Unveiling of Restored Grand Entrance Gate of Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery

BY ANGELA SCHNEIDER

If it wasn’t for the thousands of volunteers who selflessly donate their time and talents, the Minneapolis Park System would not be as successful as it is. Their contributions range from garden- ing and coaching to starting a neighborhood festival and playing vital roles in the creation of a new recreation center.

To recognize the essential role volunteers play in the parks, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) presented the Volunteer of the Year Awards at special ceremonies held Wednesday, April 20. Remarkable Volunteer Service Awards were presented to five adults and one group. The

ENGAGEMENT, Recreation that Inspires, Safe Places, and Vision

REMARKABLE VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

Each recipient of the Remarkable Volunteer Service Award received an art piece created by a local artist, and a donation of $500 to the park program where they serve as a volunteer. Funds will be used to enhance program- ming, purchase needed materials or supplies and launch innovative ideas. The award recipients are Amos Deinard in Kenwood, Brad Pass in Phillips, Jessica Hill at Lake Hiawatha Center, Rodney Lossow in Longfellow, Steve Young in Fulton Neighborhood

The Rising Star Award recognizes teenagers who bring tribulations to the system. The Rising Star Award recipi- ents are Ashton Robinson at Powderhorn Park Community Center, Birra Hussein at Windom

Thank you to the Park Board Volunteers

Amos Deinard, a pediatrician, University of Minnesota professor, and the former, longtime Director of Community University Health Care Center at the corner of Blooming Avenue and Franklin Avenue is no stranger to linking what seems improbable to all that is possible. Phillips Community has been the place and recipi- ent of several of his passionate professional pursuits for decades.

One of his personal interests has earned him this award for tending an island garden at the intersection of Kenwood Parkway, Mount Curve and Morgan Avenue for the past 20 years. He turned what was a bunch of weeds into a beautiful garden of flowering annuals and perennials. His dedication is evi- denced by a beautifully designed and maintained floriferous dis- play of annuals and perennials.

This small garden fosters a safer environment by calming traffic and maintained floriferous dis- play of annuals and perennials. His dedication is evi- denced by a beautifully designed and maintained floriferous dis- play of annuals and perennials.

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Get Zapped When You Bike to the Co-op

BY MARK RUSCH, MANAGER ON DUTY

This spring, Seward Co-op is partnering with local business Dero Bike Rack Company to promote healthy travel to and from the co-op for members. We’re calling it “ZAP”, and it’s a great way to see how biking to the co-op reduces your impact on the environment.

As our Ends Statement says, Seward Co-op is committed to sustaining a healthy community through environmental and socially responsible practices. So, to benefit the health of our members, environment and community, the ZAP program offers an incentive for members to visit the co-op on bicycle rather than by car.

This winter, Dero installed a solar-powered “ZAP” station near the front entrance of the co-op. Using radio frequencies, the station detects plastic ZAP tags (in our case, attached to members’ bikes registered in the program) passing within a 20-foot radius. Each time a bicycle equipped with a tag travels within this radius, the ZAP station registers the trip and adds it to that member’s tally. Each bike trip to the co-op equals one ZAP Point. At the end of every month, all members with at least one ZAP Point are entered into a drawing for a $100 Seward Co-op gift voucher.

All Seward Co-op members are eligible to register in ZAP. Signing up is simple. Just ride your bike to Seward Co-op and, starting April 1, ask at the Customer Service desk to register for the ZAP program. You’ll be asked for your member number, so many miles away from the co-op you live.

(Devo uses this information to calculate the total number of calories burned, the reduction in pounds of CO2, and the gallons of fuel you save by biking to the co-op).

ZAP-co-op member will attach a plastic ZAP tag to the spokes of your front wheel. Then you’re set.

Just ride your bike through our main parking lot entrance, listen for a beep (this means your trip has been counted) and watch the number of bike trips during the month on the bottom of your sales receipts.

The first ZAP tag is free of charge for each member. Additional tags for other cyclists who use your membership number (your member number has been counted) and watch the number of bike trips during the month on the bottom of your sales receipts.

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May Programs at the Franklin Library

BY ERIN THOMASON

Children’s Programs

Celebrate Children’s Books

Week: Fri. May 6, 4–5 pm

Grade 5. Join us for special children’s stories. We will read some of our very favorite children’s picture books.

Waxahahchie Iyo Ciwaar Caruceddu Af-Soomaali ah!
Soomali Play and Learn

Fri. May 6, 10–11 am


Family Storytime

Wed. through May 25, 10:30–11 am

and 2 pm. Share books, stories, rhymes, music, and movement with your children.

Sheeko Caruur Af-Soomaali ah!
World Language Storytime!

Soomali, Tue. through March 31, 5–7 pm

Daawo gaar ah ugu caawin karaa ugu sheekoyinka, jaan-gaasdaada maansada iyo muusikada Soomaali. Age 2 and up. Familiarize yourself in the world in other languages. **

Kids Book Club

Fri. May 27, 4–5 pm

Grades 4–6. Join other kids to talk about a great book! No pre-reading required. We will read a book at each meeting.

Teens Program

4-H Mentoring Club

Tues. through May 31, 5–7 pm

Come learn about urban ecology, health and nutrition, sustainable agriculture and related careers in food science from an engaging new mentor. You also will maintain a community garden and visit local food enterprises. ****

Career Club

Tues. through May 31, 5–7 pm

Grade 6 and up. Meet medical, dental, and other self-directed activities. ***

Game On! Gaming Wednesdays

Wed. through May 25, 5–6 pm

Grade 6 and up. Play PS2 or Wii games at the library! Grab a friend, bring your favorite board or card game, or play ours. ****

Reading Club

Wed. through May 25, 5–6 pm

Come explore the literary worlds of fact, fiction and adventures! Share your ideas and creativity along the way.

Matters Matters

Thurs. through May 26, 5–7:30 pm

Genre 6 and up. Movie titles are chosen by teens to appeal to the group and their viewing pleasure! Join us on our comfy Teen Center couches and get the big-screen cinema feeling from our projector equipment. Game On! Gaming Thursdays

Thurs. through May 26, 6–8 pm

Grade 6 and up. Play PS2 or Wii games at the library! Grab a friend, bring your favorite board or card game, or play ours! ***

Down Time

Every Sat. 2–6 pm

Grade 6 and up. Looking for a quiet and comfortable space? Take advantage of “down time” at Franklin Teen Center! Work on the topic of the week or use our computers, board games or other self-directed activities. **

Adult Programs

Seniors Play Reading Group

Fri. May 13, 10:30 am

12:30 pm. Join us for a stimulating morning of reading and discussion of some of the great plays of our heritage. ****

Reading Nonfiction for Elderly Readers

Fri. May 13, 1–3 pm

Learn how to recognize and discuss the works of significant nonfiction writers.****

Maintain Your Brain: How to Live a Brain-Healthy Lifestyle

Tues. May 17, 2 pm. Learn how to maintain a brain-healthy lifestyle. Fifteen easy tips and tricks can help you to improve the way your brain works, potentially lowering risk factors for developing Alzheimer’s disease. Topics, based on the latest scientific evidence, will focus on how the brain changes with age, how the heart and brain are connected, and how social connections and emotional health affect your brain. The Brain Fitness Project is supported by the National Institute of Mental Health and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered by Minnesota’s State Library Services & School Technology: Presented in collaboration with the Alzheimer’s Association.

Memoir Writing Group

Thurs. May 19, 1–2:30 pm

Would you like to create a record of your personal history? Bring what you have written and are willing to read to the group for helpful comments and suggestions. ****

Phillips Technology Center

Register online for these classes at hclib.org or call 952-847-2925. ****

Senior Surf Day

Wed. May 18, 10:30 a.m.–11:30 p.m.

Learn the basics of computer hardware, how to navigate and search the Internet and how to access websites of interest to seniors. Get hands-on computer experience with help from representatives of the Senior LinkAge Line. ****

Computer Basics Workshop

Thurs. May 19 & 26, noon–2 pm and Friday, May 27, 1–3 pm.

Learn and bring questions about basic mouse and keyboarding skills, creating an e-mail account, using the Internet and Bundesliga are available).

Microsoft Excel: Basics

Thurs. May 19–26, 6–8 pm.

Learn the basics of working with an Excel spreadsheet: navigation, entering data and using formulas. Social Networking: Basics

Thurs., May 26, 6–8 pm.

Learn how to navigate the new generation of social media websites including Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook.

Microsoft Excel: Creating and Managing Lists

Fri. May 27, 6–8 pm

Learn to create lists for inventory, contacts or collections, sort data and print using Microsoft Excel. Prerequisite: Microsoft Excel Basics or familiarity with spreadsheet sheets is highly recommended.

Microsoft PowerPoint:

Multi-Use Media

Fri. May 27, 10 am–noon

Registration begins April 29. Register online or call 612-543-6925. Use multimedia tips and tricks such as auto transitions, audio and video to dress up your presentations. Prerequisite: Microsoft PowerPoint: Basics or familiarity with presentation software is highly recommended.

Franklin Learning Center

Franklin Learning Center offers free, one-to-one tutoring for adults who are learning English and math, preparing for the GED and citizenship exams, including SAT, ACT, and more at www.hclib.org or call 952-847-2925. ****

Senior Surf Day

Thurs. May 26, 6–8 pm.

Learn to create presentations and use the ribbon to create a basic slide show.

Microsoft PowerPoint:

Multi-Use Media Tips

Fri. May 27, 10 am–noon

Registration begins April 29. Register online or call 612-543-6925. Use multimedia tips and tricks such as auto transitions, audio and video to dress up your presentations. Prerequisite: Microsoft PowerPoint: Basics or familiarity with presentation software is highly recommended.

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Sponsored by Gardening Matters, a non-profit dedicated to supporting community gardens in Minnesota. See you in the garden!

Taking Root

BY MARGARET SHIELDS

Taking Root is a beginning gardener class series for new gardeners interested in growing their own food. This 6-class series takes place in a community garden in East Phillips, and brings you through an entire growing season in Minnesota, with a class held approximately once a month between May and October. Class: $30 for the whole series! Pre-registration required.

Class Topics: Garden Planning and Gardening Basics Early May Transplanting, Mulching and General Garden Maintenance Early June Planting for Fall, Crop Rotation and Harvesting Techniques Mid July Height-of-Summer Trouble-Shooting Mid August Late Summer Harvesting, Fall Planting and Cover Crops Mid September Garlic Planning, Preparing for Winter, Vermiculture Composting Mid October

About the Instructors: Nick Schneider is a gardener and professional chef. Nick has been a community gardener for 11 years, a gardening instructor for six, and a market gardener for 3 years. His passion for bio-intensive, high-yield sustainable food production has yielded a world of tips and tricks great for beginning gardeners.

Series Locations, Dates, and Times: The series is held outside at a community garden site in the Phillips neighborhood. There may be other opportunities to visit the other garden sites during the course of the class, but your class will be based at your site. You will receive specific information on getting to the garden site once you are registered, before the first class.

The Phillips class and times are: Thursday, April 28th at 6pm, Thursday May 26th at 6pm, Saturday July 9th at 3:30pm, Wednesday August 10th at 6pm, Thursday September 8th at 6pm, Saturday October 8th at 3pm.

Registration: Register for the series by going to the Gardening Matters website here: http://www.gardeningmatters.org/civicrm/event/info?eventid=14&oid=11

Registration is required to attend the series. Call us if you’re not able to register online and we can help register you on our end.

Class fee is $30 and can be paid online or by bringing check or cash payment for the series to the first class (checks made payable to Gardening Matters). Contact Gardening Matters for additional payment options or to work out a payment plan.

Contact: Margaret at Gardening Matters for questions or more information: margaret@gardeningmatters.org or 612-821-2355

Sponsored by Gardening Matters, a non-profit dedicated to promoting community gardens in Minnesota.

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Administrative Assistant (9 mos.)
Health Occupations (6 or 9 mos.)

American Indian OIC
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Customer Service Representative (6 mos.)

Or Nursing Assistant or Home Health Aid or Trained Medication Aide or Acute Care Nursing Assistant or First Aid/GPR or EMT (Call ext. 171 for start dates)

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Call Margaret at 612-341-3358 ext. 148 ABE/GED ext. 151
At Cedar and Franklin and at Sabathani Center www.aioc.org

RENAISSANCE

The Alley Newspaper • May 2011

3
Asa Clark Brown to be Honored by Daughters of the War of 1812

Seven children and three grandchildren served in Civil War Union Army

The War of 1812 is one of those subjects that most of us studied in high school but would be hard pressed to explain to anyone else. Part of the reason is that it was less of a war than a series of skirmishes that ranged from the Canadian border to the Gulf of Mexico. We might remember that the British burned the White House, and that Dolley Madison was forced to run for her life having had the presence of mind to take a painting of George Washington with her. We might also remember that Francis Scott Key was inspired to write the Star-Spangled Banner after watching the British navy bombard Fort McHenry.

During the War of 1812 many soldiers were drafted to serve in military service, but the practice of sending a substitute to serve in one’s place was not uncommon. One such substitute was Asa Clark Brown, who fought in place of a man whose last name was Thomas, first name unknown. In September of 1813, Asa Brown enrolled in Captain Adams’ Company of the New York State Dragoons. He served until November 9, 1813, when he was given an honorable discharge.

He married Elizabeth Reynolds sometime between 1810 and 1815. They had four children. It is likely that Elizabeth died sometime between 1822, when her old marker was placed on his grave. On Monday, May 30, 2011, at 9 a.m., the Minneapolis chapter of the Daughters of 1812 will dedicate Mr. Brown’s new marker. Everyone is welcome. Please join us in honoring Asa Clark Brown.

Tales from Pioneers & Soldiers Cemetery

One Hunter Weir 80th in a Series

Established in 1853, Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery is the oldest cemetery in Minneapolis and the only cemetery in Minnesota listed as an individual landmark on the National Register of Historic Places. Despite the cemetery's historical significance, The Preservation Alliance of Minnesota named it one of Minnesota’s Ten Most Endangered Historic Places in 2008. Pollution, vandalism, and natural aging have all taken their toll.

The cemetery’s decorative steel fence and gates are in desperate need of repair. Built in 1928, the fence is the cemetery’s best protection against vandalism. The fence is 1,953 feet long and contains 3,510 pickets. Estimates for repairing the fence range from $750,000 to $1,000,000. To date, we have $350,000 in state and city funds allocated to restoring the fence and other grant requests are pending.

Friends of the Cemetery hopes to raise $100,000 in private donations through the Adopt-A-Picket campaign. The cost of adopting a picket is $30 and donors will receive a limited-edition certificate of contribution. Donations of any size, larger or smaller, are welcome and may be sent to: Friends of the Cemetery, P.O. Box 7345, Minneapolis, MN 55407. You can also donate online by going to PayPal. Friends of the Cemetery is a tax-exempt organization and all contributions are tax deductible.

About the Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery

Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldier Memorial Cemetery (formerly known as Layman’s), the oldest existing cemetery in Minneapolis, was established in 1853. The cemetery has been the final resting place of those who have contributed to the history of early Minneapolis. Several prominent territorial pioneers, including Charles Chrisman, Edwin Hodderty, and Philander Prescott are buried here. Approximately 200 military veterans who fought in wars ranging from the War of 1812 to World War II are buried in the cemetery. It is the burial site for many of the city’s early African-American residents, and for many people who had ties to the abolitionist movement in Minnesota. Several thousand immigrants, primarily from Scandinavia and Eastern Europe, are buried here, as are many of their children. Over half of the cemetery’s 20,000 residents are children.

On June 2, 2002, Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery was placed on the National Register of Historic Places—one of the few cemeteries that has that honor. It received its historic designation for two primary reasons: The cemetery has several distinctive architectural features including the caretaker’s cottage which dates from about 1871. Other decorative structures, such as the flag pole, the fence and gates, and monuments to territorial women and military veterans date from the 1920’s and 30’s. The second reason is the significance of the contributions of those buried in the cemetery to the social history of Minneapolis.

Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery Burial Search

The first burial in Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery took place in 1853. Over the next 70 years approximately 27,000 people were buried in the cemetery. During the late 19-teens and early 1900’s, approximately 7,000 people were removed. The records for the remaining 20,000 have been transcribed, and we are in the process of creating a searchable database. If you have questions about someone, or if you have information that you are willing to share, please contact us at search@friendsofthecemetery.org.
FOOD OBSESSION: B.S.T.P.

BY JANE THOMSON

Bring Something To Pass – a potluck.
The first recipe is from my daughter Rose. Some years ago, when she was a teenager, she was out of the kitchen for long periods of time, and not hanging over her telling what to do. She made some cookies that won a prize at the Sherburne County Fair (we lived in Elk River at the time). Of course, I have kid-dered her endlessly about the time she made pancakes on a warming tray and wondered why they were taking so long to get done.

This recipe is from her fairly recently, in her adult years. These days I have more to learn from Rose than to teach her. CURRIED TUNA SALAD – about 8 or 10 potluck side-dish servings

1. Cook the tuna/veggie/apples. This salad is better if it stands a few hours before serving. It keeps in the fridge for several days.

This recipe is from the Pioneer Press, 3/17/11.

SOUR CREAM BANANA BARS

Bars:
1 ½ cups sugar
1 cup sour cream (I used low-fat)
¼ cup butter, well softened
2 eggs
1 ½ cups of , or 3 large, ripe bananas
2 teaspoons vanilla
2 cups flour
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon baking soda
¼ cup chopped nuts
1 tablespoon vanilla
2 tablespoons milk
1-2 teaspoons hot water

To prepare brown-butter icing (and this step is important to the smoothness and thinning.

Brown-butter icing:
1 ¼ cup butter, softened
2 cups powdered sugar
1 ½ teaspoons vanilla
2 tablespoons milk

Add bananas and vanilla, and mix well. Stir in nuts. Spread in pan and bake for about 30 minutes, until light brown. Cool.

To prepare brown-butter cinnamon (this step is important to the special flavor): Heat butter over medium heat until it is a delicate brown. Remove from heat and mix in powdered sugar. Beat in vanilla and milk until smooth and of spreading consistency. This is where the hot water comes in, for smoothness and thinning. Thank you Volunteers

from page 1

the dream of having a recreation center in East Phillips Park. With the help of some phenomenal grassroots organizing, the doors of the East Phillips Park Cultural and Community Center opened in February 2011, serving as a hub to meet the cultural, recreational, and social needs of area residents. For six years, Brad led a diverse community team in lobby efforts to fund the center, resulting in a 2006 State bonding bill of $3.5 million. An additional $1.2 million was leveraged, making it a $4.7 million project.

Brad says “the gift of your time and skill is the greatest gift you can give to your community. You may never know the extent of the positive impact your volunteering has, but it can and does change lives. It has been a privilege to serve as chair of the EPPCDT. It is said that, ‘if you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together.’ By going together, the wonderful people of this diverse community have gone further than any of us could have imagined.”

Taco Salad

Monday

GUEST WRITER, COURTNEY ALGEO, CONTRIBUTOR AT THE BLOG ALL THE TACOS I HAVE LOVED, HTTP://ALLTHETACOS.COM/

True confession: Until Monday I’d never had a taco salad. Why? Because I go for a taco and am essentially saying, “Yes, I would like about three handfuls of meat. Radishes on the side.” When I go for a salad, that’s a totally different story. That is a time when I am essentially saying, “I’m feeling kind of gross lately.” It had never occurred to me to stop compartmentalizing my eating until Monday when a friend said to me, “You get taco salad. It’s Taco Salad Monday at Loma in the Midtown Global Market on Lake Street.”

Okay, I know that Taco Salad Monday doesn’t have quite the same ring to it as Taco Tuesday, but cheap tacos is cheap tacos no matter what it’s called.

But wait – does a taco salad qualify as tacos?

Let’s see:

A tortilla shell? Yes. The taco salad at Loma does come in a bowl that is forged of a delicious hard tortilla shell. But wait, don’t I hate hard shell tacos? Yes. I’m not particularly a fan of the hard shell style tacos.

The Midtown Global Market is a shallow bowl that is forged of a delicious hard tortilla shell. But what’s on the inside, but rather the outside. Tacos are a shallow bowl.

I guess that if I got any food in my hand, that food will make it’s way into my mouth. When I get food, I guess that if I got any food in my hand, that food will make it’s way into my mouth. When I get food, I guess that if I got any food in my hand, that food will make it’s way into my mouth. When I get food, I guess that if I got any food in my hand, that food will make it’s way into my mouth.

Personally, I find “taco salad” to be a misnomer, but I guess the name has got everything to do with what’s on the inside, but rather the outside. Tacos are a shallow bowl. I guess that if I got any food that came in a curvilinear hard or soft shell I would call it a taco. The bowl counts.

On Mondays the taco salad is only $5.99. It is a taco. And a salad.

I’ll have to return for Taco Thursdays at La Loma – which is actually a tamale place, so I’ll definitely have to go back for those. Ohh! One quick note about Midtown Global Market. I’m originally from Philadelphia, where we have the Reading Terminal Market – which is amazing and a totally fun place to spend the afternoon. The Midtown Global Market is pretty similar, and has a bunch of amazing places to eat, including Los Ocampos where I bought and reviewed my first Minneapolis tacos (they also have awesome horchata). And, though it’s not a taco, MGM also has this amazing pantry place called Salty Tart. AND now that I have a car I give a hoot about this part: MGM will validate your parking for THREE righteous hours while you hang there.

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By Chris Oien & Joyce Wisdom

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**REMEMBERING**

**Of Gods and Men**

**Cast:** Lambert Wilson (Christian), Michael Lonsdale (Lucy), Olivier Riborod (Rabbi), Philippe Laudenberg (Celesin), Jacques Herlin Prin (Paul), Abdelhafid Metalsi (Houmed), Sabrina Ouazani (Rabbia), Olivier Perrier (Bruno), Farid (Ali Fayattia), Adel Bencherif (Le Terroriste).

**Language:** French in English subtitles. **Director:** Xavier Beauvois. (PG-13) Running time: 120 minutes.

Riveting throughout, “Of Gods and Men,” is one of those films whose principal characters sit on a powder keg knowing at any time it can go off. The courage to stay put, the eight Trappist monks’ faith and their agape love are captured by armed Islamic Groups, arrest or injuried comrades, they would come back at a later date to raid the village. Christian (Lambert Wilson), is the prior and has studied the Qur’an; Luc (Michal Lonsdale), is the doctor who treats the villagers with no cost. We learn about each of the six brothers and two priests. They raise crops, tend beehives, and care for the sick, pray, and eat in common. The monks are likely precursors in post-conciliar sensibilities when it comes to seeking conversions from Islam into Catholicism.

Danger for the monks is lurked in the village. Christian (Lambert Wilson), is the prior and has studied the Qur’an; Luc (Michal Lonsdale), is the doctor who treats the villagers with no cost. We learn about each of the six brothers and two priests. They raise crops, tend beehives, and care for the sick, pray, and eat in common. The monks are likely precursors in post-conciliar sensibilities when it comes to seeking conversions from Islam into Catholicism.

Dyer’s story and reflect on the possibilities they appear to be.” – CJ Richardson

Ms. Carter will be signing copies of *A Memoir of Injustice* at the Mayday Bookstore on May 13th at 7pm. The store is located at 301 Cedar Ave. South in Minneapolis. See their website at www.maydaybookstore.org for more information.

A Memoir of Injustice is published by TrineDay Books. www.trineaday.com

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**MLK Author of A Memoir of Injustice**

**Movie Corner**

Howard McQuitter II

HowardMcQuitter@Yahoo.com

**Movie Corner**

HowardMcQuitter@Yahoo.com

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**Elizabeth Taylor, February 27, 1932 – March 23, 2011**

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**The Alley Newspaper • May 2011**
nuclear power successfully cur -
uranium. Has emerged as the alternative to 
name. Thorium, atomic number 90, 
week ("Thor's day").

Healing and renewal, was born in 
storms and destruction, but also 
Viking god associated with thunder 
earth. Hence, the hammer-wielding 

appeared as a giant hammer from 
approaching cumulonimbus cloud 

In Greek mythology, the first 
earthly woman is named Pandora. All the gods helped create her. According to the myth, Pandora opened a jar, referred to as 
Pandora’s Box, releasing all the 
evils of humankind. Note: The jar 
was opened out of curiosity, not as 
a malignant act. There was but one 
item which did not escape. That 

Angel replied. He noticed that 
although the heater was on full 
blast, he still felt chilled. Down 
to his bones cold. The van turned 
on to 28th Street and headed west, 
the snow seeming to blow in from 
on all directions of the compass at 

"Oh, I know where you live 
"I said, ‘Ask me who I was’!” the 
man shouted. And as he shouted, 
the van hit another speed bump, and 
Angel took his chance. He grabbed 
the gear shift and rammed it into 
reverse with one hand, with the 
other, he pulled on the parking 
brake, and drove his head into the 
man’s stomach. As the man tried 
resist the attack, he stepped on the 
gas and pulled hard on the 
sterring wheel, throwing the van 
to a terrible skid. The van rolled 
on its side, and the two of them 
ended up in the back, with the 
flower deliveries yet to be made. 

"You little …" the man began 
say, but little did the hijacker 
know that he had—atmosphere 
night, he did not enter the 
which the angel appeared. He 
jumped back in, to and 

And then he jumped back in, to 
grab the poineetias for his 
family. The rush of cold air opened 
his eyes, and as he turned to see the 
flowers to nearly every flower and 
farm. His eyes turned red, his 
throat began to constrict, and as he 
began to cough violently, Angel 
opened the side door of the van and 
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Update on the Backyard Initiative
“Growing in the Backyard” Citizen Health Action Team The Community Commission on Health Approves a New Project for the Backyard

By Janice Babee, Cultural Wellness Center

On April 7, 2011, the Commission on Health, the Backyard Initiative’s Growing in the Backyard Citizen Health Action Team (CHAT). The CHAT stated in their proposal to the Commission: “This project will empower Backyard residents to more actively take responsibility for increase connections to the local food system, and increase each family’s understanding about how the food system works.” Families participating in the Backyard Gardens project will receive garden kits, a Food Systems Navigator who will help people to grow food, and assistance with creating and maintaining a series of gardens throughout the Backyard. These activities will also increase a sense of belonging and community for each family.

The Commission on Health, a group composed primarily of residents who live in the “Backyard” in Powderhorn Park, Central, Corcoran, or one of the four neighborhoods in Phillips—meets every month at the Cultural Wellness Center. The Commission first met in February 2010 to put community residents at the center of the Backyard Initiative, a partnership between Allina and these communities. Its work is to monitor the health of the community, build the community’s capacity for taking responsibility for its own health, and support efforts to maintain and improve the health of Backyard residents. The Commission gives guidance and support to community residents who work together in Citizen Health Action Teams (CHATs) on projects that will lead to greater health for all community residents.

The members of the Growing in the Backyard CHAT told the Commission that their project is addressing the lack of access to affordable healthy food for families by helping people to overcome the barriers to growing their own food. In the health assessment conducted in 2009, 97% of Backyard residents interviewed said that affordable locally grown fruits and vegetables were very important to them.

The Growing in the Backyard CHAT has partnered with the Youth Farm and Market Project to focus on families gardening together. They have heard stories of youth coming home with vegetables the youth have grown, and the families are not sure how to cook them. Their proposal, “Our CHAT feels that people growing food, preparing food, and becoming an active participant in the local food system is integral in preserving and maintaining the family as an institution.” This summer they will launch a pilot for this concept with eight families of youth who garden in the Youth Farm and Market Project.

Their proposal also calls for a Food Systems Navigator who will "connect families to the local food scene and the network of experienced gardeners in the Backyard. The Navigator will also create activities that engage the whole family, thus strengthening families’ connections.

The goals for the Family Gardens are to:
• Build a stronger, more connected local food system within the Backyard
• Teach families how to grow and preserve their own food and increase self-sufficiency
• Connect with and utilize the Midtown Global Market as a community resource
• Build leadership amongst families in the Backyard
• Build connections with gardeners/urban farmers and people who are interested in gardening/urban farming matters in the Backyard
• Promote gardening resources that the CHAT can provide to the community to support the growing movement
• Gain knowledge and experience about gardening and nutrition

Each family will build a 4x4 raised bed garden. They will receive garden kits of “menu gardens,” with plants that can create a whole dish such as such as spaghetti sauce, salsa, solera, or okra stew. The CHAT members told the Commission: “The Family Garden Project acknowledges and honors that there are foods and ways of gardening/farming that are preferred by each respective cultural group, and will do its best to incorporate those preferences. Families will learn about the health benefits of growing vegetables for the food from the garden.

The Assessment CHAT of the Backyard Initiative has as one of its tasks to support each CHAT project in creating and implementing an evaluation of its work. The Assessment CHAT will guide the Growing in the Backyard CHAT to capture the gardeners perceptions of the challenges and insights that the families experience so that more people in the Backyard can learn to garden, preserve and cook with the food grown in their own backyard.

If you live in the Backyard area, in one of the four neighborhoods of Phillips, or in Powderhorn Park, Corcoran, or Central, you are welcome to come to the community meetings on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 5 PM at the Cultural Wellness Center, 1527 East Lake Street, in the Franklin Bank Building.

Librarian Bequests $646,000 To Hennepin County Library

Hennepin County Library has received a bequest of $646,000 from the estate of librarian Lillian G. Wallis. The bequest was accepted by the County Board of Commissioners on April 19.

In Kenosha, Wis., Wallis graduated from the University of Wisconsin, where she earned a bachelor of science degree in 1949 and a library science degree in 1956. She subsequently worked at libraries in Olympia, Wash., and in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and in Germany.

Wallis worked for both the Hennepin County and Minneapolis public libraries before she merged Wallis Library, working in the Minneapolis Public Library in 1953 as an assistant branch librarian. She also worked in Technical Services, became assistant chief of Technical Services in 1969, and was promoted to chief in 1970 where that position was created—a position she held until she retired in 1987. At Hennepin County Library, she worked on the Bookmobile and in Technical Services in the 1950s and ‘60s.

“Everyone on the staff who knew Lillian Wallis speaks of her dedication and commitment to libraries,” said Hennepin County Library Director Lois Langer Thompson. “We’re very grateful for her bequest and appreciate that our library customers will be the beneficiaries of her love of libraries for many years to come.”

She worked in the Catalog Department at the University of Minnesota Library from 1959 to 1960. From 1960 to 1962, she was a librarian in the U.S. Army’s Special Services Section in West Germany. In 1962, Wallis returned to Wisconsin, where she worked as a reference librarian at the Racine Public Library until 1964.

When her impending retirement in 1987 was announced in a weekly bulletin for employees at Minneapolis Public Library & Information Center, Director Joseph Kambrough noted, “In addition to her many accomplishments for MPLSPL, chiefly our entry into automation, Ms. Wallis has been a tireless defender of Library service for the everyday customer.”

In retirement, Wallis traveled extensively and did volunteer work in a literacy program in Minneapolis and at the library. Wallis passed away on Sept. 27, 2010.

Her nephew, Thomas A. Roberts of Mukwonago, Wis., said his aunt may have been the inspiration for his own undergraduate minor in library science. “Lillian could always be counted on for giving books for any and all holidays…all of us [Robert and his two brothers] became avid readers.

“Aunt Lillian was always very much her own person with extremely broad interests, and the character and convictions to pursue them wherever that took her. She reached the lives of many people and will continue to do so through her gift to the library. Personally, I am very pleased that the vast majority of her estate will be used to build the circulating collection of the library.”

Join Us for the 11th Annual Arbor Day on the Midtown Greenway

Saturday May 7th from 9am to Noon (Rain or Shine). The Midtown Community Works 11th Annual Arbor Day will bring volunteers together to celebrate by planting trees and shrubs along the Greenway. This year’s event will be held on the east side of the Sabo Bridge, near Hiawatha Avenue, continuing a multi-year planting effort in this area. Tree Trust staff, Master Gardeners and Tree Care Advisors will provide education on tree and shrub planting as well as plant maintenance that will ensure strong growth. Snacks, coffee, water and shovels will be provided. Don’t forget your gloves! Please ride your bike if you can! Bike racks will be available on site. Automotive parking will be available at Allweather Roof, 2101 26th Street For more information or to volunteer, contact Theresa Nelson (612)-879-0103.