



Seeking Wellness

199 Years later Wendell Phillips is still in “All the news that’s fit to print.”

Wendell Phillips, Phillips Community’s namesake, still makes news as the agitator and moral guide. The following article was in the New York Times this month. Following the article, we have printed an e-mail exchange between the author of the article and James B. Stewart, Macalaster College, St. Paul. Stewart is a professor of history and scholar/author of the life of Wendell Phillips.

On Dec. 3rd 2010, The Alley Newspaper will celebrate Wendell’s 199th birthday with a special carrot cake from Franklin Street Bakery at St. Paul’s Church on 28th St and 15th Ave. from 6:00- 8:00 PM along with a Fundraising Silent Auction.

Next year, The Alley will have a special 200th Anniversary of Wendell’s

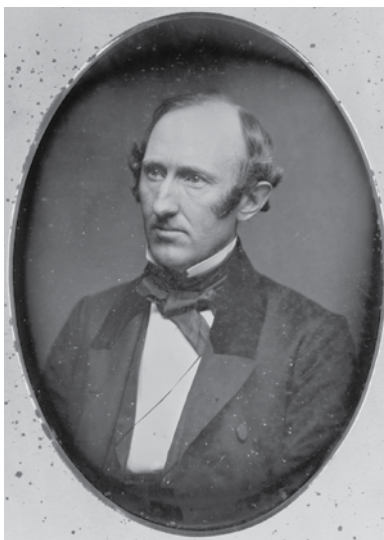
birthday. We’re hoping to have James Stewart join us that day to help underscore the still relevant admonitions of Ann Green Phillips and Wendell Phillips.

The Abolitionist’s Epiphany

By Adam Goodheart
Boston, Nov. 7, 1860

Throughout most of the nation’s history, it had taken weeks for votes to be counted and for Americans to find out who their new president was. But by 1860, telegraph lines – more than 50,000 miles of them – had spread so far and wide across the country that the results were in the morning editions of the next day’s papers.

In Boston that night, Wendell Phillips strode onstage to address a large audi-



Wendell Phillips from the Library of Congress

Wendell Phillips
see page 3

BY HARVEY WINJE

With great resiliency, neighborhood people have endured change for decades while seeking to maintain personal wellness for themselves and the entire community.

Many have discovered that seeking personal wellness and community wellness are integrally linked together. Good sleep, adequate resources, physical activity (especially walking), access to healthy food and healthcare, cultural celebrations, and social connectedness are essentials for wellness. Many have also discovered that positive attitudes and consistent hard work are also necessary to attain and sustain those elements contributing to wellness.

This issue of The Alley has several examples and possibilities of seeking personal and community wellness within our lives and neighborhoods.

Mpls. Swims Plunges in With Pool Proposal to Park Board

BY ROBERT ALBEE

Citing statistics of persons of color and low incomes drowning in the Land of 10,000 Lakes prompted Minneapolis Swims and the Phillips Community Parks Initiative (PCPI) into pushing the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) toward supporting a proposal to enable them to pursue independent funding to restore the 75’ pool located in the now-closed Phillips Community Center building, scheduled for reopening in February, 2011.

Minneapolis Swims is the brainchild of East Phillips residents Hannah and Kevin Lieder who have begun efforts to organize Phillips residents and stakeholders for the effort needed to get the pool up, running and sustainable. Hannah, a swimming instructor at the Mid-Town YWCA has long sought the opportunities to get a better handle on the life-skills of water safety and fun associated with recreational swimming.

Lieder points out: “Learning to swim saves lives. Drowning is a leading cause of death in children ages 1-14 and minority children drown at three times the rate of white children. We believe swimming can help transform the lives of at-risk youth by offering them opportunities to demonstrate courage by taking calculated risks and to build self-esteem by overcoming a natural fear of the water. It is a foundational skill for a lifelong healthy lifestyle and it opens access to the world of water-oriented outdoor activities. This is especially important in Minneapolis and greater Minnesota where we have been blessed with an abundance of lakes and rivers.”

Last March, the Phillips Community learned that the Park Board had set aside \$97,000 to fill the pool with concrete to create an alternative use for the space. MPRB staff stated to the Daily Planet that approximately \$985,000 would be required to restore the pool. A strong outcry led to a “Save Our Pool” campaign that won Phillips Community a six months moratorium on the pool’s destruction.

Before that time had elapsed, three of the Phillips Community neighborhoods and Minneapolis Swims each provided \$1,500 to engage DJR Architects in a study of the pool and what funds would be needed to restore the pool. DJR’s has worked with U.S. Swim & Fitness franchises in designing facilities and engaged their own consultants, who determined that it would only cost \$267,000 to return the pool to basic usage status. However, to provide a facility such as pictured here, would cost closer to \$650,000.

According to Minneapolis Swims, locating funds to renovate the aquatic center is not the key problem here. Both the Park Board and Minneapolis Swims acknowledge that sustaining an annual operating cost of nearly \$300,000 in a very low income community is where the difficulty lies. MPRB staff and commissioners expressed pessimism, yet offered no substantive alternative that would address the needs of Phillips Community residents of all ages. To reduce the space to an indoor playground for little children offers nothing of value for

Minneapolis Swims
see page 5

PCPI Pitches PCC Proposal to Park Personnel

BY ROBERT ALBEE

After three months of waiting, the Phillips Community Parks Initiative (PCPI) finally had an opportunity to present its proposal to the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) for leasing and participating in the operations of the Phillips Community Center. The actual written proposal was submitted July 9th and project organizers have been waiting ever since to formally address the opportunities face-to-face with Park Board staff and commissioners. Presentations were finally made on November 3rd and November 4th.

MPRB staff members Don Siggelkow, Judd Reichert and Al Bangoura attended the two days of presentations provided by the Waite House, Soos Early Childhood Learning Center, Minneapolis Swims a “wellness” coalition including Native American Community Clinic, Running Wolf Fitness Center, Freeport West, A Partnership Of Diabetics (A-POD), Guri Nabad and Ventura Village neighborhood. The other three Phillips Community neighborhoods, East Phillips Improvement Coalition, Mid Town Phillips and Phillips West Neighborhood Association were on hand supporting most of the other presenters and the notion of the MPRB and Phillips Community jointly supporting the Community Services Area (CSA), currently comprising Phillips Community and Eliot Park neighborhood.

Soos represents a Day Care center seeking to move from South 33rd Street and Chicago Avenue and was not included in the group presentations but all the rest of the groups



Minneapolis Swims presentation to MPRB’s Don Siggelkow, Judd Reichert, and Al Bangoura; included MS board members and Dean Dovolis and Hannah Lieder (standing).

presented together as an applicant’s coalition and then separately as the Pillsbury United Communities (Waite House), Minneapolis Swims and Soos.

The response of MPRB staff was friendly and very responsive but stopped short of making any commitments to the applicants who will present their report and recommendations to the MPRB commissioners. Then the MPRB commissioners will then decide to approve or reject the request, which is expected to take place within the next four to six weeks.

The Phillips Community Parks Initiative hopes to join with the MPRB in re-opening the Phillips Community Center for a combination of recreation, health and wellness-

oriented activities, neighborhood organizing, and some supports for recent immigrants and low-income people seeking community assistance. Some of the space would be leased, leaving the largest areas for scheduled community usage under the aegis of the CSA.

Separately to all of this, Minneapolis Swims hopes to use the report commissioned by the PCPI members and themselves and prepared by DJR Architects to find independent funding to renovate the swimming pool and operate it in a manner that accords the greatest opportunity for youth and their families to have a fun aquatic experience while learning the life-skills associated with swimming lessons and water safety.



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"We came into this world to give truth a little jog onward and to help our neighbors rights"

Ann Greene Phillips (18__-1885)

Wendell Phillips (1811-1884)

"The bigger the information media, the less courage and freedom they allow."

Bigness means weakness."

Eric Sevareid, "The Press and the People," television program, 1959

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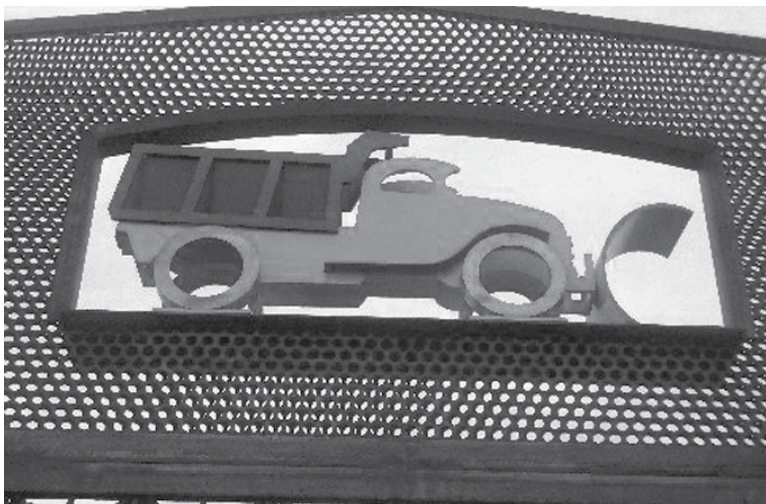
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Phillips What? Where? Contest!

Only Pamela Rivera knew that the November Phillips What Where was the 13 volume set of newly printed and bound copies of the first 30 years of The Alley Newspaper. The set pictured was the set in the reference section near the main desk at the Franklin Community Library. Another set is at the Minneapolis Central Hennepin County Library on the Nicollet Mall.

Guess What and Where this is (below) and get a chance to be in a drawing for \$10. Gift Certificate to Welna Hdwe. Call 612-990-4022 or editor@alleynews.org



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Merged, Single Lane cross traffic increases safety on Greenway at East 28th St.



The Greenway crossing of 28th St. between The Roof Depot and Smith Foundry has been made less dangerous for bikers and pedestrians by merging the east and west traveling vehicles on East 28th Street from two lanes in each direction to one lane each way.

Portico Healthnet, Health Coverage That Is Much Needed

BY RAYMOND JACKSON

At a time when many are still waiting anxiously for health reform information from our government, the need toll continues to rise. The free clinics are bulging at the seams as too, too many are running out of resources, and simply losing hope.

Portico HealthNet continues to fill the ever expanding void that many families face. They have served the people of the Phillips Community, the most populated neighborhoods in The Twin Cities, in ways that are actually saving lives, minds, bodies and souls. Working with a group of persons that do not hesitate to show their commitment, concern and dedication to those in need of affordable and reliable health care, Portico Health Net continues to help simplify and meet those needs, not just for Phillips Neighborhood residents, but to the entire state of Minnesota. By working not just with Abbott-Northwestern hospital, located here in Phillips, but 12 other hospitals located in Minnesota, Portico is making a difference with their Safety Net Coverage and Preventative Care Needs programs most particularly.

We spoke with Outreach Manager, Ms. Julia McCarthy, and she said, "These hospitals help to fund our Coverage Program, and each hospital commits a certain amount of dollars each year that help us pay for healthcare services for people enrolled in our programs; as well as care management services, consisting of answering questions about where to go for services and achieving best use of our program." She continued, "I have worked here for 6 years and I really enjoy being a service for the community, working within the community with schools and agencies that refer people to us. Things are always growing and

changing in here, as we, along with so many others, await National health care reform, that we feel will be coming in the next few years. Any changes that help more get health coverage are positive, and we will be here to help people understand their options, and guide them through the application processes." Sarah Simons, Phillips resident and mother of six, signed up with Portico after being off of Minnesota Care because of cost, and feeling near wits end said, "We went without healthcare insurance for about 15 months. It was a very hard and challenging time in that my 8 year old had an accident that had him wind up at the emergency room for stitches, I also had to pay out of pocket for two of my children's physicals and a strep throat incident.

In April of 2009 I heard about and signed up with Portico. There was peace of mind for me, knowing that we had access to a clinic for primary care, and were able to get prevention medical care, as well as, prescription coverage. This was big for us, knowing who to call and if they would accept our circumstances. We were on and off of Minnesota Health Care for many years, because of self employment; their requirement regulations did not take into account household size, only annual family income; and if you have to choose between your children for those in most need, you are not allowed to do so. You either pay for every child or none based on the previous year's income. So Portico has been a life saver for us. Giving us access to healthcare that we would not have had, and the intake process is not nearly as complicated as many other health care programs!" In need of health care? Call Portico at 651-489-2273.

December Programs at the Franklin Library

BY ERIN THOMASSON

Children’s Programs
Swedish Stories
Wed. Dec. 1, 10:30–11 a.m.
Preschool. Learn about Swedish holidays and traditions. *Presented in collaboration with the American Swedish Institute.*

Family Storytime
Wed. thru Feb. 23, 10:30 –11 a.m. Age 2 and up. Share books, stories, rhymes, music, and movement with your children.

Waxbarasho iyo Ciyaar Caruureed Af-Soomaali ah/ Somali Play and Learn
Fri. Dec. 3 & 17, 10:30a.m.–12:30 p.m. Preschool-grade 2. Dhammaan caruurta ka yar da’ dugsi. Ka soo qaybgal sheekooyin caruur, heeso iyo hawlo waxbarasho. *Soo bandhigidda barnaamijkan waxaa lala kaa-shaday Resources for Child Caring.* Join us for stories, songs and activities. *Presented in collaboration with the Resources for Child Caring.*

Sheeko Caruur Af-Soomaali ah/World Language Storytime: Somali
Tues. Dec. 7–Feb. 22, 6–7 p.m. La wadaag bugagga, sheekoyinka, jaan-gooyada maansada iyo muusikada Soomaalida. *Mashruucaan waxaa lagu maalgaliyey lacag ka timid Minnesota’s Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.* For children age 2 and up. Experience the world in other languages. *Funded with money from Minnesota’s Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.*

Kids Book Club
Fri. Dec. 17, 4–5 p.m. Grades 4-6. Join other kids to talk about a great book! No pre-reading required. We will read a book and discuss.

Teen Programs
Game On! Gaming Wednesdays
Wed. Dec. 1–Feb. 23, 4–4:30 p.m. 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! *Made possible by the Library Foundation of Hennepin County through a grant from The McKnight Foundation.*

Music Listening Club
Wed. Dec. 1–Feb. 16, 4:45–5:45 p.m. Grade 6 and up. Listen to the sounds of Kanye West, Mos Def, NAS and local artists such as Desdemona, Brother Ali and more! Focus will be on the lyrics, reading them as poems and listening to the way they’re recited through the songs. *

Media Club
Thurs. Dec. 2–Feb. 24, 5–7 p.m. Grade 6 and up. How do the different forms of media affect our

lives? Talk about and examine journalism, mass media, the Internet, pop culture and much more! *

Game On! Gaming Thursdays
Thurs. Dec. 2–Feb. 24, 4–5 p.m. 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
Sat. December 4, 11 & 18, 3:00 – 6 p.m. 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 and other self-directed activities.* **Hobbies**
Tues. December 7, 14, 21 & 28, 5:00 –7 p.m. Held at Franklin Learning Center. Grade 6 and up. What do you like to do in your free time? Draw? DJ? Write? Share your favorite pastimes or learn and explore what adults in the community like to do in their free time -- knit, spoken word, cook, read... the possibilities are endless! *

Game On! Gaming Tuesdays
Tues. Dec. 7–Feb. 22, 4–5 p.m. 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!*

Adult Programs
Seniors Play Reading Group
Fri. Dec. 10, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Join us for a stimulating morning of reading and discussion of some of the great plays of our heritage.**

Nonfiction Book Discussions for Elder Learners
Fri. Dec. 10, 1–3 p.m. Join us for a stimulating discussion of nonfiction books. For additional information, call the library, 952-847-2925.**

Phillips Technology Center: Register online for these classes and more at www.hclib.org or call 952-847-2925

Microsoft PowerPoint: Basics
Thurs. Dec. 9, 6–8 p.m. Learn to create presentations and use the ribbon to create a basic slide show.

Microsoft Word: Basics
Fri. Dec. 10, 10a.m.–noon Learn how to use the ribbon, enter and delete text, basic formatting, cut, copy and paste; and when to use “save” and “save as.”

Franklin Learning Center: 952-847-2934
The Franklin Learning Center offers free, one-to-one tutoring for adults who are learning English and math, preparing for the GED and citizenship exams, and gaining life skills. Community volunteers needed! No experience necessary;



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** *Presented in collaboration with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute*

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Upcoming Events:
December 2nd (Thursday) 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. - Phillips West Holiday Celebration!
Includes an update on current events, free holiday dinner while socializing & networking with other neighborhood stakeholders! All who live in Phillips West or support the Phillips West Neighborhood are welcome to attend! Celebration will take place at Lutheran Social Service Center for Changing Lives in the Centrum Room (2400 Park Avenue). Free parking available in rear off Oakland Avenue.

January 20th (Thursday) 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. - Phillips West 14th Annual Winter Social!
Join Phillips West Neighborhood Organization, Community Partners and hundreds of your neighbors for a free dinner of cultural foods, door prizes & entertainment at the Lutheran Social Service Center for Changing Lives (2400 Park Avenue)! Neighborhood Recourses and networking opportunities will be available! Free parking is available in rear! If you have questions or need a free shuttle ride to the event, please call the Phillips West Office to reserve @ 879-5383!

Wendell Phillips
from page 1

ence of abolitionists in the Tremont Theatre, just off the Common. Phillips, one of the nation’s most prominent antislavery leaders, had been skeptical of Abraham Lincoln from the beginning. To him, the unknown Midwesterner – born in Kentucky to Virginian parents, he must have noted with alarm – was going to be just one more mediocre politician to warm the presidential chair for another four years, while black Americans continued to languish in bondage. Addressing an anti-slavery meeting that summer, just after the Republicans announced their nominee, Phillips had sneered: “Who is this huckster in politics? Who is this county court advocate? ... What is his recommendation? It is that nobody knows anything good or bad of him.... His recommendation is that his past is a blank.” In an article he wrote for The Liberator, the leading abolitionist newspaper, a month later, Phillips went further still: he turned in a manuscript headlined “ABRAHAM LINCOLN, THE SLAVE-HOUND OF ILLINOIS.”

But by November, his feelings had changed. It wasn’t anything the candidate had said – for he had said almost nothing. Rather, it was how Americans had rallied around Lincoln with an outpouring of antislavery feeling. A few weeks earlier, Phillips had watched Republicans parade through Boston carrying banners reading “No More Slave Territory” and “The Pilgrims Did Not Found an Empire for Slavery.” But the most welcome sight of all was the company of “West Boston Wide Awakes”: two hundred black men marching proudly in uniform, keeping stride in perfect tempo with their white comrades, under a banner that said “God Never Made a Tyrant or a Slave.”

So now, less than 24 hours after Lincoln’s election, it was a chastened Phillips who addressed the crowd at the Tremont Theatre. “Ladies and gentlemen,” he intoned as the hall fell momentarily quiet, “if the telegraph speaks truth, for the first time in our history, the slave has chosen a President of the United States.”

Adam Goodheart, author of “1861: The Civil War Awakening.”

James B. Stewart
St. Paul, MN
November 8th, 2010
10:19 am
November 8th, 2010
10:19 am
“As Phillips’s most recent and most widely recognized biographer (not cited by the author of this piece) I don’t get the point, and if there is one, it is grossly misleading. For most of the Civil War Lincoln had no more virulent critic than Phillips. The impression offered here that

Phillips permanently embraced him in 1861 is totally false. Because Phillips believed that Lincoln stood for white supremacy even after issuing the emancipation proclamation, he supported John C. Fremont as Lincoln’s replacement in the 1864 elections. I do hope that the scholarship in this author’s forthcoming book is better than it is here!!!!”

Adam Goodheart
Chestertown, Maryland
November 8th, 2010
11:18 am

“Mr. Stewart is certainly correct that Phillips, like many abolition leaders, remained deeply skeptical (in some cases, harshly critical) of Abraham Lincoln throughout the Civil War. But there is no denying his enthusiasm the night after the Republicans’ electoral victory. As I point out in my column, “It wasn’t anything the candidate had said – for he had said almost nothing. Rather, it was how Americans had rallied around Lincoln with an outpouring of antislavery feeling.” This is clear from the full text of Phillips’s address, which began:

‘LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: If the telegraph speaks truth, for the first time in our history the slave has chosen a President of the United States. [Cheers.] We have passed the Rubicon, for Mr. Lincoln rules to-day as much as he will after the 4th of March. It is the moral effect of this victory, not anything which his administration can or will probably do, that gives value to this success. Not an Abolitionist, hardly an antislavery man, Mr. Lincoln consents to represent an antislavery idea.’

“Other activists who supported Lincoln also grew increasingly disaffected when he failed to live up to their hopes – not that this should remind us of anything more recent.

My very brief “Disunion” columns cannot possibly do more than present snapshots of moments of the past, although I hope that over time these will add up to something larger for those readers who stick with it. We will be revisiting Phillips and his fellow abolitionists. For those who want a more in-depth look, I would certainly recommend Mr. Stewart’s book, among others.”

James B. Stewart
November 8th, 2010
4:11 pm

“The authoritative book on the history of the concept of “disunion” and the crisis over slavery that Goodheart is addressing was published just this year by Elizabeth Varon, DISUNION AND THE COMING OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR, 1787-1859. It seems to me that interested readers might wish to consider his analysis of this subject in light of her very substantial examination over multiple decades.”

Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association Monthly Members Meeting

Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association, Inc. (MPNAI) Regular Monthly Members Meeting – 2nd Tuesday of the month at Andersen United Community School 1098 Andersen Lane (12th Ave. S. between E. 27th & 28th streets) 6 to 8 p.m. and Board Meeting 8 to 8:30 p.m. Except for this December, we will meet the first Tuesday, Dec. 7

MPNAI Secretary – jacylynn99@gmail.com
NRP Visioning Task Force – shirleymidtownphillips@msn.com
Housing Task Force – djnaglak@yahoo.com



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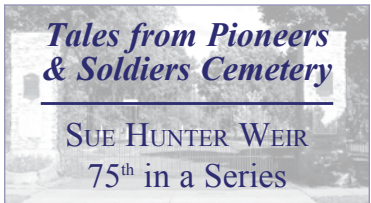
“The Rest of the Story” of Ruff Neff may be hopeful

In 1909, when she was 15 years old, Ruth Neff was arrested for indecent conduct. After that, things went straight down hill. She was sent to a reform school for a few months but her mother managed to persuade the court to let Ruth out on parole. According to her mother, Ruth had always been a difficult child. Ruth’s parents separated shortly after she was born because, in the words of her mother, Ruth’s father had become “more or less dissipated.” In order to support herself and her four children, Ruth’s mother had to work. Ruth did poorly in school and often skipped class. One of her teachers described Ruth “as not quite normal mentally.” The same teacher admitted that they’d promoted Ruth “to simply get her on in school.” Even so, Ruth never got beyond the fourth grade.

After Ruth was released from reform school, she went to work in a laundry. During the summer months, her mother lived out at Lake Minnetonka where she had a job working in a resort. Ruth stayed at home with her grandmother and her three older brothers.

Ruth’s mother said that the grandmother was “a good woman but had little or no patience with Ruth after her delinquency and would not make it pleasant for the girl.” Ruth painted a much harsher picture of her grandmother, claiming that her grandmother had “told her to go out on the street and earn money.” Regardless of which account was true, Ruth got pregnant and was sent to the Cody Maternity Hospital where she gave birth to a “blue baby.” The baby died and was buried in Layman’s Cemetery.

The following year Ruth got pregnant again. She said that she lost the baby because she took drugs. The year after that, Ruth got pregnant for a third time. That baby, a boy, lived but was a sickly child. He was viewed as a burden, not only by Ruth, but by her mother and grandmother. Ruth’s mother made arrangements with a minister for the baby to be put up for adoption. In the meantime, Ruth took the baby and went to White Bear Lake to see about a housekeeping job. The woman who interviewed her made it clear—Ruth was wel-



come but her baby was not. Ruth later would claim that the woman told her that if she got rid of the baby, “she could have nice clothes, go to dances and have a good time generally and...that the way that they would do this, would be inviting men to the house for immoral purposes.”

Ruth left. It is not clear whether she intended to return or not, but on the way home, she passed through some woods. She laid her baby down and went home without him. She met her mother on the street, and when her mother asked Ruth where the baby was, Ruth told her that the lady in White Bear Lake was going to adopt him. They continued talking as they walked home but her mother noticed that “Ruth was not in her right mind, that she talked in a wandering way about different things.” Shortly after they arrived home, the police came and arrested Ruth. Her baby



Layman’s Cemetery Gates, ca. 1936. Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society. The restored gates on the Cedar Avenue and Lake Street sides of the cemetery as well as the section of fence behind the Cedar Avenue bus stop are off to the shops to be restored. They are scheduled to be reinstalled on, or around, December 10th. We are still raising working on raising funds to restore the remaining sections of the fence.

had died of exposure.

Ruth pleaded guilty to a charge of manslaughter and was sent to Stillwater Prison. The details of her life up to the time of her arrest come from Ruth’s prison case file. Her file also contains what may have been the start of a more stable life for Ruth. After serving about a year and a half in prison, Ruth was released in her mother’s custody. She was placed on probation and was required to report to prison authorities every month.

Not long after she was paroled, Ruth requested permission to get married. Through a friend of her mother’s, she had met a young man, the youth director at a church camp. He knew about Ruth’s past but still wanted to marry her. He provided the prison warden with references, all attesting to the fact that he was a “good man” who would make a good husband for Ruth. We can only hope that it turned out that way.

Searching – A Serial Novelle Chapter 21: “Most Like A Miracle”

BY PATRICK CABELLO HANSEL

Confusing feelings roiled around Angel’s heart, like cold, fierce winter winds. Winds with faces, with teeth and intent. Anger, jealousy, fear, hope, doubt. What he had learned in the last hour was stunning. His mother, the gentlest soul he had ever known, had been forced into an unwelcome marriage, or worse. Sold, at an age younger than he was now. His father, the only one he’d known, the one he had just last night really talked with for the first time, was not his biological father. That man, part of this tangled mess that issued from Mateo Kelly, was surely a bad man. But what kind of a bad man, and what did that mean for Angel?

“So my real father...” Angel began.

His mom interrupted. “This is your real father, mi hijo”.

“Yes, I know that, Mom. It’s just that ...well, this other man, my biological father... he was some kind

of outlaw?”

Luz blurted out a laugh, joined in by his mother and father. Angel shook his head in disgust.

“I don’t see what’s so funny!” he said, his voice aching.

“It’s just that...”, Luz began, but couldn’t stop laughing. “You tell him, Carmen”

“An outlaw is someone who is a law breaker, yes, but more than that: someone who lives outside the normal reaches of the law.”

“Someone who has courage, who has a following, like Jesse James or—well, it’s what the gringos called our great revolutionary, Pancho Villa.”, his father added.

“They might break the law, but it’s how they do it that inspires others.” Luz said.

“Like your Uncle Jaime, when he escaped from La Migra?” Angel asked.

“Yes! Uncle Jaime is a good, good outlaw.” Luz laughed. There was a long pause in the conversation, and then Angel’s mother spoke:

“Your biological father was not an outlaw. He was a violent, hateful gang leader. No one will sing about him when he dies.”

Angel had never seen his Mom

this angry. He could almost feel the heat from her. Strangely, it seemed to be a healing anger, reaching in to calm the storm.

“He hurt you a lot, Mom.”

“Yes, yes, an awful lot.”

“And yet you kept me. You could have given me away. You could have...” Angel could not finish.

Carmen stood up and walked over to Angel, and wrapped her arms around his shoulders.

“I could never give you up. I could not betray my flesh and spirit, even if he had.”

Angel leaned into his mother for a long minute, their tears falling gently. Almost like the little birds, Angel thought, and then wondered what that meant. Finally, he spoke to his dad.

“And you rescued, Mom, is that right, Pápi?”, he asked.

“Yes he did,” his Mom answered.

“It was most like a miracle”.

Most like a miracle, he thought. That sounds weird, like a Christmas tale or something.

Luz broke his reverie with a question aimed at both of Angel’s parents.

“Do you think he’s after Angel now? Do you think he’s part of

what’s been going on?”

“I don’t know”, Augusto answered.

“I do,” his Mom said. “I don’t know how, but I know he is most surely present in this present pain.”

“Most surely present?!” Again with the saga-like syntax, Angel thought. And then thought: And now must I begin to speak thusly?

Luz picked up on their language, spoken and unspoken, but didn’t know how.

“You two are talking underground, like spirits of the light”, she said, not knowing exactly what that meant.

Carmen laughed. “Yes, I suppose it is the day to do that!”

“Why, what day is it?”, Angel asked.

“Santa Lucia Day!” Carmen and Luz shouted together.

“Santa Lucia?” the two men asked, simultaneously.

“Yes, Lucia, the light bearer. The patroness of Scandinavia”, Luz said.

“Just like Guadalupe is ours,” Carmen added.

“So what do people do on this Santa Lucia day?”, Angel asked.

“When I was a kid in school, and we had this pageant celebrating all

the holidays: Christmas, Kwanzaa, Eid, Guadalupe, Hanukkah, I got to be Santa Lucia. I wore this long, long white dress, and a crown with real candles lit on top of my head.” For a moment, she was back in 5th grade at Hans Christian Andersen School, slowly walking into the gym, praying that she would set no one on fire, least of all herself.

Angel laughed. “Well would you like to go celebrate Santa Lucia with me, you who are named Luz?”

“I’d love to,” Luz said. “I think we should all go.”

They put on their coats and boots and started walking toward Ingebreetsen’s. After a half block, Angel found himself walking next to his mom, with his Dad and Luz close behind.

“Can I ask you something, mom.”

“Anything, mi hijo”

“What was his name, mama?”

“Who?”

“Him. That one.”

She paused a minute. “Mateo. Mateo Hernandez Hidalgo.”

“Is he still alive?”

“If he ever was,” Augusto said, in a low voice.

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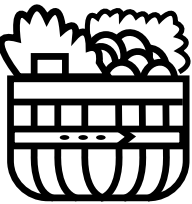
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FOOD OBSESSION:

DEEP WINTER SWEETS



That's what I will call this column, in case there isn't room for it in the December Alley; and to avoid the Christmas/Holiday quagmire. And these treats would best be followed by hearty exercise in the cold.

I don't aim to be a collector, but somehow have acquired at least 100 cookie cutters, of all sizes, some 100 years old, including shapes observant of almost any holiday. While on the subject of size, make cookies of all sizes; but for best results (all done, none burned) bake cookies of the same size and thickness on the same sheet. Grandchildren love to make cookies. We made some with my then 2 1/2 year-old grandson last Christmas – two adults were in charge, with plastic on the floor. The cookies were very interesting, and quite edible. I don't know where I got this recipe, but it is fairly recent.

CHAI SPICE GIRLS

(After the dough is made, chill it for three hours.)

- 2 chai tea bags
 - 1 1/2 cups of butter, softened
 - 3 cups of flour
 - 1 cup of sugar
 - 2 eggs
 - 2 teaspoons of pumpkin pie spice
 - 2 tablespoons molasses
- ICING
- 1 1/2 cups powdered sugar
 - 4 teaspoons of milk
 - 1/2 teaspoon of vanilla
 - food color

Take tea out of bags (I would crush it up a bit), and combine with flour and pumpkin pie spice. Beat butter with sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in eggs and molasses. Add flour mixture. Refrigerate

dough for 3 hours.

Turn oven to 350 degrees and grease cookie sheets well, or use parchment paper under the cookies. Roll cookies 1/4 inch thick. Bake 12 minutes for large cookies, like a gingerbread woman form (you can tell by the skirt), less time for small cookies. Cookies are done when lightly browned. Cool on the same cookie sheets for 2 minutes; then transfer to racks. When cool, decorate with frosting.

The next recipe is from The Pembina New Era, the newspaper of my late husband's home town of Pembina, North Dakota. The New Era was one of the last newspapers with type set by hand. The paper was sometimes called The New Error. This recipe has been tested by me, as are all the recipes in this column.

PEPPERMINT FLUFF (It may be fluffy, but it's not "lite".) Recipe makes 12 or more servings. (Finished dessert must be refrigerated at least overnight before serving.)

- Crust:
- 1 2/3 cup of graham cracker crumbs
 - 1/3 cup of melted butter or margarine
 - 2 tablespoons of sugar
- Filling:
- 1 pint of heavy cream
 - 2 cups of miniature marshmallows
 - 2 cups of peppermint hard candy, crushed
 - 2/3 cups of pecans, chopped

Mix graham cracker crumbs with sugar and stir in melted butter. Pat at least half of mixture into bottom of 9"x13" pan. Whip cream and fold in remaining ingredients. Spread over bottom crust and sprinkle remaining crumbs on top. Refrigerate overnight.

The Eyes and Ears: AIM Patrol returns to the streets of Phillips after a twenty-year absence



Photo by Jon Lurie

AIM on patrol

BY JON LURIE, THE CIRCLE

Current AIM Patrol director, Mike Forcia (46, Bad River Ojibwe) is no stranger to violence at the hands of the Minneapolis Police Department. In November, 1999, Forcia was brutalized by officers who claimed to have "misidentified him as a suspect." He was eventually awarded \$125,000 by the MPD who settled his case in 2002.

Forcia, who today serves as vice-chair of the Minneapolis American Indian Center and owns the Wolves Den café, says "relations with the Minneapolis Police

will probably never be what how we'd like to see them." Forcia admits, however, that communications between the community and police have come a long way since AIM Patrol first took to the streets of Phillips in 1968.

Dave Wilson (54, Leech Lake Ojibwe) was on that first patrol, helping to protect the Native American Community from the primary security concern of the day: police brutality. Over the years AIM Patrol came and went – reemerging in the mid-1980s as serial killer Billy Glaze terrorized Indian women, and disappear-

ing again a few years later when patrol members came under fire from gangs. Today, as AIM Patrol reconstitutes, Wilson, a member of the AIM Grand Governing Council and a veteran of Wounded Knee, remains, supporting new leadership and putting his boots on the ground once again.

The Circle's Jon Lurie sat down with AIM Patrol's director and longest serving patroller to discuss the issues that are calling "the eyes and ears of the Minneapolis

AIM on Patrol
see page 7

Minneapolis Swims

see page 5

the needs of youth

In its formal presentation to MPRB staff members Don Siggelkow, Judd Riechert, and Al Bangoura, Ms. Lieder told them that Minneapolis Swims is requesting two years to secure the funding for both restoration and to address the issue of operational (year-by-year) funding. Next step is to make the case for restoring and operating the swimming pool through strictly private funding to the Minneapolis Park Board Commissioners themselves.

To learn more about this effort and to personally weigh-in on the issues of restoration and operations, see Minneapolis Swim's website: www.mplsswims.org. A copy of the pool study is also available at the website. This is the time to contact your MPRB commissioner and voice support for their blessings to restore this Phillips Community asset through private contributions and ongoing private support.



Rendering Courtesy of Duff Architects

Santa Joe is coming...

To Midtown Global Market!

On Saturday, December 4, Sunday, December 5 and Friday, December 17, Santa Joe will make his annual stops at Midtown Global Market.

Children of all ages are encouraged to come and sit on Santa Joe's lap and tell him their Christmas wishes, and have their parents bring their cameras to capture this great holiday moment.

Santa Joe is a nationally recognized member of the Amalgamated Order of Real Bearded Santas, and a Charter Member of the International Order of Santas. He has also served as the official Santa for Toys-For-Tots and the



Minnesota Vikings.

Visits with Santa Joe are free and open to the public.

Saturday, December 4: 12-4 p.m.
Sunday, December 5: 12-4 p.m.
Friday, December 17: 5-8 p.m.
Midtown Global Market's Central Plaza
920 East Lake Street, Minneapolis

GURI NABAD

We are pro-active - not reactive in how we choose to address our health, wellness, education and security issues within the American-Somali community. Please Join Us!

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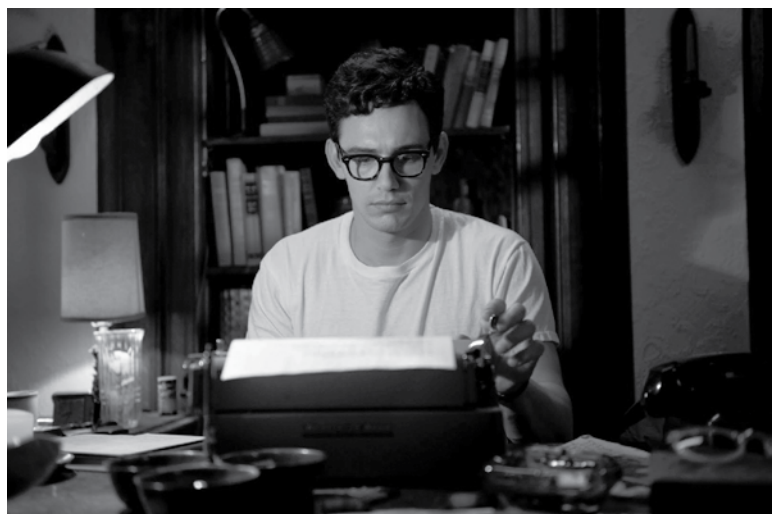
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The holidays are a time for giving and receiving. If you need help giving your child a nice bike for the holidays this year, we're here for you.

To receive a bike (toddler – young adult), please email freebikes@niceridemn.org or contact Kim Radel at 612.262.6086

Bikes will be distributed (first come, first serve):
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Red & Howl



Red
★★★★☆
Action/Comedy
Summit Entertainment
Southdale Mega 16 (10)
Running Time: 111 minutes
Languages: English, Russian
Rated: PG13
Director: Robert Schwentke

This was a nice mix of cast with action master Bruce Willis, Oscar winners Helen Mirren ("The Queen"), Morgan Freeman ("Million Dollar Baby"), Richard Dreyfuss ("The Goodbye Girl"), versatile Brian Cox, likable John Malkovich and the elder statesman, Ernest Borgnine ("Marty").

Bruce Willis plays Frank Moses, a retired CIA assassin living almost a recluse life except for phone contacts with Sarah (Mary Louise Parker). Frank gets wind that hired assassins are out to kill him to prevent any possibilities that any secrets leak out. To counteract the assassination attempts, he kidnaps Sarah for her own protection and organizes his own commandos – six in all. Marvin Boggs (John Malkovich), Joe (Morgan Freeman), Victoria (Helen Mirren) are members of Moses' counter-attack.

Malkovich excels in his role as an unhinged commando living in an underground hideaway. Mirren is no queen here as she handles machine guns as easily as riding a bike. Freeman looks like African royalty once Moses gets him out of the nursing home.

All in all, Robert Schwentke's "Red" (acronym for "Retired Extremely Dangerous"), is pretty good though certain scenes merit little if anything. For example, why is it necessary for Moses to raid a C.I.A. agent's home and threaten to kill his children? Isn't this a comedy, not a drama?

I cannot forget the elder statesman Ernest Borgnine, as the "Recordkeeper," in a cameo role in what is quite generic as a movie, but I went for the ride. It's entertaining even with its shortcomings.

Howl
★★★★☆
Drama/Animation
Oscilloscope Pictures
Lagoon
Running Time: 90 minutes
Unrated
Director: Rob Epstein, Jeffrey Friedman

Kudos to James Franco for his performance as Allen Ginsberg. The film itself raises an interest for me to peruse Allen Ginsberg, particularly his poem, "Howl" which back in the 1950s spawned controversy. Its references to male



HOWARD MCQUITTER II
Movie Corner

Howardsmoviecorner.com
HowardMcQuitterii@yahoo.com

homosexuality were considered to break obscenity laws. Precisely, "Howl" is about the poem and the man behind it. The young Ginsberg is seen reading his poem out loud to a group of Beatniks in an underground room.

The film alternates between young Allen Ginsberg's life to his first public reading of "Howl" to his trial for obscenity in San Francisco and his interviews which color animation of the man's imagination. There are references to Walt Whitman's poem, "Leaves of Grass". For example, at the trial, witnesses are asked if "Howl" is similar to that famous Civil War era poem. One witness on the stand, Professor David Kirk (Jeff Daniels), is asked if poetry is prose by the prosecutor Ralph McIntosh (David Stratham). "Sir, you cannot translate poetry into prose," Kirk answers and goes on to say, "That's why it's poetry." That said, the impression that the prosecutor and some other "learned" men are ignorant about literature, and particularly about Ginsberg's "Howl," is salient.

Paradoxically, although Ginsberg promotes his subliminally gay literature, he did not want to publicize his works nationally, fearing his father would find out he was gay.

Conversely, beyond the conversation about the poem itself, the movie's platform questions freedom of speech (writing) and how censorship and democracy may not necessarily go hand in hand.

La BeFana Returns to Avalon by HOTB

A joyous holiday tradition returns! La Befana

Directed and designed by Sandy Spieler with the HOB T company.

Based on the ancient legend of the Italian gift giver, La Befana reveals the splendid wonder of common things.

With big and little puppets and lots and lots of music, we travel around the world with the old woman Befana as she goes in search of the Holy Child only to discover that holiness lives in the hearts of all children.

Combining both the sacred and secular themes of the season, this is a luminous tale for audiences of all ages and many traditions.

December 3-30

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RNC8 Protesters turn "Lemons into Lemonade" with HOTB Justice Internship Greetings!

BY LOREN NIEMI

One positive result from the 2008 Republican National Convention is that In the Heart of the Beast will be the creation of a Youth Social Justice Internship. How did that happen? When the plea agreement for the RNC8 protesters was

arrived at, the already scheduled October 28th benefit for their legal defense fund was "repurposed" by the organizing committee to create the Youth Internship opportunity at HOB T.

We are happy to announce that \$1008 were raised that evening and this spring the first intern will be selected to work on the 2011

MayDay Parade and Festival. Thank you to everyone who contributed! Thank you to the RNC8 group and their families!

And thank you to all the musicians, speakers, audio staff, the poster printer and Walker Community Church for making this a wonderful evening of music, solidarity, and hope!

The Holiday Pageant, by Michael Sommers

FRI, DEC 3, 2010 - THU DEC 23, 2010

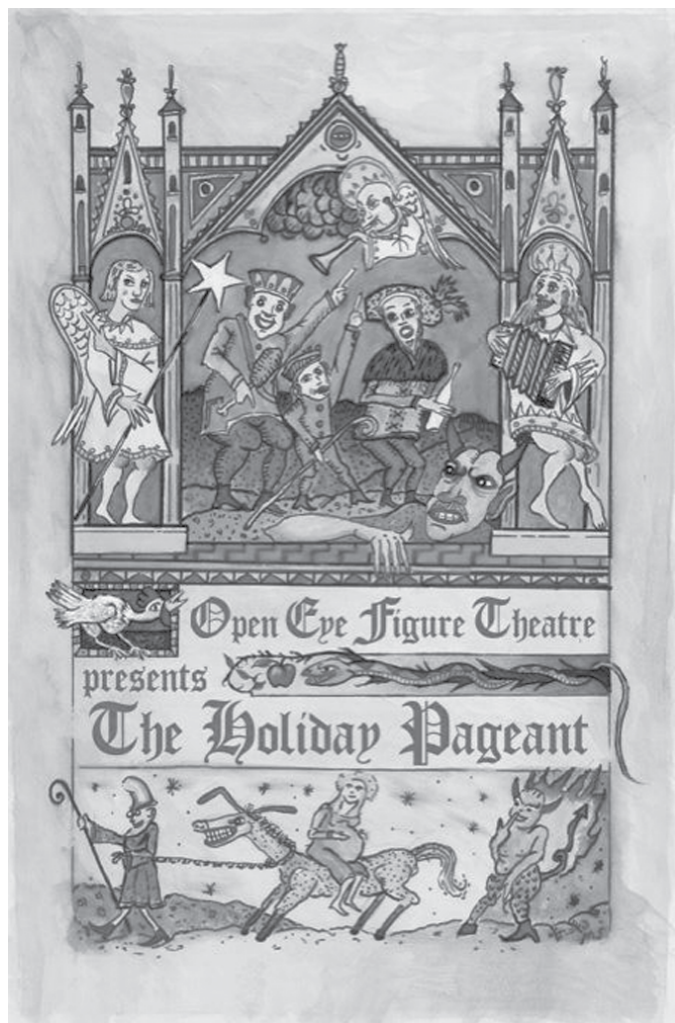
Open Eye rings in the season with its beloved annual holiday production. It's the Christmas story with a trademark Open Eye twist!

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Music by Victor Zupanc, arranged for a community choir. Michael Sommer's reprises his role as Lucifer with Elise Langer as his minion and puppeteers Andy Kraft and Liz Schacterle as Mary and Joseph.

Open Eye is located just a few blocks south of Franklin Ave on the east side of 35W. FREE parking available in Lutheran Social Services lot on the SW corner of 24th and Portland.

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Two Faces

I must be loosing it. Damn rabbit ears...maybe this way...no, nothing. What is up with this new thin screen HD television? No more political attack ads? Arrghh.

Seriously, many of these ads have the effect of splashing acid on the opponent's face. An ugly caricature is created. T.P.- G.O.P. types appear to be more proficient in the art.

The series of ads produced by Mark Dayton's people were more positive. They included visual-bites of an industrial scenario set at Smith Foundry (located in East Phillips). My co-workers are now dubbed "movie-stars" by the Teamsters Union!

In fact, it was Organized Labor which, in no small measure, boosted the slogan "Tax the Rich". Notably as well, Labor supported the candidate who had prominently opposed war on Iraq.

Meanwhile, "ultra-lefts" have again combined with "sectarian-reformists" to demean our participation in the "two-party system". "There is no fundamental difference between the two parties" they inform us. (OMG, they are both parties of capitalism.) Is it not ironic that certain elements of these sectarians maintain the posture that a vote for them actually would produce something on the order of "fundamental change" (without changing a thing with regard to the domination of capital!)?



PETER MOLENAAR
Raise Your Voice

So, what is a class-conscious worker to think?

First, our third-party enthusiasts appear to be a tad overly self-charmed. Second, we agree that fundamental change (i.e. socialism) cannot be secured without expelling the capitalists from governance. Yes, but what...? Third, as between a workers' revolution on the one hand and fascist dictatorship on the other, we just recently stepped closer to fascism. Fourth, the economy remains unstable...

It follows that we reveal two faces at once. The Democratic Party appears as the vehicle of our "Popular-Front" even as we light a path to the future beyond.

Open Letter

Is war opposition a crime?

When did Opposing War, become a crime in this country?

A "witch hunt" is being held in the name of "Homeland Security."

On Sept. 24th 2010 the FBI raided the homes of eight Twin City peace and international solidarity leaders and the office of The Mpls. St.Paul Anti-War Committee. Some of them were involved in organizing the legal protest at the Republican National Convention in 2008.

According to the FBI, these individuals were looking for "evidence of material support for terrorism charges." This is absurd and undemocratic. Three, of the eight peace activists, are being subpoenaed by the Department of "Justice" to appear before the grand jury.

Appearing before the Grand Jury means that they have the choice to either rat on other peace activists (and get them in trouble) or go to jail. I met one of the peace activists, a mother of a six year old. She said that the three targeted peace activists have decided to not testify against their peace activist colleagues and they may go to jail for 18 months or more as a

result of that decision. She said it'll be hard on her child to have her mother in jail. And yet she feels obliged to take the morally correct action. My heart ached at her plight. Criminalizing peace activists who are simply protesting war and working towards peace, smacks of McCarthyism to me.

Speak out against FBI repression. After all, it could be you or your neighbor next!

Josie Winship

AIM on Patrol

from page 5

Native American Community" back into action.

Lurie: AIM Patrol was formed in the late 1960s to counteract police brutality in the Native community. What are the security concerns on the streets of Phillips today?

Forcia: The security challenges faced today continue to be most difficult for the chronic homeless and alcoholics, being on the streets in a state where they can't defend themselves. Today they are being attacked by gangs of young East Africans, and also by people in our own Native community. There has been a lot of animosity and a lot of tension between the Native community and the Somali community. I recently met with Senator Franken, a member of the Committee on Indian Affairs, and told him that I am greatly concerned that something's going to trigger an outbreak of violence between our communities. The problem is not that the Somali people are bad, but that a few criminals from that community have been attacking our people, and in response some of our people are blaming the entire Somali community.

Lurie: What steps have been taken to alleviate tension between the communities?

Forcia: In attempt to stave off violence we established a committee to address the issue of attacks upon our elders and our youth. The committee was active over the past spring and summer. We met five times with members of both communities – but there was hesitation on both sides when it came to making a commitment to form a joint security force. We're going forward with AIM Patrol because we realize we have to protect our own people. We have to take back our community so there can be less fear out there, and people can feel comfortable walking the streets.

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NO TAXES
JUST LOTS OF NEW HIGHER USER FEES

MILITARY
BIGGEST TAX DRAIN BUT WE GOT AMERICAN PRIDE!
CAN'T CUT THOSE JOBS!

DON'T ASK DON'T TELL
JUST DO YOUR DADDY

FOR THE GUYS:
'MISSION ACCOMPLISHED' BANNERS & FLIGHT JACKETS

GLOBAL WARMING
WON'T HAPPEN!
OUR NEW CONGRESSMAN DON'T BELIEVE IT!

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OCODYES!!
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THANKS TO ID ELLEN FOR GLOBAL WARMING

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NEWSPAPER

CHATS Working for Wellness In Our Backyard



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The Backyard Initiative

The Backyard Initiative (BYI) is a partnership between Allina and the community surrounding Allina headquarters (on Chicago and Lake) to develop ways to improve the health of the community. The Cultural Wellness Center engages community residents in Community Health Action Teams (CHATS)

CHATS—Community Health Action Teams

CHATS are work groups made up of residents who have been studying, searching and examining specific health prevention strategies. CHATS generate ideas and strategies that are implemented by residents that will have an impact on personal health and the health of the community. The work of the CHAT teams is guided by the definition of health as stated and adapted by BYI residents.

BYI Area Map



Health Providers, Businesses, Community

Out In the Backyard CHAT
ARE YOU QUEER? DO YOU LIVE HERE? Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transexual people, friends and family (LGBTQA) in the Backyard, we need you to help us connect to resources for all things queer and build a Virtual Community Center.
Contact us at:
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Clinics, Places Of Worship, Organizations, Schools



Rebirthing Community CHAT

Intergenerational Community of Light Workshops

We are excited to announce an Intergenerational Community of Light Workshops beginning January 2011. Come and build your own Solar Lantern for your yard, home or apartment and be engaged with elders and youth. The Intergenerational Circles, of the Phillips & Powderhorn communities, will come together to reconnect, rebuild and restore our communities. This restoration will be used as a starting point for building and sustaining a healthy community. Have fun and join us in Rebirthing Community. Email: rebirthingcommunity@groups.live.com

Cooking Up Community CHAT

Purpose Statement: To empower African/African-American women to eat healthy meals that they will cook for themselves and their families.

The women will gather together to plan, shop and cook meals together. They will create their personal cookbooks. We are a group of African/African-American women who are interested in healthy eating. We are also interested in healing the rift between African and African-American women. We will meet twice a month on Sat. from 1-3pm; one week to tour markets, co-ops, and Trader Joe's and one week to cook. Contact Dona C Evans (612) 728-9121



BYI Definition of Health

Community residents began the Backyard Initiative process by creating their own definition of health. All the CHAT strategies are developed with this definition in mind. The BYI definition of health states that:

- Health is a state of physical, mental, social, and spiritual well-being. Health is not only the absence of infirmity and disease.
- Health is the state of balance, harmony, and connectedness within and among many systems – the body, the family, the community, the environment, and culture. Health cannot be seen only in an individual context.
- Health is an active state of being; people must be active participants to be healthy. Health cannot be achieved by being passive.

Dakota Language Revitalization CHAT

There are nine Dakota speakers left in the homeland of the Dakota people. We believe all Dakota have the right to learn the Dakota language and culture. The Dakota Language Revitalization group is working with Wicoie Nandagikendan to start a Dakota Language House. There will be a full day child care immersion program and a place to meet and learn Dakota.
For information call Estella LaPointe (612) 721-4246. If you want to learn a Dakota phrase per week go to www.earlychildpro.org.

Anchor Families CHAT

We are establishing Anchor Families on each BYI block who can model life skills and guiding values to youth as well as connect youth and their families to resources for wellness. Join us in creating systems of families caring for each other.
Call: 612-721-5745



DID YOU KNOW? CHAT

...invites you to join us for a dialogue and dinner [WHEN?] from 5-7pm at the Cultural Wellness Center, 1527 E Lake Street.

Are you concerned about the health and wellbeing of your neighbors/community? Would you like to start a community garden? Are you a block leader or interested in starting a block club? Contact Mimi at (612) 721-5745

Latina/o Environmental Health Begins at Home CHAT

Members: Angelina Y. Matias-Vazquez, Jessica Paloalto, Bertha Ruiz and Lina Vasquez. Cordialmente le invitamos a que se unan a este grupo para que juntas/os mejoremos nuestra salud. ¡TODOS SON BIENVENIDOS!

Venga a nuestra próxima reunion:

December 2, 9, and 16, 2010 and January 6, 2011 at Cultural Wellness Center, 1527 E. Lake St. a las 12:00 del medio día.

Si tiene preguntas, por favor llame al (612) 940-5515



Cultural Wellness Center
1527 East Lake Street
Mpls., MN 55407
612-721-5745

“Tell Me a Story”

Communications CHAT

Purpose Statement: “Working to lessen or eliminate the divide between people who have information and those who don't so that everyone has the opportunity to be engaged in a healthy community.”

Find out how to be involved in the Communications CHAT or how to tell us your story!

Call or email Susan Gust: (612)-724-5753 or sgustsrc@aol.com

