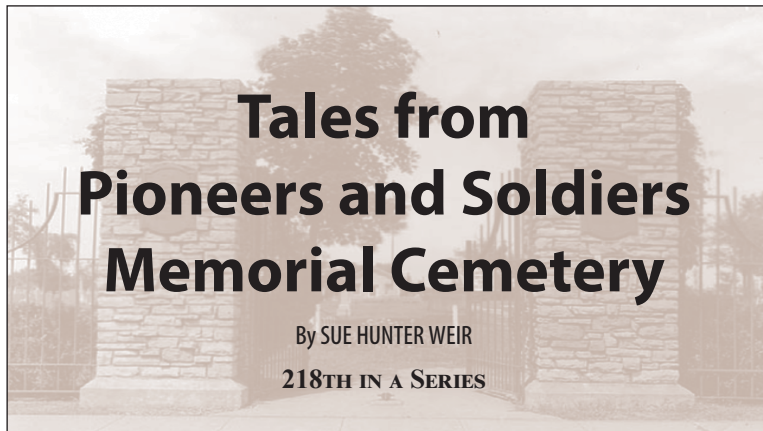




49 years of community news!



Tales from Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery

By SUE HUNTER WEIR
218TH IN A SERIES

A Life in Six Paragraphs

It's been almost 150 years since Jacob Hodnefjeld died. Cemetery records have little to say about him. His burial permit notes that he was buried on November 14, 1875, but not the day that he died. His birth year was recorded as 1841 but doesn't give a precise date and doesn't mention where he was born. No cause of death was given.



HODNEFJELD FAMILY

Jacob Hodnefjell 1841/1875

He never married or had children but someone in his family knew his story and wrote it down. His photo and a six-paragraph biography are posted on ancestry.com. Those six paragraphs were published on page 273 of a family genealogy. As brief as it is, that biography fills in many of the gaps in Jacob's story. It captures his hopes, his struggles, his relationship with family and friends, and offers a detailed description of the days leading up to his death.

We now know that Jacob Hodnefjeld was born in Hodnefjeld, Norway on October 30, 1841, and emigrated to the United States in 1871. He accompanied his sister Inger and her family. Inger went on to settle in Kandiyohi County but Jacob stopped briefly in St. Paul where he hoped to find work. His trunk was lost on the voyage over and was never recovered. While in St. Paul, he met B. P. Strand, a man who was later his roommate at Augsburg Seminary and who became a close friend who cared for Jacob during his final days.

Jacob couldn't find work in St. Paul and set off on foot for Farmington, Minnesota where he

hoped to find work in the harvest fields. Unable to find work as a farmhand, he worked for a railroad company.

In 1874, he enrolled at Augsburg

**'Writing is the gift of
your presence forever.'
- Anna Quindlen**

Seminary but his academic career was short-lived. He died the following year. According to a letter that was written to Inger's husband by Reverend B. P. Strand, Jacob "was sick for 12 days, his illness beginning with pains in chest and back and in two or three days he developed a severe hemorrhage from the nose, one hemorrhage lasting from 5 a.m. until noon." The hemorrhaging stopped briefly but started again and "[f]rom then on, he did not look for recovery." Strand cared for Jacob in their room until he was moved to the college's infirmary where he was cared for by a nurse. He died on a Sunday with "Mr. Strand, Prof. Wenaas [credited with being one of the founders of Augsburg,] and another student present."

Jacob's brother, Johan, asked that his brother's belongings be sold and the sale netted about \$100.00 which was used to pay



TIM MCCALL

**Jacob Hodnefjeld's family
replaced his original marker
which was most likely made of
marble with a granite marker in
1938. It is located in Lot 53,
Block M.**

"his debts about the city" and his funeral expenses; the hearse and coffin cost about \$18.

His college friends purchased a marker, most likely made of marble, but when family members visited his grave in 1935, they "found it crumbled" and had it removed. In 1938, sixty-three years after Jacob died, he had a

Continued on page 7...

Something I Said

Native Women Write About Protecting Little Earth

A Chapbook Edited by Marcie Rendon
and Diego Vazquez, Jr.



Reviewed by DWIGHT HOBBS

Native Americans matter. Shouldn't need to be said. Twin Cities black communities weren't the only ones devastated by the George Floyd uproar. All that came to many minds was the most visible and vocal, black folk. Unconquered Nations (Wiishkoban) reflects on the thoughts and feelings of women of Little Earth (Minneapolis) who saw their neighborhood put through hell. Brilliantly. The Unconquered Nations Writing and Healing Project gathered seven prose-poets, Little Earth Protectors to convey, along with property damage, the shock, hurt, dismay and personal experiences, a glimpse inside their personal and communal realities.

Author Marcie Rendon and co-editor Diego Vazquez, Jr.

shepherded the project. Rendon, who has spent a successful career looking into and looking out for Native women's concerns, stated in an interview, "During the school year of 22-23 I, with Sigwan Rendon and Serene Eidem, met with the women who are Little Earth Protectors one time a month. During that time I encouraged them to write their story of their actions immediately following the George Floyd uprising and what they did to protect the Little Earth housing and surrounding community. In June 2023, we published a chapbook of their writing. Since non-native folks arrived here, our stories have been written by everyone else. Sigwan Rendon and Serene Eidem provided Reiki healing to the women who wanted that. This was the opportunity for these courageous women to write their story, from their perspective for future generations to read."

Al Sharpton and other social crusading celebrities hit town for sound bytes. "It's time for us to stand up in George's name", he vowed, "and say, 'Get your knee off our necks.' Then he



Cover photo credit: Maricela Diaz

hopped back on a plane. Even local so-called leaders got their 15 minutes, then went back to business as usual.

An excerpt from "Food" by Sandra Corona crystallizes in simple terms what didn't make the media. "Went to other stores to get food for my house & my family & other communities," she writes. "Sometimes I went to 10-15 different stores to get what we needed. Went to places that gave out free food. Shared what food I got to help others. Some people hid stuff. Everyone helped each other out when needed."

Excerpted from Shontal LaJeunesse's "We Need an Apology", "I'm in disbelief about what the police officers

Continued on page 3...

the alley Delivery Changes Start March

The leadership of Alley Communications has decided to stop door-to-door residential delivery with the March 2024 issue of *the alley* newspaper. This will allow us to reduce litter and use of plastic bags and will help our small but mighty group of staff and volunteers to focus on using our precious resources to create a newspaper that **ALL** the many diverse peoples of the Phillips Community want to read because it represents their voices.

That being said, we still want to come to your home if that is the best way to reach you! If Alley Communications can get a minimum of 200 names and addresses of people who want to receive *the alley* newspaper delivered by mail each month, we will qualify for a USPS nonprofit bulk-mailing permit. **Sign up TODAY for your FREE SUBSCRIPTION to the alley each month!** It is easy and simple to do. Encourage your neighbors, too!

**Go to 'DELIVERY AND COMMUNICATION' on the alley website to
sign up for free mailbox delivery!
<https://alleynews.org/delivery-and-communication/>**

**You will still be able to find a copy of the alley at coffee shops,
community centers, stores, and other businesses!**



thealley

Alley Communications is a Not-For-Profit organization.

The Mission of Alley Communications is

- promoting art and culture,
- advocating for issues,
- building healthy community,
- facilitating deliberation,
- lifting every voice,
- documenting history,
- agitating for change,
- giving truth and democracy a jog forward.

Guided and Informed by: Phillips residents

Governed by Directors: Steve Dreyer, Susan Gust, Rico Morales, Ciren Saadeh, Cathy Strobel-Ayres

Operated by Editorial Leadership Committee: Laura Hulscher, Mary Ellen Kaluza, Carz Nelson, and Harvey Winje

Business Facilitated by: Sonya Ewert

Production Facilitated by: Graphic Designer + Coordinator, Mattie Wong

Page Coordinators: Steve Dreyer and Daniel Dorff, VV News; EPIC News; MPNA News; Roberta Barnes and Jessie Merriam, Back Page. Social Media: Jessie Merriam, Susan Gust

January contributors to the alley: Avalon Theater, Maricela Diaz, Steve Dreyer, East Phillips Community Center, Susan Gust, Linnea Hadaway, Hennepin County Libraries, Dwight Hobbes, Hodnefeld family, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Laura Hulscher, Sue Hunter Weir, In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre, Hannah Jerrie, Journalism of Color, Mary Ellen Kaluza, Marti Maltby, Midtown Global Market, Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Assoc., Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Dave Moore, Carz Nelson, Phillips West Neighborhood Organization, Kali Pliego, Pillsbury House + Theatre, J Randolph, Marcie Rendon, Ciren Saadeh, Pastor Martha Schwehn Bardwell, Tim McCall, Diego Vazquez, Jr., and Ventura Village Neighborhood Organization.

DONATIONS

Thank you to neighbors, readers, advertisers, subscribers, and GiveMN. Alley Communications is a Not-for Profit 501C-3; donations are tax deductible.

the alley is delivered to every house in Phillips and to 140 apartments, businesses, places of worship, institutions in Phillips and in nine adjacent neighborhoods.

Board meetings: 6:30 PM 2nd Tuesday by Zoom. Editorial Leadership Team 2nd Wednesday 8:30 -10:00am, 4th Thursday 6:30-8pm by Zoom.

Correspondence becomes the property of the alley and may be published.

Opinions in the alley newspaper and its social media are those of the authors and artists and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of Alley Communications, its Board, Editorial Leadership Committee, or other neighbors or writers.

Alley Communications P.O. Box 7006 Mpls., MN 55407

submissions: copydesk@alleynews.org ads: businessmanager@alleynews.org

Submissions due the 12th day of the previous month



Library News

By CARZ NELSON

All information listed here is accurate as of December 15, 2023. For the most recent information, check out the library website at www.hclib.org.

FRANKLIN LIBRARY HOURS

Monday 9 AM to 5 PM Tuesday 12 PM to 8 PM Wednesday 12 PM to 8 PM Thursday 12 PM to 8 PM Friday 9 AM to 5 PM Saturday 9 AM to 5 PM Sunday 12 PM to 5 PM

LEGAL INFO: GARNISHMENT OF FUNDS

Learn about your rights and protections during garnishment in an attorney-led session. Register at hclib.org by January 9 at 5 PM.

Wednesday, January 10 at 12 - 1 PM Online

COMPUTER BASICS

Discover how to use a computer, send emails and surf the web. Registration required. Contact grayson@lyndale.org or 507-339-4717.

Hosmer Library Fridays, January 19 and 26 at 1 to 3:30 PM.

SCI-FI/FANTASY BOOK CLUB

Join a discussion of new and interesting sci-fi and fantasy titles. Register at hclib.org by January 20 at 11:30 AM.

Online Saturday, January 20 at 12:30 - 1:30 PM

GROW IN THE SNOW!

Winter planting uses recycled items to create habitat for some seeds to begin outdoors in the winter. Bring clean, empty milk, juice, or liter soda bottles if you have any. Spanish interpretation provided.

Hosmer Library Saturday, January 27 at 1:30 - 3:30 PM

The library has a large range of programs, information and opportunities. Find out the latest at hclib.org.

ASK THE LIBRARY

Have a reference or library account question? You can chat, email, text, or call the library. Chat or email at www.hclib.org/ contact, text to 612-400-7722, or call 612-543-KNOW (5669) to reach library staff by phone.

Español/Spanish: Llame o envíe un texto al 651-503-8013 para recibir ayuda en español.

Hmoob/Hmong: Hu losis text rau lub tsev nyeeem ntawv ntawm 612-385-0886 txais kev pab hais lus Hmoob.

S o o m a a l i / S o m a l i : Caawimaad Soomaali ah, soo wac ama qoraal (text) usoo dir maktabada 612-235-1339.

..... Carz is a Phillips resident and an enthusiastic patron of Hennepin County Library.

Peace House Community- A Place to Belong

Conflict: The Doorway to Greatness

By MARTI MALTBY

Dave and Ray Davies, the brothers who have led the British band The Kinks since the 1960s, have a famously volatile relationship. Even though they managed to stay in a band together for over 40 years, they often despised each other and had explosive arguments. They addressed their relationship in the song Hatred (A Duet), which featured the lines:

You wanna be my friend, well it's too late My love for you has turned to hate And I think that it's a permanent condition You say you wanna make the peace Smile and turn the other cheek I can't put myself in such a weak position Now I'm willing to accept this fate You and me just can't cohabitate We agree to hate and that's our last decision

That's just the first verse. The rest of the song features many creative ways of expressing the same feelings. But the Davies brothers don't continually make war. When they performed the song on The Tonight Show in the 1990s, Jay Leno asked, "You guys have always had creative tensions, wouldn't you say? Do you guys get along?" "Sometimes," replied Dave. "Like today, we're getting on really well."

The Davies aren't the only bandmates who put together great music while loathing each other. The members of Pink Floyd disliked each other so much that



Marti Maltby

they sometimes parked their tour trailers in a square with the doors facing out so that they wouldn't accidentally encounter each other when they stepped outside. Johnny and Joey Ramone remained in the Ramones for 15 years without speaking to each other (literally) after Johnny started dating and then married Joey's girlfriend.

While I appreciate the music of all these bands, I wish they had been more functional. Imagine what they could have done if they could have cooperated more, I think. If they could have put more energy into their music and less into their conflicts, just think of what they could have done. But then I realize that they accomplished what they did because they were willing to endure their conflicts, and to work together despite their personal feelings. They wanted to produce great music, and they were willing to pay a huge price for their accomplishments. Their tensions often created their art, rather than getting in its way.

I have to admire that level of commitment. To honestly express such strong negative feelings, and then to continue working together in spite of those feelings, takes a dedication most people don't

Continued on page 7...

How to write a LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the Editor are always welcomed and will be published. Three important criteria: no foul language, do no harm to an individual, must be "signed" by the author. Letters may be edited for length.

email your letter to copydesk@alleynews.org no later than the 12th of the month, by 5pm SHARP.



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CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Is there something going on in Phillips that should be noted in the alley?

Let us know all about it by sending your sentences and/or photographs to: copydesk@alleynews.org

Continued from page 1...

Writing, cont.

do to our Native men or any man of color. This has been ongoing for decades and now we need to stand together and fight, so our kids and grandchildren don't ever have to feel discriminated against by the police. I wonder about the truth of the stories of the police taking Native American men down to the river and beating them."

The other writers are, Maricela Diaz, Margaret Percy, Jolene Roberts, Rachel Sundahl and Marcella Torrez, each a distinct voice among those whose lives matter, yet have been unheard.

Unconquered Nations was sponsored by the Minneapolis Creative Response Fund.

..... Dwight Hobbes is a long-time Twin Cities journalist and essayist.



Above: Folks attend a Community Journalism Training.

Community Journalism Trainings: *FREE* January 2024 Dates

Tuesday, January 23rd Introduction to Community Journalism 5:30pm - 7:30pm

Saturday, January 27th Introduction to Community Journalism 2pm-4pm

Cultural Wellness Center Community Health Hub Midtown Global Market Suite 137E 920 East Lake Street, Mpls, MN 55407

Quatrefoil Library 1220 East Lake St., Mpls., MN 55407



REGISTER BY EMAIL: info@journalismofcolor.com



MIDTOWN PHILLIPS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION INC.

Attention Midtown & East Phillips Residents

The Midtown Neighborhood Institute (MPNAI) and the East Phillips Improvement Coalition (EPIC) are considering merging organizations. Here are some of the initial pros and cons to merging. We want to hear your thoughts! Please email us at info@eastphillips.org

Pros

Streamlined Decision-Making & Administrative Processes: Merging neighborhood boards can simplify decision-making processes, reducing bureaucracy and administrative overhead. This streamlining effort enables quicker responses to community needs. With overtaxed boards and shrinking budgets, consolidating efforts can result in a larger financial impact.

Resource Pooling: The merger could create a larger pool of financial resources, allowing more efficient allocation for community projects and services. Shared resources, including staff, volunteers, funding, and expertise, offer a sustainable foundation for neighborhood development.

Strategic Planning: A merged board can engage in strategic planning, focusing on long-term community goals. This approach guides the organization toward a shared vision, enhancing advocacy efforts and providing a platform for joint grant applications.

Cons

Resistance to Change: Fear of a loss of identity or influence. Overcoming this resistance requires effective communication and a transparent process that includes community input, addressing concerns about neighborhood loyalty and the potential for blanket solutions.

Resource Allocation Challenges: While a merger provides access to a larger resource pool, challenges may arise in managing and allocating resources effectively.

Complex Governance Structure: Larger organizations often come with more complex governance structures, leading to bureaucratic challenges and slower decision-making.

Integration Difficulties: Integrating staff, volunteers, and resources from different boards may be challenging, especially if there are significant differences in organizational culture. Investing time in team-building activities and training can facilitate a smoother integration process.

thealley

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JANUARY

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

What Does It Mean To Be a Community Newspaper?

By ALLEY COMMUNICATIONS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The first issue of the *alley* was produced in January 1976, making this small but mighty community newspaper going on 49 years old! Alley Communications is the community-governed non-profit (501c3) organization which publishes the paper. Neighborhood residents are the publication's reporters and writers telling their stories in their own words. *the alley* is made available free to readers, a reflection of the commitment to providing barrier-free access to information and provide space for covering events and articles specific to the Phillips Community.

ORGANIZATIONAL GOALS IN 2024

- Grow our revenue base with more organizational partners, advertisers, fundraising and project-based initiatives that also help develop other parts of our mission.
- In partnership with Phillips West Neighborhood Organization, bring **community journalism training workshops**, led by Cirien Saadeh of the Journalism of Color Training Center, (see announcement, pg. 2) to the community, using funds provided by the City of Minneapolis Partnership Engagement Fund.

- Expand the cultural voices within the pages of the paper and in the leadership of the organization.
- Build the Board membership of Alley Communications. **Now is an excellent time to join the Board** to help us guide these exciting and positive goals into place, and to build the future of this important and longstanding community media organization!

thealley

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!



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EMAIL: INFO@PHILLIPSWEST.ORG | CALL/TEXT (ENGLISH): 612-424-0786



CALLING ALL TEENS

HELP REDESIGN EAST PHILLIPS & CEDAR PARK



Starting in January, EPIC & Midtown are engaging youth from Midtown and East Phillips to collaborate on the MPRB redesign of East Phillips & Cedar Park. We are looking for youth between the ages of 14-17.

After a series of three workshops with community leaders and urban design planners from the University of Minnesota, the youth will be able to showcase their designs and ideas at a community fair and share their work with East Phillips and Midtown residents.

CONTACT US AT INFO@EASTPHILLIPS.ORG TO LEARN MORE AND GET INVOLVED.



EASTPHILLIPS.ORG
MIDTOWNPHILLIPS.ORG

Photos from Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.