



**We build Pride on the Southside**

FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

**May  
2025**

**VOL. XXXV, ISSUE 5**

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## Cam's Corner



### Follow the money: Landlords spend big in city election

BY CAM GORDON

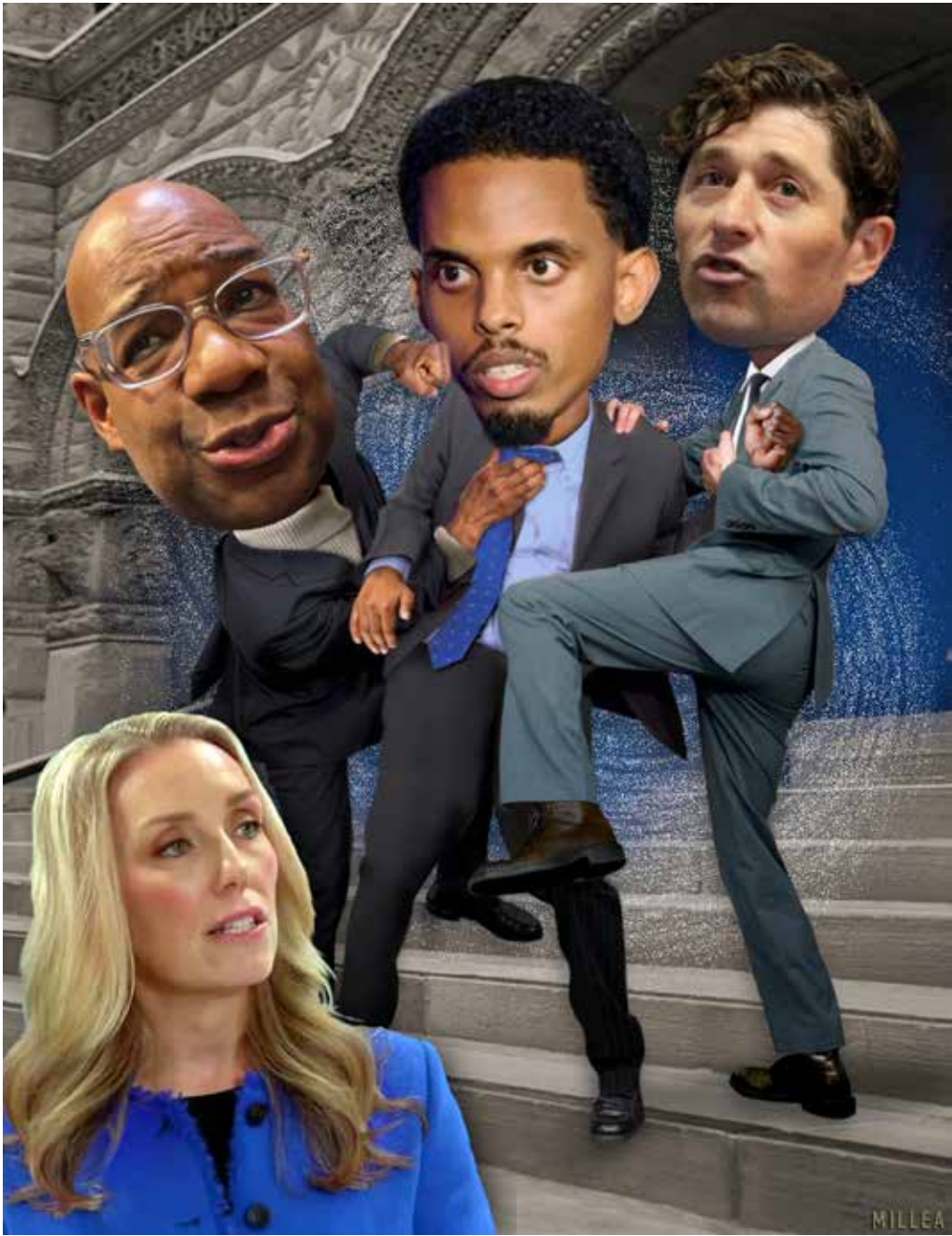
The role of special interest money in Minneapolis is growing. A new — mostly rental property owner-funded — independent expenditure political committee (IEPC) is here.

They call themselves We Love Minneapolis (WLM) and, according to their first campaign finance report, they raised \$132,890 and spent \$115,833 in the first 3 months of 2025. They spent \$54,833 of it on behalf of specific city council candidates.

WLM now joins Minneapolis for the Many and All of Minneapolis as the third local IECP campaigning for or against specific candidates in the city elections.

So far this year, of the three groups, WLM has raised and spent the most money, with All of Mpls close behind. In the first quarter of 2025, All of Mpls reported taking in \$72,633 and spending \$89,391. Minneapolis for the Many did not file a first quarter report, which is not required if they did not spend or become obliged to spend more than \$200 to influence local elections between January 1 and

See Cam, page 23



## The race for Mayor

BY ED FELIEN

The race for DFL endorsement for Mayor of Minneapolis is tightening, but so far, the leading candidate among City Convention delegates is Uncommitted.

The big news in the contest is that Council Member Emily Koski dropped out. We thought she could get as many delegates as Frey. It turned out she didn't quite make that mark,

but she did get enough delegates to still have voice in who wins the endorsement on July 19.

A lot will depend on how they write the rules for the Convention. Normally, there's a dropout after the first ballot for candidates who get less than 5 percent. That would probably mean that Jazz Hampton and Brenda Short would be eliminated. If the rules say the next drop off would be

10 percent, then DeWayne Davis might survive another round, but if the rules say the next lowest candidate would be eliminated, then Davis would probably be eliminated.

Probably the largest block of Uncommitted is the Uncommitted ABF (Anyone But Frey).

It will take 60 percent to endorse, so if Frey can get 41 percent of the delegates to vote for him, he

See Mayor, page 27

## Ahmed's Rants: The Village Idiot and the President

BY AHMED THARWAT

"Don't travel to Egypt now; always have your passport with you. We don't know what Trump will do!"

I hear this advice every day.

The morning news is a constant stream of Trump's latest missteps — his administration's reckless policies, impulsive decisions, and juvenile political maneuvers. One day, it's the deportation of student protestors speaking out against genocide in Gaza. The next, it's tariffs imposed at random. He wants to rename the Gulf of Mexico, seize control of the Panama Canal, occupy Greenland, and — just for good measure — he accidentally shares our military strategy for attacking Yemen. And then, of course, the inevitable question comes: "What do you think of Trump?" I am interrogated by friends and foes alike, their look at the coffee shops, with sympathy and suspicion. My friends want to make sure I'm grateful. My foes want to make sure I'm still loyal. Well, before I tell you what I think of Trump, let me tell you a story about Rafat, the village idiot.

I was born in a small village in the heart of the delta, a place with one street, one mosque, one school, one river, one mayor — and one idiot. His name was Rafat, and because of him no mother in the village has dared name her child Rafat.

Rafat was a stranger, an outsider, he was gender-neutral and non-threatening in the modern lexicon, a trans, someone who somehow belonged to everyone and anyone. He had no known family, no place to live, yet he was as much a part of the village as the call to prayer or the animal's morning walk to the farm. He was protected by his own idiocy, by his brutal honesty, and in a way Rafat's enigmatic life, reflected everyone's hidden self or secret.



Rafat showed up at weddings, funerals and any social public celebrations. He was given space, welcomed in the kitchen where the mothers of the village were preparing meals. He was fed. And during local elections, he was a spectacle. Children tormented him, chasing him through the dusty roads. Adults tolerated him, dismissing his outbursts when he ranted about the village's tangled web of corruption and secrets. Because in a village like ours, everyone had a story, and every story had a secret. Rafat was useful. He spilled the village's hidden truths in broad day-

See Idiot, page 7

**No Place  
Like Home**  
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**Celebrate Spring**  
38th Street  
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# Fine Dining at the Walker Art Center

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

## Openings, closings, and changes

The newest tenants at Eat Street Crossing are Hikari Hand Roll Bar (opened January) and El Sazon Tacos & More (opened March.) I have tried Hikari Hand Roll, and it's good. I have not yet tried FRGMNT coffee and they are now up to five shops, with the newest opening in the Minneapolis skyway. Hippo Pockets is expected to open soon in the tiny space vacated by Herbie Butcher Fried (vegan) Chicken on 48th Street just west of Chicago Avenue.



Maki rolled sushi from Hikari Hand Roll Bar

Hey Y'all Tipsy Taco Bar (2501 Marshall Street NE, the former Betty Danger space) will be open by the time you read this. It promises Tex-Mex food and "playful and irreverent cocktails," as well as keeping the mini-golf and the Ferris wheel.

Iron Door Pub at Lake and Lyndale closed after nearly ten years. Also at Lyn-Lake (well, 2901 Lyndale) for ten years, Lago Tacos will close at the end of May. Kim Bartmann's Uptown Italian restaurant Pinoli closed in April.

I am hearing a ton of exciting "coming soon" news, but I am

going to stop reporting those, because sometimes they just drag on and on and sometimes never happen. Maybe we'll have a really huge list of openings around July or so.

## Food-related news

I heard about yet another food waste prevention concept, company, and app — this one focused on restaurant food rather than grocery supply chain waste. It's called Too Good To Go and I don't really know how widely used it is. The website says "Too Good To Go is growing fast across the USA, with more partners and users joining the community every day. [Big list of cities which includes Minneapolis but not St. Paul?] And while you read this, we may have expanded into more U.S. cities already." (toogoodtogo.com/en-us/about-us/in-my-area.) It's also in Europe and Australia. Do any of my readers know more about this? Email me at: deborاما@gmail.com.

MinnPost.com had an April 1 (but quite serious) piece about how USDA funding cuts are harming food banks and causing rising hunger. Bringmethenews.com had an April 5 piece comparing grocery prices between 2024 and 2025.

Also in Bringmethenews.com, an April 15 piece by Dustin Nelson covered the 2025 MN Brewers Cup awards, and some of my local favorites really cleaned up! Northbound Smokehouse Brewpub, right in my backyard, won 2nd place for Wild Brunette, 2nd place for Doppelbock, 1st place for Bridge Hanger, and 1st place for Midnight Elf. Venn Brewing won 3rd place for Choconut, and Arbeiter won 2nd place for HaHa Pils, and an overall award: Most Innovative Brewery.

Myriel, in St. Paul, made number nine in Food and Wine magazine's Best Restaurants in the U.S. list, according to Biz Jour-

nal and other sources. And MSP Biz Journal also announced that Taste of Minnesota will be back this year in downtown Minneapolis on July 5 and 6. Here is a non-paywall link - archive.ph/SThrD.

## Food-related opinions

I said last month, I love the author of the local foodie Substack beyondbeurreblanc, and she really delivered after I wrote this March 28 piece about why she's boycotting certain restaurants and her theory of good restaurant management: beyondbeurreblanc.substack.com/p/twin-cities-chefs-are-sending-a-clear. Headline: "Twin Cities chefs are sending a clear message: unionize and we'll close the restaurant Or: this is textbook union busting."

Jay Boller of Racketmn.com is a Jucy Lucy expert and on April 22, in Racket, he taste-tested a new Jucy Lucy product — frozen



A dish from Myriel, ninth best restaurant in the U.S.

Lucies available in the Target grocery. And he said they are BAD. Many Minnesotans, who are boycotting Target, breathed a sigh of relief.

## Excellent food writing I just have to share

In Taste magazine, Sean Sherman and Mecca Bos explore The Frybread Question. tastecook-



Cardamom Eggplant Schnitzel and more

ing.com/the-frybread-question.

## Mini-review:

On a Friday in late April, I was treated to lunch at Cardamom, the Daniel del Prado spot

We shared a bottle of Slovenian Sauvignon Blanc, which was a very good pairing with our dishes. We started with the amazing Mezze platter. We got three pillowy pita breads warm from the oven, and a round wooden serving platter with a bowl of hummus in the center, and eight smaller bowls of dips, olives, relishes, and tabbouleh surrounding it. The dips included a red zhoug, labneh with some kind of purplish powder adorning it, and braised chickpeas.

Ed had the lamb burger, and pronounced it delicious, and took home leftovers. Sam had a flower shaped house-made toasted bagel with smoked salmon and fixings that looked amazing, and I had eggplant schnitzel, which was perfectly executed and came with a coating of an intense red sauce and a gremolata-like topping with lots of Italian parsley. We all loved the food, and talked politics and were the loudest table in the place.

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# Spring on East 38th Street

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

### Coffee Shops along East 38th Street — quality and quirk

There are no bad coffee shops on East 38th Street! At 3745 Nicollet Ave. S. there is Five Watt Coffee, one location of a familiar

local artisan roastery. Five Watt is known for its unique menu of espresso (or sometimes tea) drinks “inspired by craft cocktails.” The location special here is The Kingfield, a latte with vanilla, Five Watt Coriander Bitters, and black Hawaiian sea salt.

The next coffee shop is also an

outlet for a local roaster, Bichota Coffee. This coffee shop is located in the heart of George Floyd Square at 3740 Chicago Ave. S. They are open seven days a week from 8 a.m., closing at 4 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, 7 p.m. Thursday, and 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday.

Duck Duck and Key West have been covered a lot in the past three years, but let’s not forget Sisters Sludge, at 3746 23rd Ave. S. Sisters Sludge is more than a coffee place; it’s also a wine bar, with panini and small plates. And it’s open until 10 p.m., a welcome anomaly in this town of early risers and strivers. (It still opens early — 6 a.m. weekdays, 7 a.m. weekends.) They have lots of good food choices too, including the Grown-up Grilled Cheese sandwich to pair with your wine.

Fireroast Coffee at 3800 37th Ave. S. used to be open for din-

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Sisters’ Sludge Owners, Triplets Katie, Maggie and Judy

ner and occasionally live music. Nowadays it’s open 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily and serves typical coffee shop fare, including their famous breakfast burritos, quesadillas, and burrito bowls.

### Dining options along East 38th Street — from dive bars to elevated ethnic dishes

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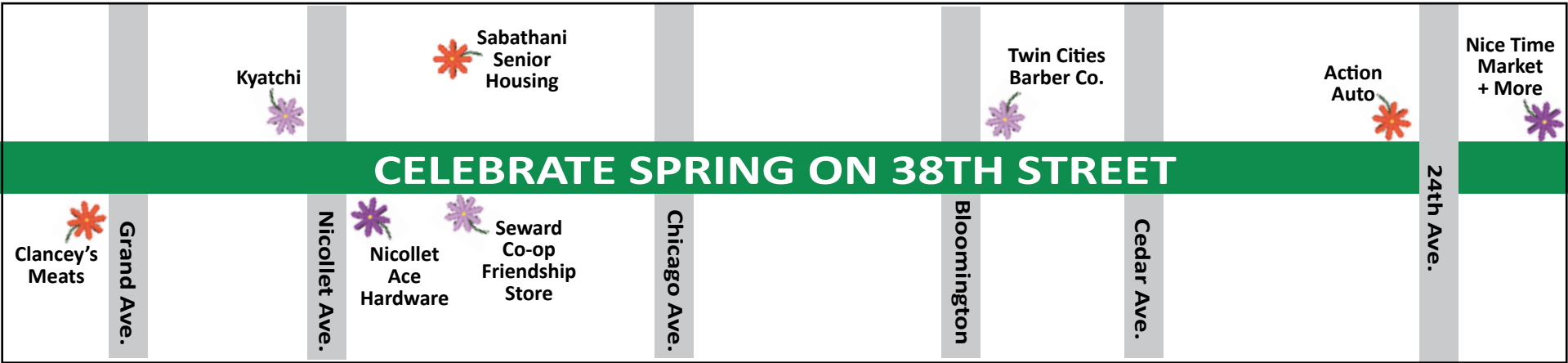
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tween, some traditional South Minneapolis cheap eats (as much as anything is cheap these days.) Lynette is a lovely newish space



Abang Yoli food options

at the NE corner of 38th Street and 42nd Avenue which is proving very popular. Lynette has three food menus – Brunch, Happy Hour, and Dinner, and a great wine list. (At my one visit so far, I got quite full on the Duck Fat Fries and Roast Broccoli, two items from the Happy Hour menu.)

Kyatchi, located at 3758 Nicollet Ave., offers a delightful fusion of Japanese and new American flavors. They are devoted to delivering sustainable sushi, with the goal of preserving the health of our oceans and landscapes. In addition to their delicious Japanese menu options, they also boast an award-winning hot dog!



Dr. Ahmad, director of Blue Crescent

Enjoy your meal in their lovely restaurant, and consider using their catering services for your next special event.

The Cardinal Bar, located right next door to the 38th Street Light Rail Station, is one of Minneapolis's iconic dive bars, but they also have quite good food from breakfast to dinner at very low prices. Especially if you're a senior. See my review from last month's Dish: southsidepride.com/2025/04/01/openings-closings-food-industry-news-and-a-mini-review.

East 38th Street is also home to two of the best barbecue restaurants in town. One is close by the Cardinal – Ted's 19th Hole BBQ at 2814 East 38th. This is take-out only and there is often a line of patiently waiting BBQ lovers

there. So is the other one in the winter, but they have patio seating when the weather permits. This is Smoke in the Pit at George Floyd Square. They have the usual ribs, brisket, pulled pork, or chicken wings, but also some alternatives common to the Southern Soul lexicon like catfish, smoked burgers, collard greens, and a fried spaghetti side dish.

Just off 38th street, at 3804 Grand Ave., is Clancey's Meat and Fish, a specialty butcher shop that is so much more. Besides offering all the meat options you would expect from your local butcher, they also have market basics, such as dairy, eggs, pantry goods, seasonal farm vegeta-

p.m.)

Retail shops along East 38th Street – an array of practical and original

Seward Co-op Friendship Store! Nice Time Market! Tare Market! I'm running out of space so I just want to shout out these great alternative ways to buy groceries, all endorsed by The Dish. Here is a nice skeet about Nice Time Market: tinyurl.com/DKRatSSP-Skeet-jason.

Tropes and Trifles is a bookstore along East 38th Street, and is styled as a Romance bookstore. That genre is quite widely interpreted, it includes fantasies with



Tropes & Trifles owners Caitlin O'Neil (left) and Lauren Richards

bles, really more than I have the space to mention. In addition to their market, they offer fresh sandwiches for lunch Tuesday through Sunday, until the bread runs out (usually around 1:30

an erotic twist, or cozy mysteries, and more. Tropes and Trifles celebrated one year on April 14, and is located at 2709 East 38th St.

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Product displays at Tare Market

A couple more interesting things...

Blue Crescent Urgent Care, 3809 42nd Ave. S., is a service friendly to the Muslim Community, but it's open to all. I am culturally Christian and I have used their service twice this year and was very compassionately cared for. We have a shortage of urgent care in South Minneapolis and I am very glad they are here.

Community Hops is a social gathering around a community hops garden at 3116 East 38th St. It meets every Wednesday – from May to September – at 6 p.m. to make connections, tend the garden, and share homebrews and craft beers. Fill out the interest form to join: docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfkc-fb3jUkqlxMmA59D7QUG6uB-PwicKrgQRNVWht5A\_KPpEA/viewform

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## Impeach Trump NOW!

by Ed Felien

In an interview with ABC Trump, admitted he could free Abrego Garcia, "I could," but, in defiance of a unanimous decision of the U.S. Supreme Court and the rule of law, he said he wouldn't. Habeas Corpus, the right to a hearing before a court of law, is the basis of our system of justice. It appears in 1215 in the Magna Carta, and was meant as a check on the absolute authority of the king. The right goes back even further, per Wikipedia: "Habeas corpus originally stems from the Assize of Clarendon of 1166, a reissuance of rights during the reign of Henry II of England... this charter declared that: No Freeman shall be taken or imprisoned, or be disseized of his Freehold, or Liberties, or free Customs, or be outlawed, or exiled, or any other wise destroyed; nor will We not pass upon him, nor condemn him, but by lawful judgment of his Peers, or by the Law of the land."

The people must rise up to stop this tyrant.

Impeach Trump NOW!



God, Emperor of Mankind, Trump, a fifty foot puppet carried in the Carnivale di Viareggio in Italy. Video of the Parade is available on YouTube.

## Fraud in Phillips

BY MYRON ORFIELD

A report released by the Institute on Metropolitan Opportunity details how a \$1 billion, "separate but equal," government-funded strategy in the Phillips neighborhood failed.

Over the last few decades, housing developers have convinced the government and philanthropists to provide them with \$1 billion to improve education, public health, and public safety in the Phillips neighborhood in Minneapolis. Phillips includes roughly 7,500 households, and many of its residents are impoverished and unhealthy. Its children have been performing poorly in school and dropping out, and the area has been riddled with high crime rates. In exchange for the \$1 billion, developers have provided 42 percent of all Phillips residents with subsidized apartment units, with the promise that these units would improve health and education and reduce crime in the neighborhood. The advocates of this strategy promised that their strategy would work much better than allowing impoverished Phillips residents the opportunity to live in better neighborhoods.

The public was not aware that new apartments in Phillips would cost one-third more — sometimes twice as much — as they would in suburban areas, such as Dakota County, or that they would rent for more than the existing market rate apartments in Phillips. The developers, who were overwhelmingly white, did not hire disadvantaged residents of Phillips or people of color to build their new homes and get good construction jobs. The public did not know that after it paid for



Single family homes versus apartment buildings

the new apartments, the developers would own them outright and could later sell them and thus get paid twice.

The developers got the \$1 billion, but the conditions in Phillips did not improve. In fact, they got worse. Today, Phillips' residents have the worst public health in the Twin Cities region, among the lowest performing schools (with only around 10 percent of children competent in math and reading), and the highest violent crime rate in the metropolitan area.

Phillips has rates of asthma, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), congestive heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, obesity, risk of stroke, and self-reported fair or poor mental health twice as high as those of Minneapolis as a whole, and up to three times higher than more affluent neighborhoods in Minneapolis. The average person in Phillips lives six and one-half years less than those living in the economically stable Bde Maka Ska-Isles and Southwest Minneapolis neighborhoods.

In the public and charter schools within and near Phillips, fewer than 10 percent of Black and Latino children pass basic competency tests in math and fewer than 15 percent pass in reading. Approximately 40 percent of Black or Latino adults in Phillips are high school dropouts.

Violent crime rates in Phillips are seven times the rate of the Twin Cities as a whole and 10 times the rate of nearby Southwest Minneapolis area neighborhoods, making Phillips arguably the most dangerous place to live in the Twin Cities.

Phillips' education, health, and crime statistics are no better than other Twin Cities

neighborhoods of extreme social disadvantage that did not receive this massive affordable housing investment. Equity in Place's \$1 billion strategy to improve education, health, and crime has utterly and completely failed.

The organization named Equity in Place has dominated Twin Cities' affordable housing policy for over a decade. It has convinced the state, local governments and philanthropists to reject strategies to racially and economically integrate schools and neighborhoods. It has convinced them that the better strategy is to continue concentrating government-supported affordable housing in neighborhoods experiencing the highest levels of social disadvantage. Equity in Place has persuaded government officials and philanthropists that this is a better method to reduce racial, social, and geographic disparities in children's education and health, and a better approach towards reducing neighborhood crime.

Equity in Place maintains that low-income, non-white residents prefer segregation and do not want to leave neighborhoods with high crime rates and failing schools. Yet decades of surveys and scholarships show just the opposite. Suburban affordable housing units occupied by Black and Latino families have the longest waiting lists. Moreover, overwhelming social science evidence strongly suggests that funding the less expensive suburban projects could have dramatically improved the educational opportunities, and the health and economic well-being of thousands of residents in the Twin Cities.

Ironically, there is high demand in the suburbs to build affordable housing that is much less expensive per unit and has lower rents. Over the 12 years, the state housing finance agency — which has been captured by Equity in Place ideology — has turned down 236 requests to use government funds to build housing in white suburbs, while contributing more than \$318 million dollars to finance the projects discussed in this paper in the Phillips neighborhood.

Editor: A link to the full report is available on our website.



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## 11th Ward race: Convention or Coronation?

BY ED FELIEN

The 11th Ward Convention will be May 31 at Washburn High School, but it's beginning to look more like a Coronation of the Homecoming King than a normally raucous DFL Convention. Jamison Whiting played cornerback for the Washburn Millers before he graduated in 2013. He currently coaches boy's football at Washburn when he's not a police reform attorney for the City of Minneapolis. According to informal delegate counts, he's miles ahead of his only contender for the DFL endorsement, Mariam DeMello.

We asked the candidates the following questions. DeMello did not respond.

Q: Does the City bear responsibility for dumping sand in Lake Hiawatha, reducing the depth from 33 feet to a sandbar in many spots?

A: "Our city lakes are Minneapolis's greatest asset! Like public safety, housing, and education, our lakes and parks are core functions of a well-run city and must be prioritized. The

city, alongside other municipal, state, and federal stakeholders (MPRB, FEMA, Minnesota DNR, and Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, etc.), shares responsibility for addressing the environmental challenges at Lake Hiawatha, including sand dumping. Our campaign is committed to delivering world-class municipal services for Ward 11 residents and all Minneapolitans, and that encompasses sustainable solutions to protect the long-term health of Lake Hiawatha, the golf course, and the surrounding community."

Q: Funding for neighborhood organizations has been severely cut, while funding for planners and downtown bureaucrats has continued to increase. What would you do about it?

A: "Neighborhood organizations are essential, hyper-local groups that deliver deep community impact. I first experienced this as a 4th grader when my mom received a home improvement grant through NENA (yes, you were right, Mom — I grew up to appreciate those meetings!). As a Minneapolis city attorney, I've worked

alongside the Neighborhood & Community Relations Department as they support the work of our neighborhood associations. While programs like NRP have sunset, they proved what works: empowering neighbors helps more neighbors. Despite budget challenges, we must fully fund, support, and collaborate with neighborhood organizations as trusted partners in building thriving and vibrant neighborhoods."

After we had begun production of our May edition, Mariam DeMello contacted me. I asked her about the questionnaire. She said, "I recall filling it out and sending it to one of the college kids working on my campaign to send to you." We met for coffee at Sift. I asked her how her campaign was going. She said Jamison got a head start on her, but she thinks she might have enough votes to



Jamison Whiting



Mariam DeMello

block the endorsement. She thinks Jamison is "a very nice man." She describes him as more progressive. She thinks of herself as more moderate. At a neighborhood meeting for the candidates, she described his position on what the city should do with the former gas station at 38th and Chicago as supporting some kind of public service

and cultural building, while she supports building affordable housing there.

The 11th Ward DFL Endorsing Convention will be Saturday, May 31 at Washburn High School, 201 W. 49th St. Registration opens at 11 a.m. Call to order is 12 p.m.

Idiot, from page 1

light, saying out loud what everyone whispered behind closed doors. But he survived because he was indiscriminate and morally neutral. He exposed everyone without malice or favor, and that made him safe. The day after, everyone talked about Rafat. He was the talk of the town.

Now you have an idea about how Trump, our American village idiot, is running the country. I would not be the first to call him an idiot. Australia's U.S. Ambassador and former prime minister Kevin Rudd called Donald Trump a "village idiot" and "incoherent." The Lincoln Project produced a video warning Americans not to

vote for an idiot. Standup comedians find lots of material every evening. Jeffery Goldberg, the editor-in-chief of the Atlantic said, "The Trump Administration Accidentally Texted Me Its War Plans" ... "U.S. national-security leaders included me in a group chat about upcoming military strikes in Yemen. I didn't think it could be real. Then the bombs started falling." He added; that everybody is freaking out as if WWII is about to begin.

This wasn't a war plan, the White House explained, and the enemy was the Houthis, not the Chinese.

But why the pretense? Don't we all want transplants?

Wouldn't we all would like to know that our military industrial complex is run by incompetent village idiots?

The big difference between our village and the U.S. is that we never trusted Rafat with the nuclear codes.

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# Signalgate and signs of moral stupidity

BY CLINT COMBS

Diversity hires have been criticized for harming intelligence agencies, with the White House arguing that such initiatives have weakened national security. Pete Hegseth, a former Fox News host, now leads the Pentagon's campaign against Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives. His rise reflects a



Pete Hegseth

broader reshaping of national security leadership along partisan lines. One of the administration's "five-star recruits," Congressman Mike Walz, demonstrated his qualifications by mistakenly adding The Atlantic's editor Jeffrey Goldberg's number to an encrypted Signal group chat, thinking it belonged

to Trump spokesperson Brian Hughes. The result? A momentary national security blunder that highlighted how cavalier some in power are with classified information.

This carelessness contrasts sharply with the treatment of whistleblowers. Terry Albury, a Black former FBI analyst, saw systemic racism firsthand in 2012. Assigned to the Minneapolis Joint Terrorism Task Force, Albury overheard a secretary discussing the city's Somali population at Riverside Plaza, known as "the Somali towers." She said, "I think we should blow up the Somali towers," adding, "These people are dirty, smelly, disgusting, worthless pieces of shit."

Albury confronted her, but his efforts to expose this prejudice came at great personal risk. Using an encrypted email, he contacted a journalist, and the documents he shared became public as "The FBI's Secret Rules", revealing how the Bureau handles informants, surveillance, and profiling. Ironically, before his prosecution, former FBI Director James Comey had honored Albury for uncovering sleeper cells linked to Al-Nusra.

Similarly, Daniel Hale, a former Air Force airman turned contractor at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, exposed a 166-page document detailing how the government places individuals on the terrorist watch list. A federal judge later ruled the system unconstitutional. Hale was prosecuted under the Espionage Act for revealing this information.

Jaylani Hussein, Executive Director of CAIR-Minnesota, explained that systemic bias persists, referencing the Minneapolis Police Department's forced reform through a DOJ consent decree, while Somali communities remain targets despite formal oversight elsewhere.

Despite public blunders, figures like Hegseth, Walz, Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard — who pledged to go after whistleblowers — and CIA Director John Ratcliffe — who supports an aggressive cyber posture — are unlikely to face consequences. Their missteps, intentional or not, seem protected by political alignment.

This is a stark contrast to the treatment of whistleblowers like Albury and Hale, who exposed government overreach and abuse. Both were prosecuted under the Espionage Act — a 100-year-old law now being wielded as a political weapon.

Jeffrey Sterling, a former CIA officer, faced racial discrimination during his career, including being told he was "too big and too Black" to represent the agency abroad. He filed a racial discrimination lawsuit against the CIA, which was moved from New York to the Eastern District of Virginia, near the CIA's headquarters. Despite no direct evidence of leaking classified information, Sterling was prosecuted under the Espionage Act. His trial highlighted racial disparities, with most CIA officers testifying as white.

Sterling also criticized the reckless decision-making in U.S. military actions, particularly the unauthorized bombing of Yemen by the Trump administration. He described it as a show of power, not strategy, and criticized intelligence officials for reportedly using a "free app for classified discussion." He questioned whether a reporter's presence in the Signal group was intentional, asking, "Was that on purpose? Were they wanting to use him as a plant?"

Trump's unauthorized strike on Yemen, carried out without congressional approval, was about flexing power. In this



Daniel Hale

administration, underqualified white men can fail upward in national security, while people of color who speak out are silenced, surveilled, or prosecuted.

Daniel Hale exposed the civilian toll and lack of transparency in the U.S. drone program, sparking public debate without endangering anyone. In contrast, Pete Hegseth carelessly mishandled sensitive communication by allowing a journalist into a secure Signal chat, risking the exposure of real-time national security discussions. Hale acted out of moral conviction; Hegseth acted out of incompetence.

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# Who is the alien? Who is the enemy?

BY CLINT COMBS

“I will invoke the Alien Enemies Act of 1798 to target and dismantle every migrant criminal network operating on American soil,” President Donald Trump said at his campaign rally last fall. The Alien Enemies Act, a zombie law that dates back to the late 18th century and was last used during World War II.

Trump escalated his rhetoric by labeling Tren de Aragua as a “terrorist” organization, claiming the group’s alleged ties to Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro’s regime. The White House, in its justification, argued that Maduro’s government had enabled the gang’s illegal activities. A White House statement asserted that the regime “coordinates with and relies on TdA and other organizations to carry out its objective of using illegal narcotics as a weapon to ‘flood’ the United States.”

However, the president’s assertion was quickly challenged. The New York Times, through investigative reporting by Charlie Savage and Julian E. Barnes, uncovered that Trump’s claims were not supported by the available intelligence. The NYT reported that U.S. intelligence agencies found no evidence that Tren de Aragua was acting at the direction of the Venezuelan government. In fact, officials concluded there were incidents in which Venezuelan security forces exchanged gunfire with gang members. One official, summarizing the findings, noted “The gang was not acting at the direction of the Maduro administration, and the two are instead hostile to each other.” Moreover, the gang was described as lacking the resources and centralized command needed to function as a tool for the government. The intelligence community found that although some Venezuelan officials were allegedly corrupt and had ties to gang members, this was not sufficient to classify the gang as an extension of the government.

These revelations prompted the Department of Justice (DOJ) to launch an investigation into the leaks of classified information surrounding Tren de Aragua. The DOJ, defending the president’s stance, argued that the Alien Enemies Proclamation was rooted in facts and legal precedent. They vowed to pursue legal action against anyone attempting to undermine the president’s efforts to expel what they deemed “terrorists” from the country.

The situation harkened back to a troubling chapter in U.S. history when the Alien Enemies Act was used to detain and deport Japanese, German, and Italian Americans during World War II. The law, passed in 1798, allowed for the detention of foreign nationals from nations at war with the U.S., without due

process or oversight. Despite its history of abuse, the law remained on the books, largely dormant, for over 200 years.

This relic law resurfaced in the modern context of national security concerns. But as activists and descendants of those detained during WWII pointed out, its application today could have the same damaging consequences. Russell Endo, whose grandfather was detained during the war, expressed concerns about the broad power the Alien Enemies Act grants the president. He pointed out, “The problem with the Alien Enemies Act in World War II, and it still exists today, is that it doesn’t contain any provisions for oversight... so this gives too much power to the President.” His family, like many others, suffered due to the lack of due process. “My grandfather was a fisherman. He lost his fishing boat... he lost his business assets,” Endo recalled. He warned that this law could easily be misused against any group, noting, “It’s not going to just stop with gang members from Venezuela... it’s going to try to figure out how it can use the law against other people who are here, who are not citizens.”

Lauren Ebel, whose father fled Nazi Germany to avoid being drafted into the Hitler Youth, found herself reflecting on the historical parallels when her family’s past was revisited. Her father had “a revulsion against the Hitler Youth and didn’t want to be involved with it. He got into a fight and, in 1937, was sent to the U.S. He came to this country for freedom and loved it. But he felt betrayed when they didn’t recognize his patriotism.” Despite his efforts to escape the Nazi regime, Ebel’s father found himself caught in a legal and social system that treated him as a suspect purely based on his nationality. As Ebel explained, “The FBI came into my father’s home in the middle of the night, arrested him at gunpoint, and took him away.” He was sent to various detention centers, including Ellis Island and Fort Meade, Maryland: “There were no hearings, no witnesses, no due process.” This stark violation of his rights was a direct result of his nationality, as he was viewed as a suspect simply because of where he was born. Ebel’s father, who had sought refuge from Nazi persecution, was caught in a system that presumed his guilt because of his German heritage, much like the very regime he had fled.

Conrad Caspari, whose family was also directly impacted by the Alien Enemies Act, described a particularly absurd incident involving his father. He recounted how his father, who had been detained under the Act, was embroiled in a strange and ironic situation. A man in the family was accused of espionage simply because he

played a mouth organ — a small instrument with a reflective tin part. The reflection of the tin was mistakenly interpreted as signaling messages to agents. As Caspari humorously noted, “It’s not really funny, but it is funny.” The charges, which Caspari described as “trumped up,” were ultimately dropped, and the man was acquitted. However, the hysteria surrounding the case did not end there.

The climate of fear and suspicion led the American Legion to label all Germans as potential Nazis, despite the fact that many, like Caspari’s father, had fled Nazi Germany to escape the very regime that was being falsely attributed to them. Caspari explained, “My father was strongly opposed to what was going on there, and he left Germany because of that.” Despite his father’s opposition to the Nazi regime, he was later re-arrested in 1942, along with others of German descent, and sent to a detention camp in Southern California. At the camp, over 2,000 detainees — Germans, Italians, and Japanese — were held without due process. Caspari’s father, a teacher, lost his job and was forced to leave California. As Caspari pointed out, “There was absolutely no due process; they were all assumed to be guilty, really, without having committed any crimes.” Caspari’s father, who had sought refuge in the United States to escape Nazi persecution, found himself being treated as a suspect based solely on his nationality, a situation that mirrored the unjust treatment of those he had tried to escape in Germany.

Katherine Yon Ebright, a legal expert at the Brennan Center, also raised concerns about the current application of the Alien Enemies Act. She pointed out the lack of any “evidentiary threshold” in the law. “If Pam Bondi wanted to look at a Venezuelan and say, ‘I deem her to be a member of Tren de Aragua with absolutely no evidence,’ there is no way to contest that decision,” Ebright argued, emphasizing how the law’s vagueness and lack of due process protections could lead to grave injustices.

This is not just a legal issue; it’s a deeply personal one for many families who were directly affected by the overreach of the Alien Enemies Act during WWII. The law’s original purpose — to protect the U.S. during a time of global conflict — has now become a tool of political power, used to label individuals based on their nationality and potentially target them without due process.

The broader concern, as Ebright noted, is that “bad reporting, credulous reporting” could lead the public to believe that the law is only being used to target gang members. In reality, its invocation could easily extend beyond its original scope, sweeping up innocent individu-

als based on their national origin. As she warned, “It’s all too possible that if there is an invocation of the Alien Enemies Act, it says we’re using this to target those deemed to be members of Tren de Aragua, but it’s not just about gang members.”

As the Trump administration and the DOJ continue to push forward with plans to invoke the Alien Enemies Act, the debate over its application will only intensify. The law, as it stands, represents a chilling reminder of the dangers of unchecked presidential power, one that has the potential to tear apart the lives of innocent people based on little more than their birthplaces. For many, the question remains: will we allow history to repeat itself, or will we reject this outdated, dangerous law once and for all?

Heidi Gurcke Donald shared a similarly harrowing account, which sheds light on the broader impact of these policies on German families, particularly in Latin America. “Well, my father was German, my mother was an American citizen, but we lived in Costa Rica,” Donald explained. “There was, if the Alien Enemies Act was not in play in Latin America, it was a completely different program called War Problems... The special war problems division was surreptitious. It was illegal. It was not passed through Congress.” Donald’s family was caught in this system, and her father, a businessman who had imported goods between Europe and Latin America, was arrested by the FBI, even though the accusations were never fully explained. Donald’s family was subsequently deported to the United States, where they were detained under the Alien Enemies Act.

She added, “My very strong

reaction is, how do you know who these people are unless you give them a day in court?” Like Caspari, Donald’s father was denied due process. “My father did not have a day in court, and for a year and a half... During that time, he lost his business, he lost the country that he loved.” The family was eventually sent to the Crystal City Internment Camp in Texas, where Donald recalls being one of the many families impacted by this sweeping policy. She also described the human toll: “My father had been in prison. So that’s my father, Werner... He learned to be a chain smoker and died of it.” The trauma from this experience would have lasting effects on her family, both physically and emotionally.

Donald also recounted how the women and children of detainees were subjected to harsh conditions, left in limbo without their breadwinners. “The women and children were causing anti-American sentiment by being upset because they no longer had a breadwinner,” she explained. “They were creating enough of a fuss that the United States should take them too, so there’d be nobody behind to create any anti-American sentiment.”

This pattern of arbitrary detention and suspicion led to similar stories across the United States and Latin America, as families were torn apart, livelihoods were destroyed, and the principles of due process were ignored. For many like Heidi Gurcke Donald and Conrad Caspari, the long-lasting emotional and physical scars of these wartime policies are a painful reminder of how fear can lead to unjust treatment of innocent people based solely on their nationality.

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# Celebrate Spring on Minnehaha Ave.

## Spring on Minnehaha Avenue South

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

### Culture and art

Culture abounds on Minnehaha Avenue South! The corner of Lake and Minnehaha is unofficially “Downtown Longfellow”

and it’s one of the few places in the Twin Cities with not one but two bookstores! (Three, if you count the “Uncles” separately.) Moon Palace is a wonderful bookshop, with a general inventory, and concentrations on BI-POC and queer authors and sub-

jects. They have a Queer Book Club, and a Lost in Translation Book Club and many other interesting events. Uncle Hugo’s and Uncle Edgar’s are a SF/Fantasy and Mystery/Crime bookstore respectively that have always occupied a space together. Their original home on Chicago Avenue was burned down in the George Floyd Uprising but they have settled into Longfellow now. As a former collector of books (now downsizing, slowly) I highly recommend them.

Across the road is the Firehouse Performing Arts Center, housing the Hook and Ladder Theater (an eclectic music venue) and Zen Arcade (a “canna-lounge.”) Space does not permit me to tell of all the wonderful events happening there, but I’ll just mention that the Under the Canopy series is happening, and on May 9, it will feature Cornell ’77 Turns 48: A



Tapestry Folkdance



### Threads Dance Project

Grateful Dead Concert Recreation with a tribute band called The Cellar Kings. (This will be meaningful as heck to Grateful Dead fans.) Check [thehookmpls.com/upcoming-events](http://thehookmpls.com/upcoming-events) for more.

There are also four dance studios on, or just off, Minnehaha Avenue! Mactir Academy of Irish Dance, 3715 Minnehaha Ave., teaches only Irish dance at various levels. Tapestry Folkdance Center, 3748 Minnehaha Ave., does teach classes but also, they hold dances, and they

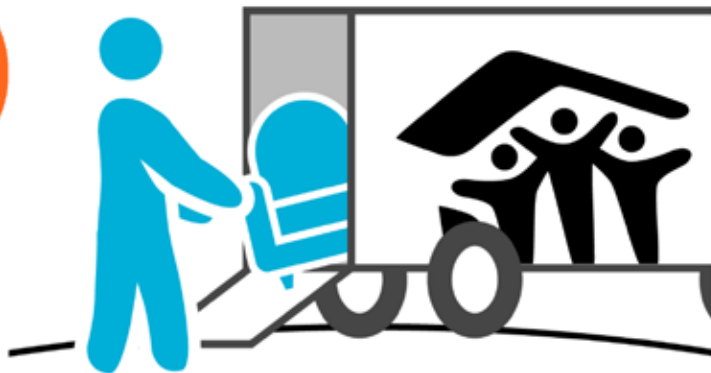
span a large breadth of different types of dancing. A number of my friends and neighbors love the Joyfully Dancing 55+ program, which is an open class every Monday evening. Ballare Teatro, 4529 Minnehaha Ave., is a more classical type of dance studio — teaching ballet, tap, and jazz — to students from preschool to adults. Just off Minnehaha is Threads Dance Project at 2213 Snelling Ave. Threads Dance Project was founded with the mission to examine, expose and celebrate the threads that

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# Celebrate Spring on Minnehaha Ave.

## Minnehaha, from page 11

sell old, reconditioned gloves, which many aficionados and players prefer for their quality. The media loves D&J; they have been featured in both main newspapers, MinnPost, Rack-et, and several local TV shows. And now they can add Southside Pride!

Repair Lair moved from Lake Street to 4153 Minnehaha Ave., in 2024. Repair Lair repairs outdoor clothing and gear, and also sells on consignment, and offers expert help for anyone "gearing up" for an outdoor adventure.

## Fitness and health

Minnehaha Yoga, 4141 Minnehaha Ave., was founded in 2008 by Gillian, who is still a teacher there. They have four main areas of instruction, which I with my small yoga knowledge would classify as ranging from very challenging to slightly challenging. Vinyasa and Ashtanga are the most physical and demanding, with Ashtanga also including breathwork. Spa Yoga and Slow Flow are a bit less demanding. Most, if not all, regular classes are on Zoom.

Solcana Fitness and Arena Fitness are both located

in the Downtown Longfellow Hub. Solcana is a queer, woman-owned gym designed for all bodies, built on the idea of body liberation. It is a safe space for all with no diet or weight-loss culture. Arena also is women-owned and self-identifies as LGBTQ+-friendly, but is more traditional, with membership options, nutrition coaching, and sales of supplements along with workouts and classes.

Awakenings is a new age gift store with a sideline in guidance and healing services. The two owners, Eric and Bert — who are also life partners — offer consultations. Eric's practice is called psychic-medium service and Bert's is called atonement



Dominic and Jimmy, the father and son duo behind D&J Glove Repair

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healing. Awakenings also hosts events; a monthly one is called Coffee with Angels, and is a group medium session for asking visiting angels questions, followed by an angel meditation.

## Food and drink

Selam Restaurant is one of the many Ethiopian restaurants in Longfellow, Seward and the West Bank. Located at 3860 Minnehaha Ave., it has a more extensive menu than many such small Ethiopian places, and is highly rated. They have a coffee selection like many coffee shops, two dessert options, and many meat and/or vegetarian combos. They also offer pickup



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and delivery. Parkway Pizza, 4359 Minnehaha Ave., is a venerable neighborhood institution. I mostly go there for neighborhood events or DFL meet and greets. Their popularity has resulted in three additional branches, in Northeast, St. Louis Park, and Rosville. They have house-made crust, sausage and a secret red



# Celebrate Spring on Minnehaha Ave.



sauce, and I appreciate that they have more vegan, vegetarian and chicken options among their featured pizzas than any other place. They also have a nice beer menu.

Asian Duck, 4010 East 46th St., is kind of new. I am not totally unfamiliar with various Asian cuisines but their Lao-tian menu has things of which

I know nothing. So obviously I need to go there soon and check it out. Racket's Em Cassel reviewed it in January.

Sea Salt, 4825 Minnehaha Ave., is a big favorite for locals, positioned near Minnehaha Falls and open seasonally. So far, I have not found a better Po' Boy. It's open now, and worth standing in line for.

Cafe Ceres, an upscale source of caffeine and pastries and part of the Daniel del Prado group, closed on April 13, citing "economic factors." Those in the know say it was old-fashioned union busting. I will miss it, so I was glad to discover Falls Coffee, 4757 Hiawatha Ave. They serve coffee from Edina Roasters, and food items from La Boulangerie Marguerite.

Minnehaha Scoop, located at 3352 Minnehaha Ave., serves up Chocolate Shoppe Ice Cream and Rosati Italian Ice. They also have fresh popcorn if you're looking for something a little salty. Many online reviews mention not just their delicious treats, but also their exceptionally friendly staff. Minnehaha Scoop is a favorite summer ice cream shop, right on Minnehaha!



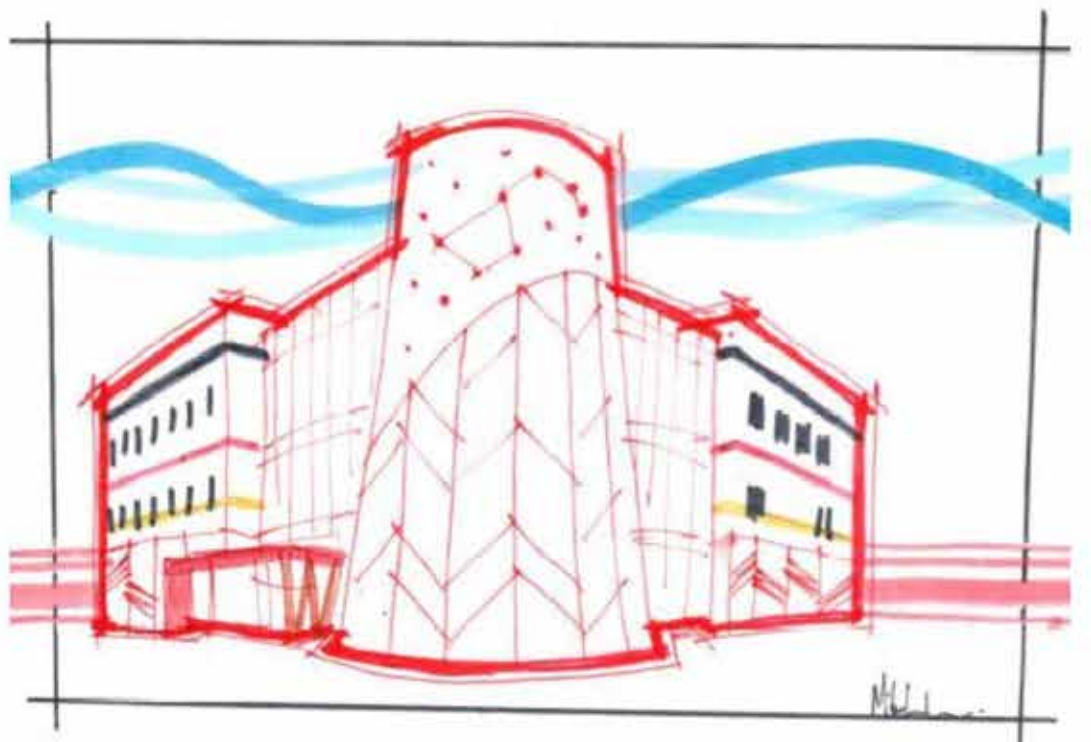
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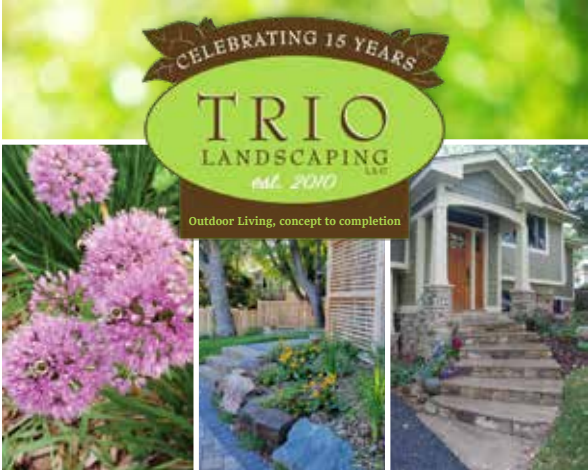




# There's No Place Like Home

## Making home improvements takes planning, but it may cost less than you think

BY STEPHANIE FOX



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As spring has sprung, the focus about what's needed to be done around the home and lawn change from shoveling snow to home and garden renovations. Expensive? Maybe. But there are ways to make improvements without breaking the bank. It's not about being cheap, it's about planning ahead and spending money wisely. Home improvements can increase a home's value and make living there more enjoyable.

Are you planning to do some (or even all) of the work yourself? Know your limits. If you aren't an expert, there are some jobs you can do (maybe with some research), but don't overestimate your abilities. Most homeowners aren't up to working with gas lines, or major electrical wiring revisions, or replacing a hail damaged roof. But there are a number of jobs that even beginners can do. First, think ahead when planning home improvement projects. Many homeowners can do the cos-



Men installing new cabinets

metic changes themselves to save money.

Does your front or back door look shabby? Adding a fresh coat of paint, adding striking trim and new and attractive hardware can add a lot to the look of a home.

Most homeowners and families spend a lot of time in the kitchen. Even if yours needs an update, a

full remodel is usually not necessary. There are smaller changes that can do a lot to improve the room. Adding a new tile backsplash is inexpensive and can brighten up any kitchen. Find a tile that can be cleaned with ease and that goes with kitchen cabinets and appliances.

Kitchen cabinets can also be re-

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surfaced and new knobs and pulls can be added for an updated look.

Any room can get a new look with a fresh coat of paint. Paint stores will have free color strips and if that's not enough, for a very few dollars you can bring home small paint samples to try on your walls.

Installing new lighting is also an inexpensive option for most rooms. Wall, overhead or hanging lamp styles are easy to install (turn off the electricity first) and come in designs from simple to modern to exotic.

New window treatments can also transform a room. Pre-made curtains and blinds are easy fixes for standard sized windows, even for beginners.

Bathrooms might be basic, but even adding new fixtures such as fancy faucets can make the room more attractive. Replace old and boring mirrors. You can choose wood-framed, steel-framed or frameless. If your bathroom is small, mirrors can also make a bathroom look



larger. And don't forget hanging a new, attractive shower curtain.

When shopping for items, don't be afraid to look for bargains. Look for specials at hardware stores and retail outlets, keep your eyes open for mailed coupons and check the Habitat for Humanity Re-Store, a secondhand store for building supplies, tools and other remodel items.

See Home, page 16



Boulevard plantings (photos/Pat Thompson, Friends School Plant Sale)

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Home from page 15

Some remodel changes need to be left to the professionals. If you have struc-

tural changes or need major electrical work and are planning to hire experts to do the work, get estimates from more than one qualified ex-

pert. Find out their prices and their timelines for the jobs you want them to do. Prepare a spreadsheet with their estimates and your budget and then don't be afraid to negotiate with them. Many times, they may be willing to lower their fees.

When re-doing your bathrooms, hire someone to install new sinks and toilets. Choose something with an unusual style, color or with a retro look. But bargain for a discounted installation to save more money.

If you are shopping for new



Scratch and dent appliances at Lowes



An upgraded kitchen backsplash

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Front door, before and after painting (photo: Ursula Carmona/homemadebycarmona.com)

appliances, the best time to buy and save some money is in the fall and early winter when appliance manufacturers are introducing their new models. But, if you don't want to wait until fall, there are other ways to save. Many places will offer discounts if you buy more than one item. Look for coupons and special sales and don't pass up a floor model or 'scratch and dent' models.

Never be afraid to ask if any discounts are available and if it's not automatically offered, ask for free delivery, installation and haul away. Instead of buying a less reliable but cheap product, consider a mid-range appliance from a top-of-the-line brand. Consumer Reports reported that 64 percent of the people who negotiated about prices at independent and local appliance retailers, did so successfully.

Adding flowers and bushes outside the home, by windows and the front door, is another way to add attractiveness and value.

In March, the Minneapolis city council changed the ordinance regarding planting in boulevard strips — the green strip lying between the sidewalk and the street. This piece of land is owned by the city but is the responsibility of the homeowner. The new rules give homeowners many new options.

It was once illegal to plant anything but grass in this area and the joke was that since doing so was popular with homeowners anyway, it turned the usually law-abid-

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# There's No Place Like Home

ing citizens into lawbreakers. That law changed decades ago but now the rules have changed again. The idea for the new rules is to allow more than flowers and instead adding edible and other plants. Boulevard plantings have a

maximum height of 36 inches. However, within 40 feet of a road intersection or 10 feet of an alley, plantings must not exceed 18 inches above the height of the curb to ensure visibility for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists.

### What to plant?

Hostas are beautiful, annual flowering plants that form a circular mound and come in a number of leaf patterns, sizes, and colors from bright green to silvery blue. Day lilies also bloom with very little care needed. Daffodils, hyacinths, irises, crocuses, snowdrops, and tulips also do well. Other plants to consider are columbine, asters, yarrow, wild petunias, creeping stonecrop, butterfly weed, and white lesser catmint (Calamintha). And you can plant various greens and other vegetables such as squash as long as they stay below the legal height limit.

Be aware that the ordinance also forbids tilling or digging using mechanized equipment, so be prepared to use your



Add new window treatments to spruce up any room

back, arms and hand tools to get the soil ready for planting.

These projects — both inside and outside — sound like a lot of work because they are. But the results are rewarding,

making a house into a home that is cozy and comfortable. If you plan ahead and watch your budget, you'll be rewarded for years to come.



A new bathroom vanity upgrade adds class



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*'I have hired 3 Bears Landscaping the past 2 summers and just signed up for this coming season. The crew does a great job and pays attention to detail. They are friendly and really care about doing a quality job! If you need help with your yard and gardens, call 3 Bears. You will not be disappointed.'*

*'Great communication, service and attention to detail. Worked with them on several projects with great success.'*

*'Brandon and crew have done a great job with my home's landscaping projects (clean up, mulching, etc). They offer great work, communication and team members. I highly recommend Three Bears!'*

*'3 Bears Landscaping responded quickly to my call. The garden work was scheduled and workers arrived on time. They made quick work of my project and left me with great ideas of what and how to plant my garden next spring-to get the look I was wanting in my flower bed.'*



• COMMUNITY CALENDAR •

Southside Pride / NEIGHBORHOOD EDITION

EVENTS

**Downtown Longfellow Walking Tour**  
**May 8, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.**  
**2800 E. Lake St., Mpls.**  
Join us for a walking tour of Downtown Longfellow with Bobbie Erichsen. Bobbie has been compiling stories of this area for an archival project and will share some of the history of the area. We will also discuss recent and upcoming changes as well. As part of the walk, we'd love to hear more of your stories of the past and ideas for the future!

**2025 Friends School Plant Sale**  
**May 9, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.,**  
**May 10, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and**  
**May 11, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**  
**Minnesota State Fair Grandstand**  
**1755 Dan Patch Ave., St. Paul**  
Each year on Mother's Day weekend in May, Friends School of Minnesota puts on the biggest fundraising plant sale in Minnesota, perhaps even in the Midwest! This year, over 2,000 varieties of plants are offered for sale.  
We stock perennials, climbing plants, native wildflowers, vegetables, roses, and trees and shrubs. A catalog of our offerings is available for reference, with PDF versions available, in the catalog section of our website. Free parking is available in the Transit Hub parking lot.

**Springtime & Sunshine Festival**  
**May 9 through 11**  
**11 a.m. to 7 p.m.**  
**Anoka County Fairgrounds, Anoka**  
Looking for the perfect way to celebrate Mother's Day weekend? The Springtime & Sunshine

Festival offers a fun, family-friendly experience, with free admission and something for everyone. Shoppers can explore more than 100 craft and boutique vendors featuring handmade goods, home decor, fashion, and gifts that are perfect for moms. Live music and the beer garden make a great hangout for dads, while the kids enjoy the carnival rides, inflatable bounce houses, pony rides, and the interactive Compass Ag Education Building.

**AniMinneapolis 2025**  
**May 9 through 11**  
**1300 Nicollet Mall, Mpls.**  
Welcome back to AniMinneapolis! Including special guest performances, some great vendors and artists, and amazing cosplays. Expect a jam-packed 3-day convention filled with cosplay, exhibits, vendors, artists, anime screenings, panels, dealers, tutorials, lessons, workshops, voice acting, guests, autographs, video gaming, tabletop gaming, karaoke, and so much more. Get your tickets on the website at [animinneapolis.com/register](http://animinneapolis.com/register)

**Minneapolis Sculpture Garden Art Fair**  
**May 10, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.**  
**May 11, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**  
**725 Vineland Place, Mpls.**  
After an amazing inaugural year in 2024, we're back for the second year of the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden Art Fair! Join us Mother's Day weekend for a festive, floral experience, celebrating the mothers and mother-figures in our lives. The event will feature approximately 160 artist booths, along with a botanical market, fresh flowers, music, crafts,

food, and more.  
**Kinetic Playground — Art Exhibit Opening, Ephraim Cruz Eusebio**  
**May 10, 7 to 10 p.m.**  
**Modus Locus Expansion**  
**3338 University Ave. SE, Mpls.**  
30+ Years of Play as Process by Ephraim Cruz Eusebio! Immersed within the enchanting world of Modus Locus Expansion, Kinetic Playground is a journey through three decades of artistic evolution — an excavation of color, rhythm, and emotion drawn from both the streets and the studio. This retrospective showcases works made across time, alongside a new body of work that threads past and present through a common language: fluidity, immediacy, rhythm, and composition.

**Mother's Day Bloom Bar Event: A build your own bouquet experience!**  
**May 11, 2 to 3 p.m.**  
**Richfield Community Center**  
**7000 Nicollet Ave S., Mpls.**  
We will learn how to make a beautiful bouquet with flower farmers from Vang Heritage Farm. You will go home with your own bouquet to keep or gift to someone special! Vang Heritage Farm is located in Lino Lakes and participates in the Richfield Farmers Market. In-season local flowers may include tulips, peonies, baptisia, ranunculus, anemones, lupin, clematis, etc. Local flowers will be supplemented with imported blooms if needed. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Registration is required for this event. \$22 per person. Register online, or call the Richfield Community

Center at 612-861-9385.  
[anc.apm.activecommunities.com](http://anc.apm.activecommunities.com)  
**Longfellow Seward Healthy Seniors: Acrylic Painting with Megan Moore**  
**May 14, 21, and 28, 2 to 3:30 p.m.**  
**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church**  
**2730 East 31st St., Mpls.**  
Explore acrylic painting and get tips and support throughout each class. You will complete a still life painting that will be a unique expression of your own artistic instincts. This class is appropriate for beginner and intermediate painters. Megan Moore is a local artist. You can see some of her work, including local murals, at [megan-moore.com](http://megan-moore.com). Registration is required. Plan on attending all three classes. A \$15 supply and instructor fee is due at the first class. We ask that participants register in advance for events by calling 612-729-5799, or by emailing [juliaockuly@LShealthyseniors.org](mailto:juliaockuly@LShealthyseniors.org).

**Whoa, Nellie! the Outlaw King of the Wild Middle West**  
**May 17 to June 8**  
**History Theatre**  
**30 E. 10th St., St. Paul**  
This rip-roaring musical tale of Nellie King, the "wily and scandalous female cowboy detective" whose countless criminal exploits and penchant for male attire made her an 1800s Minnesota media icon. For tickets call 651-292-4323 or visit [historytheatre.com](http://historytheatre.com).

**Talk Garden: Beautiful Boulevards**  
**May 17, 10 to 11 a.m.**  
**4055 25th Ave. S., Mpls.**  
Learn about strategies and plant selection to make the most of tough spaces with GreenSpace owner and landscape designer Roxanne Stuhr.

A monthly series of morning circle discussions and activities centered on garden education and connection with nature and each other. Talks are FREE but limited to 15 guests per session. Pre-registration is required. All discussions take place outdoors in Minneapolis. If it rains, the event will be cancelled. Full event schedule online: [GreenSpaceMN.com/talk-garden](http://GreenSpaceMN.com/talk-garden).

**Taylor Swift Drag Brunch**  
**May 17, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**  
**Union Rooftop**  
**14 S. 8th St., Mpls.**  
SWIFTIES! Don't miss Taylor Swift Drag Brunch. You'll hear all of your favorite Taylor songs. Sing-Along! Dress up! Get ready for a BLAST of a brunch. Hosted by Sasha Cassadine. No refunds. All guests must purchase an entrée. Parties of three or less will be sat at community tables

**2015: A Play by Danez Smith**  
**May 19, 7 p.m.**  
**Pillsbury House + Theatre**  
**3501 Chicago Ave., Mpls.**  
In a bold exploration of true self, family, and the messy act of storytelling, poet and performer Danez Smith presents 2015, a riveting auto-fictional play that blurs the boundaries between truth and fiction, self and shadow. Set in the aftermath of an unexpected \$50,000 grant and an HIV diagnosis, 2015 follows 'Real Danez' as they return to Minnesota from California. Confronting the weight of survival, homecoming, and the complicated relationship between being seen and hiding in plain sight, 'Real Danez' is accompanied by 'Fake Danez' — an alter ego who challenges, narrates, and often over embellishes the truth. Together,

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**NEIGHBORHOOD EDITION**

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  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55406  
CALL US AT 612-822-4662  
email: [editor@southsidepride.com](mailto:editor@southsidepride.com)

PUBLISHER/EDITOR	Ed Felien
ACCOUNTANT	Bridgit Jordan
ART DIRECTOR/GRAPHIC DESIGNER	Rebecca James
COVER ILLUSTRATOR	Bob Millea
COPY EDITOR	Charissa Behringer
STAFF WRITER	Debra Keefer Ramage
SALES DIRECTOR	David Goldstein
WEBSITE MAINTENANCE	Rebecca James
COMPUTER CONSULTANT	Celia Wirth
MAINTENANCE	Ron Crawford
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• COMMUNITY CALENDAR •

Southside Pride / NEIGHBORHOOD EDITION

they deconstruct memory, performance, and the stories we craft to make sense of who we are.

**Longfellow Seward Healthy Seniors: Nourishing your Sense of Humor May 20, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Holy Trinity Lutheran Church 2730 East 31st St., Mpls.**

Learn how a positive sense of humor can relieve stress and act as a healthy coping response to challenges. Retired Hospital Social Worker, Kevin Corrado, will lead us through creative and playful ways to create more humor in our daily lives We ask that participants register in advance for events by calling 612-729-5799, or by emailing juliaockuly@LShealthyseniors.org.

**Guest Chef to Kick Off New Series May 20 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Soup For You Café 2730 East 31st St., Mpls.**

Soup For You Café (SFY) will be welcoming its first-ever guest chef: Chef Lindsey Johnston, who will prepare a special vegan soup for the community. Johnston is a partner and co-owner of Francis, a popular plant-based burger joint with locations in the Northeast and Longfellow neighborhoods of Minneapolis. This event kicks off a new initiative to feature neighborhood chefs and celebrate the cultural and culinary diversity of the Longfellow community.

**Jeremiah Program Legacy Award and Conversation Fireside Chat May 21, 3 to 4:30 p.m. The Graduate by Hilton 615 Washington Ave. SE, Mpls.**

The Jeremiah Program (JP) recently launched its inaugural Legacy Award, and will recognize and celebrate three finalists — children (ages 13-25) of JP alumni — who are actively building their own legacies and creating ripple effects of positive change in their communities. In addition, JP will mark this milestone by introducing the Executive Directors of our Minneapolis and St. Paul campuses — visionary leaders who will shape the next chapter of impact in the Twin Cities. This hybrid event will be livestreamed across Jeremiah Program’s nine geographic regions — including Minneapolis, St. Paul, Fargo-Moorhead, and Rochester, Minnesota, with another 100-plus in-person attendees at the Graduate by Hilton.

**The Dolly Show with Kelly O’Brien LIVE — From London’s West End May 23, 7 to 9 p.m. Roxy’s Cabaret 1333 Nicollet Mall, Mpls.**

She looks like Dolly, she sounds like Dolly and she’s as funny and witty as Dolly. Unrivaled by her competitors, she is the ‘Fortnum and Mason’ of Tributes! Endorsed by The Parton family. Australian born Kelly is a world-class entertainer with stunning vocal and flawless comic timing. She brilliantly captures the voice, verve and voluptuousness of the little lady from Tennessee. From the 22-inch waist to the 32G bust, she captivates audiences around the world with Dolly’s famous mountain soprano. It’s like Dolly is right there in the room with you. Regarded as the BEST Dolly impersonator in the world. You don’t want to miss this show!

**Remember & Reimagine: Review and Comment on Redevelopment Ideas May 24, 5 to 9 p.m. 2800 E. Lake St., Mpls.**

Join Redesign, Inc. to review multiple concepts for the redevelopment of 2800 East Lake Street!

**5th Annual Reggae Summer Splash May 24, 7 p.m. Hook & Ladder 3010 Minnehaha Ave., Mpls.**

It’s our annual Reggae Summer Splash — Get your summer started and your spirits high with the premier Caribbean bands in the Midwest — International Reggae All-Stars and Innocent. Plus, special guests. Love, positive vibrations, chill people and chill vibes! Innocent and International Reggae All-Stars kick off the festivities Under The Canopy, our outdoor music venue. They’ll be followed by an after-party on our indoor main theater stage.

**Hundreds of Beavers (2022) May 24, 7:30 p.m. The Parkway Theater 4814 Chicago Ave., Mpls.**

Hundreds of Beavers? Yeah, it’s gonna be gnawesome. Don’t miss the madcap, slapstick, gotta-see-it, you-ain’t-seen-nothing-like-it comedy, Hundreds of Beavers! One night only! Catch this cult classic as it was meant to be seen — on the big screen with other Beaver Believers! In this 19th century, supernatural winter epic, a drunken applejack salesman must go from zero to hero and become the greatest fur trapper by defeating hundreds of beavers. Full disclaimer: All animals are played by puppets or mascot costumes, resulting in a bizarre concoction that’s part Funniest Home Videos, part Buster Keaton, part Looney Tunes. It has to be seen to be believed! This contemporary cult classic has played to sold-out crowds across the country.

**WITNESS 𐤂𐤃 — a group art show by Jewish Artists for Palestinian Liberation**

**May 28 through June 1, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Modus Locus**

**3500 Bloomington Ave. S., Mpls.** This art exhibition calls Jews and our communities to bear witness to the on-going devastation in Gaza and the West Bank by Israel. Art features sculpture, video, ceramics, painting, prints, Stitched in Solidarity group quilt, and participatory art. Artists come from Olam Haba, the World To Come community. Funding possible through Jewish Voice for Peace.

**Longfellow Seward Healthy Seniors: Healthy Eating on a Budget May 30, 10:30 a.m. to noon Holy Trinity Lutheran Church 2730 E. 31st St., Mpls.**

Join Gail Johnson of Renaissance Mind and Body for a 90-minute interactive class and demonstration on budget-friendly, nutritious eating. Learn smart shopping strategies, creative ways to maximize food from the food shelf or NAPS (Nutrition Assistance Program for Seniors), and which foods can help boost your immune system. Enjoy live cooking demonstrations and on-site food tastings as you gain practical tips for

healthful, affordable meals. Free! We ask that participants register in advance for events by calling 612-729-5799, or by emailing juliaockuly@LShealthyseniors.org.

**WaterFest 2025 May 31, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Phalen Regional Park — Pavilion 1600 Phalen Drive, St. Paul**

This free, family festival celebrating our clean lakes provides an opportunity for outdoor hands-on learning about clean water, wildlife, and land and water conservation. Experience activities on and around the water with Voyageur canoe and sailboat rides; paddleboats, canoes, and kayaks for checkout, fishing lessons, a fishing contest with prizes, water games, climbing walls, a jump castle, arts and crafts, face painting and lawn games, a Water Bar featuring water flights from our communities, the Passport Odyssey with wonderful prizes, performers, food trucks and lots more! For more information, including a detailed event schedule and map, sponsor list, parking information, visit [rwmwd.org/waterfest/](http://rwmwd.org/waterfest/)

**Longfellow Dance Party May 31, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tapestry Folkdance Center 3748 Minnehaha Ave., Mpls.** FREE EVENT! Tapestry Folkdance Center, Zorongo Flamenco, Mactir Academy Irish Dance, and Ballare Teatro have partnered for a day of music, food trucks, dance lessons and demonstrations, kid-friendly activities, and more in Tapestry’s two parking lots!

**Book Event: Enmity and Empathy May 31, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Historic Fort Snelling 200 Tower Ave., St. Paul**

Drawing on personal interviews and archival sources, Dr. Ka Wong explores the courageous struggles of trailblazers who relocated to the North Star State. Enmity and Empathy illustrates the multiple ways in which Japanese American people transformed both wartime Minnesota and their own lives, including narratives of college students pursuing higher education, young men and women training at the Military Intelligence Service Language School (MISLS), and the US Cadet Nurse Corps serving in hospitals. Join us for this remarkable opportunity to hear about the men and women who trained at the MISLS at Fort Snelling in the very building where they were housed. \$12.

**Sabbath Queen June 3, 7 to 9:15 p.m. The Main Cinema 115 SE Main Street., Mpls.**

Sabbath Queen, a feature documentary filmed over 21 years, follows Rabbi Amichai Lau-Lavie’s epic journey as the dynastic heir of 38 generations of Orthodox rabbis including the Chief Rabbis of Israel. He is torn between rejecting and embracing his destiny and becomes a drag-queen rebel, a queer bio-dad and the founder of Lab/Shul — an everybody-friendly, God-optional, artist-driven, pop-up experimental congregation. Sabbath Queen joins Amichai on a lifelong quest to creatively and radically reinvent religion and ritual, challenge patriarchy and supremacy, champion interfaith love, and stand up for peace, cease-

fire, and an end to the Occupation in Israel/Palestine. The film interrogates what Jewish survival means in a difficult rapidly changing 21st century. Post-screening Q&A with Director Sandi DuBowski. Event Link: [mspfilm.org/show/sabbath-queen/](http://mspfilm.org/show/sabbath-queen/)

**The Gold Experience June 4, 7:30 to 11:59 p.m. The Woman’s Club Of Minneapolis 410 Oak Grove St., Mpls.**

Get ready to experience the magic, the mystery, and the music of Prince! Join us for The Gold Experience, our fifth and final party with a purpose, as we celebrate the legacy of the one and only Purple Genius. This year, we’re turning up the energy with the glitz, the glam, and a whole lot of Gold vibes! In the spirit of Prince’s philosophy, we’re honoring his commitment

to giving back. A portion of the proceeds will benefit The Purple Playground, continuing our tradition of supporting causes close to Prince’s heart.

**The East Phillips Neighborhood Institute is hiring!** The Development Associate will work alongside EPNI’s Development Manager and Executive Director focusing on annual planning, fundraising, and internal alignment. Come help turn the community vision for an indoor urban farm and community hub at the Roof Depot site into a reality! You can learn more and apply at [epnifarm.org/jobs](http://epnifarm.org/jobs)





**May 16-18, 2025**

- Music
- Dance
- Visual Arts
- Interactive Art
- Food Demos

Mark your calendars! Midtown Global Market is thrilled to host our first-ever Music & Arts Festival on May 16-18!

Enjoy live music, vibrant art, and non-stop fun throughout the market, with multiple stages and activities for everyone.


The Lake Street Lift Project is an innovative initiative designed to support and celebrate the vibrant, diverse community along Lake Street. By connecting local businesses, nonprofits, entrepreneurs, and creatives, the project provides resources and fosters partnerships to enhance the area’s cultural and economic vitality.

Join us daily during market hours and celebrate creativity, culture, and community with us! Don’t miss out!!


Friday, May 16	Noon to 8 p.m.
Saturday, May 17	10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Sunday, May 18	11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Midtown Global Market**  
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EVENTS

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651-452-4550,  
stpetersmendota.org  
**Healing Minnesota Stories:**  
**Dakota Sacred Sites**  
**Open Tours**  
May 3, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and  
June 1, 1 to 5 p.m.  
Tours meet at the Church of St. Peter,  
and are led by Jim Bear Jacobs (Mo-  
hican) and Rev. Kelly Sherman Conry  
(Oglala Lakota). Through storytelling,  
contemplation and meditation, tours  
illuminate the history of Minnesota  
land, foster a present relationship with  
the past, and help participants envi-  
sion a better way forward. Register:  
mnchurches.org/what-we-do/heal-  
ing-minnesota-stories

**Diamond Lake Lutheran Church**  
5760 Portland Ave. S.,  
612-866-2579, dllc.org  
**Lives of Faith and Book**  
**Author Series**  
May 7, 14, and 21.  
5:30 p.m. community meal,  
6:30 p.m. presentation.  
Free and all are welcome!  
May 7: Rev. Emmy Kegler, author of  
“One Coin Found: How God’s Love  
Stretches to the Margins” and “All  
Who Are Weary: Easing the Burden on  
the Walk with Mental Illness”  
May 14: Rev. Dr. Yolanda Deson Byers,  
author of “See Me, Believe Me: A  
Guide to Deepen Allyship with Congre-  
gational Leaders of Color”  
May 21: Dr. Bruce Gleason, Author  
of “Sound The Trumpet, Beat the  
Drums: Horse-Mounted Bands of the  
U.S. Army, 1820-1940” and “Cold War  
Cadence: A Military Musician’s Berlin  
Memoir, 1988-1991”  
**Spring Art and Vendor**  
**Boutique with Free Sale!**

May 10, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
The Hale-Page-Diamond Lake Neigh-  
borhood Garage Sale is happening,  
and we are excited to be a part of  
it! Featuring a variety of handmade  
goods, art, and more. We'll also have a  
"free sale" of items the church facility  
no longer needs or has outgrown.  
Make sure to stop by to see all the  
offerings.

**St. Albert the Great**  
E. 29th St. & 32nd Ave. S.  
612-724-3643  
saintalbertthegreat.org  
**Mother’s Day Recital**  
May 11, 1:30 p.m.  
Karin Wolverton is an opera profes-  
sional in addition to being one of our  
great cantors. She’ll present a vocal  
concert covering several genres of  
music. All dedicated to mothers. We  
will also have a drawing for a beautiful  
Mother’s Day Basket for attendees.  
Cost is free-will offerings.

**Saint Joan of Arc Catholic**  
**Community**  
4537 3rd Ave. S., 612-823-8205  
stjoan.com  
**St. Joan of Arc Book Club**  
May 14, 6 to 8 p.m.  
Discussing “The Library Book” by  
Susan Orlean, Facilitated by Cathy  
Anhut. We meet in the Arc (north side  
of 45th Street across from the parking  
lot). Books chosen by surveying the  
group. We recommend joining our  
email group. Contact Lucy Petermeier:  
612-823-8205 to join.

**Plymouth Congregational Church**  
1900 Nicollet Ave. S., 612-871-7400  
Plymouth.org  
**Book Club**  
May 17, 10:30 a.m.  
Interested in joining? Have any ques-  
tions? Contact Wanda Bee at realeas-  
tate@wandabee.com. Check the book

cart in the Cloister Garden to purchase  
books. We prefer to meet in person,  
however, if you need to join via Zoom,  
please call: 253-215-8782  
**Plymouth’s Elaine Marsh Library**  
Over 3,000 books, which may be  
checked out for up to a month.  
Open weekdays 8:30 a.m.to 12:30  
p.m., Sundays 6 to 9 p.m., Wednesdays  
during program year.

**Holy Cross Lutheran**  
**Church (ELCA)**  
1720 E. Minnehaha Pkwy.  
612-722-1083  
holycrossmpls.org  
**Summer by the Creek!**  
June 1  
We love our neighborhood! Each year  
in June we celebrate the arrival of  
summer with our neighbors at Sum-  
mer by the Creek. The day begins with  
worship outdoors and continues with  
lots of food, games, and music. This is  
a free event. All are welcome!

**Minnehaha United Methodist Church**  
3701 E. 50th St., 612-721-6231  
minnehaha.org  
**Taizé Service**  
With all that is going on around us, it  
is important to slow down and make  
sure we are feeding our souls and  
listening for God periodically. Take  
an opportunity for renewal through  
prayer, song and silence at our  
monthly Taizé services. We live-  
stream our services, so you can  
catch Taizé from wherever you  
are in real time, or when you want.

**Central Lutheran Church**  
**Free Store Needs Donations!**  
333 S. 12th St., 612-870-4416  
centralmpls.org  
Sunday through Thursday  
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
A critical community resource that  
allows guests to shop for what they

need at no cost. Items needed:  
blankets, towels, sheets,  
kitchenware and clothing.  
Donations accepted from 4th Ave.  
loading dock. Press call button and  
someone will help you. All donated  
items should be clean and in good  
condition. Call with any questions.

**MCC Refugee Services**  
122 Franklin Ave. W, Suite 100  
651-724-0944  
mnchurches.org  
**Household and Bathroom**  
**Supplies Needed!**  
Monday through Friday  
8 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
MCC has welcomed hundreds of  
new arrivals to Minnesota. These  
families come with nothing but  
a few suitcases. We need your  
support in creating welcome kits.  
We have set up gift registries with  
items included in every welcome kit.  
Donation guidelines and links to our  
wish-lists available at mnchurches.  
org/ways-help/give-items. We are  
especially looking for: bar soap,  
laundry detergent, deodorant,  
shower curtains, and shower rings.  
Call, email Noah at noah.wilkerson@  
mnchurches.org, or drop  
donations off at our offices

SHARING FOOD

**All Saints Episcopal Indian Mission**  
3044 Longfellow Ave.,  
612-791-1253  
allsaintsindianmission.org  
**First Nations Kitchen**  
firstnationskitchen.org  
Sunday 4 to 5 p.m.  
Weekly To Go meals and Produce  
Give Away. We cook fresh, organic,  
indigenous meals and give away  
organic produce. This is a barrier-  
free food program. To donate or  
volunteer contact:

director@firstnationskitchen.org  
or go to our website.  
  
**Calvary Lutheran Church**  
3901 Chicago Ave.  
612-827-2504  
clchurch.org  
**Calvary Emergency Food Shelf**  
612-827-2504, ext. 3.  
clchurch.org/food-shelf  
Providing access to fresh, nutritious  
food for the community.  
Call for more info.

**Church of the Incarnation**  
3817 Pleasant Ave. S.  
612-822-2101,  
Espanol: 612-874-7169  
incarnationmpls.org  
**Harvest of the Heart**  
harvestfromtheheart.org  
Tuesday through Friday  
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church**  
2730 E. 31st St. 612-978-7974  
htlcmpls.org  
**Soup for You! Café**  
soupforyou.info  
Lunch: Monday through Friday  
noon to 1 p.m.  
Groceries: Wednesday  
noon to 1 p.m.  
More information on our  
Facebook page or our website

**Joyce Uptown Food Shelf**  
3041 Fremont Ave. S.  
612-825-4431 (for appt.)  
and emergency hours.  
joyceuptownfoodshelf.org/  
Monday 10:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.  
Tuesday 9:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.  
Wednesday noon to 4:45 p.m.  
Thursday 11 a.m. to 6:45 p.m.  
Saturday and Sunday  
9 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.

See Sharing Food, page 27

The Southside Religious Community Welcomes You

<p><u><i>Bahá’i</i></u></p> <p><b>BAHÁ’I CENTER OF MINNEAPOLIS</b> 3644 Chicago Ave. S., 612-823-3494 minneapolisbahai.org Assembly@minneapolisbahai.org Devotions at the Bahá’í Center and via Zoom Sunday 10 a.m. Tuesday via Zoom 6:30 p.m. <i>So powerful is the light of unity that it can illuminate the whole earth.</i> <i>-Baha'u'llah</i></p> <p><u><i>Christian</i></u></p> <p><b>CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 3901 Chicago Ave. S. 612-827-2504, clchurch.org Sunday Worship 10 a.m. Pastor: Jenny Sung <i>A Reconciling in Christ Congregation</i></p> <p><b>DIAMOND LAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 5760 Portland Ave. S. 612.866-2579, dllc.org Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. Followed by Congregational Fellowship Hour 10:45 a.m. Rev. Andrea Roske-Metcalf <i>Vibrant, progressive, multigenerational congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ECLA). The congregation is one focused on justice and joy, in relationship and connection to the wider community.</i></p>	<p><b>FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 3430 E. 51st St., 612-729-5463 faithlutheranmpls.org Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. and online on Facebook facebook.com/felcmpls AA group Monday 6:30 p.m. Senior Exercise Class Monday 10 a.m. NA groups Tuesday 7 p.m. and Wednesday 7:30 p.m. Blind Ministry May 17, noon to 2 p.m.</p> <p><b>HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)</b> 1720 E. Minnehaha Pkwy. 612-722-1083 holycrossmpls.org Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. <i>An inclusive community encouraging lives of service.</i></p> <p><b>LIVING SPIRIT</b> 4501 Bloomington Ave. 612-721-5025 livingspiritumc.org Multicultural/United Methodist Justice — Generosity — Faith Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. Anytime: livingspiritumc.org/watch</p> <p><b>MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 2400 Park Ave. S., 612-871-8831 messiahlutheranmpls.org The Center for Changing Lives Traditional Worship with Holy Communion Sunday 9 a.m.</p>	<p>Praise Worship Sunday 11 a.m. (Holy Communion 1st and 3rd Sunday) Fellowship Sunday 12:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>MINNEHAHA COMMUNION LUTHERAN</b> 4101 37th Ave. S., 612-722-9527 minnehahacommunion.org Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. in person and online 12-step groups Tuesday through Friday evenings, see website for more info. Pastor: Kyle Anderson <i>Reconciling in Christ Congregation</i></p> <p><b>NOKOMIS HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA</b> 5300 10th Ave. S., 612-825-6846 nokomisheights.org Bilingual (English/Spanish) Sunday Worship in Sanctuary 10 a.m. Holy Communion 1st and 3rd Sunday Adult Forum and Sunday School at 9 a.m. Sunday worship is recorded live for viewing on Monday mornings on Facebook and YouTube.</p> <p><b>SECOND CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST</b> 1822 Hennepin Ave. S. 612-377-5668 secondchurchminneapolis.com Join us in-person or online for Sunday and Wednesday church</p>	<p>Services. Sunday Service and Sunday school for ages 3 to 20, 10 a.m. Wednesday’s Service with Testimonies of healing through prayer, 7:30 p.m. Childcare is provided for small children at all services. The Christian Science Reading Room and bookstore is open 7 days a week To learn more about Christian Science and Reading room hours, please visit our website</p> <p><b>ST. ALBERT THE GREAT</b> E. 29th St. &amp; 32nd Ave. S. 612-724-3643 saintalbertthegreat.org Weekend Masses Saturday 5 p.m. Sunday 9:30 a.m. (also live-streamed on Facebook) Sunday noon Weekday Masses (except Wednesday) 8:15 a.m. in the Chapel Pastor: Fr. Joe Gillespie, O.P.</p> <p><b>ST. JOAN OF ARC CATHOLIC COMMUNITY</b> 4537 Third Ave. S. 612-823-8205. stjoan.com Saturday 5 p.m. in the Church Sunday 7:45 am in the Church, 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. in the gym, 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Family Mass in the Church Video available on our website and Facebook page</p>	<p><b>TRINITY LUTHERAN CONGREGATION</b> Augsburg College, Hoversten Chapel Riverside &amp; 22nd Aves. 612-333-2561 trinitylutherancongregation.org Office: 2001 Riverside Ave. Adult Forum 9:45 a.m. Sunday Worship 11 a.m. Pastor: Jane Buckley-Farlee</p> <p><u><i>International Society for Krishna Consciousness</i></u></p> <p><b>ISKCON MINNESOTA TEMPLE</b> 4000 Minnehaha Ave. 612-999-7851 iskconminnesota.org Open Monday through Friday 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Sunday Temple Service 4:30 to 7 p.m. (Kirtan, Dharma talk, free vegetarian feast) Wednesday Night Wisdom Talk 7 to 8 p.m. All are welcome, we practice Bhakti Yoga, devotional service to God, stop by and see what it’s all about.</p>
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All directory churches  
are wheelchair  
accessible



# Calvary Lutheran Church is in this city for good!

BY KAY SCHROVEN

Pastor Jenny Sung was travelling internationally when she became aware of the opportunity to become Pastor for Calvary Lutheran Church (CLC) on Chicago Ave. in Minneapolis. During her first interview she was cautious, gathering information and assessing the possibilities. By the second interview she felt the calling and found her new home. Pastor Sung (aka: Pastor Jenny) became the new Pastor for CLC in August 2024. She joins at a time when much change is in the works

of the church and its wider association with RIC (Reconciliation in Christ.) RIC is an organization dedicated to assisting faith communities. Since 1983, the Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Program has been a public way for faith communities to see, name, celebrate, and advocate for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions in the Lutheran church. With a focus on reconciliation, CLC reaches out to welcome all, including those who may feel left behind by traditional church experiences. Shari points out

entations. Pastor Sung began by reminding us that CLC has recommitted to repairing past harms, acknowledges the Dakota nation (forcibly removed from this land) and assures us that the church is actively striving to be antiracist and to dismantle White supremacy. She delivers the Word and the Gospel with a refreshing calm and warm approach, bringing ancient scripture to life for a modern word. Pastor Jenny is assisted throughout the celebration by Emilie Bouvier (Assisting Minister) as they share scripture, song and communion (which includes a gluten free option!)

The celebration closes with an open forum for members to make requests and/or announcements. There are requests for prayers, a reminder of the book study group (Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m., currently reading “US: The Resurrection of American Terror” by Rev. Kenneth W. Wheeler) and an announcement about “Clean-up Day” (April 27) when members will come together to remove garbage around the property and neighborhood, share food and hear from a guest speaker in honor of Earth Day.

With the recent passing of Pope Francis, Christians especially are reminded of his devotion to the poor and mar-



Pastor Jennifer Sung (Left) and Church Council President Joani Moberg

ginalized. It’s clear that Pastor Sung and the CLC congregation understand this and act on it, evidenced by their worship ser-

vice, programs and events. Sunday worship at 10 a.m. at 3901 Chicago Ave S. Mpls.



The mosaic cross, draped in white fabric

including how the property is utilized (See Southside Pride, 2/24) and how CLC serves its congregation and community. For example, recent reconstruction includes 41 affordable housing units known as the Belfry Apts. Like with most change, there was push back, but CLC found that a process of educating and discernment with member involvement was the key to success. The property is now owned by Trellis Management and leased back to the church (for 25 years with option for extension.)

Long time member, Joani Moberg grew up in this church, her mother also being a long-time member. Joani has been a member for 50 years and raised her own children here. “My almost grown son still likes to come here – he has true friends here.” Shari Seifert joined in 2010 and has become an active member of CLC including authoring, “Ashes to Action, Finding Myself at the Intersection of the Minneapolis Uprising” (part of Augsburg’s “Mouth House” book series.) Located just a block from George Floyd Square, CLC has been especially involved in social justice action since the tragic murder of George Floyd in May 2020. Shari is also the president of the European Descent Lutheran Association for Racial Justice. She became a member, not only based on friends’ recommendations, but on her own experience including the inclusiveness

that the welcome statement says it all: “Welcome Beloved of God, each and every one of you is welcome here. This welcome is for all of us in our multiple identities – including all sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions, people of the global majority, doubters, skeptics, seekers and people of other faiths. We seek to repair harm we have done as a church. We strive to be actively antiracist and to dismantle White supremacy in ourselves, in church, and in society.”

This is a unique community with approximately 80 intergenerational families in membership. Joani says, “This is not a place to be anonymous; here you will be seen, known and supported. Members tend to be educated and interested in intellectual matters as well as spiritual ones.”

### Easter Sunday Celebration

The April 20, 10 a.m. celebration opened amongst flowering plants, the beautiful mosaic cross draped with white fabric, the chairs arranged in a semi-circle with an altar at the center. The spirited, soulful music – led by Music Director Ben Larson – opened with, “Ain’t No Grave (can hold my body down)” to the pleasure of the approximately 50 parishioners in attendance. This is a diverse, friendly, engaged group of young and old, from various ethnic backgrounds and ori-

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SECOND CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, MINNEAPOLIS  
1822 Hennepin Ave • Minneapolis, MN 55403 • secondchurchminneapolis.com



# The ongoing search for peace on earth

BY ELAINE KLAASSEN

On Saturday, April 12, dozens of citizens — most of whom are affiliated with Christian denominations or with other faith groups — walked from

for a Free Palestine, called for a ceasefire in Gaza and the liberation of Palestine.

The walk was divided into six segments. In each of them, congregants of a participating congregation stopped to pray,



Members of various faith groups walk to support a ceasefire in Gaza (Photo/Dan Leisen)

the nature center at 49th Ave. N. in North Minneapolis, down the Mississippi River to Bdote, the confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers. The walk, organized by Christians

preach, sing and lament the suffering in Gaza, remembering that Israeli hostages held by Hamas are also suffering in Gaza. Near the Lake Street Bridge, an interfaith service

was held. People from two denominations spoke, as well as a rabbi from Jewish Voices for Peace.

The poem “If I Must Die” by Palestinian poet Refaat Alareer, who was killed in 2023, inspired those attending as they made little kites and tied them to the railing of the bridge:

“If I must die, you must live,” wrote Alareer,  
“To tell my story.  
To sell my things.  
To buy a piece of cloth.  
And some strings,  
Make it white with a long tail,  
So that a child, somewhere in Gaza.  
While looking heaven in the eye,  
Awaiting his dad who left in a blaze —  
And bid no one farewell.  
Not even to his flesh.  
Not even to himself —  
Sees the kite, my kite you made,  
Flying up, above.”

And thinks for a moment an angel is there,  
Bringing back love.  
If I must die.  
Let it bring hope.  
Let it be a tale.”

People I talked with from Mennonite Action felt it was meaningful to walk in solidarity with Gazans, but they were disappointed that the walk didn’t seem to bring greater public awareness to the problem of U.S. support for Israel’s bombing of Gaza, or to the idea that war is wrong and bombing innocent people is wrong, which many Christians believe. They were hoping to convey their message to a new audience.

Debra Keefer Ramage, who writes for Southside Pride and read about the upcoming pilgrimage walk in our newspaper, wanted to connect up with the walk partly as a faith-based protest, but mostly as a more spiritual, perhaps mystical, way of “directing her will toward change” together with others

who were doing the same thing. Throughout her adult life she has entered into prayer, meditation and fasting with faith groups, to care about different troubled parts of the world, and now she was looking for that kind of communion with other like-minded souls.

She wasn’t able to walk for health reasons, but was able to be a support person.

She felt the value of the pilgrimage was being a witness, and being visible as people in solidarity with the innocents in Gaza. Meeting others with similar beliefs and vigorously singing together at the lunch “didn’t feel as futile as just holding up a banner. You need that, to keep you in the struggle. Hopefully all of it changes hearts and minds.” She appreciated the fact that the whole event showed a counter to Christian nationalism, which supports the bombing of the tiny strip of land on the Mediterranean full of trapped people.

# Minnesota documentary series helps guide families dealing with the problem of aging

BY STEPHANIE FOX

Melissa Fritz had worked for nearly a dozen years assisting families circumnavigating the transitions of aging, when she found herself helping her own family through the process. Her father had begun suffering with the symptoms of Alzheimer’s, and when the pandemic began, the isolation made her usually outgoing father’s symptoms worse. That left her mother struggling with the changes in her father’s personality. But it gave Melissa a close up and personal view of the things she’d been seeing with families she’d been helping. It was a revelation.

“What I realized,” she said, “is that families don’t want to talk about aging and end of life changes. People struggle to remain independent. People want to age in place, but instead of having conversations before a crisis happens, and because of the cost, people wait until they are in their 80s and sometimes 90s before they make a move.”

Fritz could see that getting people to talk about these uncomfortable topics early could help families start to make the important decisions they might, at some point, be forced to make.

“Although there are so many good resources available to help, families need to know where to start,” she said.

She began to research what she could do to make this happen.

She looked into creating a

series of documentary shows, something like the television show “House Hunters”, but for senior living. After taking on-line documentary classes, she felt ready to hire local video producers to make a sizzle reel, and she began to pitch the idea to major TV networks. She contacted Lifetime, Discovery, A&E,



Inside Senior Living episode one, featuring Jean and Gary

HGTV, Warner Brothers and others, but got little response until she heard from PBS North and Twin Cities Public Television. “They believed in this project and agreed to coproduce and distribute it nationally,” she said.

Last November, the first show was broadcast, with a total of eight episodes featuring a cast of older adults talking about the transition difficulties they and their families were experienc-

ing.

“The cast of eight different older adults also showcased diversity in the Minnesota aging populations,” she said. The show featured not just white people but included others such as LBGTQ, Indigenous, African Americans, and Latino, as well as the contrast of rural and ur-

ban communities. “And the series includes more than 20 aging-industry experts who give insights and advice to viewers.”

The show was shot using all Minnesota cast and crew, showcasing the positive economic benefits of film/TV production in Minnesota as well, she said. A number of local organizations supported the show, including the Alzheimer’s Association MN-ND, MN Veteran’s Affairs, Sabathani Community Center,

and Care Providers of MN.

At the end of the first season, Fritz estimates that on the 340 PBS affiliates, the show may have had multi-millions of viewers. The show is still available for viewing on the Inside Senior Living YouTube channel, [filmmnorth.org/fiscally-sponsored-projects/inside-senior-living/](http://filmmnorth.org/fiscally-sponsored-projects/inside-senior-living/).

“The number one reason that people end up in the hospital and then into transitional care are falls. These people are no longer safe living in their own homes.” This means that family become decision makers and caregivers.

Fritz is hoping that there could be a second season of the show, this time also offering support to those who care for their elderly relatives and friends. “I’d like this to focus on caregivers and help connect them with resources,” she said. “There is a wealth of resources that the public doesn’t know about.”

“While the elderly are in crisis, the demographic mostly dealing with them are adult daughters aged 35 through 55. These caregivers can become isolated and experience burn-out,” she said. “They also need support.”

Fritz said that her main motivation for continuing the show is to be able to help people. “My goal is not to move anyone to a senior living facility. But what we can do is to help normalizing conversations about the end of life. I was lucky in having the right idea at the right time. I

want to bring this conversation on aging into mainstream culture.”

Fritz said that to help advance these discussions, attitudes need to change. “Native culture celebrates their elders,” she said. “A lot of terms for old people are negative and that needs to change. We have to start viewing aging in a more positive light.”

There are so many great resources out there, but families don’t know what or where to look for them, she said. She hopes to encourage people who need advice about where to go to learn their choices, to visit to her website, [InsideSeniorLiving.TV](http://InsideSeniorLiving.TV) if they have questions.

“Families wait until they are in crisis and their options are reduced. Aging is a good thing but when they effect independence, that can be a problem,” she said. “Why aren’t we talking more about this? We have to stop avoiding the inevitable. We need to talk about our wishes and then plan for it.”

Link to watch the show: [pbsnorth.org/show/inside-senior-living/](http://pbsnorth.org/show/inside-senior-living/)

You can also watch here: [youtube.com/watch?v=ZbuUX-WNoiWg&list=PLXWIKoUuf-6dAoowfuJZnqdxHKKe6wg4F3](https://youtube.com/watch?v=ZbuUX-WNoiWg&list=PLXWIKoUuf-6dAoowfuJZnqdxHKKe6wg4F3)

Learn more: [insideseniorliving.tv](http://insideseniorliving.tv)

Here’s a link to the Film-North Fiscal Sponsorship page: [filmmnorth.org/fiscally-sponsored-projects/inside-senior-living/](http://filmmnorth.org/fiscally-sponsored-projects/inside-senior-living/)



Cam, from page 1

March 31.

Much of their money comes from outside the city.

As of March 31, 22 entities — including several businesses and at least one other IEPC — contributed to WLM. Only 8 of them have Minneapolis addresses.

“The role of outside money on city politics is a major problem,” said David Schultz, a Hamline University professor. “It is a problem in terms of disclosure and also a problem in a sense that outside money does not necessarily reflect voter preferences within the city.”

“Unfortunately, especially after Citizens United, there is not much that can be done,” he added. “The Supreme Court has ruled that independent expenditures are not subject to any dollar limitations.”

Candidates for citywide seats, like the mayor, cannot take contributions above \$1,000 from anyone in an election year. City council candidates cannot take them above \$600.

WLM was the only one who reported spending to support individual candidates. They reported advertising expenses of \$3,662.82, well over \$600, for each of the 15 city council candidates they are supporting — Michael Baskins, Josh Bassais, Paula Chesley, Marques Jones, Shelley Madore, Lydia Millard, Brian Strahan, Becka Thompson, LaTrisha Vetaw, Linea Palmisano, Michael Rainville, Elizabeth Shaffer, Pearl Warren, Miles Wilson and Andrea Young. All of them were also listed as “recommended” candidates, along with Jacob Frey for mayor on the All of Mpls website.

“We Love Mpls is a lot of outside influence and money coming into Minneapolis in an attempt to buy elections, and they are targeting wards 10 and 7 the most, both of which have more renters than homeowners,” said Taylor Dahlin, who lives and votes in Minneapolis. She also volunteers for the Katie Cashman Ward 7 campaign and carefully reviews campaign finance reports.

The two largest donations to WLM, \$30,000 and \$24,000, came from The Hornig Companies and Citizens for Safer Cities respectively.

According to the Hornig’s website, the company owns and manages over 90 rental properties in Minneapolis, and most of them are in wards 7 and 10.

Citizens for Safer Cities (CSC) is an IEPC based in Brooklyn Park. Almost all of their funding last year came from corporations (LLCs) that owned and/or managed rental property, including one from Minneapolis, the Uptown Square Apartments, LLC. CSC spent money last year to support three republican party endorsed suburban candidates running for the state house of representatives, John Nagel, Kim Rich and Robert Marvin.

“My main concerns are the source of the funding being mostly landlords and real estate

interests and also the involvement of Andrea Corbin.” Corbin, who owns a flower shop in uptown and serves on the Uptown Association Executive Team, is the chair of WLM. Zach Pettus is treasurer, and Andrew Minck is deputy treasurer.

“Voters should follow the money, especially if they’re a renter,” said Dahlin. “They should question why a group of landlords want them to vote out a progressive council, and if these landlords’ interests have any overlap with their own concerns as a human living in Minneapolis, not a business entity.” They should question why We Love Mpls is accepting money from an IE that worked to elect republicans.”

“These landlords and the people they rent to are not automatically going to have the same outlook on the city and concerns,” said Dahlin, “but the landlords are trying to manipulate renters into believing they’re on the same team.”

“My old landlord, RightMove Properties, who frequently violates laws like the one requiring security deposits be returned within a certain time frame, gave several thousand,” she added. “Hornig gave \$30k to We Love Mpls, yet make it very hard for candidates to door-knock in their properties even though it’s the law. Yet now We Love Mpls doorknockers have had no troubles getting into buildings in ward 10. And multiple candidates filled out the We Love Mpls questionnaire and answered “No” when asked if we need more tenant protections.”

Dahlin is also concerned about coordination after seeing We Love Mpls leadership meeting with an All of Mpls leader and someone else tied to the Frey team recently. “Nothing about that meeting was illegal, but the cast of characters involved here with We Love Mpls, All of Mpls, and the Frey team is all very intertwined,” she said. “We Love Mpls and All of Mpls are clearly Frey IEs and I would not be surprised if coordination was going on.”

In March, the Star Tribune newspaper reported that the WLM group was “headed up by former Frey campaign manager Joe Radinovich and Andrea Corbin.”

MN state law defines an independent expenditure as “an expenditure expressly advocating the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate or local candidate, if the expenditure is made without the express or implied consent, authorization, or cooperation of, and not in concert with or at the request or suggestion of, any candidate or any candidate’s principal campaign committee or agent or any local candidate or local candidate’s agent.”

Implied consent and cooperation are hard to prove, but easy to imagine in today’s world of social media. Imagine, a group posts a statement, a candidate posts a comment about it, that is then posted on the group’s website and put on a flyer, which is then dropped at doors by hired

canvassers. Is that implied consent?

Is it cooperation when a group sends out a candidate questionnaire, a candidate answers it, and then the group puts the questionnaire on their website, endorses them and advertises that endorsement on a flyer?

Whether the letter of law is being broken is something best left to the courts.

If you follow the money, like Dahlin has been doing, it looks like this year we have three special interests IEPCs. One is supporting business owners and investors. A second one representing the interest of big landlords, property managers and developers. The a third is more with labor and renters.

In the months ahead voters might want to consider listening less to these groups, and more to friends and neighbors they respect and, most importantly, to the candidates themselves.

It is up to the voters, and the press, to keep finding and sharing the facts if we are to make decisions that reflect our interests and values in November.

Learn more at: [cfb.mn.gov/reports-and-data/viewers/campaign-finance/political-committee-fund/](http://cfb.mn.gov/reports-and-data/viewers/campaign-finance/political-committee-fund/)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

George Floyd Square

Dear Editor,

Thank you for your recent article “What’s happening at George Floyd Square? March 4, 2025.” I’ve been writing to Jason Chavez a few times over this issue. I agree with him on a lot of different issues, but he has this one all wrong. I can’t understand for the life of me why he’s so hell bent on this pedestrian mall idea when 70 percent of residents, and most businesses I’d imagine, are against it. I would love to see a permanent memorial to George Floyd as well, and I like your roundabout idea. It’s been frustrating to see this place taken over by a small group of activists of the last 5 years that seem to think they know better. I enjoy your newspaper, keep up the good work!

Sincerely,  
Chris “Tweeter” Tveitbakk



The Full List of WLM Funders: January through March, 2025

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| CBP Properties, Mound, \$4,000                       | Olson, Jeffrey, Edina, \$1,000                        |
| Citizens for Safer Cities, Brooklyn Center, \$24,000 | Olson, Michael, Edina, \$1,000                        |
| Comwall, Ronald, Scottsdale, AZ, \$10,000            | Right Move, Mpls, \$2,890                             |
| Copenhagen-Hansen Family LLP, Mpls, \$5,000          | Smith, Patrick. Mpls, \$5,000                         |
| Cullen Homes Inc, Mpls \$10,000                      | The Hornig Companies Inc, Mpls, \$30,000              |
| Dachis, Gary, Wayzata, \$5,000                       | Walter, David, Edina, \$1,000                         |
| Duff, Andrew, Mpls, \$250                            | Walter, Julie, Edina, \$750                           |
| Forschler, Richard, Mpls. \$250                      | Walter, Kara, Edina, \$1,000                          |
| Hartley Properties, Mpls, \$5,000                    | Walter, Matthew, Edina, \$750                         |
| JOH East LLC, Edina, \$5,000                         | Wharton, Kimberly, Littleton, CO, \$1,000             |
| Jensen, Mark, St Louis Park, \$10,000                | Yellow Tree Constructions Services LLC, Mpls, \$5,000 |
| Minn, Steven, Mpls, \$5,000                          |   |



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# Ukraine: three wretched years since April 2022

BY DAVE GUTKNECHT

Thanks to maverick Trump, we have partially backed away from the threat of nuclear war — so far, a victory for realists over ideologues. But concerning Israel, the ideologues are in charge.

Remember Istanbul 2022 and negotiations to end the Ukraine war? No, a censored story. The earlier 2014 coup and the subsequent betrayal by Kyiv and NATO of 2014 and 2015 Minsk Agreements had allowed a NATO military buildup — at the cost of 14,000 Russian speakers killed in eastern Ukraine from years of bombardment by the Kyiv forces. This escalated until February 2022, provoking Russian intervention, which quickly brought Ukraine to the negotiating table in Istanbul.

An agreement was reached in April 2022, but the West told Zelensky to fight on. Why? Because the root cause of the war was years of NATO expansion including nuclear missiles and a strategy of sanctioning and provoking Russia, with the aim of regime change there. U.S. planners commissioned a 2019 Rand study on “Extending Russia” (available online) that reviewed this strategy in detail. Ukraine became the tragic proxy, sacrificed in the U.S. drive for supremacy.

The U.S. and allies thought

extreme economic sanctions would bring Russia to its knees, but this failed and instead harmed Europe. Now, after hundreds of thousands of casualties and immense damage, Ukraine is forced to accept conditions significantly worse than what would have been achieved by the Istanbul 2022 negotiations.

The pro-war mainstream media has voiced anger and panic about Trump negotiating with Russia. This follows years of lies about the history referenced above and about Ukraine strength and Russian weaknesses — self-serving assumptions seldom questioned in a compliant media. But now, Ukraine clearly has lost the war and will not be joining NATO. Its remnant should revert to Ukraine’s former status as a neutral state.

Europe has been demoted, and among European leaders subservient to the U.S. there is panic over peace possibly breaking out. Leading European madwomen and madmen want to make war on Russia and, implausibly, say they fear invasion from Russia.

But European economies are in trouble. The Ukraine narrative bubble has burst, notwithstanding recent grandstanding and evidence of delusion. Breathing the fumes of their nation’s dead empires, France’s Macron and U.K.’s Starmer are desperately urging military

buildup, while fearing the loss of protection by the declining empire of the U.S. Starmer is reliving, on behalf of the U.K.’s American masters, the British/French Crimean War of the 1850s — and again failing to deny Russia a warmwater port on the Black Sea. This time, the tragic and deadly charge of the light brigade is Ukrainians by the many thousands, in a disastrous rout in Kursk, Russia. Denying defeat and U.K. economic decline, Starmer has absurdly announced a 100-year financial commitment to Ukraine.

Strangely, Starmer has also revived the unfortunate phrase, “the coalition of the willing,” previously used to manufacture Western consent for the Iraq War, a campaign based on lies and propaganda about Iraq weapons of mass destruction. Back then, the coalition-of-the-willing phrase served to cover serious Western opposition to what proved to be a devastating and failed Iraq intervention. Now Starmer is making a similar false claim in 2025 — but there is no such coalition, and there won’t be any “peacekeeping” European troops in Ukraine.

Negotiating an end to war in Ukraine signals a clear break with the U.S. war policies, and Russia is mostly in command. Late March saw a long Trump/Putin conversation and a shaky



cessation of attacks on energy infrastructure — that pause would stop Ukrainian bombardment of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant (the largest in Europe), which is controlled by Russia.

In Israel, however, Trump is failing to stop horrific ethnic cleansing and genocide by Israel. Deliberately killing civilians for political ends is a definition of terrorism.

Despite losing badly in Afghanistan and achieving little but ruin in Iraq and Libya and elsewhere, the U.S. appears to plan wider war. Neo-cons and Israel continue to draw the U.S. into war on Iran, while neither Trump nor anyone else besides the Yemenis seem capable of forthright action against Israel’s ethnic cleansing.

In Ukraine we will soon see

the last of Zelensky, and Trump will force disengagement from yet another losing NATO campaign. The deeper problem is Israel, where the Zionists have a deep hold on U.S. and European political power. The U.S. political leadership is captive to this, and U.S. wars have followed an Israel agenda. Will Trump interrupt that agenda short of a catastrophic war on Iran?

Daily, we see the erosion of constitutional rights in the U.S., in great part because of supporters of Israel. Resistance is needed.

**Editor’s note:** Southside Pride supports an immediate ceasefire and an internationally supervised referendum in the disputed provinces to decide if the people want to be Russian or European Ukrainian.

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### A response to Dave Gutknecht’s piece on Ukraine

His piece blends some real events with misleading or heavily biased interpretations, cherry-picked facts, and outright conspiracy-like claims. Here’s a breakdown of what’s true, what’s distorted, and what’s left out:

What Has Some Basis in Truth:

- Istanbul negotiations in 2022: Yes, Russia and Ukraine did hold peace talks in Istanbul in March-April 2022. Ukraine and Russia appeared to reach tentative agreements, including neutrality and security guarantees. However, there’s no conclusive public evidence that the West forced Ukraine to abandon them — that’s an interpretation, often made by critics of U.S. policy.
- RAND “Extending Russia” study (2019): It exists and explores ways to exploit Russia’s geopolitical vulnerabilities. But it’s not a war plan — it’s a think tank assessment, not official policy. The piece overstates its influence as a playbook.
- Minsk agreements (2014/2015): These were real ceasefire agreements meant to resolve the conflict in Donbas. Both sides accused each other of violating them. The author’s claim that Ukraine/NATO “betrayed” them is simplified and biased — Russia also violated the agreements.
- Sanctions and their impact: Western sanctions didn’t collapse Russia’s economy as some predicted. They hurt, but Russia adapted. Europe’s economy also suffered, especially in energy prices. But to say the entire effort “failed” is debatable and leaves out key context.

#### What’s Misleading or False:

- “Ukraine clearly has lost the war”: This is not true as of early 2025. The war has become a bloody stalemate in many areas, and Russia holds some territory. But Ukraine continues to resist with support from the West. Calling it a “lost war” is an overreach and not supported by current facts.
- “NATO expansion provoked Russia”: This is a key Russian talking point. While NATO expansion concerns Russia, many former Soviet countries voluntarily joined NATO for protection from Russia. It’s simplistic to say this “caused” the war — Putin’s own ideology and goals also played a big role.
- “Ethnic cleansing/genocide by Israel”: The term “genocide” is controversial and politically charged. The war in Gaza involves immense suffering, with huge civilian casualties, but labeling it genocide requires meeting legal definitions that are still debated by legal bodies. Also, the idea that Trump could unilaterally stop it is not realistic, considering Israel’s independent governance.
- “Zionists have a deep hold on U.S. and European power”: That’s a classic anti-Semitic trope, framing Jews or “Zionists” as a shadowy controlling force. While pro-Israel lobbying exists (as in any democracy), this kind of language veers into conspiratorial territory.
- “U.S. wars have followed an Israel agenda”: The U.S. has engaged in wars for many reasons — oil, geopolitics, security, ideology. Saying it’s all due to Israel is deeply misleading and reductionist.
- “Erosion of U.S. constitutional rights due to sup-

porters of Israel”: No credible evidence supports this. Rights debates in the U.S. are more tied to post-9/11 security laws, tech surveillance, and political polarization than anything related to Israel.

#### What Was Left Out or Oversimplified:

- Russian war crimes: The piece is silent on mass civilian casualties, torture, and destruction caused by Russian forces. Ignoring that shows bias.
- Ukrainian agency: Ukraine is treated as a puppet of the U.S., ignoring its own goals, political decisions, and resistance efforts. That’s a paternalistic narrative.
- Internal Russian politics and media control: Russia’s domestic situation, including harsh repression and censorship, is ignored.
- Trump’s complex foreign policy: The piece paints him as anti-war, but Trump increased drone strikes, pulled out of nuclear treaties, and assassinated Soleimani, nearly sparking war with Iran. His record isn’t consistently pacifist.

#### Bottom Line:

This is partially grounded in real events, but it’s highly ideological, biased, and laced with conspiracy thinking. It uses some truths to build a narrative that distorts the bigger picture — especially by blaming the West for nearly everything, and absolving Russia or others.

Respectfully,  
Oscar Peterson



# Reading Ukraine narratives

BY DAVE GUTKNECHT

I headed that earlier column with the Istanbul April 2022 agreement that would have left Ukraine intact except for Crimea. The West, through Boris Johnson, then told Ukraine that if it abandoned the negotiations, NATO would back it all the way. Ukraine, having some agency, accepted this weighty offer. There was no official acknowledgement of this, making it deniable, but specifics were covered at length in “Ukainska Pravda” (Kyiv) and at the U.N. by assistant secretary-general Michael von der Schulenburg and others.

Similarly, Pentagon-funded organizations such as RAND Corporation are revolving-door outlets that explore strategy while remaining deniable. RAND’s 2019 study, “Extending Russia,” is on the RAND website and details the war against Russia playbook that has been followed — through financial sanctions and the seizure of Russian assets. This latter illegal action is key to the subsequent breakdown of the SWIFT payment system; the rise of separate payment channels by Russia, China, and the BRICS nations; and the continuing decline of the U.S. global financial position.

The Minsk 2014-2015 agreement could have ended the war, but Oscar Peterson says, “both sides accused each other of violating them.” Yet co-signatories Germany (Merkel) and France (Hollande) in 2024 admitted that they never intended to enforce the agreement but rather used it to buy time in which to build up Ukraine for war. Violations in one direction: Kyiv suppressed the Russian language,



Dnipro River in Kyiv

religion and parliamentary opposition, and began eight years of bombarding eastern Ukraine.

The EU just approved a 17th set of sanctions on Russia! But sanctions have indeed failed, greatly weakening international cooperation and leading to Russia’s economy re-orienting away from the West. After the increased sanctions in 2022 and ongoing inflation challenges, Russia’s economy rebounded in 2023/2024 with 3.6 and 3.8 percent growth, according to the IMF.

Like many, Oscar Peterson refuses to acknowledge that Ukraine is has lost the war. Ongoing expansion of Russian-held territory and success in its strategy of attrition is destroying the Ukraine military and manpower. I watched a video showing the leading war-time U.S. general — Westmoreland 1967 on Vietnam; Petraeus 2011 on Afghanistan; and Cavoli 2025 on Ukraine. Each one testified that the enemy is being held back, our proxy army is

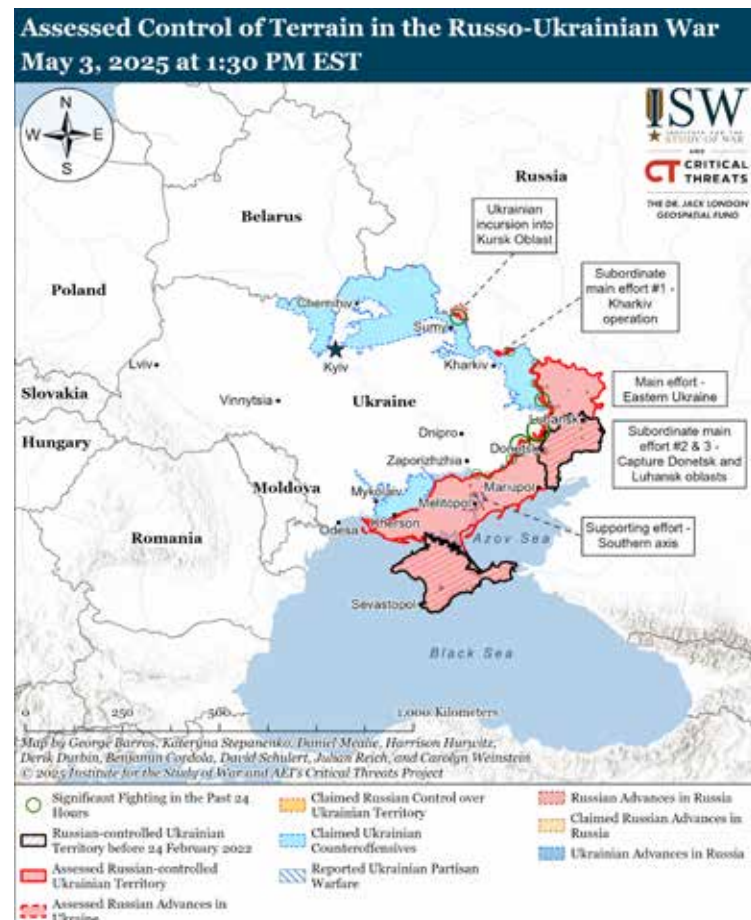
steadily improving, and an end to the war is in sight. All three were knowingly lying, just as many others are today, to keep the war going. One recent U.S. commander, Gen. Milley, spoke the truth in fall 2022 when he said that Ukraine cannot win and should negotiate a settlement — but he was shuffled aside.

NATO expansion provoked Russia into launching the war, a point predicted and now acknowledged by many, even former NATO secretary-general Stoltenberg. But Peterson dismisses it as a “key Russian talking point,” illustrating the propagandist mentality. Those of us opposed to American warmaking and endless provocations have good reasons. Overlooking NATO expansion is to ignore volumes of testimony and years of multiple warnings since the 1990s against bringing Ukraine into NATO — warnings by top diplomats, scholars, and military voices in the U.S. and Europe.

Shifting to another U.S. enabled war, an objection to call-

ing Israel’s actions “genocide” — the term is “controversial and politically charged” and requires legal clarity (Oscar Peterson) — is sophistry and evasion. Genocide is “an internationally recognized crime where acts

I don’t have enough space to discuss either side’s war crimes: some are likely while others are unlikely. Russia’s war of military attrition is winning, at great cost. Ukraine is a terrible, sacrificial ground in the



(Photo/ www.understandingwar.org)

are committed with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group” — and that is the publicly declared aim of the Israel government regarding the Palestinians. Ethnic cleansing and genocide have been documented thoroughly by South Africa, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and Israel’s B’Tselem.

long war of the U.S. and U.K. on Russia (our intervention dates to 1940s-50s CIA support of Ukrainian neo-Nazis). As for “agency” (Oscar Peterson): the sooner Ukraine removes Zelensky; accepts neutrality as in the 1991 constitution; and acknowledges the previously avoidable loss of territory, the sooner the slaughter of Ukrainians will end.

## Who owns this land?

BY ED FELIEN

I believe the people who live on the land must be recognized as the rightful owners of that land. No foreign army should determine their sovereignty. There must be plebiscites to allow the people of Crimea, Luhansk and Donetsk to vote on whether they want to align with Russia or with Ukraine.

When Russia annexed Crimea in 2014, they held a referendum on whether the people wanted to align with Russia or Ukraine. According to the Autonomous Republic of Crimea there was an 83 percent voter turnout and the result was 97 percent in favor of integration into the Russian Federation. Surely, with such a resounding affirmation, Russia should welcome an internationally supervised plebiscite to reaffirm that result.

The struggle between East and West in Northern Europe has existed for more than 2,000 years. Evidence of the Mongol invasion of Europe in the 13th Century is visible in the Mongolian fold of the eyes and the linguistic difference of the non-Indo-European language of the people of Finland and Hungary from the rest of Europe. Perhaps the last remnants of the Mongol occupation of Northern Europe is evidenced by the Sami people in Northern Sweden and Norway.

When peace was finally made between the Germanic tribes and the Mongols, the dividing line between East and West was the Dniro River, and the people in the land immediately to the East were called the Kievan Rus. And that territory eventually became Russia.

Today, Trump is calling for

an immediate cease fire, giving Crimea to Russia and settling on an agreement not to include Ukraine in NATO. Despite my belief that Trump is a stooge of Putin and our village idiot, I believe these are reasonable demands for the beginning of negotiations. There must be an immediate cease fire. Crimea should decide in an internationally supervised plebiscite whether to join Russia or Ukraine, and it really doesn’t matter if Ukraine joins NATO since most of Europe already supports Ukraine militarily. Further, I believe Russia should be made to pay indemnities to Ukraine for the loss of life and property resulting from initiating this war.

And the people of Luhansk and Donetsk should be allowed to determine their own national destiny.



Map of Dnipro (Dnieper) River in Ukraine



# Celebrate Spring on 34th Avenue

## Spring on 34th Avenue South

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

### Retail shopping — groceries and more

The hub of businesses at 34th Avenue, between 49th and 51st Streets, is the largest in the Nokomis neighborhood. It tends toward retail and services. Oxendale's market is the largest physically. Oxendale's has been on that corner for decades. In the past several years, they began buying other small super-



Nokomis Library

markets and now have a chain of four locations. They manage to squeeze a lot of variety into their space, with fine gourmet

offerings, excellent produce and meat, and a bargain brand called Our Family for basics.

Asa's Bakery has been in the strip of shops to the north of Oxendale's for a few years now, and is proving very popular. They are closed Monday through Wednesday, and then open four days from 7 a.m. (8 a.m. on weekends) until 2 p.m. "or sold out." They offer loaves of sourdough bread, including four rotating specials, and bagels and bialys. Bialys are not a common bread product here, and if you're unfamiliar with them, get thee to Asa's and try one.

Nokomis Shoes, 4950 34th Ave., is one of those four or five Twin Cities stores everyone will mention if you say you have a hard time finding good shoes. They're family-run and have been in business over 80 years. If buying shoes on the internet is too risky, and you want good old-fashioned fitting, go there. Although they do have an online shop as well.

McDonald's Liquor and Wine is a popular and highly rat-

ed (on Yelp and Google) liquor store known for its dog-friendly policy. Every time I have been there, there were at least two dogs in the store! But seriously, they are a great local liquor outlet.

### Community and services

Nokomis Library is the local library at 5100 34th Ave. It's one of the larger ones in South Minneapolis, and it has a seed library as well and a large meeting room. Check for other resources and events like book clubs at [hclib.org/about/locations/nokomis](http://hclib.org/about/locations/nokomis).

Nokomis Square Senior Co-operative is a large and rather luxurious housing co-op for independent folks aged 55 and older. In addition to top-notch community housing, they offer a variety of community activities and amenities in one of the best locations in the Twin Cities.

Nokomis East Neighborhood Association (NENA) is the official neighborhood association for this area, Nokomis East. They just had their annual meeting at the end of April, and had just hired a new executive director — former staffer Sarah Friedman — who began on May 1. NENA has a small office at 5005 1/2 34th Ave. There is also a Nokomis East Business Association (NEBA) which supports local businesses and sponsors a Nokomis Days celebration each August.

### Coffee and a snack, breakfast or a nice dinner

Venn Brewing is just a couple blocks east of 34th Ave. at 3550 E. 46th St. The craft brewery has a large taproom, a rotating pack of food trucks, and a coffee shop inside that's open for breakfast. The premises are dog-friendly and family-friendly and have a large, covered patio. They also have their own line of THC beverages and gummies under the brand name Zenn. Venn means friend in Norwegian. "Our place is your space to unplug, unwind, and tap into what's most important — those around you. From our beertenders to our baristas, when you grab a seat



The dog friendly McDonalds Liquor and Wine



Scene from Nokomis Days 2024

at Venn, one thing's for sure: You'll always be in good company."

SunBean Coffee Shop has a similar upbeat, up with people vibe. In fact, they explicitly include mental health boosting things in the design of their shop, like lots of plants and art, and a SAD (seasonal depression in winter) light, and yoga in the park, weather permitting. I have really enjoyed my visits to SunBean, so it must work. Or maybe it's the outrageous "pop tarts" from Fruit & Grain Bakery. Also, SunBean made it into the latest Eater list "Best TC Coffee Shops;" see [tinyurl.com/DKRatSSP-Coffeeshops](http://tinyurl.com/DKRatSSP-Coffeeshops).

Berry Sweet Kitchen, down 34th Ave. at 54th Street, focuses on breakfast and lunch, with a full bar to complement the many

tasty brunch options. Not only does this restaurant offer a casual, cozy atmosphere, they also offer catering and the opportunity to reserve their space for your private event. If you just want to grab something sweet and quick, they have cakes and other baked goods ready to go — handmade from scratch, just like everything on their menu.

A nice place for dinner is the venerable Bull's Horn. I love reading their menu! I actually have not been there, but I must remedy this situation soon. They have KY fried chicken gizzards! They have bologna sandwiches! The bar has Malort! (Which I only know of by reputation.) For NA drinks, they have the Holy Trinity: lemonade, iced tea, and their son, Arnie Palmer.

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Mayor, from page 1

will be able to block the endorsement. If Frey can make a deal with Hampton or Short or Davis, then he could probably block an endorsement of Omar Fateh. If there is no endorsement, then Frey will probably win the General Election in November because he has the best name recognition and the most money.

[Please read Cam Gordon's piece this month on money going into this election.]

We sent a questionnaire to Omar Fateh, Jacob Frey and DeWayne Davis. Only Fateh responded:

Q: A wrongful death suit brought by the parents of Terrance Franklin proved Officers Durand and Lucas Peterson murdered Terrance Franklin. The suit cost the citizens of Minneapolis over a million dollars, yet no criminal charges have been brought against the officers and there has been no public accountability. What would you do to rectify this injustice?

A: "Terrence Franklin's murder at the hands of the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) is an unacceptable tragedy, and is part of a long history and pattern of racism, violence and abuse on behalf of MPD. Minneapolis residents want a Mayor whose bold and transformative approaches to public safety will end the cycle of MPD's violence and brutality that has held our city captive for so many years — I am that Mayor.



Omar Fateh

"Since Mayor Jacob Frey took over leadership of MPD in 2018, there have been numerous, high-profile public safety crises in Minneapolis, driving an ongoing and heated conversation about the best way to keep our city safe. Unfortunately, under Mayor Frey, Minneapolis has seen very few of the needed reforms in how our city handles public safety. I'm running for Mayor because new leadership is desperately needed — Minneapolis residents deserve to feel safe, and the families, loved ones and communities of those that have been murdered at the hands of MPD deserve justice."

Response from Southside Pride: Specifically, what steps would you take to achieve justice for Terrance Franklin? Would you insist that Chief O'Hara re-examine the false police report by Officers Durand and Lucas Peterson and ask the County Attorney to bring murder charges against the of-

ficers? As I'm sure you know, there is no statute of limitations on capital crimes.

Q: We know the violence and destruction following the murder of George Floyd began with The Umbrella Man (Mitchell Wesley Carlson) smashing the plate glass windows of Auto Zone and writing "Free Shit for Everyone" on the building. We know he was a member of an ex-convict white nationalist motorcycle gang. Was there any connection between him and Bob Kroll, the leader of the white nationalist motorcycle gang of metro-area police officers call City Heat? Would you commit to a full investigation of those riots?

A: "In order to address the Minneapolis Police Department's documented cycle of racism, violence and brutality that has held our city captive for generations, we must address the department's and officers' connection to white supremacist organizations. As Mayor, I prioritize rooting out white supremacists from MPD.

"In 2023, the Minnesota Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) board, which licenses every law enforcement officer in Minnesota, adopted sweeping changes to stop extremists from becoming officers. As Mayor, I will work to ensure that MPD is in compliance with the policies adopted by the Minnesota POST board. I will take proactive steps to ensure compliance, like reporting any known violations of this policy to the POST board to ensure officers with known ties to white supremacist organizations have their license revoked. It is cru-

cial to ensure that officers with ties to extremist organizations cannot serve in Minneapolis or anywhere else in the State. I will also implement the reforms outlined in the State and Federal Consent Decrees without hesitation, to ensure that MPD is held accountable to the law."

Response from Southside Pride: Will you commit to a full analysis and an honest history of Minneapolis police involvement in the riots and destruction of property following the murder of George Floyd?

Q: The City of Minneapolis spreads sand on city streets in the winter to aid traction for automobiles. This sand washes into the storm sewers, and the storm sewers from Lake Street to 43rd Street, from Chicago Avenue to 27th Avenue, wash into Lake Hiawatha. This has reduced the depth of Lake Hiawatha from 33 feet to a sandbar in many places. Would you commit to dredging Lake Hiawatha to restore clarity and make it safe again for swimming and aquatic life?

A: "As Mayor, I will be committed to protecting our parks, lakes, and all the natural resources that make Minneapolis the vibrant and loving city that we know it can be. I recently met with Friends of Lake Hiawatha, a group that is working to restore the natural area surrounding the lake and regularly cleans trash from the lake. I learned of the deep significance that Lake Hiawatha has for residents in the area and all over Minneapolis. From the cultural and spiritual significance to Native residents, to families that have been fishing, swimming

and enjoying the lake for generations, the importance of Lake Hiawatha cannot be overstated. As Mayor, I will work alongside Friends of Lake Hiawatha, residents in the area, others in the community and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to protect Lake Hiawatha and our parks and lakes across the city.

Response from Southside Pride: The Friends of Lake Hiawatha "oppose dredging, pumping, channelizing or any other" change to the current dumping of sand in Lake Hiawatha or the removal of dams on Minnehaha Creek that block the water from leaving the lake causing flooded basements. Are we to assume you support that?

At a house party hosted by Joe Hesla in April, Omar Fateh talked about his record as State Senator. As Chair of the Senate Committee on Higher Education he was proud of the success of his efforts to make a college education more accessible to students with low income. He complained that the Republicans tell lies but people believe them, and the Democrats still don't have a message. And he bemoaned the influence that corporate money has on local and national politics. One person complained about the lack of enforcement of the No Idling ordinance in the city. Surprisingly, Fateh defended the lax enforcement and said that cab drivers who were being tagged for idling were often waiting for disabled customers.

As a former cab driver, that defense of cabbies won my heart.

Sharing Food, from page 20

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greatfriend.org

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**Minnehaha United Methodist Church**  
3701 E. 50th St., 612-721-6231  
minnehaha.org  
facebook.com/MinnehahaFoodShelf  
Tuesday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
We have changed many things to protect guests and 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.

**New Creation Baptist Church**  
1414 E. 48th St., 612-825-6933  
newcreationbaptistchurchmn.org  
facebook.com/NCBCfoodshelf.  
(Grey door on the corner of 48th St. & 15th Ave.)  
Saturday (except 5th Saturdays) 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
We do require mask, sanitizer and temp check.

**Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church**

5300 10th Ave. S., 612-825-6846  
nokomisheights.org  
**Loaves & Fishes**  
loavesandfishesmn.org  
Wednesday 5 to 6 p.m.  
Free, to-go meals served from side door on 53rd Street. Open to all, no questions asked. Just simply drive or walk up to the church.

**Pillsbury United Communities**  
3650 Fremont Ave. N.  
612-302-3400. pillsburyunited.org/  
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**Brian Coyle Center**  
420 15th Ave. S. 612-338-5282  
Monday through Friday  
9 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
**Waite House**  
2323 11th Ave. S. 612-721-1681  
Monday through Friday  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Plymouth Congregational Church**  
1900 Nicollet Ave. S., 612-871-7400  
Plymouth.org  
**Groveland Emergency Food Shelf**  
612-871-0277  
grovelandfoodshelf.org  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday  
9:30 a.m. to noon  
Tuesday and Thursday 3 to 6 p.m.  
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