

## Laura Waterman Wittstock, still the superb journalist *First Person Radio Signs Off the Air*

By ELAINE SALINAS

The final segment of First Person Radio (FPR) aired on KFAI Radio in Minneapolis on February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018, forty years after it originated as The Native American Program on KUOM-AM, the University of Minnesota’s radio station. First Person Radio can best be described as a labor of love coupled with a commitment to produce timely and accurate news and information about the American Indian community to counter the many misrepresentations and inaccuracies perpetuated about Native people in the major media. Not surprisingly, the program was birthed by a volunteer group of bold young Indian University students organized by a seasoned and visionary journalist, Laura Waterman Wittstock. Laura, from the Seneca Nation in New York, had worked with the pioneering Native American Press Association in Washington, D.C. in the early 1970s. First Person Radio was the first work of MIGIZI Communications.

At the time of First Person Radio’s founding, the one hundred

plus Indian newspapers that were being published around the country were suffering slow deaths, victims of the rising costs of paper and printing and the plummeting revenues from advertising. First Person Radio was seen by its aspiring group of founders as a viable, alternative way to get reliable news about Indian country out to Indian people and non-Indian people alike via the airwaves, a profound leap in thinking at the time. First Person Radio, in fact, became the first nationally-distributed Indian radio news program in the country with the help and assistance of other key contributors including Gary Fife, Michael Dalby, Andy Marlowe, Bill Parker, and others.

Over time the listening audience grew and the program was picked up by subscriber stations (primarily public but also tribal) throughout the Upper Midwest region and throughout the country. In today’s high-tech environment, it is almost impossible to grasp that the original means of distribution was 7-inch reels sent through the mail. The program was later uploaded through



J ARTHUR ANDERSON/ALLEYNEWS

a satellite system at Minnesota Public Radio.

The half-hour First Person Radio program served as a dependable and accurate source of Indian news and information thus filling an Indian news vacuum for thousands of Indian and non-Indian listeners for the next fifteen years. It captured current events from an indigenous perspective, featured the music of indigenous artists who often had no other outlets, and dug deep into issues affecting Indian people through interviews with leading voices from throughout Indian



CAM GORDON/ALLEYNEWS

## Riverside Meadow named for Annie Young

*Martha Anne “Annie” Young 1924-2018*

By CAM GORDON

On Saturday, March 17, over 100 people gathered in Lower Riverside Park to celebrate the life of longtime Phillips resident and recently retired Minneapolis Park Commissioner, Annie Young, who passed away earlier this year on January 22. The celebration included a dedication and ribbon cutting to commemorate the renaming of Lower Riverside Park as Annie Young Meadow in her honor.

This was the same Park where Young gathered for years with a group of close-knit friends almost every Friday night to enjoy one of the gems she worked so hard to protect and to improve in her nearly 28 years as an at-large Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Commissioner.

*Riverside Meadow Continued on page 8*

## Opioid Crisis: Facts you didn’t want to have to know

By LINDSEY FENNER

- The opioid crisis is the deadliest drug crisis in American history.
- Drug overdoses now kill more people in the U.S. than car accidents or guns.
- Drug overdoses are the leading cause of death of people under 50.
- In 2016, opioids accounted for 66 percent of drug overdoses.
- Opioids are powerful but highly addictive pain relievers that include morphine, heroin, Vicodin, Percocet, OxyContin, methadone, and fentanyl.
- It’s getting worse in the Midwest: Between July 2016 and September 2017, opioid overdoses increased 70% in the Midwest, compared to a 30% increase in the U.S. as a whole.
- Minnesota has one of the greatest rates of disparity in the U.S. for opioid-related deaths based on race.
- In Hennepin County, Native Americans represented 10.1 percent of deaths by opioids in 2016, but only 0.6 percent of the total population. That is not a typo.
- The epidemic has shifted: At the beginning, overdose deaths were primarily from prescription opioid painkillers (aggressively marketed by pharmaceutical companies). Now heroin and fentanyl cause most overdose deaths.
- Fentanyl and derivatives like carfentanil are synthetic opioids that can be thousands of times more powerful than heroin. They are difficult to track and are often mixed with other drugs

- without the knowledge of the person using the drugs.
- It is EXTREMELY unlikely that you could get a contact overdose from touching someone who is overdosing from synthetic opioids or from just touching the powder. You may have seen that on the Internet, but it’s not true.
- Naloxone or Narcan, the opioid antidote, is available without a prescription, is easy to administer, is not addictive, and is incredibly safe to use.
- Minnesota Good Samaritan laws protect regular folks from criminal prosecution or civil damages when administering naloxone to someone they believe is suffering a drug overdose.
- Minnesota’s Steve’s Law grants immunity from prosecution for possession/paraphernalia if you call 911 to get help for an overdose.

**Sources:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; The Minnesota Department of Health Center for Health Statistics; The National Institute on Drug Abuse; Opioid Prevention Strategic Framework, Hennepin County; Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

**Resources:**  
**MN Aids Project**  
Mainline Exchange, Gethsemane Church, 905 S 4<sup>th</sup> Ave  
(800) 248-2437  
Syringe Exchange and disposal, HIV and Hepatitis C testing:  
Monday and Thursday: 2-5PM  
Tuesday and Friday: 10AM-1PM

Naloxone kits and training  
Fridays: 10:30 AM-1 PM

**Native American Community Clinic**  
1213 E. Franklin Avenue  
(612) 872-8086  
Walk-in Narcan: M-F, 9AM-5PM

**Red Door Clinic**  
Hennepin County  
Health Services Building  
525 Portland Avenue  
Syringe exchange and disposal, clean works: Monday 9AM-1PM, Wednesday 9AM-7PM, Friday 1-4 PM  
Narcan/Naloxone: Monday & Wednesday 8AM-7PM, Tuesday and Friday 8AM-4PM, Thursday 10AM-4PM,

**Southside Harm Reduction Services:** They will come to you!  
Call or text (612) 559-1273  
Narcan/Naloxone, Clean works

**Steve Rummler HOPE Network**  
(952) 943-3937  
Narcan/Naloxone community training: Most Fridays: 6:30-8PM, Lunds & Byerlys Uptown, 1450 W Lake St

*Lindsey Fenner is a Phillips resident.*



### Opinion

## Messiah Demolishes Sanctuary and Sells to the Money Changers, 2018 A.D.

By HARVEY WINJE

There is tragic irony this Passover/Good Friday/Easter Season in the Phillips Community.

For Christians, this is a season of introspection, betrayal, death, and celebration. Passover March 30, 2018, is reminiscent of Passover 2,000 years ago when, “Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast those that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves, and said unto them, ‘It is written, *My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.*’” *Matthew 21:12-13*. Sunday April 1, 2018, is Easter.

*Messiah Demolishes Sanctuary Continued on page 2*



**PROTECTING OPPOSING  
UNIFYING HEALING**

**4 ACTIONS exhibit at  
The American Indian Movement Interpretive Center  
see page 8**





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and other media.**

*“When the great newspapers  
don’t say much, see what the little  
independent ones say.”  
– Wendell Phillips (1811-1884)*

**Donations: needed, welcome,  
and Tax Deductible.**

**Volunteers of this issue but  
not limited to:** American Indian  
Movement Interpretive Center,  
Robert Albee, J Arthur Anderson,  
Lucinda Anderson, Clyde Bellecourt,  
Eric Byrd, Julie Canaglia, EPIC,  
Family of Annie Young, Lindsey  
Fenner, Cam Gordon, Susan Gust,  
Linnea Hadaway, HC Franklin  
Library & Staff, In the Heart of the  
Beast Theatre, Sue Hunter Weir,  
MPNIA, MPRB, Peter Molenaar,  
Dave Moore, Maggie Moran, Leon  
Oman, Brad Pass, Carol Pass, PWNO,  
Elaine Salinas, Sunny Sevigny,  
Robin Smothers, South High  
School Students, Laura Waterman  
Wittstock, Meg Walsh, John Charles  
Wilson, Crystal Trautnau Windschitl.

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**Monthly Board: 6:30PM 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed.**  
**Call for Location.**

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

**May Deadline  
April 15<sup>th</sup>**

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## What’s Up at the Franklin Community Library | APRIL 2018

1314 E. Franklin Avenue | 612- 543-6925 | www.hclib.org  
M, F, Sa: 9AM–5PM • T, W, Th: 9AM –8PM • Su: 12-5PM

By ERIN THOMASSON  
**K-12 Homework Help**  
**Tuesdays, Wednesdays,  
& Thursdays, 3:30-7:30 PM**  
Free in-person tutoring: K-12  
students. No advance sign-up.  
Info: [www.hclib.org/homework](http://www.hclib.org/homework).  
Sponsor: Friends of the Hennepin  
County Library.

**Teen Programs**  
**Urban 4-H Club**  
**Tuesdays, 5-7 PM**  
Urban gardening to digital photo/  
video & theater.  
Partner: U of MN.

**Dhalinta Horumar sare rabta /  
Young Achievers**  
**Wednesdays, 4:30-6 PM**  
U dabaaldag Dhaqanka  
Soomalida, sameysa saaxiibo  
cusub iyo in aad isticmaasho hab  
noleoled cafimaad leh.  
Lamaane: WellShare International.

Celebrate Somali culture, make  
new friends and practice healthy  
lifestyles.  
Partner: WellShare International.



By CRYSTAL WINDSCHITL  
**Phillips West Neighborhood  
Upcoming Events:**  
Check out the Phillips West  
Website: [www.phillipswest.info](http://www.phillipswest.info)

**PWNO Meeting**  
**March 1<sup>st</sup> (Thursday) 6-7 PM**  
Join your neighbors and other  
Community Partners for updates  
from Local City Government, 3rd  
Precinct Police. Wells Fargo will  
be present to discuss their plans  
for a new parking ramp. Met

**Teen Tech Workshop**  
**Wednesdays, 5-6:30 PM**  
Create music, videos, anima-  
tion & other projects using high  
& low-tech, from iPads & 3D  
printers to synthesizers & sewing  
machines. Led by the library’s  
Teen Tech Squad.

**Franklin Learning Center:**  
**612-543-6934 fllc@hclib.org**  
Free, one-to-one tutoring for adults  
who are learning English & math,  
preparing for the GED & citizen-  
ship exams, and gaining life skills.  
Community volunteers needed; No  
experience necessary. Training and  
materials given.

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651-647-0440

Transit will also be present to dis-  
cuss locations for the new D Line  
(Rapid Bus Transit along Chicago  
Avenue). This meeting will take  
place at the Center for Changing  
Lives in the Centrum Room (2400  
Park Avenue). Free parking is  
available in the rear of building off  
Oakland Avenue. Free Delivery  
Pizza & Beverages will be pro-  
vided! If you would like more  
information or would like to get  
involved with the neighborhood  
please contact Crystal at 612-879-  
5383 or email her at [pwno2005@  
yahoo.com](mailto:pwno2005@yahoo.com)

**PWNO Meeting**  
**April 5<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) 6-7 PM**  
Same location as above! Details  
to follow in next month’s Alley!

### Transit

## Safety and comfort, real and perceived, is needed equally for all routes



By JOHN CHARLES WILSON  
Even though this month is the  
quarterly schedule change, it’s a  
fairly slow month for transit news.  
In Phillips, only Routes 9 and 19  
had any changes, and they were

just minor adjustments to make  
the scheduled bus times more  
closely align with how long the  
route really takes.

That said, I convinced my room-  
mate to try taking the bus to a May  
Day volunteer meeting at In the  
Heart of the Beast Theatre (and  
he encourages everyone to donate  
\$5.00 to the May Day parade). He  
told me his story:

He started on an eastbound 2.  
All was good until the detour  
through Stevens Square, where  
some “unsavory” characters board-  
ed the bus. They got off at Chicago.  
My roommate got off at 13<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
to transfer to the 14. There were  
several people hovering around  
that bus stop, apparently waiting  
for something other than the bus.  
They stared at him like he didn’t

From page 1

## Betrayal and sale demolishes trust

The Messiah Congregation is acquiescing to the, reported,  
\$800,000.00 offer from Children’s MN Hospitals and Clinics to buy  
the vacant lot, at 25<sup>th</sup> Street between Chicago and Columbus Avenues,  
after the parts of the church have been removed and demolition is com-  
plete. It is uncertain whether money from the removed stained glass  
and unique, historic architectural parts of the Sanctuary will go to the  
Messiah Congregation or Children’s MN. Apparently, this lucrative  
deal excluded the Messiah Congregation from marketing the property  
to churches, mosques, or others of less wealth and who don’t have the  
political influence and finances to sway politicians.

Messiah Congregation is complicit in violating a decades old  
Covenant\* revised and signed in April 1998 by all parties including  
Children’s MN, between the Phillips Community and all of the neigh-  
borhood’s hospitals. Children’s is also complicit as this violation, once  
again, illuminates Children’s MN continued, flagrant disregard for the  
Covenant, community values, and local quality of life. Their steam-  
rolling approach gives them ownership of 3 entire city blocks, creating  
a large impact to the homes and residents of the surrounding blocks with  
increased traffic necessitating larger and larger parking ramps such as  
the 700 car ramp on this block.

Trust is demolished between residents and institutions along with  
another City landmark and another city block!

\* **“Multi-Block Land Use Covenant:** A formal, solemn, and binding  
agreement. A written agreement or promise especially for the performance  
of some action. It is a declaration of intent by all parties who sign, to help  
each other achieve mutual objectives.” [See cartoon page 7 this issue]



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\*6pm Chapel  
7pm Meal, men’s clothes  
**Tuesday nights**  
5pm Set Free (12 Step)  
\*7pm Chapel  
8pm Meal, women’s clothes  
**Friday nights**  
3pm Christian movies  
5pm Bible study  
\*7pm Chapel  
8pm Meal, men’s clothes  
**Thursday afternoons**  
12pm Quilt & layette sign-ups  
Christian movie  
Child care for those in  
attendance  
\*1pm Ladies’ Day Chapel  
2pm Meal, women’s, infants’ &  
Children’s clothing  
(\* Guests must arrive by time noted)  
**Big Dinner is the 4th Tuesday of  
every month from 6pm - 7:30p.**

**FOR ADULTS:**  
After a chapel service, guests  
may receive a hot meal,  
clothing, hygiene products and  
a blanket. (See schedule on right.)

**FURNITURE:**  
Individuals in need may call to  
inquire about free furniture:  
651-468-9741.

**KIDS’ MINISTRY!**  
-Saturdays - 11am-1pm  
-Thursdays - 5:30-7:30pm  
Children in K- 8th grades are  
welcome to attend. Hot meal,  
discipleship, fun activities, new  
friends, and if needed, ride  
provided. (Call for more info)

**1112 East Franklin Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55404**  
**612-870-9617    [www.MarieSandvikCenter.org](http://www.MarieSandvikCenter.org)**

belong there, making him con-  
cerned that an incident was brew-  
ing, so he walked to Bloomington  
and 24<sup>th</sup> before the 14 showed up.  
The bus bench there was covered  
in snow, rendering it unusable. The  
ride on the 14 was, fortunately,  
uneventful. This was all in broad  
daylight, during the PM rush hour.

By the time he left the meeting,  
it had gotten dark outside. He got  
on a 21 to Uptown. Luckily, that  
ride was peaceful, which as most  
people know, isn’t a given on the  
21 at night. At Uptown, he decided  
to take a 17 and walk the last few  
blocks home instead of waiting the  
extra ten minutes or so for a 6. Two  
men were gearing up for a fight on  
the bus. One passenger asked the  
driver to “do something” but of  
course that didn’t happen.

Some takeaways: the perception  
of safety is lacking on some bus  
routes and at some stops. Bus stop  
amenities seem lacking at quite a  
few stops. There should be light-  
ing at more bus stops at night.  
Bus benches should be shoveled  
out of the snowbanks. And shel-  
ters need to be more weatherproof.  
We should look to Canada for bus  
shelter designs since our weather  
is similar. And maybe an attended  
public restroom and/or newsstand  
at hubs like Uptown and Chicago-  
Lake would be nice. Metro Transit  
claims to want to attract “choice”  
riders. Mark my words: the percep-  
tion of safety and comfort is just as  
important as the actuality.



# “Mother” St. James Congregation endears Church to preserve stories

In April 2017, Reverend Michael Gonzales submitted an application to the City of Minneapolis requesting that St. James A. M. E. Church (located at 3600 Snelling Avenue) be considered for landmark status. The request was an expression of the congregation’s love for their church and their desire to preserve the work and stories of the church’s past for its present and future members and to share their stories with the larger community.

On February 27, 2018, the Heritage Preservation Commission voted to approve that request and forward it to the City Council for their approval. The Commission’s vote was unanimous and the only question that came up was about the church’s period of significance. Did the period of significance for the church begin when the congregation first met or when they moved into the church that’s being awarded landmark status? Is it about the people or is it about the building? It’s an interesting question and one where the answer does not have to be “either/or” but can be “both/and.”

The building where St. James’ members worship today is 60 years old; it is a modest and beautiful church that is lovingly maintained. It was designed by architect Irwin H. Kilstofte and constructed at its current location in 1959.

St. James’ congregation dates back to the early 1860s making it not only the oldest African-American congregation in the City but in the State. Because it was the first, it is often referred to as Mother St. James. Some of its founding members, including Paul Brown and Mattie Williams, are buried in Minneapolis Pioneers and

*Tales from  
Pioneers and Soldiers  
Memorial Cemetery*

By SUE HUNTER WEIR

155<sup>th</sup> IN A SERIES

Soldiers Memorial Cemetery.

The first prayer meetings were held in Mr. Brown’s Southeast Minneapolis home in 1863. Mr. Brown was born in Missouri in 1830 and moved to Minnesota sometime around the beginning or shortly after the start of the Civil War. His wife and two daughters were founding members of St. James. Mr. Brown continued to live in Southeast Minneapolis

from the time that he arrived here until his death. He worked as an expressman, a security guard who transported valuable goods. Mr. Brown died on November 2, 1905, from smoke inhalation, the result of an accidental fire.

The details of Mattie Williams’ life, as recorded in the census and other sources, are often contradictory. What we do know is that she was born in Alabama in 1843, making it likely that she was born into slavery, which raises, but doesn’t answer, the question of how or why she came to Minnesota either before or in the early years of the Civil War. We know that she was married to Thomas Williams, who worked as a lath sawyer, and that

they do not appear to have had any children. Mrs. Williams died on August 11, 1909, from heart disease at the age of 67. The Appeal, the Twin Cities’ leading African-American newspaper at the time of her death, said of her: “She had been a member of St. James for many years. She was beloved by all who knew her. She had lived a splendid Christian life. She will be missed from her familiar place in St. James church.”

Louise O’Brien became a member of St. James somewhat later but was another long-time member of the congregation. She was born in Virginia around 1850 and lived in Grinnell, Iowa, where her children were born, before relocating to Minneapolis. Her obituary in the Minneapolis Journal carried the headline “Slave Lash’s Scars Borne to Grave by Minneapolis Woman,” and described a brutal beating that she endured when she was only eight years old. She had four children who lived to adulthood but two of her sons died while in their twenties. Reverend E. R. Edwards, pastor of St. James at the time of Mrs. O’Brien’s death, said of her: “I knew that Mrs. O’Brien had suffered and I knew that she had been a slave, but she never complained and was one of the cheeriest members of my congregation.” Mrs. O’Brien died from heart disease on August 15, 1915—a sobering reminder that we are not as far removed from slavery as we might think.

Between 1860 and 1959 the congregation moved often, sometimes by choice, sometimes not. They raised money for a new and permanent home—one that would help preserve their stories—by

Slave Lash’s Scars  
Borne to Grave by  
Minneapolis Woman



MRS. LOUISE O'BRIEN.

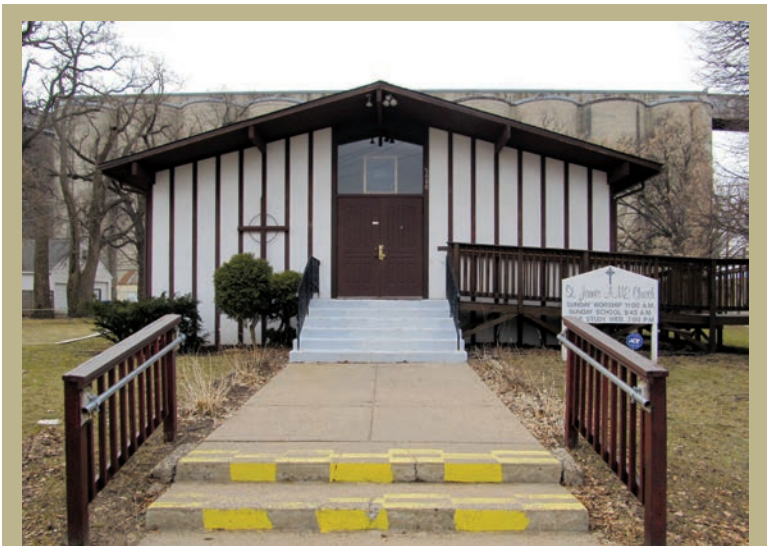
Scars of the slave lash told by Minneapolis woman.

COURTESY MINNEAPOLIS JOURNAL AUG. 18, 1915

**Louise O’Brien a long-time member of the congregation. She was born in Virginia around 1850 and lived in Grinnell, Iowa, where her children were born, before relocating to Minneapolis. Her obituary in the Minneapolis Journal carried the headline “Slave Lash’s Scars Borne to Grave by Minneapolis Woman,” and described a brutal beating that she endured when she was only eight years old.**

organizing concerts, lectures, bazaars and apple-dumpling festivals. By nominating their church for landmark status, the congregation has honored its former members and their work and preserves their legacy for current and future members of the church and the wider community. Congratulations and thank you to the members of St. James!

Sue Hunter Weir is a Phillips resident



COURTESY MPLS. COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**The building where St. James’ members worship today is 60 years old; it is a modest and beautiful church that is lovingly maintained. It was designed by architect Irwin H. Kilstofte and constructed at its current location in 1959. On February 27, 2018, the Heritage Preservation Commission voted unanimously to approve that request. One questions was: “Is it about the people or is it about the building?” It’s an interesting question and one where the answer does not have to be “either/or” but can be “both/and.”**

From page 1

## Unique indigenous journalism with indomitable spirit

country. First Person Radio’s excellence in programming was recognized in 1992 when it was awarded the National Headliner Award - Best Radio Documentary for the series, *Coming to America*.

Equally impactful, First Person Radio trained a generation of fearless young Indian journalists whose early and selfless contributions to

Indian radio ignited a flame for breaking the mold and contributing back to community. Included among this group was Hattie Kauffman Wing, who became a national news correspondent; David Larsen, an educator and former Tribal Chairman for the Lower Sioux community; Reid Raymond, the first Indian attorney employed by the Hennepin County Attorney’s Office; and Jackie Dionne, the youngest intern with First Person Radio now serving as the American Indian Health Director for the Minnesota Department of Health.

When First Person Radio was forced to sunset in 1992 due to rising production and distribution costs and declining support for public radio across the country, its legacy continued. Laura Waterman Wittstock, founder of MIGIZI Communications, took advantage of the large reservoir of knowledge and experience gained through First Person Radio to place the tools of communications in the hands of the younger Indian youth. MIGIZI’s Achievement Through Communications, and Native Academy programs became the first community-based programs in the city to give access to state-of-the-art technology to American Indian youth, thus closing the digital

divide for hundreds of youth who lacked access to computers in their homes and other community settings. Today, this legacy continues through MIGIZI’s youth-run social media enterprise that provides an opportunity for Indian young people to tell their stories and serve the community through training in video production, marketing, and enterprise management.

Laura Waterman Wittstock served as President of MIGIZI from 1986 to 2004 when she retired from the organization. Her life-long passion for Indian journalism motivated her to resurrect First Person Radio in 2010 as a one-hour Indian current events program on KFAI Radio. Over the course of the next eight years, she grew a loyal listening audience that included former and new listeners from throughout the metro area and across the country who are as hungry today as they were back in 1977 to hear news and stories from a uniquely indigenous perspective.

Laura’s last two years of producing and hosting First Person Radio demonstrated her indomitable spirit and fortitude as she continued to meet the demands of the weekly program despite declining health and limited mobility, conditions that ultimately caused her to retire


the program in February 2018.

It is only fitting that the final segment of First Person Radio that aired on February 14<sup>th</sup> was a tribute to Laura and her legacy. The segment included co-host Roy Taylor and guests Miguel Vargas, Rhianna Yazzie, and Wendy Gasco, Chair of the KFAI Board – friends and colleagues all present to honor the woman and work of Laura Waterman Wittstock. Although Laura was able to join for only a short time, those gathered shared events and stories from First Person Radio’s history, played excerpts from past programs

including a 2012 report from the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the hanging of the 38 Dakota in Mankato conducted by Laura in below zero weather; and included some of Laura’s favorite music from indigenous artists Annie Humphreys and John Trudell, Floyd “Red Crow” Westerman and others. The program was a loving and moving tribute to a groundbreaking Indian journalist.

Elaine Salinas is President and Chief Professional Officer at MIGIZI (since 2004), an educator for over 35 years in public and alternative schools, and an enrolled member of the White Earth Band of Ojibwe.

**MAY-DAY**



c . a . f . e

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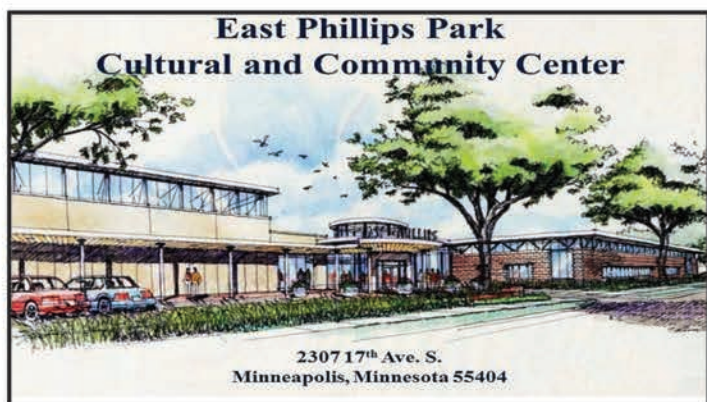
**Join the  
East Phillips Improvement Coalition**  
Help make positive changes in East Phillips.



**EPIC meetings are the second Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM in the Community Center – 2307 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. S -**

**Join the EPIC Board of Directors**  
*Requirements for Board Members*

- Be over 18 and live, work or own property in East Phillips.
- Attend at least 1 EPIC Community Meeting in the year preceding the Annual Meeting. & attend the Annual Meeting
- Nomination Forms at – [eastphillips-epic.com](http://eastphillips-epic.com) – Click About EPIC – Or Call EPIC at - 612-280-8418 –
- Commit to Representing ALL of the people of East Phillips
- It's not too late to attend a meeting! Join us Thursday April 12<sup>th</sup>



**Welcome  
EPIC Annual Meeting**

**EPIC Annual Meeting**  
**Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> 2018**

**Don't miss this EPIC EVENT!**

**9:30 AM to 11:30 AM at the  
East Phillips Park Cultural &  
Community Center**

2307 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN

**Free Pancake Breakfast**

Door Prizes, Update on EPIC Projects, Board Elections, Grand Prize & much more.

**For Board Member Election Forms**

Go to - [eastphillips-epic.com](http://eastphillips-epic.com)

Click on - About EPIC

## For Your Calendar: \*

*To get involved in EPIC and East Phillips,  
Join us on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 6:30*

**The EPIC Community Meetings** are on the SECOND Thursday – Next Meetings; Thursday, 4/12/18 and 5/10/2018 at 6:30 PM - *Meet Your Neighbors!* - *Get Involved!*  
Agenda includes Neighborhood Industrial Pollution, Crime Initiatives, and EPIC project updates.

**EPIC's Annual Meeting - Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 to 11:30 AM in the Community Center**

**The East Phillips Park Programming Partnership** meets on the LAST Tuesday – Next meetings; Tuesday 4/24/18 and 5/29/18 at 11:30 AM. Lunch is served.  
Updates on Partner Programming, Park Events, SummerFest 2018 & News.

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

**The EPIC Board of Directors** meets on the FIRST Saturday of the month – Next Meeting; Saturday, 5/5/2018 and 6/2/2018 at 10:00 AM. in the EPIC Office at 2433 Bloomington Ave S

**The East Phillips Community 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. Gardeners** meet on the second Saturday of Each Month Meetings are Saturday, 4/14/2018 and 5/12/2018 at 9:00 AM in the East Phillips Park Cultural & Community Center at 2307 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. Subsequent Meetings are in the Garden at 2428 17<sup>th</sup> Ave S

**Garden Plots are Available for East Phillips Resident, contact Brad Pass at 612-916-8478**

**East Phillips Park SummerFest** - Sunday, June 24<sup>th</sup> - 1:00 to 5:00 PM in the Park.

*Designed and Paid for by East Phillips Improvement Coalition*



**MIDTOWN PHILLIPS**  
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION INC.

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

## BOARD MEETING AGENDA:

Held every second Tuesday in Stewart Park

**Tuesday, April 10, 6:30-8pm**

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

- Introductions
- Review and Accept March minutes
- Outreach Training-Carrie Day Aspinwall
- Financial Review
  - Action to Contract \$40,000 of NRP Frozen Funds to 2018 Staffing Needs which will free up additional funds needed for Outreach Partnerships
- Community announcements and public comment

## COMMUNITY MEETING AGENDA:

Held every fourth Tuesday at different location each month.

Check our website for locations: [www.midtownphillips.org](http://www.midtownphillips.org)

**Tuesday, April 24, 6:30-8pm**

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

- Introductions
- Review and accept March minutes
- Update on Chicago Avenue Rapid D Line bus project**
- Update on 35W project**
- Community announcements and public comment

### SUBSCRIBE TO MIDTOWN PHILLIPS NEWSLETTER!

Enter your info online at [www.midtownphillips.org](http://www.midtownphillips.org) or contact us at [midtownphillips@gmail.com](mailto:midtownphillips@gmail.com), (612)-232-0018.



## PHILLIPS AQUATIC CENTER

2323 11th Ave. S, Minneapolis, MN 55404

### Grand Opening!

Saturday, April 21 from 11am-1pm

### Get a Sneak Peek!

Info sessions/Open Houses to tour the aquatic center and learn about lessons and programs:  
Wed 4/11, Thu 4/12, Fri 4/13, Mon 4/16 and Tues 4/17 from 4:30-7:30 pm and Sat 4/14 from 1-4 pm

*Note: the pools will not be open during these sessions*

**For more info: [info@minneapolisparcs.org](mailto:info@minneapolisparcs.org)**

## HOUSING LOAN PROGRAM for residents of Midtown Phillips!

MPNAI will be unveiling a new housing loan program, administered through CEE (Center for Energy and Environment). This loan program offers loans for mainly exterior home improvements, with a 0% interest rate. The maximum loan amount is \$7,500.

**For more information:**  
contact Maggie Moran, Neighborhood Coordinator,  
at [midtownphillips@gmail.com](mailto:midtownphillips@gmail.com) or 612.232.0018







## Phillips Aquatics Center Grand Opening Set for April 21

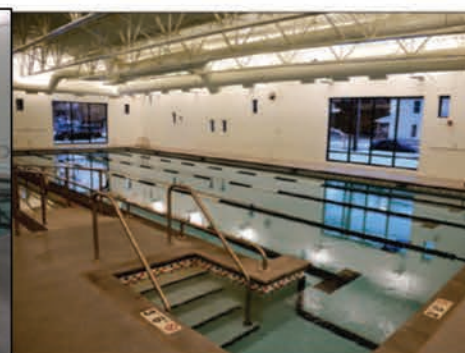
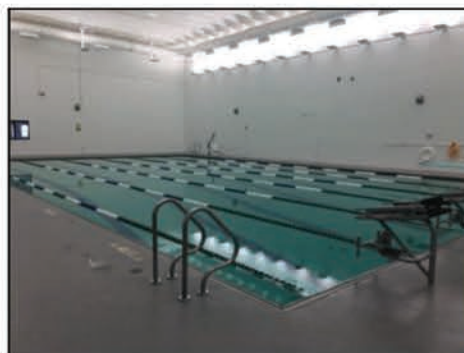
The new Phillips Aquatic Center's Grand Opening is set for **Saturday, April 21 from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM.** It will become the *first indoor, year-round swimming facility in the Minneapolis park system.*

Complete with two pools, the Aquatic Center will reach thousands of youth and families living in Phillips, and greater Minneapolis. The newly renovated Ventura Village facility will be a focal point between the four Phillips neighborhoods and Little Earth of the United Tribes.

Located at 2323 11th Avenue South, the daily entrance fee into the Phillips Aquatic Center will be \$5 a person, with special rates for families with multiple children. There will also be a monthly pass available for \$45. Minneapolis Parks is offering swim lessons for various ages and skill levels with multiple days and time available. 4 swim lessons over 4 weeks will cost residents \$28; non-residents \$38 with scholarships available for qualifying Minneapolis residents. The Aquatics Center will be open year-round and feature multiple pools – one with six lanes for competitive/lap swimming, and another zero-depth entry pool with four lanes and warm water for teaching swim lessons. Tyrize Cox, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) Assistant Superintendent, is working on scheduling and programming for the facility. She shared her enthusiasm for the opening. "We have worked hard to be really thoughtful about the needs of the city and how we can create programs in spaces that make people feel comfortable and welcome," she remarked. "We will have something for everyone."

While the indoor pool has remained empty since 2008, community members have been busy fighting to save it. In 2009, the Park Board funneled \$1.6 million into renovation of the 49,000 square foot facility, eventually reopening it as the Phillips Community Center. Due to high operating costs, the pool was closed and would have been filled with concrete had it not been for residents of Phillips who mobilized a movement to bring the public pool to a city – which has undeniable disparities in swimming access and ability. Minneapolis is home to a staggering thirteen lakes and is situated on both banks of the Mississippi River. Despite often being lauded for its abundance of water, the city maintains minimal access to public pools for residents to learn basic water survivability skills. The negative consequences of this lack disproportionately impacts people of color and Indigenous people of Minneapolis. According to a study by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the drowning rate for American Indians and Alaska Natives is the highest in the country and twice the rate of whites. The USA Swimming Foundation cites that the youth drowning rate is 2 to 3 times higher than the national average in ethnically-diverse communities. This disparity has deep roots in systemic racial discrimination leading to unjust swimming access and opportunity. The risk of drowning is drastically reduced after learning how to swim. Drowning continues to be the second leading cause of death in the country for children ages 1 to 14 years old. Rebecca Gagnon, the Chair of the Minneapolis Board of Education who championed the pool, believes opening the pool is a step toward addressing the inequities when it comes to aquatics access in the city. "[Minnesota] has one of the highest drowning rates if you look at children of color in the country," Gagnon said.

"In my opinion, like so many things in Minnesota, access is a privilege – access to a pool to learn how to swim, access to swim lessons, access to culturally relevant facilities." Tyrize Cox described one of the primary goals of the facility when stating, "We are developing the skills of residents and increasing their ability to swim to survive." This commitment means providing accessible and affordable swimming facilities and lessons. "We recognize that by being in a city with so much water, it is in the best interest of all of us to make sure our citizens can swim," Cox added. For that reason, the pool was not made with Olympic swimmers in mind. Rather, it was built to provide residents of all ages and abilities with the opportunity to build our knowledge of water. Over 50 K-12 schools are within a 2 mile radius of the pool making it a vital addition in the face of many public school pool closures, especially in low-income neighborhoods.



Only 3 public school pools in Minneapolis remain; including lap pools at Northeast Middle School and Southwest High School, and the therapy pool at Dowling Elementary School. Students seeking competitive swim opportunities face long commutes and crowded lanes. In 2015, the Minneapolis Board of Education entered into a memorandum of understanding with the Park Board, agreeing to contribute \$1.75 million in capital funds toward the renovation of the pool and \$150,000 a year in operating support for 5 years. Gagnon said, "[The Phillips Aquatic Center] was built to be accessible, culturally relevant and welcoming. We aren't just saying that we're doing it; we've actually created a structure that fulfills that promise."

Despite what appeared to be insurmountable costs to reopen and maintain the pool, advocates believed that this public pool would play a vital role in increasing water survivability of Minneapolis youth and adults. Community members collected data and lobbied their case to the Park Board, Minneapolis Public Schools, funders, and even legislators of Minnesota. The project budget for the Phillips Community Center Aquatics Facility totals \$5,466,000. The State of Minnesota committed to \$1.75 million in bonds with Hennepin County pitching in an additional \$350,000 to pay for the facility overhaul. In March 2017 at a community event about the pool, Representative Karen Clark of District 62A said, "We wouldn't have won this state funding without talking about racism," she stated. "It's really hard, but we did it and the state was happy to put in funding for this project." Secured funding also came from the Hennepin County's Youth Sports Grant program, Minneapolis Swims, and Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, among others. According to SMSC Vice Chairman Keith Anderson, "The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community provided the matching grant because we wanted to be involved in a project that benefits local children and families. As a neighbor, we have partnered with the City of Minneapolis and many Minneapolis organizations on important causes. Minneapolis Swims is one of them. We know that the renovated aquatic center will provide healthy and positive recreational opportunities in this diverse community, and we're proud to be part of that." Denny Bennett, President and Board Chair of Minneapolis Swims, also confirmed that his organization would provide scholarships to youth visiting the pool through the "Shakym Adams 'Learn-to-Swim' Scholarship Fund." This fund, in honor of Shakym Adams, a Minneapolis South High School football player who drowned in Lake Nokomis, will provide scholarships to families for pool access and swimming lessons. Updates on these scholarships will be available on Minneapolis Swims' Facebook page. Bennett says his hope is "to get to the point where we are teaching every kid how to swim before they get out of third grade in Minneapolis. Starting in Phillips." The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board continues to search for lifeguards, customer service attendants, and aquatics specialists to hire and train. Cox continues to be intentional about hiring staff. "It has been a real priority for us to seek out people who reflect the languages and the cultures of the community," she said. Programming will also be inclusive of interests in both recreational and fitness swimming. The facility will include swim lessons, water aerobics, and open swim for families and seniors. There will be family/all-gender locker rooms as well as separate locker rooms for men and women. In addition to water programs and swim lessons, the facility will offer gender-specific classes and swim times.

• CAMILLE ERICKSON, ADAPTED FROM MARCH, 2018 CIRCLE NEWS ARTICLE

## VENTURA VILLAGE APRIL 2018 MEETING SCHEDULE

- General Membership Meeting at 7:00 pm, Wednesday, April 11, 2018 at the Phillips Community Center
- Housing & Land Use Committee – Meets 5:30 p.m. Thursday, April 26, 2018 at the Phillips Community Center
- Crime & Safety Committee– Meets 6:30 p.m., Thursday, April 26, 2018 at the Phillips Community Center
- Community Engagement Committee – Meets 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 24, 2018 at the Phillips Community Center
- Wellness, Gardening & Greening Committee – None Scheduled at this time



## POOL SNEAK PEEKS:

WED: 4/11 (4:30 - 7:30 PM)  
THU: 4/12 (4:30 - 7:30 PM)  
FRI: 4/13 (4:30 - 7:30 PM)  
MON: 4/16 (4:30 - 7:30 PM)  
TUE: 4/17 (4:30 - 7:30 PM)  
SAT: 4/14 (1-4 PM)





# Movie Corner

By HOWARD MCQUITTER II  
oldschoolmovies.wordpress.com  
howardmcquitter68@gmail.com

**“Submission”**  
**(2017) Drama**  
**Great Point Media**  
★★★★☆

I never read Francine Prose’s novel “Blue Angel” but the movie the novel is based on is unfortunately (and perhaps mercifully) prosaic, hackneyed, and squanders what could and should have a better look into # Me Too politics.

Though director Richard Levine (“Every Day”) concludes his movie, “Submission” speaks for itself without rendering any-more dirty details about real or perceived sexual harassment in the workplace.

Ted Swenson (Stanley Tucci) is a professor of creative writing at a small college in bucolic Vermont teaching a handful of students. One student Angel Argo (Addison Timlin), in particular, stands out as a candidate with great writing abilities. Swenson seems like a happily married man to Sherrie (Kyra Sedgwick), a campus nurse, with one daughter Ruby (Colby Minifie) about to come home from a college.

As time passes, Angela gives Ted copies of a novel she’s writing by the title *Eggs*. He likes what she’s writing and says so. She returns to his office many times giving the professor more pages for him to read. Make no mistake about it, “Submission” is oozing with predictability.

Of course, the saga vamps up when Ted and Angela cross the

line of morality and professionalism causing more grief for both, especially for the prof.

The line crossed is Ted and Angela engage in an illicit sexual relationship or short of that—too much kissing and touching anyway.

After that ordeal, Ted’s life begins to crumble once Angela slaps a sexual harassment suit on him. The dean (Ritchie Coster) tells him resignation is in order. Ted and Angela go before the college board to each tell what happened.

Angela sits next to her parents hanging on to her like an octopus showing only showing a little emotion. So when Angela proceeds to tell the “dirty” details before the board she adds a ring of untruth to her story. Ted objects to her story by standing up saying such and such isn’t true.

Ted’s life gets worse when he tells his wife Sherrie (Kyra Sedgwick) the bad news of his affair at a four-five restaurant the response is unforgiving. His daughter (Colby Minifie) calls him blaming for causing her mother pain.

Ted now faces a wife that leaves him, a daughter that he’s alienated and a good job he’s out of. For Angela does she go on to write that great novel, the one with erotic notions-- sort of a reality play?

As I look to find a much more telling story of sexual harassment I find such a story (based on real events) in director Niki Coro’s movie “North Country”(2005) centers on Lori Jenson’s (Charlize Theron) harassment case against a Minnesota iron mine in 1984. “North Country” has much more gravitas than Levine’s post-Weinstein “Submission” on sexual harassment or lack thereof.

Addison Timlin does the best she can with a stunningly mediocre script that’s blandly executed. Levine also writes the script; he directs the movie.

Cast: Stanley Tucci (Ted Swenson), Addison Timlin (Angela Argo), Janeane Garofalo (Magda Moynaham, Kyra Sedgwick (Sherrie Swenson), Ritchie Coster (Dean Bentham), Colby Minifie (Ruby Swenson), Henry Stram



(Dave Sterret), Ashley Trawinski (Meg), Juan Castano (Carlos), Stephanie Berry (Arlene Shurley), Devin Kawaoka (Danny), David Pittu (Bernard Levy), Nicole Orth-Pallavicini (Govind), Kenneth De Abrew (Govind), S.J. (Female Student). Director: Richard Levine. Writer: Richard Levine. Running time: 97 minutes. Not rated.

## Phillips Aquatic Center

at Phillips Community Center  
2323 11<sup>th</sup> Ave. So.

### OPEN HOUSE WEEK

Mpls. Parks & Recreation is hosting an open house of activities and tours, the week before the April 21<sup>st</sup> Grand Opening, to introduce this one-of-a-kind facility to the community.

**Come by to learn about all it offers:**

**Wed 4/11, Thu 4/12, Fri 4/13, Mon 4/16 and Tues 4/17  
from 4:30-7:30 PM and Sat 4/14 from 1-4 PM**

- Take a “stay-dry” tour of the six-lane competition pool and the four-lane teaching pool.
- Programs and lessons — Talk with aquatics staff about swim instruction, lap swim, family swim and more; register for programs that fit your needs and interests.
- Passes — Learn about and purchase monthly and seasonal pool-admission passes.
- Take home information to share with family and friends.

*Note: the pools will not be open during these sessions*  
**For more info: [info@minneapolisparcs.org](mailto:info@minneapolisparcs.org)**



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**Thank you**  
**43**  
**Years of  
advertising!**

## MayDay is Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>!

By MEG WALSH  
It is MayDay season! Join in to make it happen!

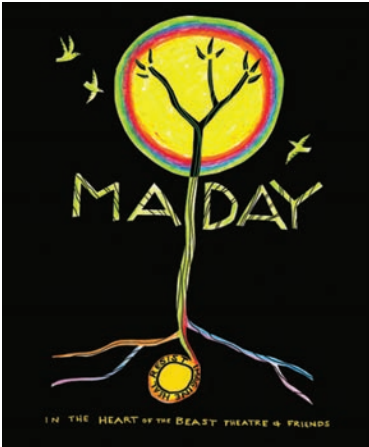
**Help build the parade and tree of life ceremony**  
**Come to the Public Workshops** to build and rehearse MayDay! And bring a neighbor!  
Come once, or come many times!  
**April 7 – May 3**  
EVERY Tues & Thurs from 7-9 PM  
AND Sat from 9-11 AM and 1-3 PM  
**ALL WELCOME!** (10 and under must be accompanied by an adult)  
We look forward to seeing YOU!

**Help MayDay be a welcoming day for everyone!**  
We need “neighborhood ushers” on the day of MayDay to welcome folks to the neighborhood and to help newcomers figure out the logistics of viewing the Parade and Ceremony.

**Please note: This is a new WELCOMING INITIATIVE!**  
Call HOBT at 612-721-2535 or visit: <http://signup.com/go/FLunRnQ>

Also, **volunteers are needed at each of the public Puppet Build Workshops** in April and we need lots of help enacting the Parade and Ceremony on Sunday May 6. Sign up: <https://hobt.org/mayday/volunteer/>

**Hello Dear Neighbors!**  
The 44<sup>th</sup> MayDay Festival is soon! Do you reserve a spot with a blanket to watch the Tree of Life Ceremony on the hillside in Powderhorn Park? If so, we need YOUR help: Someone showed aerial photo to us of that hill during the Ceremony, and we were surprised by how many blankets were empty! There were many people without seats. Yikes! Will you help us fill that gap? Please, only save a spot if you know you will use it. And then, if you have extra room on your blanket, please welcome someone to share your space. You might meet someone new! You will then participate in the strongest purpose of Mayday—“to bring people together for the Common Good”  
**THANK YOU!!! – HOBT**



### MayDay Green Team

By LUCINDA ANDERSON

MD Green Team needs volunteers. 2018 is our 5<sup>th</sup> year helping reduce waste at MayDay event. It presents a fantastic opportunity to learn planning and doing Public Event waste reduction. You’ll join an awesome group of fellow volunteers.  
Volunteers needed on MayDay; mark May 6<sup>th</sup>!  
Interested, or have questions? Lucinda Anderson at [luroympls@yahoo.com](mailto:luroympls@yahoo.com). Thanks!





## Raise Your Voice Bullies Among Us

By PETER MOLENAAR

Let the neighborhood know that the Franklin Street Bakery has been under investigation for reportedly violating workplace rights. The National Labor Relations Board has found merit to some 50 violations of Federal law, such as confiscation of pro-union literature and prohibiting workers from speaking about the Union (Bakers... Local #22) during break times.

What should we call an employer who routinely hires vulnerable immigrants and then deploys intimidation to thwart union certification drives? Accordingly, Local #22 supports a path to citizenship and endorses the movement for immigrant rights.

### Bullies....

In my father's youth, capitalism spawned Hitler. Minnesota's best iron deposits were then exhausted and squandered to war.... Fast forward to Polymet's copper-nickel mine proposal.

Polymet is destined to go forward (national security), very likely under the governorship of Tim Walz, with Peggy Flanagan (White Earth) cast to placate tribal concerns. Okay, good jobs for 20 years; pollution abatement for hundreds of years hence. What could go wrong?

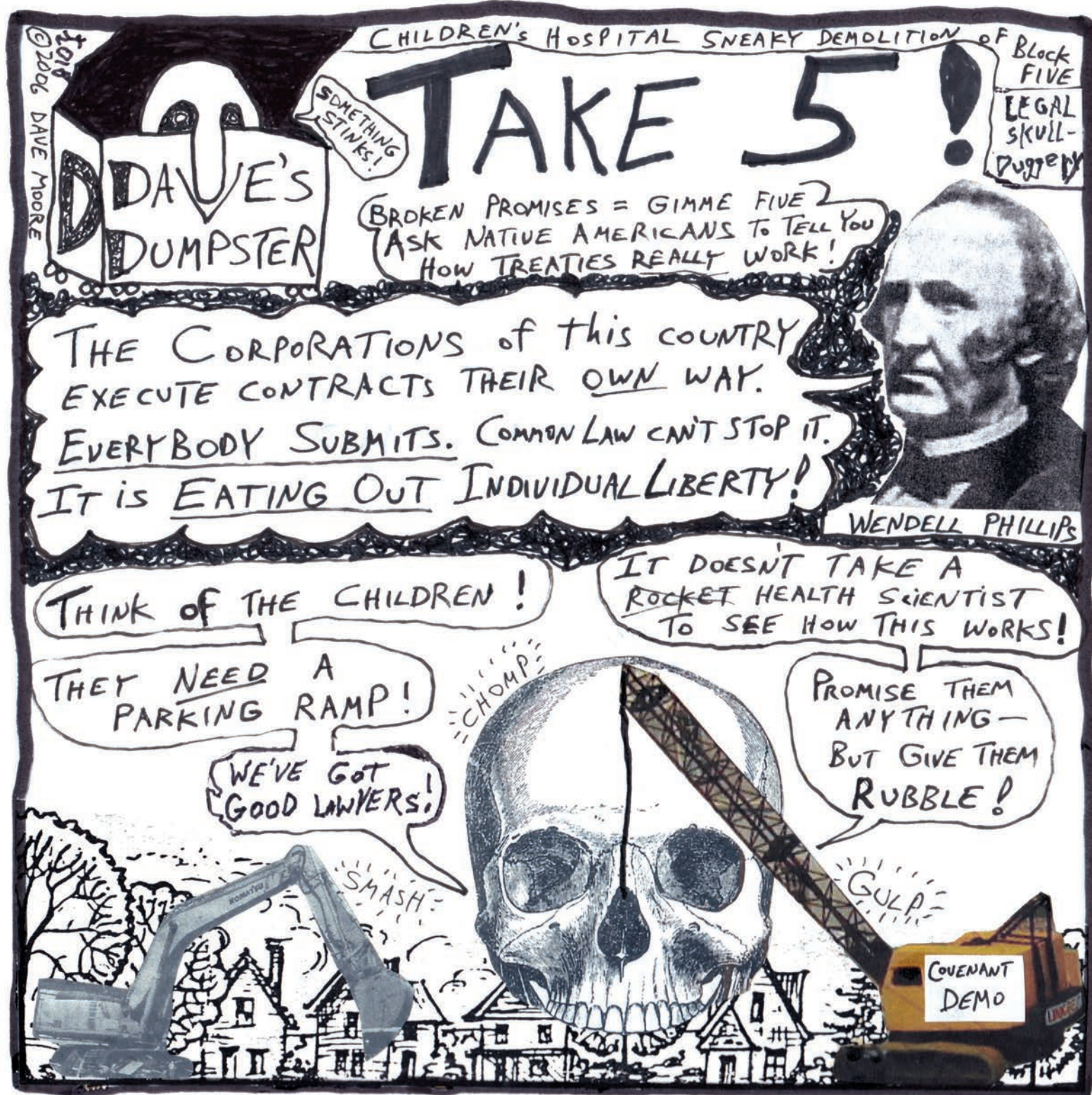
Well, Polymet is merely a front for the Swiss company Glencore,

a company implicated in environmental disasters, labor violations, and human rights abuses around the world (see: MINING TRUTH online). From Polymet, will we create the infrastructure for a post-fossil fuel world?

### Meanwhile...

The D. T-rump has fired the Rex-T. because in part, Rex was "soft on Iran". What next?

*Sadly, there are bullies among us.*



## Minneapolis' South High School students march under clear skies, the watchful eye of Principal Aponte, and the flight of an eagle.

By SOUTHHIGHSCHOOL FACEBOOK PAGE AND PARTIALLY ADAPTED FROM THE GUARDIAN

On March 14, 2018, specifically, memorializing the mass shooting one month before and, generally, heightening awareness and a call for action, thousands of high school students walked out of their schools in peaceful but poignant marches all over the U.S., Minnesota, Minneapolis, and here pictured at South High School in south Minneapolis.

On February 14, 2018 Seventeen people were killed as the United States endured another horrifying school shooting at the hands of a teenage gunman armed with an AR-15 assault rifle. Twelve people died inside Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Two died just outside the building, one died in a nearby street and two victims died in hospital.



COURTESY SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL'S FACEBOOK PAGE

After initial reports of a shooter, officers surrounded the campus, directing the evacuation of hundreds of students from the scene, while other teens hid inside closets and under desks to stay safe.

A teacher, said the school "could not have been more prepared for this situation", adding, "We have trained the kids for what to do. We

did everything that we were supposed to do."

"I feel today like our government, our country, has failed us and failed our kids and didn't keep us safe," she continued.

The tragedy appears to be the eighth deadliest mass shooting in modern US history and one of the worst-ever school massacres.





# 4 ACTIONS

## 4 ACTIONS Exhibit at AIM-IC

By HARVEY WINJE

The AIM Gallery has a new Exhibit documenting Four AIM “ACTIONS” with dynamic photography of events by J Arthur Anderson, Gerald Auginash, Heidi Inman, and Ivy Vainio.

The American Indian Movement Interpretive Center, 1113 East Franklin Avenue is open from 10AM-4PM week days and by appointment: 612-886-2107 or [eric@aim-ic.com](mailto:eric@aim-ic.com)

## Fantastical Worlds Exhibition at ASI

By THE AMERICAN SWEDISH INSTITUTE

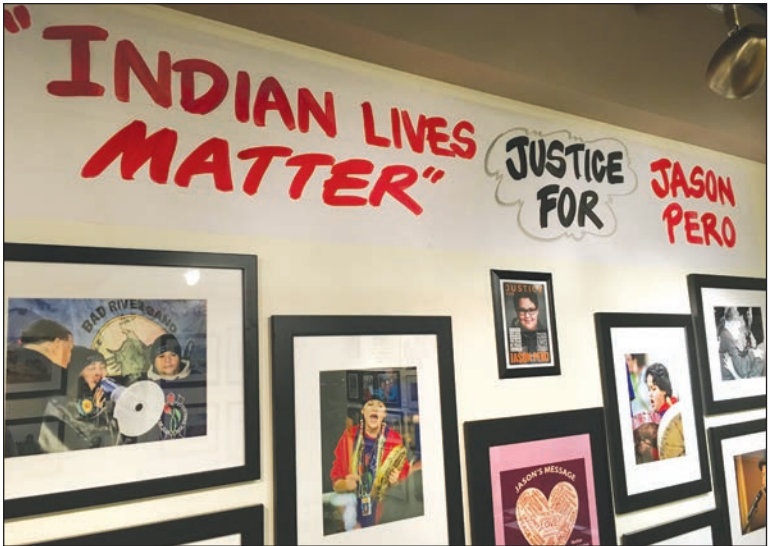
The Fantastical Worlds of Kim Simonsson, a new exhibition at the ASI, showcases sculptor Kim Simonsson of Fiskars, Finland, who crafts beguiling, evocative and otherworldly life-sized ceramics figures, including those he calls “Moss People.” A kneeling girl talking to a two-headed bunny, a sleeping woman surrounded by ghost children and a girl with golden birds flying out of her eyes are contemporary creations that invite viewers into a fairytale-like world inspired by Finland’s primeval forests April 21 – July 15, 2018. Nearly 35 selections of Simonsson’s work will be on view in the ASI’s contemporary Osher Gallery, and throughout the historic Turnblad Mansion. ASI is located at 2600 Park Avenue, Minneapolis. For more details, visit [ASImn.org](http://ASImn.org) or call 612-871-4907.



HARVEY WINJE/ALLEYNEWS

### HEALING

“On the Red Road” New Year Celebration of Sobriety



HARVEY WINJE/ALLEYNEWS

### UNIFYING

“Indian Lives Matter” -Justice for Jason Pero



HARVEY WINJE/ALLEYNEWS

### OPPOSING

“No Honor in Racist Names or Imagery”



HARVEY WINJE/ALLEYNEWS

### PROTECTING

“All of the Sacred Colors Standing Up for Standing Rock”



HARVEY WINJE/ALLEYNEWS

### PROTECTING

“Protect Water, The Most Sacred Medicine that Runs Through Mother Earth”



HARVEY WINJE/ALLEYNEWS

### PROTECTING

“For our Women, Children, and those Yet Unborn...NO LINE 3!”

From page 1

## ...Standing on the shoulders of giants and Annie was one of those

As former Commissioner and close friend John Erwin said, “The loss of Annie is going to leave a void in our lives but renaming and dedicating this park will help.”

Young served the people of Minneapolis as an at-large park Commissioner from 1989 to 2017 and is the second longest serving commissioner in the Park system’s history. At the gathering, she was recognized for her leadership on the Park Board to limit pesticides use, restore natural grasslands, establish dog parks, bring solar panels to park buildings and promote youth employment.

Sharon Day, longtime friend and executive director of the Indigenous People’s Task Force, opened the gathering with a traditional indigenous prayer to the Four Directions. She talked of Young as “a great friend of the

Indian people of Minneapolis,” whose love of the Mississippi River and nature revealed her spiritual side.

Recently elected Commission LaTrisha Vetaw spoke of Young’s work and activism with the Green Party. First elected as a Green in 1997, Young was the longest serving Green Party elected official in Minneapolis. She was involved in several national Green Party campaigns and ran for State Auditor with Green Party endorsement in 2005.

Young is also broadly known for her work supporting and creating the food cooperative movement in Minnesota and South Dakota, and as a community organizer. She worked for the Harrison Neighborhood Association (HNA) on environmental issues in the 1980s and again in the 2000s and

played a key role in getting the Wirth Cooperative Grocery Store that opened last year, established.

Annie was one of the key Phillips Community and Little Earth leaders that worked to prevent a garbage transfer station being built in the early 1990s by HN County near Hiawatha Ave. and 28<sup>th</sup> St. From that successful struggle, she developed the vision that led to the creation of the Green Institute in 1993, one of the projects of which she was the most proud.

As evidenced in the stories shared about her, economic justice and environmental sustainability were at the core of Young’s life. Her political and professional work focused on the co-ops, the parks, environmental justice, campaigning and working for left, green leaning candidates and



COURTESY OF THE YOUNG FAMILY

building the Green Party. It was also a life rich in friends and family. Family was central to her life, as it was at the gathering which was organized and led by her son Shawn Young and grandson Shawn Young Lerhoff.

“She was a creative woman who had vision and the ability to get things done,” said interim Park Superintendent Mary Merrill

Anderson. “We are standing on the shoulders of giants and Annie was one of those giants.”

“We love you Annie,” her grandson Shawn added. “You live on in all of us.”

Cam Gordon is Mpls. City Councilmember of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward