

Visitor Meets
Wendell pg 7

Wendell Meets Jesus pg 7

Kling and Sommers Make
“Winter Book” pg4

Tales of Mass Graves pg 4

Crosswords Honor Uprisings pg 6

the Alley NEWSPAPER

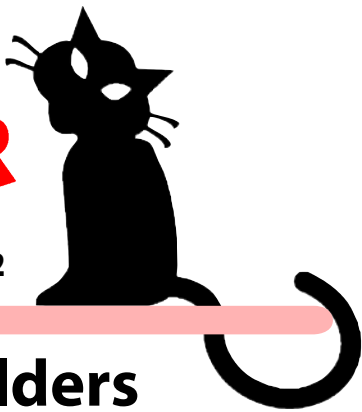
NEWS & VIEWS OF PHILLIPS SINCE 1976
DECEMBER 2011 • VOLUME 36, NUMBER 12

The Alley Online!
www.alleynews.org



The Alley
on Twitter

www.twitter.com/alleynewspaper



“Reflections” Mirror the heart and soul of youth and elders

REFLECTIONS

abound on each
page of this issue.
May your good
reflections this
Season of Holidays
and Gatherings only
be exceeded by the
richness of revis-
ited traditions and
togetherness with
family and friends.

Semilla Poetry Contest Winners 7-10 YRS. OLD:

Mariposa (Sp. and Eng.)
Insectos con alas, tienen seis
patas
Vuelen, comen néctar, van a
México
Me hace sentir feliz, alegre
Mariposas

Winged insects have six legs
They fly, eat nectar, & travel to Mexico
It makes me feel happy, cheerful
Butterflies
By Uriel

La música
Suena bella, te hace bailar
Se mueve si la tocas, si soplas, si
la ruedas
Cantando juntos me siento
conectado
Canción

It sounds beautiful, it makes you
dance
It moves if you play, if you blow,
if you turn it round,
Singing together I feel connected
song
By Juan

My Community
I hope we can get more food.
I hope that my mom’s leg gets
fixed. I hope that we can get
flowers. I hope that we can get
an apple tree. I hope that we can get
more room. To play soccer.
By Monica

My Community
I hope there are some people.
I hope my family has some pets.
I hope there are different homes.
I hope there are some elephants
on the earth.
I hope there are some
people playing soccer.
By Javier

My Community
I hope people can grow more
fruit
I hope my sister stops scratching
me.
I hope I can be a singer.
I hope there are more books to
read.
I hope there are more friends to
play with.
By Marilyn

**5 FIRST PRIZES: Uriel & Juan
(B112—Ms. Jill Nelson),
Monica, Javier & Marilyn
(B107—Ms. Paula Williamson)**

REFLECTIONS

REFLECTIONS

11-14 YRS. OLD: 4 FIRST PRIZES: Our community.

My community is special to me.
It’s my home and I feel free.
Sometimes I wonder why people
are so cruel to their community.
It’s our fault and our
responsibility.
People should make a change in
their own homes.
But sometimes people don’t care.
But we say people should all
care.
It’s our homes and communities.
We have to start being
responsible.
We should reuse, reduce and
recycle and not throw garbage on
the floor.
We should make changes now so
the future will be brighter
And all the kids will be happier,
laugh more often and be in a
clean and safe community.
By Jennifer Zhiminaicela

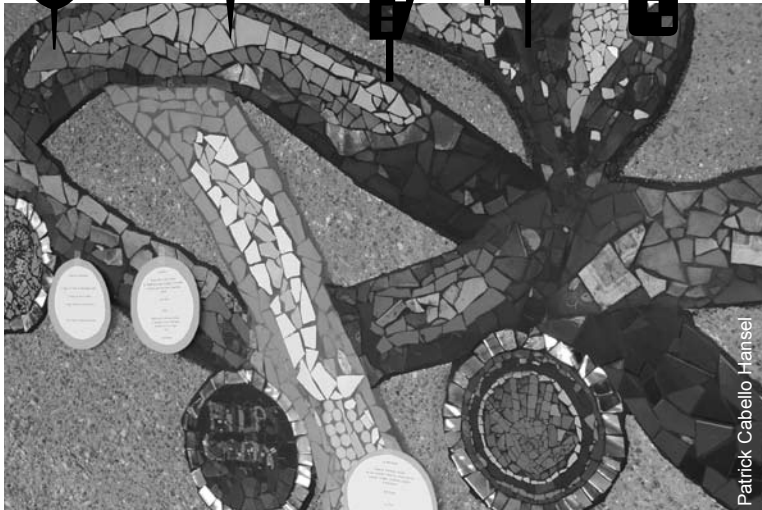
The Semilla Project: 16 months of mosaic
workshops initiating from St. Paul’s Church
also held at Andersen School, Banyan Fdn.,
St. Paul’s Home, and Waite House. Funding:
in part grant from MN State Arts Board thru
State Leg. appropriation and a grant from
National Endowment for the Arts.



**Mosaic Mural at Andersen School by students, mentor, Greta
McLain turning a wall into a destination for people to be uplifted.**

Safe Community.
My community is my home I
care for it I want it safe
My family likes the community
I hope that gangs don’t appear
I feel bad for the homeless people
I hope they get a better life
I’m afraid of gangs because they
are darkness and
The community is happiness
I don’t want to have the darkness
like the gangs,
By Vanessa Martinez

Hope for the future
I like my community, it’s cool,
fun and my home
So this is why I’m writing this
poem, to make a change
And rearrange for a better
community,
To help us make a change,
To explain that our world can be
better,
No matter the weather,
Like if it rains, it’s cold, or the
sun is up,
We can have a lot of fun,



**Semilla (Seeds) Mosaic Mural at Andersen led to seeds of growth
in artistic skills, stronger community and transformative art.**

But we can’t do it with none.
So help in the change,
Within the range
Of the change,
Less loitering, or garbage on the
floor,
More shelters for homeless
people,
And still we have to change
more,
So let’s come together to make a
change.
By Jesús Maldonado

My Community
My community is a wonderful
place to me.
With fresh trees to breathe from.
But when night comes the gangs
arrive.
They’re mean and cruel.
They follow their own rules.
I wish the cops would catch
them, I wish we all got along,
So when night falls they shine
like diamonds in the sky.
By Guido Quito

More Reflections
see page 4



P.O. Box 7006

Minneapolis, MN 55407

Editor's Cell Phone 612-990-4022

editor@alleynews.org

www.alleynews.org

Follow us twitter.com/alleynewspaper

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

Ann Greene Phillips (18__-1885)

Wendell Phillips (1811-1884)

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

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

Board of Directors: Cathy Strobel, President; Leon Oman, Treasurer; Sue Hunter Weir; Joan Hautman, Dimpho Orion

Senior Editor: Harvey Winje, editor@alleynews.org; 612-990-4022

Co-Editor and Designer: Jonathan Miller

jmiller@alleynews.org

To Advertise:

ads@alleynews.org

612-990-4022

Alley Communications, a 501C-3, Not-for-Profit Corp. publishes The Alley. Donations are needed, welcome, and Tax Deductible

Contributors to this issue:

Najma Abdi, Ramla Abdi, American Indian Community Development Corporation, American Swedish Institute, Janice Barbee, Patrick Cabello Hansel, Cultural Wellness Center, Friends of the Cemetery, Madeline Gardner, Susan Gust, Linnea Hadaway, HN Cty Library, Sue Hunter Weir, Juan, Lake Street Council, Jesus Maldonado, Vanessa Martinez, Howard McQuitter II, Peter Molenaar, Dave Moore, Jill Nelson, Samantha "Sami" Pfeffer, Phillips West NO, Guido Quito, Matthew Roed, Dan Schneider, Gary Schiff, Carsten Smith, Erin Thomasson, Jane Thomson, Uriel, Paula Williamson, Jennifer Zhiminaicela.

Printing: Legal Ledger

Door to Door Delivery: Youth groups from Calvary Church, Donna Neste, Andrew, Beverly, Brad, Brad, Carol, Christine, Patrick, Leon, Cathy, Dave, East Phillips Improvement Coalition, Jacy, Jana, Heidi, Howard, Joyce, Lynne, Marjorie, Midtown Farmer's Market, Nathan Matter, Midtown Phillips, Muriel, Paul, Phillips West, Raymond, Stephanie, Tara, Vi. [Will you deliver a block or two or your apartment? Call Harvey 612-990-4022

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.

Circulation: 10,000 hard copies and online.

**January Alley
Deadline:
December 15**

The Alley Newspaper
is a Member of



**Give. And light a fire
under inequality.**

www.changeisbetter.com
651-647-0440

The next NEW PWW Photo will appear in January 2012

Including THE BEST EVER PWW RESPONSE

The one and only correct contestant for the November Phillips What Where was by Matthew Roed. We have never had such a thorough answer along with additional commentary about Phillips. Here it is in its entirety:

Dear Editor:

My name is Matthew Roed and I live in Golden Valley and work at Abbott Northwestern Hospital where I read the Alley in the cafeteria after working night shift at Sister Kenny Institute as a Registered Nurse.

I would like to submit my guess for the Phillips What Where for November 2011.

Since I work in this neighborhood, I felt that I should know why it was so named and who inspired the naming.

So I decided to figure it out...

I learned through some internet researching that the photo is the dedication and unveiling of the Wendell Phillips Monument in Boston. The photo was taken July 5th, 1915 in the Bolyston Street Mall Public Garden.

The inscription above the statue



of Mr. Phillips reads, "Whether In Chains Or In Laurels Liberty Knows Nothing But Victories"

It must have been a hot day/sunny on July 5th, 1915 because many of the individuals pictured have hats on to block the sun. I was particularly struck by the white child standing directly below the statue with a black man flanking him on both sides. I think that is what Phillip wanted, racial unity.

In my mind, the Phillips neighborhood of Minneapolis really is in chains, but they are invisible ones. In order to truly know liberty, those chains must be broken and in order to do so the people who live in the neighborhood need to organize, deal with common issues and also market the neighborhood's benefits more effectively. If people are scared, they live and die alone in a neighborhood, chained to their homes in fear. However, if people

feel supported and even united, they are willing to step out side of their comfort zone and make a difference for themselves and their neighbors.

What residents of Phillips need to do come together regardless of race, religion, social status, gender, sexual orientation or age and identify the strengths and weaknesses of the neighborhood and like Phillips, be radial in the approach to finding solutions to problems if they are to as Phillips states, "Know Liberty."

Town hall meetings with food would be a great start and I will not speak for them, but would imagine that Allina and Children's hospital would be very interested in efforts to assist the community in anyway that they can.

I wanted to live in the Phillips neighborhood because my wife and I work at Abbott Hospital, but we didn't feel that the neighborhood had enough, "Up and Coming" feel to it. We saw the need for change and rather than becoming part of that change, we avoided it. I guess that I am just as guilty. However, we at the time did not see the social momentum that we had hoped for going on in the neighborhood. People in Golden Valley usually do not organize because there is little crime or social issues to be dealt with there, but they miss out on the energy and benefits of living in the City.

If Phillips really is one of the poorest neighborhoods in Minneapolis, then why aren't the residents drawing attention to this issue to people across the Metro and even the State? It's like Phillips is stuck in a cube and needs change agents to start finding a way out.

Thanks for the effort of opening peoples eyes to what inspired the naming of the Phillips Neighborhood. Most people I talk to only of the neighborhood, "be careful because that's a rough area" or "Avoid!" I know that it has potential and that there are a lot of great things happening in Phillips, but the problem is that really no one else knows or worse, cares.

If I win or am the only one to submit, please donate the \$10 Welna Hardware gift certificate to the Midtown Greenway Coalition. Regards, Matthew Roed

2011 Nobel Winner in Literature to be read by Robert Bly, Thomas R. Smith, and Roland Thorstensson at FREE event Dec 12th

Two days after the Nobel Prize in Literature is awarded to Swedish poet Tomas Tranströmer in Stockholm, Sweden, his close friend and translator Robert Bly, will read Transtromers poetry at Plymouth Congregational Church (Nicollet Avenue at Franklin, in Minneapolis) Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. This free event is co-sponsored by the Loft Literary Center, Graywolf Press, the American Swedish Institute and University of Minnesota Libraries.

Poet Thomas R. Smith who is editing the American edition of Air Mail, the correspondence

between Bly and Transtromer, already a bestseller in Sweden will introduce the evening. Roland Thorstensson, emeritus professor of Scandinavian Studies and Swedish language at Gustavus Adolphus, will read several Tranströmer's poems in the original Swedish. Augsburg professor of music and Plymouth assistant music director Sonja Thompson will play piano music loved by Transtromer.

Plymouth Congregational Church, 1900 Nicollet Ave. (at Franklin), Minneapolis; 612/871-7400; www.plymouth.org

Phillips West Neighborhood Upcoming Events

Check out the new Phillips West Website @ www.phillipswest.info

December 1st (Thursday) 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. - Phillips West Holiday Community Meeting Celebration!

Please join us to Celebrate the Holiday's and enjoy a free catered Holiday Dinner from Famous Dave's BBQ while hearing about current Phillips West Events while getting an opportunity to Socialize and Network with other Neighborhood Stakeholders! All who live in Phillips West or support the Phillips West Neighborhood are welcome to attend! Celebration will take place at Lutheran Social Service Center for Changing Lives in the Centrum Room (2400 Park Avenue). Free parking available in rear off Oakland Avenue! 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

January 5th (Thursday) 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. - Phillips West



Community Meeting!

Join your neighbors and other Community Partners for updates from the Global Market, Police Department and City Council Vice President Robert Lilligren. This event will take place at the Center for Changing Lives in the Centrum Room (2400 Park Avenue). Free parking is available in the rear off Oakland Avenue. Free 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

The ASI ReOpens for Holidays & FREE Open House for Phillips West residents and employees

The American Swedish Institute is pleased to reopen the Turnblad Mansion and welcome visitors back to Minnesota's own castle! We are excited to unveil the first phase of our expansion project and share the newly remodeled and renovated spaces in the Mansion's lower level.

The Turnblad Mansion is decorated for the holidays and open to the public, and our holiday season is filled with festive activities. Construction on the new Nelson Cultural Center will continue through Spring 2012.

Welcome!

Phillips West Neighborhood Open House Thursday, Dec. 15 — 4-6 p.m.

ASI invites any and all individuals working and living in our neighborhood to the annual Phillips West Neighborhood Open House on Thursday, Dec. 15 from



The Turnblad Mansion and the American Swedish Institute

4 to 6 p.m. Bring your business card, employee badge, driver's license or other I.D. to receive free museum admission, complimentary cider and cookies, and a 10% discount in the ASI Museum Shop (except food and sale items). There will also be greeters on hand to talk about our holiday exhibits, and visitors can try their hand at making traditional Swedish heart baskets. No reservations required. For information, please call 612-871-4907.

9th Ward Award Nominations Open

Do you know a Ninth Ward resident who deserves recognition for their amazing work in your community? Nominate them for a Ninth Ward Award, which honors neighborhood leadership in Corcoran, Longfellow, Phillips, Powderhorn Park, and Standish.

January's breakfast with Gary will feature the Annual State of the Ward Address and Ninth Ward Awards. Awards will be given for Leader of the Year, Block Club of the Year, Neighborhood Project of the Year and Youth Leader of the Year.

"The Ninth Ward has vibrant neighborhoods. This is in no small part thanks to the countless residents who volunteer their time to invest in our community," said Council Member Gary Schiff. "This is a great opportunity to credit these folks with the prog-

ress we've made as a result of their activism."

Individuals interested in making a nomination should write a brief description of the accomplishments that they think deserve recognition. Please submit Ninth Ward Award nominations via email to gary.schiff@minneapolismn.gov, fax (612-673-3940) or by mail to Council Member Gary Schiff, 350 South 5th Street, Room 307, Minneapolis, MN 55415 by Friday, January 13.

Breakfast with Gary will take place Friday, January 27, 2012 from 7:30 to 8:45 a.m. at Mercado Central, 1515 E. Lake Street. Breakfast is \$7. Seats fill fast so please R.S.V.P early by calling 612-673-2209 or emailing suzanne.murphy@minneapolismn.gov.

December Programs at the Franklin Library

BY ERIN THOMASSON

Children's Programs
Family Storytime
Wed. thru Dec. 28, 10:30–11 a.m. For children age 2 and up. Share books, stories, rhymes, music, and movement with your children.

Kids Book Club
Fri., Dec. 16, 4–5 p.m. Grades 4–6. Join other kids to talk about a great book! No pre-reading required. We will share a book and discuss.

Teen Programs
4-H Mentoring Club
Tues., thru Dec. 27, 5–7 p.m. Learn about urban ecology, health and nutrition, sustainable agriculture and related careers in food science from adults and peer mentors. You also will maintain a community garden and visit local food enterprises.

Game On! Gaming Tuesdays
Tues. thru Dec. 27, 7–8 p.m. Grades 6–12. Play PS2 or Wii games at the library! Grab a friend, bring your favorite board or card game, or play ours!


Reading Club
Wed. thru Dec. 28, 5–6 p.m. Grades 6–12. Come explore the literary worlds of fact, fiction and adventures! Share your ideas and creativity along the way.

Design Club
Thurs. thru Dec. 29, 5–7 p.m. Grades 6–12. Get creative! Design and take home T-shirts, posters, jewelry, magnets and other creations. Check out the posters at Franklin Library to see what project is coming up!

Game On! Gaming Thursdays
Thurs. thru Dec 29, 7–8 p.m. Grades 6–12 . Play PS2 or Wii games at the library! Grab a friend, bring your favorite board or card game, or play ours!

Down Time
Sat. thru Dec. 29, 2–6 p.m. Grades 6–12. Looking for a quiet and comfortable space? Take advantage of “down time” at Franklin Teen Center! Work on the topic of the week or use our computers, board games and do other self-directed activities.

Adult Programs
Seniors Play-Reading Group
Fri., Dec. 9, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Join us for a stimulating morning of reading and discussion of some of the great



**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/

plays of our heritage.

One Minneapolis One Read:
The Grace of Silence
Fri., Dec. 9, 1–3 p.m. Nonfiction book club for elder learners celebrates its 100th book together with the reading of “The Grace of Silence” by Michele Norris.

Memoir Writing Group
Thurs., Dec. 15, 1–3 p.m. 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.

Phillips Technology Center
Register online for these classes

and more at www.hclib.org or call 612.543.6925

Microsoft Excel: Charts and Graphs
Thurs., Dec. 15, noon–2 p.m. Learn to create and integrate graphs and charts into your Excel spreadsheets.

Computer Skills Workshop
Fri., Dec. 16, 10a.m.–noon Work on projects and practice skills from using the mouse and keyboarding to using email and Microsoft Office with our software instructors and volunteer assistants.

Microsoft Publisher: Basics
Fri., Dec. 16, 1–3 p.m. Learn to use the menus and toolbars to create and publish your own fliers, brochures and greeting cards.

Senior Surf Day
Wed., Nov. 16, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Learn computer basics, how to navigate and search the Internet and how to access websites of interest to seniors. Get hands-on computer experience with help from representatives of the Senior LinkAge Line®.

Franklin Learning Center:
952-847-2934

The Franklin Learning Center offers free, one-to-one tutoring for adults who are learning English and math, preparing for the GED and citizenship exams, and gaining life skills. We are always looking for community volunteers! No experience necessary; we provide training and materials. Contact us at 952-847-2934.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN

Christmas at St. Paul's:

- Julebord: Dec. 9 & 10
- La Posada: Dec. 17
- Christmas Day: 9 am English, 12 noon Spanish

2742 15th Ave South
Call 612-724-3862 for more info

VENTURA VILLAGE
WEDNESDAY • DECEMBER 14TH • 2011

SOCIAL & TOURS BEGIN @ 5 PM
FOOD & BOARD MTG @ 6 PM
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MTG @ 7 PM



FESTIVE
FOOD
GOOD
CHEER
2012
BOARD
ELECTIONS
SHOW
& TELL
VIDEOS
& SLIDE
SHOWS
COMMITTEE
REVIEWS &
PROPOSALS

PHILLIPS COMMUNITY CENTER • DINING ROOM
ELEVENTH AVENUE & E. 24TH STREET • MPLS, MN

ANNUAL MEETING

Searching – A Serial Novelle Chapter 33: In Their Unknowing Grew A Great Joy

The procession was led by a group of children, dressed in bright red vests and carrying the most beautiful stars on thin poles. Each star had a face, and each face had a story. Ahead, the bright star on the church tower grew bigger and bigger. A guitar and the words of a Christmas bolero floated from the tower. All around them, Angel and Luz could see the faces of people illuminated by their candles, and as they prepared to cross 28th Street, the police stopped the traffic and waved the freezing pilgrims through.

All around the church steps, brown lunch bags with candles growing. The crowd passed underneath a large banner that said only “¡Bienvenidos!” and entered into the old church. You could almost hear each body release the cold as they stepped into the warm.

Luz and Angel intended to sit in the back. Angel had been to church only once in the past few years, for the funeral of his friend Andres, who was shot down in plain daylight on Lake Street. Luz had gone to Mass faithfully with her Tio, but always felt that the people were staring at her, staring into her wounded, broken soul. She would pray to God, but more often than not, she felt that God’s eyes were leading the crowd that glared. But tonight was different.

People were taking off hats and scarves, and calling to their children to come sit with them. Angel and Luz looked around and then at each other. They did not know what to do, and in their unknowing grew a great joy. They were called forward by a man and a woman, dressed head to toe in black, the man gray on top but both with youthful eyes. With their hands, they motioned Luz and Angel to sit down, but they only place they could find was on the floor, where twenty or more children were sitting.

Joseph and Mary—now fully pregnant—were led down the aisle by a donkey and four little angels in gold robes and cardboard wings. They sat on a simple stool on a platform raised above the communion rail. As the crowd stilled, the angel choir began a beautiful lullaby—A la Nanita Nana—and one by one, beasts of the field and of the air gathered around the holy family: sheep and mice, birds and a buffalo, deer and llamas, a mother wolf with her pup. The animals stood up and blocked the view of Maria and José waiting, and the choir softened to a hum. Angel and Luz looked at the sight with eyes wide as oceans, and as the animals parted—like a sea, Angel thought—the family had been transformed by the presence of an infant, wrapped in the swaddling arms of his mother, looking with joy at the lights and the assembled flock.

Then the couple in black spoke words of peace to all nations followed by drumming and dancing and laughter. The crowd was led to a feast of hot soup and warm bread, cake and the breathing of

300 souls. After the piñata—more like a tornado—Luz thought, the crowd began to disperse. Angel and Luz turned to each other and with their eyes each of them asked what shall we do?

Angel spoke. “Let’s go back in the church. I want to see something.”

Luz laughed. “But the church is all these people going out to their homes!”

“I know,” Angel said, “but I think I saw something of our home in there, in this place...what do you call it?”

“The sanctuary,” Luz replied.

“The sanctuary,” Angel repeated, and felt his spirit bow toward the word. That is what I’ve been looking for, he thought, a sanctuary, a refuge for me.

And at the same time, Luz thought that is what I have been looking for, a sanctuary, a refuge for me, for my people.

They walked to the area where the star children had left their stars. The children were gone, but the stars glowed with a light that was nearly human. Luz and Angel could see the faces of each star reflecting the spirit of people they knew, people who had brought them here: Luz’ uncle and Angel’s dad, Mr. Bussey and the flower lady, Mother Light from now, and Mother Light from then, even the tiny man—if indeed he was a man—who played the violin. And behind the light of the faces, other faces were vanishing: The Migra and the man with the scar, the truck hijacker and the thugs in the alley, Herods of every time and place evaporating into the stained glass window behind them. They watched as they left, and they both saw the face of Mateo Kelly. Not as a ghost or the face of evil, not as a murder victim or a curse, but as a chubby, laughing baby, swaddled in his mother’s arms.

“Where should we go now?” Angel asked.

“I don’t think ‘where’ is the word we need to worry about,” Luz replied with a smile.

“Well, what should we do?” he asked.

“Mi amor, I don’t think we have to ‘do’ anything, her smile growing wider.

Angel started to think about what she meant, but then realized that ‘thinking’ was not what was being called for. He put his arm around Luz, and they sat down together before the stars, crying. Crying tears of grief for all they had suffered, and tears of joy for having found each other and in the process found part of their lives that had been hidden. They wiped each other’s tears, and welcomed each other in their arms. Long before the janitor came to turn out the lights, they were fast asleep, surrounded by dreaming stars.

Next time: The End? Or a New Beginning?



**Maria's
Café**

Ancient Traders Market
1113 E. Franklin Ave.
Minneapolis
7AM to 3PM Mon. thru Sat.
8AM to 3PM Sun.
612.870.9842
www.mariascafe.com



This marker was placed on the grave of 350 people provided by the University of Minnesota on 11-11-11.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA Dedicated to the memory of those whose generosity extended beyond life for medical school anatomy teaching during the years 1914-1916.

There are 350 people buried in the cemetery's Potters Field whose remains were used as research subjects in anatomy courses at the University of Minnesota during the years 1914-1916. They were, to the say the least, a colorful lot: homeless men, prison inmates, men who were both the instigators and victims of crime. If they had one characteristic that they share was their social isolation; when they died, their bodies went unclaimed by friends or family. Other traits that many, though not all of them, shared, were alcoholism, mental illness and the effects of poverty.

In the early part of the last century, state law required the county coroner to turn over the remains of anyone whose body went unclaimed to medical schools. Because so many people believed that their bodies and souls were to be reunited on Judgment Day, the idea of dissection was, for the majority of people, unthinkable. As a result, there was a shortage of cadavers which made the laws governing unclaimed bodies necessary. (That practice ended in the 1960s).

Of those 350 people buried in the cemetery, 100 were infants who were stillborn or died shortly

Potter's Field Tales no less rich and fascinating! Generosity doesn't tell it all!

after birth in one of the two major charity hospitals in the area. Of the remaining 250, eight were adult women; the rest were men. The lives of the men are surprisingly well documented. In many cases, their deaths occurred in public places: in rail yards, on the street, at construction sites, or in jail. Eleven of the men have reams of paperwork, relics from the time they spent as inmates Stillwater Prison. Another nineteen of the men are identified only as "unknown man," who, although their names weren't known, died under circumstances that were considered newsworthy.

The death certificate for one of those men lists his occupation as "yegman," meaning he was a safe cracker. Police believed that he was one of several men who robbed the Thief River Falls railroad station of \$7,500 in October 1913. When the robbers got together to divide up their "earnings," a fight broke out and the unknown man was shot and killed by the other members of his gang.

Dan McMahon, a former prize fighter from New York, was another victim of a gang of robbers. He

Tales from Pioneers & Soldiers Cemetery

SUE HUNTER WEIR
87th in a Series

spent the evening of December 12, 1913 drinking in a downtown saloon where he made the mistake of showing a large roll of cash to some of his drinking partners. It wasn't long before a fight broke out, and the bartender threw all of the men out of saloon. Out in the alley, another brawl ensued, and McMahon was shot. He was taken to the City Hospital where he died, but not until six days later. In the meantime, the police were hunting for the seven men who assaulted him. They tracked them to a boarding house in St. Paul where still another brawl broke out. Eventually the police managed to arrest all seven of the suspects and haul them off to jail. Patrick Ballard, one of the men arrested for being involved in the assault on Dan McMahon, was promptly sentenced to 90 days in the workhouse. After serving only two hours of his sentence, he dropped

dead of a heart attack, six days before Dan McMahon, the man he was accused of assaulting, died. And, there is another ironic twist to the story: both Dan McMahon and Patrick Ballard wound up buried in the same grave.

Most of the other stories are not as melodramatic as these, but many of them are fascinating in their own way. Some of the people suffered from alcoholism or mental illness. Tuberculosis was a leading cause of death among this group just as it was in the population at large. But, regardless of how they died, they were for the most part forgotten.

That has changed. On November 11, 2011, a marker, provided by the University of Minnesota, was placed on their graves. It is a stunning black granite marker with a simple explanation about who these 350 people were and acknowledging their contribution to research. The marker will be dedicated and an observance held some time next year. Everyone who is interested will be welcome to attend.

Minnesota Center for Book Arts Announces 2011 Winter Book:

Come and get it

Story and poems by Kevin Kling, illustrations by Michael Sommers



Release Party Saturday, December 10

Reception 6:00pm; reading at 7:30pm

at MCBA's studios and the Open Book Target Performance Hall, 1011 Washington Av. So.

2011 Winter Book, *Come and Get It* by beloved Minnesota humorist and storyteller Kevin Kling, with illustrations by Michael Sommers. *Come and Get It* becomes the twenty-first in MCBA's perennial series.

Winter Book is the embodiment of MCBA's artistic vision: to preserve and promote the traditional crafts of bookmaking as well as the book as art. Since 1988, Winter Book has engaged artists, designers, papermakers, printers, bookbinders and community volunteers in producing a handmade, limited edition artist's book featuring poetry or

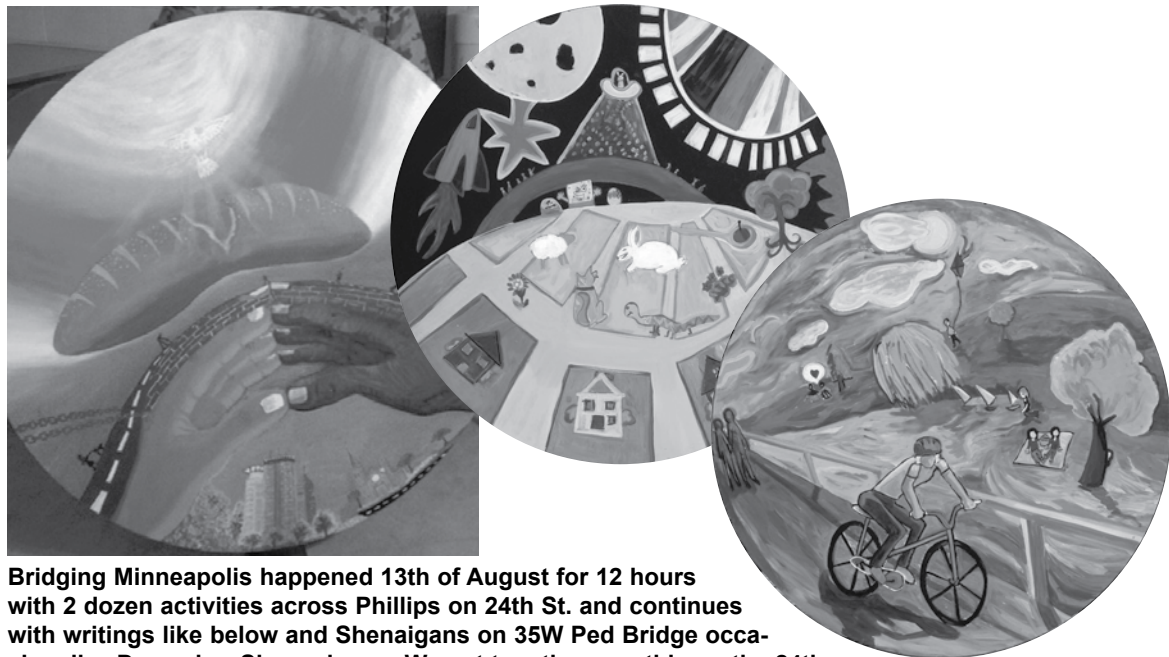
prose by a Minnesota author. The artistry, sumptuous materials and hand craftsmanship of each Winter Book makes it an avidly collected series, included in museum and rare book library collections across the country and around the world.

"Tales from the Charred Underbelly of the Yule Log", Dec. 5, 2011

Kevin returns to the Guthrie in his celebrated Holiday Show to spin his hilarious yarn of family tradition and holiday merriment. Wry tales of Midwestern Americana run from laugh-out-loud bizarre to touchingly beautiful.

Special Guests include Dan Chouinard, Peter Ostroushko, Simone Perrin and the Brass Messengers.

Monday, December 5, 2011
7:30 p.m.



Bridging Minneapolis happened 13th of August for 12 hours with 2 dozen activities across Phillips on 24th St. and continues with writings like below and Shenigans on 35W Ped Bridge occasionally. December Shenigans: We get together monthly on the 24th St pedestrian bridge for spontaneous, interactive performance and fun. At 10pm on Wed, 12/21, we're gathering under the magical winter sky to commemorate the solstice. Dress warm, bring percussion/musical instruments and join us as we honor the birth of new life and new dreams.

More Reflections from page 1

The Neighborhood That Could by Ramla Abdi (9 years)

Each and every day many things happen. One day one thing happened that changed a lot in some people's lives. A neighborhood was full of people, grocery stores, a shoe shop, ice cream store and much more! But sadly all of it was destroyed. People got thrown out of their homes, got run out

of their businesses, kids couldn't play in the park anymore. The next day Vroom! Screech! A freeway was built. No more people, kids, stores. All that was left was a rusty road full of cars making a lot of noise. Now people live with a big wound. But a man covered all of those wounds...Mr. Peterson. He reconnected all those friends, families and so much more. If he can build a bridge, we can make a big difference in this community. Thanks, Mr. Peterson!

What is this bridge? by Najma Abdi (11 years old)

What is this bridge I am standing on? Is it something we walk on to get across the freeway? Or is it a connection? Is it a bridge or a memory of what used to be? If you ask me, it's something to unite a scattered family, to remind them of a better time, a symbol that everything is not lost or forgotten. Let this bridge remind you of a better time when everyone knew their neighbors. This bridge is a forgotten connection.

Announcement of December Shenigans: We get together monthly on the 24th St pedestrian bridge for spontaneous, interactive performance and fun. At 10pm on Wed, 12/21, we're gathering under the magical winter sky to commemorate the solstice. Dress warm, bring percussion/musical instruments and join us as we honor the birth of new life and new dreams.

www.bridgingminneapolis.com


INGEBRETSEN'S
 Scandinavian Gifts, Foods, Needlework, and Clothing

*Stop in at Ingebretsen's
for good food, music, flags, party gifts and supplies,
for your Summer fun and celebrations!*

Enjoy Summer!

612-729-9333 • www.ingebretsens.com
 1601 East Lake Street, Minneapolis, MN 55407 M-F 9-5:30 Sat 9-5

Winter Solstice celebrated in stories, dance, and runes

BY CARSTEN SMITH

The winter solstice marks the time when the days slowly begin to lengthen and the light returns to the world. Celebrated as "Jul" (yule) in Scandinavian countries, Nordic Roots storyteller and singer Kari Tauring and folk dancer Carol Sersland, along with Tapestry Folk Dance Center, bring the joy of this festival of light to the Tapestry Folkdance Center on Sunday, December 18 from 6 to 8 pm.

"This Jultid Celebration will be an interactive performance, suitable for all ages and all activity levels," says Kari Tauring. Kari received a 2011 Minnesota State Arts Board Folk and Traditional Arts Grant to develop a series of workshops and two celebrations. The Jultid Celebration is the first and in March, there will be the Ostara, a holiday that merges into our contemporary Easter celebration.

The Jultid celebration is open to everyone. While some of the participants will have attended the story hours and dance workshops that Carol and Kari have been leading throughout the fall, "There are enough people who will know the dances that everyone else can just join in!" says Kari. The dances will be at different levels, so experienced folk dancers will be



Nordic Roots storyteller and singer Kari Tauring and folk dancer Carol Sersland, along with Tapestry Folk Dance Center, bring the joy of this festival of light to the Tapestry Folkdance Center on Sunday, December 18 from 6 to 8 pm to celebrate the Winter Solstice which marks the time when the days slowly begin to lengthen and the light returns to the world. Celebrated as "Jul" (yule) in Scandinavian countries.

challenged and complete beginners will find dances tailored to them.

Of course, the Jultide will include traditional, seasonal food. Attendees will receive a Jul gift

Reflections:

- On urban life in word and art by ages three to ninety. Pg 1 & 4
- Phillips Neighborhood pg 2
- 9th Ward Award Nominees pg 2
- Medical research early 20th C pg 4
- Come and Get It pg 4
- The Neighborhood That Could pg 4
- What Is This Bridge? Pg 4
- Winter Solstice pg 5
- Life's Dramas pg 6
- Revolts and Uprisings of 2011 pg 6
- Winter Dreams pg 6
- Occupy MN pg 7
- Orator Wendell Meets Jesus pg 7
- Meeting Wendell and wood type pg 7
- Language as window to the soul of thought and culture pg 8
- "Come In, Rest" pg 8

Right On Lake Street

E Lake St

of a rune on a string as they enter the dance space. Runes are the traditional Norse alphabet and each rune has a special meaning beyond its use as a letter. Kari, Carol, and Stavers in the House (musicians who create rhythms with stavs, or staffs) will present an Opening Toast and special program to welcome all to the Jultide. And then, the dancing begins!

If you would like to join Carol and Kari for a workshop before the Jultid, please come to the Tapestry Folkdance Center on December 4 from 1 to 3:30. \$10 for adults; \$15 for families up to 5 people.

The Jultid Celebration is December 18 from 6 to 8. \$10 for adults, \$15 for families, up to five people.

Dates for spring workshops, story hours and the Ostara celebration can be found at www.nordicrootsdance.org

Kari is also presenting a series

of Nordic story hours for families at Ingebretsen's Scandinavian Gifts. These story hours complement the content of the dance workshops, though both the workshops and the story hours can be enjoyed individually. For details on the story hours, please visit <http://ingebretsens.com/classes/culture>

For Rent

28th & Bloomington Av. 2BR
Nat. Ww. \$745.+ Util.

22nd & 16th Ave. So.
3BR House, New Furn. A.C.,
Jacuzzi, Pkg \$895. + Util.

33rd & Nic. Av. So. 2 br
+ Sunroom \$645 + Util.

612-825-6283

ADVERTISE!

Promote your small business or organization. Recruit participants for a local event! Celebrate an important occasion. There are 10,000 copies of The Alley published monthly.

Reasonable rates and we can assist you with ad layout.
**CONTACT ADS@ALLEYNEWS.ORG
OR CALL 612-990-4022**

AIOIC School of Business and Office Technology

- 1 to 9 Months • Small Classes • Externships
- Free ABE/GED Class • Financial Aid if You Qualify

Start on February 27, 2012 for:

- Medical Office Assistant (9 mos.)
- Small Business Management (9 mos.)
- Administrative Assistant (9 mos.)
- Health Occupations (6 or 9 mos.)
- Human Services Technician (6 mos.)
- NEW Computer Support Specialist (9 mos.)
- NEW Public Relations Specialist (9 mos.)
- MORE Specialist Programs are planned

► Short-term Health Related Courses (Call us):

An evaluation funded by the federal government is being conducted to determine how the training program helps people increase their skills and find jobs. Spaces in the program are limited. Entry into the program is determined using a lottery process to ensure that everyone who is eligible has the same chance of getting in. Applies to Medical Office Assistant, Six-Month HOC programs, and the Short-Term Health Related Courses.

Call Phillip at 612-341-3358 Ext. 148 (For Health courses, Ext. 171)
Cedar and Franklin, Golden Living and Sabathani Center www.aioic.org



Seward Co-op GROCERY & DELI



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

Open 8 a.m.-10 p.m. daily • 2823 E Franklin Ave • Minneapolis • 612.338.2465 • seward.coop

WELNA HARDWARE



- KEYS MADE
- LOCKS RE-KEYED
- 5 GALLON PAINT
- EXCELLENT PRICES
- RUG DOCTOR RENTAL
- EXPERT WINDOW/SCREEN REPAIR
- TRAILERS FOR RENT—
OPEN AND ONE ENCLOSED

2201 East Franklin
2438 Bloomington

612-332-4393
612-729-3526

The Descendants



"The Descendants"(2011)
★★★★★
An Hominem Enterprises
***** Drama/Comedy
Cast: George Clooney (Matt or Matthew King), Shailene Woodley (Alexandra or Alexis King), Amara Miller (Scottie King), Patricia Hastie (Elizabeth King), Beau Bridges (Cousin Hugh), Matthew Lillard (Brian Speer), Judy Greer (Julie Speer).
Running time: 115 minutes.
Director: Alexander Payne.

Heartfelt film that presses the drama pushing what's deemed a comedy too, to the back burner. As such, it's just as well the drama takes center stage because in my view--in this film--it's a better movie.

All of the breathtaking cinematography by Phedon Papamichael takes place in Honolulu, O'ahu, Hawaii or nearby islands. Standing on what is one of the world's stunning paradises is George Clooney, as Matthew King in an unfortunate dilemma: a wife Liz (Patricia Hastie) in a coma from a water-skiing accident and either selling or keeping a great estate he inherited from his great-grandmother , a native princess married a non-native (haole) businessman.

Matt has two daughters Scottie (Amara Miller) and Alexis (Shailene Woodley), 7 and 17, respectively, misbehaving and sometimes mean-spirited towards their dad. I hardly feel empathy as the girls on a number of levels, but as the movie tracks forward I begin ease my frustrations about these wayward 21st century kids. The older daughter shocks Matt with the revelations his wife was



HOWARD MCQUITTER II
Movie Corner
Howardsmoviecorner.com
HowardMcQuitterii@yahoo.com

involved in an illicit relationship with another man on the island before her tragic accident.

Stunned by what Alexis has just revealed, Matt sets on a mission to find the mystery adulterer, a man of considerable financial success on the island.

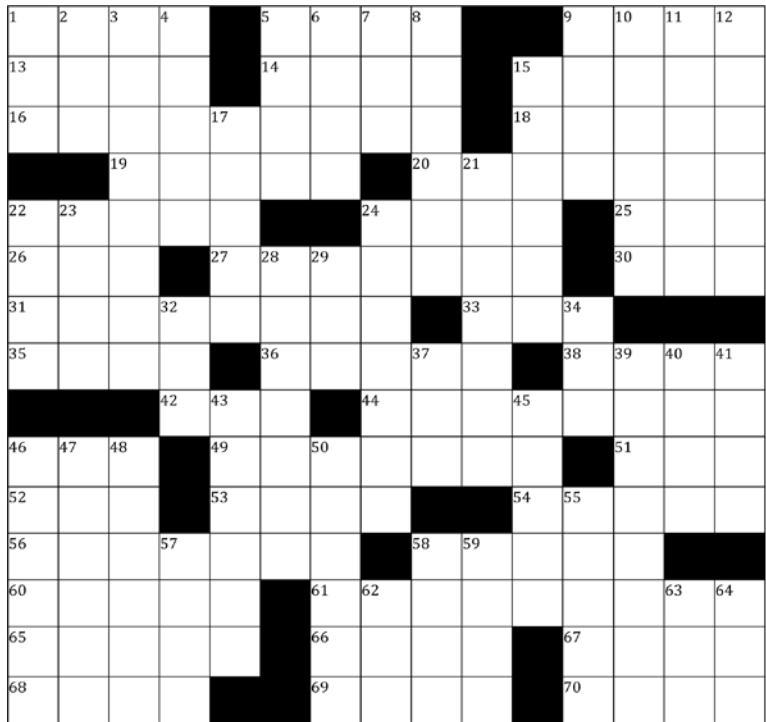
Alexander Payne meshes winding stories, usually quasi-or-complete road movies such as "About Schmidt(2002) and "Sideways"(2004), with "{The Descendants" with artistic skills.

George Woodley's character has difficult decisions to make such as what to do with his wife on a respirator and if he should, with conjunction with his cousins, sell the land they inherited generations before.

What's more, George Clooney, Shailene Woodley, and the whole cast really (Amara Miller never acted before until "The Descendants"), are superb. George Clooney's performance is Oscar worthy and Shailene Woodley should be considered for a nomination for best supporting actress.

Alley Crosswords by Samantha "Sami" Pfeffer

This puzzle is in honor of the protests and revolts of 2011. The starred clues are just a few of the more than 2000 sites of uprisings.



- Across.**
- 1. Steal
 - 5. Tiny
 - 9. Stupefy
 - 13. Inca _____ (Peruvian soft drink)
 - 14. "Yippee!"
 - 15. Arthur proponent of existentialism
 - 16. Canadian anti-consumerist magazine involved in the Occupy Wallstreet protests
 - 18. Alarm
 - *19.
 - *20.
 - *22.
 - 24. -phile (wine lover)
 - 25. USC virtual reality computer simulation program
 - 26. Nigerian drum
 - *27. Original Occupy protest site
 - 30. Choral atoll in French Polynesia
 - 31. Where to get parking tickets?
 - 33. Cy the Cardinal's alma mater
 - 35. Reverb
 - 36. King
 - 38. Movie rating org.
 - 42. 12th dynasty Egyptian queen
 - 44. What an author might give
 - 46. Complete a jog around the track
 - 49. Grass, trees, landscaping commercials?
 - 51. Sticky ooze
 - 52. ____ Opa micro brewery in Massachusetts
 - 53. Heavy _____
 - 54. Honorary title for a Muslim man
 - *56.
 - *58.
 - 60. Train station
 - 61. Anti-_____ (UK protests)
 - 65. Elongated circles
 - 66. President _____ Kibaki of Kenya
 - 67. _____ II (Spiritual leader of the Georgian Catholic Church)
 - 68. _____ Gingrich
 - 69. Consumes
 - 70. Snakes
- Down.**
- 1. Punk music that originated in Jamaica
 - 2. Nonverbal agreement
 - 3. Radio Free _____ (film and novel)
 - 4. Pressure meter
 - 5. Cry from the bathroom?
 - 6. Assist (in crimes)
 - 7. Neither...
 - 8. Shellfish
 - 9. S a l v a d o r _____
 - 10. Location of 33-across
 - *11.

- 12. House and grounds
- 15. Instrument used at the end of Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture?
- 17. _____ Seid (youtube etiquette coach)
- 21. An episode that did not play on TV
- 22. Germanic winter festival
- 23. Electronic file
- *24.
- 28. "_____ bust!" (Red blood cell slogan) (2 wds.)
- 29. Black southern University
- 32. Where to sleep on the road
- 34. UM's northern sister school
- 39. Often braided
- 40. Dwarf buffalo
- 41. "There Is _____" (2009 Lee Ann Womack Song)
- 43. Apportions
- 45. Nickname for an Outback
- *46.
- 47. An annoyance
- 48. Indigenous North American fruit tree
- 50. Edible seaweed
- *55.
- 57. Internet lingo for carpe diem
- 58. Law school admission test
- 59. Suffix denoting disease
- 62. Tiger team (rival of 33-across)
- 63. Peak
- 64. Agreements
- 53. Very sticky tape
- 54. Flanders and Gerblansky, for example
- 55. Got bigger
- 56. Head first
- 57. Not basic
- 58. Not Harard

November Answers

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

Hobt's Holiday Show: Winter Dreams



Created & Produced by In the Heart of the Beast Theatre
Directed by Alison Heimstead
In the Heart of the Beast Theatre (HOBT) is excited to announce the return of Winter Dreams, last performed in 2000, to its stage. This beautiful and educational

puppet show reveals a magical look into the natural beauty and wonder of Minnesota winters. In winter, cold and deep, animals every- where bury themselves in the earth to sleep. Underneath blankets of snow, the animals slumber all winter — snoring and

dreaming under the vast skies. Children and adults of all ages are invited to come discover the dreams of winter's secret sleepers, and the music of the wide mysterious skies.

Location
In the Heart of the Beast Puppet & Mask Theatre
1500 Lake St E, Minneapolis, 55407

Dates & Times
December 2-30 (There will be NO performances the weekend of December 23), Fridays: 7 PM, Saturdays: 3 PM & 7 PM, Sundays: 3 PM AND Tuesday, December 27 at 7:00 PM

Admission
Adults \$15
Students (with valid ID), Seniors (65 & older), Groups (10 or more), & Puppeteers \$12
Children (18 & under) \$10

Other Hobt events

Saturdays morning hru March Puppet Shows For Kids
Nearly every Saturday through March, different artists perform engaging puppet shows at 10am and noon. A great alternative to television, these performances will delight kids of all ages. Families can also attend hands-on Make-n-Take puppet workshops based on that day's puppet show theme.

- Performances: 10am & noon
- Workshop: 11am
- Admission: Performances - suggested donation of \$4/ person or \$2/ person if you live in Phillips, Central, Corcoran or Powderhorn neighborhoods. Workshops - \$5/ child, \$3/ adult (Children must be accompanied by an adult).

December 3 Feathers and Strings. The Hunter Marionettes
Can an ostrich fly? Can a bluebird juggle? You'll learn the

answers in this delightful marionette show.

December 10. The Old Woman Who Swallowed a Fly. Sophie and Esmeralda. Esmeralda, assisted by the famous puppeteer, Sophie, presents a puppet show of The Old Woman Who Swallowed a Fly. Watch out!

SEPTEMBER - MARCH Puppet Youth Troupe
Join In HOBT's Puppet Youth Troupe as we embark on a six-month journey to create an all new, original work of puppetry.

Ages 9-18. Thursdays, 4-6pm, through March 1. Fee: \$250, scholarships available. Register by phone: 612-721-2535, in person, or online. Cash, check, credit cards accepted.

Taught by HOBT Education Director, Bart Buch: 612-377-3698, bbuch@hobt.org

Mixed Bag

Unlike the esteemed guru who, it is said, once transcended all earthly attachments, the rest of us are bound to the spiritual ups and downs which reflect the satisfactions and irritations of our existence.

St. Paul's Church, 11-11-11...

It was in conjunction with the 200th birthday of Wendell Phillips, renowned opponent of all forms of oppression, that this paper celebrated its 36 years. The evening unfolded as a high pinnacle event for the activist community of this neighborhood.

There was as well a high-point moment for this writer. Despite his many years of socialist rantings in the space of this column, there was a warm ovation from an audience which included small business people. So, let it be said: The Welnas and Ingebretsens will have their place well into the future.

Meanwhile, on the other hand...

The downtown occupation is evolving as an united bundle of ideological contradictions.

I am sorry to say that most of the assembled entities are more or less hostile to persons such as myself who 1.) in the past, advocated for friendly relations with socialist lands (imperfect "works in progress" though they might have been) and 2.) presently vote for Democrats as a hedge against right-wing extremism.

One such grouping of mainly rosy-cheeked college graduates is attempting to bear the mantle of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW). The working class is held in check because



PETER MOLENAAR

Raise Your Voice

we are organized in a "bizarre" way, they tell us. Only by joining One Big Union (evidently under their leadership) can workers advance.

Sadly, the IWW call is an expression of what Marxists refer to as "formalism". In essence they declare that only their form of organization is valid (form is primary). Lenin, on the other hand, urged activists to work within the existing structures of organized labor... "As conditions mature, new content will emerge from all and sundry old forms" (i.e. content is primary).

Moreover, are Lenin's words not infinitely more modest?

To date the call for a "general strike" and for the occupation of our workplaces falls on deaf ears. For now we will feed our families and pay our bills. The revolution must wait.

Be patient, young ones. Life is a mixed bag.

Jim Stewart's article in The Alley Prompts

Visitor to Create a Wood Type Poster of Wendell Phillips



A poster marking Wendell Phillips' 200th birthday, nailed to a power pole in the former copper mining town of Calumet, in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Daniel Schneider, who lives in Michigan's copper district, nailed up 11 of the wood type posters in Calumet and surrounding mining towns on November 11, 2011.

A novice letterpress printer, Schneider had printed the posters at the Minnesota Center for Book Arts the previous weekend after reading about Phillips in the November issue of The Alley. He left one edition of 11 eleven prints in Minneapolis to be posted in the Phillips neighborhood.

[Editor's Note: The following e-mail was sent to Jim Stewart, biographer of Wendell Phillips who recently was the keynote presenter at The Alley Newspaper's 11-11-11 200th Birthday Party for Wendell Phillips in Phillips Community. A reproduction of the poster appears in this issue on Page 4.]

Dear Jim Stewart,

Late Sunday [Nov. 6th, 2011] morning I read your article about Wendell Phillips in The Alley newspaper. I had not heard of Phillips before, but found him an inspiring person. As it happened, the reason I was in Minneapolis was to receive training in letterpress printing at the Minnesota Center for Book Arts. That afternoon we printed posters using wood type on a Vandercook proof press. I printed three editions of 11 posters each to mark Wendell Phillips' 200th birthday. One edition I left in Minneapolis to be posted in the Phillips neighborhood. The second edition I will distribute between now and Friday in the Keweenaw Peninsula of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, where I live. The third edition I am saving for my own use. I would like to give you one of the prints from this third edition and am wondering to what address I should send it. I look forward to hearing from you and thank you for your article introducing me to Wendell Phillips.

Best Regards,
Daniel Schneider

Second e-mail from Dan Schneider explaining wood type interest and resurgence

Dear Editor,

My girlfriend and I are involved in our community arts center in Hancock, MI. Bonnie is assistant director and I am a volunteer. For the past year, we've been setting up a letterpress studio at the arts center with equipment local print shops donated when upgrading to more modern technology. Letterpress printing is enjoying a renaissance in the art community. For me, it resonates with my writing and newspaper background. There is a lot of printing history in our area. Newspapers were printed in the many languages of the miners who immigrated here.

Bonnie and I visited a number of active letterpress shops out west last winter. We have been learning the technical skills from a letterpress printer who is setting up a printing museum here. The first weekend in November, four of us from the arts center traveled to the MCBA to learn about how they do their community programming. Their instructors also helped us with training on the technical aspects.

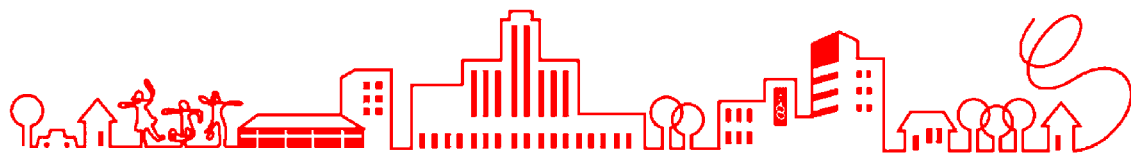
It was my first opportunity to print with wood type. I was struggling to think of something worth saying in big letters. I went for a walk Sunday morning in the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood when I stopped in a coffee shop and found The Alley with Jim's story about Wendell Phillips.

Looking forward to seeing the December issue of The Alley,
Dan



Backyard Initiative Update

Harvesting Learning from the Dakota Language Revitalization Citizen Health Action Team



BY JANICE BARBEE AND MADELINE GARDNER,
CULTURAL WELLNESS CENTER

Residents of seven neighborhoods in south Minneapolis (in the area around Allina Health System's headquarters) have been implementing their ideas for health improvement for the past year with the support of Allina and the Cultural Wellness Center. The Dakota Language Revitalization Citizen Health Action Team (CHAT) was the first project to be approved by the Community Commission on Health and the members of this CHAT (made up primarily of Dakota community residents) have been going through a reflection or harvesting process to pull out their learning from their experiences and share it with the Commission, with other CHATs, and with the community.

The Dakota Language Revitalization CHAT was formed out of the recognition that the health of a culture is essential to the health of a people and language is how culture and world view are transmitted. The Dakota language is at a crisis point right now; one CHAT member estimates there are only five fluent Dakota speakers left in the state of MN. The vision of the CHAT was that Dakota children learn their language at an early age, and their strategy was to start a day care for young children where they would be immersed in the Dakota language.

The CHAT members learned a lot about the regulations, licensing and challenges of setting up early childhood care facility. A teacher was hired for the immersion program, one of the few Dakota speakers under 40 years old. Due to the challenges in setting up a licensed day care in a house, the strategy changed to setting up a part-time Dakota language childhood immersion program within an existing day care, with the help of Wicoie Nandigikendon, the CHAT's fiscal agent and incubator. Up to six children attended. CHAT members also hosted a weekly or biweekly moccasin making class for about 50 community members from February to May of 2011.

Besides the challenges around regulations and licensing, the CHAT found it difficult making the program affordable and getting Dakota children into the program. Leadership also emerged as a challenge – people dropped out of the CHAT, tasks were not completed, and the teacher brought in was under the impression he was an employee in a program, not a member of a CHAT. A shift of administration and responsibility occurred from the CHAT to Wicoie over the course of the year, as there was little transfer of information about the CHAT with changes in leadership at Wicoie. People also had different ideas about whether teachers should be Dakota and whether the program should be combined with Ojibwa language immersion.

This reflective process has helped the CHAT members to gain new energy, knowledge, and skills for moving forward and create new strategies for revitalizing the Dakota language. They have learned they want to take smaller steps and offer more kinds of activities to engage families. They want to grow their CHAT membership, have more consistent meetings, and grow the leadership of many so that if one person leaves, the work can go on.

Their learning or "fruits" of the CHAT's work has now been presented to the Backyard Initiative's Assessment Team, Commission on Health, and to the All-CHAT meeting. As everyone reflects on what the CHAT has learned, people have identified the "seeds" or learning which can be acted upon or "planted" in the work of the other CHATs and the Commission.

"Fruits" and "Seeds" from the Dakota Language Revitalization CHAT

"Fruit" 1: Historical events and relationships between peoples underlie the challenges of the CHAT. The history and relationship between the Dakota and Ojibwa and between Native American and European American peoples was the context for some of the challenges the Dakota Language CHAT faced. This context is a factor in 1) the extent of involvement of CWC and Allina staff in the "business" of the CHAT, whether and what kinds of outside support is welcomed or discouraged; 2) how people outside the community interpret the challenges when they may not understand all the nuances of CHAT members' cultural ways and the ways that history has affected relationships; and 3) the importance of people taking responsibility for themselves, where the learning from mistakes that people make along the way while learning to do their own work is often worth more than reaching the final goal.

"Seeds" to be planted

1. Choose facilitators/supporters/guides who understand the historical context and respect boundaries. Certain people will be most appropriate based on their culture, age, and relationships in the community.
2. Educate the community on the historical context if it is not well understood.
3. Don't expect all goals to be achieved. Value learning from mistakes or missteps.

"Fruit" 2: Communication is crucial to the CHAT's progress. This includes communication among the CHAT members, between CHATs and the CWC and Assessment Team, and between the CHAT and its Incubator. The Dakota CHAT is committed to growing their CHAT's membership, clarifying leadership roles and offering opportunities for people to take leadership, and communicating the purpose of the

CHAT and the principles of the Backyard Initiative to new members and to their incubator/fiscal agent.

"Seeds"

1. Create a process for orienting new members to the CHAT and the Backyard Initiative.
2. Create more tools for educating incubators/fiscal agents in the Backyard and their responsibilities as incubators of the CHATs, including ways to hold them accountable throughout the year.
3. Continue to develop ways for how the CHATs communicate with the other CHATs, the Commission, the CWC, and the Evaluation team throughout the year to gather learning and be accountable.
4. Develop the role of CHAT leaders/facilitators/coordinators in each CHAT whose responsibility might be to communicate with new members, with the Incubator, with the CWC, and with other CHATs.

"Fruit" 3: The scope of a CHAT's project has to take into account what is achievable in one year, and will depend on building the number of people doing the work and their knowledge, skills, and leadership. The CHAT members determined that their strategy for revitalizing the Dakota language was too ambitious to accomplish in one year, and had many obstacles that were not known at the outset.

"Seeds"

1. The Commission will give careful consideration to the feasibility of CHATs projects, and support CHATs to plan their projects in small, achievable steps.

Look for the learning from other CHATs in future issues of the Alley.

All Backyard residents are welcome to come to the Backyard Initiative community meetings on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 5 PM at Hope Community, 611 East Franklin Avenue. Call the Cultural Wellness Center for details: 612-721-5745.

**ALL THE
INGREDIENTS
FOR YOUR
HOLIDAYS**

**MIDTOWN
GLOBAL
MARKET**

Lake Street & 10th Avenue S
MIDTOWNGLOBALMARKET.ORG

Bii Di Gain Dash Anwebi ("Come in. Rest." in Ojibwe) Elder Housing



A street view of the East Building.

AICDC is addressing the lack of affordable housing for American Indian elders in Minneapolis with the development of the Bi Di Gain Dash Anwebi Elder Housing. The apartment will be 47 1-bedroom units located on two parcels of land on the east and west sides of Bloomington Avenue South. The apartments will be available to seniors 62 years of age and older with an income at or below 50% AMI (Area Median Income). HUD (The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development) rental subsidies will be available to seniors living in at Bii Di Gain Dash Anwebi Elder Housing. CommonBond Communities will co-sponsor and manage the project.

The apartments will include an Advantage Center Community Room which will provide program training and computer

space and the management office. Services will include independent living skills, wellness and prevention workshops, health promotion, community information and referrals, and discussion circles. The office will maintain regular hours offering culturally-specific professional service to the residents.

Bi Di Gain Dash Anwebi is one piece of AICDC's goal to enhance and bolster the economic condition of south Minneapolis through quality development and retain the area's historic American Indian presence. AICDC's projects are designed to preserve, rehabilitate and stabilize the neighborhood while meeting the needs of the American Indian community.

**CONTACT ADS@
ALLEYNEWS.ORG OR
CALL 612-990-4022**

CELEBRATE AMEN • CORNER

Friday • Dec 16th

6:00 - 9:00 PM

• FRESHLY-PREPARED FOOD

• CHILD CARE AVAILABLE

• ENTERTAINMENT

• VIDEO & PHOTO SLIDE SHOWINGS

Phillips Community Center
2323 Eleventh Avenue South

FFI: Dee @ 651.646.3183 • Sponsored by Ventura Village Neighborhood



3440 BLOOMINGTON AVE.
POWDERHORN PARK
MINNEAPOLIS
M-F 6:30-6
SAT 7-5 • SUN 7:30-5
729-5627

**ORGANIC &
FAIR TRADE COFFEE**

FREE Wireless Internet