Larry Leventhal died on January 17, 2017 following a long battle with pancreatic cancer. He was a well-known attorney who represented people who had been wronged in some way, and he also wrote wills and in the case of my family, represented us in juvenile court as we undertook the adoption of our great grandchild. In contrast to this kind of work, he took on some of the most formidable opponents imaginable, including the United States government.

During his 50-year career in the practice of law, he focused much of his time on the legal affairs of tribal nations and American Indian nonprofit organizations. During the course of the history of the Indian Education Act, passed in 1972 and released for grantmaking in 1973, Larry represented and assisted numerous schools and tribal nations. Although both Heart of the Earth Survival School and the Red School House are no longer operating, he assisted both with research on changes in the regulations affecting funding opportunities and each year he created Larry Levanthal April 28, 1941- January 17, 2017

The Cosmos has Grown by One More Star

BY LAURA WATERMAN WITTSTOCK

Donald Trump’s campaign for president has taken the lion’s share of newsprint and media time, for 15 months, from the time of his splashy announcement from the Trump Tower in New York City. There was a crowded Republican field of 16 candidates, five of whom dropped out before the Iowa caucuses in February, 2016, and another nine who dropped out later in February and March. The final two: Ted Cruz and John Kasich dropped out in May, following bruising primary fights filled with personal insults and innuendo. This left Donald Trump alone to face the Democratic candidates: Secretary Hillary Clinton and Senator Bernie Sanders who were themselves locked in an intense fight in the primaries. Once Sanders conceded, Clinton had little time left to fully prepare for her adversary and his street fighter’s style of campaigning. Unafraid to cast insults and state falsehoods, Trump whipped the crowds who came to see him into chanting, “lock her up, lock her up!” as he smiled and held thumbs up to them. He called her a liar

The Next Four Years, More or Less

BY LAURA WATERMAN WITTSTOCK

What does the election of Donald Trump say about us as a nation and us as individuals? First I am going to try and explain what it means to me, and then I am going to try and explain what I believe it means for us as a country. As I watched on Election Day with my family as each state rolled in and Hillary Clinton kept losing state after state, I would not allow myself to believe that Donald Trump would become the 45th president of this country. I want to make it clear that I was no fan of Hillary but if the good people of this nation were watching what I was watching, there was no way Trump would win. That is the heart of the disappointment for me. What I thought we were, who I thought we were becoming had suddenly eroded significantly in one night. Don’t get me wrong, I suffer from no illusions that somehow race doesn’t matter. When former President Obama won there were people from all walks of life, colors and cultures supporting a man and his family who ran for the office of the President of the United States and that

Irreconcilable Differences?

BY MISHERARU P. DAWKINS

[Will] any adequate remedy be found for this incoming flood of Incorporated Wealth? – Wendell Phillips see “Spirit of Phillips” page 11
Virtual Community News Adds “Market Hours”

www.alleynews.org

Some ask, “Why is a newspaper called The Alley? Part of the answer lies in the idea that we need conversations that happen over the neighbor’s fence, by the garbage can, in the garage, shooting baskets, or fixing a bike. Things happen in the backyards along the alleys. Alley is the place where the hilltops talk with the valley bottom.

Others ask, “Where is The Alley Newspaper office?” The Alley Newspaper was named 41 years ago when it began. It hasn’t had an office for over 16 years. It has a virtual office and operates more as a virtual association.

The dictionary says: “A virtual office is one where the workspace includes a significant proportion of workers using technology to perform their work at home.” A virtual company uses computers and telecommunications technologies to extend its capabilities by working routinely with people throughout the neighborhood, city, and world to accomplish mutually beneficial goals.”

Twenty to forty individuals and organizations contribute information articles, art, and announcements which are combined within the pages of The Alley Newspaper and website each month. There is no other office, but there are many places where people write, draw, use computers and talk to get each issue completed.

The Alley will begin to add another place for direct conversations with the newspaper. We will have “Market Hours” from 4 PM to 6 PM the first Monday of each month, beginning Monday, February 6. You can find us at the Midtown Global Market adjacent to the Backyard Initiative’s Resource Center near the Lake Street main entrance.
On January 8, 2017, Friends of the Cemetery lost one of its earliest friends when Bob Clark passed away. Bob was the great-grandson of Fred and Anna Clark who are buried in Lot 101, Block A. I met Bob in the cemetery many years ago when he and his cousin were visiting Fred and Anna’s graves.

Anna was one of the first people buried in the cemetery whose name caught my attention. It wasn’t hard. Anna committed suicide in the cemetery on September 15, 1909, at the age of 53. She shot herself on Fred’s grave. Three suicide notes were found in her purse. Parts of two notes and the circumstances of Anna’s life were printed in the Minneapolis Tribune the day after Anna died.

The first note, written to her daughter Cora, begins: “I am tired of life, dear Cora, and need a rest.” Anna continued by expressing her greatest concern for her grandchildren.

The second letter, addressed to her baby son, contained even more heartbreaking: “Do not blame anyone for this I do. I am tired and the sorrow and agony in my heart, I am too weak to bear. Buy me beside papa, if you think I am worthy of it. Good-bye. God bless you, Mamma.”

“Papa” was Anna’s husband.

Four years from page 1 and a criminal, but all he offered in terms of foreign or domestic policy was to build a wall around us. It was an expectation that began. It is clear from his continued use of informal language and inability to keep to the narrative of flat plane figure and to mock the president.

President/CEO, commented, “As we enter 2017 in a world of change, I wish to reaffirm the vision that inspires the American Swedish Institute today and historically, which is to be a gathering place for all people to connect to their pasts to a shared future and to understand their heritage in relation to others. The founders of our museum came to this country as Swedish immigrants. Nearly every person I know has an immigrant story as part of their family narrative. Through exhibitions and programs linked to our 2017 theme of Migration, Identity and Belonging, we provide a place for conversations and dialogue which fuse our past with today’s local and global context.”

The American Swedish Institute (ASI) announces it is offering the first exhibition of four Wednesdays throughout February from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., starting February 1 and continuing February 8, 15 and 22, 2017. Five exhibits explore the year-long theme of Migration, Identity and Belonging, at The American Swedish Institute fulfilling its mission to be a gathering place for all people to share experiences, culture, migration, the environment and the arts.

Where the Children Sleep is a collection of photographs by Magnus Wennman, who encountered refugees in numerous camps in the Middle East and on their journeys through Europe. His images and stories depict Syrian children who were forced out of their homes by the ongoing war, losing everything. “Swede Hollow,” a display based on Ola Larsson’s best-selling Swedish novel that imagines immigrant life at Swede Hollow in St. Paul, MN.

The Stories They Tell animates the narrative of flat plane figures wood carving.

Green Card Voices shares contemporary Nordic immigrant stories.

Cows Can Dream, our Family Gallery exhibition inspired by the cow in Maria Byström and Jason Diakité’s children’s book, encourages creativity and discovery.

Bruce Karstadt, ASI President/CEO, commented, “As we enter 2017 in a world of changing political and social conditions, I wish to reaffirm the vision that inspires the American Swedish Institute today and historically, which is to be a gathering place for all people to connect to their pasts to a shared future and to understand their heritage in relation to others. The founders of our museum came to this country...”
Spring & Warm Weather bring Road Construction Season:

Cedar Ave. from 28th St. to Lake St. will be closed, as well as Midtown Greenway under Cedar Ave. for the reconstruction of the Cedar Avenue - Greenway Bridge. The Portland Avenue - Greenway bridge will be closed for reconstruction at the same time.

While a new wider bridge will be welcomed, residents have questions about the project. Hennepin County staff will be attending the February 9th EPIC Meeting to answer them. Some important questions are:

- Will the new bridge design accommodate the proposed street cars on the Greenway?
- How will the widened bridge safely connect with the narrower existing Cedar Ave on either end?
- Whose tax money is paying for the new bridge? Are our residents being uniquely assessed?

Please attend the 2/9/2017 EPIC General Membership meeting to have your questions answered. The meeting starts at 6:30 PM and is at the East Phillips Park Cultural & Community Center located at 2307 17th Ave. S.

For Your Calendar:

The EPIC Board of Directors meet on the FIRST Saturday of the month – Next Meetings; Saturday, 3/4/2017 and 4/1/2017 at 10:00 AM.

The EPIC General Membership meets on the SECOND Thursday – Next Meetings; Thursday, 2/9/17 and 3/9/2017 and 4/13/2017 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; 2/28/17 and 3/28/2017 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:

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.

For Your Calendar:**

* East Phillips Residents wanting a 2017 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.

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**Proposed reconstructed Cedar Avenue Bridge over the Midtown Greenway**

Construction will begin in early Spring and will close Cedar Ave. for much of 2017. Detours are proposed to reroute auto & truck traffic on Hiawatha Ave. & bikes on 18th Ave.

 proposed reconstructed Cedar Avenue Bridge over the Midtown Greenway

The New Bridge (see above) will be 12’ wider, providing wider traffic lanes & sidewalks. The existing Bridge is 100 years old and must be updated for safety & structural reasons. The bridge’s historic look will be maintained.
The Police Activities League has developed a major Phillips youth outreach initiative

Third Precinct Inspector Catherine Johnson brought a team of police officers to Ventura Village’s monthly General Membership meeting to introduce her Police Activities League (PAL) organizers. In a meet-and-greet presentation, the PAL team spoke about how the new south-side initiative, now underway in the Greater Phillips area, is successfully integrating youth with police officers to produce very positive interactions and trust-building.

According to their website, the Police Activities League is a 501c3 non-profit organization created to reduce crime and violence among youth by engaging Police Officers in mentorship roles. PAL’s mission is to recognize that kids deserve a safe place to play, and opportunities to engage in positive, character building activities to enhance their lives.

Cops Coaching Kids. Watching Police Officers helping kids put on their football helmets, showing kids how to perform a jump shot, coaching a kid in volleyball practice, or handing a kid a hot dog during a cook-out, are just a few examples of the positive ways PAL interacts with kids. PAL has a variety of athletic and non-athletic activities available to youth. Football, basketball, wrestling, soccer, volleyball, sailing classes, Brain & Body Summer Camp, and Shop with a Cop, are just a few examples of the types of programming we offer. In coming months we are planning to add more youth camp programming and additional fitness programming to our program.

PAL programming is paid for by grants and donations. The services that PAL delivers to kids are free. Officers’ time in organizing and participating in the activities is already covered by the salaries and functional expenses that are needed to get Police to sites to work, but the cost of the activities to help youth attend and cover materials and equipment for each activity is an expense needing community partners.

For many years, Ventura Village has put its resources to work in partnership with police in terms of purchasing ladders and saws-alls to help board houses, mounted cameras for general surveillance work, mobile cameras for in-unit work and other investments. These have paid off in terms of much improved crime statistics for Ventura Village and adjacent neighborhoods. It was with this history that Sergeant Rena Dudgeon - PAL's Program Director and Officer Marshall Collier spoke to and presented information about the program and the need for our financial investment and moral support for PAL. As an Alley reader, you too can help by visiting PAL at given.org - Minneapolis Police Activities League. Your tax deductible donation will support our work.

UPCOMING VENTURA VILLAGE MONTHLY MEETINGS:
FEBRUARY 8TH: BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: 6:00 PM
FEBRUARY 8TH: GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: 7:00 PM
FEBRUARY 23RD: HOUSING & LAND COMMITTEE: 5:30 PM
FEBRUARY 23RD: CRIME & SAFETY COMMITTEE: 6:30 PM
MARCH 1ST: WELLNESS, GARDENING & GREENING: 6:30 PM
MARCH 1ST: COMMITTEE ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE: 6:00 PM

The Minneapolis Police Activities League - PAL, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, that provides free sports and activity programs to all kids.

VENTURA VILLAGE NEWS
FEBRUARY 2017
FEB. 8TH GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING @ 7:00 PM
VOLUME 6
NUMBER 2

AK Hassan elected as 2017 Chairman of Ventura Village

Upgrading the office from Sadik-Warfa, Abdikadir (AK) Hassan was unanimously elected to assume Ventura Village’s chairmanship. Also elected to serve in the executive positions within the neighborhood were X as Vice-Chair; Thor Adam will again serve as Secretary and Ray Peterson as Treasurer.

Last summer, Third Precinct Police hosted a cook-out in Peavey Park that attracted hundreds of residents. This event coincided with widespread police protests related to various shootings of civilians. Non-resident protestors attending this event accused police of only wanting to provide hot dogs and hamburgers instead of active engagement. Several community members responded citing actual experiences of a long-term successful engagement!
her beacon-hand / Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command / The air-bridged
“How can you buy or sell the sky, the warmth of the land? The idea is strange to us. If we do not own the freshness of the air and the sparkle of the water, how can you buy them? Every part of the earth is sacred to my people."

– Chief Seattle, 1780-1866.
ICMN Staff • January 25, 2017

Standing Rock Sioux Chairman David Archambault II was more surprised at the rapidity with which Donald Trump signed presidential memoranda purporting to speed up the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) and reinstate the Keystone XL pipeline than he was by the act itself. “We were prepared for President Trump to take a run at everything we have accomplished in the last two years,” Archambault told Tamron Hall on MSNBC on Wednesday January 25, the day after Trump signed a Presidential Memorandum attempting to move DAPL along. “This nation better start bracing itself for what’s to come if in the first four days we’re witnessing him using an executive order to circumvent federal laws. It’s not right, and it’s something we better get ready for. I was disappointed that it came this soon, because we had worked so hard for the last two years.”

The tribe wants closer study of the pipeline’s potential effects on water supply, sacred sites and treaty rights, he said, and Trump is trying to do an end run around such statutes as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). “The troubling thing is that this president is circumventing federal law,” Archambault said. “We have Treaty rights, and we have water rights with our Winter’s Doctrine, we have NEPA.”

Archambault’s Presidential memorandum—not an executive order, as was first reported—urging the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to move ahead with the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) cannot supersede the existing law, but it directs the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to try and expedite the process.

“We’re going to continue to look at the validity of this action, and we’re going to continue to talk to anyone that would be willing to listen to us in the administration,” Archambault said. “We’re going to try and get support from Congress, from those who are not fed by the industry. We want to open America’s eyes about what’s happening here. If EPA is given a gag order and told not to put anything out on media, not to discuss happening here. If EPA is given a gag order and told not to put anything out on media, not to discuss this issue, this is a scary time for America.”

See the full interview below, and watch the entire news story on MSNBC Live with Tamron Hall.

Minneapolis City Council returns borrowed Neighborhood Funding

BY JANA NETGE

Minneapolis City Council President Barb Johnson, Councilmember Cam Gordon, and Councilmember Kevin Reich have found a way to return Neigh borhood revitalization dollars to Minneapolis neighborhoods. Working diligently and quietly, they found a way to return once approved Neighborhood Revitalization dollars to the Minneapolis neighborhoods that had been borrowed from individual neighborhoods in 2010 during the transition between the NRP (Neighborhood Revitalization Program) and NCR (Neighborhood Community Relations Dept.) Transition.

For Midtown Phillips this means an additional $73,000 for neighborhood Revitalization projects! Cedar Riverside neighbor hood will see $211,000. The Downtown Neighborhoods will see $273,000. For the Loring Park Neighborhood, at a time when gunfire is at an all-time high on Nicollet Ave., it brings in an additional $150,000 to help with Revitalization and Neighborhood Safety. Lowry Hill will see their $134,000 of revitalization dollars. For the East Phillips Neighborhood it is $146,000. These funds could continue revitalization work which has turned around parts of Bloomington Ave and the Neighborhood. Stands. Ericson will see $196,000, Monday, January 30th this City Council Committee action was passed, and then followed by City Council approval.

Neighborhoods who had just began their Neighborhood Revitalization Phase II Implementation and had funds approved by the City Council, had these funds borrowed to support neighborhoods who had spent down their NRP funds in December 2010. This occurred during the transition of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program to what we now know as the Neighborhood Community Relations Department and Community Participation funding. Thanks to these three (3) Councilmembers never forgetting about a promise to repay Neighborhoods. Neighborhoods will now be able to contract their once allocated NRP Phase II money and implement many projects suspension within their 10-year NRP Phase II plan.

Neighborhood revitalization dollars that have been used these past 20 years for new housing construction (Check out Bloomington Ave. So. from 24th Street to Lake Street), homeownership down payment grants, Housing Rehab loans (both rental & ownership housing), Commercial Corridor Revitalization (check out Mercado Centrale, Plaza Verde on Bloomington/Lake/Midtown Greenway), Small businesses on Chicago/Lake, the Midtown Greenway, Commercial Facade Improvements (check out Eat Street), New Park Buildings (check out Phillips Park in the Bryant neighborhood), Park Improvements (check out Loring Park), Public Realm Improvements (check out 4th Ave & Lake Street), Pedestrian Lighting, Tree Plantings in Neighborhoods, Neighborhood Signage, Bike Paths & Bridges, and Library Improvements.

Many thanks to Council President Barb Johnson, Councilmember Kevin Reich, Council Committee Chair Cam Gordon, and to all of the Councilmembers supporting this action and returning these neighborhood funds!!!

Thank you Minneapolis City Council!!!

Contact CLPC at lovdloring@gmail.com if you would like a copy of neighborhood investments over these 25 years utilizing the Neighborhood Revitalization Funding. There are many, many fabulous examples of revitalization projects in each and every neighborhood!

Become involved in your neighborhood!!

If you want it Resolved, Get Involved and Pull up Minneapolis Neighborhoods and you will find a map outlining which neighborhood you live in!

Follow The Alley on Twitter or on Facebook: @alleynewspaper

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Neighborhood Funding

Tamon Hall interviews Standing Rock Sioux Chairman David Archambault II on MSNBC on January 25, 2017, about the Dakota Access Pipeline and President Donald Trump’s memorandum about the project.

Chairman Archambault on MSNBC: ‘President Is Circumventing Federal Law’

Standing Rock Sioux Chairman David Archambault II was surprised that Trump acted so quickly, but not by his actions...
Book review of “The Topless Widow of Herkimer Street”

Poignant and Delightful Short Stories by Jacob M Appel

BY CLAUDIA P. SLOVACEK

It’s been a few months since I put down this collection of short stories by Jacob Appel, but some of them remain embedded in my sub-conscious. Appel has been added to my “must read more by this author” list. Unfortunately, since I’m a two book clubs and the last quarter of the year tends to be my busiest at work, I haven’t had a lot of additional free time to pick up other volumes by this author. I will though, and I recommend you do so as well.

Appel has an amazing way of presenting the human condition in all its pain, joy, banality and splendor of our interactions with others who inhabit our shared space. Sometimes this is quite literally as in the story of “The Current Occupant”. This tale finds us with a couple whose precariously fabricated house has been delivered and installed at the wrong address. That it now encompaces the husband’s former college sweetheart adds to the dilemma of how they might go about rectifying this delivery error. Past indiscisions impact current and future relationships, sometimes for a reason, but more often, only because we fear those indiscisions are perceived as worse than they really were. My favorite story was of course the title story, “The Topless Widow of Herkimer Street”. As a novelist, I’ve never understood why so few people bar their naked bodies. This tale finds us with the problem Quincy Marder faces as he tries to persuade Ilene, his elderly mother, who has taken to nude sunbathing in her yard, to put on some clothes. As Appel draws the picture of the son and mother’s relationship, we see the futility of Quincy’s attempt to rectify the situation.

“Quincy drew a deep breath. Reasoning with his mother, he’d discovered soon after he learned how to form his first sentences, was like straining the Sahara Desert through a sieve. Lance Otten rang me up this afternoon,” he said. “He’s concerned that you’re—well—I he’s upset about you sitting out here topless.”

“That’s what you’re worked up about?” Ilene brushed away his complaint with the back of her hand. “You had me worried it was something serious.”

“Rendezvous in Wickiternity” feels a bit surreal as two lost souls connect and the case may be, through entries in Wikipedia. This online knowledge base has some quirky side effects which occur because anyone can edit the entries to suit their reality. Safeguards are put in place to keep the general tenor of the entries as close to the truth as possible. This tale takes us through an esoteric mating ritual of two strangers feinting and parrying online. Appel masterfully melds current technology with the thousands year old story of how two humans falteringly step out the path toward getting to know each other.

I recommend this latest collection of eight stories from Jacob Appel as it makes some fine winter reading, and allows us a delightful and poignantly peak into what makes us tick as humans.

The author of the Topless Widow of Herkimer Street is Jacob M. Appel, a physician, attorney, and bioethicist with multiple degrees, collects literary prizes the way some other authors collect rejection slips, and for good reason. This latest collection again offers well-constructed stories that sharply but compassionately observe people trying to make sense of life’s disruptions. Uncontrollable forces (including the absurd, the magical, and the tragic) upset carefully ordered lives in this short story collection that won the 2016 Howling Bird Press fiction prize.

In the title story, for example an elderly woman’s nonchalance is revealed to be no stunt but rather a radically self-affirming gesture. Phillips resident Claudia Storace reviews this book by Augsburg College’s Howling Bird Press released in November 2016.
Top Ten Movies of 2016

1. “Moonlight” (R) Running time: 112 minutes. Director: Barry Jenkins. A young African American goes from childhood and adulthood in Miami with many struggles including his sexuality, Drama.

2. “Manchester by the Sea” (R) Running time: 137 minutes. Director: Kenneth Lonergan. A working class handyman suffering from depression has to face the tragedy in his past after his brother dies and leaves him sole guardian of his nephew, Drama.


4. “Hidden Figures”(PG)(R)Running time:127 minutes. Director: Theodore Melfi. Based on a true story and one of many denials of black Americans great achievements. This film depicts a college of team educated African American women’s mathematical genius that leads to NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) to launch the first successful space missions. Drama/History.


7. “Hell or High Water” (R) Running time: 102 minutes. In order to save their family’s ranch two brothers rob banks in southern Texas. Crime/Drama.


9. “Deadpool” R Running time: 103 minutes. Director: Tim Miller. This comic book movie is one of few comic book movies to be R rated. The satire goes deep and is an absolute gem.

10. “Manchester by the Sea” (R) Running time: 123 minutes. Director: Kenneth Lonergan. A working class handyman suffering from depression has to face the tragedy in his past after his brother dies and leaves him sole guardian of his nephew, Drama.

MayDay Workshops, Parade, and Pageant 2017

Tuesday, February 7, 7-9:30 pm
Tuesday, March 21, 7-9:30 pm
May Day schedule and Community Meeting notice

COMMUNITY MEETINGS: It is time to gather to envision the theme for MayDay! All are welcome to two community meetings to brainstorm the theme for the 43rd MayDay Festival:

The FIRST meeting, on February 7th from 7-9:30 pm, is a brainstorm inviting attendees to speak of the concerns and the joys of this current time, with ideas of how we as a community and as individuals participate in these issues.

The SECOND meeting, on March 21 from 7-9:30 pm, the MayDay staff presents their ideas for a theme garnered from the ideas shared at the first community meeting. Meeting participants then give feedback—asking questions, offering ideas, and helping network possibilities for furthering the theme.

ALL ARE WELCOME! Both meetings are held at In the Heart of the Beast Theatre’s home base, the Avalon theatre: 1500 E Lake St , Mpls, Mn 55407
Phone: 612-721-2535
info@hobt.org

2017 MAYDAY SCHEDULE of Public meetings and Workshops:

Tuesday February 7, 7-9:30pm First MayDay Community Meeting

For the entire month of April, Community workshops to build MayDay are held at the Avalon Theatre’s home base at 1500 E Lake St , Mpls Mn 55407

Beginning April 8, Workshops are held every: Saturdays from 9-11am and 1-3pm

Tuesdays from 7-7 pm

Thursdays from 7-9 pm

All workshops are open to the public. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Workshops are funded by free will donations.

The 43rd MAYDAY is SUNDAY MAY 7, 2017

Attend Community Open House February 8 to help with the Cedar Avenue Field Park Master Plan!

Public Meeting Date: Feb. 8, 2017
Time: 6-8 pm
Location: Southside Family Nurturing Center
Address: 2448 18th Ave. S
The Resistance Has Begun

It is now farewell to President Obama. Naturally, as a leader of the capitalist world, he was bound to disappoint us to some degree. However, from day one, the pandemics of racism were determined to sabotage his presidency. One can only begin to fathom the fortitude of the man.

No, there will be no redemption for a president who preaches, from the fringes, avowed white supremacists to the high inner circle. What nation might we lack a viable vanguard party of our own.

So, where to begin? For now, as members of a multi-racial/multi-ethnic community, we are asked to elevate the spiritual content of our social interactions via courtesy, love and respect. It is an immense responsibility.

January 13, Alley delivery…

Peter Molenaar
Raise Your Voice

At 2315 Chicago Avenue, the sign reads “We Welcome Our Muslim Neighbors.” Enter Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, engage the basement hallway labyrinth to discover the inner sanctum of the “English Learning Center,” peer through the doorway glass…you might see, as I did, the young Somali women teaching their white Christian counterparts to dance (and giggle). Yes, the resistance has begun!

Moving forward. Then our old habits began to show up. First, the Republican Congress with their absolute opposition to anything the former President Obama wanted to do. This poison was fed to a specific constituency that would be willing to believe our 44th President was not born in this country, that he was a “secret Muslim” who was trying to create Death Panels. This gave us the Tea Party. Next, we had the former State Representative Gabrielle Gifford’s shooting which shed light on gun laws like a laser because now it was one of their own. There was no way they could sweep that one under the rug, so time to gear up the gun lobby, saying the President wanted to take away law-abiding citizen’s guns and let the criminals run rampant. Are you following me?

Next we have the “Beer Summit” with the police officer arrested Professor Henry Louis Gates at his own home. Some folks started to see their healthcare costs rising and it validated some people’s suspicions that the ACA was some-how not on the up and up. Then, as more mass shootings occurred, gun owners became paranoid, and more young black and brown men and women seemingly being killed unjustly portrayed in the news widened the racial divide. I am not trying to rehab old news for the sake of argument but rather to ask a question. Why are we as a nation so fragile?

Throughout our nation’s history, a young history, compared to other countries, we see some of what is going on now in comparison and fair or not it may validate a common view that there is still not equal treatment on both sides. We have never had true reconciliation amongst one another. Our history suggests we are left with a nation whose collective psyche is damaged.

Because of our seemingly irreconcilable differences, every time there is a questionable police shooting we go to our corners ready to fight the ‘good fight’ as we see it. If I may quote the cartoon villain The Joker: “My experiences dictate my reasoning”. So suburban or white Americans who like to hunt, hear the stereotypes about crime in the inner cities and they hear talk about the new gun laws and background checks. The Powers that Be within our government (on both sides) understand that division is the name of the game. If the people began to see through the propaganda and shake off the irrational fear and understand that our history is intertwined, the divide will lessen.

We began on separate paths which may lead to equal protection under the law. The history of our seemingly irreconcilable differences, every time there is a questionable police shooting we go to our corners ready to fight the ‘good fight’ as we see it. If I may quote the cartoon villain The Joker: “My experiences dictate my reasoning”. So suburban or white Americans who like to hunt, hear the stereotypes about crime in the inner cities and they hear talk about the new gun laws and background checks. The Powers that Be within our government (on both sides) understand that division is the name of the game. If the people began to see through the propaganda and shake off the irrational fear and understand that our history is intertwined, the divide will lessen. We began on separate paths which may lead to equal protection under the law.

Be within our government (on both sides) understand that division is the name of the game. If the people began to see through the propaganda and shake off the irrational fear and understand that our history is intertwined, the divide will lessen. We began on separate paths which may lead to equal protection under the law.

Acknowledging our shared history… to debate to understand each other’s perspectives will allow us as a country to finally heal and reconcile our past without forgetting to stand up for what we believe in as individuals.

We have never had true reconciliation amongst one another. Our history suggests we are left with a nation whose collective psyche is damaged. We began on separate paths which may lead to equal protection under the law.
The Four Health Priority Areas of the BYI Community Members Cultural Wellness Center Allina BACKYARD INITIATIVE BACK PAGE

Shining Light on the Backyard Initiative’s 2016 Evaluation

Community Ownership of the Process

The Backyard Initiative’s (BYI) evaluation process has been informed, driven, and owned by the community in which a survey was administered in 2016. The level of community empowerment the BYI has achieved has been eight years in the making; but it was this level of empowerment that was required in order to successfully complete the survey.

This process challenged many of the ways conventional evaluation is usually thought about and implemented. Community members spoke forcefully about not wanting outsiders to evaluate the project to “prove” that it was successful. Community members wanted this evaluation to uncover what they valued in the BYI, to “make the invisible, visible.”

Self-evaluation is a critical aspect of the process that has allowed for the BYI’s community and institution partnership to stay together and progressively build on the community’s capacity to take ownership of its own health. It was also the only way the evaluation of the BYI was able to achieve a high level of participation and engagement from community members.

The Team

The BYI Assessment Team (composed of many of the members of the Community Health Action Teams or CHATs plus Cultural Wellness Center (CWC) and Allina staff) approved the evaluation goals and design for 2016, and an evaluation team composed of CHAT leaders, CWC and Allina Health staff was created to carry out the evaluation goals. Early in the year, the team created and implemented a method for documenting all activities of the BYI. Activities are documented around the four Health Priority Areas. (see shaded box)

The 2016 Evaluation Findings: The summary of the Backyard Initiative’s 2016 evaluation findings has been compiled into a report. BYI’s Community Commission on Health is developing a plan that will include events to circulate the report in the community. To find out more about the evaluation process, findings or when community events will occur where the report is shared, please visit the BYI Resource Center in the Midtown Global Market or call them at 612-353-6211.

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The Four Health Priority Areas of the BYI

Social Cohesion: The sense of community and belonging that community members have. Community members 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 community member receives from and gives to the community members 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 community members and their families 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: Community members 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.

The Participatory Evaluation Process

BYI Commission on Health Assessment Team Evaluation Team CHAT Leaders CHAT participants

2016: CHAT Participant Benefits: Survey: What is the impact of CHAT activities on participants’ health as defined by the four health priorities?

2015: CHAT Participant Health Benefits: Interviews: Has the BYI approach changed Backyard resident ability to take care of their own health?

2014: The CHAT Capacity Study: Do the CHATs have the capacity to promote health? Time 1

2013: The CHAT Capacity Study: Do the CHATs have the capacity to promote health? Time 2

2012: Leadership Study: Do we have the right people and the right process?

2009: The Community Health Assessment

2007: The Community Health Assessment

2005: To Be Determined

Social Health of the BYI:

The sense of community and belonging that community members have. Community members 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 community member receives from and gives to the community members 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 community members and their families 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.

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Community members 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.