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the Alley

NEWSPAPER

NEWS & VIEWS OF PHILLIPS SINCE 1976
FEBRUARY 2015 • VOLUME 40, NUMBER 2

Complimentary
Copy of Phoenix
of Phillips inside. PULL
OUT and ENJOY!



NEW! LOCAL MAGAZINE!

Telling your story is resistance and hope 'Rising Up'

Overlooked creativity prompts collection of 'Keepers'

BY PATRICK CABELLO HANSEL

"Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes.

Art is knowing which ones to keep." Scott Adams

The greatest mistakes often lead to the greatest accomplishments. For too long, those outside the Phillips community have overlooked the incredible creativity of our vibrant and diverse community. The schools, the businesses, the arts organizations, and above all, the people. This is compounded by much of the media's attention on what is wrong with Phillips: the ashes, rather than what arises from them. The literary magazine in this issue, "The Phoenix of Phillips" makes the case for the rising.

Though the depiction of the

Telling one's story is a powerful act of resistance to a narrative that says we really can't make a difference, and it is a powerful act of hope that claims that every one's voice, from the smallest to the biggest has value.

Phoenix varies from place to place, there are some commonalities across time and language. The Phoenix is a brightly colored bird that lives for a long time—often a thousand years—then, in a high tree makes a nest lined with incense where she does not lay eggs, but lays herself down. To be immolated, only to rise again from the ashes. As the 19th century Irish poet George Darley put it:

Half buried to her flaming breast

In this bright tree, she makes her nest,

Hundred sunn'd Phoenix!

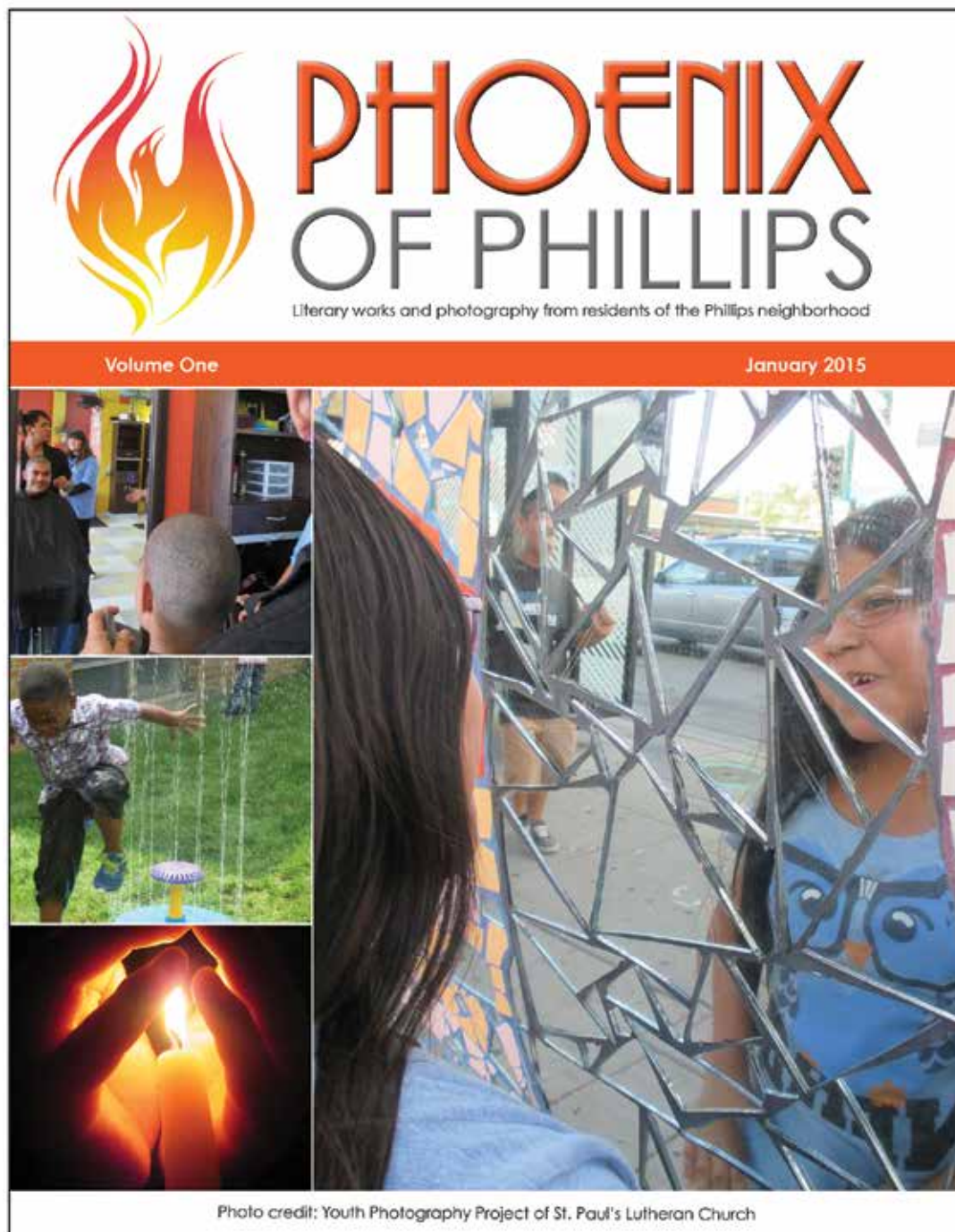


Photo credit: Youth Photography Project of St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Free in Phillips, \$1 suggested donation

When she must Crumble at length to hoary dust!

The Phoenix is found in many ancient cultures, from Persian to Egyptian to Greek. In Persia, it was considered the Bird of Paradise. In early Christian writing, for example that of Saint Ambrose and Saint Clement, the Phoenix is often lifted up as a symbol of the resurrection.

In Hebrew, the word chol can be translated as Phoenix. In Job 29:18, Job says, "Then I thought, 'I shall die in my nest, and I shall multiply my days like the phoenix.'"

(NRSV) Chol also means sand, which is how most English translation renders the passage. Perhaps some Christians have trouble with a mythical image shared with other religions. Or perhaps the feminine nature of the Phoenix troubles some.

We all look for new life, especially in the midst of struggle and loss. Telling one's story is a powerful act of resistance to a narrative that says we really can't make a difference, and it is a powerful act of hope that claims that every one's voice, from the smallest to the biggest has value. This first

issue of The Phoenix of Phillips is dedicated to those who give their lives—in service, in struggle, in song—for our beloved neighborhood.

We hope that you enjoy the writing and photography in The Phoenix of Phillips, and that you consider contributing to its future—by submitting work to be considered for publication, by supporting us financially, and by telling your friends! In the words of Pablo Picasso: "Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up."

The First Flames of the Phoenix
Burned brightly at MGM as literary creativity was unveiled

BY PATRICK CABELLO HANSEL

Thursday, January 29, 2015, at the Midtown Global Market saw the first literary magazine launch of the year in Minneapolis—The Phoenix of Phillips. What makes it most noteworthy was that it featured the writing of youth and adults from our neighborhood. Children as young as eight, seniors who've lived a long time, amateurs and professional writers shared their vision and their talent.

The debut of The Phoenix was also the opening of the annual youth photography show of St. Paul's Lutheran Church. "We Are Midtown Phillips" is the work of talented youth ages seven to eighteen, who photographed their neighborhood during the summer and fall of 2014. At festivals, at block parties and on the street, in school and the market, and in a dark room lit by a candle, the young people saw the beauty of the community, and captured its diversity.

Live music included a sing-along of American and Mexican folk songs, led by the Dunagan Sisters.

Many of the photos were generated as a part of the community outreach collaboration of St. Paul's and In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theater. Working in partnership with Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association, staff, volunteers and community artists engaged neighborhood people in creating art on their own turf, as a way to build community cohesion and strength.

The Phoenix of Phillips and "We Are Midtown Phillips"

Phoenix
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Neighborhood News:
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Midtown
Phillips pg 3
East Phillips pg 2



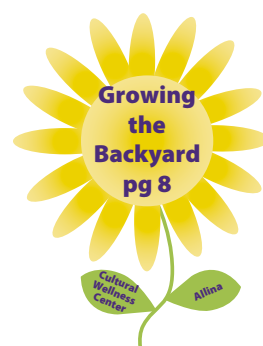
120th Tale from Pioneers & Soldiers Cemetery
"...water wears away the Stone." – Lucretius
99 BC–55 BC pg 3



HOBT MayDay Mtg Feb 10 +
Info and Roy McBride Memorial
Scholarship Fund pg 6



RAISE YOUR VOICE
"Against Hate Speech"
BY PETER MOLENAAR pg 7



the Alley
 NEWSPAPER

The Alley
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Alley Communications, a 501C-3, Not-for-Profit Corp. publishes The Alley Newspaper influenced by these words by Ann Greene Phillips and Wendell Phillips:

"We came into this world to give truth a little jog onward and to help our neighbor's rights."

Donations are needed, welcome, and Tax Deductible.

Volunteers who had a part in making the issue: Robert Albee, Lucinda Anderson, BackYard Initiative CHATS, Patrick Cabello Hansel, Friends of the Library, Susan Gust, Linnea Hadaway, Natasha Cabello Hansel, Hennepin County Franklin Library and Staff, Hennepin County Library Special Collections, Sue Hunter Weir, In the Heart of the Beast Theatre, Library of Congress, Jana Metge, Midtown Global Market, Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association, Jonathan Miller, Peter Molenaar, Dave Moore, Brad Pass, Phillips West Neighborhood Organization, St. Paul's Lutheran Church on 15h, Semilla Project, Sunny Sevigny, Sandy Spieler, Erin Thomasson, VenturaVillage, Crystal Trautnau Winschitl.

Delivery: to 250 Apartments, Businesses, Places of Worship, and Organizations by Lyle James Delivery and to many homes and meetings by these volunteers Beverly, Brad, Carol, Patrick, Cathy, Dave, East Phillips Improvement Coalition, Jacy, Jana, Heidi, Howard, Marjorie, Midtown Phillips, Paul, Phillips West N Org., Simmons Family, Raymond, Stephanie, Sue, Tara, Ventura Village within blocks of these neighborhoods: Ventura Village, Phillips West, Midtown Phillips, East Phillips, Central, Powderhorn Park, and Corcoran; and a few places in Longfellow, Cooper, Cedar-Riverside, Elliott Park, Whittier, and Lyndale.

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 Call Harvey 612-990-4022

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EPIC NEWS

EPIC is taking the lead in "Bridging the Digital Divide" with its **Free Financial Literacy classes** and its **Free Computer Literacy Classes**. Many people in our neighborhood and other inner city areas are locked out of many opportunities such as job searching resume building, banking and responsible Credit Card use by their unfamiliarity with the use of the computer and the internet. EPIC's classes are geared to everyone, starting from the very beginners to advanced users, young and old.

We are fortunate to utilize the newly updated Computer Lab at the East Phillips Park Cultural & Community Center and are partnering with the City of Minneapolis Dept. of Technology, Osiris Organization, the Community Technology Empowerment Project, AmeriCorps, Wells Fargo and the Minneapolis Park & Rec. Board. **The best part of this is the classes are FUN.** Midway through the first series of Financial Literacy classes, the students asked for another night of classes to cover additional questions. It was, of course, provided and the final class ended with applause for the volunteer Wells Fargo instructors.

Our first class in the Computer Literacy series met Thursday, Jan. 15th and we were very fortunate that two seventeen year old neighbors, Abdi and Idriss Abdillahi stopped by and offered to help our instructor, Meghan Muffett by circulating amongst the students and assisting with their questions. It was a great help and was appreciated by all. We look forward to their continuing help. Spanish translation was provided to the Spanish speakers in the class by EPIC Board member Rosie Cruz.

So far, the classes have been so successful that The Minneapolis Park and Rec. Board and Staff are interested in replicating them in other park facilities and asked EPIC to assist them in this important City-wide endeavor.

Those interested in signing up for future classes may contact East Phillips Park at 612-370-4888 or Brad Pass at 612-916-8478.

For those East Phillips residents awaiting home rehab loans, **EPIC's Home Rehab Loan Program** will be back up and running as soon as the transfer of its administration from the Center for Energy and Environment to the Greater Metropolitan Housing Corporation is complete. This program provides zero interest loans with no payments due until the sale of the property. Residents will be notified.

For your Calendar:

EPIC Board of Directors meets: Saturday, February 7th At 10:00

East Phillips Improvement Coalition

AM
 Subsequent meetings are every First Saturday.

EPIC General Membership Meets

Thursday, February 12th At 6:30 PM
 Subsequent meetings are every Second Thursday.

Agenda items will include Neighborhood Crime Initiatives, Industrial Pollution in the Neighborhood and updates on continuing neighborhood projects.

EPIC's East Phillips Park Programming Partnership Meets

Tuesday, February 24th at 11:30 AM. Lunch is served.

Subsequent meetings are the Last Tuesday of each month (except December).

Agenda Items will include updates on The East Phillips Free Financial Literacy Class, the Free Computer Literacy Class, the East Phillips Summer Fest and Programming Partner News.

All meetings are at the:

East Phillips Park Cultural & Community Center
 Located at 2307 17th Ave. S.
 The Center is wheelchair accessible

East Phillips borders:

North: 24th St. +East Phillips Park
 East: Hiawatha Ave /Hwy. 55
 West: Bloomington Ave
 South: Lake St.

All East Phillips residents, business owners, property owners and employees of neighborhood businesses are welcome and encouraged to participate in the activities and decision-making by attending EPIC meetings.



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 8^{AM} to 3^{PM} Sun.
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 www.mariascfe.com

BY ERIN THOMASSON
Children & Family Programs
Childcare Group Storytime
 Fri, Feb 6, 9:30 am
 Share books, stories, rhymes, music & movement.
Family Storytime
 Fri, Feb 6, 10:30 am
 All ages & parent or caregiver. Share books, stories, rhymes, music & movement.
Franklin Teen Center Programs
Urban 4-H Club
 Tues. 5-7 pm
 Urban gardening to digital photo/video to theater.
Teen Tech Workshop
 Wed, Feb 11 & 25, 4:30-6 pm
 Make music, videos, & animation: high- & low-tech tools-iPads to LEGOS.[®]
Act Out: Physical Comedy

Intro
 Wed, Feb 18, 4:30-6 pm
 Grades 6-9; Reg. Req. Ready to get serious about being funny? A Guthrie teaching artist will help you explore techniques for comedy. No experience necessary!
Young Achievers
Thurs., 4:30-6 pm
 Want to be involved in your community? Bring friends for poetry, arts, & games.

Phillips West Neighborhood Upcoming Events
 www.phillipswest.info

February 5th (Thursday) 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. – Phillips West Community Meeting!

Join your neighbors and other Community Partners for updates from Local City Government, Business Partners, Developers of 2 triplexes located at 2533/37 5th Avenue, Residents, and Minneapolis Police. At the Center for Changing Lives in the Centrum Room (2400 Park Avenue). Free parking is available in the rear of building off Oakland Avenue. Free Jakeeno's 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.

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Programs at the Franklin Library

1314 E. Franklin Avenue
 Complete program list or info
 612- 543-6925
 www.hclib.org
 Mon, Fri & Sat: 9am-5pm
 Tue, Wed & Thurs:
 9am -8pm
 Sun: 12-5pm

Adult Programs

55+ Nonfiction Book Club
 Fri, Feb 13, 1-3 pm

Discussion of new, interesting nonfiction titles. Bring ideas. Info: 612-543-6925.

Memoir Writing Group
 Thurs, Feb 19, 1-3 pm

Create a record of your history.
Franklin Learning Center:
 612-534-6934

Free, one-to-one adult tutoring of Eng. & math, for GED, citizen exams, & life skills. Volunteers needed! No exp. necessary; Training & supplies given.
 flc@hclib.org.



“The fall of dropping water wears away the Stone.”
– Lucretius c. 99 BC – c. 55 BC)*

Stone wears slowly. Adapting regulations shouldn’t be as slow!

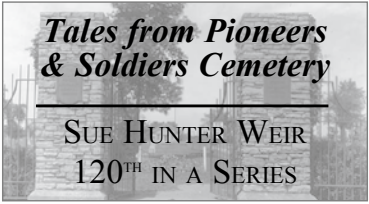
Finally. Veterans Affairs has proposed amending their regulations governing who may order markers for military veterans. Since 2011 Friends of the Cemetery has managed to replace or get new markers for eight veterans. Two of them were for veterans of the War of 1812, five were for Civil War veterans and one was for a veteran of the Spanish-American War. That doesn’t sound like many but given how restrictive the rules are it’s nothing short of miraculous.

Military veterans are entitled to have their graves marked by a government-issue marker. The markers are provided at no cost although the government is not responsible for setting the markers on graves. The markers are available in a variety of styles but we have chosen upright, marble markers, the style that was introduced during the Civil War.

Current regulations require that the request for a new or replacement marker come from the veteran’s next of kin or a representative of a next of kin. Since some of our veterans died 150 or so years ago, that’s not always an easy thing

to do. In some cases, families made the request and we helped with the paperwork. In others, Tim McCall, one of our volunteers, has tracked down veterans’ descendants and gotten their permission. As it turns out that, as time-consuming as that is, it is relatively easy compared to some of the other regulations.

Last year we submitted eight applications. Seven of them were returned as incomplete. The reasons varied but most of them were rejected for small, and in some cases, impossible-to-fulfill reasons. The most baffling reason why an application was sent back is that we didn’t include a photo of an illegible marker so that the VA could make sure that the wording on the new marker would be the same as it was on the old. (If we had been able to make out the wording, we wouldn’t have been asking for a new marker in the first place.) Despite having an e-mail from a staff member saying that we did not have to submit military discharge papers for any veteran who has a marker that is broken or illegible, and therefore eligible to be replaced,



we were told to provide them anyway. We’ve been asked to provide proof that the veterans who are buried in Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery are really buried there, and weren’t too surprised to find out that the fact that we have original burial permits for most of them was not sufficient proof. On and on it goes.

Apparently we were not alone. On October 1 2014, the VA proposed to revise some of its regulations including those that specify who is authorized to order a marker for a veteran and acknowledged that the “VA denied the requests for headstones or markers which has frustrated the efforts of individuals to ensure the unmarked graves of veterans, particularly those from historic eras, are appropriately marked.” During the three-months that the public was allowed to comment over 400 individuals and representatives

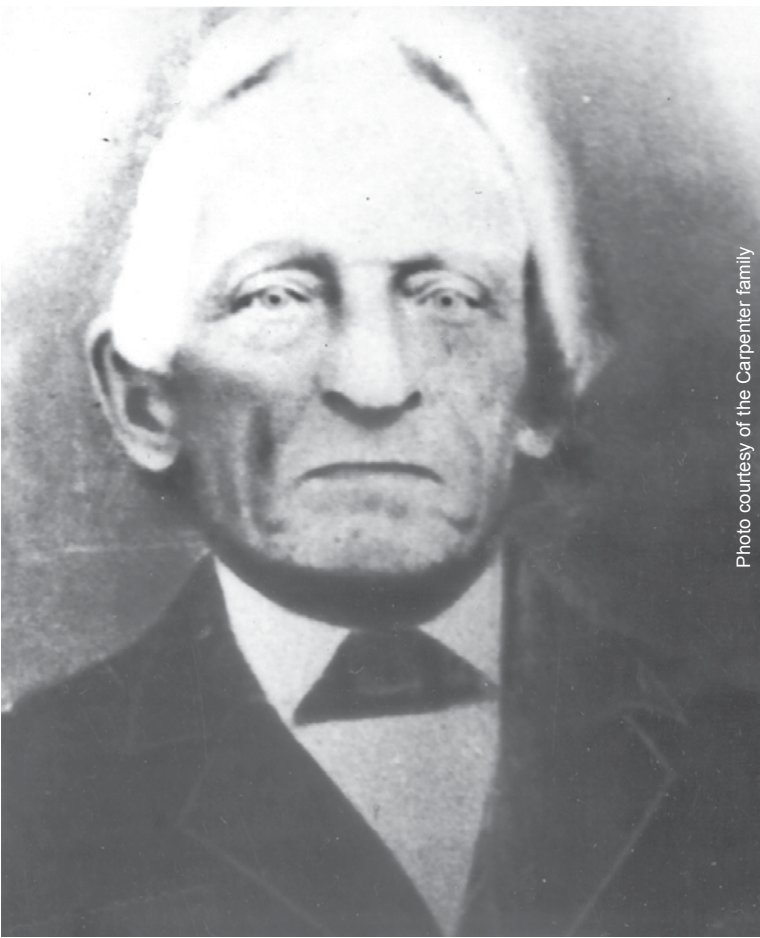


Photo courtesy of the Carpenter family

This photo of John Carpenter was likely taken some time in the 1860s so he has that characteristic stare that comes of having to keep your eyes open forever for long exposures.

of various groups supported the chance. Senator Al Franken was among those who commented in support of the change.

Once the changes go into effect we will be able to file applications for any of the veterans buried in Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery. Other hurdles (burial permits, dis-

charge papers, etc.) are likely to continue for a while. But look for a lot of new markers in the next year or two.

* Titus Lucretius Carus c. 99 BC – c. 55 BC) was a Roman poet and philosopher.



MIDTOWN PHILLIPS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION INC UPCOMING MEETINGS:

MPNAI meets every second and fourth Tuesday of the month. Public welcome.

FEBRUARY Midtown Phillips BOARD Meeting:

Tuesday February 10, 6:30-8pm.

Stewart Park (Arts & Crafts Room), 2700 12th Ave S, Minneapolis
– Annual meeting planning (30 min.)

- Outreach plan
- Funding for food
- Report on planning process
- Finance update (30 min.)
- Neighborhood Priority Plans
- 2015 Neighborhood Partnerships for Community Engagement
- Contract Status Update - CEPRO, Community Participation & NRP Phase I
- Housing committee update (15 min.)
- Announce Housing Meeting Tuesday, Feb 3. 5pm at Stewart Park Arts and Crafts Room, Annual Review of Midtown NRP housing loan program with Greater Metropolitan Housing Corp staff
- Public comments (15 min.)

Midtown Phillips Community Dinner and Annual Meeting:

Tuesday February 24, 5:30-7:30pm.

Andersen United Community School (Cafeteria), 1098 Andersen Lane, Minneapolis

All are welcome to join us for our community dinner and annual meeting. Learn more about your community and the resources it offers, and how you can be more involved. What you do matters!

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

- FREE Dinner, Speakers & Entertainment!
- New Board Elections of: (2) At Large Reps, Reps for Districts 1,3 and 5, and Board Chair
- Neighborhood Reports
- Info and Resource Fair:
- Midtown Safety Center/Court Watch
- Banyan Community/Lighthouse Network
- St Paul’s Lutheran Church
- Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre
- PRG/Powderhorn Residents group
- Solid Waste & Recycling/Composting, City of Minneapolis
- Pioneer Cemetery & The Alley and many more!!

FOR MORE INFO: midtownphillips@gmail.com;
www.midtownphillips.org

Join us for our FREE COMMUNITY DINNER AND ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, February 24

Social hour & dinner 5:30-6pm; Program 6-7:30pm

Hear more about your community!
Learn about resources and programs available to you!
Find out how you can be more involved!

At Andersen United Community School

1098 Andersen Lane, Minneapolis (In the Cafeteria)

ALL ARE WELCOME.

– FREE Dinner, Speakers & Entertainment!

– New Board Elections of:

Reps for Districts 1,3 and 5, 2-At Large Reps, and Board Chair

– Neighborhood Reports

– Info and Resource Fair:

- Banyan Community/Lighthouse Network
- St Paul’s Lutheran Church • Midtown Safety Center/Court Watch
- Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre
- PRG/Powderhorn Residents group
- Solid Waste & Recycling/Composting
- Pioneer Cemetery & The Alley and many more!!

Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association, INC

For more info: midtownphillips@gmail.com
www.midtownphillips.org



VENTURA VILLAGE'S GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - WED. FEB 10TH

Jan 20th Neighborhood Priority Plan's Meeting is sparcely attended

Ventura Village's residents and stakeholders attended a special January 20th **Neighborhood Priority Plan** community meeting to help neighborhood leaders determine what time and investments should be made for the 2015 NCR Budget year.

Participants chose to sit at one of two tables to help focus on issues of greatest importance to them. Each person was given a sheet in which the **Top Ten Priorities for 2015** could be listed. Once those were completed, a spokesperson for each table stood up and read the table's priority list. Then sheets were turned in and the work was completed for the evening.

Participants listed their priorities

Most of the priorities presented by participants are ones that can be essentially addressed by the current funding of NCR if the Ventura Village Board of Directors agrees to champion the projects. This year none of the NCR funds can be used for festivals, events, food and drink, but must be used to underwrite promotion of the neighborhood.

Table 1's list included the following issues:

- 1) Create on-site exercise space for residents of Hiawatha Towers;
- 2) Train residents in CPR and provide Diabetes & Blood Pressure class
- 3) Help residents with civic and health awareness
- 4) Help elderly residents obtain air conditioners in public housing units
- 5) Help residents with more family and picnic events and activities
- 6) Help develop a greater level of youth sports activities

Table 2's requests included:

- 1) Develop classes on language, citizenship, cooking, sewing, & religion
- 2) Put more motion lights in dark areas of the neighborhood
- 3) Create a Senior Center in Ventura Village; create jobs for elders
- 4) Create a business incubator
- 5) Help fund the PCC Swimming Pool & develop more outdoor spaces

Ventura Village's Priority Plan Process addresses Bigger issues!

The Board of Directors of Ventura Village are now seeking more input that addresses bigger issues that require a larger investment. Three areas stand out for consideration:

- 1) **Enhance the Public Realm**, not limited to, but including gardening, greening, public art, wellness projects and vast improvements for Peavey Park, the Phillips Community Center (indoors & out)/Swimming Pool;
- 2) **Enhance the livability of our Streets**, not limited to, but including street lighting, safety cameras, youth sports, and block club support
- 3) **Enhance the Health and Wellness of the Neighborhood**, not limited to, but including health education, adult and youth sports, language classes, and civic engagement.

It is clear that when we use broad language like the three examples above, we include virtually all of the priority items listed by those who participated in our meeting. You can still participate as seen on the right!



Pictured above are the two tables of participants who attended the scheduled January 20th Neighborhood Priority Plan meeting held at the Phillips Community Center.

Sign up to teach us or learn from us!

- **Learn Everyday Basic Somali Language**
- **Learn Everyday Basic Spanish Language**
- **Join our Cooking Group to teach or learn**
- **Join our Photography Class**
- **Join our Class to Learn about Islam Religion**
- **Join our Community Gardening Groups**
- **Suggest a Class You would like to take or one you would like to teach!**

There will be sign-up sheets at the next Ventura Village General Membership Meetings or you can call us at 612.874.9070; leave message and we'll call you back!

Tell Us YOUR Priorities!. HERE'S MY TOP THREE CHOICES FOR VENTURA VILLAGE IN 2015!

- **Call it in at 612-874- 9070 & leave a message with your priorities.**
- **Email to ralbee4045@aol.com**
- **Snail mail to Ventura Village, P.O. Box 580757, Minneapolis, MN 55757.**

VENTURA VILLAGE MONTHLY MEETINGS:

2nd Wednesdays: Board of Directors Meeting @ 6:00 PM

2nd Wednesdays: General Membership Meeting @ 7:00 PM

1st Tuesdays: Community Engagement Committee @ 5:00 PM

1st Tuesdays: Wellness, Greening & Gardening @ 6:30 PM

Last Thursdays: Housing & Land Use Committee @ 5:30 PM

Last Thursdays: Crime & Safety Committee @ 6:30 PM

Business Committee Meetings: Call for next meeting time.

Parks Committee Meetings: Call for next meeting time.

Phoenix
from page 1

are projects of the Semilla Arts Program of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church. In the past nine years, Semilla has taught over 1900 people mosaics, murals, photography, writing, drama and many other art forms.

Special thanks to Sunny Sevigny for her wonderful work on the layout of the magazine! And many thanks to The Alley Newspaper for their collabora-

tion! We hope that this is the first of many issues—look in The Alley Newspaper for info on submitting to future issues.

Quote from one of the authors or youth photographers:

This activity was made possible in part by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.




“Phoenix of Phillips” Creator and Editor, Patrick Cabello Hansel introduces, local poet, Sean Golden before he did a reading at the Grand Debut revelation of “Phoenix of Phillips” at Midtown Global Market Thursday, January 29th.



Three Student Editors of Phoenix of Phillips Talia Cabello Hansel, Marcela Perez, and Belem Gomez Vega watch the crowd and identify other writers as Marion Gomez, one of the Youth Poetry Judges, reads contest results and winners. Meanwhile Daniela, Marcela's niece, foresees the day she can write, draw, or photograph for publication in “Phoenix of Phillips.”

HELP MAKE THE PHOENIX
OF PHILLIPS A FIRE
OF LITERARY BEAUTY
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New rendering of Hennepin County’s proposed L&H Station development

Hennepin County plans to purchase and lead redevelopment of the 6.5 acre property at 2225 East Lake Street, currently owned by Minneapolis Public Schools. The first phase of construction, slated to begin in 2015, would build a Hennepin County Family Service Center and County offices, new retail, new housing, and new streets and parking. Two or three additional phases of construction would build a public plaza for the Midtown Farmers Market and other public uses, and additional housing and parking.

You are invited to a community meeting on February 5 at 6:00pm at 2225 East Lake Street. An open house with opportunities to view

architectural images will run until 6:30, followed by a formal presentation and Q and A. Learn about the plans and opportunities to participate in approval decisions by the City of Minneapolis. This is the February meeting of Corcoran Neighborhood Organization’s Land Use & Housing committee. During and leading up to

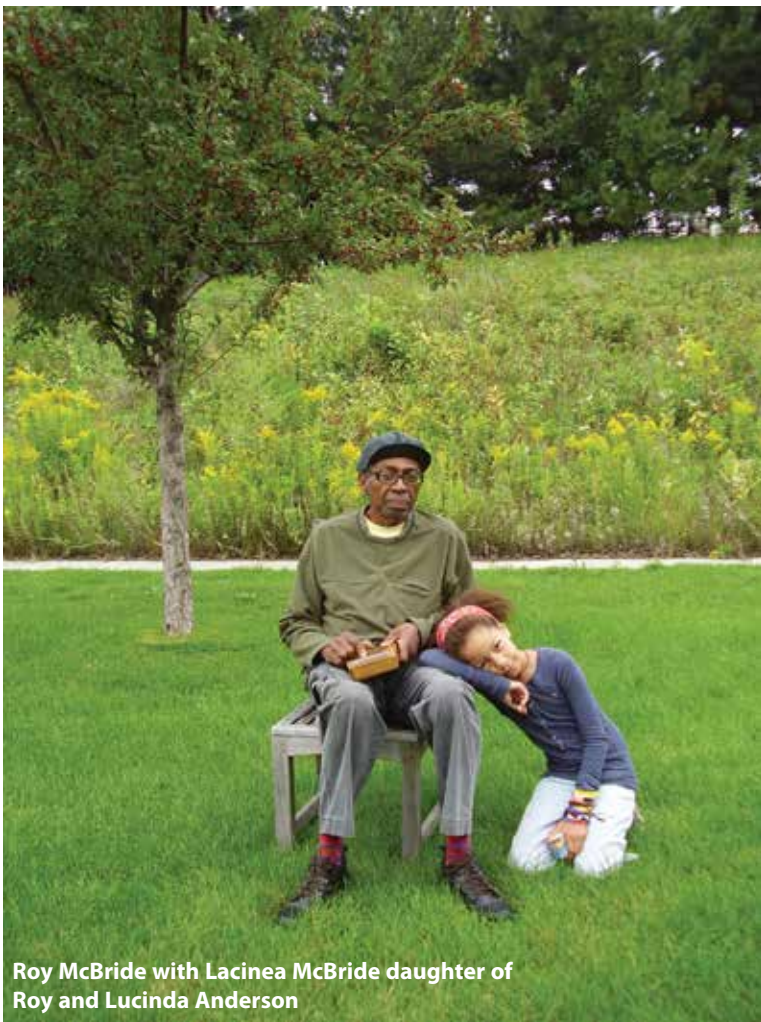
the meeting, CNO is asking community members for input on the project.

Comment now via online comment collection or at the Feb 5th meeting. This input will be compiled and shared with the CNO Board as it considers what position to take on the project. The input will also be shared

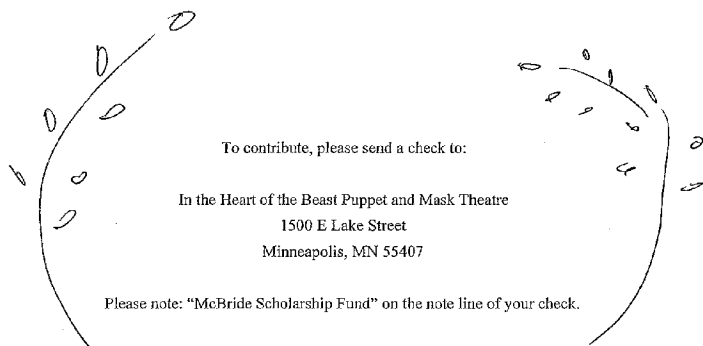
with the Minneapolis Planning Commission as it considers granting approvals for the project.

Childcare, translation for Spanish speakers, and light refreshments will be provided at the meeting.

Questions? Contact Eric at eric@corcoranneighborhood.org or 612-724-7457.



Roy McBride with Lacinea McBride daughter of Roy and Lucinda Anderson



If you have questions, or if you know someone who might want to apply for this scholarship position, Please contact Sandy Spieler at 612-724-8745 or Lucinda Anderson at 612-900-5920

MANY THANKS!!!!

Roy McBride Memorial Scholarship Fund

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December 29, 2014

Dear Family and Friends of Roy McBride

Today, we remember Roy McBride and celebrate what would have been his 71st birthday. Happy Birthday, Roy!

Today, we also announce the receipt of a \$1,500 gift designated to launch In the Heart of the Beast Theatre's "Roy McBride Scholarship Fund". In honoring Roy's passion and encouragement of artistic discovery for ALL people, the purpose of this scholarship is to support "in-depth, hands-on" training for two MayDay Interns artists who mirror the rich diversity of our immediate South Minneapolis neighborhood. Artists of color and Spanish-speaking artists are sought for this opportunity focusing on the skills of Celebration and Activist Art /Art for Environmental and Social Justice. The Intern artists will work for a full seven-weeks alongside an experienced Mayday Artist to build and enact a vital theme for this year's Mayday, and to conduct the community art workshops that energize hundreds of people of all ages and ethnicities.

Today, we invite you to contribute to this scholarship fund—to help raise the \$5,500 needed to honor Roy's and In the Heart of the Beast's (and yours and our) commitment of supporting community artists in their ingenious work of building healthy and equitable communities.

JOIN US!

For several years In the Heart of the Beast Theatre received funding that enabled the theatre to expand, diversify and train a new pool of artists through the tangible work of the annual MayDay Process. When that funding source ended, we lost our means to hire intern artists to be in training alongside the experienced artists. **The Roy McBride Scholarship Fund renews the training program for emerging Mayday artists.**

Our goal for this Scholarship fund is \$5,500: \$2,500 dedicated for each artist, and \$500 to fund a mentor artist not currently on the Mayday staff to help orient the intern artists. We need to raise another \$4,000 by January 30th. We ask that you give as generously as possible, *in addition to the amount you will also give to the overall MayDay Fund.*

THANK YOU! By supporting these artists, your contribution supports MayDay as a generative life force for generations to come!

With the Joy of Roy-

Sandy Spieler
Sandy Spieler, Artistic Director, In the Heart of the Beast Theatre

Lucinda Anderson
Lucinda Anderson, Lover of Roy, Lover of Mayday

Mayday schedule and Community Meeting notice

COMMUNITY MEETINGS!

It is time to gather to envision the theme for MayDay! All are welcome to **two community meetings** to brainstorm the theme for the 41st MayDay Festival:

The FIRST meeting, on February 10th from 7-9:30pm, is an open "brainstorm" time inviting attendees to speak of the concerns and the joys of this current time, with ideas of how we as a community and as individuals participate in these issues.

For the **SECOND meeting, on March 17 from 7-9:30pm**, the MayDay staff presents an outline and image progressions garnered from the staff's work of wrestling ideas from the first community meeting into an umbrella theme for this year's MayDay. Meeting participants then give feedback—asking questions, offering ideas, and helping network possibilities for furthering the theme.

ALL ARE WELCOME!
Both meetings are held at In the Heart of the Beast

Theatre's home base, the **Avalon Theatre: 1500 E Lake St, Mpls, Mn 55407**
Phone: 612-721-2535
info@hobt.org

2015 MAYDAY SCHEDULE of Public meetings and Workshops:

Tuesday February 10, 7:00—9:30pm MayDay Community Meeting
Tuesday, March 17, 7-9:30 pm, MayDay Community Meeting

For the entire month of April, Community workshops to build Mayday are held at In the Heart of the Beast Theatre's home space at 1500 E Lake St, Mpls Mn 55407

Beginning April 4, Workshops are held every:
Tuesdays from 7-9pm
Thursdays from 7-9 pm
Saturdays from 9-11am and 1-3pm

All workshops are open to the public. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Workshops are funded by free will donations.
Sunday, May 3, MayDay! Set Up begins at 7:30 am

The 41st MAYDAY is SUNDAY MAY 3rd, 2015



Experience a world tour of tastes, arts and crafts at our public market.

Lake Street and 10th Ave S | Minneapolis

MIDTOWNGLOBALMARKET.ORG



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Against Hate Speech

My father's recent "cardiac event" made time for the two of us to revisit family history. Ancestors had been burned at the stake or otherwise repeatedly dunked under water until dead...and the bullies of childhood left marks as well. Nonetheless, in his medical practice, father treated religious people with devotion.

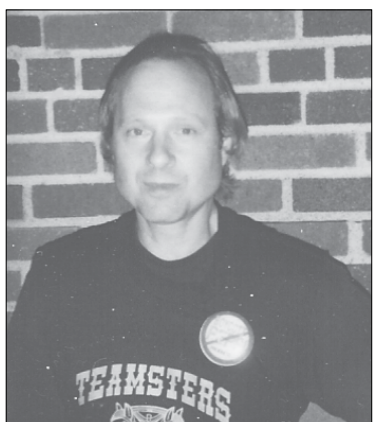
Why then did that man on TV say: "No woman should even consider dating an atheist, given that such a man must lack a moral compass." Forgive me, please. None of us is at war with God.

Father believes consciousness is a product of the evolution of matter. Sentient life forms are recognized, while human consciousness is acknowledged as most precious. Secular humanism is then the basis of his morality.

Meanwhile...

Blowback from the Charlie Hebdo event has compelled Pope Francis to declare: "You cannot provoke. You cannot insult the faith of others." I believe this appeal for tolerance represents progress.

Right-wing hate speech is of course a mechanism by which social chauvinists impose subordination. Science knows that the recipients of hate messages suffer long-term physical and emotional damage. Hence, most of the modern world has outlawed such speech.



PETER MOLENAAR
Raise Your Voice

To take just one example, it is illegal in Canada to incite hatred against any "identifiable group." By "group" is meant "any section of the public distinguished by color, race, religion, ethnic origin or sexual orientation."

In this country, however, the oppressor's right to speak supersedes the right of the oppressed to be free of such speech. On the one hand, this imbalance of principle imparts resistance. On the other hand, it serves the capitalists by aggravating divisions among the people.

My atheist father gave service even to the extremist who taught: anyone thinking God could love sinners is eternally condemned. So oddly enough, I believe there is hope.

Frank Reflections

When is satire racist?

BY FRANK ERICKSON

If neo-Nazis in Paris were publishing racist caricatures of Muslims and then were murdered for doing it, would millions of French citizens hit the streets to show solidarity with the dead skinheads? I doubt it.

This is all about who is doing the racism. We know this because if neo-Nazis were doing exactly the same thing, they would not have the majority of the West supporting them.

It's easy for the West to defend this type of racism when it is coming from white intellectuals who are not being racist at all; they are being "satirical", with nothing but their innocent little pens and paper. How easy and safe for the West to cloak this with intellectual babble about "satire" and freedom of speech, instead of calling it what it is. Do neo-Nazis belong to a "satirical" organization?

The violence starts with the drawing of a racist caricature. If

I go out on the street and start calling Black people the n-word and get myself killed, am I a freedom of speech hero...I would be if I directed my attack upon the West's enemy.

Local editorial cartoonist Steve Sack, of the Star Tribune, draws brutal racist caricatures of people of Arab descent. How does he think local Muslims and Arabs feel when they see his portrayal of them? His latest attack is in the Sunday January 11th Star Tribune.

Affordable Solar Will Soon Allow Twin Cities Residents to Save Money with Clean Power

BY COOPERATIVE ENERGY FUTURES

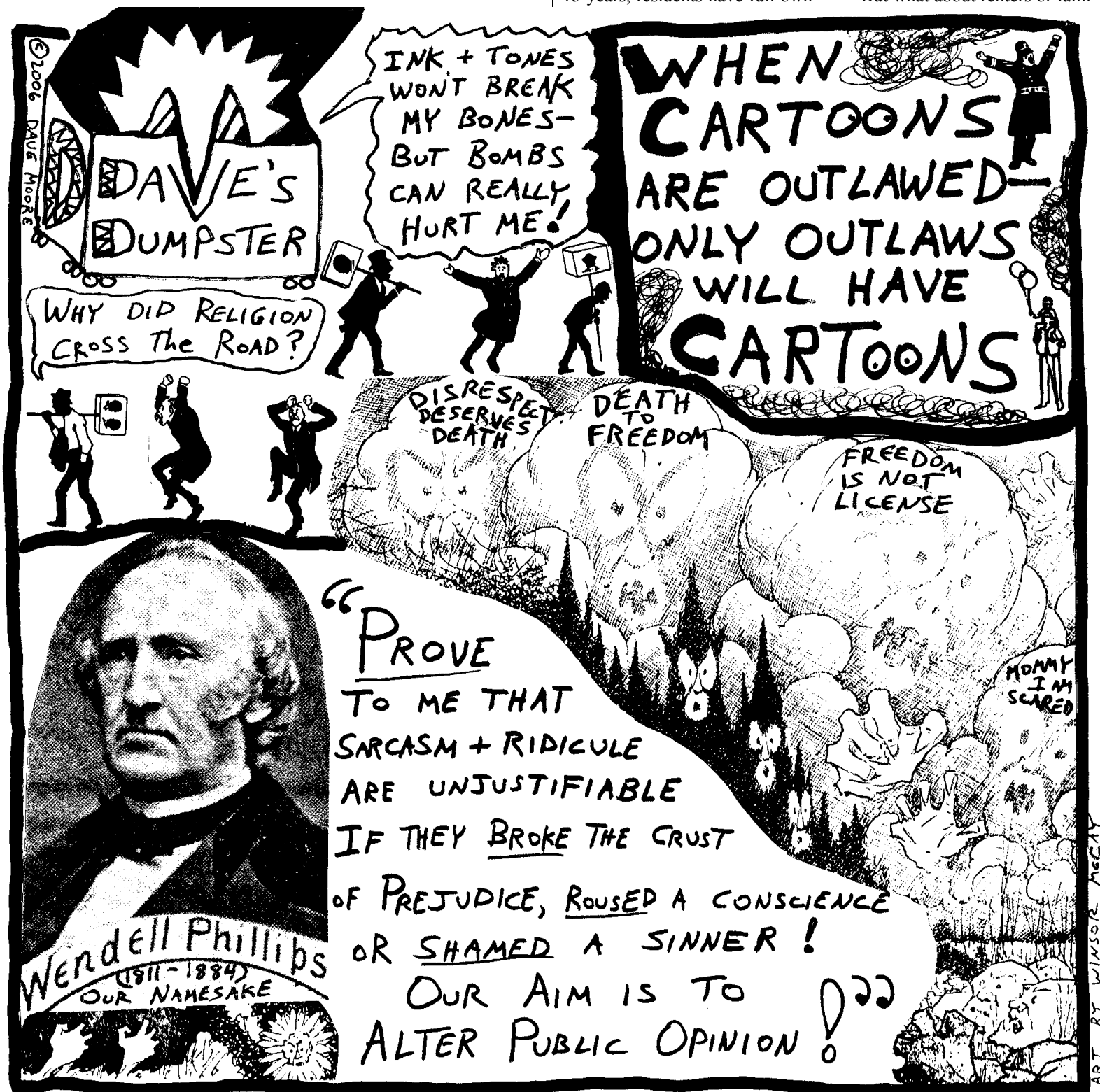
The cost of solar panels has dropped 99% since 1977 (from \$76.67/kW to \$0.74/kW in 2013). In Minnesota, the long-term electricity cost from solar has decreased below the rising cost of utility bills. Now, local residents are making solar accessible for everyone through a member-owned cooperative, Cooperative Energy Futures (CEF).

Homeowners can join the co-op and apply for the Made in Minnesota solar incentive to lease solar panels with no money down through the Gopher Solar program. The lease saves money beginning the first month. After 15 years, residents have full own-

ership of their array, which is warranted for another 10 years of free power. As Holly & Dan, Minneapolis participants in the 2014 leasing program, said "CEF and its partners have made it possible for us to produce renewable energy! We are so grateful for this opportunity and can attest to how understandable and easy the process was." There are also loan options if residents prefer to own the system upfront. **Because applications for the Minnesota solar incentive are due Feb. 20, 2015, interested residents should contact bruce@cooperativeenergyfutures.com or (612) 568-2334 before January 15th 2015.**

But what about renters or fami-

lies without good solar access? CEF is also helping Twin Cities communities organize solar gardens, large solar arrays that give renters and residents whose homes won't work for solar the opportunity to subscribe. Just like buying a farm share, subscribing to community solar secures utility bill credits for 25 years of power. While most Minnesota homes spend \$900/year on electricity bills, community solar can provide 25 years of power for only around 12 years worth of cost. As a cooperative, CEF gives community solar subscribers ownership and control over a community energy business. Interested residents can learn more at <http://cooperativeenergyfutures.com/communitysolar/>.



Some roses are red.
Most violets are violet-blue.
The Alley is read 'cuz
Its stories are true.

Its readers are bright
From beginning to end
Some begin to write
Their stories to send.

There are plans to grow
With news to share
History to know
In a way that's rare.

We love sharing stories free
But like everything else our
vendors require a fee.
Can you, would you give us a
lift
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BACKYARD INITIATIVE BACK PAGE



BYI AREA



Growing the Backyard CHAT Returns to its Roots



Container Garden at 2020 Oakland Avenue

BY CHERRY FLOWERS AND TIM PAGE

With renewed enthusiasm, and building on the successes of previous years, Growing the Backyard CHAT (Community Health Action Team) members are focusing energy on truly GROWING the back-

yards of residents in the “Backyard” neighborhoods! Growing the Backyard CHAT is part of the Backyard Initiative facilitated by the Cultural Wellness Center, and sponsored by Allina Health. This year, Growing the Backyard CHAT

existing members-Collie Graddick, Candis McKelvy, and Tim Page-the Project Manager, welcome new active members: Cherry Flowers, Bunmi Odumuye, Abdullah Mohamud, and Dallas Johnson. The team is also looking for more neighbors who have knowledge to share.

Do YOU have a urban farming related skill to share with your neighbors? Volunteer to be a resident facilitator! Young adults involved in the TEENS CHAT will also facilitate SkillShare opportunities for interested residents including members of other CHATs. Participants will share knowledge and skills related to urban farming in order to empower neighbors to pursue related interests. We also plan to tap into the knowledge of Hennepin County Master Gardeners at events as much as possible.

Over the past 5 years, Growing the Backyard CHAT members

have helped provide locally grown produce to area food pantries, provided free cooking classes to community members, sold produce at market stands at Midtown Global Market and the Wellness Center market, and worked on the Minneapolis HomeGrown Corner store Initiative to improve healthy food offerings at these stores. The CHAT plans to build on this activity by forging connections that will make each of these projects self-reliant.

The Wellness Center mini-(farmers) market, located at 2025 Portland Ave will offer a variety of locally grown and crafted items. Visit the market on Tuesdays, 12-2pm, June 16 - October 15 and enjoy educational activities at the adjacent demonstration garden from 10-12. The CHAT goal is for fresh produce sold at markets in the backyard to be sourced from growers in the backyard with back up sourced from other local suppliers.

Are YOU a grower who is thinking about selling excess produce?

Working with the TEENS CHAT, the Growing the Backyard CHAT plans to implement a public calendar of events and compile a list of neighborhood based resources related to urban farming. All gardening resources that are compiled for the Backyard area will be published in a future issue of the Alley Newspaper.

Do you know of urban farming related resources?

Do YOU want to grow YOUR backyard? Do YOU...live in a “Backyard” neighborhood?

(East Phillips, Midtown Phillips, Ventura Village, Phillips West, Corcoran, Central, Powderhorn Park-see map in right hand corner of this page) **Are you interested in urban farming?** **Contact: Tim Page Tpage4@gmail.com**



Growing the Backyard adjacent to the Cultural Wellness Center

Get involved!

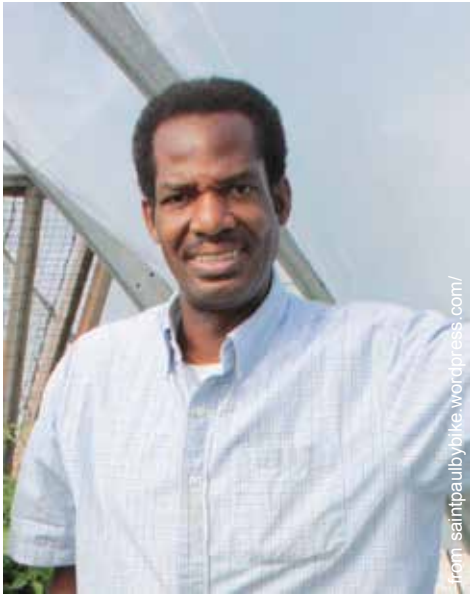
Do you have a garden related skill you would like to share with your neighbors? Want to host a SkillShare in your yard? Want to learn something new?

Topics may include (depending on interest):

- basics of urban farming
- aquaponics
- garden planning
- seed starting
- starting a garden
- garden maintenance
- growing food for personal use
- using sustainable growing methods

- harvesting
- markets and marketing
- food preparation
- food preservation
- seed saving
- food justice
- composting
- soil building
- season extension
- hoop houses
- developing value added products from the produce that is grown.

Have another topic in mind? Let us know. Contact Tim Page tpage4@gmail.com for more information and to get involved.



Tim Page, Urban Farmer and owner of Holistic Health Farms, makes his home in the Backyard neighborhood. He brings lots of experience in both urban farming and leading projects like “Growing the Backyard”. He has

worked on the Emerge Streetwerks HomeGrown Garden Club, Frogtown Farm, We Win Institute Garden, North End Urban Farm, Community Food Justice Council. He has served on the board of Environmental Justice Advocates of Minnesota (EJAM) and the African American Aids Task Force, and he founded two 4H clubs. He has also been instrumental in starting a number of farmers markets in both Minneapolis and St Paul. The Growing the Backyard CHAT will

benefit from Tim’s expertise in all areas of urban farming including, product development, markets, community outreach and education.

Immediately adjacent to the Cultural Wellness Center, Tim has

transformed the backyard at 2020 Oakland into a Training Center and demonstration garden space. The emphasis at this site has been on growing in containers to demonstrate potential garden mobility. The site also features a high tunnel for season extension, a composting project, and worm composting, with plans to add an aquaponics system.

Tim and his partner Cherry Flowers operate two Twin Cities based consulting businesses called Holistic Health Farms and Page & Flowers. www.holistichealthfarms.com www.pageandflowers.com

BYI Definition of Health

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



Back Yard Initiative Back Page

The BYI Back Page is produced each month as a collaborative venture between the BYI Communications CHAT & Alley Communications, Inc., publisher of The Alley Newspaper. The Communications CHAT works with BYI CHAT (Community Health Action Teams) each month as a “resource CHAT” – helping to get the news and activities of the BYI out to the broader community.

The Backyard Initiative (BYI) is a partnership between the Community, Allina Health Systems and the Cultural Wellness Center. The goal of this partnership is to improve the health of the 45,000 residents living in the “backyard” comprised by the neighborhoods of Powderhorn Park, East Phillips, Midtown Phillips, West Phillips, Ventura Village, Central, and Corcoran. There are eleven Community Health Action Teams (CHATs) focused on improving the health through a variety of cultural and community-connecting activities.

For info on the BYI, please call the Cultural Wellness Center, 612-721-5745.