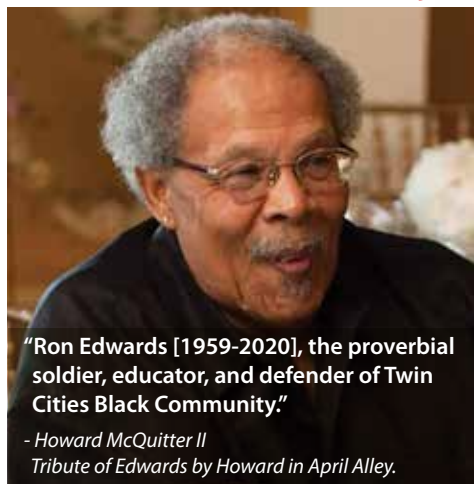




# COUNTING

Projected 2020 Census Under-COUNT in Alley Radius! - See P3



"Ron Edwards [1959-2020], the proverbial soldier, educator, and defender of Twin Cities Black Community."

- Howard McQuitter II  
Tribute of Edwards by Howard in April Alley.

COURTESY M SPOKESMAN-RECORDER

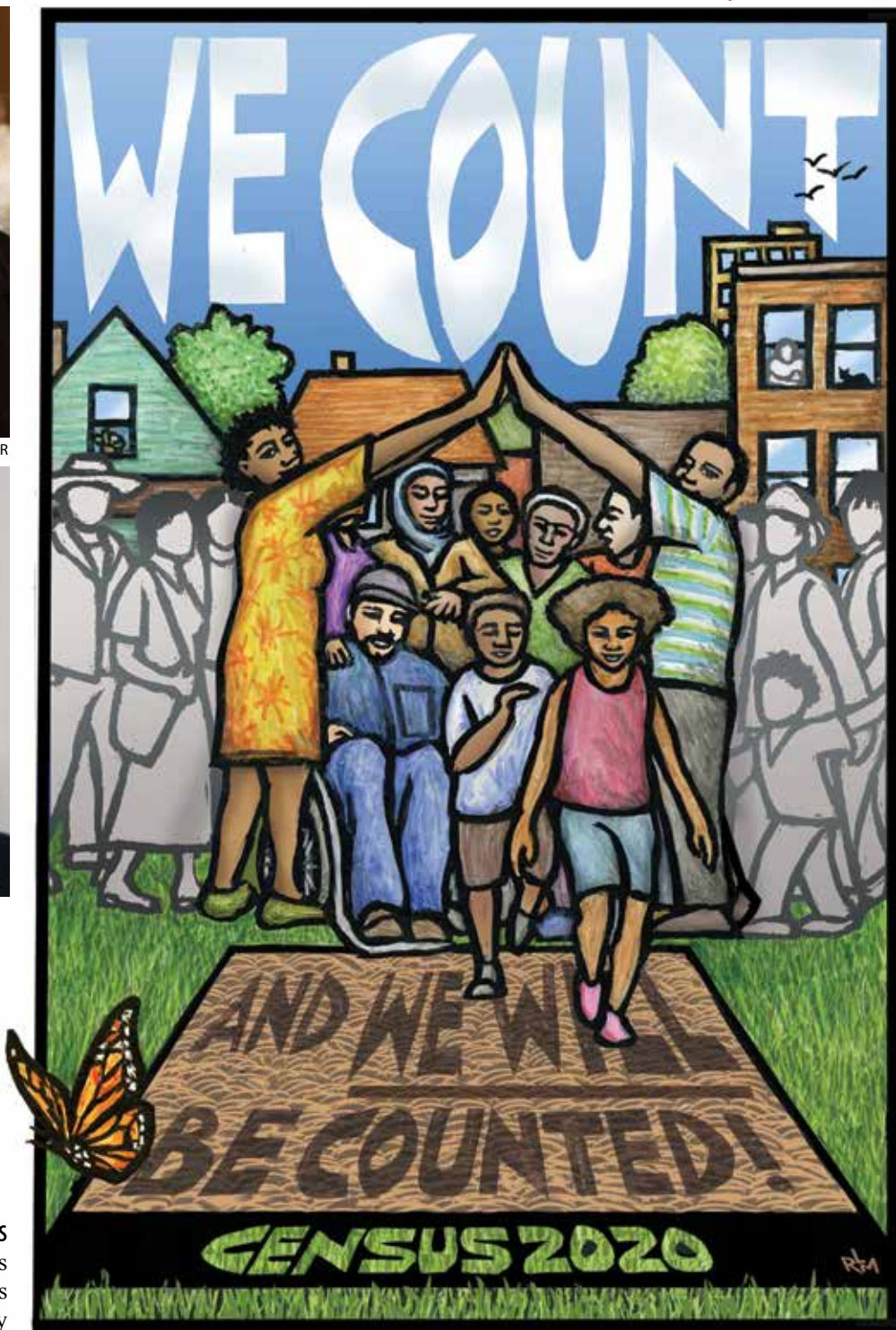


Alberder Gillespie

## Alberder Gillespie Leads Mpls. Census

By CITY NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Alberder Gillespie, Mpls. 2020 Census Project Coordinator is leading Mpls.' efforts to ensure that all residents are accurately counted. An accurate population count is vital in determining political representation for Minnesota and federal funding.

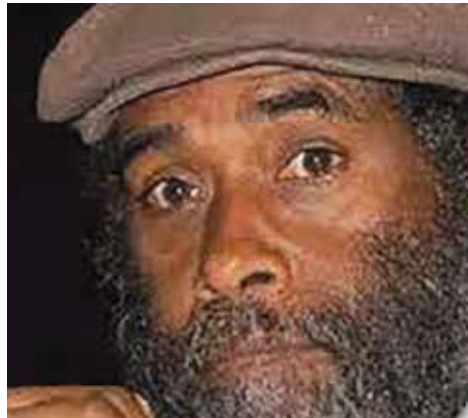


Artwork by Ricardo Levins Morales. Curated by Creative CityMaking Artists Roxanne Anderson and Anna Meyer for the WeCount Minneapolis Census 2020. Creative CityMaking is a program of The Office of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy at the City of Minneapolis. Funding is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts and The Kresge Foundation. For more information on WeCount Minneapolis Census 2020, please visit <http://bit.ly/ccmcensus2020>.



### Indigenous Women's March

Feb. 14, 2020 - Hundreds honored Missing and Murdered Women seeking action.



Dwight Hobbes' column  
Something I Said begins in The Alley - P11

Alley ELC Intro P4  
Alley 2019 Front Pages and  
Alley Help Wanted P6 & 7



About The Artist  
Ricardo Levins Morales - P8

### Publisher's Jacket Preview

## "The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable"

By AMITAV GHOSH;

The University of Chicago Press, 2016

"Ghosh's book serves as a great writer's summons to confront the most urgent task of our time."

"Are we deranged? The acclaimed Indian novelist Amitav Ghosh argues that future generations will think so. How else to explain our imaginative failure in the face of global warming? In his first major book of non-fiction since "In an Antique Land", Ghosh examines our inability—at the level of literature, history and politics—to grasp the scale and violence of climate change.

"The extreme nature of today's climate events, Ghosh asserts, makes them peculiarly resistant to contemporary modes of thinking and imagining. This is particularly true of serious literary fiction: hundred-year storms and freakish tornadoes simply feel too improbable for the novel; they are



### Dorothy Benson: Daughter's Tribute

## "I guess because they were hungry."

By MICHELLE BENSON

Dorothy Benson, my mother, was a resident of the Phillips Neighborhood since the early 1950's. She and my father fought very hard against "Model Cities"\*\*\* in the sixties which were trying to isolate and divide Phillips Neighborhood by building freeways like what happened to Rondo neighborhood in St. Paul. They were both very immersed in the DFL (Democratic Farmer Labor party), politics, PNIA (Phillips Neighborhood Improvement Association), and Neighborhood activism.

Philips Neighborhood is where she raised us; a family of six children. While the youngest was in diapers, the oldest was in college. My father worked a day job while

"My mother was a self-made woman who excelled in everything—activism, selling, cooking, and being a mother to us and the neighborhood."

my mom had a day care business along with the full time job of raising us, too. However, we were not the only children mom inspired along the way. My sister reminded me of the Christmases when mom took neighborhood kids in, five or six at a time, and they made homemade Christmas cookies from scratch. They would all take their treats home and mom would tell them to "send the next group of kids!"

My mother was very compassionate about the kids. She would always try to find time to read to them out on the porch, or ask them if they were hungry because she knew how important it was and what some of their situations were at home.



Dorothy Benson



## 2020 CENSUS \* You COUNT \* Be COUNTED \* You are COUNTED Upon \* CENSUS 2020



### Alley Communications IS

facilitating culture and creativity in and around Phillips area of Minneapolis through publications, research, public forums, classes, workshops, artistic presentations, social media.

*"When the great newspapers don't say much, see what the little independent ones say."*  
—Wendell Phillips 1811-1884

### IS also doing business as

**The Alley Newspaper and alleynews.org**  
Connecting Neighbors, Promoting Art and Culture, Advocating on Issues, Building Healthy Community, Facilitating Deliberation, Lifting Every Voice, Documenting History, Agitating for Change, Giving Truth and Democracy a Jog Forward representing the residents and businesses aided by its 501C-3, Not-for-Profit status.

### Owned by Phillips Residents

**Governed by Directors:**  
Cathy Strobel-Ayres, Chair; Thorbjorn Adam, Treas; Thorbjorn Adam, Steve Dreyer, Lee Leichtenritt, Frances Mendenhall, Gabriel Pass, Steve Sandberg

### Operated via an Editorial Leadership Team:

Lindsey Fenner,  
Carz Nelson, Minkara Tezet

### Facilitated by Engagement and Program

**Coordinator:** Interim-Default Harvey Winje

### Electronic Production:

Hard Copy: Jeff Kaphingst —Jeff the Designer;  
Steve Dreyer and Julia Robinson, VV News;  
Brad Pass, EPIC News; Sunny Sevigny, MPNIA News; Susan Ann Gust, CWCHH;  
Social Media: Jeff Kaphingst —Jeff the Designer

### Appreciative of these volunteering workers who have help make the current Newspaper and Social Media:

Atum Azzahir, Roberta Barnes, Megan Benedict, Michelle Benson, Chicago University Press, Cultural Wellness Center Backyard Health Hub, Mikky Daub, Steve Dreyer, East Phillips Neighborhood Coalition, East Phillips Neighborhood Institute, Lindsey Fenner, LaDonna Funderburke, Amitav Ghosh, Alberder Gillespie, Susan Gust, Linnea Hadaway, Mike Hazard, Henn. Franklin Library & Staff and Main Library Special Collections, Casper Hill, Dwight Hobbes, Sue Hunter Weir, Mary Ellenn Kaluza, Rose Lobley, Meghan Marriotti, Marti Maltby, Tim McCall, Howard McQuitter, Jana Metge, Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association, City of Minneapolis-Census, Communications, Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder, Karen E. Moe, Dave Moore, Peter Molenaar, Ricardo Levins Morales, RLMArt Studios, Carz Nelson, Sheila Nezhad, Brad Pass, Phillips West Neighborhood Organization, Julia Robinson, Sunny Sevigny, Melissa Schmitt, Minkara Tezet, Ventura Village Neighborhood, John Charles Wilson, Crystal Windschitl, Caspian Wirth-Petrik.

**Supported** by and **thankful** for contributions from neighbors, readers, advertising, workplace giving membership in Community Shares MN, contributions through GiveMN, some subscriptions and occasional grants. Financial contributions are needed, appreciated, and tax deductible.

**Delivering Newspapers** to every Phillips house by Jeff Matson Delivery; and to 170 businesses, places of worship, institutions in Phillips and adjacent neighborhoods by Peter Molenaar

### Having Board meetings monthly:

6:30PM 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in Ventura Village Meeting Room in Phillips Aquatic Center at 2323 11<sup>th</sup> Av.

**Receiving correspondence that becomes the property of AC, Inc. dba The Alley Newspaper and may be published.**

Acknowledging that views and opinions expressed in *The Alley Newspaper* and Social Media are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of Alley Communications, Board of Directors, Editorial Leadership Committee, or other neighbors and writers.

Receiving mail and calls at:  
P.O. Box 7006  
Mpls., MN 55407  
612-990-4022

Available at:  
[www.alleynews.org](http://www.alleynews.org)  
[twitter.com/alleynewspaper](https://twitter.com/alleynewspaper)

Archives:1976 thru 2007 <http://bit.ly/2GaYHIU> and at Franklin and Central Libraries.

AD@alleynews.org 612-990-4022

*"Let me make the newspaper and I care not who makes the religion and the laws."*  
—Wendell Phillips 1811-1884

**Next Deadline IS  
March 15, 2020**



## What's Up at Your Community Libraries

By LINDSEY FENNER

### FRANKLIN LIBRARY

The Franklin Library renovation is 98% complete! Look for a reopening celebration in the early spring!

### Seeking nature donations for a Franklin Library Teen Program

A teen-led science and technology program at Franklin Library is looking for donated nature items. We are most interested in found animal skulls and interesting rocks you may have in your home. Please no feathers or small shells. These items will be part of a Nature Trading Program at Franklin Library, which will reopen spring 2020.

Please drop off any donations to Hosmer Library: 347 E 36th St, Minneapolis, MN 55408 through March 2020.

### Coffee & Conversations (for adults)

**Tuesday, March 3, 10AM-12PM**

*Minneapolis American Indian Center, 1530 E Franklin Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55404*

Join Franklin staff for free coffee and doughnuts, plus special guest performer local hip-hop artist Tufawon



### EAST LAKE LIBRARY

**2727 E. Lake Street**

**W, F, Sa: 9AM-5PM**

**M, T, Th: 9AM-8PM Su: 12-5PM**

### YOUTH AND FAMILIES

#### Homework Help

**M, T, Th: 4-7PM**

Free in-person tutoring for K-12 students. No advance sign-up needed. Tutors available September 16 to May 21, except on holidays and school breaks.

### Family Storytime

**Friday March 13, 2020**

**Friday, March 20, 2020**

**Friday, March 27, 2020**

**Friday, April 3, 2020**

**10:15-10:45AM**

For children of all ages and their caregivers. Talk, sing, read, write, and play together in a format appropriate for young children. Share books, stories, rhymes, music, and movement.

### Baby Storytime

**Friday, March 13, 2020**

**Friday, March 20, 2020**

**Friday, March 27, 2020**

**Friday, April 3, 2020**

**11:15-11:45AM**

For children from birth to 24 months and their caregivers. Talk, sing, read, write and play together in a format especially designed for babies. Share books, stories, rhymes, music and movement.

### FOR ADULTS

#### Mobile Law Library

**Monday, March 2, 2020**

**Monday, March 16, 2020**

**2-5PM**

Connect with librarians from Hennepin County Law Library about legal resources and support.

#### City of Minneapolis Small

#### Business Support

**Tuesday, March 17, 2020**

**3-5PM**

City of Minneapolis Small Business Team will be available to support individuals hoping to start or who are currently running a small business in Minneapolis. No appointment necessary. Collaborator: City of Minneapolis Small Business Team.

#### Introduction to Field Recording

#### and Interviewing Techniques

**Monday, March 16, 2020**

**6:00-7:45PM**

Learn about the radio interview process with hands-on practice with KFAI Radio's Melissa Olson and Ryan Dawes. Explore how to use recording gear and learn about creative interview techniques such as scheduling, preparation, planning questions and follow-up questioning. Ethical issues that come up during interviews will also be explored. Collaborator: More Than a Single Story. Funded by Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. Registration Required [www.hclib.org](http://www.hclib.org)



### HOSMER LIBRARY

**347 E. 36<sup>th</sup> Street**

**M, T, W: 9AM-8PM**

**Th, F, S: 9AM-5PM Su: 12-5PM**

### YOUTH AND FAMILIES

#### Teen Tech Workshops

**Tuesdays, 4:30-6PM**

Get creative and make music, crafts, animation and other projects using both high- and low-tech tools, everything from iPads and 3D printers to perler beads and sewing machines. Led by the library's Teen Tech Squad. Sponsor: Friends of the Hennepin County Library. Suitable for preteens and teens.

#### Homework Help

**M, T: 3:30-7:30PM Sa: 1-4PM**

Free in-person tutoring for K-12 students. No advance sign-up needed. Tutors available September 16 to May 21, except on holidays and school breaks.

#### Felt Cartoon Characters

**Monday, March 30, 2020**

**1:30-3:30PM**

K-Grade 5. Design and sew your own stuffed monster, creature or make-believe animal. Draw an

image with dye transfer crayons on paper, and then make your drawing three-dimensional by ironing it onto fabric, and sewing, stuffing and embellishing with a variety of colorful fibers. Materials provided. Collaborator: Textile Center. Funded by Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. Registration required.

### ADULTS

#### Conversation Circles

**Saturdays, 10:30AM-12:30PM**

Non-native English speakers: practice your English and make new friends in an informal, volunteer-led setting, and learn about the library, too.

#### Tech Tuesdays Computer Help

**Tuesdays 12-2PM**

Knowledgeable library staff and volunteers will be available to answer your tech questions about basic computer skills, how to download eBooks, saving files, using Microsoft Office productivity software, Internet and job searching, and social media such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

#### Oral Histories: Interviewing

#### Your Relatives

**Wednesday, March 18, 2020**

**6-7:00PM**

Gathering genealogy facts from family members is different than gathering their oral histories. Learn how to interview your family to yield wonderful and priceless results through practice with professional genealogist Kim Ashford. Funded by Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

#### Seed Sorting Party

**Sunday, March 22, 2020**

**3:30-4:30PM**

Help sort and label donated seeds for the Hosmer Community Seed Library! A seed library is a collection of community-donated seeds that can be borrowed from the library and planted at home. Volunteer while learning more about seed saving and gardening. Collaborator: Plant Grow Share

#### Diversity of Gentrification

**Saturday, March 28**

**2:00-4:00PM**

Join Dr. Edward G. Goetz, Dr. Brittany Lewis, Anthony Damiano, and Molly Calhoun from the University of Minnesota's Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) for a presentation and conversation on their recent study of gentrification in Minneapolis and St. Paul. The study included a focus on the South Minneapolis neighborhoods of Bryant, Central, Corcoran, East Phillips, Phillips West, and Powderhorn Park. Through data and dozens of interviews, they found examples of gentrification in both cities. The presentation will summarize their findings, and describe how gentrification varies from neighborhood to neighborhood.



### PHILLIPS WEST NEIGHBORHOOD UPCOMING EVENTS:

### CHECK OUT THE PHILLIPS WEST WEBSITE:

[WWW.PHILLIPSWEST.INFO](http://WWW.PHILLIPSWEST.INFO)

#### Phillips West Monthly

#### Community Meeting

**March 6th & April 3rd**

**(First Thursday) 6-7PM**

Join your neighbors and other Community Partners for updates from Local City Government & Minneapolis Police! Meeting will take place at the Center for Changing Lives Building in the Centrum Room (2400 Park Avenue). Free parking is available in the rear of building off of Oakland Avenue. Free Jakeeno's Pizza Dinner will be provided! If you would like more information or would like to get involved in the neighborhood please contact Crystal at 612-879-5383 or email her at [pwno2005@yahoo.com](mailto:pwno2005@yahoo.com)



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SAT 7-5 • SUN 7:30-5  
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**CHARITY IS GOOD, CHANGE IS BETTER**

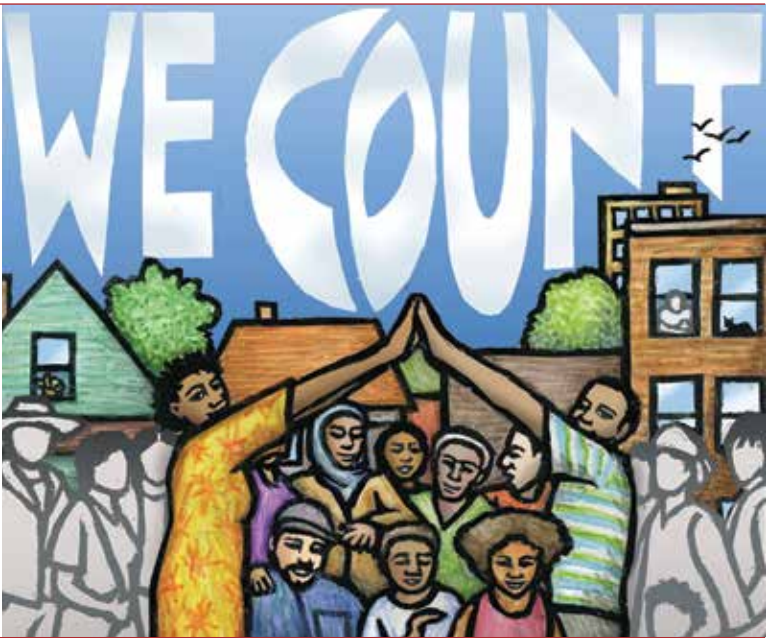


## 23,800 Projected Under-COUNT in Alley Radius!

### 2020 Census Projected UNDERCOUNTS of Neighborhoods to which *The Alley Newspaper* is delivered

*The Alley Newspaper* is delivered to 21,000 people in Phillips.  
That is *more people than in each of 44 Minnesota Counties* (87 total counties)!

Whittier	4,300	Seward	1,700
Cedar-Riverside	2,900	East Phillips	1,500
Powderhorn Park	2,700	Phillips West	1,500
Central	2,500	Midtown Phillips	1,400
Ventura Village	2,200	Corcoran	1,100
Elliot Park	2,000	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23,800</b>



## Mpls. Pest (pestilence—a contagious or infectious, epidemic disease) House isolated Small Pox infected people; except H. M. Moores

*Tales from  
Pioneers and Soldiers  
Memorial Cemetery*

By SUE HUNTER WEIR  
174<sup>th</sup> IN A SERIES

Early in the morning on April 11, 1869, a man, identified in the paper only as “a Swede,” thought that he saw a ghost. He was walking by the Union School when he came across a pale man dressed only in a shirt. The man, who was in an “insensible condition,” was obviously not a ghost but was suffering from smallpox. In his delirium he had jumped out of the second story window at the city’s Pest House and had been wandering the streets before he was found.

The man was H. M. Moores, a 32-year-old traveling salesman who was thought to be from Wisconsin. Several weeks earlier he had traveled to Austin, Minnesota, where he was selling “dampers,” a mechanism that regulated the heat produced by wood and coal burning stoves. He returned to Minneapolis and was staying at the Milwaukee House Hotel when he became sick. He was transferred to the city’s Pest House in an effort to keep him from infecting others. There was only one nurse on staff and she had been caring for Mr. Moores around the clock for more than a week when she dozed off and Mr. Moores made his escape.

His chances of recovery were originally thought to be good but that turned out not to be the case. He died late in the afternoon on the day that he was found by the Swede. Whether the fact that he had run off played any part in his death is not something that we can know for sure, but the *Tribune* labeled his death a case of “criminal neglect” on the part of the Pest House staff and called for the City Council to undertake an investigation. If they did, it was not mentioned in the paper.

Pest houses, later referred to as quarantine hospitals, had been in existence in Europe since the 17th century. The houses functioned somewhat like hospitals but their

primary purpose was to limit the spread of disease by isolating people who were suffering from communicable diseases (“pestilence”) from the general population.

In January 1869, a few months before Mr. Moores died, Mayor Hugh Harrison, had asked the City Council to take steps to establish a pest house in the city which they did. It was located just outside of the city limits in North Minneapolis (around what is now 26th Street North on land now part of Farview Park). As the city’s population grew, it became necessary to relocate the pest house and in 1886 a new one was built in what later became St. Louis Park.

Patients were not the only ones

**3 of 10 people infected by Smallpox died from it. Nearly two hundred years and an estimated hundreds of millions of people dying before smallpox became the first and to-date only human disease to be eradicated; because of a coordinated world-wide program of vaccination. In 1980, the World Health Organization declared the world free from smallpox.**

placed under quarantine. An ordinance passed in January 1870 required that caregivers of quarantined patients also be quarantined. Furthermore, patients could only be moved to the Pest House after dark when few people were out and about and unlikely to come into contact with them.

In June 1869, St. Paul’s city health officer reported that there had been 125 reported cases of smallpox that year. The *Minneapolis Tribune*, always in the business of promoting Minneapolis at St. Paul’s expense, announced that quick action on the part of Minneapolis’ health officer and City Council house had “completely eradicated the disease, so that not a single case remains in the city.” Although smallpox did not seem to infect as many Minneapolis residents, that claim was premature

and ultimately wrong.

In February 1870, two children, Alice and Amos Rafter, aged two and 17 years old respectively, died from smallpox within a matter of weeks, and there were sporadic outbreaks for the next 50 years. Three people who died from smallpox in 1883, two of them from the same family, are buried in the Cemetery. The worst outbreak occurred in 1904 when six members of the Lockwood family died within between March 31 and May 10th, a period of fewer than six weeks.\*

There was no known treatment for smallpox—there was only prevention. Smallpox was an airborne disease, spread through coughing, sneezing and spitting. Three out of ten people who contracted the disease died from it.

Edward Jenner had created a vaccine as early as 1796 but it took almost two hundred years and an estimated hundreds of millions of deaths before smallpox became the first and to-date only human disease to be eradicated. This amazing achievement came about because of a coordinated world-wide program of vaccination. In 1980, the World Health Organization declared the world free from smallpox.

Mr. Moores, the cemetery’s first recorded case of death due to smallpox, is buried in an unmarked grave in the cemetery’s Potters Field.

*\*Their family deserves their own story so watch for it in a future issue.*



TIM MCCALL

In February 1870, two children, Alice and Amos Rafter, aged two and 17 years old respectively, died from smallpox within a matter of weeks, and there were sporadic outbreaks for the next 50 years.

There is not a marker for H. Mr. Moores, the cemetery’s first recorded case of death due to smallpox, because he is buried in an unmarked grave in the Cemetery’s Potters Field.



TIM MCCALL



# Alley’s Editorial Leadership & “Core” Members

The Alley’s Editorial Leadership Committee (ELC) has been a long time coming, but it’s finally here! Provision for the Committee was written into the Alley’s By-Laws, but somehow never quite came together, formally, until recently. It’s an exciting time for the Alley as we meet some of our long-term organizational goals.

The Committee’s role is to work with the Coordinator and the Board of Directors to help the Alley in its role to facilitate communication with the neighbors of Phillips. The ELC strives to ensure that the Alley stays true to its editorial policy of enhancing communication in the community. The Committee takes on a wide range of tasks for the newspaper, leaving the Coordinator and the Board to focus on their core duties.

Want to participate? The Committee is open to new



members. Whether you wish to devote a lot of time to the Committee or you are only able to make occasional contributions, your participation is welcome.

We are excited and proud to introduce our core group of ELC volunteers.

**Lindsey Fenner**

has been involved with the Alley in various capacities since 2016. She is a proud East Phillips resident, public library worker, trade unionist, labor communicator, collaborative writer, and

community gardener. Her work with the Alley is always guided (she hopes) by the spirits of Minnesota writers and journalists Eva Valesh, Meridel Le Sueur, and Marvel Jackson Cooke.

**Mary Ellen Kaluza**

“I first moved to Phillips in 1975, buying a house only a block away in 1979. Since its inception, The Alley has been in my home - either a single copy on the kitchen table or layed out on the living room floor for cut-n-pasting (pre-computers) during my sister, Pat’s, time as editor.

“I joined the ELC because The Alley is a critical resource as the only paper with in-depth information about issues in our community. And, it really is a treasure not just for Phillips, but for the whole city, uncovering and preserving our history.”

**Minkara Tezet**

Griot of Psychology and Psychiatry  
Resident Poet; Cultural Wellness Center

My art form is that of the griot. The Cultural Wellness Center is a cultural community institution that has absorbed my pain, my formal professional training and clinical experience, and my personal journey of healing. These aspects of my experience have then been shaped and alchemized into my work, which is to tell the various layers of that story. This is the artwork of the griot. In cultural communities, it is impossible to separate the art from the work, from personal development, or from life.

As an emerging griot, my work has focused on community healing, community development, and community health practices. At the Cultural Wellness Center, I have come to learn

what it means to produce research anchored in an African System of Thought. Research and the studying of ourselves within the context of the community is a sacred process. My work is to study my heart, what it means to be Black, what it means to be African, and what it means to become conscious of ourselves as spiritual beings. I have learned to use the creativity to study peace and the impact peace can have on my ability to produce knowledge and to be in community.

**Carz Nelson**

Carz works and owns a home in Phillips. She has a passion for history and believes that a community gains power by understanding its past. She joined the ELC to assist the community’s dialogue about its history, its place in the present and the potential for the future.

## Council Member Abdi Warsame Resigns from City Council to Lead Mpls. Housing Authority Ward 6 City Council Vacancy

By LINDSEY FENNER

Phillips West and Ventura Village residents will soon need to elect a new City Council representative. Ward 6 Minneapolis City Council Member Abdi Warsame is leaving the City Council to lead the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority (MPHA), pending City Council approval.

Warsame will be heading MPHA in a time of controversy and crisis. As Minneapolis is in the midst of an affordable housing crisis, the recent deaths of five residents in a fire at a MPHA high-rise building in the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood and the planned implementation of several Trump Administration-backed housing programs, considered by many housing advocates as a step towards dismantling and privatizing public housing, have put more attention on MPHA.

Warsame, elected in 2013, was the first Somali-American elected to the Minneapolis City Council. Prior to serving on the City Council, Warsame lead efforts to redistrict Minneapolis’ political Ward and Precinct boundaries, and was the Executive Director of the Riverside Plaza Tenants Association. Besides Phillips West and Ventura Village, Ward 6 also includes parts of the Stevens Square, Elliot Park, Cedar Riverside, and Seward Neighborhoods. The Minneapolis City Council will be calling for a special election to fill the vacancy.



## Transit Politicians and Light Rail Safety

BY JOHN CHARLES WILSON

The Minnesota State Legislature is finally trying to do something about the rising tide of crime and harmful behavior on public trans-

sit, particularly on the Light Rail system. While many members of the community are saying, “It’s about time!” it looks like what should be a universal issue is rapidly becoming partisan.

Republicans from rural Minnesota and the outer Twin Cities suburbs have one vision of how to make urban transit safer, while Democratic politicians including the mayors of Minneapolis and Saint Paul have different ideas on how to achieve the same thing. Unfortunately, given Minnesota’s history of gridlock at the Capitol, this may well mean nothing will get done, as it happens: another robbery, another stabbing, smoking on trains, loud and boisterous disturbances, etc.

I have a friend who was robbed in broad daylight as he got off a Green Line train in Saint Paul a few months ago, so this is personal to me. He called the police, and they said they would look at the video surveillance tapes to try to find the culprit. Unfortunately, as far as we know, they didn’t find him, so he’s going to get away with preying on a vulnerable old man. This kind of

thing is making people not want to ride the trains anymore, which is a bad thing as this state has spent millions of dollars on Light Rail and plans to expand the system to places like Eden Prairie, which won’t put up with this stuff.

While there has also been a seeming increase in violence on buses, mostly directed at the drivers over fare and rule disputes, the situation on Light Rail is much worse, and directed at innocent passengers. The main problem with Light Rail is the lack of supervision. At least on a bus the driver is present and can see and hear what is going on, intervening and reporting things as need be. However, on a Light Rail train, the operator sits in a sealed cabin in the first car and has almost no interaction with the riders. The obvious answer is more supervision. On that, the parties seem to agree. Where they disagree is on how to handle the homeless and people who cheat the fare. Please, oh mighty members of the Legislature, please don’t let your philosophical differences derail needed changes!

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Peace House Community–A Place to Belong

“Relatives are in Danger!”...Native Community responds with speed and determination

By MARTI MALTBY

After over 20 years of working with social services agencies that serve the homeless, I have seen many different responses to ending homelessness. Some have been more successful than others, while some have benefitted from having good salespeople promoting them as the next big thing. Recently, I have been encouraged by the work of the Native American community, especially with efforts around Franklin and Bloomington. In the last couple of months they have opened two overnight drop-in centers, coordinated overnight street outreach efforts, made sure the issue of homelessness doesn’t slip to the back pages, and generally made a

positive difference to the homeless and the greater community. Most of the responses to homelessness that I have seen haven’t started at this level. When homelessness first became a national problem in the 1980s, this was how people addressed it. Churches, community associations, and similar groups saw the problem growing and took action. As homelessness escalated and overwhelmed what neighborhoods could do, government programs began addressing the crisis. (This is an oversimplification, since homelessness and the federal department of Housing and Urban Development predate the current housing crisis, but it gives you the general outline of the situation.)

Over time, homelessness became an institution, with children who grew up in homeless families becoming homeless as adults, only to see the cycle repeat with their children. Responses to homelessness followed a similar path with scientific studies documenting which programs were most effective, only to have later studies show that new approaches were better, with still more studies showing that the earlier studies were flawed in their assumptions. All of this resulted in shifting priorities and funding as society tried to grapple with the ending homelessness. Today, phrases like “cost effective”, “best practice”, “evidence based” and others dominate the conversation.

And into this arena stepped all parts of the Native American community. Last year the encampment sprung up, and no matter what you thought of it, you had to admit that it made homelessness, especially Native American homelessness, impossible to ignore. Other parts of the community mobilized, pushing for funding and solutions, and when those didn’t materialize fast enough, the community put together the responses I mentioned above. What has impressed me most about this effort is how personally those trying to solve the problem take the problem. At community meetings, the problem isn’t “homelessness”; rather it is that “our relatives” are in danger and dying for

lack of resources. The solution isn’t choosing the best model; it is taking concrete steps to turn available space into shelter as quickly as possible. Stopgap measures are adopted until permanent measures can get up to speed. Activists are not afraid of publicly challenging each other or the organizations at the meetings to do more, but it isn’t done in an effort to shame or self-promote. It is done because of the urgency of seeing family members left in a tragic situation. The speed and determination that the Native community has brought to this problem could be a better model than any other model I’ve ever seen.

HE HAS HIS OWN MIND

By MIKE HAZARD AND MARTI MALTBY

“As you can see, I’m part Irish American, part African American, and part Native American,” said Vernon. I asked what nation. “My brother says Cherokee.” He thumbed through his cellphone texts looking for a picture of his Irish American great grandfather, Henry O’Killian. He never found it. We talked. “I was a cook in the military, a biscuit burner. Sister Rose (the founder of Peace House) hired me to cook. I cooked at Peace House for two or three months, and then I got a job as a machinist. Machinist paid more, but I liked cooking more. I cook everything. I learned a lot about cooking from ex-girlfriends. (Laugh.) Italian, Spanish, Asian... I cook it all.” “I’m a Christian, but there is no honor and distinction in killing people. People can think what they want to think. My Dad was in WWII, my Grandfather was in WWI.” “I followed the model of Muhammad Ali during the Viet-

nam War. I went AWOL. Don’t make me kill somebody. I was a marksman, sharpshooter. But I decided I was against war. We don’t have to kill people to solve problems. If somebody was here in our country, I could shoot to kill. But not these other wars. The Vietnam War was about who was going to control the heroin trade. The Gulf War was about oil. “There’s a proverb in the Bible, Don’t let anybody lead you into Hell. Watch out for Satan. I choose my battles and who my enemies are. When I get to Heaven, I want to hear, ‘You had your own mind.’” “I have a passion for martial arts. I am an instructor in Sunday school at Park Avenue Methodist Church, where Prince attended. It’s a passion. I have belts in kung fu and karate. Kung fu is a style based on animals—tigers, reptiles, insects like scorpions and praying mantises. You watch these beings fight, and learn. Kung fu is soft style. Karate is hard style. There are a thousand different styles.” Vern’s life took a downturn in

2004. Robbers broke his jaw, and a few months later a car hit him as he rode his bike. “I went from \$1,200 a week to less than \$1,200 a month because of my back injury,” he says. Once he completed his therapy, he came back to Peace House, where the community helped him through the difficult time. Now Vern often cooks at Peace House. “I like cooking and I like making people happy through my cooking.” On this day he cooked a delicious jambalaya. You have your own mind, Vern, and yours is a great example of a good life. \* This poetical picture story is by Mike Hazard. Marti Maltby, manager of Peace House, contributed some of the copy. It is part of a project called Peace House People. The work will be exhibited at Franklin Library in April, 2020. The project is funded by an Artist Initiative grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board.



“My father taught me to hunt,” says Vern. “We hunted to eat. Venison, bear, beaver, raccoon, and quail. We lived in southern Illinois, near the Kentucky border. I was a country boy. I’m ready to go back.” MIKE HAZARD

Amitav Ghosh from page 1

automatically consigned to other genres. In the writing of history, too, the climate crisis has sometimes led to gross simplifications; Ghosh shows that history of the carbon economy is a tangled global story with many contradictory and counterintuitive elements. “Ghosh ends by suggesting that politics, much like literature, has become a matter of personal moral reckoning rather than an arena of collective action. But to limit fiction and politics to individual moral adventure comes at a great cost. The climate crisis asks us to imagine other forms of human existence—a task to which fiction, Ghosh argues, is the best suited of all cultural forms. His book serves as a great writer’s summons to confront the most urgent task of our time.” The Alley Newspaper will respond to this summons by including climate change as a topic in each issue. In this issue, notice the quotations at the top of every page by Amitav Ghosh.

Dorothy Benson from page 1

Just last summer, she told me a story about a man with a thick Eastern European accent. This man met another man at Peavey Park and brought him over to our house. Somehow he must have known ‘that lady’ was good. They were hungry, so mom fed them. The next week the same man brought another man to our home. I asked mom, later, why she opened her door to them. She just shrugged and said, “I guess because they were hungry.” All the men had numbers on their arms\*\*\* and the man that met them at Peavey Park (between Chicago and Park Avenues along East Franklin Avenue) was trying to find them and the other men housing, and along the way, a bite to eat with that good woman in the house on the corner. My mother was a self-made woman who excelled in everything she did including door to door World Book sales, remodeling buildings, being a kind and forgiving landlady, starting and running a tax preparation business (until retiring at age 75); all while being a tough, loving, encouraging and understanding Mother and Grandmother. My mother passed on October 18, 2019

Editor’s Notes:

\*\*Model Cities was a Federal, inner-city program of Pres. Lyndon Johnson’s Great Society and War on Poverty. In 1966, new legislation led to the more than 150 five-year-long, Model Cities experiments to develop new antipoverty programs and alternative forms of municipal government. Model cities represented a new approach that emphasized social program as well as physical renewal, and sought to coordinate the actions of numerous government agencies in a multifaceted attack on the complex roots of urban poverty. However, the nation moved to the right after the urban riots of the late 1960s. This led to a shift in goals to bricks-and-mortar housing and building projects. The program ended in 1974. \*\*\* Numbers on Arms: Identification of inmates in German concentration camps was performed with identification numbers marked on clothing and tattooed on the skin. Mention of this may well portray how significant, poignant, and yet common place, it was to see this after WWII and particularly for someone with German heritage like Dorothy Benson.



2020 CENSUS \* You COUNT \* Be COUNTED \* You are COUNTED Upon \* CENSUS 2020

VOL. 43, NUMBER 12 • 2019 Alley Communications, Inc. DECEMBER 2019/JANUARY 2019

Residents storm city hall to protest

Phillips community not given a voice at meetings on public works expansion

VOL. 44, NUMBER 1 • 2019 Alley Communications, Inc. FEBRUARY 2019

What's possible for HOTB, MayDay?

In the Heart of the Beast is short of funds, losing staff but looking to the community for answers

VOL. 44, NUMBER 2 • 2019 Alley Communications, Inc. MARCH 2019

Franklin Aldi closed until mid-April

Remodel will remake store with wider aisles, more fresh foods, and more refrigerated products

# 2019 Alley From

VOL. 43, NUMBER 12 • 2019 Alley Communications, Inc. DECEMBER 2019/JANUARY 2019

## Residents storm city hall to protest

Phillips community not given a voice at meetings on public works expansion

By Carol Pass, EPIC Board President

Neighborhood residents continue to oppose the city's plans to expand its public works facility into the Roof Depot area of Phillips neighborhood (1300 E. 26th St.) that would further increase pollution and illness in the area.

Instead, they support a plan financed by local residents themselves that brings jobs, affordable housing, an indoor aquaponics urban farm, solar energy, and a bike repair shop to the location along the Milwaukee Greenway.

Under pressure, Public Works staff, things happen, the meetings with the City Committee. Team Public Works Committee of the Phillips Community reached some, but not all, of the goals of the Urban Farm.

Nevertheless, the City Committee, Team Public Works Committee, the Phillips Community, and the Urban Farm passed a motion that the City permit donation of the Solar warehouse to the Phillips Community, with the support of the Urban Farm.

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VOL. 44, NUMBER 2 • 2019 Alley Communications, Inc. MARCH 2019

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VOL. 44, NUMBER 3 • 2019 Alley Communications, Inc. APRIL 2019

## Navigation Center built

Franklin/Hawthorne Encampment respite ready

At 1300 E. 26th St., the new Navigation Center is ready to help residents in the Franklin/Hawthorne Encampment. The center will provide a respite for residents and offer various services.

VOL. 44, NUMBER 3 • 2019 Alley Communications, Inc. APRIL 2019

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VOL. 44, NUMBER 4 • 2019 Alley Communications, Inc. MAY 2019

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VOL. 44, NUMBER 5 • 2019 Alley Communications, Inc. JUNE 2019

## City says 'no' to Roof Depot urban farm

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VOL. 44, NUMBER 5 • 2019 Alley Communications, Inc. JUNE 2019

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VOL. 44, NUMBER 6 • 2019 Alley Communications, Inc. JULY 2019

## One of busiest food shelves right here

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VOL. 44, NUMBER 7 • 2019 Alley Communications, Inc. AUGUST 2019

## Commemorating 400 years of Black oppression, resistance and resilience

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VOL. 44, NUMBER 7 • 2019 Alley Communications, Inc. AUGUST 2019

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VOL. 44, NUMBER 8 • 2019 Alley Communications, Inc. SEPTEMBER 2019

## Southside Harm Reduction Services working to distribute and pick-up syringes, provide naloxone, and reduce stigma for those using drugs

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VOL. 44, NUMBER 8 • 2019 Alley Communications, Inc. SEPTEMBER 2019

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VOL. 44, NUMBER 9 • 2019 Alley Communications, Inc. OCTOBER 2019

## Join NICE Ride for \$5

Join NICE Ride for \$5. The center will provide a respite for residents and offer various services.

You Are Needed for 20

Join the volunteer Board of this dynamic organization and this important community media source to stay strong, vibrant and lifting the many voices of the Phillips Community. Current responsibilities include the ability to attend monthly Board meetings. Email the Board Chair, Cathy Strobel-Ayres, [cstrobel11@gmail.com](mailto:cstrobel11@gmail.com) to receive more information about this position.

### Board Member Position(s)

Do you like newspapers? Better yet, do you read *The Alley Newspaper* and Leadership Team of Alley Communications and work with the Alley's Co-Editors to get them represented within the pages of *The Alley Newspaper*? Email [alleynews.org](mailto:alleynews.org) for info and next steps.

### Editorial Leader



A recent number of people created the HOTB around MayDay parade and celebration on Friday, May 3, enjoying another wonderful with collaborating organization, family and friends.

## MayDay, HOTB: What will we build together?

### SEEDS OF CHANGE

A lot has happened since the last MayDay. HOTB represented a new idea (chickadee) that after being seen in several places, has been seen in more places. Though the general has been seen, it's not yet seen and represented the people from your city, your community and world wide. The art is the people's response to the world. That's a lot to say for this.

As we say every year, in HOTB, we're all together. And we're all together.

passed out after 11:00am in prepared response did not come through. The people at the event, more than half the staff have been left. Added together, the stories of these people and their lives with HOTB are a story. The story is a story for those who are not here, and the story is a story for those who are not here. That's why HOTB is a story for those who are not here. That's why HOTB is a story for those who are not here. That's why HOTB is a story for those who are not here.

As we say every year, in HOTB, we're all together. And we're all together.

Though opportunity is abundant in response, HOTB, people, and the world, are not the same. HOTB is a story for those who are not here, and the story is a story for those who are not here. That's why HOTB is a story for those who are not here. That's why HOTB is a story for those who are not here. That's why HOTB is a story for those who are not here.

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to the coming year, we have been HOTB will be a story for those who are not here, and the story is a story for those who are not here. That's why HOTB is a story for those who are not here. That's why HOTB is a story for those who are not here. That's why HOTB is a story for those who are not here.

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has widely produced by HOTB that has been seen in many places. HOTB is a story for those who are not here, and the story is a story for those who are not here. That's why HOTB is a story for those who are not here. That's why HOTB is a story for those who are not here. That's why HOTB is a story for those who are not here.

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## TO END ALL VIOLENCE

Signs representing women and calling for an end of all violence at the MayDay event, held on Friday, May 3, 2019. The event was held at the South High School in Denver, Colorado.

## New public art at Bde Maka Ska

The city of Minneapolis and Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) announce the installation of a new public art and public artwork at Bde Maka Ska in the park, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. The artwork will be a new public art and public artwork at Bde Maka Ska in the park, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. The artwork will be a new public art and public artwork at Bde Maka Ska in the park, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

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Public art installation at Bde Maka Ska, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.

significance to the Dakota, as well as reflecting the Dakota's own history and culture. The artwork will be a new public art and public artwork at Bde Maka Ska in the park, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. The artwork will be a new public art and public artwork at Bde Maka Ska in the park, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

As we say every year, in HOTB, we're all together. And we're all together.

[illegible]





Sign up for an  
EPIC Garden  
Plot! NOW!  
Call Brad 612-916-8478

# The Epic Report – March, 2020

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

## About the Artist: Ricardo Levins Morales

Ricardo Levins Morales describes himself as a “healer and trickster organizer disguised as an artist.” He was born into the anti-colonial movement in his native Puerto Rico and was drawn into activism in Chicago when his family moved there in 1967.

Ricardo left high school early and worked in various industries, and over time began to use his art as part of his activism. This activ-



ism has included support work for the Black Panthers and Young Lords to participating in or acting in solidarity with farmers, environmental, labor, racial justice and peace movements.

Increasingly Ricardo sees his art and organizing practices as means to address individual, collective and historical trauma. He co-leads workshops on trauma and resilience for organizers as well as trainings on creative organizing, social justice strategy and sustainable activism, and mentors and supports young activists.

Ricardo’s art has won numerous awards but the greatest affirmation is the uses to which it has been put by grassroots movements and communities.

At Ricardo Levins Morales Art Studio, posters, notecards, buttons, t-shirts, fine art prints and tapestries of art for social justice Ricardo has been creating for 50 years in Minneapolis, can be purchased: RLM Art Studio 3260 Minnehaha Avenue, Mpls. MN 55406; next door to Peace Coffee.

### For Your Calendar: \*

To get involved in EPIC and East Phillips, Join us at any or all of the meetings below.

- The EPIC Board of Directors** meet on the FIRST Saturday of the month – Next Meetings; Saturday, 3/7/2020 and 4/4/2020 at 10:00 AM. at the EPIC Office at 2433 Bloomington Ave. S.
- The EPIC General Membership** meets on the SECOND Thursday of the month – Next Meetings; Thursday, 3/12/20 and 4/9/2020 at 6:30 PM at East Phillips Park – 2307 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. S.
- The EPIC Annual Meeting is Sat. April 18** at 9:30 AM. Join us for Breakfast & Board Elections at East Phillips Park – 2307 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. \*\*
- The East Phillips Community 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. Gardeners** meet on the second Saturday of Each Month during the gardening season, from March through September. Next meetings are: Saturday, 3/14/2020, 4/11/2020 & 5/9/2020 at 9:00 AM in the East Phillips Park Community Center at 2307 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. Subsequent meetings will be held in the Garden at 2428 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. S.
- \* **East Phillips Residents wanting a 2020 Garden Plot, contact Brad Pass at 612-916-8478 or [bpas@usinternet.com](mailto:bpas@usinternet.com)**
- \*\* **EPIC Board of Director Elections will be held at the Saturday, April 18 Annual Meeting. To run for the board you must live, work or own property in East Phillips and you must have attended at least one Thursday Community Meeting since the last Annual Meeting & complete the application on the Website - [www.eastphillips-epic.com](http://www.eastphillips-epic.com)**



## MARCH BOARD MEETING Tuesday March 10, 6:30-8pm

Stewart Park, 2700 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, Minneapolis MN 55407

### AGENDA

Board Introductions, Orientation to 2020 Projects, and Outreach Training

## MARCH COMMUNITY MEETING Tuesday March 24, 6:30-8pm

Stewart Park, 2700 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, Minneapolis MN 55407

### AGENDA



## MIDTOWN PHILLIPS LISTENING SESSION

- Meet the new board!
- Share your aspirations for Midtown Phillips!
- What do you think MPNAI's priorities should be for 2020?



## Did you know Midtown Phillips offers financing for residents?

### MIDTOWN PHILLIPS NEIGHBORHOOD 0% INTEREST LOAN PROGRAM

The Midtown Phillips Neighborhood has partnered with the Center for Energy and Environment Lending Center to help Midtown Phillips residents finance home improvement projects.

- 0% APR
- \$7,500 maximum loan amount
- No maximum income limit
- Terms up to 7 years
- Eligible improvements are most exterior, major mechanical and energy improvements

### 3 EASY WAYS TO APPLY

- 1) Apply online at [mnlendingcenter.org](http://mnlendingcenter.org)
- 2) Email [loaninfo@mncee.org](mailto:loaninfo@mncee.org) for a copy of the application
- 3) Call 612-335-5884 to have an application mailed to you

Visit [mnlendingcenter.org](http://mnlendingcenter.org) or call 612.335.5884 to get started today!





# VENTURA VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD

## MARCH '20 NEWS

2020 Census Begins! Make Sure You're Counted. Here's Why.

By: Meghan Marriott, Pillsbury United Communities

Medicaid. SNAP. Housing assistance. School meal programs. Child care assistance. Employment and transit services. Head Start. Health and unemployment insurance. The list goes on and on for programs and services that receive federal funding based off census data. For Minnesota, it's estimated that the state will lose \$28,000 per person in the course of a decade for not counting just one person in the 2020 census.

The census is much more than just a count of who lives here. In addition to impacting resources that flow into our communities, it also affects local, state, and national political representation. For this census, Minnesota is at risk of losing one of its eight congressional seats. (And did you know that after the 2010 census results, North Minneapolis lost a councilmember?) Less elected officials = less political power.

It's no surprise that oftentimes it's the historically undercounted communities that have been under-resourced as well. We're talking about immigrants and refugees, those experiencing homelessness, indigenous communities, low-income households, renters, and children under 5, just to name a few. We know there will be barriers standing in the way: language, technology (this is the first time the census will have an online option), fear and distrust of government, and just general awareness. So this year, it will take all-hands-on-deck to ensure everyone is counted. Why? Because when resources are underestimated and communities are underrepresented, the opportunity to flourish and thrive diminishes.



We have a big challenge ahead of us. **And to ensure that we are visible, that we are not erased, and that we are all counted, it'll take all of us.** Here's what you need to know:

**Counting begins THIS month!** On or around March 12th, you should receive your first piece of mail that will include a URL to fill out the census form online. If you do not fill it out, you will continue to receive reminders in the mail until census enumerators begin knocking on your door starting in May. To avoid visits, fill out the form sooner rather than later.

Need help filling out your form? Starting March 17th through July, come to one of our open computer lab days at Waite House Community Center (2323 11th Ave. S. Minneapolis) designed to help you with just that:

*1st Tuesdays/month: 10 am-1 pm & 3rd Tuesdays/month: 1-4 pm*

*2nd Wednesdays/month: 10 am-1 pm & 4th Wednesdays/month: 1-4 pm*

**It's confidential.** By law, specifically Title 13 of the U.S. Code, your information is protected. The data is used for statistical purposes only and cannot be used against you nor shared with other government entities, such as ICE, the FBI, CPS, etc. The penalty for disclosing census information is a fine of up to \$250,000 or imprisonment of up to 5 years, or both.

**What about non-English speakers?** Folks can fill out the form online or via phone in 12 different non- English languages: Spanish, Arabic, French, Haitian Creole, Japanese, Polish, Portuguese and Tagalog, Chinese, Korean, Russian, and Vietnamese. The paper form will only be available in English and Spanish. Language guides are available online in 59 different languages and will soon include video guides in those languages as well. Also, Questionnaire Assistance Centers (State of MN) and Trusted Spaces (City of Minneapolis) will be opening up throughout the city and state to assist anyone with filling out their form, some of which you can designate according to which language(s) assistance is available in.


**Stay updated. Ask questions. Commit to be counted. Find out where you can go to receive help filling out your form.** All by texting COUNT to MN2020. (Or, in Spanish: CENSO, Somali: TIRI, and Hmong: SUAVPEB.) And check out these websites for more information

<https://mn.gov/admin/2020-census/> <https://2020census.gov>




<https://2020census.gov/>

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/census>

**Volunteer!** Help ensure your neighbors are counted. Contact Meghan Marriott to get connected to volunteer opportunities: 612-455-0388, MeghanM@pillsburyunited.org



The Minnesota State Demographic Center wants everyone to have what they need to respond to the 2020 Census, regardless of which language they speak. To promote census awareness and participation across the state, the We Count MN team has created flyers, videos, and digital badges to be shared with our residents who speak Hmong, Somali, or Spanish. Visit [mn.gov/2020-census](https://mn.gov/2020-census) and [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov) to find available language resources.



### Here's What's New With Us:

- Our next General Membership meeting is Wednesday, March 11, 7 PM, at the Phillips Community Center. If you live or work within Ventura Village you're a member - come join us.

- Our Board recently lost a very valuable contributor. Cecil Smith resigned because he took over the full time position as Board Chairman of the Minnesota Multi-Housing Association. His insight and knowledge of how City Government and the Police Department work has really benefited our neighborhood. As the manager of a larger apartment building in our neighborhood he has worked hard to find affordable housing for families and individuals. We wish you well on your new job!

- Watch for opportunities this spring for raising vegetables and plants. If you are a renter even in a highrise we will have ideas for you. If you would like to garden at one of our community gardens we will have a place for you. If you are a homeowner and would like to participate in Metro Blooms "Lawns to Legumes" program we will have information for you.

### UPCOMING VENTURA VILLAGE MEETINGS:

NOTICE THAT ALL COMMITTEE MEETINGS WILL NOW TAKE PLACE ON THURSDAY

• Wednesday, March 11th: Board of Directors Meeting: 6 pm	• Wednesday, March 11th: General Membership Meeting: 7 pm
• Thursday March 26th: Community Engagement Committee: 7:00 pm	• Thursday, March 26th: Wellness, Gardening & Greening Committee: 7:30 pm
• Thursday, March 26th: Housing & Land Committee: 5:30 pm	• Thursday, February 26th: Crime & Safety Committee : 6:30 pm

**ALL RESIDENTS ARE WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE: VISITORS WELCOME TO ATTEND!**

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





## Movie Corner

By HOWARD MCQUITTER II  
[oldschoolmovies.wordpress.com](https://oldschoolmovies.wordpress.com)  
[howardmcquitter68@gmail.com](mailto:howardmcquitter68@gmail.com)

**"Midnight Family" (2019)**  
 Documentary/Action/Crime  
 ★★★★★ 5 of 5

"Midnight Family" is one of those didactic documentaries that feels much more like a narrative than the usual documentary. If you know nothing about the film and hear the title you might think it's a mob film or one of those dreamy horror pictures. But instead, the film is about a family in Mexico City who own an ambulance in Mexico City, a sprawling city of nine million people, where only 45 government ambulances are in operation. A city of nine million with only 45 government ambulances is pathetic to say the least. To add to the horrific shortage of government run ambulances, local families trying to eke out a living by having private ambulances. One

of those families is the Ochoas, hard working and determined to go to the rescue of those in need of a hospital, clinic or treatment on the spot. Often times the private ambulances show up at emergencies while the government ambulances show up late or not at all.

For the Ochoas (as with others, too), day and night (especially the later), the life of ambulance drivers and assistants often take on



edgy and dangerous undertakings. Competition between the private and government ambulances is evident in a city of massive traffic jams and other obstacles. In down times, the family members go to sleep on the sidewalks or the youngster kicks a soccer ball or put on their headphones.

A lesson to be learned is the dedication of the people who own private ambulances. On the other hand, "Midnight Family" epitomizes the vast lack of responsibility by the Mexican government. Director: Luke Lorentzen. Running time: 81 minutes. Spanish with English subtitles. Cinematography: Luke Lorentzen. Original Music: Leona

## 92nd Oscars Making Glorious History... A Look at Previous Snubs

By HOWARD MCQUITTER II

Never achieved before, in the 92 years of the Oscars, that a foreign director won for Best Director and Best Picture—"Parasite", which is an extraordinary mark not only for the Academy but the world of film; especially for South Korea.

For me, I jumped up-and-down for the winner of those chosen Oscars, South Korean Bong Joon Ho, who won in two other categories; Best Original Screenplay and Best International Feature. (Don't get me wrong I jumped up-and-down for other winners, too, such as Brat Pitt for supporting actor and Renee Zellweger for best actress). Some of Bong's other wonderful films (perhaps lesser known to the average moviegoer but seen by cinephiles) are "Mother" (2010), "The Host" (2007), "Memories of Murder" (2007), "Snowpiercer" (2013) and "Barking Dogs never Bite" (2000). All are must sees to get a feel from this great director.

The Oscars has a bad trail though when through the years too many cast members, directors and screenplay writers have been snubbed. Why didn't **Alfred Hitchcock** ever win for Best Director? He's the master of suspense and only his "Rebecca" (1940) won a Oscar for Best Picture. Mr. Hitchcock, nominated 5 times for Best Director, had to settle for the Honorary Irving G. Thalberg Memorial Award in 1968. Looking back at some of Hitchcock's stellar films such as "The Lady Vanishes" (1938), "Spellbound" (1945), "Rope" (1948), "North by Northwest" (1959), "No-torious" (1946), "Rear Window" (1954), "Psycho" (1960) and "The Birds" (1963) to my sentiments would have stacked as well as—if better than—"The Apartment" (1960), "Around the World in 80 Days" (1956) and "Oliver" (1969), yet didn't win best picture. Politics

has played in many Oscar favorites over the 92 years the royal event has been in our midst.

Many critics cite "Citizen Kane," directed-written-produced-acted by the great **Orson Welles**, in 1941, as the greatest movie ever made—yet John Ford's "How Green Was My Valley" won Best Picture. Is the latter a better movie...or is it politics that superseded the win? Maybe it has some thing to do with Orson Welles' fictional character as a wealthy newspaper man who mirrors the real-life newspaper tycoon, William Randolph Hearst, and retaliates against Welles by trying to destroy all the copies of the film.

I'm still smothering from last year's snubbing of **Glen Close** for "The Wife" in favor of Olivia Colman for "The Favourite." Don't get me wrong, Ms. Colman gives a fine performance. I just think far too often older actresses get stifled for younger women. Close is an ex-ceptional actress, I remember her in her earlier career in "The World According to Garp" (1982), "The Big Chill" (1983) and "The Natural" (1984).

A woeful year (and there's others), 1999, when "Shakespeare in Love" won over "Saving Private Ryan", "Elizabeth", "Life is Beautiful" and "Thin Red Line" for Best Picture. That year the voters had to have been drunk to make such a colossal blunder. To this day, an African American director has never won Best Director. Remember **Spike Lee** is nominated only once for Best Director, for "BlackKkKlansman", and that's only last year. The late John Singleton is the first African American to be nominated for Best Director (and youngest nominated) and best screenplay in 1991, for "Boyz 'n Hood." I think of the late great director **Stanley Kubrick** who augmented film culture in

critical ways with movies such as "Spartacus" (1959), "Killer's Kiss" (1955), "2001: A Space Odyssey" (1968), "Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb" (1964), "A Clockwork Orange" (1971) and "The Shining" (1980) and although nominated 4 times for Best Director he never won.

**Thelma Ritter**, **Peter O'Toole**, **Richard Burton**, all three excellent Thespians, (nominated 5, nominated 8, and nominated 7, respectively) never won the golden statuette. Snubbing deserving cast members and directors by Hollywood is itself an art form. (Peter O'Toole did win a honorary Oscar in 2003; Richard Burton also wins a Honorary Oscar.

I have said paraphrasing from the 2006 film "Art School Confidential"—"When white men did their best work they weren't dead yet." What I mean is don't try to throw them out like the proverbial "baby with the bathwater," but women and people of color must be brought in to be nominated and, hopefully, win as directors and screenwriters. In the 92 years of the royal film event only 5 women have been nominated for Best Director which is an egregious mark on the Academy. The 5 women nominated for Best Director are: **Lina Wertmüller**, "Seven Beauties" (1977); **Jane Campion**, "The Piano" (1994); **Sofia Coppola**, "Lost in Translation" (2004); Kathryn Bigelow, "The Hurt Locker" (2010); **Greta Gerwig**, "Lady Bird" (2018). Only Kathryn Bigelow won for "The Hurt Locker" (2010).

Whoever passed up "Brokeback Mountain" for "Crash," in 2006, for best picture must have been broke. Three African Americans are nominated in one year, in 1973, the first time in Academy history that happened: **Cicely Tyson** for "Sounder"; **Diana Ross** for "Lady Sing the Blues"; and **Paul Winfield** for "Sounder". All three Black nominees whited-out for a white "winner," Liza Minnelli, for "Cabaret" inferior to the performances by Tyson, Ross and Winfield.

Seeing South Korean Bong Joon Ho win in elegant fashion is more than enough to not only see the Oscars but an attribute to international films anywhere and everywhere they're made.

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Raise Your Voice  
Sisters in Spirit

By PETER MOLENAAR

Last month, on delivery of the usual 40 Alley papers to the Minneapolis American Indian Center, the young woman at the desk gave access to the Two Rivers Gallery where a marvelous birch bark canoe is on display. With a twinkle, I inquired: “Who built the first canoe?” As it happened, thousands of years ago....

It was to be an unusually warm day for late autumn, it seemed. The Aunties exited the sweat lodge, intent upon harvesting the edge of the marsh. Straddling lengths of logs the men had hewn, they would maneuver the water without getting stuck. In tow were the water-tight baskets they themselves had made.

A celebratory fire was stoked near shore for their return. In the shallow, a newborn was placed in a basket for introductions. The gentle rocking induced a contented smile, which erupted in a squeal of delight when a careful spin was applied.

Naturally, the toddlers and somewhat older children converged to demand their turn. This is why the first boat was actually a big round basket, which eventually gave birth to the canoe to facilitate trade between the nations.

So, then... In today’s world, “Alley territory” extends somewhat beyond the official boundaries of the Phillips Neighborhood. For example, 10 papers go to a place called the Electric Fetus, at 4th and Franklin. 15 papers go to nearby Loaves and Fishes, where

the good servants believe a soul is imparted at the moment of conception. 5 papers go to the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, on 3rd Ave., a block north of which exists the Hennepin History Museum.

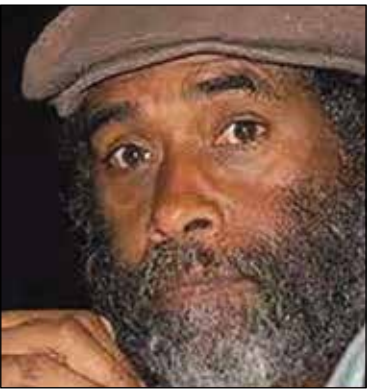
The H.H.M. is housed in a relatively modest mansion, built by an “Irishman” whose last name suggests he was a son of some English lord of that land, but likely not the first-born son, and so he was compelled to emigrate to avoid the military draft. Poking around, he discovered “St. Anthony Falls”, returned to Europe to procure technological secrets, came back here again, then sold the patents to the group which evolved into General Mills.... Afterwards, his likeness was carved in white marble. Enough.

Rather urgently, however, one should visit this museum before the “Votes for Women” exhibit closes in July. Commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment is worth the trek, but departing without purchasing Sisters in Spirit would be a mistake. The book is subtitled Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Influence on Early American Feminists.

Indeed, the Euro-American feminist precursors were deeply influenced by Native American cultural norms.

Imagine.... When hunting grounds overlapped, the Onondaga, Cayuga, Seneca, Mohawk, Oneida, and Tuscarora men were inclined to war. How then did “the Six Nations” become one? It happened (by all the inherent logic) because the Haudenosaunee council of women was more than equal to the council of men. All said and done, the woman’s role in the economic sphere (i.e., her “three sisters” mode of agriculture) was equal to the role of hunter. On top of which, she owned the dwelling and would throw you out if you failed to listen!

Unfortunately, the strings behind the scenes of our present day bourgeois-democratic republic, remain in the hands of Euro-male capitalists. Oh, and the one called Little-Boy-Man deploys “right to life” talk, but has no more moral connection to a zygote than he has to any other form of life.



Something I Said

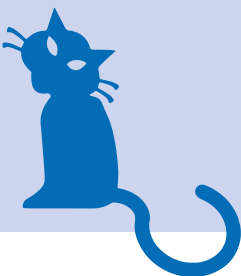
By DWIGHT HOBBS

What’s the big deal?  
Why did we need a whole month for the history of black folk? After all, nobody else gets one.

Well, for openers, calm down and console yourself that at least it was the shortest month of the year. Then, consider. Were American History college and grade school classes honest about chronicling what white people did - actually, what they didn’t do – the record would already have been set straight. Which isn’t merely a matter of recording facts for facts’ sake. More than being about data, as Marcus Garvey stated and Dick Gregory quoted, “A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots.” Crucially, youngsters denied that knowledge have little to foster self-esteem outside models mainstream media provides, largely in sports and entertainment – this includes the sorry spectacle of thug rappers brandishing a lifestyle kids blindly believe will take them from the streets to riches and fame but lands legions behind bars in a revolving door industry.

Even aside from that, why not put truth to the historic lie that Caucasians and Caucasians alone made this nation what it is? Unless, of course, you can only feel good about yourself as some sort of master race by looking down on someone else as being inherently less than? Which, face it, is what fueled the genocidal doctrine of Manifest Destiny and nearly exterminated the Natives to whom this country actually belongs. If the Trump the Chump truly has a problem with illegal aliens, guess which group should be first to go?

Don’t take my word for any of this. Look up, online and absolutely free of charge at You Tube, *Black History: Lost, Stolen or Strayed*, a 1968 CBS documentary, narrated by Bill Cosby, written by Andy Rooney – yes that Andy Rooney – and Perry Wolf (no directing credit noted). Indeed, had white historians not so diligently lied and disguised facts, there’d be no cause for African Americans to have our contributions counted. That, in and of itself, reasonably states the case for celebrating Black History Month.



Do you regularly read The Alley and want it to continue, grow, improve, and land at your doorstep or on a newsstand as a “free newspaper” each month? Contribute! Go to Alley Communications on GiveMN, or send a check to P.O. Box 7006, Mpls., MN 55407

**SPIRIT & PHILLIPS**  
\* MORE HADAWAY \*

Phillips called the President: “a tipsy mountebank, vagabond brawler, and pardoner of murderers” (1867)

who was wrongly saved from conviction by: “women, whiskey, cowardice, greenbacks, freemasonry, negro-hate, corrupt patronage, a diseased chief justice, spite, dyspepsia, and noodleism!” (1868)

**IMPEACHMENT SELLOUT**  
152 YEARS AGO

Wendell Phillips (1811-1884)  
Our Neighborhood Namesake

Sound familiar? (2020)



# BACKYARD COMMUNITY HEALTH HUB

Midtown Global Market, 920 E. Lake St., Minneapolis MN 55407

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Call Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. for more info and to find out how to get involved!



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## MARCH INTO SPRING!—WITH THE BACKYARD COMMUNITY HEALTH HUB'S HEALTH CHAMPIONS



This Community Care Giving System, is provided to you through the Cultural Wellness Center's Backyard Community Health Hub in partnership with Allina Health. Classes and complimentary alternative health activities are offered at the Midtown Global Market.



## YOGA AT THE GLOBAL MARKET

The winter months call for deep stillness and introspection — can you feel it? You might look to nature to see this truth in action. When you look at trees, we know that though their leaves are gone for now, they are not dead. That spark of life is still alive and well even through the coldest of months, trusting their inner reserves and strength. Just like the trees, we too can remember our inner strength and vibrancy even now. Sometimes it takes community to remind and support us in realizing our true nature. Community can provide kindling and hope for warmer brighter days. Together we create sacred space for individuals to grow through mindful movement, self-discovery, and connection. We come together to practice yoga three days a week and have room for more seeking souls like you to join.

**You are invited to class: Monday, Wednesday, Saturday at 6pm**

*To learn more, search Facebook for "Free Yoga at the Global Market".*

*We hope to see you soon! Your friend and partner in wellness,  
Mikky Daub, Registered Yoga Teacher*



## BREATHE... A SACRED JOURNEY WITHIN

I never thought seeking a deeper spiritual path many years ago would lead to serving communities today. My journey as a mindfulness facilitator began 26 years ago when I was a young woman suffering from severe depression. I've tried conventional methods of therapy, but nothing worked because treatment didn't allow me to address my issues as a whole person. Coming from a Christian upbringing, my mother would have my siblings and I sit in silence to get in touch with ourselves and our Source. It was one of the many times throughout my childhood I felt peaceful, grounded, and connected to my true nature. This motivated me to reconnect with my spirituality but with a holistic approach. I began attending classes at various meditation centers. I learned the importance of breath, how to quiet the mind and ease the body into relaxation. It wasn't easy at first because it was a new way to communicate with my mind, body, and spirit. With time and daily practice, I now have the knowledge and tools to experience the wonderful benefits of mindfulness.

This way of life has given me many opportunities to teach others how to meditate and connect with their breath. I create a warm and loving environment that invites participants to open their hearts and trust their journey inward. With the use of singing bowls, guided imagery, breath-work and silent meditation, each person can relax and gently go deep within. Participants are taught that breath is the bridge from our body to the mind. Joining body and mind together for deep inner healing—it is the essence of balance. I love what I do! Join Me! **LaDonna Funderburke**

**Meditation and Sound Therapy offered to you: Monday and Wednesday 5pm – 6pm, Saturday 4pm – 6pm**



## COMMUNITY- You are Cordially Invited: Water Magic Data Sharing

**March 5, 2020** during the Backyard Community Health Hub's Dinner, Dialogue on Diabetes, **5:30 pm – 7:30 pm**  
Central plaza of the Midtown Global Market.

**Roberta Barnes, Backyard Community Health Hub Director**

ReTHINK your Drink and Water Magic is a partnership between the Backyard Community Health Hub and the Minneapolis Health Department. We would like to thank everyone that participated in the surveys that the Backyard Community Health Hub conducted. The surveys were conducted during our Dinner Dialogues on Diabetes or Cardiovascular Health, during our participation in the Lake Street and Franklin Open Streets, and other cultural health and wellness activities. The goal was to look at the 'drinking habits' of our community. What are we drinking? Are we drinking sugar-sweetened beverages? Coffee? Tea? Milk? Tap, filtered, or bottled water? And, how much are we consuming?



If you participated or even if you didn't, you don't want to miss hearing the findings, and receive some answers to your questions, voice your concerns, and help us establish a course going forward.

*If you participated or even if you didn't, you don't want to miss hearing the findings, and receive some answers to your questions, voice your concerns, and help us establish a course going forward.*



## Craniosacral Whole-Body Awareness

Caring for myofascia is one way that craniosacral can support increasing range of motion, realigning DNA, increasing fluidity and flexibility, decreasing pain, and shift our culture. Dis-ease and dis-comfort arise when the body's constant communication feedback is disrupted. Myofascia collagen fibers are connective tissue that web the whole body together to live as one, similar to how mushroom mycelia connects a whole forest as one, and how we can feel a sense from our bodies of our interconnectedness with all of life. Drinking water is a wonderful way to keep myofascia elastic and healthy, but so is a craniosacral session. The myofascia directly under the skin continues into the nucleus of cells, so a gentle hand brought to a tight area can open conversation all of the way to the cellular level. In this way, I approach craniosacral as whole body awareness and whole-body listening, and when we again honor every voice in our bodies, we can again honor every voice in our communities.

Craniosacral,—want to learn more about it and experience this whole-body awareness and whole-body listening? **Attend Wednesday's Community Cultural Healing, or schedule an appointment through the Cultural Wellness Center's Backyard Community Health Hub, 612-353-6211. Caspian Wirth-Petrik**



## Did You Know?

- Research shows that the more time you spend sitting, the shorter and less healthy your life will tend to be, even if you exercise regularly, thanks to the negative impacts on your cardiovascular and metabolic function
- When you sit, lack of muscle contraction decreases blood flow through your body, reducing the efficiency of biological processes
- For every hour you sit, your life expectancy decreases by two hours. Research has also found that sitting for more than three hours a day causes 3.8 percent of all-cause deaths
- 20 to 25 minutes of walking per day may add anywhere from three to seven years to your life span. As little as two hours of walking per week may also reduce mortality risk in older adults.
- Brisk walking has even been shown to improve life expectancy in smokers and overweight individuals

The Cultural Wellness Center's Backyard Community Health Hub, in partnership with Allina Health, has many complimentary alternative health activities to help our Backyard Community take charge of their own health, all in a sacred and supportive environment. In 2020, let's aim to sit less than three hours a day, walk 10,000 to 15,000 steps per day. Join our 'Walking for the Health' of it, or any of our other 'Motion' activities. (See the Activities Calendar on our Facebook Page). I would love for you to come in and visit us at our office located in the Midtown Global Market, or call us at 612-353-6211 to find out about our many cultural health and wellness activities.

**Roberta Barnes, Backyard Community Health Hub Director**