Semilla Poetry Contest Winners
7-10 YRS. OLD:
Mariposas (Sp. and Eng.)
(See page 4)

Insectos con alas, tienen seis patas. Vuelen, comen néctar, van a México. Me hace sentir feliz, alegre. (Mariposas)

Winged insects have six legs. They fly, eat nectar, & travel to Mexico. It makes me feel happy, cheerful.

By Uriel

La música
Suenan bellas, se hace bailar. Se mueve si la tocas, si soplas, si la ruedas. Cantando juntos me siento conectado. (Canción)

It sounds beautiful, it makes you dance. It moves if you play, if you blow, if you turn it round, Singing together I feel connected.

By Juan

My Community
I hope we can get more food. I hope that my mom’s leg gets fixed. I hope that we can get flowers. I hope that we can get an apple tree. I hope that we can get more room. To play soccer.

By Monica

My Community
I hope there are some people. I hope my family has some pets. I hope there are some people. I hope there are some elephants on the earth. I hope there are some people playing soccer.

By Javier

My Community
I hope people can grow more fruit. I hope my sister stops scratching me. I hope I can be a singer. I hope there are more books to read. I hope there are more friends to play with.

By Marilyn

“Reflections” Mirror the heart and soul of youth and elders

REFLECTIONS
abound on each page of this issue. May your good reflections this Season of Holidays and Gatherings only be exceeded by the richness of revisited traditions and togetherness with family and friends.

Semilla Mural at Andersen School by students, mentor, Greta McLain turning a wall into a destination for people to be uplifted.

Safe Community.
My community is my home I care for it I want it safe. My family likes the community I hope that gangs don’t appear I feel bad for the homeless people I hope they get a better life I’m afraid of gangs because they are darkness and The community is happiness I don’t want to have the darkness like the gangs.

By Vanessa Martinez

Hope for the future
I like my community, it’s cool, fun and my home. So this is why I’m writing this poem, to make a change. And rearrange for a better community, To help us make a change, To explain that our world can be better. No matter the weather, Like if it rains, it’s cold, or the sun is up. We can have a lot of fun, but we can’t do it with none. So help in the change. Within the range Of the change, Less loitering, or garbage on the floor. More shelters for homeless people, And still we have to change more, So let’s come together to make a change.

By Jesús Maldonado

My Community
My community is a wonderful place to me. With fresh trees to breathe from. But when night comes the gangs arrive. They’re mean and cruel. They follow their own rules. I wish the cops would catch them, I wish we all got along. So when night falls they shine like diamonds in the sky.

By Guido Quito

More Reflections
see page 4
December 1st (Thursday) 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. - Phillips West Holiday Community Meeting

Welcome to Phillips West! Please join us to celebrate the Holiday’s and enjoy a free catered dinner from Fast & Fabulous Dave’s BBQ while hearing about current Phillips West Events and ways to get an opportunity to Socialize with the Phillips West Neighborhood Stakeholders! All who live in Phillips West or support the Phillips West Neighborhood are welcome. We will take place at Lutheran Social Service Center for Changing Lives in the Centrum Room (2400 Park Ave W). Free parking is available in the rear off Oakland Avenue. Free Pizza & Beverages will be provided! If you would like more information or would like to get involved with the neighborhood please contact Crystal at 612-879-5383 or email her at pww2005@yahoo.com.

The ASI Reopens for Holidays & FREE Open House for Phillips West residents and employees

The American Swedish Institute is pleased to reopen the Turnblad Mansion and welcome our friends, neighbors and guests to our festive celebration! We are excited to welcome the next phase of our expansion project and share the newly remodeled and renovated spaces in the Mansion’s lower level.

The Turnblad Mansion is decorated for the holidays and open to the public, and our holiday season is filled with festive activities.

Construction on the new Nelson School of Music will continue through Spring 2012.

Welcome!

Phillips West Neighborhood Open House, Thursday, December 15 — 4-6 p.m.

ASI invites any and all individuals working and living in our neighborhood to the annual Phillips West Neighborhood Open House on Thursday, December 15 from 4 to 6 p.m. Bring your business card, employee badge, driver’s license or other I.D. to receive free museum admission, complimentary cider and cookies, and a 10% discount in the ASI Museum Shop (except food and sale items). There will also be greeters on hand to talk about our holiday exhibits, and visitors can try their hand at making traditional Swedish bread baskets. No reservations required. For information, please call 612-871-4907.

9th Ward Award Nominations Open

Do you know a Ninth Ward resident who deserves recognition for their amazing work in your community? Nominate them for the Ninth Ward Award! The Ninth Ward Award honors leadership in Corcoran, Longfellow, Phillips, Powderhorn Park, and Standish. Nominations are due Thursday, December 15. For more information on how to submit, please donate the $10 Welsa Hardware gift certificate to the Midtown Greenway Coalition.

The Turnblad Mansion and the American Swedish Institute

9th Ward Leadership Awards will be given to individuals working and living in our neighborhood please contact Crystal at 612-879-5383 or email her at pww2005@yahoo.com.

The next NEW PW Photo will appear in January 2012 including THE BEST EVER PW RESPONSE

The one and only correct contest for the November Phillips What Where was by Matthew Roed.

We have never had such a thorough and complete exploration of the neighborhood as in Matthew Roed’s What Where contest. Includes maps, photos, ancient ruins, history, current events, and a mystery mystery clue. Matthew Roed is a true urban explorer and a treasure hunter. We all feel thankful that he takes the time to look at our neighborhood with fresh eyes.

What residents of Phillips need to do come together regardless of race, religion, social status, gender, sexual orientation or age and identify the strengths and weaknesses of the neighborhood and like Phillips, we need to work together to find solutions to problems if they are as simple as stating, “Know Liberty.”

Town hall meetings with food would be a good way to start, but would not speak for us, but would imagine that Allina and Children’s hospital would be very interested in efforts to assist our community in anyway that they can.

I would like to live in the Phillips neighborhood because it is where I work at Abbott Hospital, but we didn’t feel that the neighborhood had enough, “Up and Coming” feel to it. I avoided it. Whether or not it was an error of judgment, we at the time did not see the social momentum that we had hoped for going on in the neighborhood. People in Golden Valley usually do not organize because there is little crime or social issues to be dealt with, but they miss out on the energy and benefits of living in the City.

If Phillips really is one of the poorest neighborhoods in Minneapolis, then why aren’t the residents drawing attention to this problem to the metro area and even the State? It’s like Phillips is stuck in a cube and needs change agents to start finding a way out.

Thanks for the effort of openness. Change will still continue through Spring 2012.

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Welcome!
Winter programs at the Franklin Library

Fr., Dec. 16, 10–noon
Work on projects and practice skills from using the mouse and keyboarding to using email and Microsoft with our software

Fr., Dec. 16, 1–3 p.m.
Learn to create and integrate graphs and charts into your Excel spreadsheets.

Tues., Dec. 15, noon–2 p.m.
Learn to create and integrate graphs and charts into your Excel spreadsheets.

Microsoft Excel: Charts and Graphs

Thurs., Dec. 5, 7–8 p.m.
Join us for a stimulating discussion of one of our nation’s greatest works of literature: “The Grapes of Wrath” by John Steinbeck.

The Grapes of Wrath

Thurs., Dec. 29, 2–6 p.m.
Join us for a celebration of all that is “made in America” with a focus on work that has been featured in our local food enterprises.

Down Time

Down Time

Thurs., Dec. 29, 6–11 p.m.
Join the staff and go way, way out of the way to discover new pastimes and enjoy the company of others.

12:30 p.m.
Join us for a stimulating conversation.

MEMORIAL WRITING GROUP

2–6 p.m.
Join us for a stimulating conversation.

Memoir Writing Group

10:30 a.m.
Join us for a stimulating conversation.

Microsoft Office: Basics

Sat., Dec. 17, 2–5 p.m.
Join us for a stimulating conversation.

Microsoft Office: Basics

2–6 p.m.
Join us for a stimulating conversation.

Microsoft Office: Basics

3:30 p.m.
Join us for a stimulating conversation.

Microsoft Office: Basics

2–6 p.m.
Join us for a stimulating conversation.

Microsoft Office: Basics

Tues., Dec. 17, 6–7 p.m.
Join us for a stimulating conversation.

Free Henry David Thoreau Book Discussion

Sat., Dec. 17, 9 a.m.
Join us for a stimulating conversation.

Free Henry David Thoreau Book Discussion

5–7 p.m.
Join us for a stimulating conversation.

Teen Book Club

Wed., Dec. 28, 6:30–8 p.m.
Join us for a stimulating conversation.

Teen Book Club

5–8 p.m.
Join us for a stimulating conversation.

Teen Book Club

Wed., Dec. 29, 9–11 a.m.
Join us for a stimulating conversation.

Teen Book Club

5:30 p.m.
Join us for a stimulating conversation.

Teen Book Club

5–7 p.m.
Join us for a stimulating conversation.

Teen Book Club

5–7 p.m.
Join us for a stimulating conversation.

Teen Book Club

4–6 p.m.
Join us for a stimulating conversation.

Teen Book Club

5–7 p.m.
Join us for a stimulating conversation.

Teen Book Club

Dec 2011

December Programs at the Franklin Library

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December Programs at the Franklin Library
This marker was placed on the grave of 350 people provided by the University of Minnesota on 11-11-11. UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF 350 MEN AND WOMEN, HOMELESS OR OTHER, WHO DIED UNCLAIMED AFTER BIRTH IN ONE OF THE TWO MAJOR PUBLIC HOSPITALS IN MINNEAPOLIS. ...

In the early part of the last century, state law required the coroner to turn over the remains of anyone whose body went unclaimed to medical schools. Because so many people believed that their bodies and souls were to be reunited on Judgment Day, the idea of dissection was, for the majority of people, unthinkable. As a result, there was a shortage of cadavers which made the laws governing unclaimed bodies necessary. (That practice ended in the 1960s).

Of those 350 people buried in the cemetery, 101 were infants who were stillborn or died shortly after birth in one of the two major charity hospitals in the area. Of the remaining 250, eight were adult women; the rest were men. The lives of the men are surprisingly well documented. In many cases, their deaths occurred in public places: in rail yards, on the street, at construction sites, or in jail. Eleven of the men have reams of paperwork, relics from the time they spent as inmates Stilwater Prison. Another nineteen of the men are identified only as “unknown man,” who, although their names weren’t known, died under circumstances that were considered newsworthy.

The death certificate for one of those men lists his occupation as “yegman” meaning he was a safe cracker. Police believed that he was one of several men who robbed the Thief River Falls railroad station of $7,500 in October 1913. When the robbers got together to divide up their “earnings,” a fight broke out and the unknown man was shot and killed by the other members of his gang.

Dan McMahon, a former prize fighter from New York, was another victim of a gang of robbers. He spent the evening of December 12, 1913 drinking in a downtown saloon where he made the mistake of showing a large roll of cash to some of his drinking partners. It wasn’t long before a fight broke out, and the bartender threw all of the men out of saloon. Out in the alley, another brawl ensued, and McMahon was shot. He was taken to the City Hospital where he died, but not until six days later. In the meantime, the police were hunting for the seven men who assaulted him. They tracked them to a boarding house in St. Paul where still another brawl broke out. Eventually the police managed to arrest all seven of the suspects and haul them off to jail. Patrick Ballard, one of the men arrested for being involved in the assault on Dan McMahon, was promptly sentenced to 90 days in the work house. After serving only two hours of his sentence, he dropped dead of a heart attack, six days before Dan McMahon, the man he was accused of assassinating, died. And, there is another ironic twist to the story: both Dan McMahon and Patrick Ballard wound up buried in the same grave.

Most of the other stories are not as melodramatic as these, but many of them are fascinating in their own way. Some of the people suffered from alcoholism or mental illness. Tuberculosis was a leading cause of death among this group just as it was in the population at large. But, regardless of how they died, they were for the most part forgotten.

That has changed. On November 11, 2011, a marker, provided by the University of Minnesota, was placed on their graves. It is a stunning black granite marker with a simple explanation about who these 350 people were and acknowledging their contribution to research. The marker will be dedicated and an observance held some time next year. Everyone who is interested will be welcome to attend.

Bridging Minneapolis happened 13th of August for 12 hours with 2 dozen activities across Phillips on 24th St. and continues with Winter Book, a series of December Shenanigans on 35WHP. We get together monthly on the 24th St pedestrian bridge for spontaneous, interactive performance and fun. At 10pm on Wed, 12/21, we’re gathering under the magical winter sky to commemorate the solstice. Dress warm, bring percussion/instruments and join us as we honor the birth of new life and new dreams.

What is this bridge? By Najma Adbi (11 years old)

What is this bridge? I am standing on it. Is something we walk on to get across the freeway? Or is it a connection? Is it a bridge of a better time, a symbol that everything is not lost or forgotten. Let this bridge remind you of a better time when everyone knew their neighbors. This bridge is a forgotten connection.

Announcements of December Shenanigans: We get together monthly on the 24th St pedestrian bridge for spontaneous, interactive performance and fun. At 10pm on Wed, 12/21, we’re gathering under the magical winter sky to commemorate the solstice. Dress warm, bring percussion/instruments and join us as we honor the birth of new life and new dreams. www.bridgingminneapolis.com
Winter Solstice celebrated in stories, dance, and runes

BY CARSTEN SMITH

The winter solstice marks the time when the days slowly begin to lengthen and the light returns to the world. Celebrated as “Jultid” (yule) in Scandinavian countries, Nordic Roots storyteller and singer Kari Tauring and folk dancer Carol Sersland, along with Tapestry Folk Dance Center, bring the joy of this festival of light to the Tapestry Folkdance Center on Sunday, December 18 from 6 to 8 pm.

“This Jultid Celebration will be an interactive performance, suitable for all ages and all activity levels,” says Kari Tauring. Kari received a 2011 Minnesota State Arts Board Folk and Traditional Arts Grant to develop a series of workshops and two celebrations. The Jultid Celebration is the first and in March, there will be the Ostara, a holiday that merges into our contemporary Easter celebration.

The Jultid celebration is open to everyone. While some of the participants will have attended the story hours and dance workshops that Carol and Kari have been leading throughout the fall, “There are enough people who will know the dances that everyone else can just join in!” says Kari. The dances will be at different levels, so experienced folk dancers will be challenged and complete beginners will find dances tailored to them.

Of course, the Jultid will include traditional, seasonal food. Attendees will receive a Jul gift of a rune on a string as they enter the dance space. Runes are the traditional Norse alphabet and each rune has a special meaning beyond its use as a letter. Kari, Carol, and Stavers in the House (musicians who create rhythms with staves, or staffs) will present an Opening Toast and special program to welcome all to the Jultide.

If you would like to join Carol and Kari for a workshop before the Jultid, please come to the Tapestry Folkdance Center on December 8 from 1 to 3:30. $10 for adults, $15 for families up to 5 people.

The Jultid Celebration is December 18 from 6 to 8. $10 for adults, $15 for families, up to five people.

Dates for spring workshops, story hours and the Ostara celebration can be found at www.nordicrootsdance.org.

Kari is also presenting a series of Nordic story hours for families at Ingebretsen’s Scandinavian Gifts. These story hours complement the content of the dance workshops, though both the workshops and the story hours can be enjoyed individually. For details on the story hours, please visit http://ingebretsens.com/classes/culture

Nordic Roots storyteller and singer Kari Tauring and folk dancer Carol Sersland, along with Tapestry Folk Dance Center, bring the joy of this festival of light to the Tapestry Folkdance Center on Sunday, December 18 from 6 to 8 pm to celebrate the Winter Solstice which marks the time when the days slowly begin to lengthen and the light returns to the world. Celebrated as “Jultid” (yule) in Scandinavian countries.

Reflections:
- On urban life in word and art by ages three to ninety. Pg 1 & 4
- Phillips Neighborhood pg 2
- 9th Ward Award Nominees pg 2
- Medical research early 20th C pg 4
- Come and Get It pg 4
- The Neighborhood That Could pg 4
- What Is This Bridge? Pg 4
- Winter Solstice pg 5
- Life’s Dramas pg 6
- Revolts and Uprisings of 2011 pg 6
- Winter Dreams pg 6
- Occupy MN pg 7
- Orator Wendell Meets Jesus pg 7
- Meeting Wendell and wood type pg 7
- Language as window to the soul of thought and culture pg 8
- “Come In, Rest” pg 8

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- MORE Specialist Programs are planned
- Short-term Health Related Courses (Call us)

An evaluation funded by the federal government is being conducted to determine how the training program helps people increase their skills and find jobs. Spaces in the program are limited. Entry into the program is determined using a lottery process to ensure that everyone who is eligible has the same chance of getting in. Applies to Medical Office Assistant, Six-Month HCO programs, and the Short-Term Health Related Courses.

Call Phillip at 612-341-3338 Ext. 148 (For Health courses, Ext. 171)

Cedar and Franklin, Golden Living and Sabathani Center www.aioc.org

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Right On Lake Street
**The Descendants**

“**The Descendants**”(2011)

This beautiful and educational performed in 2000, to its stage.

Hobt’s Holiday Show: Winter Dreams

This puzzle is in honor of the protests and revolts of 2011. The starred clues are just a few of the more than 2000 sites of uprisings.

Alley Crosswords by Samantha “Sami” Pfeiffer

**Across.**

1. Sees (peruvian soft drink)
2. Yippee!
3. Inca (papua new guinea)
4. *Sideways* (UK prostest)
5. Tiny
6. Saint
7. Stupefy
8. Shellfish
9. S a l v a d o r
10. Location of 33-across

**Down.**

1. 5-clue's a man
2. 24- philo (wine lover)
3. 25. 2004 movie about a real life story
4. Cuban drum
5. Cry from the cold
6. Assistant (in bathroom?)
7. Neither…
8. Mountain peak
9. Salutation
10. Honorary title for a Muslim

**November Answers**

52. 46. Complete a jog around the track
53. 42. 12th dynasty Egyptian queen
54. 38. Movie rating org.
55. 35. Reverb
56. 33. Cy the Cardinal’s alma mater
57. 32. Traditional wearing of a hat for a gentleman
58. 31. The Hunter Marionettes
59. 30. Duncan’s alma mater
60. 29. Educator at the university
61. 28. “_________ bust!” (Red blood cell slogan) (2 wds.)
62. 27. Nonverbal
63. 26. 52. Nigerian drum
64. 25. USC virtual reality computer
66. 23. Electronic file
67. 22. Germanic winter festival
68. 21. An episode that did not play
69. 20. 12th dynasty Egyptian queen
70. 19. Electronic file
1. 1983 Indian independence day
2. 19. Electronic file
3. 18. British sports event
4. 17. Castle
5. 16. Canadian anti-consumerist
6. 15. Arthur proponent of existentialism
8. 13. George Clooney’s performance is Oscar
9. 12. 12th dynasty Egyptian queen

**Other Hobt events**

Saturday morning hra March Puppet Shows For Kids Nearly every Saturday through March, different artists perform engaging puppet shows at 10am and noon. A great alternative to television, these performances will delight kids of all ages. Families can also attend hands-on Make-in-Take puppet workshops based on that day’s puppet show theme. • Performances: 10am & noon • Workshop: 11am • Admission: Performances - suggested donation of $4/ person or $2/person if you live in Phillips, Central, Corcoran or Powderhorn neighborhoods. Workshops - $5/ child, $3/ adult (Children must be accompanied by an adult).

December 3 Feathers and Strings. The Hunter Marionettes Can an ostrich fly? Can a snake...?

Created & Produced by In the Heart of the Beast Theatre Directed by Alison Heimstead

The Old Woman

It’s paradoxical that the idea of living a long life appeals to everyone, but the idea of getting old doesn’t appeal to anyone. - Andy Rooney

**The Alley Newspaper • December 2011**
Mixed Bag

Unlike the esteemed guru who, it is said, once transcended all earthly attachments, the rest of us are bound to the spiritual ups and downs which reflect the satisfactions and irritations of our existence.

St. Paul’s Church, 11-11-11...

It was in conjunction with the 200th birthday of Wendell Phillips, renowned opponent of all forms of oppression, that this paper celebrated its 36 years. The evening unfolded as a high pinnacle event for the activist community of this neighborhood.

There was as well a high-point moment for this writer. Despite his many years of socialist rantings in the space of this column, there was a warm ovation from an audience which included small business people. So, let it be said: The Welnas and Ingenbretsen will have their place well into the future.

Moreover, are Lenin’s words not infinitely more modest?

To date the call for a “general strike” and for the occupation of our workplaces falls on deaf ears. For now we will feed our families and pay our bills. The revolution must wait.

Be patient, young ones. Life is a mixed bag.

Jim Stewart’s article in The Alley Prompts

Visitor to Create a Wood Type Poster of Wendell Phillips

[Editor’s Note: The following e-mail was sent to Jim Stewart, biographer of Wendell Phillips who recently was the keynote presenter at The Alley Newspaper’s 11-11-11 200th Birthday Party for Wendell Phillips in Phillips Community. A reproduction of the poster appears in this issue on Page 4.]

Dear Jim Stewart,

Late Sunday [Nov. 6th, 2011] morning I read your article about Wendell Phillips in The Alley newspaper. I had not heard of Phillips before, but found him an inspiring person. As it happened, the reason I was in Minneapolis was to receive training in letterpress printing at the Minnesota Center for Book Arts. That afternoon we printed posters using wood type on a Vandercook proof press. I printed three editions of 11 posters each to mark Wendell Phillips’ 200th birthday. I left in Minneapolis to be posted in the Phillips neighborhood. The second edition I will distribute between now and Friday. I am saving for my own use. I would like to give you one of the prints from this third edition and am wondering to what address I should send it. I look forward to hearing from you and thank you for your article introducing me to Wendell Phillips.

Best Regards,

Daniel Schneider

Second e-mail from Dan Schneider explaining wood type interest and resurgence

Dear Editor,

My girlfriend and I are involved in our community arts center in Hancock, MI. Bonnie is assistant director and I am a volunteer. For the past several months we’ve been setting up a letterpress studio at the arts center with equipment local print shops donated when upgrading to more modern technology. Letterpress printing is enjoying a renaissance in the art community. For me, it resonates with my writing and newspaper background. There is a lot of printing history in our area. Newspapers were printed in the many languages of the miners who immigrated here.

Bonnie and I visited a number of letterpress shops out west last winter. We have been learning the technical skills from a letterpress printer who is setting up a printing museum here. The first weekend in November, four of us from the arts center traveled to the MCBFA to learn about how they do their community programming. Their instructors also helped us with training on the technical aspects.

It was my first opportunity to print with wood type. I was struggling to think of something worth saying in big letters. I went for a walk Sunday morning in the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood where I stopped in a coffee shop and found The Alley with Jim’s story about Wendell Phillips.

Looking forward to seeing the December issue of The Alley,

Dan
Backyard Initiative Update

Harvesting Learning from the Dakota Language Revitalization Citizen Health Action Team

By Janice Barbee and Madeleine Garvin, Cultural Wellness Center

Residents of seven neighborhods (Bi Di Gain Dash Anwebi, an Advantage Center Community Room which will provide program training and computer space and the management office. Services will include independent living skills, wellness and prevention workshops, health promotion, community information and referrals, and discussion circles. The office will maintain regular hours serving culturally-specific professional service to the residents.

Bi Di Gain Dash Anwebi is one piece of AICDC’s goal to enhance and bolster the economic condition of south Minneapolis through quality development and retain the area’s historic American Indian presence. AICDC’s projects are designed to preserve, rehabilitate and stabilize the neighborhood while meeting the needs of the American Indian community.

Bii Di Gain Dash Anwebi (“Come in. Rest.” in Ojibwe) Elder Housing

A street view of the East Building.

AICDC is addressing the lack of affordable housing for American Indian elders in Minneapolis with the development of the Bii Di Gain Dash Anwebi Elder Housing. The apartment will be 47 1-bedroom units located on two parcels of land on the east side of Bloomington Avenue South. The apartments will be available to seniors 62 years of age and older with an income at or below 50% AMI (Area Median Income). HUD (The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development) rental subsidies will be available to seniors living in at Bii Di Gain Dash Anwebi Elder Housing.

CommunityLink Communities will co-sponsor and manage the project.

The apartments will include an Advantage Center Community Room which will provide program training and computer space and the management office. Services will include independent living skills, wellness and prevention workshops, health promotion, community information and referrals, and discussion circles. The office will maintain regular hours serving culturally-specific professional service to the residents.

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This reflective process has helped the CHAT members to gain new energy, knowledge, and skills for moving forward and create new strategies for revitalizing the Dakota language. They have learned they want to take smaller steps and offer more kinds of activities to engage families. They want to grow their CHAT membership, have more consistent meetings, and be accountable. If one person leaves, the work can go on.

The learning or “fruits” of the CHAT’s work has now been presented to the Backyard Initiative’s Assessment Team, Commission on Health, and to the All-CHAT meeting. As everyone reflects on what the CHAT has learned, people have identified the “seeds” or learning which can be shared or “planted” in the work of the other CHATs and the Commission.

“Seeds” from the Dakota Language Revitalization CHAT

“Fruit” 1: Historical events and relationships between peoples underlie the challenges of the CHAT. The history and relationship between the Dakota and Ojibwa is being worked on by the American and European American peoples was the context for some of the challenges the Dakota Language CHAT faced. This context is a factor in the extent of involvement of CWC and Allina staff in the “business” of the CHAT, whether and what kinds of outside support is welcomed or discouraged; 2) how people outside the community interpret the challenges when they may not understand all the nuances of CHAT members’ cultural ways and the ways that history has affected relationships; and 3) the importance of people taking responsibility for themselves, where the learning from mistakes that people make along the way while learning to do their own work is often worth more than the learning from people taking the lead.

“Seeds” to be planted

1. Choose facilitators/supporters/guides who understand the historical context and respect boundaries. Certain people will be most appropriate based on their culture, age, and relationships in the community.
2. Educate the community on the historical context if it is not well understood.
3. Don’t expect all goals to be achieved. Value learning from mistakes or missteps.

“Fruit” 2: Communication is crucial to the CHAT’s progress. This includes communication among the CHAT members, between CHAT and the CWC and Assessment Team, and between the CHAT and its Incubator. The Dakota Language CHAT is committed to growing their CHAT’s members of the Backyard Initiative to new members and to their incubator/fiscal agents.

1. Create a process for orienting new members to the CHAT and the Backyard Initiative.
2. Create more tools for educating incubators/fiscal agents in the Backyard and their responsibilities as incubators of the CHATs, including ways to hold them accountable throughout the year.
3. Continue to develop ways for how the CHATs communicate with the other CHATs, the Commission, the CWC, and the Evaluation team throughout the year to gather learning and be accountable.
4. Develop the role of CHAT leadership facilitators/coordinators in each CHAT whose responsibility might be to communicate with new members, with the Incubator, with the CWC, and with other CHATs.

“Fruit” 3: The scope of a CHAT’s project has to take into account what is achievable in one year, and will depend on building the number of people with a commitment to the work, the edge, skills, and leadership. The CHAT members determined that their strategy for revitalizing the Dakota language was too ambitious to accomplish in one year, and had many obstacles that were not known at the outset.

“Seeds” 4. Develop the role of CHAT leaders.

The Commission will give careful consideration to the feasibility of CHATs projects, and support CHATs to plan their projects in small, achievable steps.

Look for the learning from other CHATs in future issues of the Alley.

All Backyard residents are welcome to come to the Backyard Initiative community meetings on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 5 PM at Hope Community, 611 East Franklin Avenue. Call the Cultural Wellness Center for details: 612-721-5745.

By Janice Barbee and Madeleine Garvin, Cultural Wellness Center

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“Fruit” 2: Communication is crucial to the CHAT’s progress. This includes communication among the CHAT members, between CHAT and the CWC and Assessment Team, and between the CHAT and its Incubator. The Dakota Language CHAT is committed to growing their CHAT’s membership, clarifying leadership roles and offering opportunities for people to take leadership and communicating the purpose of the CHAT and the principles of the Backyard Initiative to new members and to their incubator/fiscal agents.

1. Create a process for orienting new members to the CHAT and the Backyard Initiative.
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