



**We build Pride on the Southside**

FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

**MARCH  
2024**

**VOL. XXXIV, ISSUE 3**

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## Cam's Corner



**New term, new leadership – will a new vision follow?**

BY CAM GORDON

The new term of the Minneapolis City Council is off to an ambitious start.

They have hit the ground running with a new meeting space, new leadership, and a long list of new legislation that a few months ago would have looked impossible to get passed.

They are also still divided.

Less than two months into the new term, and with only two wards (7 and 12) going to new council members, some changes have been dramatic, and the consequences could be significant. With Ward 7 electing Katie Cashman and Ward 12 Aurin Chowdhury, a new majority has emerged, and they seem determined to make new policy with or without the mayor's support.

Based on the early votes taken this year, that majority appears to include Council Members Elliott Payne, Robin Wonsley, Jeremiah Ellison, Jamal Osman, Jason Chavez and Aisha Chughtai in addition to the two new members.

See Cam, page 15



## Future density! Farewell, neighborhoods?

BY PERRY THORVIG

Over the last 20 years, Southsiders have seen the massive rebuilding of the Hiawatha corridor. New apartment buildings have been appropriately located along the light rail corridor. Mixed use in the form of a major brand grocery store has also been included in the rebuild of one of the parcels.

Southsiders are also seeing the first examples of what the City Council's 2040 Plan has in store for other major streets on the Southside and in other parts of the city, as well. For example, the two five-story apartment buildings on the 4200 block of Nicollet Avenue are way out of scale with their surroundings. They are much taller and

have more square footage than the stately, older two-and-a-half story apartment buildings on the block, not to mention the single-family homes.

Is this the kind of development that you want to see in your neighborhood, or next door?

This year is the 100th anniversary of zoning controls in Minneapolis. Since 1924,

See Density, page 15

## Hodan Hassan is not running for re-election

BY ED FELIEN

Hodan Hassan was first elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives in 2018, and she's been re-elected ever since. She and Rep. Aisha Gomez have introduced a bill in this session of the Legislature to spend \$10 million on construction of the Neighborhood Development Center on Lake Street to support low-income entrepreneurs starting new businesses. Hassan has decided not to seek re-election.

At least three candidates have come forward to seek the DFL endorsement for her seat: Bill Emory, Londel French and Ira Jourdain.



Hodan Hassan

We asked the candidates the following three questions:

1. Why should we support your candidacy for House seat 62B?

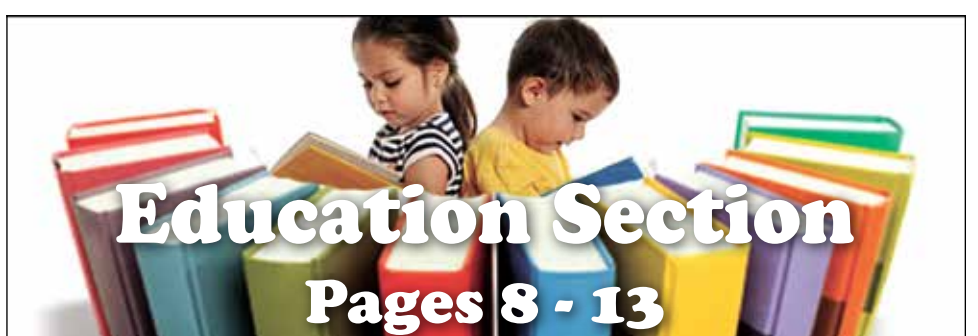
**Bill Emory:** I am ready to lead on our community's most pressing challenges. My work helping to open new emergency shelters and planning for new transit has taught me the complexities involved in caring for our unhoused neighbors and expanding our transit system in a manner that is safe, equitable and comfortable.

**Londel French:** I worked for 19 years as an educator at Minneapolis Public Schools, served as a Parks Commissioner, and I'm a union organizer. I have spent my life working to uplift youth through public education and public parks, and to change structures of power to improve lives as an organizer.

See Candidates, page 18



**2024 Summer Camps**  
Pages 2 - 4



**Education Section**  
Pages 8 - 13





# Summer Camp!

## The quite interesting history of summer camps

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

### Too many pioneers!

The history of summer camps goes back further

than you would think. Maybe that's why I came across many camps for "pioneers" while researching the topic. Created by Canadian Anglicans, the Soviet Union and Eastern Bloc,

Jewish Community Centers, Mormons, Lutherans, Southern Baptists, private companies, and the CPUSA (Communist Party USA), these camps combined outdoor and physical activities with study and reflection. And there are still some of those camps around, although the Soviet and Communist ones are history. The Lutherans no longer use the term "pioneers," though they still operate summer camps with a Bible study component. Essentially, almost all camping programs, and indeed all youth programs, were started for quasi-religious aims. These days, the survivors of those pioneering summer camps tend to be more secular and inclusive. The historic beginnings of youth organizations covered here have their roots in Christianity, Judaism and the military.

The YMCA (formerly Young Men's Christian Association) and YWCA



Historic photo of Camp Dudley, the oldest continually running boys camp in the U.S.

The YMCA is the oldest of the bunch. Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts began in the early 20th century, but the first Y was founded decades before, in London in 1844 by a draper named George Williams and eleven of his fellow workmen. The impetus for the YMCA was the perceived need to protect rural young people who flocked to the cities because of the Industrial Revolution, which was reaching its

peak in Britain. It was believed that city living would lead to alcoholism, prostitution, gambling and ruin unless there was a powerful intervention, and that group activities, bolstered by philanthropy, were the best deterrent. Thus the



Juliette Gordon Low in her pre-scouting days

nonprofit industrial complex was born, starting with none other than the YMCA.

The early YMCA in Britain didn't really run camps as its methodology. They were into gymnasiums and outdoor activities like rambling, hill-walking, boating and swimming. But they didn't tend to acquire big chunks of land and set up summer camps.

The YMCA movement grew quickly. London's Great Ex-



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# Summer Camp!

hibition of 1851 sparked the growth of the Y outside of Britain. The first World YMCA Conference was held in Paris in 1855, to which most of Europe and North America sent delegates from active local chapters. The first YMCA in the U.S. was founded in Boston in 1851 by a missionary and seaman named Thomas Sullivan. In 1852, a second Y opened in Baltimore, and in 1853, the Rev. Anthony Bowen founded the first YMCA for Colored Men in Washington, D.C.

It was in the U.S. that camping became part of the YMCA's mission. In 1885, the YMCA founded Camp Baldhead (later known as Camp Dudley) on



Lord and Lady Baden-Powell

and serves about half a million people, mostly women and girls, every year. The YWs have always been more political and less sport-oriented than the YMs. Today the YWCA USA's two highest priorities are eliminating racism and empowering women and girls. Minneapolis's YWCA was founded in 1891. Although its service model has shifted recently, it continues to offer summer camp programs, which can be viewed at [www.ywcampls.org/summer-camp](http://www.ywcampls.org/summer-camp).

### Jewish Community Centers

About the same time as YM and YW Christian organizations came into being, Jewish communities, also impacted by industrialization and urbanization, as well as migration, formed similar organizations advancing community support, spiritual values, traditions and healthy activities. One of the more successful used the same naming formula – the Young Men's Hebrew Association or YMHA, founded in

New York City in 1874. An earlier but smaller group called the Hebrew Young Men's Literary Association was founded in Baltimore in 1854. A YWHA followed the YMHA in New York in 1888.

In 1951, these and other re-

lated organizations merged and changed the overall name of the new group to Jewish Community Centers. Not all the member organizations used the new nomenclature; in

See Camps, page 4

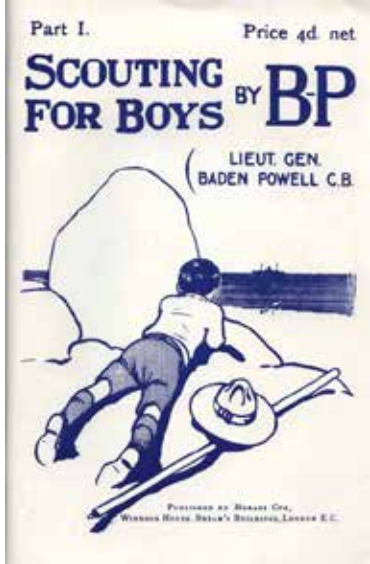


Illustration from Baden-Powell's book 'Scouting for Boys'

Orange Lake in New Jersey. It was the first residential camp in North America. As of 2020, the YMCA of the USA operated 234 overnight camps and over 1,000 day camps.

The YWCA got started soon after. From the beginning, it was independent of the YMCA and had a different focus. YWCA's history dates back to 1855, when the philanthropist Lady Mary Jane Kinnaird founded the North London Home for nurses traveling to the Crimean War. Australia was the first colonial nation to found a YWCA, in 1880, while in Britain the program expanded to other cities, until eventually a world organization was formed.

Meanwhile, in the U.S., the first YWCA was founded in 1858, independently, but inspired by the British movement. Today YWCA USA maintains 194 local centers



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# Summer Camp!



## Camps, from page 3

Manhattan, the 92nd Street Y retains its name to this day.

In the Twin Cities, the JCC Association is represented by the Sabes Center JCC. Its history dates back to 1924 and the

buildings, with the current Sabes Center being inaugurated in 2003. They run summer day camps for a variety of age levels, and also operate an out-of-town sleep-away summer camp.



Birthplace of Juliette Gordon Low in Savannah, Georgia

Emanuel Cohen Community Center in North Minneapolis. It was incorporated into the JCC in 1959, and since then there have been two location moves and two purpose-built

**Boy Scouts of America (BSA) and Girl Scouts of USA (GSUSA)**

The history of scouting is interwoven with the history

of the two Ys. The Boy Scouts were founded in England by a military man named Lord Robert Baden-Powell in 1907. During his military career, Baden-Powell, who specialized in reconnaissance and scouting, wrote several books on the subject, including the military training manual, "Aids to Scouting for NCOs and Men" in 1899. By 1903, Baden-Powell's manual had become a best-seller and was being used by youth organizations. He decided to write a new version to suit a youth readership, called "Scouting for Boys." In August 1907, he held a camp for about 20 boys on Brownsea Island to test out his ideas, after which he retired from the army. For the next three decades, Baden-Powell, along with his wife, Olave, and sister, Agnes, worked to build the scouting movement. Girl Scouts, later renamed Girl Guides, spontaneously self-organized in the Boy Scouts until they were given their own organization.

In America, the history of the Boy Scouts is complex, and its exact date and founders are still disputed to this day. See this history at [tinyurl.com/DKRatSSP-2403-BSAHist](http://tinyurl.com/DKRatSSP-2403-BSAHist) for more. The BSA has three or four competing founders, and



1918 photo of Troop 10, Boy Scouts of America, Columbus, Ohio



One of the first Boy Scout headquarters in England at Basford, Nottingham

even nailing down its initial date is difficult. Its history is

also intertwined with that of Camp Fire and the Ys.

Baden-Powell met Juliette Gordon Low during the early years of the scouting movement. She had been working with Girl Guides in the U.K., and he encouraged her to start a Girl Scout group in the U.S., which she immediately did. The GSUSA was founded in Savannah, Georgia, in 1912 under the original name Girl Guides of America.

Today in the U.S., the GSUSA is made up of thousands of troops serving just over a million members, with the Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Western Wisconsin operating five overnight camps.

*Editor's note: Last month's "Find Your Perfect Summer Camp" article (Southside Pride, February 2024), didn't include the full website address of Camp Chippewa in Cass Lake, Minnesota. Their website is [www.campchippewa.com](http://www.campchippewa.com).*

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# 'Never again!' Again!

BY ED FELIEN

In her Dec. 9 article in The New Yorker, "In the Shadow of the Holocaust," Masha Gessen makes the case that Gaza is like the Warsaw Ghetto, and the Israelis are acting like Nazis:

"For the last seventeen years, Gaza has been a hyperdensely populated, impoverished, walled-in compound where only a small fraction of the population had the right to leave for even a short amount of time—in other words, a ghetto. Not like the Jewish ghetto in Venice or an inner-city ghetto in America but like a Jewish ghetto in an Eastern European country occupied by Nazi Germany. In the two months since Hamas attacked Israel, all Gazans have suffered from the barely interrupted onslaught of Israeli forces. Thousands have died. On average, a child is killed in Gaza every ten minutes. Israeli bombs have struck hospitals, maternity wards, and ambulances. Eight out of ten Gazans are now homeless, moving from one place to another, never able to get to safety.

"Presumably, the more fitting term 'ghetto' would have drawn fire for comparing the predicament of besieged Gazans to that of ghettoized Jews. It also would

have given us the language to describe what is happening in Gaza now. The ghetto is being liquidated."

Adam Horowitz, in his Dec. 8 article in Mondoweiss, wrote: "I used to think the term 'Judeo-Nazis' was excessive. I don't any longer. Jerusalem's Deputy Mayor Arie King tweeted a photo of over a hundred naked Palestinians who were kidnapped by the Israeli military in Gaza, handcuffed, and sitting in the sand, guarded by Israeli soldiers. King wrote that 'The IDF is exterminating the Nazi Muslims in Gaza' and that 'we must up the tempo.' 'If it were up to me,' he added, 'I would bring 4 D9's [bulldozers], place them behind the sandy hills and give an order to bury all those hundreds of Nazis alive. They are not human beings and not even human animals, they are subhuman and that is how they should be treated,' King said. He ended



Holocaust Memorial, Toronto

by repeating Netanyahu's biblical Amalek genocidal reference: 'Eradicate the memory of the Amalek, we will not forget.'"

What happened on Oct. 7 when Hamas ordered attacks inside Israel?

According to Israeli social security data, the final death toll was 695 Israeli civilians, 373 security forces, and 71 foreigners for a total of 1,139. Some of these casualties were a result of friendly fire—an IDF helicopter gunship that opened fire on Hamas attackers may have killed some of the people at the rock concert, and helicopter gunships were told to fire on everything near the border with Gaza. The IDF Hannibal Directive said it was better to kill terrorists holding hostages rather than let Hamas take hostages prisoner—even though this meant blowing up houses where hostages were prisoners and blowing up cars carrying hostages to Gaza.

Attacks on civilians are war crimes, and the role the Hamas leadership played in directing such attacks must be the subject of an investigation by the United Nations and the International Criminal Court.



'Guernica' by Pablo Picasso

And, by the same token, Israel must be held accountable for civilian casualties.

Benjamin Netanyahu said that Israelis were "committed to completely eliminating this evil from the world" and added: "You must remember what Amalek has done to you, says our Holy Bible. And we do remember."

Deuteronomy 25:19: "When the Lord your God gives you rest from all the enemies around you in the land he is giving you to possess as an inheritance, you shall blot out the name of Amalek from under heaven. Do not forget!"

Some people believe this is the word of God, and some other people believe this is Persian propaganda meant to justify the colonization of the Levant in the sixth century BCE.

How do the atrocities committed by the Israeli Defense Force in Palestine compare to the

atrocities committed by the Nazis in World War II?

The aerial bombardment of Guernica that inspired Picasso's famous painting killed at most 1,654 people.

There is a white marble mausoleum in Gubbio, an idyllic country town in the middle of Italy,

holding the bodies of 40 randomly picked men, women and children who were murdered by Nazi officials in reprisal for the murder of one German officer.

In the final extermination of Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto, German soldiers killed 7,000 Jews



Fower beds near the wall of the firing squad mausoleum

and sent another 7,000 to Treblinka gas chambers.

Israel has murdered more than 30,000 in Gaza in reprisal for the Hamas attacks on Oct. 7.

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# Process as punishment in Assange case

BY MIKE MADDEN

A hearing in London to determine whether Julian Assange can appeal his extradition order concluded on Wednesday, Feb. 21.

Assange, whose health is deteriorating, was not well enough to attend the proceedings in person or by video link. He will continue to languish in Belmarsh Prison, also known as “Britain’s Guantanamo Bay,” while the two judges who presided at the hearing deliberate. A decision is not expected for weeks.

According to a United Nations working group, Assange has now been held arbitrarily for more

than 13 years. Outside the Royal Courts of Justice this week, his partner Stella said, “What happened to Navalny can happen to Julian.”

Seventeen of the 18 counts against Assange are under the 1917 Espionage Act. But he is not a spy. He did not receive remuneration from any foreign government. The classified documents he obtained and published – the Iraq War Logs, the Afghan War Diary, the Guantanamo Files, and Cablegate – were in the public interest. They revealed war crimes and other serious wrongdoing by the United States, which now seeks to imprison him for 175 years.



A Feb. 22 demonstration on the Lake Street Bridge to support Julian Assange (Photo/Mike Madden)

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The use of the Espionage Act against a publisher is an unprecedented threat to press freedom. Coupled with the prosecutorial misconduct the government has engaged in – violations of attorney-client privilege, CIA plots to kidnap or assassinate the defendant, and suborning perjury of an Icelandic witness – the case against Assange should have been dropped years ago.

Twin Cities Assange Defense recognizes that the government is pursuing vengeance, not justice. We will continue our advocacy until Julian Assange is free.



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PHOTO: CAROL ROSEGG



# EPNI builds community ownership of Urban Farm

BY DANIEL COLTEN SCHMIDT

Far too often, development means gentrification, displacement and exploitation. The East Phillips Neighborhood Institute (EPNI), the group which made state and national headlines through the environmental justice campaign to save the warehouse building formerly called the Roof Depot, is now engaged in developing a community ownership model that is the first of its kind in the nation, according to the legal team that represents EPNI. The purpose of the ownership model is to ensure that neighborhood residents, who fought for the salvation of the building for almost a decade,

will own the asset in common, create generational wealth, and return self-determination to this marginalized community.

On Feb. 24, EPNI hosted its second community ownership visioning event at the Little Earth gym. EPNI presented a draft legal model for how to own the EPNI Urban Farm in common. Roughly 50 community members broke into three small groups to discuss and give feedback on its component parts: board structure; profit distribution; and eligibility requirements for who should receive a voting share in the community.

The model would be developed through a complex arrangement of nonprofit organizations and

cooperative for-profit companies, held together by a limited liability company which would manage the development of the East Phillips Urban Farm. Each entity would have a specific purpose: EPNI would own and manage the land itself; the East Phillips Community Foundation would manage the distribution of profits back to the neighborhood; the Community Investment Co-op would allow residents to purchase dividend returning shares; and the Business Tenant Co-op would lease space from the East Phillips Urban Farm LLC.



EPNI is represented by three legal firms – Fredrikson & Byron, Dorsey & Whitney, and Faegre Drinker – and cooperative development experts from Nexus Community Partners, all of which have offered their services pro bono to set up the novel ownership model. As a community member at the Feb. 24

event said, “it’s empowering to have skin in the game. Rather than receiving handouts, people have autonomy with community ownership.”

Go to [epnifarm.org](http://epnifarm.org) to sign up for event notifications or follow EPNI on Instagram @east-phillipsurbanfarm for more information. There will be another event in March to learn about hydroponics and aquaponics from national leader Farmer Will Allen.

*Daniel Colten Schmidt is an East Phillips resident, and the Funding Manager for the East Phillips Neighborhood Institute.*

# Phillips fights back on Smith Foundry

BY LUKE GANNON

On Feb. 7, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) convened its second public community meeting on Smith Foundry following the damning findings by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in May of 2023, which revealed multiple egregious violations of the federal Clean Air Act. During this public forum, a concerned community member asked, “Why doesn’t the MPCA enforce a temporary shut down until Smith Foundry is in compliance?” The MPCA’s weak response invoked its past legal entanglement with Northern Metals in North Minneapolis, signifying a lack of

confidence in the agency’s ability to secure a favorable outcome in court due to not enough “scientific evidence.” This statement reeks of negligence. It disregards the evidence presented in the EPA findings and ignores the mounting testimonies and health crises of the residents of East Phillips. In essence, the MPCA’s reluctance to impose a temporary shutdown exposes its prioritization of profit over people.

For far too long, the MPCA has not protected East Phillips. In response, the East Phillips community resolved to take matters into its own hands, rallying community members, allies, City Council members and state

representatives in a collective effort to enact sweeping reforms at the local, municipal and state levels. City Council Member Jason Chavez, Reps. Samantha Sencer-Mura and Fue Lee, and Sen. Frank Hornstein have used their positions of power with dignity, actively engaging with constituents to forge a path toward environmental justice and healthier living conditions in communities like East Phillips. Sencer-Mura and Lee are spearheading legislative initiatives aimed at requiring facil-

ities like Smith Foundry to adhere to strict emission reporting standards, abolishing outdated grandfathering clauses, and imposing substantial penalties for emission violations.

The MPCA, entrusted with safeguarding the well-being of its constituents by controlling pollution, has unequivocally failed East Phillips and countless other environmental justice communities across the state. City and state officials have recognized these systemic failures and are leveraging their authori-

ty to introduce legislation aimed at rectifying generations of injustice. However, the mere introduction of bills does not guarantee their passage; it demands widespread support from all echelons of government, including Gov. Tim Walz, to champion the cause of clean air, clean water and uncontaminated soil for every community in Minnesota.

*Luke Gannon lives in East Phillips and is Director of Program Engagement at East Phillips Improvement Coalition.*



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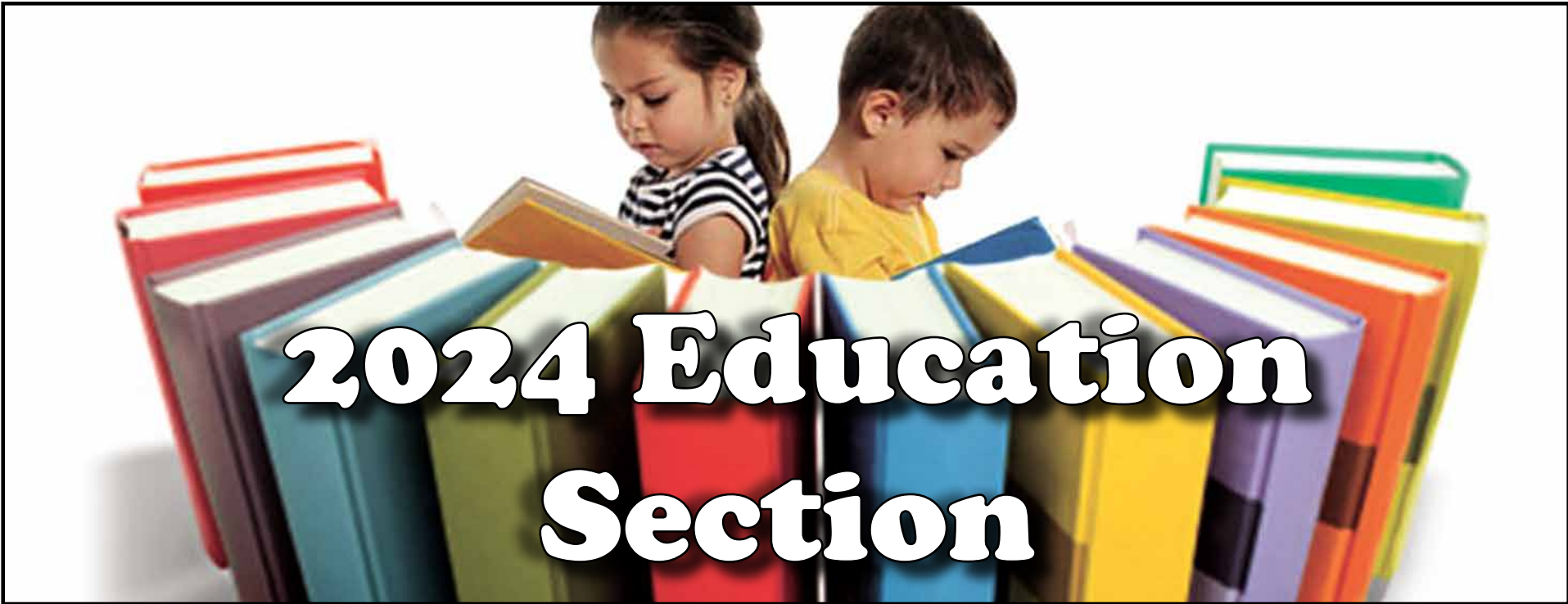
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# Big education news for 2024

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

**From the ridiculous (Moms for Liberty) to the sublime (Notorious D.O.T.)**

The school board beat is not usually this tabloid-worthy, but have you all been following the (ahem) “career” of Bridget Ziegler of Sarasota, Florida?

This fine, upstanding lady is married to Christian Ziegler, who was ousted last year as the chair of the Florida Republican Party due to multiple charges of sexual abuse and rape. Mrs. Ziegler is a founder of the Florida Moms for Liberty, a right-wing education pressure group that harasses teachers, students and families about their

sexual orientation, censors books and gets people fired. As such, she is also on the school board in Sarasota.

Since last December, an overwhelming majority of her community members have been begging her to resign from the school board after she admitted that she had solicited an alleged rape victim of her husband’s and participated in a three-way sex scene with the two of them. She is still hanging in there, maintaining that her personal life has nothing to do with her school board duties. The hypocrisy is breathtaking.

In sharp contrast, there is Dot Heffron, a school board member in Chesterfield County, Virginia. Her story, defi-



Illegal three-day educators’ strike in Andover, Massachusetts

nitely worth the long read, was picked up by the excellent magazine Bitter Southerner. (Read

it here: [tinyurl.com/DKRatSSP-2403-BS-Dot](https://tinyurl.com/DKRatSSP-2403-BS-Dot).) Tom Lee writes in his article, titled “Activated”: “Once the province of local good-government advocates, school boards today are swollen by the same red-meat politics of national cable newscasts. As the races became clouded by party-line social issues, the

tactics common on the national stage — social media misinformation, partisan redistricting, whispered accusations, and outright harassment — came to the Clover Hill District of Chesterfield County.”

Heffron’s supporters in the community still call her The Notorious D.O.T., a nickname she earned over a decade ago as a roller derby athlete, long before she got into politics. Right-wing opponents, including a very persistent and dangerous ex-teacher, issue death threats, put up vicious billboards, and file specious legal attacks.

What has she done that made her so threatening to the white male supremacy? She vigorously opposed the district’s initial plans in 2021 to go back to 100% in-person instruction on the eve of a major COVID-19 wave. For that she was attacked by huge billboards at each entrance to the town center.

Even worse, she is also way too woke for some of these

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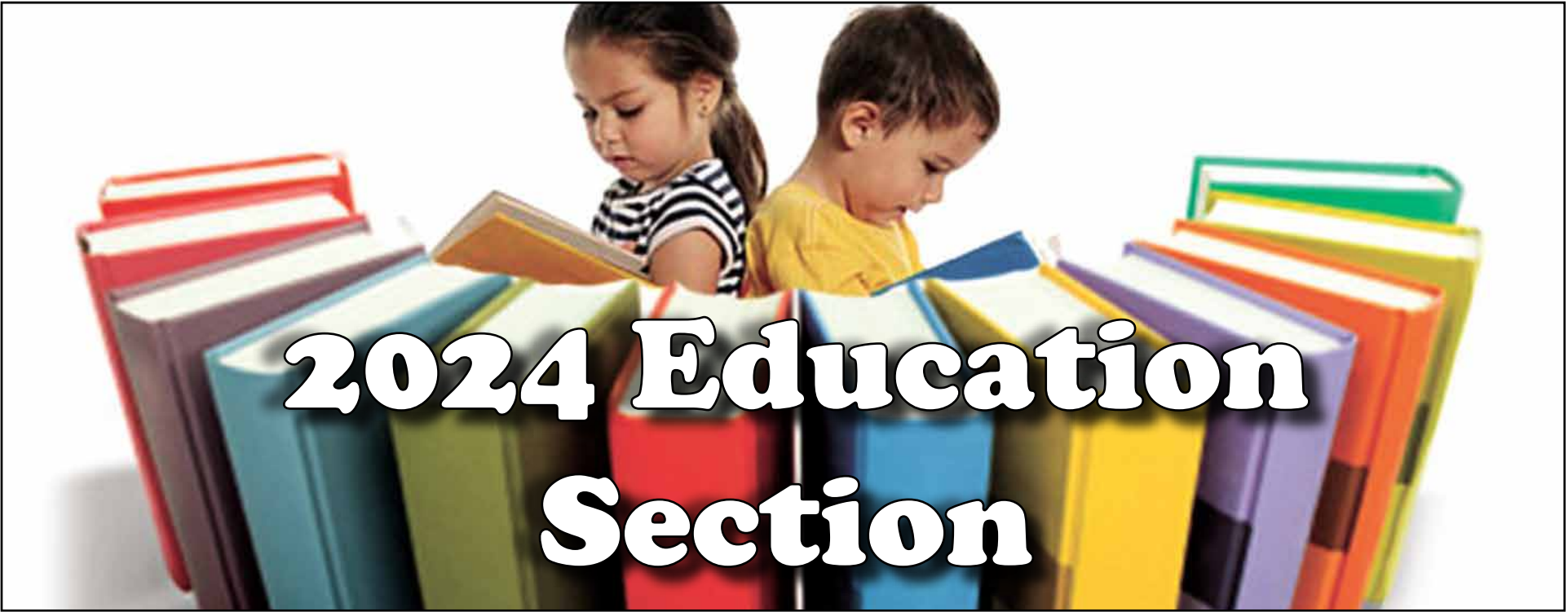
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guys, having worked openly and tirelessly to solicit engagement from BIPOC families, which account for more than half the enrolled students in her district. Heffron's old roller derby team, the Derby Demons, was very diverse with all races, ages and sexual orientations. She liked that. So she

the massive forces and their war chests opposing her.

**Labor struggles everywhere, including right here**

Another out-of-state story before I turn to Minnesota and MPS comes via Labor Notes from Andover, Massachusetts,

(The whole state of Minnesota was like this until the famous Minneapolis Federation of Teachers strike in 1970. See Southside Pride's article of March 2022 at southsidepride.com/2022/03/14/even-if-coordinated-strikes-dont-happen-this-is-historic.) The Andover Education Association had been bargaining for months with no progress when they made the brave decision to have an illegal strike. It lasted just three days before the district caved in to a majority of their demands (that the district had said for months were "impossible.") If that doesn't show the power of the strike, I don't know what does.

Here in the Twin Cities, the Saint Paul Federation of Educators (SPFE) held a strike authorization vote in February that won by 92%. On Feb. 26, the union set March 11 as their deadline to strike if they don't get a tentative agreement (TA).

As we go to press, it's hard to tell if the strike will happen, or if there will be a last-minute TA that the membership of SPFE can accept. There are calls from both major cities and many smaller ones for the legislature to come up with more money for teachers and schools, so these impossible labor crises can free school boards to make good change.

Statewide, there is a huge uprising of labor militancy in the education sector, as in other segments of organized and unorganized workers. In an article on Education Minnesota's website, the organization's president, Denise Specht, explained what to expect this year and why. The article came out

**See Schools, page 10**



**New MPS superintendent Dr. Lisa Sayles-Adams**

looked around at the lily-white Protestant upper-middle-class PTA groups and asked, "Where is everybody else?" But Dot Heffron was re-elected to the school board in 2023, despite

a small school district 20 miles north of Boston. Andover is one of the many places in the U.S. where public employees, including educators, have unions but are banned from striking.



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# 2024 Education S

## Schools, from page 9

in February, and is titled, “When teachers are chanting, you know it’s time to act.”

Specht said this is what she heard from educators, both in polling data and from face-to-face meetings across the state:

“Their jobs are burning them out. They don’t feel safe at work. Their paychecks don’t go far enough. There aren’t enough adults in the building. The health insurance companies keep gouging them. They won’t make it to the normal retirement age for their pensions.”

Additionally, Specht noted that over half of the locals are working on expired contracts. Even Minneapolis is not spared from labor tensions, despite having had the most recent successful strike just two years ago. Educators in the Minneapolis Federation of Teachers (MFT) have been working under a contract that expired last June.

## Minnesota educators’ legislative agenda and other news

With last year’s “trifecta” legislature, a lot of good progressive legislation passed, some of it related to education, but with so many areas needing attention



Dot Heffron of the Chesterfield County, Virginia, school board, with her daughter

(and such a short session) inevitably there is some unfinished business.

Education Minnesota’s website is the best place to keep up with educators’ legislative priorities and progress, starting with this pre-session detailed plan for 2024. Informed by a poll taken earlier, including other studies and organizing data, highlights

include ending the educator shortage by raising pay, improving health care, and most importantly, improvements in working conditions. The poll results (see graphic) showed working conditions as the top issue educators are concerned about and seeking relief on. Following closely in the top five were low pay, staff shortages, pensions,



## Top five issues for the legislative agenda

and high health care costs.

Keeping staffing levels adequate in the future means attracting more students to an ed-

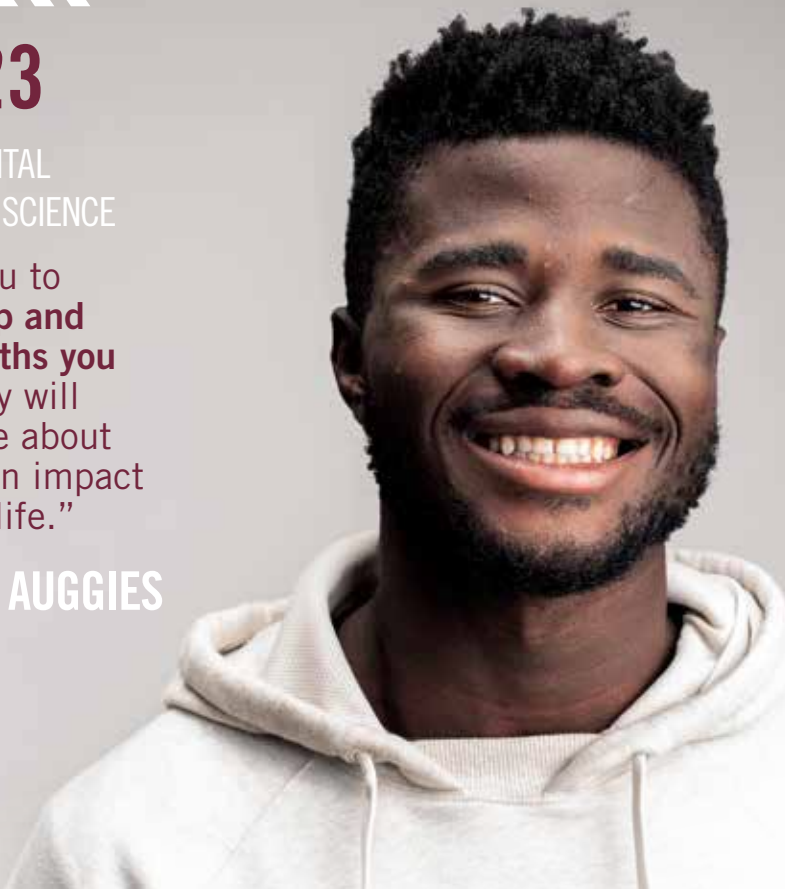
judge barred the Bemidji school district from further interference in union organizing among its educators. Educators in Be-

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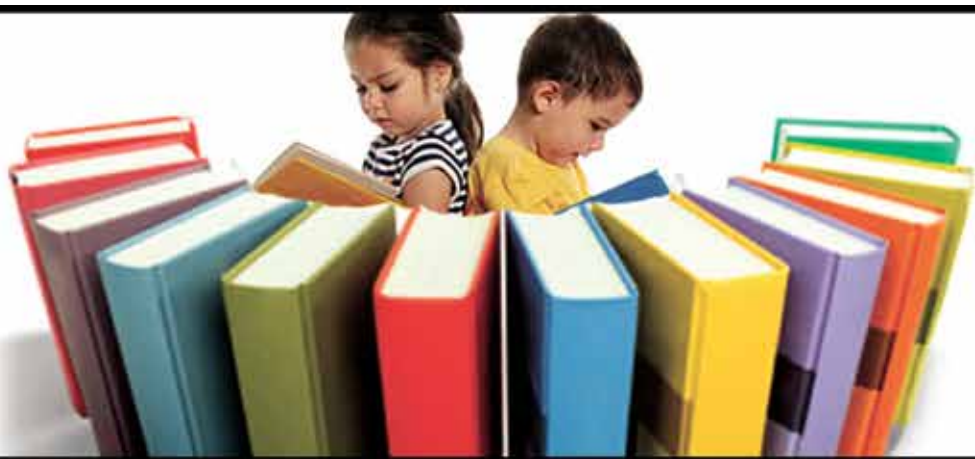
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# Section



MPS CFO Ibrahima Diop shown holding award for budget excellence in 2019

midji have been without a contract for eight months and are currently in mediation with the school district. The school district illegally interfered with the union by suppressing informational flyering and threatening and disciplining union activists. And in the Department of the Bleeding Obvious, the Reformer covered a report on Jan. 22 that showed that richer and whiter Twin Cities high schools send more of their graduates to college. Are you shocked? I am shocked.

**Minneapolis Public Schools – a new superintendent, class sizes, and school board races**

Minneapolis Public Schools finally chose a permanent superintendent. The helm was taken by Dr. Lisa Sayles-Adams in mid-December 2023, and she held her first press conference as superintendent on Feb. 9.

Sayles-Adams (who is the niece of former Minneapolis Mayor Sharon Sayles-Belton) grew up in St. Paul and began her education career as a teacher in MPS. She was promoted to administration and served as

principal of City Alternative High School before being lured away in 2004 to an administration job in Georgia. Later returning to Minnesota, she was eventually appointed assistant superintendent at St. Paul Public Schools. Most recently, she was the superintendent of Eastern Carver County Schools.

Sayles-Adams said she felt “hopeful,” as did many of the stakeholders she had spoken with. Acknowledging the many challenges currently facing the district – decreasing enrollment, increasing debt, and that expired contract yet to be resolved – she

pledged to spend her next 100 days in the job meeting with students, families, staff and other stakeholders to form an ambitious plan for the future.

Later that week, Sayles-Adams presided over her first MPS board meeting, which was interrupted by a serial disrupter who was expelled. At this meeting, a major and sobering report on the budget crisis was given by CFO Ibrahima Diop (who, incidentally, is an award-winning budget genius, and we just wanted to pause to acknowledge that) where he laid out the im-

your eye on. If you’re in Minneapolis, one or two school board candidates will be on your ballot on Nov. 5. The MPS board seats up for reelection are in subdistricts 2, 4 and 6 of the Minneapolis school district, plus one of the at-large seats. As for DFL endorsement, there will be a school-board-only Minneapolis endorsing convention on Sunday, April 21, at Washburn High School.

Current president of the MFT teachers’ section, Greta Callahan, has announced a run for the Minneapolis school board as the



Patrick Henry High School will become Camden High School in June.

publications of federal aid expiring in September. See [tinyurl.com/DKRatSSP-2403-MPSbdFeb24](https://tinyurl.com/DKRatSSP-2403-MPSbdFeb24) for more.

With school board races on the electoral calendar this year, this is another area of education activism you might want to keep

representative for District 6, after incumbent Ira Jourdain said he would not seek reelection. (Jourdain is quitting to run for the state House seat 62B.) This will in turn trigger an election

See Schools, page 12

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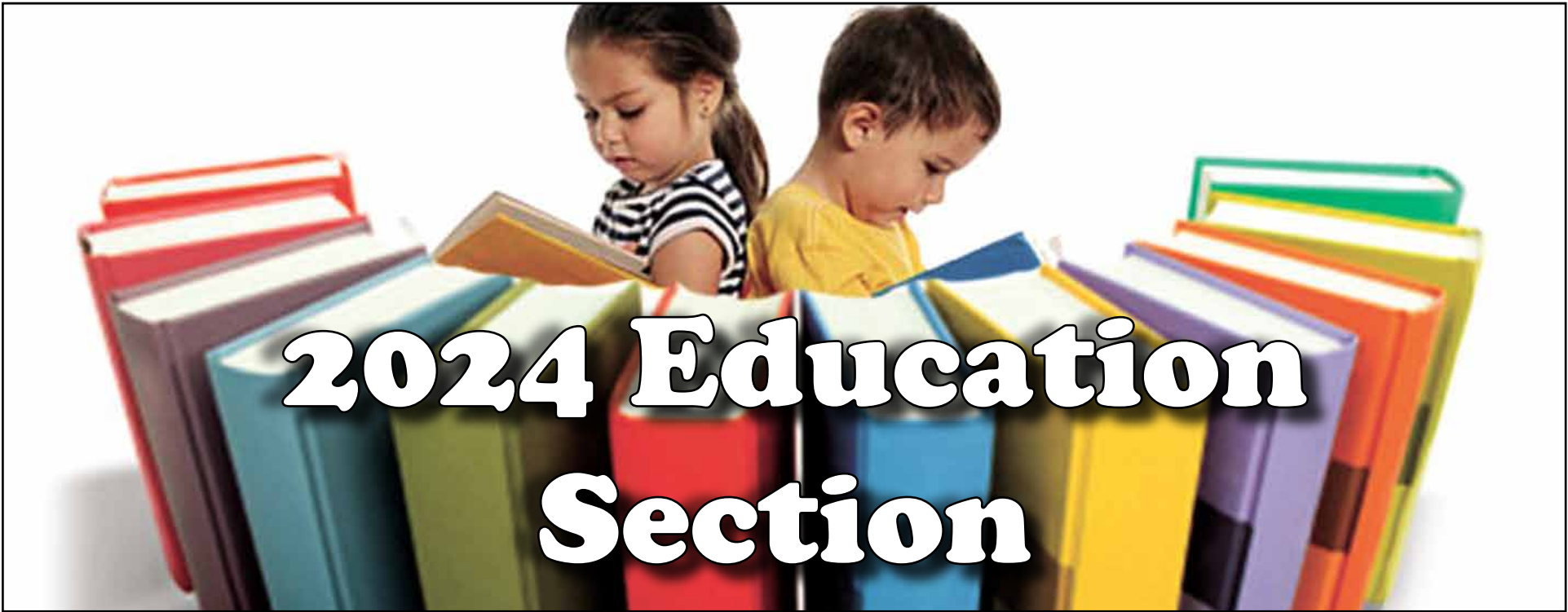
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Schools, from page 11

for a new teachers' section president in MFT. (You can keep track of the leadership of MFT's two chapters at [mft59.org/mft-leadership](http://mft59.org/mft-leadership), and the current school board members at [mpsschools.org](http://mpsschools.org).) Official

candidate filings for the school board race open May 21. MFT may be endorsing a slate, as they did quite successfully in 2022. Minneapolis Voices is the on-line newsletter of the Minneapolis Public Schools. They had an interesting article about class

sizes in elementary grades, showing that class sizes are now quite low, even lower than caps implemented a few years ago, averaging about 22 students per class across grades. In other interesting MPS news, students and the community voted to change the name



Early 20th-century philosopher John Dewey

of Patrick Henry High School to Camden High School. The change will take effect in June. The process has been going on for several years now, as I know we reported on it before when it was in its initial campaign phase. Henry High School is a majority African American high school in the Camden neighborhood of North Minneapolis, and students learned, to their horror, that “give-me-liberty-or-give-me-death” Henry was

a major slaveholder in Virginia, the state with the second largest number of enslaved people ever in all of American history.

The political landscape: revisiting John Dewey and teaching democracy

A new edition of John Dewey's masterwork, “Democra-



Bridget Ziegler of the Sarasota School Board and Moms for Liberty

cy and Education,” edited by Nicholas Tampio, was issued this month. MinnPost had an article in January interviewing Tampio and getting his views of Dewey's philosophy of education and its continuing relevance today.

Although indisputably a towering figure in education philosophy, Dewey's scholarship is often misunderstood, misinterpreted and misused. Opponents of “educational reform” involving racist ability tracking and overuse of standardized tests often don't recognize him as a resource and a forefather. He has been accused of

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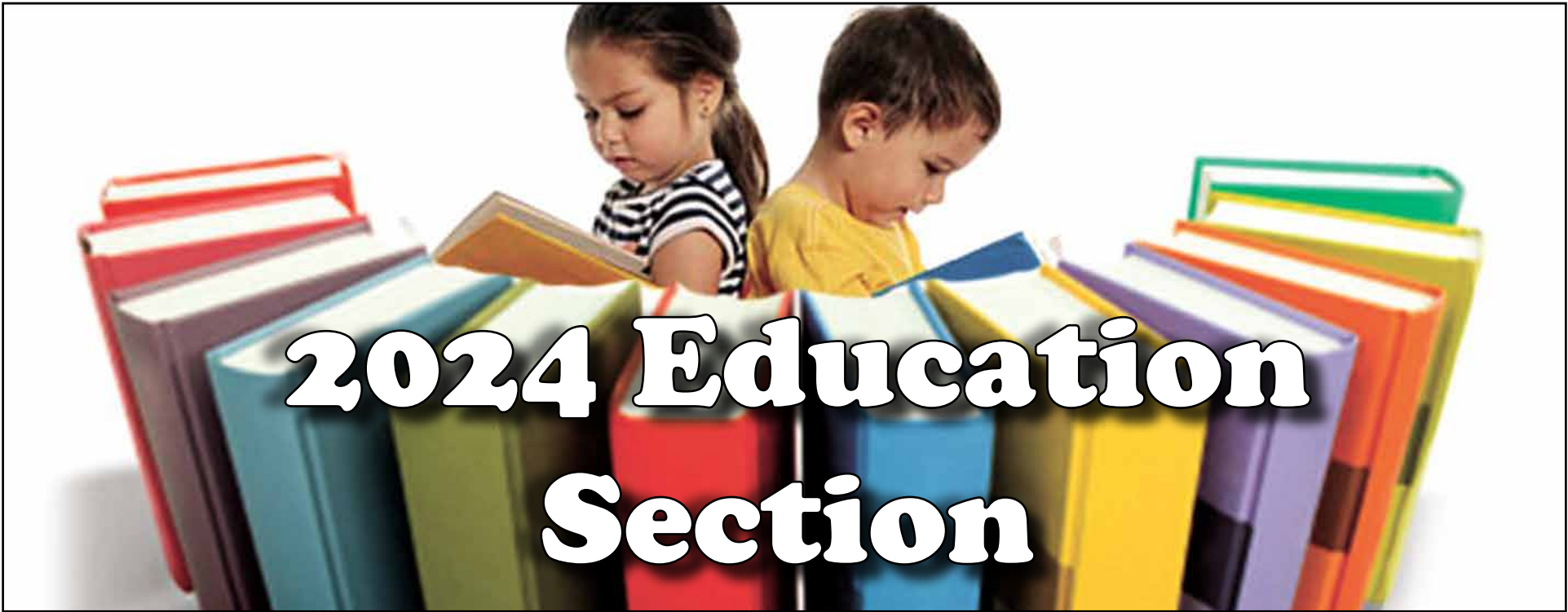
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# 2024 Education Section

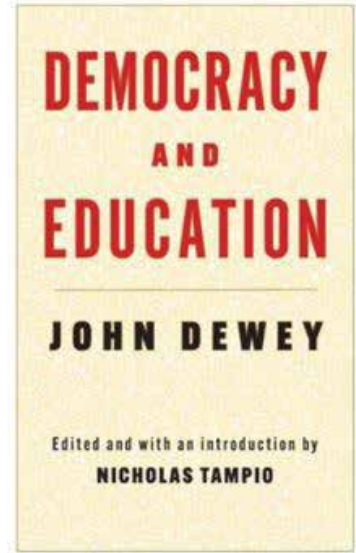
wanting to make students into “good widget makers,” ironically because of his prescient philosophy of what we might now call whole body learning. He wanted kids to use their hands and bodies to learn and grow, rather than just using their ears, voices and brains to

the action and of the rewards’ were a threat to the smooth functioning of our democracy, which depended on ‘some measure of apathy and noninvolvement.’ Huntington faulted the schools for not pacifying those groups. What followed was the ‘back to basics’ movement.” You can read the entire article, titled “The Path to ‘An Excess of Democracy’” at [https://portside.org/2024-01-06/path-ex-](https://portside.org/2024-01-06/path-ex)

cess-democracy. For now, parents, teachers and communities are managing to hold the line against the ideological heirs of the “back to basics” movement. But just barely. And it’s not just back-to-basics anymore, it’s also no child left behind, school choice supremacy, school vouchers, the war on critical race theory, the school-to-prison pipeline, insane levels of testing, book

censorship, defunding arts and leaving nonprofits to pick up the slack, nutty history theories, and Moms for Liberty. Oh yeah, and crazy men with rifles and active-shooter drills. Combating all this nonsense

will involve high-powered activism in school board and legislative races, strengthening and supporting educators’ unions, and lots of countering false propaganda about education.



repeat memorized “facts.” He was ahead of his time, and our time needs his insights. One way to look at the current culture wars is to ask, “What is each side trying to inculcate in students?” I would argue that censoring history, re-segregating schools 60 years after we struggled to desegregate them, dictating standard gender roles, and teaching to standardized tests are all part of a plan to produce student compliance with status quo authority, which is the opposite of teaching democracy. An article I read recently traces the origin of the educational culture wars in the U.S. back to 1975 and a report by the shadowy and scary Trilateral Commission called “The Crisis of Democracy.” That title makes it sound like they were worried that schools were restricting democracy, doesn’t it? But guess what? The crisis was that there was *too much* democracy, and it was all because of these liberal teachers teaching kids to think for themselves. “[The report] noted that ‘previously passive or unorganized groups in the population’ that ‘became organized and mobilized in new ways to achieve what they considered to be their appropriate share of

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• COMMUNITY CALENDAR •

Southside Pride / NEIGHBORHOOD EDITION

EVENTS

**New Nicollet Redevelopment Project Open House**  
**Thursday, March 7, 5 to 7 p.m.**  
Abyssinia Cultural Center  
322 W. Lake St., Mpls.  
The City of Minneapolis will share an update with community members on new roadway and public space design concepts for the New Nicollet Redevelopment Project at an open house March 7 at the Abyssinia Cultural Center, 322 W. Lake St. The City plans to construct Nicollet Avenue between Lake Street and Cecil Newman Lane and will work in partnership to develop the remaining site into a high-density, mixed-use, walkable area. The City demolished the former Kmart building in November of 2023. The project represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to help reshape the future of the site and contribute to an increased quality of life for people living and working in the immediate area. Based on community input, city policies and project goals, the project team has selected recommended concepts for the New Nicollet roadway and public spaces on the site. City staff will present the selections to the community before staff take the recommendations to the Minneapolis City Council and Mayor Jacob Frey this spring. The next phase of the New Nicollet Redevelopment Project will focus on the development and the community engagement is expected to start in summer 2024. The open house will be a fun, family-friendly event with the opportunity to see the design concepts

and talk with staff. Learn more about the project at <https://www2.minneapolismn.gov/government/programs-initiatives/new-nicollet/goals-expectations/>.

**LoLa Winter Fine Art Exhibition**  
**March 7-10**  
Squirrel Haus Gallery  
3450 Snelling Ave., Mpls.  
Join us at this showcase of LoLa member artists at neighborhood arts venue Squirrel Haus Arts, offering a chance to view a sampling of art created in the Longfellow neighborhood. Artists and community members come out of hibernation to mingle, talk about art and the weather, and enjoy refreshments. More info at <https://lolaart.org/lola-winter-fine-arts/>.

**Minneapolis International Festival**  
**Saturday, March 9, 1 to 5 p.m.**  
Central Gym  
3400 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. S., Mpls.  
The Minneapolis International Festival celebrates the wonderful variety of cultures in the city of Minneapolis and surrounding communities with music, dance, art, cultural learning opportunities, exhibits, demonstrations, food and more! Please join us to enjoy and learn about many of the unique cultures that make Minneapolis such a wonderful place to live. Featured groups will include Moroccan art; Croatian Cultural Society of Minnesota; Nape Mato beadwork; Minnesota Indonesian Society; and K-Pop groups. Plus, food, art, jewelry and clothing from all over the globe will be on display and available for purchase. For more information, visit [www.minneapolisparks.org/activities-events/events/minneapolis-international-festival/](http://www.minneapolisparks.org/activities-events/events/minneapolis-international-festival/).

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**Heart of the Beast Kids' Programs**  
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In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre  
1500 E. Lake St., Mpls.  
**Puppet Club**  
**Tuesdays, March 12 – April 30, 4 to 5:30 p.m.**  
An afterschool activity where your child can explore the materials and create with others. Each session will be led by a puppeteer teaching artist. Children will be learning a variety of puppetry techniques: shadow puppets, sand art, papier mâché, crankies and MORE! Kids will participate in deciding what they would like to learn and make. ALL are welcome. Prior experience is not required. Suggested ages: 9-13. Eight weeks: Tuesdays, March 12 through April 30, 4 to 5:30 p.m. \$90/per child.  
**Toddler and caregiver music time**  
**Wednesdays, March 6 – April 24, 10 to 11 a.m.**  
We will engage in exploring puppets, singing familiar songs, finger play and more. Each session will be led by a puppeteer teaching artist. Children and caregivers are invited to participate, meet other families and have fun! ALL are welcome. Ages are a suggestion. This is not a drop-off activity; caregivers are expected to be present. Suggested ages: Birth to 4. Eight weeks: Wednesdays, March 6 through April 24, 10 to 11 a.m. \$80/per family.  
**HOBT Spring Camp 2024**  
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camp, where your child can explore the materials and create with others. Each session will be led by a puppeteer teaching artist. Children will be learning a variety of puppetry techniques: shadow puppets, sand art, papier mâché, crankies and MORE! ALL are welcome. Ages are a suggestion and prior experience is not required. Suggested ages: 9-13. April 1-5, 1 to 4 p.m. \$150/per child. For more information and registration, go to <https://hobt.org/heart-of-the-beast-programs/>.

**Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors Medical Cannabis Pros and Cons for Adults 60+**  
**Tuesday, March 19, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.**  
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
2730 E. 31<sup>st</sup> St., Mpls.  
Learn about Minnesota's Medical Cannabis program and the benefits and side effects for older adults. Presenter Sarah Overby, LPN, is the Director of Medical Education for Vereo Health. 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. Suggested donation is \$1. No registration required. [www.lshealthyseniors.org](http://www.lshealthyseniors.org)

**Fill Empty Homes MPLS**  
**Vacancy Tour**  
**Friday, March 22, 4 p.m.**  
Meet at the Hennepin County Government Center  
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tour! We'll be walking through downtown Minneapolis to visit empty buildings, discuss vacancy solutions, and community action. Minneapolis cannot allow thousands of empty apartment units while people are suffering from homelessness and high rents. More information at [https://homes4us.nationbuilder.com/?utm\\_campaign=vacancy\\_tour&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=homes4us](https://homes4us.nationbuilder.com/?utm_campaign=vacancy_tour&utm_medium=email&utm_source=homes4us)

**'Phantom Loss'**  
**March 28 – April 7**  
Avalon Theater  
1500 E. Lake St., Mpls.  
"Phantom Loss," a tabletop puppet show created by local artist Oanh Vu, will run March 28 – April 7 at the Avalon Theater. Vu describes the show as a tragicomedy that weaves Vietnamese mythology and American pop culture to explore the impact of criminalized immigration and inter-generational trauma. There will be a preview performance on Thursday, March 28 at 7:30 p.m. Opening Day is Friday, March 29 at 7:30 p.m. The show runs through April 7, each performance taking place at 7:30 p.m. There will be two matinee performances on March 30 and April 7 at 2 p.m. Tickets for the preview are \$15. General admission for the remaining shows is \$25. There will be a 'Pay What You Can' show on April 2. <https://hobt.org/series/phantom-loss/>

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PUBLISHER/EDITOR .....	Ed Felien
ACCOUNTANT .....	Bridgit Jordan
ART DIRECTOR/GRAPHIC DESIGNER. . . . .	Rebecca James
MANAGING EDITOR .....	Katherine Schaefer
STAFF WRITER .....	Debra Keefer Ramage
SALES DIRECTOR. ....	David Goldstein
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Cam, from page 1

In the first two legislative cycles, and meeting in their new space in the public service building at 450 South 4th St. while their offices in City Hall are being renovated, the council members introduced 21 ordinance amendments.

The new council majority flexed its muscles within weeks of the new term when, at their Feb. 8 meeting, they overturned Mayor Jacob Frey's veto of a resolution supporting a permanent cease-fire in the Middle East.

They also voted for new leadership. The previous council president, Andrea Jenkins (Ward 8), and vice president, Linea Palmisano (Ward 13), were not only voted out of those positions, but will no longer chair any of the major committees.

Similarly, Emily Koski (Ward 11) and Latrishia Vetaw (Ward 4), who had been chairing the powerful budget and public safety committees respectively, have been removed as chairs and will not be chairing any standing committees. Vetaw will not even serve on the safety committee, while Koski will remain, as vice chair, on the budget committee.

On Jan. 8, at their first meeting of the year, on a 10-3 vote, Ward 1 Council Member Payne

was elected council president with Vetaw, Jenkins and Palmisano voting "no." On a vote of 8-5, Ward 10 Council Member Chughtai was elected vice president. Koski and Rainville joined Vetaw, Jenkins and Palmisano in opposing her for that position.

After he was elected president, Payne's proposed committee organization was approved unanimously, with the chair positions as follows: Administration & Enterprise Oversight, chaired by Ward 2 Council Member Wonsley; Business, Housing & Zoning, chaired by Ward 6 Council Member Osman, Public Health & Safety, chaired by Ward 9 Council Member Chavez; Climate & Infrastructure, chaired by new Ward 7 Council Member Cashman; Budget, chaired by Council Member Chughtai; Committee of the Whole chaired by Chavez; and Intergovernmental Relations, chaired by Ward 12 Council Member Chowdhury.

Ward 5 Council Member Ellison, despite having served on the council since 2018, will not chair a single committee, leaving both of the Northside council members out of any committee leadership positions.

"I look forward to unifying my council colleagues and the mayor around our shared priorities," said Payne after being elected

president.

Those intentions are hopeful, but, given the last two years and the rocky start to this one, that may take some work. This could be a good time for the mayor and council to define and approve a new shared vision, as well as a set of values and goals for the years ahead more deliberatively. It has been done before.

It is typical and expected that with each new term elected policymakers use what they learned campaigning to set priorities for the term ahead.

In years past, it was common for newly elected councils and mayors to dedicate time and energy to such tasks early in a term. With staff support, and the inclusion of department heads in the process, it has been done effectively.

Under former mayors Rybak and Hodges, as well as during Frey's first term, a goal-setting process was developed where staff facilitated meetings with policymakers. The mayor and council members met publicly but informally, in workshop settings, to develop a shared vision and goals for the new term. These were subsequently approved at a formal council and signed by the mayor.

On the city's website it says, "Every four years we adopt goals

and priorities to guide the City's work." The vision statement, values, goals and priorities that are listed on that website were approved unanimously by the council and signed by Mayor Frey in March of 2019. That was two elections and nearly five years ago. Ten of the 13 council members who drafted and approved them are no longer in office.

If facilitated well, a goal-setting process has benefits that can go beyond the valuable outcome of formalizing values, goals and priorities. It also gives policymakers the chance to share with each other what they have learned while campaigning and the perspective of their constituents. It can also help policymakers better understand each other, how they think, what they care most about and how they make decisions.

It has the potential to help them see each other as human beings, not just allies or adversaries, but as members of the same team.

The greatest value, however, might be found in how it can send a clear message to city staff, other government jurisdictions, and the public that this council and mayor value each other, and that this is what they are committed to working on together.

Our new Council President

Payne made a good start, outlining intentions and priorities in his acceptance speech last month to the council.

There he identified addressing the housing crisis, creating a public health response to homelessness, expanding alternatives to policing, implementing the climate equity plan, and revitalizing commercial corridors as top priorities.

"I'm excited to work alongside the entire city council on these shared priorities," said Payne. "I'm committed to being a president who can bring the council together to prioritize residents over political expediency and work with Mayor Frey on our shared promise of making Minneapolis a better city for everyone."

Given the deep division that existed among policymakers last term and during these first weeks of the new term, taking some time to confirm and refine priorities and to develop a common and clear vision of what that "better city" looks like could be worthwhile.

In the meantime, let us wish this new council well, and hope they can listen and learn from each other and find meaningful ways to unite under a common vision, shared values and a set of goals and priorities that benefit us all.

Density, from page 1

Minneapolis has not allowed the free market to determine what is built in the city and how tall buildings will be. However, there were elements of the free-market system contained in the city's 1924 zoning code. For example, it allowed commercial or industrial uses on most of the arterial streets on the Southside. That code also allowed single-family homes and apartment buildings to be built in commercial or industrial zones. What resulted was mostly single-family or apartment development on the main streets. The blocks between the major streets were reserved for single or two-family dwellings in the 1924 code.

There were some problems with the 1924 code. The City Council tried for 39 years to change the ordinance to address problems with their first zoning code. Finally, in 1963, there was a major revision that limited neighborhood-scale commercial development to designated major intersections in the city. However, the interior of the Southside neighborhoods down to 36th Street was still zoned for high-density development in order to meet projected population growth that never occurred. The city reached its highest population in 1950.

The 1963 zoning code resulted in the demolition of numerous single and two-family homes so that large two-and-a-half story apartment buildings could be built. For the next 30 years Minneapolis lost population while homes were removed in favor of apartment buildings on the near Southside.

Residents between Franklin

Avenue and 36th Street became increasingly concerned about all the new apartment buildings that were changing the character of their neighborhoods.



**New construction such as this multi-unit building at 42nd and Nicollet dwarfs existing residential buildings.**

Their organized neighborhood groups asked for zoning changes to preserve existing homes with affordable rents. They found a sympathetic ear in the Minneapolis planning department. Studies were undertaken to down-zone (reduce allowable density) residential streets on the near Southside and Northside neighborhoods.

The new zoning controls adopted by the City Council in the mid-1970s required rezoning by a developer or a conditional use permit in order to develop new apartment buildings. It guaranteed that adjacent residents would be informed and have an opportunity to oppose or support the development. Prior to that, the 1963 code allowed apartment buildings without any public hearings.

That brings us to the 2040 Plan. That plan is based on the idea that more density is needed to accommodate people who want to live in the city. It's important to point out that there were approximately 40,000 more housing units in Minneapolis

in 2022 than in 1950 with about 90,000 fewer people in 2022 compared to 1950. Family size is much smaller now than in 1950.

The 2040 Plan's policies and land use designations will allow the same kind of development seen in the 4200 block of Nicollet virtually everywhere there are single-family homes on arterial streets. What's more, up to three-unit buildings could be built anywhere there is single-family zoning. The environmental impacts – traffic, noise, water and sewer use, school population, etc. – of this kind of development have not been quantified. The City Council, city planners, and Minneapolis residents do not know exactly what the impacts of the 2040 Plan will be. That is the basis of the current lawsuit against the City of Minneapolis.

Apparently, the city does not want to do the environmental analysis. So they concocted a bill for the Minnesota legislature to consider that would preempt environmental review of comprehensive plans. There was not time to consider this bill last year. Look for it to surface again in this legislative session. In the meantime, another bill has been introduced to require all municipalities with more than 5,000 people to allow two-family dwellings in any single-family zoning category.

So, be vigilant. Watch what your council members and legislators are doing. Your future and your neighborhood's future depend on it.

Perry Thorvig was a Minneapolis city planner from 1968-1997.



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EVENTS

**Newcomer Class**  
**Minnehaha UMC**  
**Sunday, March 10, 10:45 a.m.**  
Minnehaha United Methodist Church  
3701 E. 50<sup>th</sup> St., Mpls.  
We'll be holding an introduction and orientation class for anyone new to Minnehaha or interested in joining on Sunday, March 10 at 10:45 a.m. (during Sunday School) in the library. If you are interested in coming, please let Becky Sechrist or Jenny Ammerman know so we can plan appropriately. [www.minnehaha.org/contact.html](http://www.minnehaha.org/contact.html)

**St. Joan of Arc Concert Series:**  
**‘Women on the Moon’**  
**Sunday, March 17, 7 to 9:30 p.m.**  
St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church  
4537 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. S., Mpls.  
In the '60s, while men landed on the moon, women artists took their own giant leap into every area of the musical landscape. "Women On The Moon" is packed with hits including: "Me and Bobby McGee" by Janis Joplin; "Respect" by Aretha Franklin; "Mack The Knife" by Ella Fitzgerald; "Woodstock" by Joni Mitchell; "White Rabbit" by Grace Slick; "I Say A Little Prayer" by Dionne Warwick, and many more! Produced and directed by Lori Dokken. Featuring: Lori Dokken, Patty Peterson, Ginger Commodore, Judy Vinar, Joyann Parker and Rachel Holder. Tickets available at [www.saintjoanofarc.org/23-24-concert](http://www.saintjoanofarc.org/23-24-concert).

**Saint Mark's Music Series**  
Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral  
519 Oak Grove St., Mpls.  
**Henry Dangerfield, Organ Recital**  
**Sunday, March 17, 2:30 p.m.**  
Exceptional young organist Henry makes a welcome return in his sec-

ond solo recital in our Music Series. Free admission.  
**Music for Good Friday**  
**Friday, March 29, 7:30 p.m.**  
John Stainer's oratorio "The Crucifixion," by Saint Mark's Cathedral Choir. Free admission.  
<https://ourcathedral.org/saint-marks-music-series/>

**Minnehaha Youth Plant Sale**  
**Accepting orders through March 28**  
Support our youth: get a plant! Our youth are selling beautiful plants to fund future mission trips. Want to help? Go to [www.gertensfundraising.com](http://www.gertensfundraising.com) and use Store ID: 412 to place your order through Gertens. Pick up at the church on Friday, May 10, 5 to 7 p.m., and Saturday, May 11, 9 to 11 a.m. Thank you!

**‘Lift Every Voice’**  
**Through April**  
Conn Gallery  
Plymouth Congregational Church  
1900 Nicollet Ave., Mpls.  
"Lift Every Voice" features 15 rugs recently hooked by American and Canadian women based on block prints from 1947 by the African American sculptor and graphic artist Elizabeth Catlett. Catlett's "The Black Woman" is a series of linocuts commemorating African American women's historical oppression, resistance and survival. The prints were later published as part of a children's book about James Weldon Johnson's 1900 song, "Lift Every Voice and Sing," which today is the Black National Anthem. During the pandemic in 2021 and 2022 the rug hookers met via Zoom, chose the prints, discussed the artist, and reflected on how they might create their hooked pieces to accurately reflect what Ms. Catlett conveyed in her block prints 75 years earlier. "Lift Every Voice" will run in the Conn Gallery through late April.

**Experience Welcome at an Iftar**  
**Throughout March**

Anti-Muslim discrimination is a problem that affects us all. By standing in multifaith solidarity with your Muslim neighbors – observing their religious rituals, hearing their prayers, and joining them in the breaking of fast – you build relationships, courage, and hope that can stand against fear and hate. There are over 16 sites around Minnesota where you can meet your Muslim neighbors at a Taking Heart Ramadan Iftar. Find a Taking Heart Iftar site near you by visiting <https://mnchurches.org/what-we-do/taking-heart>. Sign up to observe the prayer, share a meal, and make new friends. We bring more light into the world when we get to know each other better. If you do not find a site near you, click again tomorrow! New sites show up with new dates throughout the season.

**Refugee Donations needed!**  
From the Minnesota Council of Churches: Help us keep arriving families warm this winter by donating new or used winter jackets in good condition. We are currently very low on men's and women's jackets. We would like new, gently used, or thoroughly washed winter jackets! Please email [RSVolunteers@mnchurches.org](mailto:RSVolunteers@mnchurches.org) or call 612-230-3219 to check if your items are currently needed.

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.  
**2nd Sunday: March 10, 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: March 17, 5-6 p.m.**  
**Plymouth Congregational Church**  
1900 Nicollet Ave., Mpls.  
(Enter from Nicollet Ave. side near 19th St.)  
In-person meal around tables, produce and groceries from Groveland Food Shelf  
**4th Sunday: March 24, 5-6 p.m.**  
**Westminster Presbyterian Church**  
1200 Marquette Ave., Mpls.  
In-person meal around tables  
**5th Sunday: March 31, 4:30-6 p.m.**  
**Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church**  
511 Groveland Ave., Mpls.  
In-person meal around tables

**Calvary Emergency Food Shelf**  
**3901 Chicago Ave., Mpls.**  
**612-827-2504, ext. 3**  
The Calvary Food Shelf has returned to 3901 Chicago Ave. now that the building renovations are completed. The Food Shelf will continue its mission of providing access to fresh, nutritious food for the community. Call 612-827-2504, ext. 3 for more information.

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

**Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church**  
**5300 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. S., Mpls.**

**612-825-6846**  
Serving Loaves and Fishes free community meals on Wednesdays from 5 to 6 p.m. Free, to-go meals served from side door on 53rd Street. Open to everyone, no questions asked. Whatever your circumstances, you are welcome. You can simply drive or walk up to the church and receive a meal any Wednesday evening between 5 and 6 p.m.

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

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

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  
*A Reconciling in Christ Congregation*

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

**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 - March 16, noon to 2 pm  
**Maundy Thursday Service - March 28, 6:30 pm**  
**Good Friday Service - March 29, 6:30 pm**  
**Easter Communion Service - March 31, 9 am**  
**Easter fellowship/breakfast - March 31, 10 am**  
AA group - Mondays 6:30 pm  
Senior Exercise Class - Mondays 10 am  
NA groups - Tuesdays 7 pm and Wednesdays 7:30 pm

**HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)**  
1720 E. Minnehaha Pkwy.  
[holycrossmpls.org](http://holycrossmpls.org)  
Sunday Worship at 9:30 am  
**Mar. 6, 13, 20 Dinner Church 6 pm**  
**Maundy Thursday & Good Friday Worship 7 pm**  
**Easter Sunday Worship 9:30 am**  
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**LIVING SPIRIT**  
Multicultural/United Methodist Justice — Generosity — Faith  
4501 Bloomington Ave.  
612-721-5025  
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  
Go to church website for info  
12-step groups Tuesday through Friday evenings  
*Handicapped Accessible*

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

**NOKOMIS HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA**  
5300 10th Ave. S.  
612-825-6846  
[www.nokomisheights.org](http://www.nokomisheights.org)  
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.  
**Midweek Soup Suppers, 5:30-6 pm, and Holden Evening Prayer, 6:15-6:45 pm, Wednesdays, 3/6–3/30**  
**Maundy Thursday Dinner Church, 6 pm, 3/28**  
**Good Friday Interactive Stations, 5:30-6:15; Music & Meditation, 6:30-7; Worship,**

**7 pm, 3/29**  
**Easter Worship, 8 and 10 am, Egg Hunt & Fellowship, 9 am, 3/31**

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

**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  
**Maundy Thursday and Good Friday worship 7 pm**  
**Easter Sunday worship 11 am**  
Pastor: Jane Buckley-Farlee  
Office: 2001 Riverside Ave.



*All directory churches are wheelchair accessible*



# Food and restaurant news, three obituaries, and two mini-reviews

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

## Two openings and a bankruptcy

Falastin is known in Duluth as a Palestinian pop-up, but they've been searching for a permanent home, and it looks like they found one. They are moving into the former New London Cafe on Superior Street and will open some time later in the spring. And just in time, Google has amended its tag system to identify restaurant types by adding "Palestinian," in response to many requests. Previously, Palestinian restaurants could choose between Middle Eastern or Israeli.

Here in the Twin Cities, the big-news opening is Bao Bao. They actually opened back in November, but interest has been steadily and swiftly rising. Racket.com reviewed them in February, which only added to the buzz. Bao Bao is a local brand of frozen baozi (plural of bao) which are the poofy white Chinese steamed buns with meat or vegetable fillings. You can order them online to pick up at their Hopkins kitchen, or you can find them "in the wild" at a few locations. Go to bao-baobuns.com for more information.

Although they have no plans to close, Fair State Brewing Cooperative, one of the few co-op breweries and also one of the few unionized ones, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy (reorganization) in February.

## Fish for Lent

If you like to lean into your Christian heritage by eating more fish and less (or no) meat during the season called Lent, you might appreciate a list of places to find good fish fries. Twin Cities Eater has what you need in a listicle from last month. Cardinal Bar, The Howe, and Merlin's Rest made the cut in South Minneapolis, but

strangely there is only one in St. Paul. Go to [twincities.eater.com](http://twincities.eater.com) and scroll down to Feb. 9.

## Local James Beard semi-finalists. Indigenous Food Lab classes

James Beard award semi-finalists dropped in late January and the Twin Cities has five chefs and two businesses among them. The nominated chefs are all well known: Marc Heu, Daniel del Prado, Ann Ahmed, Christina Nguyen and Karyn Tomlinson. The two businesses are Oro by Nixta (restaurant) and Meteor (bar).

Indigenous Food Labs, at Midtown Global Market, introduced classes for the general public in indigenous food, herbs and foraging. Previously their classes were only for industry professionals or Indigenous youth.

## Record food shelf use, WIC shortfall

The state of Minnesota broke a record for food shelf use with 7.5 million visits. That's almost one and a half visits for every resident in the state.

In mid-January Congress passed a resolution that would keep the government open and fund WIC at its existing level, or \$1 billion less than what's needed to fully fund the program. At least two million women and children risk being turned away by September if WIC is not funded to full capacity. If that happens, they will likely be put on waiting lists for the first time in over 25 years.

## The passing of William, Bob, and local food hero David

William Post, the inventor of the Pop-Tart, died on Feb. 10 at the age of 96 at his home in Michigan. Bob Moore, founder of Bob's Red Mill, a leader in healthy and gluten-free baking ingredients, also died on Feb. 10, peacefully, at home. He was



## Grab-and-go at Tous les Jours

94. In 2010, the Moores transferred ownership of Bob's Red Mill to its workforce via a financing scheme called an ESOP. He retired as CEO in 2018.

Locally, we sadly note the passing of David Leventhal, beloved owner of Cecil's Deli in St. Paul. He died in his sleep on Feb. 2 at the age of 85. Leventhal and his wife Sheila, who survives him, bought the deli from her parents in 1980, when it was already 31 years old. Leventhal was always very hands-on and present at the deli, so if you were a customer, you probably met him.

## Mini-review #1 – Tous les Jours Cafe and Bakery

Ever since a close friend of mine moved into an assisted living complex in Richfield, I have taken an interest in places we can go for coffee around there, and discovered Tous les Jours at 6601 Nicollet Ave. My friend is a Francophile, so I thought she might like this place.

Tous les Jours is a fusion bakery of Asian and traditional French pastries and breads, and is a nationwide chain, but I believe this is the only one in our area. I will have to try a few more things to make an

pastry respectively, and they passed with flying colors.

## Mini-review #2 – Northbound Smokehouse & Brewpub

Recently I had to attend a training for convening precinct caucuses, because I did mine this year. It was exhausting – the training that is – so I treated myself to lunch at "my local," the Northbound Smokehouse & Brewpub at 2716 E. 38th St.

I had a seasonal house-brewed dark malty ale called Old 8 Baltic Porter. I can't drink much these days, so I only drank half of it, but no judgment, it was delicious. With that I had the wild rice burger, which is house made, and a side of their excellently prepared fries. It was all good, as it always is.



Wild rice burger and fries from Northbound Smokehouse

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# • LETTER TO THE EDITOR •

## Southside Pride / NEIGHBORHOOD EDITION

### A question of balance

Hi Ed,

I was just at the Washburn library and grabbed a copy of the Southside Pride. I remember reading it when I lived on Chicago Avenue many years ago.

Your front-page article ("Please, go to your DFL precinct caucus") led me to suppose there would be a second article urging people to go to their Republican Party caucus. Or perhaps an article that listed the party platforms of both the Republicans and the Democrats, so readers could make their own choice as to which caucus to attend.

Then I turned to page 4 and saw your article "Trump, the avenger of white male grievance." It characterizes Trump as a racist. Under Biden we have had MS-13 gang members and terrorists from diverse countries cross the border. We have also had a surge of fentanyl deaths, which are due, in large part, to our de facto open borders.

The Democratic Party defended slavery; started the Civil War; opposed Reconstruction; founded the Ku Klux Klan; imposed segregation; and fought against the Civil Rights Act. Those attributes of the Democratic party sound rather racist to me.

I have a son-in-law (who was born in Mexico) who had to wait in Juárez, México, one of the most dangerous cities in the world, while he took the legal

route to citizenship. He became an American citizen three years ago.

I am not a racist and I voted for Trump because he is for secure borders, less government regulation, lower taxes, and he is most definitely more pro-life than the party of Death (aka the Democratic party) which supports abortion till the moment of birth and is also clamoring for the legalization of assisted suicide. We will all have a "right to die" when our bodies fail us. We do not want our relatives or state officials hurrying us along.

The first rule in journalism is to know your audience. Since you are distributing a free newspaper in the Twin Cities, be assured, there are many Republicans and Trump supporters out there. Republicans do listen to Democrats, and we also read what Democrats write, but we also have a choice (whatever issue is being discussed) to agree or to disagree.

Ann Redding

### Editor Ed Felien's response:

Hi Ann,

Thanks for writing. A lot to unpack here.

First, all news is presented from a point of view. Southside Pride began 33 years ago in opposition to the first Gulf War begun by George H.W. Bush.

We are unashamedly anti-war, anti-racist and feminist. We believe we have a responsibility to try to change the status quo and make things better, and just because a media source defends the status quo doesn't mean it isn't presenting news from a point of view. Southside Pride doesn't pretend to be "fair and balanced" like Fox News (which had to pay out almost a billion dollars for lies they spread about Dominion voting machines).

You say we should publish the Republican platform to give readers a choice of political alternatives, but didn't Trump abolish the Republican Party platform at the last Republican National Convention in 2020?

You complain about our "de facto open borders," but ICE arrests under Trump were lower than under Obama and fewer unauthorized immigrants were removed, and it was Trump who just killed the compromise border bill.

It is true that Southern Democrats defended slavery; started the Civil War, opposed Reconstruction; founded the original Ku Klux Klan; imposed segregation; and fought against the Civil Rights Act. It's also true that Northern Democrats wrote the Civil Rights Act and LBJ said, after he handed the pen with which he signed the legislation to Martin Luther King, "We just lost the South." And it is true that, as a result of the Southern Strategy of Richard Nixon, Southern racists left the Democratic Party and joined the

Republican Party. And it is historically true that D.C. Stephenson built the Ku Klux Klan into a force that ruled the Republican Party in Illinois and Indiana in the 1930s.

Ann, we both value freedom. We differ on whether that freedom means a woman should have the freedom to control her own body.

There is one profound area where we are probably in complete agreement: the liberal elite bureaucrats that actually run our city don't really give a damn about what we think or how we choose to live. The smart-ass planners downtown will decide parking and whether our street will become a one-way or a bike path. They will eliminate whole neighborhoods and replace them with high-rises as in the 2040 Plan without as much as a how-do-you-do and good-bye to the people who live there. The Park Board, under the skillful manipulations of master planner Michael Schroeder, wants to turn Hiawatha Golf Course into a swamp. They refuse to take down the dams that block water from leaving Lake Hiawatha because they think the look of a swamp is much more natural. And the school board adds more and more administrative bureaucrats which means less money for teachers which increases the number of kids in a classroom which means more and more kids are not getting the attention they need.

Read "1984" by George Orwell and "Brave New World" by

Aldous Huxley again. That's the kind of world these liberal elites are creating for us.

Gov. Floyd B. Olson, in his Farmer-Labor convention address at the St. Paul Auditorium, St. Paul, Minnesota (March 27, 1934), said:

"Now I am frank to say that I am not a liberal. I enjoy working on a common basis with liberals for their platforms, but I am not a liberal. I am what I want to be—I am a radical. I am a radical in the sense that I want a definite change in the system. I am not satisfied with tinkering, I am not satisfied with patching, I am not satisfied with hanging a laurel wreath upon burglars and thieves and pirates and calling them code authorities or something else. I am not satisfied with that.

"I want, however, an orderly, a sane, and a constructive change. I don't want any visionary things any more than the hardest Tory or Conservative wants them. But I know the transition can take place and that, of course, it must be gradual. It can't come overnight, but I want to do all I can to set it in motion and keep it going steady, not in jerks, or jumps, or in spurts, but going steadily ahead."

Thank you, again, for writing. I hope you found other articles in our February edition useful and interesting. And please don't hesitate to write again if you find you disagree with another of our published perspectives.

Ed Felien

### Candidates, from page 1

**Ira Jourdain:** Proven track record on the MPS school board with results for student success, such as providing media center specialists in every Minneapolis public school site to address literacy, housing partnerships to keep MPS families in their

home, and environmental work like moving from commercial pesticides to organic best practices, to name a few examples.

2. What legislation would you introduce on your first day as a legislator?

**Bill Emory:** 1. Providing full



Bill Emory

state operating funds for qualifying emergency shelters.

2. Allocating funds to shut down, clean up, and repurpose the Smith Foundry site.

3. Securing financial and technical assistance funds for small businesses impacted by civil unrest.

4. Raise the minimum wage for state workers and contractors to \$20 an hour.

**Londel French:** I've called South Minneapolis home for over two decades. I know our community and our needs. I know Minneapolis Public Schools need a champion at the Legislature. I know that encampment evictions are failing all our neighbors, unsheltered and sheltered alike – and that our Legislature should be stepping up to mandate a "Housing First" approach. I know our kids shouldn't be growing up blocks away from corporate polluters.

**Ira Jourdain:** Minnesota Anti-Garnishment Bank Account



Londel French

Bill. Would allow Minnesota to join a handful of states that do not allow bank garnishments except for exemptions such as back taxes, student loans, unpaid child support, etc. Bank garnishments leave people to the predatory practices of check cashing establishments, etc., while needing to pay rent, groceries, and other bills.

3. What has been your most significant accomplishment?

**Bill Emory:** While I'm proud of my work helping to win elections for bold progressive leaders like Ilhan Omar, Irene Fernando and Mary Moriarty, I am most proud of my work on Hennepin county's 2019 Supportive Housing Strategy, allocating \$100 million over 10 years to create 1,200 units of deeply affordable, service-rich housing.

**Londel French:** When I served on the Park Board, I eliminated fees on programs and activities because no kid should be turned



Ira Jourdain

away from our parks because they can't pay. As an educator, I worked to make sure every student and family felt welcome and had a place in our schools, so they were ready to learn.

**Ira Jourdain:** Besides being a dad incorporating my seven Ojibwe Grandfather Teachings of Humility, Bravery, Honesty, Wisdom, Truth, Respect and Love as a member of the Red Lake Band of Anishinaabe (Ojibwe) not only in my personal/professional life but to my public service on the Minneapolis school board in shaping long-lasting, positive change for all students, their families and staff.

DFL endorsement at either the 62nd District convention on April 14 or in the Democratic primary (if there is no endorsement) is tantamount to election since 90% of the voters in 62B vote DFL.



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## Cleaning up our lakes and ponds

BY KATHRYN KELLY

The winter, the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) planned to dredge the Nokomis ponds. These ponds are called constructed wetlands and sequester sand and debris. The vegetation growth also takes up phosphorus before the water travels into Lake Nokomis. These constructed wetlands need periodic maintenance which includes removing invasive species, removing and replacing vegetation that takes up phosphorus, and dredging accumulations of sediment to restore capacity.

Five years ago I asked MCWD personnel why the wetlands on the southwest corner of Lake Nokomis, which appeared to be expanding, had not been dredged. I was told that, due to high precipitation, the area was too wet for their equipment. So

the maintenance was postponed. Since then, the MCWD has given the vegetation a haircut, which removes some phosphorus buildup. But now the dredging has been postponed again because the ground was not frozen enough for the equipment.

Like the Lake Nokomis ponds, we have two more bodies of water that are also in need of attention. They are Minnehaha Creek and Lake Hiawatha.

In 2022, due to the drought, I had an opportunity to inspect Minnehaha Creek where it runs through Hiawatha Golf Course. The creek bed was totally dry and it was full of sand. I dug down at least six inches and could not find the bottom of the creek bed. This showed that, much like the constructed wetlands, the capacity of the creek had become compromised. This reduces the ability of the creek to handle high flows of water. This is also true

of the creek outbound from Lake Hiawatha. Also, the buildup in the outbound creek elevates the level of Lake Hiawatha, reducing the lake's capacity for handling water during high precipitation events.

Then there is the water quality of Lake Hiawatha. It has effectively become a constructed wetland. It accepts sand, debris and pollution from Minnehaha Creek and outfalls which collect in the lakebed. But there is no maintenance, as is evidenced by the two islands of debris in the lake, one at the inlet and one at the 43rd Street pipe outfall. Lake Hiawatha used to be dredged periodically to remove this accumulation, thus cleaning the lake and restoring capacity. But this has not been done for many years.

It is time for the MCWD and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to provide the

same maintenance for Minnehaha Creek and Lake Hiawatha that they propose for the Nokomis ponds, which is to clean them and restore capacity.



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