



**We build Pride on the Southside**

# NOKOMIS EDITION

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## Cam's Corner



### Hiawatha Golf Course nominated to National Register

BY CAM GORDON

The future of Hiawatha Golf Course took an interesting turn this January when the city's Historic Preservation Commission and the Park Board weighed in on its past. Both formally responded to a nomination submitted last year to add the golf course to the National Register of Historic Places.

The Minneapolis Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) voted to support the nomination of the 140-acre site located at 4553 Longfellow Ave. The Park Board approved a letter expressing both support and concerns.

The nomination was submitted last year by the Bronze Foundation, a nonprofit organization that supports preservation of the 18-hole golf course, which hired Hess, Roise and Company to draft the nomination. The Bronze Foundation also manages the Bronze Tournament, formerly called the Upper Midwest Bronze Amateur Open,

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## 'Don't back down!' – Dean Dovolis, EPNI president

BY BEN R.

At their Jan. 26 meeting, seven members of the Minneapolis City Council showed how hollow their platitudes regarding equity in the city and concerns about environmental racism were as they voted to approve the demolition of the Roof Depot building in the Phillips neighborhood of Minneapolis.

Since 2014, the East Phillips Neighborhood Institute (EPNI) and community residents have hoped to use the site of the Roof Depot building to build an urban farm and neighborhood hub.

Thanks to Council Members Andrea Jenkins, Linea Palmisano, Michael Rainville, Lisa Goodman, LaTrisha Vetaw, Andrew Johnson and Emily Koski, those hopes have

been dashed, and the building is now slated to be demolished as soon as Feb. 27 to build a city Public Works facility. The vote to approve the contract for demolition occurred as EPNI still awaits a ruling from a judge that could delay the demolition of the building.

East Phillips is a diverse, working-class neighborhood that is already over-polluted, with asthma rates twice the state average. Knowing the demolition of the building will release an arsenic plume and additional vehicles used at the site will exacerbate existing pollution, organizers with EPNI and Phillips residents, as well as community allies, showed up in force at Thursday's meeting to call on the council to vote no on demolition. Already denying

community members a public hearing on the issue, the city set a limited capacity on the number of people who could be in the council chambers, forcing many to remain outside in the hallway and unable to show their support for the urban farm. The allies outside of the council chambers were also deprived of being able to hear the entire meeting, as the city cut microphones inside the room when members of the audience would interrupt proceedings.

The council majority who voted in favor of continued environmental harm in East Phillips displayed their hypocrisy prior to the vote on demolition as they honored an artist who spent time in local activist spaces and spoke of the historic damage done

## Moriarty dismisses rape prosecution

ANALYSIS BY JORDAN KUSHNER AND JANET NYE

On the Minneapolis Issues Forum, Jordan Kushner offered a master class on the consequences of a prosecuting attorney lying to a judge:

"[There is] repeated insistence that Moriarty's office should have asked for continuance before dismissing the case – most likely not realistic. The Star Trib's coverage indicates that her office proposed a joint motion for a mistrial with the defense, but the defense refused to join. This would have been



Hennepin County Attorney Mary Moriarty

their best chance because a mistrial would have allowed for a substantial delay to allow the new prosecutor time to prepare and not have to start in the middle. The problem is that unless the defense supported the mistrial, it would have still resulted in the case being dismissed because of the constitutional protection of double jeopardy. Not surprisingly, the defense did not go for it. The longest imaginable continuance, if any, that the judge would have granted in the middle of a trial would have been one day, and that would probably not have been enough. You don't just interrupt a criminal trial in the middle and ask the jury to come back in another week – or even a few days later.

"Of course, it was not the note, but the lie about the note. Furthermore, what has not

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*Best Friends*



## Polly Mann

BY JOHNNY HAZARD

I met Polly Mann in the spring of 1977 when I was 18 and living in a little room by the tracks in the south Phillips neighborhood of Minneapolis. I had recently found out who she was because the Minneapolis Star had published a detailed profile of her and I was surprised that, having family in Marshall and being myself a budding pinko, I had never heard of her. I went to Marshall to see my grandmother and told her that I wanted to meet this woman who was in the paper. She said "Oh, you don't want to meet her. She's a radical." I don't remember if I ever told Polly this part, but I knew that right away she started to visit my grandmother, who stopped attacking her and spoke out when other people still did.

When my visit to Marshall was over, I hitchhiked back to Minneapolis. Less than an hour along, near Redwood Falls, a white-haired man in an Oldsmobile sedan stopped. He asked where I was coming from, where I was going, who I was visiting in Marshall. "My grandmother," I said.

"Who's your grandmother?"

When I told him her name he laughed.

"You know her?" I said.

"Yes, I know her." And he explained why and who he was. I told him about the conversation with my grandmother about this man's wife, Polly, and said that I wanted to meet her. He said: "Well. You see that car up ahead? She's driving it. We don't normally take two cars to the same place, but ... So you can talk to her at the next rest stop." We rolled along for almost an hour after that, and Walter trusted me well enough to say what he really thought of the FBI and the CIA - unusual for a sitting judge talking to a stranger. But he was that way. These were still the peak years of FBI attacks, via COINTELPRO,

against the Black Panthers, the American Indian Movement, anti-war groups, and the legacy of Martin Luther King.

I rode the rest of the way with Polly and I visited her often in Marshall, St. Paul and Minneapolis for the next 40 years. In Marshall she showed me clippings of letters to the editors of the Marshall Independent which she usually signed, "Polly Mann, Marshall. Rural housewife." She used the same bio when she spoke at public meetings. When she planned to leave Marshall, just before Walter retired, she said: "I'm tired of being in the news here every time I express an opinion. I feel that in the Cities I will be just one more person working for causes."

In those first years she showed me a short story she had written and I know that she kept working on it for the rest of her life because I always got the recycled paper and the type fonts were more modern every time. I think the title was "Princess Fay of the Freeway" and it was about an organization that put up memorials like the ones that we see for veterans every time that someone died for progress behind the wheel. She had said to me, "I'm not a light person," but this was evidence of her satirical side.

I moved to Mexico in 2000, Walter died a few years later, and Polly moved from St. Paul to an elders' apartment building in the Uptown area of Minneapolis. (The area had become a staging area for anti-militaristic protests thanks to WAMM, the Revolutionary Anarchist Bowling League and other organizations.)

In 2009, I went to her 90th birthday party. Someone asked that all of the people over 90 years old raise their hands - there were dozens. Within a couple of years after that party, she faced her first real health challenge, a broken hip. It was sad to see her limited to indoor

activities in winter during those years, but I was glad to see that she was in good spirits and enjoying the phenomenon of physical therapy.

In 2018 and 2019 I saw her three times that I can recall. One time she invited me and her son Mike, still living in Minnesota, to eat at the dining place in her building. When she invited the second one of us she had forgotten about the first, but there we were. She beat us both viciously in Scrabble. It was around the same time that she said, "John, this may sound funny, but I've started writing a book." She mentioned an author who had inspired her. I didn't know who it was. When I got back home, I asked her a few times to send me the work so far by email. Before I received them, I said to Eddie Felien, "She's writing a book. We have to get hold of it and make a commitment to finish it for her if necessary." But when I started to read it, I found that I didn't understand the concept well enough to do anything with it. It was more complicated than an autobiography would have been.

The last time I talked to Polly by phone was just after her 101st birthday in 2020. She is the only person for whom I was willing to participate in such an abomination as an online birthday party. I knew that she had COVID at the time but not everyone at the party did. She spoke very briefly at the party, paused, and then said, "That's all." I called her a few days later and could tell that she was not going to die. She said, "Come on over," and I said, "You forget that I live in Mexico." "Ah, that's right," she said. "Well, you know, the main problem with this COVID thing is that it's really boring." This was an unusually carefree comment, given that one of her close friends had just died of it and she herself had been at risk days a few days earlier. But I agreed with her attitude, as usual.

## Journal entry on CaringBridge by Connie John (Polly's daughter)—Jan. 19, 2023

It is just over a week ago that I woke up about 4 a.m. and heard Mom wheezing. I got up to see how she was doing. Mostly after the stroke when she could not be trusted to chew food and swallow, we gave her blended food and drink in "sippy cups" that are made for toddlers as this worked better than spoon feeding. I gave her water and a bit of food in a sippy cup and albuterol for the wheezing. She seemed to feel better, and I went back to bed and thought that she was sleeping more soundly after that. But when I checked on her at 7:45 a.m., she was no longer breathing at all! Mom wanted to donate her body to research and that is what was done. The next day we arranged for representatives from the University of California, San Francisco, to pick up her body.

Although she was not entirely "herself" before the stroke, we had lots of good times together playing games and reminiscing over the last 18 months. I used Alexa to play songs from the '30s and '40s for her sometimes, which she really enjoyed hearing.

Although her recollection of our early childhood days seemed limited, there were many fascinating details about her life growing up in Arkansas that she told me about. Most of her childhood she lived with her mother and sister in the home of her grandparents

along with many aunts, several of whom were close in age. Mother loved describing their lively dinner table and summer evenings relaxing on the porch while facing "the mountain" in Hot Springs.

My mother always regretted not attending college. Graduating high school at the height of the Depression, after her parents had divorced and her grandfather, who was a medical doctor, had died, she could not see how she could afford to go. Later she helped her sister financially attend school to become a nurse and Mother did attend some college classes in Marshall. She was very well read on many, many different topics. I asked her what she would have studied had she gone to college. Her answer was that she would have liked to be a political science or social studies teacher.

Since she was living with me and brought quite a few of her things, especially pictures and favorite books, now when I am at home I am reminded of her all the time. No matter their age, one misses the people you love so terribly when they die. But we were lucky to have had so many years with my mom. While far from perfect as none of us are, my mom was in some ways a model of strength. I learned from her how important it is to have faith in oneself and in the goodness of others and of life itself.



## Polly, remembered

BY SARAH MARTIN

Polly Mann, a leading force and giant in the Twin Cities anti-war movement, died on Jan. 12 at the age of 103 in San Francisco, where she had lived with her daughter Connie for a little over a year.

In 1981, Polly called her friend, Marianne Hamilton, and said that we needed a peace group and the name should be WAMM (Women Against Military Madness). She knew that polls showed most women were anti-war, but they needed an organization to challenge the priorities of the current government's spending priorities. Money for human needs, not the military and war. They were also concerned about the ongoing threat of nuclear warfare. They wanted a place for women to become leaders who would demand a peaceful and just society. Polly always thought big, made things happen, and remained involved. Until just six months before she died, she was still sending ideas and suggestions to the WAMM newsletter editor.

Polly began her lifelong commitment to peace and justice during World War II. She was a secretary at an Army base in Little Rock, Arkansas, during the war. Polly was appalled by how soldiers were being trained to kill, and deeply disturbed and saddened as she saw these young men go off to war. She knew then that she was opposed to war.

Polly's fierce and relentless activism and opposition to all U.S. wars, interventions and occupations began with the Vietnam War. She was a field organizer in the Gene McCarthy campaign, and was present and tear-gassed on the streets during the police assault on protestors during the Democratic National Convention in Chicago in 1968. During the Paris Peace Talks in 1971, Polly went with the Citizen Committee to End the War in Vietnam to observe talks between the North Vietnamese and the U.S.

She was the first volunteer staff person in the WAMM office. Nikki LaSorella, who was a co-director with Polly, said, "I would never have learned to trust my intuition and creativity if it wasn't for her generosity and encouragement. I watched how she brought people into the organization by allowing them room to become leaders. Her fearlessness never faltered, even when she was challenged. Her love was always present and her belief in each member gave us all a place in this unique organization."

Polly understood the importance of an office and staff to an organization and as a result she saw WAMM celebrate 40 years as a persistent anti-war presence opposing every U.S. war, intervention, occupation, sanction and coup during

this time. At times these were unpopular positions such as WAMM's early decision to support Palestinians in their struggle for liberation, opposition to the U.S./NATO dismemberment of Yugoslavia, and the U.S. involvement in the unsuccessful but destructive attempt at regime change in Syria.

Always well informed, Polly followed events closely and had a sharp and correct analysis and understanding of the depth and breadth of U.S. imperialism. She understood that capitalism was at the root of U.S. wars at home and abroad. Her response to the injustices, oppression and violence perpetrated on both individuals and countries in the crosshairs of U.S. militarism was swift and strong, and led her to immediate action.

She gave and organized material support to countless people. Sara Olson recalls, "Once, while incarcerated, I requested what is called an 'Olson Review.' My so-called 'counselor,' a former Los Angeles County sheriff, a former member of a corrupt bunch if there ever was one, had to wait while I read my entire C file (criminal file). I recall a letter Polly's husband wrote to the California attorney general, telling him he should see to it that the judge on my case in Los Angeles be disbarred and why he, Walter, thought so. Next, there was Polly's letter. As my counselor twisted and turned with frustration in his seat, I read her beautiful, well-turned phrases of support, tears streaming down my cheeks. While there are rarely good days in prison, for me, Polly's letter made it one of the best."

Lucia Wilkes-Smith remembers that, in 1985, seniors in the activity center on the Northside where she worked opposed the closing of the Social Security center near them. Budget cuts were supposedly the reason. This would force them to take care of their business at an office on the Southside, a bus ride with two transfers away. They decided to take action and called Polly to find out how to plan a protest. They were surprised and pleased when Polly came to their picket with her WAMM sign. Polly noticed the Army recruiting office across the street and said, in her distinctive Arkansas accent, "If they're so worried about the budget, why don't they shut that down instead of the Social Security office?"

One of WAMM and Polly's first actions was to organize buses to the Seneca Women's Encampment for a Future of Peace and Justice to stop the scheduled deployment of Cruise and Pershing II missiles from the Seneca Army Depot to Europe.

Polly went on delegations to many countries including Cuba, Libya, Central America and the



Philippines to see and hear firsthand the effects of U.S. foreign policy. She ran a spirited campaign for the Senate in 1988 with the slogan "Speak Truth to Power." She helped initiate an ongoing weekly vigil in St. Paul, Minnesota for Justice in Palestine, during the first intifada in 1988. She joined the picket line at the Hormel strike and, as Susan Giesen recounts, "Guardsmen were blocking the street. She marched right up to the line, approached each guardsman, touched him gently on the shoulder and said, 'I know you don't want to be sent to Central America. I will do all I can to not let them send you there.'"

An excellent and prolific writer, Polly wrote columns for the WAMM newsletter, Southside Pride and the Women's Press for years, and also plays, including "Victoria Reincarnated," which was about Victoria Woodhull and her candidacy – even before women could vote – for the office of U.S. president. It was produced and directed by Ed Felien and starred Sara Jane Olson as Victoria. Polly was a popular speaker at innumerable programs and rallies, including at the Minnesota Capitol at the March on the RNC in 2008.

Polly was a beloved, respected and dynamic leader. Erica Bouza said in a WAMM newsletter devoted solely to Polly, "Greatness is rare. Not many of us have encountered it; the courage to stand up for what you believe and the skill to lead and persuade others to pursue the dreams of social, racial, economic and gender justice are isolated virtues, given to the very few. She is gutsy, scholarly, practical and effective, a devoted friend and an inspiration to those who dream of freedom, equality and justice."

¡Polly Mann Presente!

## Thank you, Polly

BY ED FELIEN

Many people get it wrong when they think about Polly Mann. They think of her as someone always protesting the government. Yes, she did that. She did a lot of that. But she wanted to change the government so much she took the next step. She imagined a government so much better than it was, that she wanted to be a part of it.

Her profound contribution to Minnesota politics was her run for the U.S. Senate in 1988. She ran for the DFL endorsement at the Rochester convention against Skip Humphrey. Humphrey was attorney general, the son of Hubert Humphrey. He believed it was his turn. The seat had his name on it.

Skip had much the same politics as his father. He was pro-war and pro-life. He had just prosecuted some gay guy in Stillwater for sodomy. I managed to ask him why he did that. He said, "It's the law."

Polly knew there were a lot of pro-peace and pro-women people in the DFL, and she wanted to reach them. Gay people worked hard on her campaign. They came to Rochester upfront and in-your-face.

My wife, Carol Hogard, and I worked the floor for Polly. We talked to delegates. After the first ballot, I went into the counting room as the official campaign observer. Polly got 40% of DFL delegates' votes. 40% plus. That was enough to block the endorsement. Some people who had been left out for a long time, just got heard.

I ran out of the room back across the hall to our gang and shouted, "We did it. We blocked the endorsement."

"No we didn't," they said. The chair had just announced that Skip won the endorsement by just over 60% of the votes. The Central Committee hadn't voted yet. In the time it took me to leave the room after hearing the "final count" and running to my friends, the final count had been revised to include more than a dozen members of the DFL Central Committee.

We lost.

But Polly didn't think we'd lost. She thought we'd won a great victory. She knew that a lot of people wanted to hear what she had to say. She broke from the DFL and ran for the U.S. Senate as a peace candidate. She got a little less than 5% of the vote. It was enough to cost Humphrey the race. He lost to David Durenberger.

The DFL was put on notice. Don't send anyone to the Senate who isn't pro-choice and pro-peace.

Two years later the DFL endorsed probably the most progressive man ever to run for the Senate, Paul Wellstone. My wife and I worked the floor. I organized a snake dance by delegates to drum up support. After the convention ended, people were streaming out of the hall. Jim Rice, the head of the Northside DFL machine, angry about the old guard being beaten by young radicals, screamed at me, "OK, now you can proclaim the Southside Soviet."

I should have screamed back, "OK, but we'd have to call it The Polly Mann Southside Soviet."

Thank you, Polly, for teaching all of us to have faith in the courage to change the world. It was a precious and beautiful gift. And what the world has learned from you it will repeat again tomorrow.

# CTC's 'Locomotion' moves from heartbreak to hope

BY STEPHANIE FOX

The latest production at the Children's Theatre is "Locomotion," a story about an 11-year-old Black boy, Lonnie, who is coping with loss and upheaval in his life. The story shifts back and forth between the present and Lonnie's memories, both

dents to express themselves in writing and poetry, Lonnie will learn to find his voice.

The play originally premiered at the Kennedy Center in 2010. Then, only three actors played all the characters. This production has five actors, with Junie Edwards playing Lonnie Collins Motion (hence his nickname,

ies played the younger characters, with Glenn E. Williams II as Enrique and Mari Peterson-Hilleque as Lili. Talvin Wilks directed this production.

Playwright Jacqueline Woodson adapted the stage production from her book "Locomotion." "Lonnie's voice was in my head," she said. Some of Woodson's favorite poets, such as Langston Hughes, influenced the play as did Woodson's fifth-grade teacher, Ms. Vivo, who encouraged her to write, much like Lonnie's teacher does for her students.

Those attending "Locomotion" need to pay close attention. The action shifts quickly between times in Lonnie's past to those in the present. The play also deals with tragic loss. For that reason, CTC does not recommend this production for children under the age of nine. In places, the play moves from the present day to the recent past and then into the far past in mere seconds. Sometimes, it's not clear what has happened in one scene until later in the play. But that's part of what makes this play interesting and persuasive.

The first scenes give some hint of what is to come. There are sounds of a fire and sirens blaring, but it isn't until the end, when we learn that Lonnie's parents died in a fire, that



Junie Edwards (Lonnie) and Charla Marie Bailey (Mama/Miss Edna/Miss Marcus) in 'Locomotion' at Children's Theatre Company (Photo/Glen Stubbe Photography)

the audience can be certain of what actually happened. Losing his parents leaves Lonnie and his sister in the foster care system, passed from one household to another and still another. His current foster home is happier. He is living with a grandmotherly woman, Miss Thelma, in her apartment. Like most apartment buildings in Brooklyn, New York, there is a fire escape which Lonnie often uses to climb to the building's roof with his thoughts and memories, a place where he can find peace.

The play also focuses on Black lives. The history assignment

from his teacher is to read about Brown vs. Board of Education. There is a moment when all the actors chant "Black like me!", quoting a line from the Langston Hughes poem, "Dream Variations." Keep that in mind when Lonnie meets Enrique, who becomes his best friend. The two boys play basketball and tease one another, including about Enrique's bruises. The answer won't be revealed until late in the play, but it means another loss for Lonnie.

Lonnie and Enrique both

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Cast of 'Locomotion' at Children's Theatre Company (Photo/Glen Stubbe Photography)

good and bad. He is living in a foster home with Miss Thelma and is separated from his younger sister, Lili. He has a poem inside him, but does not know how to bring it out. With encouragement from his teacher, Ms. Marcus, who encourages her stu-

Locomotion); Ellis Dossavi as Lonnie's friend, Enrique; Mollie Allen as Lonnie's little sister, Lili; Charla Marie Bailey playing the female adult characters; and Darrick Mosley playing the adult male characters. During the evening I attended, two understud-

## Plastic-Free Challenge in February

BY LYDIA HOWELL

The world generates 400 million metric tons of plastic waste every year, according to a United Nations report.

Hennepin County is signing up community partners and individuals for their February Plastic-Free Challenge, with plenty of practical information to help you choose changes in your everyday life.

Where does all the plastic go when we're done with it?

Besides landfills, plastics are in waterways, including the oceans. Breaking down into particles that take 500 years to disappear, plastics are in soil, in wildlife and in our own bodies. Many plastics can't be recycled, meaning we're buried in the stuff.

How do we accumulate that much plastic? New York Times reporter A.J. Jacobs did his own experiment, trying to avoid using plastic, resulting in the article "A Day Without Plastic." He found plastics impossible to completely avoid.

Plastics infuse our lives, from essential medical supplies to packaging almost everything at

the grocery store, even in clothes (the elastic in your underwear!), your toothbrush to your children's toys, and more items one would never imagine have plastic in them. The ubiquitous water bottles add up to almost 500 billion a year.

Once you realize how many areas of life are touched by plastics, as Times reporter Jacobs did, it feels overwhelming. However, government agencies, environmental groups and businesses being built around sustainability are taking the problem on in manageable pieces.

Social scientist Dr. Gabby Salazar, who studies what motivates people to support environmental causes, told The New York Times, "It's not about plastics being the enemy. It's about single-use plastics as the enemy. It's the culture of using something once and then throwing it away."

Consider the plastic bags that every store puts our purchases in. The Minneapolis City Council approved a retailers' five-cent single-use bag fee in December 2019, with the aim of encouraging consumers to bring their own bags by either reusing plastic and paper or switching to cloth bags.

After three years of implementation, I still regularly hear people grumble about paying that nickel while not going without that bag for single items or bringing their own bag.

The result is one trillion single-use plastic bags thrown away.

Some of those bags end up blocking storm drains, making worse the flooding caused by "monster storms" intensified by climate change. Some of those bags end up harming wildlife. We see those plastic bags littering everywhere. This is a totally solvable problem that anyone at any income level can impact.

Grocery stores need to return to brown paper sacks for produce – and consumers should demand they do or bring their own bags. To have less plastic packaging waste, we need more buy-in-bulk options for staples like coffee, rice, dried beans and oatmeal. Food co-ops have standardized buying in-bulk and mainstream groceries should follow their lead. Glass jars can have an infinite shelf-life and lots of plastic containers can be reused almost endlessly to replace plastic bags.

The Twin Cities has its first

zero-waste store, the Tare Market, located at 2717 E. 38th St., with a second location recently opened at 945 Broadway St. NE #103. The store's founder, Amber Haukedahl, told Bring Me The News that since the store opened in April 2019 they've had measurable results: 40,000 plastic bags diverted from landfills, 2,000-plus cardboard boxes reused for their online shipping and 4,500 tree planted through Seed the Change and Ecologi. [www.thetaremarket.com](http://www.thetaremarket.com)

It becomes harder – and a lot more expensive – to address personal care products. At Tare Market (and food co-ops) plastic-free toothbrushes start at \$6. Shampoo bars can cost \$18. Two hair scrunchies are \$20 – which might make resorting to rubber bands the smart, affordable option.

There are also 12 food co-ops in the Twin Cities, including the Seward Co-op in two south Minneapolis locations.

Lifelong environmental activist Ken Pentel, founder of the Ecology Democracy Network, observes how the American economy runs on a distorted view of waste: "The incentives are for

throwing things away. Instead of showing up as a cost, managing waste shows up as a credit on spreadsheets because it generates economic activity." While encouraging individuals, families and community groups to take action to address plastic waste, Pentel emphasizes that industries must be reined in. "We have to get at the sources. We have to stop this stuff from being manufactured to begin with."

Consumers moving away from single-use plastics curbs demand for them. Every recycle barrel says, "Reduce. Reuse. Recycle." Thinking in those terms saves the planet, and as a low-income person, I know it also saves money. Look for the numbers 1, 2 or 5 in a triangle on the bottom of those disposable plastic water bottles to show they can be recycled. Or buy a reusable bottle at the thrift store. Everyone can bring their own bags.

Be inspired and sign up to participate at [www.hennepinplasticfree.ecochallenge.org](http://www.hennepinplasticfree.ecochallenge.org).

Lydia Howell is an independent Minneapolis journalist.

# The People’s Climate & Equity Plan for Minneapolis

BY ULLA NILSEN AND MN350

Minnesota is now on track to provide 100% clean electricity by 2040, but are we using it? You have probably heard of the Inflation Reduction Act (or IRA), the biggest investment the United States has ever made toward transitioning to a clean energy future. While this is a huge step forward, the IRA alone is not enough to save us. In order to meet climate goals and ensure that the benefits of the clean energy transition fall equally to everyone, local governments need to step up.

As luck would have it, Minneapolis is in the process of updating its 10-year climate action plan. Teams of people from every ward across Minneapolis have been working with their council members and the mayor to advocate for the People’s Climate & Equity Plan for Minneapolis — a local effort headed up by a coalition of racial, environmental and economic justice organizations that would ensure that the clean energy revolution is accessible to all residents, regardless of income, race or zip code.

So, what is the People’s Climate & Equity Plan? Here are its goals:

**1. 100% Clean energy and efficiency in all Minneapolis**

**buildings by 2030.**

Some IRA programs are targeted specifically to benefit low and moderate-income families, but most spending is in the form of tax incentives that largely benefit moderate- and high-income households. Local investment through the People’s Climate & Equity Plan will help ensure that families at all income levels have access to healthy, clean-energy homes and the ability to build wealth through community ownership of clean energy projects.

Bonus: Citywide coordination will also enable Minneapolis to tap into new renewable resources such as networked geothermal that would be accessible only when shared across a neighborhood.

**2. Build community wealth and reduce the racial wealth gap.**

The IRA provides significant business opportunities for BI-POC- and worker-owned cooperatives, but no direct investments. The People’s Climate & Equity Plan will develop pathways for people from marginalized communities to move into union apprenticeships and remove barriers to accessing the higher-paying union jobs created by the IRA.

“As the green economy accelerates, we must create intentional and equitable pathways for communities of color to access union careers in the energy and construction sectors. Investing in clean energy creates enormous opportunities to address health and wealth disparities. Our communities cannot be left behind.” — Coalition member Emilia Gonzalez-Avalos, Executive Director of Unidos MN

**3. Safe, healthy and climate-resilient neighborhoods connected by accessible, carbon-free transportation.**

The IRA provides funding for clean commercial vehicles, pollution reduction along major transportation corridors, and tree planting. Cities will need to partner with disadvantaged communities to secure this funding and that means investing in staff capacity — which is part of the People’s Climate & Equity plan.

The IRA also provides tax credits for clean vehicles. While this is good, it’s simply not accessible to everyone. The People’s Climate & Equity Plan can help Minneapolis reduce our reliance on cars — which is necessary for reducing emissions overall.

**4. Create a robust dedicated**

**funding stream to make bold climate justice policy a reality.**

By supporting the transition to clean energy, the People’s Climate & Equity Plan provides economic benefits for everyone.

**Saving city governments money**

As the impacts of human-caused climate change continue to escalate here and around the world, state and local governments bear the majority of the infrastructure costs to recover from current or mitigate future disasters. We must invest in clean energy systems now to prevent worsening losses and damage to roads, trees and our drinking water.

**Saving money for residents and businesses**

Renewables are now cheaper than coal and gas — and prices are continuing to fall. Transitioning to clean electricity will lower and stabilize energy prices for every Minneapolis household. This helps to relieve the burden on low-income households which currently pay a higher percentage of their income on energy bills. It also allows businesses of all sizes to accurately plan for the future.

**Generating wealth for local economies**

Electrifying everything from buildings to buses will not only create jobs for communities of color, it will make Minneapolis a more desirable place to live. Businesses compete for talented workers and sustainability is one of the top draws. Healthy zero-energy buildings and robust clean transportation infrastructure will make Minneapolis a destination for businesses and talented workers.

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**About MN350:** MN350 is a statewide climate advocacy group with 30,000 supporters. We work to make Minnesota a national leader in a just transition to a clean energy economy. MN350 Action is its political and advocacy arm.

**Urban farm, from page 1**

to Black and Indigenous communities in the city of Minneapolis during the passage of a resolution honoring Black History Month.

When the discussion turned to the Roof Depot building, a memorandum of understanding was introduced by Council Members Jason Chavez and Andrew Johnson and was unanimously passed by the council. The memorandum could provide EPNI with development rights to three acres of land on the Roof Depot building site as long as the organization drops potential environmental claims against the city.

While introducing the memorandum, Johnson spoke about his support of the EPNI urban farm project in the past, even mentioning that he tried to have the water facility placed in his ward. At the end of his time speaking, though, Johnson made it clear he would vote in favor of the demolition of the building. During the discussion of the memorandum, Council President Jenkins said she acknowledged that environmental racism has affected numerous communities in the city of Minneapolis, however, she would also later vote to approve the contract for demolition.

After multiple attempts to delay the vote by both council members and community members, the seven-council-member ma-

jority mentioned earlier in the article voted to approve the contract for demolition.

While those seven council members voted to continue the polluting of East Phillips, council members Chavez, Robin Wonsley, Aisha Chughtai, Elliot Payne, Jeremiah Ellison and Jamal Osman stood with the residents of the neighborhood and voted no.

Both Wonsley and Chavez spoke out against the city’s proposed project and the hypocrisy of the City Council before the vote.

“The hypocrisy on this action is shocking,” Wonsley said. “The city did declare racism to be a public health emergency and did form a truth and reconciliation commission to propose solutions to specific harms that the city created and continues against Black and Indigenous communities. Yet we are simultaneously being asked to force a project onto a community that has organized tirelessly for almost 10 years against it.”

“I attended a community meeting about this demolition. I heard from our Native relatives about their fears of what more pollution would do to our community. I think about my dear friend Casie from Little Earth who lost her son Trinidad to a heart condition at age 16, and I think about all the kids that are developing asthma and our elderly getting cancer,” Chavez said.

A resident from Little Earth also interrupted the meeting to condemn those who voted in favor of the demolition.

“My granddaughter is sitting at home and can barely go outside because she coughs, she can’t breathe because the cold air hurts her lungs while you look sideways and away because it’s not your kid ... when that demolition goes down, my grandbaby and all of us are there,” the resident said before the mics in the room were cut.

*Reprinted by permission from the Twin Cities Democratic Socialists of America Little Red Letter #98*

**Update:**

At their Feb. 6 meeting the Minnesota Court of Appeals affirmed the lower court’s decision to deny East Phillips Neighborhood Improvement Association’s request for an Environmental Impact Statement before demolition begins on the Roof Depot. Steve Sandberg of EPNI responded: “We will be appealing today’s ruling to the Minnesota Supreme Court and ask for an immediate halt to demolition. We are also waiting for Judge Wahl to issue his ruling on our request for a preliminary injunction in Hennepin District Court. There were about 100 people in attendance at Government Plaza today at 1 p.m., which included many elders

and AIM flags. A contingent went into City Hall to talk to the mayor, but he was reportedly caught on film exiting out the back. We will continue to fight to save the Roof Depot building and stop the Hiawatha Expansion.”

**Statement from EPNI:**

“Last month, before voting on a contractor for demolition of the warehouse, the Minneapolis City Council presented the East Phillips Neighborhood Institute with a Memorandum of Understanding, supposedly made with the neighborhood’s interests in mind. While the language of the MOU sounds appealing, it contains no plan for a net reduction of pollution in the neighborhood, no enforceability, nor vital details about the vague commitments, some of which were already part of unrelated promises the city has

made to this neighborhood in the past (e.g., tree planting as part of the city’s Green Zone commitment).

“This MOU would also forfeit EPNI’s ability to sue the city for not following through on its commitments. It lacks timelines for promises like electrifying the city’s fleet of vehicles, and it offers no protection for residents against the health risks of demolishing a building that sits atop untreated, arsenic-laden soil.”

“We live right there and we’re scared to death of this demolition,” said Nicole Perez, who lives with thousands of other Indigenous residents at Little Earth within East Phillips, at a recent healing circle and rally near Little Earth. “I will fight here, this is our land. We don’t want this to happen in our community and we will fight till the end.”



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# Trump People ‘R’ Us



BY JOHN RYKHUS JR.

Go east on the I-94 freeway and jump off onto Highway 29 near Elk Mound, Wisconsin, toward Green Bay. At Chipewa Falls take a hard left onto Highway 178 and then you will see something. Rolling fields are tree-lined with green forest. After crossing O’Neil Creek you bump up against a wide ribbon of water which is the Chipewa River. Its shores are dotted with cabins, homes, some taverns and a few small communities. The poet Thomas R. Smith aptly named it “The Dark Indigo Current.” The natural beauty is siren-esque, enticing, alluring. The pavement that winds alongside it is called “The River Road” by the locals. The people around here are friendly enough, but not in the phony “Minnesota Nice” way. If you irritate them they will let you know about it.

One of the local inhabitants is Derek (not his real name), a family man with three sons, the oldest of whom recently won a full ride scholarship to the University of Wisconsin, Stout. Not so recently Derek was a small businessman but grew tired of the long hours required to keep afloat. Not wanting to miss his children growing up, he sold the business and took work at an area grain processing plant. He serves on the municipal governing board of his community, and enjoys watching the boys participate in sports.

Derek has another favorite pastime as well. He is a political junkie and devours everything controversial or sensational in the media that he can find. While most of the conversation among his tavern circle is pedestrian fare, such as sports, local gossip, fishing, golf, or the weather, it often turns to the political events of the day. While others may consider some of these conversations disagreeable, Derek’s bunch goes at it with an almost revolutionary relish, à la Samuel Adams, who in another form, almost 250 years later, still contributes to the decibel volume.

After some of these sessions Derek is known to phone up and ask, “What do you think about [fill in your own recent political maneuvering at the national level here]?”

“I consider myself an independent,” Derek says. “My parents were Democrats because that was the party of the farmer. As a young man I was a Reagan Democrat.”

Derek parted with the Demo-

cratic slate again by supporting Ross Perot. The issues which concern him the most read like planks from the Tea Party platform: fiscal conservatism, pro-life, and “pro-constitution,” meaning he opposes gun control. While never involved in the Republican Party itself, the populism of their more rightwing candidates attracted him.

Still, he does not want to be pigeonholed, either. “I support the legalization of marijuana,” he says.

A seat-of-the-pants survey indicates that Derek’s views are by no means representative of all or even a majority of the residents in the area, but one can conclude that they are widespread. Trump signs dotting the countryside last November probably outnumbered Biden signs 50 to one. One such farmer now hangs a sign on the side of a hay wagon reading “Trump for Prison.”

Derek supported Ted Cruz in 2016. “There were 19 Republicans vying for the nomination, and I put Trump’s chances at dead last, even behind Scott Walker. Like everyone else, I did not expect Trump to beat Clinton, either.”

He declared that he was still impressed by what Trump accomplished in his presidency, given that Derek considers Trump to be an outsider.

“He turns the economy around, closes the border, equalizes China, and negotiated the Abraham Accords bringing peace to the Middle East. By the end of his presidency, my disgust with the Republicans had definitely grown; the Uniparty, basically. Was he a racist? No. A pig around women? Maybe.”



Derek does not envision any Trump resurgence in the imminent future.

“I don’t see anyone else able to pick up the flag, but I think we need a younger person in the White House. Maybe DeSantis?”

He was last asked to comment on McCarthy’s stalled election as speaker of the House.

“I see it as democracy in action. That is just how things are supposed to work sometimes. And the concessions he had to

make I think were pretty good. Term limits for example.”

Derek asked that we not use his real name. While Trump supporters were loudly vocal prior to Jan. 6, 2021, they now seem to be running for cover. While he had absolutely zero to do with the mob’s storming of the Capitol, one senses an under-

lying level of paranoia. “I don’t want a target on my back.” Citing government incursions into local control of school boards as an example, he concludes, “I just want the government to leave me alone!”

John Rykhys Jr. can be reached at [rykhysjohn@yahoo.com](mailto:rykhysjohn@yahoo.com).

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# Summer Camp!



## Summer camps in 2023



Summer camp options abound at MacPhail Center for Music.

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

### Overview

The whole summer camp scene seems more stable this year than the past three. In 2020, summer camps, like exercise studios, were reeling, and the timing was terrible to switch to alternative modes of delivery. In 2021, new experiments in areas such as virtual classes made it rather chaotic. In 2022 there was a rush to embrace “normal again” but with virtual offerings also provided as backups. Now it’s all integrated, and meant to last – not normal again, but the new normal.

### Arts and creativity camps

Many old friends are still around. Northern Clay Center’s registration opened Jan. 31. Their website says, “Northern Clay Center offers ... summer camps, after school clay club, weekly Teen Boot Camp, one-day workshops for families, and take home virtual camp kits.” Artculture (artculture.org) and Chicago Avenue Fire

Arts (cafac.wildapricot.org/classes/youth) will both open registration and post classes for summer camp in late February. Cooks of

ArtStart (artstart.org) is an innovative arts nonprofit in St. Paul that combines artmaking with art appreciation, cultural stud-



### Paddleboarding at Camp Foley

Crocus Hill is offering a small but interesting selection of three-day youth classes in the summer. Examples: for kids ages 8-10 there is one on baseball game snacks, and for teens ages 13-16 there is Level Up Baking, which covers some very fancy stuff.

ies, history and – recycling? (See ArtScraps on their website.) Registration is open now for summer programs, which center on studying and being inspired by the art and culture of Egypt and Turkey.

See Summer Camp, page 8

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Summer Camp, from page 7

The teaching artists include many honored veterans of In the Heart of the Beast, including Julie and Gustavo Boada and more.

Performing arts camps

Circus Juventas, the famed circus arts school in St. Paul, has not opened registration yet for summer, and now you need to pre-register in order to get an invitation when that happens. So if you have a kid who wants to fly through the air with the greatest of ease, head



Happy campers at Camp Fire Minnesota

The Guthrie Theater Summer Camp program is confined to the month of July, with grades 6 to 8 in the first two weeks, and grades 9 to 12 in the second. These can be taken as a single week or combined, in which case there is a discount. There are also scholarships available.

Sports and games camps

Great River School summer camps mentioned above also include sports. Ultimate, Goal-timate, Urban Biking, Hiking, Swimming, and Sailing (on Bde Maka Ska) are among the offerings for grades 7 to 10, while Ninja Warrior Training is one of the modules for grades 1 to 3.



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ArtStart summer camps for creati

Classic TaeKwonDo Studios at 5253 Chicago Ave. in Minneapolis offers full-day programs all summer long as well as on school release days. The day includes a field trip, mostly outdoors, lunch time, free time, snack time and an hour of TaeKwonDo.



Inner City Tennis runs tennis camps called Summer Tennis in the Parks from June 19 to Aug. 4, except for the Fourth of July. This program is available in 21 Minneapolis parks, and registration opens March 1. St. Paul Urban Tennis offers a smaller but similar program for two weeks in August at four parks. Email [admin@urbantennis.org](mailto:admin@urbantennis.org) for more information.

STEM camps

iDTech is back at Macalester College in St. Paul this summer with its wildly popular career-oriented summer camps. They have a big focus on robotics, coding and engineering. Start at [idtech.com](http://idtech.com) to find specifics.



ve kids

The Science Museum of Minnesota also offers summer camps that comprise a full day to accommodate working parents. I like their offerings because unlike many STEM programs they go beyond the usual coding focus. They in-

clude things like veterinary medicine, archaeology, “planet protectors,” space travel, a magic-themed module for grades 1 to 3, and Sci Girls in the National Parks for grades 4 to 6.

Mixed activity and overnight camps

For overnight camps, it’s a whole other world. These camps combine all the themes above into one experience, plus sleeping in a tent, communal living, and being away from your family for a week or more. Three great options for staying in Minnesota or the surrounding states are YMCA of the North, which operates eight metro area day camps and several overnight camps in Minnesota and western Wisconsin ([ymcanorth.org/camps](http://ymcanorth.org/camps)) and Camp Pillsbury, a venerable and well-loved co-ed camp in Owatonna ([camppillsbury.com](http://camppillsbury.com)), and Camp Foley.

Camp Foley is a co-ed, family-owned, residential camp in Pine River, Minnesota, dating from 1924, and currently led by a mother-daughter team.



Great River School offers camps for kids from pre-K to high school seniors.

It’s an all-activities camp with loads of physical activity along with some art, cooking, music and other enrichment. They offer sailing and other water sports, plus rock-climbing, archery, tennis and paintball. Camp Foley attracts campers from all over the world and offers counselor training internships for older teens. See [campfoley.com](http://campfoley.com) for details and registration.

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Cam, from page 1

that has been held regularly at the course since 1954.

The application was submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on Nov. 4, 2022. They will submit their findings to the State Historic Preservation Review Board on Feb. 7. If it is determined eligible by the board, the matter will go to the National Park Service for a final determination and placement on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

Charlene Roise, from Hess, Roise and Company, said that she is “very confident” that the effort will be successful. “The nomination makes the case that the property meets National Register criteria,” she said.

“I believe the property has a strong case for designation,” said Claire VanderEyck, one of the HPC commissioners who voted in support of the nomination, “though I think including the Native history would make it stronger.”

Kathryn Kelly, who learned to golf on the course and whose family owns a house across from it, said she is also confident that it will go through. In a letter Kelly submitted supporting the nomination, she wrote, “I grew up across the street from Hiawatha Golf Course during the height of the Bronze Tournament in the 1960s and 1970s. I saw the importance of Hiawatha Golf Course to the Black community. The Bronze Tournament was, by far, the largest event of the year at Hiawatha Golf Course.”

Hess-Roise’s 129-page nomination focuses on the social, cultural and ethnic history from 1952-1972, including the struggle to integrate the clubhouse that was segregated until 1952 when Solomon Hughes, a Black golfer, was finally admitted after years of trying. In 2021

the clubhouse was named in his honor. The nomination application concludes that the course “is locally significant under National Register Criterion A, in the areas of Entertainment/ Recreation, Social History, and Ethnic Heritage: Black, as a significant site for civil rights in Minneapolis.”

Following submission of the application, the SHPO requested comments from both the Minneapolis HPC and the Park Board.

“Our (the Commission’s) mandate was to offer support, or non-support, of the nomination with the added opportunity to provide some comments to accompany our letter,” said VanderEyck. “The HPC voted in favor of supporting the nomination and asked that SHPO consider extending the period of significance to include Native history.”

The Park Board’s response was shaped by the master plan for the area it approved last September. That plan attempts to improve water management, reduces the golf course to nine holes, adds other amenities and restores part of the area to wetlands. The Park Board letter, signed by Board President Meg Forney, notes the history of the area prior to the creation of the golf course and the changes made to what was then called Rice Lake (Bde Psin). “Though the MPRB largely agrees with the history represented within the Bronze Foundation’s application,” it says, “there are other histories on this site worth sharing, including Indigenous histories extending back thousands of years. The master plan represents a balance of nature and recreation, and a balance for Black golfers, where the golf course is modified but retained, and Indigenous peoples, where a process of healing and restoration is proposed to reestablish, as best as the MPRB is

able, the ecology of Bde Psin.”

If the nomination is successful and the course is put on the National Register, it is unclear what benefits it will bring and how this will impact future changes to the area. National registration typically offers few protections, but is associated with preservation incentives, including rehabilitation tax credits that could be used by private property owners.

“The National Register of Historic Places creates a written record of the history of the site, which I think is very valuable for future reference,” said VanderEyck. “It also adds a layer of potential consideration if or when proposals of redevelopment or major renovations occur. The listing does not preclude changes, but it allows an added layer of oversight, which I believe will benefit the process and ensure a better, more holistic approach to any future changes.”

Kelly served on the Community Advisory Committee for the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan and is now a member of the SaveHiawatha18 group, which is trying to keep the 18-hole course. “Our hope is that the Park Board would think twice about what they are doing,” she said. “We are trying to save all 18 holes.”

Kelly sees bigger risks to the restoration project and about how possible changes to managing storm water may affect the homes in the area, and her family’s home in particular. “My main goal is to save my family’s house,” she said. “Lots of the golf courses flood and there are other solutions. The watershed district could do more than just dump water in the creek.”

“I see no reason the registration will impact the master plan,” said VanderEyck. “NRHP nominations are honorary and symbolic. They do not afford protection of the nominated property. Local historic designation is the process with which communities can protect historic properties with specific design guidelines.”

In Minnesota, local historic designation is made through a city’s Heritage Preservation Commission under rules spelled out in a city ordinance. Minneapolis’s ordinance is clear that a nomination may only be made by an HPC commissioner, a member of the City Council, the mayor, the planning director or a person with a “legal or equitable interest in the subject property.”

When asked if she thought that some or all of the area might qualify for local designation, Roise had no doubts. “Yes,” she said, “virtually anything that qualifies for the National Register qualifies for local designation.”

Roise, Kelly, VanderEyck, and city HPC staff all reported that there are no plans that they are aware of for local historic designation at this time.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Questions on rent control

I read Cam Gordon’s take on rent “control” [“Competing options for rent control,” Jan. 2, 2023]. Now I have more questions than I did prior to reading it. The options Cam wrote about are vague; they contain no specific examples of how an option would affect renters and developers/owners. Wouldn’t it be helpful to take, say, two examples, maybe three, and provide numbers to the letters to let Minneapolis voters know what’s at stake?

What if we knew how the options would affect low-income/medium-income/high-income renters? I’m not sure \$800 rent is available anymore in Minneapolis, but how about \$1600 or \$2300? High-income renters will never be affected by city policies around rent rates. But low-income renters will always be greatly affected by rent increases. What about seniors on fixed incomes – how will this policy change make their homes more affordable?

If true, I’m skeptical of the Frey veto. There are thousands more renters than there are apartment owners and developers; they have much more clout at the ballot box than a few wealthy white guys. And yet, they have no clout in terms of rental rates and increases year after year.

Cam should define “reasonable return on investment.” What’s reasonable if there are no guardrails applied to the industry?

I was in the room during the 2022 legislative session in which Republican majority members created law to enhance real estate owners’ profit margins. Not one word was given to the plight of renters. If Frey is bending to the needs of monied and special interests, it won’t end well for him.

Julie Stroeve  
Minneapolis

Locomotion, from page 4

keep their secrets, never sharing them even with each other despite their close relationship. Even Lonnie’s good memories, from watching the sunrise with his father, to holding his baby sister, to the close relationship with his mother, are his own, shared only with the audience.

The play does not end with happily-ever-after, but the lives of Lonnie and those close to him become much more hopeful. He is still trying to become reunited with his little sister, and perhaps when he is older, can become her guardian. His foster mother Miss Thelma’s son returns from the Army, possibly home from a war, and he bonds with Lonnie, becoming almost like a big

Cam Gordon  
responds:

Julie Stroeve, in her letter, raises important questions about the rent stabilization proposals the City Council and mayor are supposed to be taking up early this year. With a full report from the working group coming soon, now is a good time to be asking questions, and not jumping to judgments like the mayor has done.

Let’s hope the coming public discussion digs into the details of potential consequences on low-income renters, seniors and others, as Julie calls for.

Defining a “reasonable rate on return” that could allow landlords to increase rents beyond preset limits may be one of the most important details of any new rent stabilization ordinance. Just because St. Paul chose a 2019 base year of “Maintenance of Net Operating Income” does not mean Minneapolis should. It would also help to better understand the consequences of any new law if the council could review and share how the different proposals could actually impact residents who rent, before any votes are taken.

One could also ask, if there are exceptions like the required reasonable rate on return that property owners can ask for, could there also be exceptions that a renter – like one on a fixed income – could ask for as well. Might there be exceptions when it would make sense to further restrict an increase below the 7% or 3% cap?

If and when this comes forward to the council, and possibly again to the voters, let’s all pay attention and keep asking questions.

brother. And Lonnie’s teacher has opened him up to poetry and prose to the point that the poem deeply hidden in his head is finally allowed to come out, along with Lonnie’s gift for using poetry to find his way in the world.

“Locomotion” will be at the Children’s Theatre until March 5.



Mollie Allen (Lili) and Junie Edwards (Lonnie)  
(Photo/Glen Stubbe Photography)

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‘Sad Song Sing-Along’ Through Feb. 14

Open Eye Theatre  
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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>.

‘Corduroy’

Feb. 14 – April 2  
Opening Night on Saturday, Feb. 18, 7 p.m.

Children’s Theatre Company  
2400 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. S., Mpls.  
Back by popular demand, the beloved children’s books return to the CTC stage. Adapted for the stage by Barry Kornhauser, and directed by CTC’s Artistic Director Peter C. Brosius, “Corduroy” is based on the classic children’s books “Corduroy” and “A Pocket

for Corduroy” by Don Freeman. Join the beloved teddy bear as he takes a rollicking ride up the escalator and begins a delightfully destructive romp through every section of the department store. Will he find his button at the top of a teetering store display? Will Lisa ever get to bring him home, or will the bumbling security guard catch him first? Where, oh where, is Corduroy’s BUTTON? Don’t miss this delightful and wonderfully comic tale of friendship. Tickets may be purchased online at [childrenstheatre.org/corduroy](http://childrenstheatre.org/corduroy) or by calling the ticket office at 612-874-0400. Ticket prices start at \$15.

Indigenous Rights & Climate Justice Day at the Capitol Wednesday, Feb. 15, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Minnesota Capitol, St. Paul  
From Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light: We have an amazing opportunity this legislative year to drive change that will move Minnesota to center Indigenous communities and create economic justice through climate justice. Join MNIP, Honor the Earth, and our allies at the state Capitol. From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., we’ll meet with key legislators. At 3 p.m. we’ll have a press conference and rally. Start working on recruiting your community today! Learn more and register at <https://www.mnip.org/event/minnesota-state-capitol-day-02-15-2023/>.

‘Paradise’

Feb. 16 – 18, 7:30 p.m.  
Feb. 19, 2 p.m.

The Southern Theater  
1420 S. Washington Ave., Mpls.  
“Paradise” is a new dance theater piece directed by Jon Ferguson, choreographed by Helen Hatch, and created in collaboration with the cast. Live original music by Seth Conover and Joseph Strachan, design by Ashley Mary. “Paradise” combines contemporary dance, improvisation, physical theater, clown and music to spark moments of joy, relief and honesty

through a journey beyond the shroud of the everyday. Featuring Artemis Brown, Juliana Johnson, Kendall Kramer, Javan Mngrezzo, Ayaka Moriyama and Genevieve Waterbury, with live original music conceived by Seth Conover and Joseph Strachan and sets by multi-disciplinary artist Ashley Mary. Performance length: approximately 70 minutes with no intermission. Purchase tickets at <https://southerntheater.org/shows/paradise>.

Zealous Hellions: Charlayne Hunter-Gault in conversation with Brandi Powell

Friday, Feb. 17, 7 p.m.

In person and online  
Mixed Blood Theatre  
Alan Page Auditorium  
1501 S. 4<sup>th</sup> St., Mpls.  
For the first Zealous Hellions of 2023, Mixed Blood welcomes pioneering journalist Charlayne Hunter-Gault in conversation with Brandi Powell of KSTP 5 Eyewitness News.

On the occasion of the recent publication of Ms. Hunter-Gault’s new book, “My People: Five Decades of Writing About Black Lives,” this conversation will trace her journey from desegregating the University of Georgia to her work on PBS NewsHour, The New Yorker Magazine, The New York Times and beyond. We will celebrate this eminent voice and hear some stories from a journalist who has committed her lifelong work to reporting on Black people in their totality, “in ways that are recognizable to themselves.” And who better to be in dialogue with Ms. Hunter-Gault than Brandi Powell, herself a celebrated journalist of the in-depth series “Conversations About Racism and the Road to Equality.” This is a one-night, not-to-be-missed event! Reserve your free tickets or get more information at <https://mixedblood.com/zealous-hellions/> or reach out to Alejandro Tey by email at [tey@mixedblood.com](mailto:tey@mixedblood.com) or phone at 612-451-4466.

Moriarty, from page 1

been mentioned in these threads is that the prosecutor did not just lie to the judge about the note, but also encouraged the staff person who passed the note to alter it in order to conform to the prosecutor’s lie about the note. This enlistment of a staff person who was a subordinate to the prosecutor to fabricate evidence to cover up was even worse than the lie itself. Moriarty made a painful but principled decision.”

Also on the Issues Forum, Janet Nye wrote:

“[You cannot be] saying that because the perpetrator is clearly a danger to society, conviction by illegal means (falsifying evidence) is permissible? To dismiss the case was certainly justified because the prosecutor lied in a communication to the judge. Even when an alleged

crime is particularly heinous, as this one was, lying to the judge by the prosecution or by the defense attorney is illegal, and can trigger a mistrial. The law is ostensibly about getting to the truth of a situation.

“Mary Moriarty did the right thing. In a position that has heretofore put up with sham ‘investigations,’ presided over by the corrupt and careless BCA and police-friendly Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman, it is a huge step in the right direction to have a person in charge who will defend lawful procedure. The prosecuting attorney cannot claim ignorance of the law, as ethics are an essential part of a lawyer’s education.

“Why this prosecuting attorney made such a stupid move is anyone’s guess, but it cannot be said that she was unaware of the scrupulous rules she was subject to. All attorneys are rigorously

schooled in proper procedure. It’s a mystery why she did what she did, because a possible rapist has gone free because of her actions. The blame lies with her, not with Mary Moriarty.”



AURIN CHOWDHURY  
FOR MINNEAPOLIS WARD 12

CAUCUS FOR AURIN CHOWDHURY ON  
MARCH 14, 6:30PM AT ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL

Learn more on my website:  
AURINCHOWDHURY.ORG



Paid for and prepared by Neighbors for Aurin Chowdhury | P.O. Box 17133, Minneapolis, 55417

UKRAINE DEFIANT

Paintings by Elena Kalman



OPENING MARCH 4, 2023

Ukraine Defiant: Paintings by Elena Kalman

TMORA is honored to present the exhibition of paintings by the Ukrainian-born artist Elena Kalman created in support of the Ukrainian struggle against the aggressive assault of the Putin regime. These 12 eight-foot-long works on paper memorialize 12 months of the war through striking imagery and masterful brushwork. Kalman began painting them on Feb. 24, 2022, to follow in the steps of the courageous fight of the Ukrainian people to retain their country’s independence.

As part of TMORA’s unequivocal stand for the people of Ukraine and against Russian aggression, “Say No to War: Political Cartoons by Ukrainian and Russian Artists” has been on view since April 2022. This exhibition will continue to rotate and remain on view until the war ends.

March 4 through July 15  
The Museum of Russian Art  
5500 Stevens Ave., Mpls.  
[tmora.org](http://tmora.org)

25+ PICKUP LOCATIONS

featherstone farm  
locally and organically grown fruits and vegetables  
Personalized Veggie Box  
JUNE THROUGH OCTOBER  
Weekly Vegetable Share Delivery - Made Just for You!  
Local. Certified Organic. Fresh.  
Rushford, Minnesota (507) 864-2400 [featherstonefarm.com](http://featherstonefarm.com)

EVENTS

**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.united-seminary.edu](http://www.united-seminary.edu).

**The Listening Ear at Living Spirit: Mental Health for Everyone**  
**Wednesday, Feb. 15, 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 Feb. 15 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>.

**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Feast**  
**Tuesday, Feb. 21, 6 p.m.**  
Saint Mark’s Episcopal Cathedral  
519 Oak Grove St., Mpls.  
Come celebrate Shrove Tuesday – the last day before the penitential season of Lent – with a community pancake feast at Saint Mark’s! We will burn last year’s palms in a bonfire outside to be used the next day in our Ash Wednesday services, so be sure to dress for the weather. <https://ourcathedral.org/celebrate-shrove-tuesday-on-feb-21/>

**‘Beyond Incarceration’ webinars**  
**Tuesdays, Feb. 21, March 7 and March 21, 6:30 p.m. CST**  
**Online**  
The Mennonite Church USA is presenting a new webinar series, “Beyond incarceration: A hard look at dismantling the prison system and building healthy communities.” Join us to learn about the ways the faith community is actively understanding and working against these complex systems of confinement. The webinars will take place on Feb. 7, Feb. 21, March 7, and March 21 at 6:30 p.m. CST. They will be followed by learning tour opportunities in different parts of the U.S. Registration link: [mcc.org/beyond-incarceration-webinars](http://mcc.org/beyond-incarceration-webinars).

**365 Days of Defending Freedom**  
**Saturday, Feb. 25, 5:30 p.m.**  
Ukrainian American Community Center  
301 NE Main St., Mpls.  
Pray, dine, and hear about “Horror and Heroism” and lessons learned in the first year of the Russian invasion of Ukraine from Prof. Volodymyr Dubovyk of the National University in Ukraine’s Center for International Studies before

listening to music from the Isles Ensemble at this event organized to support the medical needs of people in Ukraine. Learn more and register at <https://secure.givelively.org/event/ukrainian-american-home-inc/365-days-of-defending-freedom/365-days-of-defending-freedom-fundraising-for-ukraine>.

**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.

SHARING FOOD

**New Creation Baptist Church**  
**1414 E. 48<sup>th</sup> St., Mpls.**  
**612-825-6933**  
We’re still here to serve you on the first through the fourth Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 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. 38<sup>th</sup> St., Mpls.**  
**Food Hub**  
Free food, hygiene products, and some household goods. Tuesday and Thursday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. 2nd and 4th Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please bring ID and wear a mask. Social distancing guidelines are in place.

**Calvary Emergency Food Shelf**  
**2553 Chicago Ave., Mpls.**  
**612-827-2504, ext. 3**  
The Calvary Food Shelf has reopened in our new location at 3553 Chicago Ave. and continues to create access to fresh, nutritious food for the community. We are open for individual choice shopping BY APPOINTMENT on Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon. Call 612-827-2504, ext. 3 for more information.

**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.

**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>

**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/>

New pastor to be installed at Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1720 E. Minnehaha Pkwy., is pleased to announce two very important events. One, Holy Cross is now a member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Two, Holy Cross will be installing a new pastor on Sunday, Feb. 19, in a special service at 2 p.m. Bishop Ann Svennungsen of the Minneapolis Area Synod of the ELCA will be presiding at the installation.

The new pastor of Holy Cross will be Rev. Jay M. Carlson. After completing his education at Concordia College in Moorhead and Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Rev. Jay Carlson was ordained to the ministry of Word and Sacrament in 2004. He has served churches in Indiana and Minnesota for the past 19 years.

Pastor Jay lives in the Hiawatha neighborhood of Minneapolis with his wife, Kristen, and two daughters, Bea (11) and Malena (9). In his spare time, he enjoys running, playing drums, and adventuring outdoors with his family.

A reception will follow the installation service. The community is invited to take part in this very special event. More information can be found at [holycrossmpls.org](http://holycrossmpls.org).

The Nokomis Religious Community Welcomes You

**CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. ALBERT THE GREAT**  
E. 29th St. & 32nd Ave. S.  
612-724-3643  
[www.saintalbertthegreat.org](http://www.saintalbertthegreat.org)  
Weekend Masses  
Saturday 5 pm  
Sunday 9:30 am (also live-streamed on Facebook)  
Sunday 12 noon  
Weekday Masses M, T, TH, F at 8:15 am in the Chapel, east door and elevator entry

**FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
3430 E. 51st St.  
612-729-5463  
[www.faithlutheranmpls.org](http://www.faithlutheranmpls.org)  
Sunday Worship 9 am and online on Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/felcmpls/>  
**Ash Wednesday and mid-week services Wednesdays at 6:30 pm**  
Education Hour - 10:30 am  
AA group - Mondays 6:30 pm  
Senior Exercise Class - Mondays 10 am  
NA groups - Wednesdays 7:30 pm  
Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Jared Yogerst, PhD

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

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

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

**NOKOMIS HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA**  
5300 10th Ave. S.  
612-825-6846  
[www.nokomisheights.org](http://www.nokomisheights.org)  
Sunday worship 10 am, inside the sanctuary  
Sunday School and Adult Forum at 9 am  
Online worship premiers Sundays at 10 am on Facebook and YouTube.  
**Ash Wednesday service, Feb. 22, 6 pm**  
**Midweek Lenten soup suppers, Thursdays, 5:30 pm**

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

 **All Directory Churches are Wheelchair Accessible**



James Beard Chef nominees from Minneapolis: (L-R) Ann Ahmed, Karyn Tomlinson, Christina Nguyen, Yia Vang and Shawn McKenzie (Pastry).

# Openings and closings, James Beard finalists, mall doughnuts, brunch at Barbette and an amari tasting

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

## Openings and closings

Here is a rapid list of closings, far from comprehensive, but the ones I think you might most care about: Khyber Pass, Stella's Fish Cafe, Red Stag Supperclub, Common Roots and Bad Waitress.

Openings have been slightly more numerous. Again, I won't even try to be complete. Khue's Kitchen opened in Northeast Minneapolis and is headed by Eric Pham, son of Khue Pham, founding owner of Quang on Eat Street. Blondette, described as "punk French" and the latest Daniel del Prado concept, opened in the Rand Tower Hotel in downtown Minneapolis. Sato Sushi and American Fusion has opened in St. Louis Park on Minnetonka Boulevard. They serve all kosher food, including sushi, steak and grilled chicken.

Abang Yoli Nicollet is the sec-

ond location of a food spot of the same name at Malcolm Yards. It's at 38th and Nicollet Avenue. Francis Burger Joint, which was a food truck last residing at Sociable Cider Werks, is now a real burger joint in its own Northeast Minneapolis home. The new food truck at Sociable is Unidos Food Co., which is modern Mexican. A new coffee shop called Loons Cafe has opened in the former Dunn Brothers coffee space on Lake Street near the river, just a few steps from the Longfellow Grill.

## Restaurant, hospitality and food industry news

Raynardo (Ray) Williams was announced as the new General Manager of Seward Cooperative. Williams was appointed interim GM when Sean Doyle resigned in September of 2022. Doyle was GM for 18 years but had been with the co-op since the early 1990s. Williams has been with Seward Co-op

for seven years. He was first hired by Seward to manage the Friendship Store and has also served as Operations Manager and Senior Human Resources/Operations Manager.

A record number of four chefs and one pastry chef/baker from Minnesota are on the list of nominees for the James Beard Awards this year. The four nominees from here for Best Chef: Midwest are Khâluna's Ann Ahmed, Hai Hai's Christina Nguyen, Myriel's Karyn Tomlinson, and Union Hmong Kitchen's Yia Vang. The nominee for Outstanding Pastry Chef or Baker is Shawn McKenzie, co-founder of Cafe Ceres.

"The Donut Trap's fresh treats are now tucked into a special vending machine inside Rosedale Center," announced the Star Tribune. I wrote about the Donut Trap and its founder Bradley Taylor when he came out with his first doughnut vending machine at Can Can Wonderland. (See southsidepride.com/2022/04/04/markets-indoors-and-out-square-donuts-sushi-and-more.) The Donut Trap is known for its outrageous toppings and creative flavors. But its real claim to fame is that their doughnuts are square, which is just so brilliant and obvious, and that they're sold from vending machines.

This next item isn't so much news as a sort of mini-mini-review. My delivered food of choice is Pizza Luce. They have a slick online ordering system of their own, lots of vegetarian and healthy options, and they used to have Izzy's Ice Cream. They switched to a different ice cream I don't like as much, so I went out on a limb last month and ordered the seasonal cheesecake. I'm not a big cheesecake fan, but this flavor was calling out to me - Pistachio & Lemon. OMG. That's all I can say. I will be sad when the season's over and they go on to something boring like chocolate.

Finally, in the news segment of our show, a review of a uniquely local and food-oriented book, although it's a few years old. "Kitchens of the Great Midwest" by J. Ryan Stradal is well worth a read, a truly delightful novel with a cast of characters that seem like people you know.

## Brunch at Barbette

I haven't been out much this winter. But I took advantage of a relatively drivable period between snow emergencies to do an overdue errand - replacing my phone or rather moving the service and data onto a fancy new phone I had just bought, and adding home Wi-Fi so I can cancel CenturyLink's



Amari tasting at un dito



overpriced internet. This entailed a trip to Uptown, so to reduce the pain, I decided to combine it with brunch at Barbette.

I usually have the salade niçoise on my less-than-yearly visits to Barbette. It's something you don't find anywhere else, and if you do find it, it's not done nearly as well. But I felt like comfort food that day. Having salade niçoise is like denying that you live in totally coastless, relatively sunless Minnesota, and are instead, if you close your eyes, in some Mediterranean spot - Nice, perhaps?

But I wanted to lean into winter fare, northern food. I chose the Brussels sprouts and goat cheese omelet and I'm glad I did. I had a pot of tea, Earl Grey, hot, to accompany my lovely little omelet and thought about Jean-Luc Picard.

## Amari tasting at un dito

Un dito, the little casual brother of i.e. Italian Eatery (4724 Cedar Ave.), had an amari tasting event in mid-January on a really yucky day. Because I had bought a ticket, I pried myself off my desk chair, put on shoes, then drove there and tasted some amari. Amari is the plural of amaro, and amari are a cultural icon in much of Italy, where they are often sipped with

some appetizers before dinner or sipped after dinner to settle the tummy in place of dessert. Wikipedia has a pretty good overview.

The tasting was sort of an open house, lasting from 3 to 5 p.m. I got there right at 3 p.m. but even so, one guy beat me to it.

The tasting consisted of a buffet spread of cheese and charcuterie, olives and vegetables, toasted bread and crispbread, plus a flight of three distinct types of amari (bitter Italian liqueurs to aid digestion) delivered to your table with a card bearing tasting notes. The three varieties were Amaro Lucano (medium bitter, from the Basilicata region, ABV 28%); Amaro Sfumato (smoky, piney, quite bitter, from the Trentino-Alto Adige region, ABV 20%); and Cardamaro Amaro (sweet, flowery bitter, from the Piedmont region, ABV 17%).

I took my own tasting notes, and after an initial exploratory sip of each, went through them in the order of the card, saving the soft sweet one for "dessert." No. 1 - Root beer, a kerosene-floral note that I couldn't place, caramel finish. No. 2 - Smoke, pine resin, berries, petrol, unsweetened chocolate finish. No. 3 - Cherry lollipop, orange peel, cocoa, balsamic vinegar, cognac plus lemon finish.

## Southside Pride

### NOKOMIS EDITION

**Southside Pride Nokomis Edition is a monthly community newspaper delivered on the Second Monday of the month for free to over 150 locations in and around the Nokomis community. We are proud of the racial and cultural diversity of the Southside, and we oppose racism and other efforts to keep us apart as a community.**

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

**Southside Pride**  
2721 E. 42ND STREET SUITE B  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55406  
CALL US AT 612-822-4662  
emil us at editor@southsidepride.com  
or edfelien@southsidepride.com

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# For the love of cats and dogs

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

Unlike most of my peer group, I did not grow up with pets to a large degree. My mother was afraid of dogs, and she believed

ly I did not adopt or internalize those crippling emotional hang-ups, I had an attitude about cats and dogs that was a mixture of pity for their condition and wistful, unfulfilled desire to be close

into the latter desire and eventually became a pet parent to a succession of cats, then dogs, and even occasionally tame birds and aquarium fishes. I just discovered what everyone else already knows – animal friends enrich our lives. A recent study has shown that “dog people” are healthier and live longer ([npr.org/sections/health-shots/2019/10/26/773531999/dog-people-live-longer-but-why](https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2019/10/26/773531999/dog-people-live-longer-but-why).) And though cats have a stereotype of being emotionally aloof, they also flood our systems with feel-good hormones when they let us pet them, according to numerous studies and articles.

Although my experiences with animal companionship have been mostly good, I had and indeed still have this lingering sense of our animal relatives having the bad end of the deal in their interactions with us humans. They give us so much, and yet until recently it was common



that cats and dogs were both, along with every other type of non-human animal, filthy and unlovable. Although fortunate-

to them. Also fortunately, after I left home, and especially when I became a parent myself, I gave





**People & Pets  
together**

**We know pets are family. We help families stay together.**

The People & Pets Together pet food shelf is open to residents of the city of Minneapolis. We provide dog & cat food and pet care items to individuals and their families in crisis.

People & Pets Together  
Chuck & Don's Pet Wellness Center  
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# Best Friends

for them to be easily and heartlessly discarded. Although it still happens, I sense it is getting better.

Take, for instance, the Minnesota Animal Care and Control (MACC) organization, which a little over 10 years ago was just “the pound,” and was what is called a “high-kill” facility. It is now a “no-kill” facility and, although I don’t know if there are

focus down to the county level, where Hennepin County reflects the state profile, with three out of our seven shelters being no-kill. Or you can drill right down to the shelter level, where we learn that the Minneapolis Animal Humane Society was still working toward no-kill status with a save rate in the high 80th percentile, while MACC had just achieved it with a 2021 save rate

shared Animal Humane Society, the only animal rescue in both counties, having hit 96% no-kill status in 2021. The Ark Animal Shelter in Hastings (Dakota county) has been no-kill since 1977. To give context, the national rate of animal lifesaving is only 52%. Best Friends also notes:

“Leaders from Minneapolis Animal Care and Control and My Pit Bull is Family have participated in the Best Friends Executive Leadership Certification program, endorsed by Southern Utah University. The program aims to transform the future of leadership in animal services. In addition, we’ve given grants to several Minneapolis organizations to improve lifesaving in the region.”

There are numerous other animal rescue organizations and sanctuaries in Minnesota and the upper Midwest, and the number and efficacy of them is still growing. MACC has a “friends of” organization working alongside it – Citizens for Minneapolis Animal Care. See their Facebook page to be kept up to date on MACC’s progress toward 100% no-kill, adoption events, and the occasional heartwarming story of an individual animal resident. Other popular animal rescue organizations with Facebook pages include Secondhand Hounds,



**Peruvian surfer Domingo Pianezzi rides a wave accompanied by a cat named Nicolasa at the San Bartolo beach in Lima. (Photo/Pilar Olivares, Reuters)**

rules and regs anywhere that define this, they only euthanize 2% of the animals that come to them, and only if they are ill and untreatable. Of the rest, the majority are adopted, and the rest sent to sanctuaries or other shelters, or fostered long-term. They even have a hospice program where animals are fostered on palliative care to give them a few more months of love and companionship at the end of their lives. That’s a very far cry from a regimen I remember of strays – young and healthy – having a week to be claimed before being put to sleep.

This change for the good is not limited to Minnesota. In fact, one of the no-kill advocacy groups, Arizona-based Best Friends, maintains a dashboard of U.S. states, showing how close they are to achieving 100% no-kill in their state. Best Friends started out as a no-kill shelter and rescue agency nonprofit and grew to include advocacy and education. (Check them out at [bestfriends.org](http://bestfriends.org).)

According to the Best Friends data, Minnesota as of 2021 had a count of 77 shelters, with 37 of them being no-kill (which this organization defines as at least a 90% save rate and still working toward 100%). The state-wide save rate was 86.6% and was rapidly improving, so it’s possible Minnesota has achieved no-kill majority by now. You can

in the low 90s (now 98% according to the Star Tribune and Longfellow Messenger).

Our neighboring counties are doing even better in some cases. Both Scott and Carver counties are classed as no-kill, with their

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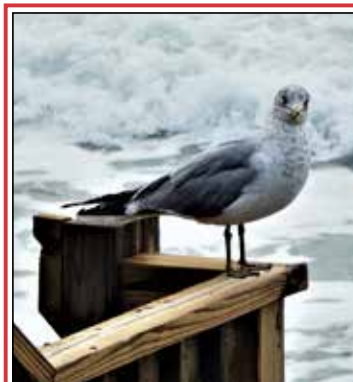
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