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NEWSPAPER

NEWS & VIEWS OF PHILLIPS SINCE 1976
 APRIL 2012 • VOLUME 37, NUMBER 4

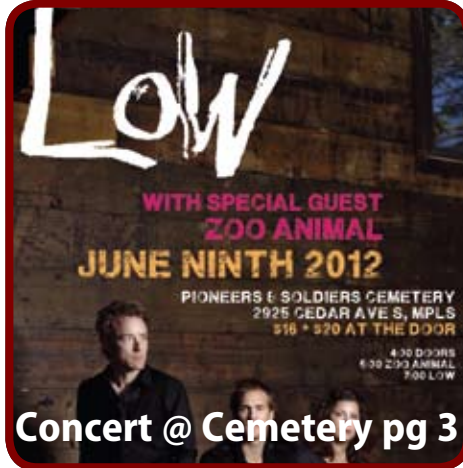
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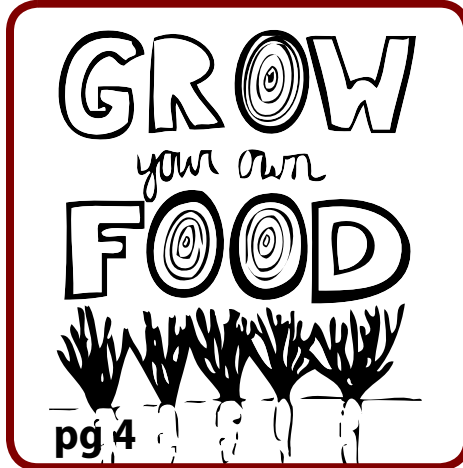
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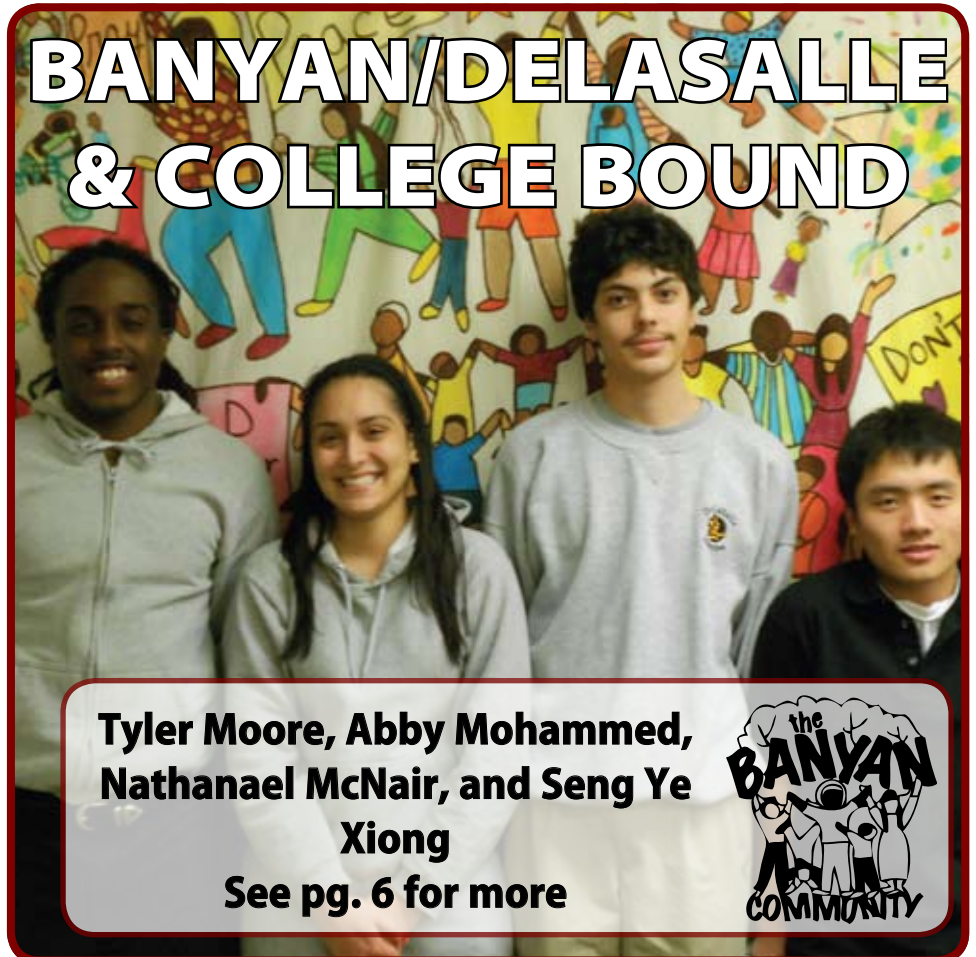
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CREATING MAYDAY

In the Heart of the Beast Theatre's Avalon in April becomes transformed into a giant studio where staff artists and volunteers create the MayDay Parade and Festival

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BANYAN/DELASALLE & COLLEGE BOUND

Tyler Moore, Abby Mohammed,
 Nathanael McNair, and Seng Ye
 Xiong
 See pg. 6 for more



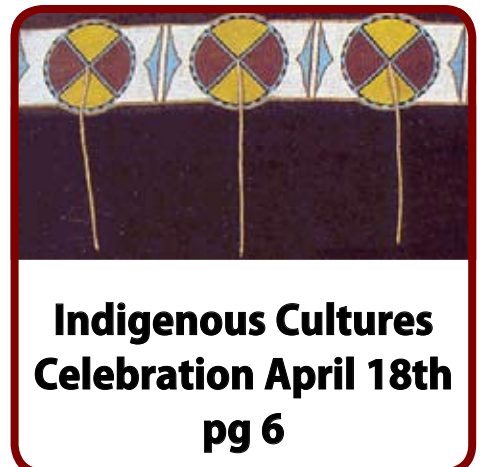
Na-way-ee/Center School @
 Running Wolf Fitness pg 3



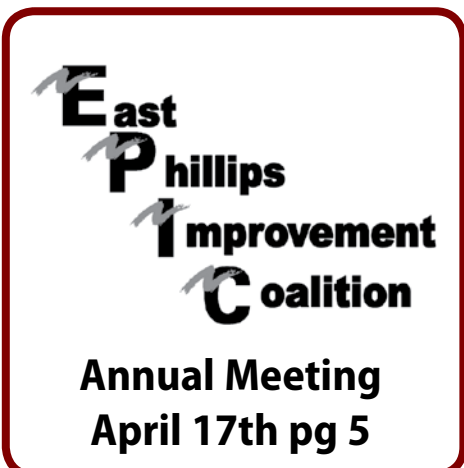
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 in Minneapolis pg 4



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 Celebration April 18th
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Annual Meeting
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REGISTER
 for the Greenway
 Glow



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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)

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Bulk Delivery: Lyle James Delivery 250 Apartments, Businesses, Places of Worship, and Organizations; this issue is having volunteers delivering many blocks of these neighborhoods Ventura Village, Phillips West, Midtown Phillips, East Phillips, Central, Powderhorn Park, and Corcoran; and the usual spots in Longfellow, Cooper, Cedar-Riverside, Elliott Park, Whittier, and Lyndale.

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May Alley
Deadline:
April 15

The Alley Newspaper
is a Member of

Give. And light a fire under inequality.
www.changeisbetter.com
651-647-0440

April Programs at the Franklin Library

BY ERIN THOMASSON

Children’s Programs

Read/Book, See/Movie

F Ap 6 3:30 p.m.

Grades 3-6. Many books become movies! Watch at library and chat about differences. Call for Titles.

Ku hadalka afka-hooyo: Waa dariiqa ugu haboon ee iskuulka loogu diyaar garoobo/Spoken Culture: Pathway to School Readiness

Sa. Ap 14 1–4 p.m.

PreK. Fasalka barbaarinta caruurta ka hor. Sidee ayaad ugu diyaarin kartaa cunugaaga in uu horumar ka gaaro fasalka barbaarinta carruurta yar-yar? Baro muhiimada ay leedahay in aad la wadaagto sheekooyin dhaqameedka iyo buugta, adiga oo afka-hooyo ugu sheekaynaya cunugaaga. Prepare your child for kindergarten success? Learn value of sharing your culture’s folktales with storytelling & books. _

Celebrate Spring

F Ap 27 4–5 p.m. K-grade 4.

Fun activities, crafts & stories.

Family Storytime

W 10:30–11 a.m.

Age 2 & up. Share books, stories, rhymes, music, and movement.

Teen Programs

Movies for Teens

Sa Ap 7 3 p.m. Grades 6-12.

Titles chosen by teens. Comfy couches & big-screen cinema feeling.

Young Achievers

Th thru May 31 4–7 p.m.

Grades 6-12. Want Community involvement? Concerned about health & lifestyle? Poetry, arts, games and more!

4-H Mentoring Club

Tu thru Ap 10 6–8 p.m. and

Ap 17–May 29 5–7 p.m.

Grades 6-12. Learn urban ecology, health and nutrition, sustainable ag. & related careers in food science. Maintain a community garden & visit local food shops.

Game On! Gaming Tuesdays

Tu Ap 17–May 29, 4–5 p.m.

Grades 6-12. Play PS2 or Wii games! Bring a friend, favorite board or card game, or play ours!

Chess Club

W thru May 30, 4–6 p.m.

Grades 6-12. Have fun learning chess, improving your game and meeting chess fans. Walk-ins welcome.

Artitude: Community Art and Activism

W thru Ap 11, 4–6 p.m.

Register Online or call 612-543-6925. Grades 7-12. Art = powerful tool for awareness & changes in social thinking: mail art & mini-zines. 6-part workshop: the history of art and activism.

Down Time

Sa Ap 14, 21 & 28, 2–6 p.m.

Grades 6-12. Looking for a quiet and comfortable space? “Down time” on the topic of the week or use our computers, board games.

Adult Programs

Seniors Play-Reading Group

F Ap 13, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Stimulating morning of reading & discussion of plays of our heritage.

Nonfiction Book Discussions for



Franklin
Community Library
1314 E. Franklin Avenue
New #: 952-847-2925
www.mplib.org
Tues & Thurs: 12 - 8 pm
Wed, Fri & Sat:
10 am – 6 pm
Complete program
calendar, visit, call, or
www.hclib.org and news
at www.hclib.org/pub/
info/newsroom/

Elder Learners

F Ap 13, 1–3 p.m. Stimulating

discussion of nonfiction books. For additional information, call the library, 612-543-5475.

Memoir Writing Group

Th Ap 19, 1–3 p.m. Want a

record of your personal history? Bring what you have & get helpful comments.

Phillips Technology Center

Register online: www.hclib.org

or call 612.543.6925

Computer Skills Workshop

Th Ap 12 & 19, noon–2 p.m.

Projects and practice skills: mouse, keyboarding, using email & Microsoft Office with instructors.

Email: Intermediate

Th Ap 12 6–8 p.m. Learn to use

folders, view & attach files to an email and set up an email address book with a Yahoo! account.

Microsoft Word: Basics

F Ap 13 10 a.m. – noon. Learn

to use the ribbon, enter and delete text, basic formatting, cut, copy and paste; & when to use ‘save’ & ‘save as.’

Microsoft PowerPoint: Basics

F Ap 20 10 a.m. – noon

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

Cloud Computing: Microsoft

Office Web Apps and Google

Docs. F Ap 20 1–3 p.m.

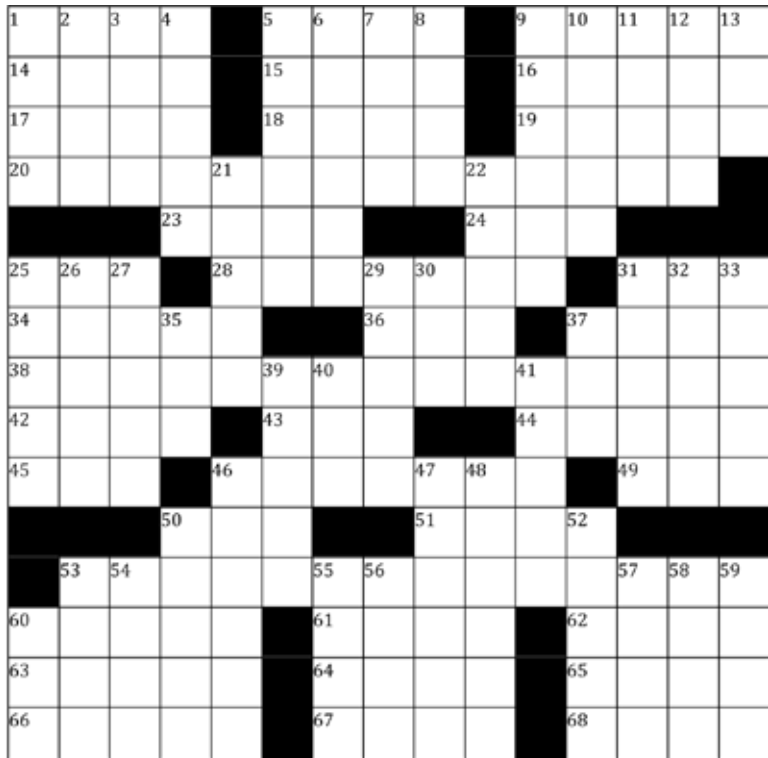
Learn about Google Docs & Microsoft Web Apps, free Web-based applications for creating documents, spreadsheets, & more. (Internet & email familiarity required)

Franklin Learning Center: 952-847-2934

Free, one-to-one tutoring for adults who are learning English & math, preparing for the GED & citizenship exams, & gaining life skills. Community volunteers needed, too! No experience necessary; we provide training & materials. Contact us at 952-847-2934.

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Even hipper, you can follow us on Twitter:
@alleynewspaper

Alley Crosswords by Samantha “Sami” Pfeffer



This puzzle was completed with the help of my new apprentice cruciverbalist, Jack McGavick!

Across:

- Motorist’s dilemma
- Indian Strait
- Degrade
- Singer Home
- Belarusian Midfielder
- Caramel delights?
- Horse power?
- Blah, blah, blah eg.
- Seward and the Wedge
- *20. Titanic, Olympic, Britannic backers
- Make a change
- The loneliest number
- Motorist’s solution
- *28. The Unsinkable’s sinker
- The Bureau
- Warble
- Falsify
- Highest paid baseball player
- *38. Titanic’s only trip
- RIP Ms. James
- Blackalicious debut
- Golf do-over
- One of seven
- *46. RMS Architect
- DOS device driver
- Bemidji to Ely
- High school req.
- *53. Staircase at the bottom of the sea
- Short poem
- Medieval game
- Light bulb?
- Son of Ongentheow
- Ye ____ Shoppe
- Not far
- Hip way to listen
- Hardy heroine
- Wildebeests

Down:

- Ebb partner
- Jacob’s wife
- Against
- Sample
- Cathartic medicine
- “Thanks ____ ” (Barista tip jargon)
- Swan victim
- Combat utensil
- Like rainbows
- Davy Crockett and Daniel ____
- Sunburn reliever
- Soak up, as with bread
- Comes after arr
- Minneapolis suburb
- Danube crossing
- ____ and pains
- Greek notion of excellence
- Large artery
- Make dim
- German article
- Bro homes
- One over par
- 62-across for Pierre and Yves
- Großmutter, informally
- Sailor’s yes
- Enclosed
- Completed
- Canadian Olympic figure skater
- Yearly
- Modern thank you notes
- Laundry load
- Pitcher Mike Moore’s hometown
- Rhymesayer’s pastime
- Lawal or Fawehinmi
- Nothing for Pierre and Yves
- “I ____ the sheriff...”
- It might be tall
- Seaport city of Yemen
- Junior linebacker?
- Corn units
- Car pool perk

March Answers

B	R	A	G	G		D	O	N	E		A	L	U	F
R	A	D	I	O		A	V	I	D		S	I	L	L
E	R	I	B	A		T	E	L	E		P	H	O	N
R	E	V	O	L	V	E	R		N	I	L	L	A	S
		E	L	I	A	S		P	I	N	E	A	S	H
S	Y	S	T	E	M		B	E	C	K	E			
N	O	U	S		P	E	R	I		E	N	C	K	E
A	R	I		A	S	P	I	R	I	N		O	A	K
P	E	T	I	T		C	E	E	D		S	T	Y	E
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L	E	G	A	T	E	S		C	H	A	C	O		
A	T	O	M	I	C		D	O	O	R	K	N	O	B
S	H	O	E	L	A	C	E	S		B	A	G	N	A
E	N	D	S		P	O	E	T		I	G	I	R	L
R	O	S	S		S	O	M	A		E	E	N	I	E

LOW after ZOO ANIMAL on TOMBSTONE STAGE June 9th

fed by Hola Arepa and Dandelion Kitchen

Zoo Animal performing at 5:30 p.m. and Low taking the stage at 7:00 p.m. Hola Arepa and Dandelion Kitchen will sell some great food during the concert. This is an alcohol-free, family-friendly event. In addition to the music, there will be fun activities for kids and If you missed last year’s benefit concert at Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery (and even if you didn’t—maybe especially if you didn’t), you’ll have another chance to hear some great music in one of Minneapolis’s most unusual and interesting concert venues. On Saturday, June 9th, Indie band Low, with special guest Zoo Animal, will headline the second annual benefit concert at Minneapolis’ Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery (2925 Cedar Avenue South).

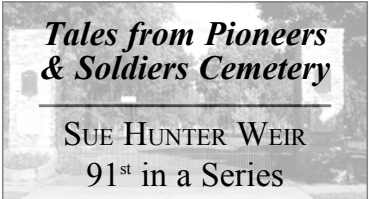
Low, one of the best-known indeed rock groups to come out of Minnesota formed in Duluth in 1993. The band consists of Alan Sparhawk, Mimie Parker, and Steve Garrington. Often labeled slowcore, their music has also been described as “hypnotic and entrancing” by nationally renowned music critic Jim Derogatis. Low’s performance will include songs from their most recent album, C’mon, which music critic Chris Riemenschneider calls “some of the prettiest, warmest music they have made together.”

Proceeds from the performance will help support our efforts to restore the historic steel and limestone pillar fence that serves as the

border of the cemetery along Lake Street and Cedar Avenue. Last year’s concert featured Jeremy Messersmith with Lucy Michelle and the Velvet Lapelles opening the show. It was spectacular in every way—a perfect day for perfect music. Nearly 1,500 people attended and over \$30,000 was raised from ticket sales and a grant from the American Express Partners in Preservation program, a partnership of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the American Express Foundation.

In 2008, the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota placed Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers on its “Ten Most Endangered” list in order to draw attention to the work that needs to be done in order to protect and preserve this unique place in our state and city’s history. We’ve been working hard to make the cemetery one of the Preservation Alliance’s success stories and have the cemetery removed from the Endangered List. Pioneers and Soldiers is the only cemetery in Minnesota listed as an individual landmark in the National Register of Historic Places and has also been designated a local landmark by the City of Minneapolis’ Heritage Preservation Commission, and it’s right here in the heart of the Phillips Community.

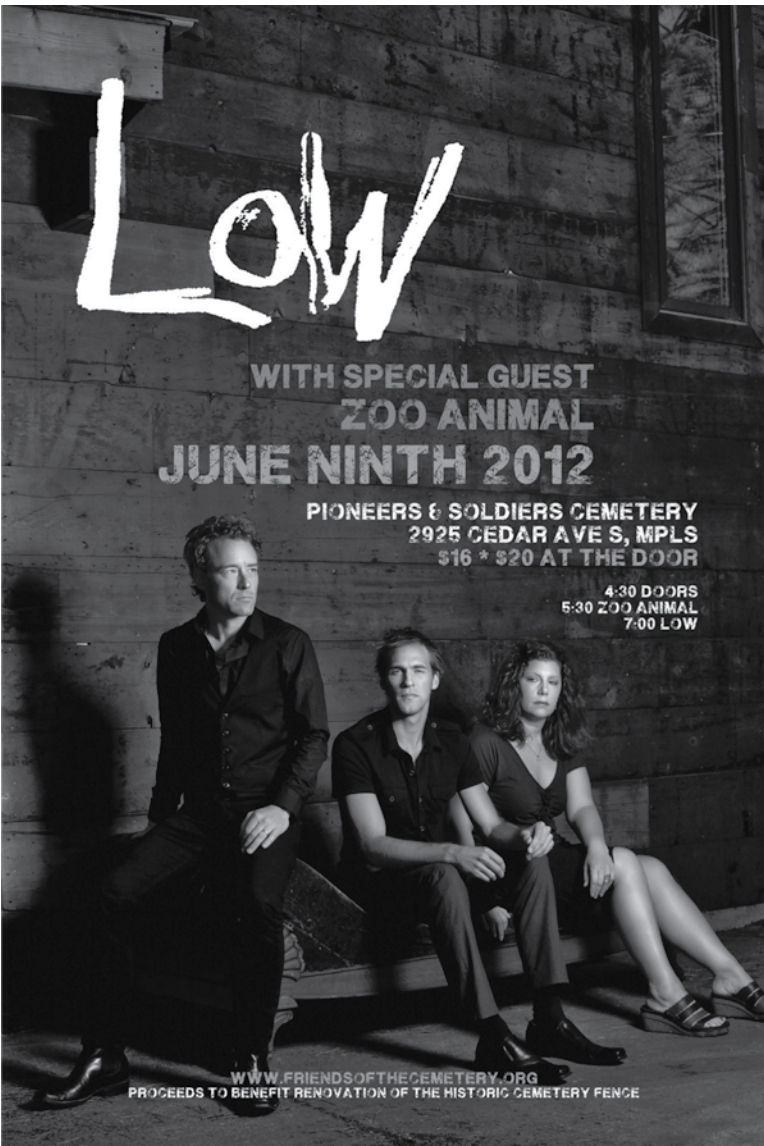
Our goal is to have 75 percent of the fence restoration project (50 of the 67 sections) completed by Spring 2013. Phase I and Phase II, which included the



cemetery gates and several sections of the fence, are completed. Phase III of the fence restoration project is about to begin and will restore 12 additional sections of the fence along Lake Street. In January 2012, Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery was awarded a Minnesota Historical and Cultural Program grant in the amount of \$150,000. The grant award will fund Phase IV, which is scheduled to start this fall and restore 22 additional sections along Lake Street and Cedar Avenue.

The recently restored gates will open at 4:30 p.m. on June 9th, with Zoo Animal performing at 5:30 p.m. and Low taking the stage at 7:00 p.m. Hola Arepa and Dandelion Kitchen will sell some great food during the concert. This is an alcohol-free, family-friendly event. In addition to the music, there will be fun activities for kids and adults. Bring blankets or lawn chairs to sit on.

Bike parking will be available within the cemetery. Free parking will be available at the Greenway Office Building, (2801 21st Avenue South) and the Community Education Services Building, (2225 East Lake Street) parking lots. On-street parking is also available. No parking will be available within the cemetery



Tickets are not required for children 12 years and under, however donations are accepted.

Tickets are on sale and can be purchased at Electric Fetus, Hymie’s Vintage Records, Treehouse Records, and online

at www.friendsofthecemetery.org. Tickets are \$16 in advance and \$20 at the show. Tickets are limited, so advanced purchase is advised.

Please join us for a great event in support of a great cause.

Insights of Running Wolf

BY CONNIE NORMAN, RUNNING WOLF MANAGER

This month from Running Wolf Fitness Center, we want to share our great collaboration with the Center School students who are currently coming 3 times weekly to Running Wolf.

Center School (Na-way-ee) school is located on the 2400 block of Bloomington Avenue; Center School has been educating Native American youth for 40 years. Na-way-ee means “The Center”. The Center School is one of only four alternative or charter schools focusing on Native American education. Of those four, they are the oldest and the only one located in Phillips neighborhood, the heart of the Native American Community. This year, Center School has enrolled about 50 young people in grades 7-12. Most of the youth come from the immediate Phillips neighborhood. Typically, students at Center School have encountered difficulties at public school. Many of them have dropped out or lost credits because of poor attendance. Center School provides a fresh start with small classes and a culturally focused curriculum and now we are excited that Running Wolf is a part of their program offerings to these students!

Joe Rice, The Center School Director, stated “Center School places a huge emphasis on the Physical, Mental, Spiritual and Emotional health of our students and Staff. We know that a healthy,

welcoming environment is essential not only for academic success, but also for health initiatives such as diabetes and pregnancy prevention, which are key components of our overall school program. Because of our collaboration with RWFC our students have access to a gym, fitness center and fitness trainer for the first time in our history. This is a huge benefit to our students, most of whom have rarely had such opportunities in their lives, providing them with the opportunity to exercise regularly in a structured environment and to develop healthy exercise and diet habits, thereby addressing the two modifiable risk factors for Diabetes. (Diet and lifestyle) The self discipline involved also leads to better decision making in other parts of their lives and can therefore impact their sexual behaviors/choices as well.”

Some comments from the students are:

- We really like Q (the trainer) he is awesome! (all students agree)
- “My arms are better more toned and muscular”-Jose Garcia
- “More toned and physically fit”- Vincent Skinaway
- “I got bigger muscles and I have a 6 pack now” Matthew Skinaway

Crystal Pelchat, Health teacher at Center school stated, “It’s great to see the changes in the students even when we are driving over to RWFC and on the way back. The energy of the students change, not just phys-

ically, but emotionally and their mentality is more positive. I see positive attitudes, students encouraging and helping one another and a real sense of community. Also several students have reported significant weight loss; they are tracking that back at Center School.”

Q-Equella Oliver (Trainer at Running Wolf) comments- “In January the students from Center School started coming to Running Wolf to begin a fitness program. When they first came, they seemed uncomfortable, not interested or motivated. But after a few times here at Running Wolf they have become excited to be at Running Wolf. They are happy and enthused to work out! Their attitude about fitness has become a positive one, to the point that when they arrive at Running Wolf, they start on their own with their programs. I love working with them and often call them-My kids from Center School.”

Currently, Center School has only funding for memberships for 8 students to attend at a time. So to attend they must sign up and must be current in their class work and attendance to come to Running Wolf to exercise, three times a week. It is our hope that there can be funding enough for all the students to attend and to encourage their families to join them at Running Wolf. They come 3 days a week for 1 hour and work with the personal trainer in the fitness area with the weight and cardio machines. Also once a week they have access to



A good reflection of Q-Equella Oliver mentoring Na-way-ee -Center School students in fitness.

a class called Functional strength. They also get nutrition information and encouragement from the Center School and Running Wolf staff. We have seen positive attitudes in these students. They are eager to come to Running Wolf and are also check-

ing online at school about healthy exercise programs on their own. This shows their motivation to be healthy.

For more information on Running Wolf Fitness Center-please call (612)872-2388!

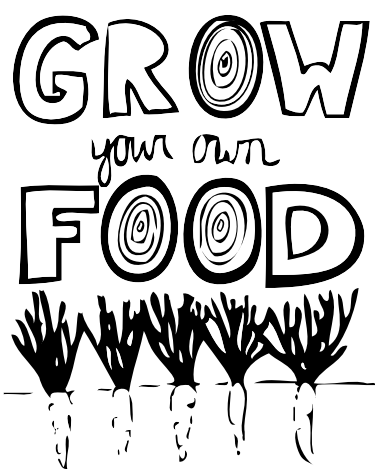


Upcoming Events: April 5th (Thursday) 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Phillips West Community Meeting! All are welcome! Agenda Items include; an update

from the Midtown Global Market, Minneapolis Police Update, Minneapolis City Council Update, Midtown Safety Center Annual Report & Construction Update from the American Swedish Institute. Free Pizza Dinner & Beverages Provided. Meeting will be held at Lutheran Social Service Center for Changing Lives on the 1st Floor in the Centrum Room (2400 Park Avenue). Free parking available in rear off Oakland Avenue.

NCAP Grows Gardening Potential in Phillips this Spring



BY DAVID BOEHNKE

Have you always wanted to have a way of getting cheaper, healthier vegetables? Or do you love to garden and need a way of doing so? While it can be hard to get access to healthy food in Phillips it is getting easier with a growing abundance of gardening opportunities, many of which are being organized by a new group called NCAP: Neighbors Connecting for Action in Phillips.

There are four opportunities particularly worth highlighting:

1. **Get a garden in a box**—Sign up to participate in this initiative where you, with other neighbors will get a raised bed garden, plants, and mutual support for growing food where you live. RSVP to attend the Meet and Greet Event for this exciting opportunity: Shea, 612-423-1351, shea.peoples@gmail.com. The event is on Saturday April 14th, 11am at the Phillips Community Center, 2323 11th Ave. S. This project is in partnership with the Growing the Backyard CHAT of the Backyard Initiative and fits into Gardening Matters' Cold Crop Distribution Event—meet other gardeners and get reduced price seeds and

seedlings.

2. **Help create a community garden**—Join your neighbors in creating new community gardens on 28th and Portland Ave or 26th St and 13th Ave. Contact ncap@riseup.net or call 612-466-0770 to get connected. We need your leadership in helping to design, work, and collectively benefit from these gardens. This is an amazing opportunity!
3. **Attend the 3rd Phillips Food Justice Table** on Monday April 2nd from 6:30-8:30pm at the Waite House, 2529 13th Ave S. This is our third meeting of people and organizations interested in food justice. Anyone is welcome, translation and childcare available on request to ncap@riseup.net, 612-466-0770.
4. **Come to NCAP's weekly food share**—every Sunday, 2pm at the Waite House, 2529 13th Ave S—we get extra food, people come and take it. Nothing goes to waste and everyone wins. Also, a great place to donate extra produce in the summer and fall!

NCAP, it is a grassroots volunteer run organization working on a number of issues that put neighbors first and focus on addressing race and class inequities: food access, community safety outside policing, youth issues, and responding to instances of neighborhood injustice.

That said, in a place as big, diverse, and wonderful as Phillips there are many more ways to get plugged into gardening. Consider getting in touch with Little Earth, Waite House, Hope Community, Gardening Matters, the Phillips Resource Hub and much much more!

Yard Waste Reusable or Compostable Container • Mandate Begins April 9th

On garbage day- week of April 9 yard waste for collection must be in reusable containers. paper bags or compostable plastic bags.

A four-week grace period will allow a transition for folks who have plastic leaf bags filled from last season. An educational/instruction tag will be left by collection crews during this four-week transition period.

After the week of April 30, yard waste in plastic bags will be left and tagged for resident repackaging.

Reusable containers, paper bags, and compostable plastic bags will reduce the amount of plastic being sent to local composting facilities.

- Screening out less plastic from the finished compost = lower costs and better quality of compost.
- Change complies with state law.

OPTIONS: All to be 33 gallons or less and less than 40 lbs.

1. Reusable container with sturdy handles.
2. Paper bags available at stores.
3. Compostable plastic bags: distinct from conventional lawn and garden plastic bags because they are usually clear or a translucent shade of green, pink or white. Available at stores.
4. Drop off yard waste at a compost facility and take the bag back home.

5. Compost yard waste at home & use the nutrient-rich compost for gardens and lawns.

Set reusable containers or bags of yard waste, bundles of brush next to garbage cart by 6 a.m. garbage pickup day. Branches and leaves must be tied with string or twine, bagged in a compostable bag or placed loose in a reusable container. Branches must be less than three inches each in diameter and less than three feet long. Bundles must weigh less than 40 pounds.

For questions about leaf and brush pickup, call 612-673-2917 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or visit www.minneapolismn.gov/solid-waste/yardwaste.

Raingarden Workshops

Experienced or Novice Gardeners: Eco-friendly, two-part workshops

Use native plants in your garden landscape

- Limit fertilizers and pesticides without compromising a beautiful yard
- Capture rainwater on site with rain gardens

- Redirect your downspouts
- Plan your garden. Location!
- Plan a garden with one-on-one assistance from designers and Master Gardeners.

Part A-The Basics of Raingardens
Part B-Plan Your Own Garden<

Waite Park Recreation Center
1810 34th Ave. NE, Minneapolis

A: Tues., April 17 6:30-8:30 PM

B: Tues., April 24 6:30-8:30 PM

Powderhorn Recreation Center
3400 15th Ave S, Minneapolis

A: Thurs., April 19 6:30-8:30 PM

B: Thurs., April 26 6:30-8:30 PM

Lynnhurst Recreation Center
1345 Minnehaha Pkwy. W., Mpls.

A: Wed., April 25 6:30-8:30 PM

B: Wed., May 9 6:30-8:30 PM

North Regional Library
1315 Lowry Ave N.

A: Sat., April 28 1:00-2:30 PM

B: Sat., April 28 2:30-4:00 PM

Longfellow Recreation Center
3435 36th Ave. S., Mpls

A: Sat., May 12 10:00-12:00 Noon

B: Sat., May 19 10:00-12:00 Noon

Nokomis Lutheran Church

5011 31st Avenue South, Mpls.

A: Thurs., June 7 6:30-8:30 PM

B: Thurs., June 21 6:30-8:30 PM

To register, www.metroblooms.org or call 651.698-1390.

Fee: \$10 per workshop.

Sponsored by the City of Mpls.

Participants are also eligible for a low-cost onsite consultation and raingarden design drawing. Metro Blooms has partnered with Metro communities in workshops since 2005, 5,000+ residents have attended workshops & over 2,000 raingardens have been installed.

BULLETIN! Cedar Food and Grill is about to OPEN again at 26th and Cedar after the Fire.

Seward Co-op
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EVERYONE WELCOME

- Fresh local produce and meats
- Deli with sandwiches, hot food, baked goods and family-size meals
- Classroom with kitchen
- Community seating area with free WiFi

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MINNEAPOLIS
M-F 6:30-6
SAT 7-5 • SUN 7:30-5
729-5627

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FAIR TRADE COFFEE

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Join us for Holy Week and Easter at St. Paul's
Easter Schedule: 8:00 AM Traditional
Worship in English
9:15 Easter Breakfast and Children's Program
11:00 AM Bilingual Easter Worship
2742 15th Ave South
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EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, APRIL 21
11 AM TO 3 PM

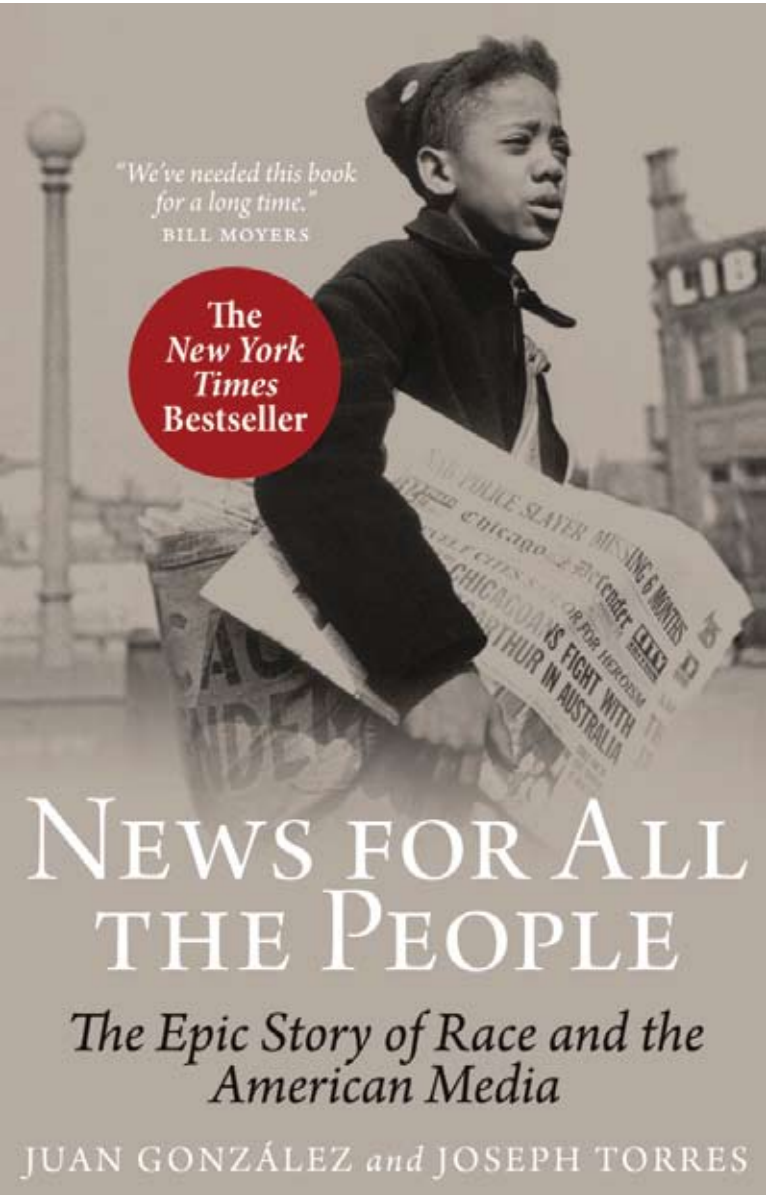


Lake Street & 10th Avenue S
MIDTOWNGLOBALMARKET.ORG

Hear Joseph Torres co-author of New York Times bestseller

News for All the People: The Epic Story of Race and the American Media Monday, April 2 Public invited 6 p.m. Reception / book signing Light refreshments 7 p.m. Remarks from Joseph Torres. Q&A Launch of Black Voices for Internet Freedom Minnesota at Waite House Phillips Community Center 2323 11th Ave. S., Minneapolis Questions? Call (612) 879-7571

Juan Gonzalez and Joseph Torres couldn't have timed the release of their new book, News for All the People, any better. As we watch major historical events unfolding around the world, we've had the opportunity to hear, see, and feel the voices and struggles of working class people from Libya to Oakland. And as we look at mainstream media's interpretation of these events versus what we are seeing on Youtube, Facebook, and Twitter – though there may at times be overlap, it's also clear that there is a fundamental divide over who controls the content of news and how it gets transmitted. News for All the People takes the reader on a sweeping yet thorough journey through the history of the American media. They show, through anecdotes, stats, and archival research, that race has not been a marginal issue to the American press, but instead has been a main theme that has shaped the national, ethnic, and racial narrative of the United States. And in fact, people of color have not sat on the sidelines as spectators despite what textbooks may tell us, but instead have been



involved in media in all of its forms from top to bottom, from the get go. Though the authors readily admit that this is not a “sound bite book”, it is a goldmine of information containing a secret history of both the heroes and villains in the fight for media justice. “Every time, the promises were made that the newest technology will liberate the people,” said Juan Gonzalez. “And yet each time those in control and those with the money, have stepped in to rewrite the rules, creating a new form of enslavement of the population.” Joe Torres

reminds that at this very moment the government is deciding the fate of net neutrality and broadband access for the masses. “Communities can win victories,” Joe said, “But we have to understand the losses and victories of the past.” Though many of us have more access and forms of media that allows our stories to be told than ever before, we have to make it known that we do not accept a history rewrite, news is truly for all the people, and our news and outlets for spreading the news must be protected



Creating MAYDAY Welcome to April at the AVALON

On May 6th the 38th Annual MayDay Parade's Puppets, Bands, Floats, Stiltwalkers, & More will appear 5 Blocks north of Lake Street travel along Bloomington Avenue across Lake Street and 5 Blocks south of Lake Street turning toward and around Powderhorn Lake to the cheering admiration of thousands of people. That spectacle will be the “frosting on the cake.” The MIRACLE of MayDay in Minneapolis Right on Lake Street at 1500 East Lake Is the gathering of hundreds of people of all ages and levels of expertise during April to design and shape this remarkable Celebration of Spring and new life. In the Heart of the Beast Theatre's Avalon in April transforms into a giant studio where staff artists and volunteers create the MayDay Parade and Festival. Help build the puppets for the Mayday Parade! Workshops are free and open to the public. Workshop Times: April 7-May 3, 2012 • Saturdays, 9-11am and 1-3 pm • Tuesdays & Thursdays, 7-9 pm

- How it Works
- An artist will introduce you to the parade theme by showing you the giant storyboard (a visual script).
 - You select a section of the parade to work on, find the artist in charge of that section, and set to work!
 - Artists will guide you.
 - You can either make your own creation which you can keep after the parade, or help with the larger parade floats.
 - Typically, you'll need 3 or 4 sessions to complete a project, but you can come to as many or as few as your schedule allows.
- Other Details
- Workshops are Free.
 - Donations graciously accepted, always welcome, and much needed.
 - Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult.
 - Wear “painting” clothes.
 - Bring recycled items (if you can): small plastic tubs with lids, brown paper bags, newspapers, fabric, sheets, latex paint, bamboo, scissors.
 - No reservations required. Just Come!

Free Citizenship Classes

3 of 100 possible citizenship test questions: • Who was the U.S. President during World War I? • How many amendments to the U.S. Constitution? • How many members in the House of Representatives ? (Answers below) FREE preparation for U.S. citizenship / naturalization exam International Education Center (IEC) for residents legal residency. All levels of English proficiency by a professional teacher with schedule options (morning, afternoon, or evening) 5 days a week. Classes at 2 Mpls. places: 2700 East Lake St (near the Lake St. Light rail Station) and 730 Hennepin Ave (in the heart of downtown). IEC offers classes with individualized and small group instruction to students for students with a short time to prepare before testing to learn more quickly than in a regular class, and helps students at lower English levels to get assistance with the English reading and writing portions of the exam. Test preparation is essential because applicants only get two chances, Free classes are funded by a Federal Gov't. grant to IEC and MN Literacy Council to help people with a greencard gain citizenship.

Contact: International Education Center. 612-871-6350. shall@iec-minnesota.org *Questions Answers: Woodrow Wilson, 27 amendments, and 435. MINNESOTA Literacy COUNCIL Sharing the Power of Learning

EAST PHILLIPS IMPROVEMENT COALITION 13th ANNUAL MEETING of EPIC -- Your Neighborhood Action Group - Saturday, April 30th, 2012 Social gathering time: 9:30 am Meeting begins at 10:00 am At: The New East Phillips Park Cultural & Community Center 2307 17th Ave. S. Annual Board Elections Music, Good Food Cool Door Prizes PLEASE COME AND MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS Call 612-280-8418 -for more details

Where Brahmaputra meets the Mississippi FUNDRAISING EVENT: April 7 2012 7-9 PM For empowering underprivileged women and children in India. • Doors open 6 PM • Silent Auction & Delicious International food 6-7 PM (additional cost) • Cultural Program 7-9 PM • Confluence of mystical East with vibrant West • Indian Classical and Modern Dance • North American Music and Dance Richfield Middle School 7461 Oliver Av. So. Richfield, MN 55423 Tickets: \$13. Adv/ \$15. at door gogettergirl@gmail.com 763-458-8661 bijanankita@gmail.com 651-272-5598 mkatapy@comcast.net 651-458-8329 http://rgvnindia.org http://spadeindia.org



We Need To Talk about Kevin



We Need To Talk about Kevin

We Need To Talk about Kevin
★★★★★

Drama/Suspense/Mystery
Oscilloscope Pictures

Cast: Tilda Swinton (Eva), John C. Reilly (Franklin), Ezra Miller ((Teenage Kevin), Jasper Newell (Kevin at ages 6-8), Rock Duel (Kevin as a Toddler), Ashley Gerasimovich (Celia), Kenneth Franklin (Soweto), Ursula Parker (Lucy). (R) Running time: 112 minutes. Written by Lynne Ramsey, Rory Kinnear, Lionel Shriver. Director: Lynne Ramsey.

Tilda Swinton's character Eva's face is fraught with agony and dismay rarely letting a smile break the dark psychological remora with her taunting, sadist, warped son Kevin Ezra Miller), who it seems from birth to be an albatross on the proverbial back of Eva.

From the time Kevin is born he doesn't develop like a "normal" child. He seems unresponsive to Eva when she tries to teach him to talk or rolls a ball towards him and doesn't reciprocate. At a tender age, Kevin spurts out expletives (on human sexuality) stunning his already stressed mother. The bad seed--Kevin--knows how and when to torment Eva. As for the father, Franklin (John C. Reilly), an over doting father, Kevin has much more kinship with him than he does with his mother.

Lynne Ramsey's "Kevin" is gripping, frightening, psychologically mind-bending and with



HOWARD MCQUITTER II
Movie Corner
Howardsmoviecorner.com

HowardMcQuitterii@yahoo.com

a tour-de-force performance by Tilda Swinton. The rumors are correct: Swinton is robbed from being nominated as best actress for 2011. She should have been chosen over Rooney Mara in "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo".

Eva's life with Kevin is like living in a torture chamber, like living with a demon. Kevin plays mean games on his baby sister Lucy (Ursula Parker) too, such as stealing her hamster from its cage.

Franklin seems impervious to Kevin's psychotic behavior and his wife's near her wit's end. Rather than get psychological help for Kevin, Franklin appeases the dire situation by buying a new house which seems after several years is as barren as the emotional void in their household. Yet "Kevin" is not a horror film, although horrible things happen, the film is a sad and tragic story but as good as a movie gets in this genre.

Phillips Indigenous Cultures Community Celebration

At Waite House 2529 13th Ave. So.

Wed. April 18th 6-7:30 PM

Waite House Teen Programming's first Phillips Indigenous Cultures Community Celebration. A youth-led event intended to unite and celebrate all Indigenous groups of the Americas.

The goal is to come together to recognize each other's history and culture through dance, spoken word performances, keynote speakers, live art, great food and great music!

We want to celebrate and honor the numerous indigenous cultures and traditions in Phillips and across the Twin Cities: traditional Ecuadorian, Aztec, Ojibwe, Bomba from Puerto Rico, or Lakota dance. We want you there.

If you know a spoken word performer or storyteller, we want them there. If groups or individuals want to hang (or sell) art work or photos, we are all about it! Short videos? We are down. Whoever identifies as indigenous is welcome to apply!

First time, so we are open to feedback and ideas. Youth-driven project, so teens at Waite House will be directing the process. This is not a process where adults take over and direct, but are welcome to contribute and support.

Apply to perform to Julie Graves or Rachel Young at 612-721-1681 or gravesj@puc-mn.org, youngr@puc-mn.org

Open Eye Figure Theatre presents

Toy Theatre after Dark A week of miniature puppetry spectacle, classes, discussions, and networking

info@openeyetheatre.org
(612) 874-6338 (tel)
506 East 24th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55404

Intimate, inventive, and wonderfully odd, toy theater has enjoyed a resurgence in recent years. From shows-in-a-suitcase, paper marionettes, and wearable theater to shadow plays, and weird object animation, a new wave of theater miniaturists is captivating audiences with fresh approaches to an old art form.

Award-winning Open Eye Figure Theatre began showcasing the burgeoning local scene in 2006, and now hosts an annual festival to present short, new pieces from local and national artists. Two distinctly different programs offer a stunning spectrum of miniature puppetry and innovative thinking, featuring the far flung and home grown, the seasoned and the emerging.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Two Treasure Troves in our Backyard!

The OPPORTUNITY of a week of Hands-On Learning, Performance, and Discussion right here in Phillips Community is TREMENDOUS. Only artists who are able to encase a whole ancient art form-theatrical performance into a suitcase could possibly be able to encase this much involvement, performance by exceptional artists/mentors from across America into one week.

We regret the lack of enough space in this issue to publish the entire description and schedule of this dynamic combination of teaching and performance. A university would spread this much artistry, curriculum, and performance into three semesters and one theater season.

It is all available right here in the Phillips Community coincidentally in the same month as the



month long community workshop production of one of the most heralded and dynamic parades and festivals in America-In the Heart of the Beast Theatre's Mayday Parade and Festival also right here in Phillips Community.

SEE: openeyetheatre.org for complete, long lists, of artist/mentors & schedules of seminars and performances.

"Poverty NOT a barrier to success."

Banyan in East Phillips produces college-bound scholars

BY LAURETTA DAWOLO TOWNS,
COMMUNITY COORDINATOR

There's a big reason to celebrate in East Phillips! Four high school seniors from the Banyan Community in South Minneapolis are going to college. So far, they have received a total of 16 college acceptance letters. The University of Minnesota, Yale University, Swarthmore, and Marquette University are just some of the colleges waiting to hear from these scholars. Although many Twin Cities students are preparing to enroll into college this fall, these students don't fit the conventional profile for success.

Abby Mohammed, Seng Ye Xiong, Nathanael McNair, and Tyler Moore are graduating seniors at DeLaSalle High School through the Banyan's Higher Ground scholarship program. They've made a commitment to their education and used the 4-year scholarship as a stepping stone to higher education. These students come from neighborhoods where low educational outcomes are commonplace. They were not expected to graduate from high school, much less attend competitive colleges and universities. Mohammed explains it best in her college entrance essay, "Minneapolis is a city of arts and diversity. However, my neighborhood is one of the less savory sections of this metropolis. People here are born into a caste in which they will stay from birth to death. They are trapped in their class... and remain relatively uneducated throughout their lives."

Although the social realities of their neighborhoods are challenging, Banyan students are beating the odds with school success. "I am seeking emancipation through education," Mohammed continues. The Banyan is breaking down barriers that exist within low income communities while creating a path of success for K-12 students through their innovative

community youth development programming. Banyan youth are graduating from high school at an astonishing rate of 100 percent. This pattern directly challenges the Minneapolis Public Schools' 4-year high school graduation rate which is below 49 percent. (www.startribune.com) Low-income students of color continue to fall through Minnesota's notorious achievement gap, yet these high school seniors have written a new story for themselves and their families.

On March 20th, Banyan staff, students, parents, community and city leaders joined together to celebrate the accomplishments of these young scholars at the 1st Annual College Acceptance Party. Younger Banyan students witnessed hard evidence of their peers' accomplishments, parents expressed pride in a job well done, and stakeholders recognized the results of the Banyan's hard work and high expectations for each youth. Every college acceptance letter received represents real possibilities and more options for the future.

"I realize college is both a chal-

lenging opportunity and a great privilege and I am prepared to fight for my education. I will do whatever it takes to escape poverty and to overcome the challenges life will hurl at me. I want to prove to myself, to the community, and to the world that poverty does not have to be a barrier to success," writes Mohammed.

For more information about the Banyan Community, contact Lori Nissen at (612) 865-6527 or lori@banyancommunity.org.



IN LOVING MEMORY

Mrs. Shirley Ann Neumann/Jackson, b. June 11, 1946, passed March 23, 2012. A Phillips resident for 8 years, Mrs. Jackson is survived by her children; Terry Cole, Kelley Jackson, Charlesetta Jackson and Misty Jackson (who is a volunteer delivery person for The Alley), her brothers Roger and Lyle Neumann, 8 grandchildren, and her very special friend Ray Grandy. *Continued pg 7*

MSP International Film Festival

MSP Film Festival April 12 - May 3 St. Anthony Main Theatre in Mpls 300 narrative, documentary, and short films. 30+ years MSP IFF is largest, Upper Midwest film event..

2011 FESTIVAL

- Attendance 40,000+
- 200 feature films
- 80 short subjects
- 61 countries of origin
- 60+ Sponsors
- 100+ engaged community organizations
- 100+ visiting filmmakers & other guests
- 80+ volunteers providing 1000+ hrs of service
- mspfilmfest.org



Backyard Initiative Update

Backyard Initiative Citizen Health Action Teams:
Creating Connections and Resources for Health



BY JANICE BARBEE, CULTURAL WELLNESS CENTER

This update highlights the work of seven additional Citizen Health Action Teams (CHATs) of fourteen total after summarizing the work of four more. The other three will be summarize in the May issue.

The Backyard is approximately one square mile area surrounding the Midtown Global Market and Allina Health Commons. Residents of these seven neighborhoods in south Minneapolis have been supported by the Cultural Wellness Center to develop and implement their ideas for community health improvement since December of 2008. Allina has contributed funds for these projects, with additional support from Twin Cities LISC (Local Initiatives Support Corporation).

Each CHAT is growing the community's capacity to increase residents' knowledge and skills to take better care of themselves.

Growing in the Backyard CHAT: formed over concern with the community's food system, that not everyone has access to healthy food. They chose creating family gardens in resident's backyards as a strategy to improve this problem. Last summer they helped eight families with children to build

raised beds (where soil is above ground within a wooden frame) and chose a variety of plants that the family could grow, harvest, and eat. The CHAT encouraged and supported family members to plant and care for the plants together; and connected families to resources in the community for learning about gardening. They are seeking more members to support more families eating food that they have grown from seed.

Guri Nabad (Peace House) CHAT: is Somali families impacted by childhood asthma meeting throughout the year to better understand asthma's causes; and learn tools to assist families in coping with and managing their children's asthma. They have identified resources in the community for support, and have (specifics). Through mosques, media, and personal word-of-mouth, they have reached out to --- to ---.

Latina/o Environmental Health CHAT: Began last year under the leadership of a community resident who was concerned about the environment. With the support of the Women's Environmental Institute (WEI), a CHAT was formed to teach Latino families how to clean their house without harmful chemicals, instead using natural products that are effective and inexpensive.

The CHAT lost its leader last year and had to regroup to recruit new members. Members are finishing their training by the WEI, and are supporting others in the Latino community to make natural cleaners and clean each other's kitchens safely.

Out in the Backyard CHAT: goals have been to create community connectedness in the GLBTQ (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer) community, and make resources more visible that are GLBTQ friendly by developing an interactive website "where anyone in the community, regardless of sexual orientation, can access existing resources that focus on supporting members of the GLBT community." Information has been gathered for the website and community building events hosted such as a video about bullying and a discussion on end of life directives for LGBT folks. Construction of the website will begin soon.

Backyard community residents are welcome to attend Backyard CHAT meetings and events, as well as the All-CHAT meeting on the third Thursday of every month. Call the Cultural Wellness Center at 621-721-5745 for more information.

Introduction to The Alley's New Series:

STORIES FROM OUR BACK YARD

Inside of the area called the "Backyard", there are 15,000 households. Inside of each of those homes or apartments are stories waiting to be told. There are stories of kids getting good grades at school, friendly gestures between strangers, overcoming addictions, stories of incredible hope amidst despair.

This month's story is written by Khusba Seka from the Backyard's Anchor Family CHAT (Community Health Action Team). She tells us of what her life has been like on her block.

Tell us YOUR story or a story about a neighbor, your block, or a family member. Stories help heal. Stories have power. They teach us about each other. Email editor@alleynew.org or call 612-990-4022 for support and assistance.

"I am headed out, do you need anything?"

BY KHUSABA SEKA

When I am asked, "What are Anchor Families?" there are two things that I think of: my sons' description of our neighborhood and my neighbors who make me feel like I am part of their family.

When asked where they live, my sons have often said "We live by the Cultural Wellness Center, near the bread store, up the street from the blue park, on the block where the dog always barks." The dog that always barked was Ms. Betty's "Tidbit"—her very small dog with the very fast loud bark. Now as the kids turn into teenagers, it's the name of the intersections and the houses' descriptions that are used. Instead of neighborhood landmarks, I hear "We live off of Lake and Bloomington." Still every now and again I hear, "I miss Ms. Betty and Tidbit." Ms. Betty and Tidbit passed away two years ago. She had lived on the block for 30 years. She was one of two Ms. Bettys: Ms. Betty Billington was my son's Ms. Betty. He would walk with her while she walked her dog and even got to walk the dog without her as he got older. A number of my neighbors have always tried to keep my youngest son busy, knowing that if we didn't, there would be meltdowns. They wanted to support us how they could. That's what anchoring families are about: the act of welcoming new neighbors and giving neighbors a send off when they move away. And doing more than just waving. It's neighboring in the truest sense of the word: taking the time to stop and listen, asking "Why were the police at your house? Are you ok?" Sitting with someone who's grieving. Acts as simple as acknowledging another person's birthday and knowing all the names of the kids on your block.

For me, this is also a way of practicing my cultural heritage. It takes a village to raise a child. I have had the village experience and want to give the same experience to everyone I live with on my block.

This May it will be 14 years ago that I bought my house. I was the first homeowner in my family and am the youngest in my whole family to own my home. When I moved into my house, I came with my two children which then grew to be three. I had struggled to get off the system only to find myself needing to be back on and off it again. Many times it felt like my neighbors instinctively knew when I was on again. Maybe it was my van that was sitting idly on the front curb or that there were fewer trips to the bread store for treats? Lo and behold someone would come to the door with a bag or a box or something less obvious like a store

bought cake. How could I not want to give this care—this love—back? How could I sit still in shame of being on public assistance or in fear of a group of young people I didn't know? My bank account might have been empty but my heart wasn't.

I didn't want to be a community organizer. I was in the same boat as everyone else. I just wanted to be. I couldn't sit still and lick my own wounds while others had needs too. Needs like missing their adult children, teenagers running away, spouses with dementia, family members in and out the hospital, sons returning to jail, kids that just couldn't control their own confusing emotions, foreclosures, traumatic experiences with health care providers, or something as simple as just needing a hug. Since becoming a part of the Anchor Families CHAT I have been reminded of why I became a community organizer/activist in the first place. I just wanted to love on people and feel the reciprocity but a lot of the time what I got was bureaucracy instead. Now working with the Anchoring Families, all the statistics that have and sometime still do describe parts of my life don't feel like a juxtaposition—they are just a simple byproduct of where our society is. And even when I have to go without or I feel empty or like my family is too fragile to be an Anchor Family, I am gently reminded that I have a lot to give.

Now my daughter and her family of three live across the street from me and on a nice warm day, if the window is open, I can hear my grandson shout my name, "Ye Ye!" with excitement as I pull up to my home. What I have to offer cannot be measured by a paycheck or a timesheet, but it can be seen in the work my daughter does in garden installations, the things my sons say over a microphone when we come together to claim our park as a community. It can be heard as my oldest son flyers the block and gets to introduce himself to a neighbor he wasn't expecting to be at home, and you can see it a few blocks away in the seniors' apartment complex when my dad of 76 years knocks on the doors of his neighbors before taking the bus to the store for himself saying, "I am headed out, do you need anything?" With all that, I am ready to receive all that the village has to offer. I am proud to say that I am a part of a system that is in place and growing; that is being passed on, recognized, and is becoming our nature. It is a quiet but strong movement and as you stand with your neighbor and listen, you can feel it.



Out in the Backyard

is an initiative to connect LGBT community from the backyard to each other and to resources.

We are currently have a once a week kettlebell class at Pillsbury House every Tuesday from 6pm to 7pm.

It is FREE for all the Backyard LGBT community members. Our instructor here is Yolanda Womack from Infinitely Fit (www.infinitelyfit.com).

More information please find "Out in the Backyard" on facebook.

Greenway
Glow and
Northern
Spark to
"Light Up
the
Greenway"
on June 9th

Alley readers are invited to join the Midtown Greenway Coalition on the evening of June 9th for a dazzling night of fun and festivities on the Greenway!

From 6:00 p.m. to Midnight, close to 20 artists will be presenting free art, movies, dance, and musical performances along the Greenway as part of the Northern Spark all-night art festival.

At 9:00 p.m., cyclists will be participating in the Midtown Greenway Coalition's "Greenway Glow," an illuminated night bike ride on the Greenway.

To participate in the Greenway Glow, cyclists will pay a \$25 registration fee and collect \$75 or more in pledges. To register for the Greenway Glow, visit our website at www.midtowngreenway.org.

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