



Hill & Lake Press

‘Where the biggies leave off...’

Published for the East Isles, Lowry Hill, Kenwood & Cedar-Isles-Dean Neighborhoods

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Volume 47 / Number 11

www.hillandlakepress.org

November 2023

HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO OUR READERS AND ADVERTISERS!

Bde Maka Ska Pavilion Opens to Much Praise

By Gary Farland



The new Bde Maka Ska Pavilion area is open. The rebuilt lakeside attraction features Pimento on the Lake restaurant and Pimento Market space. (Photo Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board)

Gary Farland lives in East Bde Maka Ska and was previously active with the Uptown Neighborhood News.

It was a dark and stormy night when, at 3 a.m. on May 16, 2019, embers from a young man’s hoo-kah caused the 90-year-old pavilion at Bde Maka Ska to go up in flames. What a contrast to October 20, 2023, the glorious fall day when the new pavilion had its opening ceremonies.

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board superintendent Al Bangoura opened the ceremony at the front of the new pavilion by reminding us how this land is the contemporary and historical site of the native Ojibwa and Dakota people, and how the park board is striving to include them in their various planning processes.

Bangoura revealed how the old pavilion — also called known as a refectory — was much beloved, but that the new pavilion is

more accessible and functional and will be open to more people year-round. He shared that it will likely become a favorite gathering place and future Minneapolis icon. Project highlights include more seating, bike racks, trail space and gender-neutral bathrooms that will be open year-round. He gushed that the kitchen and marketplaces are simply incredible.

Bangoura then thanked park board staff who worked on the project, especially project manager Dan Elias. He also thanked the park police and Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey, who was in attendance, for their essential support.

Next speaking was Meg Forney, park board commissioner at large and board president. She compared the building to a phoenix rising from the ashes stating that it took 515 days to reopen but and was worth the wait. Forney thanked the native artists who

created the artwork and she underscored how wonderful the Pimento food is.

Park commissioner Elizabeth Shaffer, whose Park District 4 includes the pavilion, thanked all involved with the construction and told how the Chain of Lakes is essential to the city with over 7.5 million visitors each year, second only to the Mall of America as Minnesota’s top attraction. She said the pavilion will be a central gathering place for all people open year-round. Shaffer emphasized that it was good the park board took the time to do it right.

Louis King, owner of Lola on the Lake, which operated the restaurant in the previous pavilion, shared how difficult it was when the previous building burned down but that they kept going with a food truck and determination. He held that it is a “big deal” that the involved busi-

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MINNEAPOLIS' BALKANIZED LEFT

By Carol Becker

Carol Becker holds a Ph.D. in public administration, served on the Board of Estimate and Taxation for 16 years and is currently teaching government and political science at St. Catherine University in St. Paul.

The last Republican mayor in Minneapolis was Charlie Stenvig, whose term ended in 1978. The last Republican Council Member was Dennis Schulstad. His term ended in 1998. Since then, Minneapolis city leadership has been dominated by Democrats, known in Minnesota as the DFL, which is short for the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party. Today, the city is deeply divided by two groups within the DFL, promoting very different visions for the future of Minneapolis.

Over the past several months, this ideological war for the control of the city council has been fought via our mailboxes and social media feeds with two sides fueled by political action committees, known as PACs.

By the time this article goes to print, the election will be over. I’m hoping to help to clarify things looking back as we assess the results of the election over the ensuing weeks ahead.

Confused by the left’s infighting and mudslinging in the battle for the soul of the DFL?

One group is the center left, often called “moderates,” although there is much debate over labels. Pew Research, in its 2021 political typology, calls these individuals “Democratic Mainstays” and “Establishment Liberals,” occupying the center-left of the political spectrum. This group includes people like Hillary Clinton, Joe Biden, Dean Phillips and Tim Walz.

Pew Research calls the other group the “Progressive Left.” They occupy the farthest left of the political spectrum. In Minneapolis this group is often called “progressives,” although again there is debate over labels. They include people like Bernie Sanders and Ilhan Omar, the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) and other groups aligned with the progressive movement.

The DSA states their agenda is as follows: “Capitalism is a system designed by the owning class to exploit the rest of us for their own profit. We must replace it with democratic socialism, a system where ordinary people have a real voice in our workplaces, neighborhoods, and society... We want to collectively own the key economic drivers that dominate our lives, such as energy production and transportation... We want to win ‘radical’ reforms like single-payer Medicare for All, defunding the police/refunding com-

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Majors & Quinn is a vital business anchor in Uptown. Learn more about this remarkable business on page 14. (Photo Paul Mostrom)



Hill & Lake Press

Founded in 1976, Hill & Lake Press reports community news and events, educating and informing our neighborhood community members about issues of the day. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Hill & Lake Press.

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Advertising Deadlines

Next issue Issue -
December 2023

Reservation deadline -
November 24, 2023

Materials due -
December 1, 2023

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Our goal is to offer readers diverse perspectives on newsworthy events or issues of broad public concern to the Hill & Lake community.

Thank you!

I am an East Bde Maka Ska homeowner. I received your newspaper and I love it. I often ride my bike and walk around Lake of the Isles and have friends in the area you publish for.

Being a part of a greater community in such a beautiful part of Minneapolis can only be good! Your paper is informative and fun, so thanks for including us.

I look forward to the next issue.

*Jane Anderson
East Bde Maka Ska*

Gratitude for Hill & Lake Press

I want to thank you for including me in your "warm welcome to our neighbors" experiment. I live in the Triangle neighborhood of St. Louis Park, not quite in your expansion to East and West Bde Maka Ska neighborhoods. However, I truly appreciated seeing the Hill & Lake Press in my mailbox, and reading the local news in hard copy!

I hope you don't realize your mistake including my neighborhood in your experiment. I look forward to the next two issues, and hopefully to being permanently included in your monthly mailings.

Again, thanks for this. I forgot how I truly missed reading the news in hard copy.

*Jack Stack
St. Louis Park*

Greetings from West Maka Ska!

Thank you for including the West Maka Ska neighborhood in your most recent circulation. I am the council chair for the neighborhood. Let us know how we can support you.

*Tim Knight
West Maka Ska*

Enough with the Lawn Ads!

We were out of town for the August hailstorm. We returned to find the neighborhood boulevards blanketed in advertisements for roofing companies, lawn care companies, and contractors.

I asked our City Council representative's office about the signs, and they stated that lawn signs, commercial, not for profit, or social, must be put on private property. It is illegal to place signs on the boulevard.

Perhaps our neighbors would request that their contractors and service providers put signs on their own property and not on the boulevards.

I will not remove a sign for the neighborhood super sale, Kenwood Elementary, Grace Preschool, etc. from the boulevards.

However, community members may remove illegally placed signs from the boulevards.

*Leah Harp
East Isles*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Guess what? Lisa Bender is Back!

Folks may be familiar with former Minneapolis City Council Member Lisa Bender, and the disastrous projects she bequeathed to the citizens of Minneapolis before she left office and moved to suburbia.

Chief among them was the re-engineering of Hennepin Avenue between Lake and 36th Street which, among other things, took out on-street parking.

And, scheduled for construction beginning in 2024, the redesign of Hennepin Avenue between Douglas Avenue and Lake Street, which will restrict parking, add designated bike lanes, and reduce auto lanes from four to two.

Both have caused, and will cause, damage to Uptown businesses.

Bender currently works for Alta Planning. Alta Planning has a master contract with the City of Minneapolis for a wide range of projects and sub-contracts on many other projects with the city and county as well.

Recently at Open Streets Lyndale, Hennepin County representatives had a booth to talk to attendees about the proposed plans for the makeover of Lyndale, which include removing parking from Franklin to Lake and putting in bike lanes.

Matthew Dyrdaahl, a member of the Alta team — who prior to that worked for seven years as the Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator for Minneapolis Public Works and served as manager of the Open Streets planning process — told visitors to the booth that he works with Lisa Bender.

The "improvements" that Lisa Bender and her planners have brought to our city are clear. Look no further than Uptown.

And now she seems poised to make a comeback.

*Lisa McDonald
Former Ward 10 Council Member*

Getting Around Hill & Lake-land

When I read debates over how space is allocated for transportation in Minneapolis, there seems to be more heat than light. I'd like to step back and look at the data.

In the October issue of Hill and Lake, Susan Lenfestey complained about "(empty) bike lanes" proliferating on city streets. I've also heard in my neighborhood committees that the bike lanes are always empty, implying that no one uses them. But as the old song goes, "It Ain't Necessarily So."

In "Why Bike Lanes With Lots of Bike Traffic Can Still Appear 'Emp-

ty,'" Angie Schmitt quotes University of Minnesota professor David Levinson, who explains that "free-flowing bike traffic will look much sparser than gridlocked car traffic, even when the number of cyclists using the bike lane is the same as the number of motorists in an adjacent car lane."

I've experienced this myself, even on quiet residential streets. Sometimes I'll see two cars facing off with only three feet of space on either side. As I slip past on my bike, I think about rutting bucks that lock horns and die of starvation.

Ms. Lenfestey goes on: "Andrea Corbin, owner of the Flower Bar, 2736 Lyndale Ave., and Saed Wadi, owner of World Street Kitchen across the street, took three days to walk the length of Lyndale Avenue between Franklin Avenue and 28th Street, talking with business owners about the plan, particularly the possibility of removing parking. . . . 'All of us are on the same page,' says Corbin: 'We need parking!'"

Studies have shown that retailers overestimate car use. Why didn't they talk to customers, and ask how they arrived?

Perhaps these business owners drive in from car-centric suburbs, and assume that everyone in this dense urban area owns a house with a car in a garage. When I walk through my neighborhood I certainly see more houses than apartment buildings. But when I pulled up the Neighborhood Demographics Dashboard, clicked "Rent/Own" and selected "East Bde Maka Ska," it said that Occupied Housing Units came to 754 rented, and only 426 owned.

Corbin "points out that most of her employees live in the neighborhood and walk or bike to work. But without customers from outside the area, who need convenient parking, her business won't survive."

Again, did she ask how many of her customers really travel from outside the area? If her business is struggling, maybe it's because she doesn't make it easy for her neighbors to lock their bikes outside her store. If I can't lock my bike close to a business, I go somewhere else.

A recent article asks, "Bike Lanes Are Good for Business. Why Don't Business Owners Believe It?" Another makes "The case for small businesses and bike lanes."

It's time to think outside the (metal) box, and welcome cyclists, pedestrians, and bus riders to businesses.

*Keith Heiberg
East Bde Maka Ska*



Pro-Palestine protesters block traffic at Hennepin-Lyndale on October 17. (Photo Tom Thronson)

Please Consider a Year End Financial Contribution to Hill & Lake Press

By Susan Lenfestey

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We hope you will consider making a gift of any size to Hill & Lake Press via check or credit card by following the instructions provided in the adjacent image or by visiting us at www.hilllakepress.org.

One of the great joys of helping to revive this paper has been hearing from readers about how much they feel a part of the community now that the paper is delivered by the USPS into their mailboxes and not left in stacks in apartment building foyers or lobbed at the front door with a 50-50 success rate as it used to be. This means that thousands of readers now get a clean paper in a timely fashion in their mailboxes.

We were able to get a good bulk mail postage rate because we are a 501(c)(3) non-profit, the same reason you can make a year-end tax-deductible contribution to our little paper that could. And does.

As leaves fall and seasons change, we offer thanksgiving for those things in our lives that matter most to us. We hope that you appreciate Hill & Lake Press as a valued community asset.

So, what better time to support the Hill & Lake Press with a financial contribution? The little paper could connect us all — and does!



The Hill & Lake Press is a non-profit newspaper funded and supported by its advertisers and neighborhood associations:

- East Isles Neighborhood Association (EINA)
- Cedar-Isles-Dean Neighborhood Association (CIDNA)
- Kenwood Neighborhood Organization (KNO)
- Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association (LHNA)



... And this month welcoming our neighbors from the East Bde Maka Ska and West Maka Ska communities.



Leave the Leaves: Musings from a Local Landscape Architect

By Rich Harrison

Rich Harrison is a local landscape architect with Metro Blooms: Metro Blooms is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that "partners with communities to create resilient landscapes and foster clean watersheds, embracing the values of equity and inclusion to solve environmental challenges." Rich lives in East Isles.

Fall is upon us. As our days get shorter and the temps drop, the leaves of deciduous trees are senescing, breaking apart chlorophyll which has large amounts of nitrogen and other nutrients. These nutrients are then transferred into the roots and trunk for winter storage. As chlorophyll is degraded, the green disappears, revealing the brilliant autumnal hues that we all love.

This familiar and predictable cycle happens every year, and with it comes deep-seated traditions of pulling out the rakes and tidying up our yards like our parents and grandparents taught us. Little did we know that this practice is not

what nature intended and is not healthy to our environment.

The structure and insulating properties of leaves provide habitat for many beneficial insects such as butterflies, moths, bumblebees and fireflies. Additionally, in the springtime, birds raise their young on insects and worms that live within and under the leaves. Healthier soils allow plants to thrive and also hold more water. This all leads to more resilient landscapes for us all to enjoy.

For healthier urban ecosystems it's time leave the leaves.

This is a great opportunity to reimagine your yard with more natural areas that allow leaves to do their thing — all while creating more leisure time for you. Think about expanding those pollinator gardens and shrub beds or create new ones. If you must, simply rake leaves to areas where you would like less lawn.

Start by naturalizing the areas under your existing trees, along property lines and around struc-

tures. Rake paths and clearings where you still want lawn for play space. Leaves can also go in your vegetable gardens, compost or brush piles. A good goal is to keep lawn to less than half your yard.

The only place that leaves don't belong is on our streets and sidewalks where they can impair our precious water resources. To do more here, adopt a drain at mn.adopt-a-drain.org.

Adding native plants that have co-evolved with our winged and multi-legged friends is best, attracting more life to our yards to bring us joy. There are more resources out there now than ever before. Check out www.pollinatorsnativeplants.com for great species lists to add biodiversity around your trees. For other great plant lists and templates, check out bluethumb.org.

OPINION

By Samuel Doten

Socialism: It's About Democracy

Minnesota DSA and youth division delegates pose for a photo at the National DSA Convention in Chicago last August (Photo Tom Hansberger)

"Public schools, roads, water and sewer utilities, Social Security, Medicare and the U.S. Postal Service are all socialist initiatives that we know and love. Imagine if the USPS delivered mail only to households that it was profitable to deliver mail to, or if the federal government never invested in rural electrification because it wasn't profitable. Huge swaths of our country would literally be in the dark."

Samuel Doten is a resident of the East Bde Maka Ska neighborhood. He is a member of Twin Cities Democratic Socialists of America, founder and chair of the Democratic Socialist Caucus (an unchartered group of DFLers), and former chair of the Stonewall DFL LGBTQ+ Caucus.

The fall after I graduated college, Donald Trump was elected president. Like many Americans, I was jolted into political action, asking myself what more could I have done to stop Trump and the far right from wielding power. This was my political reawakening as a young adult, spurring me to get involved with the Minne-

sota DFL Party and join DSA too.

For me, being a member of the DFL and DSA are two sides of the same coin: an imperfect political coalition that agrees on broad principles like social and racial justice, working class power and economic justice, bodily autonomy, and a basic sense of fairness in our society. In 2020, I was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention, and earlier this year, I was a delegate to the DSA National Convention.

It's About Democracy

Democracy is the best way to make decisions that affect us all. It's self-evidently the only moral way to structure society, which is why democracy is a cornerstone political value that unites much of humanity.

We all agree that we must have democracy in government, but why doesn't this extend to our economy and workplaces which have just as much, if not more, control over our fortunes and wellbeing? But what would economic democracy look like?

Socialism is Economic Democracy

At its simplest, socialism is defined as social ownership of the means of production — land, capital goods like machinery, and systems of distribution and exchange. This stands in opposition to the economic autocracy of capitalism, where the ownership class ultimately decides how firms are run, how much workers are paid, if new investments are made or jobs are offshored, and who loses their job and livelihood in hard times.

Labor unions play a special role here, bringing workers together across differences of culture, politics, religion and race to ascertain

and realize their shared interests in a spirit of solidarity. While not inherently socialist, unions are an expression of the democratic will of workers, constraining the worst excesses of capitalism.

The Everyday Socialism we Know and Love

Public schools, roads, water and sewer utilities, Social Security, Medicare and the U.S. Postal Service are all socialist initiatives that we know and love. Imagine if the USPS delivered mail only to households that it was profitable to deliver mail to, or if the federal government never invested in rural electrification because it wasn't profitable. Huge swaths of our country would literally be in the dark.

So why should healthcare be organized around profit instead of human wellbeing? It certainly doesn't deliver better outcomes. When it comes to basic life necessities — housing, healthcare, education, sanitation and nutrition — the profits of a few should never come before the wellbeing of society as a whole.

Some of the most successful forms of social ownership of the means of production are actually within a market system — not the centralized Soviet command economy model you may be thinking of.

For example, in the Emilia-Romagna region of Italy, one-third of all GDP is produced by worker-owned cooperative enterprises. The worker-owners enjoy the full fruits of their labor while participating in business planning to consider factors beyond maximizing profits. You can think of it as unions on steroids. The entire community benefits too, giving this region the highest median income and lowest unemployment rate in Italy.

Italy's Marcora Law is behind this success.

When idled workers collect unemployment insurance, they can choose to take their entire annual benefits up front, pool them with other idled workers, and use those funds as the initial investment to start a worker-owned co-op. It's a wildly successful model. It is democratic, and it is socialist.

DSA in Action

DSA is the United States's largest socialist organization today, with nearly 80,000 members. The ideologies of DSA members are incredibly diverse. Democratic deliberation and decision-making and a distributed power structure are central to the cohesion of the organization. While some political actors find it convenient to demagogue DSA because of a few ill-considered statements made recently, you should know the full picture.

DSA members are:

- Raising tens of thousands of dollars at a time to fund abortion services;
- Showing up in droves on picket lines, including the recent United Auto Workers strike;
- Organizing tenants to improve their living conditions in spite of negligent landlords;
- Educating and mobilizing the public to stop the Israeli government's bombing and displacement of Palestinians;
- Advocating and lobbying on policy issues like Medicare For All, the Green New Deal, housing for all, and ending U.S. militarism;
- Hitting the doors and phones daily to elect candidates who share these priorities;
- And so much more.

The Cold War has been over for 30 years. Socialists aren't the boogeyman you grew up with. We are bringing innovative ideas to our political marketplace, expanding our conceptions of what is possible. I hope the rest of our community will see us for what we are instead of what the right wing would like you to think.

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**SINCE 1976 BRINGING
YOU THE NEWS
'WHERE THE
BIGGIES LEAVE OFF...'**

Hennepin Avenue Reconstruction Receives Green Light: Small Businesses Are Threatened

By Brian Lamers

"The project has stirred strong objections from businesses on Hennepin Avenue and neighbors who are paying the special tax assessment to help fund the project and yet will bear the consequences of less customer parking and more parking and traffic on side streets."

Brian Lamers is a 15-year resident of East Isles bordering Hennepin Avenue between 22nd and Lake Street.

"Buckle up, Buttercup, it's coming!" is a realization of business owners and neighbors now that the Hennepin Avenue South reconstruction project is moving forward. It's a remark Judy Longbottom recently made to a friend, anticipating construction activity adjacent to her UPS Store on 28th Street and Hennepin Avenue.

"Frankly, I'm terrified of the next two years, and I am very concerned on how we are going to remain in business during the two year project," said Ms. Longbottom after the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee of the Minneapolis City Council approved the reconstruction of Hennepin Avenue between Lake Street West and Douglas Avenue on October 26.

The committee passed a number of resolutions: ordering the work to proceed, adopting a special assessment of \$1.98 million, authorizing the sale of assessment bonds and authorizing abandonment and removal of areaways in conflict of the project.

The scope of the project, which Hill & Lake Press has covered in detail over the past 5 years, involves removing and replacing the roadway, sidewalk and utility infrastructure. Additionally, and most controversially, the city will install "green infrastructure:" dedicated bike and bus lanes which will reduce on-street parking and replace two car lanes with one. On-street parking on Hennepin Avenue will decrease from 311



Mumtaz Osman provides comments at the Minneapolis City Council Public Works and Infrastructure Committee meeting at City Hall on October 26, 2023 (Image City of Minneapolis)

to 268 locations, with 210 of the remaining locations subject to rush hour or transit lane restrictions for a portion of the day.

The project has stirred strong objections from businesses on Hennepin Avenue and neighbors who are paying the special tax assessment to help fund the project and yet will bear the consequences of less customer parking and more parking and traffic on side streets.

Supporters talk of safer streets and sidewalks for bikers and pedestrians and fewer cars as a fulfillment of the city's Transportation Action Plan (2020), Complete Streets Policy (2016), Vision Zero commitment (2017) and Street Design Guide (2021). Many of the studies informing such plans, however, pre-date the COVID-19 pandemic and the consequent changes in commuter traffic and economic landscape of the city.

Prior to the October 26 vote at City Hall, local residents and business owners, including Mumtaz Osman, owner of Osman Cleaners on the corner of 25th Street and Hennepin Avenue, voiced objections.

"We have been in the neighborhood 32 years," said Ms. Osman, "You

are taking away all the parking and we will lose customers. I don't know what we are going to do. It seems like nobody cares for the business owners and residents. We want to be part of the planning, but nobody is listening."

Councilman and committee member Elliot Payne responded, "I hear you; I'm listening. I also want to put things in context," citing data from 2008 to 2018 noting 14 bike fatalities and 117 serious bike injuries from collisions with cars citywide during the ten-year period. "There are families connected with those deaths and if any one of those deaths could be prevented by a bike lane, that's the type of the weight of the consideration we have."

A factor in such risk calculation is the price tag for the project: \$52 million sourced from federal, state, metro transit, general city, storm and sanitary funding sources.

During the meeting, Margaret Anderson Kelliher, director of the Minneapolis Public Works and Infrastructure department, noted the city has formed an "Active Parking Committee" to discuss parking solutions on Hennepin Avenue.

Regarding the project schedule,

utility upgrades have begun on the first segment, Phase 1, from 26th Street to Lake Street and will continue through April 2024. Construction on Phase 1 is planned for April to November 2024.

Utility upgrades on Phase 2 of the project, from Douglas Avenue to 26th Street, will begin in August 2024, continuing through April 2025. Phase 2 construction will run from April through November 2025.

The city will hold monthly updates with both virtual and in person meetings starting November 14th. Beginning April 2024, the city will provide weekly email updates and will convene weekly Friday morning stakeholder meetings and one-on-one site meetings as necessary.

More information about the Hennepin Avenue South construction project can be found at:

www.minneapolis.gov/government/projects/hennepin-ave-s/

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**THE MORTADELLA,
THE MERRIER!**

Private Parties at Pinoli

PAVILION OPENS TO MUCH PRAISE, Front page

nesses are owned by BIPOC persons who will be a role model for children of color. He thanked those who made the capital funds possible and who were willing to take a risk on the business.

The final speaker was Thomme Beevas, Chief Strategic Officer of Pimento Jamaican Kitchen. Beevas forecasted that the project will serve the people of Minneapolis for generations to come. He went on to voice how the finance industry is a last bastion of segregation and that the financing of this project will be an instrument of liberation. His hope is that the 20 BIPOC vendors in the market will use this place to launch their own independent business storefronts.

The ceremony ended with a ribbon cutting with Beevas holding the scissors. The participants then largely went to try the food and see the market.

The Bottom Line

The pavilion, located on the northeast corner of the lake, is a \$6.5 million project that has two new buildings totaling 4,400 square feet. It hosts a restaurant and market from the team behind Pimento Jamaican Kitchen. It also has outdoor seating for up to 250 people, 3,000 square feet of outdoor covered space with ceil-

ing-mounted heaters, a small performance stage, upgraded landscaping and a six-stall restroom area that will be available year-round. It has 51 bike parking stalls, 33 more than before.

The Bde Maka Ska-Harriet Master Plan, approved in 2017, provided guidance for the new pavilion site. A team led by Cunningham Architects worked with park board staff and employed an iterative public feedback process. A public hearing on the final concept design and vote by park board commissioners took place in May 2021. A construction contract was awarded to Morcon Construction in May 2022, which led to 17 months of construction.

Pimento on the Lake offers beach-inspired Jamaican cuisine and libations as well as such things as hot dogs, hamburgers and bean burgers. It will be open in the north building as long as there is customer demand in fall and winter months. Pimento, which also has locations in Minneapolis and St. Paul, joined with Louis King's Lola on the Lake to create Pimento on the Lake.

The Pimento Market offers a selection of goods, gifts and treats from 20 local BIPOC businesses and entrepreneurs. It will be open year-round in the south building of the pavilion and may serve hot food and drinks during the colder months.

A beautiful, large mural has

been painted on the north building thanks to a partnership with the Native American Community Development Institute and the Hennepin Theatre Trust. It was created through "We Are Still Here," an initiative to bring indigenous art to high-profile places in the Twin Cities. In addition, Dakota language signs are found on steel columns throughout the buildings, including decals designed by artist Adrienne Zirni-ga-January.

Two naval artifacts including the steering wheel from the USS Minneapolis and the bell from the USS Minnesota have been returned after being stored by Minnetonka Public Schools and park board headquarters. These were previously located at the northeast corner of the lake and are now in the Pimento market area of the pavilion.



Top, left to right: MPRB District 4 Commissioner Elizabeth Shaffer; MPRB President Meg Forney; Louis King with Lola's on the Lake and Thomme Beevas, Chief Strategic Officer of Pimento Jamaican Kitchen.

Bottom, at left: Ribbon Cutting at opening celebration of the new Bde Maka Ska pavilion. (Photos Tim Sheridan)

GIVING THANKS AND WELL WISHES... WE'RE GRATEFUL TO BE A PART OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD

As we head into the season of gratitude and spending time together, we are glad to be able to help our friends and neighbors with your real estate needs. Thank you for your support!



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Hennepin-Lyndale is at a Crossroads Due to Loss of Maintenance Support

By John Van Heel



Hennepin-Lyndale (Photo Craig Wilson)

"The current arrangement is obviously inadequate and unsustainable. The largely nonprofit group of institutions that surround the corridor are not flush with cash. [...] It is time for government take responsibility for maintenance."

John Van Heel is an architect and board member of Citizens for the Loring Park Community. John lives in Loring Park.

In 2015, when much of Hennepin-Lyndale Crossroads was to be reconstructed, the Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association (LHNA) and Citizens for a Loring Park Community (CLPC) joined together with corridor stakeholders to push for pedestrian, bicycle, vehicle flow and landscaping improvements.

Through the community advisory committee that was formed, significant improvements were made to the corridor.

Now the corridor is tree lined and teeming with decorative vegetation. But all that is threatened.

The Issue? Maintenance.

Over the last six years there has been an agreement between Green Minneapolis, a Minneapolis nonprofit, and area stakeholders, including institutions such as the Walker Art Center, Dunwoody Institute, nearby churches, as well as the Lowry Hill and Loring Park neighborhood organizations.

In their own words, "Green Minneapolis envisions a green future for our city with trees on every street and active public spaces. We are enriching quality of life, creating a healthier environment and connecting people through place."

But Green Minneapolis is now refocusing their mission and has

given notice that in 2024 they will terminate their contract with the city to maintain the corridor.

This is a significant blow to the coalition.

Tens of thousands of square feet of land have been cared for, not by the city or state, but by area institutions and residents via payments to Green Minneapolis. This care includes regular weeding, picking up trash, mowing lawns and tending to gardens at the north and south ends of the corridor, all of which has been provided by contributions from stakeholders and the two neighborhood organizations.

The role of receiving financial contributions and contracting out the work was provided by Green Minneapolis. However, this organization, which began with a focus on public space management, is now focusing its mission on support and advocacy of an expanded and better cared-for tree canopy in Minneapolis and across the Twin Cities. This means that they will no longer be able to perform their role at Hennepin-Lyndale.

The current arrangement is obviously inadequate and unsustainable.

The largely nonprofit group of institutions that surround the corridor are not flush with cash. Neighborhood organizations, with significantly reduced support from the City of Minneapolis, will have far fewer resources to commit to the project.

It is time for government take responsibility for maintenance.

The State of Minnesota and the City of Minneapolis need to recognize and support Hennepin-Lyndale as the cultural and civic corridor that it is by maintaining it, which they have largely dismissed up until now.

Members of the Lowry Hill and Loring Park neighborhoods — and beyond — must seize the opportunity to marshal city, state, nonprofit institutions and other private entities to provide the maintenance the corridor so greatly deserves.

I hope to report back in the coming months on our progress.

HOW DID WE GET HERE?



Hennepin-Lyndale's former Virginia Triangle, which was demolished to construct I-94 and the Lowry Tunnel (Photos Minnesota Historical Society)

The Hennepin-Lyndale Corridor has always had green space. Triangle-shaped parks marked the north and south ends of this once very acutely angled intersection.

These were civic locations, public spaces with gardens and walkways. They were part of a broader cultural and civic corridor where multiple institutions of regional importance chose to locate.

Those parks vanished in the 1960s when the construction of I-94 transformed the landscape from the Basilica of St. Mary to Franklin Avenue. Green space didn't go away, in fact, it increased substantially.

But it was no longer the well cared-for civic space of a proud city. Instead, it was the lightly tended leftover spaces hemmed in by automobile turn lanes, freeway edges and flyover off ramps. We call these spaces "medians." There are well over a dozen of these spaces in the corridor.

There is no question that one neighborhood should not rise above another in receiving government services. It is also true that whether you are talking about Minneapolis or smaller cities amongst our state's lakes and prairies — there are places with which the whole community identifies, places where there is a shared sense of ownership and pride.

These places might be major entry points into the community, or collections of institutions like museums, colleges, and religious institutions, or public spaces that draw the entire community together for purposes of civic discourse and cultural expression.

The Hennepin-Lyndale Corridor is all of these things.

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East Isles Update

The East Isles Safety Walking Club celebrated its one-year anniversary on Oct. 24. Thanks to those who weathered the rain to be there, and to all who walked with us this past year! See you at more walks soon.



Join us Nov. 18 for a Greenway Cleanup! Meet neighbors and enjoy food, hot drinks and music. Hennepin County Comm. Marion Greene will also be joining us. Let's celebrate a great season of neighborhood and Lake Cleanups together!

Finally, please consider donating to East Isles on Nov. 16 for Give to the Max Day, or during the holiday season to support our work toward a cleaner, safer, connected community.

Visit eastisles.org/join to:

- 1 **Donate** to support neighborhood events, resources and opportunities. 
- 2 **Subscribe** to our news and follow our social media to get updates on events and resources.
- 3 **Join a Committee** to address green issues, community safety, transit and more.

EAST ISLES
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

eastisles.org/join  

UPCOMING EVENTS

East Isles Board Meetings
Nov. 14 Tuesday, 6 – 8 PM
Dec. 12 Tuesday, 6 – 8 PM
 Grace-Trinity Community Church: 1430 W 28th St
East Isles residents, business owners/lessees, and non-profit, education and government reps welcome!

Give to the Max Day 2023
Nov. 16 Thursday
www.eastisles.org/donate
Remember to support East Isles Neighborhood Association during Minnesota's largest 501(c)3 nonprofit fundraising day!

Greenway Cleanup
Nov. 18 Saturday, 10 – 12 PM • rain, snow or shine
 Meet on the Greenway under Hennepin Ave
We'll head west toward the dog park and east toward Lyndale, picking up trash as we go. Gloves, pickers and buckets will be available to use.

East Isles Safety Walking Club
Nov. 21 Tuesday, 5:30 – 7 PM
Dec. 3 Sunday, 10 – 11:30 AM
 Meet at Triangle Park: W 26th St & Irving Ave S
Get outside, meet your neighbors, pick up litter and contribute to community safety and spirit!

Dates subject to change—visit eastisles.org for the latest.

OPINION

By Andrea Corbin

Stop the Bike Lobby from Ruining Businesses on Lyndale too!



Flower Bar is located on Lyndale Avenue and is owned by Andrea Corbin. (Photo Andrea Corbin)

I'm the owner of Flower Bar at 2736 Lyndale Avenue. Flower Bar is a totally new floral concept inviting everyone to come and experience the joy of creating your very own floral arrangement right here in our store! We provide the flowers and some helpful tips; you provide the creativity.

Until just recently I was focused on growing my business, a new direction for me from my former career as an interior designer. Then I learned about potential changes coming to Lyndale Avenue.

I am not an activist. In fact, I had managed to get this far in my life

without engaging in politics or the complexity of city policy.

But when I learned about plans which would remove parking on Lyndale Avenue in the name of promoting a carbon-free city, it made no sense to me.

I have employees who live blocks away from the shop and walk to work. Why are we eliminating convenient access to businesses for customers, which will in turn harm or destroy businesses like mine, businesses our employees can walk to?

There's a good example of this on Hennepin Avenue between Lake Street and 31st Street, with board-

ed-up and empty retail space and owners unable to lease their spaces due to lack of convenient access. It seems we have tipped the scale of balance in the city, and logic and reason are no longer in play.

I started wondering, Is the city's purpose in eliminating parking to encourage more biking and walking trips — which we all can support — or is it to get rid of the roads that are designed for cars? All cars? What about electric cars? Or perhaps shared-ride cars.

I had to get involved.

I went to the first public engagement meeting on August 24, 2023. There were only three other business owners in the room, and it seemed everyone else was a bike advocate. At that time, I was not aware that there was such a thing as a bike lobby, and only later did I learn of their clout.

Concerned with what we had heard at the meeting, another business owner and I spent the better part of three days walking from Franklin Avenue to 31st Street on both sides of Lyndale Avenue talking with fellow business owners and managers about the project.

Everyone we spoke to was either unaware of the project and if they did know about it, they had a very limited understanding of its scope. They did not realize that it might involve the loss of on-street parking,

and a complete sidewalk-to-sidewalk tear out.

As a result of that spontaneous outreach, we have created an unofficial group called the Small Business Alliance, with 74 businesses involved. We are working together with neighborhood residents to try to keep parking on Lyndale Avenue as part of the redesign and to educate our group and others on how these design decisions are being made so that there will be a fairer engagement process with the community at large.

Lyndale Avenue businesses and property owners from Franklin Avenue to 31st Street pay \$5,138,419 in property taxes, not to mention sales tax that they collect and pay on behalf of their patrons. Business owners and individual residents alike are at a very unfair disadvantage by being asked to compete with well-funded lobbying groups to get their opinions heard.

Members of the Small Business Alliance agree that losing parking means losing business! We have created a website to keep people informed: www.vibrantlyndale.org

You can also sign our petition here: <https://actionnetwork.org/letters/vibrant-lyndale-needs-on-street-parking/>

Andrea Corbin, owner of Flower Bar, can be reached at 612-707-6330 or at andrea@flowerbarexperience.com.



LOWRY HILL NEWS - November 2023



LHNA DECEMBER BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, December 5, from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Kenwood Community Center

All residents are welcome. If you have questions or would like to be on the agenda, please email us at lhna@lowryhillneighborhood.org.

Thank you for a wonderful year in the neighborhood!



Thank you for your generous support.

Stay in the loop by following Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association on Instagram and Facebook, and by signing up for the LHNA email newsletter at lowryhillneighborhood.org

Meet Your Neighbor

By Susan Lenfestey, Photos by Courtney Kiernat

DENNY MAGERS OF MAGERS & QUINN BOOKSELLERS

"As if it's not enough to have hills and lakes in our community, we have two terrific bookstores as well: Birchbark Books in Kenwood and Magers & Quinn in East Bde Maka Ska."

Susan Lenfestey is a cofounder of and board member of the Hill & Lakes Press and a regular columnist. Susan lives in Lowry Hill.

Birchbark, across the street from Kenwood School, is owned by author and neighbor Louise Erdrich, and is a jewel box of delights — stacks of books with staff recommendations penned above them, glittering beadwork and birchbark baskets and the scent of braided sweetgrass in the air.

Magers & Quinn is the sprawling discount book emporium on Hennepin Avenue between Lake Street and 31st Street. Because I've been talking with businesspeople in Uptown lately to learn about the challenges they are facing, it was time to talk Denny Magers, its owner.

What I imagined would be a quick visit to ask a few questions turned into a conversation as expansive and interesting as the building that houses his business.

Some History

The building, built in 1921, was originally a Chevrolet dealership, with cars on display in the front showroom and repairs handled in the back. A large overhead door opens onto the alley, and the original elevator that hoisted cars among the three floors is still in operation, one of two elevators of this vintage left in the city.

When the dealership moved on, the Minnesota Driver and Vehicle Services moved into the front of the building, and a printing business set up shop in the back. When the department left it became a second-hand store operated by the Junior



Magers & Quinn's ever-changing storefront window display

League, and then in 1994 it became Magers & Quinn.

Magers & Quinn is named for Denny Magers' parents, his father being the Magers and his mother the Quinn. His father was an engineer, and his mother was "a mom" with an enormous curiosity. "She'd grab a book whenever there was something she wanted to know more about."

After college, Denny went to work for Plywood Minnesota and eventually became a vice president there, helping that business grow to become an 80-store chain. After leaving Plywood Minnesota he started an import-export business. Unrelated to his business, he had a chance to buy a trailer-load of used books. "After I bought them, I thought, 'OK, now what are you going to do with them?'"

On his next trip overseas, he cold-called some used book dealers in London and Dublin to see if they were interested in his cache. "I don't know if I was a good salesman, or I just appeared honest," he says, but they were interested. Later, when the dealers went through the books, they told him which were good, and

which were trash. "That got me started."

He continued in the export business but kept buying more books along the way and shipping them to dealers.

In the early 1990s he saw that a bookstore near the University of Minnesota was going out of business so he went over to see if there were some books he might buy. "Three days later I was in the retail business."

He took over the shop and increased sales, but eventually decided he wasn't interested in continuing at that scale: "I'm a book person, but also a businessperson. I said either I get bigger or I'm moving on from this venture."

His decision to get bigger brought him to Uptown.

Originally the store only sold used books and remainders, primarily in the front showroom, but as the business grew it expanded into what once was the repair shop, and later the print shop. "I left things the way they were in this building. The decoration isn't the most important thing, it's what's on the shelf. And I think most peo-

ple get it and like it that way. "

In response to customers' requests, he eventually began to carry new books. He still sells all books at a discount, from 10% on new books, up to 50% on used books and remainders — the name for publishers' stock that's been around a while. When I asked how he can afford to do that he replied, "It's not easy!"

The Business

The business has become more complicated. It has grown since 1994 and now employs roughly 40 people.

Two of those employees, Jessi Blackstock, the store manager, and Annie Metcalf, the events coordinator, joined us as we wound our way through aisles and tables loaded with books.

The books come primarily from three sources — new books from publishers, used books bought back from the public, and remainders and publisher returns. The revenue also comes from three main streams: in-store sales, website orders and outside sales, which is sales to other businesses, libraries and schools.



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L to R - Denny Magers, owner; Paul Mostrom, warehouse manager; Annie Metcalf, Events Coordinator; Jessi Blackstock, Store Manager.



Children's book area at the back of the shop



The back door, for picking up orders or dropping off used books



Top - Doorbell; Bottom - Conor McBrien sorting incoming inventory



Help is always available in every area of the store!

Magers & Quinn also partners with a myriad of local organizations including neighborhood schools, the Women's Prison Book Project and Children's Minnesota hospital to name a few. They host over 150 author book events both in-store and offsite and handle the book sales for series like Pen Pals and Talking Volumes.

The first-floor houses retail books and is home to frequent readings. It's stocked with around 100,000 new and used books as well as cards, gifts and assorted literary merchandise.

The basement warehouse, where incoming pallets of books are delivered via that vintage elevator, holds over 200,000 volumes, as well as the desks and tools of the employees who sort and process the books and prepare online orders for shipping.

The entire inventory is now available on the Magers & Quinn new website, magersandquinn.com, along with the inventory of Ingram, the largest book distributor in the country, which makes more than 10 million titles available.

This means you can order from home "in your pajamas," Denny says, "and pick it up at the back door, or have it delivered." Shop locally!

It's a labor-intensive business with every book getting handled by an employee 12-14 times before it

goes out the door. "There's no way to automate that," says Denny. "You can automate the inventory system, but not all the physical processing of the books."

The New Normal

So how is business playing out in light of the pandemic, the aftermath of the George Floyd murder, reports of crime in Uptown and the removal of on-street parking?

Customer support during Covid was terrific. The "clunky old website" got them through.

And average sales are up a bit over last year. "Despite what's going on," Denny says. "It makes me think how much better business would be if things were normal. And if we had parking."

What is Normal?

More shops doing business on the street would add to the "normal" feel. They point to hopeful signs that things are turning around, like the men's clothing store, Scout, that has opened next door.

The chain stores that came and left did Uptown no favors, Denny says. "This area would be much better served by a lot of independent unique shops."

As for crime? Nothing much has changed. "There's always been some shoplifting, and it's still mostly the same old stuff." They laugh as they relate the things they see. "Please don't write on the pages of

that book." "Please put your top back on."

"It's more a perception of crime than a reality," says Denny.

When it comes to parking, they agree that on-street parking offered convenience and gave a feeling of activity, something that is now missing on the block. Jessi and Annie suggest the ramp behind Seven Points, the former Calhoun Square, as an alternative. "It's right there. But it's expensive."

When Denny mentions that the ramps at 50th and France, a much healthier commercial area, are owned by the city of Edina, and free, we all chime in. "Minneapolis should buy the ramp! Put solar on top! Add charging stations! Make it affordable, even better, free!"

But Denny says that on-street parking is also important. "To bring in customers you have to make it convenient to the general public, not just to the diehard book person who will come in no matter what."

Later Denny and I talk about the bottom-line effect of the changes in Uptown, the decreasing foot traffic, the lower value of the buildings, and, of course, the taxes that don't reflect those changes. He splits the real estate taxes with his landlord, and last year his share was \$70,000. "That's a lot of paperbacks!" he says.

Magers & Quinn is still getting by but clearly things could be bet-

ter. "We, and all the other merchants in the neighborhood, need larger numbers of customers in order to survive, and current city policies don't acknowledge that. We are competing with the convenience and free parking available almost everywhere outside the city."

My Takeaway

As I walked to my car, three blocks away on a residential street that many people now use for parking, I thought about the irony of Magers & Quinn's being housed in a building built to sell cars, in a city now determined to do away with most of them. And the impact that is having on his business as well as the rest of Uptown.

Carbon is killing our planet, but prohibiting cars is killing our local businesses. We should change the kind of cars we drive, not just the streets we drive them on.

If people value a unique, thriving commercial area in their neighborhood, then the city should be trying to accommodate the merchants by providing a safe environment and not putting roadblocks in the way of customers who want to support them. Current policies are strangling the traffic flow and not allowing customers to park once they arrive. "It's pretty simple," says Denny. "No customers, no stores and no restaurants."

Celebrate Indigenous Heritage Month With Important Exhibits by Native Artists

By Josie Owens



Cara Romero and Juleana Enright, the Gallery and Programs Coordinator at All My Relations Arts at the opening artist talk on October 20th at Bockley. (Photo Josie Owens)

"Minneapolis is celebrating November Indigenous Heritage Month with three excellent art exhibits at Mia (Minneapolis Institute of Art) and the Bockley Gallery. All three shows offer powerful messages that will leave the viewer with a deep appreciation for these important but too often underrepresented artists who reclaim and rectify the Indigenous historical narrative."

"The Lyrical Artwork of Jim Denomie"
July 8, 2023 - March 24, 2024 at Mia

Jim Denomie (Ojibwe, Lac Courte Oreilles Band, 1955–2022) used bright colors to draw the viewer into his satirical work. One will

at first enjoy familiar references to artworks like "American Gothic" or "Nighthawks." Then, the viewer will look more closely and pause to contemplate the harsher references embedded in the busy canvas — the 38 Dakota men who were hanged on December 26, 1862, in Mankato; a priest who oversaw the forced separation of Native children from their parents and culture; or a more recent civil rights violation when Minneapolis officers transported two intoxicated Native Americans to the hospital in the trunk of a police car.

Denomie understood the suffering of the Native people firsthand as he was part of the Indian Relocation Act of 1956, a federal program to encourage assimilation of the American Indian by proffering vocational opportunities in large cities in exchange for leaving the reservation. However, Denomie's family did not receive the promised aid and ended up in poverty without jobs but with a broken family structure. In spite of this, Denomie overcame hardships including addiction to pursue art at the University of Minnesota, where he developed his powerful voice.

"The Lyrical Artwork of Jim Denomie" pulls no punches. Denomie was masterful at presenting images that have layers of meaning.

His motley canvases playfully entice the viewer and then provoke and challenge. Although Denomie died while it was being planned, his art and message live on in this superbly curated exhibit. Nicole Soukup, who worked closely with Denomie, his wife Diane Wilson, and his art representative, Todd Bockley, captures Denomie's personality and his impactful commentary. "Despite the emotional weight of his subject matter, the artist's dry wit opened space for necessary conversations about the legacies of colonization and the nature of humanity."

"In Our Hands: Native Photography, 1890 to Now"
October 22, 2023 – January 14, 2024 at Mia (public tours at 2 p.m. daily)

Photography has a complicated history for Indigenous people as the medium was used to subjugate and repress. Indigenous people were posed and manipulated to create a deceptive and destructive narrative. "In Our Hands" allows photography made by Indigenous people to correct those flawed images that permeated the canon.

As with the impactful "Hearts of Our People: Native Women Artists," a curatorial council of Indigenous artists, educators and curators worked to select the artworks. More than 150 Native photographic works of art reclaim and tell the story of diverse cultures from the Rio Grande to the Arctic Circle. Jill Ahlberg Yohe, Jaida Grey Eagle and Casey Riley have curated a visually stunning exhibit. The vast exhibit has three themes: World of Relations, Always Leaders and Always Present. The photographs are positioned in a way that allows them to talk to each other about issues that extend across decades.

The artists also explore and manipulate photography in unexpected ways. For example, "War Shirt #1" by Bentley Spang (Northern Cheyenne) is a protective shirt made from family photographs with tassels of negatives, transforming the medium from subjugation to empowerment. Contemporary photographers highlight environmental is-

ssues and the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women.

As "TV Indians" by Cara Romero (Chemehuevi) reminds the audience that you may not even realize how many of these false images you have seen and accepted. Now is the chance to reflect on whose history gets to be told in film and replace those misrepresentations with a different narrative.

"Cara Romero, Indigenous Futurisms"
October 21, 2023 – November 26, 2023 at the Bockley Gallery

Cara Romero's work does not stop with "In Our Hands." She has her own intimate show at the Bockley Gallery. Romero is known for her gorgeous black and white large portraits with a spiritual undermeaning, but now she is exploring a new style — bright colorful photographs that take us on a journey to the future. Indigenous Futurism is an art movement that confronts the consequences of past and present colonization and imagines ways to heal and build better futures for Indigenous communities.

Romero says that Indigenous people "carry deep histories with us like sacred bundles." In her new portraits, her subjects are carrying something old into the future. Romero stresses the importance of resilience. "Seeds can be dormant for twenty years and then bloom. They are dormant, not dead." Romero remains positive through her artwork. "As we (Natives) continue to heal from past and ongoing traumas, we move from surviving to thriving. We are now in a creative space to imagine our futures while remembering all of our gifts granted by the sacrifices of those that came before us. We address themes like the futurity of precious Native life ways, our climate and Mother Earth, bringing balance and women's leadership, and speculative fantasy with what feels like hope."

The Bockley Gallery is located at 2123 West 21st Street and is three doors down from Birchbark Books & Native Arts, which has a great selection of Indigenous literature and history to read during Indigenous Heritage Month.





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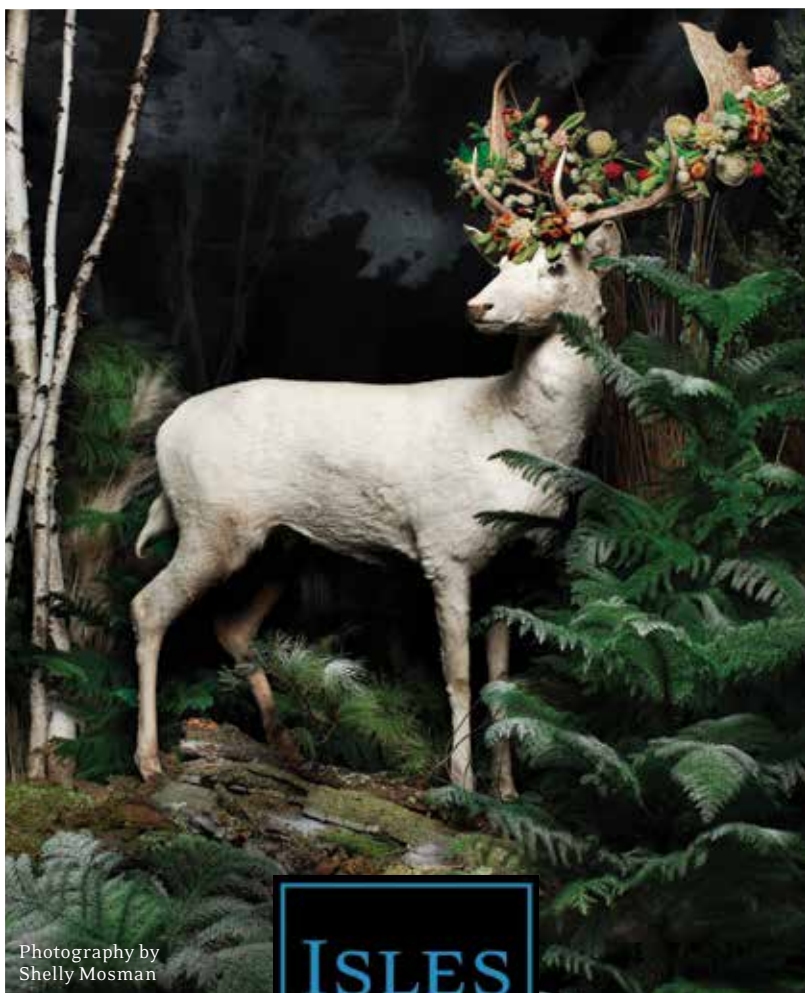
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Berni Allen

Dan Chouinard, Prudence Johnson, Liz Hawkinson, and Bradley Greenwald present *Dear Lenny: Bernstein's Life in Songs & Letters*, a tribute to Leonard Bernstein's commitment to music, love, and the artist as activist.

Tuesday, December 12, 7:00 pm
Open at 5:00 pm for drinks & dinner

T. Mychael Rambo & Thomasina Petrus

Sing Songs of Joy & Hope for the Holidays



Celebrate the holidays with friends and loved ones and share the gift of music! Who better to do that with than the velvet-voiced duo of Thomasina Petrus and T. Mychael Rambo? A concert sure to inspire joy, hope, and gratitude for the holiday season.

Sunday, December 17, 4:00 pm
Open at 3:30 pm for drinks

Holiday Market

Featuring one-of-a-kind items from artists — clothing, ceramics, jewelry, paintings, soaps, food — ideal shopping for last-minute gifts!

Sunday, December 17
10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Tickets & information at womansclub.org or 612.813.5300
The Woman's Club of Minneapolis 410 Oak Grove Street Minneapolis

BALKANIZED LEFT, Front page

munities, the Green New Deal, and more as a transition to a freer, more just life.”

When the Democratic Socialists were unsuccessful nationally with the 2016 Sanders presidential campaign, they refocused their efforts locally.

In 2017, Our Revolution Twin Cities was formed by Sanders supporters and became a catalyst to organize far-left groups into a local movement. In 2017 they endorsed 14 candidates for Minneapolis City Council and nine were elected, delivering Lisa Bender the council presidency. As a result, in 2018, the council had nine progressives and four moderates.

In the 2020 election, power shifted. The council now has five moderates, five progressives and three swing votes who mostly vote with the moderates.

By 2021, Amendment 2, the amendment to remove minimum staffing levels for the Police Department, also known as the “defund” amendment, deepened the divisions in the city. Defunding the police is part of the platform of the Democratic Socialists and most progressives supported the amendment. Most moderates opposed the amendment, wanting both police and reforms. The amendment failed with 56% of voters opposing it, showing that moderates held a slim majority in the city.

In 2023, these deep divisions are shaping the upcoming city council election. On the progressive left, the Twin Cities Democratic Socialists (affiliated with the national DSA organization) endorsed five candidates. The progressive PAC, “Minneapolis for the Many,” endorsed five candidates, including three also endorsed by the Democratic Socialists. It is expected that candidates endorsed by both groups will tend to vote as a progressive bloc on most issues if elected.

There is no national equivalent to the Democratic Socialists making endorsements in this election. The local PAC “All of Mpls” supported the moderates and endorsed seven candidates. If elected, it is expected they will tend to vote as a moderate bloc.

Five progressives and four moderates received the endorsement of the Minneapolis DFL. However, irregularities in the endorsement process, brought up most recently by Mike Norton, the former vice chair of the Minneapolis DFL, make it even more unclear what the Minneapolis DFL endorsement represents.

Some of the major differences between the progressive and moderate agendas are described as follows:

Police: Progressives seek to invest in a new community safety division, which may come at the cost of additional police officers, while moderates want to hire more police while implementing police reform. There is actually broad agreement on many other public safety issues like hiring mental health responders and outreach teams for the homeless.

Encampments: Progressives want encampments to remain until residents can be safely moved to shelters or permanent housing; they are against sweeps and closures citing that people are retraumatized and just pushed around the city in an endless cycle of encampment building and tear down. Moderates see en-

campments as inhumane and want encampments to be removed citing that they are causing crime, violence and death to people living in and around the encampments. They tend to support the clearing of encampments with people being relocated to emergency shelters.

Transportation and Parking: Pushed by progressives, Minneapolis adopted a goal of reducing local automobile travel by 60% in the next seven years. Progressives want to achieve this through substantially changing roadways to promote walking, biking and transit by sacrificing parking stalls and drive lanes. Moderates want a transportation system focused on balancing access to jobs, schools and small business with equity, addressing climate change, reducing carbon emissions and improving human health. They acknowledge that automobiles are a common mode of transportation that needs to be supported as we transition to electric vehicles, citing that they are unlikely to go away. They also advocate for transit, bicycling and walking but are skeptical of eliminating parking spaces and drive lanes with fear of impacts to businesses and traffic congestion.

Rent Control: Progressives want to protect lower- and middle-income families with a cap on rent increases, with many advocating for a hard 3% cap similar to St. Paul. Moderates oppose this, arguing that rent control ultimately drives up the cost of housing and limits new development, ultimately hurting lower- and middle-income families.

Municipal Sidewalk Shoveling: Progressives want the city to shovel sidewalks to improve safety for pedestrians as part of its walk-bike-transit agenda. Moderates see automating something currently largely done manually as bad for the environment and its \$40 million price tag as too expensive and impractical to implement.

Economy: Progressives tend to focus more on workers and worker rights, like establishing a minimum wage for Lyft and Uber drivers, emphasizing the need to protect workers. While also supporting some regulation, moderates focus on supporting small business owners by giving them autonomy to make decisions about how to run their businesses, emphasizing job growth and wealth-building from letting the market drive decisions.

How do Ward 7 candidates feel about their PAC endorsements?

Scott Graham’s campaign provided this statement on his endorsement by All of Mpls:

“Since we began this campaign in January, we have been focused on connecting with Ward 7 voters and prioritizing solutions that meet the needs of our city and our ward.

While we have no control over independent expenditures that support or oppose our campaign, I’m proud to be running in alignment with candidates across Minneapolis that believe in collaboration and pragmatic policymaking as a means to effective city government, many of whom are also supported by All of Mpls.”

Katie Cashman responded with this statement on her endorsement by Minneapolis for the Many:



All of Mpls slate of candidates (Image All of Mpls)



Mpls for the Many slate of candidates (Image Mpls for the Many)

“I have repeatedly condemned Independent Expenditure spending in our local elections. Independent Expenditures such as All of Mpls and Minneapolis for the Many do not contact or coordinate with the candidates that they “endorse.” It is actually illegal for a candidate to coordinate with an Independent Expenditure — they choose you without any conversation, which is not how organizational and personal endorsements work. For example, I have been endorsed by Unite Here Local 17 — our local union representing hospitality staff that work primarily in Downtown hotels. I met with leaders of the union and hospitality workers to better understand their needs. I received their endorsement after long conversations discussing problems such as workplace safety and compensation. Minneapolis for the Many calling me an ‘endorsed candidate’ is a misnomer, as I have not had any coordination with them and did not go through an endorsement process.

It’s also wrong for these Independent Expenditures to imply that a slate of candidates has identical political positions. For me, I am not supporting rent control, nor a reduction in our police budget, so the association with other candidates who do support those positions is frustrating.

I am seeking to build constructive relationships between council members so that we do not have a bifurcated city council. We need to be creating fluid factions on the council and to have more independent council members who are free thinkers and who truly represent their constituents’ wishes on various issues. For this reason, if elected, my team and I will work to change campaign finance law to build transparency around Independent Expenditure spending, and to create public financing methods for our local elections, to keep big money and dark money groups out from influencing local elections, which should be funded by and decided by local residents.”

What’s at stake?

Which side can lay claim to the Democratic Party and which agenda the city will embrace in the next two years will be determined in the election on Nov. 7, the day after we go to press.

Unfortunately, it is expected there will be a low turnout, given that only municipal elections are on the ballot. This means that only a small number of people will likely decide which vision the city pursues for the next two years.

Kenwood Thrills, Again!

Photos and Article By Courtney Cushing Kiernat

Courtney Cushing Kiernat is the President of Kenwood Neighborhood Organization.

The Kenwood Community Center was crawling with cartoon characters, dinosaurs, princesses, superheroes, wild animals and even a mail carrier at the Thrill Kenwood celebration on Saturday, October 28.

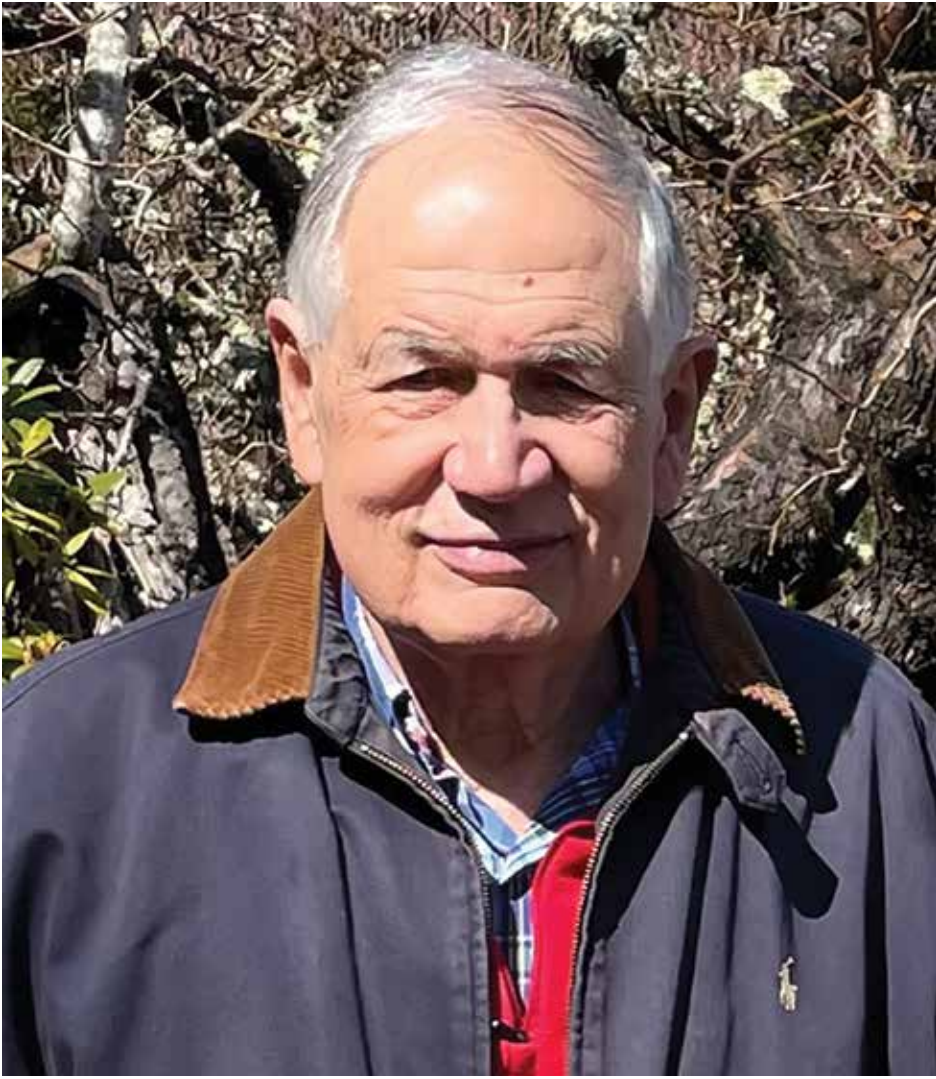
Kids and families enjoyed face painting and zombie makeovers and dancing Thriller, as part of the global Thrill the World event. Attendees warmed up with cider and snacks provided by the park and tasty cookies donated by The Kenwood Restaurant. Creation Station projects and a scavenger hunt were led by ARTrageous Adventures and prizes were awarded for “pAR-Ticipating” families.

An annual Halloween event, Thrill Kenwood raises funds and food for Joyce Uptown Food Shelf, a local resource for people experiencing food scarcity. The event was a collaboration between ARTrageous Adventures, the Kenwood Community Center, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and Kenwood Neighborhood Organization.



Bill Payne: A Valued Community Contributor

By Phil Hallaway



Bill Payne (Photo Suzanne Payne)

Phil Hallaway is the treasurer of the Hill & Lake Press. He lives in Lowry Hill.

Over the past eighteen months, The Hill & Lake Press has made significant and lasting changes, not just to the paper but to the non-profit organization that publishes it.

Under editor Craig Wilson's leadership and a team of dedicated volunteers, the new and improved Hill & Lake Press arrives to deliver in-depth reporting on local issues, engaging content from new writers and photographers and scrupulous fact-checking and editing. These efforts signal a new era for our 45-year-old community-led newspaper.

While these changes are visible each month, what is less obvious is the behind the scenes work that has placed Hill & Lake Press

on a firm financial footing with solid governance. Community volunteer Bill Payne has been essential to that process.

A retired corporate attorney, Bill is an active volunteer at 80-years-old. Some of you may know Bill from his work at Thomas Lowry Park. There you are likely to encounter Bill and his wife, Suzanne, toiling away tidying garden beds and moving garden hoses around during droughts. For the past twenty years, they have been de facto caretakers of the park, employing their expert knowledge, hard labor and dedication to create an urban oasis.

In Spring 2022, Bill reached out to Hill & Lake Press, offering to act as a legal advisor to the newspaper. Bringing much needed skills, Bill laid out a plan and timeline for the reorganization of the Hill & Lake Press under new

leadership. Bill's volunteer services included preparing an abundance of corporate documents for state and federal filing in order to establish a new tax-exempt corporation.

Most people's eyes would quickly glaze over at the discussion of taxes, accrual accounting, details of new bylaws and corporate resolutions, but not Bill. A tireless, detail-driven guru, Bill helped guide the organization through a critical transition. Few would have the stamina or the knowledge to move Hill & Lake Press from one corporation to another.

Hill & Lake Press, Inc. became fully operational in December 2022. It is now responsible for all aspects of the publishing and distribution of this community newspaper. Certainly, this could not have been done as quickly and seamlessly over the past year without the unstinting investment of time, energy and experience of one of our valued community volunteer, Bill Payne.

Bill recognized his expertise in gardening, law and finance would be valuable to others. As he put it: "In my case, volunteering provided an opportunity to give back to the neighborhood."

He also noted the many benefits volunteering brings to the volunteer, like improved mental and physical well-being: "Volunteering is essential to the community, providing services that money alone can't buy."

Win Rockwell, Hill & Lake Press Board Chair commented, "Because of Bill's extraordinary efforts, Hill & Lake Press is positioned for lasting success. That matters for an advertising- and donor-supported newspaper when most community newspapers have gone out of business."

Bill has moved on from the paper, but he's still a contributor to our larger community. Undoubtedly, he's now hard at work putting the gardens to bed for the winter at Thomas Lowry Park. Thanks, Bill.

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Requiem for a Great Friend

By Marty Carlson



Pippin and Marty Carlson enjoy a boat ride. (Photo Mary Carlson)

Marty Carlson is a regular columnist and lives in Kenwood.

Our beloved dog, Pippin, died last week after a short, unexpected illness. We'll probably never know exactly what caused it, but he came down with pneumonia, and we suspect it progressed quickly to sepsis, which can level anyone in the blink of an eye.

I'm heartbroken but am also grateful for the time I had with him. He was my constant companion and sat with me as I wrote most of my articles for this paper, except for when he was perched by the front window waiting for our wonderful mail carrier to bring him treats and incidentally deliver the mail.

Born eleven years ago, Pippin was a feisty, fiercely independent cairn terrier. Originally from the islands of Scotland, cairns were

bred to be farm dogs, but Pippin's heart belonged to the sea. He was never happier than when he was in a boat, usually helping me fish. Although the "help" was often shrill and piercing — no one ever got a terrier for the pleasing bark — his passion was infectious.

He had other interests as well. He loved to play, chewing really spoke to him and he was an extravagantly loud, boundlessly enthusiastic social host. Deeply concerned about homeland security, our neighbors all understood they were under Pippin's protection; he radiated purpose. At home, he raised the alarm any time he spotted an unauthorized dog walking by like it was on a public sidewalk. Never once did we wake up to find a German Shepherd had slipped into the house overnight.

But more than that, Pippin was my beloved friend. Our intention

was to get him "for" our son — a boy should have a dog — but the moment he spotted me it was all over. While I've generally been fortunate with my human relationships, I've never experienced anything quite like this, the uncritical joy and radiant affection dogs share with the people they've identified as "theirs." I was captivated, humbled, and defenseless all at once, this bewildering love that danced around me each day and warmed my feet at night. For eleven years, I never felt alone in our house.

I'm gutted, but I'm also grateful for his life, and I'm thinking about meaning. You, my neighbors, are a part of that. We're a neighborhood that loves its dogs (not to sleight our also-beloved cats), and my wife and I have often joked that the sole criteria for "joining" the neighborhood is a dog.

We all have busy lives, and it's

easy to get consumed by family pressures, work pressures, all the distractions of daily living. Our animals force us to take a step back and focus on the basics. Pippin knew when we were upset, but he also knew when he needed to go outside, and he brought his expansive personality with him. Anyone we saw was enthusiastically greeted, and that frequently sparked a conversation. Over the years, those contacts created lasting bonds. Our counter is now covered with sympathy cards, mostly from neighbors and I credit Pippin with nudging many of those friendships into maturity.

Which brings me to love.

As I'm struggling to make sense of this loss, I'm asking all the usual existential questions, thinking about my faith, the immutability of death and our place in the world. I won't inflict most of those thoughts on you, but I will say this: I believe now, more than ever, that love is the most powerful force on Earth that impacts our daily lives, and it's also the force we can exert the most control over. Love can be kindled, nurtured, and shared.

I've always believed that it's the small things in life that have the greatest power to sustain. Large gatherings, big trips, public acknowledgments — they're all fine, but it's the small, daily expressions of love that keep us going day in and day out. For me, one of those "small things" greeted me each day with a wagging tail and a bark and regularly crawled up onto my chest at six in the morning to lick my face. Pippin may be gone, but I'll never forget how much we mattered to each other, and it's the certain knowledge of that love that's helping me cope with his loss.

Many thanks to you, my neighbors, for all your support and for being the loving, caring community you are. And for all you animal lovers out there, give your pet an extra hug tonight. They're precious, and we don't have them forever.

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The Cutest 10 Minutes of the Year!

By Karin Olson



Kindergartners at Kenwood Elementary (Photo Karin Olson)

Karin Olson in a Kenwood School parent and volunteer. She lives in Kenwood.

On November 2, Ms. Sullivan's Kindergarten class at Kenwood School performed the 17th annual

production of *Where the Wild Things Are*.

Students and parent volunteers created six panels of scenery to reflect the beginning, middle and end of the 1963 Maurice Sendak classic. The performance included a line-by-line telling of the story along

with Kindergarten actors who joyfully created masks and artwork inspired by the show.

"I originally started doing the play as an opportunity for students to learn about story elements," said Ms. Sullivan, "but it has become so much more over the years. The old-

er students love seeing the scenery and art hung in the lunchroom — it reminds them of their own participation."

The students' favorite part of the experience is performing for their families. Ms. Sullivan's favorite part is the community that putting on the play creates for her classroom and the memories that her students can now treasure and share.

Said Ms. Sullivan, "It's the cutest ten minutes of the year!"



Where The Wild Things Are: Moişhe and Bernard. Maurice Sendak, 1970. (Illustration courtesy of WikiArt)

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Dear Neighbor

A monthly column by Dorothy Richmond

Dorothy Richmond is founder of the Dear Neighbor column and a longtime resident of Cedar-Isles-Dean.

Dear Neighbor,

Thanksgiving is almost here, the day dedicated to family, food and football — not your ordinary F words, though depending on your venue of celebration, I imagine for some of you other F words may come to mind.

I have never understood football (the rules or the appeal) and I'm not in the mood to talk about family, so let's go with food.

If you're anticipating fine advice, recipes and culinary genius, you need to readjust your expectations. No, just obliterate them.

I have several friends who are gastronomes, colloquially known as foodies. While I find their approach to and appreciation for fine food fascinating on an intellectual level, on a gut level I don't get it. At all.

My appreciation for food is akin to my car's for gasoline: When it's on empty, fill 'er up. For me, it can be summed up in three little words: Stop the hunger. (And then stop the eating.)

I've always been this way, and while I might blame my mother, at best a mediocre cook, I can't because I'm reminded of Ruth Reichl, the former food critic for The New York Times who went on to be editor of Gourmet magazine.

Reichl's mother was something of a dumpster diver who raised her family on a steady diet of "whatever." Reichl was born with a genius for food preparation which she discovered in her twenties and went with, just as I grew up on a farm in southern Minnesota where at the time not a single Latino lived but went on to write Spanish textbooks. Some things are just hardwired and meant to be.

I knew early on that to me food was utilitarian, fuel for staying alive, and I was fine with that. The problem was I thought everybody had the same attitude.

When I was a kid, like most everyone my age, I loved the TV show "Bewitched." Samantha, a beautiful witch, was married to Darrin, an advertising executive. Every now and again Darrin would call Samantha at, say, 4:00 in the afternoon to announce that he was bringing home clients for dinner.

Samantha was OK with that, knowing that with a twitch of her nose Beef Wellington would be fully prepared when the guests arrived. I had my own magical solution: I kept a stash of TV dinners in the freezer, and while they heated up I would, to cite my grandmother, lay a fine table.

Then, when the guests were seated, I'd bustle into the kitchen and pour the contents of those tin-foil trays into their proper bone china bowls, put all the incriminating packaging and trays into the garbage bin (I'm nothing if not a tidy person), and voilà: Dinner was served! Bring on the ooohs and aahs. They invariably arrived.

Several years ago, I was invited to a bridal shower. Included with the invitation were three recipe cards along with the instruction that each guest write down and bring her best recipes for the bride-to-be. I panicked. I got nothin', I thought. And thought and thought and desperately thought, along the way, that nobody really wants Aunt Esther's brownie masterpiece or Grandma's Tater Tot Surprise (turns out, I was wrong).

So, in the spirit of equality — I figured I'll give what I've got. I offered up three recipes I knew well, along with detailed instructions: 1. Carnation Instant Breakfast; 2. Cinnamon toast; 3. Chocolate milk vis-à-vis Nestlé Quik. Fortunately, some of the guests found this amusing.

I bow to gastronomes and foodies alike. They understand something I don't and never will. In fact, I love listening to them analyze food the same way I love (believe me, I really do) listening to physicians discuss diseases.

A while back I was at a party at the home of Phil and Janet Hallaway (no strangers to the Hill and Lake Press). While several guests brought curated dishes, my contribution was the usual — what I call "communion" — bread and wine.

As I bellied up to the buffet, Phil was across from me and exclaimed, "Dorothy, you have to try this potato salad." I said, "OK." "No, now!" he demanded. I put a dollop on my plate, tasted it and remarked with my limited culinary vocabulary that it was "good." Phil, beaming, asked, "Can you taste the turmeric?" Huh? I didn't even know what turmeric was, or how to spell it and certainly not what it tasted like: Um. . . tasting interlude . . . "Yes!" I wanted to be polite, but sorry, Phil, I lied.

Thinking all the while, what sorcery is this? How can anyone discern something so esoteric, so recherché? Phil Hallaway, you are a gastronome par excellence.

Ah, if you can't beat 'em, or even compete with them, why even try? Let the leaders lead. And let them feed and educate me. I will be grateful.

Happy Thanksgiving! Bon appétit!

— Dorothy



Last Call with Lisa



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