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the

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NEWSPAPER

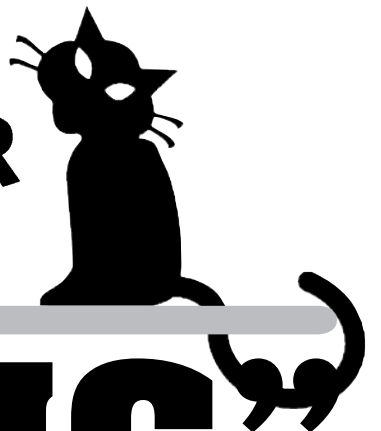
NEWS & VIEWS OF PHILLIPS SINCE 1976
FEBRUARY 2012 • VOLUME 37, NUMBER 2

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epilog

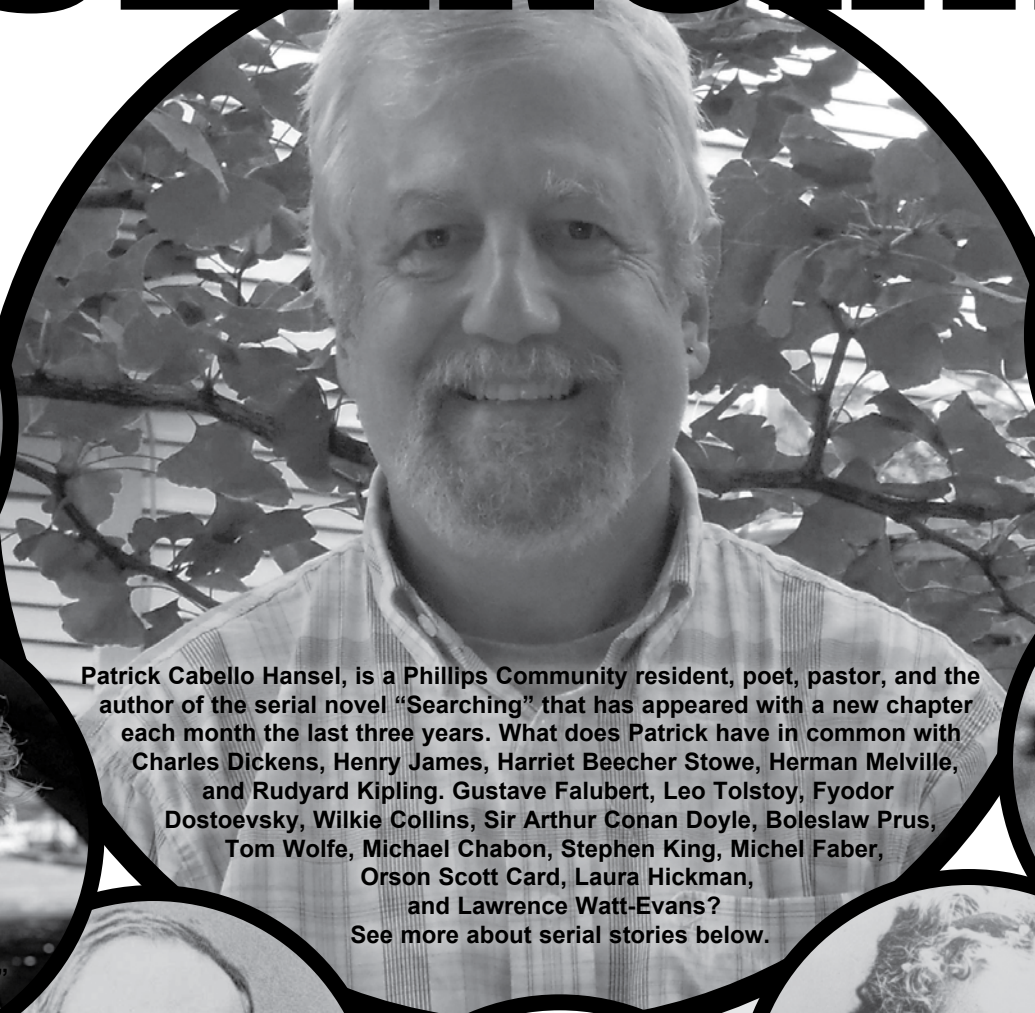
“SEARCHING”



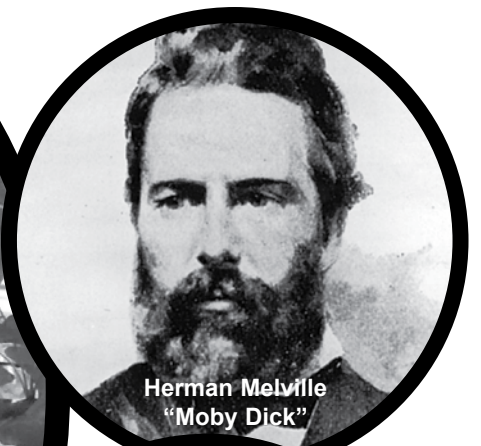
Orson Scott Card
“InterGalactic Medicine
Show”



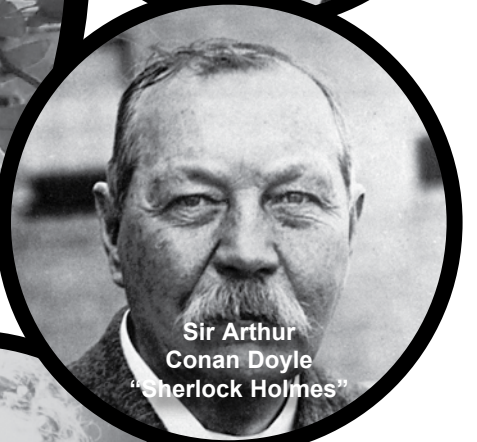
Michael Chabon
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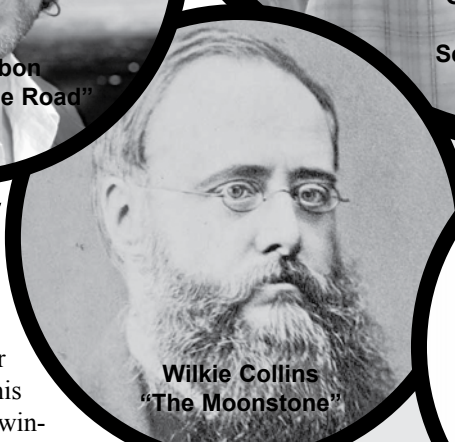
Patrick Cabello Hansel, is a Phillips Community resident, poet, pastor, and the author of the serial novel “Searching” that has appeared with a new chapter each month the last three years. What does Patrick have in common with Charles Dickens, Henry James, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Herman Melville, and Rudyard Kipling. Gustave Falubert, Leo Tolstoy, Fyodor Dostoevsky, Wilkie Collins, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Boleslaw Prus, Tom Wolfe, Michael Chabon, Stephen King, Michel Faber, Orson Scott Card, Laura Hickman, and Lawrence Watt-Evans? See more about serial stories below.



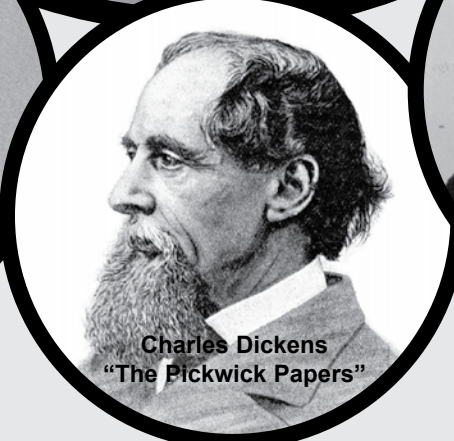
Herman Melville
“Moby Dick”



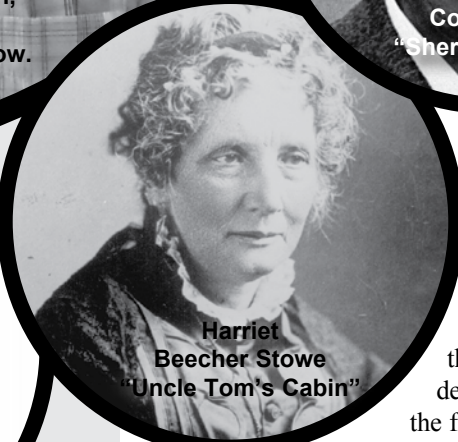
Sir Arthur
Conan Doyle
“Sherlock Holmes”



Wilkie Collins
“The Moonstone”



Charles Dickens
“The Pickwick Papers”



Harriet
Beecher Stowe
“Uncle Tom's Cabin”

“SEARCHING”

Epilog

BY PATRICK CEBELLO HANSEL

“One person’s found is another person’s lost.” We are taught that this is true, that there always must be winners and losers, that it is part of the way the world is made, that the “invisible hand” directs the fortunes of everyone, and that as one rises, another must fall.

But what if by searching and finding, or even by searching and not finding, we are more connected to our fellow human beings? What if our search, our healing and our wisdom multiplies unto others, so that as one of us is found, we all are?

It is easy to speculate on what will become of Angel and Luz, our beloveds. It is easy to speculate, and hard to know. They have found each other, and they are willing to go to any length to keep that treasure that is their love. But we know that love untested is not real love, and that it is in trial that we often find our true strength.

Luz and Angel will now walk together, and discover together, what their search will show them. Perhaps we will catch up to them a few years down the line: perhaps with babies, perhaps with degrees, most certainly with life’s troubles big and small, and with life’s joys, small and bigger than we can imagine.

But what if by searching and finding, or even by searching and not finding, we are more connected to our fellow human beings? What if our search, our healing and our wisdom multiplies unto others, so that as one of us is found, we all are?

And what of the others we have found along the way? Will Mr. Bussey return to Roosevelt a more curious and courageous teacher? Will Ana use her law degree to free the captives and ruffle the feathers of the powers? Will Angel’s and Luz’ families intertwine in a new weaving

that reaches south to Mexico, deep into the past and far into the future? Will the man with the violin—if indeed he is a man—learn new melodies hidden in old, old songs?

It would be foolish of me to try and speculate where Mother Light may shine, and foolish to speculate where evil—be it the scarred cheek, the minions of La Migra, the sneering smile of the cowards who rape and steal and torture—may cast their shadow. It would be foolish to speculate, but it is never foolish to imagine. It is our spirits that lead us to dream, and it is our dreams that lead us to hope.

And so, we do not say “Adios” to those with whom we have walked these thirty-four moons, we do not even say “see you later”. We say, “Vaya con Dios”—“Go with God”—and we imagine and hope and believe that their going, and our going—though difficult and bitter and wounded as it may be—will lead us onward to the spring that bubbled up in the swale so many years ago, that sates the thirst of the desert crossers today, that refreshes all who welcome and all who are welcomed. Laten barnen komma til mig—Let the children come unto me—Dejen que los niños venga a mí.

EDITOR’S NOTE

Regarding “SEARCHING” by Patrick Cabello Hansel

Alley Communications has been honored and pleased to have been able to publish this novel by Patrick Cabello Hansel in The Alley Newspaper, chapter by chapter, each month for nearly three years. It has been a first for The Alley and for any local community paper as far as we know.

We have been reminded by Jane Thomson, one of our most avid readers, writers, and active Alley Allies, that many noteworthy writers published novels in a serial format in newspapers or other periodicals. For example Jane points out that Charles Dickens published some of his works through serials in newspapers. He would publish chapters at regular intervals and if they were popular he would publish it as a book.

Some writers sought and even depended upon reader comments and suggestions as they developed their novels. Readers are encouraged to send or call with responses to “Searching.” Did you enjoy it? Would you have changed any part? Would you like to see this story continued or another one sometime soon?

**The entire run of
“Searching” is online at:**
www.alleynews.org/category/searching/

More on serial publishing...

In literature, a serial is a publishing format by which a single large work, most often a work of narrative fiction, is presented in contiguous installments either issued as separate publications or appearing in sequential issues of a single periodical publication [like The Alley]. Visit <http://bit.ly/zBtBTC> for more.

the Alley NEWSPAPER

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"We came into this world to give truth a little jog onward and to help our neighbors rights"
Ann Greene Phillips (18...-1885)
Wendell Phillips (1811-1884)
"The bigger the information media, the less courage and freedom they allow. Bigness means weakness."
Eric Sevaireid, "The Press and the People," television program, 1959

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

Circulation: 10,000 hard copies and online.

**March Alley
Deadline:
February 15**

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Sweethearts & Spirits

Saturday, February 11th 6:30-9:00 p.m.
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SUPPORT RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Second Annual Sweethearts and Spirits: Beer, Liquor and Wine tasting hosted by Zipp's Liquor! Bring your sweetie, good buddy or platonic life partner. Enjoy fun snacks, treats and Zipp's famous silent auction.

Proceeds benefit Seward Longfellow Restorative Justice Partnership

Since 2004, SLRJP has provided an alternative to juvenile court for youth committing misdemeanor offenses in Seward and Greater Longfellow. SLRJP works with the youth, their parents and community members to explore



how the youth's actions caused harm and to develop a contract to repair the harm with the youth.

Tickets available from SLRJP, Zipp's, at the door or online at www.localwineevents.com

Info: Michele at michele@sng.org or 612-338-6205 x108

www.sng.org/justice.html or www.facebook.com/SLRJP http://www.zippsliquors.com/website

MINNESOTA Literacy COUNCIL

Volunteers Needed

Open the Door to Education

Help adults reach their educational goals and earn their GED. Tutor, teach or assist in a classroom with the Minnesota Literacy

Council. In 2-3 hours per week, you could help people in your community expand their opportunities and change their lives through education. The literacy council provides training and support. To find out more, email volunteer@mnliteracy.org, call Allison at 651-251-9110 or visit www.mnliteracy.org/volunteers/opportunities/adults

Open Eye Theatre adapts *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* for the puppet stage in a look at youth and aging, the allure of power and the beauty of a life well lived. A world premiere, this is the first full-length puppet show conceived, written, designed and directed by Michael Sommers for the Open Eye main stage since the theatre's inaugural opening production of *A Prelude to Faust* in 2007. The original score is composed by Eric Jensen. Puppeteers include

Open Eye veteran, Kyle Loven, and Open Eye Artistic Associates, Liz Schachterle and Justin Spooner.

Dates and Times

February 10 - March 4

Thursday |
 Friday |
 Saturday at 7:30
 Saturday |
 Sunday at 4:00

Call (612)
 874-6338

Email info@openeyetheatre.org

Online brownpapertickets.com
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 Minneapolis, MN 55404

Open Eye is committed to economic accessibility to the Arts. A Pay-as-Able ticket request may be made at the door for any show that is not sold out.



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How a loan may be used:

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- After that to fix other health or safety issues with the house.
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How loans may not be used

- Luxury repairs, demolition, or new construction are not covered by the loan.

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Loan recipients:

- Own a home in Minneapolis or St. Paul.

- Make 30% or less of the household area median income, \$24,850 for a family of four.
- Have less than \$25,000 in additional assets [besides the home and primary vehicle(s)].
- Are applying for/or received a grant from Community Action Partnership's Weatherization Program.

What will it cost?

- Loans are made at a 0% rate, meaning there are no additional charges or monthly payments.
- Loans are forgiven after 15 years if you remain in the home.
- The loan will be repaid from the sale of the home if sold before the 15 year term.

How do I apply?

Call 612.455.5221 or visit www.ppl-inc.org/homerepair to receive an initial application.

Call 612.455.5221 to get started!

Making new traditions

On view from January 20 through February 24, 2012, at All My Relations Gallery, Making New Traditions features works by 8 Native American artists from the region.! Featuring newly created artwork by eight emerging Native American artists with tribal ties to the northern plains. These artists approach creativity with their eyes wide open to the layers, complexities and truths of our time with respect for cultural identity and tradition. They are inspired by the modern and the traditional, and communicate their experiences as contemporary indigenous people, striving to create progressive statements in Native Art. This exhibit is in partnership with the Heritage Center at Red Cloud Indian



School, Pine Ridge, South Dakota. 1414 East Franklin Avenue in Minneapolis Website: http://www.allmyrelationsarts.com

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February Programs at the Franklin Library

BY ERIN THOMASSON

Children’s Programs
Family Storytime
Wed., 10:30–11 a.m.
Age 2 and up. Share books, stories, rhymes, music, and movement with your children.

Kids Book Club
Frid., Feb. 24, 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 Feb. 28, 5–7 p.m.
Grades 6-12. 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 Feb. 28, 4–5 p.m. and 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!

Game On! Gaming Wednesdays
Weds., thru Feb. 29, 4–5 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 Feb. 29, 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.

Game On! Gaming Thursdays
Thurs. thru Feb. 23, 4–5 p.m. and 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!

Design Club
Thurs., thru Feb. 23, 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! **Down Time**
Saturdays through Feb. 25, 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 other self-directed activities

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

Nonfiction Book Discussions for Elder Learners
Fri., Feb. 10, 1–3 p.m. Join us for a stimulating discussion of nonfiction books. For additional information, call the library, 612-543-5475.

Memoir Writing Group
Thurs., Feb. 16, 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.



Franklin Community Library
1314 E. Franklin Avenue
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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/

Phillips Technology Center
Register online for these classes and more at
www.hclib.org or call 612.543.6925

Computer Skills Workshop
Thurs., Feb. 16 & 23, noon–2 p.m. 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 Excel: Basics
Fri., Feb. 17, 10a.m. – noon Learn the basics of working with an Excel spreadsheet: navigation, entering data and using formulas.

Microsoft PowerPoint: Multimedia Tips
Fri., Feb. 17, 1–3 p.m. Use multimedia tips and tricks such as auto transitions, audio and video to dress up your presentations. Prerequisite: Microsoft PowerPoint: Basics or familiarity with presentation software is highly recommended.

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.



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MARTHA REEVES & THE VANDELLAS

Bring Minneapolis Much Needed HEATWAVE

BY RAYMOND JACKSON

It was Smokey Robinson & the Miracles, Diana Ross & the Supremes, and Martha Reeves & the Vandellas that brought Motown Records, unheralded success and worldwide spotlights.

It is, however, Martha Reeves and her current Vandellas, that continue to glow and shine now; in the new millennium.

Returning to The Dakota Jazz Nightclub, 1010 Nicollet Ave., in Loring Park Neighborhood, northwest of Phillips Community, on January 11 & 12, they did four shows on our two coldest nights of this current winter season. Martha and her two youngest sisters, Lois and Stephanie, her current Vandellas, brought back many memories to their four fully packed houses.

In regard to her Dakota Nightclub audiences, who enjoyed light to heavy dining that created quite an aroma, she stated, “I recognize many off you as members of my old hippie following.”

You see, Martha & the Vandellas reached International stardom in 1964, with their hit, ‘Dancin’ In The Streets’, co-written by the late Marvin Gaye and Ivory Joe Hunter., to which she gave great tribute for her years of success.

Martha also said, “I’m going to sing, as long as I’m able. I’m going to dance, as long as I can, and age 69 feels real good!”

Yes, readers, sixty nine, and still recording songs, and while performing she shows a very spiritual & knowledgeable instinct base that is unparalleled to any performer I can recall. Having



26 Top 40 hits during a nine year period that included, ‘Heatwave’, ‘Nowhere To Run’, ‘Jimmy Mack’ and ‘Dancin’ In The Streets’, as number one hits, she continues to tour and perform around the world.

Signing with Detroit’s Motown Records on September 21, 1962, she has maintained permanent residency there, even serving on the Detroit City Council from 2005-2009, and can readily identify with some of the development and overall socio-economic problems that the Phillip’s Neighborhoods

face today.

She really showed her comic like showmanship saying, “I told some young people that all of my early stuff was 45’s, (A plastic recording device about as thick as a CD, but with a wider circumference.), and they responded to me with, wow, all of you carried guns!”

Martha told me that she was expecting to return to Minneapolis in April, especially with some warmer weather.

Martha Reeves, nothing short of being an ultimate LEGEND!

Etta James tribute, 1938-2012

Legendary, sultry, soul singer Etta James recorded her last album, “The Dreamer” at 73 years of age Nov. 2011 died January 20th 2012.

Born January 25, 1938, Etta James was a gospel prodigy. In 1954, she moved to Los Angeles to record The Wallflower. By 1960, her career began to soar. Despite her continued drug problems, she earned a Grammy nomination for her 1973 eponymous album. In 2006, she released the album All the Way. She is considered one of the most dynamic singers in music. James released her latest studio album, The Dreamer, in November 2011, which received warm reviews. A few weeks later,

James’ doctor announced that the singer was terminally ill. “She’s in the final stages of leukemia. She has also been diagnosed with dementia and Hepatitis C,” Dr. Elaine James (not related to the singer) told a local newspaper. James’ sons also acknowledged that Etta’s health was declining and was receiving care at her Riverside, California, home.

From doo-wop to soul to gospel to blues, her 50-year career was the mature sound track for several generations.



“You can’t fake this music. You might be a great singer or a great musician but, in the end, that’s got nothing to do with it. It’s how you connect to the songs and to the history behind them.” – Etta James

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"Who Dyed?" "What is next to Which?" "Who's on First?" *

Uncle Peter first? Joan Wardwell second?, all at Hodsdon's at Bloomington and Lake Farm next to Layman's

In the late 19-teens and early 1920s several newspaper articles claimed that "Uncle" Peter Wardell (sometimes Wardwell or Waddell) was the second (or even the first) person buried in Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery. He was buried, so the stories go, either under what is now the bus stop at Cedar Avenue and Lake Street or in the far south-eastern corner of the cemetery at Lake Street and 21st Avenue. Supposedly, Uncle Peter was an employee of Martin Layman who had moved to Minnesota with members of the Layman family in 1853. There's only one problem—"Uncle" Peter didn't exist.

The confusion about this imaginary man is understandable, though. There is a person with a similar name who was among the earliest burials in the cemetery. Her name was Joan Robbins Wardwell. Mrs. Wardwell died from cancer in 1858, supposedly the first recorded case of cancer in Minneapolis. Although one of her granddaughters claimed that Mrs. Wardwell was the second person buried in the cemetery, that isn't true either—there were at least two dozen people buried in the cemetery before she was. What is true is that her husband, George Wardwell, worked for Martin Layman, the cemetery's original owner. George Wardwell surveyed the section of Layman's farmland



The truth of the revisionist history stories of who was buried first and who is buried where is that Vienna Hodsdon and her grandmother, Joan Wardell, were buried in Lot 101, Block B, in the far southeast corner of the cemetery in 1875 and 1858, respectively. The first burial at Layman's Cemetery now called Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery was 1853.

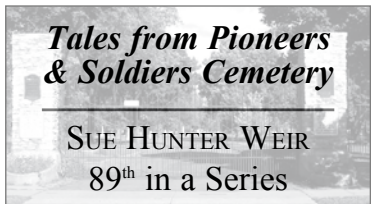
that became the first municipal cemetery on the west side of the river. In return, he was given two burial plots.

The Wardwells moved to Minnesota to live with their daughter, Jane Hodsdon. Jane and her husband, Ebenezer, were among the earliest of the transplanted New Englanders to settle in Minneapolis. Their farm was located at what is now Bloomington Avenue and Lake Street. Their nearest neighbors were Martin and Elizabeth Layman.

Joan Wardwell found life in

Minnesota difficult. She hated the long, cold winters, and she was lonely. There was little social life to speak of, and the Hodsdon's farm was considered a good day's drive from "downtown." She began to complain of stomach pains and was examined by the town's two doctors who concluded that she had cancer. There was nothing that they could do for her and she died soon after. Her husband, George, returned to Maine to live with his oldest daughter.

Joan Wardwell's granddaughter, Vienna ("Vi") Hodsdon, is buried



in the second grave that the family owned in the cemetery. Vienna was born in Minnesota in 1854, the fourth of Jane and Ebenezer Hodsdon's eleven children. Vienna was described by one of her nieces as "the beauty of the family, with curly auburn hair and dark blue eyes." She worked as a model in a hair-dressing shop until she was diagnosed with "consumption" (tuberculosis). She was 21 years old when she died.

Joan Wardwell and her granddaughter, Vienna Hodsdon, are buried in Lot 101, Block B, in the far southeast corner of the cemetery.

*Turn-of-the-century burlesque sketches used plays on words and names. Examples are "The Baker Scene" (the shop is located on Watt Street) and "Who Dyed" (the owner is named Who). In 1930 movie Cracked Nuts, comedians Bert Wheeler and Robert Woolsey examine a map of a mythical kingdom with dialogue like this: "What is next to Which." "What is the name of the town next to Which?" "Yes." In English variety halls (Britain's equivalent of vaudeville theatres), comedian

Will Hay performed a routine in the early 1930s (and possibly earlier) as a schoolmaster interviewing a schoolboy named Howe who came from Ware but now lives in Wye. By the early 1930s, a "Baseball Routine" had become a standard bit for burlesque comics across the United States. Who's on First? is a vaudeville comedy routine made most famous by Abbott and Costello. In Abbott and Costello's version, the premise of the routine is that Bud Abbott is identifying the players on a baseball team to Lou Costello, but their names and nicknames can be interpreted as non-responsive answers to Costello's questions. In this context, the first baseman is named "Who"; thus, the utterance "Who's on first" is ambiguous between the question ("which person is the first baseman?") and the answer ("The name of the first baseman is 'Who'").

First Base: Who
Second Base: What
Third Base: I Don't Know
Left field: Why
Center field: Because
Pitcher:: Tomorrow
Catcher:: Today
Shortstop:: I Don't Care/I Don't Give a Darn/I Don't Give a Damn
. The name of the shortstop is not given until the very end of the routine, and the right fielder is never identified.

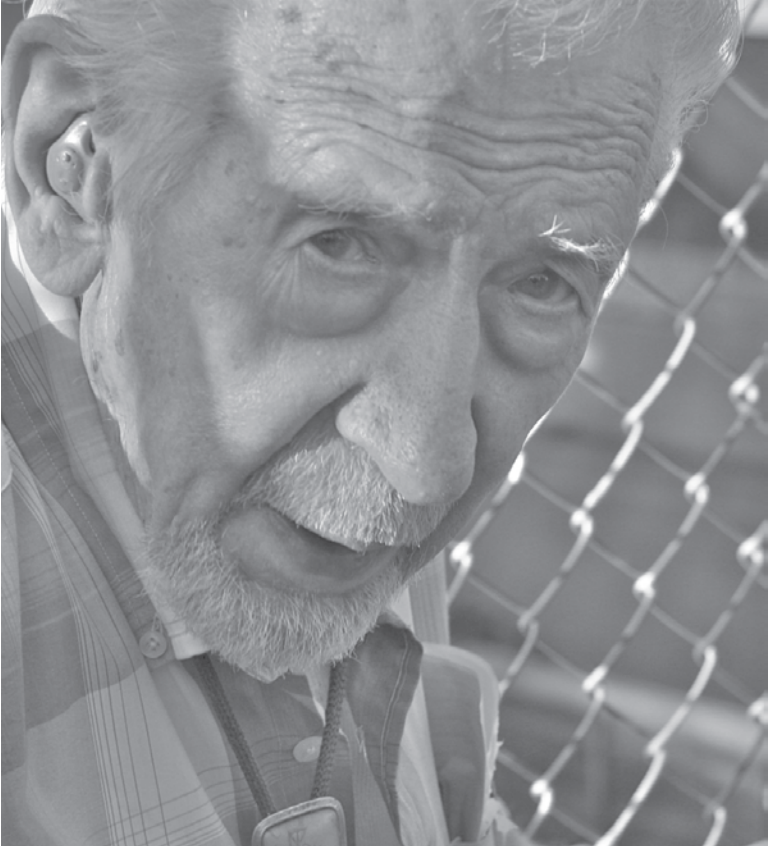
Ah, but I was so much older then, I'm younger than that now!

BY ROBERT ALBEE

Our good friend Carl Peterson turned 100 years old this year on January 6th! Happy 100th Birthday, Carl!

It got me to thinking... If my father were still alive, he would be 101 now. He suddenly departed at age 66. And his father passed even earlier, yet to my eyes, he seemed much older than my father ever did or than myself now. At age 68, I've outlived my father by two years despite the fact that I smoked heavily for 40 of them. With diabetes and having a heart attack some years ago, I count every day as a blessing! Yet when I think of Carl, I'm still a pup! I don't think of myself as an old person, a senior citizen, or an elderly person. In fact, I hate those terms, because they seem to pigeon-hole us into frail, helpless beings just "fixin' to die. Far from it! Look at Carl, our Phillips role model! Look around at elders not rocking in a chair, but rocking the boat! Or engaging the younger ones in the community. And not just dusty old stories of past victories.

I realize there's a sunset sometime ahead for each of us; yet I want to do as many things as we can before that time comes. If I can tell you one thing, it's about the distinction of becoming an elder: It's about our responsibilities and obligations to those following our pathways. It's not about time to put our feet up and sighing about the "good old days."



As a gift for living our lives, we must give back everything we know and discover that could help you with your journeys. But only when we are asked or invited to do so.

We are obliged to not squander our time picking apart tiny little things with a whine and complain like Andy Rooney used to do on 60 Minutes. Instead as elders, we need to climb up on something higher than our attitudes so we can get a better view of what's going on, and then summon the powers

to either intervene or applaud. Sometimes we need to lead that charge ourselves. I often replay Leonard Cohen's words from "Anthem," his simple song that sings: "Ring the Bells that can be Rung • Forget your Perfect Offerings • There's a Crack in Everything • That's how the Light Gets In!" Before it gets dark for me, I want to let in more light! Sometimes that means making the cracks bigger, and sometimes turning that light back on!

The Passing of Elder Carol Littlewolf



On Martin Luther King Day, some of us were gathered at the Minneapolis American Indian Center to honor the life of Carol Littlewolf, an elder younger than I who passed the previous Wednesday—just as she predicted. A wheelchair-bound whiz who served people through her job at Hennepin County and her community and her family. She was remembered for her marathon canasta parties and extravagant lavishing of gifts beyond her means on those she loved. A complicated person who loved simply and effortlessly, she was my teacher.

I wrote: Thank you, Carol! You have been a great teacher. You taught us to be patient, to be for-

giving, to listen well. You taught us to celebrate those we love while we can. You taught us to ride the Red Pony, your absolute favorite! YYou taught us courage to stand up to the doctors and demand what we need to go forth. You taught us that Love is the answer and for that we will always love you and remember you forever.

Bob [Albee]

CHAIN REACTION
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PERFORMANCES FOR THE
PLAY "SEVEN": Inspiring stories of Seven Daring Women Fighting Injustices. For more information visit www.chainreactiontp.com.

Controversy embroils new History Theatre play about the American Indian Movement

BY SHEILA REGAN, TC DAILY PLANET

A 10-minute play by Navajo playwright Rhiana Yazzie is at the center of a controversy within the local Native American community. The play focuses on two fictional characters in 1968—the year that the American Indian Movement (AIM) was founded—and several real-life people from the time are mentioned. Those people include AIM co-founder Clyde Bellecourt, who was referred to in a recent draft as “Belly Court,” as a joke.

1968: *The Year That Rocked The World* will play in the Minnesota History Center’s 3M Auditorium alongside the associated exhibit at the museum. The theater commissioned seven playwrights from the Playwrights’ Center—Rhiana Yazzie, Reginald Edmund, Christina Ham, Kim Hines, Kevin Kautzman, Dominic Orlando, and Mat Smart—to write plays focusing on the events of that year such as the war in Vietnam; the assassinations of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Senator Robert Kennedy; the Mexico Olympics; Lyndon B. Johnson and Hubert H. Humphrey; the election of Richard Nixon; and the Apollo 8 mission broadcast on Christmas Eve.

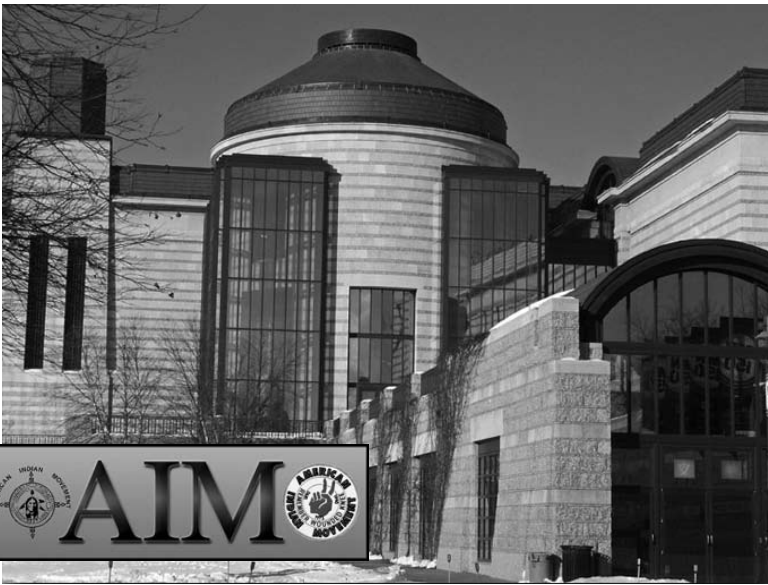
Yazzie’s play, *The Corral*, takes place during the time when the American Indian Movement was just beginning in Minneapolis. It is titled after a bar along Franklin Avenue frequented by many American Indian people at the time; the bar was the site of much police brutality during that time period, according to Yazzie.

Yazzie was actually commissioned to write two plays. The first play that Yazzie wrote took place in the same time period, but didn’t specifically focus on AIM. Yazzie said that History Theatre artistic director Ron Peluso asked her to write a second play that focused more on AIM. Originally, he had suggested that perhaps Clyde Bellecourt, one of the founders of AIM, could be one of the characters, Yazzie said.

Yazzie said she never wanted Bellecourt to be a character. “I said I think that’s going to be tricky,” she said. Peluso suggested that Yazzie interview Bellecourt, which at first she didn’t want to do. She had interviewed many members of the community, she said, including Pat Bellanger, a woman who was involved with AIM. But in the end she did agree to interview Bellecourt, with Peluso.

“They interviewed me for three solid hours,” Bellecourt said. Afterwards, Peluso promised that they would bring the script back to him, but that never happened, according to Bellecourt. “I never saw anything,” he said.

While Bellecourt did not end up being a character in the play (both characters in the play are fictional) he is referenced along with several other leaders from AIM. In a draft of the play that Yazzie shared with some readers, one of the characters, Moon, calls out for help because he and the other character are both handcuffed to a light pole. They have been left there by the police—an incident that Yazzie said is based on a real incident that



Minnesota History Center. Photo by Teresa Boardman

actually happened in 1971. Moon calls out for Bellecourt, calling him “Belly Court” as a nickname.

It was because of Yazzie’s use of “Belly Court” that Bellecourt found out about the play. Yazzie had shared the script with another AIM founder, Dennis Banks, who she and her boyfriend Vaughn Lodge visited in Bemidji, and Banks called Bellecourt and told him the name was used.

Lodge is a former member of AIM. He resigned from his position in October, according to Yazzie, and when he did, he had an argument with Bellecourt. Yazzie said she believes that behind the controversy is a personality conflict. “I just happen to be in the middle of it,” she said. “I happen to have a public forum at the moment.”

According to Bellecourt, his objections to the play stem from the fact that it doesn’t talk about the great things that the AIM movement accomplished. “It makes jokes about me and my brother,” he said. The play, he said, “doesn’t talk about hope, or about all of the accomplishments of the movement.” He also didn’t like that the two characters “talked like they are drunk.”

According to Yazzie, neither of the characters are drunk. One had been in the bar trying to make some money, and the other was looking for a television.

There were numerous discussions and confrontations involving Yazzie, Bellecourt, and other members of the community and people from the theater. “Clyde came into rehearsal on Tuesday night with four other people and said to the entire cast, ‘We’re here to shut this play down,’” Yazzie said.

Yazzie was told by Pat Bellanger, another AIM member, to sit down with Laura Waterman Wittstock, a writer who she was told “has some really good ideas about making it a more positive script,” according to Yazzie. Making changes to the character or story were not things that Yazzie was willing to do. “Why don’t you have Laura write a play?” Yazzie said, calling the suggestion that she change her script “outrageous.”

Beyond issues with the “Belly Court” moniker and some obscene language, Bellecourt said that he objects to not having been given approval of the script, which he said Peluso had promised. “I told him, ‘You made this promise that you never fulfilled. You’re just another white man with a fork-toothed

tongue.’” Bellecourt said.

In response to Bellecourt’s threat of a protest, Yazzie sent out a mass e-mail to friends and colleagues. “I write to you with a plea for help,” she wrote. “My First Amendment Rights are being violated and I am being threatened by Clyde Bellecourt and his trademark of the American Indian Movement.” According to Yazzie, Bellecourt threatened to protest the play unless it was either pulled or she rewrote it— not just sentences and historical references, but entire characters and situations.” The letter was also posted on a new facebook group, called “Bully Court’s AIM Censors 1st Amendment.”

The History Theatre made the decision to pull the play, substituting instead Yazzie’s other play about the same time period, according to Yazzie.

Yazzie said she considered the incident “an assault to my artwork.”

Bellecourt had a change of heart, and had agreed to meet with Yazzie. They both met with Peluso on Saturday at the History Theatre. Yazzie had agreed to make some minor changes to the script, and Bellecourt said he would take them back to the AIM Grand Governing Council and other community leaders, Yazzie said. Yazzie has posted the most recent draft of the script on her website.

At a subsequent rehearsal, Peluso asked Yazzie to make an additional change to the script. He first asked her to remove the reference to “Belly Court” completely—which she had offered to do when the controversy arose originally—and then suggested a change making explicitly clear that the name was a joke. Finally, Yazzie told Peluso that she wasn’t going to change anything else. “If you want to change my script, go for it. You have my permission,” Yazzie told him. “I’m done fighting for the peanuts that I have left in my artistic integrity,” she said.

“I’m disappointed by how everything unfolded,” said Yazzie. “I’m upset by Clyde’s bullying. No other writer would have to put up with that.”

Ultimately, Yazzie said, she is baffled by the objections. “This play is so pro-AIM and so pro-Indian,” she said. “The fact that Clyde is even protesting it shows there’s a deeper vanity or vendetta or personal hurt that he was going after.”

In an interview Bellecourt said that he was waiting to see what the



New business watch



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Ridership on Route 21

Metro Transit had a big year in 2011—their ridership topped 80 million for only the second time in a generation. John Siqueland was so kind as to separate the statistics for Lake Street usage for us.

In 2011: Ridership on Route 21 totaled 4,377,000. Combined with Route 53 (the limited-stop version of 21), ridership was 4,642,000

The 21 is the bus route with the **third highest ridership** (fourth overall including the light rail). Furthermore, eight of the top

twelve Metro Transit routes with the highest ridership serve Lake Street.

- Hiawatha Light Rail at Hwy 55 (#1)
- Route 5 at Chicago (#2)
- Route 21 (#4)
- Route 18 at Nicollet (#5)
- Route 6 at Hennepin (#6)
- Route 4 at Lyndale (#10)
- Route 17 at Hennepin (#11)
- Route 14 at Bloomington (#12)

Susan Allen officially sworn in as State Representative for District 61B

First Native American woman member of the Minnesota House of Representatives

Susan Allen made history Jan. 19 when she was officially sworn in by Judge Robert Blaesser as State Representative for District 61B. Allen was joined by a large number of family members, friends and supporters in the House Chamber for the swearing-in ceremony followed by a traditional Native American Honor Song performed by the Little Thunderbirds.

“I am humbled by the opportunity to serve my state and community. It is an honor to represent the people of District 61B and I am eager to get to work on issues that will bring positive change to our neighborhoods including creating job opportunities, protecting the environment, and making taxes fairer for working people,” said Rep. Allen. “I also promise to do all I can to reverse state policies and oppose divisive constitutional

amendments that hurt the residents of District 61B.”

“The thoughts and ideas of my constituents are the best guide I have for my new job. Please always feel free to contact me with your comments and suggestions on how we can improve our community and chart out a better future for Minnesota,” said Rep. Allen.

Rep. Susan Allen is a member of the LGBT community, the first Native American woman to be elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives, and is a member of the DFL party. She is a tax and Indian law attorney and is filling the seat vacated by former Rep. Jeff Hayden, who was elected to the Minnesota Senate in October.

Rep. Allen can be reached at 651-296-7152 or rep.susan.allen@house.mn.

response would from the governing council would be. Depending on their answer, he said that he would consider not allowing the theater to use the AIM logo in the program. If they do approve of the changes, he said that one possibility that was discussed would be that AIM members pass out AIM literature at the shows.

Peluso spoke with me about the controversy, but agreed to be quoted saying only that “we will be doing Rhiana’s play. We all found common ground and I appreciate that all involved were able to reconcile our

differences.”

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For more info about the AIM: <http://www.aimovement.org/> <http://aimcollection.org/node103> <http://www.aimovement.org/ggc/history.html>
An excellent, brief history of AIM by Laura Waterman Wittstock and Elaine Salinas

Top 10 Movies of the Year 2011



#1 “The Tree of Life” PG-13
Drama 139 minutes Many will find “The Tree of Life” esoteric but it’s enlightening about one man’s story starting in the 1950s and weaving into what is at times a convoluted cinematographic wonder. Directed by Terrance Malick.



HOWARD MCQUITTER II
Movie Corner
Howardsmoviecorner.com

HowardMcQuitterii@yahoo.com

#2 “Of Gods and Men” PG-13
Drama/History 122 minutes
Country: France Language:
Arabic/French. Eight Trappist
monks in a monastery in Algeria
(in the 1990s) working with poor
Muslims clash with government
and military forces. Directed by
Xavier Beauvois.

#3 “War Horse” PG-13 Drama?

War. 146 minutes A horse named Joey is bought by a poor farmer in England on the edge of World War I. The horse is sold to the army, the boy goes to war, too. That’s not the end of the story. Directed by Steve Spielberg.

#4 “Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close” (PG-13)
Drama 129 minutes First time actor Thomas Horn, as Oskar Schell, loses his dad (Tom Hanks) in the World Trade Center leads to much turmoil and a mysterious key. Directed by Stephen Daldry..

#5 "Drive" R Action/Drama/Thriller 100 minutes Stunt driver (Ryan Gosling) for film productions by day and assists robbers committing heists by night. He meets his neighbor Irene Cary (Carey Mulligan) whose husband Standard (Oscar Issac) team up spurs more trouble with the latter's unpaid debts. Directed by Nicolas Winding Refn.

#6 "The Descendants" PG-13
Drama/Comedy 115 minutes
Matt King(George King) lives in Hawaii, son of Hawaiian royalty caught in difficult dilemmas. Directed by Alexander Payne.

#7 **"Midnight in Paris"** PG-13
Fantasy/Comedy/?Romance 94
minutes Gil's(Owen Wilson)
trip to Paris with his girlfriend
(Rachel McAdams) finds himself
a time clock backwards to the
1920s where he meet Scott (Tom
Hiddleston) and Zelda (Alison Pill)
Fitzgerald, Gertrude Stein (Kathy
Bates), Salvador Dali (Adrien
Brody) and Ernest Hemingway
(Corey Stoll) in the Paris night-
clubs. Directed by Woody Allen.

#8 “The Artist” PG Silent. Black&White.Comedy/Drama 100 minutes It’s Hollywood 1927, George Vaentin (Jean Dujardin) is a silent movie star with a Jack Russell named Uggie. George finds himself out of work when talkies appear; his love interest Pepper Miller (Berenice Bejo) sours as a star when talkies take hold.

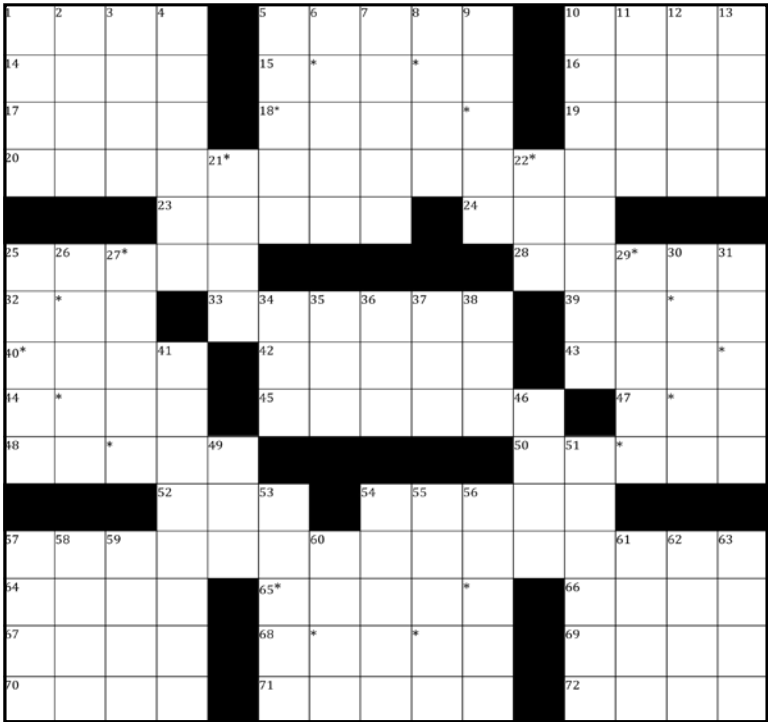
#9 "Ids of March" R Drama/Mystery 101 minutes. Presidential aspirations by Democrat Governor Mike Morris (George Clooney) in Ohio leads to a scandal which campaign press secretary Stephen Meyers (Ryan Gosling) get entangled. Directed by Micheal Hazanavicius.

#10 “Hugo” PG Fantasy/Adventure 126 minutes One small boy Hugo Cabret (Asa Butterfield) and one small girl Isabella (Chloe Grace Moretz) meet one of silent film’s earliest directors George Melies (Ben Kingsley). Directed by Martin Scorsese.

Best Animation of 2011:
"Adventures of Tintin" by Steven Spielberg.

Scariest Film of 2011:
"Melancholia" directed by Lars von Trier.

Alley Crosswords *by Samantha "Sami" Pfeffer*



Across:

1. Pilgrimage
5. Not most
10. Ajar
14. A thought
15. Swiss Central Midfielder
16. Wide river valley
17. Product fcts.
18. Crowd mover?
19. Homer, for example
20. Virgin daiquiri, maybe
23. _____ D.T.P. (musical artist)
24. Pixar punk
25. Christmas songs
28. * in Hindi
32. ____ Lynch (Luna Lovegood)
33. * in Swedish
39. _____ Mit Weile (Sorry! In Berlin)
40. El _____ (Algerian oasis city)
42. Rabbit trap
43. Ground
44. Smell, in Madrid
45. _____ rasa
47. The FBI, for Munich
48. Grease up?
50. Snooped
52. * in Gaelic
54. Big house

57. Suggestions
64. “_____, alack, and Alaska!”
65. Mary-Kate or Ashley
66. Bat
67. “Hey...hey!”
68. “That’s a lie!” in Tokyo
69. Pizza place in Dinkytown
70. Wentz or Doherty
71. Atomic number 86
72. Steal

Down:

1. Cat call?
2. Acclimate, for short
3. Taunt
4. * in Mogadishu
5. * in Hamburg
6. “_____ v i s h u n - tha” (May Matham)
7. World ad company
8. Mystic
9. Parker and Songz
10. Bleaches

- blonde?
11. Father, in Havana
12. Tyler's wife
13. Make out
21. Sun Products Laundry detergent
22. Chew
25. _____ Trinity?
26. Immature ovum
27. "It's the _____ the tiger..."
29. Garlic, olive oil, egg
30. Similar
31. Shut your eyes, say
34. * in Icelandic
35. Essential for life
36. Science classroom?
37. ____ Ilúvatar (Tolkien diety)
38. "_____ loves orange soda!"
41. * in Romanian
46. A fool?
49. Team Resource Management, for short
51. Light benders?
53. * in French
54. Superoxide dismutase
55. Begin to eat, in Ancient Rome
56. Chinese district
57. Playwright Adam
58. "Be good or _____!"
59. Mold
60. _____ the Tigress
61. Wilson and Nolan
62. Under funded relic of the Cold War
63. Dateless

January Answers

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

In The Heart Of The Beast At The Avalon

February 11-12
Sat. 8 PM Sun. 2 PM
Blair Thomas: *Hard Headed Heart*

High art meets low when the words of early 20th Century poets are given voice in this cabaret of wooden puppets, rolling paper scrolls and bass drums. The performances are based on the writings of Federico Garcia Lorca and Wallace Stevens as well as a traditional New Orleans blues song. Recommended for ages 14 and up.

February 11 - 10pm
For the Love of Puppets
Cabaret

For the Love of Puppets, a cabaret of puppet shows by the Twin Cities puppet community, will entertain you into the night. There will also be food, drinks & live music! Recommended for ages 17 and up.

Admission: \$10 per person or
Pay What You Can.

Pay What You Can tickets must be purchased in person or by phone by calling our Box Office 612-721-2535 (M-F 10-4)

Package Deal: For only \$15 you can get admission to both

Hard Headed Heart (8pm) and
For the Love of Puppets! Cabaret
(10pm) on Saturday February 11.
February 18-26

Z Puppets Rosenschnoz: *Monkey Mind Pirates*
Saturdays at 7pm & Sundays at 3:30pm
Tickets: Adults \$10, Children \$5

See the world's only puppet rock yoga opera for families in search of calm! Sail along with this epic tale of a sea captain discovering the secrets to taming the stormy seas of stress. Doors open an hour before each show for Z Puppets Family Happy Hour, with free face painting and fun with our Island of Calm. Recommended for ages 3 and up. "Z Puppets knows how to take puppets, rock and yoga and turn them into a swashbuckling good time."—FOX 9 News Want to be IN the show?! Do you love to sing? Children ages 5+ and accompanying adults can be in the sailor chorus. All are welcome.

February 6 & March 27 7-9 PM

Mayday!
We need your input at
Community Meetings



Planning has begun for the 2012 MayDay Parade & Festival. Everyone is invited to one or both brainstorming meetings. Bring your ideas, concerns, hopes and dreams about building a sustainable future. And tell your friends and neighbors.

Saturday Morning Puppet Shows For Kids

Nearly every Saturday through March, different artists perform engaging puppet shows that 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).

WINTER MARKETS



MIDTOWN

**CELEBRATE WINTER
· IN THE CITY ·**

AT MIDTOWN GLOBAL MARKET

Sunday, February 26
Sunday, March 25

Events are scheduled from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Lake Street & 10th Avenue S.
MIDTOWNGLOBALMARKET.ORG

Smile Back Big Time

January 14th, 2012...

Marv Davidov, the world-renowned activist who quietly resided at 2615 Park Avenue, has passed. All of us would do well to "google" his name. The numerous tributes are rich in content. Should you open "The Wild Reed" site you will find him pictured smiling from his death bed.

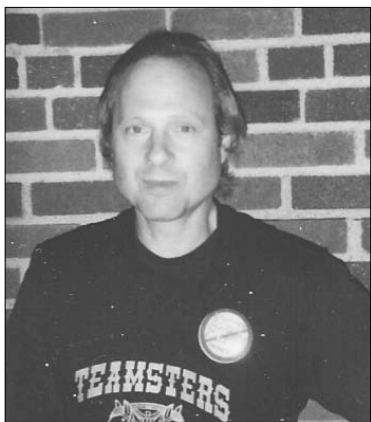
Freedom Rides, 1961...

40-plus days behind bars, "We were the first group of integrated prisoners in Mississippi prison history." The freedom songs prevailed. This was the "moment of blessed human solidarity" which determined the remainder of his life.

Sometime around 1970...

My small circle of student friends found itself among the many hundreds amassed outside the Honeywell (war) production facility. Marv Davidov stepped forward to proclaim: "Any person committing an act of property damage will be considered by the body of this gathering to be an agent provocateur." I was deeply impressed. A tactic was deemed valid from the standpoint of its potential to draw broader masses onto struggle. Lesson learned.

Note: In the context of the United States of America, our friend adhered to the thesis of "non-violent revolution", however, as one who was deeply empathetic with oppressed people anywhere on the planet, he did



PETER MOLENAAR
Raise Your Voice

consent to moral relativism.

Remarkably, Marv Davidov was a "self-professed non-believer" who surrounded himself with religious people. They adored him. Nevertheless, as he would have it, consciousness is the product of billions of years of material evolution i.e. central nervous systems. Which is to say: The universe has become conscious of itself through human beings. Marv was a radical humanist.

To which I will add: Come the day when we the people discharge our present ruling class, the universe will smile back big time in his honor.

Additional online reading about Marv Davidov:
The Honeywell Project,
Midwest Institute for Social Transformation
<http://bit.ly/AzRB3H>



Marv Davidov (right), December 12, 1969. Fred Carey of Honeywell security reads to Davidov and other protesters a statement restricting them from trespassing on Honeywell property. (Photo: Jack Gillis)



Marv in October 2002, protesting mainstream media bias, specifically the lack of coverage of the largest anti-war rally in Minnesota in 30 years that had taken place a few days earlier. Limited coverage of this event had been buried in the A section of both the Minneapolis Star Tribune and St. Paul Pioneer

Marv Davidov: 1931-2012

BY MARY TURCK, TC DAILY PLANET

Not all the good die young. Some are tough old birds, speaking out and singing loudly all the way to the end. Peace and justice advocate Marv Davidov was one of the good ones. He died on January 14, 80 years old.

I remember Marv saying, at a protest a decade or so ago, that he could go any time now. Gesturing to the crowd gathered in front of the Minneapolis federal building, he told me, "Look at the age of this crowd. The young ones have it now!"

Marv's activism has a long history, from being one of the original Freedom Riders in 1961 to founding the Honeywell Project in opposition to the Vietnam War and on through the wars and injustices since then. He never gave up and he never stopped. (For more about Marv, see Marv Davidov: Still an activist after all these years and Lifelong activist Marv Davidov proud that Alliant and Honeywell protests fought nation's 'war machine'.)

Just about everybody in peace and justice circles in the Twin Cities has Marv Davidov stories and memories. Steve Clemens already has posted his memories on his blog, which he graciously shares with us. Steve observed:

He was a thorn in the side (or, more accurately, a pain in the ass) to those in authority who wished to protect a status quo which trampled the rights of the poor or marginalized or used military force against others.

While Marv may be resting in peace, I'm sure he'd be the first to tell you and me that there's much to be done and no time to rest.

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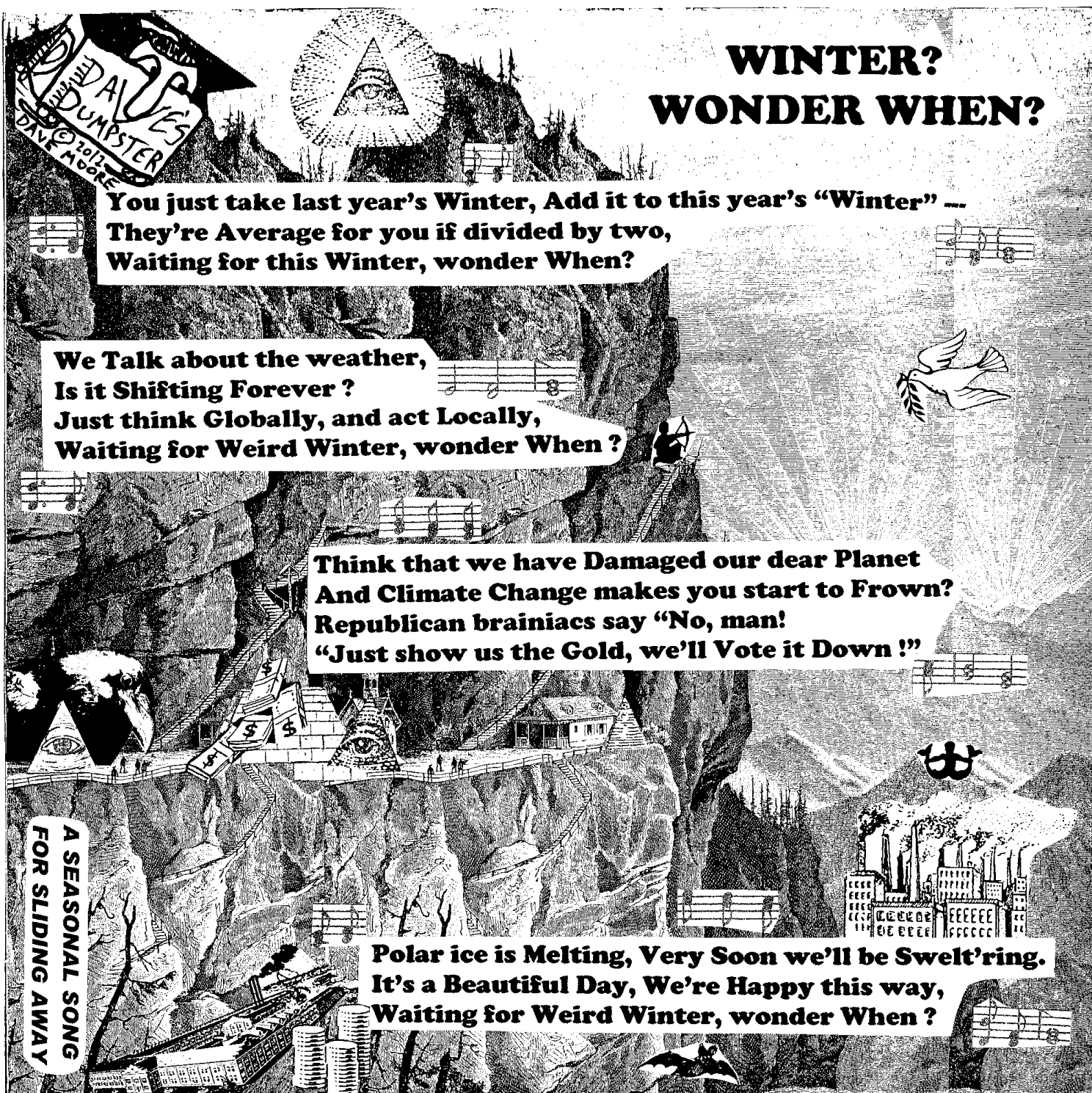
TWIN CITIES
DAILY PLANET
LOCAL NEWS FOR GLOBAL CITIZENS

Additional online reading about Marv Davidov:
The Honeywell Project on Wikipedia
<http://bit.ly/yg4mJE>



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8^{AM} to 3^{PM} Sun.
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Backyard Initiative Update

A Community and Institution Partnership to Improve the Health and Health Care Experience of the Residents of the “Backyard” Area



BY JANICE BARBEE, CULTURAL WELLNESS CENTER

The partners in the Backyard Initiative all see the partnership itself as a major accomplishment of the Initiative.

The Partnership Consists of Two Partners:

Allina Clinics and Hospitals	The Backyard Community
115 Patient Care Facilities in the greater Twin Cities Area: 11 Hospitals, 86 Clinics, 15 Community Pharmacies, 3 Ambulatory Care	41,140 Residents (U.S. 2000 Census—now there are ≈45,000 residents) 40% White, 27% African American, 22% Latino, 6% Native American, 6% Asian
24,000 Employees, 5,000Physicians, and 2,500 Volunteers	13,565 Households (U.S. 2000 Census) 5,005 Owned and 8,560 Rented
1,821 Staffed Beds	2.95 Average People per Household
276,999 ER Visits in 2008	1,535 Businesses and Organizations (4/09)
16,101 Births in 2008	149 Service Organizations
8,135,458 Lab Tests Performed in 2008	132 Family Healthcare Providers
45,503 Ambulance Transfers in 2008	26 Schools and Libraries

Atum Azzahir is the Executive Director of the Cultural Wellness Center, the community organization that is charged with engaging residents in the Backyard Initiative. She and her staff facilitate the meetings and support the work of the teams of residents in their health improvement projects, called Citizen Health Action Teams (CHATs). She states that the partnership between Allina and the community around Allina headquarters (the “Backyard”) is nothing short of “revolutionary.” She says she often hears community residents express their appreciation and gratitude for what Allina has learned through this partnership and for staying at the table.

The partnership consists of Allina Hospitals and Clinics, the Cultural Wellness Center, Hope Community, Portico, and the residents of the neighborhoods around Allina headquarters, including the four neighborhoods of Phillips, Powderhorn Park, Central, and Corcoran. What stands out in everyone’s mind is the way a major health institution has listened to and supported the leadership of community residents as they take responsibility for their health and the health of the entire community.

Community residents often quote what Ellie Zuehlke, Allina’s

Director of Community Benefit said at a community meeting: “Pretty early in the initiative, there was a fundamental shift away from viewing the community as being in Allina’s “Backyard” to recognizing that Allina is in the backyard of this community. Along with that,

we realized that the work is not about improving the health of the community, but rather acting as a resource in a way that helps community residents to improve their own health.”

2011 Accomplishments as a Result of This Partnership

Following is a list of some of the accomplishments for 2011 recently reported on by the Cultural Wellness Center:

1. The 15 Citizen Health Action Teams (CHATs) of the Backyard held 173 activities in 2011. Over 1200 people participated in these community and health building activities. The action plans of five of these teams were approved by the community’s Commission on Health in 2011.
2. The 15-part plan to improve the physical, mental, social, and spiritual well-being of the BYI community also began to function as the “Community Care-Giving System” of the BYI community. They built a sense of working as a community, for the benefit of all, rather than just in their own interest as a CHAT.
3. The BYI CHATs and the BYI Commission on Health came to consensus with key mental health care providers at Allina

that the Community Care-Giving Model of the Backyard Initiative will be developed and first implemented in the focus area of mental health.

4. The BYI’s Community Resource Body was formed, facilitated by the Cultural Wellness Center. This body, with representation from other health care, economic development, and research institutions, serves to increase support for the BYI and promote the initiative locally and nationally.
 5. The Backyard Initiative Community Assessment Team formed an Evaluation Team consisting of a staff person from the CWC, the Assessment Team’s evaluation fellow, and two evaluators contracted by Allina. This team met with the five CHATs that had reached their one-year anniversary of working together on their health improvement projects and helped them to evaluate themselves based on the values and principles named by the Assessment Team. This team also helped to draw out the learning from the experiences of the CHATs that will benefit other CHATs and the entire initiative as it continues its work.
 6. The systems of operating and accountability in the partnership were strengthened. The BYI partners articulated and implemented standards and principles for operating in a partnership between an institution and an empowered community. The BYI Commission established policies and practices for recognizing the financial, social, and cultural capital with the CHATs and within the Commission. The BYI also developed a system of checks and balances which assures that CHATs’ spending is transparent and in keeping with their approved action plan.
 7. The Cultural Wellness Center trained 45 community members in the CWC model of engaged community leadership, a model approved by the CHATs to create a group of leaders who will mobilize community residents to support each other.
 8. The Backyard Initiative received increased recognition and awareness. In addition to the monthly articles in this community newspaper, the Twin Cities’ Daily Planet and the national newsletter of Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) ran articles on the BYI.
- CHAT Accomplishments**
- The five CHATs which completed their one year of community work produced a long list

Victory! No High-Voltage Power Lines in the Greenway!

By Soren Jensen, Midtown Greenway Coalition Executive Director

As most Alley readers may know, in 2008 Xcel energy applied to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for a permit to construct two high-voltage power lines over the Midtown Greenway or nearby, as well as two new sub-stations.

Upon learning about this threat to the Greenway, the Phillips neighborhood, and surrounding neighborhoods, the Midtown Greenway Coalition sprang into action. Led by Tim Springer, our former executive director, and our board of directors, the Coalition brought together leaders from the Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association, East Phillips Improvement Coalition and other neighborhood groups to oppose the lines in the Greenway.

We are pleased to report that our more than two-year struggle has resulted in victory! On January 12th the Public Utilities Commission ruled that the power lines must be buried under E. 28th Street.

We would like to thank everyone who helped support us in this historic victory, including the many volunteers and community leaders from Phillips. It was a long struggle – one that we are sure would have made Wendell Phillips proud!

Hundreds of people participated in the public hearings regarding the lines, and cheered when the administrative law judge recommended that the lines be buried under E. 28th Street.

To assist with the fight against the lines, the Midtown Greenway Coalition hired a top-notch lawyer, Paula Maccabee, who worked with all of the neighborhood groups. The Coalition also partnered with government leaders, including Council Members Gary Schiff,



Robert Lilligren, Cam Gordon and others, as well as Representative Karen Clark and other state leaders. All were instrumental in the success of the effort, helping to pass resolutions and key legislation.

The PUC did not yet rule on who should pay for the extra cost to bury the lines. However, Xcel has already said they would like to charge the entire rate base (all customers), and our understanding is that the entire rate base should indeed pay for transmission lines. There will be more news regarding the public comment process related to this issue, and we’ll do our best to keep everyone updated via our website, Facebook page, and Twitter.

The Midtown Greenway Coalition, Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association, East Phillips Improvement Coalition, and Phillips West Neighborhood Organization will also play a role in helping to design the sub-stations. For more information, please visit our website at www.midtowngreenway.org.

Thanks again to the people of Phillips and everyone who helped achieve this amazing victory to protect and preserve the Midtown Greenway.

- of achievements. Some of the highlights are:
- The Dakota Language Revitalization CHAT held a language immersion daycare and 24 moccasin making classes which created a space for Dakota people to reconnect to their cultural ways maintaining well being.
 - Two pilot Anchor Families established themselves on their blocks in the Powderhorn Park and Central neighborhoods to connect neighbors with each other across age, culture, and language. As neighbors began to know each other they felt safer on their block and began to share resources and skills.
 - A Partnership of Diabetics (A-POD) CHAT held regular “meet-ups” throughout the year where diabetics provided support for each other and shared stories and information with additional support from a health professional. Their members showed improvement in key areas for diabetes management such as weight control, and improved

- A1C levels. They also started a group for Somali women with diabetes.
- The Out in the Backyard CHAT collected the information they need to create a website to support the GLBTQ community in the Backyard. They organized many community gatherings, such as discussions on bullying and creating health directives.
 - The “Did You Know?” CHAT worked with block club leaders to strengthen the system for neighbors connecting with and supporting each other. As a result of their work, the Phillips neighborhood had the highest National Night Out participation it has ever had: 52 registered block parties, up from 16 the previous year.
- All Backyard residents are welcome to come to the Backyard Initiative community meetings on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 5 PM at the Midtown Global Market. Call the Cultural Wellness Center for details: 612-721-5745.

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