Seeking Wellness

199 Years later Wendell Phillips is still in “All the news that’s fit to print.”

Wendell Phillips, Phillips CommunityNamesake, still makes news as the epitome of moral and civic virtue. The following article was in the New York Times this month. Following the article, we have printed an e-mail exchange between the author of the article and James B. Stewart, Macalaster College, St. Paul. Stewart is a professor of history and scholar of the life of Wendell Phillips.

On Dec. 3rd 2010, The Alley Newspaper will celebrate Wendell’s 199th birthday with a special carrot cake from Franklin Street Bakery at St. Paul’s Church on 28th & 15th

Phillips Community Parks Initiative Newspaper will celebrate Wendell’s birthday. We’re hoping to have James Stewart join us that day to help under-

score the still relevant admonitions of Ann Green Phillips and Wendell Phillips.

The Abolitionist’s Epiphany
By Adam Goodheart
Boston, Nov. 7, 1860

Throughout most of the nation’s history, it had taken weeks for votes to be counted and for Americans to find out who their new president was. But by 1860, telegraph lines – more than 50,000 miles of them – had spread so far and wide across the country that the results were in the morning editions of the next day’s papers.

In Boston that night, Wendell Phillips strode onto stage to address a large audi-

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PHILADELPHIA UNIVERSITY

The Alley

NATIONAL

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DECEMBER 2010 – VOLUME 35, NUMBER 12

PCPI Pitches PCC Proposal to Park Personnel

BY ROBERT ALBEE

After three months of waiting, the Phillips Community Parks Initiative (PCPI) finally had an opportu-

nity to present its proposal to the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) for leasing and par-

ticipating in the operations of the Phillips Community Center. The actual written proposal was submit-

ted July 9th and project organizers have been waiting ever since to for-

mally address the opportunities face-to-face with Park Board staff and com-

missioners. Presentations were finally made on November 3rd and November 4th.

MPRB staff members Don Siggelkow, Judd Reichert and Al Bangoura attended the two days of presentations provided by the Waite House, Soos Early Childhood Learning Center, Minneapolis Swims a “wellness” coalition including Native American Community Clinic, Running Wolf Fitness Center, Freeport West, A Partnership Of Diabetics (A-POD), Guri Nabad and Ventura Village neigh-

borhood. The other three Phillips Community neighborhoods, East Phillips Improvement Coalition, Mid Town Phillips and Phillips West Neighborhood Association were on hand supporting most of the other presenters and the notion of the MPRB and Phillips Community joining forces to support the Community Services Area (CSA), currently comprising Phillips Community and Eliot Park neighborhood.

Soos represents a Day Care center seeking to move from South 33rd Street and Chicago Avenue and was not included in the group presenta-

tions but all the rest of the groups presented together as an applicant’s coalition and then separately as the Pillsbury United Communities (Waite House), Minneapolis Swims and Soos.

The response of MPRB staff was friendly and very responsive but stopped short of making any com-

mitments to the applicants who will present their report and recommendations to the MPRB commission-

ers. Then the MPRB commissioners will then decide to approve or reject the request, which is expected to take place within the next four to six weeks.

The Phillips Community Parks Initiative hopes to join with the MPRB in re-opening the Phillips Community Center for a combination of recreation, health and wellness-oriented activities, neighborhood organizing, and some supports for recent immigrants and low-income people seeking community assistance. Some of the space would be leased, leaving the largest areas for scheduled community usage under the aegis of the CSA.

Separately to all of this, Minneapolis Swims hopes to use the report commissioned by the PCPI members and themselves and prepared by DJR Architects to find independent funding to renovate the swimming pool and operate it in a manner that accords the greatest opportunity for youth and their fami-

lies to have a fun aquatic experience while learning the life-skills associated with swimming lessons and water safety.

Mpls. Swims Plunges in With Pool Proposal to Park Board

BY ROBERT ALBEE

Citing statistics of persons of color and low incomes drowning in the land of 10,000 Lakes prompted Minneapolis Swims and the Phillips Community Parks Initiative (PCPI) into pushing the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) toward supporting a proposal to enable them to pursue independent funding to restore the 75' pool located in the now-closed Phillips Community Center building, scheduled for reopening in February, 2011.

Minneapolis Swims is the brainchild of East Phillips resi-

dents Hannah and Kevin Lieder who have begun efforts to organize Phillips residents and stakeholders for the effort needed to get the pool up, running and sustainable. Hannah, a swimming instructor at the Mid-Town YWCA has long sought the opportunities to get a better handle on the life-skills of water safety and fun associated with recreational swimming.

Lieder points out: “Learning to swim saves lives. Drowning is a leading cause of death in children ages 1-14 and minor-

ity children drown at three times the rate of white children. We believe swimming can help transform the lives of at-risk youth by offering them opportunities to demonstrate courage by taking calculated risks and to build self-esteem by overcom-

ing a natural fear of the water. It is a foundational skill for a lifelong healthy lifestyle and it opens access to the world of water-oriented outdoor activities. This is especially important in Minneapolis and greater Minnesota where we have been blessed with an abundance of lakes and rivers.”

Last March, the Phillips Community learned that the Park Board had set aside $97,000 to fill the pool with concrete to create an alternative use for the space. MPRB staff stated to the Daily Planet that approximately $985,000 would be required to restore the pool. A strong outcry led to a “Save Our Dive” campaign that won Phillips Community a six-months moratorium on the pool’s destruction.

Before that time had elapsed, three of the Phillips Community neighborhoods and Minneapolis Swims each provided $1,500 to engage DJR Architects in a study of the pool and what funds would be needed to restore the pool. DJR’s has worked with U.S. Swim & Fitness franchises in designing facilities and engaged their own consultants, who determined that it would only cost $267,000 to return the pool to basic usage status.

However, to provide a facility such as pictured here, would cost closer to $650,000.

According to Minneapolis Swims, locating funds to reno-

vate the aquatic center is not the key problem here. Both the Park Board and Minneapolis Swims acknowledge that sustain-

ing an annual operating cost of nearly $300,000 in a very low income community is where the difficulty lies. MPRB staff and commissioners expressed pessimism, yet offered no sub-

stantial alternative that would address the needs of Phillips Community residents of all ages. To reduce the space to an indoor playground for little children offers nothing of value for

Minnesota Swims see page 5

Wendell Phillips from the Library of Congress

BY HARVEY WOJUE

With great resiliency, neighborhood people have endured change for decades while seeking to maintain per-

sonal wellness for themselves and their entire community.

Many have discovered that seeking personal wellness and community wellness are integrally linked together. Good sleep, adequate resources, physical activity (especially walk-

ing) to healthy food and healthcare, cultural celebra-

tions, and social connectedness are essentials for wellness. Many have also discovered that positive attitudes and con-

sistent hard work are also necessary to attain and sustain those goals.

This issue of The Alley has several examples and possibili-
	ies of seeking personal and community wellness within our lives and neighborhoods.

Minnesota Swims

photo courtesy of Robert Albee

see page 3

video of presentation by Minneapolis Swims to PCPI’s Don Siggelkow, Judd Reichert, and Al Bangoura; included MS board members and Dean Dovolis and Hannah Lieder (standing).

By Adam Goodheart
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Wendell Phillips

See page 3

Only Pamela Rivera knew that the November Phillips What Where was the 13 volume set of newly printed and bound copies of the first 30 years of The Alley Newspaper. The set pictured was the set in the reference section near the main desk at the Franklin Community Library. Another set is at the Minneapolis Central Hennepin County Library on the Nicole Mall.

(Guess What and Where this is below) and get a chance to be in a drawing for $10. Gift Certificate to Welna Health. Call 612-990-4022 or editor@alleynews.org

Portico Healthnet, Health Coverage That Is Much Needed

By Raymond Jackson

At a time when many are still awaiting anxiously for health reform information from our government, the need toll continues to rise. The free clinics are bulging at the seams as too, many are running out of resources, and simply losing hope. Portico Health Net continues to fill the ever expanding void that many families face. They have served the people of the Phillips Community, the most populated neighborhoods in The Twin Cities, in ways that are actually saving lives, minds, bodies and souls. Working with a group of persons that do not hesitate to show their commitment, concern and dedication to those in need of affordable and reliable health care, Portico Health Net continues to simply make and meet those needs, not just for Phillips Neighborhood residents, but to the entire state of Minnesota.

By working not just with Abbott Northwestern hospital, located here in Phillips, but 12 other hospitals located in Minnesota, Portico is making a difference with their Safety Net Coverage and Preventive Care Needs programs most particularly. We spoke with Outreach Manager, Ms. Julia McCarthy, and she said, “These hospitals help to fund our Coverage Program, and each hospital commits a certain amount of dollars each year that help us pay for healthcare services for people enrolled in our programs; as well as care management services, consisting of answering questions about where to go for services and achieving best use of our program.”

She continued, “I have worked here for 5 years and I really enjoy being a service for the community, working within the community with schools and agencies that refer people to us. Things are always growing and changing in here, as we, along with so many others, await National health care reform, that we feel will be coming in the next few years. Many changes that help more get health coverage are positive, and we will be here to help people understand their options, and guide them through the application processes.”

Sarah Simons, Phillips resident and mother of six, signed up with Portico after being off of Minnesota Care because of cost, and feeling near wits end, said “We went without health insurance for about 15 months. It was a very hard and challenging time in that my 8 year old had an accident that had him wind up at the emergency room for stitch-es, I also had to pay out of pocket for two of my children’s physica and a strep throat incident.

In April of 2009 I heard about and signed up with Portico. There was peace of mind for me, knowing that we had access to a clinic for primary care, and were able to get prevention medical care, as well as, prescription coverage. This was big for us, knowing who to call and if they would accept our circumstances. We were on and off of Minnesota Health Care for many years, because of self employment; their requirement regulations did not take into account household size, only annual family income; and if you have to choose between your children for those in most need, you are not allowed to do so. You either pay for every child or none based on the previous year’s income. So Portico has been a life saver for us. Giving us access to healthcare that we would not have had, and the intake process is not nearly as complicated as many other health care programs!”

In need of health care? Call Portico in 615-480-2273.
December Programs at the Franklin Library

BY ERIK THOMASSON

Children’s Programs

Swedish Stories

Family Storytime

Shoko Caruur Af-Soomaali
and African Language Storytime: Somali
Tues. Dec. 7–22, 6–7 p.m. La wadaag bugagga, sheekoyinsan waxaa lagu xiriira isla iyo muusikada Soomaalida. Tues. Dec. 7–22, 6–7 p.m. Focus will be on the sounds of Kanye West, or card game, or play ours!*

Teen Programs

Game On! Gaming
Tues. Dec. 1–Feb. 16, 4:45–5:45 p.m. Grade 6 and up. Play PS2 or Wii games at the library! Grab a friend, bring your favorite board or card game, or play ours!*

Free Wireless Internet

FRANKLIN LIBRARY

Upcoming Events: December 2nd (Thursday) 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. - Phillips West Holiday Celebration!
Includes an update on current events, free holiday dinner while socializing & networking with other neighborhood stakeholders! All who live in Phillips West or support the Phillips West Neighborhood are welcome to attend! Celebration will take place at Lutheran Social Service Center for Changing Lives in the Centrum Room (2400 Park Avenue). Free parking available in rear off Oak Avenue.

January 24th (Thursday) 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. - Phillips West Annual Winter Social
Join Phillips West Neighborhood Organization, Community Partners and hundreds of your neighbors for a free dinner of cultural foods, door prizes & entertainment at the Lutheran Social Service Center for Changing Lives in the Centrum Room (2400 Park Avenue)!

Wendell Phillips from page 1
ence of abolitionists in the Tremont Theatre, just off the Common, Phillips, one of nation’s most prominent anti-slavery leaders, had been skeptical of Abraham Lincoln from the beginning. To him, the unknown Midwesterner — born in Kentucky to Virginia parents, he must have noted with alarm — going to be just one more mediocre politician to warm the president’s chair for four years. While black Americans continued to languish in bondage. Addressing an anti-slavery meeting that summer, just as Phillips had announced their nominee, Phillips saw: “Who is this hackster in politics? Who is this county court advocate? What is his recommendation? It is that nobody knows anything good or bad of him... His recommendation is that his past is a blank. In war he wrote for The Liberator, the leading abolitionist newspaper, a month later, Phillips wrote in his column, ‘the manuscript headlined “ABRAHAM LINCOLN, THE SLAVE-FAVOUR OF ILLINOIS’”

By September, his feelings had changed. It wasn’t anything the candidate had said — for he had said “Save the Union, save the Union!” But the way how Americans had rallied around Lincoln with an outpouring of anti-slavery feeling. A few weeks earlier, Phillips had watched Republicans parade through Boston carrying banners reading “No More Slave Territory” and “The Pilgrims Did Not ‘Set Up an Empire for Slavery.’” But the most welcome sight of all was the company of “West Boston Wide Awakes”: two hundred black men marching proudly in uniform, keeping stride in perfect tempo with their white comrades, under a banner that said “God Never Made a Tyrant or a Slave.”

So now, less than 24 hours after Lincoln’s election, it was a chance Phillips could no longer miss. Kneeling in the crowded at the Tremont Theatre. “Ladies and gentlemen,” he intoned to the expectant crowd, “if the telegraph speaks truth, for the first time in our history, the slave has chosen a President of the United States.”

Adam Goodheart, author of “1861: The Civil War Awakening”

James B. Stewart
St. Paul, MN
November 9th, 2010

As Phillips’s most recent and most ambitious biographical effort (not cited by the author of this piece) I don’t get the point, and if there is one, it is grossly misleading. For example, Phillips was skeptical of Lincoln once more of antislavery when he failed to live up to their hopes — not that this should remind us of anything more important.

My very brief “Disunion” column can’t possibly do more than present snapshots of moments of the past, although I hope that over time these will add up to something larger for those readers who stick with it. The most heated debate of the 1860s was between Phillips and his fellow abolitionists. For those who want a more in-depth look, I would certainly recommend Mr. Stewart’s book, among others.

James B. Stewart
November 9th, 2010

1:41 pm

“The authoritative book on the history of the concept of “disunion” and the crisis over slavery that Goodheart is addressing was published just this year by Elizabeth Varon, DISUNION AND THE CRISIS OVER SLAVERY, 1855-1865.”

Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association Monthly Members Meeting
Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association, Inc. (MPNAI) Regular Monthly Members Meeting – 2nd Tuesday of the month at Andersen United Community School 1098 Andersen Lane (12th Ave. S. between 17th & 18th Sts.) 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. (ish) (Except for this December, we will meet the first Tuesday of December) MPNAI Secretary – jacylynn99@gmail.com

NRP Visioning Task Force – shirley@endowmnphillips.com

Housing Task Force – dnjaglak@yahoo.com

Thank the advertisers for support. We all appreciate it.
In 1949, when she was 17 years old, Ruth Neff was arrested for indecent conduct. After that, things went straight downhill. She was sent to a reform school for a few months but her mother managed to persuade the court to let Ruth out. According to her mother, Ruth had always been a difficult child. Ruth’s parents separated shortly after she was born because, in the words of her mother, Ruth’s father had become “more or less disregarded.” In order to support herself and her four children, Ruth’s mother had to work. Ruth did poorly in school and often skipped class. One of her teachers described Ruth “as not quite normal mentally.” The same teacher admitted that they’d promoted Ruth “simply to get her on in school.” Even so, Ruth never got beyond the fourth grade.

After Ruth was released from reform school, she went to work in a laundry. During the summer months, her mother lived out at Lake Minnetonka where she had a job working in a resort. Ruth stayed at home with her grandmother and her three older brothers.

Ruth’s mother said that the grandmother was “a good woman but had little or no patience with Ruth after her delinquency and would not make it pleasant for the girl.” Ruth painted a much harsher picture of her grandmother, claiming that her grandmother had “told her to go out on the street and earn money.” Regardless of which account was true, Ruth got pregnant and was sent to the Cindy Maternity Hospital where she gave birth to a “blue baby.” The baby died and was buried in Layman’s Cemetery.

The following year Ruth got pregnant again. She said that she lost the baby because she took codeine. The year after that, Ruth got pregnant for a third time. That baby, a boy, lived but was a sickly one. He was born invalid and not only by Ruth, but by her mother and grandmother. Ruth’s mother made arrangements with a minister for the baby to be put up for adoption. In the meantime, Ruth took the baby and went to White Bear Lake to see about a housekeeping job. The woman who interviewed her made it clear—Ruth was well on in her time and intent. Anger, jealousy, fear, and doubt. What she had learned and how, she had learned well. She managed to persuade the court to have the baby put up for adoption.

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In 1909, when she was 15 years old, Angel was born. He thought, and then wondered what that meant. Finally, he spoke. “I do,” his Mom said. “I don’t know how, but I know he is most surely present in this present pain.” Not long after she was paroled, Ruth requested permission to get married. Through a friend of her mother’s, she had met a young man, the youth director at a church camp. He knew about Ruth’s past but still wanted to marry her. He provided the prison warden with references, all attesting to the fact that he was a “good man” who would make a good husband for Ruth. We can only hope that it turned out that way.

Ruth had died of exposure. Ruth pleaded guilty to a charge of manslaughter and was sent to Stillwater Prison. The details of her life up to the time of her arrest come from Ruth’s prison case file. Her file also contains what may have been the start of a more stable life for Ruth. After serving about a year and a half in prison, Ruth was released in her mother’s custody. She was placed on probation and was required to report to prison authorities every month.

Layman’s Cemetery Gates, ca. 1936. Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society. The restored gates on the Cedar Avenue and Lake Street sides of the monument, as well as the section of fence behind the Cedar Avenue bus stop are off to the shops to be restored. They are scheduled to be reinstated on, or December 10th. We are still raising money on raising funds to restore the remaining sections of the fence.

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Searching – A Serial Novelle
Chapter 21: “Most Like A Miracle”

Patrik Cabello Hankel

Continuing feelings chilled around Angel’s heart. It’s a cold, fierce winter winds. Winds with faces, with teeth and intent. Angel, jealousy, fear, hope, doubt. What he had learned in the last hour was stunning. His mother, the gentlest soul he had ever known, had been forced into an unwelcome marriage, or worse. Sold, at an age younger than he was now. His father, the only one he’d known, the one he had just last night called “Dad” was murdered. For the first time, was not his biological father. That man, part of this tangled mess that used to be his family, was surely a bad man. But what kind of a bad man, and what did that mean for Angel? His mother interrupted. “This is your real father, mi hijo.”

“Yes, I know that, Mom. It’s just that . . . well, this other man, my biological father . . . he was some kind of outlaw!”

Lucy blurted out a laugh, joined in by her mother and father. Angel shook his head in disgust. “I don’t see what’s so funny?” he said, his voice aching.

“It’s just that . . .” Lucy began, but couldn’t stop laughing. “You tell him,” Carmen.

“An outlaw is someone is who is a law breaker, yes, but more than that: someone who lives outside the normal reaches of the law.”

“Someone who has courage, who has a following, like Jesus James or—well, it’s what the gringos called a gang leader. No one will sing about you, you who are named Luz?” Luz picked up on their language, knowing exactly what that meant. And then thought: And now must I begin to speak thusly? And now I do.

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FOOD OBSESSION:
DEEP WINTER SWEETS

That’s what I will call this recipe. I got it from a column, in case there isn’t room for it in the December Edition, and I think you’ll love it. Try it and to avoid the Christmas/Holiday quagmire. And these treats would be best followed by hearty exercise in the cold.

I don’t aim to be a collector, but somehow have acquired at least 100 cookie cutters, of all sizes, some 100 years old, including shapes observant of almost any holiday. While on the subject of size, make cookies of all sizes, but for best results (all done, no burned) bake cookies of the same size and thickness on the same sheet. Grandchildren love to make them. We made some with my then 2 ½-year-old grandson last Christmas – two adults were in charge, with plastic on the floor. The cookies were very interesting, and quite edible. I don’t know who got this recipe, but it is fairly recent.

CHAI SPICE GIRLS
(After the dough is made, chill it for three hours.)

2 chai tea bags
1 ½ cups of butter, softened
3 cups of flour
1 cup of sugar
2 eggs
2 teaspoons of pumpkin pie spice
1 cup of miniature marshmallows
2 cinnamon sticks
2 chai tea bags
1 2/3 cup of graham cracker crumbs
½ teaspoon of vanilla
1 pint of heavy cream
1 ½ cups of powdered sugar
1 ½ cups of butter, softened
2 chai tea bags
3 cups of powdered sugar
4 teaspoons of milk
1 teaspoon of vanilla

ICEING
1 cup of sugar
2 cups of heavy cream
1 ½ cups of powdered sugar
3 tablespoons of milk
3 tablespoons molasses

Take tea out of bags (I would crush it a bit), combine with flour and pumpkin pie spice. Beat butter with sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in eggs and molasses. Add flour mixture. Refrigerate dough for 3 hours. Turn oven to 350 degrees and grease cookie sheets well, or use parchment paper under the cookie sheet. Roll cookies ¼ inch thick. Bake 12 minutes for large cookies, like a gingerbread woman form (you can tell by the skirt), less time for small cookies. Cookies are done when lightly browned. Cool on the same cookie sheets for 2 minutes; then transfer to racks. When cool, decorate with frosting.

The next recipe is from The Pembina New Era, the newspaper of my late husband’s home town of Pembina, North Dakota. The New Era was one of the last newspapers with type set by hand. The paper was sometimes called The New Error. This recipe has been tested by me, as are all the recipes in this column.

PEPPERMINT FLUFF (it may be fluffy, but it’s not “lite”)
Recipe makes 12 or more servings. (Finished dessert must be refrigerated at least overnight before serving.)

Crust:
1 2/3 cup of graham cracker crumbs
1 ½ cups of melted butter or margarine
2 tablespoons of sugar

Filling:
1 pint of heavy cream
2 cups of miniature marshmallows
2 1/3 cups of peppermint hard candy, crushed
2/3 cup of pecans, chopped
Mix graham cracker crumbs with sugar and stir in melted butter. Pat at least half of mixture into bottom of 9”x1” pan. Whip cream and fold in remaining ingredients. Spread over bottom crust and sprinkle remaining crumbs on top. Refrigerate overnight.

The Eyes and Ears: AIM Patrol returns to the streets of Phillips after a twenty-year absence

Bake 12 minutes for large cookies, 10 minutes for small cookies. Cookies are done when lightly browned. Cool on the same cookie sheets. Roll cookies ¼ inch thick.

AIM on patrol
BY JOHN LURIE, THE CIRCLE

Current AIM Patrol director, Mike Forcia (46, Bad River Ojibwe) is no stranger to violence at the hands of the Minneapolis Police Department. In November, 1999, Forcia was brutalized by officers who claimed to have “misidentified him as a suspect.” He was eventually awarded $125,000 by the MPD who settled his case in 2002.

Forcia, who today serves as vice-chair of the Minneapolis American Indian Center and owns the Wolves Den café, says “relations with the Minneapolis Police will probably never be what how we’d like to see them.” Forcia admits, however, that communications between the community and police have come a long way since AIM Patrol first took to the streets of Phillips in 1968.

Dave Wilson (54, Leech Lake Ojibwe) was on that first patrol, helping to protect the Native American Community from the primary security concern of the day: police brutality. Over the years AIM Patrol came and went reemerging in the mid-1980s as serial killer Billy Glaze terrorized Indian women, and disappearing again a few years later when patrol members came under fire from gangs. Today, as AIM Patrol reconstitutes, Wilson, a member of the AIM Grand Governing Council and a veteran of Wounded Knee, remains, supporting new leadership and putting his boots on the ground once again.

The Circle’s Jon Lurie sat down with AIM Patrol’s director and longest serving patrolman to discuss the issues that are calling “the eyes and ears of the Minneapolis Police

MINNEAPOLIS SWIMS
see page 5

SIDEBAR
The holidays are a time for giving and receiving. If you need help giving your child a nice bike for the holidays this year, we’re here for you.

To receive a bike (toddler – young adult), please email freebikes@niceridemn.org or contact Kim Radel at 612.262.6086.

Bikes will be distributed (first come, first serve): Saturday, December 11, 2010 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Midtown Exchange Building 2929 Chicago Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55407 FREEBIKES4KIDZ.COM
Controversy. Its references to male homosexuality were considered to break obscenity laws. Precisely, “Howl” is about the poem and the man behind it. The young Ginsberg is seen reading his poem out loud to a group of Beatniks in an underground room. The film alternates between young Allen Ginsberg’s life to his first public reading of “Howl” to his trial for obscenity in San Francisco and his interviews which color animation of the man’s imagination. There are references to Walt Whitman’s poem, “Leaves of Grass”. For example, at the trial, witnesses are asked if “Howl” is similar to that famous Civil War era poem. One witness on the stand, Professor David Kik (Jeff Daniels), is asked if poetry is prose by the prosecutor Ralph McIntosh (David Strathairn). “Sir, you cannot translate poetry into prose,” Kirk answers and goes on to say, “That’s why it’s poetry.” That said, the impression that the prosecutor and some other “learned” men are ignorant about literature, and particularly about Ginsberg’s “Howl,” is salient. Paradoxically, although Ginsberg promotes his subliminal gay literature, he did not want to publicize his works nationally, fearing his father would find out he was gay. Conversely, beyond the conversation about the poem itself, the movie’s platform questions freedom of speech (writing) and how censorship and democracy may not necessarily go hand in hand.

La BeFana Returns to Avalon by HOTB

A joyous holiday tradition returns! La BeFana

Directed and designed by Sandy Spieler with the HOTB company.

Based on the ancient legend of the Italian gift giver, La Befana reveals the splendid wonder of common things. With big and little puppets and lots and lots of music, we explore the world with the old woman Befana as she goes in search of the Holy Child only to discover that holiness lives in the hearts of all children.

Combining both the sacred and secular themes of the season, this is a luminous tale for audiences of all ages and many traditions.

December 3-30

Call for usheres. It’s easy, fun and you get to watch an amazing show. Arrive an hour before show time, greet our patrons, watch the performance and stay afterwards to help clean up. Perfect to do with a friend!

Contact Margery Otto, motto@hobt.org, or call 612-721-2355 x4 on Saturday.

Morning Puppet Shows for Kids!

All Shows at 10 am & noon in HOTB’s Avalon Theater lobby.

RNC8 Protesters turn “Lemons into Lemonade” with HOTB Justice Internship Greetings! By LOREN NIEH

One positive result from the 2008 Republican National Convention that happened in the Heart of the Beast will be the creation of a Youth Social Justice Internship. How did it happen? When the plea agreement was entered into by the RNC8 protesters was a chance for hotbeds of creativity to organize. This year, the BeFana happening in the HOBT’s Avalon Theater lobby is the result.

The Holiday Pageant, by Michael Sommers

FRI, DEC 3, 2010 - THU DEC 23, 2010

Open Eye rings in the season with its beloved annual holiday production. It’s the Christmas story with a trademark Open Eye twist! This family-friendly, joyfully amusing celebration of the Christmas season crackles with puckish sensibilities. Expect trumpets and tricks, angels and devils, shepherds and a little lamb. The one-hour show filled with magical puppetry is served up with cookies and hot cider for all.

Music by Victor Zupanc, arranged for a community choir. Michael Sommers’ reprises his role as Lucifer with Elise Langer as his minion and puppeteers Andy Kraff and Liz Schacterle as Mary and Joseph.

Open Eye is located just a few blocks south of Franklin Ave on the east side of 35W. FREE parking available in Lutheran Social Services lot on the SW corner of 24th and Portland.

TICKETS NOW ON SALE! Click here to order. Adults $20. Seniors and Students $15. Children 12 and Under $10

Red & Howl

Action/Comedy

Summit Entertainment

Southdale Mega 16 (10)

Running Time: 111 minutes

Languages: English, Russian

Rated: PG-13

Director: Rob Epstein, Jeffrey Friedman

Bruce Willis plays Frank Moses, a retired CIA assassin living almost a recluse life except for phone contacts with Sarah (Mary Louise Parker). Frank gets wind that hired assassins are out to kill him to prevent any possibility that any secrets leak out. To counteract the assassination attempts, he kidnaps Sarah for her own protection and organizes his own commandos – six in all. Marvin Boggs (John Malkovich), Joe (Morgan Freeman), Victoria (Helen Mirren) are members of Moses’ counter-attack.

Malkovich excels in his role as an unhinged commando living in an underground hideaway. Miren is no queen here as she handles machine guns as easily as riding a bike. Freeman looks like African royalty once Moses gets him out of the nursing home. All in all, Robert Schenck’s “Red” (acronym for “Retired Extremely Dangerous”), is pretty good though certain scenes merit better direction. For example, why is it necessary for Moses to raid a CIA. agent’s home and threaten to kill his children? Isn’t this a comedy, not a drama?

Kudos to James Franco for his performance as Allen Ginsberg. The film itself raises an interest for me to peruse Allen Ginsberg, particularly his poem, “Howl” which back in the 1950s spawned controversy. Its references to male homosexuality were considered to break obscenity laws. Precisely, “Howl” is about the poem and the man behind it. The young Ginsberg is seen reading his poem out loud to a group of Beatniks in an underground room. The film alternates between young Allen Ginsberg’s life to his first public reading of “Howl” to his trial for obscenity in San Francisco and his interviews which color animation of the man’s imagination. There are references to Walt Whitman’s poem, “Leaves of Grass”. For example, at the trial, witnesses are asked if “Howl” is similar to that famous Civil War era poem. One witness on the stand, Professor David Kirk (Jeff Daniels), is asked if poetry is prose by the prosecutor Ralph McIntosh (David Strathairn). “Sir, you cannot translate poetry into prose,” Kirk answers and goes on to say, “That’s why it’s poetry.” That said, the impression that the prosecutor and some other “learned” men are ignorant about literature, and particularly about Ginsberg’s “Howl,” is salient. Paradoxically, although Ginsberg promotes his subliminal gay literature, he did not want to publicize his works nationally, fearing his father would find out he was gay. Conversely, beyond the conversation about the poem itself, the movie’s platform questions freedom of speech (writing) and how censorship and democracy may not necessarily go hand in hand.

Christmas at St. Paul’s

St. Paul’s Lutheran Church

2742 15th Ave S.

612-724-3862

Dec. 10 & 11, 6:00 PM

Dec. 18, 5:00 PM

Christmas, 7:30 AM Traditional Service, followed by family breakfast

10:00 Carols & Communion

The Alley Newspaper • December 2010

Advertise in The Alley Call 612-990-4022 or e-mail ads@alleynews.org
Two Faces

I must be loosing it. Damn rabbit ears...maybe this way...

no, nothing. What is up with this new thin screen HD televi-
sion? No more political attack ads? Arrghh.

Seriously, many of these ads have the effect of splashing acid on the opponent's face. An ugly caricature is created. T.P.-G.O.P. types appear to be more proficient in the art.

The series of ads produced by Mark Dayton’s people were more positive. They included visual-

ables of an industrial scenario set at Smith Foundry (located in East Phillips). My co-workers are now dubbed “movie-stars” by the Teamsters Union!

Meanwhile, “ultra-lefts” have have gone combined with “sectarian-

reformists” to demean our participa-
tion in the “two-party system.” “There is no fundamental differ-
ence between the two parties” they inform us. (OMG, they are both parties of capitalism.) It is not ironic that certain elements of these sectarian maintain the pos-
ture that a vote for them actually path to the future beyond.

Two Faces again combined with “sectarian-

the candidate who had prominent-

Notably as well, Labor supported ed the slogan “Tax the Rich”.

which, in no small measure, boost-

Teamsters Union!

now dubbed “movie-stars” by the set at Smith Foundry (located in

bites of an industrial scenario positive. They included visual-

Mark Dayton’s people were more in the art.

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caricature is created. T.P.-G.O.P.

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on the one hand and fascist dic-

tatorship on the other, we just as between a workers’ revolution

ernance. Yes, but what…? Third, we agree that they inform us. (OMG, they are both parties of capitalism.) It is not ironic that certain elements of these sectarian maintain the pos-
ture that a vote for them actually path to the future beyond.

result of that decision. She said it’ll be hard on her child to have her mother in jail. And yet she feels obliged to take the morally correct action. My heart ached at her plight. Criminalizing peace activists who are simply protest-

ing war and working towards peace, smacks of McCarthyism to me.

Speak out against FBI repres-

sion. After all, it could be you or your neighbor next! Josie Winship

Open Letter

Is war opposition a crime?

When did Opposing War, become a crime in this country? A “witch hunt” is being held in the name of “Homeland Security.” On Sept. 24th 2010 the FBI raided the homes of eight Twin City peace and international solidarity leaders and the office of the Twin Cities Anti-War Committee. Some of them were involved in organizing the legal protest at the Republican National Convention in 2008.

According to the FBI, these individuals were looking for “evidence of material support for terrorism charges.” This is absurd and undemocratic.

Three, of the eight peace activ-

ists, are being subpoenaed by the Department of “Justice” to appear before the grand jury.

Appearing before the Grand Jury means that they have the choice to either rat on other peace activists (and get them in trouble) or go to jail. I met one of the six year old. She said that the three targeted peace activ-

ists have decided to not testify against their peace activist col-

leagues and they may go to jail. I met one of the six year old. She said that the three targeted peace activ-

ists have decided to not testify against their peace activist col-

leagues and they may go to jail. The economy remains unstable...

It follows that we reveal two faces at once. The Democratic Party appears as the vehicle of our “Popular-Front” even as we light a cigarette.

“Popular-Front” even as we light a cigarette.

Party appears as the vehicle of our “Popular-Front” even as we light a cigarette.

We are blaming the entire Somali community. I recently met with Senator Franken, a member of the Committee on Indian Affairs, and told him that I am greatly concerned that something’s going to trigger an outbreak of violence between our communities. I am concerned that the problem is not that the Somali people are bad, but that a few criminals from that community have been attacking our people, and in response some of our peo-

ple are blaming the entire Somali community.

Lurie: What steps have been taken to alleviate tension between the communities?

Forcia: In attempt to stave off violence we established a commit-
tee to address the issue of attacks upon our elders and our youth. The committee was active over the past spring and summer. We met five times with members of both communities – but there was hesitation on both sides when it came to making a commitment to form a joint security force. We’re going forward with AIM Patrol because we realize we have to protect our own people. We have to take back our community so there can be less fear out there, and people can feel comfortable walking the streets.

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Aim on Patrol

from page 5

Native American Community” back from day one.

Lurie: Aim Patrol was formed in the late 1960s to counteract police brutality in the Native com-

munity. What are the security con-

cerns on the streets of Phillips today?

Forcia: The security challenges faced today continue to be most difficult for the chronic home-

less and alcoholics, being on the streets in a state where they can’t defend themselves. Today they are being attacked by gangs of young East Africans, and also by people in our own Native community.

There has been a lot of animosity and a lot of tension between the Native community and the Somali community. I recently met with

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7AM to 3PM Mon. thru Sat.
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www.mariascafe.com

Maria’s Café

Ancient Traders Market
1113 E. Franklin Ave.
Minneapolis
7th to 3rd Mon. thru Sat.
www.mariascafe.com

Keep citizen journalism alive in the Phillips Community! Donate online at

www.alleynews.org

If you have enjoyed reading The Alley this year, help propel it into 2011, its 36th year of “informing and engaging.”

Make a Tax Deductible donation of any size, small or large, TODAY.

Peace and International Committee

AIM on Patrol

Native American Community

Mpls., MN 55407

PETER MOLENAAR

Raise Your Voice

So, what is a class-conscious worker to think?

First, our third-party enthusi-

asts appear to be a tad overly self-

charmed. Second, we agree that fundamental change (i.e. social-

ism) cannot be secured without expelling the capitalists from gov-

ernance. Yes, but what…? Third, as between a workers’ revolution on the one hand and fascist dic-

tatorship on the other, we just recently stepped closer to fascism. Fourth, the economy remains unstable...

It follows that we reveal two faces at once. The Democratic Party appears as the vehicle of our “Popular-Front” even as we light a path to the future beyond.

Lurie: What steps have been taken to alleviate tension between the communities?

Forcia: In attempt to stave off violence we established a commit-
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get your advenutre balcony for 2011 now!

for the guys:
mission accomplished!
big prizes!

for the ladies:
yttlev hair helmets

real american heroes

those were the days

in ten years after the civil war

the youth fought back with 1000 political assassinations!

those darn bankers

china’s foreseeing our mortgage!

bureaucracy

get rid of those jobs too!

impeachment

immigration

get rid of mid-range jobs

and more local!

demote from within!

no taxes

global warming

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get rid of those jobs too!
CHATS Working for Wellness In Our Backyard

Rebirthing Community CHAT

Intergenerational Community of Light Workshops
We are excited to announce an Intergenerational Community of Light Workshops beginning January 2011. Come and build your own Solar Lantern for your yard, home or apartment and be engaged with elders and youth. The Intergenerational Circles, of the Phillips & Powderhorn communities, will come together to reconnect, rebuild and restore our communities. This restoration will be used as a starting point for building and sustaining a healthy community. Have fun and join us in Rebirthing Community. Email: rebirthingcommunity@groups.live.com

Cooking Up Community CHAT

Purpose Statement: To empower African/African-American women to eat healthy meals that they will cook for themselves and their families. The women will gather together to plan, shop and cook meals together. They will create their personal cookbooks. We are a group of African/African-American women who are interested in healthy eating. We are also interested in healing the rift between African and African-American women. We will meet twice a month on Sat. from 1-3pm; one week to tour markets, co-ops, and Trader Joe’s and one week to cook. Contact Donna C Evans (612) 728-9121

BYI Definition of Health

Community residents began the Backyard Initiative process by creating their own definition of health. All the CHAT strategies are developed with this definition in mind. The BYI definition of health states that:

- Health is a state of physical, mental, social, and spiritual well-being. Health is not only the absence of infirmity and disease.
- Health is the state of balance, harmony, and connectedness within and among many systems – the body, the family, the community, the environment, and culture. Health cannot be seen only in an individual context.
- Health is an active state of being; people must be active participants to be healthy. Health cannot be achieved by being passive.

Dakota Language Revitalization CHAT

There are nine Dakota speakers left in the homeland of the Dakota people. We believe all Dakota have the right to learn the Dakota language and culture. The Dakota Language Revitalization group is working with Wicoie Nandagikendan to start a Dakota Language House. There will be a full day child care immersion program and a place to meet and learn Dakota. For information call Estella LaPointe (612) 721-4246. If you want to learn a Dakota phrase per week go to www.earlychildpro.org.

Anchor Families CHAT

We are anchoring Anchor Families on each BYI block who can model life skills and guiding values to youth as well as connect youth and their families to resources for wellness. Join us in creating systems of families caring for each other. Call: 612-721-5745

Growing Up in the Backyard CHAT

Already dreaming of spring? Are you a gardener who likes to share the work and the harvest? Do you wish you had a garden but don't know where to start? Contact us at: growingupinthebackyard@gmail.com Call: (612)-721-5745

Cultural Wellness Center

1527 East Lake Street
Mpls., MN 55407
612-721-5745

“Tell Me a Story” Communications CHAT

Purpose Statement: “Working to lessen or eliminate the divide between people who have information and those who don’t so that everyone has the opportunity to be engaged in a healthy community.”

Find out how to be involved in the Communications CHAT or how to tell us your story!

Call or email Susan Gust: (612)-724-5753 or sgustsrc@aol.com

Out in the Backyard CHAT

ARE YOU QUEER? DO YOU LIVE HERE? Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual people, friends and family (LGBTQA) in the Backyard, we need you to help us connect to resources for all things queer and build a Virtual Community Center. Contact us at: outinbackyard@gmail.com

612-564-7501 Find us on Facebook

BYI Area Map

The Backyard Initiative

The Backyard Initiative (BYI) is a partnership between Allina and the community surrounding Allina headquarters (on Chicago and Lake) to develop ways to improve the health of the community. The Cultural Wellness Center engages community residents in Community Health Action Teams (CHATs)