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# the Alley

## NEWSPAPER

NEWS & VIEWS OF PHILLIPS SINCE 1976  
FEBRUARY 2016 • VOLUME 41, NUMBER 2

The Alley Online!  
[www.alleynews.org](http://www.alleynews.org)



@alleynewspaper



# WORD/IMAGE/POWER

## The Phoenix Flames Again!

BY PATRICK CABELLO HANSEL

In this issue, you will find the 2nd edition of The Phoenix of Phillips, our neighborhood's literary magazine. The theme of this issue is "My Beautiful Community", which sums up our belief and our hope about our community. We hope you will enjoy writing by children, teens, adults and seniors, and the wonderful youth photographs.

The Phoenix of Phillips is part of the work of the Semilla Center for Healing and the Arts at St. Paul's Lutheran to bring quality visual and literary art learning and expression to the whole community. The next "big event" of the Semilla Center is a month-long celebration of the connection between creative writing and art, culminating in a huge open mic on April 29. Look for art and poetry to be popping up all over the community.

*Save &/Or Rave  
Burma-Shave*

## Disaster Comes to a Contest

BY SARAH SILVER

I was a jingle judge for the Burma Shave company. Actually, I got the job under false pretenses. In the Spring of 1956 I had bumped into an old friend from journalism school, who told me that an opening was available - "just mention Ed Emery, a professor at the college," she said, "you'll be the next jingle judge."

That's what happened. They assumed Mr. Emery had sent me, so I was hired for a four-month period to start immediately. For readers born after 1960, Burma Shave was an internationally-known phenomenon. Famous from the 1920's through the 1950's for its unique advertising methods, this modestly-operated company was located next to a railroad track in the Bryn Mawr area of North Minneapolis [moved from 2019 E. Lake Street 1925-1935]. Its main products were a shave-less cream and a not-so-well-known powder toothpaste.

To advertise the shaving cream, Burma Shave erected thousands of sets of five consecutive signs along highways all over America and neighboring countries. Each sign had a segment of a rhyming jingle. The punch line always was followed by the words, "Burma Shave" on the fifth sign.

The company had six executives, five secretaries, one woman in the basement and one

part-time jingle judge. One of the executives - an inventor - hooked up a "Rube Goldberg" contraption of vats and pipes on the main floor where the shaving cream was mixed. The liquid ran down through the pipes into the basement. There, an assembly line loaded with aerosols stopped while the cans were filled under each pipe. The unknown woman in the basement placed the cans in cartons which the innovative assembly table shoved into railroad boxcars waiting by the door.

The five old-timers in the office included Fidelia, Venera, Gwen-Rose, Margaret and Hispatia, each having worked for the company at least two decades.

Once every three years the company advertised in a contest magazine for jingle contestants. It was my job to read the entries that were mailed in and type the best 600 on a master sheet. The six executives would then check

**Burma-Shave**  
see page 7



**Friday, February 12  
5:30 to 7:30 PM**

**Midtown Global Market  
920 East Lake Street, Minneapolis**

**Celebrate the love of Community and 40 years of  
The Alley Newspaper!**

**Anniversary cake, food, Valentine making supplies,  
and fun for the whole family!**

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Music by: "New Distraction," R & B and Classic Rock  
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## WORD/IMAGE/POWER

**Date: April, 2016**

**All Over Phillips**

A month of readings, public art installations and pop-up happenings, culminating in a HUGE Open Mic on April 29!

The Semilla Center for Healing and The Arts celebrates National Poetry Month with events connecting literary and visual arts.



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stpaulscreate@gmail.com  
Face Book: Semilla Project



**Poets, Painters, Sculptors, Photographers—let us know if you'd like to be a part of this!**





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*"When the great newspapers don't say much, see what the little independent ones say." – Wendell Phillips*

**Donations are needed, welcome, and Tax Deductible.**

**Volunteers who had a part in making this issue:** Robert Albee, Allina Health, BackYard Initiative CHATS, Denny Bennett, Burma-Shave, Patrick Cabello Hansel, Knowles Dougherty, East Phillips Improvement Coalition, Linnea Hadaway, Hennepin County Franklin Library and Staff, Sue Hunter Weir, Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association, Tim McCall, Peter Molenaar, Dave Moore, Out in the BackYard, Pangea World Theater, Brad Pass, Carol Pass, Phillips West Neighborhood Organization, Steve Sandberg, Sunny Sevigny, Melinda Silver, Sarah Silver, Alejandra Tobar Alatriz, Crystal Trautnau Windschitl, Amy Blumenshine, Melody Johnson, Meghan Muffett, Waite House.

**Delivery:** To every Phillips Community residence by Sara Nelson Delivery; to 150 businesses, places of worship, institutions in Phillips and adjacent neighborhoods by Peter Molenaar

**Board of Directors:** Cathy Strobel-Ayres, President; Sue Hunter Weir; Joan Hautman, Monthly Alley Communication Board Meetings: 6:30 PM 3rd Wed. Call for Location.

Letters and e-mails to Alley Communications and/or its Editor become the property of Alley Communications dba The Alley Newspaper and may be chosen for publication.

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**February Issue Submission Deadline January 15**

*"Let me make the newspaper and I care not who makes the religion and the laws." – Wendell Phillips*

## BY ERIN THOMASSON *Children & Family Programs* **Family Storytime**

**Fri. 10:30 am**

All ages and their parent or caregiver. Talk, sing, read, write & play together.

## **The Science of Art: Light & Kaleidoscopes**

**Fri. Mar. 4, 3:30-4:30 pm**

Grades 3-6. Registration begins Feb. 5 and is recommended.

Bend light, break it apart with special lenses, and experiment with mirrors, then build and engineer a colorful kaleidoscope to take home. Materials provided. *This project is funded with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. Presented in collaboration with The Works.*

## **Franklin Teen Center Programs Urban 4-H Club**

**Tues. 5-7 pm.** We do everything from urban gardening to digital photo/video to theater.

## **Teen Tech Workshop**

**Wed. 4:30-6 pm.** Get creative and make music, videos, animation and other projects using both high- and low-tech tools, everything from iPads and 3D printers to synthesizers and sewing machines. Led by the library's Teen Tech Squad.

## **Young Achievers**

**Thurs. 4:30-6 pm.** Do you want to be involved in your community? Then bring your friends and come for poetry, arts, games and more!

## **Adult Programs**

## **Education Alternatives**

**Mon. Feb. 8, 1:00 pm**

Join a monthly discussion of persistent problems in

## Programs at the Franklin Library

**1314 E. Franklin Avenue**  
**Complete program list or info**

**612-543-6925**  
**www.hclib.org**  
**Mon, Fri & Sat: 9am-5pm**  
**Tue, Wed & Thurs: 9am-8pm**  
**Sun: 12-5pm**

education and possible solutions, based on the writings in Knowles Dougherty's blog: [educationspersistentproblems@wordpress.com](http://educationspersistentproblems.wordpress.com). *Presented in collaboration with Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.*

## **Memoir Writing Group**

**Thurs. Feb. 18, 1:00 pm.**

Would you like to create a record of your personal history? Bring what you have written and are willing to read to the group for helpful comments and suggestions. *Presented in collaboration with Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.*

**Franklin Learning Center:**  
**612-543-6934**

Free, one-to-one tutoring for adults who are learning English and math, preparing for the GED and citizenship exams, and gaining life skills. We are always looking for community volunteers! No experience necessary; we provide training and materials.

## Phillips West Neighborhood Upcoming Events

**www.phillipswest.info**

**February 4<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) –**  
*\*Note there will be no February Community Meeting\**

**March 3<sup>rd</sup> (Thursday) 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. – Phillips West Community Meeting!**

## **Apartments for Rent**

**21st St. & 16th Ave.**  
**2 BR \$755. + Util.**

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**2 BR 2 Bath \$950. Util. Paid**

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Join your neighbors and other Community Partners for updates from Local City Government, Hennepin County Staff regarding the Public Comment Period for the I-35W Access Project Environmental Study & 3<sup>rd</sup> Precinct Police. This meeting will take place at the Center for Changing Lives in the Centrum Room (2400 Park Avenue). Free parking is available in the rear of building off Oakland Avenue. Free Delivery Pizza & Beverages will be provided! If you would like more information or would like to get involved with the neighborhood please contact Crystal at 612-879-5383 or email her at [pwno2005@yahoo.com](mailto:pwno2005@yahoo.com).

## "This Changes Everything"

*Climate change documentary by Naomi Klein*



**Naomi Klein at Chicheley Hall in the United Kingdom. Still from "This Changes Everything." FREE SHOWING ! © Ed Kashi**

**Our Saviour's Lutheran Church invites the public to a free screening on**

**Friday, February 12, 2016, 7-9 pm.**

**2315 Chicago Ave. So. Mpls. 55404**

Naomi Klein didn't think climate change was her issue but when she realized the close link between environmental destruction and inequality, everything changed. In Naomi's home country, the Canadian government granted virtual free rein to companies seeking oil in Alberta's tar sands, creating a boom town in Fort McMurray. Like large numbers of activists across the world, the indigenous population in Alberta protested the environmental damage. How can we connect the dots among movements around the world to tackle climate change and inequality at the same time?

Filmed over 211 shoot days in

nine countries and five continents over four years, "This Changes Everything" is an epic attempt to re-imagine the vast challenge of climate change.

Inspired by Naomi Klein's international non-fiction bestseller "This Changes Everything," the film presents seven powerful portraits of communities on the front lines, from Montana's Powder River Basin to the Pine Ridge Reservation to the Alberta Tar Sands, from the coast of South India to Beijing and beyond.

Interwoven with these stories of struggle is Klein's narration, connecting the carbon in the air with the economic system that put it there. Throughout the film, Klein builds to her most controversial and exciting idea: that we can seize the existential crisis of climate change to transform our failed economic system into something radically better.

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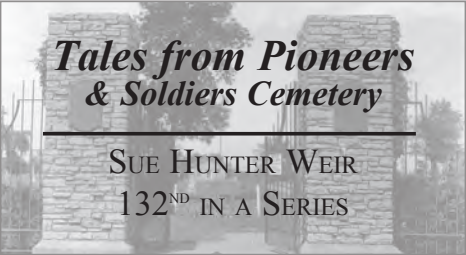
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# Buster Keaton’s “The Cameraman” with live soundtrack by “Dreamland Faces” share Memorial Day Highlights while fundraising and plans begin to replace over 60 Civil and Spanish-American War marble markers



While our friends on the East Coast are digging out after their second worst blizzard in recorded history, we’re thinking spring. That’s right. Even though it’s February in Minnesota, we are getting ready for the Cemetery’s reopening in April.

In addition to our usual winter-time activities, such as planning a Memorial Day observance, organizing some tours, and giving some talks to people who want to know more about Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery and its residents, we have a few other projects that we’re working on.

The first and easiest (because we’re now doing it for a third time) is planning another Cinema in the Cemetery for Memorial Day weekend. It was so easy, that we’re already done. On Saturday, May 28th, at sundown, we’ll be showing Buster Keaton’s “The Cameraman.” Local musicians, Dreamland Faces, will be back by very popular demand to perform a live soundtrack. If you haven’t been to either of the two earlier Keaton movies, it’s time for you to join in. If you’ve been to one, or both, of the other two movies, you already know how much fun these movies are.

Our next project is a big one. We’re working on a five-year plan to replace the marble markers for veterans of the Civil and Spanish-American Wars. It’s not clear yet how many need to be replaced but it will be no fewer than sixty. This year we will be starting with the markers in Blocks A and B (the southeast quadrant of the cemetery).

Only four of the markers in these two sections, the two oldest sections in the

cemetery, are in reasonably good shape. Fourteen others are broken or illegible, and four confirmed veterans, for reasons that are unknown, never had markers. Cemetery records indicate that another three men were military veterans but their cards are marked “military unit unknown.” We know that one of them is not eligible for a military marker since he fought in the state militia during the Dakota Conflict and Veterans Affairs only provides markers for those who served in the federal army. We have not been able to confirm the service records of the other two.

The majority of markers in Blocks A and B were placed in 1888. One hundred and twenty-eight years later, they are in rough shape. Marble is a beautiful but relatively soft stone and Minnesota winters are hard on marble markers. Those that are broken or illegible will be removed and placed flat on the veterans’ graves.

The new markers are 44” long and will be set at the midpoint—22” above ground and 22” below—which means that they do not have to be set in concrete bases. In fact, markers in other sections of the cemetery that were placed in the late 1930s and early 1940s, and which were set in concrete bases, have not fared well. The concrete set harder than the marble and many of the markers have snapped off at ground level. Those markers need to be replaced as well.

If all goes as planned, we will be ordering and placing 19 new markers this year. Each marker weighs approximately 200 pounds so there will be 3,800 pounds—slightly less than two tons—of marble being delivered from a quarry in Missouri.

While the markers are free to any and all eligible veterans, the cost of setting them is up to the person or organization who applied for them. The Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War made a very generous donation to help with the cost of setting the markers but we will be working



Photo: Courtesy of the family

Private John Barton was born in Scotland on March 2, 1811. During the Civil War he served in Company B of the 79th New York Infantry Highlanders. His marker, although cracked, is legible and is one of the few in the oldest part of the cemetery that will not be replaced this year.



Captain Charles Nudd was born in Wolfeborough, New Hampshire. He served with Company A, Third Minnesota Infantry for a brief time before being discharged for disability. Captain Nudd died on August 25, 1864, from congestion of the lungs. His illegible marker will be replaced this year.

on raising more money in the upcoming months.

There is much to look forward to in the coming season so keep your eye on this space. If you have access and aren’t already following the cemetery

## Pangea World Theater leads Lake Street Arts!

BY ALEJANDRA TOBAR ALATRIZ

**Lake Street Arts!** is an interdisciplinary leadership and community development, multi-year collaborative initiative focusing on place-making and place-keeping through the arts led by Pangea World Theater. Working with artists from East Africa, Latina/o/x and Indigenous Communities along East Lake Street, LSA! uses art as a tool to shape development plans towards a more equitable, sustainable model of growth.

Through a generous grant from ArtPlace, LSA! Phase 1 runs through Spring 2016 and Phase 2 begins Summer of 2016. Goals include a Community Organizing Artist Apprenticeship Program and a Community Based Plan to develop East Lake Street as a Cultural Corridor.

LSA! centers People of Color, Immigrant, and Indigenous artists as community organizers that will contextualize Pangea’s program through 2018.

“We will be principled in serving the revered and diverse Lake Street ecosystem. Our guiding principles will keep us accountable, emergent in design, and strategic. We seek to spark artistry and creativity while simultaneously working against the forces of gentrification. From the beginning we ask what will remain of our work after the Poetry comes down from the windows.”

Pangea World Theater is partnering with a broad network of artists and businesses to install multimedia interventions along Lake Street including:

- **“Poetry in the Windows”;** a youth and young adult poetry exhibition in store-

fronts with Lake Street Council.

- **“Home,”** an ensemble piece with Latinx, East African, and Dakota/Lakota/Ojibwe actors.
- **“LUCA” –Latin@s Unidos por la Cultura y el Arte**—and other creative coalitions centering the arts and culture in their work across industry through dusk dance parties and open mic gatherings.
- **“Lake Street Arts Cabaret”** - the five-hour street event down East Lake Street with Patrick’s Cabaret, In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre, Elsa’s House of Sleep, Himalayan Restaurant, and Ghandi Mahal Restaurant AND other
- Community learning gatherings and allied collaborations.
- **LSA! Local Directing and Theater Institute**, building performance capacity with community members for a street festival.
- **LSA! Celebrate Minneapolis Indigenous People’s Day** (formerly Columbus Day) October 12<sup>th</sup>.

### Through the transformative power of the art, we will:

Support cross-industry & cross-cultural dialogue, creating, learning, strategizing, & organizing AND

Contribute to highlighting Lake Street as a place where people love to live, seek to work, and come to learn and play.

[www.artplaceamerica.org/grantee/lake-street-arts](http://www.artplaceamerica.org/grantee/lake-street-arts)

[711 W. Lake Street Mpls., MN 55408](http://711.W.LakeStreetMpls.MN.55408)  
[pangea@pangeaworldtheatre.org](mailto:pangea@pangeaworldtheatre.org)

Alejandra Tobar Alatriz, is L.S.A. Project Director



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[www.hennepin.us/checkups](http://www.hennepin.us/checkups)





## Thriving Lake Street Businesses & Quality Neighborhoods require Strong Public Safety.

Lake Street business owners recently discussed how improved Public Safety might grow their business. The EPIC organization's short version mission statement suggests that we need to do something about this.

*EPIC shall work to create from our global roots, a safe community that fosters open communication, mutual support among neighbors and a positive and uplifting future for all.*

### Cameras can help Public Safety

After hearing of the successful prosecution of shooters caught on the newly installed cameras at Peavey Park and after reviewing the drastic reduction in crime following the installation of the Bloomington Ave. Crime Cameras, East Phillips Neighbors came together and voted to take positive action to protect our people.

Money saved by having an all-volunteer neighborhood organization will be used to place a camera in a strategic location on Lake Street and, we hope, a second one elsewhere in a hot spot in the neighborhood.

The Camera data will be accessible only by the Police and will be used only for crime control. The mere presence of Cameras has proven to be a strong deterrent. It is hoped that this will make all of us safer and help the Businesses thrive.

*You can help by being vigilant, watching for crime, and reporting suspicious activity to 911. To protect yourself, always insist that you remain anonymous.*

***Be safe!***



*Cameras for Public Safety coming to East Phillips*

## For Your 2016 Calendar: \*

**The EPIC Board of Directors** usually meets on the FIRST Saturday of the month – Next Meetings; Saturday, 2/6/2016 and 3/5/2016 at 10:00 AM.

**The EPIC Community Meetings** are on the SECOND Thursday – Next Meetings; Thursday, 2/11/16 and 3/10/2016 at 6:30 PM

Agenda includes Neighborhood Industrial Pollution, Crime Initiatives, and EPIC project updates.

**The East Phillips Park Programming Partnership** meets on the LAST Tuesday – Next meetings; Join us 2/23/16 and 3/29/16 at 11:30 AM. Lunch is served.

Updates on Partner Programming, Park Events, SummerFest 2016 & News.

**Meeting Location:** All the above meetings and events are held at the East Phillips Park Cultural & Community Center located at 2307 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. The Center is wheelchair accessible and all are welcome.

**The East Phillips Community 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. Gardeners** meet on the second Saturday of Each Month during the gardening season, normally from April through September. Next meetings are Saturday, 4/9/2016 & 5/14/2016 at 9:00 AM in the Community Center at 2307 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. Subsequent meetings will be held in the Garden.

\* **East Phillips Residents wanting a 2016 Garden Plot, contact Brad Pass at 612-916-8478**

\* **Watch this space for additional or changed meeting information**

*Designed and Paid for by East Phillips Improvement Coalition*



**MIDTOWN PHILLIPS**  
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION INC.

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## BOARD MEETING AGENDA

**TUESDAY FEBRUARY 9, 6:30-8PM.**

**Stewart Park (Arts & Crafts Room), 2700 12<sup>th</sup> Ave S, Minneapolis**

- I. Approve January 26, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes - (6:30pm)
- II. Finance Report - (6:35pm)
  - Review draft Memorandum of Understanding for the New American Soccer League
  - Financial overview for next board term
- III. Annual Meeting Planning Report - (7:05pm)
- IV. Reflection on last year's board activity before new board term (7:20pm)
- V. Staff Report - (7:50pm)

## COMMUNITY MEETING AGENDA

**TUESDAY FEBRUARY 3, 6:30-8PM.**

**Andersen Community School (cafeteria), 1098 Andersen Lane, Minneapolis**

**5:30-6:15pm: Social Hour and Dinner**

—Food, Resource & Info Booths, Music and Spoken Word

**6:15-7:30pm: Annual Meeting Program**

—Overview of the year's activities, financial reports, partnership updates

**Speakers:**

- Ward Highlights, Councilmember Alondra Cano
- Southside 20-year park plan, Commissioner Scott Vreeland
- Neighborhood Safety - 3rd Precinct Inspector Michael Sullivan
- Ending Veterans Homelessness, Mikkel Beckmen, Dir. of the Office to End Homelessness
- CEPRO update – Ellen Sones

**Neighborhood Board Elections**

- 2 At Large Representatives (Two year term, 2016-2018)
- Midtown Phillips Board President (One year term, 2016-2017)
- Districts 2, 4, & 6 terms to be elected: (Even districts elected in even years)
- District 2: 24th-26th & Bloomington to 12th Avenue (Two year term, 2016-2018)
- District 4: 26th -28th & Bloomington to 12th Avenue (Two year term, 2016-2018)
- District 6: 28th-Lake & Bloomington to 12th Avenue (Two year term, 2016-2018)

Please join us for our  
**COMMUNITY DINNER  
AND ANNUAL MEETING**

**Tuesday, February 23**  
**5:30-7:30pm**

**Andersen Community School cafeteria**  
**1098 Andersen Lane, Minneapolis**

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

*Learn more about what's going on in your community, the resources it offers, and how you can be more involved.*

**Social hour and dinner 5:30-6:15pm; Program 6:15-7:30pm**

✓ **Dinner** by Salsa a la Salsa

✓ **Music** by Siama's Afrobilly Trio

✓ **Neighborhood and Safety Reports**

from City Councilmember Alondra Cano and Inspector Michael Sullivan

✓ **Hear about the 20-year Southside Park Plan**

from Commission Scott Vreeland

✓ **Spoken Word** by St. Paul's Lutheran youth

✓ **Information and Resource Fair**

of local businesses and organizations

✓ **New Board Elections** of: At Large Reps, Reps for Districts 2, 4 and 6, and Board Chair

✓ **AND MORE!**

**FOR MORE INFO:**

[midtownphillips@gmail.com](mailto:midtownphillips@gmail.com); 612.232.0018

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# VENTURA VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

FEBRUARY 2016



FEB. 10TH GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING @ 7:00

VOLUME 5 NUMBER 2

## Sadik Warfa elected as 2016 Chairperson of Ventura Village



Taking over the reins of office from Thor Adam, Sadik Warfa was unanimously elected to assume Ventura Village's chairmanship. Sadik serves as an accountant in his small firm located in the 24th Street Market two blocks away from Ventura Village's Phillips Community Center office. Sadie's background includes designing and developing the *Fagaaraha* series of Town Hall Meetings that are related to issues addressed by the Somali Diaspora in the United States and several other countries. He also met in Istanbul, Turkey with other Diaspora leaders to form the Global Somali Diaspora and a locally-focused way to address community development issues wherever Somalis have settled outside their homeland. His mission for 2016 is to further involve Somali with other groups and individuals to integrate community development goals that work for all residents in the neighborhood. Also elected to serve in executive positions within the neighborhood were Abdikadir Hassan as Vice-Chair, Thor Adam as Secretary and Ray Peterson continues to serve as Treasurer.

## Community Engagement Strategies must begin to break new ground!

Chairman Warfa recently called a special Community Engagement Committee meeting to gather ideas and input for the upcoming 2016 project year. His big challenge for this year is to gain greater involvement by Latino and American Indian community people into our neighborhood activities. It is his hope that more East Africans will participate in *pow wows* and in cultural activities hosted by Latinos, especially with Waite House being in the same building as Ventura Village's office. Waite House already has programs directed toward job training and food security that are rarely accessed by East Africans despite the fact that young people already speak English. Mutual efforts at outreach are needed! The silos that cultural groups often maintain to remain *culturally-comfortable* need to be set aside if there will be *additional* social progress in our neighborhood. Perhaps one of the best ways to "break the ice" would be to schedule soccer and volleyball *challenge* matches: fun games and activities that encourage friendly competition. Of course, there's also the bocce ball games each Saturday in the Phillips Community Center dining room. And summer biking and kayaking! Special meeting attendees readily acknowledged that they themselves *rarely step outside their own cultural group* to involve others or actively seek out ways to do a greater level of mingling. For several years, the idea of teaching languages is another good start to engage people outside a cultural community to come visit and learn a bit more and to share some of one's own cultural at the same time. When the idea of Neighborhood Navigators was first proposed, it was to enable those trying to learn where the resources in this community lie and who are the connecting folks

who are pivotal in bringing people together. That idea can be revived with a series of cultural meet-ups designed to trade knowledge, skills and access with our neighbors. I know how to cook some cool things; I can show you how to take good pictures and how to do healthy water exercises. Now can you take me to a mosque or church and show me how *your* faith works? I can then show you mine!

On top of these ideas on how to personalize our engagement to build new friendships and try out new activities, the Community Engagement Committee also outlines several activities for 2016 considered as "unfinished business."

- Sponsor a women-only Domestic Violence workshop;
- Sponsor a Crime & Safety Workshop targeted to East Africans, especially elders in high-rises.
- Co-sponsor soccer tournaments for boys and girls of varying ages;
- Continue work on the Phillips Community Back Yard project and a new community venue;
- Conduct a door-to-door outreach to neighbors in Ventura Village; recruit for participation of activities and neighborhood membership.
- Organize a community advisory committed for the newly-constructed swimming pool;
- Sponsor and conduct casual learning classes for learning basic Somali and Spanish languages;
- Support more fitness and wellness programs to serve adults, elders and families.
- Sponsor monthly picnics in Peavey Park to bring together families of different cultures. Include a few easy to learn games.

Many of these were part of the Neighborhood Priority Plan that was just finalized by the City's NCR program. It's time now to implement them!

— Robert Albee

## Addressing Islamophobia draws a small group for deep discussion

A mixed group of East African, American Indian and white people gathered on Martin Luther King Jr. Day to listen to one another share thoughts and concerns related to recent political posturing related to banning Muslims from entering the United States or restricting their interactions with others. Abla Elmi presented her photos of children and youth entitled, "If my voice was heard..." compiled in Somalia and Minnesota, which remain on display at the Phillips Community Center Dining Room until February 10th.



### NEXT VENTURA VILLAGE MONTHLY MEETINGS:

FEBRUARY 25TH: HOUSING & LAND COMMITTEE: 5:30 PM  
FEBRUARY 25TH: CRIME & SAFETY COMMITTEE: 6:30 PM  
MARCH 1ST: WELLNESS, GARDENING & GREENING: 6:30 PM  
MARCH 2ND: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE: 6:00 PM  
FEBRUARY 10TH: BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: 6:00 PM  
FEBRUARY 10TH: GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: 7:00 PM

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## "Chi Raq": Fails! Should have succeeded



HOWARD MCQUITTER II  
**Movie Corner**  
 Howardsmoviecorner.com

HowardMcQuitterii@yahoo.com

BY HOWARD MCQUITTER II

★★★

On the one hand, Spike Lee puts



a spotlight on the serious problem in Black America: staggering murders among African Americans, particularly the young, mainly with young black males being both perpetrator

and victim the bulk of the time. On the other hand, "Chi Raq," the title of his most recent film, too often swings wildly into farce. Lee's film is too schizophrenic to be a good movie which obscures what could have been good maybe if he had stuck to keeping "Chi Raq" a drama.

Samuel L. Jackson's role as Dolmedes, the "comic" relief, is wasted in farce appearing periodically in the movie at times when the movie should have taken its seriousness in those areas that desperately requires it. Jackson, impeccably dressed in various colored three-piece suits, near the beginning of the movie, in rather sardonic tone, tells the audience: "Welcome to 'Chi Raq', land of pain, misery, and strife!"

Lee's principle actress Teyonah Parris ("Dear White People") plays Lysistrata, the name is from an ancient Greek writer Aristophanes in 411 B.C. who performed his comedy when she convinced the women of Greece to withhold sex from the men until they ended the Peloponnesian War. Fast forward to Chicago, circa 2015, Lysistrata, the girlfriend to Spartan gang leader Chi Raq (Nick Cannon), tired of all the killings, especially when Irene's (Jennifer Hudson) young daughter is killed in an exchange of gunfire between the Spartan gang and the Trojan gang decides to take matters in her own hands. She gathers as many women on the Southside of Chicago as possible forming an informal alliance to withhold all sex from husbands, boyfriends and male associates. The story in itself at this point (and unfortunately through the whole movie) mordant, unrealistic, and patently unfair to the majority of black men who are not involved in the mayhem (and many are fed up and have tried to curtail the nonsense around them). Wesley Snipes plays

Cyclops, leader of the Trojans' gang. Snipes' character as a gang leader is frankly unconvincing, if not buffoonery, not unlike Jackson's character.

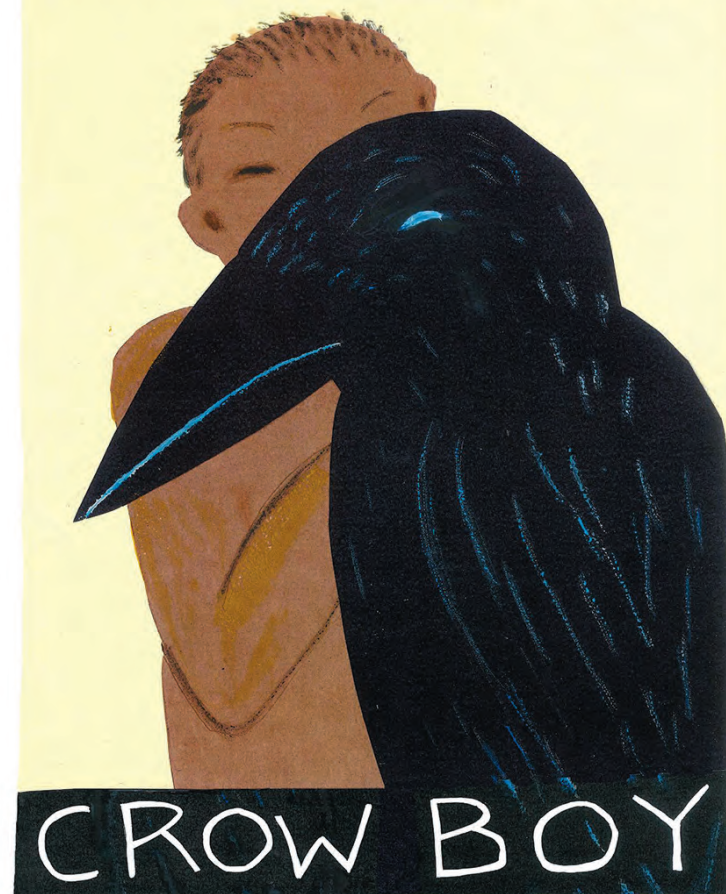
One of the best performances (there were not many) goes to John Cusack, plays a white Catholic priest, Father Mike Corridan, inspired by the real priest, Father Micheal Pfleger, a long-time activist priest in the Southside and Westside of Chicago. His fiery sermon at St. Sabina at the funeral of Irene's daughter is quite stirring. I felt my eyes beginning to well-up during his convincing homily. Another strong performance goes

to Angela Bassett's character Miss Helen, an old school woman full of wisdom and experience. (Bassett's character is similar to the male counterpart Laurence Fishburne's character Furious Styles in the 1991 movie "Boyz n 'the Hood"; Bassett is in that movie, too.)

Spike Lee's "Chi Raq" I looked forward to if for no other reason because it's been years since he has had a good movie. For the record, this movie fails when it should have succeeded. He creates a hackneyed piece of work again. Running time: 118 minutes.

IN THE HEART OF THE BEAST  
 PUPPET AND MASK THEATRE

THE STORY OF



CROW BOY

FEBRUARY 18-28, 2016

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## You May Blame Me

Vikings vs. Seahawks...

I've been a Vikings fan from day one, as I am Minnesota born (1950) and relate with co-workers whose spirits are bound to the team's success. No, I do not endorse the "ultra-left" opinion that we should support the Green Bay Packers, merely because their organization does not conform with the NFL ruling class elite. After all, come the revolution, the whole of professional sports will be socialized, i.e., owned by the whole people.

So...okay, he missed!

Hooray for the school children who have embraced Blair Walsh. Evidently, the historically atrophied portion of brain associated with empathy and compassion is on the mend. Possibly, we have a come-back in the making.

So, rejoice!

On the other hand, there were many hate filled tweets from spoiled adults. Should we not consider our collective responsibility for the errant kick? As I recall the critical sequence, admittedly my mind was anxiously flashing forward to the ensuing kick-off and the ultimate hail-Mary. I suggest we were all guilty of a big-time failure to focus the power of prayer on the task then at hand.

Note: Brain waves are a material force.

Similarly, in the arena of presi-



PETER MOLENAAR

### Raise Your Voice

dential politics, let's not kick the ball wide-left. Bernie Sanders does not pose a great leap forward for us masses, but he does pose an important giant step. Focus and then caucus under his name, please.

Meanwhile, feel free to blame me if that helps.

**Burma-Shave**  
see page 7

their favorites; the six jingles with the largest number of checks were picked to be used on the signs. First prize was \$1000. The next five prizes were \$100 each. Four entries received \$25 and several won \$5. Fifty people were awarded \$2. The categories included: selling copy, Burma Bomb, humor, economy, tough beards and tender skins, substitutes, and safe driving.

A simpler operation could never be imagined, especially today in our world of conglomerates. Even the silk-screening for the signs was processed in the basement. Needless to say, the owners in their Lincoln Continentals and Cadillacs, left work daily at 4:30 p.m. Holidays not only included the usual Thanksgiving, Christmas and 4th of July, but the offices also closed for obscure celebrations such as the Boxer Rebellion, James J. Hill Day and the Bicycle Bicentennial.

My job was easy at first. Two or three times a week I'd bring home the contest mail from the office and would read the letters in the evening when I had nothing else to do. Maybe two hundred would arrive each week. Fidelia warned me that most of the jingles were delivered just after the postmarked deadline of April 1. About 75% of the verses seemed to be about Elvis Presley and Rock and Roll. After a time these were automatically relegated to the rejection box. Clever jingles stood out like golden nuggets. I loved the visual effects of this verse: "Ten thousand penguins - Jumped off a cliff - A bearded archeologist - Scared them stiff." Burma Shave. Not one executive checked it.

Occasionally, a postcard would inadvertently appear in the contest mail. Often some farmer would write, who had contracted with the company to maintain the signs on his property for \$1 a year. "Your jingles blew down in the North

40 - you better come and get 'em," the card would read. Signed, Joshua Black, from Big Blow, Alabama.

As the weeks passed, more and more entries arrived. Husband Gerry and I could easily read 1000 per evening. Our kids loved to play with the paper clips that were used with the Burma Shave qualifier labels. Soon our house was festooned with clips from the fireplace to the bathroom.

One day I had a great idea. "Why don't we write some jingles with Kenny Morgan's name and address. I can put them on the master list," was my suggestion. Our friends, Ken and Jan were also journalism grads. We would spend Sundays thinking up verses. All in all, I sneaked nine of our jingles into the master sheet. This was my favorite: "A matador's beard - Such a terrible sight - The bull lay down - and died of fright." Ultimately, cheating never pays. Of the nine verses submitted, only the matador was checked - and just once. We didn't even rate a \$2 prize.

Finally, it was April First, and a deluge of 28,000 envelopes arrived. We were overwhelmed. One lady enclosed 76 entries in her envelope with the same mysterious theme for each entry, "All that glitters is not gold." All were rejected on the grounds of incomprehension. Her attempts were in some kind of free verse. Maybe it was a harbinger of things to come. A three-foot-tall cardboard tower wrapped in silver paper hid a jingle about Elvis, of

course. A beautiful Lady Baltimore cake inside a tin box was decorated with a porno poem. The verse escapes me at the moment - something about Willie. The best contestants often were on the master sheet five or six times with good jingles in several categories. Probably, they were professional applicants who also won Burma Shave contests in previous years. Some did win multiple prizes. The \$1000 went to a woman from Dallas, Texas for: "The draftee tried a tube - and purred - well whaddya know - I've been defurred. Burma Shave." Two of the \$100 winners wrote: "Men with whiskers - Neath their noses - Have to kiss - Like Eskimos. And "Drinking drivers - Nothing worse - They put the quart - Before the hearse."

The contest was over, the prizes had been awarded, now the worst was about to happen. As part of the job, I had agreed to mail each applicant an acknowledgment postcard. It meant typing 30,000 names and addresses on my broken-down L.C. Smith portable typewriter. (Computers with scanners hadn't been invented yet.) Since so many persons had more than one entry, I tried to weed them out by sorting names according to states. Soon, the floor in every corner of the house was covered with stacks of teetering address piles. Our small rambler had only six rooms - there were 48 states at the time. Even the bathtub was put to use for the state of Nevada. Unfortunately, a bunch of retired trailer owners had nothing else to do but enter contests. The piles in the tub reached the height of the shower-head before falling into the toilet.

Finally, I started to type. But after finishing several hundred addresses, within an hour my wrist would hurt. After all, I was not a professional typist and didn't even own a desk. Obviously, carpal tunnel syndrome was the unknown disease. The typing was abandoned. "Perhaps nobody will notice," I convinced myself. Within a week, Allen O'Dell, the president, called me. "Sarah," he said, "we've been getting complaints from all over the country about postcards that weren't delivered."

I knew I had to tell the truth or I'd be investigated for falsely incriminating the U.S. Postal Service. So I openly admitted being too far behind to catch up. At that, Mr. O'Dell said, "You're fired!" What a relief! At least I was paid \$600 for the three months work, and even better we could finally take baths again. (The five office secretaries spent three weeks working at a steady pace to finish the addresses.)

About two years later, the Burma Shave Company was sold to Phillip Morris. It was the end of an era, when two-lane highways and slow speed limits made it easy for joyriders to read the roadside jingles. Maybe, the advent of super highways put Burma Shave out of business, or maybe those cute red signs were too corny for an increasingly jaded population. Whatever the reason, you can be sure I would happily jump at the chance once more to judge a zany verse like: "Time to kiss - Bride grew pale - His whiskers caught - Upon her veil." Burma Shave.

DAVE'S DUMPSTER — A CARTOON WITH A BLACK BORDER —







# BACKYARD INITIATIVE BACK PAGE



BYI AREA

## What is the Backyard Initiative?



### Our work grows out of the BYI Definition of Health

Health is a state of physical, mental, social, and spiritual well-being. It is not only the absence of infirmity and disease.

Health is the state of balance, harmony, and connectedness within and between many systems – the body, the family, the community, the environment, and culture. It cannot be seen only in an individual context.

Health is an active state of being; people must be active participants to be healthy. It cannot be achieved by being passive.



This powerful definition provides the frame around the vision for the BYI work.

The 3 original themes from 2009 evolved into four (4) objectives (see below) which guide the implementation of the vision. Designing and performing activi-

ties that align with these objectives is the work of Community Health Action Teams or CHATS, BYI Commission on Health and the Backyard Initiative as a whole. Strengthening this alignment will be the essential work of the BYI in 2016.

### The 2009 BYI Themes from the Assessment Process evolved into these objectives:

**SOCIAL COHESION:** *The sense of community and belonging that people have. People feel they live in a place where people trust and respect each other and have a sense of responsibility to take care of each other.*

**SOCIAL SUPPORT:** *The support that a person receives from and gives to the people around them, including emotional and spiritual support, help with daily needs and crises, and the sharing of advice, information, and feedback.*

**HEALTH EDUCATION:** *The degree to which individuals have the capacity to obtain, process, and understand basic information and services needed to make appropriate decisions regarding their health. This includes information about what is essential to health (the importance of the family, community, spirituality, the environment, culture, food, sleep, and movement) as well as the medical information needed to address a specific health condition.*

**HEALTH EMPOWERMENT:** *People take responsibility for their health; they are active participants in their self-care, and have the knowledge, skill and confidence to manage their health and health care and collaborate with health practitioners.*

**VISIT the BYI Resource Center At the Midtown Global Market to learn more about the Backyard Initiative or call 612-353-6211**

BY SUSAN GUST, COMMUNICATIONS CHAT  
*Editorial Note by BYI Communications CHAT Leader, Susan Gust:*

*I recently had a conversation with some community workers who work in the Phillips Community who said: “I have heard about the “Backyard Initiative” and I know it is covered on the back page of The Alley Newspaper but I don’t know what the Backyard Initiative is or why it exists.” The following was my answer...*

#### The History of the Backyard Initiative:

This initiative began in 2008. There is long and rich context to this story that can’t be conveyed in a few, brief paragraphs. The short version-Allina Health wanted to launch an initiative to improve the health of residents “in their backyard”. Allina Health was willing to put some dollars behind this initiative. Long-term residents and nonprofit organizations responded in various ways: A few organizations began lobbying, even competing to be contracted to “represent and serve the needs of the community”. Other resident activists were suspect of Allina’s motives for “improving the community and in whose vision?” Still others were insulted to have Allina consider this as “their backyard”. Instead, we considered Allina to be in our backyard!

It became apparent to some community leaders that we needed to try to come together in a con-

versation about this initiative or it would just become another time that we would get stuck in the mode of “fussing with each other” while those with more perceived or real power made decisions on our behalf. Some of us wished this conversation to be carefully convened. With some hesitation in the beginning, the Cultural Wellness Center stepped in to help us hold and document this important conversation.

The Cultural Wellness Center (CWC) has a long history of engaging community residents to improve health through self-study, surfacing and producing knowledge, cross-cultural knowledge exchange, and relationship building. Early in the process, the CWC developed an Assessment Team to conduct an “assessment process” to create a picture of the current state of health and well-being of the residents in the Backyard, engage a broad network of residents in the process, and inform and plan the next steps for The Backyard Initiative. The Assessment Team included community residents, staff from Allina, the CWC, and Wilder Research. Through 21 Listening Circles and 677 face-to-face, walk-around interviews, three themes began to emerge:

- **The Power of Interconnectedness**
  - **The Power of Relationships**
  - **The Power of Knowledge and Creativity**
- Who is part of the Backyard

Initiative and where is it?

The Backyard Initiative (BYI) is a dynamic partnership between the residents of seven geographic neighborhoods, Allina Health and the Cultural Wellness Center. East Phillips, Midtown Phillips, West Phillips, Ventura Village, Central, Powderhorn Park and Corcoran are the seven geographic neighborhoods involved in this initiative.

#### What does the Backyard Initiative “DO”?:

The Backyard Initiative lifts up efforts to strengthen community health by supporting residents to draw upon their own knowledge, skills, and cultural values to care for themselves, their families, and their neighbors.

Research shows that social conditions— including isolation and a lack of social support – have a profound impact on our health. By coalescing the wisdom and experience of residents with the expertise and resources of health care institutions, The Backyard Initiative is exploring a new dimension to a health care system that will focus on promoting health as defined by the community. Thus, the first important step was to create a Definition of Health. (see above).

**Phillips Neighborhood Clinic**  
2742 15th Avenue South - Minneapolis, MN 55407  
[www.PhillipsNeighborhoodClinic.com](http://www.PhillipsNeighborhoodClinic.com)  
612-724-1690

## FEBRUARY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Clinic open 6-9pm	2	3	4 Clinic open 6-9pm	5	6
7	8 Clinic open 6-9pm	9	10	11 Clinic open 6-9pm	12	13
14	15 Clinic open 6-9pm	16	17	18 Clinic open 6-9pm MOVE N' EAT fitness class	19	20
21	22 Clinic open 6-9pm	23	24	25 Clinic open 6-9pm Foot Care Night Tax Law Night	26	27
28	29 Clinic open 6-9pm					
<small>The Phillips Neighborhood Clinic (PNC) is a free clinic operated by University of Minnesota health professional students. All students are supervised by licensed clinicians. No appointments or insurance necessary! Spanish Interpreters are available at all times. For a complete description of our specialty nights, please visit our website! <a href="http://www.PhillipsNeighborhoodClinic.com">www.PhillipsNeighborhoodClinic.com</a> * Please enter from the side door on the east side of the building (along 15th Ave S)</small>						

