Let America Be America Again

“Let America Be America again.
Let America Be the dream the dreamers dreamed—
Let it be that great strong land of love
Where never kings connive nor tyrants scheme
That any man be crushed by one above.

O, let my land be a land where Liberty
Is crowned with no false patriotic wreath,
But opportunity is real, and life is free,
Equality is in the air we breathe.

Say, who are you that mumbles in the dark?
And who are you that draws your veil across the stars?
I am the poor white, fooled and pushed apart,
I am the Negro bearing slavery's scars.
I am the red man driven from the land,
I am the immigrant clutching the hope I seek—
And finding only the same old stupid plan
Of dog eat dog, of mighty crush the weak.

I am the man who never got ahead,
The poorest worker bartered through the years.
Yet I'm the one who dreamt our basic dream
In the Old World while still a serf of kings,
Who dreamt a dream so strong, so brave, so true,
That even yet its mighty daring sings
In every brick and stone, in every furrow turned
That's made America the land it has become.

O, I say it plain,
America never was America to me,
And yet I swear this oath—
America will be!

Out of the rack and ruin of our gangster death,
The rape and rot of graft, and stealth, and lies,
We, the people, must redeem
The land, the mines, the plants, the rivers.
The mountains and the endless plain—
All, all the stretch of these great green states—
And make America again!
Civil Communications, a 501C-3, nonprofit organization, welcomes Donations are needed, welcome, and Tax Deductible. Volunteers who have a part in making this issue possible, Robert Oben, Deena Anders, Shari Albcr, American Swedish Institute, May Angelou, The Ave Standings with Standing Rock, Sponsor, Eum, Azathor, Backyard Initiative CHATS, Robert Albee,

“When the great newspapers don’t report what’s happening, the black urban poor can’t find a voice in the political process. But when the great newspapers don’t report what’s happening, the black urban poor can’t find a voice in the political process.” – Wendell Phillips

Alley Communications, a 501C-3, Phillips Neighborhood Association, Nelson Delivery; to 170 businesses, Newspaper and may be chosen for Azzihir, BackYard Initiative CHATS, Stephanie Rogers,

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Troubled in life and at death, Russell Sawyer chose City’s tallest, grandest place to die

Russell Sawyer committed suicide on December 20, 1902. Sawyer was 55 years old and divorced. He was estranged from his ex-wife and daughters and there was no mention in the obituary of anyone else who might have been a blood relative. In his suicide note, he described himself as “quiet and unassuming, and...regarded him as a man of some learning and culture.” But his drinking “occasionally got the better of him,” and some believed that was the cause of his financial problems.

By late December Sawyer’s world had collapsed around him. He was not able to make enough to live on and he had been evicted. He had nowhere to go. “As he explained in his suicide note: “I have no money and no place to sleep tonight and nothing in sight, so will take a rest.”

Although quiet and unassuming, there was one subject about which he held very strong views. In his suicide note he railed against religion writing that: “There is not use wasting money with a funeral—cremation is rest. No preacher is wanted or needed. They are a curse.”

Sawyer’s death was front-page news in the Minneapolis Tribune on December 27, 1902. Although it must have been an otherwise slow news day, the reason that it was front-page news most likely had less to do with him and what he had done and more to do with where he had done it. Sawyer killed himself in Suite 419 of the Guaranty Loan Building, in the law office of his friend Samuel Baker.

The Guaranty Loan Office Building must have seemed ideal place for a man seeking rest to die. It was the city’s most famous building, an architectural marvel and was considered Minneapolis’ first skyscraper. It was a fortress built out of red Lake Superior sandstone and green granite from Vermont. It was famed for its rooftop garden and for its skylight which let light through to all of the building’s twelve floors. It was later renamed the Metropolitan and its demolition in 1961 is widely regarded as the worst preservation catastrophe in Minnesota’s history.

It was there that Russell Sawyer sought rest. After having shuttled from one boardinghouse to another and with nowhere to go, he shot himself in the Guaranty Loan Building must have felt like the very picture of serenity and peace.

When his body was discovered he was lying on his back with his legs crossed looking “as if done deliberately and with the intention of assuming rest.” But suicide is hardly peaceful. Sawyer had shot himself in the right temple with a 38-caliber revolver and was lying in a large pool of blood.

The building’s night watchman notified the authorities. The coroner arrived, quickly ruled Sawyer’s death a suicide, and had him removed to the morgue so family or friends could claim him.

No family members came forward but as it turned out Sawyer was not without friends. Two of them claimed Sawyer’s body and arranged for a small burial service at Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery where he is at rest in an unmarked grave.

Russell Sawyer said “I have no money and no place to sleep tonight and nothing in sight, so will take a rest.” There is not use wasting money with a funeral—cremation is rest. No preacher is wanted or needed. They are a curse.” And his “rest” was to end his life at the tallest building in Mpls, the Guaranty Loan Company building (since it was renamed The Metropolitan Building until it was demolished in 1961.)

Green Tomato Cook-Off Results:

Exquisite cranberry GT relish, delicious GT Love cake, savory puff pastry GT Gruyere and Mushroom appetizer, smooth & creamy dill, potato GT soup, healthy & colorful GT Southwestern salad, Best of Show raspberry GT cobbler

BY CLAUDIA SLOVACEK

Every cook the year, gardeners and neighborhood residents gather at the end of the growing season to taste, and find work to squeeze every last ounce out of our gardens. Since the first killing frost of the season has not yet occurred the cooks had an abundance of green tomatoes to experiment with.

On Thursday, October 20th, the 12th and 13th Avenue Community Garden sponsored the 16th annual Green Tomato Cook-off at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. We had seven entries this year and as the judges weighed in, they said it was our one of the best years to date. Each entry made the best sauce, sweet and savory entries.

The judges this year included the Sandman’s guest, Ruth Holmquist, who has judged the contest for many years. We included a first-time judge this year, inviting some of the staff/interim from St. Paul’s Lutheran’s Church to join us. Elizabeth Mishler, Meghan Dunkerson, and Howie Hsieh also participated in
tasting and assessing the seven entries.

We started off the evening with fried green tomato appetizers, which were prepared by Sue Hunter Weir, Paul Weir and Wizard Marks. Many of the attenders raved about the appetizers and perhaps a few will try them on their own. This year’s featured a crust made with Panko breadcrumbs. A little hot sauce and salt and pepper and the tongues were dancing with this delectable appetizer.

Cash prizes and ribbons were awarded for three categories of entries: 1) Sweets like pies and tarts and ice cream (one of our all-timers was green tomato ice cream this year), 2) Savories like soups, pestos, casseroles, frittatas, empanadas, spanakopita; and 3) Sauces/condiments, including sal- sad, relish, chutneys and the like. We even had green tomato beer

this year!

This year’s winners were as follows:

**SAUCES**

1st place for sauce went to Pastor Patrick Cabello Hansel for an exquisite Cranberry Green Tomato relish.

**SWEET**

1st place for sweet was awarded to Linnae Nelson Seys and Jamie Seys for their Green Tomato Love cake which added a moist and delicious finish to the meal.

**SAVORY**

2nd place for savory was awarded to Wizard Marks for a great use of puff pastry in a Green Tomato Gruyere and Mushroom appetizer.

3rd place for savory was awarded to Sue Hunter Weir for a smooth and creamy Dill Potato Green Tomato soup.

1st place for savory went to Sue Hunter Weir for a healthy and colorful Green Tomato Southwestern salad including a green tomato dressing.

**BEST OF SHOW**

Best of show (best from all three categories) was awarded to Sue Hunter Weir in the sweet category for her Raspberry Green Tomato cobbler, fresh from the oven. Although a bit messy, it left the participants wanting more. Two of them claimed Sawyer’s body and arranging for a small burial service at Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery where he is at rest in an unmarked grave.

Mark your calendars for next year's cook-off, which will again occur on the third Thursday of October. We encourage all cooks to start planning for next year’s contest, starting with this year’s crop.
EPIC Continues its Tradition of Affordable Renewal

EPIC is proud to be one of the few Minneapolis neighborhoods to continue rebuilding and restoring our physical infrastructure in the great tradition of NRP projects of the past. In a progressive city, it is critical to remember urban renewal is never done.

The photo on the right shows two new, state-of-the-art, affordable homes built by EPIC in partnership with PRG (Powderhorn Residents Group) in East Phillips. Two more, by Habitat for Humanity, are nearing completion across the street.

It is impossible to build an “affordable” home today in Minneapolis. The cost of labor, materials and the lot pushes every newly built home well over the Federal guidelines for an affordable home. The difference between the total cost of building the home and its “affordable” selling price is called the “Gap”.

So, how is it that EPIC can get affordable homes built and sold in East Phillips? In the past, under the strict notification and participation requirements of NRP, EPIC was directed by East Phillips residents to allocate a portion of its NRP money to help fill the “Affordability Gap” and make it possible to build new quality affordable homes for its economically challenged residents.

When the City of Minneapolis ended the NRP program, EPIC’s all volunteer Board and members chose to use a portion of its new but reduced CPP funding to create a Neighborhood Priority Plan which continued this important urban renewal project – new homes for our urban families.

Years of neglect and irresponsibility in housing are being healed by the wise choices of the EPIC Board of Directors, your neighbors, and the residents of East Phillips.

For Your Calendar: * Have a Great Holiday!

The EPIC Board of Directors meet on the FIRST Saturday of the month – Next Meetings; Saturday, 12/6/2016 and 1/7/2017 at 10:00 AM.

The EPIC General Membership meets on the SECOND Thursday – Next Meetings; Thursday, 12/8/16 and 1/12/2017 at 6:30 PM

Agenda includes Neighborhood Industrial Pollution, Crime Initiatives, and EPIC project updates.

The East Phillips Park Programming Partnership meets on the LAST Tuesday – Next meetings; No December Meeting – Join us 1/31/17 at 11:30 AM. Lunch is served.

Updates on Partner Programming, Park Events & News.

Meeting Location: All the above meetings and events are held at the East Phillips Park Cultural & Community Center located at 2307 17th Ave. S.
The Center is wheelchair accessible and all are welcome.

The East Phillips Community 17th Ave. Gardeners meet on the second Saturday of Each Month during the gardening season, normally from April through September. Next meetings are Next Year Saturday, 4/8/2017 & 5/13/2017 at 9:00 AM in the Community Center at 2307 17th Ave. S.

Subsequent meetings will be held in the Garden.

The East Phillips Residents Association meets on the SECOND Thursday – Next Meetings; Thursday, 12/8/16 at 6:30 PM.

“East Phillips Residents wanting a 2016 Garden Plot, contact Brad Pass at 612-916-8478

To get involved in EPIC & help move the East Phillips Neighborhood in a positive direction, join us at any EPIC General Membership meeting (see dates above). All are welcome.

MIDTOWN PHILLIPS
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION INC.
www.midtownphillips.org  |  612.232.0018  |  midtownphillips@gmail.com

BOARD MEETING AGENDA
TUESDAY DECEMBER 13, 6:30-8PM.
Stewart Park (Arts & Crafts Room)
2700 12th Ave S, Minneapolis

•  Review/Approve November Board Meeting Minutes (10 min)
•  Announce board resignation and open District 3 position (10 min)
•  Staff Report and Meet and Greet with Maggie Moran (20 min)
•  End of year wrap up (20 min)
•  Annual Community Meeting planning and call for volunteers (20 min)
•  Public comments (10 min)

NO DECEMBER COMMUNITY MEETING
Happy holidays!

Join the Midtown Phillips Neighborhood board!
We are currently seeking a District 3 Rep
(Rep must live or work between 26th to 28th Sts & 12th to Chicago Ave)

FOR MORE INFO:
midtownphillips@gmail.com

This Monthly Alley Newspaper Half Page was paid for by Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association, Inc.
Diverse Cultures Showcased at November 12th Minneapolis Park Board Event at Phillips Community Center

Food, music and dance are the three elements that best showcase a given culture to those anxious to learn more about people who were indigenous to another part of the planet. The Minneapolis Park Board sponsored and hosted groups from Latin American, African, Asian and European traditions. Although there was little publicity for the event, plenty of people showed up to help celebrate the wide range of cultures residing side-by-side in Minneapolis. Clusters of attendees found space on the gym floor to sit with family and try free food offerings from several cultural vendors while enjoying celtic dance, drum songs, Somali folk dance from the only organized group in the United States. Trinkets, jewelry, pottery and treats were also offered for viewing, sampling and purchase. Several tables were open invitations for participating attendees to try out painting and drawing with hosts providing coaching and enthusiastic encouragement.

Calling for Nominations to Ventura Village’s Board Of Directors

Members of Ventura Village seeking election to the Board of Directors, whether nominated by themselves or another, shall register name, address, phone number, membership category (as defined in Article II Section 1 of the Ventura Village Bylaws), and place of primary residence, at Ventura Village’s office fourteen (14) calendar days (Nov. 30) 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 (Nov. 30) prior to the scheduled election. Nominations for election to the Board of Directors will not be accepted from the floor.

UPCOMING VENTURA VILLAGE MONTHLY MEETINGS:

DECEMBER 29TH: HOUSING & LAND COMMITTEE: 5:30 PM
DECEMBER 29TH: CRIME & SAFETY COMMITTEE: 6:30 PM
JANUARY 4TH: WELLNESS, GARDENING & GREENING: 6:30 PM
JANUARY 4TH: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE: 6:00 PM
JANUARY 11TH BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: 6:00 PM
JANUARY 11TH: GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: 7:00 PM
Nordic Holidays: Celebrations of Light Exhibition Nov. 12 to January 8 2017

Lantern Lit Glögg Tours
6:30–8 pm Sat Dec. 3, Sun Dec. 11, Fr Dec. 23 & Sat Jan. 7, 2017. Explore Mansion decorated rooms with glögg, a warm, mulled wine, & seasonal appetizers from FIKKA. $50 ASI members / $55 non-members. 21+


Kids at the Castle
Friday, Dec. 9, Lucia’s Legend; Friday, Dec. 16 & Saturday, Dec. 17, to 10 AM Tiny Tontore & Extraordinary Elves It’s playtime for kids and their grown-ups at the castle for creative & fun learning activities; visual games, storytelling, music & movement. Ages 2-5, $5 per family. Reg, not req. adults must attend with children. Winter Solstice Celebration Wednesday, Dec. 21, 5 – 8 pm Celebrate year’s shortest day & longest night; bonfires, court-yard, family handcraft, self-guided tours of the Mansion’s holiday rooms & FIKKA café’s festive bites & warm glögg. The ASI Store & Jul Shop: open late. Incl. with museum adm.

ASI Holiday Rooms Public Tours Daily, Tu–Sun Nov. 15, 2016 – Jan. 8, 2017
Enjoy a popular Mpls. holiday destination; Holiday Rooms of Nordic traditions from homes of Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Finland & a room honoring Hanukkah by the Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota & the Dakotas. Incl with Museum adm.

ASI Boardwalk Series:
Photographs by Jim Brandenburg: striking images from 30 years with National Geographic; loaned by Sivertson Gallery, Grand Marais, MN.

The Royal Copenhagen / Bing & Grøndahl Handpainted Christmas Plates 1895 to 2016. (donated by Mary Jane Thompson).

Join in with the other community members on Wednesday, December 14th from 5 to 8 pm to celebrate another year of The Alley Newspaper. Give your opinion of what you like about The Alley and how it can improve.

Attend the American Swedish Institute’s FREE Neighborhood Night and enjoy the festive Scandinavian holiday activities in this former Swedish newspaper family’s “castle” at 2600 Park Avenue. Review The Alley Newspaper’s work of 2016 and cast your vote about the Alley Newspaper’s future!
What will happen to The Alley Newspaper if our Editor/Coordinator falls sound asleep at the wheel? How will the work of our devoted writers and volunteers find its way to print each month?

The answer to that question rests in YOUR hands!

We are keeping our phone message service through December 31. Let’s flood the anonymous phone line in December. Without your opinions and ideas, this community-governed media source may not be all that it can be.

CALL NOW and leave a message at:

612-605-7532 (no human contact!)

1. **YES** or **NO** - Do YOU read The Alley Newspaper?
2. **WHY** do YOU read The Alley Newspaper?
3. **WHAT** should be kept the same? What should change?
4. **WILL YOU** join a conversation with a core group of Alley stakeholders to discuss how to keep The Alley going after September of 2017?
SAVE THE SHAVE IS (SO) APPEALING!

BY STEVE SANDERG

Thanks everyone! The recognition by the City on October 25th that the Burma Save building DOES meet the City’s criteria for historic designation has put wind in our sails as we appeal to the City Zoning and Planning on Dec. 1st.

Thanks for all the great suggestions for ways to incorporate this building into the educational regi- men of the Mpls. School District #1. By its current owner, Mpls. School District #1.

The trend in preservation of historical sites is to focus on the value of the stories they have to tell and the ways in which they involve the community. This is a fantastic opportunity for just that! Remember to vote “Save the Burma Save” at City Zoning and Planning Committee at 9:30am on Thursday December 1st, City Hall.

2019 East Lake Street
Post and Beam Increases Repurposing

BY HARVEY WINJE

It may be that the Burma-Shave building is built with posts and beam construction, a type of con- truction that is now very unusual in this day and age. Indications of this type of construction has not been verified because access to the building has been prevented by its current owner, Mpls. School District #1.

If it is post and beam, also called timber frame construction; it has these advantages:

1. Post and beam construction utilizes large, vertical, wood columns placed about 8 feet apart with a series of large horizontal wood beams placed across them to support either a second floor or a roof. In con- trast with lighter wood framing which became popular in the mid-19th century in the United States, post and beam buildings feature a relatively small number of larger, heav- ier structural components that form the infrastructural sup- port. The exterior surfaces that can seem so lack-luster from the street view are attached yet dispensable to support the building.

2. Because the weight of the structure is supported by posts that are spaced relatively far apart, post and beam construc- tion allows for large expanses of glass or other exterior sid- ings. Consequently, post and beam buildings often feature large windows.

3. Post and beam buildings usu- ally feature high vaulted ceil- ings, creating a large, roomy occupant space. The fact this building was built originally as Vine Church adds to the likeli- hood it is post and beam beams created a large meeting room.

4. This technique was used in for Stave Churches, built in north- ern Europe during the Middle Ages between 800 and 1200, using a foundation of boulders to support horizontal wooden frame which rested four corner posts or staves. The staves were connected above by a rectangle of beams that complete a boxlike frame.

5. Post and beam buildings have added structural integrity that is advantageous to moving an entire building. The fact this building has already moved from its original location is an indication of its stability and movability.

6. Because the timber used in constructing a post and beam structure must be denser and stronger than in lighter frame buildings, it is more fire resis- tant. Lighter frame buildings are often built from softwood that is less dense and more porous, making them more susceptible to fire.

7. A post and beam building requires large pieces of high quality timber cut from large trees. The wood used in this building may be of a species and quality less available now. This increases the tragedy of sending it to a landfill.

9. The fastening technique of the timbers is an art in itself and critical to its lifetime potential. If this building is post and beam timber framing of high quality timber, fastened in a manner of integrity, it is a gem worth keeping for further use, education, and history.

It is imperative that we begin to examine not only the histori- cal use of the post and beam building but its construction technique. This can help to preserve the technology of the construction industry and simultaneously help us to con- serve resources. This building should be examined for type of construction, analysis of durabil- ity for repurposing, moving or reuse and its value for educational and historical purposes.

Hospital Flexes Muscle to Demolish Sanctuary

Children’s MN Hospitals is in a “no holds barred” attempt to demolish the Sanctuary of Messiah Church, 725 E. 25th St., and rented by Emmanuel Mennonite Congregation.

It is impossible for most con- gregations to compete against Children’s fundraising prowess!

Children’s bought the other church on this block from an ex-neighbor, turned “Judas,” as dollars spoke louder; Children’s demolished it in spite, despite or to spite neighbors’ protests.

8 their course. / Tomorrow is another day. / I do not need my freedom

Langston Hughes

Biography

Poet, Playwright

(1902–1967)

Langston Hughes was an American poet, novelist, and playwright whose African-American themes made him a primary con- tributor to the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s.

Presidential Election

by some media channels all gave a positive boost to the Trump cam- paign. It is also unknown how many changed their vote and if they are in fact a positive boost to the Trump cam- paign. It is also unknown how many, if any, of a renewed investigation against Justice Department officials.

The meeting will begin at 6:30 and end at 8. Everyone who lives or works in the Phillips Community (EPIC, Phillips West, Ventura Village and Midtown) is welcome.

Sponsored by the Midtown Crime and Safety Partnership.


THE ALLEY NEWSPAPER • DECEMBER 2016

911, “What Took You So Long?”

Have you ever wondered why some 9-1-1 calls are responded to so quickly while others seem to take forever? How do police dispatchers prioritize calls and what resources do the police have for responding to those calls?

Inspector Catherine Johnson will help us understand the issues affecting response time to emer- gency police calls.

Join us on Monday, January 9th, 2017, at St. Paul’s Church (corner of 15th Avenue South and 28th Street). The meeting will begin at 6:30 and end at 8.

Everyone who lives or works in the Phillips Community (EPIC, Phillips West, Ventura Village and Midtown) is welcome.

Sponsored by the Midtown Crime and Safety Partnership.

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The Alley Newspaper • December 2016
when I’m dead. / I cannot live on tomorrow’s bread. / Freedom / Is a

The United States continues centuries of terrorism; stealing land, intimidating, flooding, killing, and betrayal of treaties and human rights

Tribe calls on President Obama again to deny easement and honor treaty

Cannon Ball, N.D. — Statement from the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe’s Chairman, Dave Archambault II “Today we were notified by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that on Dec. 5th, they will close all lands north of the Cannonball River, which is where Oceti Sakowin camp is located. The letter states that the lands will be closed to public access for safety concerns, and that they will allow for a “free speech zone” south of the Cannonball River on Army Corps lands.

Our Tribe is deeply disappointed in this decision by the United States, but our resolve to protect our water is stronger than ever. We ask that all every-one who can appeal to President Obama and the Army Corps of Engineers to consider the future of our people and rescind all permits and deny the easement to cross the Missouri River just north of our Reservation and straight through our treaty lands. When Dakota Access Pipeline chose this route, they did not consider our strong opposition. Our concerns were clearly articulated directly to them in a meeting on Sept. 30, 2014. We have released audio recording from our council meeting where DAPL and the ND Public Service Commission came to us with this route.

These nine organizations hosted this support and awareness fundraiser event Sat Nov 12th from noon to 5 pm along the American Indian Cultural Corridor of East Franklin Ave.: Native American Community Development Institute NACDI, Pow Wow Grounds, Bois Forte & White Earth Urban Offices, Minneapolis American Indian Center, American Indian Movement Interpretive Center, Native Lives Matter, All My Relations Gallery, Two Rivers Gallery, Aaron Lightfeather, (Friday Family) Traditional Ojibwe song and dance workshop. There was a Silent Art Auction in Powwows Grounds Coffee Shop and a Gallery Show: “On Fertile Ground: Native Artists in the Upper Midwest”.

The festivities were Opening song by Aaron’s group, Lapoints with Lakota Prayer, Water talk with the LaPoints, Lakota Prayers, Wakeup Productions - Smart Wars Performance, Blue Dog/ Angela Vig, Los Nativos, Round Dance and Raf, Andrew Broder: Crescent Moon, Tall Paul, Danny Blake, Troy Amslee, Round Dance/Closing, and A Comedy Hodgepodge of Plays by New Native Theatre at the Minneapolis American Indian Center 1530 East Franklin Ave. There was also a Gallery Show at Two Rivers Gallery “Dakota Insanti: Reclaiming Identity” & Community Sewing Bee. All proceeds went directly to the Water Protectors on the ground.

$23,000. was raised and went directly to various winter encampment needs of the Water Protectors at Standing Rock determined by consensus of local leaders.

Largest bank in Norway sells its assets in Dakota Access pipeline

The largest bank in Norway, DNB, has sold its assets in the Dakota Access pipeline. The news follows the delivery of 120,000 signatures gathered by SumOfUs.org to DNB by Greenpeace Norway and others urging the bank and other financial institutions to pull finances for the project. DNB Greenpeace USA spokesperson Lilian Molina said: “The writing’s on the wall for the Dakota Access pipeline.

Prayer Village

Oceti Sakowin Camp at Standing Rock in North Dakota

We arrived at the Oceti Sakowin Camp at Standing Rock, ND at midnight on the main road that overlooks the Camp, and even in the dark, the sight took my breath away. I recognized this as an ancient sight, yet eternally vibrant and essential. My heart was so full. The encampment is huge, expansive, and beautiful, the deep outline of the rising hills cradling the many Teepees and tents with smoke rising in tendrils above the Plains toward the stars.

This is a Prayer Village, the people of Standing Rock are welcoming relatives from all over the world to stand in protection of the Water, and in opposition to the Dakota Access Pipeline; I was honored to join.

Across the dark fields, on the other side of the River, I could also see the line of intensely bright lights, and heard the hum of the pipeline machinery that continued throughout the night, so alien to the quiet majesty of the Oceti Sakowin Standing Rock camp. Why? Why? Why?

People power is winning. DNB divesting and considering terminating its loans is a victory for the water protectors. All financial institutions with a stake in the pipeline must quickly realize that financing this project is toxic. CitiGroup, TD Securities, Wells Fargo, SunTrust, and the other banks backing this project should get on the right side of history. 2

Tell Obama to STOP the Dakota Access PIPELINE

(by Sandy Spieler)
“Hacksaw Ridge”

Marton’s “The Longest Day” (1998), Ken Annakin and Andrew Spielberg’s “Saving Private Ryan” around them, as they face their ene-

the threshold with guns in hand,
in war films going back decades; (R)


**Native? Struggling with pills or heroin? We are here to help.**

Locally grown and raised foods and natural wellness products since 1972.

10 strong seed / Planted / In a great need. / I live here, too. / I want

La Natividad Returns to Minneapolis
An urgent plea to open homes, cities, the world, and hearts with love.
Ilhan and Neegonnweedun

Was it fifteen years ago that a Somali man named Jaylani suffered a psychotic breakdown at the Chicago Crossing parking lot off Franklin Avenue? He would be executed by the police before that day was done. Had he been white, people believed another outcome would have occurred.

So then, Neegonnweeعدun – The Thunder before the Storm – yes, Clyde Bellecourt led a long column of Somali people and their supporters. Protesters marched from Lake Street down Chicago Avenue to the County Government Center. Clyde said to the Somali people “Don’t let them send you back!”

Note: This summer, at the Phillips Community Center, I witnessed a beautiful cultural exchange between Native and Somali youth.

November 4, 2016... We gathered at the American Indian Center to purchase copies of The Thunder before the Storm – the autobiography of Clyde Bellecourt. In one passage of the book, in the spirit of forgiveness, Clyde approaches a man who had attempted to kill him. He gently asked “Why did you shoot me?”

Any lingering ambivalence of judgement should be resolved by reading the book. By historic proportion, Clyde Bellecourt is the most honorable figure of this community.

November 8, 2016... Under the banner of “Our Revolution,” some 700 people came to St. Peter’s AME Church to process things. The gathering reflected the ongoing movement generated by the Bernie Sanders campaign. I was fortunate to be sitting at the front, so as to be close to Ilhan Omar when she spoke. Ilhan emanates such a saintly and eloquent presence. She tells us that now is not the time to “turn cheek,” but rather we must engage the forces of oppression by means of “compassionate confrontation.”

Readers of Clyde’s book might share a vision of Native Peoples adopting Ilhan as their own.

Commentary

Phillips Neighborhood is a Treasure

Stay strong; Stay together; Speak for justice; We are a family here.

BY JANA METGE

The Election has caused me to reflect;
Each and Every day. I wake up thankful for this Community, for the different cultures represented, for the Sharing - for Caring - for standing together.

The history of Activism in this Neighborhood has changed the way the city and county do their businesses. Policy has been changed in areas of development, environment, criminal justice, and economics just to name a few.

We have a world view in our little Phillips Neighborhoods because of all our residents, businesses, and organizations which are here building community every day.

I have no doubt we will all stick together, stand up for each other, and look out for each other. Now and moving forward.

The Phillips Neighborhood is a Treasure.
Thank you to everyone - Every effort from greeting a neighbor, to running fabulous youth programs, to new housing, to outreach which help folks caught in prostitution turn their lives around, to Fabulous local businesses & restaurants, to making meals & delivering food to those who need a good meal in campaigns for a livable wage & environmental justice, to Solidarity with Standing Rock.

Stay strong. Stay together. Keep speaking for justice. We are a family here.

BY THE INGEBERTSEN FAMILY

As many of you know, our family is very closely connected to our own immigrant story, and because of that, we feel strongly about the importance of making a statement of support for the immigrants currently helping to shape our community. 95 years ago, our market was opened to serve the specific culinary needs of the vibrant Scandinavian immigrant community that surrounded us, much like the bodegas and halal groceries that surround us today. Our relatives began their lives here with limited to no ability to speak English, with few resources, fiercely dependent on each other’s support for survival and sense of family and community, holding tight to the traditions that helped them feel connected to their distant homes. They dedicated themselves to learning, to getting food to those who need a good meal, to campaigns for a livable wage & environmental justice, to Solidarity with Standing Rock.

Thank you to everyone - Every one. Reach one.
Jana Metge, 30 year resident & activist

Commentary

Country’s greatness is to live and work side by side. Connect to the commonness, the beauty, and the potential in one another with compassion.

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Thank you to everyone - Every one. Reach one.
Jana Metge, 30 year resident & activist

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givemn.org/organization/Alleynewspaper
Getting to Know the Backyard Initiative Resource Center

BY CARL LOBLEY, ROSE LOBLEY, DEENA ANDERS AND MINKARA TEZET

The Backyard Initiative Resource Center

The Backyard Initiative (BYI) Resource Center is the central location for the Backyard Initiative activities and communications. It is located inside the Midtown Global Market (near the Lake and 10th Ave entrance). The BYI Resource Center is where all the BYI resources are compiled, displayed, and shared with our community. The Resource Center is a place for community members of the Backyard Initiative to visit, gain knowledge, and share information about activities and resources available in the Backyard. This Backyard Initiative Resource Center is essential to the goal of connecting the 42,000 members of the Backyard community and to connect them with one another.

The BYI Resource Center hosted the ReTHINK Your Drink initiative in collaboration with the City of Minneapolis Department of Health. The Resource Center is a place for community members of the Backyard Initiative to visit, gain knowledge, and share information about activities and resources available in the Backyard. This Backyard Initiative Resource Center is essential to the goal of connecting the 42,000 members of the Backyard community and to connect them with one another.

The BYI Resource Center hours are 10 am to 6 pm, Monday through Saturday.

The Phillips Neighborhood Clinic

The Phillips Neighborhood Clinic (PNC), a joint effort between the University of Minnesota Physicians and the University of Minnesota Medical School, partners with organizations within the Backyard to provide patient-centered care and health education. Staffed by medical students and social work graduate students under the supervision of licensed doctors and counselors, PNC also serves as an essential clinical training site.

The students serving at PNC are called upon to create opportunities for health education and outreach into the Backyard. In the past year, PNC participants have created easy to understand health education brochures on a number of topics ranging from healthy eating to cardiovascular care. Additionally, PNC participants can regularly be found at health information tables at the Midtown Global Market.

ACTIVITIES OF THE BACKYARD INITIATIVE ARE ORGANIZED AROUND THESE OBJECTIVES:

SOCIAL COHESION: The sense of community and belonging that people have. People feel they live in a place where people trust and respect each other and have a sense of responsibility to take care of each other.

SOCIAL SUPPORT: The support that a person receives from and gives to the people around them, including emotional and spiritual support, help with daily needs and crises, and the sharing of advice, information, and feedback.

HEALTH EDUCATION: The degree to which individuals have the capacity to obtain, process, and understand basic information and services needed to make appropriate decisions regarding their health. This includes information about what is essential to health (the importance of the family, community, spirituality, the environment, culture, food, sleep, and movement) as well as the medical information needed to address a specific health condition.

HEALTH EMPOWERMENT: People take responsibility for their health; they are active participants in their self-care, and have the knowledge, skill and confidence to manage their health and health care and collaborate with health practitioners.