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# the Alley NEWSPAPER

OF, BY, AND FOR ITS READERS SINCE 1976  
JANUARY 2017 • VOLUME 42, NUMBER 1

The Alley Online!

[www.alleynews.org](http://www.alleynews.org)



@alleynewspaper



## MENDING ...to whom offence?



### Mending Wall

BY ROBERT FROST

Something there is that doesn't love a wall,  
That sends the frozen-ground-swell under it,  
And spills the upper boulders in the sun;  
And makes gaps even two can pass abreast.  
The work of hunters is another thing:  
I have come after them and made repair  
Where they have left not one stone on a stone,  
But they would have the rabbit out of hiding,  
To please the yelping dogs. The gaps I mean,  
No one has seen them made or heard them made,  
But at spring mending-time we find them there.  
I let my neighbor know beyond the hill;  
And on a day we meet to walk the line  
And set the wall between us once again.  
We keep the wall between us as we go.  
To each the boulders that have fallen to each.  
And some are loaves and some so nearly balls  
We have to use a spell to make them balance:  
"Stay where you are until our backs are turned!"



### Who Would I Shelter?

BY PATRICK CABELLO HANSEL

If you looked to the southwest as you were arriving for La Natividad this past December, you could see just the briefest hint of the sun's last rays. It was the darkest part of the year for us in northern climes; for many of us, 2016 was one of the darkest as well. From Zika to Aleppo, from thousands dying in the Mediterranean trying to seek shelter from war and abject poverty to an election characterized by fear and hatred, from shooting of black men by police to the shooting of police, this past year had its share of darkness.

**"...Before I built a wall I'd ask to know  
What I was walling in or walling out,  
And to whom I was like to give offence.  
Something there is that doesn't love a wall..."**

La Natividad tells the Christmas story from the perspective of an immigrant family in our neighborhood seeking posada, or shelter. Many of the actors and volunteers this past year will be directly affected by the new administration's strategy on immigration. After a year in which immigrants were demonized, the question remains: Will we provide shelter to those who are already here, and those who will come?

La Natividad is a partnership of In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theater and St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church on 15th Avenue. Usually we abbreviate the name of the church to St. Paul's Lutheran, but in this climate, maybe we should dwell on the "evangelical" for a moment, as the sun makes its slow journey north. Evangelical comes from two Greek words, meaning "good" and "angel" (or "messenger"). Doesn't Phillips need to hear from a good angel? Don't we need a message, not of Making America Great Again, but of recognizing the great love that we already bear within us?

In La Natividad, María hears from two evangels that she is to bear the Holy Child into the world. First a dancer with bells on her feet—who is in charge of a sometimes unruly flock of little angels—physically serenades María with a beautiful Aztec dance. Then a mysterious angel, masked as the whole of heaven, brings soundless words to her. María is shocked, then wondering, then accepting this good news: she will bear this child. She will accept this gift.

Oh, what a good message, right? But then, humble María faces anything but good news. A fight with her fiancé, José. A call from the empire to be counted (a registry of people from the Middle East perhaps). King Herod who wishes to stop María and José from entering the community that has gathered to welcome them. The very literal cold and piercing wind along 15th Avenue.

St. Paul's and Heart of the Beast have been working to make 15th Avenue into the Phillips Avenue of the Arts: a celebration of the beauty and talent of the community. Often during 2016, the work felt more like just holding onto the avenue of survival. With

human trafficking, violence and crime increasing; with powerful voices in our nation telling people "you don't belong here: you're the wrong culture, the wrong religion, the wrong color, the wrong sexuality".

And yet we walk. Neighbors disarm Herod's guards not with force, but by calling to their families on the other side of the bridge: Mother! Tia! Sister! Primo! The star leads the way to an old church, where the heating pipes creak and the roof sometimes leaks, but where there is hot soup and bread, music and loving arms to welcome not only one child, but all the children of the earth.

This year, people who attended La Natividad were asked to write words on Post-Its and place them under questions like "Who would I shelter?" and "Who would shelter me?" The bright colors made for a kind of paper heaven in the banquet hall of St. Paul's. A heaven that calls us to question, calls us to welcome, calls us to be light in the midst of deep darkness.

*Patrick Cabello Hansel is a Co-Pastor at St. Paul's EVANGELICAL Lutheran Church on 15th Ave.*



We wear our fingers rough with handling them.

Oh, just another kind of out-door game, One on a side. It comes to little more: There where it is we do not need the wall: He is all pine and I am apple orchard. My apple trees will never get across And eat the cones under his pines, I tell him.

He only says, "Good fences make good neighbors."

Spring is the mischief in me, and I wonder If I could put a notion in his head:

"Why do they make good neighbors? Isn't it

Where there are cows? But here there are no cows.

Before I built a wall I'd ask to know What I was walling in or walling out, And to whom I was like to give offence. Something there is that doesn't love a wall,

That wants it down." I could say "Elves" to him,

But it's not elves exactly, and I'd rather He said it for himself. I see him there Bringing a stone grasped firmly by the top In each hand, like an old-stone savage armed.

He moves in darkness as it seems to me, Not of woods only and the shade of trees. He will not go behind his father's saying, And he likes having thought of it so well He says again, "Good fences make good neighbors."





# the Alley NEWSPAPER

The Alley  
P.O. Box 7006  
Mpls., MN 55407  
Call Editor 612-990-4022  
Editor@AlleyNews.org  
www.alleynews.org

Follow us on twitter.com/alleynewsapp

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

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

**Co-Editor & Designer:** Jonathan Miller jmiller@alleynews.org  
Robert Albee, Ventura Village News Editor; Brad Pass East Phillips Editor, Sunny Seigny, Midtown Phillips News Editor; Susan Ann Gust, BYI Section

**Advertise:** ads@alleynews.org 612-990-4022

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

**Deadline for Feb. issue is Jan. 15**

The Alley Newspaper is a Member of



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

BY ERIN THOMASSON

January 2017

## K-12 Homework Help

**Tues, Wed, & Thurs, 3:30-7:30 pm.** Free in-person tutoring for K-12 students. No advance sign-up needed. Info: [www.hclib.org/homework](http://www.hclib.org/homework). Sponsor: Friends of the Hennepin County Library.

## Family Storytime

**Fri's, 10:30-11 am.** Children of all ages and parent or caregiver. Talk, sing, read, write and play together in a format appropriate for young children. Share books, stories, rhymes, music and movement.

## Franklin Teen Center Programs Urban 4-H Club

**Tues's, 5-7 pm.** Everything from urban gardening to digital photo/video to theater. Partner: University of Minnesota.

## Teen Tech Workshop

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

## Dhalinta Horumar sare rabta / Young Achievers

**Thurs's 4:30-6 pm.** U dabaaldag Dhaqanka Soomalida, sameysa saaxiibo cusub iyo in aad isticmaasho hab nololeed cafimaad leh. Lamaane: WellShare International. Celebrate Somali culture, make new friends and practice healthy

## 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**

lifestyles. Partner: WellShare International.

## Adult programs

## Haweenka Aduunka Women of the World

**Sa. Jan. 28, 2-4 pm.** Share sisterhood and talk about leadership, jobs, family, health and more. We are women empowering women! Women and their children are welcome to attend.

**Franklin Learning Center:**  
**612-543-6934**  
**fllc@hclib.org.**

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.

**Tales on Vacation Tales from Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery Series will resume in The Alley Newspaper in February**



Front Page Art and Banner

**Kimber Fiebiger's creativity has complexity and surreality of Gaudi, Picasso, Seuss and Carroll**

Kimber Fiebiger creates bronze sculptures that range from fun and whimsical, to classical and contemporary. The six Humpty Dumpty sculptures on the Front Page of this issue are at her Gallery/Studio. She lives in Minneapolis yet her sculptures have been sold all over the country where she has won numerous awards. Besides being a fabulous sculptor, Kimber has created a home/gallery/studio that will amaze and intrigue you upon viewing. Ask anyone who drives by her Gallery at E Franklin and S 31st Avenues. Her building has been described as having the artful complexity of Spanish designer Antonio Gaudi combined with the surreal nature of Pablo Picasso. Her recent outdoor landscape brings to mind playful images of Dr. Seuss and the imagination of Lewis Carroll.

Phillips West Neighborhood Organization and Community Partners invite you and your family to the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual

## Winter Social!

*The Lutheran Social Service Center for Changing Lives*  
2400 Park Avenue  
(enter at west side of building)  
(Parking lot on Oakland Avenue)

**Thursday January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017**  
**5:00 to 8:00 p.m.**

Join hundreds of your friends and neighbors for a FREE dinner buffet of catered culture foods from local businesses & a fun-filled evening! The purpose of this event is to provide a great meal and venue for Neighbors to network with one another and get information on Neighborhood Resources available! If you have questions, would like to volunteer or have an information booth please call Crystal Windschitl at the Phillips West office @ 879-5383 or email her at [pwno2005@yahoo.com](mailto:pwno2005@yahoo.com) you can also check out the Phillips West Website: [www.phillipswest.info](http://www.phillipswest.info)

*This event is Wheelchair Accessible*



On this spot

in olden times

they made shaving cream,

and funny signs

*Burma-Shave*

*Burma-Shave*

*"Don't prejudge value by outward appearance alone"*

Pursuit of Ugly Building's Legacy: a Treasure Trove like pearls inside an oyster

*Burma-Shave*

BY SHARI ALBERS

For 15 months, a group of local history-minded folks have fought to save the odd-shaped building sometimes known as "the Burma Shave building" on the southwest corner of 21st Avenue South and Lake Street. It appears that all hope of saving even part of the building is lost.

Led by the indomitable Steve Sandberg, our group had a theatrical presence at Open Lake Street 2016, researched much beyond Burma Shave's history, registered with Minnesota Preservation Alliance in hopes of getting a historical survey, paid over \$500 in fees, and testified to the Heritage Preservation Commission and Minneapolis City Council.

Through our research, we discovered that the building at 2019 E. Lake St. was originally a Congregationalist Church—thus the timber frame-post and beam roof in the middle of the structure. It was built in 1882 near the current Midtown Farmers Market. In 1911, the last living church founder, Mrs. Mary Burnell, was interviewed for a *Minneapolis Morning Tribune* article. Burnell talks about the area in 1882:

*"Although we were small in numbers we made up for it in enthusiasm. Within a few months we had built and paid for a \$5000 church building. The older churches gave us much help and encouragement. We were an isolated and unorganized community—only a few homes grouped about some factories along the railroad tracks. Two or three miles of open prairies separated us from the city limits, then at Franklin avenue (sic). On all sides of us there were grain fields. For several*

*months before organizing we had been having Sunday school in the district school. When we organized a church we determined to have a church building. For many years ours was the only evangelical church for two or three miles on any side."*

In 1892, the church building was moved to the corner of 21st and Lake. Ten years later, the congregation built a new church a few blocks south and sold the original building to a member of Sons of Norway. The church building was then home to Hugnad Hall Association, a Scandinavian fellowship hall for a few years, then Winget Manufacturing Company, and then Burma-Vita just before its Burma-Shave product gained national attention.

While the Burma-Shave story was our focus for preservation, the ensemble of all the stories paralleled the development of Lake Street—that of immigrants and entrepreneurship that is still Lake Street's story today.

Winget Manufacturing Co. was a 1915 woman-owned, woman-managed, woman-designer business that employed mostly women seamstresses. The business would eventually move to a downtown building called Kickernick, named for Nell Winget's nationally famous women's pants.

We hoped to save the eclectic building, or at least a part of it, to better tell the important history that happened at that corner. We lost. After testifying to the Heritage Preservation Commission and appealing their 6-2 decision to the City Council Zoning Committee (a unanimous "no"), the City determined the building a historical resource, but on the

same day, deemed it demolishable. We still feel that some post and beam structure or other physical element can be saved to help tell the stories, but it doesn't look like that will happen.

The Minneapolis Public Schools bought half of the block, intending to erect an adult education building on the site. There is no doubt that this is a great location for such a structure—on major arteries, bus and light rail lines, adjacent to a senior high school. We figured the history of realized immigrant dreams was a perfect fit for the mission to educate adults in this new building. Steve Brandt, newly retired Star Tribune writer, covered the story twice. The Alley Newspaper has devoted many column inches to the story.

I understand and appreciate that the school district does not want to deal with liability, maintenance costs, and structural issues of this 134-year-old building; however, I believe **some part of the building can be saved** to help tell the important story of this site.

Think: NYC's World Trade Center and the Mill City Museum.

I give walking tours for Preserve Minneapolis and Hennepin History Museum, where I see, first hand, how tangible history enhances the experience of visualizing and learning facts. For example, a 4'x8' patch of concrete and a depression in the landscape at Washburn Fair Oaks Park in the Whittier neighborhood helps to tell the story of the 80-room mansion and man-made pond that once were part of the ten-acre W.D. Washburn estate. Tour-goers usually stand on the concrete and scrutinize photos to better imagine the historic site.

Minneapolis Public Schools and its architects have an amazing opportunity to incorporate some part of this eclectic building into an adult education center that also reflects hopes, potential, and, in the case of this building, realized dreams. In this building:

- new immigrants practiced their faith,
- Scandinavians found social connection,
- one woman's creative drive supported her family when her husband could not,
- community women (perhaps some of them single mothers) found employment,
- a neighborhood scientist developed a formula for shaving cream,
- and entrepreneurs developed a new poetic paradigm for marketing that would line the nation's highways.

We have yet to unearth this building's stories after Vine Church, Burma-Shave, Hugnad Hall Association, and Winget Manufacturing Company; yet we know the stories of hard working, imaginative pioneers and immigrants parallel the development of Lake Street then as over and again until this era.

Certainly, imaginative architects can incorporate some historic elements into a new, modern campus that embraces and celebrates South Minneapolis' past and present. We have addressed the Minneapolis Public Schools superintendant and school board members via email, offering to brainstorm this possibility. Incorporating tangible local history into the child-teen-adult curriculum would offer lessons that do not appear in any textbook.



Don't be fooled

by white vinyl siding

behind these walls

there's history hiding

is stinger free

your face

Unless

*Burma-Shave*

GOAL: "A Requiem for Architectural Eclecticism, Immigrant Ingenuity, Building Repurposing, Prairie Urban Culture, and Marketing Savvy on East Lake Street."

A CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS To Musicians, Poets, Composers, Lyricists, Spoken Word Artists, Songwriters, Playwrights, and Humorists

Plans are being made for a Celebration of the past occupants, companies, and organizations that built, moved, and used the 2019 East Lake Street building for 134 years.

Yes, it will be a funeral of sorts, a Requiem, to honor the structure and its meaning for thousands of people.

The word Requiem means memorial ceremonies and also texts and compositions associated with death, dying, and mourning, even when they lack religious or liturgical relevance.

Poems, songs, music, spoken word, rhymes, and stories may all be included in an event to be announced soon. Perhaps there is a local theater troupe or two that would take this on for a World Premeier.

Send submissions to: The Alley Newspaper at: editor@alleynews.org; P.O.Box 7006, Mpls, MN 55407; or call 612-9990-4022.

Leave the building

Shave the fuzz

Shave the whiskers

*Burma-Shave*

no rubble

Where it was

no stubble

building saved

- BY HARVEY WINJE
1. Mpls. Public Schools to recognize a genuine opportunity for Community Education.
  2. Corcoran Neighborhood Organization to recognize grassroots organizing when it arises from the community.
  3. Architects to recognize classic architecture even if disguised by cosmetic additions and siding.
  4. Consultants to deflate their inflated costs to discourage creative re-purposing; perhaps instead comparing to the extraordinary costs of shoring up the Community Education building at Hiawatha and Lake Street so it didn't fall into the hole made for the new development there.
  5. Hennepin County to remember what a win-win happened after a decade of controversy of a Garbage Transfer Station at Hi-Lake.
  6. The City of Minneapolis to encourage implementation of efforts for Zero Waste.
  7. For the Partners of the new development including the Midtown Farmer's Market to move the Post and Beam Framework of the original church back to where it was built to become a shelter for a portion of the Market. It would become Market and Gardening News across the country.



## The Phillips Aquatic Center - Coming SOON!



### CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT

- RENOVATE EXISTING 6-LANE POOL WITH SPECTATOR AREA AND CHECK IN DESK
- NEW 4-LANE POOL WITH FAMILY/FLEXIBLE LOCKER ROOMS, COMMUNITY ROOM, PUBLIC RESTROOMS, AND STAFF SUPPORT
- SITE: PARKING LOT AND LANDSCAPING
- ENTRANCE CANOPY AND SIGN

### ALTERNATES NOT ACCEPTED DUE TO BUDGET LIMITATIONS

- UPDATE EXISTING LOCKER ROOMS
- RELOCATE FITNESS & TEEN CENTERS



### A Victory For The Phillips Community

At Last, the Construction Contract for the Phillips Aquatic Center with its two indoor swimming pools has been signed! (See above) This amazing expansion and renovation of the Phillips Community Center, is the result of more than five years of hard work and strategic thinking by the volunteers of the Phillips Neighborhoods and Minneapolis Swims in partnership with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB).

Years ago, many Phillips residents learned to swim in what was then the Phillips Junior High School pool, built in 1972 with Model Cities money. When, in 1987, the old school was declared redundant and was scheduled to be demolished, the neighbors successfully fought to prevent the demolition of the new pool and gym along with it. The Boys and Girls Club then took over operations of the building. Twenty years later, they moved out leaving the building in such a bad state of repair that it was shut down and was again in danger of being demolished.

So - This makes it the second time the neighborhoods stepped in to save this building, the gym and now the pool. Construction will start when weather permits. - **IT WORKED AGAIN!**

**Congratulations Phillips, Minneapolis Swims & MPRB!**

## For Your Calendar: \* Have a Great New Year

**The EPIC Board of Directors** meet on the FIRST Saturday of the month – Next Meetings; Saturday, 1/7/2017 and 2/4/2017 at 10:00 AM.

**The EPIC General Membership** meets on the SECOND Thursday – Next Meetings; Thursday, 1/12/17 and 2/9/2017 at 6:30 PM

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

**The East Phillips Park Programming Partnership** meets on the LAST Tuesday – Next meetings; 1/31/17 and 2/28/2017 at 11:30 AM. Lunch is served.

Updates on Partner Programming, Park Events & News.

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

**The East Phillips Community 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. Gardeners** meet on the second Saturday of Each Month during the gardening season, normally from April through September. Next meetings are: Saturday, 4/8/2017 & 5/13/2017 at 9:00 AM in the Community Center at 2307 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. Subsequent meetings will be held in the Garden.

\* **East Phillips Residents wanting a 2017 Garden Plot, contact Brad Pass at 612-916-8478**

\* **To get involved in EPIC & help move the East Phillips Neighborhood in a positive direction, join us at any EPIC General Membership meeting (see dates above). All are welcome.**

*Designed and Paid for by East Phillips Improvement Coalition*



## MIDTOWN PHILLIPS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION INC.

[www.midtownphillips.org](http://www.midtownphillips.org) | 612.232.0018 | [midtownphillips@gmail.com](mailto:midtownphillips@gmail.com)

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### BOARD MEETING AGENDA

TUESDAY JANUARY 10, 6:30-8 PM.

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

- I. Introductions
- II. Review and Approve December Board Minutes
- III. Staff Report-Maggie Moran
- IV. Introduction for proposed housing at 2436 13th Ave. S. and 2542 12th Ave. S. – Chad Dipman, Habitat for Humanity
- V. Discussion of Projects
- VI. Community Announcements & Public Comment

### KNOW YOUR RIGHTS! JANUARY 15, 2-4 PM

Come join MPNAI for an informational immigrant rights forum at St. Paul's ELCA. More details to follow. [midtownphillips@gmail.com](mailto:midtownphillips@gmail.com)

### COMMUNITY MEETING AGENDA

TUESDAY JANUARY 24, 6:30-8 PM.

Stewart Park (Multi-purpose Room), 2700 12<sup>th</sup> Ave S, Minneapolis

- I. Introductions
- II. Review and Accept November Minutes
- III. Information on Annual Meeting
- IV. Introduction and explanation of Heartbombing 2017
- V. Discussion of Ideas for Open Streets 2017
- VI. Community Announcements and Public Comment

### SAVE THE DATE

## MIDTOWN PHILLIPS COMMUNITY DINNER & ANNUAL MEETING

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 5:30-7:30 PM

Andersen Community School cafeteria  
1098 Andersen Lane, Minneapolis

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

### ALL ARE WELCOME!

- FREE Dinner • Speakers & Entertainment!
- Neighborhood Reports • Info and Resource Fair
- New Board Elections

FOR MORE INFO: [midtownphillips@gmail.com](mailto:midtownphillips@gmail.com)

## CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AWARDED FOR PHILLIPS COMMUNITY CENTER AND AQUATICS FACILITY

MPRB Commissioners have approved a construction contract for Morcon Construction Company, Inc. for the renovation and expansion of the aquatics facilities at the Phillips Community Center.

### The project includes:

- renovation of the existing 6-lane pool and spectator area • a new 4-lane teaching pool with family changing rooms, a community meeting room and public restrooms • a new entrance canopy and signage at the main entrance from the parking lot • a new check-in desk dedicated to aquatics related site work, including a reconfigured parking lot, landscaping and underground stormwater management

### Project Location:

Phillips Community Center, 2323 11th Ave. S, Minneapolis, MN 55404  
Construction will begin in spring, 2017.

For more information and/or to subscribe to get email updates: visit the project page for the Phillips Community Center and Aquatics Facility:

[www.minneapolisparcs.org](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org)

Dana Murdoch, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board  
[dmurdoch@minneapolisparcs.org](mailto:dmurdoch@minneapolisparcs.org), 612-230-6446





# VENTURA VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

JANUARY 2017



DEC. 14TH GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING @ 7:00

VOLUME 6 NUMBER 1



January 15, 2010



A-POD at Running Wolf Fitness



## A-POD Ends Its Six-Year Program

Six years ago this month, A Partnership Of Diabetics launched its 2010 peer-group educational and support initiative at Lutheran Social Services in West Phillips. After a year A-POD moved into the *Phillips Community Center* where it has provided twice weekly supportive services to English-speaking Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetics. In 2011, A-POD began providing weekly support for Somali Language diabetics; in 2013 support services included Spanish-speaking residents.

The most important aspect of A-POD's program is its efforts toward greater empowerment of its participants through peer encouragement by fellow diabetics. In 2013, many University of Minnesota students selected to work at the *Phillips Neighborhood Clinic* also became volunteers and attended A-POD's weekly "meet-ups". One or more future doctors, nurses, pharmacists, physical therapists, as well as public health professionals joined with A-POD in making fruitful 90-minute sessions, encouraging attendees to share their journeys with the others attending sessions.

When the *Native American Community Clinic (NACC)* closed down its diabetes breakfast programs, A-POD stepped up and provided a series of monthly breakfasts often led by health-care professionals while Waite House chefs and their culinary trainees provided diabetes-friendly meals. A-POD also proved substantial support to NACC in setting up the *Running Wolf Fitness Center* downstairs and participated in efforts to reconstruct the PCC's aquatics program with two swimming pools scheduled for late 2017.

As a long-term Citizen Health Action Team with Allina Health's Backyard Initiative (BYI), A-POD fully supports BYI's *community definition of health* that requires active, rather than passive involvement in personal health and wellness. With a focus on body, mind and spirit, health is also a series of efforts and negotiations within each community to ensure that resources and activities are available to help members gain and retain wellness.

Throughout the years of its operation, A-POD has struggled to find and keep adequate funding for its programs. Besides Allina Health and Monthly Breakfast support by Novo Nordisk for three years, A-POD was unable to expand until 2015 when the University of Minnesota's *Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI)* provided nearly \$70 thousand to fund an 18th month research study to determine if *non-literate Somali Elders living in select neighborhood high rise apartments could do as well at managing their diabetes as those who can read and write*. Expanding to Hiawatha and Pentagon Towers and Fifth Avenue in West Phillips, A-POD operated an expanded program with these three buildings included in weekly visits. Hard data confirmed *significant improvements* by frequent participants showing that peer group members untrained in medical practice can still have a measurable and significant impact on fellow residents health. Most importantly these results can work despite a slim budget impossible if operating with more expensive medically-trained professionals.

After six years, Bob and Sharon Albee are moving on to Seattle to settle near their family members. Efforts are underway to continue the program with a new set of funding initiatives and a new set of partners, including professionals in the community and medical field.

— Robert Albee



A-POD Spanish Language Group



October 22, 2011



A-POD Somali Team



PNC Student Volunteer



December 22, 2016



## Ventura Village Annual Election Results

Food and snacks were served at Ventura Village's Annual Meeting on December 14th with a full presentation by Third Precinct Inspector Catherine (CJ) Johnson, followed by a lengthy discussion conducted by Sixth Ward City Council member Abdi Warsame.

With the end of 2016 approaching, several neighborhood residents will complete Board Member tenure at the expiration of their three-year elected terms. Leaving are Sahra Ali, Ahmed Burale, Abdikadir (AK) Hassan and Cecil Smith, with Sadik Warfa resigning earlier this year. On the evening of December 14, AK Hassan and Cecil Smith stood for re-election to new terms as Board members. Joining them as new Ventura Village Board member candidates were Elizabeth Ihde and Toniesha Thompson. All four were unanimously elected.

AK Hassan served in 2016 as Ventura Village's Vice-Chair until the current Chairperson, Sadik Warfa, vacated his board seat and chairmanship once he was elected to a seat in the Somalia Parliament in Mogadishu. Elections for executive officers will be at the upcoming January 2017 Board of Directors meeting and be announced at the January 2017 General Membership meeting.

The early months of January-March 2017 is when Ventura Village's Board will develop the new operating budget. All residents are urged to participate or weigh in on ideas and concerns related for spending for the year. — Robert Albee

# 2017

HAPPY NEW YEAR

JANUARY 26TH: HOUSING & LAND COMMITTEE: 5:30 PM

JANUARY 26TH: CRIME & SAFETY COMMITTEE: 6:30 PM

FEBRUARY 1ST: WELLNESS, GARDENING & GREENING: 6:30 PM

FEBRUARY 1ST: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE: 6:00 PM

JANUARY 8TH BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: 6:00 PM

JANUARY 8TH: GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: 7:00 PM

Ventura Village is located upstairs in the Phillips Community Center at 2323 - 11th Avenue South • Minneapolis • 612-874-9070







## A black silhouette of a cat sitting and looking to the left, with a long, curved tail. The cat has pointed ears and whiskers. The background is white with a horizontal line near the top.

**Burns & Shave**  
pages 2, 3, 6 & 7

**HOBOT & AVALON:**  
"Stay or Go?"  
page 6

"Wild Rice"  
"We are still here,"  
page 7

# the alley

## NEWSPAPER

NEWS & VIEWS OF PHILLIPS SINCE 1976  
JUNE 2016 - VOLUME 41, NUMBER 6

The Alley Online!  
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# THE THUNDER BEFORE THE STORM

## The Autobiography of Clyde Bellecourt

As told to Jon Lurie

The American Indian Movement burst onto the scene in the late 1960s as indigenous people across the country began to demand what is rightfully theirs. Clyde Bellecourt, whose Ojibwe name translates as "The Thunder before the Storm," is one of its co-founders and iconic leaders. This powerful autobiography provides an intimate narrative of his childhood on the White Earth Reservation, his long journey through the prison system, and his embodiment of "conflict-resolution politics" in waging war against entrenched racism.

Bellecourt is up-front and unapologetic when discussing his battles with drug addiction, his clashes with other AIM leaders, his experiences on the road with the Native Youth and the Wounded Knee, and the cases of Leonard Peltier and murdered AIM activist Anna Mae Aquash. This gritty, no-holds-bar memoir also uncovers the humanity behind American Indians' militant image, revealing a sensitive spirit whose

sounds motivated him to confront justice and to help others gain a sense of pride by knowing their culture.

*The Thunder before the Storm* offers an invaluable inside look at the birth of a national movement—the big personalities, the creativity, and the perseverance that were necessary to alter the course of Native and American history.

Clyde Bellecourt cofounded the American Indian Movement (hijackers arrested—demanded—Phillips Community on Franklin Avenue) and has worked for Indian rights for decades. He lives in Minneapolis. **Jon Lurie**, educator and journalist, has worked in the Minneapolis Native American community for many years. He is a staff writer for *The Circle* and has written for numerous other publications.

*Reprinted from Minnesota Historical Society Press Fall 2016 Catalog*

Available November 2015 *Biography/Native American Studies*, 320 pages, 6 x 9, 35 B&W Photos, ISBN: 978-0-8166-9409-7, Hardcover, ISBN: 978-0-8166-9410-7, E-book: 99.99, ISBN: 978-0-8166-9410-3

**June 7, 6:30 PM,**  
**Ebenezer Tower,**  
**2523 Parkway Drive A5**  
**See page 7**

**Loring Park**  
**Acoustic**  
**Music Festival**

**June 11, Noon to 8 PM**  
**See page 7**

**Cinema at the Cemetery 2016**  
Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery Guard and Lake Street  
**Gates open at 7 PM; Movie at Dusk**

**May 28:** The Cameraman (1928)  
**August 20:** The Curse Of Frankenstein (1957)  
**September 3:** The Mummy (1959)  
**September 17:** Horror Of Dracula (1958)  
**See page 3**

### Movies in the Parks

**June 6:** Spectre PG-13 Peavey Park 730 East 22nd St.  
**July 7:** Furtive 7+PG-13 Cedar Field 2500 Cedar Av.  
**July 27:** Monsters-G Stewart Park 2700 12th Av.  
**Aug 4:** The Goonies-PG Powderhorn 3400 15th Av.  
**July 27:** Mr. Holmes-PG Elliott Park 1000 14th St.  
**July 13:** Raiders of the Lost Ark-PG Corcoran Park 3334 20th Av.

Many more movies at other city parks, visit:  
[www.minneapolisgolfparks.org/activities\\_events/music\\_movies](http://www.minneapolisgolfparks.org/activities_events/music_movies)

**East Phillips SummerFest**  
**June 12,**  
**1 PM to 8 PM**  
**See page 4**

**Open Streets East Lake:**  
**Sunday, July 24**  
**East Lake Street:**  
**between Elliot & 42nd**  
**Open Streets East Franklin:**  
**Sunday, August 21**  
**Franklin: Between**  
**Portland & 28th**

[illegible]

**Library and Franklin Library. This year they will reprint and bind 2008 thru 2011. THANK YOU.**



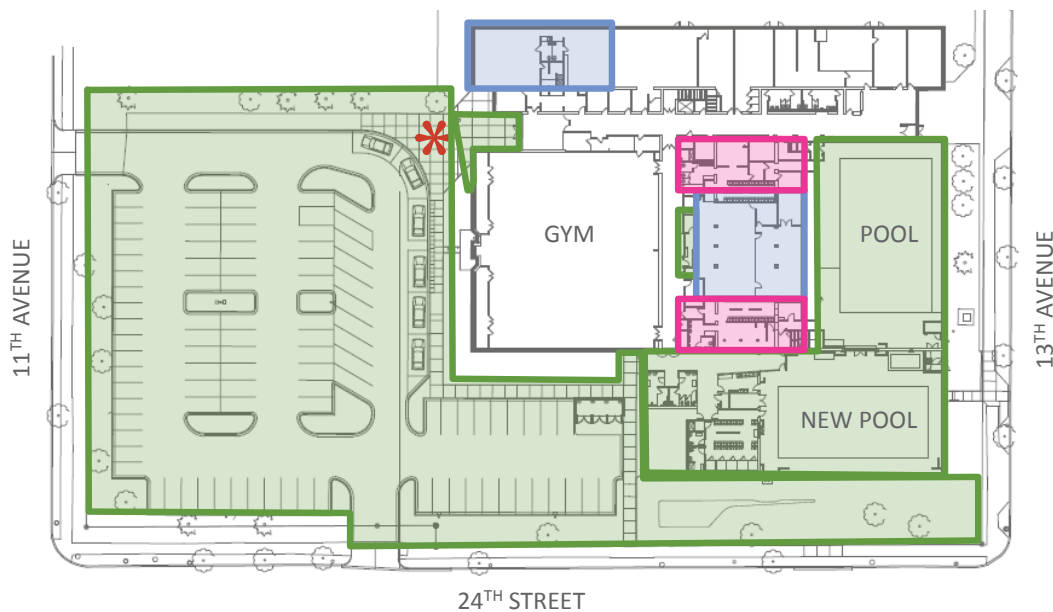
# Phillips Aquatic Center: Signed, Sealed...

## PHILLIPS COMMUNITY AQUATICS CENTER

CONTRACT AWARDED 11/30/2016

**CONSTRUCTION**  
\$5,664,000

- RENOVATE EXISTING 6-LANE POOL WITH SPECTATOR AREA AND NEW CHECK-IN DESK
- NEW 4-LANE POOL WITH FAMILY/FLEXIBLE LOCKER ROOMS, COMMUNITY ROOM, PUBLIC RESTROOMS, AND STAFF SUPPORT
- SITE INCLUDING PARKING LOT AND LANDSCAPING
- ENTRANCE CANOPY AND SIGN



BIDS NOT AWARDED

**UPDATE EXISTING LOCKER ROOMS**  
\$162,000

**RELOCATE FITNESS & TEEN CENTERS**  
\$116,000



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**Seward**  
COMMUNITY CO-OP

BY DENNY BENNETT

In early 2018, I will be able to finish that headline, but come on, be honest, how many of you never thought we would get to this point? Folks, this facility is 100%, officially being built, with the ground-breaking ceremony to occur after the new year. Go ahead and ask for a new swimsuit for your birthday this year!

At this point, more than

\$1,000,000 has already been spent on planning, design, permits, engineering and compliance. In November, the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) approved a contract with Morcon Construction Company, Inc. for \$5,644,000 to do the following:

- Renovation of the existing 6-lane pool and spectator area;
- Addition of a 4-lane teaching pool with associated family

lockers rooms, a community room, public restrooms, staff support areas, a new check in desk dedicated to aquatics;

- Entrance canopy and signage;
- Site work including an expanded parking lot, storm water best-management practices, parking lot reconfigurations, and landscaping.

As the project went out for bid, there were a couple of pieces that, due to budgetary constraints, ended up being bid as separate components and were not included in the final funding:

- Remodeling of the existing boys and girls locker rooms;
- Relocation and expansion of the fitness center adjacent to the aquatics facilities; and
- Relocation of the teen center to an area near the front entry to the building.

The cost to complete the optional work on the locker rooms is \$162,000 and the cost to build the new fitness center and relocate the teen center is \$116,000. Minneapolis Swims is actively seeking donors who might be interested in helping complete these projects. Naming rights are an option for a potential donor.

This facility, located right in the heart of Phillips, will be significant in Minneapolis for a few reasons, including :

1. This will be the first and only indoor, public swimming facility open to all -- a tangible example of equity and access in action!
2. This \$7M+ facility was a collaborative effort between the State of Minnesota, Hennepin County, Minneapolis Public Schools, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, numerous foundations, the four neighborhoods of Phillips, and finally a whole bunch of caring individuals who donated their time, money and talent over the years. Minneapolis Swims was just the host of this big party, bringing everyone together, and making sure that nobody left until it was done. We needed absolutely everyone, without any one of those, we would not have a project.
3. A historic, comprehensive working agreement between MPS and the MPRB was struck, covering all youth sports and sporting facilities that should result in less duplication, a more harmonious working relationship between these two entities, and result in better facilities and services available to the public across all sports in the future.

Attached are two illustrations, one is a broad overview of the facility, highlighting the areas that still need funding. The other shows the final version of the street view of the front of the building after the new addition is completed.

For further updates, please follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/mplswwims/](http://www.facebook.com/mplswwims/).

Denny Bennett is president of the board of directors of Minneapolis Swims and can be reached at [denny@dennybennett.com](mailto:denny@dennybennett.com) or 612-804-0488.

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# Levi Strauss: You’ve Left Your Mark on the Ass of America

BY ROY MCBRIDE

1. America is starting to believe in herself.  
She is painting her sky a skyer blue.  
Latex white clouds float above her  
Beneath improved sun  
paisley trees flutter harmlessly  
in the air of giant wind machines  
America is going beyond her own mind  
Monday Wednesday and Friday  
everyone is white in America  
Tuesday and Thursday are black days  
Chicano brown Sunday  
America is practicing brotherhood  
American is playing brotherhood.

2. The world hates America and America  
hates the world  
Giant ocean liners and 747s float each day  
down the streets of Paris  
tourists gawking through Polaroid win-  
dows  
Americans bathe in French perfume  
Their kitchen faucets are connected to  
Arabian oilfields  
Each native hut in darkest Africa has a new  
Coke machine  
America pays aboriginal people thousands  
of dollars a year  
to work as extras in Margaret Mead’s  
books  
America hates the world and the world  
hates America  
Latin American dictators sit up nights  
studying old Bogart movies.  
trying to discover the secret identity  
of the Statue of Liberty  
Russian spies live in the Pentagon  
sweeping floors washing dishes  
shipping all garbage air mail to Moscow  
Mao Tse Tung has the complete works of  
Erle Stanley Gardner beside his bed  
America often stares into the ocean  
and is so frightened by what she sees  
coffee cups shudder in Omaha

3. The President spends all his spare time  
nailed to a cross on the White House lawn  
But people don’t appreciate it  
They wonder why our President  
Doesn’t sleep on a bed of nails  
like the Prime Minister of India  
Every eleven years the President  
riding a red white and blue float  
down Main Street  
has a stake driven deep into his heart  
but people forget  
and soon are booing his lonely spirit

floating above  
the political conventions

4. To be free in America you must be brave  
braver than Nathan Hale  
braver than Daniel Boone or Davy Crockett  
braver than Nat Turner  
braver than Teddy Roosevelt  
braver than Harry Truman  
braver even than The Incredible Hulk  
who fears nothing but himself  
the man the American  
deep inside his green skin  
To be free in America you must carry  
ten thousand years of American guilt  
on your shoulders without collapsing  
you must shoulder the blame for the loss  
of thousands of cargo ships  
full of all good things  
things all Americans must have  
or they will start eating  
tearing flesh from bone with perfect  
justice  
To be free in America you must carry  
a great pyramid of products made in  
America  
and still walk a straight line

5. The anguished scream  
The anguished dream of America  
The battles joined  
The New York Mets vs. the Chicago Seven  
The Kansas City Chiefs vs. The Minnesota  
Eight Who can win these games  
Why can make rules that will make a  
dream come true  
America emerges as a giant wet dream  
full of life  
full of death  
The Black Panthers stalk the New York  
Yankees  
in Lincoln Center sponsored by Leonard  
Bernstein

6. Men are allegedly killing men  
in front of billions of people  
Men driving straight into death  
fasten their seatbelts  
so that their insurance policies  
will cover them  
with a green mantle of American dollars  
Men are locking their most prized pos-  
sessions  
In highly tuned bombs  
exploding them at midnight  
Americans float band-aids  
fifty miles square  
over tiny villages

to hide where they’ve been

7. Americans from Sioux City Iowa are in  
the capitals  
of Europe are in Japan are in South  
America  
meeting people seeing things  
Can’t you see Americans  
Trees in Iowa plot the death of America  
Dandelions sprout in the suburbs  
There is no way to stop this yellow menace  
Crabgrass is out to overcome all law and  
order  
Sparrows roost in the eaves of your cities  
and will not be moved  
Each night the fences that hide you from  
your neighbors  
creep inches closer to where you are  
sleeping

8. Where would I be without America  
Where would we be without America  
Henry Ford was an American  
John D. Rockefeller was an American  
Abraham Lincoln was an American  
Where would we be without Ford  
Where would we be without Rockefeller  
Where would we be without Lincoln  
Get in your car  
Drive around  
Think about this

9. There are holes in America  
so wide so deep so full of mystery  
that a whole generation of buffalo has  
disappeared  
Indian warriors have been lost in search  
for culture  
A father wanders the dark corners of New  
York  
searching for his runaway daughter  
She walks the misty streets of San  
Francisco  
searching for a father  
They have ridden in cars buses trains  
planes ships  
deep into the dark holes  
We have so far to go Please hurry  
Deep beneath America nations are lost

10. Black and White Americans eye each  
other  
over millions of miles of barbed wire  
Bodies like scarecrows sway on the wire  
Crews from both sides are out to repair  
gaps  
There are so many  
They are always behind  
Brown Red and Yellow Americans

Search for their place choose sides  
Highway departments build rest stops  
every fifty miles

11. This land isn’t America  
These trees these mountains aren’t  
American  
Ask them Ask them if they’re American  
They’ll laugh at you  
They’ll roll and humble over you—  
man—

12. Hearts erupt so often in America  
people walk lightly sniffing the air  
looking around jumping at the slightest  
sound  
Voices of despair float through the cities  
night and day  
Some days whole cities blow up

13. There are movements in the jungles of  
our hearts  
We are hoping are eyes will adjust to this  
darkness  
It has been so many years since shepherds  
silently worshipped the moon  
Dogs howl at our lack of understanding  
Goldfish mourn the extinction of their  
finny brothers  
Our deeds won’t remain hidden  
Garbage can tops leap under the wheels  
of passing trucks  
incinerators write messages  
high above cities  
Dinosaur bones keep appearing in the din-  
ing room table  
God has forgotten the mandate he gave  
Adam  
Can’t find anything in his files to account  
for us.

14. We have mountains to move  
mountains that must be trained to sit up  
to roll over and play dead to eat from our  
hands  
We have volcanoes that must be taught  
their ABC’s  
that must learn to live in cities without  
eruptions  
The Rockies and Urals must learn to get  
strong  
despite their differences  
Fujijama Vesuvius Everest Matterhorn  
Pike’s Peak  
sitting down for a cup of tea or a game  
of cards  
learning how to handle their bodies in  
heavy traffic



**Roy McBride** was born Dec 29th, 1943 with innate poetic instincts that became enhanced by his natural and family sur-roundings. Roy was a “love” poet because he loved all humanity. He added the vicissitudes of urban life, becoming a much loved urban poet. He was a spoken word performer, poet, journal keeper, visionary, master improviser, teacher, musician, and visual artist. He passed away on July 29<sup>th</sup> 2011. **Secret Traffic**, a posthumous publica-tion of some of his poetry very appropriately gives an extensive poetic biography of this gentle man and his accomplishments, publications, and tributes.

15. The end of this world  
climbs out of the ocean  
each morning with the sun  
Birds chirp that the angel of death  
has been asking for us  
Walking the wire high above the pit  
becomes harder each day  
How we wish our mothers would hug us  
would stroke our heads and say  
it is only a dream.

16. We want to feel better  
We want shoes that will sing poetry to  
our feet  
clothes that cling like water to water flesh  
to flesh  
We want to wake to a morning of continu-  
ing our joyful habits  
on and on and on and on

## Where the Children Sleep ASI’s Migration, Identity and Belonging Series Opening January 21

*Where the Children Sleep* is an exhibition of emotionally moving photographs of refugee children by award-winning Swedish photojournalist Magnus Wennman **January 21 – March 5, 2017**, at the American Swedish Institute inspired by a theme of *Migration, Identity and Belonging*, reflecting our founding by Swedish immigrants and a mission to be a gathering place for all people to share experiences around themes of culture, migration, the environment and the arts.

*Where the Children Sleep* is a collection of photographs by the internationally acclaimed Magnus Wennman, who earned two World Press Photo Awards and was named Sweden’s Photographer of the Year four times. During

ASI  
AMERICAN  
SWEDISH  
INSTITUTE

ing everything. This exhibition is being presented in collaboration with UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency.

ASI  
see page 11

ABUBAKAR AS-SADIQUE  
PRESENTS

# Hope, Fear, and Faith

IN THE COMING YEARS

HOW CAN WE AS, PHILLIPS  
COMMUNITY, DEAL WITH  
PREJUDICE AND RACISM?

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19TH  
FROM 5:30PM TO 7:00PM  
2824 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South.  
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\*6pm Chapel  
7pm Meal, men's clothes  
**Tuesday nights**  
5pm Set Free (12 Step)  
\*7pm Chapel  
8pm Meal, women's clothes  
**Friday nights**  
3pm Christian movies  
5pm Bible study  
\*7pm Chapel  
8pm Meal, men's clothes  
**Thursday afternoons**  
12pm Quilt & layette sign-ups  
Christian movie  
Child care for those in attendance  
\*1pm Ladies' Day Chapel  
2pm Meal, women's, infants' & Children's clothing  
(\* Guests must arrive by time noted)

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## “La La Land”



★★★★☆  
“La La Land” (2016)  
Liongate  
Drama/Musical/Romance

Sebastian has that same passion for jazz as did Andrew (Miles Teller) did in “Whiplash”(2014), by director Damien Chazelle, who directed both “Whiplash” and “La La Land”. In both cases, Sebastian, the pianist, and Andrew, the drummer, have uphill battles, not to mention Chazelle’s “subtle” love of jazz. (I’m sure, Mr. Chazelle listens to some of the jazz greats Thelonious Monk, Charlie Parker, Miles Davis, Louis Armstrong, John Coltrane, Coleman Hawkins, and more.)

The best dance number is at the beginning of the film when people stuck in Los Angeles traffic decide to leave their vehicles temporarily to either jump on tops of their vehicles or stay on the ground to dance and sing. And at first when

Sebastian and Mia meet on that highway there is no love at first sight. In time the romance will grow, sputter, spin and who knows what else. Boss (J.K. Simmons, also in “Whiplash” as hard task music director) fires Sebastian at an upscale dinner club putting Seb out on the pavement looking for work. Meanwhile, Mia is having it tough finding steady work as an actress. She begins to doubt herself and finds ways she can’t make it as an actress. If she can only look at other actresses before her (and there are plenty) who passed down a rugged road to success.

I can see something in “La La Land” (I say ambition more than anything else) from Stanley Dolen’s “ Seven Brides for Seven Brothers” (1954) to Mervyn LeRoy’s “Gold Diggers of 1933(1933) to Joshua Logan’s “South Pacific” (1958). Though the singing lacks depth and dancing is far from great, the film is still a pleasure to see.



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

howardmcquitter68@gmail.com

Cast: Ryan Gosling (Sebastian), Emma Stone (Mia), J.K. Simmons (Boss), John Legend (Keith). (PG-13) Running time: 128 minutes. Director: Damien Chazelle. Cinematography: Linus Sandgren. Music: Justin Hurwitz

## Note to Self

BY THOMAS R. SMITH ON NOVEMBER 9, 2016 2:50 PM

Well, we die whether we stay together or fall apart.

Finally the world goes on its way without us.

The most scourge-like name alive today will one day

be spoken seldom if at all. To what purpose this sighing and raging? To what purpose this pain?

The main thing is to be a part of one’s time, no matter which side seems to be winning. It’s OK

to be a noble failure, a fool in the eyes of the world,

to die in the relentless faith of a Pete Seeger or Rachel Carson. The big truck taking up so much

space will one day come to the end of its road.

Insults will be forgotten. Offended decency will be forgotten. In a hundred years, new people and new problems. And we can be sure there will be some glory in being alive in just their moment, as there is in ours. Even as I write and as you read, the termites of ruin are chewing day and night at the under-side of the hypocrite’s mask that shines with such shameless intensity in the national spotlight. The time to speak is always now.

Say your truth if only for those who may be listening from the galleries of dead and unborn, if not the childish public locked in their death tango with destruction. Reserve for yourself

days of uninterrupted silence in which to hear

those things that have settled in your heart most deeply  
sing their faithfulness beneath time’s altering sky.

*Note: This poem originally appeared on the New Verse News web site on October 8, 2016, a month before our disastrous election. At rare moments a poem one has written can return to comfort, as though a past self speaking to the present. I feel this to be the case with “Note to Self” on this very dark morning of November 9, 2016. Courage and perseverance, friends, for the difficult road ahead. May we, as Thomas McGrath wrote in his poem “Epitaph,” “Journey together joyfully, / Living on catastrophe, eating the pure light.”)*

**Thomas R. Smith** is a poet, essayist, editor, and teacher, whose work has appeared in hundreds of publications in the U.S., Canada, and abroad. He is author of six books of poems, most recently *Waking Before Dawn* (2007) and *The Foot of the Rainbow* (2010). He has edited three books on Robert Bly, most recently *Airmail: The Letters of Robert Bly and Tomas Tranströmer* (2013).

He has had hundreds of poems published on three continents. In the United States, his poems and essays have appeared in numerous journals and anthologies. His poems were included in *Editor’s Choice II* (The Spirit That Moves Us Press), a selection of the best of the American small press, and in *The Best American Poetry 1999* (Scribner). His work has reached wide national audiences on Garrison Keillor’s public radio show **Writer’s Almanac** and former US Poet Laureate Ted Kooser’s syndicated newspaper column, **American Life in Poetry**.



# LOVE, UNITY, ARISE

Some definitions:

1.) A “proto-fascist” is one who sets the stage with scape-goating and the promotion of chauvinism.

2.) Fascism is the open faced terroristic dictatorship of the most reactionary, chauvinistic, imperialistic sector of the capitalist ruling class.

3.) A ‘Popular Front’ is the strategic movement which unites elements from all social classes in defense of democracy.

With the above in mind, I was pleased to find the commentary from the Ingebretsen family in last month’s issue of *The Alley*. In small part it reads:

“...Over the past 30 years, we have had the good fortune to see our community enriched beyond measure by the presence, dedication, and big hearts of our Latino and East African neighbors...Let’s not forget to see the beauty and potential in one another.”

From the standpoint of the Popular Front, small business persons like the Ingebretsens are as important as a white worker who rejects racism. Stop by their shop for some Scandinavian sausage.

December 15, 2016...  
I attended the annual Christmas buffet at the local iron foundry – yes, Smith Foundry on E. 28<sup>th</sup> Street, the place where I spent most of the waking hours of my adult life. A survey of the electoral aftermath revealed emotions ranging from silent remorse to agitated



PETER MOLENAAR  
*Raise Your Voice*

disdain. However, some of the white workers voted for Trump. In fact, one asked me “Have you jumped on the Trump train yet?!”

Then, spotting two Teamster officials at the table, I approached to convey my findings. The vision of a giant multi-racial Labor-led demonstration in D.C. was broached. For starters:

SAY NO TO THE PRIVATIZATION OF OUR NATION’S INFRASTRUCTURE, SAY YES TO SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE...

Sad but true, at this juncture, without a fight, those who voted in favor of white supremacy might later be drawn into an organized and full blown fascist movement. Reactionary capital’s campaign to divide our people must be stopped. The Popular Front will embrace all who oppose the present course.

“In history, unlike heredity, we choose our ancestors. We choose with monuments, markers and history books. We choose also with bulldozers, by what we remove.”  
“Certainly history is important, we say. Children should know history, we say. History is not a flea market or what I throw out today, history is the textbook stuff, history is...important.” ...Howard Mansfield “In the Memory House.”

## REPAIR

BY ELIZABETH V. SPELMAN

“The Human Being is a repairing animal. Repair is ubiquitous, something we engage in every day and in almost every dimension of our lives. *Homo sapiens* is also *Homo reparans*.”

Perhaps the most obvious kinds of repair are those having to do with the inanimate objects with which we surround ourselves--the clothes calling out for mending, the automobiles for fixing, the buildings for renovating, the works of art for restoring. But our bodies and souls also are by their very nature subject to fracture and fissure, for which we seek homely recipes for healing and consolation, or perhaps the expert ministrations of surgeons, therapists, and other menders and fixers of all manner of human woes. Relationships between individuals and among nations are notoriously subject to fraying and

being rent asunder. From apologies and other informal attempts at patching things up to law courts, conflict mediation, and truth and reconciliation commissions, we try to reweave what we revealingly call the social fabric. No wonder, then, that H. reparans is always and everywhere on call: we, the world we live in, and the objects and relationships we create are by their very nature things that can break, decay, unravel, fall to pieces.”

“H. reparans can also be found wondering whether sometimes it isn’t the better part of wisdom to leave the flaws, the fragments, the ruins, alone: Restorers of *Gone With the Wind* had to decide whether a flaw in the original should be ‘fixed or retained as an intrinsic part of the original masterpiece’; echoing the fate of Humpty-Dumpty, a political columnists counsels her readers,

‘You don’t have to be abused or betrayed to have a bad marriage--a marriage that cannot b fixed, even with the help of all the therapists on the Upper West Side, or all the preachers in Louisiana.’ A Sticker on the bottom of a painted floor mat instructs users, ‘Over time, you may notice slight yellowing or cracking. These imperfections are consistent with the nature of hand-made mats and are NOT considered flaws, but rather a normal part of these mats.’ “

“If repair is about trying to preserve some kind of continuity with the past, keeping some aspect of it alive, destruction is about producing discontinuity with the past, trying to make sure the past is past, that it is done with.”

*Excerpts from Repair by Elizabeth V. Spelman Beacon Press 2002.*

## Speaking of walls.....

“Nikita Krushchev, the much feared leader of the Soviet Union, liked [Robert] Frost immensely and hosted him in Russia in 1962. Yet Frost, who never made pub-

lic displays of emotion, let his feelings about belligerent Russian actions be known. At one dinner in Moscow, he recited his poem ‘Mending Wall.’

‘Something there is that doesn’t love a wall, / That sets the frozen ground swell under it....Before I built a wall I’d ask to know / What I was walling in or walling out, / And to whom I was like to give offense.’ Western Europe and America in particular knew that Frost was reprimanding the erection of the Berlin Wall and applauded the gentle, effective way the poet made his point.”  
– Robert Frost Andrea Fusco, Editor Greenhaven Press 1999

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Also *Swede Hollow*, a display based on Ola Larsmo’s best-selling Swedish novel that imagines immigrant life at this St. Paul site. *The Stories They Told* animates the narrative of flat plane figure wood carving, and *Green Card Voices* shares contemporary Nordic immigrant stories. *Cows Can Dream*, our Family Gallery exhibition inspired by Sam the cow in Maria Bajt and Jason Diakité’s children’s book, encourages creativity and discovery.

Bruce Karstadt, ASI President/CEO, commented, “As we enter 2017 in a world of changing political and social conditions, I wish to reaffirm the vision that inspires the American Swedish Institute today and historically, which is to be a gathering place for all people to connect their pasts to a shared future and to understand their heritage in relationship to others. The founders of our museum came to this country as Swedish immigrants. Nearly every person I know has an immigrant story as part of their family narrative. Through exhibitions and programs linked to our 2017 theme of *Migration, Identity and Belonging*, we provide a place for conversations and dialogue which fuse our past with today’s local and global context.”







# BACKYARD INITIATIVE BACK PAGE



BYI AREA



## Shining Light on the Backyard Initiative's TEENS Project

**What is the goal or purpose of this CHAT?**

TEENS stands for Teenagers Entering Existing Networking Systems. We are a youth leadership and entrepreneurial skills development program that develops our members' capacity to produce various youth engagement programs. TEENS Projects programming is designed by the youth, for the youth-to enhance the basic networking skills of its members via community engagement.

**The TEENS Project and The Backyard Initiative Resource Center**

The Backyard Initiative (BYI) Community Resource Center is important to the Backyard Initiative because it is a place where members of the community can come and participate in discussions, knowledge shares about health, and other activities important to developing health consciousness to improve the health of self and community.

TEENS Project is currently

developing curriculum aimed at ensuring activities happen in a structured and organized way that creates access to the BYI Community Care Giving System. Discussions happen through connections; making the invisible visible. TEENS Project, through the work and efforts of youth and young adults, share knowledge about health and living healthy. The TEENS Project believes changes happen from within community and by creating generational spaces for connection to take place. Young people become more open to listening to one another in order to discover how to grow health together.

Within the TEENS Project, youth and young adults have an opportunity to have a facilitated discussion with others their age in order to create solutions to address the harmful conditions in their lives. The young people are very intentional about their desire to share space with elders in order to learn from those who walk before them in health.

### Participant Spotlight: Brother Sergio

**Why did you become involved with the Backyard Initiative?**

I became a part of the Backyard Initiative because I wanted to be involved with the creation of T.E.E.N.S Project. At the beginning of the project, we wanted to create a space where we could solve our own problems. As we developed the foundation for the TEENS Project, we had a strong desire to collaborate with other people in the community. One of the main reasons I became involved with the BYI was to learn, develop and spread knowledge to my people; young people who want something different for themselves. I'm grateful we collaborate with the BYI.

**How long have you been involved?**

I have been participating with the BYI since the TEENS Project came into being or since 2014. I will be celebrating three



**Carl Lobley (BYI Resource Center) & Sergio Nahun (BYI TEEN Project CHAT) and Minkara Tezet (BYI Circle of Healing) preparing to participate in a KMOJ Radio show.**

years with the TEENS Project in January 2017.

**What makes you want to come back to the BYI?**

What makes me choose to return constantly to the Backyard Initiative and the TEENS Project is for the future of my family. When I say my family, I am not just speaking about blood relatives. I am speaking about the

ones who have earned that title by living in community with me. I continue to participate in activities with the BYI for the sake of not only my family but the families of others. Being in the Backyard Initiative reminds me that as a future elder, I have a duty. My duty is to lead the next generation of young leaders toward healthier living.



**Phillips Neighborhood Clinic at St. 2742 15th Ave. S., Minneapolis**

## Beyond the Clinic and Into the Community: The Phillips Neighborhood Clinic

**BY CALLAHAN CLARK, PNC STUDENT PRACTITIONER**

Located in the basement of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church (2742 15th Ave. S.), The Phillips Neighborhood Clinic (PNC) is a free clinic run by health professional students from the University of Minnesota under the supervision of licensed clinicians. PNC provides free care to anyone who walks in the doors regardless of their status of insurance, citizenship or finances. There are student interpreters in clinic and on-call each night; no appointments needed. The clinic is open year-round on **Mondays and Thursdays from 6 – 9 pm.**

The PNC serves as a learning space for students studying pharmacy, medicine, nutrition, physical therapy, dentistry, nursing, social work, medical lab sciences, and healthcare administration. It allows students to apply their patient-centered care knowledge as members of an inter-professional care team and serve the three- PNC mission:

- 1) We will develop compassionate, culturally competent future health professionals in an inter-professional, team-based learning environment.*
- 2) We will support community partnerships and promote overall health and wellbeing in the com-*



*munities we serve.*

- 3) We will increase accessibility of comprehensive, patient-centered, quality health services to patients with unmet needs.*

Student practitioners learn that 'health' is not defined solely in terms of medical care. It is a multifaceted state impacted by one's social support and cohesion, spiritual, financial, emotional, and community well-being. As a part of the Backyard Initiative (BYI), the PNC focuses on providing activities that address the BYI's objectives of health education and

health empowerment. The PNC is involved in activities that extend beyond clinic nights that are open to anyone at no cost. In collaboration with law students from the U of M, the PNC hosts legal workshops to assist people as with wills and advanced care directives and provide advice on immigration topics and renters' rights. This year, the PNC has a new initiative called **Move N Eat**. Clinic volunteers host exercise and cooking classes, with all supplies provided free of charge. Parents who wish to participate can bring their chil-

dren as childcare is provided.

You can also find PNC volunteers out and about in the Phillips Community, partnering with various local organizations to promote community well-being. For example, students at the PNC spend time at the BYI Resource center located in the Midtown Global Market, answering health-related questions and providing information on topics like blood pressure, heart health, and healthy diets. PNC clinic volunteers spend time doing: diabetes education with A Partnership of Diabetics (APOD); tutoring K-12 students and adults working on ESL/ GED programs at the Franklin and Hosmer Libraries; and talking about health and wellness at the Golden Eagle Youth After School Program. Clinic volunteers serve food at Loaves and Fishes locations, deliver meals to people living with chronic illnesses through the Open Arms program, and play games and tutor elementary children at the Sabathani after-school program. If you happen to run into a friendly face in a PNC T-shirt at any one of these activities, introduce yourself and say hello. PNC volunteers love to meet local residents and learn more about the community.

**The PNC is always searching for new ways address unmet needs in the Phillips Neighborhood. If you have an idea to share or would like to collaborate with the clinic, email Callahan at [pncchatassociate@gmail.com](mailto:pncchatassociate@gmail.com).**

### VISIT the BYI Resource Center

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

The BYI Resource Center hours are 10 am to 6 pm, Monday through Saturday

### December Contributors to the BYI Back Page:

Carl Lobley, Rose Lobley, Deena Anders, Minkara Tezet, Callahan Clark