PHILLIPS WELCOMES PUPPETRY FESTIVAL

10 Troupes, 55 Artists/Actors, 13 Performances, 12 workshops at 5 Phillips locations

Welcome Puppets, Puppeteers, and Visitors

The Phillips Community is exceptional in a myriad of ways. One amazing attribute is its artistic activism every month; but September 25-28, 2014 art and activism in Phillips catapults even higher with "Handmade Worlds A Festival of Puppet Theatre." Performance descriptions below, Schedule on page 6 and at www.handmadeworlds.org. Tickets www.brownpapertickets.com/event/734750

Collaborating with the Great Plains Region of The Puppeteers of America and In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre

"Open Eye Figure Theatre (OEFT) is producing a national puppetry festival working with the Great Plains Region of The Puppeteers of America (POA). In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre (HOBT) and the American Swedish Institute. This dynamic four day festival will offer a line-up of puppetry from around the country. Open Eye will be the venue for the larger number of smaller works, and HOBT will provide the venue for the festival’s larger productions. POA members will travel from around the country to attend along with Minneapolis’ thriving puppetry audience – putting our local puppet scene on the national map.

The Festival has been scheduled enabling Festival Pass Holders may see every one of the 13 performances, attend 2-4 of the 12 workshops, a panel discussion featuring nationally recognized artists, two puppetry cabarets and enjoy all the events of the festival. Performances will happen at four venues – OEFT, the Open Eye Studio (for some of the more intimate offerings), HOBT, and the final performance at the American Swedish Institute. The festival will culminate in a one-time opportunity to see Open Eye’s My Life As A Fairytale at the American Swedish Institute on Sunday morning. The Handmade Worlds Festival will feature prominent works by artists such as Julian Crouch and David Commander (New York), Manuel Cinema and Michael Montenegro (Chicago), Masque Theatre (Connecticut), Paul Mesner (Missouri), Toy Box and Cripps Puppets (North Carolina), Monica Leo (Iowa), and several Minneapolis artists. The four-day Handmade Worlds Festival features:

September 25

"On-Time Circus" created and performed by Margo McCreary (Minneapolis) will open the festival on the Midtown Greenway. The On-Time Circus is up-to-the-minute fun for family audiences! Puppets, clowning and live music, and songs make a must see Come experience the tradition of traveling performers who set up in your town to put on a show.

"Love is..." created and performed by Larry Hunt (Connecticut), ill open the festival at HOBT. Mr. Hunt has produced and performed original theater works under the auspices of MASQUE, an international touring company that he founded in 1980. His distinctive version of mask performance combines historical traditions with performance approaches influenced by Zeami to Peter Brook.

"Strumpets Peter," a signature work by Michael Sommers (Minneapolis), of OEFT, will open the festival at the OEFT venue. First produced in early 2014, this show played to sold out audiences and now returns for a limited run to be featured in the festival. "What is special about Strumpets Peter is its almost infectious joy, which spreads from the quartet of players and into the music of the three-piece orchestra." (City Pages)

September 26

On Friday, the Handmade Worlds Festival will offer a variety of workshops all day long covering diverse topics in puppetry such as joinery, design for puppets, creating a character, vacuum forming, cinematic shadow puppetry, movement for the mask, monster puppets, and needle felting and more. Performances begin at 5pm

"The Mysterious Metamorphosis of Mr. Krank" by Manuel Cinema, Toybox Theatre and Cripps Puppets (North Carolina), follows the story of Mr. Krank on a bizarre journey where he is subjected to many fantastical transformations. At HOBT "The Full Moon Puppet Show!" the first of two cabaret, is curated by Liz Schachtler (Minneapolis) and highlights the local underground puppet scene. This “Best of” cabaret will draw from over 5 years of Full Moon shows. Don’t miss this opportunity! At OEFT.

"Oakwood Apartments" will be in the Open Eye Studio and is created by David Commander (New York), a member of Big Art Group, in NYC. This installation/performance incorporates a miniature set, live camera feed, TV monitors, and action figure tenants seen in their various apartments as they talk about the life they have been橡树, their disappointment of an unfulfilled future that was promised to them.

September 27

Saturday all the stops are pulled out for a marathon of performances. At 11am there will be an artist discussion with Paul Mesner, Julia Miller, Julian Crouch, Monica Leo, Michael Sommers, and Sandy Spierer. The panel will be onstage at Open Eye and is free to the public.

"Skeletons in the Closet" created and performed by Julie and Gustavo Boada (Minneapolis), will be presented at HOBT. This bilingual (Spanish/English) show for children is a colorful and touching story that teaches children about the meaning behind the Day of the Dead.

"Pulcinella" created and performed by Paul Mesner in the Italian Puppet tradition. Expect the usual badly behaved Pulcinella as he makes his way through life using a big stick. Mesner Puppets is a globally known professional puppet theatre company based in Kansas City, Missouri with a satellite location in Overland Park, Kansas. In addition to its local season of plays which draws about 20,000 annually, the company tours nationally and performs regionally to an additional 38,000 children and adults at performing arts centers, schools and libraries. At OEFT.

"Finding Home" by Monica Leo (Iowa), is a trilogy of pieces, poignant, joyful, and humorous, in a biographical telling of the creator’s own immigration experiences. This Toy Theatre piece will play in the intimate Open Eye studio. Leo is the founder of The Eulenspiegel Puppets, formed in 1974. Based at Owl Glass Puppetry Center in West Liberty, Iowa, the Eulenspiegel has toured nationally and internationally.

"Ada | Ava" by Manuel Cinema (Chicago) will be at HOBT doing some of the most ambitious and innovative cinematic live animation work in shadow puppetry. "Ada | Ava" is the story of a septuagenarian Ada, bereaved of her twin sister. She solitarily marks time in the patterns of a life built for two, when a traveling carnival with a mirror maze plunges her into a journey across the thresholds of life and death.

The festival looks to the future with two prominent national theatre artists share their new-
Volunteers who had a part in making the August Issue: Robert Albee, Backyard Initiative CHATS, Patricia Cabot, Angela Fiori, Friends of the Library, Colle Goddard, Great Plains Region of the Puppeteers of America, Susan Gust, Linnea Hadasz, Susan Haas, Hennepin County Franklin Library and Staff, Hennepin County Library Special Collections, deo hewlens, Sue Hulse, and the heart of the Beast Theatre, Carl Lobley, Rose Lobley, Jana Metge, Middleton Global Marit, Brayshawn Martin, Middleton Phillips Neighborhood Association, Powderhorn Park, PusustaNeste, Loren Niemni, Jonathan Miller, Perri Olson, Daniel Ponomar, Open Eye Figure Theatre, Phillips West Neighborhood Organization, calls Denver Miller, Sommers, Nancy Thornbury, Erin Thompson, Crystal Traunha Winschtt,

Delivery: to 250 Apartments, Businesses, Places of Worship, and Boulder Junction. James Delivery and to many homes and meetings of organizations. Beverly, Brad, Carol, Patricia, Cathy, Dave, East Phillips Improvement Coalition, Jacy, Jana, Heidi, Howard, Marjana, Middleton Phillips, Paul, Phillips West Neighborhood Improvement Coordinator, Family, Raymond, Stephanie, Sue, Tara, and Village within blocks of these neighborhoods: Ventura Village, Phillips West, Middleton Phillips, Powderhorn Park, Powderhorn, and Corcoran, and East Phillips Improvement Coalition, Cooper, Cedar-Riverside, Elliott Neighborhood, Eden Prairie, Garden City, Delano Open Eye Figure Theatre, Phillips West Neighborhood Organization, calls Denver Miller, Sommers, Nancy Thornbury, Erin Thompson, Crystal Traunha Winschtt,

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October Issue Submission Deadline September 15

“Let the Great Fiesta” Saturday, Sept. 27 4 Musical Groups, Clown & Carnival for the Kids, Great Food 2742 15th Ave South Call 612-724-3862 for more info

3440 BLOOMINGTON AVE. POWDERHORN PARK MINNEAPOLIS M N 612-600-7500 SAT 7-5 • SUN 7-6:30 729-5627

FRANKLIN LIBRARY

1314 E. Franklin Avenue Complete program list or info 612-543-6925 www.hclib.org Mon, Fri & Sat: 9am – 10am, Tue, Wed & Thurs: 9am – 8pm Sun: 12-12pm

“Birdheart” by Julian Crouch (New York) brings his latest origi- nal work in development, which he is performing with his collabor- ator Sasha Lane. “Birdheart” is described as the story of our relationship to ourselves, and the world around us. It is utilizing a style of puppetry that Mr. Crouch calls “trash and object” theatre. An egg lies on the sand, and from the egg is born a large sheet of crumpled brown paper. The sheet of paper pulls elements out of the sand, different hands, feet, heads. Sometimes the paper opens outwards and the images are projected in the heart of the paper figure. At OETF. Crouch is a renowned Brooklyn-based independent director, designer, writer, maker and teacher whose career has spanned theatre, opera, ballet, film and television. Julian’s opera work has included design and associate direction for Satyagraha for the English National Opera and The Metropolitan Opera, New York, and creating the Enchanted Island, Doctor Atomic and staging the 125th Gala for the Met. His multi-award win- ning production with The Tiger Lillies, “An Ugly Inci”, was performed on both sides of the Atlantic, touring extensively. He designed the sets for the Broadway production of “Big Fish” and his design for “Hedwig and the Angry Inch” was nominated for a Tony Award. Reuben 1 Microcosm, and Giraffe is created and per- formed by Michael Montenegro (Chicago), who has delighted Twin Cities audiences and now returns to premiere his newest work as well as bring one of our all-Latinx puppet companies, OETF. Three separate pieces, all of which are an attempt to speak in the lan- guage of visual poetry. Images that emanate from dreams, both provocative and surprising, appear and are accompanied by words of adret or commentary. The pieces express an underly- ing anxiety and subtle despera- tion experienced by many human emotions in such a way as to elevate it while perhaps discovering in

“St. Paul’s Lutheran Church” is a member of the Northwest Minnesota Lutheran Association. We stand together for compassion and justice in a diverse world. We are called to serve and to celebrate the diversity of our faith community by preparing God’s word, baking bread, and living inter-religiously.

PHILIPS WEST

Upcoming Events

see page 2

est works still in development in a double bill at OETF: “Birdheart” by Julian Crouch (New York) brings his latest orig- inal work in development, which he is performing with his collabor- ator Sasha Lane. “Birdheart” is described as the story of our relationship to ourselves, and the world around us. It is utilizing a style of puppetry that Mr. Crouch calls “trash and object” theatre. An egg lies on the sand, and from the egg is born a large sheet of crumpled brown paper. The sheet of paper pulls elements out of the sand, different hands, feet, heads. Sometimes the paper opens outwards and the images are projected in the heart of the paper figure. At OETF. Crouch is a renowned Brooklyn-based independent director, designer, writer, maker and teacher whose career has spanned theatre, opera, ballet, film and television. Julian’s opera work has included design and associate direction for Satyagraha for the English National Opera and The Metropolitan Opera, New York, and creating the Enchanted Island, Doctor Atomic and staging the 125th Gala for the Met. His multi-award win- ning production with The Tiger Lillies, “An Ugly Inci”, was performed on both sides of the Atlantic, touring extensively. He designed the sets for the Broadway production of “Big Fish” and his design for “Hedwig and the Angry Inch” was nominated for a Tony Award. Reuben 1 Microcosm, and Giraffe is created and per- formed by Michael Montenegro (Chicago), who has delighted Twin Cities audiences and now returns to premiere his newest work as well as bring one of our all-Latinx puppet companies, OETF. Three separate pieces, all of which are an attempt to speak in the lan- guage of visual poetry. Images that emanate from dreams, both provocative and surprising, appear and are accompanied by words of adret or commentary. The pieces express an underly- ing anxiety and subtle despera- tion experienced by many human emotions in such a way as to elevate it while perhaps discovering in
So you want to learn some Somali?

Some of our friends and neighbors have asked who can teach those of us who are rather English-centric some Somali, Oromo, Spanish and other languages heard in our neck of the woods. Starting in mid-September, we have two very experienced Somali language instructors, Abdi Hassan and Ahmed Keynan who are ready to get you started! We have limited space and so each Free class will be limited to twelve participants for a weekly session of two hours. We anticipate starting the class on Tuesday, September 9th from 6:30 - 8:30 PM and will then continue for six weeks for the Basic training set.

SIGN UP AT OUR VENTURA VILLAGE TENT AT PEAVEY PARK!

Maybe cooking classes are more your taste?

Ventura Village will also be offering healthy cooking classes at the Phillips Community Center dining room starting in early October. These classes are also limited to 12 participants and will feature guest chefs who will introduce you to some dinner entrees that are diabetic and heart healthy, yet are very toothsome as well! These classes will be offered on weekends as well as on weeknights, depending on interest and availability of guest chefs.

SIGN UP AT OUR VENTURA VILLAGE TENT AT PEAVEY PARK!

Or interested in Photography or Kayaking?

Ventura Village will also be offering small beginners classes in Photography and Kayaking. You can sign up for both if each of these activities interest you. We are limited to only four persons for the Photography class and three for the Kayaking class, based on the current availability of equipment. Small classes can be really fun and you will be able to get lots of individual attention.

SIGN UP AT OUR VENTURA VILLAGE TENT AT PEAVEY PARK!

Bringing it all back home...

The number of shootings, tasering and fatal chokings of unarmed persons has garnered much attention in the past weeks. Local fears have been showing up on Facebook postings that have prompted my suggesting that Ventura Village host, along with other Phillips Community neighborhoods, a forum in which we can openly discuss race, police relations, and develop ways to ensure that such actions are never the headlines we will wake up to and regret.

Last month a meeting was scheduled to address some of the concerns voiced in the East African community related to an incident at the Village Market, seen differently by witnesses and the police. This prompted a request by a MPD officer to suggest a publicly-held conversation in which that incident can become a teachable moment in the East African community. Scheduled the same week as presidential visits to Minneapolis by African leaders prompted this forum to be rescheduled.

Then the shooting of Michael Brown started to capture the headlines. Former Daily Planet editor Mary Turck wrote on Facebook recently that she would like to see real face-to-face conversations on race take place. I replied in agreement and suggested that the conversations must not be hired experts talking down to participants but truly listening sessions where people can feel safe to share their thoughts and experiences without fear of judgement or political correctness.

September will see a dialogue between the Minneapolis Police Department and the East African Community in at least two meetings, the first scheduled for 2:00 PM on August 28th at the Hiawatha Towers. These sessions have helped participants get to know each other; developing a greater sense of trust. Now we must do the same with the youth and the police to ensure everybody’s safety!

— Robert Albee

This Monthly Alley Newspaper Page was designed and paid for by Ventura Village.
Cemetery markers are the “tip of the iceberg” and a book cover of family stories

August 8th 2014 was a busy day in the Cemetery. Five new markers were placed on that day. Ron Thompson honored George E. Thompson II and August and Maria Seeber.

Ron Thompson of Naples, Florida, purchased three of them. One was for his grandfather, George E. Thompson II, and the other two were for his maternal grandparents, August Friederich Seeber and Maria Werner Seeber. August and Maria Seeber arrived in Canada from Germany in 1869. Their daughter, Louise, who was born in Germany in 1866, came with them. The family settled in Northfield, Minnesota, where family lore has it that Louise witnessed members of Jesse James’ gang racing through town on the day that they robbed the Northfield Bank.

Sometime between 1885 and 1892, Maria and August Seeber relocated to Spokane, Washington, where they ran an apple orchard. Maria died from gastrointestinal illness in Spokane on March 19, 1892, at the age of 55. Louise took the train from Minneapolis to Spokane to bring her mother’s body back to Minneapolis for burial. August eventually moved back to Minneapolis where he died on March 26, 1906, from chronic nephritis, at the age of 74. Louise had married George E. Thompson II, Ron Thompson’s grandfather, in October 1885. George was born in West Union, Iowa, on December 25, 1859. He worked for the railroad for several years before moving to Minneapolis where he owned Duffy’s Bar, a saloon located at the intersection of 26th Avenue and 20th Street. He died from pneumonia at the age of 46 on May 8, 1906. His wife, Louise, ran the hotel and saloon for a while but eventually lost it and moved in with one of their sons.

The three markers that Ron Thompson had placed in Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery are not the only ones that he has had set for his family members. Not long ago he had five markers placed in Sunset Cemetery for other relatives. Among them is Louise Thompson, the wife of George Edward Thompson II; she died in 1933.

Hans Jeppesen Family honor him again 98 years later

Members of two other families had markers set on August 8th. Members of Hans Jeppesen’s family were in town for a family reunion. A few months ago, members of Hans Jeppesen’s family had taken up a collection and purchased a marker for him. His descendants came from as far away as Alaska, Utah and Illinois. Reverend Hans Jorgensen of St. Timothy’s Lutheran Church in St. Paul led a dedication ceremony that was attended by about two dozen family members. Mr. Jeppesen died from heart exhaustion on July 8, 1916, at the age of 41. In addition to his wife, he was survived by nine children ranging in age from one to 15 years old.

Infant Ellen Moot honored again 113 years later

The other marker was for an infant. Ellen Moot. Ellen died on August 14, 1901, from tuberculosis. Look for her story in a future edition of The Alley.

PHILLIPS CLEAN SWEEP
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2014

9am-10am
Free Breakfast, Sign In, Pick-Up Supplies
& FREE 2014 Clean Sweep T-Shirt
2 LOCATIONS:
• Welna Ace Hardware Parking Lot – 2438 Bloomington Ave S
• Lutheran Social Services – 2400 Park Ave S (enter on 24th St)

9am-12pm
Phillips Clean Sweep!
12pm-2pm
Free Lunch, Entertainment, Neighborhood Information
at Stewart Park – 2700 12th Ave S

FFI: call 952-996-6490

SEPTMBER Midtown
Phillips Board Meeting:
Tuesday September 9, 6:30-8pm, Stewart Park (Arts & Crafts Room), 2700 12th Ave S, Minneapolis
• Plan to engage local block clubs for collective discussion on crime. (30 min.)
• Discuss Banya/MPNAI Partnership MOU. (20 min.)
• Motion to approve hiring of staff member in partnership with Waite House. (10 min.)
• Financial report (10 min.)
• Discuss the housing committee’s goals (10 min.)
• Elect new chair member (10 min.)

SEPTMBER Midtown
Phillips Community Meeting:
Tuesday September 23, 6:30-8pm, Stewart Park (Multi-purpose Room), 2700 12th Ave S
• Recap of discussion on traffic calming on 26th and 28th. (30 min.)
• Solid Waste and Recycling opened a new Residential Organics Drop-Off at the South Transfer Station.
• Presentation on Community Arts Engagement projects by HOTB/St Paul’s (15 min.)
• Debrief of the Midtown Festival (10 min.)

This Monthly Alley Newspaper Half Page was designed and paid for by Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association, Inc.
Nostalgia isn’t what it used to be.

Exuberance & Excitement Exudes At Franklin Learning Center & Library

BY FRANKLIN LEARNING CENTER STAFF

Students come to the Franklin Learning Center to learn English, improve their reading and writing skills, prepare for the GED, or get ready for the U.S. citizenship test. Learners come from more than 20 different countries and range in age from early twenties to middle eighties. Some study for a long time, and some stay for only a short while. Yet while all students are different, they share a strong determination and commitment to lifelong learning.

Originally from the city of Gaalkayo in the northern part of Somalia, Gaheyr Warsame came to study at the Franklin Learning Center in 2011, not long after he first arrived in Minnesota. For the last three years, Gaheyr has been studying very diligently and completing his math books on fractions, decimals, percentages, and introduc- tory algebra and geometry; now he is working on an algebra book with more advanced equations. He has also increased his vocabulary time. In another story, he wrote about his “happiest day” when he was finally granted official refugee status. Most recently, Gaheyr shared his difficult but sometimes funny experiences with snow when he first moved from Kenya to Buffalo, New York.

Volunteers at the Franklin Learning Center work one-to-one or in small groups with adult learners. Many of the tutors are eager college students and many more are community members who like to help. Volunteer Harry Baumert is in the latter group.

Born and raised in Nebraska, Harry lived most of his life in Iowa, where he worked for 30 years as a newspaper photographer for the Des Moines Register. Soon after moving to Minnesota about four years ago, Harry signed up to volunteer as a tutor at the Franklin Learning Center. A very diligent and caring helper, Harry has contributed more than 350 hours of service. When tutoring, Harry especially enjoys seeing the light of understanding come on when concepts become clear to FLC students. He also appreciates getting challenging student questions which test his knowledge and teaching skills. Harry is also continually impressed with his students’ desire to learn. The “students’ hard work and dedication are inspiring, considering the many obstacles they face,” he explains.

In his life outside of the learning center, Harry is also an avid bicyclist. You can see him on his bike even when it’s very cold! It is not too surprising then that Harry reports loving the Twin Cities’ bicycle culture, as well as the vibrant economy and ethnic diversity of the area. Harry and his family are also very frequent users of the local libraries. Whether he needs books for himself or for his grandchildren, Harry enjoys going to the Franklin, Southeast, and Minneapolis Central libraries.

The Franklin Library 100th Anniversary Open House Saturday, Oct. 11, 1–5 p.m. Don’t miss the celebration of Franklin Library’s 100 years of service to our community! Open house will include historic exhibits, slide show, open mike and photo booth fun for the whole family. Sponsored by Friends of the Franklin Library.
To its identity, along with its perf- 
ornization’s long-term viability and 
with the aim of ensuring the orga- 
MayDay Parade and Festival and 
and Mask Theatre (HOBT), the 
and the subsequent reduction of a 
result in a precipitous drop in 
flows to support the full range of 
the Phillips Project, an educa- 
ture event, the annual MayDay 
tal cash flows. As a consequence, 
the building will remain open for 
for another 40 years. As such, the 
tal and an engaged community 
ally serve as a catalyst to pro-
ations, public art commissions, and 
sive artistic résumé includes every-
half of HOBT, Spieler’s exten-
its 2014 Distinguished Artist, not-
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Galileo's Compromise

August 2, Powderhorn Art Fair…

Before descending the slope from the corner of 15th Street and 15th Avenue, I was enticed to scan the annual Women’s Prison Book Project yard sale of used books. A hardback copy of Galileo’s Daughter caught the eye. It was an excellent purchase for the sum of $3.00.

It happened a few centuries ago that our Galileo made the irrefutable but annoying observation that Earth revolves around the sun. In order to please the Pope, he was compelled to present this finding not as fact, but rather as a dialogue between opposing hypotheses. Then despite his earnest effort, he subsequently found himself bowing before the Inquisitors-General while recanting his “hereby.”

However, the point: By making this compromise, Galileo not only extended his own life but was able to preserve his work forever. Nevertheless, we should be thankful for all the workers’ state is the only way to make alliances are called conditional “alliances” are called for. Is it then tactically correct to blame President Obama for all our problems? Really? Is all the noise in any way edifying to those seeking a deeper understanding? What is to be gained from insulting the electorate, the very people who must someday make a revolution? In a recent example, one of our “Lefts” characterized Obama as a “mass murderer,” (probably) in relation to the Gaza crisis. Excuse me, I saw the president hang his head in remorse for the loss of life. In addition, the administration is pressing the “two-state solution” against Netanyahu’s one-state genocide. What would John McCain be doing? No difference?

I suggest that self-promoting displays of “moral purity” be tempered in favor of the revolutionary process. Yes, our tactics must to some extent conform to the present “bourgeois-democracy.” But in the end, a democratic worker’s state is the only way out.

Lastly…

Given the infinity of time and space, we know with certainty that a “higher consciousness” has always existed (somewhere). We should be thankful for all the workers, who have been the responsibility of everyone, to some degree, to some family, all life is of equal value.

It is wrong to pressure people to consider as if some unjust killings are worse than others based on a belief of team membership.

Frank Reflections

“WE ARE ONE; but where’s the grief?”

BY FRANK ERICKSON

There is a lot of pressure and expectations put on us when a police officer is killed in the line of duty... yet no pressure or expectations put on us when a civilian in Iraq, Gaza, Israel, or Afghanistan is killed.

This is based on team membership and police officers are the most important members of our team; they are the glue that holds it all together, we better be grateful.

He police protect me from the very things that have made me, a white male, such a wealthy man—encroachment, theft, and murder. That which was done for Native Americans. These past crimes committed against Native Americans is what gives me everything I have, including the food I eat every day to nourish myself. And now in the present, members of my team protect me from anyone encroaching upon, stealing from, or murdering me.

That young Iraqi girl who died during “shock and awe,” I forgive her name, yet her unjust death was no more or less significant than the unjust killing of a local police officer. But there was no parade here for her when she was killed, that would have been the responsibility of her team, on their turf—she was not a woman of our team, not our responsibility.

Through DNA, it has been proven that all of us come from one woman from Ethiopia, she is the original Mother of everyone, every human on the planet—there are no teams.

All unjust killings are equally tragic, because everyone on the planet is a member of the same family, all life is of equal value.

It is wrong to pressure people into responding as if some unjust killings are worse than others based on a belief of team membership.

COMMENTARY Obama Can’t Do It Alone: Your Vote is Important This November

BY DONNA PUSUSTA NESTE

I remember the fall of 2008 when I got in the longest line to vote that I had ever seen in Phillips Neighborhood. Everyone was excited. We all knew that the whole country was sick of Bush and the Republicans. Obama won by a landslide and for the first time in six years our team took back the House.

However, the Republicans had taken back the House of Representatives in the following mid-term election and because of some very creative gerrymandering, they have owned it ever since. Since 2010 their strategy has been to block everything that benefits those who are struggling to get by, which is most of Phillips Neighborhood. President Obama and the Democrats have introduced bill after bill over the last six years and not once have we put our nation squarely back on its feet again, but nothing moved in Washington because Congress refused to even vote on it.

If you are eligible to vote, please do. This up-coming election is as important as ever, but especially for those who rely on food stamps, reduced or no-cost school lunches and summer lunch programs for your children, receive much needed help through the Women, Infants, and Children Program, and/or receive a big tax refund through the Low Income Tax Credit program.

The Low Income Tax Credit Program pulls more working poor Americans above the poverty line than any program Congress has ever put in place. However, that tax credit and all the above are at risk of being severely reduced or cut all-together, if the wrong people get voted into the House and Senate this election year.

Take, for instance, the recent Ryan Budget that is taxing the poor. It was a bill that was dead in the water before it reached the Senate. There was no way the Democratic controlled Senate would have passed a bill that would increase military spending, provide large tax cuts to the richest Americans, and balance the budget. In order to pay for that balanced budget, (can action that seems to take on the appearance of self-defeat for the Republicans whenever there’s a Democrat in the White House), the largest for war and the top 1%, the Ryan Budget proposed deep cuts to the discretionary funds, that include all the above mentioned that benefit many in Phillips Neighborhood. (If the House can’t be taken, then at least needs to stay in the hands of the Democrats). The funds that help low-income people make up only one percent of the Federal Budget. To make cuts to those programs would be like cutting a child’s allowance in order to make a deposit for the future. In the Ryan Budget, Ryan went after Medicare, by proposing to make it into a voucher system (a system that killed the Federally funded Aid for Dependent Children Program, part of Clinton’s “Welfare Reform” bill), Social Security, and Obamacare.

If you are not registered from any of the above programs, make sure you get yourself to the voting booth this November and vote for the candidates that are more concerned about your wellbeing than giving billionaires more “tax relief.”
Learning with the BYI TEENS Project

BY CARL LOBLEY, DENISE SANCHEZ, BRAYSHEEN MARTIN AND ROSE LOBLEY

Hello, Back Yard Initiative Community! We are the TEENS Project. TEENS stands for “Teens Entering Existing Networking Systems.” We are a peer-to-peer youth leadership and entrepreneurial skills development organization in cooperation with the Back Yard Initiative. We seek to unify, empower, and equip Teens with the knowledge and skills to create, maintain, and grow the essential networking skills to obtain work opportunities.

We’ve had a wonderful summer full of memories, team-building, and personal growth as well as new experiences here at the Teens Project thanks to the continuous support and generosity of our partners at the Cultural Wellness Center (CWC) and Allina Health. We have been able to staff and manage an office space located inside the Midtown Global Market over these past several months which has enabled us to achieve great accomplishments in serving the needs of our community and its members.

Over the past month, Teens Project has been creating and running various programs at the Southside Village Boys & Girls Club. Tony Arnold, the Activities Director, has worked closely with us in developing a program called “how to study” which would provide the club members with all the necessary tools to complete their work for the upcoming school year. Ms. Stephanie, the Program Director, has also been involved in the fun! We recently hosted a back-to-school event where we handed out pizza & school supplies to kids of the neighborhood. In all, we had about 320 people including parents attend the event. We’ve also been assisting in bringing back a lost program called “Keystone” which would provoke more teens to come and join the Boys & Girls Club. In the upcoming month, we plan to create a work-readiness training program that will provide the teen with an updated resume upon completion. This is essential in gaining work opportunities as young adults.

We also held a National Night Out event on August 5, in connection with CWC staff member, Rose Lobley, who hosted and directed the event. We had about 75 community members in attendance enjoying hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, and beverages. Some of the neighbors brought their own dishes of food, too. There were games and tournaments for the youth and we were even able to recruit youth to TEENS Project. In all, it was a total success.

For more info, visit the Back Yard Initiative Resource Center at the Midtown Global Market or call Carl or Rose Lobley at the BYI Resource Center, 612-353-6211.

Speak Your Truth at Amen Corner

Sponsored by the Communities of Light Co-operative in affiliation with the BYI Rebirthing Community CHAT

The Amen Corner concept and practice has a long history in American lore. It was made famous by James Baldwin in his play, “The Amen Corner”, as an arena where an African American Minister used his speaking skills to explore truth and to obtain the support of parishioners. Supporters of her point of view were put in a special section of the congregation, the amen corner, where the people would indicate agreement by shouting in unison, “Amen,” or let it be.

Even before Baldwin’s play, the Amen Corner concept had entered into the American mainstream consciousness together with expressions like “preaching to the choir.” The idea of a “soap box” extends this idea to a single individual standing on a “soap box” to make his ideas known, and has a long history in street culture, labor struggles, and public squares. The concept can also be seen in the “open mics” that have sprung up across the country via hip hop and slam poetry. This project has been created, organized and endorsed by the Communities of Light Co-operative. We do this because we believe listening with our hearts and learning with our minds can ensure we set better priorities and make better decisions. This caring will insure that more people be inspired to join our neighborhood organizations in Minneapolis.

We are also doing this because we want more people like you to participate in our Solar Lantern and Solar Energy Workshops held on Fridays. Here, our emphasis is on promoting self-sufficiency and solvency among our community members.

Your involvement is essential in sharing ideas about how we can all participate in the economic and spiritual life in our communities. We are dedicated to the proposition that all voices will be heard in all segments of our community. Mostly, we urge you to speak out the truth and you may just get an “amen.”

For more info, contact: Amen Corner Team, 612-239-4652, or visit our website: communitiesoflight.org

The Backyard Initiative (BYI) is a partnership between the Community, Allina Health Systems and the Cultural Wellness Center. The goal of this partnership is to improve the health of the 45,000 residents living in the “backyard” comprised by the neighborhoods of Powderhorn Park, East Phillips, Midtown Phillips, West Phillips, Ventura Village, Central, and Corcoran. There are eleven Community Health Action Teams (CHATs) focused on improving the health through a variety of cultural and community-connecting activities. For info on the BYI, please call the Cultural Wellness Center, 612-721-5745.