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**We build Pride on the Southside**

## Cam's Corner



### Mr. Smith goes to City Hall

BY CAM GORDON

#### Part 1 – The Rise

Last year, the city of Minneapolis saw an exodus of staff in two of its smaller and newer departments: Racial Equity, Inclusion and Belonging, and Performance Management and Innovation. Both lost all their staff in 2023.

One of those who left was Brian K. Smith.

Hired by then-mayor Betsy Hodges in 2016, Smith led the Department of Performance Management and Innovation that, according to the city's website, "helps the city address complex and pressing challenges that lead to racial disparities," and develops "new solutions that move the dial toward equity in Minneapolis."

During Smith's time there, among other things, the department managed the minimum wage study which ultimately led to the city setting its own minimum wage, evaluated 911 calls, and established the behavioral crisis response teams that now provide a fourth response to emergency calls.

What follows is the first in a series of

See Cam, page 4



## Stop the war on Palestine, now!

BY ED FELIEN

1. The U.S. is in the unique position, as Israel's storehouse of ammunition and weaponry, to demand an immediate end to hostilities.

2. With support from the U.N., the U.S. must commit to the restoration and rebuilding of Gaza.

3. The U.S. and the U.N. must recognize the legitimate nation state of Gaza as Palestine, the ancient capital of the first and most important of the Egyptian colonies. The area contained the five cities (the Pentapolis) of the Philistine confederacy (Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod,

Gath and Ekron) and was known as Philistia, or the Land of the Philistines. It was from this designation that the whole of the country was later called Palestine by the Greeks.

4. The Hamas leadership that planned and executed the Oct. 7 raid on Israel, and Netanyahu and his war cabinet must be investigated by a U.N. commission to determine whether either or both sides committed war crimes and crimes against humanity.

5. The borders and harbors of Palestine must be free and open to the people of Palestine, and Palestin-

ians everywhere must have the right to return to their homeland.

6. Palestinian and Israeli voters must approve a peace treaty in which they renounce the use of force and violence.

7. The U.N. must set up a commission to hear claims of illegal expropriation of Palestinian land by Israel.

8. A legal fight over damages would go to the World Court. Every country that has trade with Israel would charge a tariff on Israeli goods as a genocide tax to be returned to the Palestinian victims until all claims are settled.

## Interview with Jorge 'Chico' Grijalva, resident of Camp Nenookaasi

BY DANIEL COLTEN SCHMIDT

Daniel Colten Schmidt: How does it feel that the city decided not to evict Camp Nenookaasi yesterday?

Jorge "Chico" Grijalva: It's a feeling you're not used to, because you're used to getting evicted. I used to move camp every day. So I didn't deal with evictions very much. ... For the most part, me and my girlfriend stayed away from the pack.

But this last time, we were on the Wall [of Forgotten Natives]. We came over here because A.I.M. had our backs covered.

Even though I would set up shop and move every day, I still had the overwhelming feeling that at any time they could pull up on me and



Chico chopping wood at Camp Nenookaasi

say, "You guys have to move immediately." So you get used to just moving around.

[At Nenookaasi] we've gotten a lot of people in treatment. A lot of people who probably didn't think about getting clean have chosen to get clean themselves. Not by force, not by law, not by order, but as a choice for themselves. So it's a beautiful thing.

DCS: Do you think that drugs are the number one reason people are at the camp?

See Nenookaasi, page 13



**There's No Place Like Home**

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# Stop the war on Palestine

BY MIKE MADDEN

Veterans for Peace Chapter 27 joins Southside Pride in its call for a cease-fire and an end to the war on Gaza. Like Editor Ed Felien, we recognize that the United States, functioning as Israel's arsenal, is in a unique position to accomplish this goal by simply denying Israel any further military assistance. It is not just the humanitarian thing to do, it is required under the Foreign Assistance Act which prohibits the provision of security aid to any government engaged in flagrant human rights abuses. There is no need for an investigation into whether or not these abuses have occurred. They can be witnessed on any given day by turning on your television. Numerous Israeli officials have openly declared their genocidal intentions, and a document produced by the Intelligence Ministry lays out a plan for the ethnic cleansing of Gaza.

The phrase "Israel has a right to defend itself" is repeated incessantly in Western media. And, under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, it is undeniably true. However, no nation has the

right to respond to an attack in the way Israel has in Gaza. It lacks any sense of proportionality, and it fails to distinguish between civilian and military targets, both requirements of International Humanitarian Law (IHL). It has resulted in the deaths of 20,000 Palestinians, 70% of whom are women and children, and displacement of 85% of the population of Gaza. Even President Biden, a self-declared Zionist, has now called Israel's assault "indiscriminate."

What is rarely told is that Palestinians, under Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, have a right to resist occupation and apartheid, up to and including armed resistance. Like Israel, Hamas must abide by IHL when it chooses to engage in armed struggle.

Israel's official death toll from the Oct. 7 attack now stands at 695 Israeli civilians, 373 security personnel, and 71 foreigners, for a total of 1,139 dead. Israel does not distinguish between those killed by Hamas fighters, and those killed by Israeli "friendly fire."

To the extent that Hamas targeted Israeli military installa-

tions and other armed security personnel, the Oct. 7 attack was a lawful military operation. To the extent it was directed against civilians, it was terrorism. The same must be said for Israel's operation in Gaza. By that measure, Israel has committed acts of terrorism far more deadly than Hamas.

While there is evidence that some Palestinian fighters committed heinous offenses on Oct. 7, it is not clear that those crimes were systematic. Nor is it clear that Hamas is responsible for a majority of the killing, especially when one considers that Israel estimates 1,500 Palestinians were killed that day. Hamas has said that 1,200 of its fighters participated in the operation.

Many of the initial claims of atrocity promulgated by Israeli officials, and repeated in Western media, have been discredited. Even President Biden, to his shame, claimed to have seen photographs of 40 babies beheaded by Hamas. Though such atrocity propaganda was incredulous on its face, it had the desired effect of softening public opinion toward Israel's unjustifiable response.

Likewise, alleged incidents of rape and sexual assault committed by Palestinian fighters remain unverified. Israel has not named a single victim, nor has it produced any forensic evidence. Israel held a closed briefing for journalists on Nov. 13 that promised to reveal new evidence of sexual violence. According to the news website Mondoweiss, new information and clear evidence were absent in the briefing, and it grew tense and heated as the police chief refused to answer questions. The police media officer, Merit Ben Meir, made clear the purpose of the briefing with his statement, "Based on the circumstances of the bodies, rape occurred, and there's no room for questioning these events."

Some Israeli survivors of the attack have contradicted the narrative of Hamas conducting a murderous rampage. In an interview with Israeli state radio, Yasmin Porat told of her experience when she was taken hostage and held for several hours in a house in Kibbutz Be'eri. She said she was treated "humanely," and the intention was to "kidnap us to Gaza, not to murder us." She said that after she fled the

house with her captor, those remaining inside, hostages and abductors alike, were killed when Israeli security forces initiated a firefight that culminated with two tank shells being fired into the house. When asked in the interview if Israeli forces may have killed the hostages, she replied, "Undoubtedly. They eliminated everyone because there was very, very heavy crossfire."

A member of Israel's Air Force, Col. Nof Erez, described Israel's response on Oct. 7 as a "mass Hannibal." He was referring to the Hannibal Directive, which instructs Israeli commanders to kill their own soldiers rather than allow them to be taken captive.

Bolstering the observations of Col. Erez, a report from the Tel Aviv-based Ynet news described how a fleet of 28 Israeli attack helicopters responded that day. It said, "The Apache pilots had no way of distinguishing between Hamas fighters, Palestinians, and Israelis, and therefore opened fire on all cars and people on the Gaza border without distinction." It described the rate of fire as "tremendous, and only at a certain point did the pilots begin to slow down the attacks and carefully select the targets." A four-minute compilation of Apache gunsight videos is contained in the report, and it

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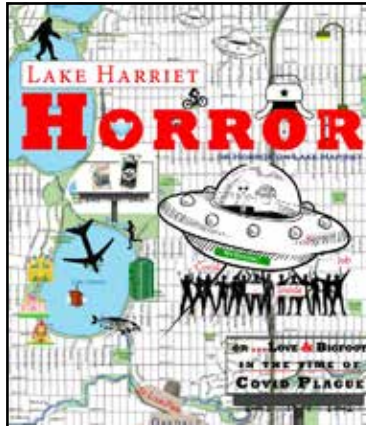
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# Medical Assistance program confuses everybody

BY DIANE J. PETERSON AND JOHN KOLSTAD

Our Minnesota Legislature keeps allowing ever-increasing billions of our tax funds to pay private corporations to manage the health care of people who cannot afford their own medical care. However, most legislators and patients do not comprehend how this government function operates. On Dec. 1, a very long informational hearing was held at the state Capitol on the low-income health care program called Medical Assistance. Six experts testified on various aspects of this state program for five and a half hours. This 19-person committee of the Minnesota House of Representatives heard complex and complicated explanations from six experts describing various aspects of the program.

A health care lobbyist with decades of professional experience said that the complexity and complications of the system are more accurately described as confusing. The confusion baked into the system makes legislators struggle to understand the program. It is designed to be confusing. That is how private corporations acquire huge amounts of taxpayer funding to pay themselves to administer the care for low-income patients dependent on government to get their medical needs met. There are much simpler and directly accountable methods available. The Dec. 1 marathon hearing was scheduled by the chair of the House Committee on Health Finance and Policy, Rep. Tina Liebling. She controls whether health care bills get heard in the state House of Representatives or get laid aside, unheard. She also has

the power to conduct informational hearings on public policy connected to health care outside of the regular session. The members of this committee are Democrats and Republicans representing metro and non-metro areas, a geographic mix of our state's population. To review the hearing, go to these links: Part 1 at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p3NR5INhwn8> and Part 2 at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sxkY1xFRnSg>. In the past 20-plus years, health policy groups, including our own, have lobbied and campaigned for the entire Medical Assistance program to be audited using Generally Accepted Accounting Practices (GAAP). State and federal laws have required for many years that any expenditure over \$700,000, made to people or businesses outside of government, be audited annually using GAAP standards. Mysteriously, in the 30-plus years since Medicaid was privatized there has never been a single audit using standard practices. This program was required to have an annual study done to determine if the patient care was better, worse or the same. It never has been done. This is a bipartisan problem. These requirements have failed to be met under Democratic and Republican control. About 10 years ago Connecticut went from privatized managed care to the state government directly running the program. They saved millions of tax dollars per year. Minnesota could also save millions of dol-

lars every year. Minnesota citizens should demand that their elected representatives get these required annual audits done (or de-privatize all of Medical Assistance). In the testimony there was repeated acknowledgment of the lack of transparency and accountability in the Medical Assistance programs. Connecticut no longer outsources its Medical Assistance program to corporations. Connecticut has switched to a transparent system where the state directly pays the health care bills of its low-income residents, saving an estimated \$986 million between 2012 and 2018 by eliminating managed care corporations from its Medical Assistance program. In Minnesota, we have a transparent system which allows Medical Assistant patients classified as disabled to get their medical bills paid directly by the state, but the majority of Medical Assistance patients are required to get care in a prepaid program administered by private managed care corporations. The prepaid program remains nontransparent; its finances are not accountable for how individual patients received or were denied their care. The committee hearing resulted in no decisions about the information presented. The chair's stated intent for this hearing was to get the committee's legislators better informed, and less confused, about the complexities involved in the Medical Assistance program, particular-



Rep. Tina Liebling, chair of the Health Finance and Policy Committee

ly the part affecting the majority of patients controlled in the private corporations the Legislature calls managed care organizations. Rep. Liebling is an advocate for eliminating managed care organizations from Medical Assistance. She initiated a bill to fix this, but it has not been enacted. The Dec. 1 hearing revealed inadequate government information on the costs involved in the Medical Assistance program. It would be safe to conclude that those inadequacies could be solved by switching, as Connecticut did over a decade ago, to the transparent payment system for all Medical Assistance patients. There would then be clarity, not confusion, on costs.

The authors are longtime members of Health Policy Advocates.



# Donald Trump, the racist

BY ED FELIEN

The Star Tribune missed an opportunity to fully explain the extent of Donald Trump's connection to the white supremacy movement when it published "Trump denial strikes familiar tone; Professing ignorance on Hitler similar to remarks about Klan, QAnon, Proud Boys" by Jill Colvin on Dec. 28. They quote: "Just so you understand, I don't know anything about David Duke, OK?" he told CNN's Jake Tapper in February 2016. "I don't know anything about what you're even talking about with white supremacy or white supremacists." But they neglect to quote the last half of Trump's response: "So I don't know. I don't know - did he endorse me, or what's going on? Because I know nothing about David Duke; I know nothing

about white supremacists." Of course he knew David Duke. Trump's father was a leading member of the Klan in Queens; he was arrested and fined for refusing to remove his hood in a Klan riot in 1927. When Donald says, "I know nothing," he's echoing the nativist and historically racist response of the Know Nothings of the nineteenth century. When asked if they knew anything about the lynching of Black men after the Civil War, members of the lynch mob would answer, "I know nothing," which meant, "I am a Know Nothing" to people who understood. Trump used that code to signify solidarity with David Duke. As for his connection to Hitler, Trump's first wife, Ivana, said he had a copy of Hitler's speeches for bedside reading.

## Valentine's Day will be here soon!

### Southside Pride's special section comes out February 6

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A bit of disagreement about the Middle East

BY LARRY A. ETKIN

While I certainly agree with Ed Felien’s statements that most Palestinians and Israelis want nothing other than peace (commentary in “News” section, December 2023 issue) I’d disagree with his ultimate concluding solution to the problems. The creation of a single nation across the region, whatever it might be called, is not an optimal solution for at least one affected people.

Consider that of 232 recognized countries and territories in the world, about 50 are Islamic-dominant, 157 Christian-majority, three Hindu (including India, the world’s most populous), and seven Buddhist. But one small nation is a Jewish one, and in the last 2,000 years even that one nation has only existed since the end of World War II and the Holocaust.

Is it too extreme for this world to harbor a single small Jewish-majority nation? A single nation where people of the Jewish faith and culture can know, without exception, that they will not be harassed, persecuted, hunted down and killed simply because they are Jewish? The existence of antisemitism continues to be a fact of life in most of the rest of the world, even in much of the U.S.

Asking for there to be just a single nation encompassing the entire region of Israel/Palestine, or Canaan if you want to be biblical, is to say that there cannot be that single Jewish safe haven state simply because of population demographics.

While such a state would start off with close to demographic parity between Jews and Muslims, it would not stay that way very long. Why? Because the Muslim population out-reproduces Jews.

Israeli Jewish families average about three children; Muslim families in that region average four to five. It would not take even the 30 years Felien postulates for there to no longer be that single majority-Jewish nation.

Yes, we outside of the Middle East, along with most of those who live there, DO simply want to be allowed to live their lives in peace. Extremists, however, do not.

On both sides.

Hamas has been holding Gaza Palestinians hostage to their agenda of destroying the Israeli state and killing all its Jews for more than 15 years; it’s in their founding documents. On their part, extreme West Bank Israeli settlers are holding Israel’s government hostage to their agenda of driving non-Jews totally out of every place they say God gave the Jews 4,000 years ago.

One can also postulate fault in the surrounding nations of Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Egypt for refusing to absorb Palestinian refugees into their populations after 1948. They chose instead to make specifically anti-Jewish political decisions, keeping Palestinians bottled in refugee camps with few prospects, lack of resources, and much anti-Israel and anti-Jewish propaganda. And it should be noted that anti-Jewish propaganda and pogroms in the Middle East paralleled Hitler’s pre-Israel anti-Jewish Holocaust agenda.

(A technical note: Muslims are actually also Semites within the definition of the word, but the term “antisemitism” has become culturally and politically attached solely to anti-Jewish statements and acts.)

So if a single nation is demographically practical for Jews, what’s the alternative? A two-state solution? Probably not. Think Pakistan. It was originally a single country with two separated regions: East Pakistan and West Pakistan, with India in between. Now there are two separate countries: Pakistan and Bangladesh.

A geographically split nation with no ability for its population to freely mingle across its regions cannot endure, and there is no imaginable scenario, at least to my mind, where Israel would allow unfettered transit across its territory for Gaza and West Bank Palestinians. Even Canada and the U.S., perhaps the two most culturally close nations in the world, still insist on passage through border-crossing monitoring stations.

So yes! Average Middle Eastern people do mostly want to just live in peace. The solution will eventually have to be a three-state one: Gaza without Hamas, Israel without a far-right government, and West Bank Pales-

tine that no longer supports terrorists as martyrs. The problem remains on how to get there, and getting there is going to be nowhere near as simple as Felien hopes.

Ed Felien responds:

Larry, thank you for your very thoughtful and serious response to my utopian vision of peace in Israel and Palestine. As I said, I think it may take a generation (30+ years) for the recognition of the nation of Palestine in Gaza, and another generation to legitimize the claims of nationhood for Palestinians on the West Bank, and at least another generation (100 years or more) for Palestinians and Israelis to want to live together in peace.

You ask, but why can’t Jews have their own state—like Hindus in India, or Sunni Arabs in Saudi Arabia? Wouldn’t that guarantee their freedom to be Jewish? I would argue that kind of state with an established religion absolutely guarantees strife and civil war. Once you establish a state with a favored class, you establish an inferior class that must be oppressed and held in check—whether Muslims in India or Houthi Shia Muslims in Saudi Arabia.

No. I agree with the U.S. Constitution: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.” The only guarantee of freedom of religion for one group is freedom of religion for all.

But I agree with your conclusion as to the first steps: “The solution will eventually have to be a three-state one: Gaza without Hamas, Israel without a far-right government, and West Bank Palestine that no longer supports terrorists as martyrs. The problem remains on how to get there, and getting there is going to be nowhere near as simple as Felien hopes.”

Yes, peace, the simple thing so hard to bring about.

Let us continue to discuss.

Let us continue to hope.

Cam, from page 1

columns dedicated to telling Smith’s story (mostly) in his own words.

“I’m proud of everything we did,” said Smith. “I think there are some things that stick out more than others because of the impact that they may have had for residents that people can see, touch and feel. That was the small business team that was created out of our work, that was the behavioral crisis response teams, and the conduct on premises rental license ordinance amendments.

“Internally I think we did a lot to help people understand how to use data, how to make strategic plans, how to constantly look at your program and evaluate whether you’re living up to your mission and vision of your department or your division.

“We were able to set a culture in the city, to a degree, where people would constantly look at their performance in their department and we built a performance management process which the city never had.

“The good thing about the way I think it worked in the beginning was, we didn’t get stressed out with staff directions. We didn’t get overwhelmed with Betsy. When she talked to me she just said, ‘Hey, we trust that you are able to do the job, we trust that your staff are really smart and hard-working and so we just want you to just look at the policies and practices around the city, listen to community members, mostly residents of the city,



Betsy Hodges was the mayor of Minneapolis from 2014-2018.

and if there’s things that you find are things that people are interested in, take a deeper dive into it and see if it grows into something and just keep me informed.”

“She wasn’t heavy-handed,” said Smith. “We knew what her policy objectives were and what her platform was, but she trusted us to look at those things that the council had, that she had as a mayor and listen to residents to see what will be the most pressing thing that we needed to address. Not what was more politically expedient.

“Sometimes some council members would ask for some stuff, and it would ruffle some feathers of other council members, or ruffle feathers of the department heads, because we did our very best to be objec-

tive,” Smith said. “Our job, we thought, was to find information, inform people so they can make informed decisions and then it lands where it lands because we’re human too and we have a lot of ideas about how things might turn out or how things should turn out, but what we had to do was follow the prescriptive method that we adopted and some of the stuff that we developed to make sure that we didn’t let our attitude, our opinions and our own experiences get in the way of what actually needed to happen to serve residents better.

“The only time it would get extremely challenging is when there were people on the inside who had way more authority than us, who wanted to dictate to people how things should

be, as opposed to listening to and working with them. We had some elected officials who were like that, and we have a mayor who’s like that now, so it made it extremely difficult for us because people were trying to guide our work or ask the question and guide us towards the answer that they wanted us to have. That’s why we wouldn’t use certain researchers because there are some researchers in town who you can tell them what you want the outcome to be, and they will gladly take your money and give you that outcome. So that also presented a challenge sometimes because some elected officials were used to holding things as a genuine question like they had genuine interests, but they already had their mind made up and if we didn’t go along with it, it was hell for me to pay. I protected my staff, but it was hell for me to pay from time to time.

“Everybody felt a little bit of relief in knowing that there was this new body of folks in the city that weren’t completely caught up in the everyday politics of everything and actually took pride in just being as objective as they possibly could in giving the information.

“We could be that liaison, we could be that technical assistance provider, we could be that support not only for residents but also for departments and elected leadership in the city. And I didn’t know what would come of it, but I knew that’s what I was going to go there and try my best to do. Maybe it was timing, but it seemed like that’s what a majority of elected

officials wanted. Residents definitely wanted it. Department heads were more leery than people think, partly because it would have been the first time somebody would be telling a story about them, other than them. But I would say over the years we got to a place where the majority, not a heavy majority, but a majority of the departments in the city knew that our work would do nothing but help them, even though some of them still feared a process that sometimes pulled the cover off of things in order to shed light on it, not to embarrass anybody, but to shed light on it and so that we can see where we need to make improvement and for some people that was extremely scary. Scary because they knew it would mean change, some scary because they were doing something they shouldn’t have been doing, and they thought it would create a level of accountability that just didn’t exist in the city for departments.”

After Hodges left office in 2018, things changed and, said Smith, “for the most part the appreciation of the work was gone. I met with Betsy every two weeks, but the only times I ever met with Jacob [Frey] was one budget meeting and whenever I was bringing a national conference into town where he would be speaking. I’ve never had one meeting with Jacob about our work in five years, not one. He wasn’t interested.”

Part 2 coming next month in the February edition of Southside Pride.

Using less phosphorus improves water quality

There is a huge problem across Minnesota: algae in our lakes, ponds and other bodies of water – specifically, Minneapolis’ Lake Harriet, which in the past was very healthy and rarely had problems with harmful algae. The algae I am referring to is blue-green algae; the name is deceiving because it really is a type of bacteria, cyanobacteria. This bacterium is not always toxic; however it is nearly impossible to indicate whether or not it is just by looking at it. When this bacterium is in the water of our lakes, not only can it affect the health of humans and wildlife, but it also has a large effect on the health and clarity of Minneapolis’ water. If the water quality in our lakes is severely affected, beaches can be closed, and aquatic animals’ homes are threatened. Unfortunately, in May of 2023, many Minneapolis news media stations like WCCO and Fox 9 KMSP reported there being blue-green algae found in Lake Harriet. According to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, an agency which keeps track of environmental quality, “You can become sick if you swallow, have skin contact with or breathe in airborne water droplets while swimming, boating, waterskiing, tubing, bathing or showering in water that has harmful algae or if you drink water that contains algal toxins.”

So what can citizens do to help combat this problem? Information from the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board’s Water Quality Lead Mike Sorenson and Water Clarity Specialist Katelynn Chamberlain suggests the best thing for citizens to do is cut back on phosphorus usage in yards and on plants, and monitor the storm drains in our streets. This is because phosphorus feeds this kind of algae, helping it grow and spread. A good alternative to phosphorus is compost. Compost is great for plant growth and the health of your yard, and it is very cost effective and easy to get a hold of. As for the storm drains, everything that goes down those drains goes straight to a body of water in Minneapolis that can handle it. Meaning all of the leaves, trash or phosphorus-covered grass clippings are going straight to our lakes. Not only does that affect the water, but nutrients from snow melt and quickly rising temperatures have a large impact on algae growth as well.

Minnesotans love our lakes, so it is important we take these easy steps of lessening phosphorus and pesticide usage on lawns and watch what we allow to flow down the storm drains. As the Land of 10,000 Lakes, we want everyone to stay clean and create a safe environment for us to enjoy.

Gabi Grimm  
Student at The Blake School

Palestine, from page 2

must be seen to fully comprehend the ferocity and indiscriminate nature of the attacks.

On Nov. 11, more than a month after the attack, Israel reduced its estimated death toll from 1,400 to approximately 1,200. According to Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lior Haiat, the number was revised “due to the fact that there were a lot of corpses that were not identified, and now we think those belong to terrorists ... not Israeli casualties.” This further indicates that Israel did not know who it had killed on Oct. 7. It also calls into question Israel’s definition of “terrorist,” because many Palestinians who entered Israel after Hamas breached the border fence were young, unarmed curiosity seekers. Apparently, the word “terrorist” is synonymous with “Palestinian” in Haiat’s mind.

It is not an academic exercise to determine what exactly happened, and who killed who on Oct. 7. We must understand the tactics and motivations of the belligerents, and reject dehumanizing rhetoric.

We must also recognize that Middle East history did not begin on Oct. 7. It is but one more bloody date in a vicious cycle of violence that began in 1948 when the newly established Jewish state of Israel violently drove more than 700,000 Palestinians from their homeland.

First and foremost, Veterans for Peace calls for an immediate and permanent cease-fire in Gaza.

Understanding that Palestinians are the originally aggrieved party, Israel must respect the internationally recognized right of Palestinians to return to their homeland. Israel must also dismantle all West Bank settlements, end its occupation, and retreat to its 1967 borders in accordance with existing U.N. resolutions. These are not conditions to be negotiated – they are al-

Opioid crisis preparedness

In the past 20 years, the fentanyl epidemic has markedly expanded. Both the “Just Say No” and “D.A.R.E.” educational models from the past are inadequate to meet our societal needs. While preventing drug use is the ideal, the reality is that some people will continue to use drugs. Increased awareness and understanding of drug addiction are needed across all age brackets and socioeconomic groups in order to alter the trajectory of this epidemic. The Sesame Workshop (also known as Sesame Street), in response to increased need, has made available multiple free downloadable videos to facilitate discussion with young children about addiction. If we have the capability to educate young children about drug use, we should also age-appropriately educate teens, their teachers and school staff about drug use, including how to recognize signs of an overdose and what to do until help arrives.

The Minnesota Department of Health claims that “widespread naloxone availability is a key response” to the epidemic that we are experiencing. The Minnesota Legislature is pondering whether to make a supply of naloxone mandatory in schools. This would be wise because, according to the National Library of Medicine, “nearly three-fourths of individuals admitted to opioid use disorder treatment first used opioids before their 26th birthday.”

Naloxone does nothing, however, without someone capable of administering it. As a high school student, I decided to interview my grade dean regarding my school’s preparedness for an opioid overdose. In our interview, he stated that my school has no specific plan for an overdose emergency beyond calling 911. He also reported that my school does not carry a supply of naloxone and that he is not aware of any staff that have been trained to administer it.

Educating people about opioid overdose is a controversial topic, however, I believe that it should not be. The first two to three minutes after a person begins overdosing are crucial; the CDC advises to “not wait for emergency workers to arrive before giving naloxone” because EMS are often too late. Schools should develop and implement an emergency protocol for suspected opioid overdoses and identify staff that should be trained in Overdose Lifeline’s \$30 online “School Naloxone Opioid Overdose Training.” The Legislature should provide financial assistance to schools for this important public health measure, especially given the current budget surplus.

Katie Lattin  
Student at The Blake School

Ward 8 election analysis – a socialist’s view

Soren Stevenson came so close. Was all our work wasted?

To come within 38 votes of winning the 8th Ward was a heroic effort, against long odds. Jenkins is a long-term incumbent backed by the mayor, as well as by big corporate pockets and the DFL old guard. We nearly won in spite of their efforts.

In 2025 we will have the opportunity to try again, to try to increase the number of City Council members who are not in the pockets of the corporate class, who will fight for working class people. We have the possibility of unseating Mayor Frey, the darling of the rich.

Joe Hesla



Council Member Emily Koski

Koski abolishes Ward 11 meetings

I was at the Ward 11 “Public Safety Meeting” last night. Council Member Koski denied all opportunities for her constituents to ask about or present any community problem. The constituents were forbidden from raising a hand and asking a question. “Ward meetings” are abolished.

Koski employed many standard government tactics to eliminate public input in government decision-making.

Koski abolished the ward meeting by renaming it a “Public Safety Meeting.” She limited discussion to her topic – the most common tactic in government today. She chooses the topic and “safety guest,” accepts only written questions, censors the ones she doesn’t like, filibusters awhile, and then the meeting is over. Zero community questions were asked. The Ward 11 meetings are abolished.

Hennepin County has decided to listen less as well. Commissioners used to listen for three minutes, but now it is two. Government and people listen to and respect each other less and less every day.

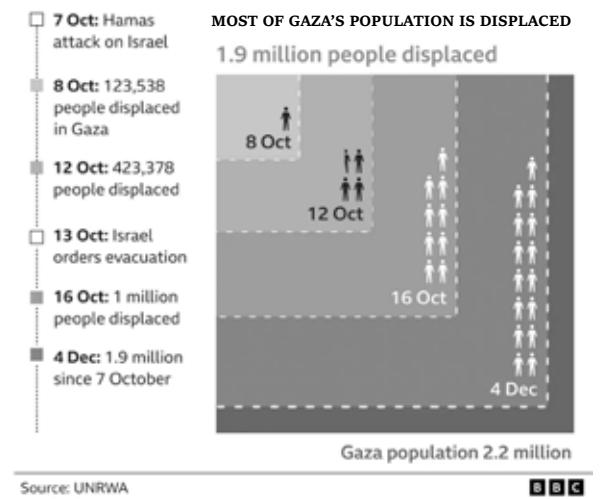
Neil Elavsky

Ed Felien responds:

Hey Neil,

I hear you. Our elected representatives have a responsibility to come back and talk to the people who elected them and tell them about what they’re doing downtown.

Emily Koski is a major player, and with this new turnover, she could end up running the Council. She has the one essential aspect for a politician—they have to know how to count. Koski has a reputation for working with DSA-endorsed council members from the inner city. She’s effective and gets it done. If she’s really smart, she’d tell the majority caucus that they could write the program and she’d implement it. Sort of like the routine Biden and Bernie play with Congress. Smooth as glass. No problems.



ready on the books.

The United States has never been an honest broker for peace in the Middle East. It is an unrepentant ally of Israel to the extent that it is now aiding and abetting the genocide of Palestinians. It must stop providing weapons to Israel, stop vetoing United Nations resolutions regarding Israel, stop being an obstacle to peace, and make way for a neutral third party to broker a lasting agreement.

Whether that final agreement is a one-state solution, or the increasingly distant two-state solution, all who reside in the Holy Land must be equal under the law, and Israel’s era of apartheid must end.

Never again means never again for anyone.

Mike Madden is the vice president of Veterans for Peace Chapter 27.

EVENTS

**Newcomer Class**  
**Sunday, Jan. 7, 10:45 a.m.**  
Minnehaha United Methodist Church  
3701 E. 50<sup>th</sup> St., Mpls.:  
Minnehaha UMC will be holding an introduction and orientation class for anyone new to Minnehaha or interested in joining on Sunday, Jan. 7 at 10:45 a.m. in the Library (during Sunday School). If you are interested in coming, please let Pastor Becky Sechrist (becky@minnehaha.org) know so we can plan appropriately.

**‘Why Knowledge of Jewish History Matters for Christian Preaching’**  
**Tuesday, Jan. 9, 7 p.m.**  
Luther Seminary  
Chapel of the Incarnation, Olson Campus Center  
1490 Fulham St., St. Paul  
Amy-Jill Levine delivers the Fretheim lecture, "The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector." Before the lecture, a special workshop for local clergy will focus on how "Understanding Jesus and Paul Means Understanding Jewish Practice and Belief." This workshop details the reasons why anti-Jewish preaching and teaching continue, details the popular misconceptions about the Jewish context of Jesus and Paul found in sermons and church-based curricula, and offers alternatives for reading the texts on which they are based. Both events are free and open to the public, with no registration required. The lecture will be livestreamed at youtube.com/lutherseminary for those unable to attend in person. For more information, go to https://www.luthersem.edu/news/2023/10/25/amy-jill-levine-to-deliver-2024-fretheim-lecture-in-biblical-theology/.

**Martin Luther King Jr. Worship Service**  
**Sunday, Jan. 14, 9:30 a.m.**  
Minnehaha United Methodist Church  
3701 E. 50<sup>th</sup> St., Mpls.  
Join us for a worship service honoring Martin Luther King Jr. in the Minnehaha UMC sanctuary. The service will

also be livestreamed and available 24/7 on our YouTube channel throughout the following week. www.minnehaha.org

**King Holiday Joint Forum**  
**Sunday, Jan. 14, 9:15 to 10:15 a.m.**  
In person at Westminster Hall  
1200 Marquette Ave., Mpls.  
And online  
The joint Adult Education and Social Justice Forum will take place on Sunday, Jan. 14 at 9:15 a.m. in Westminster Hall and on livestream. The Social Justice Ministry Team and the Adult Education Council will welcome Reverends Jim Bear Jacobs and Pamela Ngunjiri, Co-Directors for Racial Justice at the Minnesota Council of Churches (MCC). Together they are leading the MCC’s 10-year, statewide Truth and Reparations Initiative launched in 2020. For more information, visit www.westminsternmpls.org/event/king-holiday-joint-forum/.

**The Simpson Forum: The Ethics of Civic Engagement**  
**Thursdays, Jan. 25, Feb. 1, 8, 15, and 22, 7 p.m.**  
In person at Trinity Lutheran  
511 S. 5<sup>th</sup> St., St. Peter  
Or online via Zoom  
The forum will open with two lectures on the moral values taught in Old and New Testament scriptures. Presenters are Dr. Matt Skinner and Dr. Cameron Howard of Luther Seminary in St. Paul. Events 3 and 4 will feature Minnesota Supreme Court Justice G. Barry Anderson, who will discuss some moral values in a conservative political outlook, and Gustavus faculty member Dr. Peg O’Connor, who will identify some moral values in a more liberal political stance. The 2024 series will conclude on Feb. 22 with a case study exploring Minnesota’s water issues and the division and interdependency that exist within the urban, suburban, and rural communities of our state. Pastor Jon Anderson, long-time Bishop of the SW Minnesota Synod of the ELCA and current Luther Seminary Director of Rural Ministry, will make this final presentation. For full information and

to register, visit https://thesimpsonforum.wordpress.com/2024-forum/.

**Writing for Mystic Activists Workshop on July 10-16**  
**Applications due by Monday, Jan. 29**  
Collegeville Institute  
2475 Ecumenical Dr.  
Collegeville, MN  
Applications are now open for “Writing for Mystic Activists” with Dr. Chanequa Walker-Barnes and Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove. This workshop for faith-rooted activists and clergy who want to engage writing as a contemplative practice will be held from July 10-16, 2024, at the Collegeville Institute. Applications are due Monday, Jan. 29, 2024. To learn more, go to https://collegevilleinstitute.org/events/event/writing-for-mystic-activists-2/.

**Refugee donations needed!**  
From the Minnesota Council of Churches: We are experiencing high demand for certain donations for refugees. Please call (612) 247-9760 or email rsvolunteers@mncchurches.org to donate: feminine products; new pillows; laundry detergent; toothbrushes; toothpaste; bars of soap; disposable razors; all-purpose cleaner; and dish soap. Thank you!

SHARING FOOD

**Sunday Evening Community Meals**  
These Sunday evening community meals are hosted and provided by Align Minneapolis member congregations and are free and open to all.  
**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday: Jan. 7, 4:30-6 p.m.**  
**Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church**  
**511 Groveland Ave., Mpls.**  
In-person meal around tables  
**2nd Sunday: Jan. 14, 5-6 p.m.**  
**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: Jan. 21, 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: Jan. 28, 5-6 p.m.**  
**Westminster Presbyterian Church**  
**1200 Marquette Ave., Mpls.**  
In-person meal around tables

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

**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 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/

**Soup for You! Café**  
**2511 E. Franklin Ave., Mpls.**  
**612-978-7974**  
Monday - Friday, noon to 1 p.m. – Lunch  
Wednesday, noon to 1 p.m. – Groceries  
Soup for You! operates out of the basement of century-old and deeply-rooted Bethany Lutheran Church. Things have changed and continue to be in flux. Soup For You! has not skipped a beat ... COVID-19 lockdown, we were there. People were fed. Unrest and our very neighborhood looted and set to flame. Our volunteers came to this place, the people were fed, clothed, nourished and hopefully comforted in this most extreme time of trauma and need. We will continue with the good support of The Village to feed, nourish and comfort all that come to our doors. https://soupforyou.info/

The Southside Religious Community Welcomes You

*Bahá’í*  
**BAHÁ’I CENTER OF MINNEAPOLIS**  
3644 Chicago Ave. S., 612-823-3494  
[Minneapolis.Bahai@gmail.com](mailto:Minneapolis.Bahai@gmail.com)  
Devotions at the Bahá’í Center and via Zoom, Sundays 10 am, and Tuesdays via Zoom 6:30 pm  
[See www.minneapolisbahai.org](http://www.minneapolisbahai.org)  
*So powerful is the light of unity that it can illuminate the whole earth.*  
*-Baha'u'llah*

*Christian*  
**CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
3901 Chicago Ave. S.  
612-827-2504 or [www.clchurch.org](http://www.clchurch.org)  
Sunday Worship at 10 am  
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**ST. ALBERT THE GREAT**  
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612-724-3643  
[www.saintalbertthegreat.org](http://www.saintalbertthegreat.org)  
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Saturday 5 pm  
Sunday 9:30 am (also live-streamed on Facebook)  
Sunday 12 noon  
Weekday Masses M, T, TH, F at 8:15 am in the Chapel

**FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
3430 E. 51st St.  
612-729-5463  
[www.faithlutheranmpls.org](http://www.faithlutheranmpls.org)  
Sunday Worship 9 am and online on Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/felc-mpls/>  
Blind Ministry – Jan. 13, noon to 2 pm  
AA group - Mondays 6:30 pm  
Senior Exercise Class - Mondays 10 am  
NA groups - Wednesdays 7:30 pm

**HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)**  
1720 E. Minnehaha Pkwy.  
[holycrossmpls.org](http://holycrossmpls.org)  
Sunday Worship at 9:30 am  
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**LIVING SPIRIT**  
Multicultural/United Methodist Justice — Generosity — Faith  
4501 Bloomington Ave.  
612-721-5025  
Meal & Worship Sunday 10:30 am  
Anytime: [livingspiritumc.org/watch](http://livingspiritumc.org/watch)

**MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
The Center for Changing Lives  
2400 Park Ave. S., 612-871-8831  
[www.messiahlutheranmpls.org](http://www.messiahlutheranmpls.org)  
Sunday 9 am Traditional Worship with Holy Communion  
Sunday 11 am Praise Worship (Holy Communion 1st and 3rd Sunday)  
Sunday 12:30 p.m. Fellowship

**MINNEHAHA COMMUNION LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
4101 37th Ave. S., 612-722-9527  
[www.minnehahacommunion.org](http://www.minnehahacommunion.org)  
*Interim Pastor Matthew Johnson*  
*Reconciling in Christ Congregation*  
9:45 am Sunday Worship in person & online  
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**NEW CREATION BAPTIST CHURCH**  
1414 E. 48th St.  
612-825-6933  
In-person Sunday Worship 10:45 am  
Also on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/NewCreationBaptistChurch](https://www.facebook.com/NewCreationBaptistChurch)  
<https://newcreationbaptist-churchmn.org/>  
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Daniel B. McKizzie

**NOKOMIS HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA**  
5300 10th Ave. S.  
612-825-6846  
[www.nokomisheights.org](http://www.nokomisheights.org)  
Bilingual (English/Spanish) Sunday worship, 10 am in sanctuary. Communion on 1st and 3rd Sundays.  
Adult Forum and Sunday School at 9 am.  
Sunday worship is recorded live for viewing on Monday mornings

on Facebook and YouTube.

**ST. JOAN OF ARC CATHOLIC COMMUNITY**  
[www.stjoan.com](http://www.stjoan.com), 4537 Third Ave.  
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Sunday, 7:45 am in the Church, 9 & 11 am in the gym  
9 & 11 am Family Mass in the Church  
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**TRINITY LUTHERAN CONGREGATION**  
Augsburg College, Hoversten Chapel  
Riverside & 22<sup>nd</sup> Aves.  
612-333-2561  
[www.trinitylutherancongregation.org](http://www.trinitylutherancongregation.org)  
Sunday Worship 11 am  
Pastors: Jane Buckley-Farlee & Alem Asmelash  
Office: 2001 Riverside Ave.

 **All directory churches are wheelchair accessible**





# There's No Place Like Home

## Changing your home without changing your address

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

### Change without pain

Sometimes you know you need a change in your home environment. Kids have

moved, your partner has passed away, or your marital status has changed. Your ability level may have changed, or you're just tired of all the STUFF. You would move to another place for a fresh start

but there can be reasons not to. Maybe your kids don't want to change schools, or you love the neighborhood too much, or the market is not right. Here are some big-impact ideas for remodeling, decluttering, aging in place, reimagining spaces, and more to spark your ideas on what to do. See the streamlined list of resources at the end.

### More of decluttering and Swedish Death Cleaning

Our previous No Place Like Home section (May 2023) was all about decluttering. I used less than half the resources I found, which shows what a hot topic it is. Decluttering is by far the least expensive change a person can make, and can even be income-positive. So here are more ideas:

- Have a schedule for when you get rid of things: used sponges and mops, expired foods, herbs and drugs, financial records, greeting cards, toothbrushes, etc.
- Start with things that are easy to part with. Surprisingly, these are often the larger things, like excess chairs or an old computer.
- Make a list of 15-minute tasks and work through it when you have time, items like "organize one closet," "tackle the junk drawer," "categorize your pantry," "organize one category in your pantry," or "collect a box of tech junk to recycle."
- Once you have a box or two of things ready, but no time to take them where they need to go (or you're not sure where to take them), put them in the trunk of your car.
- Don't worry about how! A two-second google will get you scores of tips and tricks. If even that's too much to absorb, search for local decluttering consultants.
- Ask for help. Family members might enjoy a day of going through things with you. A



Laundry room added to bathroom

friend might be happy to take that problematic heirloom-with-no-heirs off your hands.

### Repurposing spaces

A subset of remodeling, which may or may not involve any installation or construction, is to swap rooms, repurpose or reimagine spaces. This can be less expensive than a

See Home, page 8



A porch-to-conservatory renovation in St. Paul

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# There's a new way

## Home, from page 7

remodel. Here are some basic ideas in this vein:

- Turn a former bedroom into a home office or vice versa. Or choose another type of room like a den for online gaming. This could be done with a din-

ing room, mud room, or any room you don't use that much.

- Turn an auxiliary bathroom into a laundry room. This can be an aging-in-place adaptation. Maybe you had kids, and they had their own full bath, and the laundry was in the basement. Swapping that out for a main

floor laundry room saves you steps and also gives you new storage or other space in the basement. If it's large enough, it can also serve for crafts, sewing or hobbies.

## Kitchen remodels – the most popular refresh

The biggest change – and the biggest spend in many cases, short of buying a new home – is remodeling your kitchen. The main reasons people give for needing a remodel:

- Not enough or the wrong kind of storage space for food, tools and dishes.
- Appliances old or just wrong.
- Savings on water and electricity.
- Surfaces old, ugly, or hard to clean.
- Need more workspace on countertops.
- Inefficient traffic pattern.



Overhead view of the interior of a local tiny house

As the biggest change, it has a hefty price tag. Replacing the refrigerator, stove and countertops alone can range from \$2,000 to \$20,000. Remodel the whole space and you're looking at \$25,000 to over \$100,000. Big factors include whether you can do some of the work your-

self, the quality of materials, and the state of pre-existing flooring, plumbing and wiring. Check rating services and get multiple bids to compare.

## Bathroom additions and/or remodels – the second most popular

Also a big change, but pretty pricey if you hire professionals. Some remodelers specialize only in bathrooms, only kitchens, or both.

## Disability and aging-in-place upgrades

The third most popular design upgrades involve accommodations for disability, aging, or new babies. All of these life states have special needs for safety and other reasons.

- Stairlifts on stairs, or the latest thing, compact elevators that can be installed almost anywhere.
- Ramps for outdoor steps, for wheelchairs or strollers.
- Childproofing the kitchen, the electrical outlets, and everything else that is accident-prone. Babycams, also useful for monitoring pets or frail elderly folks.
- Replacing an old bathtub with a walk-in bath or shower.
- Nifty new bidet attachments for toilets.
- Better lighting. More remote controls. Easier window latches. Easy-clean surfaces.
- Adapting beds and chairs for mobility issues.

## Bringing the indoors out and vice versa

- Use your garden space for a play structure or obstacle course, and set up an indoor garden with grow-lights.
- Expand your dining space by building an outdoor kitchen and dining area on a covered



A kitchen remodel in Hopkins, Minnesota

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

patio.

- No room for a home office? Convert your garage to one, or add a new shed/office.
- Turn your front porch or an add-on at the back into a year-round conservatory.

### ADUs and other radical choices



A super-organized spice drawer



A small, shaftless elevator for the home

ADUs (accessory dwelling units) of all kinds are big right now, and tiny houses qualify. (Tiny houses are big, get it?) You can buy them ready to assemble, buy plans and guides, or hire the many contractors springing up that build tiny houses to order. Or, again, convert your garage, unless you

need a garage for, like, a car.

### Local and online resources

Here is a random list, by no means exhaustive, of advice, ratings, contractors and retailers to help you plan and execute your own projects:

Ratings – [checkbook.org](http://checkbook.org), [angi.com](http://angi.com) (formerly Angie's List).

Decluttering – [caringtransitionstccentral.com](http://caringtransitionstccentral.com) (Caring Transitions), [sharedplanethome.com](http://sharedplanethome.com) (Shared Planet Organizing), [cantheclutter.com](http://cantheclutter.com) (Can the Clutter), [mindfullyminimized.com](http://mindfullyminimized.com) (Mindfully Minimized).

Remodeling – [whitebirch-designllc.com](http://whitebirch-designllc.com) (White Birch), [homecareinremodeling.com](http://homecareinremodeling.com) (Homecare), [castlebri.com](http://castlebri.com) (Castle Building and Remodeling).

Kitchen counters – [minneapolisgranite.com](http://minneapolisgranite.com) (Minneapolis Granite).

Tiny houses – [jbhomeimprovers.com](http://jbhomeimprovers.com) (J B Home Improvers), [yardhomesmn.com](http://yardhomesmn.com) (Yard Homes), [gosun.co](http://gosun.co) (GoSun, plans for DIY solar tiny trailer).



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# • COMMUNITY CALENDAR •

## Southside Pride / NEIGHBORHOOD EDITION

### EVENTS

#### Emily Pollack on 'The Heirs of Muhammad'

Wednesday, Jan. 3, 7 to 9 p.m.

##### Online via Zoom

The Minnesota Independent Scholars' Forum will continue discussing "The Heirs of Muhammad: Islam's First Century and the Origins of the Sunni-Shia Split" (Barnaby Rogerson), our current stop being the Prophet Muhammad, and what happened after his death. This 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.

We are finishing the book. If you missed the first session, don't fret. It is quite an easy read and you have until next year! If you don't get to the end, I guarantee you will still have something to talk about. Find your copy, enjoy your New Year's, and join us for some new discussion. Get the Zoom link at <https://mnindependentscholars.org/node/440>.

#### 'Women's Voices: When Women Step Up!'

Saturday, Jan. 6, 7:30 p.m.

History Theatre

#### 30 E. 10th St., St. Paul

History Theatre is thrilled to partner with Thomasina Petrus for a one-night-only winter concert curated to highlight the powerful women in "her-story" as we come together to celebrate women's voices. Incredible things happen when women step up and use their voice. Through song, speeches, politics, and more, there is power when women use their platform to create change. Experience the vocal stylings of Thomasina Petrus with an evening sure to entertain and inspire! For tickets call the Box Office at 651-292-4323 or visit [www.historytheatre.com/womens-voices-when-women-step](http://www.historytheatre.com/womens-voices-when-women-step).

#### '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, screenprints, monotypes, books and more. For more information, see [highpoint-printmaking.org](http://highpoint-printmaking.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. [como-zooconservatory.org](http://como-zooconservatory.org)

#### Jeremy Norton presents 'Trauma Sponges,' in conversation with Jana Shortal

Sunday, Jan. 7, 5 p.m.

Magers & Quinn Booksellers 3038 Hennepin Ave., Mpls.

In-store event, registration required In his remarkable memoir, "Trauma Sponges: Dispatches from the Scarred Heart of Emergency Room Response," Jeremy Norton marshals 22 years of professional experience to offer, with compassion and critique, an extraordinary portrayal of emergency responders. "Trauma Sponges" captures in arresting detail the personal and social toll the job exacts, as well as the unique perspective afforded by sustained direct encounters with the sick, the dying, and the dead. Jeremy Norton has been a firefighter/EMT with the Minneapolis Fire Department since 2000; he was promoted to captain in 2007 and heads Station 17 in south Minneapolis. Learn more and register for this FREE event at <https://www.magersandquinn.com/event/Jeremy-Norton-presents-Trauma-Sponges/261>.

#### Music Under Glass

Select Sundays and Wednesdays 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Como Park Conservatory

1225 Estabrook Dr., St. Paul

Join us in the tropical gardens of Como Park Conservatory and beat the "winter blahs" as live, local musicians play blues, bluegrass and ballads from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on select Sundays and Wednesdays. The concerts are free, and beer and wine will be available to purchase.

#### Sunday, Jan. 7 – New Riverside

##### Ramblers: Warm up with some

high-spirited Cajun dance music. The band covers a spectrum from old-style fiddle tunes, lively two-steps, soulful waltzes, gritty blues to rockin' honky-tonk sounds.

#### Sunday, Jan. 14 – Nathan Griner

##### with cellist Matthew Probst: Na-

than Griner's style has a huge range of passion and grit. His sound is as raw as Neil Young and as fun and energetic as the Lumineers, mixed into a style all his own. His take on obscure covers and his songwriting abilities leave audiences wanting to hear more.

#### Wednesday, Jan. 17 – Roots-rock

##### singer-songwriter Mary Cutrufello

lo has been a mainstay in the Americana scene in Minnesota and Texas for 30 years. Hailed by USA Today as "a fierce guitarist with a blistered-throat voice," Cutrufello mixes original songs and classics of American music (think Willie Nelson and Steve Earle) into a captivating, heartland-proud musical stew at once timeless and immediate.

#### Sunday, Jan. 21 – The Bad Com-

panions: a long-standing roots-rock quartet featuring two guitars, stand-up bass and drums, with great vocals and a vast setlist of rock-a-billy, R&B, country and blues.

#### Wednesday, Jan. 24 – The Sudden

Lovelys: This prolific duo creates a unique and earnest sound that could best be described as "Aggressive Folk."

#### Wednesday, Jan. 31 – Mother Ban-

jo: "Traditional folk and bluegrass sounds with genuinely poetic lyrics, landing somewhere between Gillian Welch and Lucy Kaplansky" – Chris Riemenschneider, Star Tribune

#### Lake Hiawatha Recreation Center

Classes in yoga, tumbling, ballet, qigong and dog obedience

January – May 2024

Lake Hiawatha Recreation Center 2701 E. 44<sup>th</sup> St., Mpls.

Lake Hiawatha Recreation center offers a wonderful range of activities and programs this winter. Check out the list of upcoming classes at <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNPARKREC/bulletins/3810c20> and sign up soon! Classes starting as early as Monday, Jan. 8. You can register online by clicking the program title or "Register" button. Visit [minneapolis-parks.org/register](http://minneapolis-parks.org/register) to search thousands of youth and adult programs across the park system. Questions? Call 612-370-4930 or email [lakehiawatha@minneapolis-parks.org](mailto:lakehiawatha@minneapolis-parks.org)

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10

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January 2024



# • COMMUNITY CALENDAR •

## Southside Pride / NEIGHBORHOOD EDITION

### Southern Theater 2024-2025 Call for Artists

#### Applications due Jan. 9, 2024

The Southern Theater wants to support your art! Applications are open for our 2024-2025 Performance Partnership Program (PPP). This is a competitive program that gives artists and nonprofit performing arts organizations the opportunity to present their work at The Southern Theater. Our desire in offering this program is to support emerging artists and under-represented stories, offering a space for individuals and collectives to work on their craft and build an audience without financial burden.

Our Performance Partnership Program application for the 2024-2025 season is now open, which will begin in November 2024 and go through September 2025. We hope you will apply! Applications will be open until Jan. 9, 2024. To apply, visit <https://southerntheater.org/page/call-for-artists>.

### Music, Fire, and Fun!

#### Friday, Jan. 12, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Peavey Park

730 E. 22<sup>nd</sup> St., Mpls.

Join the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board for music around our fire pits while we dance and listen to music. Be sure to grab your mittens and hat for this outdoor fun. We will provide the fire and hot cocoa! Face coverings are required indoors at all MPRB facilities, unless otherwise specified by MPRB as part of athletics protocol.

### The Mubbla Buggs, the kAt band project, and Poverty Hash Friday, Jan. 12, 8 p.m.

The Cedar Cultural Center  
416 Cedar Ave., Mpls.

2024 marks The Cedar's 35th anniversary! Throughout the year, we will be featuring shows that embody why this special nonprofit music venue is to be celebrated and cherished. Friday, Jan. 12 features a three-band bill showcasing Cedar stalwarts: birthday boy, Eric Hohn (sound tech since 1997) and Jared Hemming (volunteer coordinator and event manager since 2016); Minneapolis legend Kathleen Johnson, and Joe Roberto's Poverty Hash, who has been a beautiful fixture of the West Bank music scene. \$20 advance, \$25 day of show. More info and tickets at [www.thecedar.org](http://www.thecedar.org).

### 2024 Physics Force Winter Shows Saturday, Jan. 13, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Northrop  
Carlson Family Stage  
84 Church St. SE, Mpls.  
Physics Force is back with exhilarating new shows in January. These theater productions feature big demos—with physicists dropping from the air and lightning being controlled through science—and they never disappoint! The wonders of physics are brought to life in an educational and spectacular display. Intended for all ages, Physics Force hopes to bring the wonders of physics and science to all. Presented by the UMN College of Science and Engineering. For more information and tickets, visit [www.northrop.umn.edu/events/2024-physics-force-winter-shows](http://www.northrop.umn.edu/events/2024-physics-force-winter-shows).

[northrop.umn.edu/events/2024-physics-force-winter-shows](http://northrop.umn.edu/events/2024-physics-force-winter-shows).

### NITE CAP – A Capricorn celebration hosted by SOLE2DOTZ Saturday, Jan. 13, 8 p.m.

The Mission Room at The Hook and Ladder Theater  
3010 Minnehaha Ave., Mpls.  
A dance party filled with DJs and vocalists! Sounds by DJ Snuggles. Featuring: Pilot Jonny, Howie Stackz, Rico600, Mac Drakula, Yana the Mooncricket, Rich, Basement Gang, Jada Brown, Arvell Genius, Tlashawn, plus a special guest performance TBA! 21+ show. General admission: \$15 advance / \$20 day of show. [thehookmpls.com](http://thehookmpls.com)

### Minnesota Historical Society Winter Events at Historic Fort Snelling

200 Tower Ave., St. Paul

#### History Highlights

Dates throughout winter,  
1 to 1:45 p.m.

This lecture series explores the history of key aspects in Fort Snelling's history. Topics covered this winter are Historic Fort Snelling's round tower, the Military Intelligence Service Language School at the fort, military uniforms of Fort Snelling, medical technology before the x-ray and Minnesota's first team in the National Football League.

#### Winter Music Showcase

Saturday, Jan. 13, 11 to 11:30 a.m.

Hear Historic Fort Snelling's music ensembles—the Saxhorn Band and the Fifes and Drums—inside the warmth of the Plank Museum and Visitor Center. The showcase will feature holiday and historic favorites.

#### Family Days at Historic Fort Snelling

Dates throughout winter,  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Create memories together with family and friends at Historic Fort Snelling at Family Days this winter. Take part in kids' activities, games and demonstrations, explore the "Many Voices, Many Stories, One Place" exhibit, and learn about the people who have called this place home for many thousands of years.

#### Lifelong Learner Coffee Chats Dates throughout winter, 10:30 to 11:15 a.m.

Join us in the warmth of the Plank Museum and Visitor Center this winter for a complimentary cup of coffee and discussion for our Lifelong Learner Coffee Chats. Topics include Minnesota's prisoners of war camps, how and why the fort was built, and hearth and home.

#### Snowshoeing at Historic Fort Snelling

Dates throughout winter, noon to 1 p.m.

Along the three-quarter-mile route, visitors will make stops to enjoy the view and hear from knowledgeable staff about how winter conditions were faced by the peoples of the region going back thousands of years.

More information on all the above events at [www.mnhs.org/fortsnelling](http://www.mnhs.org/fortsnelling).

### 43rd Annual U of M Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Tribute Concert

### 'The March Continues...' Saturday, Jan. 14, 3 p.m.

Ted Mann Concert Hall  
2128 S. 4<sup>th</sup> St., Mpls.

The University of Minnesota will present the 43rd Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Tribute Concert at Ted Mann Concert Hall. This year's theme, "The March Continues," builds upon last year's concert, marking the 60th anniversary of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech and our partnership with the DREAM Initiative. This concert will be livestreamed. The program, hosted and curated by U of M alumnus G. Phillip Shoultz, III of VocalEssence, weaves the words of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with reflections and musical performances. Featured performers include Melanie DeMore, vocal activist, singer and composer; Mikalia Bradberry, mezzo-soprano and U of M School of Music alum; VocalEssence Singers Of This Age; members of the U of M Gospel Choir led by Adrian Davis; Jorna, a Black dance ensemble collective led by U of M alum Suzette Jorna Gilreath; and more. This year's concert will also feature MARTIN, a life-size fabricated structure capped by a hand-cast 40-pound bronze bell created by local artist Bill Jeter. Join us for a post-concert reception in the Ted Mann Concert Hall lobby featuring food from Preps by Marvelles.

The annual concert, sponsored by the University of Minnesota Office for Equity and Diversity and the School of Music, honors Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Dr. Reginald Buckner, founder of the MLK, Jr. Concert. This event is free of charge, and tickets are not required. More information at <https://diversity.umn.edu/MLKTribute>.

### Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

#### Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Events

##### Monday, Jan. 15

##### MLK Day Trivia

Monday, Jan. 15, 3 to 4 p.m.

East Phillips Park

2307 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. S., Mpls.

Ages 5-12

##### MLK Day: Use Your Voice

Monday, Jan. 15, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

East Phillips Park

2307 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. S., Mpls.

Ages 10-17

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

Monday, Jan. 15, 6 to 9 p.m.

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park

4055 Nicollet Ave., Mpls.

All Ages

##### Longfellow/Seward Healthy

##### Seniors

##### Tech Fraud

Tuesday, Jan. 16, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

2730 E. 31<sup>st</sup> St., Mpls.

Technology can be confusing, and worse, it can sometimes be used to scam people. Amanda Jacobson, a technician with Free Geek Twin Cities, has a bachelor's degree in computer forensics, with a minor in cybersecurity. She will help us identify signs of fraud and suspi-

cious activity, as well as provide tips which will keep our information safe.

Senior Social and Health Talks occur on the third Tuesday of each month and feature guest speakers on health/wellness issues, birthday celebrations and time to socialize! Refreshments are provided! A Nurse is In/Blood Pressure Clinic is also offered. No registration required. [www.lshealthyseniors.org](http://www.lshealthyseniors.org)

### 'Dreaming Our Futures'

#### Book launch with Brenda J. Child and Howard Oransky

Wednesday, Jan. 17, 7 p.m.

Milkweed Books

1011 Washington Ave. S., Mpls.

Editors Brenda J. Child and Howard Oransky will launch their new book, "Dreaming Our Futures: Ojibwe and Ojibwe Artists and Knowledge Keepers" in conversation with Diane Wilson at Milkweed Books on Wednesday, Jan. 17. "Dreaming Our Futures" features 28 Native painters, primarily Dakota and Ojibwe, who live in the Midwest or have family or tribal connections here. The artists represent a range of generations, professional experience, and genres—including traditional, historical, contemporary and conceptual themes. The volume presents full-color reproductions of art by each painter, along with bilingual artist statements, biographies and essays on the representation of Indigenous people in historical context; storytelling and the creative process; and scholarship on several specific artists. The event is free and open to the public. Books will be available for purchase at the event, and a signing will follow the discussion. Register at: <https://milkweed.org/event/in-person-dreaming-our-futures-book-launch-with-brenda-j-child-and-howard-oransky>.

### Free In-Person & Virtual Narcan Training: Empowering Communities to Combat Opioid Overdoses

Wednesday, Jan. 17, 5:30 to 7 p.m.

#### Hybrid presentation, hosted in-person and virtually

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.

### Frank Theatre presents

#### Martyna Majok's 'Ironbound'

Jan. 19 – Feb. 10

Gremlin Theatre

550 Vandalia Ave., St. Paul

Frank Theatre presents the area premiere of Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Martyna Majok's "Ironbound." Darja, a Polish immigrant, grapples with love, dreams, and the harsh reality of survival in this darkly funny, heartbreaking story. Witness 22 years unfurl at a New Jersey bus stop, where Darja's dreams morph, exposed by the American dream's callous gaze upon its invisible casualties – its forgotten workers. "Ironbound" runs Jan. 19 – Feb. 11 at Gremlin Theatre in St. Paul. Tickets at [franktheatre.org/ironbound](http://franktheatre.org/ironbound).

### Lake Harriet Winter Kite Festival Saturday, Jan. 27, noon to 4 p.m.

Lake Harriet

4135 W. Lake Harriet Pkwy., Mpls.

Watch big kites take to the sky and try your hand at flying smaller kites on frozen Lake Harriet. This free event also includes a variety of children's activities, live music, s'mores, ice fishing, food concessions, naturalist hikes and lots of activities to be entertained both on and around the frozen lake. A shuttle will be provided to Lake Harriet from the Executive Building parking lot on the west side of Bde Maka Ska at 3033 Excelsior Blvd., Mpls. More event information, including shuttle transportation, can be found at [www.minneapolis-parks.org/kitefestival](http://www.minneapolis-parks.org/kitefestival).

### Tutors needed for Hennepin County Library's 'Let's Read' and 'Homework Help' programs

Join Hennepin County Library 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-lets-read-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-lets-read-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.



# Eater awards, great food writing, and a mini-review of Reverie Cafe + Bar

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

## Openings and closings – I spoke too soon?

Last time I mentioned that these were becoming less frequent, and I might drop this section, but then the end of the year (or something) caused a rebound.

A Bar of Their Own, a sports bar that shows only women's sports on its TVs, is set to open in March in the Tracy's Saloon space on Franklin Avenue.



## A Bar of Their Own will open next March.

A local artisan soda company, Northern Soda, recently opened a family-friendly soda taproom, with flights, floats, slushies, board games, arcade games and pizza, but no “adult beverages.” It's in New Brighton.

Falastin Duluth is a Palestinian-American food pop-up growing in popularity and planning



## Falastin Duluth pop-up

to soon open a brick-and-mortar deli in Duluth.

Coastal Seafoods St. Paul just moved a few blocks to a larger place and has expanded to add



Jax Cafe celebrates its 90th birthday.

new sections, including an indoor dining area.

Jax Cafe is not going anywhere, which is amazing, because it just turned 90 years old.

## Eater awards, Hmong Village in Conde Nast Traveler, forager stars in Minnesota and more

The Eater awards for the Twin Cities came out in mid-December. Here are the winners:

- Restaurant of the Year – Oro by Nixta.
- Best Damn Sandwich – Marty's Deli.
- Best New Pop-up – Lito's Burritos.
- Best New Bar – Hi! Flora.
- The Visionary – Indigenous Food Lab.

I have only been to the last two. I love the Indigenous Food Lab, as I've said before. Hi! Flora is a restaurant and bar. Their bar is completely alcohol-free.



Keith Lee doing one of his TikTok food reviews in Atlanta.

They do, however, sell THC beverages and also THC tinctures that you can drop into drinks or onto food.

Eater Twin Cities recently published a map list piece on (and titled) where to eat in Dinkytown. See what they recommend at [tinyurl.com/DKRatSSP-2401Dish-1](https://tinyurl.com/DKRatSSP-2401Dish-1).

Eater (the non-local version) did a fun and informative piece on Keith Lee. In case you don't know who that is (I didn't be-

cause I'm not on TikTok) he is one of the biggest independent food critics in the country. His reviews are on TikTok, he orders to-go food through friends and family to preserve his cover, and he videos himself eating in his car while he gives his on-the-spot review with a rating from one to 10. [tinyurl.com/DKRatSSP-2401Dish-2](https://tinyurl.com/DKRatSSP-2401Dish-2)

Racket did a great piece on four foraging stars of social media from Minnesota: Linda Black-Elk, Katie Krejci, Alan Bergo and Tim Clemons. It's packed with good storytelling and also hot tips if you want to learn more about foraging yourself. Check it out at [tinyurl.com/DKRatSSP-2401Dish-3](https://tinyurl.com/DKRatSSP-2401Dish-3).

“In a World Where There Is No Hmongland, There Is St. Paul's Hmong Village,” is the title of the beautifully-written piece in Conde Nast Traveler on St. Paul's Hmong Village Mall. It's a recommended read at [tinyurl.com/DKRatSSP-2401Dish-4](https://tinyurl.com/DKRatSSP-2401Dish-4).



## Mini-review: lunch at Reverie Café + Bar

Earlier this year I was at the hearing rooms at City Hall to attend a hearing on an ordinance of interest to me. When I got there, it was not up yet as they were on the previous agenda item. I was in an overflow room watching the action on closed-caption TV, and I thought, hmmm, that woman talking looks very familiar. See, I know the owner of Reverie, from In the Heart of the Beast, where she was president of the board of directors during about half the time I was the office and database manager. And that's who it was, Kirstin, testifying on how all Reverie's neighbors, both business and residential, are in favor of their upgrade plans (which were approved).

I went to Reverie for lunch (which is usually about 2:30 p.m. or later for me) in late December. I had the crepe of the day, which was filled with a cremini mushroom mixture. I accompanied this with a 20-ounce house-made basil-mint limeade. The limeade is one of the most



The crepe of the day and a limeade at Reverie Cafe + Bar

refreshing-in-a-healthy-way things I've ever tasted. It is elusively effervescent, but the three flavors of mint, basil and citrus are distinct and strong.

The crepe was lovely, served with a big puddle of something that suggested a pate made of nutmeats, then a balsamic drizzle of some sort, a scattering of pomegranate arils, and a larger scattering of baby arugula leaves. The cremini mushroom filling was dark, unctuously umami, and flavored with thyme and tamari, I'm guessing. I did not investigate the ingredients of the crepe itself. I trust the chef. If you're one who can drink alcohol at lunch (unlike me) know that they have an impressive array of local craft beers, wines and ciders, and a full espresso bar. Other great items



## Brunch at Reverie Cafe + Bar

from previous visits include the potato wedges with mojo aioli, the smoked Brussels sprouts, the beignets, and all the tacos. (Some of these are only available for dinner.)



Reverie's crepe with cremini mushrooms, pomegranate arils and arugula



**Southside Pride / NEIGHBORHOOD EDITION**

**Nenookaasi, from page 1**

JCG: No I don't. Homelessness can sneak up on anybody. ... Every person who's out there in the world, it can happen to them too. A lot of people are only one bad decision away from being homeless. A lot of times they don't even realize it. You can get injured at work and not be able to go back, [fall behind on] your payments on your house, whatever. You get pushed out on the street in no time. You might be a blue-collar, hard-working citizen who doesn't use drugs, and doesn't do anything wrong to anybody, but it could sneak up on you like that.

I made one wrong decision. I trusted somebody, moved into their house and opened a business with them. And they stopped paying on the house, and didn't pay me, and fled town. And before you know it, [someone is] knocking on the door telling me and my girlfriend we had to get out because the bank was taking over the house. ... And in the blink of an eye, we were on the street.

DCS: How long ago was that?

JCG: Seven years ago.

DCS: Where were you? Where was that home?

JCG: St. Paul. Yeah, I'm a St. Paul boy. I was born and raised in St. Paul.

DCS: And what brought you

over here?

JCG: I tell people all the time, "Learn your city, know your city."

But my girlfriend's Ojibwe. And the high concentration of Natives over here, I mean, everyone filters over here. It doesn't matter what state you come from, or where you come from. Everyone comes to the Southside to be closer to the Natives and the Latin people that are around. So we're over here because this is where the resource center is, this is where the Women's Resource Center is, this is where NACC is. ... A lot of the things that are accessible to her are right here.

DCS: Does this iteration of Nenookaasi camp feel different than other camps you've been at? Or is it just the mayor that changed?

JCG: No other camp that I've ever been at has lasted this long. Without eviction or some kind of interruption. We're definitely paving a way and making some changes for people. Because it seemed like there were no answers, or not enough answers, or not enough beds, not enough rooms, not enough places.

What's happening here is blowing all kinds of stuff out of the water. It's making waves. And it's smoothing everything out for new laws to be laid. Or at least be switched around. So they can be for the people, not so much against people. ... The city



**Stop the sweeps**



**A quilt yurt at Camp Nenookaasi**

of Minneapolis was not trying to help, and willingly, knowingly not helping people in encampments. And indeed, they're shutting them down and evicting people. So for us to be here right now, against all odds, we're nationally recognized. That's kinda cool.

DCS: You mentioned A.I.M. earlier – do you feel that Camp Nenookaasi has connections to Alcatraz, Wounded Knee, etc.?

JCG: When I first met my girlfriend, she explained to me how A.I.M. would protect the streets, and walk the streets every night over here for their people.

It's a good thing since [A.I.M.] happened. And knowing that

they patrol the streets, and protect the streets, and look out for the people in the streets, made us feel comfortable. ... Every time we come over here, we really get treated well. When I go other places in St. Paul, there's racial tension and stuff like that, but when you come around the Natives, and you're around the family, and the relatives, it's different.

Mexicans are a lot like that. We're pretty much brothers.

I'm Mexican. My last name goes back to Spain. Before Christopher Columbus was conceived. That's where I come from. My family crest is a knight, and on the knight's helmet are three ostrich feathers, and the knight's carrying a shield, and the shield

that the knight's carrying has five cauldrons of gold, and flames all throughout the shield. That's my family crest for Grijalva. So being here is crazy, man.

I'm glad to have been a part of it in so many ways. Just even to have the opportunity to be a maintenance man, or even the woodchopper here every day has been an honor. Just to help the people. I don't even burn wood, but I chop it every day.

DCS: Do you want to say something about the wood chopping you do and why you do it?

JCG: I do it so people don't suffer. Not everyone had an ax when I got here. ... But it's all for the people. It's all for everyone.



**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:*

**Southside Pride**

2721 E. 42ND STREET SUITE B  
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# Spirits in the Coliseum

BY KAY SCHROVEN

"It's not the strongest of the species that survive but the most adaptable."

– Charles Darwin

Chris Montana and his wife Shanelle of Du Nord Social Spirits are a living example of Darwin's theory. When Du Nord's well-laid plans were interrupted in 2020 because of the global pandemic and civil unrest in Minneapolis, Chris, Shanelle and their team found a way to produce hand sanitizer to weather the storm. While the state was not buying, the U.S. Postal Service was. It was a trying time for Du Nord and many businesses impacted in the city.

It's been a 10-year journey for Du Nord Social Spirits since its launch in 2013. Starting a grassroots, family business with limited resources is always a challenge, even without a pandemic and civil unrest bearing down. For example, Du Nord was faced with strict liquor laws and substantial increases in licensing costs. Yet, they kept their eye on the prize and by 2015 they had a cocktail room. By 2020 they were "restaurant ready." Then all hell broke loose.

That was then and this is now. A decade in, Du Nord is arriving as a stakeholder and anchor



The Coliseum building is being renovated and revived.

tenant along with two other BIPOC-owned businesses in the renovation of the iconic Coliseum building at 2708 E. Lake St. Du Nord has also acquired the former 7-Sigma building at 2843 26th Ave. S., with plans to close on it in the spring. This will be the new home for their distillery and cocktail room, which closed in 2020. Montana refers to it as the "spiritual successor." The goal is to reopen the cocktail room by summer of 2024. In addition, they plan to open a bar and restaurant on the south side of the Coliseum building near the main entrance.

"I don't want just another restaurant and definitely

no fast food. We want to bring something unique to Minneapolis such as a New Orleans-style menu. You know, po' boys and those wonderful southern pies," Montana said. I'm already thinking about classic chess pie, buttermilk, key lime, shoofly, sweet potato, etc. For those unfamiliar, the po' (poor) boy sandwich originated during the New Orleans streetcar strike of 1929, when nearly 2,000 workers in the Amalgamated Association of Electric Street Railway Employees (Division 194) went on strike for better pay and working conditions. The Martin brothers (Bennie and Clovis) left their streetcar conductor jobs

and opened the Martin Brothers Coffee Stand and Restaurant in the French Market. They began making small but hearty sandwiches and giving them away, free of charge to the "poor boys" on strike. Hence, the po' boy (served hot or cold) is the bedrock of New Orleans and a symbol of the resistance of the working class. This would be a befitting addition to the Coliseum where the goal is to unite the community, provide opportunities for the often under-served

The need and willingness of the community birthed a new approach to recovery and business; an approach designed to benefit the community, not the banks. The new model, which may best be described as the union of business and community, required breaking out of the traditional approach to financing. It needed to be different because the situation was unusual, and the solutions would need to be also. "The banks sometimes broke their own rules," Montana said.

Du Nord's original loan was for \$60,000 to start a distillery. It was estimated that nearly \$1 million was needed. Support came to Du Nord from unexpected places such as other distilleries around the country and large companies including Brown Forman, owners of Jack Daniels, for distilling and bottling and Delta Airlines for distribution. "Delta reached out to us!" Montana exclaimed. "We were so amazed and grateful to all those who came to our aid. The Jack Daniels team was amazing."

The Coliseum project has received public funding from a variety of sources, including \$14.5 million in new tax credits from the federal government. These tax credits required a match which was made up of a loan and support from Local Initiatives Support Corporation and the Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers. \$1.5 million came from the City of Minneapolis Commercial Property Development Fund, and \$2.8 million came from combined sources, including Hennepin County, the Restore, Rebuild, Reimagine Fund, the Main Street Economic Revitalization Project, the McKnight Foundation and the Metropolitan Council's Tax Base Revitalization Account.

Taylor Smrikarova, the director of the Coliseum project from Redesign Inc., said, "We believe the recovery and healing of the Coliseum building will be the most significant redevelopment project along Lake Street in partnership with three BIPOC small business owners. This historic building will be brought back to life ensuring long term affordability for up to 25 BIPOC and local entrepreneurs and small businesses."

Montana and others involved in the Coliseum project envision a business community that is an incubator, a magnet and network for other BIPOC businesses. Montana would like to showcase other products from BIPOC businesses. When he started Du Nord Social Spirits he was known as the "First Black distiller of spirits in the U.S." Today, experts estimate that there are approximately 200 brands/distilleries owned by Black entrepreneurs in the country. Montana welcomes the loss of his title as it indicates progress.



Chris Montana (Photo/Noel Mercantel Photography)

and "bring up" the BIPOC community. By the way, a po' boy consists of your choice of roast beef or fried seafood, lettuce, tomato, pickle and mayo between two pieces of French bread. Like pizza and chili, there are many varieties, but this is the basic formula. Maybe we can also look forward to muffulettas, red beans and rice, gumbo and beignets?

Sometimes a silver lining appears in the wake of tragedy – a blessing in disguise, to borrow an adage or two. But you must look for it. Montana, attorney-cum-entrepreneur was looking for and finding it. In the wake of the murder of George Floyd by former members of the Minneapolis police force and subsequent riots, as well as the coronavirus pandemic, the Coliseum building, along with others such as the Du Nord, were damaged, some by arson. This perfect storm propelled Montana as he realized that others were in more dire need than Du Nord, having completely lost property, inventory, etc. He wanted to help. So he formed the Du Nord Foundation. Support for the foundation came from numerous sources, beginning with a Go Fund Me site that raised nearly \$1 million.

In addition to closing the cocktail room in 2020, Du Nord faced its own hurdles such as the loss of advertising when the restaurants closed due to the pandemic. Restaurants were a natural marketing vehicle as they served Du Nord's fine whiskey, gin, vodka and liquors. When the pandemic hit and the restaurants closed, Du Nord too was impacted and suffered losses via the domino effect.





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According to the Twin Cities Office Market Report, the office vacancy rate in Minneapolis is 26.5% due to downsizing and an increase in employees working remotely. There is also a clear pattern of office space moving

cent is considered healthy. MinnPost reports the city vacancy rate is up 12% over the previous year. Minneapolis's average cost for office space is \$31.59 per square foot. The U.S. average is \$8 to \$23 per square foot.

come into the building, Montana would like to see manufacturing and asked, "Who will it help? Will it serve the community?" Montana envisions the Coliseum also being a place for special events, such as a music



Du Nord Social Spirits plans to reopen its cocktail room in the renewed Coliseum building.

from downtown to the suburbs. The national vacancy rate for office space is estimated at 17.8%. A vacancy rate of five to 10 per-

Asked what would draw tenants to the Coliseum, Montana replied, "Affordable rent, accessibility as the Coliseum is on public transit lines as well the extensive Greenway bicycle system, supportive colleagues and the opportunity to work with and serve the community." Rents in the Coliseum building will range from \$1,400 a month to \$13,000, depending on the size of the space rented and location in the building.

With respect to who should

venue where concerts and festivals could be held. He is aware of issues surrounding the Coliseum project, such as public safety. The project will need to work in concert with the new Community Safety Commissioner Toddrick Barnette in order to succeed. Barnette stated that he would take a holistic approach. Safety will be critical so that people feel secure walking, bicycling, parking and using public transit to and from the Coliseum. Montana said, "We need to prove out this new model." It seems that he and many others committed to the Coliseum's re-birth intend to do just that.

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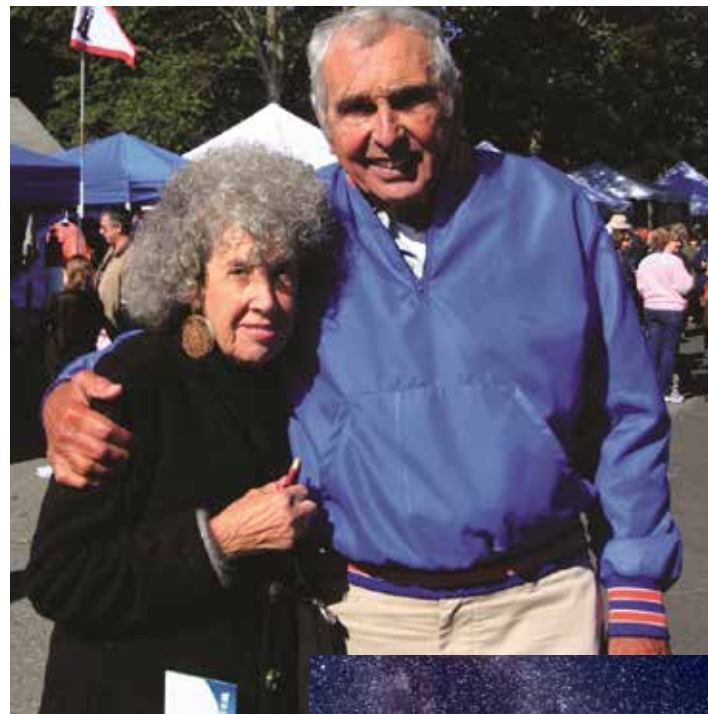
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# PASSING



## Erica Bouza

BY ED FELIEN

Fragile and delicate. The last time I saw her was in their bedroom. I looked at her and almost wept. The sadness and loss she read in my eyes frightened her.

But she was strong as steel when convinced of a righteous cause. I wrote a piece for the Twin Cities Reader about getting arrested at a Honeywell demonstration sometime in the '80s; I said I was part of the Erica Bouza Brigade before I'd even met her. But the last time I saw her, this past summer, the look of pity and terror in my eyes drove her to retreat back into bed with Tony.

Tony's devotion to Erica was absolute. His chronicle of caring for her in his last year is on our website.

Tony Bouza, born in 1928 in Ferrol, Galicia, Spain, died June 26, 2023.

Erica Bouza, born in 1931 in London, died Dec. 14, 2023.

So huge, so hopeless to conceive  
As these that twice befell.  
Parting is all we know of heaven,  
And all we need of hell.  
- Emily Dickinson



**Which is greater: Stars in our galaxy or trees on Earth?**  
**Mom died yesterday, December 14, after a five-year decline from Alzheimer's. The love my parents taught me will continue in my life, that I share with Amy and Melissa.**  
**- Dominick Bouza**

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