus, we have changed many things to protect both our guests and our volunteers – rigorous cleaning routines, streamlined procedures, moving outside, wearing face masks and following the 6-foot social distancing guideline. Please be patient as we continue to improve what we do.  
<https://www.facebook.com/MinnehahaFoodShelf/>

**Greater Friendship Missionary Baptist Church and Friendship Community Service**  
**2600 E. 38th St., Mpls.**  
**Food Hub**  
Free food, hygiene products, and some household goods.  
Tuesday and Thursday,  
1 p.m. to 5 p.m.  
2nd and 4th Saturdays,  
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Please bring ID and wear a mask. Social distancing guidelines are in place.

**Community Meals at Walker Church**  
**3104 16<sup>th</sup> Ave. S., Mpls.**  
**612-722-6612**  
Free to-go meals and groceries are available for pick-up every Monday from noon to 2 p.m. All are welcome.  
Sisters’ Camelot holds a separate food distribution out of Walker Church every third and fifth Tuesday of the month starting at 2:30 p.m. Follow Sisters’ Camelot on Facebook or at <http://sisterscamelot.org/> for more.

## The Riverside Religious Community Welcomes You

**CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. ALBERT THE GREAT**  
E. 29th St. & 32nd Ave. S.  
612-724-3643  
[www.saintalbertthegreat.org](http://www.saintalbertthegreat.org)  
Weekend Masses  
Saturday 5 pm  
Sunday 9:30 am (also live-streamed on Facebook)  
Sunday 12 noon  
Weekday Masses M, T, TH, F



All Directory Churches are Wheelchair Accessible

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

**MINNEHAHA COMMUNION LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
4101 37th Ave. S.,  
612-722-9527  
*Pastor Shawna Day*  
9:45 am Sunday Worship in person & livestream  
Go to church website for info [www.minnehahacommunion.org](http://www.minnehahacommunion.org)  
12-step groups Tuesday

through Friday evenings

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CONGREGATION**  
Augsburg College, Hoversten Chapel  
Riverside & 22<sup>nd</sup> Aves.  
612-333-2561  
[www.trinitylutherancongregation.org](http://www.trinitylutherancongregation.org)  
Sunday Worship 11 am  
Pastors: Jane Buckley-Farlee & Alem Asmelash  
Office: 2001 Riverside Ave.  
*Reconciling in Christ*



# What does the FL in the DFL stand for?

BY ED FELIEN

What does the FL in the DFL stand for?

It stands for Farmer-Labor.

In 1944 the Farmer-Labor Party and the Democratic Party merged. The Democratic Party was small potatoes in the 1930s and '40s. It polled in the single digits in statewide elections.

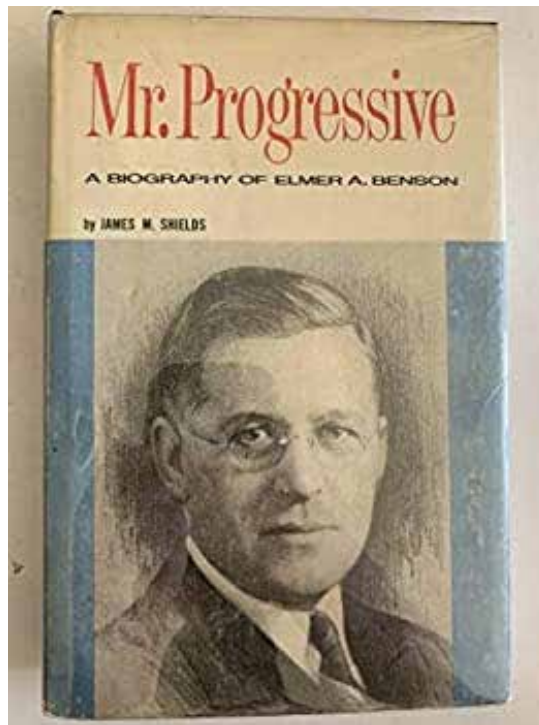
The Farmer-Labor Party enjoyed great success in the 1930s. It was part of a nationwide populist wave that began in the South in the 1890s, but, because of Southern racism, the organizers moved north. They moved first to North Dakota as the Nonpartisan League. They got elected and started a state board of trade so farmers could have a fair price for their grain and a state bank. Their influence moved east to Minnesota, and in the 1920s, agrarian populists and radical trade unionists formed the Farmer-Labor Party. By 1934 they had elected Governor Floyd B. Olson and controlled the House of Representatives.

At the 1934 Farmer-Labor convention, Floyd B. Olson declared: "I am what I want to be. I am a radical. I'm not a liberal." The preamble to the 1934 Farmer-Labor platform said, "Capi-

talism has failed and should be abolished. We mean to establish a Cooperative Commonwealth."

Sounds pretty radical, but in South Minneapolis that's exactly what's been happening for the past 50 years. Corporate grocery stores wouldn't go into the inner city, but the Wedge and Seward co-ops have been successfully feeding people in South Minneapolis for over 50 years with co-ops that are owned by the members. No one needs to go hungry. If you can boil water, you can cook brown rice and oatmeal.

When World War II broke out, Elmer Benson and others in the Farmer-Labor Party wanted to form a united front to fight fascism, so they formed an alliance with the Democratic Party. A druggist from South Dakota, Hubert Humphrey, saw an opportunity to use that coalition to run for mayor of Minneapolis and, in April of 1944, Benson and Humphrey formed the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party. Almost the first thing Humphrey did was to purge the DFL of any radical Farmer-Laborites. Jim Shields, in his excellent biography of Elmer Benson, "Mr. Progressive," has an appendix that reproduces a leaflet written by Humphrey that instructs read-



Elmer Benson

ers to follow these lieutenants in getting rid of any radical elements. The lieutenants became the new leaders of the DFL: Gene McCarthy, Art Naftalin and Don Fraser.

In South Minneapolis, the struggle continues. It's hard to get elected to any local office without the endorsement of the



Floyd B. Olson

southside branch of the Democratic Socialists of America, the successor in Minnesota to the Farmer-Labor Party.

There will be municipal elections this fall to elect new City Council members. Precinct caucuses will be held on March 14 to elect delegates who will endorse candidates at ward con-

ventions later in March and April. For more information, contact Briana Rose Lee, Chair of the Minneapolis DFL, at [briana.rose.lee@gmail.com](mailto:briana.rose.lee@gmail.com) or 413-204-5255.

# Lake Street Council rising



BY KAY SCHROVEN

The Lake Street Council (LSC), a nonprofit organization, has been around since the late 1960s. It was formed to support businesses that remained on the Lake Street corridor as the escape from the urban landscape to the suburbs continued. This exodus began in the first half of the 20th century and has come to be known as a period of suburbanization and disinvestment. The goal of the LSC was and is to keep historic Lake Street alive, safe, healthy and vibrant in the face of change.

Lake Street was originally home to Indigenous communities, mainly Dakota and Ojibwa people. Over the decades it became the destination of both citizens and immigrants in pursuit of the American Dream. Early on, they came from the eastern

United States and Canada, and later from the Scandinavian countries. It has been home to small businesses for decades, such as American Rug Laundry, Ingebretsen's, and Soderberg's Floral and Gift, as well as nonprofits including Little Brothers - Friends of the Elderly, Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers, and Urban Ventures, to name a few who remain. Lake Street is also home to cultural organizations such as the Division of Indian Works, which has strengthened urban American Indian people through healing, education and leadership; MIGIZI, an organization that nurtures education, social, economic and cultural development of Indigenous youth; and First Nations Kitchen, a ministry led by Indigenous people for Indigenous people where free produce is distributed weekly and, when possible, hot meals are cooked and served.

Historically, the LSC has offered services related to branding and marketing, waste management, safety, storefront improvements and energy efficiency. They have also advocated for policies, community events, placemaking, transportation and real estate partnerships.

While it could not be anticipated, 2020 would impact the LSC and challenge it in ways never imagined.

The impact of COVID-19 and the civil unrest following the murder of George Floyd by former Minneapolis police officers in 2020 created an immeasurable need on the Lake Street corridor. How do neighborhoods survive without health care services, pharmacies, restaurants, churches, and other community services? The city was faced with unprecedented losses, destruction and upheaval.

Allison Sharkey, executive director of the Lake Street Council,



Allison Sharkey, LSC executive director

rose to the occasion by adding staff, including Marie Campos as the organization's communications and marketing coordinator. With hundreds of properties damaged or destroyed, the need for support and services grew and the LSC needed to grow to

be able to respond. Campos was hired to accommodate growth and to work closely with the organization's vendors, bringing her nonprofit background and experience in small business marketing to the post. Since this landmark year, the organization has grown from just a few employees to 11, including Senior Communications Engagement Manager ZoeAna Martinez; Senior Creative Operations Manager Theresa Swaney; Senior Strategic Initiations Manager Matt Kazinka; Grants and Administrative Manager Ruth Howell; Business Outreach Specialist Oscar Corral; Manager of Recovery Initiatives Russ Adams; Director of Development Alex Tsatsoulis; Business Advisor Yusra Mohamud; and Manager of Placemaking and Activations Charise Canales. The organization has an executive committee of four, plus 11 Directors at Large representing small businesses, banks, real estate businesses and the like.

The LSC is funded through business partnerships, individual and corporate donations, government grants and private foundations. They have approximately 130 business supporters including Gold Partners such as U.S. Bank, Children's Minnesota, and CenterPoint Energy, among others. In 2020, the LSC received 403 applications for sup-

port from small businesses with an average request of \$15,000, with 328 applications (81%) receiving funding. Of those who received funding, 82% were BIPOC-owned (Black, Indigenous, and people of color). Over 70,000 people have now donated to benefit small businesses such as Zizi Boutique, Peer Pressure Fitness and MIGIZI. The "We Love Lake Street" recovery fund allowed businesses to weather the 2020 storm. Approximately 300 businesses have now benefited from the \$5.5 million raised and donated.

Today the LSC is digging deeper into the needs of small businesses to identify and support a variety of issues, with the continued goal of rebuilding and reopening Lake Street and its neighborhoods.

Areas of needed support include business development, building improvement, social media-building, website development, technical and funding support, signage and murals.

As 2023 begins, the LSC is celebrating new beginnings and is excited about future projects which may include adding lobbyist activity and assisting in the corridor's introduction of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), as well as exploring a Lake Street Safety Center project.





Arriving in Senegal

# Trip to Africa is life-changing

BY ELAINE KLAASSEN

Steve Floyd (not related to George Floyd) has been taking

Black youth from South Minneapolis on trips to Africa since the early '90s. Floyd feels that traveling to Africa is one thing

that really works to help them heal from the effects of slavery throughout their history. He finds that the groups “return with a renewed sense of their own possibilities.” In November of 2022 he led another group, but this time adults went too—five adults, one young adult and three teenagers, all of whom live around 38th and Chicago.

The trip was organized in collaboration with Elder Atum and the Cultural Wellness Center, whose People’s Theory of Sickness states that “individualism, loss of culture, and loss of community is what makes people sick.” Before leaving, the travelers met for two preparation sessions, in which they were encouraged to remember that they would be visiting someone else’s culture and would not be in charge. They were cautioned not to see people in other countries as their servants, as many people from the U.S. tend to do.

The 15-day trip was to Senegal and The Gambia, two West African countries located on the Atlantic coast. The many Senegalese friends Floyd has made over the years were waiting to greet the visitors. (There will be another journey in March, much to the joy of three people whose passports didn’t arrive in time

for the November trip.)

Floyd’s main goal in taking kids traveling is for them to “see something different.” All they know is a four- to eight-block area in Minneapolis. The trips open up the world to them. Traveling to another country “is like getting a college degree,” Floyd says. Also, a trip to another country “allows them to have an identity as an American, something they can’t do here.” It’s like in North America they don’t count as Americans, but outside the U.S. they do.

Floyd first traveled outside the U.S. through his college basketball connections. As a young man, he went to Holland and Germany, which he said was “so much bigger than what I had. It was so mind boggling how much I could learn about other people.”

Since then Floyd has traveled extensively. In whatever country he finds himself, he builds relationships and now has friends all over the world that he keeps up with through texting and Facebook.

As Floyd expected, his group of November travelers immersed themselves in relationship-building, and all of them have come home with new friends across the ocean.

For everyone on the trip, a major purpose was to see places important to their identity and their history, such as the Slave House and the Door of No Return, the place where kidnapped Africans were forced to step onto ships that took them to the new world. Another was Jufurre, the village where Kunta Kinte came from, the ancestor character in Alex Haley’s book “Roots” (made into a TV series that Floyd counts as a major grounding in his life). Before the creator of “Roots” died, in 1992, he did a lot to support Jufurre, but since then, the groups from Minneapolis have adopted the village and always take supplies whenever they go.

One of the teenagers on the trip, Floyd’s daughter Alyana, described many emotional moments. Seeing the Slave House and the Door of No Return on Goree Island made her “happy to know we don’t have to go through that no more.” At the Renaissance Statue she pondered the stories and realistic sculptures of people who were enslaved, noting with sadness how confused and deprived of education they had been. In the jungle she said she felt so much joy to see animals where they belonged, in the wild. She was

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angry to see European visitors on vacation, but a Senegalese guard at a tourist place told her, “You don’t forget, but you can forgive” and “We like people to visit us,” claiming his place as a host in his country, emphasizing that his country doesn’t belong to Europe.

Steve Floyd explained the pain that still runs through African culture wherever their ancestors had been captured and sold into slavery. It’s like a reunion when their descendants come to visit.

The descendants participated in a naming ceremony of the Wolof ethnic group, in which the visitors each got an African name from a Wolof person. Dancing was part of the event and Alyana said she appreciated the way she felt free to dance even though she didn’t know how very well. People were so accepting, she said. “I didn’t think there was a place where you could go and feel good about yourself and want to be nice to everyone. [In Senegal] everybody will help you, support you and care about you,” Alyana said.



**Julian Johnson meditating and contemplating the Door of No Return on Goree Island**

### So far, from page 1

incumbents in South Minneapolis have managed to stay out of trouble and have been modestly progressive on most issues. The only real excitement will be in the 12th Ward where Andrew Johnson is retiring, and a number of young people are vying for his seat.

There quite possibly might be a challenge in the 2nd Ward by a DFL candidate going up against Robin Wonsley.

Wonsley is running as a self-declared socialist. As far as we know she is not seeking DFL endorsement. She was at one time associated with Socialist Alternative, the U.S. branch of the International Marxist Tendency, a Trotskyist group that has a worldwide organization. Their sole elected representative in the U.S. is Kshama Sawant, an Indian American member of the Seattle City Council since 2014.

Members of Socialist Alternative have run at least twice before for seats on the Minneapolis City Council.

Ty Moore ran in 2013 in the 9th Ward. We were wildly enthusiastic—contributed money, time, tried to block the DFL endorsement. He lost and then left town.

Ginger Jentzen organized the \$15 an Hour Now campaign that was critically important in increasing the minimum wage in Minneapolis. She ran in the 3rd Ward. We were very supportive. She lost and then left town.

This was demoralizing. Just when you think you might be building a movement, it evaporates. It’s like some sad and silly pop tune: “Why do you build me up, Buttercup, just to let me down?”

Or Buffalo Springfield’s: “Been burned and with both feet

on the ground, I’ve learned that it’s painful comin’ down.”

So we were quite cynical when Robin Wonsley ran in 2021. We admitted she was probably the most progressive candidate in the city, but Cam Gordon was clearly the most progressive incumbent on the City Council, and he had been carefully looking after problems in the 2nd Ward. We thought constituent service counted for something, so we endorsed Cam but hoped Robin would stick around.

Well, as it turned out, Robin won, and we had a perfect record with SA candidates: 0 for 3.

We hope some DFL candidate emerges in the 2nd Ward. We would probably still endorse Wonsley for a second term, but the debate could educate voters about priorities and possibilities for city government.

Stay tuned.

There were so many positive things in the culture, not the least of which was personal safety. In Senegal, Steve Floyd said, “Most people spend a lifetime never hearing a gunshot.” In general, the society is very peaceful, whether in urban or rural areas. There is a high value for “socialization, relationships and negotiation ... Everybody eats. There is no fighting ... It is typical for Christians and Muslims to live in the same village.” Floyd noticed that people could be in need but still be content—because they have their dignity.

Alyana noticed that if an argument seemed about to start,

the other person would just back off. She was impressed that the police and security officers carry bats but not guns. She was also impressed that small children could be out at night playing by themselves without their parents. She felt a sense of freedom that she doesn’t feel in North America.

It was a big pleasure for Steve Floyd to see his group smile a lot. “I see people change before my eyes.” The mother of one of the teens, Theo, says that since he’s been back, “he has changed. He helps around the house and is not fighting.”

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