



Actor and radio personality  
Charles Brin

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2,000,000  
pounds of  
flour per day

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Connecting  
the dots of  
learning

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Longfellow  
Nokomis

# Messenger



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## Special needs playground swings ahead

What could well be the largest special needs play area in the region is underway at Michael Dowling School, Urban Environmental Magnet, 3900 W. River Pkwy.

When renovations on the ramps playground are completed next summer, the 1-acre area will boast play equipment for all abilities, including a zip line, swing set, climbing dome, music area with outdoor musical instruments and sensory garden. Phase

one of the project is complete, including grading and drainage of the site, along with a few more fun features such as a wheel-chair accessible swing set and an area with outdoor musical instruments.

Created in partnership with Flagship Recreation, the renovation is intended to help special needs children, including those with development, cognitive, physical and health disabilities. The equipment, garden and music

therapy are designed to help these children overcome the challenges they face by providing play experiences that promote socialization, while accommodating mobility and motor skills issues.

In addition to developing basic skills, another challenge for special needs students is engaging with their environment. To this end, the renovation will create an outdoor classroom, garden areas and a music therapy area with a suite of outdoor musical instruments.

Wheelchair friendly surfacing throughout the space ensures access, and every activity and play event is designed to engage the children while connecting them to their surroundings.

Another key feature to the design is strengthening connections between play and learning while still allowing the children to explore, invent and define their play for themselves.

The play equipment chosen for the project reflects those goals. Pieces like the Cozy Dome engage large muscle groups in climbing, and support social games such as hide and seek. They also provide a sanctuary for children with disorders like autism who need a retreat after becoming over-stimulated. The children can observe



A key feature to the playground design is strengthening connections between play and learning while still allowing the children to explore, invent and define their play for themselves.



To get special needs children engaged in their environment, the renovation will create an outdoor classroom, garden areas and a music therapy area with a suite of outdoor musical instruments.

the activity of the playground while working on self-regulating their emotions. The OmniSpin Spinner is wheelchair accessible, promotes cooperation between peers while providing stimulation to the vestibular and proprioceptive sensory systems.

The interactive play panels that define circulation include movable elements that develop fine motor skills. Graphic examples of local phenomena connect the space to the nearby Mississippi river and cultural landmarks

along with local flora and fauna, illustrating the school's relationship to the surroundings at a variety of scales. Finally, the double ZipKrooz zip line allows wheelchair-bound children the chance to fly with their friends.

The site also contains a fascinating example of early efforts to support children with special needs. A multi-level structure of concrete, wood and steel, constructed in the late 1970s, has a dramatic presence in the playground.

## Rainbow closing Nov. 9

Community interest high regarding future of site

By TESHAM. CHRISTENSEN

Rainbow Foods at 2919 26th Av. S. in Minneapolis will be closing its doors on Nov. 9, 2014.

The news of the closure comes just four months after the store was purchased by Jerry's Enterprises as part of a 27-store deal that reshaped the Twin Cities grocery scene. The Rainbow at 1660 S. Robert St. in West St. Paul will also be shut down.

Both of these Rainbows are located next to Cub stores also owned by Jerry's. The two stores employ about 25 full-time workers and 60 part-time employees.

Jerry's, located in Edina, operates about 40 stores in Minnesota and Florida.

According to Ed Anderson, the manager of the Minneapolis Cub store at 2850 26th Ave. S.,

the Rainbow was underperforming while the Cub store was doing well.

"The decision was made to remodel the Cub Foods and serve the area better," said Anderson.

The Cub produce department and deli have both been remodeled this fall. Work on the frozen food and dairy section began in mid-October, and will be followed by the bakery. The interior work should be done by the end of January 2015. Then this spring, the outside will be redone to look more contemporary.

Jerry's has owned the Cub store for over 20 years. It leases both the Cub and Rainbow property.

According to Anderson, Cub is adding more natural, organic and gluten-free items, in re-

sponse to customer requests.

"We're growing with the neighborhood," said Anderson.

### Neighborhood interest in the Rainbow site

"There has been a lot of interest in the neighborhood about the future of this site," observed Longfellow Community Council (LCC) Executive Director Melanie Majors. "We have mainly heard from residents through E-democracy where people have been discussing their own ideas for how it should be redeveloped. LCC is tracking this."

Residents have suggested many uses for the space online at both E-Democracy and Hood-starter, including: bouncy castle playland for kids birthday par-



The Rainbow at E. Lake St. and 26th will close on Nov. 9, 2014. The store was not performing as well as the Cub across the street, which is also owned by Jerry's Enterprises.

ties, drop-in day care, Trader Joe's, Whole Foods, Lunds, community farm co-op, Pump It Up, indoor mini-golf, bike track, expanded Harriet Brewery, space for Midtown Farmers Market, Planet Fitness, LA Fitness and an indoor community pool.

Majors added, "The LCC Neighborhood Development Committee (NDC) has also

briefly discussed ideas of redevelopment for the site. We have not heard from any businesses about interest in relocating there."

Lake Street Council Executive Director Allison Sharkey said, "We look forward to working with the community and all of the players to help find the best new use for the site."

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# The Farmhouse beds down with Minnesota Harvest celebration



Neighbors take a load off at the Hammock Haven at the Minnehaha Harvest celebration. (Photo by Lindsay Grome)

**By LINDSAY GROME**

As the cooler temperatures bring down the leaves, autumn also marks the end of outdoor gardening season as we know it. Farmers across the region are harvesting the last of this year's crop, and The Farmhouse, a collaborative space housing offices for The Tiny Diner farm staff and the Permaculture Research Institute (PRI) Cold Climate, is no different.

On Sept. 27 the corner of 42nd Ave. and 40th St. came alive for one last brew-ha-ha of the season at the Minnehaha Harvest, the second annual end-of-season celebration at this old general store turned community center and urban garden. This year they celebrated a harvest of roughly 1200 pounds for the year.

While offering up fresh sal-

ads, salsas and tea from the garden's bounty, artists showcased screen printing of T-shirts and greeting cards while local musicians strummed originals on the guitar. Self-guided tours of the ¾ acre garden were offered, as were hammocks to relax in and eleven varieties of apples to sample the season. With 80 pounds of grapes to harvest, a homemade grape sorbet was the perfect treat before a bonfire put an end to the evening.

"This is a thank you to the neighborhood and volunteers for supporting us because we really appreciate the neighborhood we're a part of," said Koby Jeschkeit-Hagen, Urban Farm Manager and Community Outreach Coordinator for Tiny Diner. Staff used the opportunity to



Attendees take a gander at the garden at one final celebration of the season before The Farmhouse "bedded down" for the winter. (Photo by Lindsay Grome)



Eleven varieties of apples gave attendees a sample of the season at the Minnehaha Harvest. (Photo by Lindsay Grome)

gain community input on future ideas for the space. Inside, large sheets of paper asked people to share what kind of workshops they would like to see at The Farmhouse and the top five produce items they'd like to see sold at the farm. This winter, The Farmhouse intends on creating a conversation café, allowing neighbors to get to know one another

in a shared community space.

The celebration was also that for the budding farmers who cultivated the land. Earlier in the day 22 urban farmers graduated from the PRI Cold Climate class after nine months of apprenticeship. Come March, another round of urban farmers will be sowing the soil once again for another abundant harvest next year.

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# Psychodrama, music, acting, and radio make for a lifetime of learning

By JAN WILLMS

Charles Brin is short in stature. But from that slight figure emerges a voice that can resonate across a room, a voice that can be full of timbre or as gentle as a running stream.

And since 1978, that voice has come across the airwaves of KFAI Fresh Radio, as Brin and his partner, Beryl Greenberg, read aloud some of the greatest short stories ever written.

Seward resident Brin, 91, was at KFAI, (1808 Riverside), at its beginning.

"It took about five years to get KFAI on the air," Brin recalled. He said public radio claimed the new station was interfering with its signal, but KFAI prevailed and obtained its license.

A couple months after that, according to Brin, he and Greenberg started reading short stories. And although the length and days of the week for their show have changed over the years, they have kept it going.

It is currently called Tuesday's Spoken Word and airs from 6:30-7pm on Tuesday nights on 106.7 FM in Minneapolis and 90.3 FM in Saint Paul.

"Beryl's background has been at the U of M in molecular biology," Brin said. "But she has become a full-fledged radio personality."

"KFAI is home," Brin said. As the two read from Hemingway, Chekov, Carson McCullers, Stephen Crane and James Joyce, Brin's background in theater and film is evident.

Born in Minneapolis, he remembers his first brush with the stage when he played the role of Robin Hood in a grade school play. He said he did quite a bit of radio work while he attended college at the University of Minnesota, and then he headed to New York for the New School for Social Research, a school that was renowned for its attitudes toward



At 91, Charles Brin's philosophy comes through clearly, "I keep learning," he said. "It's very important to listen to what you have done. People always have to set goals and have a sense of their development. They have to prepare and train themselves." (Photos by Jan Willms)

civic and social change.

Brin said many of the professors at the school had escaped from Nazi Germany to find a new

life in the United States. It was there that he changed his major from psychology to psychodrama, studying under Jacob Marino, a

Viennese psychiatrist. "He was literally the inventor of role play and psychodrama," Brin said.

While in New York, Brin started appearing in off-Broadway plays. One he remembers well was "The Dubbuk," a story of possession and exorcism.

"I had a great part, playing a holy, angelic messenger from heaven," Brin said. The role won him an award as most promising supporting actor. For someone who had only been in about three plays in Minnesota, this was heady stuff. He was working off-Broadway with actors who had been placed on Joseph McCarthy's blacklist and despite their talent, could not perform on Broadway.

However, the director of "Inherit the Wind" saw Brin perform, and he earned a part in the original Broadway play.

This gave him an opportunity to work with actors Tony Randall and Paul Muni, a character actor who had been a hero of Brin's since he was a teenager and heard him on the radio.

Muni had been in a radio play, 'The Life of Emile Zola.' He gave a powerful speech as Zola, about prejudice and injustice. As a school assignment, Brin had to select a speech, memorize and present it. He chose Muni's speech and won a National Forensic League contest with it.

In New York, he had the opportunity to work with Muni in "Inherit the Wind," and as he got to know him, he became even more inspired. But

then, his mother's illness drew him back to Minneapolis, where he has stayed.

Brin used his study of psychodrama to join with some others and create the Minnesota Institute of Psychodrama. He taught classes in the field, and psychodrama was used by industry as well as social workers, to explore role play and role reversal.

This became Brin's passion, but he used his creativity in other ways and continues to do so. He plays the violin, and he has started performing with a community orchestra in Fridley. He has had roles in films: "Grumpy Old Men" and the Coen brothers' "A Serious Man." He recently played Uncle Matty in Minnesota-made "Jingle Dress." "I represented traditional values plus the need for change," Brin said.

He currently is on the board of Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA), a position he has held since 1973.

"I must admit the stage is very appealing when it works," Brin said. "I have always been drawn to it. But for movies, the commitment is shorter."

He said he worked on a recent film that, if accepted by the Sundance festival, could draw some attention.

"I continue to get rewards from doing that kind of work," he said.

Brin said he believes that theater can be a great resource for personality development, at least in its initial phase. "There's a little bit of narcissism, too," he chuckled.

"Right now on Broadway, there is a great emphasis on musicals again," he noted. "And in movies, it is terror and action. I think the thoughtful kinds of explorations are harder to come by."

But he plans to keep his options open.

"I keep learning," he said. For the radio program, he said that he and his partner do prepare for the program, giving them about three days to get ready. And they listen to their show.

"It's very important to listen to what you have done," Brin stated.

"People always have to set goals and have a sense of their development. They have to prepare and train themselves."

Whether in psychodrama, music, acting or presenting radio broadcasts, Brin has followed this path—for a lifetime.

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By LINDSAY GROME

Mill City—it's the place we all call home, but long gone are the days of flour sacking in the Twin Cities. Once declared the mill capital of the nation, Minneapolis today remains home to only two working flour mills, and they happen to be in our own backyard.

"We produce about 75 percent white flour and 25 percent animal feed," said Charles Hatch, General Operations Manager for Atkinson Mill and Nokomis Mill, located at 3745 and 3501 Hiawatha Ave, respectively. He's been working at the mills for 32 years.

"Both plants were built around 1914 to 1916," said Hatch. "So, yeah, we're working in some old buildings."

For about 100 years, these plants have been turning wheat into flour to make the breads, pastries, tortillas and pizza crusts we all know and love.

According to the Minnesota Historical Society, in 1880 Minneapolis was home to 25 mills, with the city claiming the title of the largest flour producer in the nation. It was a title it held for 50 years. Today, Archer Daniels Midland (ADM) owns both of these last mills in the city that are still producing flour.

According to Grain and Milling Annual, the state of Minnesota is still home to eight mills, producing roughly 11.1 million pounds of flour a year—second

# Longfellow Flour Mills Keep Minneapolis' "Mill City" Alive



A view of the Atkinson Mill today—still standing for almost 100 years, 3745 Hiawatha Ave.

only to the state of California. ADM is the second largest miller in the United States with 25 mills. The Minneapolis mills on Hiawatha Ave. produce roughly two million pounds of flour a day.

The location on Hiawatha, once a highly industrious area hosting a slew of factories and

mills, has proven to be ideal for success. Sitting right on the Minnesota Commercial Railway, the plants rely on railcars from the west and north, including North Dakota, South Dakota and Canada to bring in the wheat and to ship out the final product. About 200,000 pounds of flour per railcar is shipped to the east and south, sometimes as far away as West Virginia.

While the mode of transportation hasn't changed in some instances, the milling process has come a long way. Hatch says the same building can now produce roughly three times more flour than when they first milled there in the early 1900s.

"Some parts of the process have been changed, but the basic properties are the same," said Hatch. "Most of the equipment has been replaced over the years—bulk really changed the footprint."

Before the 1950s, sacking flour was the sole distribution method of the powdery substance.

That is, until bulk delivery of flour was pioneered by a plant engineer at the Atkinson Mill. Based on this method, now tanker trucks are loaded to capacity at 50,000 pounds to be driven to commercial bakeries nationwide, including many local and regional favorites.

The delivery method of flour isn't the only thing that's changed. Hatch says safety standards have had a great impact as well. For in-

stance, dust, a highly combustible output of the milling process that can cause explosions and serious safety hazards to the millers, is now controlled by dust control filters. That dust is now used to create a byproduct used in animal feed, which is then sold to other companies.

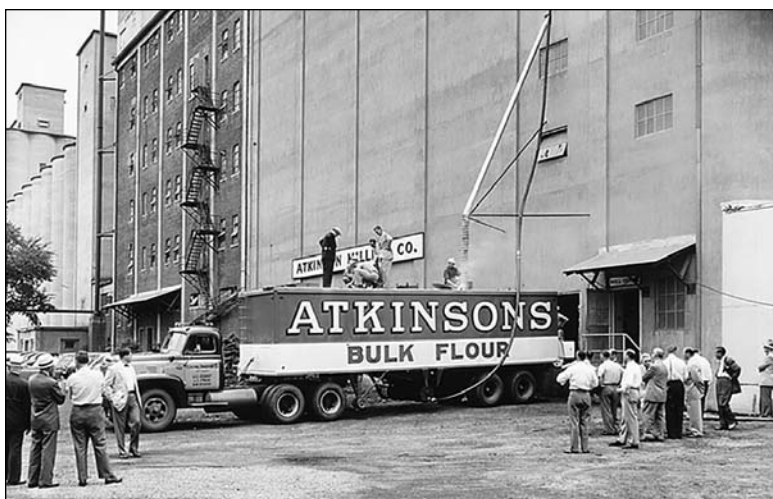
Hatch couldn't reveal the exact number of employees at the two remaining mills, but he said the company employs a lot of people from Minneapolis and surrounding suburbs, allowing access to a good workforce locally for manufacturing jobs.

"There was one employee who lived just blocks away and he rode his bike to work every day for 30 years," said Hatch. "We operate very efficiently, thanks to our employees."

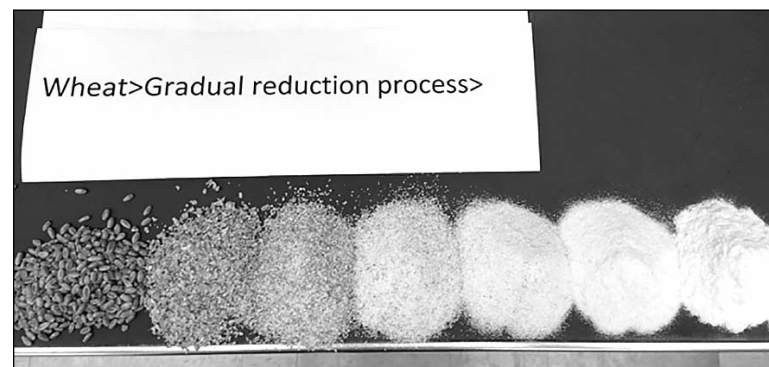
Within the mill itself, the milling process takes up six stories, with each floor operating a very specific task turning wheat into flour. From sifting and separating to grinding and purifying, the mills churn out millions of pounds of flour a day. Bulk silos, visible from Hiawatha Ave., are used when necessary to store a few days' worth of flour before it moves on to its new home.

Hatch says even the gluten free trend hasn't impacted their flour sales, in fact, they're still seeing growth.

"We've survived here in Minneapolis and we're meeting the vital needs of the area and region," said Hatch. "It's great to be a part of that history and still be operating in Minneapolis."



Men load a truck at the Atkinson Mill, dated approximately 1950. (Photo provided by the Minnesota Historical Society)



The Atkinson and Nokomis Mills sift and purify wheat in six stages until it turns into the white flour that is then turned into bread and other pastries at commercial bakeries. (Photo provided by Atkinson Mill)

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### The Night Before New Year's Eve



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# Students and local artist Randy Walker collaborate on outdoor sculpture at Roosevelt High School

*Connection Gallery installation comes on heels of front door mosaic*

By **TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN**

The Connections Gallery on the front lawn of Roosevelt High School is located just blocks from sculptor Randy Walker's home. It's a piece of art he's excited to have in his neighborhood, one he brings his family to on the way to the library or Baker's Wife. His two-year-old son seeks out a picture of a dolphin found in one of the collages every time they stop. It's part of the neighborhood, and part of their daily lives.

It isn't only Walker who feels like that. So do the student artists that also worked on the sculpture over the past two years.

And the number of artists involved with the piece will only grow, increasing the connections fostered by this one piece of public art.

"I think it will be fascinating watching the piece change over time, seeing how it's engaged and what the contents will be as classes and collaborators change," said Walker.

The sculpture consists of 14 steel frames that radiate outward from a circular concrete bench. Each of these screens is broken down into divisions that are variations of five typical sizes, all based on a 8-1/2x11 piece of paper.

"No two screens are alike," observed Walker.

Like a rice paper screen or stained glass window, each metal frame is divided into a smaller cells of acrylic panels. Within these panels students are able to insert pictures, words – anything that they can create on paper. Finally, each of the acrylic divisions is joined by strands of fiber that are routed to the top of each screen and across the central space of the sculpture.

"By doing this, we were able to conceive of a space to be in, rather than an object to look at,"



Artist Randy Walker is excited to have the Connections Gallery located in his own neighborhood. He lives just blocks from Roosevelt High School, and enjoyed collaborating with students over two years to create this piece that celebrates connections. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

explained Walker.

"The Connections Gallery is a wonderful tool for teachers to use in interdisciplinary units with arts integration," said Roosevelt's International Baccalaureate Diploma Program Coordinator Candida Gonzalez. "The ability to physically make the connections, using the fibers, provides another avenue for students to deepen their learning in a holistic way. The Gallery is also a powerful symbol of our commitment to growing the arts program at Roosevelt."

## It changed her perspective

Two years ago, Standish resident Lee Cygan was a freshman at Roo-

sevelt. Her English teacher encouraged her to get involved in this art project. She began attending meetings, and the students (along with Forecast Public Art) selected Randy Walker as their artist.

Next they began learning about the concept of public art from Walker, recalled Cygan. They talked about permanence, impermanence, meaning, how an artwork relates to its site and community.

They gave input on Walker's design, suggesting that the screens have different sized patterns within the grid format. They were also part of the Kickstarter campaign that raised \$8,583 for the project.

"I learned so much about the process and everything that it takes to develop a public art piece," said Cygan. "It gave me a great perspective on what goes into it."

And even more than that, it provided her an experience she won't forget. There's a piece of artwork in her own neighborhood that she helped create.

Now a junior at Perpich Center for Arts Education, Cygan intends to study some form of art at college.

"I was most surprised at the depth of thought and level of sincerity displayed by the group of students I worked with at Roosevelt," observed Walker. "As we explored what public art could be (i.e., not just a bronze statue), the students really embraced the possibilities and took off with them. They had never been exposed to the idea of public art as an open-ended experiment where anything is possible. It made me wonder about what other areas might hold the possibility of sparking their imaginations."

## Open to curious community members


One of the key decisions students helped make was deciding where the Connections Gallery should be located. Cygan noted that they scouted locations throughout the school property, but finally settled on a space in the front along 28th Ave.

"The fact that we placed this structure front and center on 28th Ave. was not accidental," said Walker. "We wanted the sculpture to be visible and accessible to the

Continued on page 12



Local resident and student artist Lee Cygan said that she learned so much about the process that it takes to develop a public art piece. "It gave me a great perspective on what goes into it," she said.



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## Pizza night set at Bethany Lutheran

Christmas Warm-Up Movie & Pizza Night is planned at Bethany Lutheran Church (3901 36th Ave. S.) for Fri., Nov. 28. The evening will start at 5pm with a pre-dinner kids' Christmas movie. Then make and eat pizza together at 5:30, followed by kids' activities during the showing of a vintage Christmas movie for the adults. \$5 per family suggested donation.

## Workshop planned by author/knitter

Get color confidence in stranded knitting and make a cover with style for your phone, iPad, or other tablet in a workshop with Eline Oftedal. Oftedal is the author of "Knit Nordic" and her designs have appeared in *Interweave Knits*, *Vogue Knitting*, and the U.K. magazine *The Knitter*. In addition to getting a short course on color theory, you will learn how to distill colors and learn how to chart and experiment before you buy yarn. The workshop will be held Mon., Nov. 10, 6-8:30pm at the Textile Center of Minnesota, 3000 University Ave. S.E. and is sponsored by Ingebretsen's. To register by email go to [classes@ingebretsens.com](mailto:classes@ingebretsens.com) or call 612-729-9333. Fee for the class is \$40 and call to find out the materials you will need.

## Cholesterol ABC's at Holy Trinity Nov. 18

Join Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors and Minneapolis Community Education for a cholesterol presentation on Tues., Nov. 18 at 10:30am at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2730 E. 31st St. Sometimes our lifestyles and family genetics cause our cholesterol levels to go too high, thus increasing our chances for heart attack and stroke. Ann Moyer, Health Partners Pharmacist, will explain the basics of cholesterol and what diet and medical treatment plans can do to

help lower cholesterol levels. For questions, call Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors at 612-729-5799.

## Trunk or Treat planned Oct. 31

Trinity of Minnehaha Falls is hosting a free family-friendly Halloween event on Fri., Oct. 31, from 6-8pm on their circle drive. Decorated cars will provide a fun trick-or-treating venue where children can go from car to car to receive treats. Parents can enjoy a cup of cider and some refreshments and a chance to connect with neighbors. Trinity is located at 5212 41st Ave. S. For more information about Trunk or Treat, call 612-724-3691.

## Holy Trinity offers Fare for All Express

A holiday food package is available Nov. 12, 4-6pm at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2730 E. 31st St. Get a quality meal at an affordable price. Package costs \$30 and may contain turkey, pork sausage, pork roast, chicken breasts, green beans, and apple pie (items subject to change).

## Proposed winery needs your help!

Urban Forage, the proposed winery on Lake St. that the *Messenger* reported on in our July 2014 issue, has geared up a Kickstarter campaign to raise the funds (\$19,800) for the necessary equipment to make the fruit wine, cider and mead from "locally crowd sourced" fruit, flowers, and honey. Jeff and Gita Zeitler have spent more than 6 months upgrading and converting a foreclosed pawn shop on Lake St. for their proposed winery... and if they succeed, Urban Forage would be the first winery in the Twin Cities. The Kickstarter campaign, which started Oct. 17, runs only through Nov. 22. You

can see the campaign, and pledge, by going to [www.kickstarter.com](http://www.kickstarter.com) and searching project "Urban Forage Winery." This Kickstarter campaign will only be funded if the full \$19800 is pledged by the closing date.

## Christkindlmarkt scheduled Nov. 8

The 29th Annual Christkindlmarkt (Bazaar), will be held at Faith Evangelical Lutheran, 3430 E. 51st St., on Sat., Nov. 8, from 9am-2pm in the lower level of the church. The event includes many vendors with handcrafted and homemade items and baked goods, Granny's Attic, and food. Coffee and rolls will be served beginning at 9am. Lunch, beginning at 11am, includes homemade turkey soup, sloppy joes, hot dogs, and pies.

## LBA hosts monthly meeting Nov. 13

Longfellow Business Association hosts a panel of guests from local job skills and training organizations and employers on Thur., Nov. 13, 8:30 - 9:30am at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2731 E. 31st St. Representatives from Metro Work Center, Volunteers of America, Migizi, CAPI and RESOURCE will introduce their various training and job search programs, and we'll hear from employers who have benefited from hiring skilled and motivated workers. Come help us explore opportunities to create an accessible link between Longfellow employers and area job-seekers. For more information contact Ruth @ 722.4529 x10.

## "Transgressing Gender" topic of performance

Theatrical performance activist Peterson Toscano will stage his

one-person play, "Transfigurations: Transgressing Gender in the Bible," on Sun., Nov. 2, at 7pm at Living Table United Church of Christ, 3805 E. 40th St. Tickets are on a sliding scale of \$5-\$25—pay what you can afford.

Toscano draws on inspiration from interviews with transgender and gender non-conforming individuals, and weaves their experiences into the stories of transgender and gender-variant people from the Hebrew and Christian scriptures. Hilarious and moving, Toscano's one-person show deepens well-known (and lesser-known) Bible stories as he presents an array of characters with an array of genders.

Through his one-person comedies and lively lectures, queer, Quaker performance artist and activist Toscano has delighted audiences throughout North America, Europe, and Africa as he takes on social justice concerns. He has shaken up Bible academics and received high praise for his ground-breaking, genre-bending, gender-blending Bible scholarship. His plays and talks humorously explore the serious topics of LGBTQ issues, sexism, racism, violence, gender, and climate change.

## Study Center open every Wednesday

"Student Study Center" is held every Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5:30pm at Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church, 4101 37th Ave. S. High school and college students can come to the church for an optimal study atmosphere with quiet space and light snacks. Walk-ins welcome! This study center will be supervised. If you have questions call 612-722-9527.

## Two plays set at South Nov. 18-21

"The Tower" and "13 Ways to Screw up your College Interview"

are two senior theater projects that will take place in the Skybox Studio at South High School (3131 19th Ave. S.) Nov. 18-21 at 7pm. The two performances are directed by seniors Wendy Unger and Louise Harty. Tickets are \$9 for adults and \$7 for students.

"The Tower" is an adaptation of the film classic "Close Encounters of the Third Kind." "13 Ways to Screw up your College Interview" feature two college recruiters at a prestigious university who need to fill one last spot to keep their jobs. Thirteen eccentric, dimwitted and slightly-insane high school seniors are eager to come in for an interview. Each applicant's interview hilariously illustrates what NOT to do at a college interview.

## "Cabin Fever" scheduled at Epworth

Join your neighbors for a weekly play date for kids and their caregivers on Wednesdays from 9:30-11:30am, at Epworth United Methodist Church (corner of 32nd St. and 37th Ave S.), beginning October 15. Cabin Fever will be there every Wednesday through Dec. 17; then, beginning from Jan. 7 through Mar. 25. Epworth will provide toys and snacks and a safe place for community, asking only that caregivers supervise their children.

## Minneapolis Academy named "reward school" by MDE

For the third consecutive year, Minneapolis Academy, located in the Nokomis neighborhood, has received the honorable title of, "Reward School" from the Minnesota Department of Education. Based on student achievement on Minnesota state-wide tests, this outstanding award is the highest ranking a Minnesota school can achieve.

Minneapolis Academy was the first independent college preparatory middle school in Minneapolis and it celebrates a culturally diverse student population grades five through eight. Over 80% of students who attend the Academy go on to graduate high school and continue on to college.

## Get out the vote volunteers sought

CAPI USA is looking for volunteers to help with a Get Out The Vote project, Nov. 1-4! If you would like to volunteer please contact Monique Hernandez (612-767-3670 or email [info@capiusa.org](mailto:info@capiusa.org)) for more details.



## Local resident given volunteer award

Local resident Mark Petzholdt was recently named a 2014 3M Volunteer Awardee at a recent award ceremony for his volunteer work to improve the lives of Bolivians. Petzholdt is a 3M HVAC mechanic who has also been a key volunteer in Mano a Mano, a St. Paul/Cochabamba, Bolivia organization that builds schools and clinics, roads and reservoirs throughout Bolivia.

Petzholdt is a 64-year old Vietnam vet who has put in 25 years whose unlikely passion is development work in Bolivia. He puts in hundreds of hours a year volunteering for Mano a Mano

Petzholdt began working for Mano a Mano about 20 years ago, when one of the organization's founders, Segundo Valasquez, asked him if he would help prepare medical supplies for shipment to Bolivia. Segundo was married to Petzholdt's former in-law, Joan Velasquez. "I couldn't say no to them," Petzholdt says now. That's how he got started on a path that has led to thousands of volunteer hours in the group's St. Paul facility, plus seven trips to Bolivia, where he is now regarded as an old friend by the local staff.

Continued on page 9

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** As the *Messenger* went to press, we were told that the NENA staff, authors of this article, were both terminated by the NENA Board on Oct. 23. We have been informed that at least 3 of 12 Board members have also resigned in protest over the handling of the terminations. It is unclear if the phones will be answered, website updated, or emails responded to at the NENA office. Watch for a story in next month's *Messenger*.

### New program guidelines

NENA recently approved new guidelines for its low interest loan and deferred loan programs. Interest rates will be lower: low-interest loans will now be 2% for households earning less than 150% of the area median income (AMI), for a family of 4 (currently \$124,350) and 3% for incomes over that. There is no upper income limit. The maximum loan amount will go from \$10,000 to \$15,000 and the time to repay the loan has lengthened from 7 years to 10 years.

# NENA (Nokomis East Neighborhood Association)

BY RITA ULRICH AND DOUG WALTER, NENA STAFF

## New Housing Programs and Day of the Dead

The deferred loan program, formerly for "emergency repairs" will allow for a wider range of housing repairs for a household with income lower than 50% of AMI (currently \$41,450). Previous guidelines were worded in such a way that too few situations qualified to make a home "extremely dangerous" or "uninhabitable." With the new guidelines, situations need not get to that point before the program can help with needed repairs.

Along with the new guidelines, we will have a new program administrator - the Greater Metropolitan Housing Corporation (GMHC). GMHC has a local office on Cedar Ave. at 38th St., which will make it easier for homeowners to get direct help if they need it.

As we transition to the new

guidelines and administrator, it will take some time for the contract to go through the approval process at the city. We are working closely with city staff to have it completed as soon as possible, but there will be a short time when we will not be able to accept loan applications.

### Flight of the Butterflies

Several members of the Minneapolis Monarch Festival planning team took an evening off to see "Flight of the Butterflies," the OmniMax film currently showing at the Science Museum of Minnesota. The film follows the journey of monarchs to a remote mountain peak in Mexico, telling the story of Fred and Norah Urquhart's 40-year search to find the butterfly's winter resi-

dence, unknown before 1975.

There is a local connection, because it was a boy from the Twin Cities who tagged a monarch that the Urquharts found in Mexico, proving that the butterfly did indeed migrate all the way from here. The film will show through Jan. 8, and is definitely worth seeing.

While you are there, be sure and visit the live butterfly house.

### Dia de las Muertas

As part of NENA's outreach to Spanish speaking residents, and residents of the Bossen area, we are working with a group of residents who are putting together a neighborhood celebration of Dia de las Muertas, or Day of the Dead. It will be on Sat., Nov. 1, 12-3pm, at Keewaydin Community Center. Everyone is welcome. This will be a modest event with traditional and contemporary elements. Traditional: a gift of bread to honor the dead; contemporary: potluck - bring a dish to share.

Day of the Dead is an important celebration in Mexico, where it originated. It goes back several millennia, to the Aztecs who believed that the dead wanted to be celebrated, not mourned. Although altered somewhat by Catholicism, the tradition survives in many forms

### NENA Meetings / Events

**Election Day:** Tue., Nov. 4. Polls open 7am-8pm. Don't forget to VOTE!

**NENA Board:** 7pm, Thur., Nov. 20, at NENA, 3000 E. 50th St.

**Housing Committee:** TBD, call 612-724-5652.

**Thanksgiving:** Thur., Nov. 27. NENA will be closed Thursday and Friday.

Last-minute schedule changes are posted on our Calendar page at [www.nokomiseast.org](http://www.nokomiseast.org) or you may call 612-724-5652.

If you would like to join us as a volunteer, contact the NENA Office at 612-724-5652 or email [nenan@nokomiseast.org](mailto:nenan@nokomiseast.org).

and continues to evolve and spread as people in other countries become aware of it.

The common thread is that it always honors the dead, and celebrates their life. It includes visiting and decorating ancestors' graves, like Americans may visit and leave flowers at their relative's graves on Memorial Day or the birthday of their loved one.

It has become a major holiday, often marked by two days of festival-like activities. Celebrations will vary, and of particular interest is the association of the return of the monarch butterfly in the mountain areas of Michoacán, Mexico with the Day of the Dead. Monarchs start to appear in around this time, and they are considered to be the souls of children and ancestors.

## Nokomis-Hiawatha plan through recommendation phase

The recommendations phase of the Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park master plan is complete. A Community Advisory Committee (CAC) has worked for the past five months to review community input and set forth a vision for the park over the next 20-25 years. MPRB staff and a landscape architectural consultant (Hoisington Koegler Group, Inc.) will be work-

ing over the next few months to complete a Master Plan document for approval by MPRB Commissioners. The CAC has also made, and the Board has approved, a recommendation on the concept design for the 54th Street "Triangle Park" play area. MPRB staff and consultants are currently working toward construction plans and bidding, with

construction expected to begin late this fall. To see more information, maps, and diagrams, go to <http://www.minneapolisparcs.org>, click on "Current Projects" under "Design and Planning" in the left hand column, and then select "Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park Master Plan and Improvements" from the alphabetical list.

# SAINT THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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## St. Nicholas Fun Day

December 5, 2014—9-10:30 am—Ages 2-6

## Open House Event

January 29th, 2015 6-7:30 pm



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# Transforming alleys for clean water

Some neighbors around Lake Nokomis have transformed their alleyways to improve water quality in the lake and beautify their properties.

The main source of pollution in Lake Nokomis comes from rainwater that lands on hard surfaces, flows into a storm drain and directly into the lake. On the way, it picks up debris, fertilizer, oil, pet waste and other pollutants. Residents can keep this polluted runoff out of the lake by catching it on their property and allowing it to filter into the soil.

Residents of 10 properties on a single block – between 16th and 17th Ave. S. and 50th and 51st St.

E. – recently installing a variety of landscape features that will capture polluted stormwater runoff from the alley, roofs, driveways, and other hard surfaces.

Five properties installed rain-gardens, which are bowl-shaped gardens that use deep-rooted plants to hold and soak up stormwater. Four properties installed strips of pavers that allow water to pass through into the soil. Six of the homes used “bioswales” – think of a mini stream channel with plantings along the banks – to slow down and infiltrate stormwater.

These features also make the alley a more attractive public space and provide great wildlife



Four properties in the demonstration area installed strips of pavers that allowed rainwater and water runoff to pass through to the soil.



Five properties in the demonstration project installed raingardens, which are bowl-shaped gardens that use deep-rooted plants to hold and soak up stormwater.

habitat. Project organizers are producing a video that will highlight the initiative.

The project is a joint venture of Metro Blooms, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Friends of Lake

Nokomis, and Master Water Stewards. Metro Blooms is hoping to expand this project to 15 more alleyways around Lake Nokomis over the next three years. Visit [www.metroblooms.org/nokomis](http://www.metroblooms.org/nokomis) for more information.

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# In our community

Continued from page 6

## NEBA to light holiday tree Nov. 29

The second annual Nokomis Tree Lighting will be held Sat., Nov. 29, 4-6pm in the Oxendale's Market parking lot and presented by the Nokomis East Business Association (NEBA). NEBA is proud to welcome Steve's Tire & Auto as a new sponsor for the 20-foot holiday tree with lights provided by Nokomis Hardware. The tree will be lit up at 5:30pm.

New to the event this year is a special Dog Park outside of Oxendale's, sponsored by Wendy's Doghouse, the Canine Coach, and Now Boarding. Dog lovers and owners can bring their dog to the event and get information on neighborhood pet resources and a free photo of your pup from 2nd Truth Photography.

Food will be onsite for purchase from Kabomelette Food Truck, Boss' Pizza and Chicken, and Town Hall Lanes will be selling merchandise and sampling beverages.

Santa Claus will make a special appearance inside the store, hosted by Brushed Monkey, with free pictures taken by professional photographer Pamela Diedrich. U.S. Bank will provide family fun gift bags given to all kids while supplies last. Kids will also be able to pick out a free book, provided by the Friends of the Nokomis Library.

For additional information on the free Nokomis Tree Lighting event, visit [www.nokomiseastba.com](http://www.nokomiseastba.com).

## Epworth schedules Holiday Boutique

Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Ave. S. will hold their Holiday Boutique on Fri., Nov. 21 (12-5pm) and Sat., Nov. 22 (9am-2:30pm). Gifts and decorations will be for sale in time for the holidays. Homemade baked goods, one of a kind hand-crafted gifts, and that special antique from Grandma's Attic will be available in the Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be for sale both days, so if you want a break you can have a snack while you look over the treasures.

## Soul+Food planned at Bethany in Nov.

Soul+Food is planned for Saturdays, Nov. 1 and 15, 5-7:30pm at Bethany Lutheran Church (3901 36th Ave. S.). Feed your body and soul; prepare the meal together in community and worship while we share food at the table. Special Kids' Time while adults get the meal together! Reservations appreciated by emailing [office@bethanyon36th.com](mailto:office@bethanyon36th.com).

## Holiday Bazaar scheduled Nov. 15

Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church, 4101 37th Ave. S., is holding their annual Holiday Bazaar from 9am to 2pm on Sat., Nov. 15. They will have a bake sale with lefse and holiday treats, craft tables,

Grandma's Attic, a silent auction, along with raffles for WILD tickets, a quilt and Cookies for a Year. Do your Christmas shopping and enjoy a lunch of flotegrot, ham sandwiches, cake and coffee.

## St. Helena plans kindergarten round-up

St. Helena Catholic School, 3200 E. 44th St., will be holding their kindergarten round-up on Mon., Nov. 3, at 7pm in the School Media Center.

## Healthy seniors plan birthday bash

Nokomis Healthy Seniors are planning their 20th anniversary "Birthday Bingo Bash" with cake and prizes on "Give to the Max

Day," Nov. 13. Give to the Max is the one day fund drive in Minnesota to support all the non-profit and educational organizations in the state. The Birthday Bingo Bash is planned for Nov. 13, 9-11am at Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church, 4120 17th Ave. So. Come to the party and make sure to sign up online and give to the max at [www.givemn.org/organization/Nokomis-Healthy-Seniors-Program](http://www.givemn.org/organization/Nokomis-Healthy-Seniors-Program).

## Marriage retreat planned Nov. 6 and 8

There will be a Mini Marriage Retreat at Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church, 4101 37th Ave. So. It begins on Thur., Nov. 6 from 6:30-8pm, with light refreshments and participants will be given instructions for Saturday, as well as

instructions on how to fill out a required survey that must be done before Saturday. The event continues Sat., Nov. 8, 9am-3pm, and includes both breakfast and lunch.

This workshop will use utilize games, videos and exercises designed to help you and your partner become more connected emotionally. It will also include an official Prepare & Enrich® Assessment with 30 minutes of one-on-one interpretation by a licensed therapist.

Cost for the workshop is \$65, and space is limited. Call Amy at 612-401-0147 or Sally at 612-722-9527 to register!

## Hiawatha Academies joins MPS roster

Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) has signed a collaboration agreement with Hiawatha Academies,

3810 E. 56th St., the first district/charter compact in Minnesota.

Discussions with Hiawatha began in 2010. The agreement offers both organizations an opportunity to share resources and knowledge. MPS sold two buildings to Hiawatha to house its academies. Hiawatha will participate in MPS student enrollment activities, and information on Hiawatha will be included on the MPS website. In addition, Hiawatha Academies' test scores will be included with those reported for MPS schools. MPS teachers will have access to professional development opportunities from Hiawatha Academies, including training on best practices Hiawatha has found helpful, such as the STEP reading assessment and parent engagement strategies.

Continued on page 15

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**MEMORY CARE apartments are coming to Iris Park Commons Assisted Living!**



Our "Community of Heart" is opening its heart to seniors who need **secure Memory Care** as well as **Assisted Living services** in a comfy, home-like setting. On November 15, we are opening 16 beautiful, secure, one-bedroom Memory Care apartments and shared suites within our community. This Memory Care community within our Iris Park Commons community will have it's own secured wing with great third-floor views. Residents will be served by their own specialized 24/7 staff. They'll enjoy tasty meals, stimulating activity programs, and an inviting fireplace lounge for relaxing with their neighbors, family, and friends. Many people who need Memory Care do not need a nursing home. Call **Deb Veit** to learn more: **651-632-8800**.

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QUALITY OPPORTUNITY



# LONGFELLOW

COMMUNITY COUNCIL



JoAnna Lund

## Get JoAnna Updates at CaringBridge.org

Many of you have heard that our Community Organizer JoAnna Lund was in a car / bicycle accident on October 19. Unfortunately she was the one on the bike. JoAnna is making a remarkable recovery at HCMC. You can follow her progress and send her messages of support on her Caring Bridge page <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/joannalund>.

We know she'll make a full recovery and will rejoin her co-workers at LCC as soon as she is comfortable doing so.

## Give to the Max

Give to the Max is Thursday November 13th! Give to the Max is a day for giving in Minnesota, and the Longfellow Community Council is asking for your support.

As you probably know, the Longfellow Community Council (LCC) is Longfellow's neighborhood organization dedicated to making Longfellow the best neighborhood it can be. We're the neighborhood's "go-to" source for questions about development, safety, livability, and building community. LCC listens to your feedback about what's important to you in Longfellow - everything from cleaning up the Mississippi River to facilitating discus-



sions between residents and the City or County. Then we organize events and work with our neighbors, policy makers, and government officials to improve our neighborhood. Please schedule your giving to LCC today at [www.givemn.org/organization/Longfellow](http://www.givemn.org/organization/Longfellow).

## Annual Chili Cook Off Fundraiser

It's that time of year again to eat chili and elect a new Chili Champ of Longfellow! This year the Annual Chili Cook Off Fundraiser is at Gandhi Mahal on Saturday November 15 from 5-7pm. We are expecting a lot of chili's entered this year due to our previous Chili Champ, Mike Linzbach, leaving the neighborhood and leaving the title wide open.

Tickets are available at Eventbrite, and the direct link is on our website at [www.longfellow.org/chili](http://www.longfellow.org/chili). The prices are \$10 in advance for adults, \$15 at the door. Kids ages 6-12 are \$5 and kids 5 and under get in free. The ticket includes water, a spoon, a bowl, bread and voting tickets. You will receive 3 tickets to vote for your favorite chili(s), so use them wisely! A cash bar will be run by Gandhi Mahal. To enter your chili please visit [Longfellow.org/chili](http://Longfellow.org/chili) or e-mail Jessica ([Jessica@longfellow.org](mailto:Jessica@longfellow.org)). We look forward to seeing you at this annual fundraiser!



Gandhi Mahal, 3009 27th Avenue S, Minneapolis  
DATE: Saturday, November 15th TIME: 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.  
To buy early discount tickets or to Enter Your Chili Recipe visit: [longfellow.org/chili](http://longfellow.org/chili)

## Please welcome LCC's newest Board member Cathy Coon

At the October 16th Board Meeting, the LCC Board of Directors elected Cathy Coon as the new representative of the Hiawatha neighborhood. Cathy has replaced Mike Linzbach who is moving from the Hiawatha neighborhood for a new job in Atlanta at the end of October.

Cathy has lived in the neighborhood for about 12 years. She has been interested in the work of LCC and the community for some time. Her background is environmental education and construction. She is the mother of two children and owns and operates a small company called Home Makers, buying houses to do green rehabilitation.

Cathy will make an excellent addition to the Board and we are really excited to work with her.

## Calendar of Meetings and Events

# NOVEMBER 2014

Meetings are free and open to the public, and are accessible. Check the calendar on our website [www.longfellow.org](http://www.longfellow.org)

### ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, November 5  
7:00 - 8:30 pm  
LCC Office, 2727 26th Ave S  
FFI: [jessica@longfellow.org](mailto:jessica@longfellow.org)

### RIVER GORGE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, November 12  
6:30 - 8:00 pm  
Hiawatha School Park, 4305 42nd St. E  
FFI: [melanie@longfellow.org](mailto:melanie@longfellow.org)

### LONGFELLOW FAITH FORUM

Tuesday, November 11  
12:00 - 1:30 pm  
check website for location  
FFI: [melanie@longfellow.org](mailto:melanie@longfellow.org)

### COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Tuesday, November 11  
6:30 - 8:00 pm  
Longfellow Park, 3435 36th Ave S  
FFI: [melanie@longfellow.org](mailto:melanie@longfellow.org)

### NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Wednesday, November 19  
6:30 - 8:00 pm  
LCC Office, 2727 26th Ave S  
FFI: [joe@longfellow.org](mailto:joe@longfellow.org)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday, November 20  
6:30 - 8:30 pm  
Brackett Park, 2728 39th Ave S  
FFI: [melanie@longfellow.org](mailto:melanie@longfellow.org)

### ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION

Tuesday, November 25  
6:30 - 8:00 pm  
check website for location  
FFI: [joe@longfellow.org](mailto:joe@longfellow.org)

## President's Message

### Eric Day, President of the Board

November means that gratitude and giving are on our minds. I am personally very thankful to live in such a generous community where people give so freely of their time and talents, as well as financially, to many worthy causes. I'd like to highlight two particular opportunities for people in the community to give support to the Longfellow Community Council in support of all the great work that it does.

The first will take place on November 13th with the annual nonprofit fundraising initiative, "Give to the Max Day." This may be the single most important day for nonprofit financial sup-



port during the year and I'm sure you'll agree that LCC is a worthy cause and deserving of your tax-exempt donations. To donate, visit [www.razoo.com/story/longfellow](http://www.razoo.com/story/longfellow), or visit [Longfellow.org](http://Longfellow.org). Donations received by LCC will go towards helping the organization continue the great work it does in the community, including community engagement, supporting local businesses and working with our neighborhood partners to make

Greater Longfellow an even better place to live, work and play.

The other opportunity is one of the best parties of the year in the neighborhood - the LCC's Annual Chili Cook Off and Fundraiser. We're very excited to be partnering with Gandhi Mahal for this year's event, which will be held on November 15th, from 5-7pm. There still time to enter the Cook Off, which will crown a new Chili Champion. But if you'd rather eat than cook, tickets to the event are available online at [Longfellow.org/chili](http://Longfellow.org/chili). Make sure to buy yours early to take advantage of the discounted rate!

As always, we are so grateful for our volunteers and invite folks to get involved. Contact the LCC Office for more information. Thanks again for your continued support and I'll see you around the neighborhood!

COOPER

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LONGFELLOW



HIAWATHA

## Longfellow Community Council

2727 26th Avenue S., Minneapolis, MN 55406

612.722.4529 • [www.longfellow.org](http://www.longfellow.org)

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Ruth Romano, Office Staff  
JoAnna Lund, Community Engagement Coordinator  
Jessica Buchberger, Communication & Event Manager  
Joe Sturm, Housing & Environment Coordinator

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# Connecting the dots of learning

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

You ought to come down to the East Lake Library and see what's happening these days! Since September, a staff person from Learning Dreams has been seated near the library's back entrance every Thursday and Sunday afternoon from 1:30-4:30. If you have time, you'll be asked to tell them your learning dreams: what you would choose to learn if you had no obstacles.

Learning Dreams Executive Director Dr. Jerry Stein and his staff have collected more than 200 learning dreams from library patrons this fall. The dreams reflect the diversity of our lively Longfellow neighborhood. Believing that anyone who is successful at learning didn't get there by themselves, Learning Dreams works to strengthen educational experiences for children and their parents. "We've figured out a few things since we started in 1996," said Stein. "Such as, if kids are struggling with learning, their parents are probably struggling too. Kids need to be living in a culture of knowledge at home, and they're more likely to experience success if their parents experience it first."

Katherine Debretin, youth librarian from the East Lake Library, described Learning Dreams: "Two years ago, their staff began working with some of the East African students coming in for tutoring through our Homework Help Program. The younger students were brought in by their mothers and, over time, these women expressed a dream to have a group of their own. The Somali Women's Group was born. They met every Sunday afternoon for several months to practice English conversation and socialize together." The group arose from the women identifying their dream, and the library, along with support from Stein and his staff, was able to make it happen.

Learning Dreams also partners with several other community organizations such as Big Brothers Big Sisters and Minnesota Youthlink. Hennepin County Library, which reaches more than a million readers each year, is their newest partner. "Our organizations share similar missions," Stein says. "We both work to connect people with learning resources, strengthen cultures of learning, and build partnerships within our community."

It's not enough to just put computers in the schools or books on the shelves. People in important positions, like teachers and librarians, need to be skilled at connecting learners to those resources - and way beyond.

As part of their partnership, Learning Dreams offered training to East Lake librarians to help them grow in their role as "connectors." Participants were asked to write a biography of their own learning-history, using the following question as a prompt: "What have been the five most important learning experiences in your life?" It's a question anyone would find value in answering. It shows how each one of us connects the dots, and how we translate real-life learning into knowledge.

Another aspect of the Learning Dreams training was for librarians to take a good long walk through the East Lake neighborhood, looking for learning resources that could be missed when driving to work. Within easy walking distance of the library are numerous ethnic restaurants, The Minnesota Literary Council, several East African and Latino businesses, the Midway YWCA, artists studios of every kind, the Hack Factory (a creative space where people can make and build almost anything), medical and dental clinics, South High School (an active community education site) and much more. There is learning potential around every corner, and often all it takes is a suggestion to get started.

What about all those learning dreams being collected at the East Lake Library this fall? Matt Carlson, graduate assistant and research coordinator for Learning Dreams since 2006, is helping to translate them into a user-friendly map of community resources. Learning Dreams staff will investigate where dreamers can go, right here in the local neighborhood, to get the help and support they need to reach their learning dreams. The beauty of the community-building model used by Learning Dreams is that staff don't need to be experts, or even know very much, about the nuts and bolts of what participants are interested in. They just need to know how to connect them.

Dr. Robert Putnam, political science professor at Harvard University and well-respected author, has greatly influenced the thinking of Stein and others working in the field of education. Putnam believes that in America, we tend to throw programs at our schools to solve problems. He argues that we would be better off encouraging interactions to build community,

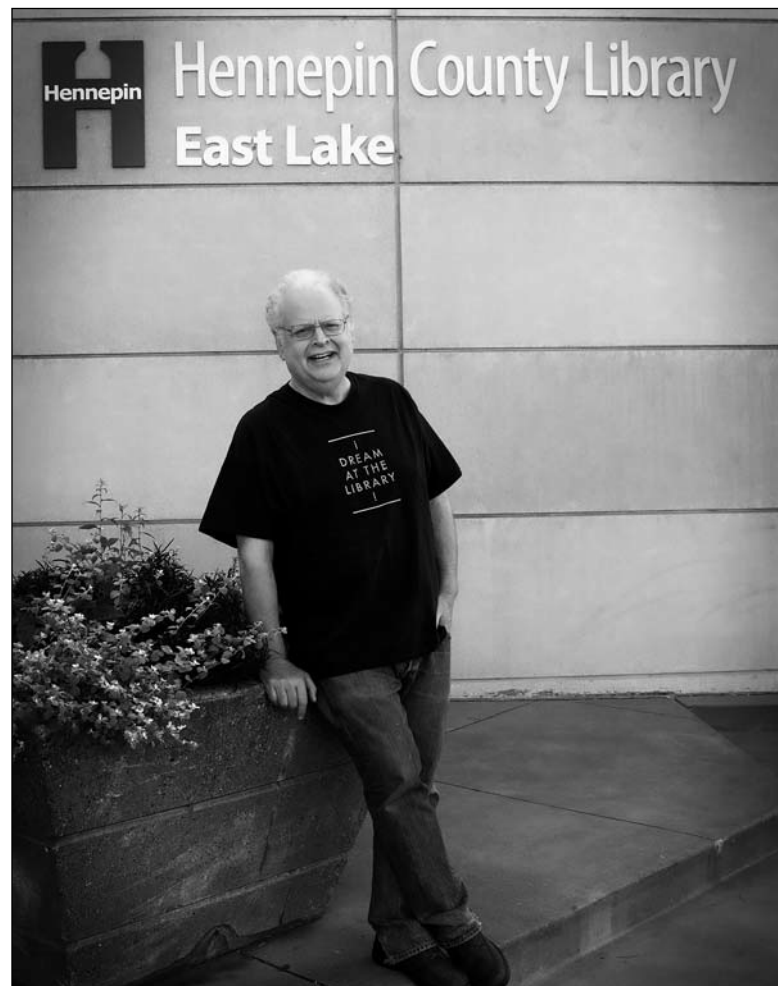


Matt Carlson, research coordinator, dreams of integrating music and dance into his daily life. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

and to tighten the knit of our social fabric. Putnam calls the mutual trust and cooperation that arises from these connections social capital. (If you want to find out more about Putnam's work, check out his book "Bowling Alone." It is available at the East Lake Library!)

People across all ages and income levels have learning dreams. The most frequently cited dreams are wanting to learn Spanish, English, American Sign Language, driving, computer skills and sewing. But there are also people who dream of making a Native American long bow, becoming an actor or a poet. There is no requirement that the dreams be practical or targeted. There is a belief that success in learning within families is a positive benefit for all.

Dr. Stein, an unassuming scholar with three decades of teaching experience at the University of Minnesota, notes, "In Learning Dreams, we don't try to fix anybody. We just find out what they love."



Dr. Jerry Stein, founder and executive director, dreams of Learning Dreams. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

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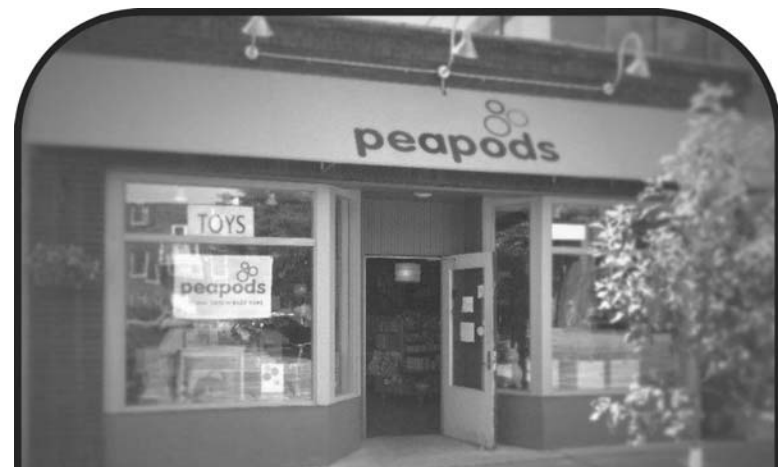


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# “To go someplace new, you have to give up something old”

By JAN WILLMS

How many people have dreamed of quitting their day job and following their passion?

Longfellow resident Scott Thorpe made that dream come true when he ended his career as an architect and started a new one as a fishing guide on his 55th birthday.

“I had spent 35 years being an architect, making my living at it, but it never seemed to be a good fit for me as a career,” Thorpe said. “I didn’t like being an architect, even though I was fairly competent at it. I knew I had to do something I liked, and I set up a plan to get out of architecture.”

Fishing had always been a constant in Thorpe’s life. As a child, he and his siblings would go with their dad on weekends to fish, camp and canoe.

“My father was an escapist,” Thorpe recalled. “He worked as an engineer, and on weekends he really had to get away from the city. In those days, without a laptop or a smart phone, when you went away for the weekend, you were really gone.”

Thorpe’s father came from

Winona, and there are a lot of trout streams around that area. “We could fish for trout without a lot of equipment,” Thorpe remembered. “We became trout fishermen, and from there it’s an easy step to become a fly fisherman.”

Thorpe said he knew he wanted to try something different, and he knew he was going to be a fly fishing guide. “I methodically went about getting the skills, credentials and experience to become a guide,” he said. “I started planning and did some fly fishing guiding on the side while I still worked as an architect.”

Thorpe said there were a lot of compelling reasons to remain working as an architect. “Some projects take years,” he noted, “and I tried to be honest with my clients and let them know I would be leaving. Everybody knew I was going to quit at 55, but no one really believed me.”

But on his birthday in 2007, he gave himself the gift of freedom. He went immediately to Alaska to work for the Talaheim Lodge. “That gave me a nice, clean break and there was no looking back,” Thorpe said.

He has worked at the lodge in Alaska every summer since, spending the months of June through September there. He operates his own guiding business out of his home in April and May, then in the fall in October and November.

“I have December through March off,” he said. “That’s when I do a lot of fishing for myself.”

Thorpe keeps busy in conservation-related organizations. He is very active in Trout Unlimited and the Lake Superior Steelhead Association. He is also president of a conservation foundation. He said he has his own website, edits the *Steelhead News* and writes for the *Lake Superior Angler* and the *Irish Anglers Digest* in Ireland. He maintains the website for the foundation, also.

Fishing for steelhead trout is appealing to Thorpe.

“The steelhead is native to the West Coast,” he said. “They were stocked in the Great Lakes over 100 years ago and occupy a place in Lake Superior. When the sea lamprey decimated the lake trout population, it created a niche for those fish.”

Thorpe said he likes the places



Scott Thorpe (left) and a fisherman on one of Thorpe’s guided trips, display a big catch. (Photo courtesy of Scott Thorpe)

trout live.

“To me, most of my fishing becomes a lot of poking under rocks, looking at bugs and critters, gathering mushrooms and finding agates.”

Thorpe said he recalled a British saying: A beginner is happy to catch any fish; after a while the fisherman wants to catch big fish. Then you care about how you catch the fish. Then you don’t care so much about how many or how big—you finally are just enjoying fishing. Then you’re ready to be a guide.

“Guiding is not about fishing as much as helping others fish,” Thorpe related. “It’s one way to make money doing something you like, and being outside. But I

would rather fish than guide.”

Recalling a motivational speech he heard when he was an architect, Thorpe said he had heard a thought for the day: To go someplace new, you have to give up something old.

He said he did give up some things switching from being an architect to being a fishing guide.

“I have no new car or big house, not a lot of clothes and not much money,” Thorpe said. “I don’t travel as much as I would like. But it’s a trade I would make again. You lower your expectations, but it’s definitely worth it.”

For further information on Thorpe’s fly fishing, go to [www.scottthorpeflyfishing.com](http://www.scottthorpeflyfishing.com).

## Sculpture

Continued from page 5

community. The activity of the street with the library across the

way, the bus stop right there, and the high pedestrian and car traffic, was the perfect setting to create a place where curious members of the community might approach and enter the space.”

## A lot of people made it real

Once the group was sure of the big design moves, Walker produced detailed digital construction draw-

ings that would eventually be reviewed by a structural engineer and fabricated locally.

“Because each of the 14 screens was unique, this process was time consuming and left no

room for error,” said Walker. He pointed out the grids, that form each of the screens, are interlocking individual parts with notches and holes laser cut so that they would fit with a tolerance on the order of thousandths of an inch that would not require any welding at all. “You can imagine what a mess would result in just one notch being off,” Walker said.

Acrylic panels were laser cut and drilled at a separate facility. Once the metal was laser cut, it was fabricated by Hans Early Nelson at his Longfellow workshop, Primitive Precision. Roosevelt students toured Nelson’s workshop last winter to see firsthand how he works.

“Another great part about working as a public artist is that you never work completely in isolation,” pointed out Walker. “While you may come up with an idea on a personal level, it takes a lot of people to make it real.”

## Come by and drink coffee on the bench

Throughout the spring of 2014, students and staff worked to create works of art for the first installation of the piece. Artist Keegan Xavi worked with students to create collages for the first exhibit inside the Connections Gallery. The collage project was another way for them to see connections—this time between text and image. Students created Dada poems, where meaning is separated from word, and they “painted” with colors and images they tore from magazines.

The Gallery was officially unveiled at the Aug. 28 Back to School event at Roosevelt.

“The Connections Gallery is more than a sculpture, it’s really an outdoor gallery,” said Walker. “It is a gathering place where students and teachers can display their work in a public setting. The material content that will be displayed and the way it is organized will be up to the students

Continued on page 16

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# Lake Nokomis may become home to skatepark designed by skaters

City of Skate volunteers Bill Welk, Witt Siasoco, and Calvin Hafermann pushing for better skateboard parks in Minneapolis

By **TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN**

Bill Welk started skateboarding 18 years ago on a cheap toy skateboard that snapped in half within a week. Today the Ericsson neighborhood resident continues to skate because "it's a great release or escape from life."

Welk added, "I can go skateboarding on my schedule and do not have to rely on anyone. While I enjoy the lack of organization or reliance on others, it can also be a great activity to do while socializing with friends that skateboard."

Minneapolis resident Witt Siasoco is pushing 40 and has been skating for 25 years. "When I was a kid, I played lots of sports (baseball, basketball, football), but I loved skateboarding because it didn't depend on a coach, teammates, or a game. I could pick it up and do it whenever and where ever," Siasoco noted.

He likes to skate downtown Minneapolis. "But as an older skater, it becomes a bit of an odd situation when a police officer or security guard kicks you out of a spot," Siasoco admitted. "So in my older age, I have retreated to public skateparks and the handful of private indoor skateparks in the area."

At 17, Calvin Hafermann of Minneapolis has been skating for almost half his life.

There are two things he loves most about skateboarding. "One, it is a creative outlet unlike anything else," said Hafermann. "To me, it is an interaction between architecture/one's environment and oneself. No one sees things the exact same way, and the possibilities are really endless."

"Two, there is an amazing sense of community in skateboarding, particularly here in



City of Skate committee member Tabari Cook does a Frontside Boardslide. The Volunteer Advisory Committee includes: Paul Forsline, Bill Welk, Calvin Hafermann, Witt Siasoco, Scott Oreschnick, Mark Rivard, Chris "CT" Thomas, Adam Nimps, Carl Forsline, Dennis Burdick, Tabari Cook, Brenda Hoppe and Harry Sutherland. Learn more at [cityofskate.org](http://cityofskate.org). (Photo by Alex Uncaphor)

Minneapolis. I have met most of my closest friends through skating, and people are really supportive of each other even if they do not know each other super well."

## They volunteer at City of Skate

Welk, Siasoco and Hafermann are three of the 13 volunteers who make up the non-profit organization City of Skate, a group pushing for better skate parks in Minneapolis.

According to Welk, the primary goal of City of Skate is to have high quality skateparks built in Minneapolis that are built and designed by skateboarders.

"There are a few skateparks in the area, but they are sub-par because they were built and con-

structed by non-skaters," observed Siasoco. "At the time, the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board (MPRB) viewed skateparks as playground equipment. In order to build a quality skatepark that has high usage, the builder has to approach the construction in a site specific/landscape architecture way—similar to the way a golf course is designed."

Minneapolis has an incredible skate scene with a real sense of community, and Hafermann thinks they deserve better than what they have gotten in terms of skateparks and recognition.

"City of Skate gives skaters a voice where it matters," said Hafermann. "City of Skate has held community meetings where local skaters can come in and voice their opinions and work towards something they would ac-

tually use."

Hafermann added, "City of Skate is also working towards raising funds for skateparks, and awareness for skateboarding beyond the skate community."

Currently, City of Skate is working with the MPRB to create a city-wide Skate Park Activity Plan.

"I want to see a high quality public skatepark built in the Twin Cities," said Siasoco. "Towns and cities that have less skaters per capita have way better parks than Minneapolis and City of Skate wants to see this change."

## Skatepark planned at Lake Nokomis

One of the locations City of Skate is eying up for a skateboard park is Lake Nokomis.

A skateboard park is being including in the Lake Nokomis/Hiawatha Regional Park plan being developed. Funds have not yet been set aside for the construction of the skateboard park.

City of Skate members are excited about this proposal.

Welk pointed out that the skatepark will benefit the neighborhood by allowing a safe place for residents of all ages to participate in wheeled activities, and the city could capitalize on a new skatepark by hosting large events there. "In addition, it services an age group, particularly age 10-21, that are often overlooked," commented Welk. "The neighborhood may also benefit by having park users patronize local businesses before and after trips to the skatepark."

"As a regional park that is equipped to handle visitors, Lake

Nokomis is perfect location for a skatepark," agreed Siasoco. "Also the large number of families and kids in the neighborhood and surrounding area make the site ideal in terms of location."

Hafermann observed, "The park is already a large, incredibly varied destination of sorts, and adding a skatepark would only increase the appeal." He added, "Skateboarding is a healthy activity that challenges participants not only physically but also creatively. It can teach kids the value of persistence and become a focal point of the neighborhood."

## Skateboarders: a creative group

Many of the Generation X or younger artists and musicians often have memories of skateboarding in their youth or still continue to skateboard, noted Welk. "A number of these artists often cite skateboarding as a catalyst that pushed them down the art/music career path, and the city benefits by having a population of creative artistic people to contribute to it."

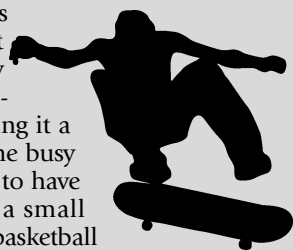
"There is a lot more to skateboarding as a culture than just the act of skating, and I think better parks will help foster this side of skating, too," added Hafermann.

"Skaters are incredibly creative people and channel that creativity through art, photography, music or anything else one can think of. Better skateparks will provide a gathering place for skaters and a place for skaters to be exposed to each others creativity beyond skating."

Learn more at [www.cityofskate.org](http://www.cityofskate.org).

## Where should the skate park at Lake Nokomis be located?

- **Bill Welk:** "The superior location is the location that allows for the most square footage for a skatepark. It is my understanding that the rec center location allows more square footage, making it a better location. If the skatepark is in the busy location near the beach, you are likely to have a large number of users confined to a small area. Imagine 50 people trying to play basketball on one court. Skateboarders will go to the skatepark in either location, so the better location for all park users is to move the skatepark to the rec center area to avoid congesting a popular beach area. Additionally, by placing a skatepark near the rec center, it will make it easier for the park district to use the skatepark for rec center activities such as instructional skateboard camps."



- **Calvin Hafermann:** "Many people like the idea of the park near the beach. It would be very picturesque, and breezes coming off of the lake would be nice in the spring and summer. While I would prefer the lake setting the rec center location would also be nice in terms of convenience for park staff and use of the rec center by skaters."

- **Walt Siasoco:** "I would like to see the skatepark by the beach, but the site near the Rec Center would be great in terms of oversight of the skatepark and proximity to bathrooms and parking."

### CAC recommends Rec Center location

At its Sept. 23, 2014 meeting, the Community Action Council for the Lake Nokomis/Hiawatha Regional Master Plan recommended that the skate park be located next to the rec center. The CAC recommendations will next go to the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board. The full Master Plan document will be available for open public comment for 45 days. It is expected the 45-day comment period will open on Nov. 5 and close at the earliest on Dec. 22. A public hearing on the plan will likely be held in January 2015.

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Saturdays Nov. 1 & 15: Soul+Food Dinner  
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Sunday School: 9:45 am  
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[www.minnehaha.org](http://www.minnehaha.org)

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*Messenger* Want Ads are \$1 per word with a \$10 minimum. Send your remittance along with your ad to *Messenger* Classifieds, 1885 University Avenue, Ste. #110, St. Paul, MN 55104. Want ads must be mailed to the *Messenger* before November 17 for the November 28 issue. Ad copy can be e-mailed to [denis@deruyternelson.com](mailto:denis@deruyternelson.com). Call 651-645-7045 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the *Messenger's* website at [www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com](http://www.LongfellowNokomisMessenger.com)

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# In our community

Continued from page 9

## Aebleskiver breakfasts scheduled to spring

The Danish American Center has announced dates for their 2014-2015 Aebleskiver Breakfasts in their newly remodeled dining room! Dates are: Nov. 16 (with the Art Fair); Jan. 18; Feb. 15 (Valentine's Day Brunch); Mar. 15; Apr. 19; and May 10 (Mother's Day Brunch). Breakfasts run from 9:30am-12:30pm, and cost for regular "all you can eat and drink" breakfasts is \$8.50 per adult and \$5 for children ages 5-12. Younger children are free. Breakfast includes aebleskiver, scrambled eggs, sausage, juice and coffee. The Danish American Center is located at 3030 W. River Pkwy. (right off of Lake Street). If you would like more information, please call Lisa Jensen at 612-724-7705 or

the Danish American Center at 612-729-3800.

## Festival to screen 8 films at Trylon

Sound Unseen has announced the feature film length narratives and documentaries along with venues for the upcoming 15th annual Sound Unseen Film/Music/Art Festival, Nov. 12-16. Sound Unseen will screen over thirty films at three locations, including Trylon microcinema, 3258 Minnehaha Ave. Tickets, now on sale, range between \$10-\$25 for individual festival screenings.

The other venues for the films are McNally Smith College of Music and Bedlam Theater in St. Paul.

Among the films to be screened at Trylon are:

— "Instrument" (Jem Cohen, USA/Italy, 2003, 115 min.) at 7pm, and "Looking for Johnny" (Danny Garcia, Spain/USA, 2014, 90 min.) at 9:15pm on Thur., Nov. 13.

— "Homemakers" (Colin Healey, USA, 2014, 85 min.) at 7pm, and

"The Case of the Three Sided Dream" (Adam Kahan, USA, 2014, 87 min.) at 9pm on Fri., Nov. 14.

— "Sound and Chaos: The Story of BC Studio" (Sara Leavitt & Ryan Douglass, USA, 2014, 72 min.) at 7pm and "Rye Coalition: The Story of the Hard Luck Five" (Jenni Matz, USA, 2014, 77 min.) at 9pm on Sat., Nov. 15.

— "Lady Be Good: Instrumental Women in Jazz" (Kay D. Ray, USA, 2014, 80 min.) at 5pm, and "The Possibilities Are Endless" (James Hall & Edward Lovelace, United Kingdom, 2014, 83 min.) at 7pm, on Sun., Nov. 17.

A full list and more details can be found at the Sound Unseen website: [www.soundunseen.com](http://www.soundunseen.com).

## Holiday sale planned at Danish Center

The Virkelyst Society will hold its annual Holiday Sale on Sat., Nov. 8 from 10am-1pm. They will be selling a variety of handcrafted items and baked goods. There will also be a large collection of sweaters for sale as well. Come and enjoy a cup of coffee and

some Danish kringle with friends while you shop, or delicious homemade soup and bread for lunch. The sale will be held at the Danish American Center, 3030 West River Pkwy. (River Rd. and Lake St.). All proceeds from the sale go to local charities so it is also for a great cause.

## Senior yoga classes continue weekly

Twice weekly yoga classes for seniors, for only \$3/class, is being sponsored by the Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors! Friday classes focus on gentle yoga where you'll learn breathing techniques, balance poses and relaxation methods. Monday classes focus on healthy, strong bones and you will learn safe movements to sustain and improve skeletal health. Classes are held at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2730 E. 31st St. from 10-11am. No registration is required - just show up. For questions, call Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors at 612-729-5799.

## MCLC receives grant for pastoral sabbatical

Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church has received a grant of \$48,132 to enable its ministers, Dan and Sally Ankerfelt, to participate in the 2014 National Clergy Renewal Program funded by the Indianapolis-based Lilly Endowment Inc. and administered by Christian Theological Seminary.

The sabbatical for Pastor's Ankerfelt and family will be during the summer of 2015, and will be based on learning about trauma and its effects on people by exploring becoming a congregation skilled at healing the wounds of trauma through ministry.

Trauma-informed ministry understands how vulnerable people are who have been traumatized. It understands their sense of safety can be triggered by any number of things. Most importantly, those who have been traumatized need to be encouraged and supported in being hopeful about their own recovery from having been traumatized.



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# Sculpture

Continued from page 12 and teachers of Roosevelt. There is no final, finished installation. I hope this open-endedness creates dialogues and interactions, as well as reveals previously hidden connections."

"We hope to give the community multiple opportunities to engage with the school in making art to be displayed in the Gallery. It has added another element of beauty to the neighborhood. Come on by and drink your coffee with friends on the bench!" encouraged Gonzalez.

"Thank you to the community for all the support they have given us with this project!"

## More Art Projects at Roosevelt

- 1) Roosevelt drawing classes have been commissioned by Northwest Equity Partners in the IDS to do two works with artist Greta McLain that will be finished in November.
- 2) Work will soon begin on a huge new mural for the arts wing with Greta McLain (lead artist), Claudia Valentino and Katrina Knutson. Knutson has been working with the DCD (developmentally/cognitively delayed) classrooms doing visual arts through a grant from MRTI.
- 3) An adaptive dance class for DCD has started — and added dance as an option for all with the new dance studio.
- 4) The Minneapolis Public Schools arts department has awarded Roosevelt additional arts funding to support arts integration in core content classes through residencies with local artists – the "Connect Project". Health II classes are doing an ongoing unit with artists Lori Brink and Tish Jones, and English 9 classes will soon start work again with Keegan Xavi.
- 5) The school's first Art Crawl held in October was a success. A second is planned for Feb. 27, 2015.

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## True, serious play by a professional artist

Although Randy Walker is the professional artist associated with the project, his name isn't the one on the Gallery. "The students and I came to the conclusion that the work should not really be attributed to any single person, but might be more interesting as a framework where many people might be able to contribute in the future," Walker explained.

The concept of using fibers to show connections is one that Walker has experimented with for some time. Originally trained as an architect at the University of Oregon, Walker left the field when he decided he wasn't having any fun.

"I started experimenting with sculpture by wrapping found objects like saw blades with sewing thread," he recalled. "I had no plan, no big idea, and was not trying to achieve anything in particular. It was true, serious play."

Over years, he began to wonder why the small pieces he had created in my studio couldn't be made as bigger – much bigger – installations that could be experienced on an architectural scale. One of those larger pieces is "Return Journey," the rocket ship at Bracket Park in the Seward neighborhood.

He has created artwork throughout the United States. Walker's "Sky Portal" at the Anderson Abruzzo International Balloon Museum in Albuquerque, NM is located on a much larger piece of ground than the Connections Gallery, "but some of the same ideas about creating a welcoming gathering place where people can interact with each other in a public setting were explored in both installations," Walker commented.

What does Walker enjoy about creating sculptures?

"Mostly, I like the fact that each project is a new experiment that comes with its own set of challenges. It's like marching into the unknown, and you can never know what paths you will need take to make a project real," said Walker. "Being a public artist requires you to remain open to re-framing problems and continually seeking or inventing new solutions."

See more at [www.randywalkerarts.com](http://www.randywalkerarts.com).

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