The Phillips Pool project is intent on resolving this serious inequity of the City. The East Phillips Improvement Coalition (EPIC) has been in the forefront of the community wide effort to save and renovate the defunct swimming pool in the Phillips Community Center, 2323 11th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

East Phillips Neighborhood members supported the pool in a series of votes to allocate $50,000 of EPIC’s NRP dollars for the reconstruction of the pool and facility. EPIC sequestered those funds hoping for a matching grant.

The Shapooke Mdewakanton Sioux Community made that offer. The combined gift of $100,000. caused the dream for the full facility to “get real”. The renewed, Phillips Aquatic Center, will have refurbished main pool and a new zero entry warm water teaching / therapeutic pool along with locker rooms and all the new filtration systems.

EPIC Board President, Carol Pass, presented an oversized version of EPIC’s check to Denny Bennett, President of Minneapolis Swims at a news conference at the Center on Nov. 6th. Janet Lee and Ellen McGinnis presented a $25,000. check from the Shapooke Mdewakanton Sioux Community.

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Wells Fargo. Others present were Shapooke Mdewakanton Sioux Community Vice Chairman Keith Anderson, State Representative Karen Clark, Hennepin County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin, Park Commissioner Scott Vreeland, Dean Dovolis, Principal of DJR Architecture, City CM Abdi Warsame & Aisha Gomez, representative of CM Alondra EPIC Pool page 4

Kimberly Adams, and Sharrod Rowe, parents of Sha-kym Adams, the Minneapolis South HS sophomore football player who tragically drowned on August 6th in Lake Nokomis were also at the presentation. They spoke supporting the pool and swimming competence for all, in hopes of averting any further tragedies in Minneapolis lakes.

They are the Honorary Co-Chairs of a scholarship fund that has been set up in their Son’s name. If you would like to donate to the “Sha-kym Adams ‘Learn-to-Swim’ Scholarship Fund”, please indicate that on your check and mail it to Minneapolis Swims, 2323 11th Ave. S. Suite 135, Minneapolis, MN 55404

“MY LAST WORDS TO GEORGE W. BUSH AND DICK CHENEY”

BY TOMAS YOUNG

Counterpunch Editor’s Note: News came Nov. 10, 2014 that Tomas Young, 34, an Iraq war vet turned anti-war activist, had passed away in Seattle. He enlisted in the Army two days after 9/11. After Ft. Hood, Texas training he was deployed to Iraq and paralyzed five days into the tour after being shot through his spinal cord. Many CounterPunchers may remember Tomas from the excellent Body of War documentary film by Phil Donahue about Tomas’ struggles following his return from Iraq. RIP Tomas Young. We promise to carry on your fight. – Joshua Frank. * Reprinted from Counterpunch. [See page 7 for Young’s letter to George W. Bush and Dick Cheney in June 2013.]
Dear Alley readers:

I want to thank readers of the Alley newspaper for your help and encouragement in my campaign for Hennepin County Commissioner District 4. There was a noticeably higher level of support for me in the Phillips and Powderhorn neighborhoods, where the Alley is widely distributed and read. This was reflected in a higher percentage of votes, and was also demonstrated by the many homes and businesses that allowed my campaign to place yard signs and posters on their property.

I received over 10,000 votes - about one in four ballots cast.

I have formed a campaign committee to run for the Minnesota State Senate in District 62, which also includes the Phillips and Powderhorn neighborhoods. I am looking for people to serve on that committee. Please contact me if you are interested, at 612-286-6518. Thank you again.

Captain Jack Sparrow

Phillips West Neighborhood Upcoming Events

www.phillipswest.info

December 4th (Thursday) 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. – Phillips West Community Meeting!

Join your neighbors and other Community Partners for updates from Local City Government, Business Partners, Saint Mary’s University, Minneapolis Swims, Hennepin County 35W Access Project, Residents, and Minneapolis Police. at Center for Changing Lives in the Centrum Room (2400 Park Avenue). Free parking in the rear of building off Oakland Avenue. Free Jakeeno’s Pizza & Beverages will be provided!

Info: Crystal at 612-876-5383 or email her pwno2005@yahoo.com.

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Looking for Affordable Health Care Coverage?

Portico Healthnet can help!

Thanks to support from the Allina Backyard Initiative, Portico Healthnet can:

- Help you apply for Medical Assistance or MinnesotaCare
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“Yellow Journalism” adds insult to injury of family

It’s not unheard of for a report-er to get carried away with a story and exaggerate a little for dra-matic effect. The story about David Fisher’s death was one of those stories. It ran in the Minneapolis Tribune on September 4, 1903, under the headline, “Killed on Way to See His Dying Wife, David C. Fisher, Old and Feeble, Struck by a Street Car As He was Tending from Poor Farm to City Hospital—Was Going to Make Perhaps Last Visit to His Aged Partner In Life, Separated by Illness and Misfortune.” This lengthy headline more or less tells the whole story and a little more.

When Annie Fisher got sick in the fall of 1903, her husband, who was old and somewhat frail himself, could no longer take care of her at home. She was taken to the City Hospital where, accord-ing to newspapers accounts, she was expected to die any day. She was over 90 years old and in poor health.

Annie and David Fisher had been together a long time. According to the 1895 Territorial Census for Minnesota, David Fisher had moved to the United States from Canada in 1857, one year before Minnesota became a state. Annie was born in Indiana. They were married in St. Anthony on January 1, 1860. They married relatively late in life; although records give varying birth years for each, they were both approximately forty years old. In the 1860s they adopted a son named James and a daughter named May and a son named James.

David held a number of jobs over the years. He started out as a watchman. In 1879 he got a job as one of the city’s poundmasters, the equivalent of working for Animal Control today, except that in addi-tion to dealing with dogs and cats, he would have had to contend with the hordes, cows and sheep residing within the city limits. He earned a reasonable, though not lavish salary, about $10 a week. When that job ended about six years later he worked as a watchman and a barman, most likely for the animal pound. Not long before he died, he was reported to have been running a laundry out of his home.

Old age, poverty and illness finally caused the couple to be separated. When Annie got sick, David went to live at the County Poor Farm. He was taking the streetcar from the Poor Farm to City Hospital to visit Annie when he was run down and killed. Newspaper reporters made much of the fact that he was on his way to visit his dying wife. According to the story he had collected some “dainties” for her and told the staff that he might not be back for several days which led a reporter to conclude that she was within days of dying.

David was crossing the street at Sixth Street and Sixth Avenue South when he was struck by the passing streetcar. He died before he could be taken to the hospital. At first, staff at the hospital withheld the news of her hus-band’s death from Annie because, according to the papers, her doc-tors were afraid that the shock might kill her. When they did tell her, “she took the news philosophically, although it was a great shock to her feeble, nervous system.” She was unable to attend her husband’s funeral but she was visited and comforted by friends.

Apparently the Tribune reporter who covered the story thought that it wasn’t sad or dramatic enough. Although there is little question that Fishers had experienced hard-ship during the last several months of David Fishers’s life, there is nothing in the story to support the Tribune’s claim that theirs was “a life of sorrow.” And it wasn’t true, as the Tribune claimed, that there was “no one to care for his dead body—his [David’s] life truly had come to an end.” While it’s unclear where their adult children were living at the time of his death, David Fisher had made arrangements some years earlier with B. R. Bain, a friend and neighbor, to take care of his and Annie’s funeral arrangements. Mr. Bain kept his promise to David Fisher. Four years later he had occasion to keep it again. Annie Fisher, who was described in 1903 as “old, decrepit and fast failing,” lived for another four years. She died on December 13, 1907, at the age of 96. Three days later she was buried next to her husband in Lot 44, Block P.

Now Hiring for Part-Time Neighborhood Coordinator – Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association

For more information and to apply go to: www.ppl-inc.org/who-we-are/work-at-ppl

Job Summary

Project for Pride in Living, at the request of Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association (MPNA), has agreed to host a program to support the community improvement work of MPNA. This part-time position provides administrative support and assistance to help ensure the smooth functioning of Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association. Duties include providing contract management and administrative support to Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association; Monitor neighborhood issues at City Council and Regulatory committees; state and county issues; and with other neighborhood entities; Manage logistics for all neighborhood and Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association Board meetings and communicate details to the Board members; Provide administrative assistance to Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association Board that includes, but is not limited to, drafting and typing correspondence, copying material, preparing mailings, filing, assisting with special projects, site tours and special events; Financial and budget management.

Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association, Inc. approved to consider dedicating $50,000 of Community Engagement funding to saving and renovating the Phillips Community Center indoor swimming pool located at 24th St & 11th Ave So. There will be discussion and a Community Vote on Tuesday, January 27th from 6:30-8:00 at Stewart Park / 2700 block of 12th Avenue. 

Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association, Inc. approved to consider dedicating $50,000 of Community Engagement funding to saving and renovating the Phillips Community Center indoor swimming pool located at 24th St & 11th Ave So. There will be discussion and a Community Vote on Tuesday, January 27th from 6:30-8:00 at Stewart Park / 2700 block of 12th Avenue.

Bulletin! Important Midtown Phillips Vote For Pool Donation

DECEMBER Midtown Phillips BOARD Meeting:
Tuesday December 9, 6:30-8pm, Stewart Park (Arts & Crafts Room), 2700 12th Ave S, Minneapolis
• Housing committee update (10 min.)
• Financial report and discussion on 2015 budget (30 min.)
• Banyon to present on partnership (30 min.)
• New business (20 min)
** NO DECEMBER COMMUNITY MEETING due to holiday
EPIC News for December 2014

December has been a big month for EPIC. Here are a few of our highlights.

FIVE East Phillips Youth Soccer teams WIN BIG

One big news story for the Phillips Aquatic Center Pool was the $50,000 donation from the Park Board for renovation of the Phillips Community Center Pool. We are deeply grateful to the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC), which offered a match for up to $250,000 making the total EPIC donation $100,000. EPIC had set this money aside just waiting for such an opportunity. Wells Fargo also donated $25,000, with the match, the day’s total was $150,000 for the pool.

FIVE East Phillips Youth Soccer teams WIN BIG: The 11u, 13u and 18u teams took home the City Park Championships and received the trophies. 15u and the young women’s team also played a very strong and season. The 11u and 13u teams are seen here holding their trophies and celebrating a congratulatory meal with family and friends. Rep. Karen Clark, EPIC Board member Ali Macalin, Board President Carol Pass and Jean Whitehill attended. (11u means 11 years & under)

"Sha-kym Adams ‘Learn-to Swim’ Scholarship Fund"

Many of you remember the tragic story of Sha-kym Adams, the Minneapolis South High School sophomore football player who drowned on August 6th in Lake Nokomis. His parents, Kimberly Adams, and Sharrad Rowe, are the Honorary Co-Chairs of a scholarship fund that has been set up in his Son’s name. It is their hope, that with this fund, they can help prevent other parents from ever having to go through what they have.

If you would like to donate to the ‘Sha-kym Adams ‘Learn-to Swim’ Scholarship Fund’, please indicate that on your check and mail to Minneapolis Swims, 2323 11th Ave. S. Suite 135, Minneapolis, MN 55404.

EPIC Pool from page 1

Cano, and School Board members Mohamed Noor and Siad Ali and many community members.

Carroll Pass thanked East Phillips residents and the EPIC Board who worked so hard to save this money for the community and its Pool project. She also acknowledged the three year commitment of Hannah Lieder in framing and defining the critical need for this life saving year-round facility in the heart of inner-city Minneapolis.

The entire community thanks all the donors and especially the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community for their generous match of up to $250,000. More money is available for matching pool donations and Park Board Commissioner Scott Vreeland wrote a personal check to take advantage of doubling his donation. If you would like to contribute to this incredible project, do not miss this opportunity to double your money. Mail a check to Minneapolis Swims, 2323 11th Ave. S. Suite 135, Minneapolis, MN 55404. Or contribute online at www.minneapolis-swims.org.
Establishing Ventura Village’s Neighborhood Priority Plan

The City of Minneapolis adopted a Neighborhood Priority Plan (NPP) policy in 2013 that outlines an expectation that each official neighborhood “identify major initiatives … and to communicate … priorities to the City and other jurisdictional partners. Stay tuned for an official announcement as to when Ventura Village will begin this process, which will open with a Special Meeting in which a proven process will be used to elicit ideas, preliminary priorities and potential partners. It is expected that the process will “identify, preserve, and build on the existing assets and positive qualities… or identify opportunities or problems to be addressed. Possible actions to be taken by the neighborhood can be included.

Proposed Priority Plan Process:
1. Community process for formulating the draft Neighborhood Priority Plan;
   • Taskforce appointed by Ventura Village Neighborhood Chair;
   • Taskforce formulates possible priorities list;
   • Special Community Meeting for drafting Neighborhood Priority Plan;
   • Establish additional “listening sessions” at community venues;
   • Survey Conducted of Neighborhood Priorities, 1st & 2nd Choices
   • Write-in options permitted;
   • NPP Taskforce reviews & tabulates results & drafts the NPP proposal;
   • Ventura Village sets up a 21-day Notice to Intention to adopt NPP;
   • Ventura Village Board & General Membership adopt draft NPP
2. Design procedures to ensure that under-represented communities are able to participate in the NPP process.

Neighborhood Priority Plan Approval Process:
The following is the proscribed process established by the City of Minneapolis Neighborhood Community Relations (NCR) for Neighborhood Priority Plans. This list demonstrates the lengthy process and procedures necessary to adopt such a plan:
1. Consult the NCR Support Specialist regarding process & procedures;
2. Appoint Taskforce to develop NPP Process (Oct. 2014)
3. Develop NPP Process (Nov. 2014)
4. Ventura Village Board approves NPP Process (Nov. 2014)
6. Draft NPP is formulated and written (Jan. 2015)
7. 21-day Notice to Community of Draft NPP (Jan 2015 Mailing)
8. Ventura Village Board & Membership approve Draft NPP (Feb 2015)
9. Forward Draft NPP to NCR Support Specialist (Feb 2015)
10. NCR Jurisdiction Staff issues a response in 30 Days (Mar-Apr 2015)
11. NCR/Ventura Village resolve any matters raised during review
12. Ventura Village approves FINAL Amended NPP ((Apr 2015)
13. NCR and City Attorney’s Office review (Apr 2015)
14.NCR Policy Board approval (May 2015)
15. Minneapolis City Council approval (Jun 2015)

Expectations of a Neighborhood by Minneapolis’ NCR:
The City of Minneapolis Neighborhood Priority Plans Policy of July 19, 2013 states in part: “the neighborhood should identify how it has involved, or will involve, the community in developing and approving the plan. During the plan approval process, the neighbor hood will be asked to (1) describe the community process they followed to develop the priorities, (2) how they involved under-represented communities, and (3) proved background on their neighborhood’s priorities.”

Ventura Village’s Annual Meeting is time for both Elections and Festivities!
Each December, we gather together with some tasty treats and share some of our accomplishments for the year and also honor those neighborhood volunteers and stakeholders who have made our community a great place to live. Join us!

Ventura Village Bylaws related to annual elections:
Each year, one-third (1/3) of the positions on the Board of Directors shall be open for election at the annual membership meeting.

Members of the Corporation seeking election to the Board of Directors, whether nominated by themselves or another, shall register their name, address, phone number, membership category (as defined in Article II Section 1), and place of primary residence at the corporate office fourteen (14) calendar days prior to the scheduled election. Nominations submitted by mail shall be addressed to the Ventura Village mailing address and postmarked no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the scheduled election. Said registration shall be available to the public at least three (3) and no more than thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting or special meeting at which the election of Directors is held. Nominations for election to the Board of Directors will not be accepted from the floor.

VENTURA VILLAGES’ MONTHLY COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE:
2nd Wednesdays: BOARD OF DIRECTORS: 6:00 PM
2nd Wednesdays: GENERAL MEMBERSHIP: 7:00 PM
1st Tuesdays: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE: 5:30 PM
1st Tuesdays: WELLNESS, GREENING & GARDENING: 6:30 PM
3rd Thursdays: BUSINESS COMMITTEE: 6:00 PM
Last Thursdays: HOUSING & LAND USE COMMITTEE: 5:30 PM
Last Thursdays: CRIME & SAFETY COMMITTEE: 6:30 PM
PARKS COMMITTEE MEETINGS: Call for next meeting time.
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: Call for next meeting time.

DECEMBER IS VENTURA VILLAGE’S ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTIONS
There will be Board Member vacancies to be filled, so this is the time to consider running for a seat or nominating somebody.
Indian Affairs this year when for-
of tribes and nations. He became
and has wasted little time since
Secretary [of Interior] may award

curriculum taught at the schools.

This year, Senator Tester, along with
and introduced the Senate passed the
"Native Language Immersion
Student Achievement Act." Under
the Act, those eligible for funding
include schools or private tribal,
nonprofit organizations that have
improve and expand, programs
support schools, including prekin-
dergarten through postsecondary
education, using Native American
languages as the primary language
of instruction of all curriculum
taught at the schools."

Wicoie Nandagikendan is a
small organization in the Phillips
Neighborhood that works very
hard to teach Dakota and Ojibwe
to children from 16 months of age
to kindergarten-ready five year olds.

For those who are interested, the Wicoie
Nandagikendan web site has phrases with pronuncia-
tions in Ojibwe and Dakota and information about program activi-
ties.

All of this activity sounds incredibly busy, but the major
work of supporting language res-
toration and revitalization is where
Wicoie and its partners meet part
of the response Senator Tester said
he needed. Wicoie will be visiting
the state legislature to provide information about the program
and others like it to keep state
Legacy funds going to the dozens
of language programs throughout
the state.

In preparation, Wicoie received
resolutions of support for this
work from the Indian Affairs
Council, representing all eleven
reservations in the state; the
Urban Affairs Advisory Board to
the Council; and the Metropolitan
Urban Indian Directors (MUIND)
group.

Tomas Young
from page 7

beings, including children, includ-
ing myself, were sacrificed by you
for little more than the greed of oil
companies, for your alliance with
the oil sheiks in Saudi Arabia, and
your insane visions of empire.

I have, like many other disabled
veterans, suffered from the inade-
quate and often inept care provid-
ed by the Veterans Administration.
I have, like many other disabled
veterans, come to realize that our
mental and physical wounds are
of no interest to you, perhaps of
no interest to any politician. We
were used. We were betrayed. You,
Mr. Bush, make much pretense of
being a Christian. But isn’t lying a
sin? Isn’t murder a sin? Aren’t
thieves and selfish ambition sins?
I am not a Christian. But I believe
in the Christian ideal. I believe
that what you do to the least of your
brothers you finally do to yourself,
your own soul.

My day of reckoning is upon me.
Your will come. I hope you will
be put on trial. But mostly
I hope, for your sakes, that you
find the moral courage to face
what you have done to me and to
many, many others who deserved
to live. I hope that before your
time on earth ends, as mine is now
ending, you will find the strength
of character to stand before the
American public and the world,
and in particular the Iraqi people,
and beg for forgiveness.
Truly, the new science of brainwave imaging has begun to reveal some interesting things. For example, moments of compassionate giving manifest as definite and relatively expansive “cloud” formations. As Christmas is approaching, we might now reconsider old reports that the spirit of Jesus emanated a visible aura.

But for now, I contemplate the image (year 2005) of a crew-cut “lad” named Tomas Young. Confined to a wheel chair, his sign reads: MR. BUSH WHY WON’T YOU MEET WITH ME? Alongside Tomas stands Cindy Sheehan. Cindy’s son Casey was killed in Sadr City (same city, same day) as the bullet severed Tomas’ spine.

QUESTION: What “noble cause?”

From Tomas Young “The Last Letter” (an excerpt):

“I write this letter, my last letter, to you, Mr. Bush and Mr. Cheney… your lies, manipulation and thievery… I and hundreds of thousands of my fellow veterans know fully who you are… Your cowardice and selfishness were established decades ago.”

“My day of reckoning is today. I write this letter on behalf of those veterans who have brain injuries. I write this letter on behalf of those who care for the many thousands of my fellow veterans who have brain injuries. I write this letter on behalf of those veterans whose families and self-revelations for what they have witnessed, endured and done in Iraq have led to suicide and on behalf of the active-duty soldiers and Marines who commit, on average, a suicide a day. I write this letter on behalf of my fellow Iraq War veterans. I write this letter on behalf of those who have lost loved ones, on behalf of those who care for the many thousands of my fellow veterans who have brain injuries. I write this letter on behalf of thousands of my fellow veterans… Your cowardice and selfishness were established decades ago. You were not willing to risk your lives and those of your fellow soldiers. You sent hundreds of thousands of young men and women to be sacrificed in a senseless war with no more thought than it takes to put out the garbage. I joined the Army two days after the 9/11 attacks. I joined the Army because our country had been attacked. I wanted to strike back at those who had killed some 3,000 of my fellow citizens. I did not join the Army to go to Iraq, a country that had no part in the September 2001 attacks and did not pose a threat to its neighbors, much less to the United States. I did not join the Army to “liberate” Iraqis or to shut down mythical weapons-of-mass-destruction facilities or to implant what you cynically called “democracy” in Baghdad and the Middle East. I did not join the Army to rebuild Iraq, which at the time you told us could be paid for by Iraq’s oil revenues. Instead, this war has cost the United States over $3 trillion. I especially did not join the Army to carry out pre-empptive war. Pre-empptive war is illegal under international law. And as a soldier in Iraq I was, I now know, abetting your idiocy and your crimes. The Iraq War is the largest strategic blunder in U.S. history. It obliterated the balance of power in the Middle East. It installed a corrupt and brutal pro-Iranian government in Baghdad, one cemented in power through the use of torture, death squads and terror. And it has left Iran as the dominant force in the region. On every level—moral, strategic, military and economic—this war was a failure. And it was you, Mr. Bush and Mr. Cheney, who started this war. It is you who should pay the consequences.

I would not be writing this letter if I had been wounded fighting in Afghanistan against those forces that carried out the attacks of 9/11. Had I been wounded there I would still be miserable because of my physical deterioration and imminent death, but I would at least have the comfort of knowing that my injuries were a consequence of my own decision to defend the country I love. I would not have to lie in my bed, my body filled with painkillers, my life ebbing away, and deal with the fact that hundreds of thousands of
The Backyard Initiative

Whose job is it to improve health?

The Backyard Initiative is a dynamic partnership between the residents of South Minneapolis, the Cultural Wellness Center and Allina Health that goes beyond medical care to improve health. Citizen Health Action Teams (CHATs) build the capacity of residents to care for their own health. Residents from the area called the Backyard have created a definition of health and strategies to achieve this definition. They are preparing themselves to assume the responsibility for improving their own health.

Community, culture and connections are the seeds needed to cultivate health.

Join us December 11  5-7:30 p.m.

Pettingill Hall at Allina Health Commons
Midtown Exchange, 2925 Chicago Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55407

Syl Jones, nationally known medical journalist and playwright will lead the discussion between community residents, health care professionals and health care providers.

The Purpose:
To honor the people and processes that have made the Backyard Initiative an unqualified success.
To listen to and be moved by the stories of those who have participated in the Backyard Initiative.
To begin to develop a “narrative competency” within the organizations involved in the Backyard Initiative.
To harvest information and ideas for a larger, more comprehensive celebration that uses theater to illuminate the collaborative possibilities of Allina Health, the Community Resource Board, the CHAT Groups and the Cultural Wellness Center.

Back Yard Initiative Back Page
The BYI Back Page is produced each month as a collaborative venture between the BYI Communications CHAT & Alley Communications, Inc., publisher of The Alley Newspaper. The Communications CHAT works with BYI CHAT (Community Health Action Teams) each month as a “resource CHAT” – helping to get the news and activities of the BYI out to the broader community.

The Backyard Initiative (BYI) is a partnership between the Community, Allina Health Systems and the Cultural Wellness Center. The goal of this partnership is to improve the health of the 45,000 residents living in the “backyard” comprised by the neighborhoods of Powderhorn Park, East Phillips, Midtown Phillips, West Phillips, Ventura Village, Central, and Corcoran. There are eleven Community Health Action Teams (CHATs) focused on improving the health through a variety of cultural and community-connecting activities.

For info on the BYI, please call the Cultural Wellness Center, 612-721-5745.