What’s possible for HOTB, MayDay?

In the Heart of the Beast is short of funds, losing staff but looking to the community for answers

HOTB Executive Director Corrie Zoll is hopeful about the organization’s future and believes it is full of exciting possibilities. “This is an extremely painful moment,” Zoll admitted. “At the same time, I’m really looking forward to conversations with people about what is possible.”

Last year, HOTB had expected to receive a $30,000 foundation grant that it did not get, which meant that MayDay operated at a loss of over $50,000. This was covered by reserve funds but HOTB can’t continue to do that. The organization doesn’t feel that it can be the sole organizer of the event anymore as it has grown so much. Drop by Feb. 5 to share your ideas at a community meeting, 7-9 p.m. at 1500 E. Lake St.

TO FEAST AND TO FLOURISH

162 sheltered at Navigation Center, 119 placed in housing and over 100 sheltered

BY CAMILLE GAGE

Editor’s note: This article originally appeared as a blog post at www.franklinhiawathacamp.org.

On Friday, Jan. 11, a feast was held at the Minneapolis American Indian Center. It had been three weeks to the day since the last residents of the Franklin Hiawatha encampment were moved to the new Minneapolis Navigation Center. It was, and remains, a time of cautious hope and pragmatic optimism.

No one thought the move to the new Navigation Center would be easy. As winter approached, relocating residents as quickly as possible became the pressing goal, with the specter of 100+ tents flapping in the wind. Despite opening a second Aldi in the neighborhood along Lake St., the company does not plan to close the Aldi a few blocks away at the Hi-Lake Shopping Center, according to the owner of both buildings.

MAIC nears modernization

BY LEE EBERSTROM

Editor’s note: Reprinted courtesy of The Circle.

The Minneapolis American Indian Center (MAIC) launched a major fundraising drive in January for new roofing, other repairs, and to make improvements to help the center provide services for the community.

Mary LaGarde, the MAIC’s executive director, said in late December she was still assembling a committee of civic officials, American Indian leaders and other backers to conduct the drive. The center has secured $5.5 million of the $15.2 million project, LaGarde said. That includes $5 million provided by the Minnesota Legislature in the past year’s State Bonding Bill and a $500,000 grant from the Margaret A. Cargill Foundation.

Most of the project involves modernizing equipment, such as the center’s kitchen, that was beyond its reach when it moved to its current location in 1975, which included an old barber shop, LaGarde said.

City says ‘no’ to Roof Depot urban farm

Council prioritizes office space to farm and jobs proposed by local residents

BY CAROL PASS, EPIC & EPN!

On Dec. 7, 2018 the Minneapolis City Council voted to deny any space at the Roof Depot site for the East Phillips Indoor Urban Farm project, replacing it with a voter services office, class space for ELL, citizenship classes and resume building and meeting space for community conferences.

Adding these features here does not respond to the needs of this community. First, all can be accommodated at the nearby East Phillips Park Cultural & Community Center, which this community funded, designed and caused to be built. Second, the critical lack of parking and extreme traffic congestion at the Roof Depot site make it seriously problematic for any of these activities. It would be helpful if more council members were familiar with this location before voting to further challenge it.

However, council member Camo inserted several caveats in her “Staff Direction” document which provide a door to re-enter. It provides the possibility of a two-site solution, which we are pursuing. Follow this link for city information: https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2018-01471.
Transit
The ghosts of transit past

By JOHN CHARLES WILSON

Since The Alley is starting off on a new foot, I thought this was a good time to discuss the past of our transit system. I was a child in the 1970s and a teen-ager in the early 1980s, when the Metropolitan Transit Commission buses were known as the “Big Red” for their color scheme.

MTC ads called it the “Ought-About-Mobile” – as you “oughta” ride the bus instead of driving. Slogans like “Go to California for 30 cents” abounded. (Of course, they meant California Ave. in Saint Paul – and nowadays that price would be 22!)

Before 1982, the adult fare was the same at all times of day, but discount fares for senior citi- zens, people with limited mobility, and students only applied dur- ing non-rush hours from the mid-1970s on. I remember finding it odd that children got a discount during school hours and at night, but not right after school, when it would have been most useful.

Until 1979, the senior citizen fare during non-rush hours was zero. There was no Metro Mobility back then, nor did regular buses have wheelchair lifts. Around 1979, MTC started a pilot proj- ect called Project Mobility which offered door-to-door service for people not able to use the regu- lar buses. It was almost a victim of its own success – the plan- ners only anticipated a few users going to medical appointments or maybe grocery shopping once a week. However, the existence of Project Mobility enabled people with physical disabilities to dare to try to have more active lives. “Build it and they will come” was an understatement! Project Mobility was expanded into the modern Metro Mobility program by popular demand, and later, a federal mandate.

The farthest out suburbs were what I called “next day” suburbs. That is, you couldn’t go there on the bus and return to the inner city the same day, because the bus ser- vice was designed for people who lived out there and worked down- town. Apple Valley, Burnsville, and Lagan were “next day” sub- urb(s) before the Mall of America opened! There aren’t many “next day” suburbs anymore, but Maple Grove and Forest Lake still are.

A few others, as a practical mat- ter, might as well be, such as Plymouth, downtown White Bear Lake, Cottage Grove, Newport, and Saint Paul Park, Circle Pines, and Lexington.

Oh, the ghosts of transit past...
Commissioner Peter McLaughlin led the protection of the Upper Post buildings at Fort Snelling using Sentence-to-Service Crews to stabilize the buildings. The buildings will now be redeveloped by Dominium to create affordable housing for veterans and families. The bike lanes on Park and Portland were the first, significant lanes to be put on a Hennepin County road and paved the way to new lanes on Minnehaha Ave, East 44th St., and Washington Ave. Down the road, McLaughlin has fought for visible, structural investments such LRT lines, the Midtown Greenway, Target Field Station, the Midtown Exchange, and safer street designs during his 28 years as a Hennepin County Commissioner.

INSTRUMENT OF CHANGE
Outgoing Hennepin County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin reflects on public service

James McLaughlin had a track record of getting things accomplished and that has been the most exciting thing about working for him,” observed his principal aide Brian Sh Kokon, who has worked in McLaughlin’s office for 12 of the last 21 years at three different times. Shok set pointed out the visible and structural investments such as LRT lines, the Midtown Greenway, Target Field Station, the Midtown Exchange, and safer street designs that have improved Minneapolis and the region.

“But Commissioner McLaughlin has fought for the much less visible investments in people through training programs, human service support structures, supportive housing, environmental response funds, library and youth sports investment funds, amongst many other programs. “It’s these investments in people who have helped foster a more stable social fabric, something that is much less monumental but is in people who make a city livable and I have found that working on these projects to be incredibly rewarding,” stated Shok,.

HIS LIFE WAS CHANGED
McLaughlin didn’t grow up thinking he’d get into politics. He lived in a small town in western Pennsylvania, the son of a printer. Over the years, he watched the town wither away as the manufacturing jobs dried up.

McLaughlin earned a scholarship to attend Lutheran University where he studied statistics and economics. It was during the Vietnam War Lyndon Johnson was president, there was rioting in the streets, and people were fleeing the city in favor of the suburbs.

The summer before his junior year, McLaughlin took an internship working in the heart of Spanish Harlem. “The events in Spanish Harlem got me involved in community organizing and changed my life,” recalled McLaughlin. He switched his major to politics.

Then he went to work for the mayor of Trenton, N.J. The office was focused on revitalizing a dying downtown, and one tool was passing a progressive income tax to ease the property tax burden. As a “punk kid” he accompanied the mayor to Washington, D.C., among other places, and got an up close look at the mayor’s work.

FORCE OF COMMUNITY
McLaughlin came to Minnesota for the first time in 1975 to attend graduate school at the University’s School of Public Affairs, and never left.

What struck him most were the social networks Minnesota had in place to get things done. “You not only had tangible investments being made, but you also had this group of people that came together as a force within the community,” he observed.

McLaughlin got pulled into serving as board chair for the Powderhorn Residents Group (now PRG), helping with affordable housing developments. PRG was one the first groups focused on that in the city. Its first project was revamping the Whitter School at 26th and Balsasdale into 45 units of affordable housing.

When he bought his first house near Matt’s Bar, McLaughlin watched how a city program that put people into vacant homes for $1 stabilized his block.

McLaughlin was hired by the Urban Coalition of Minneapolis and began focusing on social justice issues. Everything they did was cutting edge at the time, affordable housing, weatherization for owner- and renter-occupied homes, apprenticeship credits, education, and more.

Then Pastor Brian Peterson of Walker Church approached McLaughlin and asked if he’d ever thought about running for office.

McLaughlin agreed to try it, and was elected to three terms in the Minnesota House beginning in 1985. Minnesota was in a deep recession and unemployment was high.

McLaughlin helped create the Jobs Now Coalition to offer a wage subsidy program that is still operating today, and helped pass the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) to put more control in the hands of Minneapolis neighborhoods and foster community. He sponsored the first parental leave act in the county that included six weeks for fathers, as well as mothers.

DIRECTLY AFFECTING LIVES AS COMMISSIONER
Then, in 1990, he decided to run for Hennepin County Commissioner because he wanted to be more involved in doing things that directly affected people’s lives. An experience early on shaped the rest of his career. He accompanied then-Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton and others to Chicago where they met with Sears representatives to ask that the company be the anchor tenant in the redevelopment of the Sears site on Lake St. (now Midtown Global Market). Sears was focused on how much disposable income residents in the area had, and that’s when McLaughlin realized that in order to get development he needed to focus on jobs first.

“I’m a believer in the economy and how important it is to have jobs for people,” stated McLaughlin. “That’s what pays the mortgages, the grocery bills. That’s what goes to Sears.”

He set off to create a renaissance in South Minneapolis and hopefully staunch the exodus of people leaving the city.

It wasn’t going to happen overnight. “You have to be paying attention when the opportunity arises to do something,” McLaughlin explained.

That doesn’t involve doing nothing, however. McLaughlin’s method includes serving on committees, talking to people, setting up the framework needed and doing studies so that when the time is right, things are in place.

While leaving Hennepin County Medical Center (HCMC) one day, McLaughlin came out a different door than usual, and noticed an old, vacant brick building across the street. He checked the property tax records, saw it was owned by Allina and asked them what they planned to do with it. Fast forward a few years, and the building has been transformed into housing for youth and working adults through a collaboration between the city of Minneapolis, Central Community Housing Trust (CCHT), Allina, the Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota and Youthlink.

“I’m kind of always on the lookout for things like that,” McLaughlin said. “You need a network of people to make that happen.”

Look for part two of this series in The Alley’s March edition.
MAIC Near Modernization

Urban Farm

Free Health Care Clinic

Aldi Opens

Leaders

Meet The Alley Newspaper Interim Board Members

Really Really Free Market
the bitter wind and freezing temps bringing an intense urgency to the work. More time for setting up processes and systems would have been useful, but it was a luxury no one could afford.

In the end the encampment was closed without protest or incident. Over the past four months every individual who sought shelter was found housing, shelter, or taken to the new Navigation Center. No one was left behind. From August 2018, when Native-led and other agencies began their efforts:

• 119 have been placed in housing (with more move-ins pending)
• 100+ have been sheltered (exact numbers unknown as some were family groups)
• 162 have found temporary shelter in the Navigation Center.

Graditude and recognition is due the housing specialists at Avivo and Hennepin County, and the staff at Simpson Housing, St Stephens, Minnesota Indian Women’s Resource Center, and the American Indian Community Development Corporation. Gratitude as well to the Red Lake Nation, Native American Community Clinic, the tireless outreach, health and harm reduction workers, and to the leadership and member agencies of the Metropolitan Urban Indian Directors (MUID). Many of these groups continue to devote time, energy and resources to this work because the Navigation Center is not a typical shelter; it is intended to be a temporary refuge as more permanent housing and supportive services are found for each resident.

THE WORK CONTINUES
And so the work continues. In many ways it has just begun. The feast was a welcome chance to come together to reflect and reconnect for both residents and those who’d worked side by side for months. It was also an opportunity to look toward the future, in the hopes of becoming more pro-active as we continue to address the issue of unsheltered homelessness, especially within the Native community.

As someone who was on the ground at the encampment, taking in the pain and struggle firsthand, I’ve thought long and hard about what it took to create what is by any measure a success. Most cities simply bulldoze or break up tent camps, sweeping homeless individuals and the community’s responsibility to care for them under the metaphorical rug.

Looking around the room at the feast, I saw my answer. Success was made possible because:

• The mayor, city council and department leadership took on the responsibility to care for the most vulnerable among us - even when it meant moving well outside their comfort zone in terms of financial commitment and the need for speed. The county and state were likewise engaged.
• The Native community - including the Red Lake Nation and the leadership and member agencies of Metropolitan Urban Indian Directors - stepped up to partner with each other and various government agencies in ways that were innovative and groundbreaking.
• The Minneapolis Police Department stated unequivocally that being homeless is not a crime, and stepped up as partners, including deploying Grant Snyder, the MPD liaison to the homeless community, to assist daily at the camp.
• The Minneapolis Fire Department approached the encampment and those living there with full recognition of both the needs and the dangers inherent in a tent city in winter. They tried to do the right thing at every turn, including instituting a fire watch at the camp when the weather turned unbearably cold.
• Journalists took the time to educate themselves on the issues and truly engage everyone involved.

This was a story that could have slid into sensationalism, but instead most of the journalists who covered the encampment gathered information from stakeholders at all levels, including camp residents. They also spent a serious amount of time in the camp, learning and observing firsthand.

• Finally, the community stepped up in a way that is almost impossible to overstate. Over 900 people emailed the camp through this website, offering donations, food, or to volunteer. Many more engaged via ad hoc Facebook groups. Literally thousands of meals were served by everyone from U of M students to church groups and book clubs. It took a village to keep a sprawling tent city population safe, warm, and fed, and the village showed up with generosity and conviction. SUCCESS, IN A WORD

I believe that in the end what it took to create success amidst so much challenge and near-daily crisis can be summed up in single word: compassion. The compassionate intent of those involved formed an unbreakable web of connection and commitment. I am still musing on the power of this invisible force. We set out to transform a bleak situation into one of hope and possibility, and in the end we, ourselves, were transformed.

WİDOKOÓDA DOI-WAG: THEY HELP EACH OTHER

Now we must take our compassion and turn towards the future. Housing the residents of the Franklin Hiawatha encampment was a needed but temporary fix. Building a Navigation Center did not end homelessness. There are still many challenges ahead.

With that in mind, last week’s feast was also the perfect opportunity to kick off a Native American Community Development Institute (NACDI) initiative called WiiDookOdaiWi-DaWag (Translation: ‘They help each other’ in Ojibwe). Through WiidookOdaDaiWag, NACDI will host a series of gatherings which will center Native voices in the effort to create grassroots solutions to the issues facing the Indigenous community, especially the challenge of creating culturally appropriate and affordable housing, shelter and supportive services.

I invite all to follow the work of WiidookOdaDaiWag and related efforts at www.franklinhiawatha campground.org in the weeks and months to come. And to everyone who made a donation, stepped up to volunteer, said a prayer, or engaged in this work now and always.
Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak. Courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen. — Winston Churchill

She waited 50 years – and the city kept its promise

People often ask whether it is still possible to be buried in the cemetery. The answer is – maybe. It is possible, but not likely.

On May 23, 1919, the Minneapolis City Council passed an ordinance that closed Layman’s (now Pioneers and Soldiers) Cemetery to future burials. They did so in response to a petition circulated by business owners and neighbors from the surrounding area who complained that the cemetery had become an eyesore and a health hazard.

The burial ban went into effect on Aug. 1, 1919. The ordinance did not condemn the cemetery, which was already filled. Ann Lynde was buried next to her husband, Elihu Spencer Lynde, on July 22, 1919, nine days before the ban went into effect.

Fifteen years later, in 1934, the city council voted to make their first exception to the ordinance and allow Ann Maria Wetherell Lynde to be buried next to her husband. Elihu Spencer Lynde, Mrs. Lynde’s and Mrs. Lynde died on Dec. 17, 1934, from heart disease at the age of 88. Her husband, a Civil War veteran, had died 50 years earlier, on April 30, 1884.

According to a story in the Minneapolis Star, she had appeared before members of the city council before they approved the ban on burials and had been promised that she could be buried next to her husband, a promise that her children assured her they would see fulfilled. Ann Lynde was buried next to her husband on April 13, 1935.

Mrs. Lynde’s story was one of promises both made and kept. According to a story in the Minneapolis Star, she had appeared before members of the city council before they approved the ban on burials and had been promised that she could be buried next to her husband, a promise that her children assured her they would see fulfilled.

During their deliberations about whether or not to approve Mrs. Lynde’s request, council members worried that they would be opening the floodgates for similar requests. That did not happen: only 83 adults were buried after that date. Those requests were all approved by the city council for people who already owned plots in the cemetery (not sold since at least 1919) and who had at least one relative buried there.

The majority of people buried after 1919 were, as might be expected, elderly. They were widows and widowers or the adult sons and daughters of people already buried in the cemetery. In a handful of cases, they were parents who had lost young children decades earlier. Only two of those buried were in their 40s, one was in her 50s, and seven were in their 60s. The rest were in their 70s (27), 80s (35) and 90s (11). Most of them died from the same causes that people die from today: heart disease and cancer.

What distinguishes them from those who had died earlier is that very few of them died at home. Most died in nursing homes and hospitals, reflecting a shift in thinking about caring for the dying.

The most recent burial took place in 1999 when Mrs. Vesta Bachelder, widow of Richard Bachelder, died on May 22, 1999. Her husband, a Civil War veteran, had died from a stroke in 1979. Mrs. Bachelder, the great-grandson of Asa Clark Brown, one of the cemetery’s four War of 1812 veterans, was buried in the family’s plot 11 years earlier after he died from a stroke. Mr. Bachelder, was the great-grandson of Asa Clark Brown, one of the cemetery’s four War of 1812 veterans.

Can you still be buried in Pioneers and Soldiers? Maybe. If your family bought a plot before 1919 and never used it, and you already have a relative buried there, you are eligible to be buried in the cemetery. The city council would need to approve the request (imagine their surprise when they learn they have that authority) and most likely would. So, the number of people who meet those conditions is small but there are people who meet them, including one of Friends of the cemetery’s board members.

Phillips West Neighborhood Organization and Community Partners invite you, your friends & family to the 22nd Annual Winter Social!

The Lutheran Social Service Center for Changing Lives Building
2400 Park Avenue
(Parking lot on Oakland Avenue)

Thursday February 21st, 2019
5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Join your friends and neighbors for a FREE dinner of catered culture foods from local businesses & a fun-filled evening! The purpose of this event is to provide a great meal and venue for Neighbors to network with one another and get information on available Neighborhood Resources! If you have questions, would like to volunteer or have an information booth please call Crystal Windschitl at the Phillips West office @ 612-879-5383 or email her at pewm2005@yahoo.com you can also check out the Phillips West website: www.phillipswest.info

This event is Wheelchair Accessible

Tales from Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery
By Sue Hunter Weir
163rd in a series

ABOVE: The flat marker belongs to Elihu and Ann Lynde. She waited 50 years to be buried next to her husband.

There are 163 people buried in the cemetery, including 18 war veterans and 17 nurses. Of the 163, 140 of them died before 1919 and never used it, and you already have a relative buried there, you are eligible to be buried in the cemetery. The city council would need to approve the request (imagine their surprise when they learn they have that authority) and most likely would. So, the number of people who meet those conditions is small but there are people who meet them, including one of Friends of the cemetery’s board members.

Town hall meeting set
Senator Torres Ray, Representative Wagenius and State Representative Jim Davnie will be sharing significant legislative initiatives moving forward. During a town hall meeting on Saturday, Feb. 2 at 10-11:30 a.m. at Corcoran Park, 3334 20th Ave. S.

Community Connections
The Neighborhood and Community Relations Department invites citizens to the 8th annual Community Connections Conference on Saturday, Feb. 2, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Minneapolis Convention Center. The conference is a free event meant to build connections and foster collaboration between communities, neighborhoods and government. The conference features interactive workshops, speakers, panel discussions, legal clinic, exhibit hall with over 100 vendors, and a delicious catered lunch. The theme of this year’s conference is Together: Mobilizing for a Better Minneapolis.
From page 1

BY TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN
In the Heart of the Beast Theater (HOTB) has already said farewell to two staff members, and by June 2019 it won’t have any full-time staff left. But it isn’t disappearing.

Executive Director Corrie Zoll is hopeful about the organization’s future and believes it is full of exciting possibilities. “This is an extremely painful moment,” Zoll admitted. “At the same time, I’m really looking forward to conversations with people about what is possible.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?

HOTB announced in January its plans to significantly reduce its operations in 2019 and cut staff. Grants it had been counting on when the budget was made in August did not materialize.

HOTB relies on a variety of funding sources, including foundations, donations, and grants. Complicating things is that most of the funding available for arts is given to new projects. Programs that are ongoing are not typically given the grants that are available, Zoll noted. While Minnesota is lucky to have so much money available for the arts courtesy of the Legacy Amendment, it is not given to fund ongoing projects either. HOTB does receive some operating support through the Legacy Amendment, so it is eligible for the festival support program for MayDay.

Last year, HOTB had expenses of a $30,000 foundation grant that it did not get, which meant that MayDay operated at a loss of over $50,000. This was covered by reserve funds but HOTB can’t continue to do that. For about the last 10 years, MayDay has operated at a loss of $20-30,000, according to Zoll.

After the 2016 election and again in 2017, HOTB saw an increase in individual donations, which Zoll feels was from a desire to invest in what people believed in. In 2018, there was a significant drop in donations. “Many people have told us they are much more scared of where the economy is going and being more cautious in their investments,” Zoll observed.

Prior to the cut, HOTB had 15 permanent staff members, nine were full-time and six were part-time. By June, there will be half as many staff members and no one will be full-time, not even Executive Director Zoll who expects to work three days a week. Staff members will leave as grants for their programs run out.

HOTB will present Puppet Lab performances as planned March 15-16 and March 21-22. This will close out a project that began last June courtesy of a Jerome Foundation grant that focuses on providing support for early career artists.

Puppet Cabaret (an evening of short, experimental puppet acts) will be still presented on Feb. 14, and HOTB will continue to share the Avalon Theater as a rental venue for events and performances.

Many people in Phillips don’t know that HOTB has an offering after-school and summer programs for kids at Little Earth, the Waite House, and Collaborative Village (a PPL project) for several years. About 150 kids are part of this year-round program that focuses on telling stories of the Phillips neighborhoods and participants’ cultures. Along the way, children learn shadow puppetting, stilts, storytelling and more.

In the two and a half weeks after its announcement, HOTB received $20,000 in individual donations. It will continue fundraising for this year’s MayDay event, which planners began working on in September.

MAYDAY: PART OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD IDENTITY

HOTB has decided that 2019 will be the 45th and final year that it will solely produce its annual MayDay celebration. In recent years, HOTB’s MayDay brings in approximately $150,000 in income, mainly from individual donors. Annual costs for producing MayDay, however, generally run between $180,000 and $200,000.

MayDay 2019 will also be the last year that the event is led by Sandy Spieler, who has been a part of the event since its beginning. She decided a year ago that it was time to step aside to make space for new artists to lead.

Zoll has been the executive director of HOTB for the last 3.5 years, but as a 25-year resident of Midtown Phillips he’s been at the majority of the MayDay events. He recalls acting in a production at Theatre de la Jeune Lune, where he first heard about MayDay.

“People there were talking about MayDay as the greatest moment of the year in Minneapolis,” Zoll stated. “They all told him he had to go – but had trouble explaining just what the event was. He went, “As an artist, at the time it struck me as exactly everything that art should be,’’ he said. “It was relevant. It was dealing with current things happening in society. It involved laying around in the sun in the grass. It was running into neighbors you haven’t seen all winter. People would participate in it on any level they wanted to.’’

MayDay has become a part of the very identity of the neighborhoods it goes through, as well as the ones that are adjacent to East Phillips. West Phillips and Powderhorn Park neighborhoods, he pointed out.

There are banners up on Lake Street and tiles embedded in the sidewalk. Many south Minneapolis garages house puppets. “For many people it is the most important holiday of the year,” said Zoll. “There are many stories of people who get engaged in the park on MayDay, who get married in the park on MayDay; or have their ashes scattered in the place where the Tree of Life happens.”

“It’s really humbling to realize people think of this as a way,” said Zoll. “In 2016, 50,000 attended MayDay. It grew to 55,000 the next year, and 60,000 people came in 2018. “The event has gotten too big for us to produce on our own,” acknowledged Zoll. “A MayDay with more genuinely shared ownership could be a much stronger MayDay and more inclusive.”

Perhaps puppets will be made at more locations than the HOTB location at the Avalon. Maybe it will become a weekend event or a week-long event. “So many people tell us how important MayDay is to them. We want to spend the next four months having conversations about it,” said Zoll.

“What is possible for the future of MayDay? “The best we can do at this painful moment is look at re-starting things from scratch. What would it take to do this new activity and do it well?”

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

HOTB has put out a request for proposals (RFP) to bring in a consultant to help engage the community and identify stakeholders.

Be a part of the conversation by signing up for the email list at www.hobt.org, and pay attention to web site and Facebook updates. “We want this MayDay to be more resiliant, if it’s going to be the last – to be a big one,” said Zoll.

Let’s make Sandy’s last MayDay an amazing thing.”

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Let’s make Sandy’s last MayDay an amazing thing.”

BRUCE SILCOX

A central ritual of the Mayday Ceremony in Powderhorn Park is the raising of the Tree of Life puppet as a yearly commitment: of human communities to be in right reciprocal relationship with each other and the whole of creation, in a letter organizer Sandy Spieler in a letter announcing that organizing MayDay 2019 will be her last year. “Remembering insight from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. that his prayer is that MayDay be a promise to uphold and nourish the whole ecosystem, our Reloved Community, with Power that is wended to Love. Thank you for all that has been, and thank you for all that will be!” Spieler is one of the founders of MayDay (1975), and has midwifed the artistic part of MayDay since this beginning.

How to Help HOTB

Give your financial support
• Give any amount online or via mail.
• Hire HOTB to bring an arts residency to your school, park, or place of worship.
• Rent the Avalon for events up to 200 people. Beer and wine service available.
• Buy tickets to Puppet Lab and Puppet Cabaret events this spring.

Give your time
• MayDay relies on 1000 volunteers. Spend just part of your MayDay (or the days before or after) sharing the scores of tasks that need doing. Sign up online.

Give your ideas & input
• Say what’s on your mind.
• Find more detailed information at hobt.org/imagine
Consider joining the
East Phillips Community
Garden
2428 17th Ave S
Every spring, garden plots are available. If you live in East Phillips and are interested in gardening, now is the time to get on the Garden list!
CONTACT: Brad Pass at 612-916-8478 or bpass3@usinternet.com

Our Community Garden is one of the very few actually owned by its community. Many years ago, the three houses on the site were burned to the ground in a gang conflict. To stop illegal activity on the empty lots, the neighbors came together, and in a long weekend built the front entrance, fenced the site and turned it into a “Guerrilla Garden” owned by the City.

When rumors surfaced about a city plan to allow an apartment building on the site, EPIC went door-to-door and canvased the neighborhood receiving unanimous support to use a portion of the East Phillips NRP dollars to purchase the garden. Part of the purchase negotiations included the commitment of the city to remove and replace all contaminated soil on the site.

Gardeners include many of our new Nepali neighbors, a Native American language immersion school, the East Phillips Park youth plot and many East Phillips family gardeners.

There are 32 plots. The plot fee of $30.00 covers water, property tax, insurance and the annual Fall Harvest Party. Gardeners contribute 6 hrs/year to help maintain the garden. To make gardening affordable for everyone in the ‘hood we have an alternative payment policy to alleviate the fee when necessary.

The Garden Meeting Schedule is printed here
Plots go fast so get on the list NOW!

For Your Calendar: *

* The EPIC Board of Directors meet on the FIRST Saturday of the month – Next Meetings:
  - Saturday, 3/2/2019 and 4/6/2019 at 10:00 AM, at the EPIC Office at 2433 Bloomington Ave S.
  - The EPIC General Membership meets on the SECOND Thursday of the month – Next Meetings:
    - Thursday, 2/14/19 and 3/14/2019 and 4/11/2019 at 6:30 PM at East Phillips Park – 2307 17th Ave S.
  - The EPIC Annual Meeting is Sat. April 27th at 9:30 AM. Join us for Breakfast & Board Elections.

* The East Phillips Community 17th Ave Gardeners meet on the second Saturday of Each Month during the gardening season, from March through September. Next meetings are:
  - Saturday, 3/9/2019, 4/13/2019 & 5/11/2019 at 9:00 AM in the East Phillips Park Community Center at 2307 17th Ave S. Subsequent meetings will be held in the Garden at 2428 17th Ave S.

* East Phillips Residents wanting a 2019 Garden Plot, contact Brad Pass at 612-916-8478

* To get involved in EPIC & help to continue move the East Phillips Neighborhood in a positive direction, join us at any EPIC Board or General Membership meeting or any garden meeting. Don’t miss the EPIC Annual Meeting (see dates above). All are welcome.
In fact, no immigrant in American history has ever made a larger contribution than Alexander Hamilton.

– Ron Chernow, Alexander Hamilton

New life for Franklin Theater; now open as Project for Pride in Living’s Career Center

Project for Pride in Living’s $9 million redevelopment and restoration of the Franklin Theater, built in 1916, is complete. The once vacant building on Franklin Avenue has been transformed into an innovative job training space to prepare today’s workforce for emerging opportunities.

Project for Pride in Living (PPL) is a 45-year provider of affordable housing and employment readiness services across the Twin Cities. Their existing Administrative Building at E. Franklin Avenue & 11th Avenue S. connects to the new Career Center, creating a unified and centrally located campus for PPL services and programs in the Ventura Village neighborhood.

The Career Center is home to PPL’s Career Training programs, which offers hands-on training with employer partners like the City of Minneapolis, Wells Fargo, and Allina Health; industry-specific education; and soft skill development such as interviewing and conflict resolution. The Career Center prepares job seekers with the skills necessary to find and keep a job that pays a livable wage.

The space provides visitors a bright, warm welcome and offers multiple ways to engage with PPL services. The theater has been transformed into two stories, including a spacious welcome area, classrooms equipped with the latest technology, office space for visiting trainers, one-on-one counseling spaces, and an atrium connecting the new facility to PPL’s existing administrative building.

Giving a nod to its century-old roots, some original theater elements were restored: the hand-made plaster medallions and artifacts, the original stained-glass windows, and the original proscenium arch that framed the stage.

The Career Center positions PPL to serve more people and expand the critical career training that the Twin Cities’ workforce needs to thrive, with more than double the space as the previous site and cutting-edge technology to prepare job seekers for emerging career opportunities.

It is projected that Minnesota will have a shortage of 400,000 workers by 2024. The success of the Twin Cities is dependent on having trained, diverse, experienced job seekers, but it’s clear this shortage is not going to be resolved by itself; PPL is committed to combatting this critical workforce shortage!

**UPCOMING VENTURA VILLAGE MONTHLY MEETINGS:**

- **Wednesday, Feb 13th:** Board of Directors Meeting: 6:00 PM
- **Wednesday, Feb 13th:** General Membership Meeting: 7:00 PM
- **Tuesday, Feb 26th:** Community Engagement Committee: 6:00 PM
- **Tuesday, Feb 26th:** Wellness, Gardening & Greening: 7:00 PM
- **Thursday, Feb 28th:** Housing & Land Committee: 5:30 PM
- **Thursday, Feb 28th:** Crime & Safety Committee: 6:30 PM

All residents are welcome to participate: visitors welcome to attend!
**The Rand Report**

**Who is really listening?**

1.) “Roma” (R) – In the early 1970s, a maid (Yalitza Aparicio) of each other!

2.) “Bohemian Rhapsody” – The movie is taken from a novel by James Baldwin where A young African American couple face unexpected challenges especially when the woman’s beau is falsely (spoiler alert) accused of rape. Director: Barry Jenkins. Drama/Romance. Running time: 119 minutes.

3.) “The Death of Stalin”(R) – Wow!, you mean someone can pull off a comedy about Stalin and his henchmen? Well, here is an example it can be done. Comedy-Drama: Armando Iannucci. Running time: 107 minutes.


6.) “Sorority Row” – (PG-13) – A green book

7.) “Black Panther” – (PG-13) – A green book

8.) “Blindspotting’ – (PG-13) – Three young men separated at birth in 1997 are found to be identical triplets. Director: James Yancey. Drama/War/Biography. Running time: 110 minutes.

9.) “A Private War” (R) – War correspondent Marie Colvin (Rosamund Pike) goes to the worst wars on the globe trying to bring the horrors of the war to the world. Director: Matthew Heineman. Drama/War/Biography. Running time: 110 minutes.

10.) “I Can Only Imagine” (PG) – Bart Millard overcomes living with an abusive father to become the leader of one of the biggest Christian bands in the country whose song hits the top of the charts. Director: Erwin and Jon Erwin. Music/Biography/Christian. Running time: 110 minutes.

11.) “Beyond The Rest” (PG-13) – One last point, Andersen United Elementary School is still looking for 100 stalls performed.

12.) “Beyond The Rest” (PG-13) – One last point, Andersen United Elementary School is still looking for 100 stalls performed.

13.) “A Star is Born” – From the 37th Minneapolis-St. Paul International Film Festival.

**Movie Corner**

**By HOWARD MCKUETTER II**

1.) “Roma” (R) – In the early 1970s, a maid (Yalitza Aparicio) of each other!


3.) “The Death of Stalin”(R) – Wow!, you mean someone can pull off a comedy about Stalin and his henchmen? Well, here is an example it can be done. Comedy-Drama: Armando Iannucci. Running time: 107 minutes.

4.) “Hieronymus Rhapsody” – (PG-13) – Three young men separated at birth in 1997 are found to be identical triplets. Director: James Yancey. Drama/War/Biography. Running time: 110 minutes.

9.) “Blindspotting” – (PG-13) – A green book

10.) “I Can Only Imagine” (PG) – Bart Millard overcomes living with an abusive father to become the leader of one of the biggest Christian bands in the country whose song hits the top of the charts. Director: Erwin and Jon Erwin. Music/Biography/Christian. Running time: 110 minutes.

11.) “Beyond The Rest” (PG-13) – One last point, Andersen United Elementary School is still looking for 100 stalls performed.

12.) “A Star is Born” – From the 37th Minneapolis-St. Paul International Film Festival.
we of the fifth district should
preserve very proud for having elected
Ilhan Omar to the U.S. Congress.
Already, Ilhan has achieved a
degree of planetary fame, for having
slapped the face of the Sons of
Confederate Veterans (and all Trump
supporters) who are hell-bent to
destroy our country by dividing us.
And now, from within the
Progressive Caucus, Ilhan has joined hands with Alexandria
Ocasio-Cortez in support of a
Green New Deal.
Should we all join hands to
preserve our planet for future
generations?
However, as a member of the
Minneapolis Regional Retirees
Council under AFL-CIO direc-
tion, my own electoral activity
was focused on supporting Dean
Phillips in the 3rd district. From
the standpoint of the Popular
Front, my energy was well invest-
ted (Erik Paulsen, the Republican
had supported the trillion-plus
tax break for the billionaire
bunch). But, Mother Earth has
helped to elect Dean Phillips.

Actually, Dean Phillips is a
straight-up bourgeois type who
finds Trump to be an embarrass-
ment to his social class – okay,
well and good. However, he has
joined the “business friendly” caus-
us of the Democratic Party and
he stands opposed to a Green New
Deal. Why? Because he opposes
renewable energy utilities.
Hey, Xcel Energy only recently
converted to natural gas from coal
(under the bogue “Clean Power
Plan”… sorry). Consequently,
Xcel is more than a little disil-
cined to now make the required
investment in wind and solar,
an investment which must occur
within a 12 year time frame, lest
we face disaster.
Moreover, what productive
role might profit-suckers play in
the production and distribution of
electricity? Answer: none. Would
our nation actually be more com-
petitive in world markets without
these profit-suckers? Answer: yes.
So, evidently, bourgeois democ-
rats are more loyal to their class
than to their nation; more loyal to
capitalism than to the preservation
of our planet. Therefore, the peo-
ples democratic movement must
multiply, expand, and impose its
will with deep socialist reforms
in mind.

Sanford Berman is an Honorary
Member of the American Library
Association (ALA); Head
Library, 1973-1999; Founder,
Library! (McFarland, 2013)

Letter to the Editor
Omissions and distortions abound in libraries, too

By Peter Molenkamp

Readers will recall that, owing
to internal contradictions, every-
thing exists in motion, both com-
ing and going; changing under the
influence of external factors. Our
“popular front” form of resistance is
no exception to the rule. Yes, indeed:
“the lesser of two evils
sometimes rises to the level of
a necessity.” But, given the oppos-
ing camps within the Democratic
Party, we must reckon with certain
consequences of our actions.

Positively speaking, though,
Sanford Berman

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Alley Communications’ and its
Alley cat’ landing on its feet!

Optimism and enthusiasm of the Interim Board, Editorial
Leadership Committee, and new Coordinator are shining
bright with good energy to assume productive roles.

 tremendously well organized and well
prepared. Let’s hope for a good gathering of Alley readers
and stakeholders.

Editorial Leadership Committee is being formed to assure
the many voices and cultural ways of knowing are
represented within The Alley Newspaper.

Alley Communications is the 501C3 non-profit. There are plenty of ways the organization can work to be an effective community tool of the community. Send email with your ideas: copydesk@alleynews.org or call Harvey, 612-990-4022.

Sanford Berman

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Association (ALA); Head
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Library! (McFarland, 2013)
Jan. 26, 2019 – LAUNCH of the Backyard Community Health Hub at MGM!

“Not being alone. Knowing there might be other people suffering from the same things and coming together to talk about it.” - Rose Lobley

“Unity. Creating models where everyone is working towards manifesting HEALTH-WEALTH.” - Elder Joeann

“Community understands its strengths and assets and uses them to support the health and wellness of all of the members of the community.” - Mark Anderson

What does COMMUNITY HEALTH mean to you?

“We would all be happier and healthier.” - Carol Hill-Kennedy

“Community is united. A healthy community is looking out for each other.” - Juan Zavalet

“It means you want everybody to be healthy.” - Lily, age 9

“Starts with people getting together to understand what’s most important to them and working on it to make improvements and achieve a mutually beneficial solution.” - Jim Hopkins, Diabetics Support Group

“Getting out and helping others. Moving out of isolation and finding ways to speak to one another.” - Ann

“Longevity. Intentional focus on youth.” - Emmett Dysart

“Knowledge for your community. Advocacy and self-advocacy. Being a voice for the community which you represent.” - 2 students about to graduate as Community Health Workers


“Everyone is united and healthy.” - Bianca

Images (Tesha M. Christensen) from Saturday, Jan. 26, 2019 event at Midtown Global Market.