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# the Alley NEWSPAPER

NEWS & VIEWS OF PHILLIPS SINCE 1976  
MARCH 2012 • VOLUME 37, NUMBER 3

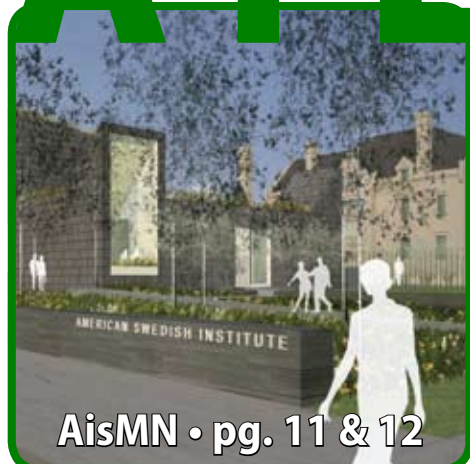
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Midtown YWCA and Minneapolis Sports Center



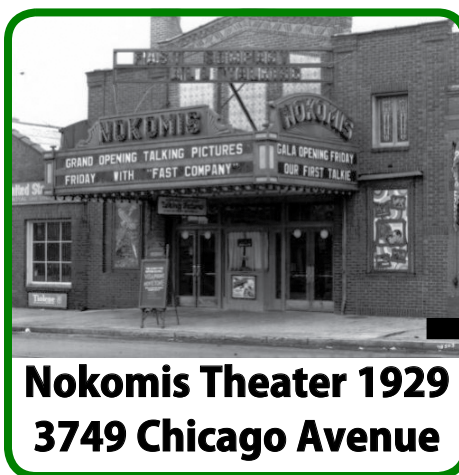
Bii Di Gain Anwebi  
Elder Housing  
24th and Bloomington



Out of the ashes at  
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Nokomis Theater 1929  
3749 Chicago Avenue



Chicago Fine Arts  
Center 20??





P.O. Box 7006

Minneapolis, MN 55407

Editor's Cell Phone 612-990-4022

editor@alleynews.org

www.alleynews.org

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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 Sevareid, "The Press and the People," television program, 1959**

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

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

**Co-Editor and Designer:** Jonathan Miller

jmiller@alleynews.org

**To Advertise:**

ads@alleynews.org

612-990-4022

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**Contributors to this issue:**

Robert Albee, American Swedish Institute, Janice Barbee, Patrick Cabello Hansel, George Carlin, Dorothy Cotton, Marie Clausen, Cultural Wellness Center, East Phillips Improvement Coalition, Friends of the Cemetery, City of Mpls., Sarah Greenfield, Susan Gust, Linnea Hadaway, Holly Harrison, Hennepin County Franklin Library, Sue Hunter Weir, In the Heart of the Beast Theatre, Dexter Jackson, Raymond Jackson, Soren Jensen, Brie Joanna, Lake Street Council, Tim McCall, Howard McQuitter II, Midtown Greenway Coalition, Jonathan Miller, Peter Molenaar, Dave Moore, Brad Pass, Carol Pass, Jenn Stromberg, New Nation Theatre, Open Eye Theatre, Samantha "Sami" Pfeffer, Pillsbury House Theater, Running Wolf Fitness Center, Sabathani Community Center, Take Action MN, Erin Thomasson, Joyce Wisdom.

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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.**

**April Alley  
Deadline:  
March 15**

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## Behind the Headline: A PLETHORA\*

from pg. 1

BY HARVEY WINJE

When students, public policy makers, funders, journalists and other observers inquire about the area of the Backyard Initiative—Central, Powderhorn Park, Corcoran and the four neighborhoods of Phillips—typical questions residents are asked include:

1. "What are the problems that affect your community?"
2. "Is anyone or any group trying to make change or trying to solve these problems?"
3. "Why doesn't anything appear to be changing?"

The issues or problems to which they refer are less than half of the story since they are only referring to negative factors and statistics that affect the whole. Fortunately for us, more than half of the story is that we have an abundance or a plethora of very positive characteristics, circumstances, infrastructures, and amenities to apply to the problems which, in turn, restores wellness to our lives.

This issue of The Alley Newspaper portrays some examples of those positive things as we do in every issue;

- Community cohesiveness combating negative forces with tenacity and persistence as we have done for decades,
- Vast diversity of culture, ethnic origin, opinion, and lifestyle.
- Many examples of locally created public art
- Public and private schools,

parks and green space.

- More festivals, celebrations, parades, theaters, worship centers, and businesses per capita/ per acre than any other metropolitan area in Minnesota.

However, we also have our share of systemic issues that need to be addressed such as:

- We have more health-related businesses than any other area of town and yet health care for our residents is either not accessible or unequally available.
- In spite of having good parks, two swimming pools, and public and private schools, we are still considerably underserved relative to the whole metropolitan area.
- We are plagued by traditional media representation that usually reports with a negative bias.
- We have state highways, streets and thoroughfares with higher speeds but without adequate safety features whose primary purpose is to provide direct access to or from downtown or across town.

Indeed, students, public policy makers, corporate executives, funders, journalists, and other observers are correct, we have a plethora of problems. There would be more if it were not for the plethora of community members who have remained resilient, persistent, and work effectively on behalf of the common good.

tem for support.

A-POD now has a Diabetes Self-Management Center at the Phillips Community Center with bi-monthly meet-ups for group support and hosted two "POD Tensives" – all-day workshops. They have partnered with the Somali community (Guri Nabad CHAT) to organize a diabetes education workshop for Somali women, working to establish regular meet ups in the Somali language. Each person who has regularly attended A-POD Meet-ups has documented improvements in their reportable numbers that indicate more effective self-management.

3. Assessment and Evaluation CHAT: Does assessment, evaluation, and research needs of the Commission with two primary roles:

1) To ensure that the CHAT projects and other BYI activities are consistent with the vision and mission, and

2) To oversee the research process of the Backyard Initiative; assessment, evaluation and any work that is done to create new knowledge.

Directed the 2009 Listening Circles and Walk-around Survey and is reviewing the year-end CHAT reports with recommendations to the CHATs and the BYI Commission.

4. Circle of Healing CHAT: Approved late 2011. Is a collaborative of BY practitioners including but not limited to

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Each month, The Alley Newspaper prints on average 10,000 newspapers and distributes them throughout South Minneapolis and maintains a website. We do this 12 months a year, rain or shine, at no cost to our readers.

However, the paper is not free to produce! There are printing, delivery and production costs. We need your help to continue to put out this vibrant, community-governed newspaper.

Our goal is to receive \$1 from

10,000 readers. That's right! Just one buck from each of our readers whether you read it every month or just once in awhile, we are asking you for one buck a year! You can feel like you have done your part to support The Alley Newspaper for just one dollar. Now that's a deal! Send your \$1 (or more if you would like) to: Alley Communications, Inc., PO Box 7006, Mpls., MN 55406 or you can post your contribution online at GiveMN.org.

complementary healers, elders, representatives from different cultural traditions, conventional health professionals and community care givers who come together as practitioners interested in creating a more formalized network of people around BY residents to provide better information and support for healing and reflection about the message of dis-ease." Now building their network and have hired a coordinator, Farhio Khalif; Contact through the Cultural Wellness Center.

5. Communications/Tell Me A Story CHAT: "Working to lessen or eliminate the divide between people who have information and those who don't so that everyone has the opportunity to be engaged in a healthy community." Approved by the Commission in Feb. 2012 to support all the CHATs to communicate with each other and with the wider BYI community, so that each CHAT can tell its stories in both words and pictures. Will also design and implement a BYI Youth Public Art Pilot Project to compile a sampling of the public art within the BYI area "as examples of the beauty and positive features within the BYI community."

6. Dakota Language Revitalization CHAT: Received funding to keep moving ahead at the Feb. Commission meeting. "The Dakota Language Revitalization (DLR) CHAT will continue to fulfill its commitment to the well being of the Dakota peoples through spiritual, cultural, language and educational ways of life that are inherit to the Dakota nation...Reclaiming the Dakota language is a cornerstone for Native American Dakotas to reconnect to culture, educational achievement and positive self image, which in and of itself, is an important indicator of academic, economic, and lifetime success for self, family

and community." Primary focus is language revitalization, but the CHAT will also organize rituals, ceremonies, and classes in making drums, moccasins, and medicine bags.

7. "Did You Know" CHAT: Recognized that "people may live right next to each other but not know each other. If they don't know each other, they don't take care of each other, share information and help each other out."

- Supports current block club leaders and
- encourages new leaders reflecting cultural and ethnic diversity of the neighborhood. brought together several organizations that support block clubs to work together more efficiently.
- hosted three block club leader meetings where leaders shared ideas and supported each other.

Result: the Phillips Community had the highest National Night Out participation ever: 52 registered block parties, up from 16 2010. Also, 11 "Spring Reunion" events occurred with 15 blocks participating. Block club events helped spread information that supports a healthy block including information from the police on safety and information from Community University Health Care Center on family planning, health services and domestic violence. The CHAT also helped organize Phillips Neighborhood Clean Sweep in 2010 and 2011.

CHAT Updates in April The Alley: Growing the Backyard, Guri Nabad, Latino Environmental Health, Out in the Backyard, Project S.E.L.F., Rebirthing Communities/Communities of Light, and Somali Women's Health.

All BY residents are welcome at CHAT meetings & All-CHAT meetings on each 3rd Thursday. Info: Cultural Wellness Center, 621-721-5745.

### 2012 Theme: CONNECTING GIRLS, INSPIRING FUTURES

If every International Women's Day event held in 2012 includes girls in some way, then thousands of minds will be inspired globally.

Each year around the world, International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated on March 8. Thousands of events occur not just on this day but throughout March to mark the economic, political and social achievements of women.



# March Programs at the Franklin Library

BY ERIN THOMASSON

**Children’s Programs**

**Read the Book, See the Movie - for Kids**

**Fri., Mar. 2, 3:30p.m.** Grades 3-6. So many books are being made into movies! Come watch the movie at the library and chat about the differences between the book and movie afterwards.

**Family Storytime**

**Wed., 10:30–11 a.m.** Age 2 and up. Share books, stories, rhymes, music, and movement with your children.

**Paint It Green: Animal Masks and Shakers**

**Fri., Ma. 30, 4–5 p.m.** \*Register online\* or call 612-543-6925. K-grade 6. Pick region of the world and make masks and shakers of the animals in that region. Materials provided.

**Teen Programs**

**Young Achievers**

**Thurs., Mar. 1–May 31, 4–7 p.m.** Grades 6-12. Want involvement in your community? Concerned about your health and lifestyle? Bring friends and come for poetry, arts, games and more!

**Movies for Teens**

**Sat., March 3, 3 p.m.** Grades 6-12. Movie titles by teens to ensure viewing pleasure! Comfy Teen Center couches and get the big-screen cinema feeling from our projector.

**4-H Mentoring Club**

**Tues., Mar.6–April 10, 6–8 p.m.** Grades 6-12. Learn urban ecology, health and nutrition, sustainable agriculture and related careers in food science & maintain a community garden and visit local food vendors

**Chess Club**

**Wed., Mar. 7–May 30, 4–6 p.m.** Grades 6-12. Play chess, improve your game and meet chess fans. Walk-ins welcome.

**Artitude: Community and Activism**

**Wed., Mar. 7–Ap. 11, 4–6 p.m.** \*Register Online\* or call 612-543-6925. Grades 7-12. Use your art as a powerful tool to raise awareness and create changes in social thinking through mail art and mini-zines. Six-part workshop explores history of community art and activism.

**Down Time**

**Sat., Mar. 10-31, 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.**



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

Would you like to create a record of your personal history? Bring what you have written and are willing to read to the group for helpful comments and suggestions.

**Phillips Technology Center Computer Skills Workshop**

**Thurs., Mar. 15 & 22, noon–2 p.m. and Friday, Mar. 16, 1–3 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**

**Thurs., Mar. 15, 6–8 p.m.** Learn the basics of working with an Excel spreadsheet: navigation, entering data and using formulas.

**Microsoft Excel: Charts and Graphs**

**Fri., Mar. 16, 10 a.m. – noon** Learn to create and integrate graphs and charts into your Excel spreadsheets.

**Cloud Computing: Microsoft Office Web Apps and Google Docs**

**Thurs., March 22, 6–8 p.m.** Learn about Google Docs and Microsoft Web Apps, free Web-based applications for creating documents, spreadsheets, and more. (Familiarity with Internet and email use required)

**Email: Intermediate**

**Fri., Mar. 23, 10 a.m. – noon** Learn how to use folders, view and attach files to an email and set up an email address book using a Yahoo! account.

**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.

# INSIGHTS of Running Wolf Fitness Center

BY CONNIE NORMAN

Hello, my name is Connie Norman and I am the Manager of Running Wolf Fitness Center at 2323 11th Ave. So. We opened our doors within the Phillips Community Center (Phillips Pool and Gym) October 17th , 2011. Already 300 people are registered for Running Wolf.

We have been invited to write Running Wolf Fitness Center news and stories by The Alley Newspaper. We start that this month sharing our staff professional biographies so you can become more familiar with who we are and what assistance we may be to you. Also a few of the most often asked questions on fitness and exercise. In continuing issues we’ll share success stories from Running Wolf Fitness Center.

**Connie Norman, Manager**

I also work as a Community Health Educator with the Native American Community Clinic and the Stanford University Chronic Disease Self Management Master and T-Trainer through Stanford University. I have worked with Minnesota’s Urban Native American community for over 21 years in community health education. In 1995 I helped develop and maintained membership for 15 years on the Intertribal Annual Health Fair planning committee. I received the 1999 Minnesota Council on Physical Activity and Sports Award of Excellence for my work in improving health in the Native American Community. I assisted with the development of the Full Circle Diabetes Program at NACC and the Diabetes Community Council which won the 2006 Be Active Minnesota Award of Excellence. I graduated from the College of St. Catherine’s as a Health and Wellness Counselor and Holistic Health Practitioner.

**Equella Oliver, Jr., Trainer**

Equella Oliver Jr. is a NETA Certified Personal Trainer and works part-time as a trainer with Running Wolf. Equella (“Q”) specializes in strength and conditioning programs and custom training routines. Equella (“Q”) likes to challenge and encourage his clients to surpass their physical and mental boundaries by using functional exercise and sound fitness/ cardio planning. As your trainer, he will take your health and wellness personally, working alongside you to help achieve ALL of your fitness goals. With your determination and his dedication, you can make anything happen. Don’t wait another minute, if you’re ready to make a change, and ready to start loving your life, join Running Wolf Fitness Center and schedule a session with Equella (“Q”) today.

**FREQUENTLY ASKED FITNESS QUESTIONS: HOW MUCH EXERCISE SHOULD I DO?**

Experts recommend 30-60 minutes of exercise per day. The 60-minute suggestion is based on the National Academy of Science’s ideal recommendation for people who are trying to lose weight. But you’ll get real health benefits (and burn lots of calories) even if you

don’t work out that much -- especially if you haven’t been exercising at all up to now.

While 30 minutes of physical activity is considered enough to lower your risk of heart disease, stroke, and high blood pressure, even 10 minutes a day will do you good. Remember that you don’t have to do all your exercise in one session: A 30-minute aerobics workout in the morning, a 20-minute walk after work, and 10 minutes of mopping the floor after dinner can do the trick. (Don’t forget to include some strength training and stretching in your workouts, too.)

**WHAT TYPES OF EXERCISE IS BETTER FOR WEIGHT LOSS?**

Choose endurance activities for weight loss such as jogging, aerobics, bicycling, rowing, or swimming.

Exercise at a moderately intense level. You should be able to talk without running out of breath during the activity.

Exercise for more than 40 minutes.

- During the first 20 minutes, your body taps into your sugar reserves (carbohydrates stored as blood glucose and muscle glycogen). Between 20 to 40 minutes of exercise, the body continues to use up your sugar reserves and starts to tap into your body fat.
- After 40 minutes the body starts to burn even more fat.

Choose aquatic workouts or exercise in the cold. This causes the body to burn more energy and melt fat more quickly. The body draws on its fat reserves to stay warm.

**WHERE DO I START IF I HAVE NEVER EXERCISED?**

If you’re new to exercise, or have struggled with it in the past, talk with your doctor about your exercise plans. After that, start by incorporating more activity into your daily life. For instance:

- If you always take the elevator, try the stairs.
- If you try to park next to the door of wherever you’re going, park further away and walk.
- If your habit is to eat at your desk, take a 10- to 20-minute walk first, then have your lunch (or take a walk after you eat).
- Instead of watching TV all day Saturday and Sunday, plan active weekends. Go to the park, take a walking tour, ride your bike, or row a boat.

If you prefer a more ambitious



routine, you can join a gym or try working out at home. Try for 30 to 60 minutes of continuous aerobic activity (such as swimming, biking, walking, dancing, or jogging) at least three to five times a week, at 60% to 90% of your maximum heart rate. Weight training can also help tone your muscles and elevate your resting metabolism rate (the rate that the body burns fuel for energy). Try at least one set (eight to 12 repetitions) each of eight to 10 different exercises, targeting each of the body’s major muscle groups.

Whatever plan you decide on, it’s a good idea to set weekly goals:

- Write down what activity you plan to do, on what day of the week, for how long, and at what time of day. Be as specific and realistic as possible. For instance, write down “Tuesday: Walk for 20 minutes at 7 p.m., to the park and back.”
- At the end of each week, review your goals and set new ones for the upcoming week.

Research shows that setting goals will help you stick to your program. It will clarify what you’re supposed to do and let you track your progress. If you hit a road-block later on, you can refer to what has worked in the past, or use your accomplishments to re-energize yourself.

**WHAT IF I AM PHYSICALLY UNABLE TO EXERCISE. DUE TO A MEDICAL CONDITION?**

There is virtually no medical condition that will keep you from doing any type of exercise. Even people with heart failure – who were long told not to exercise at all – can benefit from moderate amounts of activity.

And people with limited mobility can often do water exercises, or do yoga or other exercises while seated in a chair (some “chair exercise” videos are now on the market). Of course, if you have any medical condition, check with your doctor before starting any exercise program.

**Next month we will share a Running Wolf success story! Thanks and Be Well!**

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# Suicide by Melancholy Dane leaves family of 12 children



Photo credit to Marie Clausen great-granddaughter of Peter and Marie Clausen

Peter and Marie Clausen were both born in Denmark. He was very proud of his family of 13 children and were featured in a newspaper story called "A Big and Happy Family in Peter Clausen's Home." On August 15, 1910, the day that would have been Peter and Marie's 29th wedding anniversary, he committed suicide next to a small tree that he had planted on his wife's grave whom he wrote in a note to the eldest child he was going to join. They are buried in Lot 24, Block E of Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery.

On April 1, 1904, the Minneapolis Journal ran a human-interest story under the headline, "A Big and Happy Family in Peter Clausen's Home." They were, according to the reporter, "probably the most interesting family in the city of Minneapolis." What made them interesting is that Peter and his wife, Marie, had 13 children, ranging in age from 21 years to seven weeks old.

Peter and Marie were both born in Denmark. They met and married in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1881, and shortly afterward moved to Minneapolis. They never had much money; Peter Clausen worked for the Minneapolis Furniture Company, and the family lived in a small house at 2115 22nd Avenue South. The house was crowded but the family made room for a piano and a number of musical instruments. The children, at least those who were old enough to play an instrument, were all musical. Mr. Clausen was a great believer in the value of education and all of the children who were old enough were either in school or had already finished their education. He was very proud of his family, saying: "I believe in large families. It wouldn't do for me to say that I did not."

The reporter made it a point to comment about the family's good health noting that none of the children had ever been seriously ill although they had had their share of the usual childhood illnesses. Five months later that changed. Sylvia, the baby, died in September 1904,

## Tales from Pioneers & Soldiers Cemetery

SUE HUNTER WEIR  
90<sup>th</sup> in a Series

at the age of seven months. The following year Marie (sometimes called Mary or Mette) gave birth to their fourteenth child; the baby only lived for three days.

On May 11, 1910, six years after the Journal ran its story, Marie Clausen died from cancer of the uterus; she was 48 years old. Peter became deeply depressed. He quit working and, according to one newspaper account, "had been to Anoka for three months," an apparent reference to the Anoka State

Hospital, where it is likely that he was treated for depression. They were unable to help him.

On August 15, 1910, the day that would have been Peter and Marie's 29th wedding anniversary, he committed suicide next to a small tree that he had planted on his wife's grave. He left a note addressed to their oldest daughter saying that he was in poor health and that he wanted to join his wife. He is buried next to her in Lot 24, Block E of Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery. Another daughter, May, died from tuberculosis on April 24, 1916. The rest of the children appeared to fare well, most of them living until the 1960s and 70s.

I've even depressed myself this time...

## Kitchen Poets Vault To Blow Socks Off Major Midwestern City

Kevin O'Rourke honored with the KPV Kerouac Award by Kitchen Poets Vault, a St. Paul-based performance group operating out of a commercial bakery oven room, has announced its annual gala event, a combination of storytelling, music, mud poetry, music and a bona fide free lunch.

What: Kitchen Poets Vault 2012 -- a curious conflation of stories and food

Where: The oven room, St. Agnes Bakery, 644 Olive St., St. Paul 55130

When: March 10, 11 AM

Cost: FREE, including free oven-baked do-it-yourself pizza

(bring your favorite toppings)

Performers at this year's KPV event will include Gary Lee Joyner, Kim Ode, Kevin O'Rourke, Klecko, Sarah Stonich, Dara Syrkin, and pageant emcee Mike Finley.

Every year the Kitchen Poets Vault honors a regional writer with the KPV Kerouac Award, a lifetime honor to the writer who has most inspired with his or her writing and life teaching. This year's honoree will be Irish-American poet and storyteller Kevin O'Rourke of Minneapolis, who has been a fixture on the Midwestern literary scene since the 1970s.

# Patient Protection and Affordable Care

BY SARAH GREENFIELD  
HEALTH CARE PROGRAM MANAGER,  
TAKEACTION MINNESOTA

Have you ever put off medical care because you couldn't afford it? Does your "health insurance"

cost so much that you can't afford to pay the co-pays and deductibles to actually use it to see a doctor? Have you ever found yourself earning too much to qualify for Medicaid or Minnesota Care but not nearly enough to afford decent insurance?

If so, you are not alone. While Minnesota is known for covering more people than many other states, through public or private health insurance, many Minnesotans are still uninsured or underinsured, and our health and our communities suffer because of it.

In the near future we will have more options for affordable quality insurance coverage through the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), also referred to as "Obamacare". The ACA doesn't fix everything about our healthcare system -- it doesn't do away with private for-profit insurance, as many of us would like. But it does make private insurance play by better rules. For example:

- We won big-time insurance reforms, like no more pre-existing condition denials or life-time limits.
- More or less in exchange for reforms, the ACA requires (almost) everyone to have health insurance.
- Because the bill requires everyone to have insurance, it also makes insurance more affordable, through subsidies for private insurance and a huge expansion of Medicaid.
- To help people access private insurance, public programs, and all these new benefits, the ACA requires states to set up Health Benefits Exchanges - websites where individuals and small businesses can compare apples to apples and easily enroll in quality, affordable health insurance plans.

In Minnesota, over a million people are expected to enroll through our Exchange, including 300,000 who currently don't have insurance. According to an independent analysis, Minnesota families can expect to save \$500 to \$700 a year on insurance through the Exchange. But not all Exchanges are, or will be, created equal. Minnesota gets to decide, for example:

- Should insurance companies, who stand to profit from the Exchange, be allowed on its Governance Board?
- Will our Exchange be held accountable to health-improve-



## Building a Healthy Exchange: A Community Conversation about Health Reform in Minnesota

With special guest  
Commissioner of Commerce Mike Rothman

Major decisions are being made NOW about the future of our health care system. Join hundreds of Minnesotans from around the state to tell decision-makers that our health care system should be designed to improve health, reform insurance companies, and reduce inequities.

Date: Sunday, March 25th  
Time: 2:30pm – 5:00pm  
Location: Macalester College's Kagin Commons  
1600 Grand Ave., St. Paul.

Please contact Elizabeth Lienesch with any questions:  
[elizabeth@takeactionminnesota.org](mailto:elizabeth@takeactionminnesota.org), 651-379-0744

TakeAction Minnesota, 705 Raymond Ave, Suite 100, Saint Paul, MN 55104  
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**Midtown Farmers Market**

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ment goals, including reducing health disparities, and if so how should that disparity be measured?

- Will just any insurance products be sold on our Exchange, or only those that meet high standards for affordability and quality? In other words, can our Exchange negotiate with insurance companies?
- Will Minnesota offer a Basic Health Plan, basically a continuation of MinnesotaCare, to

provide stable, quality coverage to low-income working families, or should they be dropped into the private insurance market?

As these and other decisions are debated by our legislature, our Governor, and Minnesota's Health Exchange Advisory Task Force, the health care industry is making sure that their interests are represented. But, what about yours? [See flyer on page ]



# Happy Birthday!

## 1st Anniversary of the opening of East Phillips Park Cultural & Community Center!

BY BRAD PASS

One year ago, on the 28th of February, the East Phillips Park Cultural & Community Center opened its doors to the community for the first time.

### A Brief History –

In the early 1970’s, the Minneapolis Community Development Agency (MCDA) acquired two blocks: 6.46 Acres of substandard housing bounded by Cedar Ave., E. 24th St., 17th Ave. S. and E 22nd St.. The MCDA demolished the housing and in 1977 the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) acquired the land for use as East Phillips Park. Starting in 1978 and in subsequent years outdoor playing fields, tennis and basketball courts, a playground and wading pool were added. Since its beginning as a Park many attempts were made to acquire a community center for the multiethnic and economically challenged neighborhoods nearby.

As the years passed, however, hopes faded for what had become known as “Cockroach Park”, an empty landscape of broken bottles, crime and neglect, despite the fact that the surrounding area was home to 7,000 children, 40% of whom were living in poverty. This population density of children continues to be greater than anywhere else in Minneapolis, perhaps even in the State

### Hard Times inspires a Community Center

In 2005, the East Phillips Improvement Coalition, EPIC, had just come through a very hard time. Poor leadership had demanded that EPIC members vote to reallocate all EPIC’s remaining NRP Phase I dollars without allowing the community to see a budget or to know where the money would be going. At that point, Annie Young’s loud protest saved the day and the vote did not take place. However, what did happen was that the rogue board members and executive director secretly pulled our 501©(3) from the IRS, confiscated all the contents of our office, including our computer, refused to meet with anyone again and basically disappeared. Things were in a shambles. Remaining board members and neighbors were demoralized and angry, more so when EPIC members found our computer hidden in the closet of the downtown NRP office three months later. When the executive director was finally found, she refused to offer the password, so the remaining EPIC board members had the computer cracked open and sent it to an independent group to assess the contents. What had happened was all there. EPIC then hired an attorney and filed theft charges with the police to get our archives back from the former board chair when they were finally discovered in his parked car.

After reviewing tapes and emails, board members, some of who are current, and other members know which individuals planned for the organization’s demise. Most have left the neigh-

borhood. Moving on, without time to deal with all this, dedicated remaining board and community members went to work to salvage EPIC, at this point with no staff, office or federal non-profit status. A saddened but determined group of leaders and neighbors met in the summer of ’05 and began to try to lift their own spirits. People talked about all the kids, all the different ethnic groups and how underserved they were...then as neighbors proposed programs to solve problems, folks suddenly realized they had nowhere to put any programs...not even meeting rooms or office space for the neighborhood organization. Linda Leonard, an East Phillips resident and EPIC Board member, suggested at that July, 2005 EPIC community meeting that those at the meeting try to imagine what the community could do with a Gym and Community Center in East Phillips Park. At first the consensus was, “Why bother? That’s not going to happen...”

Nevertheless, the concept took hold. Ideas flew around the room: a f t e r s c h o o l homework help for youth; winter basketball and soccer; cooking classes; computer lab; language learning; pottery; an event space; and a place for all the different ethnic groups to meet, separately and/or together. Spirits lifted. People got excited and that excitement turned to commitment. Butcher paper was pulled out. The members’ ideas and signatures were all written down as a commitment to the future. This dream was birthed and almost six years and much hard work later, the beautiful East Phillips Park Cultural and Community Center stands at 2307 17th Ave. S., Mpls., MN.

### The Cultural and Community Center materializes

The creation of the East Phillips Park Cultural & Community Center was one struggle after another from beginning to end. Some of the more notable events follow:

#### 1. Seed money

EPIC was able to prevent the takeover of the organization and preserve all \$200,000 of NRP Phase I money in 2005, all the funds the neighborhood had at the time. EPIC membership chose to do the work of the neighborhood as volunteers out of their own homes, rather than spending money on office rent, staff, etc, These dollars became, instead, the first dollars in for the Center: dollars for everyone, not just for the maintenance of the organization.... a fitting response to what had happened.

#### 2. 2006 Legislative Bonding Session

- State Rep, Karen Clark, Sen.

Linda Berglin and Carol Pass, the new chair of EPIC, together wrote a \$3.5 million bonding bill for the East Phillips Park Cultural & Community Center and organized a team to lobby for it. Karri Plowman, Shirley Stone, Bill Ziegler of Little Earth, Brad and Carol Pass, Rosie and Alfonso Cruz with the Liga Hispana de Beisbol, Norma Renville from the MUID group, Shirley Heyer from Midtown Phillips and many others assisted with planning.

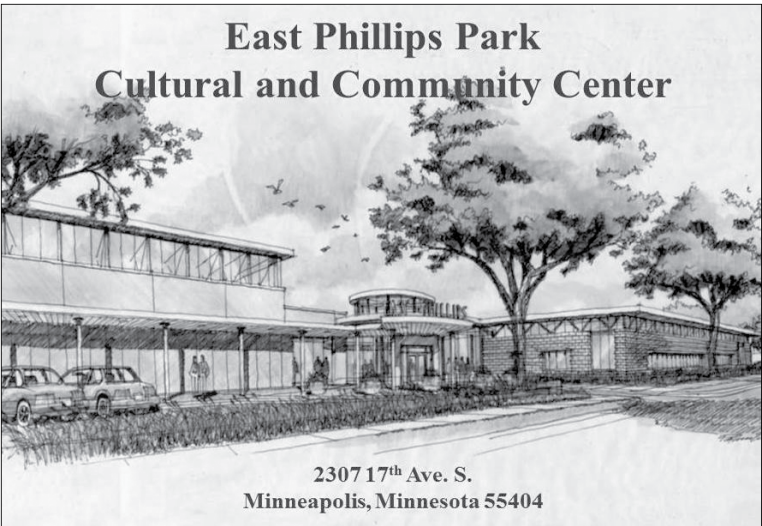
- Many members from all ethnicities of the community came together to lobby the Park Board to submit the bonding bill. Thankfully, Commissioners Annie Young, Mary Merrill Anderson, John Olson, Scott Vreeland, Chairman Tom Nordyke and staff Lonnie Nichols helped us convince the other commissioners to do so.
- When the community finally got the park commissioners



on board, Bill Ziegler, Rosie and Alfonso Cruz and their soccer teams, Carol and Brad Pass, Clyde Bellecourt, Paul Wichmann, Sherzad Kordian, Shirley Heyer, Mary-Juanita Leonard, Allen and Angela Cruz, Linda Leonard, Bill Carter, Council Member Gary Schiff and many others came together to ‘storm’ the legislature day after day to champion the community’s need for a center for all the people of East Phillips, especially youth and children. Coached by Park Board Lobbyist MaryAnn Campo and encouraged by Legislators Clark & Berglin, and with help from Rep. Alice Hausman of St. Paul, the team spent hundreds of hours at the Capital putting the East Phillips Park Cultural & Community Center in front of every committee and every legislator.

#### 3. The Design Team

- EPIC hired Arthur Himmelman to help with additional fund-



raising, public relations and common sense. In his words, “If you want to go Fast, go alone; if you want to go Far, go together”.

- We needed and chose to go FAR and from the beginning formed the East Phillips Park Community Design Team, which included representatives of all groups and ethnicities, which united in support of this project. The project could not have happened without the unanimity of all the neighborhood groups. This group along with EPIC and the Park Board held numerous public meetings and forums to gather community input on design and function. With guidance from Arthur Himmelman, the fundraising continued with a \$7 million goal.

#### 4. Building location & design – a long road

- Initially Park Staff insisted on locating the building on the East Side of the park next to the freeway exit and busy Cedar Ave. They were over-powered by the Design Team, EPIC, Little Earth and many East Phillips youth bearing signs at Park Board meetings insisting on the safe and more accessible West location where it is now located.

- Economic conditions impacted fundraising, which stalled at \$4.2 million, so plans changed.
- At that point, former Park Superintendent Gurban locked the Design Team and community out of the three-month redesign process.
- The Park Board’s redesign, done without community input, did not include a gym or a kitchen; was star shaped; had narrow gun-slot-looking windows; had a high cost per square foot and did not even use all the money we had raised.

- The Park Board met and was about to vote on accepting this design with no consultation of the community. A Park Watch member called and warned Brad Pass. He and Carol Pass, EPIC Chair, drove rapidly to the Park building and walked in on the vote. Carol Pass went ballistic, disrupted the televised meeting, insisted on being heard and loudly blasted a lack of appropriate process and an inappropriate design.

As a result, the Design Team received two weeks to put together a public meeting and offer input.

- The Design Team met, raised \$10,000, hired Dean Dovolis of DJR Architects and in two weeks, with daily meetings, redesigned the building you see today, which was chosen by an overwhelmingly enthusiastic and ethnically diverse voice vote at the final public meeting.

#### 5. Pollution, the last hitch

Beginning excavation revealed significant pollution and the project incurred a \$600,000 remediation bill. Two options; raise the money or lose the south part of the building. Carol Pass called Rep. Karen Clark, who went to the State of Minnesota and raised \$300,000. Brad Pass called upon Hennepin County Commissioner McLaughlin, who found an available grant. Brad wrote the grant for the Park Board to request \$300,000 from Hennepin County. This grant provided the rest of the funds and the problem was solved in two weeks.

#### 6. The Programming Partnership

In order to help defray the cost of programming at the Center and provide the community needs and deserves, the East Phillips Park Design Team transformed itself into a Programming Partnership. Most of the same groups have remained involved and new groups, such as the CUHC Clinic and others, have joined. Representatives from partnering agencies and organizations meet every month on the LAST Tuesday at 11:30 at the Center. This is an effort to lower costs and bring more programs to everyone. It is a new concept and we are trying hard to make it work. Feel free to join the group for lunch, discussion, your input and work on planning.

#### 7. The NEW Minneapolis Park and Recreation Superintendent, Board and Staff

With the hiring of Jayne Miller, the new Superintendent, and her new staff choices, there has been a positive sea change in working with the Minneapolis Park System. Our project would have been easier if personnel change had occurred years sooner, but we are certainly pleased that it finally did.

The next project in East Phillips Park is the complete rebuilding of the baseball diamond and the installation of a near full size soccer/lacrosse field which will



## In the Heart of the Beast March events

### Puppet Labs

Please join us in welcoming our emerging Puppet Lab artists to the main stage with four exciting, brand new puppet performances that have been developing since September.  
March 2-4



### Melting

by Mary Parker and Marg Rozycki

Evangeline and Angela grapple with how the world transforms. They examine questions of stress, sacrifice, relationship to the world at large, and love. The entire show is grounded in the eternal cycle of life and death.



### Ain't Heard Tell by Matt Larson and Hannah Rivenburgh

"A lotta water run over the dam since then, ain't they." So says renowned Round Peak, North Carolina fiddler Tommy Jarrell. With themes of the travel of history and transmission of culture, of hardship, resilience and the humor that results, this crude and careful show integrates live traditional music, dance, and storytelling into puppetry to dig into the depth and dirt of Mr. Jarrell and his story-

telling sister Julie--without letting go. Created in collaboration with Director Masanari Kawahara and fellow performer Rina Rossi.

March 9-11



### The Pollen Road

by Reed Ellis Aubin

A talking plant detoxes and journeys to find roots and a vanishing language, while a farmer loses ground.



### meet me in the heart caves by Daniel Polnau

An imaginative dreamlike visual poem spelunking the forbidden cockles of the heart.

Dates & Times

March 2- 11

Fridays: 8pm

Saturdays: 8pm

Sundays: 3pm

Admission: Adults \$12 or Pay What You Can

### Saturday Morning

### Puppet Shows For Kids

Saturdays Through March

Nearly every Saturday through

March, different artists perform engaging puppet shows at 10am and noon. These performances will delight kids of all ages. Families can also attend hands-on Make-n-Take puppet workshops based on that day's puppet show theme.

Performances: 10am & noon

Workshop: 11am

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

Mayday Community Meeting

Tuesday, March 27 - 7-9pm



Planning has begun for the 2012 MayDay Parade & Festival and we need your input! Everyone is invited to our open brainstorming meeting. Bring your ideas, concerns, hopes and dreams about building a sustainable future. And tell your friends and neighbors!

Saturdays Through March

Saturday Morning

Puppet Shows For Kids

February 25: Spinning Spiral of Time / Four Dimensional Misadventures / Twisted Trailmix HOBTPuppet Youth Troupe

This fun, adventurous puppet show includes rocketeers, knights, a witch, a dragon, a cow, and a pretty sunset.

Nearly every Saturday through March, different artists perform engaging puppet shows at 10am and noon. These performances will delight kids of all ages. Families can also attend hands-on Make-n-Take puppet workshops based on that day's puppet show theme.

Performances: 10am & noon

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## The world premiere of Buzzer kicks off our 20th Anniversary Season

February 17 - March 18, 2012

BY TRACEY SCOTT WILSON, DIRECTED BY MARION MCCLINTON

They say you can never go home again, but African-American attorney Jackson is determined to show off his success. When he returns to the mean streets of his youth with his white girlfriend and best friend, he discovers a changing neighborhood where a combustible mixture of race, sex, and class is simmering just below the surface. This piercing dark comedy launches our 20th Anniversary season with a World Premiere co-commissioned with the Guthrie Theater.

Starring Hugh Kennedy, Sara Richardson, and Namir Smallwood\*BUZZER PRICE SPECIAL: Come anytime for any price. Pay what you want. (Advanced reservations are strongly recommended. At these prices, tickets will go fast! Reserve online or by calling 612.825.0459.)

Free Child Care

A child care program in the building, right next to the theatre. Free child care from our licensed staff while you enjoy the show on Sunday, February 26, and Friday, March 2. Advanced reservations required. Call 612.825.0459.

Post-Show Discussions

Share your experiences with us at discussions with the artists and our community partner, City of Lakes Community Land Trust, following the shows on Sunday, Feb. 26, Thursday, Mar. 1, Wednesday, Mar. 7, Sunday, Mar. 11, and Wednesday, Mar. 14.

ASL-Interpreted Performance: Wednesday, March 14th

Audio-Described Performance: Sunday, March 4th

From our Mainstage to our youth program, Chicago Avenue Project, to our award-winning Breaking Ice company, you'll think about it, talk about it and remember it long after the performance is over. Isn't that what you're looking for when you come to our house?

Mainstage is daring theater that stays with you bringing contemporary stories where you can see some of the Twin Cities' best performers up close and personal in our intimate 106 seat theater.

Breaking Ice dialogue and discussion can create real change. This one-of-a-kind performance program is custom-created for organizations and businesses that need help with difficult issues—both interpersonal and institutional.

Chicago Avenue Project when neighborhood kids get the chance to create their own plays with teams of professional playwrights, directors and actors. Theatre that is original, dynamic and from the heart.

Plus, The Late Nite Series, Naked Stages, and the new Power of Our Voices teen leadership ensemble reach across boundaries to build connections at Pillsbury House and around the metro through genre-bending, high-quality performance.

## NEW NATIVE THEATRE PRESENTS: Raven Stole the Sun

New Native Theatre Presents "Raven Stole the Sun" a children's play by Red Sky Performance of Toronto at SteppingStone Theatre March 23-25, 2012. It is written by acclaimed Canadian Ojibway author, Drew Hayden Taylor. Directed by Sandra Laronde, award winning First Nations Artistic Director of Red Sky Performance. Original music is by Donald Qua.

Raven Stole the Sun is a dance theatre piece for all family members and those wanting to experience a critically acclaimed First Nations Theatre performance. Internationally renowned for its artistry and innovation, Red Sky Performance is Canada's leading company of world Indigenous performance in dance, theatre, and

music.

Raven is a fabulous creature of impulse and invention. In order to satisfy his overwhelming sense of curiosity, Raven hatches a brilliant scheme for stealing the stars, the moon, and the sun, and ends up bringing light to the people of the world.

The play is based on a traditional Tlingit story as recounted by Shaa Tlaa Maria Williams. The Tlingit straddle the borders of the Yukon and Alaska; the costumes and set for Raven are based on traditional designs of the Tlingit nation.

Five performances plus an opportunity to attend a free meet-the-artists family workshop with the performers from Raven Stole the Sun on March 24th.

New Native Theatre is a new way of looking at, thinking about, and staging Native American stories created by playwright, Rhiana Yazzie in 2009,

"Want to introduce youngsters to the magic of theatre? You can't do better than the Red Sky Performance production of Raven Stole the Sun...The production is exemplary." - NOW Magazine

Event Dates: Location:

Friday, March 23, 12:00 PM SteppingStone Theatre

Friday, March 23, 7:00 PM 55 Victoria Street

Saturday, March 24, 2:00 PM Saint Paul, MN 55104

Saturday, March 24, 4:00 PM, Meet the Artists Workshop after 2PM show or before 7pm show, FREE



Saturday, March 24, 7:00 PM

Sunday, March 25, 2:00 PM

All tickets \$7, available at the door and online at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/211820>

Questions? [info@newnative-theatre.org](mailto:info@newnative-theatre.org)

Rhiana Yazzie, Artistic Director, New Native Theatre

Phone: (612)367-7639



# Get to know Corner Store Vintage

Shoppers are inclined to classify the selection at Corner Store Vintage as “Rockabilly” or “Western,” and upon stepping over the threshold at 900 West Lake it’s obvious why. There are cowboy boots, bowling shirts, oversize belt buckles, daintily printed scarves, and leather goods as far as the eye can see—not to mention the soundtrack.

Owner Linda McHale understands the “Rockabilly” categorization. “It’s probably because we do all this leather and boots,” she says, gesturing toward the floor-to-ceiling display in one corner. “But it’s really a big mix—the boots, the jackets, men’s and women’s vintage, antiques jewelry...”

A look around reveals just that—while there is a country-meets-rock-’n’-roll theme tying the store together, there’s something for everyone in this shop. There was a time, however, when the goods were less varied.

**A Little History**

When Linda and her husband, Patrick, opened the Corner Store in 1973, it was next door to the Electric Fetus and sold exclusively furniture. By the time they moved to Lake Street in 1979, they had made the transition to carrying primarily clothing. The store still displays a bunch of quirky old lamps (one of Linda’s favorites is a lamp with a base that is a rather warped bust of Elvis), but unfortunately they’re not for sale.

While they built on the legacy of great vintage clothes and occasional odds and ends, Lyn-Lake evolved around them. “We’ve seen a lot of changes on Lake Street,” notes Linda. “When we were first here it was all car lots.”

**What You Will Find**

The Corner Store specializes in clothing and accessories from the 1930s–1970s. A few items from the ’80s and ’90s sneak in, but only if they’re particularly delightful and bizarre. There are pieces for people looking to finish costumes, shoppers wanting to add a little vintage to their wardrobes, and diehards that live and breathe vintage.

The Corner Store carries all sizes, which is slightly limited by the size range of the time periods. Women’s clothes in vintage run from 0–14, and generally “Big & Tall” men can’t buy vintage. If the Corner Store doesn’t carry clothing in your size, they definitely make up for it with their collection of accessories.

Most valuable items: In general, the vintage motorcycle jackets have higher value than anything else that Linda buys and sells. What you won’t find: Vintage platform shoes. Platform shoes were glued together and generally cheap—it’s unlikely that you’ll find them anywhere— in one piece, anyway. What sells most: Among the top sellers, shoppers leave with a lot of cowboy boots (Linda adds, “People come in here and go, ‘are these new boots?’ because sometimes they can’t tell”) and jewelry. A denim specialty: “We sell Levi’s—new or used, but focus on vintage,” Linda says. “Lots of guys really like to come here



## CORNER STORE VINTAGE

to buy Levi’s because they can come in, be here five minutes, find a pair of jeans, and be gone.” Linda’s favorites: Good news: she adores just about every piece in the store. When pressured to pick a favorite, she pointed out the ’50s cowboy shirts and patterned sweaters above the corner display of boots and leather jackets.

If you’re in the market for vintage goodies but the Corner

night.”

**Famous Friends**

A lot of musicians that come through Minneapolis shop vintage, a trend Linda has seen in her store across genres and generations. In fact, they have built a relationship with some return customers.

A couple of years ago when he was coming to town to play at the Target Center, Eric Clapton called Corner Store Vintage—from



Store doesn’t have what you need, Linda is happy to point you to the shop that might have what you’re looking for. “All of us that have vintage stores know each other really well, and we all send people back and forth all the time,” Linda explains. “We all sell vintage, but we all have a different niche.”

**Picky, Picky**

Linda has a reputation for carrying only the finest goods in the best condition. She says, “I’m super picky. I veto so much stuff that comes through the door that ends up in other stores. That’s how I’ve always been.”

Her philosophy is if a customer is going to spend time and money searching for a perfect piece (or two, or ten), there’s no reason to walk out the door carrying something with a stain. “I clean, wash, and iron everything that comes in. Everything else goes to the dry cleaner’s. People really like the fact that they can actually put something on and wear it that

Japan. “He had heard about the shop when he was in Japan and wanted to visit. He came here and hung out for a whole afternoon and bought a ton of stuff,” Linda recalls. “It was a busy Saturday—there were a lot of people in here, and everybody kind of knew who he was, but no one approached him.”

Better yet, he still gives the Corner Store his business. “We still deal with him,” Linda says. “We send him packages all the time; it’s very cool.”

Talk about a great endorsement.

**Go Shopping**

Corner Store Vintage is open and ready for you to buy or sell vintage seven days a week.

**M o n d a y – F r i d a y**  
11:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.  
**Saturday** 11:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.  
**Sunday** 12:00–5:00 p.m.

Corner Store Vintage  
900 West Lake Street  
612-823-1270

# Announcing Our Annual Award Winners

## Right On Lake Street

### E Lake St

Have you purchased your advance tickets for our Annual Members Meeting yet? Join us on March 13 for a board slate presentation, our annual awards to vital Lake Street businesses and community members, and to see guest speaker Gregory Stubbs.

Date and Time: March 13, 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.  
Location: Safari Restaurant, 3010 4th Ave S  
Tickets: \$15 in advance | \$20 at the door | Register Here  
More Info: Visit lakestreetcouncil.org.

**2012 Annual Award Winners:**  
**Shari Albers, Community Investment and Leadership**

Shari’s research and photo identification for the Museum in the Streets™: Lake Street project was invaluable. Without the volunteer hours she poured into this project, Lake Street Council would not be preparing for installation at this time.

**Regla de Oro, Successful Entrepreneur**

Owner Jessica Smith demonstrates how organized planning and a spirit of adventure can create a successful business from an



inspired idea. She is a responsible and valuable business owner and business community member.

**Volunteers of America, Community Investment and Leadership through Education and Workforce Programs**

The Residential Reentry Center on Lake Street offers individuals completing correctional programs an opportunity to restore community ties, obtain employment, and avoid further involvement in the criminal justice system. Programs like sidewalk and streetscape maintenance give back to the community twofold.

**Harriet Brewing, Creative Innovation**

Proud of humble beginnings out of a garage, the brewery was born from and continues to thrive on the energy and support of its community. Between their art gallery, tours, tastings, and upcoming expansion, Harriet Brewing has kicked the small brewery trend up a notch.

Visit The Alley online!  
[www.alleynews.org](http://www.alleynews.org)  
Even hipper, you can follow us on Twitter:  
[@alleynewspaper](https://twitter.com/alleynewspaper)

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“We wouldn’t miss the **FREE** South Minneapolis Housing Fair!”

“We meet home improvement people who understand our homes. Community info & door prizes, too!”

### South Minneapolis Housing Fair

Saturday, March 10  
10 a.m.–3 p.m.  
South High School, 3131 19th Ave. S., Mpls.  
[www.housingfair.org](http://www.housingfair.org)

Do you hate your kitchen?

Find out about appearing on popular home improvement shows at the South Minneapolis Housing Fair!

## Dorothy Cotton, Civil Rights Leader, refuses to “Pass her Torch” but gladly “Lit the Torches” of many

*“God gave me my torch to carry and I’m still carrying it. I’m not passing it to anyone! But, I’ll be glad to light a torch for others”*

Dorothy Cotton shared her a few of her personal experiences as a close ally of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the civil rights movement of the 60’s but which began early in her own life as she endured racism as a child and increasingly became aware that it had to change and that she could help change it. Speaking eloquently from her heart, mind, and history she motivated and empowered listeners February 23 to realize their individual and collective capabilities at a Black History Month Celebration\* sharing the Sabathani Community Center stage with Sounds of Blackness and scores of other neighbors and activists. She shared the lessons from the historic civil right movement of which she was an integral part -- through the “songs of the movement” and her powerful words, to motivate all citizens of the world to live more fully and to create the kind of community and world that enriches everyone.

Dorothy’s values affirm that every person has the capacity to

***“We all can be more...  
Like a caterpillar in  
a cocoon, you could  
grow wings. And when  
you’re ready and your  
wings are strong –  
you can soar to great  
heights!”***  
**– Dorothy Cotton**



grow and create strategies that facilitate positive change. Each one of us has the personal responsibility to help make true’ democracy a reality.

Dorothy’s vision is for a global community where people live together with a sense of empowerment as well as compassion for all of creation. Dorothy is a catalyst to empower global citizens to set goals and move toward solutions to age old problems. We encourage teachers, managers, executives, policy makers, parents and

youth to utilize the tools Dorothy offers to:

- feel a sense of personal power
- build cooperation and harmony
- maintain enthusiasm and energy
- persist with a positive attitude
- overcome obstacles and challenges
- develop a beloved community
- become ‘responsible’ members of society

\* Event organized by Youthprise and the Cultural Wellness Center

## Contractors, artisans, TV shows, seminars warm up the South Minneapolis Housing Fair

BY SH HOUSING FAIR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

“Want to get great ideas and referrals to make your home improvement wish book come true? or be on TV?” ask organizers of the 18th annual South Minneapolis Housing Fair. The fair is Saturday, March 10, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at South High School, 3131 19th Ave. So.

There will be 80+ home improvement professionals, real estate/finance people, and artisan trades gathered under one roof. One exhibitor, Magnetic Productions, will be recruiting for their “I Hate My Kitchen” and “I Hate My Bath” shows.

Sid Korpi and Anthony Kaczor own a Healy home in the famed block near 35W. They say they wouldn’t miss the fair, making walking or biking there “almost a pilgrimage. We’ve gotten new ideas for remodeling, redecorat-

ing, conserving energy, and visited with vendors who’ve helped us maintain and improve our home,” Korpi said.

“We want to do business locally, with people who understand the homes in this area,” say Leslie MacKenzie and Peter Foster. “The fair is the only place we go for contractors” to work on our 1921 home.”

The popular, free information fair is a project of several south Minneapolis neighborhood organizations. In addition to exhibits, several workshops will be offered in two sessions that day. Topics include how-to install glass block windows, tile, and rain gardens; plumbing terminology, the power of color and solar energy. There are sessions by Michael Anshel of Otogawa-Anshel Design+Build on green bath and kitchen makeovers.

As Diana Grundeen says in her seminar introduction, “let’s go over a few things so you know if you have what it takes to DIY landscape.” Seminars help attendees figure out whether it’s time to hire professionals.

As a warm-up to the Fair, earlier in the week, on March 6, 6:30 p.m., Bob Buck of Buck Brothers Construction will present “When should I contact a contractor?” at the East Lake library, 2727 East Lake Street, for homeowners who want to make changes but are not sure where to begin, or those thinking of tackling a DIY project. Learn how the pieces of the construction puzzle fit together, and how to work with today’s professionals to stretch dollars.

“We’re excited to partner with Hennepin County libraries to highlight the Fair and their helpful home improvement books,” said Fair coordinator Margo Ashmore. “We’ll have a recommended reading list at the talks and in the South Minneapolis Housing Fair directory. The directory will be available at the libraries nearest the South High School location, as well as local stores and on March 10 at the Fair.”

For more information on the March 10 South Minneapolis Housing Fair, visit [www.housing-fair.org](http://www.housing-fair.org) or Facebook.

### EPCCC

see page 8

also accommodate two half sized (Soccer 6/youth lacrosse) fields. The soccer field will be constructed using artificial turf to avoid limited playing time while re-growing grass. Construction will start in July after the very large natural gas pipe-line which bisects the field is replaced by Centerpoint Energy.

The center is now in full operation with many of the wished-for programs. The hope is to add more so that the goal of serving the needs of all age and ethnic groups is met. It is a work-in-progress, and, while still imperfect, the will

of the group is strong and all realize that work toward such an ideal goal is never finished and must always continue to grow and be maintained.

**Check out the new East Phillips Park Cultural and Community Center – Winter hours are:**

**Monday through Friday**  
**3:00 PM to 9:00 PM**  
**Saturday**  
**9:00 AM to 6:00 PM**  
**Sunday**  
**12 Noon to 4:00 PM**  
**Phone**  
**612-370-4888**

## The Sorcerer’s Apprentice at the Open Eye Figure Theatre



“Michael Sommers and a team of talented puppeteers make magic happen.” City Pages

Conceived, Directed and Designed by Michael Sommers

Music composed by Eric Jensen

“...Open Eye’s aesthetic—one of the most distinctive flavors in Twin Cities theater.” Star Tribune

“If you care about the performing arts at all, you should definitely see it!” TC Daily Planet

Open Eye 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.

Recommended for 8 and up. Now through March 4. Thu & Fri @ 7:30pm | Sat @ 4 & 7:30pm | Sun @ 4pm. Tickets \$10-\$15.

Reservations highly recommended! Most shows selling-out in advance. Call | (612) 874-6338.

Email | [boxoffice@openeyetheatre.org](mailto:boxoffice@openeyetheatre.org)

## Bend in the River

Claudia Schmidt in Concert at Open Eye Theatre with Dean Magraw and Marc Anderson

Hailing from Michigan, Claudia Schmidt has traversed North America and Europe for nearly four decades playing venues ranging from intimate clubs to 4000 seat theatres to festival stages for thousands of rapt listeners. She has recently resettled in Minneapolis and will offer two intimate concerts at the 100 seat Open Eye Theatre on March 29 & 30 to celebrate the release of Bend in the River by Red House Records.

Coming out of the folk scene and appearing often on the early days of Prairie Home Companion – many will remember Claudia for her powerful voice and charismatic stage presence that makes her a marvel in concert. Mixing folk, jazz, traditional ballads and breathtaking originals, there’s not

a style she can’t master.

Claudia’s prowess on dulcimer and 12 string-guitar is musically astonishing; her performances are captivating with infectious energy and joy. The concert in the intimate and acoustically beautiful Open Eye will be a treat for those lucky enough to land a ticket.

Her new album Bend in the River, features 16 original songs from her five Red House recordings, the collection showcases her spectacular vocals and her versatility as a songwriter, perfectly blending folk, blues and jazz. The album includes special guest appearances by members of JJ Farley & the Original Soul Stirrers, Beausoleil, Violent Femmes, Tom Waits’ band and Peter Dinklage.

Performances

Thursday March 29 | 7:30pm

Friday March 30 | 7:30pm

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“SEVEN”

BY PAULA CIZMAR, CATHERINE FILLOUX, GAIL KRIEGEL, CAROL K. MACK, RUTH MARGRAFF, ANNA DEVEARE SMITH AND SUSAN YANKOWITZ

Chain Reaction Theatre Project (CRTP) is bringing to St. Paul’s Lutheran Church the powerful, documentary play “SEVEN”, directed by Shelley Smith. In this inspirational and compelling play, the stories of seven courageous and diverse women are brought to life, portraying their tireless work to bring about major change in their individual home countries. In the seven interwoven stories, each woman bravely combats oppression, thus inspiring hope and reaffirming the belief that one person can indeed make a difference.

For this performance of “SEVEN”, CRTP will partner with Las Mujeres de la Palabra, driving home the point that what happens abroad happens in our own backyard. (One of the women in the play fights poverty in Guatemala.)



CRTP believes audiences will feel inspired from these stories to act in some way, either large or small. Representatives from Las de la Palabra will be available, giving the audience an opportunity to act on their inspiration by asking questions or obtaining information/resources in a safe and welcoming environment.

The play runs about 65 minutes. There will be a short talkback session, following the performance, with the actresses, director and a representative from Las Mujeres de la Palabra and facilitated by former Washington Post journalist, Don Brazeal. Due to difficult subject material, this play may not be suitable for some children. Parental discretion is advised. Please email admin@chainreac-

tiontp.com with any questions. Admission is “Pay as you can” with a suggested donation of \$15.

If you can’t make it to this performance, please come to one of our other performances:

- Thursday, March 15, 7 pm: St. Paul’s Lutheran Church (2742 15th Ave. S., Minneapolis), Nonprofit Partner: Las Mujeres de la Palabra. ASL Interpretation and Audio Description will be available at this performance. Please make reservations at least 48 hours in advance by emailing admin@chainreactiontp.com.

For more information about this production or CRTP, please visit www.chainreactiontp.com.

This activity is funded in part, by appropriations from the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the State’s general fund, and it arts and cultural heritage fund that was created by a vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008.

SPORTSTALK

BY RAYMOND JACKSON AND DEXTER JACKSON

It is with great love and respect that we once again make the announcement, made three years ago, only by The Alley’s sports prognosticators; that the next Minnesota Professional National Sports Champions, would not be the old man Brett Favre led Vikings; nor would it be the Kevin Garnettless Timberwolves’ nor would it be the NEW STADIUM brings champions, minded Twins, or the simply Tame Wild. No, as we stated, and the only sports team to state such; it would be, and did become, The WNBA Team, our Minnesota Lynx. Congratulations to each and every one of you, and big thanks for keeping The Alley newspaper on your appreciation list. Right now the sports scene is somewhat lucid, but there are some very

tantalizing sports possibilities on the horizon. The one that hugely excites us is the emergence of our Minnesota Timberwolves. They have something that they have never had before and that being an experienced and down to earth Coach. Our next prognostication is as follows: The Timberwolves will make the playoffs this season as the number 7 or 8 seed in the Western Conference, but go down to defeat in the first round against whoever they play, and returning to The Timberwolves as a result, partially of the showing, will be number 21, Mr. Kevin Garnett. He has gotten his much deserved championship ring with Boston, and we believe he would like nothing else than to retire a Timberwolf. ‘Til next time, keep your eyes and ears peeled for our thoughts.

Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association annual meeting



Dan Wilder and daughter at the Midtown Phillips annual meeting

On February 22 friends and neighbors gathered at Anderson School for the Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association’s annual meeting. The evening started with a delicious meal from Open Arms and Holy Land Deli. A discussion of neighborhood business from the past year followed.

Elections came next – there were two open board seats in addition to the one-year presidential term, which needed to be filled after Todd Rasmusen had to step down because of a new job. The two open board positions were filled by Jana Metge and Kelly Wilder. I was elected president for the upcoming year (I’ve been on the board for a year already), and I cannot wait to get to work building a better community for us all. I’m most passionate about making our neighborhood all it can be, especially for future generations like my two-year-old daughter, Helena, and all of the other little youngsters running around.

Midtown Phillips had some amazing triumphs this past year: We hosted the first Midtown Phillips Festival, received the city’s approval for our NRP Phase Two Plan and completed the first phase of the new CEPRO site park, which will blossom for the first time this spring thanks to the diligent work of members from around our community. This year, we plan to grow our involvement in the community and add to these amazing new projects. I am honored that I have been chosen to serve as a leader, and I will work to move forward with humble integrity, hand in hand with my fellow neighbors, to put the best interests of the Midtown Phillips neighborhood first.

I welcome all ideas, input and involvement from my neighbors. Feel free to call or email anytime at 612-419-3915 or faroutfilm@gmail.com.

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Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close



Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close

Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close, 2011

Cast: Tom Hanks (Thomas Schell), Thomas Horn (Oskar Schell), Sandra Bullock (Linda Schell), Zoe Caldwell (Oskar’s Grandmother), Max von Sydow (The Renter), Stephen Henderson (Walt the Locksmith), Viola Davis (Abby Black), Jeffrey Wright (William Black), Hazelle Goodman (Hazelle Black, Jim Norton (Old Mr. Black), Ryka Dottavio (Maris Black), Carmen M. Herlihy (Dennis Black), Adrian Martinez (Hector Black), Gregory Korostishevsky, (Boris Black), Marco Verna (E.S. Black). (PG-13) Running time:129 minutes. Director: Stephen Daldry. ★★★★★☆

The title of this movie “Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close” is probably the most insidious title for a movie in 2011. Full of emotion—without being mawkish—full story—without resorting to soap opera—Stephen Daldry’s “Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close” tells a story through a boy’s eyes of tragedy, turmoil and redemption. Thomas Schell (Thomas Hanks) and his son Oskar Schell (Thomas Horn) share their interests in science until Oskar’s father meets fate in the Twin Towers on 9/11, turning Oskar’s life into a tailspin of emotions. To maintain a better link to Oskar’s emotional roller coaster, many flashbacks of Oskar and his dad in heart warming sequences set the tone for an impressive performance by the nine-year old boy Thomas Horn.(Thomas Horn was a contestant on the television show “Jeopardy”, which he won.) Oskar is the only child of Thomas and Linda (Sandra Bullock) Schell and the boy has just been tested for Asperger’s syndrome. Oskar is an inventor, something his dad encouraged. Thomas is Oskar’s mentor which plays well in Stephen Daldry’s movie. Then, again, Tom Hanks has been there before playing the even-tempered character for years. Oskar finds solace in his grandmother’s (Zoe Caldwell) tenant

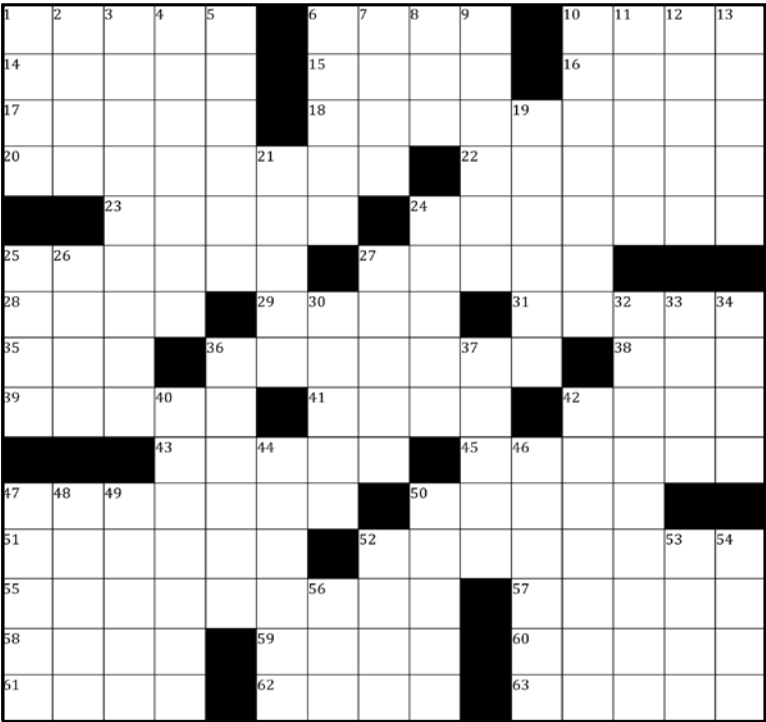


HOWARD MCQUITTER II  
Movie Corner  
Howardsmoviecorner.com

HowardMcQuitterii@yahoo.com simply known as “The Renter” (Max von Sydow), a man of few words. After his father’s death, Oskar finds a key in a box in his dad’s closet with a note “Black” written on it. This mysterious key and note inspires him to visit every person (In New York, mind you) with the last name “Black”. After contacting numerous persons with the surname “Black”, he finds Abby Black (Viola Davis) in the midst of a martial breakup, something the nine-year old doesn’t understand. Viola Davis and Jeffrey Wright (William Black, the soon to be ex-husband) are crucial (much later) to the movie. The boy deserves much credit for traveling from borough to borough to find a clear clue to his dead father’s key and note.

The movie is about grief and healing. The 9/11 tragedy is merely a backdrop on a set piece. I can hardly say the movie is overly sentimental but can say the director puts his audience in a mood of what actually does happen with some people, especially children, after the loss of a loved one or close friend. Corrections for Howard’s Movie Corner from the February 2012 Vol 37 issue: Number 6 read George King in parentheses when the correct name is George Clooney. Number 8,” The Artist,” the correct director is Micheal Hazanavicius. Number 9, “The Ides of March,” the correct director is George Clooney.

Alley Crosswords by Samantha “Sami” Pfeffer



The Ideas of March (Inventions, Discoveries, and Introductions from the 3rd month of the year) Across:

- 1. Singer Billy
- 6. Finished
- 10. Israeli General
- 14. March 4\*
- 15. Enthusiastic
- 16. Window bottom
- 17. \_\_\_\_\_ Puck (German hip-pie van)
- 18. March 7\*
- 20. March 5\*
- 22. Wafers
- 23. Jewish prophet
- 24. Forest fire leftover?
- 25. Network
- 27. \_\_\_\_\_ line (mineralogy)
- 28. Intellect
- 29. Fallen angels
- 31. Comet \_\_\_\_\_
- 35. \_\_\_\_\_ Gold (character on Entourage)
- 36. March 6\*
- 38. Native tree
- 39. Small
- 41. Kia \_\_\_\_\_
- 42. Eye infection

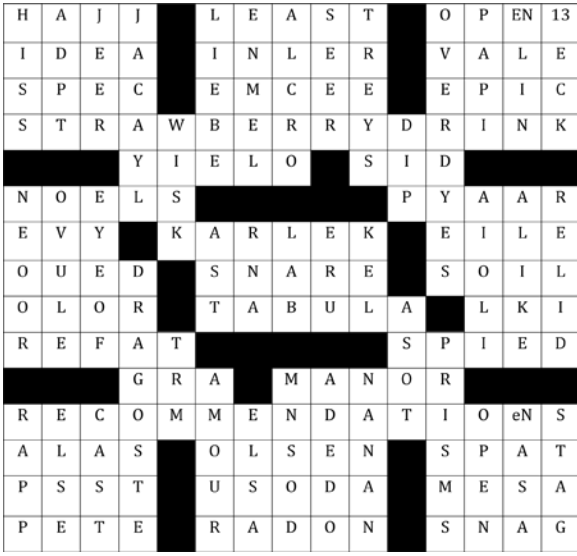
- 43. Fancy type?
- 45. Lessened
- 47. Clergy members
- 50. Sandal company
- 51. Nuclear
- 52. Handle
- 55. March 27\*
- 57. \_\_\_\_\_ cauda (Italian hot dip)
- 58. Finishes
- 59. Ben Jonson, for example
- 60. Apple lass?
- 61. Perot of ’92 and ‘96
- 62. Brave New Drug?
- 63. Tiny

Down:

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_ Rabbit
- 2. Uncooked
- 3. March 1\*
- 4. Stronger screw
- 5. The last defense
- 6. \_\_\_\_\_
- Appointments
- 7. Above
- 8. Nada
- 9. Paradise-

- like
- 10. Mythical dream beast
- 11. La \_\_\_\_\_ (Pirandello play)
- 12. Arm bones
- 13. Skin
- 19. Undercook
- 21. Buf’s foes
- 24. \_\_\_\_\_ Bernie
- 25. \_\_\_\_\_ peas
- 26. Olden days
- 27. Short
- 30. Long poems
- 32. March 14\*
- 33. Actor Danny \_\_\_\_\_
- 34. Scraped by
- 36. “\_\_\_\_\_ he burst!”
- 37. 7th least densely populated state
- 40. “Young lady, your room \_\_\_\_\_!”
- 42. Pillage
- 44. Summaries
- 46. March 9\*
- 47. March 22\*
- 48. Prefix meaning people
- 49. Supplied by demand
- 50. \_\_\_\_\_ Rica
- 52. Regard as
- 53. Folk band
- 54. Hay bundle
- 56. Murmur
- 62. Under funded relic of the Cold War
- 63. Dateless

February Answers



Let the Sun Shine In!

The Midtown Greenway Coalition fights excessive shadowing of the Greenway



BY SOREN JENSEN, MGC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Midtown Greenway is one of the busiest bikeways in Minneapolis, and a major attrac-

tion for people across the Twin Cities. Developers are clamoring to build along the Greenway. The Coalition enthusiastically supports such development, which is good for the corridor and good for Minneapolis. However, we believe that developers shouldn’t kill the proverbial goose that laid the golden egg. Buildings along the Greenway should protect and enhance the Greenway, not harm it. This is especially true of buildings along the south side of the Greenway, where tall buildings have the potential to shadow the Greenway

for months. Shadows prevent ice from melting in the winter, making the trail more dangerous and all-around less pleasant. Our vision is of a sunny Midtown Greenway, enjoyed by all people all year long. Numerous City-approved plans support this vision. The Midtown Greenway Land Use and Development Plan, the Uptown Small Area Plan, and the Lyn-Lake Small Area Plan all state that new buildings along the south side of the Midtown Greenway should be stepped back to minimize harm to the Greenway by increasing solar access. The illustrations below show the difference between a thoughtfully designed building (left) and a harmful one (right). Both show the same time of day and year, and have the same floor-area ratio. However, the left-side building is deliberately designed to allow the sun to reach the Greenway most days of the year, while the right-side building casts long shadows for months out of the year.

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## Tough Love & Anarchists

Just south of Lake Street and just west of Chicago Avenue, there appears to be a significant block of resistance to the home foreclosure crisis. Bobby Hull, Vietnam War vet and life-long worker, will not be moved. Quite right: face death, pay taxes, pay the Man, have your home equity stripped, bail out the banksters, and then face eviction. The Occupy Movement is now mobilized to defend the Hull family.

Yes, folks, the Occupy forces have retreated from the downtown "Peoples' Plaza", but yet meet continuously, are active on many fronts, and will reclaim territory come spring.

Blustery late afternoon, February 17th...

A celebratory street festival was under way in front of the Hull residence — such a fine sequence of Hip Hop artists and speakers it was. Excellent work, but here is the catch: In no small measure the event must be credited to young people who identify as "Anarchists". Lucky for me, I tended an outdoor fire with wood purchased by my own labor. So then, love and unity prevailed.

Note: The Anarchist youth advance a culture which features all body types and skin tones—totally cool.

But what? Dear anarchists, we have a profound disagreement with regard to your strategic ori-



PETER MOLENAAR  
*Raise Your Voice*

entation. Read on, please. It is not enough to merely "smash the state" as your slogan suggests. Sorry, but no. Necessity will soon require the imposition of a "workers' state" to enforce laws which will correspond to an evolving socialist society upon a fragile planet.

Nevertheless, our Anarchist youth have demonstrated a cultural achievement of lasting significance. However, the question remains: Are they true revolutionaries?

Visit The Alley online!  
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Even hipper, you can follow us on Twitter:  
[@alleynewspaper](https://twitter.com/alleynewspaper)

## American Swedish Institute To Unveil New Building

Carl and Leslie Nelson Cultural Center will open its doors to the public on Sat., June 30 And to be Dedicated by the King and Queen of Sweden on October 6th



The official grand opening for Minneapolis's newest landmark, the Carl and Leslie Nelson Cultural Center will be June 30th. The opening of the ASI's long-anticipated addition positions the museum squarely as a significant cultural center for the region, a place to experience the remarkable—and unexpected—in Nordic arts, music and culture.

All are welcome to celebrate the opening of the 34,000 square foot Nelson Cultural Center at the all-day festival. The party will feature the first public looks at the new building and outdoor spaces, special international musical guests, craft demonstrations, family activities, an exhibit by world-renowned tapestry artist Helena Hemmarck,

food and beverages — and several really fantastic surprises, to be announced soon.

The Nelson Cultural Center's innovative design and handcrafted, Swedish-inspired detailing embrace Nordic values—including respect for nature and quality materials, as well as for the environment, through energy conservation and sustainable building practices. Designed to achieve the United States Green Building Council's LEED Gold rating, the center features a sloping green roof and a geothermal well field for heating and cooling.

The Nelson Cultural Center connects old and new worlds with the American Swedish Institute's historic castle-like 1908 Turnblad Mansion, increasing space for artis-

tic, cultural, and community programming in the city; as well as allowing for expansion of contemporary programs such as new immigrant experiences. The addition to the ASI is designed to establish a more accessible, welcoming presence in the Phillips Phillips West Neighborhood of Minneapolis.

"Minneapolis now has a new landmark building—linking with the American Swedish Institute's iconic Turnblad Mansion in a beautiful composition that joins together modern Scandinavia with local history and tradition. Our June 30th grand opening is the culmination of more than ten years of development capped by a year-long construction effort," said Bruce Karstadt, Honorary Consul General of Sweden and ASI's President and CEO. "We believe this is a pivotal moment that transforms ASI's community role. We now have ample facilities that both serve our long-standing audience, and open our gathering spaces as a resource for the entire community and our neighborhood."

The new construction is located on Park Avenue, to the south of the Turnblad Mansion, and is connected by a courtyard between the buildings. The center's slate exterior is designed to echo the Mansion's roof and complement the light limestone of the structure. From the interior entrance of the Nelson Cultural Center, two-story windows frame views of the Mansion. The project also includes extensive exterior additions: a large plaza area for festivals and neighborhood gatherings, increased parking and other major landscaping improvements. For a current view of the building's progress, visit the ASI's construction camera.

HGA Architects and Engineers, Minneapolis, designed the Nelson Cultural Center and surrounding landscaping. The Tegra Group, Minneapolis, provided project management expertise; and Adolfson & Peterson Construction, Minneapolis, built the facility.

Other features of the Nelson Cultural Center include:

- Glass-enclosed reception atrium
- New museum shop space
- Expanded café
- Flexible event space seating of 325 for a lecture or concert; 225 for dinner
- New galleries for traveling and local exhibits

ASI expansion  
see page 12

© DAVE M89BE FABRICATION FACT?

**KARMAGEDDON 2012**

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**The Little Princess and Her Enchanted Mirror BUY-BUY-BYE STUFF!**

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Phaeton/Marduk  
Spews fire approaching the solar system

Pluto  
Pluto pulled onto new orbit

Neptune  
Loses Pluto, other moons deranged

Uranus  
Pieces torn off Marduk here Equatorial alignment changed, moons deranged

Chiron (Gaga)

Saturn

Tiamat  
Breaks up

Kingu captured

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DUMPSTER

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## Backyard Initiative Update



BY JANICE BARBEE, CULTURAL WELLNESS CENTER

### Citizen Health Action Teams

14 Citizen Health Action Teams (CHATs) have been working just a few months, some for a year, and some over a year. 140 BYI residents have participated in a CHAT.

The BY is one square mile area around the Midtown Exchange. Residents of those seven neighborhoods have been supported by the Cultural Wellness Center to develop and implement their ideas since December, 2008. Allina Health (recently changed from Allina Hospitals and Clinics) has contributed funds for these projects, with additional support from Twin Cities LISC (Local Initiatives Support Corporation).

CHAT projects demonstrate the creativity, resourcefulness, energy, and commitment of community residents. Here is a quick, alphabetical summary of the work of seven CHATs; 7 more next month.

1. Anchor Families CHAT: established two "Anchor Families," one in Central Neighborhood and one in Powderhorn Park

Neighborhood,

- who take responsibility for supporting and organizing people on their block.
- visited one-on-one with neighbors,
- organized children's activities,
- supported people who have experienced a major tragedy,
- referred people to community resources,
- created a fellowship program for the teens of CHAT members,
- and helped neighbors to get to know each other.

Neighbors have increased involvement on their block and are volunteering at neighborhood events. Some have reported having more understanding of different cultures and feeling a greater sense of safety.

2. A Partnership of Diabetics (A-POD) CHAT:

- providing sustainable, community-based support, strategies, planning and tools to assist members of the community in diabetes self-management.
- strategies to successful self-

BYI

see page 2

## Somali Women's CHAT + APOD Diabetes Workshop participants



Begun in October, 2011, one hundred percent of Somali elders who have been regular attendees at A-POD events have lost excess weight and have lowered their blood pressure. Once funding is secured, additional

information will be gathered in determining progress with cholesterol and blood glucose levels over a three month period.

## "The Story You Are About To Hear Is True!"

...and it is written by or about YOU!

The Communications CHAT of the Backyard Initiative is excited to announce a new, monthly column beginning next month on this back page of The Alley Newspaper. Every month, we hope to inspire readers of this paper by offering at least one amazing story portraying the acts of kindness, courage and caring that occur each and everyday in the area called the "Backyard".

There are 45,000 people within 15,000 households in the Backyard area (one square mile around the Midtown Exchange). Can you imagine the volume of stories that must be sizzling beneath the surface just waiting to be told? .... Stories of compassionate neighbors who do something nice for someone else day after day. Stories of courage about people who face incredible hurdles but love their children passionately, keep them safe and help other people's children, too. Stories of youth who are meeting with great success in school or contributing to their community with wonder-

ful art. These stories of friends, neighbors and family members demonstrate the valuable contributions to the wellness of another person, family or entire block.

Surely each and every one of us knows at least one person, one story that deserves to be told. Let's tell each other those stories to both pay tribute to that person but also to this community of people so that we may lift up the efforts to contribute to the wellness of our community. The Alley Newspaper appears monthly so that is only 12 issues a year. Certainly, we should have no problem finding that number of stories times ten! But, we had better get busy because there are so many stories to be told.

You can email your story of 500 or less words to editor@alleynews.org or you can mail it to: Alley Communications, Inc., PO Box 7006, Mpls., MN 55407. If you have any questions or need any help or encouragement, please call Harvey at 612-990-4022.

Let the stories begin!



Wit in Wood:

Nordic Figure Carving

January 20–May 27, 2012 Wit in Wood:

Pippi Longstocking: A Girl Made Out Of Words

February 11 – June 3, 2012

Pippi Longstocking has come to be like a living person. Astrid Lindgren's fantastic stories have been enjoyed by generations of families, and the films and songs give her even more dimension. All this began with a story. The exhibit, "Pippi Longstocking: A Girl Made Out of Words," explores how great authorship blossoms forth into something that surpasses words on a page. In the exhibit, learn about Lindgren's own childhood inspiration for her stories, and the characters who have followed in Pippi's tracks. This exhibit coincides with "Pippi Longstocking," showing at the

### ASI expansion

from page 11

- Large studio and crafts workshop
- Expanded spaces for meetings, events and community gatherings

The Nelson Cultural Center also includes an educational partnership with Gustavus Adolphus College, located in St. Peter, Minn. The College has an office suite in the Center giving Gustavus a presence in the Twin Cities area for outreach to alumni and prospective students, and for educational programming.

Renovations to the 1908 Turnblad Mansion, which added a community hall, library, classrooms and a new elevator-stairway circulation tower, were completed in November 2011.

The American Swedish Institute, founded in 1929, is a vibrant arts and culture organization and historic home located on 26th and Park Avenue with Cuktrally endowed Phillips Community, near the Midtown Greenway, Lake Street,

## October 6 Swedish Royalty will Dedicate ASI's New Nelson Cultural Center

Royal Visit also marks 150th Anniversary of Gustavus Adolphus College

Children's Theater Company from April 24 to June 10, 2012.

The Enduring Designs of Josef Frank

March 17 – July 8, 2012

"The Enduring Designs of Josef Frank" combines the textile and furnishing designs of Austrian-born 1885–1967) designer and architect who continues to be celebrated as a leading pioneer of Swedish Modern design. The rise of Nazism in Vienna and the city's economic depression, prompted Frank (who was Jewish) and his Swedish wife to move to Stockholm in 1933. After the German occupation of Denmark and Norway in 1940, the Franks moved to New York City, where Frank created his most innovative and substantial set of textile designs. After the war, the Franks returned to Stockholm where he produced further new furniture

designs.

Exhibit Reception and Talk by Architects Todd Hansen and Christine Albertsson: "Inspired by Frank"

Wednesday, March 28 — 6:30 p.m.

Frank stood apart from his peers for his use of color and detail in his stunning interiors. While Le Corbusier and Meis von der Rohe were championing a machined aesthetic, free of adornment, Frank was designing complex patterns, carefully wrought furnishings, and sinuous curves. Residential architects and designers Todd Hansen and Christine Albertsson present "Inspired by Frank." They will share images and ideas of Josef Frank's career and work that have been deeply inspiring for them in their own work at Albertsson Hansen Architecture. [www.aharchitecture.com](http://www.aharchitecture.com)

the Midtown Exchange and Global Market, Ingebretsen's Meats Foods, and Gifts, Mindekirken Norwegian Memorial Lutheran Church, and downtown Minneapolis.

The ASI serves as a gathering

place for people to share stories and experiences around universal themes of tradition, migration, craft and the arts, all informed by enduring ties to Sweden. For more, visit <http://www.asimn.org>



"Amen Corner." February Mardi Gras At Peavey Park's Touchstone Plaza dba "Amen Corner" Community activists and residents who have been reclaiming all of Peavey Park with gatherings at the vibrantly mosaic colored northeast corner called Touchstone Plaza went indoors at the Phillips Community Center on 13th Ave. to celebrate our spring-like winter with a northern Mardi Gras and Black History Month. Each month during the cold weather times, Amen Corner maintains its group cohesiveness by scheduling an event featuring great home-cooked food and fabulous local talent, including poetry readings, hip hop and rap songs, dramatic presentations by elders and some outrageous Lady Gaga-type dressed-up dancing. Raymond Jackson & grandsons Maurice and Charlie Sims sing "Brothers and Sisters, We have Unity in the Community" Watch for March events