

## “There is nothing new under the sun, but there are new suns” - Octavia Butler



4/20/21, SAY THEIR NAMES cemetery at 37th & Park (near George Floyd Square)  
The sun sets on a call for justice. Visitors at the cemetery honor, mourn, celebrate, and gather momentum for the work of tomorrow. They compose a symphony for those lost: Guilty on all three counts. Black Lives Matter. Humanity Matters. You Matter.

PHOTO AND WORDS BY MEGAN GRAMLOW, PWNO SAFETY COMMITTEE

A great exhale of relief went through the city, through the world, with the three guilty verdicts for Derick Chauvin. But, the verdicts cannot bring back those who lost their lives at the hands of police, or begin to comfort grieving families. Even as we feel relief we must add Daunte Wright to this picture. Our work is only beginning.

THE ALLEY EDITORIAL LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE



Painting of Duante Wright and his son

BY NIKKOLAS SMITH/ WWW.NIKKOLAS.ART

“If she saw your child, Katie, as she saw her child, I don’t think she would’ve reached for a taser, let alone a gun,” attorney Ben Crump said to Wright’s mother and the crowd assembled at the services in North Minneapolis Thursday, April 22.



**NINA SIMONE: FOUR WOMEN**  
BY CHRISTINA HAM  
PILLSBURY HOUSE THEATRE

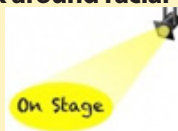


Regina Williams has played Nina from Philadelphia to Atlanta, and helps facilitate On Stage discussions of the play

## Past, Present, Theater

**On Stage involves local students in a closer look at Nina Simone’s work around racialized violence**

By JESSIE MERRIAM



“When we listen to Simone sing ‘Mississippi Goddam’--it could’ve been written yesterday. Somebody needs to write a ‘Minnesota Goddam’ right now,” Twin Cities actress Thomasina Petrus declared to the group,

gathered on the morning of April 1 to explore the play *Nina Simone: Four Women* and Simone’s reverberating legacy.

This gathering was arranged by **On Stage: Creating a Community Dialogue Around Live Theater**, a Twin Cities nonprofit that brings the scripts of local plays to college classes and community centers and facilitates discussions with the aid of theater creators and educators. On April 1, Professor Jo Lee’s “American Drama by Playwrights of Color” class at the University of Minnesota was joined by creators/artist-activists Nora Montañes

and Sun Mee Chomet, as well as Petrus, who performed in the 2016 Park Square Theatre staging of *Nina Simone: Four Women* in St. Paul. Lucas Erickson, On Stage’s founder, facilitates every discussion.

*Have you ever written a song? Have you been to a protest before? Is there a social issue in the world or something in your heart that activates you?*

Christina Ham, an acclaimed Minnesota playwright, wrote the 2016 play that digs deeper into the way racialized violence catalyzed Nina Simone’s evolution as

**Continued on p6**

## Semilla Center for Healing and the Arts: Fiesta de Arte/Art Parties

By INTERIM DIRECTOR BART BUCH AND ARTIST/BOARD MEMBER ANGELA BARRERA

Una invitación a una fiesta:  
(see p. 8 for English)

Tuvimos un año difícil el año pasado, de muchas, muchas maneras. El Covid-19, las dificultades económicas, la violencia, la adicción, la brutalidad policial, el malestar social y la falta de vivienda han aumentado el miedo y el aislamiento del vecindario. Una cosa buena que surgió de la emergencia del levantamiento el año pasado fue conocer a nuevos vecinos y cuidarse unos a otros en tiempos difíciles. Esperamos y sentimos que se acercan tiempos mejores ahora que llega la primavera. Semilla Center for Healing and the Arts tenemos una idea, ¡Una invitación! Queremos ayudar a crear mejores tiempos con nuevas conexiones, fortaleciendo las conexiones existentes y aumentando la confianza de la comunidad, utilizando arte y fiestas: ¡Fiesta de Arte! Para celebrar juntos y seguir cuidándonos unos a otros.

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## A Closer Look at the Winter Greenhouse Project

By ELIZA SCHOLL, HECUA INTERN WITH TAMALES Y BICICLETAS



**Volunteers Bozena Scheidel and Mattie Wong secure polycarbonate glazing. Volunteers have been essential to the project.**

On South 15th Avenue, half a block south of E. 28th St., Tamales y Bicletas is building a winter greenhouse on its urban garden space. For ten years, the nonprofit has used bikes and urban farming to reduce the environmental impacts of the heavy concentration of industry on the East Phillips community.

“How do we decolonize our food systems that then leads to decolonizing our minds and bodies?” asks Jose Luis Villaseñor Rangel, the founder of Tamales y Bicletas. “That’s always been the DNA of why we do what we do.”

The construction of a winter greenhouse is Tamales y Bicletas’ latest project. Daniel Handeen, a professor of architecture and a Research Fellow

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## Pivotal Vote for East Phillips Urban Farm Project Expected in May

By LINDSEY FENNER

On May 14, the Minneapolis City Council is expected to vote to approve or reject the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for the City’s Hiawatha Maintenance Facility Campus Expansion Project at the former Roof Depot Building in East Phillips. An EAW gives details on a project and its environmental impact, and it is one critical legal check against the environmental damage the proposed Public

Works Maintenance Facility expansion might inflict on East Phillips neighbors. The vote on the EAW was delayed due to the unprecedented number of over 1000 public comments on the EAW by supporters of the East Phillips Urban Farm Project.

The East Phillips Urban Farm has growing support among the members of the Minneapolis City Council.

**Please continue to urge Mayor Jacob Frey**  
**jacob.frey@minneapolismn.gov**  
**and the Minneapolis City Council**  
**citycouncilmembers@minneapolismn.gov.**



**Vote NO on the EAW**

**Vote YES for the East Phillips Urban Farm Project!**



**STOP THE VIOLENCE, LETTER FROM 8TH GRADER P 5**



ART BY NINA

**SEMILLA CENTER ART PARTIES/ FIESTA DE ARTE P 6**



**TWIN CITIES ARTS AND CULTURE OPENING UP! PAGE 9**



PHOTO COURTESY OF ASI

**Papier at ASI, Osher Gallery installation**

**HEART OF THE BEAST UPDATE P 11**



**EN EL CORAZÓN DE LA BESTIA TEATRO DE MÁSCARAS Y MARIONETAS**

ESTÁ OFRECIENDO UN PROGRAMA EN LÍNEA CON DURACIÓN DE 3 MESES LLAMADO TALLERES DE DEFENSORES

ARTÍSTICOS PARA NIÑOS DE EDUCACIÓN PRIMARIA.  
(see p. 11 for english)

[Tips from a COVID-19 Case Investigator](#)

## The Best of Times, The Worst of Times

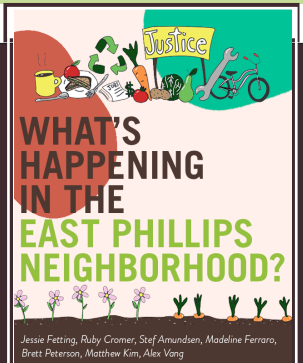
By LINDSEY FENNER

As I am writing this in late April, I have just gotten my first dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. After doing pandemic response work for almost a year, it was an incredibly emotional moment for me, as I know it has been for many people. My tears of joy were matched by the broad grin of the man getting vaccinated across from me, his elation clear through his mask.

But my joy in getting vaccinated has been tempered by the cold reality of rising COVID cases in Minnesota. At work, we watched the numbers slowly inch up in the month of March, and then saw them pick up speed in April. We don’t know when this latest surge in Minnesota will peak. I desperately hope that by May, the worst will truly be behind us, but right now, as I write this, we just don’t know.

Why have cases been rising again? Perhaps the biggest reason is the growing dominance of the variant strain B117. B117, the variant of concern first discovered in the UK, has torn through Europe, and is now tearing through parts of the US like Michigan and Minnesota. B117 seems to be over 50% more transmissible and likely causes more severe illness than the original COVID variety. And it is now believed to be the dominant COVID strain in Minnesota. What this means practically, is

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**check out this helpful zine created by U of M Students for Climate Justice! z.umn.edu/epnzine**

**Why will there not be a parade?**