Creating MayDay

In the Heart of the Beast Theatre’s Avalon in April becomes transformed into a giant studio where staff artists and volunteers create the MayDay Parade and Festival

See pg. 5 for more

Banyan/Delasalle & College Bound

Tyler Moore, Abby Mohammed, Nathanael McNair, and Seng Ye Xiong

See pg. 6 for more

East Phillips Improvement Coalition

Annual Meeting
April 17th pg 5

NEWS & VIEWS OF PHILLIPS SINCE 1976
APRIL 2012 • Volume 37, Number 4
April Programs at the Franklin Library

BY ERIN THOMASSON

Children’s Programs

Read/Book, See/Movie.
F Ap 13 10 a.m. – noon
Learn to create presentations & use the ribbon to create a basic slide show.

F Ap 20 10 a.m. – noon
Learn about Google Docs & Microsoft Web Apps, free Web-based applications for creating documents, spreadsheets, 
& more. (Internet & email facility required)

Franklin Learning Center: 952-847-2934
Free, one-to-one tutoring for adults who are learning English
& math, preparing for the GED exam, and comfortable space?

Even hipper, you can follow
us on Twitter:
@alleynews

Visit The Alley online!
www.mplib.org/alleynews

Alley Crosswords by Samantha “Sami” Pfeffer

Across:
1. Motorist’s dilemma
2. Jacob’s wife
3. Comes after arr
4. Indian Strait
5. Indian Strait
6. Hip way to listen
7. Swan victim
8. Combat utensil
9. Like rainbows
10. Davy Crockett and Daniel
11. Soak up, as with bread
12. Whale
13. Yorkshire’s pastime
14. Modern thank you note
15. Nothing for Pierre and Yves
16. Motorist’s dilemma
17. Motorist’s solution
18. Greek notion of excellence
19. ______ and pains
20. High school req.
21. Minneapolis suburb
22. Greek notion of excellence
23. Comes after arr
24. The loneliest number
25. ______ and pains
26. Greek notion of excellence
27. Like rainbows
28. The Unsinkable’s sinker
29. Make dim
30. German article
31. Bro homes
32. W thru May 30, 4–6 p.m.
33. 62-across for Pierre and Yves
34. 612-990-4022
35. Cookie cutter, (dumpling)
36. Bemidji to Ely
37. Sailor’s yes
38. Titanic’s only trip
39. Enclosed
40. Completed
41. Rhymesayer’s pastime
42. Ye _____ Shoppe
43. High school mag
44. Golf do-over
45. High school mag
46. Yearly
47. Modern thank you note
48. Rhymesayer’s pastime
49. Nothing for Pierre and Yves
50. Bemidji to Ely
51. High school req.
52. Rhymesayer’s pastime

Learn the value of sharing your culture’s folktales with storytelling & books.

Celebrate Spring
Fun activities, crafts & stories.

Family Storytime
W thru Ap 11, 4–6 p.m.
Grades 6-12. Have fun learning
& discussing of plays of our.

Young Achievers
Th thru May 31 4-7 p.m.
Grades 6-12. Want Community
involvement? Concerned about
health & lifestyle? Poetry, arts,
games & more!

A-H-Mentoring Club
Tu thru Ap 16 10-6 p.m. and
Ap 17–25 5-7 p.m.
Grades 6-12. Learn urban
economics, health and nutrition,
ability & related careers in food
science. Maintain a community
connection & visit local food shops.

Game On! Gaming Tusts
Tu Ap 17–25, 4–5 p.m.
Grades 12-Play PS2 or Wii
games! Bring a friend, favorite
board or card game, or play ours!

Chess Club
Thru May 30, 4-6 p.m.
Grades 6-12. Have fun learning
chess, improving your game and
meeting chess fans. Walk-ins
welcome.

Artitude: Community Art and
Activism
W thru Ap 11, 4-6 p.m.
*Register Online* or call 612-
543-6925. Grades 7-12. Art is
powerful tool for awareness &
changes in social thinking: mail
& mini-zines. 6-part work shop:
the history of art and activism.

Down Time
Sa Ap 14, 21 & 28, 2-6 p.m.
Grades 6-12. Looking for a quiet
and comfortable space? “Down
time” on the topic of the week or
use our computers, board games.

Adult Programs

Movers Plus Reading Group
F Ap 13, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Stimulating morning of reading &
discussion & plays of our library.

Nonfiction Book Discussions for
Adults

Franklin Community Library
1314 E. Franklin Avenue
www.mplib.org
Tues & Thurs: 12 – 8 pm
Wed, Fri & Sat: 10 am – 6 pm
Complete program calendar, visit, call or
www.hclib.org and news at
www.hclib.org/pub/ info/newspaper/

Elder Learners
Ap 13 1-3 p.m. Stimulating discussion of nonfiction books.
For additional information, call the library, 612-543-5475.

Memoir Writing Group
Th Ap 19, 1-3 p.m. Want a
record of your personal history?
Bring what you have & get helpful comments.

Philips Technology Center
Register online: www.hclib.org
or 612-543-6925

Computer Skills Workshop
Th 12 & 19, noon-noon
Projects and practice skills: mouse, keyboarding, using
Microsoft & Office with instructors.

Email: Intermediate
Ap 12-6 8-8 p.m. Learn to use
folders, view & attach files to an
email and set up an email address
with a Yahoo! account.

Microsoft Word: Basics
F Ap 13 10 a.m. – noon
Learn to use the ribbon, enter
text, basic formatting, cut, copy
and paste; & when to use ‘save
& save as.’

Microsoft PowerPoint: Basics
F Ap 20 10 a.m. – noon
Learn to create presentations &
use the ribbon to create a basic
slide show.

F Ap 20 1-3 p.m.
Learn about Google Docs &
Microsoft Web Apps, free Web-
based applications for creating
documents, spreadsheets, &
more. (Internet & email facility required)

Franklin Learning Center:
952-847-2934
Free, one-to-one tutoring for
adults who are learning English
& math, preparing for the GED
certificate exams, & gaining
life skills. Community volunteers
needed, too! No experience
necessary; we provide training &
materials. Contact us at 552-847-
2934.

April 15

Men’s Boxers
March Answers

57. Seaport city of Yemen
54. Nothing for Pierre and Yves
52. Rhymesayer’s pastime
51. High school req.
50. Bemidji to Ely
49. High school mag
48. Rhymesayer’s pastime
47. Modern thank you note
46. Golf do-over
45. High school mag
44. Golf do-over
43. Blackalicious debut
42. Ye _____ Shoppe
41. Titanic’s only trip
40. RBP Ms. James
39. Enclosed
38. Titanic’s only trip
37. Sailor’s yes
36. Madeleine
35. Odysseus
34. Nothing for Pierre and Yves
33. 62-across for Pierre and Yves
32. Nothing for Pierre and Yves
31. Bro homes
30. German article
29. Make dim
28. The Unsinkable’s sinker
27. Like rainbows
26. Greek notion of excellence
25. Modern thank you note
24. Washable
23. Make a change
22. Greek notion of excellence
21. Motorist’s dilemma
20. Motorist’s dilemma
19. Nothing for Pierre and Yves
18. Rhymesayer’s pastime
17. Motorist’s dilemma
16. Motorist’s dilemma
15. Nothing for Pierre and Yves
14. Rhymesayer’s pastime
13. Comes after arr
12. Soak up, as with bread
11. Sunburn reliever
10. Davy Crockett and Daniel
9. Like rainbows
8. Combat utensil
7. Swan victim
6. “Thanks
5. Indian Strait
4. Indian Strait
3. Comes after arr
2. Jacob’s wife
1. Motorist’s dilemma
LOW afer ZOO ANIMAL on TOMBSTONE STAGE June 9th

fed byHola Arape and Dandelion Kitchen

A good reflection of Q-Equella Oliver mentoring Na-way-ee.

Q-Equella Oliver (Trainer at Running Wolf) comments- “In January the students from Center School started coming to Running Wolf to begin a fitness program. When they first came, they seemed uncomfortable, not interested or motivated. But after a few times here at Running Wolf they have become excited to be at Running Wolf. They are happy and enthused to work out! Their attitude about fitness has become a positive one, to the point that when they arrive at Running Wolf they start on their own with their programs. I love working with them and often call them-My kids from Center School.”

Ironically, not only for academic success, but also for health initiatives such as diabetes and pregnancy prevention, which are key components of our overall school program. Because of our collaboration with RWFC, our students have access to a gym, fitness center and fitness trainer for the first time in our history. This is a huge benefit to our students, most of whom have rarely had such opportunities in their lives, providing them with the opportunity to exercise regularly in a structured environment and to develop healthy exercise and diet habits, thereby addressing the two modifiable risk factors for Diabetes. And (diet and style) The self discipline involved also leads to better decision making in other parts of their lives and can therefore translate to other sexual behavior choices as well.”

Some comments from the students;

• “We really like Q (the trainer) he is awesome! (all students agree)
• “Very good–we have better tone and muscle”-Jose Garcia
• “More toned and physically fit”-Vincent Skinaway
• “I got bigger muscles and I have a 6 pack now”-Matthew Skinaway

Crystal F., Health teacher at Center school stated, “It’s great to see the changes in the students even when we are driving over to RWFC once a week they have access to fitness center and fitness trainer for the general students have reported significant weight loss; they are tracking that back at School.”

Four alternative or charter schools are key components of our overall school program. Because of our collaboration with RWFC.

Center School (Na-way-ee) is located on the 2400 block of Bloomington Avenue; Center School has been educating Native American youth for 40 years. Na-way-ee means “The Center”.

The nine students at our school are from the Phillips neighborhood, the heart of the Native American Community. This year, Center School has enrolled about 50 young people in grades 7-12. Most of the youth come from the immediate Phillips neighborhood. Typically, students at Center School have encountered difficulties at public school. Many of them have dropped out or lost contact with school. Center School provides a fresh start with small classes and a culturally focused curriculum and now we are encouraging them to come back and to become a part of their program offerings to these students!

Sheila Rice, The Center School Director, stated “Center School places a huge emphasis on the Physical, Mental, Spiritual and Emotional health of our students and Staff. We know that a healthy, welcoming environment is essential not only for academic success, but also for health initiatives such as diabetes and pregnancy prevention, which are key components of our overall school program. Because of our collaboration with RWFC, our students have access to a gym, fitness center and fitness trainer for the first time in our history. This is a huge benefit to our students, most of whom have rarely had such opportunities in their lives, providing them with the opportunity to exercise regularly in a structured environment and to develop healthy exercise and diet habits, thereby addressing the two modifiable risk factors for Diabetes. And (diet and style) The self discipline involved also leads to better decision making in other parts of their lives and can therefore translate to other sexual behavior choices as well.”

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NCAP Grows Gardening Potential in Phillips this Spring

By David Boehnke

Connecting for Action in Phillips. Which are being organized by a new gardening opportunities, many of which are being organized by a new group called NCAP: Neighbors Connecting for Action in Phillips. There are four opportunities particularly worth highlighting:

1. Get a garden in a box—Sign up to participate in this initiative where you, with other neighbors, will get a raised bed garden, plants, and mutual support for growing food where you live. RSVP to the Meet and Greet Event for this exciting opportunity: Shea, 612-423-1351, shea.peoples@gmail.com. The event is on Saturday, April 14th, 11 am at the Phillips Community Center, 2323 11th Ave. S. This project is in partnership with the Growing the Backyard CHAT of the Backyard Initiative and fits into Gardening Matters’ Cold Crop Distribution Event—meet other gardeners and get reduced price seeds and seedlings.

2. Help create a community garden—join your neighbors in creating new community gardens on 28th and Portland Ave or 26th St and 13th Ave. Contact ncap@riseup.net or call 612-466-0770 to get connected. We need your leadership in helping to design, work, and collectively benefit from these gardens. This is an amazing opportunity!

3. Attend the 3rd Phillips Food Justice Table on Monday, April 2nd from 6:30-8:30 pm at the Waite House, 2529 13th Ave S. This is our third meeting of people and organizations interested in food justice. Anyone is welcome, translation and childcare available on request to ncap@riseup.net, 612-466-0770.

4. Come to NCAP’s weekly food share—every Sunday, 2 pm at the Waite House, 2529 13th Ave S. This is our third meeting of people and organizations interested in food justice. Anyone is welcome, translation and childcare available on request to ncap@riseup.net, 612-466-0770.

Yard Waste Reusable or Compostable Container • Mandate Begins April 9th

On garbage-day week of April 9 yard waste for collection must be in reusable containers, paper bags or compostable plastic bags. A four-week grace period will allow a transition for folks who have plastic leaf bags filled from last season. An educational instruction tag will be left by collection crews during this four-week transition period.

After the week of April 30, yard waste in plastic bags will be left and tagged for residential re-packaging.

Reusable containers, paper bags, and compostable plastic bags will reduce the amount of plastic being sent to local compost-facilities.

• Screening out less plastic from the finished compost = lower costs and better quality of compost.
• Change complies with state law.
• OPTIONS: All to be 33 gallons or less and less than 40 lbs. 1. Reusable container with sturdy handles. 2. Paper bags available at stores. 3. Compostable plastic bags: distinct from conventional lawn and garden plastic bags because they are usually clear or a translucent shade of green, pink or white. Available at stores.

5. Compost yard waste at home & use the nutrient-rich compost for gardens and lawns. Set reusable containers or bags of yard waste, bundles of brush next to garbage cart by 6 a.m. garage pick up day. Branches and leaves must be tied with string or twine, bagged in a compostable bag or placed loose in a reusable container. Branches must be less than three inches each in diameter and less than three feet long. Bundles must weigh less than 40 lbs.

For questions about leaf and brush pickup, call 612-673-2917 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or visit www.minneapolismn.gov/solid-waste/yardwaste.

Raingarden Workshops

Use native plants in your garden landscape - Limit fertilizers and pesticides without compromising a beautiful yard - Capture rainwater on site with rain gardens - Redirect your downspouts - Plan your garden. Location! - Plan a garden with one-on-one assistance from designers and Master Gardeners. Part A-The Basics of Raingardens Part B-Plan Your Own Garden-

Waite Park Recreation Center 1810 34th Ave. NE, Minneapolis A: Tues., April 17 6:30-8:30 PM B: Tues., April 24 6:30-8:30 PM

Powderhorn Recreation Center 3400 15th Ave. S, Minneapolis A: Thurs., April 19 6:30-8:30 PM B: Thurs., April 26 6:30-8:30 PM

Lynnhurst Recreation Center 1345 Minnehaha Pkwy. W., Minneapolis A: Wed., April 25 6:30-8:30 PM B: Wed., May 9 6:30-8:30 PM

North Regional Library 1315 Lomary Ave N, Minneapolis A: Sat., April 28 1:00-2:30 PM B: Sat., April 28 2:30-4:00 PM

Longfellow Recreation Center 2455 36th Ave. S, Minneapolis A: Sat., May 12 10:00-12:00 Noon B: Sat., May 19 10:00-12:00 Noon

Nokomis Lutheran Church 5011 31st Avenue South, Minneapolis A: Thurs., June 7 6:30-8:30 PM B: Thurs., June 21 6:30-8:30 PM To register, www.metroblooms.org or call 651-689-1390.

Fee: $10 per workshop. Sponsored by the City of Mpls. Participants are also eligible for a low-cost onsite consultation and raingarden design drawing. Metro Blooms has partnered with Metro communities in workshops since 2005, 5,000+ residents have attended workshops & over 2,000 raingardens have been installed.

ST. PAUL’S LUTHERAN

Join us for Holy Week and Easter at St. Paul’s Easter Schedule: 8:00 AM Traditional Worship in English 9:15 Easter Breakfast and Children’s Program 11:00 AM Bilingual Easter Worship 2742 15th Ave South Call 612-724-3862 for more info

WELNA HARDWARE

• KEYS MADE
• LOCKS RE-KEYED
• 5 GALLON PAINT
• EXCELLENT PRICES
• RUG DOCTOR RENTAL
• EXPERT WINDOW/SCREEN REPAIR
• TRAILERS FOR RENT—OPEN AND ONE ENCLOSED

3430 BLOOMINGTON AVE. POWDERHORN PARK MINNEAPOLIS MPL 612-396 SAT 7-5 • SUN 7-3:00 729-5627 ORGANIC & FAIR TRADE COFFEE FREE Wireless Internet

BULLETIN! Cedar Food and Grill is about to OPEN again at 26th and Cedar after the Fire.

Seward Co-op GROCERY & DELI

Everyone Welcome

• Fresh local produce and meats
• Deli with sandwiches, hot food, baked goods and family-size meals

NOW OPEN 8-8 Mon-Fri, Sun 8-6 • 2160 E Franklin Ave • Minneapolis • 612.328.2485 • seward coop

MINNEAPOLIS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Midtown Global Market

Easter Day Celebration

Saturday, April 21 11 AM to 3 PM

Mary’s Café

Ancient Trails Market

1113 E. Franklin Ave. Minneapolis 7:00 to 3:00 Mon. thru Sat. Sat to 3:00 Sun. 612.870.9842 www.mariscafe.com

Mid-Price

May Day

4

The Alley Newspaper • April 2012

Gardening
Free Citizenship Classes

3 of 100 possible citizenship test questions:
- Who was the U.S. President during World War I?
- How many amendments to the U.S. Constitution?
- How many members in the House of Representatives?

(Answers below)

FREE preparation for U.S. citizenship / naturalization exam
International Education Center (IEC) for residents legal residency. All levels of English proficiency by a professional teacher with scheduled options (morning, afternoon, or evening) 5 days a week. Classes at 2 Mpls. places: 2700 East Lake St (near the Lake St. Light rail station) and 4330 Hennepin Ave (in the heart of downtown). IEC offers classes with individualized and small group instruction to students for completion with a short time to prepare before testing to learn more quickly than in a regular class, and helps students at low English levels to get assistance with the English reading and writing portions of the exam. Test preparation is essential because applicants only get two chances.

Free classes are funded by a Federal Govt. grant to IEC and MN Literacy Council to help people with a green card gain citizenship.

“Creating MAYDAY”

Welcome to April at the AVALON

On May 6th the 38th Annual MayDay Parade’s Puppets, Bands, Floats, Stiltwalkers, & More will appear 5 Blocks north of Lake Street travel along Bloomingtown Avenue across Lake Street and 5 Blocks south of Lake Street turning toward and around Powderhorn Lake to the cheering admiration of thousands of people. That spectacle will be the “frosting on the cake.” The MIRACLE of MayDay in Minneapolis

Right on Lake St

On right on Lake Street at 1500 East Lake is the gathering of hundreds of people of all ages and levels of expertise during April to design and shape this remarkable Celebration of Spring and new life.

In the Heart of the Beast Theatre’s Avalon in April transforms into a giant studio where staff artists and volunteers create the MayDay Parade and Festival.

Help build the puppets for the MayDay Parade!

Workshops are free and open to the public.

Workshop Times: April 7- May 3, 2012
- Saturdays, 9-11am and 1-3 pm
- Tuesdays & Thursdays, 7-9 pm

How it Works
- An artist will introduce you to the parade theme by showing you the giant storyboard (a visual script).
- You select a section of the parade to work on, find the artist in charge of that section, and set to work!
- Artists will guide you.
- You can either make your own creation which you can keep after the parade, or help with the larger parade floats.
- Typically, you’ll need 3 or 4 sessions to complete a project, but you can come to as many or as few as your schedule allows.

Other Details
- Workshops are Free.
- Donations graciously accepted, always welcome, and much needed.
- Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult.
- Wear “painting” clothes.
- Bring recycled items (if you can): small plastic tubs with lids, brown paper bags, newspapers, fabric, sheets, latex paint, bamboo, scissors.
- No reservations required. Just Come!

Media / MayDay/ India / Citizenship

Hear Joseph Torres co-author of New York Times bestseller

News for All the People: The Epic Story of Race and the American Media

Juan Gonzalez and Joseph Torres

Contact: International Education Center. 612-871-6350 shall@iec-minnesota.org

*Questions Answers: Woodrow Wilson, 27 amendments, and 435.

East Phillips Improvement Coalition

13th ANNUAL MEETING OF EPIC

-- Your Neighborhood Action Group --

Saturday, April 30th, 2012
Social gathering time: 9:30 am Meeting begins at 10:00 am At: The New East Phillips Park Cultural & Community Center 2307 17th Ave. S.
Annual Board Elections Music, Good Food Good Door Prizes PLEASE COME AND MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS Call 612-280-8418 for more details

Where Brahmaputra meets the Mississippi

FUNDRAISING EVENT:
April 7 2012 7-9 PM
For empowering underprivileged women and children in India.

- Doors open 6 PM
- Silent Auction & Delicious International food 6-7 PM (additional cost)
- Cultural Program 7-9 PM
- Confluence of mystical East with vibrant West
- Indian Classical and Modern Dance
- North American Music and Dance

Richfield Middle School 7461 Oliver Av. So. Richfield, MN 55423 Tickets: $13. Adv/ $15. at door gogettergirl1@gmail.com (612)-458-8661 bijanankita@gmail.com 651-272-5598 mkatuky@comcast.net (612)-458-8329 http://rgvnindia.org

http://spadeindia.org

The Alley Newspaper • April 2012
We Need To Talk about Kevin

HowardMcQuitterii@yahoo.com

Drama/Suspense/Mystery

Oscilloscope Pictures

Cast: Tilda Swinton (Eva), John C. Reilly (Franklin), Ezra Miller (Kevin), Naomi Watts (Julie), Julianne Moore (Ramsey). Directed by Lynne Ramsay. (R) Running time: 112 minutes. Written by Lionel Shriver. Director: Lynne Ramsay.

Tilda Swinton’s character Eva’s face is fraught with agony and dismay rarely letting a smile break the dark psychological remora with her tantalizing, sadist, warped son Kevin (Eva Miller), who it seems from birth to be an albatross on the proverbial back of Eva. From the time Kevin is born he doesn’t develop like a “normal” child. He seems unusual to Eva when she tries to teach him to talk or rolls a ball towards him and doesn’t reciprocate. At a tender age, Kevin spouts expletives (on human sexuality) stunning his already stressed mother. The sad seed—Kevin—knows how to torment Eva. As for the father, Franklin (John C. Reilly), an over doting father, Kevin has a bad seed—Kevin—knows how and when to torment Eva.

Eva’s life with Kevin is like living in a torture chamber, like living with a demon. Kevin plays mean games on his baby sister Lucy (Ursla Parker) too, such as stealing her hamster from its cage.

Franklin seems impervious to Kevin’s psychotic behavior and his wife’s near her wit’s end. Rather than get psychological help for Kevin, Franklin appeases the dire situation by buying a new house which seems after several years is as barren as the emotional void in their household. Yet “Kevin” is not a horror film, although horrifying things happen, the film is a sad and tragic story but as good as a movie gets in this genre.

Phillips Indigenous Cultures Community Celebration

At Waite House 2529 13th Ave. So.

Wed. April 18th 6-7:30 PM

Waite House Teen Programming’s first Phillips Indigenous Cultures Community Celebration. A youth-led event intended to unite and celebrate all Indigenous groups of the Americas.

The goal is to come together to recognize each other’s history and culture through dance, spoken word performances, keynote speakers, live artists, great food and great music!

We want to celebrate and honor the numerous indigenous cultures and traditions in Phillips and across the Twin Cities: traditional Ecuadorian, Aztec, Ojibwe, Bomba from Puerto Rico, or Lakota dance. We want you there.

If you know a spoken word performer or storyteller, we want you there. Individuals want to hang (or sell) art, work or photos, we are all about it! Short videos? We are down. Whoever identifies as indigenous is welcome to apply!

First time, “we are open to feedback and ideas. Youth-driven project, so teens at Waite House will be directing the process... This is not a process where adults take over and direct, but are welcome to contribute and support.

Apply to perform to Julie Graves or Rachel Young at 612-721-6181 or Gravesj@puccmn.org, YoungR@puccmn.org

Open Eye Figure Theatre presents

Toy Theatre after Dark A week of miniature puppetry

Spectacle, classes, discussions, and networking

Editor’s Note:

Toy Theatre after Dark is a program of the Open Eye Figure Theatre, an organization that supports puppetry as a vital, relevant performance art form through creation, performance, and educational and community engagement activities. For Further information, visit openeyefiguretheatre.org or contact info@openeyefiguretheatre.org

Toy Theatre after Dark

We Need to Talk about Kevin

The Alley Newspaper • April 2012

MSP International Film Festival

MSP Film Festival April 12 — May 3 St. Anthony Main Theatre in Mpls 300 narrative, documentary, and short films. 350+ guests 2011 FESTIVAL • 100+ submitted films • 200 feature films • 80 short subjects • 61 countries of origin • 60+ films in 100+ engaged community organizations • 100+ visiting filmmakers & guests • 80+ volunteers providing 1000+ hrs of service • mspfilmfest.org
Time Won’t Wait

Gone is the brush pile which housed the winter’s flock of sparrows. It was a cold day then. Does the city inspector harbor a mean spirit or merely a sense of duty? It is warm today. The sparrows are sampling freshly strewn seed. And so…

Will the Occupy Movement return as a visible hub around which broader movements revolve and develop? It depends. Occupy has yet to formally resolve its internal debate on the question of tactics. Should we publicly disavow actions of a provocative nature? Or should we consent to the concept “respect for diversity of tactics”? It would seem that common sense dictates two things. Don’t pull stunts which alienate potential allies. What then is the difficulty?

“Respect for diversity” does have a nice ring to it and there is a star in Gov. Dayton’s bonding request, (and possibly the nation’s history).” He called it “Robin Hood in reverse.”

“We can’t have a nice ring to it and there won’t wait for some Red Army to drop from the sky. Only us. The beauty of SNAP is that it contracts and expands as needed. America would have experienced widespread hunger in these economic tough times if SNAP had been “block granted” because Block Grants are limited and States often do not spend “block granted” funds on the programs for intended. Thankful the Ryan budget did not pass in 2011. However, this past week Representative Ryan reintroduced his budget in the House of Representatives”. Bob Greenstein, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, president, said that the Ryan budget “would likely produce the largest redistribution of income from the bottom to the top in modern U.S. history and likely increase poverty and inequality more than any other budget in recent times, (and possibly the nation’s history).”

Robin Hood in reverse.

Secondly, it is said: “We can’t have a nice ring to it and there won’t wait for some Red Army to drop from the sky. Only us.”

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By JANICE BARBEE, CULTURAL WELLNESS CENTER

This update highlights the work of seven additional Citizen Health Action Teams (CHATs) of four-teen total after summarizing the work of four more. The other three will be summarized in the May issue.

The Backyard is approximately one square mile area surrounding the Midtown Global Market and Allina Health Commons. Residents of these seven neighbor-hoods in south Minneapolis have been supported by the Cultural Wellness Center to develop and implement their ideas for community health improvement since December of 2008. Allina has contributed funds for these projects, with additional support from Twin Cities LISC (Local Initiatives Support Corporation).

Each CHAT is growing the community’s capacity to increase residents’ knowledge and skills to take better care of themselves.

Growing in the Backyard CHAT: formed over concern with the community’s food system, that not everyone has access to healthy food. They chose creating family gardens instead of just a backyard as a strategy to improve this problem. Last summer they helped eight gardens in resident’s backyards as the community’s food system, that take better care of themselves.

Resident’s knowledge and skills to projects, with additional support has contributed funds for these since December of 2008. Allina community health improvement core and implement their ideas for Cultural Wellness Center to develop.

Residents of these seven neighborhoods have reached out to Allina and Allina Health Commons.

May issue.

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infinitelyfit.com).

outyard to each other and to resources. is an initiative to connect LGBT community from the

Out in the Backyard is an initiative to connect LGBT community from the

Greenway Glow and Northern Spark to “Light Up the Greenway” on June 9th

Alley readers are invited to join the Midtown Greenway Coalition on the evening of June 9th for a dazzling night of fun and festivi-ties on the Greenway!

From 6:00 p.m. to Midnight, close to 20 artists will be present-ing free art, movies, dance, and musical performances along the Greenway as part of the Northern Spark all-night art festival.

All Alley readers will be participating in the Midtown Greenway Coalition’s “Greenway Glow,” an illuminated night bike ride on the Greenway.

To participate in the Greenway Glow, cyclists will pay a $25 registration fee and commit to ride at least 15 miles or more in pledges. To register for the Greenway Glow, visit our website at www.midtowngreen- way.org.

Introduction to The Alley’s New Series: STORIES FROM OUR BACK YARD

Inside of the area called the “Backyard”, there are 15,000 households. Inside of each of those homes or apartments are stories waiting to be told. There is stories of kids getting good grades at school, friends grieving together, stories of overcoming, stories of convictions, stories of healing.

This month’s story is written by Khusha Sela from the Backyard’s Anchor Families CHAT (Community Health Action Team). She tells us of what her life has been like on her block.

Tell US YOUR STORY: A story about a neighbor, your block, or a family member. Stories help stories. Have power. They teach us about each other.

Email editor@alleynew.org or call 612-990-4022 for support and assistance.

“I am headed out, do you need anything?”

BY KHUSHMA SENA

When I am asked, “What are Anchor Families?” there are two things that I think of: my sons have been taken from me by the dog always barks.” The dog that always barked was Ms. Betty’s “Tidbit”—her very small dog with a fast tongue. Sometimes the kids turn into teenagers, it’s the name of the intersections and the description of the block.

Instead of neighborhood landmarks, I hear “We live off of Lake and Bloomingom.” Still every now and then I hear, “Miss Ms. Betty and Tidbit.” Ms. Betty and Tidbit passed away two years ago. She had lived on the block for 30 years. She was one of the founders of the Cultural Wellness Center at 621-721-5745 for more information.

A number of my neighbors have always tried to keep my youngest son busy, knowing that if we didn’t, there would be meltdowns. They wanted to support us how they could. That’s how anchoring families are created. They called new neighbors and giving neighbors a send off when they move away. And doing more than just waving as it’s neighboring in the truest sense of the word: taking the time to stop and listen, asking “Why were the police at your house? Are you ok?”

Sitting with someone who’s grieving. Acts as simple as acknowledg-ing another person’s birthday and knowing all the names of the kids on your block.

For me, this is also a way of practicing my cultural heritage. It takes a village to raise a child. I have had the village experience and want to give the same experience to everyone. I live with my two block away, and I was just too fragile to be an Anchor Family, I was in the same situation as just needing a hug. Since becoming part of a Anchor Families I CHAT I have been reminded of why I became a community organizer. It’s about being there for each other and wanting to love on people and feel the reciprocity but a lot of the time I got was bureaucracy instead. Now working with the Anchoring Families, all the statistics that have and sometimes still do describe parts of my life don’t feel like a juxta-position—they are just a simple byproduct of where our society is.

And even when I have to go without food, I don’t feel like I am too fragile to be an Anchor Family, I am generally reminded that I have a village to lean on.

Now my daughter and her family of three live across the street from me and on a nice warm day, if the window is open, I can hear my grandson shout my name, “Ye Ya!” with excitement as I pull up to the door of our neighbor and have to offer cannot be measured by a paycheck or a timesheet, but it can be seen in the work my daughter does in garden installations, the things my sons say over a microphone when we come together to claim our park as a community. It can be heard in the stories of kids getting good grades at school, friends grieving together, stories of overcoming, stories of convictions, stories of healing.

Inside of each of those homes or apartments are stories waiting to be told.