



**We build Pride on the Southside**

FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

**December  
2023**

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## Cam's Corner



### Election reflection – moving on from here

BY CAM GORDON

The 2023 election is over.

On the Southside, the races in Wards 8 and 12 were the most hotly contested, with some of the highest numbers of people voting. Aurin Chowdhury won Ward 12 with 6,525 votes on the first round over Nancy Ford and Luther Ranheim. In Ward 8, Soren Stevenson lost by only 38 votes to the incumbent Andrea Jenkins, 3,894 to 3,856 in the second round.

Citywide, all the incumbents who decided to run this year were reelected. The two new people on the council are Katie Cashman in Ward 7, where Lisa Goodman didn't seek reelection, and Chowdhury in Ward 12, where Andrew Johnson didn't run and has already stepped down.

Chowdhury was sworn in on Nov. 21. "I am excited to see her take the helm, knowing that she is prepared and eager to begin the work," said Johnson. "I look forward to continuing to be a resource and supporting her success in the role."

Although Minne-

See Cam, page 19



## 'Where is your humanity?'

Speech by Ilhan Omar:

"I am also saddened by the fact that 535 Members of Congress could come together in one breath and fully condemn the horrors of what Israelis experienced, and that there is now only a few handful of them who could get to the point of saying 'We condemn the slaughter of Palestinian children, of mothers, of fathers, of grandmothers, of grandfathers.'

"Where is your humanity?"  
"How do you look at one atrocity and say, 'This is wrong,' but you watch as bodies pile up, as neighborhoods are leveled. Israel has dropped more bombs in the last 10 days than we dropped in a whole year in Afghanistan."

"Where is your humanity?"  
"Where is your outrage?"  
"Where is your care for people?"

"How is it we have a president who is talking about

releasing hostages, who is talking about getting American citizens out of Israel but could not get himself to say, 'I want to save and work to save the hundreds, thousands of Americans stuck in Gaza?'

"What is wrong with you?"  
"How is this possible?"

"I want to say how insane and painful and scary it is to work and serve in a space where we have a member in our caucus say, 'All Muslims are responsible for this.'"

See Humanity, page 23

## Is Smith Foundry killing us slowly with its pollution?

BY DANIEL COLTEN SCHMIDT

Smith Foundry is an iron foundry in the residential East Phillips neighborhood. It has been in operation since 1923 and has been polluting the neighborhood since its inception. This past August, 100 years after the foundry opened, the EPA sent Smith Foundry a Notice of Violation under Section 113(a) of the Clean Air Act. The letter lists numerous violations of the Act, including emission of hazardous pollutants at roughly twice the Minnesota allowable limit, a zero-pressure reading on one of the foundry's filters, a failure to maintain records of pollution control equipment inspections, and a failure to notify the MPCA about equipment failures. The letter states that Smith Foundry is liable for judicial civil or criminal action.

And yet, to the horror of the community, for the past three months since the issuance of the Notice of Violation, the foundry has continued to operate its business as usual. Every day, South Minneapolis residents step outside to the smell of fumes, and we know without a doubt that they are toxic. And in spite of the nation's highest environmental law enforcement office – the EPA – citing the foundry with breaking the law, the polluters continue to rake in profits at the expense of Minneapolis residents' health.

On Nov. 27, the East Phillips Improvement Coalition (EPIC) hosted a meeting between the



Demonstration outside Smith Foundry protesting pollution Nov. 10

MPCA, EPA, and the community. Approximately 100 community members were in attendance. Nikolas Winter-Simat, executive director of EPIC, asked the community members in the room, "Who in the last few months has not gone outside because of the smell, not allowed their kids to go on the Greenway, not allowed their kids out, had to close their windows – any of those things, because of the toxic smell?" A vast majority of those in the room raised their

See Foundry, page 20



**Winter  
Wellness**

**Pages 2-3**



**HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS**  
**Pages 9 - 15**





# Supercharge your winter wellness

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

## Be a superperson!

You can be an actual superperson with these three weird tricks. 1. Eat superfoods! 2. Use superherbs! 3. Move your superbody! But, I hear you say, how do I know what is really a superfood when almost every food claims to be? And aren't all herbs superherbs? And what if I

don't actually have a superbody? Never fear; all your questions will be answered, and it will be superclear what to do.

### Superfoods

Yeah, it's true, the whole superfood thing has kinda jumped the shark, leaving us none the wiser. But the concept that some foods are significantly more useful nutritionally than others,

even if not all of these apply to all people, is still helpful in deciding what to eat.

UC Davis says in an article about superfoods: "The word superfood may look impressive and even stop you in your tracks when grocery shopping – but in reality, in most cases, it's just marketing jargon. The term may have originated in the early 20th century around the promotion of bananas."

Using a journalist's version of the "scientific method" (i.e., I know what real science is, and this is journalism) I read and compared nearly a dozen recent list articles about putative superfoods, and distilled out a common-sense top 10, mainly by eliminating weird things and things that only appeared in one list.

Cruciferous vegetables – broccoli, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, napa cabbage, bok choy and kale (and also radishes, turnips, kohlrabi and watercress). Traditionally steamed, boiled, or



Sicilian blood orange salad

eaten raw, many are also good roasted, or sliced or shaved and then stir-fried. Lately it has become a food fashion to make cauliflower into "rice" or pizza crust. They pair very well with the next super category.

Fermented foods – sauerkraut and its fancier cousin, kimchi; vinegars; kefir, yogurt, and

cheese (if not pasteurized; can be made from either dairy milk or a substitute); kombucha and other fermented drinks; miso, tempeh, and real fermented soy sauce; pickled fruits and vegetables. Choose sourdough bread over commercially yeasted.

Mushrooms – varieties that used to be rare in shops or restaurants are becoming common, and have amazing health benefits, such as lion's mane for brain health, or reishi for stress resistance. Shiitake mushrooms are even available frozen. One strong opinion of mine that's a bit controversial is to never eat mushrooms raw, as even "safe" ones can damage your liver over time.

Nuts and seeds and their butters – especially pistachios, almonds, walnuts, tahini and pepitas.

Fish – fatty fish like salmon and tuna, or ocean whitefish like halibut or cod, or freshwater fish like walleye or trout.

Tea – black, green, white, dark or herbal. See the superherb list for the best herbal ones.

Citrus fruit – especially blood oranges, lemons, pomelo.

Berries – especially strawberries and blueberries.

Wild rice, quinoa, buckwheat, chia – all "superseeds" that are treated as grain.

Dark chocolate, unsweetened chocolate, cacao nibs – but please, only if fair trade.



Cruciferous vegetables



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**Passion flower supplement helps with sleep problems and anxiety.**

**Superherbs**

Herbs can be part of your diet or can be taken as remedies for specific conditions. Don't assume all herbs are safe, any more than you would with pharmaceuticals. If you're not prepared to do a lot of research, find an advisor or an herbalist who has done it. That being said, my list includes only things that



**Buckwheat crop, a 'superseed'**

are safe for everyone, barring an allergy or a crazy overdose. Sources for herbs include pharmacies and food co-ops, specialized stores like Present Moment, naturopaths and chiropractors, or online shops like iHerb.com.



**Lion's mane mushrooms for brain health**

My top 10 list (compiled in a similar way to the first list):

Astragalus – this amazing herb is known for boosting immunity but has recently been found to actually lengthen and repair the telomeres of DNA, which in turn would reverse aging.

Nettles (plus quercetin) – can be taken in capsules or drunk as tea. Cornish Yarg is a rare gourmet white cheese from the south of England encased in wildcraft-

ed nettles!

Garlic and other alliums – good for immunity, a natural antibiotic, and clears the sinuses.

Tulsi (holy basil) – calming and even mildly sleep-inducing.

Hibiscus – helps regulate blood sugar, makes delicious hot tea, or if sweetened and iced, it is the Mexican agua de Jamaica.

Turmeric, ginger, galangal – all related spicy roots with powerful health benefits; turmeric is used to make "golden milk," a



**Astragalus, an amazing immunity booster**

honey-sweetened bedtime drink from ayurvedic medicine.

Elecampane – the lung clearing herb. I use a strong tonic called Deep Lung from Wishgarden Herbs.

Psyllium – not strictly an herb, it is Plantago ovata seed husks that provide excellent soluble fiber, with digestive and heart health benefits.

Valerian – a natural muscle relaxant, the pharmaceutical Valium was based on it.

Passion flower – a common sleep aid, it also lowers blood pressure and helps with anxiety and even ADHD.

**Exercise for your superbody**

Yes, you do too have a superbody. Use it vigorously but gently in the following pursuits, which you can learn in person in low-cost classes or online via videos and apps. Practice mindful meditation, get out in nature as much as you can, get enough sleep (whatever that is for you), and do these activities to enrich

your life.

Yoga. There are many varieties. As a youth, I did kundalini yoga (what a rush!) and a spotty practice of hatha yoga (I can hardly believe it, but at one time I could stand on my head!). As a middle-aged striver, I did weekly Dru Yoga in England, in a Spiritualist church building that was 150 years old. I did hot yoga once but it's not for me. (A lot of people love it, though.) Now I'm old and creaky, but I can still do chair yoga, and a very controlled and perfect standing Warrior Pose.

Pilates. This is the perfect regimen for anyone with a physical disability since it was actually invented to treat dancers' injuries. Mat Pilates requires the ability to get down on the floor, but like yoga, seated and standing forms have been added. Reformer Pilates uses a wooden exercise machine and can support almost any body with ease.

Gentle martial arts. Tai Chi is the most well-known, but Qi Gong is gaining on it. If you are already more fit, but just don't fancy kicking and punching, try the Japanese "peaceful" art of aikido.



**Aikido is for everybody.**



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# East Lake Street revisited and reimagined

BY KAY SCHROVEN

Recently, I ran into a friend whom I'd not seen in a while. She is a suburbanite. During the conversation she mentioned that she and her husband had recently driven down East Lake Street for the first time in a while. "What a shit show!" she said, adding, "We thought of you." I probably shouldn't have been, but I was stunned. I didn't know quite how to respond. It seemed a bit rude and presumptive. Would it not have been better to ask, "So, how are things in your neighborhood?" Clearly her view is different than mine.

Later, I wished I had told her about the Fourth Annual Southside Summit on Nov. 10. About the many folks who attended and brought their hearts and souls with them in an effort to rebuild, grow and improve the Southside neighborhoods of Minneapolis; people who care, are invested, are innovative, offering their time and skills working together toward the greater good. People who call the city home, and either can't or don't want to flee to the suburbs.

This encounter inspired me to take yet another trip down East Lake Street. As I prepared to do so I remembered the first time I encountered Lake Street in the late 1980s. I recall how amazed I was,

how long and interesting it was! I fixated on the antique stores. I discovered Antiques Minnesota, which remains a fond memory, among other sites, some still with us, others not.

Fast forward: yes, this historic street with many stories to tell has been damaged. We need not rehash the 2020 pandemic, riots,

offended her sensibilities? The people on the streets? The diversity? The apparent homelessness? Labeling the unsheltered a "shit show" makes it easier to ignore, does it not? Does racism play a role here? Is it the lack of luster? Is it because there aren't enough Starbucks? L.A. Fitness options? GAP stores? Whole Foods? Crave

tion, some of the small businesses have followed. And we now have two major renovations in the works to look forward to.

## Goodbye Kmart, hello neighbors

Those of you old enough to remember the Mary Tyler Moore

digress.

Imagine the Kmart gone, and the 10-acre property redesigned with respect for pedestrians and the local businesses. Imagine green spaces, public transportation, bike trails, affordable housing, commercial space, and food and retail options. Since the construction of the Kmart in 1978, Nicollet Avenue has been split into two parts, separating the neighborhoods and blocking a major artery. The renovation will reunite the neighborhoods. This is the essential goal of the renovation project. Mayor Frey said, "That was one of the worst urban planning decisions ever made. This renovation will transform the community."

The city bought the property for \$9.1 million with plans to demolish it. A recent fire on Oct. 10 moved the demolition date forward. In the meantime community members had an opportunity to give input until Nov. 15. Regardless of location, the end of Kmart's run is not unique to Minneapolis. Kmart stores are closing all over the country, having lost out to innovative technology, Walmart, Target and Amazon. A few stores remain in Florida, New Jersey, New York, and the Virgin Islands. In Minneapolis the wrecking ball is scheduled to hit soon. Maybe the demolition has already begun. Reconstruction will follow. Surely



The demolition of Kmart



etc. East Lake Street is approximately 3.5 miles long. Between Nicollet Avenue, where the Kmart site is being demolished, and the Mississippi River I counted 20 lots that were empty or seemingly abandoned properties in need of attention. Is this the "shit show" my suburban friend saw? Was it the many murals and graffiti that

and Culver's restaurants? Unlike many suburbs that have no sidewalks (because car ownership is assumed), the city has sidewalks, and life goes on there.

Yet, the spirit of Lake Street survives, and rebirth is in progress. We've seen the big box stores like Target rebuild first. With the help of grants, loans and innova-

show (or those who've rediscovered this classic) may recall that Mary and Rhoda were always meeting at Lake and Nicollet for lunch. When I moved to Minneapolis and realized where this intersection was I wondered if Mary and Rhoda were having lunch at the Kmart? I guess there was a lunch counter there at one time. I



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### The fires that destroyed Minnehaha Liquors

between 2025 and 2027 the community can expect a safer, greener neighborhood for fulfilling day-to-day needs.

### See the new Coliseum

At the intersection of 27th and East Lake Street in the Longfellow neighborhood sits the Coliseum Building, the former Podany Building that sold office furniture. Before that it was Freeman's Department Store for 50 years, from 1917 to 1975 (the letters now fading on the side of the building). Freeman's was known for offering credit to minorities at a time when it was rare. The popular family-owned business flourished in the 1920s, holding its own through the Great Depression. Historically the building was surrounded by thriving businesses including Minneapolis-Moline (a farm implement manufacturer), Smith Foundry and Bituminous Roadways. It would take a full chapter to even begin to summarize the colorful history of this consequential street and building which sits on native land once the home of the Dakota and Ojibwe people. Binesikwe Means of MIGIZI says, "I hope Lake Street and its businesses continue to reflect the diverse communities that live in Minneapolis."

The new Coliseum will do just that. Quick update – the nonprofit Redesign Inc., which has been around since the 1970s, bought the 85,000-square-foot building for \$2 million in 2021. Its mission is to return the building to the neighborhood/community by offering affordable rents to small businesses owned by BIPOC individuals and immigrants who have played a major role in building commerce on Lake Street over the years.

Raising \$28 million for the res-

toration has not been easy, requiring nontraditional approaches, nontraditional development, and community involvement. Contributors include the state, county, local and private businesses, as well as federal help in the form of tax breaks. Because the building is on the National Register of Historic Places, the investors will receive particular tax breaks. They will also need to adhere to the standards of renovating a historic property. Taylor Smrikarova is director of the Redesign project



The Coliseum building when it was Freeman's and how it looks now

and Alicia Belton is the lead architect. Belton says, "The building has good bones, high ceilings and lots of windows. We will be able to preserve the terrazzo floors and marble staircase." Because it is a historically preserved building there can be no exposed ductwork or pipes, and ceilings cannot be lowered.

Along with Redesign there are three Black entrepreneurs/investors involved in the project: Chris Montana of Du Nord Craft Spirits; Janice Downing, a management consultant with Common Sense Consulting; and Alicia Belton, the

lead architect and founder of Urban Design Perspectives. The three owners are investing \$3.5 million from the Commercial Property Development Fund, a city-developed fund that helps capital-light entrepreneurs acquire buildings in challenged neighborhoods.

### More than a building

The new investors approached the project as more than just a property renovation. They shot down the idea of new construction because they believe the building plays an important historic role and deserves a new lease on life, as does the neighborhood. Their mission is to create a community space and event center involving historically marginalized groups of people who will now be able to develop asset ownership. The building represents resilience, having survived two separate fires in 2020 related to the civil unrest and a host of historic challenges.

Plans include space for community art and healing, an event center, a hair salon and barber shop, a roof deck with storage for bikes and a shower, a Mothers' Room, a first-floor bar and lounge, and several restaurants. Public transportation and EV stations will be nearby. In addition there will be move-in-ready rental space for

washed and tuned up, maybe some new tires. You can do your banking and get your taxes done. You can shop for groceries, clothing and furniture, go to church, get your hair and nails done, and enjoy a fresh cup of coffee and a pastry. Maybe you need a chiropractic

gift, explore the newly legal THC products and a variety of live and recorded music. Got a home improvement project? Visit the hardware stores of Lake Street. Need a real estate agent? A vet for Fido? Another tattoo? An ice cream treat? It's all there.



Members of the community help with the cleanup after the 2020 George Floyd riots at Chicago and Lake Street.

adjustment or a dental visit. You can also get your laundry and dry cleaning done. Got kids? There are child care centers available. You can get your prescriptions filled

I do not see a shit show when I am on East Lake Street. I see and am aware of the problems – homelessness, crime, addiction, poverty, and the needs of Lake Street. I also see hard-working people, shopkeepers, entrepreneurs, employees and shoppers. I see families and friends dining out together, and folks throwing darts or shooting pool. I see people working together, often across cultures. I see colorful murals, some painted over what was damaged after the 2020 upheaval in an effort to transform destruction into art. I hear music from the U.S., Africa, Mexico, Asia, and elsewhere. I see people shopping, going to church, or taking their kids out for a treat.

I believe that what we see is in line with our values and our ability to imagine. One of these days I'll have a chat with my suburban friend. Maybe we can both learn something.

and your rugs cleaned, pick up some fresh flowers or a unique

businesses, meeting and conference rooms. Over time, once the tax credits are paid off (in approximately seven years) Redesign's plan is to bow out and the three investors will take ownership of the Coliseum.

### East Lake Street today

Meanwhile, with the Kmart and Coliseum projects underway, you can still enjoy and support East Lake Street. You can pick up some smokes or a new phone, have a beer and some excellent food. You can donate plasma, get your car

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# Fear and loathing in Palestine and Israel

BY ED FELIEN

Most Palestinians want peace.  
Most Israelis want peace.

But Hamas and right-wing Israeli politicians know that their ticket to success is to sow the seeds of fear and loathing. If they can convince their people that there is a tiger at the gates that wants to devour them, then they can convince their audience that they are the only hope for salvation.

The Hamas Charter, authored by Hamas founder Sheikh Ahmed Yassin in 1988, says, "There is no solution to the Palestinian problem except by Jihad. Initiatives, proposals and international conferences are a waste of time and a farce. ... The Islamic Resistance Movement maintains that the land of Palestine is Waqf land given as endowment for all generations of Muslims until the Day of Resurrection."

Israeli claims to the land go back 2,500 years when, according to scripture, the Jews were released from captivity in

Babylon by Cyrus the Great and given money to finance an expedition back to Israel. They were commanded by God to exterminate "anything that breathes." "Completely destroy them – the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites – as the Lord your God has commanded you." Deuteronomy 20 says: "Put to the sword all the men ... As for the women, the children, the livestock and everything else ... you may take these as plunder for yourselves." Some people believe these words came from God. Other people believe these are instructions from Cyrus the Great to clear the area for Persian colonization.

Both sides, then, Hamas and Israeli right-wing politicians, believe the land was given to them by God, and they have a right and a responsibility to destroy anyone who disagrees with them.

The horror of the Oct. 7 Hamas slaughter of innocents was meant to shock the world: "See, this is what it is like."

Hamas knew Israel would retaliate. Israeli retaliation for Hamas terrorist acts has historically been just under ten to one. For every Israeli killed in a terrorist attack, between six and eight Palestinians have been killed. So far in the Gaza war, 1,400 Israelis have been killed (some, it now appears, by friendly fire from Israeli helicopters) and, according to the Hamas-run Gaza Health Ministry, 15,000 Palestinian have been killed.

"See, I told you, this is what it is like."

And the world is horrified



once again. Noam Chomsky says, "This is not war. It's murder." Hundreds of thousands of people from all over the world demonstrated against the Israeli bombing.

What does this mean for the future?

Does it mean Iran, which has financed the Hamas leadership retreat in Doha, Qatar, will get a permanent postponement of the Saudi/Israel peace agreement?

Does it mean the North African Muslim countries will be strong enough to pressure Egypt to accept Palestinian refugees?

Does it mean world pressure will be strong enough to shame the Arab/Islamic world to declare jihad against Israel?

What will happen?

How did it come to this?

Israeli intelligence knew Hamas's plan a year in advance. They knew about the dress rehearsal months ago. They just didn't believe Hamas was capable of pulling it off—the classic blunder of underestimating the enemy.

Netanyahu has been playing poker with Hamas, and he has always thought that he was the one shuffling and dealing the cards.

Jonathan Freedland wrote in the Guardian on Oct. 20, "Prime minister for most of the last 15 years, Netanyahu has been an

enabler of Hamas, building up the organisation, letting it rule Gaza unhindered – save for brief, periodic military operations against it – and allowing funds from its Gulf patrons to keep it flush. Netanyahu liked the idea of the Palestinians as a house divided – Fatah in the West Bank, Hamas in Gaza – because it allowed him to insist that there was no Palestinian partner he could do business with. That meant no peace process, no prospect of a Palestinian state, and no demand for Israeli territorial concessions."

Although they will not openly criticize the U.S. support for a two-state solution, the Israeli government will ultimately point to "facts on the ground" (the containment of Gaza and the continued expansion of Israeli settlements on the West Bank) as impediments to a Palestinian state.

What's the solution?

A three-state solution? Let Gaza become a sovereign country along with Israel and the West Bank?

A two-state solution, with boundaries according to the 1967 partition agreement? Israel would point to "facts on the ground" and drag out negotiations.

A one-state solution, where Israelis and Palestinians enjoy

equal rights?

Of course, the one-state solution would be ideal, where the only argument would be about what to call it: Israel? Palestine? Canaan? Levant?

But one state seems an impossible dream given current realities.

Perhaps the three-state, two-state and one-state solutions should be seen as evolutionary stages taking three generations. The first stage would be to recognize the legitimate autonomy of Gaza and the West Bank and give them the legitimacy of a nation-states. Negotiations would begin on the recovery of Palestinian lands and property. There must be eventual agreement on the rights of Palestinian refugees to return. After 30 years, if things have been peaceful and Palestinians have recovered enough land, discussions could begin about connecting Gaza with the West Bank. Then, after another 30 years, if things are still peaceful, discussions could begin about establishing a single state.

Then we could all sing, "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free," and "From the river to the sea, Israel will be free."

And then we could all be free of the fear of someone hating you and wishing you were dead.

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EVENTS

**‘Making Spirits Bright’ Community Christmas Festival**  
**Saturday, Dec. 9, 3 to 5 p.m.**  
Plymouth Congregational Church  
1900 Nicollet Ave., Mpls.  
We celebrate the Christmas story in community together. The festival will have activities indoors and outdoors, including carol singing and musicians, crafts and art projects, a living nativity scene, live animals, cookies, hot snacks and warm beverages. All are welcome to this joyous event! [www.plymouth.org/christmasfestival](http://www.plymouth.org/christmasfestival)

**75th Anniversary of the Genocide Convention: The Challenge of Prevention**  
**Wednesday, Dec. 13, 7 to 9 p.m.**  
**Online via Zoom**  
This program examines the efforts to prevent and punish genocide perpetrators at tribunals from Nuremberg to the International Criminal Court, including the story of an undercover agent operating in Europe during World War II. To learn more and register, go to [worldwithoutgenocide.org](http://worldwithoutgenocide.org) and click on Upcoming Events.

**St. Paul Chamber Orchestra Handel’s ‘Messiah’**  
**Dec. 14-15, 7 p.m.**  
Basilica of Saint Mary  
88 N. 17<sup>th</sup> St., Minneapolis  
Celebrate the holidays with one of classical music’s most beloved traditions and join the SPCO for our extremely popular annual performances of George Frideric Handel’s “Messiah.” Dmitry Sinkovsky and the SPCO will be joined by an all-star roster of vocal soloists and renowned vocal ensemble “The Singers” in what is sure to be a won-

derful musical experience for the whole family this holiday season. Co-presented with the Basilica of Saint Mary. For tickets, go to <https://content.thespc.org/events/holiday-concerts-handels-messiah-2324/>.

**Blue Christmas Taizé Service**  
**Friday, Dec. 15, 7 p.m.**  
Minnehaha United Methodist Church  
3701 E. 50<sup>th</sup> St., Mpls.  
Feeling a little blue for Christmas? You are invited to rest awhile in silence, in quiet music, and in the glow of candlelight as we observe our Blue Christmas Taizé service on Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. Whether you need an opportunity to just sit still for a little bit, or you are looking for a way to acknowledge feelings of loss or depression, join with others for an hour of reflection and rest as we continue to find God’s presence in the midst of wherever we are. [www.minnehaha.org/taize.html](http://www.minnehaha.org/taize.html)

**Christmas on Copper Street**  
**Sunday, Dec. 17, 2 to 4 p.m.**  
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These Sunday evening community meals are hosted and provided by Align Minneapolis member congregations and are free and open to all.  
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**Plymouth Congregational Church**  
**1900 Nicollet Ave., Mpls.**  
(Enter from Nicollet Ave. side near 19th St.)  
To-go meal, produce and groceries from Groveland Food Shelf  
**3rd Sunday: Dec. 17, 5-6 p.m.**  
**Plymouth Congregational Church**  
(Enter from Nicollet Ave. side near 19th St.)  
In-person meal around tables, produce and groceries from Groveland Food Shelf  
**4th Sunday: Dec. 24, 5-6 p.m.**  
**Westminster Presbyterian Church**  
**1200 Marquette Ave., Mpls.**  
In-person meal around tables  
**5th Sunday: Dec. 31, 4:30-6 p.m.**  
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**511 Groveland Ave, Minneapolis**  
In-person meal around tables

**Calvary Emergency Food Shelf**  
**2553 Chicago Ave., Mpls.**  
**612-827-2504, ext. 3**  
The Calvary Food Shelf has re-opened 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.

**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.  
(Grey 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. Free, to-go meals served from side door on 53rd Street. Open to everyone, no questions asked. Whatever your circumstances, 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.

**First Nations Kitchen**  
**3044 Longfellow Ave., Mpls.**  
**612-791-1253**  
First Nations Kitchen, an outreach of All Saints Episcopal Indian Mission, welcomes all to our weekly To Go meals and Produce Give Away every Sunday from 4-5 p.m. outside our building. We cook fresh, organic, indigenous meals and give away organic produce rain or shine. This is a barrier-free food program. To donate or volunteer contact us at [director@firstnationskitchen.org](mailto:director@firstnationskitchen.org) or

go to our website: <https://firstnationskitchen.org>.

**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/>

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[See www.minneapolisbahai.org](http://www.minneapolisbahai.org)  
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*-Baha'u'llah*

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**Christmas Eve at 5 and 10 pm**  
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3430 E. 51st St.  
612-729-5463  
[www.faithlutheranmpls.org](http://www.faithlutheranmpls.org)  
Sunday Worship 9 am and online on Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/felc-mpls/>  
**Dec. 10 - 2 pm - Installation of Rev. Dr. Jared Yogerst**  
**Dec. 17 - 9 am - Special Christmas Service & Birthday Party for Jesus following service**  
**Dec. 24 - 9 am - Christmas Eve Service with communion**  
**No service Christmas Day**  
No Blind Ministry for December  
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Senior Exercise Class - Mondays 10 am  
NA groups - Wednesdays 7:30 pm

**HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)**  
1720 E. Minnehaha Pkwy.  
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# Don't forget your lutefisk for Christmas

BY STEPHANIE FOX

It's nearly Christmas and here in the North, that means holiday lights, tinsel-covered trees, and lutefisk. For many, it isn't Christmas without a traditional bite or two of this iconic Norwegian delicacy. What many people don't realize is that most of the country's lutefisk originates right here in Minneapolis. The 123-year-old family-run Olsen

invention of artificial refrigeration. The cod is high-grade, line-caught off Norway's Atlantic coast, then hung on racks to dry in the unrelenting coastal winds under the almost-24-hour Arctic sun. From there, it's shipped to Minneapolis.

Turning dry planks of fish into ready-to-cook lutefisk is an exacting process and many of the Olsen Company's crew members are lutefisk professionals,

alongside workers on the factory floor.

When the dried planks of fish arrive from Norway, they first need to be reconstituted by washing in fresh water over a period of 14 days, then again in cold water with food-grade sodium hydroxide (lye) made from wood ash for several more days. The process, says Dorff, is highly refined, with controlled air temperature and humidity.

Then, fresh water is added to take down the pH level and the lutefisk is hand packed, ready to ship to retail outlets mostly in Minnesota, Wisconsin, North and South Dakota, and northern Iowa.

"We also ship pallets to Arizona, Florida, Southern California and to some of the prairie provinces in Canada – any place in North America with Scandinavians," said Dorff.

Dorff speculates that the reason so many people claim not to like lutefisk is that a lot of Midwesterners tend to overcook fish, and lutefisk is no exception.

Char Juntunen, who once ran the lutefisk fundraiser at the First Lutheran Church in Duluth and served more than 500 pounds of the fish each year, was adamant about preparing lutefisk. "The hard part is you have to watch it," she said. Juntunen advised home cooks to preheat their ovens to 400 degrees, then put the lutefisk on a lightly greased, rimmed cookie sheet. "After about 10 minutes, I stick my fork in the pieces to test. When it feels like it's going



Olsen Fish Company delivers lutefisk and pickled herring.



Dried cod arrives from Norway in time for Christmas.

Fish Company is the largest producer of lutefisk in the western hemisphere (and maybe the world).

From September through May, Olsen's crew works to turn hard, dry cod into ready-to-cook slabs of lutefisk using a recipe handed down from the Vikings. It was a way to preserve fish before the

said company president Chris Dorff. It's a union shop and some workers have been there for decades. This is not easy work. It's chilly on the factory floor and the smell of fish is everywhere, even in Dorff's corporate office. During the busy season, Dorff says he puts in 60-hour weeks, with some of that time spent

to flake, it's done. If it looks like snot, don't eat it."

Those folks who are put off by the presence of lye in lutefisk should know that the same lye is used to process green olives, masa harina (corn flour) used in making cornbread and tortillas, soft German pretzels and corn nuts, as well as many cocoas and chocolates.

The popularity of lutefisk was already falling before the pandemic, with sales dropping from five to eight percent every year, but the pandemic accelerated that decline. Pre-pandem-

led herring, also produced at the Olsen Company, is growing more popular.

One reason for herring's popularity is the nutritional benefits. Herring is high in protein, an excellent source of B vitamins and zinc, and is low in saturated fat. And herring is loaded with omega-3s. "Only two ounces of pickled herring has 500 milligrams of omega-3 fatty acids," says Dorff.

Olsen's brand of jarred pickled herring, produced using an original recipe, with sugar, distilled vinegar, fresh sliced onions and



Boxing up the lutefisk for the holidays

ic, the Olsen Company would sell 400,000 pounds of lutefisk during the holidays. Now, sales are half that. "It's been slow getting back to normal," Dorff said. "We lost churches and restaurants, and family celebrations weren't happening. But this year it's starting to come back."

And prices for lutefisk have been going up, Dorff admits. "Prices have gone up more than 30% compared to before the pandemic. The cost of fish has gone up based on market price, as have wages set by the Norwegian government. And then there's the cost of shipping from Norway. We buy the fish by the container and the price is the same whether you have a full container, a half container, or a third."

While lutefisk is a regional food and sales are fading, pick-

spices, is the best-selling brand in the Midwest.

"But we sell it all over the country," Dorff said. "Lutefisk is for people who have Scandinavian heritage. But the East Coast and New York, along with Florida, have some of the biggest herring markets in the country. It's eaten by Eastern European Jews and Russians as well as Scandinavians. It's been a big part of our growth. Our sales of herring have been growing every year."

The Olsen Fish Company's website has a special recipe for lutefisk leftovers – the Norwegian Lutefisk Taco. Top a piece of lefse with a thin layer of mashed potatoes. Top that with flaked lutefisk. Pour melted butter over the top. Add salt and pepper to taste. Happy holidays!

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# HAPPY HOLIDAYS

## Wars in a holy time, and holy days in a time of war

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

What makes us human? Is it our capacity to love, to imagine the numinous, to conceive of our

own Creator? Or is it our belief that we are somehow beyond the reach of the natural, so that we try to separate civilization from our fragile, earthly nature? Or

is it whatever demon within our souls that leads us to do an unspeakable act called “war”?

As long as there has been human civilization, there has been war. As long as there has been human civilization, there have been a plethora of religions, in which certain days or weeks are set apart and designated as holy. When these holy days and unholy wars coincide, the contradictions of being human are projected – large and stark and undeniable.

In the present war\* in the Gaza Strip and Israel, the appalling attacks by Hamas took place on one of the days holy to Judaism, the oldest of the three Abrahamic religions that dominate the area. (\*One of the anxi-



Tet celebration in Vietnam

eties of writing for a small print publication is the delay between writing and publishing and being read. Since I pray daily for this terrible war to end, I hope that by the time you read this, at least, it will be the “recent war” rather than the “present war.”)

In fact, Oct. 7, 2023, was a double holiday, simultaneously Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah. Shemini Atzeret is the culmination of a string of autumnal holy days, starting with Rosh Hashanah (the Jewish New Year) followed in 10 days by Yom

Kippur (the Day of Atonement) and then five days later by the seven-day “Feast of Booths,” Sukkot. Shemini means “eight” so this day can be considered as Sukkot’s eighth day. The meaning of “atzeret” is debated, and sometimes given as restraint, remaining, or closing. Simchat Torah is more straightforward – a celebration of the gift of the Torah.

It’s possible that the coinciding of this cruel and audacious attack on a day of relaxing, feasting and celebration was

See Holy Days, page 10




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# HAPPY HOLIDAYS

## Holy Days, from page 9

meant to make it more painful for the victims, but we can't really say, because in that level of suffering it's hard to measure specific effects. But the use of holy days in scheduling offensives is certainly nothing new to warfare. In 1968, the army of North Vietnam launched an offensive against the south and their American allies during Tet, the most important holiday of Vietnamese Buddhists. The timing was definitely part of their strategy. It was successful in the long run, since it turned public opinion in the U.S. against the war, although it took seven more deathly destructive years to actually end it. And in 1973, Egypt

and six other Arab nations combined to attack Israel on Yom Kippur, another timing that no one could pretend was a coincidence.

Equally, when a war drags on, sometimes a holy day is grasped desperately as a chance to make peace, even if only temporarily. Not going too far back in time, I start an examination of these things by looking at stories of Christmas during the American Civil War.

One of about a dozen books I owned as a child, and re-read obsessively, is "Little Women" by Louisa May Alcott. Its opening paragraph is seared into my memory:

"Christmas won't be Christmas without any presents,"



Theater Latte Da's 'All is Calm' in a 2019 performance

grumbled Jo, lying on the rug. 'It's so dreadful to be poor!' sighed Meg, looking down at her old dress. 'I don't think it's fair for some girls to have plenty of pretty things, and other girls nothing at all,' added little Amy, with an injured sniff. 'We've got Father and Mother, and each other,' said Beth contentedly from her corner. The four young faces on which the firelight shone brightened at the cheer-

ful words, but darkened again as Jo said sadly, 'We haven't got Father, and shall not have him for a long time.' She didn't say 'perhaps never,' but each silently added it, thinking of Father far away, where the fighting was."

The first third or so of this literary classic is exactly what I am looking for in this article - a tale of Christmas and war, where the two sides in the war each believe they are "true Christians" and the other side is evil. And yet it was literally a war where families fought against each other, and also a holy crusade to determine the future of an entire subset of the nation, the enslaved Africans. Strong stuff

for a little girl.

I have laid out in past instances of this column how the Christmas we know today, in the U.K., the U.S., and other Anglophone nations, was "invented" in Victorian England, and swiftly copied by the U.S. This invention slightly pre-dated the American Civil War, so by 1861, the newly minted Christmas was possibly at the height of its importance and popularity. Perhaps this explains why Anthony Trollope wrote not one but several Christmas stories (which, to his annoyance, his publishers demanded from him every year) set in the U.S. during the Civil War. At least one of them,



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# HAPPY HOLIDAYS

"The Two Generals," was based loosely on true incidents. See [tinyurl.com/DKRatSSP-Xmas](http://tinyurl.com/DKRatSSP-Xmas) for a blog post by Dr. Ellen Moody, a Trollope scholar, on two of these Christmas-in-the-Civil-War short stories.

By far the most famous story of Christmas and war, and possibly of any holy day and war in the modern era, is the story of the 1914 Christmas truce in the early days of the trench warfare in Europe that characterized much of World War I, or the Great War as it was known at the time. This infamous story of combatants emerging from their trenches, sharing food, singing carols in their own languages, and even playing a game of football, before separating back to their sides and resuming the killing, has been made into a poem, a play, at least seven books ([www.goodreads.com/list/show/45835.1914\\_Christmas\\_True](http://www.goodreads.com/list/show/45835.1914_Christmas_True)) and more than one movie, as well as inspiring scores of magazine and newspaper articles.

An original play called "All Is Calm" was performed by Theater Latte Da in Minneapolis from 2007 to 2021, and also toured North America, and is now being staged (since 2021) in Madison, Wis., at the Four Seasons Theatre. It also spun off a music CD from Theater Latte Da and the vocal group Cantus. Most of the North American versions of this story are a bit oversimplified, as the U.S. did not enter the war until 1917, over two years later. A French film, "Joyeux Noel"

(2005), gives a much more detailed and nuanced account of the incident, emphasizing the role of hymns, and also includes the oft-ignored fact that many of the leaders involved were punished for allowing peace to break out in that unseemly fashion.

By the time World War II came about, such gentlemanly behavior amidst carnage would have been both physically and psychologically impossible. Still, there was at least one small detente that has been recorded and verified between American and German combatants during the immediate aftermath of the Battle of the Bulge.

This story, first told in Reader's Digest in 1973 by Fritz Vincken, who was 12 years old when it occurred, has become known as "The Truce in the Forest." It concerns Fritz and his mother, living in an isolated forest cottage near the battle site,



**'The Truce in the Forest,' 1944**

and three American soldiers and four Wehrmacht soldiers, all but one of them teenagers. The soldiers came in two separate groups seeking shelter for one

night until they could find their units in the daylight. Fritz's mother made them surrender their arms to her, then fed them and tended their wounds as they

stayed through the night.

As the Middle East, cradle of civilizations and of religions, but also no newcomer to war, has been the locus of many modern conflicts, stories like this grow in number. Not all are so heartwarming. The execution by hanging of Saddam Hussein was scheduled and carried out on the morning of Eid al-Adha, Islam's most sacred holy day. Critics and Muslim theologians protested this, saying it would aggravate already painful divisions in Iraq, which it possibly did, leading to increasing violence, rather than closure.

During the Syrian civil war, a conflict that started in 2011 and is still going on 12 years later, this holiday, called Eid for short (there is another Eid - Eid al-Fitr, which is when the Ramadan fast is broken), again entered global news streams. In

**See Holy Days, page 12**

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# HAPPY

## Holy Days, from page 11

September 2016, a brief truce was arranged for Eid al-Adha. It was hoped this would lead to peace, and a cease-fire began in December, which lasted four months. After American withdrawal and a deal with Syrian Kurds, the war has settled into a

low-level conflict.

Despite our fumbling, failure, and frequent setbacks, holy days are vital to our survival as humans, beings with a predilection for war. Even in times of stark horror and violence, they can call us back to the good parts of our humanity and be a beacon of peaceful days to come.



Simchat Torah celebration in Israel

## Books make perfect last-minute (but thoughtful) gifts

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

### An almost all-purpose gift idea

We've all been there. A major holiday is just a week away, and we have put off getting a gift for an important person in our life. When this happens to me, I usually get them a book.

Here is a curated list of suggestions. Most but not all of these are recent books. Unless otherwise stated, the books below are available at Bookshop.org or Amazon.com for online buying and at major bookstores. If older than a year, used versions may be available,



Syrians celebrate Eid during a brief truce in 2016.

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and in most cases, e-books and audiobooks are also an option. For e-books, there is the Kindle store, Rakuten's Kobo store, or Barnes & Noble's Nook. Support local independent bookstores! Many of these are available at Uncle Hugo's, DreamHaven, Once Upon A Crime, Red Bal-

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# HOLIDAYS

loon Bookshop, Moon Palace, Birchbark, Black Garnet, The Irreverent Bookworm, or Bone-shaker Books.

For food lovers and cooks

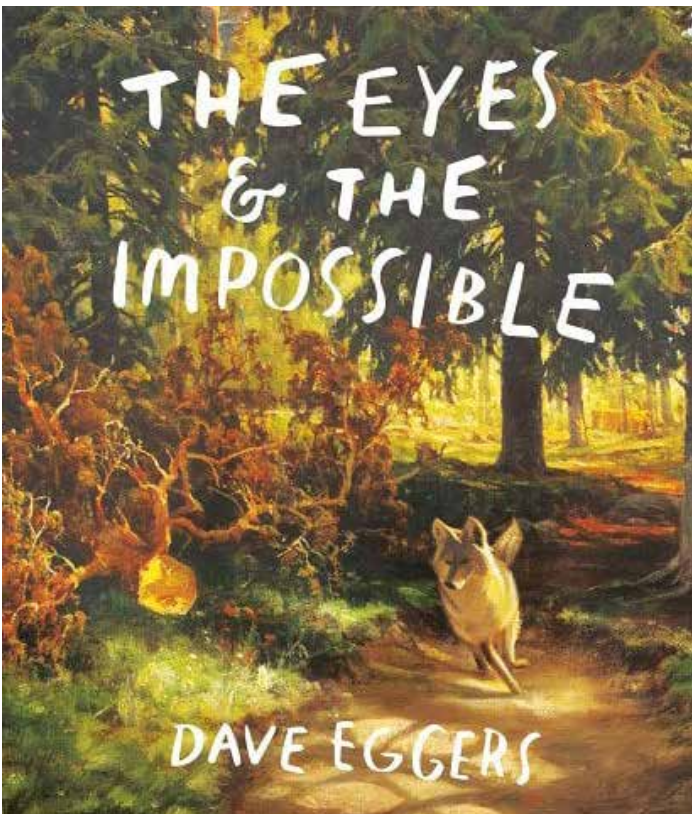
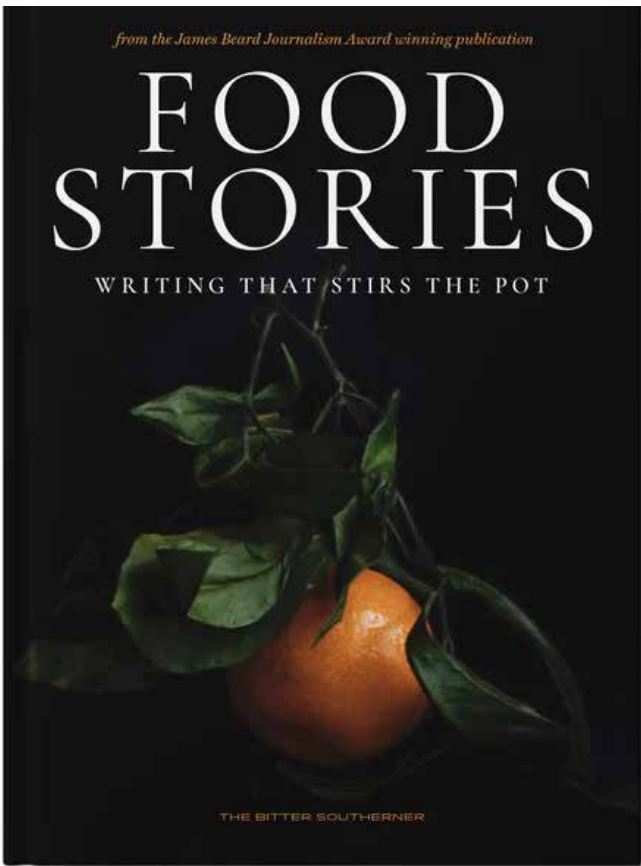
“Eater: 100 Essential Restaurant Recipes from the Authority on Where to Eat and Why It Matters,” 2023. By Hillary Dixer Canavan and other experts at Eater, the best online magazine of food and restaurant news.

“Food Stories: Writing That Stirs the Pot,” 2022. 2023, 2nd expanded edition. By various authors. From Bitter Southerner, another online magazine, and growing source of some of the finest contemporary American writing of all kinds. The magazine won a James Beard award for food journalism. Only available at bsgeneral-store.com.

“Northern Soul: Southern-Inspired Home Cooking from a Northern Kitchen: A Cookbook,” 2022. By Justin Sutherland.

Nonfiction for the curious

“Master Slave Husband”  
See Books, page 14



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# HAPPY HOLIDAYS

## Books, from page 13

Wife," 2023. By Ilyon Wood. A true story about an enslaved married couple who escaped by traveling openly but disguised as a sickly white man and his Black servant.

"Beyond the Wall – A History of East Germany," 2023. By Katja Hoyer. Acclaimed historian Katja Hoyer sets aside the usual Cold War caricatures of the GDR to offer a kaleidoscopic new vision of this vanished country.

"Who By Fire: Leonard Cohen in the Sinai," 2022. By Matti Friedman. The story of Cohen's transformational tour of Israel and Egypt in the opening weeks of the Yom Kippur War of 1973.

## Speculative fiction and fantasy

"Tsalmoth: A Vlad Taltos Novel," 2022. By

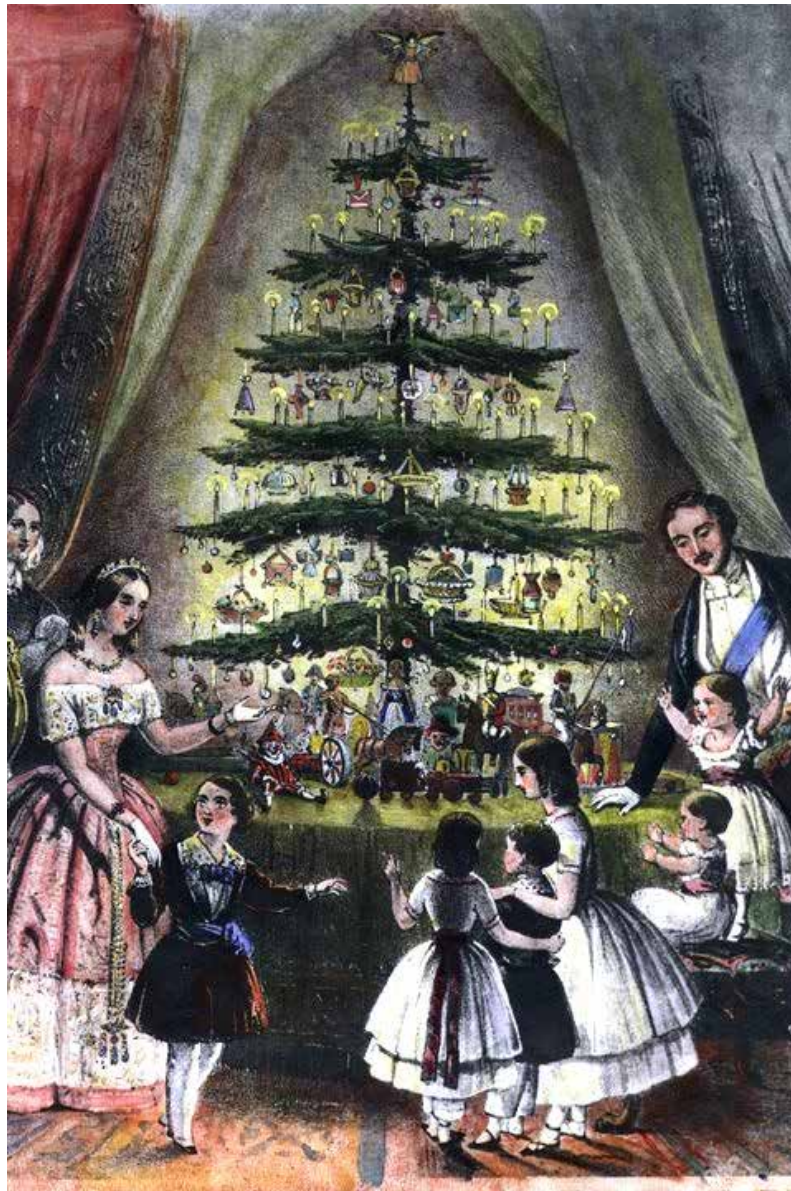
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Queen Victoria's Christmas tree

Steven Brust. The latest-but-one novel in the amazingly long Vlad Taltos series. The next one, "Lyorn," is available to pre-order for spring of 2024. Check out Brust's website [dreamcafe.com](http://dreamcafe.com).

"Starter Villain," 2023. By John Scalzi. A likable failson who dreams of being a pub landlord suddenly inherits his uncle's supervillain empire. Hilarity ensues. Also see Scalzi's website [whatever.scalzi.com](http://whatever.scalzi.com).

"The World We Make: A Novel," 2022. By N. K. Jemisin. Jemisin's "Great Cities Duology," which began with "The City We Became" and concludes with "The World We Make," is a masterpiece of speculative fiction from one of the most important writers of her generation.

## Crime fiction, mystery

"Brooklyn Crime Novel," 2023. By Jonathan Lethem. By the author of the incomparable "Motherless Brooklyn."

"The Last Devil To Die (Thursday Murder Club Series #4)," 2023. By Richard Osman. This is the latest (I hope not the last) in the debut series by a beloved, funny British game show host, which concerns a group of four very interesting retirees living in a community in the heart of modern England.

"I Have Some Questions For You," 2023. By Rebecca Makkai. "A twisty, immersive whodunit perfect for fans of Donna Tartt's 'The Secret History.'" – People magazine

## Literary fiction

"A Shining," 2023. By Jon Fosse. Translated from Norwegian by Damion Searls. Fosse is the 2023 winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature. "Strange, haunting

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Image from cover of John Scalzi's 'Starter Villain'

and dreamlike, 'A Shining' is the latest work of fiction by Jon Fosse, 'the Beckett of the twenty-first century' - Le Monde

"Heaven and Earth Grocery Store," 2023. By James McBride. "A murder mystery locked inside a Great American Novel. ... Charming, smart, heart-blistering, and heart-healing." - Danez Smith, The New York Times Book Review

"The Vaster Wilds - A Nov-

el," 2023. By Lauren Groff. An instant NYT bestseller, and named best book of the year by NPR, Time and others.

"Julia - A Retelling of George Orwell's 1984," 2023. By Sandra Newman. Best book accolades from LitHub, Esquire, the Guardian and People.

"The Ferryman," 2023. By Justin Cronin. Another NYT bestseller, lauded by other writers, this is one of those dystopia-disguised-as-utopia novels of Big Ideas and a gripping mystery plot.



#### Children & families

"The Eyes and the Impossible," 2023. By Dave Eggers. This book can be read in private by any kid with a third-grade or higher reading level, yet is sophisticated enough to interest teenagers. But really it just begs to be read aloud

in family gatherings of multiple generations. Yes, it's that good, and that universal. Oh, and it's narrated by the dog, who is The Eyes.

"Letters from Father Christmas," 2023. By J. R. R. Tolkien! This one is kind of self-explanatory.



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• COMMUNITY CALENDAR •

Southside Pride / NEIGHBORHOOD EDITION

EVENTS

**Safe Place: Homework Help**  
**Tuesdays and Thursdays,**  
**4 to 6 p.m.**  
2002 Riverside Ave., Mpls.  
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**Trombone player needed**  
The 53rd St Brass Quintet is looking for a trombone player. Rehearsals are on Wednesday nights near 53rd and Penn at 7:30 p.m. We play Baroque, classical and pop music for nursing homes and churches mainly in south Minneapolis. If interested, please contact us at: 53rd.st.brass@google.com.

**The Heirs of Muhammad – the Sunni-Shia Split, Session I**  
**Emily Pollack**  
**Wednesday, Dec. 6, 7 to 9 p.m.**  
**Online via Zoom**  
The Minnesota Independent Scholars’ Forum continues its journey through the ages and across the lands – our next stop is the Prophet Muhammad, and what happened after his death. Accordingly, we will be reading and discussing “The Heirs of Muhammad: Islam’s First Century and the Origins of the Sunni-Shia Split,” by Barnaby Rogerson. The book looks at the Sunni and Shia schism in relation to actions of the Prophet’s cousin and son-in-law Ali and his wife Aisha. More information at <http://mnindependentscholars.org/node/438>.

**Christmas movies and food drive for Minnehaha Food Shelf**  
**Dec. 8-14**  
Riverview Theater  
3800 42nd Ave. S., Mpls.  
Celebrate the holidays and help fight food insecurity. As it has for the past decade, the Riverview Theater is generously pairing Christmas-themed movies with a food drive for Minnehaha Food Shelf. This year’s marquee will light up with three beloved December traditions: “It’s a Wonderful Life,” “White Christmas” and “Elf.” Arrive at the box office with a non-perishable food item and admission (cash only) is just \$3. Additionally, Riverview owner Loren Williams donates a portion of each ticket sale to the food shelf. The festivities start on Dec. 8 and run through Dec. 14; for the schedule, go to [riverviewtheater.com](http://riverviewtheater.com).

**Classics Lost N Found Theater Company**  
**‘Christmas Carol Krampus’**  
**Dec. 8-9, 7 p.m.**  
**Dec. 15-16, 7 p.m.**  
Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church  
1620 E. 46th St., Mpls.  
Classics Lost N Found Theater Company is proud to present its 2023 Holiday Show, an original script entitled “Christmas Carol Krampus,” written and directed by company member Lisa M.W. Phelps. Yes, this is the same show we performed in 2022, but with

new scenes and numerous new actors (and returning actors in different roles) but with the same craziness and irreverent humor! Four shows only, no reserved seating. Tickets are \$15 adults, \$12 students or seniors. Cash or check ONLY – no credit cards. Tickets can be purchased at the door starting at 6:15 p.m. on the evenings of the performances. Street parking available near the church, and in the school lot across the street.

**Black To Nature – The Nature of Kwanzaa**  
**Saturday, Dec. 9, 1 to 3 p.m.**  
Kroening Nature Center  
North Mississippi Regional Park  
4900 Mississippi Ct., Mpls.  
Come to Kroening Nature Center to learn and celebrate the seven principles of Kwanzaa and its connection to nature through storytelling, songs, art making and a guided walk in the park with a naturalist. This is a family friendly event for all and holds space for all who identify as Black, Indigenous, and/or people of color. FREE event. For more info, go to [https://anc.apm.activecommunities.com/mplsparkandrec/activity/search/detail/1140?online-Siteld=0&from\\_original\\_cui=true](https://anc.apm.activecommunities.com/mplsparkandrec/activity/search/detail/1140?online-Siteld=0&from_original_cui=true).

**Christmas Market at the Black Forest Inn**  
**Saturday, Dec. 9, noon to 7 p.m.**  
**Sunday, Dec. 10, noon to 5 p.m.**  
Black Forest Inn

1 E. 26th St., Mpls.  
Join us in our banquet space for the annual Christmas Market! More than a dozen vendors will be selling a variety of goods, crafts and treats – you’re sure to find an affordable treasure! Open from noon to 7 p.m. on Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday. We hope to see you there! <https://www.facebook.com/events/199212023232465>

**Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors Holiday Party!**  
**Tuesday, Dec. 12, 10:30 a.m. to noon**  
**Register by Tuesday, Dec. 5**  
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
2730 E. 31st St., Mpls.  
Bingo, sing-along, gift bags, drawings, prizes and refreshments! Older adults age 60+ who live in the greater Longfellow-Seward community are welcome to attend. Space is limited – please register by Tuesday, Dec. 5. To register, call 612-729-5799, or email Julia at [juliaockuly@LShealthyseniors.org](mailto:juliaockuly@LShealthyseniors.org). Suggested donation for the party is \$2. Masks are encouraged for the event. Please join us for some holiday fun! [www.lshealthyseniors.org](http://www.lshealthyseniors.org)

**‘Following My Spirit Home’ – Paintings and Stories**  
**Saturday, Dec. 16, 3 p.m.**  
**In person and online**  
Friedli Gallery and Studio

943 W. 7th St., St. Paul  
Join us at the Friedli Gallery and Studio for an inspiring afternoon with renowned indigenous artist, Sam Zimmerman. This in-person event offers a unique opportunity to hear directly from the artist about their creative process and the stories behind their captivating works. As an accomplished author as well, Zimmerman will be talking about his new book “Following My Spirits Home,” published by Minnesota Historical Society Press, available at bookstores and online. He will also delve into the storytelling aspect of his art, highlighting the cultural significance and narratives embedded in each piece. Please visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/friedliartsgallery> to RSVP or get a Zoom link to join the event online.

**‘Happy Holi-Dane! Take Four’**  
**Tuesday, Dec. 19, 7:30 p.m.**  
History Theatre  
30 E. 10th St., St. Paul  
History Theatre is thrilled to announce the return of an annual classic, “Happy Holi-Dane!” Back by popular demand, this one night only concert is an ever-changing Holiday Hullahaloo. A warm and wonderful night for the whole family! Learn more: [www.historytheatre.com/happy-holidane-take-4](http://www.historytheatre.com/happy-holidane-take-4) or call 651-292-4323.

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Southside Pride is a monthly community newspaper delivered on the first Tuesday of each month to convenient locations in and around our Southside communities. 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:

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# • COMMUNITY CALENDAR •

## Southside Pride / NEIGHBORHOOD EDITION

### Readings by Writers:

**A Celebration of Louis Jenkins**  
**Tuesday, Dec. 19, 7:30 p.m.**  
University Club  
420 Summit Ave., St. Paul  
Please join Ann Jenkins and Lars Jenkins to celebrate the publication of "Louis Jenkins: Collected Poems" by Minnesota's late poet Louis Jenkins. Friends and admirers, including Michael Dennis Browne, Joyce Sutphen, Jim Moore, Connie Wanek, Tim Nolan, and many more, will remember Louis and read from the book which will be available for purchase. <https://www.facebook.com/events/314521801498576>.

**Junkyard Cabaret presents**  
**'Mistress Ginger's Generation X-mas: A Campy and Nostalgic Holiday Show'**  
**Dec. 19-20, 7 p.m.**  
Bryant Lake Bowl Theater  
810 W. Lake St., Mpls.  
Hark! Mistress Ginger is here to make your Yuletide extra gay. With her second annual X-mas spectacular, this cabaret queen is serving up a sleighful of holiday tunes from Christmas past, some from beloved TV specials, some from your favorite pop divas, and some from way, way back. (Nutcracker, anyone?) With George Maurer on piano and some very special guests, it'll be a rousing romp brimming with live music, high kicks, and a stud muffin or two – sure to get your chestnuts roasted. Tickets at [www.mistressgingercooks.com/cabaret](http://www.mistressgingercooks.com/cabaret).

**Free In-Person & Virtual Narcan Training: Empowering Communities to Combat Opioid Overdoses**  
**Wednesday, Dec. 20, 5:30 to 7 p.m. (in-person)**  
Kyros  
401 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. N. Ste. 500, Mpls.  
Whether you're in the addiction

recovery field, know someone grappling with Substance Use Disorder, or simply wish to be prepared, this training can be pivotal. Acquiring the skills to reverse an overdose can mean the difference between life and death. During the training, participants will learn to identify an overdose; understand the emergency protocol; master the administration of naloxone; and familiarize themselves with relevant state and federal laws and statistics. Facilitated by Nayt Pingry, Kyros Partner Development Manager. We believe in equipping as many individuals as possible with the knowledge to administer Naloxone, so these courses are offered free of charge. To sign up for the free training and to access more resources, participants can visit [www.kyros.care](http://www.kyros.care) and click on the "Community Events" button on our homepage.

**Community Connect: Winter Solstice**  
**Thursday, Dec. 21, 6 to 7:30 p.m.**  
East Phillips Community Center  
2307 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. S., Mpls.  
Come and join us for this celebration at East Phillips Community Center, in observance of the quiet and dark of winter, the solstice. Crafts, activities, stories, refreshments and time to enjoy and respect this season with friends. FREE event for all ages. Learn more at [https://anc.apm.activecommunities.com/mplsparkandrec/activity/search/detail/377?onlineSiteId=0&from\\_original\\_cui=true](https://anc.apm.activecommunities.com/mplsparkandrec/activity/search/detail/377?onlineSiteId=0&from_original_cui=true).

**'Scrooge in Rouge: An English Music Hall Christmas Carol'**  
**Through Dec. 30**  
Open Eye Theatre  
506 E. 24<sup>th</sup> St., Mpls.

"Scrooge in Rouge: An English Music Hall Christmas Carol," is a "spirited" comedy sure to make you blush! With cheeky puns and bawdy songs, this quick-change version of "A Christmas Carol" is a hilarious holiday treat. Learn more and get tickets at <https://www.openeyetheatre.org/scrooge-in-rouge>.

**'Dashing Through the Snow(plows)'**  
**Now through Dec. 31**  
**Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m.**  
**Matinees on Dec. 9 and Dec. 16**  
Stevie Ray's Comedy Cabaret  
Chanhassen Dinner Theatres  
501 W. 78<sup>th</sup> St., Chanhassen  
The Stevie Ray's Comedy Troupe takes a comedic look at the holidays with improv comedy created entirely by suggestions called out from the audience. For more info, see [www.stevierays.org](http://www.stevierays.org), for reservations call 952-934-1525 or visit [www.chanhassendt.com](http://www.chanhassendt.com).

**'Prints on Ice'**  
**On view through Jan. 6, 2024**  
Highpoint Center for Printmaking  
912 W. Lake St., Mpls.  
Celebrate and support local printmakers and get some incredible works and gifts for the holiday season! Highpoint Center for Printmaking is pleased to announce the opening of "Prints on Ice," an exhibition featuring prints made by members of Highpoint's artist cooperative. This is our 43rd semi-annual co-op member exhibition. "Prints on Ice" features new printmaking works from 40 of Highpoint's artist co-op members. The exhibition

prints incorporate a variety of techniques and styles, including relief prints, lithographs, screen-prints, monotypes, books and more. For more information, see [highpointprintmaking.org](http://highpointprintmaking.org).

**'Once upon a Mansion': ASI's 73rd Holiday Experience Through Jan. 7**  
American Swedish Institute  
2600 Park Ave., Mpls.  
Step into the story at the American Swedish Institute's most enchanting holiday experience ever that brings the magic of winter, traditions, myths, and tales to life for visitors of all ages. Explore the festive rooms of the Turnblad Mansion and immerse yourself in experiences co-created by local community contributors representing Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Finland, and the Sami Cultural Center. For more information, visit [www.asimn.org](http://www.asimn.org).

**Como Park Conservatory Holiday Flower Show Through Jan. 7, 2024**  
**Open daily, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**  
Como Park Conservatory  
1225 Estabrook Dr., St. Paul  
The Holiday Flower Show will feature "Ferrara" red, variegated "Tapestry" (yellow and green) leaves, and yellow "Golden Glo" poinsettias. Accompanying these will be yellow flowering kalanchoe and tropical foliage accents. [comozooconservatory.org](http://comozooconservatory.org)

**Tutors needed for Hennepin County Library's 'Let's Read' and 'Homework Help' programs**  
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in making a positive impact on our next generation. The library is increasing its efforts to help boost children's literacy, and volunteers and paid tutors are needed to support our youngest learners. We're thrilled to invite you to be a part of two programs, "Homework Help" and the exciting new "Let's Read" literacy initiative. Apply to be a paid lead tutor, or volunteer for either program. To learn more and to apply, go to [https://www.hclib.org/about/news/2023/October/tutors-needed-for-letsread-homework-help?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=list&utm\\_content=102023&utm\\_campaign=e-news23](https://www.hclib.org/about/news/2023/October/tutors-needed-for-letsread-homework-help?utm_medium=email&utm_source=list&utm_content=102023&utm_campaign=e-news23).

**Join Nokomis Healthy Seniors' FREE Caregiver Support Group 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays, 11 a.m.**  
Nokomis Healthy Seniors  
Bethel Church  
4120 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. S., Mpls.  
Often, caregivers don't know where to turn for support and advice. A support group can be a lifesaver, allowing caregivers to talk to others who are experiencing the same joys and challenges, and who can not only empathize, but offer valuable insights and suggestions. Held on the 4th Thursday of each month at 11 a.m. at our office located inside Bethel Church, 4120-17th Ave. S., Minneapolis. For more information, call the Nokomis Healthy Seniors office at 612-729-5499.

See Calendar, page 23

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# The Dish for December, with three mini-reviews

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

## Openings and closings

We usually start with these, as they have been numerous in the upheaval since 2020 (and were even pretty frequent before then, due to economic chaos). But things seem to be leveling off, so I may drop this practice. The only notable closing is the original Caribou Coffee in Edina, which will close Dec. 12. For openings, there are a few, but not in our neck of the woods or interesting enough to get excited about.

## News for home cooks

I followed the links in a weird local food-related tweet I read: “This recipe was featured in The New York Times in January 2020 because my congress-



## Cornbread mix competition

er Joe’s were all slammed for something and placed somewhere in the middle. Hippie, health-foodie favorite Bob’s Red Mill came in dead last with the withering headline “A Hard No.” Ouch. Martha White, a Southern staple along with Jiffy, came in somewhere

I’m still reeling from the lard though. I actually have a box of Jiffy in my cupboard, but I may give it away.

## Mini-review #1 – Handsome Hog

I went to Justin Sutherland’s flagship upscale soul food restaurant for an early birthday dinner when my sister Cindy was in town. She was my designated pork eater and got ribs. I got fried chicken and a waffle, something my son loves and raves about



## Samosa Tater Tot Chaatdish

woman Ilhan Omar made it for a hot dish competition against my senator Amy Klobuchar and I CANNOT EVEN with this information.”

Ilhan Omar is my congresswoman also, although I wouldn’t call Amy Klobuchar “my” senator, since we all have two of them, and I very slightly prefer Tina Smith. But that’s irrelevant. The dish is called Samosa Chaatdish (Indian Tater Tot Hotdish). This sounded intriguing, and I was originally planning to “test kitchen” it before sharing it, but after reading the recipe I decided that, although I love the concept of mashing up very Minnesotan Tater Tot Hotdish with pretty spicy samosas and chaat, and I love the wordplay of “chaat-dish” which almost perfectly rhymes with hotdish, I wasn’t really taken by the actual recipe. But here it is, and you can decide for yourself: [tinyurl.com/DKRatSSP-Chaatdish](https://tinyurl.com/DKRatSSP-Chaatdish).

Bon Appetit did a “Best Boxed Cornbread Mix” competition. Local favorites Betty Crocker, Krusteaz, and Trad-

in the middle as well, but all the things they criticized it for – gritty texture, requires to be cooked in cast iron, has a crust but doesn’t rise much – are what characterizes classic cornbread in my book. But then I grew up in the South, although I am not and never have been a “Southerner.”

I was rooting for Jiffy, just because it’s so cheap and working-class and I practically lived on it as a college student. It came in third, and I was sort of devastated to learn (I’m sure I used to know this but forgot) that it has lard in it! Some fancy brand I’ve never heard of placed second. The top one was the anti-hippie, health-foodie nemesis, Whole Foods, albeit their low-cost basics brand 365. Points were awarded for having more cornmeal than wheat flour (most of them did not!), for “actually smelling like corn” as it came out of the oven, and for its good texture, having a mixture of tender, gritty, moist, springy, and crumbly without being too much of any of those things.

Irish liver and sticking to the expensive stuff.

## Mini-review #2 – Modern Times

Pre-pandemic, I probably went to Modern Times more or less weekly. Post-pandemic, I have only been three or four times, and this visit in early November followed a six-to-eight-month gap. I got “Egg on

a Bun” (really egg and cheese) with avocado extra, and garlic fries as a side. Oh! Garlic fries from MT! How I have missed you!

## Mini-review #3 – Heather’s

This was another meal I had with my sister. It was a big hit with both of us. It was my first time having brunch at Heather’s and also the first time I



## Garlic fries from Modern Times



## Handsome Hog in St. Paul

(not from Handsome Hog, he’s never been there, but he lives in Atlanta where they have chicken and waffles nearly everywhere). The chicken was definitely some of the best I’ve ever had in a restaurant. The waffle was just a waffle, but it had real butter, real maple syrup, and some sort of spicy cooked apple stuff. I tried some of my sister’s cheesy grits, which I always love. The slaw was shredded very fine, I think just all cabbage, with a piquant vinaigrette dressing.

The house special old fashioned was delicious and I am so unused to drinking that I got drunk (on just one) enough to start reciting poetry. I haven’t been like that for well over a decade. And no hangover! A combination of my powerful

tried out their capacious, elegant, toasty-warm covered patio, which I recommend. It was a raw, damp, and cold Sunday morning in late October, but we were fine. I had what may be the single most delicious brunch item I have ever had anywhere. (And brunch items are what I live for, so that’s a high bar.) It was called Autumnal Hash, and consisted of shredded sweet potatoes, minced sweet onions, and shaved Brussels sprouts perfectly seasoned and sauteed until melty and crispy and then topped with two perfect over-easy eggs. OMG.



## The warm and cozy patio at Heather’s



Cam, from page 1

apolis saw its lowest voter turnout since 2009 with only 31.7% (or 78,960) of registered voters casting ballots, among the wards, Ward 8 had the second highest percentage at 42.4%. Ward 12 had the most people voting, with 12,167, and the highest turnout in the city, with 48.2% of registered voters casting a ballot. Ward 12 also had the two highest voter turnouts of all precincts, with a 57.3% turnout in Precinct 2 and 56.5% for Precinct 1. Ward 8 Precinct 4, however, had the highest number of voters of any precinct in the city, with 1,594 people voting.

Ward 2, where Robin Wonsley was the only candidate on the ballot, had the lowest voter turnout, with only 17.1% of registered voters participating. The precinct with the lowest voter turnout was also in Ward 2. The ward's Precinct 1, in Dinkytown, had only 63 people, or 4.8% of registered voters, cast ballots.

Throughout the campaign season we were told again and again that there was a divide on the council. It has been described in many ways. It might be called a "left," "liberal," "progressive," "socialist" side versus a "centrist," "moderate," "conservative," "capitalist" side. It was reflected in the two well-funded political action committees, "All of Mpls" and "Minneapolis for the Many," that endorsed separate slates of candidates and spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to influence the election results.

Since then, rhetoric about how poorly the council is getting along has continued. This was most evident in the meetings where incentive pay for police officers was recently discussed.

Emily Koski, who easily retained her Ward 11 seat, raised concerns about a lack of collaboration among policy makers shortly after the election. "We actually have an opportunity to think about the investment in a transformative public safety plan, but we can't do that with an executive who won't speak with us. We can't do that without collaboration," said Koski. "We have been completely shut out of the process."

Ward 9 Council Member Jason Chavez, who was reelected by a wide margin, shared similar concerns in a recent newsletter. "Moving forward," he wrote, "the mayor needs to understand that collaboration with the City Council is necessary, not just an afterthought."

There hasn't always been such a division and lack of collaboration in City Hall.

"One of the best aspects of the eight years I spent on the council was that we seemed to function more like a team," said Scott Benson, who was the Ward 11 council member for eight years, from 2002 to 2010. "I think this happened because we had no set alliances."

Working as a team doesn't mean there are no disagreements.

Benson expected them. "Council members who were on your side for one vote may take a position opposite yours on the next," he said. Just because all policymakers are functioning as a team doesn't mean they shouldn't challenge, correct, or vote against each other. But it could mean they will work to help each other be more successful and work towards shared goals and against hardship and suffering for the people of Minneapolis.

Having a shared enemy may have helped in Benson's time on the council. "We faced some very difficult funding decisions with Gov. Pawlenty and the legislature cutting local government aid," he recalled. Finding shared enemies in Minneapolis today should not be difficult. We don't need a bridge collapse, or a tornado destroying a section of our city to bring us together, as in previous times. But we also shouldn't use a pandemic, police killings, or homeless camps to create and strengthen our divisions for political gains. An opioid crisis, climate catastrophe, economic and housing instability, persistent historic injustices from which we have yet to heal, and a public safety system in peril offer us plenty to unite against.

Could this council and mayor start seeing themselves as one team?

Perhaps it would help if differences were appreciated and respected, as each policymaker has their role to play representing the people who elected them and fulfilling the commitments and obligations they have toward them.

That could mean listening to your opponents and those who voted against you. "There is consensus between all my neighbors, no matter if they supported me or any of my opponents, that we need more options when we call 911," said Stevenson. "We need a quick response from investigators for property crimes, mental health workers for those crises, and protectors when shots are

fired on our blocks. We know that these investments would save taxpayers money and vastly improve livability across the city."

"It is my hope," said Ranheim, "that Ms. Chowdhury will indeed govern as an independent progressive and will take into account all voices within Ward 12, not just the most vocal ones."

Some of the hope for the next term can be found in the conversations we imagine our policymakers are having right now about who will chair and serve on what committees and who the council's next president and vice president will be.

Those decisions, and how those chosen for those positions decide to lead, have played a role in the past.

"I think Mayor Rybak and committee chairs really set the tone for inclusion in all major decisions by inviting council members in early during policy and budget discussions," said Benson. When Rybak was mayor, at the beginning of each term after the new elected officials were sworn in, he and the full City Council, with abundant staff support, held a series of public meetings to draft and approve a new strategic plan with a vision, values, goals and strategies. That process alone, regardless of the results, helped set the tone and build the team in the first months of the term.

There is no doubt that this new crew of city leaders will feel pressure to double down on their divisions. It will come from the media, from each other, and from their strongest supporters, endorsers, antagonists and allies alike, including

me.

Yet, if we want them to work as a team, to take on the biggest problems and challenges facing our city, we as their hiring committee, managers and coaches have an important role to play.

Can we come together? Could we lead by example and start by listening to each other, even those we vehemently disagree with? Can we find ways to appreciate those on the opposite side of the political chasms we helped create?

"For City Hall in the years

to come, I pray that a renewed spirit of collaboration takes hold, despite the many forces which seek to divide," Johnson wrote in the last email he sent as council member from City Hall. "A spirit that finds strength in diversity of perspective, offers a wellspring of good will, casts aside grievances, and makes steady progress through compromise. I hope you will join me in continually encouraging such leadership from those who represent us at this and every other level of government."

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# Queer bodies: a call for euphoria

BY FERN SNEDEKER  
(they/them)

A queer community under increased surveillance. Queer bodies under attack—psychologically, ideologically, physically. Nudieland—where two men shot seven and killed one at a queer punk show in Phillips—is the most recent example on my mind. But it’s not even the most recent attack on the trans community, just the one I remember most vividly.

Draconian laws trying to normalize us and shape us into cis bodies. Queerphobia. The odd glance or comment of the storekeeper, the server, the childhood friend. All I can think is, “Why do they want

us to die, why do they laugh at suicides?” as Anita Velveta sings in “TERFS WILL NOT GET INTO HEAVEN.”

My only response to the weight of surveillance can be gender euphoria. What does this look like?

Telling myself I love my body. Wearing clothes that feel true to me. Telling friends about my queerness and them accepting me. My hair—yes, my beautiful, twirled, messed-up hair. Pronoun pins. Getting pride flags and being outwardly queer. Celebrating when someone uses the right pronouns for me. The euphoria I feel when someone corrects misgendering for me. Queer music. Writing about queer rights. The

communal love that brings us all together.

It’s also about celebrating the small wins: a coworker trying hard to use my pronouns; the days I wake up and feel FREAKING GOOD about my outfit; advocating for myself and others on the days I don’t feel like it.

When discussing transgender people, mainstream discourse often focuses on gender dysphoria. My hope is that in celebrating our transformations—physical, emotional, communal and spiritual—we can show our very human essence in a world where many perceive us to be outside the realm of humanity.

## Foundry, from page 1

hands.

A mother who sends her son to the Circulo de los Amigos child care center across the street from Smith Foundry said, “My son started going there earlier this year— and he never had any significant health problems or breathing problems – but shortly after, he got sick and had trouble breathing and ended up in the emergency room. ... We had to get him tested for asthma, which he does have now. And I feel guilty for not knowing what I was exposing him to. But I shouldn’t have to feel like that. I should be able to trust that my community is safe for my son.”

Many community members expressed the feeling that the regulatory agencies were not answering their questions directly and were not listening to the stated needs of the community. Luke Gannon, director of program engagement with EPIC, in a conversation after the Nov. 27 event, said, “I don’t think I learned anything new. You could tell they were scripted.” Nazir Khan, a community organizer with the Zero Burn Coalition (formed around the campaign to shut down the HERC incinerator in North Minneapolis) said to the MPCA representatives present, “You’re not hearing what people are saying. You have to shut this facility down. Period.”

The MPCA has been down-right negligent for over 25 years since Smith Foundry’s air emission permit lapsed in 1997. They

have been operating under a provisional permit ever since. At the Nov. 27 meeting, the MPCA was asked, “How long are they allowed a provisional permit? Is there a time limit on that?” Frank Kolasch, assistant commissioner of the MPCA, replied, “They are allowed to operate under their current permit until we issue them a – unless they make changes to their facility.” In fact, the MPCA has been working for

neighborhood must do a “cumulative impact analysis” before they can receive a permit to operate, including a new or re-issued permit. That means that the permit must take into consideration the already existing health burdens of residents who will be impacted by that pollution. In an area like East Phillips, where it is well documented that environmental health issues like asthma and cardiovascular dis-

the cumulative impact law with Smith Foundry, and she replied: “When we ask the MPCA that question, they always respond, ‘We’re working on it!’ There’s always an excuse, year after year. At a certain point, the pace of bureaucracy can’t keep being the reason. We have to ask, ‘What are the powers that are interfering with this enforcement at the MPCA?’”

Evan Mulholland, director of the Healthy Communities Program at the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA), in a recent interview said, “This foundry has been emitting pollutants that are toxic and have been contributing to public health harm for its entire operation. That’s the problem of cumulative impacts: when you have people living in a place where particulate matter (PM) is elevated because of highways, and construction, and Bituminous Roadways, and truck traffic, and emitting metallic particulates into the air, in a way it doesn’t matter if there is a permit violation or not, the emissions are contributing to the cumulative impacts.”

The original intent of the 2008 Clark-Berglin law, according to Clark, was to reduce “excess burden on our community” as it relates to the social determinants of health – race, income, occupation, language, and location, among other factors. Using the results of a public health survey taken in the East Phillips neighborhood, along with data collected from the Minnesota Department of Health, the Minneapolis Health Department, the Minnesota Hospital Association, and the MPCA, Clark worked with the legislative GIS office to create a visual map showing how these social determinants of health played out in the real world. After decades of grassroots efforts, the community’s knowledge was finally validated that the overwhelming health

disparities in their neighborhood are real.

Mulholland, who once served in the New Hampshire Attorney General’s office, described how environmental law can responsibly be enforced: “If there is an ongoing violation that has not been fixed and is harming people, then you have to think that one of the steps ... is to shut down the facility until the risk to public health is stopped.” While Mulholland recognizes that there is not yet enough publicly available data to determine exactly what should happen, he is clear in saying that “as far as I can see, no one has ever tested or measured the amount of lead, heavy metals, and other hazardous pollutants coming out of the stack.” (The stack is the chimney above the furnace where they melt the metal.) Further, not only is there no data, but there is no filter in the stack at all. The emissions are entirely uncontrolled.

Why, after the EPA has cited Smith Foundry for violating the Clean Air Act, does Smith continue to operate? Why are environmental criminals allowed to negotiate behind closed doors with enforcement agencies rather than face the same punishment as petty criminals? Why does my family and my community have to endure trauma every day knowing that the foul smell in the air is exposing us to a greater potential for premature death?

Even in Minnesota, one of the progressive bastions of the country, environmental law enforcement is proving incapable of protecting people from pollution. We are far too deep in this colonial environmental crisis to continue to prioritize profits over people. As community member Andrew Falstrom said at the Nov. 27 meeting, “There is no repair for stolen lives.”



Demonstration outside Smith Foundry protesting pollution on Nov. 10

over seven years to reissue this permit, which is supposed to expire every five years.

For 15 years the MPCA has avoided enforcing the Clark-Berglin cumulative impact law which states that any business or agency releasing air pollution within a half-mile radius of the “arsenic triangle” in Phillips

ease are already disproportionately high, the permit must raise the threshold of protection and require a stricter air pollution permit.

I asked former state Rep. Karen Clark, chief House author of the 2008 cumulative impact bill, and resident of East Phillips, why the MPCA hasn’t enforced



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U.S. imperial behavior

“It’s easier to fool someone than to persuade them that they’ve been fooled.” Most Americans, asked whether they support empire and imperial behavior, would say no. They don’t think we live in it—notwithstanding over 800 U.S. military bases around the globe and a trillion-dollar military budget, a constant state of war and threats of war, military intervention 251 times since 1991 by a recent survey. U.S. financial dominance subordinates other economies, induces debt dependency, and imposes unlawful sanctions, abusing what a French finance minister called the dollar’s “exorbitant privilege.” Those who don’t speak out against this imperial behavior are supporting it. Everyone needs help cutting through the media fog. “What is the greatest threat to world peace?” International polls by Gallup and Reuters and Zogby all found the same leading answer: United States. Yet our captive mainstream media and guided social media and nearly all local outlets tell us the opposite. It’s much easier and more comforting to believe that the U.S. is a force for democracy and the rule of law. Domestic anti-imperialist critiques have been quieted, and foreign leaders who oppose our agenda are smeared, caricatured, denounced as the latest “Hitler.” So-called progressives have been led into supporting many wars and “color revolutions” against countries that oppose us. Remember Gen. Wesley Clark’s revelation that in September 2001 Rumsfeld shared a plan to overthrow five Mideast governments? There was much domestic opposition to the Iraq war and its lies (Madeleine Albright called the half-million dead women and children “worth it”). Nevertheless, many now accept that U.S.

international behavior is high-minded. The U.S. “crusader” mentality is deeply rooted – across the political field. A most sophisticated propaganda system, ours, has many people following all that finger-pointing, fearing those who oppose us, and believing that NATO is a defensive alliance despite its destructive wars in non-NATO countries. Many haven’t noticed that the U.S. rejects multi-lateral agreements at will and has repeatedly sabotaged opportunities for accommodation and arms reduction, globally and in Ukraine. The U.S., beginning no later than 1997, actively planned and provoked war in Ukraine, despite warnings from many diplomats and scholars. This recent history is ignored in favor of the mantra that Russian intervention was “unprovoked.” In addition, we’re told repeatedly but without evidence that Russia has imperial ambitions and also behaves irrationally. Delusions are now crashing against the rocks of catastrophe in a devastated Ukraine. In “Foreign Affairs,” establishment and pro-war writers now say U.S. strategy has been “a course that has led to a dead end.” Russian military and logistical superiority are hinted. A fallback stance calls it a “stalemate” without a cease-fire agreement – but given past Western duplicity in Ukraine, attested by several European heads of state, why would Russia agree to that? Will we retain essential memory – or encourage further amnesia? Remember which country has other ones surrounded by Western missiles, military bases, and threatening exercises. The Ukraine war was provoked. Anti-imperialist education starts here at home.

Dave Gutknecht

Options for ash trees

As a Minneapolis resident and an arborist with 30 years in the tree care profession, I want to offer some deeper context to the issues raised in Cam Gordon’s Nov. 8 article on emerald ash borer and insecticide treatments. I ask fellow community members not to assume ill intent of arborists, who are and have always been environmental allies. We are most often called out to try to solve preventable tree problems after it is too late. There is a lot of pressure right now from people with ash trees to try to save them, when the window of opportunity closed several years ago on many of these trees. The Twin Cities metro area has had greater success than any other city in the country in preserving ash canopy since the arrival of EAB. This is in part due to the responsible and selective use of pesticides to protect ash trees – not perpetually, but as a means to reduce population pressure and as a bridging strategy toward removal and replacement. We all get to decide what our risk tolerance will be in a given situation. Even Toyota Prius drivers accept the use of some fossil fuel to get themselves down the road. We get to decide what kind of urban forest we will have as a community. When use of pesticides is taken off the table, removal and replacement is the only option for ash trees. The longer the delay in either choice (protection or removal and replacement), the more

difficult and dangerous it becomes to remove an infested ash tree. This is due to the succession of fungi that invade the galleries formed by the borer, making the wood lose almost all its strength and stability. Infested ash trees are more expensive to remove because they require more time and specialized equipment to get the job done while reducing risk to workers. To sum it up, I have three requests for those in the community: Look up the work done by Dr. Reed Johnson of Ohio State University for in-depth research about the exposure of pollinators to emamectin benzoate through ash pollen. Don’t assume ill intent of arborists. They got into their careers because they care about the environment. Our profession is dangerous, and we strive to care for trees and our workers. Take care of your trees proactively! Water them, mulch them, and get regular pruning done. We have had three years of drought, and even tolerant species are getting stressed and dying. If you want to avoid insecticides, reduce stress on your trees any way you can.

Kent Honl  
International Society of Arboriculture  
Board Certified Master Arborist MN  
0158B  
Rainbow Tree Company

Ward 8 election postmortem

Why do you think Keith Ellison and Ilhan Omar endorsed Andrea Jenkins over the DFL-endorsed Soren Stevenson? It’s surprising because they have both benefited from DFL endorsement as did Soren Stevenson in this campaign. He lost by only 38 votes. Jenkins’ opponent Soren Stevenson refused to meet with the Star Tribune editorial board. That seemed true with several DSA-endorsed candidates – a mistake for all of them. Probably the assumption was that the Star Tribune would not endorse DSA candidates. Jenkins also probably benefited from buying

a full-page ad in Southside Pride and major presence on the website. Another mistake Stevenson made was that he could have suggested ranking Terry White second. White received over 500 votes. He had a fairly progressive campaign statement and was the second African American candidate in Ward 8. The 8th Ward has a large African American community. If only 10% of White’s supporters were pleased with Stevenson’s suggestion, Stevenson would have won the election.

Phil Willkie

Another side to emerald ash borer treatments

I worked for the Minneapolis Park Board forestry department in the late ‘70s on a takedown crew with Dutch elm disease at its peak. This is where I heard the sound of the chainsaw singing the song of death for the elm trees. Now I’m a retired arborist who ran a lawn, landscape and tree service for over 30 years here in south Minneapolis. I recently read an article in the Southside Pride by Cam Gordon [“Are tree treatments worth the risks?” November 2023] that seemed rather one-sided. My dad always said there’s two sides to every coin. First off, it can be very expensive to remove some of the large ash trees that are infected with emerald ash borer (EAB). This can be an economic burden that affects low-income homes disproportionately. Gordon authored and passed a resolution in 2010 urging residents not to use insecticide treatments to save their ash trees. This resolution was being used by the Park Board as the reason they did not educate homeowners on treatment options and were going directly to condemning and sending a 60-day notice to remove the ash trees, which can be very expensive. The cost of removing mature ash trees is much greater than the cost of protecting the tree. Really? You’re purposely not going to inform the homeowners of the option to have their trees treated because of your agenda to remove all ash trees. Some of these trees showing no signs of EAB at all but were still being marked for removal. This seems to me like a very deceptive and deceitful practice. No information, no choice, cut them down, period. We know what’s better for you than you do. What kind of regime are you running here, Ralph Sievert? It sounds almost gasta-po-like in nature. My way or the highway, that’s how you want to operate a city government department? The Minneapolis Park Board cut down over 40,000 ash trees on public land from 2010 to 2022. Not all these trees were diseased, but they went ahead and sanitized them anyway. How much carbon were these trees sequestering while giving us oxygen to breathe, shading our homes, giving wildlife a place to live, etc. It’s a fact that the ash tree flowers are considered insignificant and not a destination for pollinators. Ash trees are not pollinated by bees. The chemical we use to treat ash trees is emamectin benzoate,

which is not a neonicotinoid. Gordon’s article was full of half-truths and unexamined misinformation. I find this a good example of what is called binary consensus: making a complex and nuanced situation into a false choice between two polarities. In this case it is a false choice between using insecticides and complete abstention from them. There are many ways to navigate the risk/reward balance in any situation. According to Gordon, the risks are not worth the reward – although I don’t believe he understands the full extent of the risks involved. Arborists are environmentalists and have been at the forefront of mitigating the effects of the urban heat island since before climate change became prominent in the news. Responsible use of pesticides is part of our approach to integrated pest management, an evolving discipline that constantly seeks to limit or eliminate off-target damage from our activities. The arrival of new pests such as EAB requires responses that go beyond just removal and replacement of ash trees. Insecticides are not intended to be perpetual life support for ash trees. They are useful in lowering the population pressure and the rate of tree loss while the removal and replacement of the ash component of the canopy takes place. Financial burdens to the homeowners could have been avoided if the homeowners had heeded the advice 10 or more years ago to protect their trees for a few years while they saved up a budget to remove the trees and start something new. Many have kicked the can down the road and the inevitable outcome has happened: a dead ash tree. The pressure has risen on arborists to help salvage trees that are too far gone to rescue with insecticides, as homeowners are faced with an expensive tree removal. This does not even take into account the stress on the trees that have not received proper irrigation during a three-year drought. It’s all really quite simple – if people want to protect the trees on their properties that’s their right. The Park Board has no business telling them what or what not to do.

Joseph Boller, arborist  
Grass and Grounds





Calendar, from page 17

**17th Annual Holiday Show**  
**Sarah Morris & The Sometimes**  
**Elves with Amanda B. Perry**  
**Friday, Dec. 8, 7 to 11:30 p.m.**  
 Hook and Ladder Theater  
 3010 Minnehaha Ave., Mpls.  
 Once a year, Sarah Morris gets out silver bells, the tinsel, the holly and the jolly, inviting her friends to gather for a sparkling night of holiday music. Growing up in a house where Brenda Lee, Johnny Mathis, and Bing Crosby crooned through the family speakers all season long, Sarah comes by her deep love for Christmas songs honestly. Sarah is thrilled to be returning to the magical warmth of Hook and Ladder Theater for the 17th annual Holiday show, featuring special guest Amanda B. Perry. Join Sarah & The Sometimes Elves for a joyful evening filled with festive favorites, love, laughter, and (twinkling) light. For more info and tickets, see thehookmpls.com/event/sarahmorris-sometimeselves/.

**Trans Voices Cabaret**  
**Dec. 9-11**  
 Mixed Blood Theatre  
 1501 S. 4th St., Mpls.  
 Welcome to the Trans Voices Cabaret, Minneapolis edition! Join us for a musical theatre cabaret of trans and non-binary artists on the stage of Mixed Blood Theatre. Come out to celebrate and support trans individualism, community and joy. This event is entirely, and proudly, trans run and operated. All ages welcomed and encouraged. Masks are required in the performance venue. There

will be vendor booths by trans/non-binary artists in the lobby of the theater before every show. Doors will open one hour before start time. Tickets available at <https://transvoicescabmpls.ticketleap.com/tvc-mpls/details>. We have free tickets reserved for trans and/or BIPOC community members for whom cost is a barrier to attending. If this is you, please DM us on Instagram or email us at [transvoicescabmpls@gmail.com](mailto:transvoicescabmpls@gmail.com). On Sunday, Dec. 10 at 7 p.m., the show will be ASL interpreted. If you are interested in the live-stream performance on Dec. 10, go to <https://transvoicescabmpls.ticketleap.com/tvc-mpls-live-stream/>.

**Nicollet Island Winter Market**  
**Saturday, Dec. 16**  
**10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**  
 Nicollet Island Pavilion  
 40 Power St., Mpls.  
 Join us at the Nicollet Island Winter Market, presented with Minneapolis Parks and Recreation, for an extraordinary experience featuring over 40 unique vendors! Discover festive finds, live entertainment, and community spirit amidst the stunning Minneapolis parks. The market, on Saturday, Dec. 16 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Nicollet Island Pavilion, promises a day of joy and connection with local businesses. Save the date, bundle up, and be part of this enchanting celebration in the heart of our city. We look forward to welcoming you to a memorable winter experience. Questions? Contact Aisling Reynolds: [areynolds@minneapolisarks.org](mailto:areynolds@minneapolisarks.org).

**Minnesota Dance Theatre**  
**Loyce Houlton's 'Nutcracker Fantasy'**  
**Dec. 16-23**  
 State Theatre

805 Hennepin Ave., Mpls.  
 For 59 years, Minnesota Dance Theatre (MDT) has delighted audiences with the annual production of Loyce Houlton's "Nutcracker Fantasy," a beloved tradition shared across generations. An exciting interpretation of a holiday classic, the production features Loyce Houlton's imaginative choreography, Tchaikovsky's iconic score and the dazzling dancers of the MDT company and school with special guest artists. The show runs for six performances only at the State Theatre in downtown Minneapolis from Dec. 16-23. The 44-piece Nutcracker Orchestra conducted by Philip Brunelle, who returns for his 25th year with the production, and Steven Amundson (Dec. 16 only) masterfully accompanies the performance. Tickets: \$20-\$130. Box office: 800-982-2787, online at [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com) or in-person at the State Theatre box office.

**'Elf the Musical, Jr.'**  
**Through Dec. 17**  
 Youth Performance Company  
 Conn Theatre  
 1900 Nicollet Ave., Mpls.  
 Get ready to experience the magic of the season with Elf the Musical, Jr.! Buddy grows up unaware of his true identity: a human who, as a baby, was accidentally transported to the North Pole in Santa's bag of gifts! Now, with Santa's blessing, Buddy embarks on an incredible journey to New York City to find his birth father, spread holiday cheer, and make everyone believe in magic. Filled with catchy songs, hilarious moments, and plenty of Christmas cheer, Elf the Musical, Jr., will surely delight the entire family. Tickets are available at [youthperformanceco.org](http://youthperformanceco.org).

Humanity, from page 1

And not a single condemnation comes from our caucus leadership or any member of Congress. How is it that we are serving in a body where there are members who condemn us for asking for peace, for cease-fire?  
 "But I am never going to stop saying Palestinians deserve freedom, that we need to free Palestine, and I am never going to stop saying that there is no way that we should allow sending more bombardments to kill Palestinians."

In solidarity with Ilhan Omar

BY ED FELIEN

How many children must die?  
 I heard Ilhan Omar cry,  
 "Where is your humanity?"  
 Yes, what Hamas did was bad and wrong

But your bombs don't make it right  
 You want reprisals ten to one  
 Will that let you sleep at night?  
 Only the children suffer and die  
 The leaders have already won  
 The poor have nowhere to fly  
 And the people must rally around.  
 It is enough, dayenu  
 It is enough of the horror, the killing  
 It is enough, dayenu  
 Peace is possible if you are willing.  
 How many children must die?  
 I heard Ilhan Omar cry,  
 "Where is your humanity?"  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F6fnhal\\_NYs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F6fnhal_NYs)

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EVERY TUESDAY THRU DECEMBER



## HOLIDAY FUN

We'd love our neighbors to join the HOLIDAY FUN at Minnehaha with hot chocolate, hot apple cider, and cookies.

**DECEMBER 22ND | 2:30-4:00PM**



See what Holiday fun the Minnehaha elves have in store when you walk in the door! Sign up for the door prizes and bring the kids and grand kids for a family picture with Santa you get to take home!

**We hope to see you there!**



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