



St. Paul's
Pride festival
» 8

THE SOTA MOVEMENT



Dancers from MN Krump and dance organizations across Minnesota host a three-day dance experience called the SOTA Movement.

By TALIA McWRIGHT

Dancer Simone Hall, aka Athena, dances in front of an audience during The Uprising krump battle on Saturday, June 10, 2023. More photos online. (Photo by Talia McWright)

Simone Hall, aka Athena, had the crowd in an uproar. The audience surrounded her, cheering louder than the music Texas-based DJ, Al Metro, was playing from the overhead speakers. The 20-year-old had just won both the rookie and heavy hitter dance battles on Saturday, June 10, 2023 at the Indigenous Roots Cultural Arts Center in Saint Paul. This was her first ever tournament win.

"I dance because it's fun," Hall said.

"Above all, I love to release any emotion I feel through movement."

The Uprising battle was curated by MN Krump as a part of a three-day event called The SOTA Movement – a Minnesota street dance festival. The event started June 9 with an evening gathering hosted by TruArtSpeaks that included food, music and art. Attendees were encour-

SOTA MOVEMENT » 2

Governor calls Juneteenth part of 'our history'

Celebration in Rondo commemorates Juneteenth as official holiday in Minnesota

By AAMIRA REDD

During the Juneteenth celebration in Rondo, Governor Tim Walz acknowledged the importance of remembering Juneteenth's history and the dangers of trying to rewrite history.

"Think about your school days you never heard about Juneteenth, let alone Tulsa. You did not hear these stories... Juneteenth is part of our history and our children need to know," said Governor Walz during the third annual Juneteenth celebration on Monday, June 19, 2023 hosted by The Rondo Center for Diverse Expression at the Rondo Commemorative Plaza. He joined other local and state officials, along with community members of historical significance, to honor Juneteenth as an official state-wide holiday.

Juneteenth, which originated in Galveston, Texas in 1865, celebrates the emancipation of enslaved African Americans and has been a widely commemorated holiday even before it became a federal holiday back in 2021. The holiday represents resilience and liberation for Black Americans, serving as a poignant reminder of their enduring struggle for freedom and equality throughout history.

The Rondo event, which included a job fair, centered around the theme of empowering youth through employment opportunities. Various businesses and job recruiters lined the street adjacent to the plaza, where folks could connect with prospective employers.

RONDO JUNETEENTH » 3

Renovate 1558 sues to block library demo

By JANE McCLURE

The closing of the Hamline Midway Branch Library on May 28 hasn't ended debate over its future. In early June, the preservationist group Renovate 1558 sued the city and the St. Paul Public Library to block demolition of the structure.

Renovate 1558 raised concerns about process, noting that a needed environmental review of the structure hadn't been finished.

RENOVATE 1558 SUES » 9

St. Paul restricts semi parking on streets

Semi-tractor trailer drivers say new rules will hurt their small, independent businesses

By JANE McCLURE

Semi-tractor trailers have long been fixtures in Midway's industrial areas, transporting goods and services across the nation. But as more people become independent truck drivers, the big rigs are popping up everywhere. Trucks line stretches of Concordia and St. Anthony avenues. They fill West Midway industrial area streets,

especially streets close to the Minneapolis border.

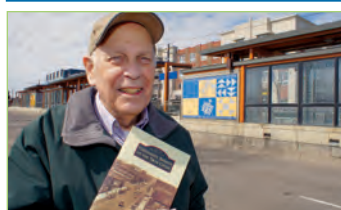
City officials put up "no parking" signs, which simply prompt the drivers to move trucks from one area to another. One example is Hunting Valley Road, which for several weeks earlier this winter and spring was lined with big rigs.

Randy Newton of St. Paul Public Works compares the situation to a game of "whack a mole." Trucks gets banned in one spot and pop up in another. But before the vehicles move on, some drivers leave piles of trash along the streets.

SEMI PARKING ON STREETS » 7



Patricia Lacy sings "What's Going On" on June 19 at the Rondo Commemorative Plaza. (Photo by Aamira Redd)



@ UNIVERSITY AVE
The story of this street that connects two cities

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Did you know University Ave. was an epicenter for the trucking industry?

PAGE 7



Midway nonprofit working to keep state science fair, science bowls alive

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SOTA MOVEMENT >> From 1

aged to mingle and meet new people. The krump battle, The Uprising, on June 10 was hosted in the evening by MN Krump. On the final day, a free dance workshop took place at the Ordway Center for Performing Arts. That evening, Maia Maiden hosted the final show, "Rooted," at the Ordway where dancers and choreographers showcased their talents in celebration of hip hop.

"It's really uplifting to see all the different talents and people coming together, showing love and being like a community and a family," said Uprising audience member Jasmine Grant.

The krump battle on June 10 was free and open to the public, hosted by Herb Johnson aka Fair Warning and Ololade Gbadamosi-Alashe aka Gambit. Dancers competed for \$200 in the rookie round and \$1,000 in the heavy hitters. Hall walked away with both. Her dance career started in 2018 after a friend introduced her to a hip hop dance class. Her first introduction to krump came after connecting with Herb Johnson, aka Fair Warning, the leader of dance crew, 10k. Johnson and others associate krump with the acronym Kingdom Radically Uplifted Mighty Praise as the art is not only emotional, but spiritual.

"The people that are closest to me in my life, I initially connected with through dance," Hall said. "And I am super grateful everyday for that."

Johnson, Gbadamosi-Alashe and others started MN Krump in 2013, with the intention of building community and teaching people about the style of krump. Johnson is originally from Chicago, but now lives in north Minneapolis, and Gbadamosi-Alashe was born in Minnesota and currently lives in Bloomington. The two have been dancers since the early 2000s. This is the fifth Uprising event, and the second Uprising event connected to



The audience cheers on dancer Virgo, during The Uprising krump battle on Saturday, June 10 at the Indigenous Roots Cultural Center in St. Paul. >> More photos from the weekend event at MonitorSaintPaul.com. (Photo by Talia McWright)

the SOTA Movement. The Uprising event is an opportunity for new and veteran krump dancers to experiment with battle dancing. The space is designed to be inclusive and encouraging for all dancers.

"Krump is important to me because it is an outlet for me to be able to create and live in my own world, express any emotion and tell any story," Johnson said.

Krump is a dance style charged with passion. The dance is heavily influenced by emotion, and this is evident through powerful sharp movement along with exaggerated facial expressions. Movements are often freestyled, though they can be choreographed to music. The events included both. During the battle, the audience and dancers were so in tune with the emotions of an artist that, at times, a crowd would run to the dance floor cheering them on in support.

"I love competing as a whole," dancer

Guns said. "I like the fellowship and I like seeing people upgrade their dance styles every year."

Maiden of Maia Maiden productions is a Twin Citie-based performing arts presenter, and works as the director of arts, learning and community engagement at the Ordway. Maiden is a dancer and choreographer herself, and created a dance team at Apple Valley High School in 1995 called the Infinity Hip Hop Dance Team. Maiden's work and roots are based on hip hop, and she credits the history and evolution of hip hop to the Black community. She created Rooted in 2009, and has partnered with dance and hip hop artists and organizations to put together events like the SOTA Movement.

"When Rooted came on the scene in 2009, it changed the game for dance and hip hop," Maiden said.

At the Rooted show, Maiden asked



Dancer Tearra Osos performs Bomba style dance on the Ordway stage during the SOTA Movement on Sunday, June 11. (Photo by Talia McWright)

the audience to engage and participate in the movement. Audience members were pulled on stage to demonstrate their dance moves. Throughout the show, and during intermissions, people of all ages in the rows danced with smiles and laughter. Dj Digie mixed music on his turntable throughout the night, as he co-hosted with Maiden. Performances included a large variety of musicality and dance styles from breakdancing, to ballet, krump to rap opera.

"Hip hop is so big now that you can't contain it," said artist Desdamona.

Minnesota communities have a deep rooted history of hip hop culture and artistry. The SOTA Movement aimed to make elements of hip hop accessible to a wide audience. For some it was a source of inspiration, like the Grant family who attended The Uprising battle to inspire their youngest child, Daniel, to pursue his passion of dance.

A third SOTA Movement is being planned for 2025.

"A lot of people from out of town shared that this was the best dance event they've ever been to," Johnson said.

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RONDO JUNETEENTH >> From 1

Marvin Anderson, who is the executive director of the Rondo Center of Diverse Expression, spoke about the importance of building a future for oneself through hard work. He hopes that at least 10-20 people will have job opportunities stemming from the event.

The event included performances by renowned musician, Patricia Lacy, and students of the Walker West Music Academy who performed an ensemble of songs that are significant to Black liberation, such as "Sweet Chariot," and "Lift Every Voice and Sing," also known as the Black National Anthem.

Lee H. Jordan, the Midwest and State Director of the National Juneteenth Observance Foundation, gave a speech highlighting the importance of recognizing the history behind Juneteenth. "Part of Juneteenth is history, and once we start talking about history, we can fully get a better understanding of what it means to be free. Because first of all, when I went to school, they didn't teach us the fact that we fought for our freedom," said Jordan.

St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter, who grew up in Rondo, echoed similar sentiments in his speech, noting that acknowledging America's past is imperative to building a better future for the



Lee H. Jordan at right poses with reenactment soldiers on June 19 at the Rondo Commemorative Plaza. >> More photos at MonitorSaintPaul.com. (Photo by Aamira Redd)

next generation.

"We're ashamed of our past, so ban the books about it. We're ashamed of our past, so ban Juneteenth. Don't tell our kids about it so they won't know, but don't you know, you can't drive forward without a rearview mirror? You cannot build a stronger, better, more inclusive future without understanding where we've come from," said Mayor Carter.

MARVIN DUNN'S STORY

Dr. Marvin Dunn, who was the keynote speaker of the event, is a psychologist, historian and professor hailing from Deland, Fla. Some of his work includes, "A History of Florida: Through Black Eyes," "Black Miami in the 20th Century," and "The Kingsleys."

Dr. Dunn briefly shared his life story, from growing up in the Jim Crow era in the deep south to graduating with hon-

ors from the prestigious Morehouse College and eventually going on to become a naval officer. He reflected on these life moments and the pervasive racism that he endured throughout.

"There's something about being 83 that gives you perspective about race and about our country, about what we've gone through and what we must do to become a better country right now," said Dunn.

As a highly regarded race relations commentator, Dunn addressed Governor Ron Desantis' controversial ban on critical race theory in Florida schools.

"One of the first signs of decline in a society is banning ideas. If you say you can't discuss these topics in the schools in Florida, then, the books go out the window," said Dunn.

Dr. Dunn concluded his speech by acknowledging the work of Reconnect Rondo, a restorative movement focused on constructing a land bridge over Interstate 94. This initiative aims to reconnect the historically Black neighborhood that was previously divided by the highway more than 50 years ago.

"If you can build a landbridge to reconnect this community divided by the interstate, then we can do that in Miami," said Dr. Dunn, "You're setting the bar in this country to right an incredible wrong that has been imposed on Black communities across this country."

NeighborWorks home repair programs earn CIB funds

By JANE McCLURE

Home improvement work in neighborhoods along Green Line light rail and an array of city programs are among those recommended for funding in 2024-2025. New playground equipment at Hancock Recreation Center and site improvements at West Minnehaha Recreation Center were among half a dozen projects that were shut out.

After weeks of deliberation, the St. Paul Long-Range Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) Committee June 26 approved its recommendations for capital projects. The recommendations go to Mayor Melvin Carter and the City Council for consideration in the 2024 city budget.

St. Paul has a longstanding capital budget process, set up by the Minnesota Legislature. For most of its history, dozens of projects competed every other year, with review by citizen task forces and the full CIB Committee. Some years more than 130 projects were in the hopper.

As costs climbed, only a few large projects could be funded each cycle. The process was changed about a decade ago. City department projects compete in odd-numbered years, with smaller-scale neighborhood projects in even years.

Because several large-scale projects were approved during the last city department cycle, no large new projects were brought forward for 2024-2025. Project are funded from two sources, capital im-

provement bonds and federal Community Development Block Grants (CDBG).

An East Side sidewalk project and work on the Gold Line rapid bus capital improvements are among \$8.7 million in capital improvement bonds split between the next two years. Most funding is for ongoing capital needs including trails, sidewalks, sports courts, tree planting, bike facilities, pedestrian improvements, and other city programs.

CDBG money will support 19 projects. That money is used for some city housing and commercial rehabilitation programs and demolition of vacant buildings, as well as community development corporation projects.

The highest-rank area-specific project is \$200,000 per year for NeighborWorks Home Partners' home repair focus for neighborhoods along Green Line light rail. A second home repair loan program is recommended for the same amount. NeighborWorks had requested \$600,000 for each program.

Six projects didn't make the cut for CDBG dollars, including site improvements at West Minnehaha at \$263,300; and \$425,000 for playground replacement at Hancock. The third area project out of the running was the second phase of improvements to the Western Sculpture Park, at \$185,000.

CIB Committee members said they wanted to fund at least one playground, and settled on Carty Park. If a playground

is in an area with lower median incomes, it can be funded with CDBG. Playgrounds are ranked low, medium, high and urgent in terms of replacement priority. Conditions are ranked poor, fair or good. About a dozen parks citywide are in urgent need of work.

Hancock's last playground update was in 2010. It is considered to be in poor condition, with high priority for replacement. The park that made the CDBG cut, Carty Park in Summit-University, was last updated in 1997. It is in poor condition and the

need for replacement is "urgent."

Parks and Recreation oversees 85 playgrounds. Four, including the playground at Northwest Como Recreation Center, are owned and operated by St. Paul Public Schools. The other 81 are maintained by the city. Age is not always an indicator of condition. College Park playground in St. Anthony Park dates from 2000 and is in fair condition, with a medium priority for replacement. Groveland Park in Macalester-Groveland also dates from 2000 but is in poor condition, with an urgent need


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GEN Z NEEDS STORIES, TOO

VIEW FROM AN INTERN

BY TALIA MCWRIGHT



Across many cultures and generations, storytelling has played an immense role in our understanding of the world. It is the tradition of storytelling in all its unique forms that connect us all.

Storytelling contains the capacity to establish identity, fight to preserve and provoke change. In our current culture it seems that this tradition has taken a different shape. Stories are to be captured in no longer than eight seconds; about the time of the average person's attention span. This shift can sound as if value is lost, but that is simply untrue. People, especially of my generation, can scroll and still want to read the paper. The truth is, people will always need stories and storytellers that adapt and change as the world does.

People often express that their distaste for journalism is due to a lack of trust. Each of us have our own preconceived notions and biases. Thus we tend to pay attention to stories that align with our personal values and beliefs. At the same time, many seek journalism that is as unbiased as possible. Unbiased journalism is the kind of work I strive to create. Stories that tell the truth, and represent multiple points of view, so that you the reader can form your own opinion.

It is equally important for journalists to care about storytelling. Along with

trust, people want to know that reporters care about their beats, and the communities they represent. As racial injustice, inclusivity and diversity are topics that are beginning to be brought up more frequently and openly, the world of journalism has leaned into stories that relate.

Though this can be extremely positive, it also presents challenges. Who is telling these stories? Do they care? And do they really understand?

As a biracial, Black woman, I often explain that I have two sides of history that exist within me. One of the oppressed and oppressor. This does not at all sum up what it is to be biracial, and I do make light of the statement. I am proud of being biracial, and of being Black. What it does mean, however, is that my experiences with race and culture are very nuanced, and I am fortunate to have this awareness. To understand the ways in which I am privileged, along with negative ways in which I have been and can be perceived in the world. As a Black journalist, I strive to write stories of the multitudes of BIPOC communities in a way that uplifts, honors, respects and are true.

Local journalism is highly encouraged for new journalists that are excited about reporting. In order to write good stories we must start in our own backyards. But it's more than that. Our "backyards" are full of rich history, and wonderful people, organizations and businesses that do amazing things each day. Sometimes you have to be a tourist in your own home state to be able to see what already exists with clarity. I love writing about our Twin Cities communities like Como, Midway, Frogtown, Longfellow, and Nokomis be-



Traveling to places like Belize has challenged Talia McWright's storytelling and writing abilities, and allowed her to experience the world in new ways. (Photo submitted)

cause I am able to do just that.

As a 21-year-old journalism student, I have been fortunate to travel to countries like Guatemala and Belize through study abroad programs at Bethel University. Traveling has challenged my writing and storytelling abilities, and allowed me to experience the world in ways I never would have before. I've seen how Guatemalan families persevere after a volcano eruption took many lives and destroyed entire neighborhoods. How communities in Belize thrive using resources from the jungle, and more. I feel extremely fortunate of the travel experiences I've had, and even more grateful for the relationships formed.

I can say first hand that, yes, people of my generation do care about journalism.

We do want to engage in our communities and have awareness of what things currently and historically are affecting the

world. Gen Z has the negative connotation that we're hyper aware and hyper sensitive. What may be viewed as a weakness is our greatest strength. We care, seek the truth, and are outspoken about it. That being said, there is always room for all of us to learn and be open to constantly learning, changing and growing, myself included. The transition to digital is clearly what our generations are leaning towards, though no one can deny the glorious feeling of the turn of a page. The beautiful thing is that they can coexist and continuously evolve.

Born and raised in Saint Paul, Talia McWright is incoming senior at Bethel University, majoring in journalism with a minor in creative writing and studio art. She believes that journalism is alive and well, and will continue to thrive as there are many stories deserving to be told, and readers awaiting.

Policymakers, nonprofits can leverage tech to expand youth opportunity - in the Twin Cities and beyond

GUEST COLUMN

BY TONY SANNEH,
Sanneh Foundation founder
info@thesannefoundation.org



When I founded the Sanneh Foundation in 2003, I knew we had the chance to make a real impact in our communities. And along the way, it's become increasingly clear that a multifaceted approach is needed to most effectively uplift our local communities and families - from policymakers to teachers and parents, and all leaders in between.

The 2022 World Cup magnified soccer's ability to mend differences and bring cultures together to cheer, laugh, and even cry together at times. As Americans observed this on an international scale, you only need to take a quick trip to St. Paul

to observe the positive impact that soccer can have on a community, and the children within it. For instance, our Kick it Back program recycles gently used soccer gear and shoes to be sent to children in Haiti, and our local high schools, too. Simply by establishing a pipeline to help a young person to get a pair of shoes to play soccer, you keep our urban youth in positive sports programs and not searching for guidance in the streets.

While soccer has been pivotal in my life, I am proud that the talented team at the Sanneh Foundation takes a wrap-around approach to uplift, mentor, support, and nourish our youth. Our Dreamline Program empowers coaches to support children in schools to have an extra outlet that they can lean on to help make conscience decisions, growing as a more confident and productive individual in the process. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we also began to help feed families, as well. At this point, we have donated over 3 million pounds of food to our local communities through that initiative.

Technology also plays a vital role in

the work that we do at the Sanneh Foundation. I will never get tired of the initial reaction on a child's face when you hand them a tablet, laptop, or piece of new tech that they may not have access to at home. While it is fun to engage with the newest gadgets in tech, it also empowers children in Twin City communities to be versed in the technology platforms that are critical in them obtaining jobs and a modern education. Being familiar with Microsoft products or the many free Google tools that we utilize undoubtedly gives individuals a competitive edge as they pursue a career or higher education.

While I am proud of the impact that the Sanneh Foundation continues to make, I also understand that it takes a village to raise a child. I hope that we will see Congress take a less combative tone toward the tech sector. Rather than targeted bills aimed at breaking up or disrupting companies, I am hopeful to see positive legislation that can work to uplift our communities in tandem with the work of our organization.

Tony Sanneh, who was raised in St. Paul, is an American retired professional soccer play-

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er who played as a defender or midfielder. Tony Sanneh established The Sanneh Foundation in 2003. The organization is now based at 1276 University Avenue W.

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Story ideas always welcome.

Keep in touch with the Monitor. Letters to the editor under 200 words and news releases for publication can be sent via e-mail to tesha@monitorsaintpaul.com. Unsigned letters will not run.

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consider ourselves a zebra company, one that is both black and white, both/and. As a media company, we work to highlight issues, solve real, meaningful problems, and repair existing social systems. We are working with our readers and advertisers to create a more just and responsible society that hears, helps and heals the customers and communities we serve.

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Writing competitions inspire, ignite change

PLANTING SEEDS

BY DR. ARTIKA TYNER,
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Planting People Growing Justice™ Leadership Institute (PPGJLI) promotes cultural preservation through the arts and humanities and builds an ecosystem for new literary artists. In furtherance of this goal, PPGJLI hosts writing competitions for youth and adults. This summer, we launched two new writing competitions.

RONDO: HISTORY & VALUES ANTHOLOGY

The Rondo competition aims to raise awareness of the Rondo community and its unique historical value. This is personal for me since I was born and raised in the Rondo community. It is also an opportunity for new and experienced Black literary artists to inform, grow, and utilize the arts to ignite social change. This aligns with PPGJLI's 100 Black Authors Campaign which provides support for emerging literary artists.

The Rondo neighborhood occupies an important place in American history. It was named for Joseph Rondeau, an early settler who moved there in the late 1850s. He endured discrimination himself, as had his wife, a woman of Indigenous heritage. By 1930, a majority of Minnesota's African Americans were residents of Rondo. It was a hub of Black commerce, culture, social organizations, and institutions.

The construction of the I-94 highway dismantled the close-knit community and forced hundreds of residents to relocate. An estimated minimum of 700 families lost their homes and 300 Black-owned businesses were closed. One in every 8 African Americans in St. Paul lost their home or business. However, the spirit of Rondo was not lost. It continues to live on today. Marvin Roger Anderson and Floyd George Smaller established the first Rondo Days festival in July of 1983. In addition, the Rondo Commemorative Plaza serves as a community garden and learning center. Further, the soul food restaurant, Taste of Rondo, combines history and culture through its cuisine and restaurant ambiance.

How to enter? Entries should be 1,000 words or less and submitted online. The anthology competition is open to individuals of all ages, of African American heritage, and living in St. Paul. Entries can be fiction or creative fiction, poetry, or prose.

A total of 25 winners will be chosen to have their work included in the anthology. Winners will receive \$100 and a copy of the book. The competition is supported in part by the City of Saint Paul Cultural

Sales Tax Revitalization Program and the St. Paul Star Program.

The writing competition "Rondo: History & Values Anthology" (www.ppgjli.org/rondo-anthology) conducted by the PPGJLI is an opportunity for individuals to learn more about the historical community and celebrate the indomitable Rondo spirit. The deadline for entries is Saturday, July 15, 2023.

YOUTH ANTHOLOGY (SECOND EDITION)

The second edition of "Aya: An Anthology of Racial Justice, Healing, and the Black Experience" is now open for submissions. The theme for this year's competition is "What is racial justice and healing?" The anthology takes its name from the word Aya (pronounced "eye-ah"). It is a West African Adrinka symbol linked to the former Gyaman kingdom and Ashanti culture. The word Aya is visually represented by a fern. In the Twi language, it symbolizes the attributes of independence, endurance, resourcefulness, perseverance, and defiance against oppression.

How to enter? The writing competition is open to Black youths of all ages across the African diaspora (worldwide). Entries of 1,000 words or less are sought in the categories of fiction, creative non-fiction, poetry, or prose.

Young authors selected for inclusion in the Aya Anthology will receive \$50 and a copy of the published book. The goal of the competition is to advance societal reform and inspire youth artists to lead that change. The Aya Anthology is an open invitation to youths to lead and serve their communities, each with their own unique abilities.

Conducted by PPGJLI, the writing competition for the second edition of "Aya: An Anthology of Racial Justice, Healing, and the Black Experience" (www.ppgjli.org/aya-youth-anthology-2nd-edition) is an opportunity for Black youth voices, the leaders of the future, to speak and be heard (www.ppgjli.org/aya-reflection-guide). The inaugural edition of the anthology is available in a paperback edition at the PPGJ Press and Bookstore and on Amazon. The deadline for submissions is Tuesday, Oct.31, 2023, and entries can be submitted online.

Through PPGJLI's writing competitions, writers are taking action for justice and equity. They are filling the void of the missing chapters in the history books and honoring our shared humanity. The words of Pulitzer Prize-winning author and Nobel Laureate, Toni Morrison, serve as a guide on this writing journey. "If you find a book you really want to read but it hasn't been written yet, then you must write it."

Through her organization, Planting People Growing Justice Leadership Institute, Dr. Artika Tyner seeks to plant seeds of social change through education, training, and community outreach.

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Local historian publishes pictorial book about street that connects Minnesota's two biggest cities

By JAN WILLMS

University Avenue and its history from the 1880s to modern times are depicted in the latest book by Eric Nathanson, "University Avenue of the Twin Cities."

The book, full of photographs and narration, was something of a challenge, according to Nathanson, who has been writing about local history for the past 25 years.

"I covered both the Minneapolis and St. Paul ends of University Avenue, which plays an important role in connecting the two cities," he said. "This is partly a story as well as a picture book, and combining the two together can be challenging," Nathanson explained. This is his fifth book in a series of pictorial histories published by Arcadia.

"Arcadia is very easy to work with, and they do a very good job of marketing the books," Nathanson said. "And I can pretty much write about what I want."

He said he needs to gather 150 historical photos for each book. "It mostly involves tracking down photos from the Minnesota Historical Society," Nathanson stated. He also utilized the Ramsey County Historical Society and Hennepin Library.

"I track down photos and write some narrative and captions for each of the photos," Nathanson explained. "I take some of the current photos myself – I know how to point and shoot a camera," he joked.

Nathanson said it takes him about a year to complete the Arcadia books. "You have to get high quality photos, and it's a challenge to find historical photos that are

STORY OF UNIVERSITY AVENUE



Eric Nathanson stands at the Green Line LRT Station at Dale and University. "University Ave. has a particularly interesting story to tell," said Nathanson, "because fortunes have risen and fallen." Over the past 10 years, University Ave. in both Minneapolis and St. Paul has been the site of a huge amount of construction. (Photo by Terry Faust)

interesting and have a high focus," he said.

"I started out this book with sort of an idea of what I wanted to do," Nathanson said. "It took a while to figure out. In the book, I have separate chapters on the University of Minnesota and the State Capitol. In this case, putting together a narrative proved a little tricky. A large section of the avenue runs through the campus.

"University Avenue has a particularly interesting story to tell," Nathanson continued, "because fortunes have risen and fallen." He said that for the past 10 years, University Avenue in both Minneapolis and St. Paul has been the site of a huge

amount of construction.

"Even with those changes, quite a few historic places remain, which gives the avenue a settled feeling," he noted.

Nathanson said there are some businesses along University Avenue that have survived though the years. "One good example in Minneapolis is Jax Cafe, which dates back to the 1920s. It's still family-owned and a real destination. It established itself as an important institution and has received strong support from the community," Nathanson stated.

"St. Paul businesses have come and gone, but many of the buildings have sur-



vived," Nathanson added. "At 280 and University, the International Court started out as an auto assembly plant during World War I."

Although the Minneapolis end of University Avenue has major intersections zoned for high rises, such as 25-story apartment buildings, many original buildings remain from the 1940s.

What has disappeared from University Avenue, however, is the large number of car dealers that once competed there. "It was called Auto Row in St. Paul, but that era has come and gone with the construction of I-94," Nathanson said.

According to Nathanson, immigrants from Southeast Asia have had a huge impact on the Saint Paul side of University Avenue. "They saved the avenue, which was having difficult times after I-94 opened. They came in, started businesses and the rents, like along Lake Street, were fairly low. The problem now is how to enable these businesses to survive now that rents along University Avenue are going up."

UNIVERSITY AVE >> 7

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A LOOK BACK

BY JANE MCCLURE

Just about everything a person owns comes from somewhere. And those items were likely shipped by truck or rail. For many years, the Midway area was a hub for freight shipping.

Rail was the Midway's first mode to move freight. The legendary James J. Hill led efforts to start the Minnesota Transfer Railway Company, seeing the need for a centrally located terminal and freight transfer location. The company was incorporated in 1883, to serve what were then nine major railroads in St. Paul and Minneapolis.

According to the Minnesota Historical Society, Minnesota Transfer was authorized to operate railway lines in Ramsey, Hennepin and Anoka counties, and to provide terminal and transfer service to its nine railroad owner lines.

Its largest rail yard was in West Midway. About 20 million cars passed through its yards between 1910 and 1916. In 1955, the company operated 103 miles of yard tracks and sidings, as well as terminal facilities, in St. Paul, Minneapolis, New Brighton and Fridley.

Railroads could not handle freight alone. In the late 19th century, several much smaller drayage companies operated in Midway. One of those was operated by the Murphy family, which opened its business in 1904 with two horses and a wagon. These small firms played a big role in ensuring that goods moved from warehouse and rail freight depots to businesses and industries.

MIDWAY'S TRUCKING HEYDAY



Motor vehicles replaced horses and soon, the motor freight industry would rise. One factor was the use of the nation's railroads for military purposes in World War I. That shifted freight shipping to motor trucks.

That shift in shipping continued to evolve and Midway, with large open spaces, became a trucking hub. Marion Daniel Shutter's book "History of Minneapolis, Gateway to the Northwest," notes how inefficient it was for trucks to deliver a load and then return home empty. That led to the founding of the Minneapolis & St. Paul Truck Terminal Company in 1921. The company was a co-operative, and within two years had 90 trucks. A vast trucking district grew, and truck terminals began popping up in Midway. One large facility was near University and Prior avenues.

By the mid-1940s, Midway had more than 40 motor freight companies. The companies were of all size, some with only a few trucks and about 20 with fleets of big

rigs ready to roll. Many were located near the Minnesota Transfer Railway hub.

Trucking boomed after World War II, and the Midway's manufacturing industry was joined by many warehouses. It made more sense for businesses and industries to keep smaller supplies of goods on hand, when items could be easily shipped door to door.

During the summer of 1950, four new truck terminals – Mueller Transportation, Bruce Motor Freight, Ajax Transfer Company, and Northwest Freight Lines – made plans to locate in the Midway, joining Murphy Motor Freight, Merchants Motor Freight, Midnite Express, and the Wittee and Short companies. Some companies were able to expand and grow nationally.

One was Merchants. Memorabilia seekers can find large paper clips and brass paperweights with the slogan "Don't mark it rush - mark it Merchants."

Another company to note is Murphy Motor Freight Lines, which would evolve



from its horse and wagon days to, at one point, become the largest trucking company based in Minnesota.

Trucking firm leaders were also community leaders. Edward L. Murphy, Jr., former Murphy president and CEO, is an example of that. At the time of his death in 2013, it was noted that he not only had served on national and state trucking association boards, he also served on numerous civic and community boards.

Trucking pushed along the need to develop and expand the freeway system. A June 2, 1954 Minneapolis Star article describes the construction of Highway 280. "A new state highway designed to channel heavy truck traffic into the Midway trucking area of the Twin Cities is under construction just east of the Minneapolis boundary with Lauderdale and St. Paul," the article stated.

But that time was the beginning of the end. In the 1950s, more area trucking firms were moving to Roseville, which was described in one 1959 newspaper article as the "suburban Midway." Roseville offered cheaper land and room to expand.

The heyday of Midway's trucking industry was over.

UNIVERSITY AVE. >> From 6

Nathanson said he had some direct experience with University Avenue himself when he was with a nonprofit that worked with businesses affected by the light rail. "We administered grant programs in 2014 and 2015, and it sparked my interest in University Avenue," he said.

Nathanson has done a number of different things during his career. His first job after college was as a community organizer in south Minneapolis. He worked in Washington for a Minneapolis congressman and on a project with Native Americans while the American Indian Movement (AIM) was starting. He was employed by a Minneapolis development agency for 25 years, and worked for Don Fraser. And then he started writing.

"I started out writing about Minneapolis history, but then expanded to covering Minnesota," he noted. He said he has been writing for the past 25 to 30 years, and regularly contributes to the Monitor's sister newspaper, the Longfellow Nokomis Messenger.

"I don't really call myself an historian," Nathanson remarked. "I'm not an academic. I write about history. I sort of try to tell stories where history and journalism intersect."

Nathanson said University Avenue has a story that needs to be told. He cited some of the landmarks like Montgomery Wards, Porky's and the Lexington Ballroom that once graced the avenue. "I view this (book) as an historic preservation effort."

Nathanson is working on another book in his series, "Minneapolis Lakes," which will be published in the spring of 2024.

TRUCK PARKING >> From 1

Streets lined with semi tractor-trailers provide a hazard to pedestrians, bicyclist and motorists, blocking sight lines and signage. That situation is changing this summer.

The St. Paul City Council May 24 adopted parking restrictions intended to keep the vehicles off of most city streets. Those take effect this summer, with restrictions and fines phased in gradually. While the changes are supported by people whose streets have become clogged with big rigs, independent truck drivers and trucking groups are objecting.

Ann Verme and Andrew Martin live on the Minneapolis side of Emerald Street, near an area transformed into space for a park and three apartment buildings.

A growing number of residents drive trucks for a living. Between 2020 and 2023 Verme has called parking enforcement almost 150 times to report illegally parked trucks. Some drivers will leave flashers on for an hour or more while they go into their homes.

Verne told City Council members of her frustration. She said she was called racist by one driver, who told her, "I can park wherever I want."

"Based on my own experience with some of the drivers, I believe that many are now operating on a 'we don't care, we don't have to' basis . . . Signage doesn't matter, tickets and other enforcement don't matter. Only their convenience matters . . ."

Jill Pavlak of Urban Growler reports the same problems. While her West Midway brewery and restaurant amicably shared the streets with larger trucks, the flood of new vehicles changed that. Many vehicles appear to be from out of state, or

even lack license plates.

But there are economic considerations. St. Paul city officials believe the city has a few hundred independent truckers, with their own vehicles. Many are immigrants or BIPOC, so leaders are sensitive to not impacting family-supporting jobs and the desire to be one's own boss.

The Minnesota Trucking Association (MTA) strongly opposed the ban. MTA President John Hausladen said, "The economy is struggling, small trucking companies are closing their doors, and the trucking industry is facing a shortage of qualified drivers. At a time when we should be removing barriers, this ordinance erects new ones."

He said the ordinance will reduce overall efficiency and cut into precious available driving hours for truck drivers forced to park outside of St. Paul. "It is a simple fact that to meet narrow pickup and delivery windows, trucks need to park close to their St. Paul customers. When Minneapolis passed a similar ordinance some drivers were forced to park in remote fee-based lots as far away as St. Cloud."

"Many of the trucks parked overnight are owned by independent contractors who live within St. Paul. These small businesses, many of whom are owned by people of color, have no viable overnight parking alternative. This ban could effectively force these residents to cease operations and lose their livelihood," Hausladen said.

MTA noted that according to the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), 98 percent of truck drivers regularly experience difficulties finding safe parking – a sharp uptick from the 75 percent figure reported just four years earlier. USDOT also found that the truck parking shortage exists in every state and region.

Council members said they will work with truck drivers and their organizations to find a place or places in the city where trucks can legally park. City Council President Amy Brendmoen said the timeline for enforcement allows time for city officials to seek a solution.

A St. Paul city staff working group took on the parking issue last year and brought forward recommendations similar to those passed in Minneapolis. The Minneapolis fine schedule took effect Jan. 1. Minneapolis sanctions have resulted in some trucks moving to St. Paul streets.

The largest trucks and trailers were banned from residential streets, but allowed to park in industrial areas. The trucks are now banned from all city streets. Drivers could still do deliveries such as furniture, supplies to a business or household goods when someone is moving. Business owners can request that large trucks be allowed to park near their properties.

The parking fines increase from \$40 to \$150 starting in January 2024, and then to \$250 starting in July 2024.

Two truck owners addressed the council in May and spoke against the proposal, saying that they have no place to park their vehicles.

Muhuyadin Farah is a Minneapolis based trucker. He asked the council to set aside the regulations. "There are no places that people can park," Farah said.

He admitted that the Minneapolis sanctions have driven more truckers to park in St. Paul. Drivers often have to park their rigs many miles from their homes.

There may be help coming from the federal government, which sees truck parking as a nationwide problem. The bipartisan Truck Parking Safety Improvement Act could bring \$755 million in grant funds to expand truck parking capacity nationwide over the next four years.

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Kyle Rucker highlights a person on stilt while walking through St. Paul Pride event on Saturday, June 10. More photos at www.MonitorSaintPaul.com. (Photo by Talia McWright)

FIRST ST. PAUL PRIDE FESTIVAL



A group of people walk through St. Paul Pride event on Saturday, June 10, fanning themselves with rainbow fans. (Photo by Talia McWright)



Jerome Richardson plays the saxophone. (Photo by Talia McWright)

By TALIA McWRIGHT

Kyle Rucker of Ruck B Media organized his first ever St. Paul Pride event at Rice Park on June 10, 2023. His goal was to provide opportunities for young Black and BIPOC entrepreneurs and artists to represent themselves, and receive compensation for their work.

From the sound systems to information stalls, Rucker comprised a team of majority BIPOC youth to run the event, some who are or have experienced homelessness. The approach provided opportunities for the team to thrive and gain skills towards their future career paths.

"Our young people are missing their dreams being validated," Rucker said, "and validated with some resources."

Rucker moved to St. Paul from Chicago, Ill., at the age of 15. Rucker says that as a teenager experiencing homelessness, he lived to survive. He credits much of his success to the people in his life that offered care and support as he found his way in a new environment. BIPOC and community elders helped to shift his mindset from survival to that of endless possibilities.

"It wasn't the state," Rucker said. "It was community that put their arms around me, saw something, made an in-

vestment and took a risk. That's all it was. Someone was able to listen to what I was dreaming of doing and said, 'You can do it. Here's five bucks to help.'"

Rucker held the event in St. Paul as it is the city he spent much of his youth developing in. The city has a large homeless population, which also affects youth, a story he is familiar with. As a St. Paul resident, Rucker said he's witnessed disparities affect BIPOC, LGBTQIA+ and homeless communities. There's a lack of resources, and of sharing resources.

"St. Paul is beautiful," Rucker said. "But we have this hideous nature about us, and we're trying to figure that out."

Safety was a concern for the team, as LGBTQIA+ communities have long been a target for hate, pointed out Rucker. The space was intended to be a safe environment where all were invited to be a part of the celebration, could gather without fear, and be surrounded by support, with equity and inclusivity at the forefront.

"St. Paul Pride [was] on June 10," Rucker said. "But we will be working on the mission of improving the future of St. Paul every single day."

Rucker is already planning for next year's event. He is hopeful that even more vendors and businesses will partner to support the initiatives.

Nonprofit pushes to keep state science fair, science bowls going

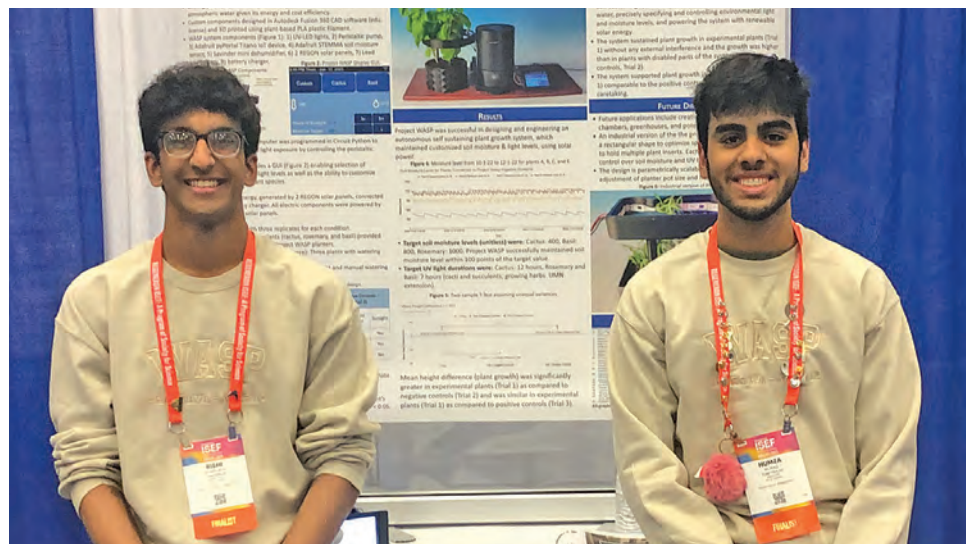
"Minnesota may not have a State Science Fair or State Science Bowls going forward. We just lost a 25-year sponsor who covered a third of our Science Fair budget. So now we've got six months to bring in new sponsors and close a nearly \$200,000 budget gap if we're going to save these programs and continue doing everything we've been doing."

This is the message Minnesota Academy of Science (MAS) Executive Director Lara Maupin delivered to her staff, board, and members recently. "I believe we can do this but we're going to have to work together and be creative," Maupin told staff gathered in the Academy's small office in the Midway (970 Raymond Ave.) to work on the organization's 2024 budget. "We've got to get everyone who cares about science education in Minnesota invested in the challenge of saving these programs," she added.

"We've offered a State Science Fair since 1950 and the State Science Bowls since 1994," said Maupin. "We know how important these programs are for getting young people excited about science. They provide unique opportunities and they can actually change lives. These are experiences Minnesota kids aren't going to get any other way."

MAS remains one of the state's oldest nonprofits, tracing its roots back 150 years to the formation of the Minnesota Academy of Natural Sciences in 1873 by 11 prominent Minnesota scientists led by renowned University of Minnesota geologist Newton Winchell. During its first few decades, the Academy sponsored lectures, published research, and supported scientific expeditions.

In the 1930s, a group of scientists and science teachers re-formed the Minnesota Academy of Science to promote wider interest in science throughout the state. The Academy brought isolated scientists together to share their research with fellow scientists and with teachers and interested members of the public. Since its incorporation as a nonprofit in 1937, MAS continued to promote science through publications, meetings, and student activities like Science Fair and Sci-



St. Paul Academy students Rishi Bhargava (left) and Humza Murad were two of five students chosen at the Minnesota State Science & Engineering Fair to compete at the expense-paid International Science & Engineering Fair (ISEF) in Dallas, Texas in May 2023.

ence Bowl.

Today, up to 500 middle and high school students advance to the State Science and Engineering Fair from Regional Fairs held across the state each winter. "We're seeing Minnesota students tackle challenges they care about through their science projects, from diseases to everyday obstacles in their lives to environmental issues. We all need these kids solving community problems and getting encouragement from our working scientists," said Maupin.

"Our Science Bowl teams are also amazing. These kids are practicing science and math on their own after school so they can do well in Science Bowl. They're teaching each other and learning to work as a team. This is an incredibly successful program," boasted Maupin. "Our state champs from Wayzata High School won the National Science Bowl in 2019 and just this year a brand new team formed by students from Minnetonka Middle School East and coached by a parent



Lara Maupin

came in fourth in the nation."

Despite the success of these long-standing statewide programs, both face critical revenue shortfalls as long-time sponsors end their support and program costs continue to rise. "A common misconception is that these programs are funded by the state. The truth is that less than 10 percent of our funding comes from the state and our legislative grant doesn't get adjusted for inflation," said Maupin. "So corporate, foundation, and individual donors are essential. But lots of companies and foundations have shifted their funding priorities in recent years away from programs like Science Fair and Science Bowl. Others are dealing with internal reorganizations or economic challenges that force them to stop sponsoring us."

She added, "A lot has shifted during the pandemic and we are just starting to identify and adjust to these changes. We lost another major, longtime Science Fair sponsor just this week due to current economic conditions. Colleges that

let us use their space for free for decades now say they have to charge us tens of thousands of dollars. School budgets changed during the pandemic. Teachers who brought kids to our programs left teaching. The generous investments we do have just can't keep pace with rising costs and the need to give more support to educators and students. New donors have to step up if we're going to keep these programs going in Minnesota."

In contrast, MAS has seen support grow during the last few years for its newest program, Fostering Opportunities and Relationships in STEM Education (FORSE). "FORSE is an innovative program where we partner with schools and other community organizations to bring fun, hands-on science activities to students from groups that remain underrepresented in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields," explained Maupin. "We've seen both our impact and our support grow rapidly. We've gone from serving 20 students to 3,000 in just five years."

"We're grateful we get to help close the STEM opportunity gap in Minnesota through FORSE. It's so important to show kids from all backgrounds that there's a place for them in science. But I worry that if we lose Science Fair and Science Bowl, then those opportunities won't be there for the elementary school kids we're working with now in FORSE - and I worry we won't have the scientists who are volunteering year after year for Science Bowl and Science Fair in our network if we cut back on or eliminate those programs. That's a loss of potential mentors for our FORSE students, as well."

"It's hard to imagine becoming a scientist or an engineer if you've never met one," said Maupin.

"I hope we can keep these doors open for all our kids in Minnesota. I urge anyone wanting to invest in the next generation of problem solvers to contact me directly or visit our website."

To learn more and donate, visit www.mnmas.org.

**COMO PARK
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL**
BY ERIC ERICKSON
Social studies teacher


The high school sports season that began with practices in early March concluded with state tournaments in mid-June. For hundreds of student athletes who wore a Como Park Cougar uniform, their spring sport brought opportunities to be part of a team, grow as a person, and enjoy physical activity.

Many committed and competitive athletes achieved new personal bests during the season. And for some, conference championships and state tournament appearances were direct results of their hard work and talent.

BOYS' VOLLEYBALL

With a 12-3 regular season record in Minnesota's club volleyball association, the Cougars qualified for their second consecutive state tournament. After losing their first-round match in five sets to Eden Prairie, the Como boys won three consecutive matches to earn the 5th place trophy. Along the way, the Cougars earned the respect of their opponents and officials who selected Como as the tournament team with the best sportsmanship.

COUGAR SPRING SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS



The Como Park boys' volleyball team earned the 5th place trophy at the Minnesota state club volleyball tournament. (Photo by Athletic Director Koua Yang)

Boys' volleyball has gained great momentum across the state during the last five years with a peak number of 72 clubs playing this past season. In May, the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) approved it as an officially sanctioned sport starting in 2024.

The move to the MSHSL may change the administration of competition, but

the spirit and energy of Como boys' volleyball is already high. Beyond the varsity, the Cougars also have a junior varsity and a c-team.

The class of 2023 has played a key role in the development of the program. The graduating seniors include Rin Htoo, Hla Kay, Peyton Lee, Ku Reh, Pray Reh, Taw Reh, and Ian Garcia. The coaching

staff is led by Como alumni Koob Lee and Areya Khue who are excited to keep propelling the program forward.

TRACK & FIELD

The St. Paul City Conference Meet concluded with four Como girls earning medals for top-three individual finishes. Junior Ellery Tennison was the city champ in the 100M hurdles, and took second in both the triple jump and the 300M hurdles. Junior Sahara Hinton won the city championship in the high jump. Freshman Aletha Keizer placed third in the 200 meters while freshman Olga Tetevi placed third in the shot put.

Five boys earned medals at the city meet. Senior Charlie Power-Theisen repeated as the city champion for both the 1600 and 3200 meters. Junior Mason Aarness achieved second place in both the 1600 and 3200. Senior Liam Schwie earned third place in the 3200 while junior Garrett Seppanen took third in the 1600. Senior Emerson Spencer placed third in the 400 meters.

Power-Theisen qualified for state in the 1600M and Tennison qualified for state in the 100M hurdles. Power-Theisen concluded his career on the podium with an 8th place state medal.

BADMINTON

Seniors Betty Hebble and Kaya Soheid teamed up to become a formidable doubles combination, advancing to the quarterfinals of the state tournament.

PEACE BUBBLES
BY MELVIN GILES
peacebubbles@q.com


"If you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it'll spend its whole life believing that it is stupid."— Albert Einstein

"What defines you? What gives you identity? Again, I ask... What defines you? What gives you purpose?"— Sharon Giles

"Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be. This is the interrelated structure of reality."— Dr. M. L. King, Jr.

Hello Monitor readers,

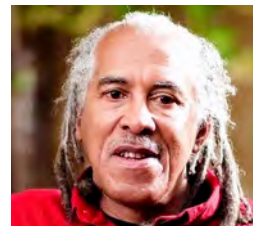
Happy Beautiful Summer Time! Indeed this is a summer that Mother Earth is revealing Herself in our face through the different forms of the negative impact of climate change, as well as sharing Her awesome positive possibilities of green-solutions for a climate change revolution and healing. And, our beautiful planet is providing us with an opportunity to revisit, reclaim, and re-commit to our highest aspirational values of We the People, By the People, For the People (Democracy for 100%); or, we can claim outdated and fearful values of witch-hunting

JOY AND JUSTICE IN THE TWIN CITIES

and controlling other people's minds and bodies (superiority for the top 10%). The courageous value/vote choice is Love (we are all related) or Fear (you are with me or against me).

'A CHOICE OF LOVE' BY JIM EMBRY

This year, I repeated my Joy and Justice Journey in June traveling to 25 cities in 15 states. And, like last year, I saved the best for last with my stop in the Twin Cities June 16-20. Thanks so very much to all my kindred spirits in St. Paul and Minneapolis for blessing me once again with five, fabulous, fantastic, and festive days in the Twin Cities.



I give a special shout out to my beloved friends, Melvin Giles and Sophie Javna, who assembled and guided a wonderful planning team that arranged for me to speak and participate at grand events all around the Twin Cities. These memorable experiences and highlights included:

The Community Peace Celebration highlighted by the 15-foot-tall solar-powered peace pole; and the seed symposium at Oak Park organized by Zoe Holloman and Midwest Farmers of Color. Britt Howell worked her magic to provide singing, poetry and delicious food for health and seed justice at Bridal Veil Gardens; and the Frogtown Farm Juneteenth Dinner

had great drumming and delicious pizza with lots of people arranged by Chef Lachelle Cunningham and Seitu Jones. Our conversation and dinner with Sean Sherman at Owamni restaurant was inspiring, indigenously delicious and produced tears of joy. Kieran Morris led our baptismal-like canoe trip with historic and significant landmarks, the sightings of three bald eagles, and rituals to honor the rivers. The young folks at South High led by Michelle Shaw had us making seed bombs as we toured their beautiful school garden. Michael Chaney prepared a fantastic Juneteenth Celebration on Broadway; Britt and Lupe sequestered me for dinner and future-planning conversation at the Malcolm Yards Market; we had a final breakfast meal and conversation at Breaking Bread Café hosted by Michelle Horovitz. Fantastic times together! If you will have me back, let's do this again in 2024.

Indeed, we want grand elder Jim, back! Thank you, Brother Jim!

ALIGNING WITH WHITE SUPREMACY, IS SOLIDARITY POSSIBLE? REFLECTING ON THE U.S. SUPREME COURT RULING ON AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

By Dr. Parvathy Binoy: "The recent dismantling of affirmative action admission policies for college admissions is like a dagger to the deep, festering wound that



RENOVATE 1558 SUES >> From 1

Because the library at 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave. is on the National Register of Historic Places, extra steps are needed before the building can be demolished. The designation was announced earlier this year after a hard-fought process.

While historic designation doesn't protect structures from demolition, it does add extra steps to the process in terms of detailed documentation and environmental review. The review is what is called an environmental assessment worksheet or EAW.

The EAW process is governed by the state's Environmental Quality Board. Of the various environmental review process-

es, it is one of the most basic. More detailed reviews include the environmental impact statement (EIS) or alternative urban areawide review (AUAR) processes.

An EAW is a document that has 31 specific questions that must be answered. Questions range from information about the surrounding neighborhood to whether any natural resources are affected.

An EAW is used to provide a brief analysis and overview of the potential environmental impacts for a specific project. The EAW process is governed by the state's Environmental Protection Act.

An EAW doesn't provide a decision as to whether or not a project should continue. Instead it is used by local officials to guide any needed approvals or permit decisions. It is used to determine whether a

more detailed EIS is needed or if a project can go forward.

An EAW also outlines how the environmental impacts of a project can be changed to reduce any environmental impacts.

The city is accepting comments on the library demolition EAW through 4 p.m. July 20. The EAW is on the city's website at stpaul.gov/HamlineMidwayEAW and also available to review at City Hall.

Comments go to Josh Williams, principal city planner. Comments can be mailed to him at 1400 City Hall Annex, 25 West Fourth St., St. Paul, MN 55102. Or, email HamlineMidwayLibrary_EAW@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Comments on the study will be reviewed and responded to. If a comment

triggers further study that can take place, or an EAW is approved by city officials. There's no public hearing or community process on most EAWs, unless an applicant chooses to do so.

Renovate 1558's lawsuit focused on the lack of an EAW. The group also has sought a temporary restraining order and injunction to prevent demolition. The goal has been to save the building or ask that it be sold to a nonprofit.

The 93-year-old library is to be replaced with an \$8.1 million project that would be built on the same site. The planned library is touted as being more accessible and functional, but preservationists have fought to save the current building. Others have asked that a new library be built elsewhere.

What's opening in the Midway?

BUILDING A STRONGER MIDWAY

BY CHAD KULAS,
Midway Chamber of
Commerce Executive Director
chad@midwaychamber.com



University Avenue has always been a hot spot for enjoying a diverse cuisine. And the restaurant industry is always changing; on one hand we don't like seeing our favorite places close but there are usually many new places opening. What's new for dining options on University?

The talk of the town lately has been Herbst Eatery and Farm Stand, a new place in an old building near University and Raymond. The restaurant has had rave reviews and is known for using locally sourced ingredients. They also have a strong belief in community and back it up by supporting nonprofits in their South St. Anthony neighborhood.

A short walk from Herbst can take you to what has been The Naughty Greek. However, owner Angelo Giovanis recently sold his three locations and recipes to a new group. The restaurants are now called Spicy Feta. The turnaround was quick and Spicy Feta is open for business. While new to the neighborhood, the new owners are no strangers to the restaurant world, with connections to Ariana Kabob & Gyro Bistro in St. Louis Park.

A few months ago I wrote about two new coffee shops: Rafiki Coffee and Café and Flava Café. Now both are serving sandwiches and more for lunch. The expanded menu should allow for more afternoon and

catering business for both locations.

Flava is getting a new neighbor in the NDC building at University and Dale. Slice Brothers Pizza is opening its first Saint Paul location, with an expected opening date in late July. The pizzeria specializes in New York-style pizza and currently has two locations in Minneapolis – in Northeast and at the Midtown Global Market.

Some familiar faces are opening up a new concept, which focuses on pizza and spirits. The founders of Lake Monster Brewing are opening King Coil Spirits in the old King Coil mattress factory building. There will be cocktails available on-site and bottles to go. The pizza is Roman-style, a style gaining popularity throughout the U.S. but has been around in Italy since the 1960s. The expected opening is late summer.

If you want to try a new pizza place and don't want to wait for Slice or King Coil to open, you may not have had Doge Pizza yet. Located at 629 Aldine St., Doge is available for takeout or delivery and also offers sandwiches, salads and calzones.

Sadly, news broke recently that longtime favorite Fasika Ethiopian Restaurant is closing. The spot near Snelling and University has been a staple in our community for 22 years and will definitely be missed. But if you want another Ethiopian option in walking distance from Fasika, try Sabina's Café and Deli. And if you haven't had a chapati wrap, you have to go there and order it (and if you have had a chapati wrap it may be hard to convince you to order anything else).

When you don't feel like trying somewhere new, make sure to check out the great patios in the Midway this summer. The State Fair will be here soon, and we all need to soak up the summer. Be sure to do it with a few new places in mind.

and beer, and more. Chef Mateo Mackbee, a fellow Central alum, and son of longtime Principal Mary Mackbee (now retired) will join them to serve up delicious items off the grill.

Heiruspecs is a live hip-hop band out of Saint Paul Central High School that formed in 1997. In their 26 years of existence, they have toured the country extensively, released six critically acclaimed records, and shared stages with the likes of The White Stripes, Black Eyed Peas, Cake, The Walkmen, Lyrics Born, and more. In addition to being recognized as the definitive live hip-hop band out of the Twin Cities, Heiruspecs has been dedicated to giving back to their community, having distributed over \$40,000 to St. Paul Central students through their annual Heiruspecs Scholarship awards. Heiruspecs is performing in support of their most recent release, the 2022 effort "Pretty Random But What Happened to the Heiruspecs."

COMO PARK RELAYS

Como Park Relays will be on Wednesdays in August at Horton Ave. and Lexington Parkway with a kids race at 6:30 p.m. and a two-person relay at 6:45 p.m. More at run-minnesota.org.

PLAN IT

ART FESTIVAL AT HAMLIN PARK JULY 28

Celebrate art and the healing power of mosaic art in Hamline Park (1564 Lafond Ave.) on Friday, July 28, 4 to 6 p.m. Meet the artists of Mosaic on a Stick that have transformed this corner of the city, and learn how you can support the work of this local BIPOC-, women-owned business. Shop for gifts and supplies, sign up early for fall classes and private parties, and enjoy light snacks and refreshments. Donations will directly benefit Mosaic on a Stick.

HEIRUSPECS HOSTS BLOCK PARTY AUG. 19

Live band hip-hop mainstays Heiruspecs are bringing a free outdoor block party to St. Paul on Aug. 19, from 4-10 p.m. at Keg and Case Courtyard (928 West 7th St.). The fan-favorite hip hop crew is throwing their take on a quintessential neighborhood block party with performances from Heiruspecs, Maria Isa, and the Unknown Prophets, plus DJs, a car show that organizers say will "feature a few rides that will remind us of when cruising University was THE thing to do on a weekend," local food

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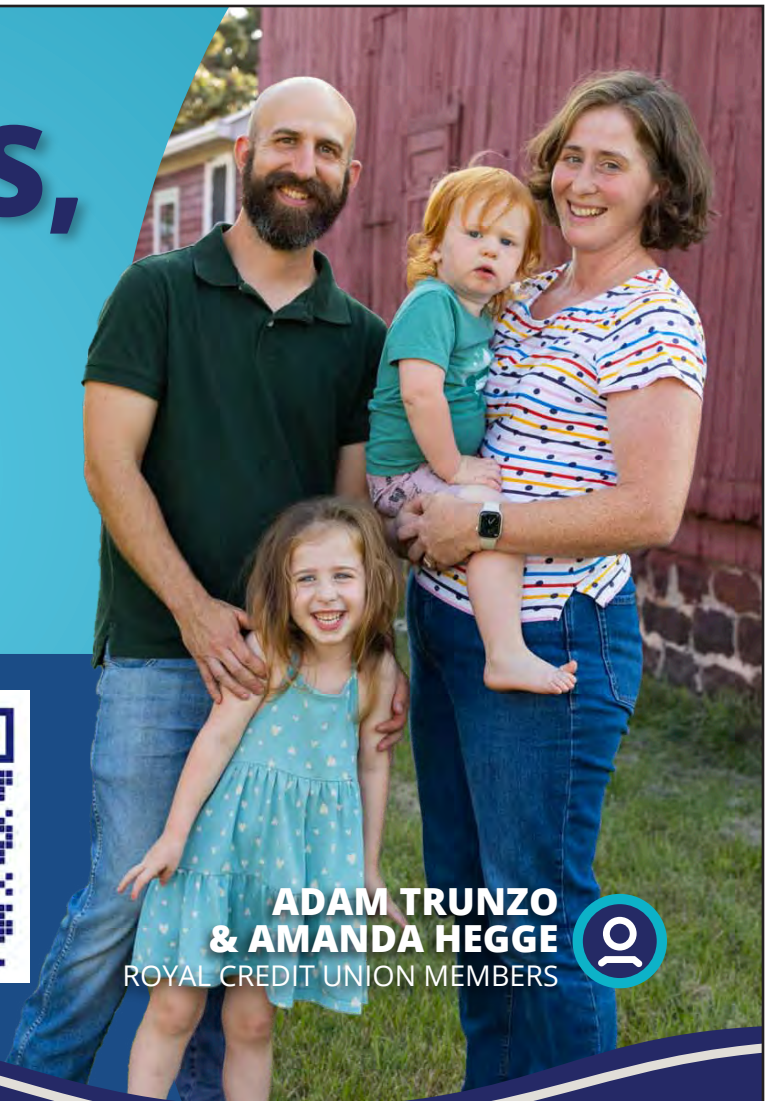
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