



Riverwest Currents



U.S. Presidential Election,
Tuesday, November 3, 2020

FREE! News You Can Use • Riverwest, Harambee and The East Side Vol 19 Issue 9 Sept. 2020

School? Fall 2020 MPS UWM

by Vince Bushell

The Milwaukee Public School System (MPS) is open, or sort of open. Early classes began on August 17 and all other classes will start on September 1. But no students will be in their school building.

MPS is starting with a phased approach after talking to staff and parents and submitting a plan to the School Board.

They are also following directives coming from City and State with recommendations and ordinances.

Phase 1: Virtual learning. Students will not be allowed in school buildings. Online learning is the mode.

Phase 2: Some combination of virtual and in-person instruction. Until it is deemed safe to use the buildings full time. There are two options.

Option 1. Students rotate between face-to-face learning two days a week and remote learning three days a week. The details of this would allow for smaller class sizes and improved social distancing

Option 2. Elementary students are instructed in person five days a week, while secondary students learn remotely.

Phase 3: Face-to-face instruction five days a week. All students would be in school with an option to continue on line .

MPS' plan does not set specific dates



Merrill Hall, UWM campus
It has sundial on the tower!

Many UWM students live in our neighborhoods. We welcome them if they are new students or continuing students.. UWM is a great resource for our neighborhoods, city and state.

The University has spent months planning for the return of students this fall. As in the past, hundreds of classes will be available fully on-line.

In-person classes will be smaller

to facilitate social distancing. In most cases, face-to-face sessions will involve fewer than 25 students. UWM will follow its original academic calendar, with classes starting Sept. 2.

Face masks are required in campus buildings and outside areas where 6 feet of distance between individuals can't be maintained. Students should bring their own mask to campus. Many classes this fall will be offered with a new hybrid format that maximizes face-to-face instruction while maintaining social distancing.

See UWM cont. on p. 3



Make Your Vote Count Nov. 3

ID ACCEPTED FOR VOTING IN WISCONSIN

ID	Valid in 2020 if...
WI Driver License WI State ID Card US Military ID Card US Passport (Book or Card)	Unexpired or expired after Nov. 6, 2018
Receipt for Wisconsin Driver License or State ID Card	Unexpired
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Student ID from Wisconsin College, University, or Tech College that includes • Photo • Full Name • Signature • Date when Issued and Expiration Date	Expiration date within two years of issuance date Unexpired or expired after Nov. 6, 2018 If expired, voter must also show proof of enrollment.
Veterans Affairs ID card	Unexpired or no expiration

Options for Voting Nov. 3

- In-person on Election Day, Nov. 3, 2020
- Early Voting (In-Person Absentee), Oct 20-Nov 1
- Vote by Mail, begins Sept 17
- Curbside/Drive-Up Voting, Oct 19-Nov. 1, Nov 3

Voter Resources

Check your voter registration, register, view what's on your ballot, find your polling place, request an absentee ballot: MyVote.Wi.Gov or call (808) 266-8005 City.Milwaukee.gov/election or call (414) 286-8683 (Milwaukee only) Or contact your municipal clerk's office
Learn about candidates: Wisconsinvote.org
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Voting Volunteers/Supermarket Legends (414) 963-0288



Supermarket Legends shared this information to help you register to vote in the upcoming election. Register now and apply for a ballot for early voting or absentee vote by mail options.

The City of Milwaukee will have Ballot Collection Lock Boxes at all Milwaukee Public Libraries and at City Hall. Locations are listed below

The secure drop boxes should be installed by October. They will look something like the photo below.

Absentee and Early Voting Lock Boxes

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Milwaukee Public Library Locations
at 14 Locations before November election::

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- GOOD HOPE 7715 W. Good Hope Road
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- ZABLOCKI 3501 W. Oklahoma Ave.

Plus - Milwaukee City Hall:
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Register to Vote, Riverwest Market, Pierce & Center Sts.,
Sundays, 10 AM to 3 PM .



Riverwest Elementary is decorated with colorful, delightful, student art!

or benchmarks to change from opening phase to next phase. It would depend on the spread of Covid-19, an available vaccine or treatment, health and safety guidelines and city ordinances.

Private schools like Messmer Catholic Schools, which includes Messmer St Marys on Fratney St. will follow a similar protocol. First opening virtually with in school classes happening later in the semester as the health matters and city ordinances allow.

Obviously this will be a challenge to students, teachers and parents.

The information here is from the MPS website and Messmer school website. More information is on their respective sites and MPS does have a option of signing up for updates by email if desired.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

To have the newspaper delivered to your home each month, follow instructions on this page.

MISSION STATEMENT

Riverwest Currents is dedicated to keeping readers informed about issues and events important to those who live, work, and play in and around our neighborhood. We believe Riverwest and Milwaukee are good places to make a home or set up a shop. We want to help promote safe and affordable neighborhoods, embrace urban aesthetics, respect diversity, and help make Riverwest residents aware of opportunities available to them.

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UWM Fall 2020 from p. 1

Hybrid classes will include face-to-face and on-line learning, with no more than half of the students meeting in person at a given time.

When possible, lab, studio and other classes that involve hands-on learning or rely on student-teacher interaction will meet face to face. However, faculty members will be prepared to move on-line should the need arise.

As in the past, hundreds of classes will be available fully on-line.

In-person classes will be smaller to facilitate social distancing. In most cases, face-to-face sessions will involve fewer than 25 students.

UWM will follow its original academic calendar, with classes starting Sept. 2.

Face masks are required in campus buildings and outside areas where 6 feet of distance between individuals can't be maintained. Students should bring their own mask to campus.

Classrooms will be professionally cleaned at least once per day. They'll also be stocked with hand sanitizer and disinfectants that students and instructors can use to clean their seats and work areas.

There will be floor markings or tape in many buildings to indicate where to line up, enter and exit in order to maintain social distance.

Students, including freshmen, are not required to live on campus this year. However, residence halls provide maximum flexibility, with prorated refunds guaranteed should public health conditions require a return to fully remote learning.

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Catching Up the with the Currents Staff

By Adam Krueger

The Riverwest Currents attempts to amplify the stories of our community and beyond. But during these challenging times, as we report on them, we also wish to allow our readers to catch up with some of the staff from past to present. Not only are most staffers involved in the community, there is also a desire to demonstrate to the reader where most of our contributors are coming from in 2020.

Brenna Gonderman returned to Milwaukee from Rajasthan, India just in time to see this world flipped right back over. This period of lock-down has been a sacred time in the words of Brenna, who is spending most of her time with her newly born daughter reflecting on what matters the most in life.

The Covid siege, other than occasional boredom, has minimally impacted the life of **Cari Taylor Carlson**. She misses restaurant meals with friends, and reviewing the restaurants, but socially distanced carry out meals on her deck are an, albeit temporary, summer solution. Carlson is working on a new book, *The Walker's Guide to*

Milwaukee, spending as much time outside as possible, and that includes hammock time with a book, and entertaining herself with various craft projects.

Janice Christensen moved to Colorado years ago to continue to act as a caretaker to her close friend Dr. Dave Schemberger. She also operates an Air BnB from her home. Between these opportunities Christensen claims to have found an economic freedom greater than anything Wisconsin was able to offer. But on the darker side of life, Janice was recently diagnosed with breast cancer. She has a fantastic team caring for her at the Mayo Clinic. Now Janice dedicates much of her life to her physical and mental well-being. So far, she has found great success, but soon she starts three weeks of radiation therapy. As Janice Christensen carries on in her fight, she is focused on the bigger picture of progressive causes.

Meanwhile, I am thoroughly enjoying my retirement from education. 2020 was a good year for that. Now, when I am not managing the Riverwest Inn or writing for the Riverwest Currents, I spend my time watching baseball, reading, and finishing my first novel, *Man of Peace*, which I am hoping to have published by 2021.



The Beerline bike trail to Gordon Park from Turtle Park, River Revitalization Foundation on the river.
Beerline Trail Story on Page 8

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OWL

Older. Wiser. Local



Amy Schmutte, OWL Program Manager

OWL (Older.Wiser.Local) is a program created to serve, enlighten and educate area seniors (50 and up). OWL is sponsored by the Jazz Gallery Center for the Arts, along with Bader Philanthropies.

Normally we'd be gathering in-person for these programs, but to respect the safety of everyone, we're temporarily broadcasting our material, interview or lecture-style on **Riverwest Radio, WXRW, 104.1FM.**

Our shows begin at **3pm and go until 3:30pm, every Weds. and Thurs.,** every week. Please tune in!

If you miss the live broadcast, you can catch it afterward at:
<https://www.riverwestradio.com/show/owl-older-wiser-local/>

Weds. Sept.2: Stories with a Big-Heart Soul, Willie Lee Ikerd

Thurs. Sept.3: Interview with a Nomad, World-Traveler «Micronaut»

Weds. Sept.9: Spotlight on Community Artist & Educator, John Kowalczyk

Thurs. Sept.10: (rescheduled from August's cancellation) Creative Spotlight on Visual Artist and Improv Dancer, Leah Jergens

Weds. Sept.16: Peace and Harmony! Talking and singing about «Peace-Camp» with Beloved Riverwest Neighborhood Musician, Holly Haebig

Thurs. Sept.17: Art History on Cave Paintings, with Educator and Artist Bob Neuman

Weds. Sept.23: Inside the Media: Chatting with a Camera-Man, Mark Cherek

Thurs. Sept.24: Spotlight on the Tender-Hearted Twin-Sister, Teacher, Writer, Artist: Nellie Gehrig

Weds. Sept.30: Neighbor Recognition! The Poetry, Music, & Stories of Long-Time Local, Harvey Taylor

Amy Schmutte
OWL Program Manager
Older, Wiser, Local (OWL)
The Jazz Gallery

Driving is a Behavior Rooted in Being Responsible for Each Other

By Jodie Donabar and Steve O'Connell

Reckless driving in Milwaukee has reached epidemic levels. Over the last five years, city and county residents have grown increasingly more distressed. A group of concerned citizens and grassroots organizations have come together to form the Coalition for Safe Driving MKE (The Coalition) to address this issue.

The mission of The Coalition is to sustain a campaign of awareness about safe driving, educating the community, collaborating with partners and stakeholders, and advancing a broad-impact strategic plan to reduce reckless driving. The Coalition's mission is to promote safe driving on our city streets and roads to reduce accidents, crashes, fatalities and injuries in the County.

What does it mean to be a responsible driver? So much of our driving is based on our attitude when we get behind the wheel of a car. Are we thinking about others? Are we thinking about getting to where we are going safely? Are we remembering that we share the roads with pedestrians, bicyclists, buses, motorcyclists and others?

Whether we realize it or not, we are in a social contract when we drive on our roads and streets. The contract establishes ground rules on how we operate on our streets. It incorporates rules of the road, driver's etiquette and a respect for all of those that use our streets. In essence, it's I'll look out for you, you look out for me.

One of the important rules of the road is to have a driver's license. Obtaining a license is a privilege not a right. Having one is not guaranteed by the constitution. It is one that is earned based on a course of study and demonstration of skills. Stepping over this preliminary requirement to get behind the wheel of a car puts many people in danger.

A primary goal of Driver's Education is to produce safe drivers. Many teens face challenges in accessing the course and obtaining their driver license. MPS Drive is a driver education program for students meeting eligibility criteria who are currently enrolled in an MPS high school. The program serves students ready to begin driving as well as those with suspended driving privileges who need assistance with regaining driving eligibility.

MPS Drive works to eliminate barriers that may prevent a student from obtaining their driver's license. Since 2016, MPS Drive has provided just over 6,100 teens with the opportunity to participate in driver education. Of those teens, 3,100 have received their probationary license.

Ultimately, all of us that use the streets and highways have a duty to do so responsibly. We know everyone doesn't practice this obligation. Wouldn't you like to know why?

Please join us in exploring how to encourage safe driving on our streets. Check out Coalition for Safe Driving MKE on Facebook or email us at coalitionforsafedrivingmke@gmail.com and join our campaign to reduce reckless driving.

RIVERWEST ELDERS Sharing Wisdom with Community

To Mask or Not to Mask

by Julianna Ksicsinski

To mask or not to mask is not the question for the answer is obvious. Covid 19 is an infectious, highly contagious disease and we are all at risk. Symptoms may be severe, mild, or absent. If severe one will most likely require hospitalization including oxygen therapy. If mild or absent the carrier may not be aware that he has the virus, continue all activities and unknowingly spread the disease. During the past week 59,560 cases and 1,038 deaths have been reported in Wisconsin. Milwaukee County leads the state with 22,054 cases and 465 deaths. Experts in the fields of science and medicine have presented evidence based research which proves that proper use of a mask can prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

Governor Evers has issued a state mandate requiring everyone over the age of five to wear a mask in indoor public areas and outdoors if necessary. Those who cannot tolerate a face covering due to a medical condition are exempt. The majority of the population is following the governor's mandate. Sadly there is a vocal minority



who regard a mask as a barrier to their freedom of personal expression. There is need for a national discussion on the word freedom:

What is freedom?

Do we have a right to unlimited freedom?

Can we abuse freedom?

Does responsibility have a role in the above questions?

To quote a dear friend, "We who wear a mask have a right not to get sick by someone who does not wear a mask,"

Dwelling in Possibility

submitted by Lorraine Jacobs

I invite you to attend a unique evening with world-renowned author Lois Lowry.

Ms. Lowry is featured at this year's First Unitarian Society-Milwaukee annual Morter Lecture. An award-winning author of Children's and Young-Adult (YA) books, Ms. Lowry will explore her experiences and share her thoughts regarding the potential sources of strength, wisdom, and energy available to us as we continue immersion during this shared pandemic confinement.

I so admire Lois Lowry for her continuing exploration of life and personal growth. In her mid-eighties, and described as a "living legend", Ms. Lowry has just published her recent book, "On the Horizon". Interestingly, this book is written in poetry form, after a lifetime of writing over 40 published, award-winning books in prose. Ms. Lowry's own life was one of travel, from childhood in a military family and later a young wife and mother with academia interests, she has lived in Hawaii, New York, Tokyo, and Maine, with stops in between. Through "On the Horizon" Ms. Lowry "looks back at history through a personal lens as she draws from her own memories as a child in Hawaii and Japan". Based on the historical reports of cruelty and human suffering at Pearl Harbor and Hiroshima, Ms. Lowry "contemplates humanity and war through verse which sings with pain, truth and the importance of

bridging culture divides." (Quotes from loislowry.com/biography.)

Her lecture -- inspired by Emily Dickenson's poem "I dwell in Possibility", which extols the ultimate power of poetry as superior to other genres -- may offer views of global dimensions revealed through the windows and doors of Ms. Lowry's poetry writing experience.

*I dwell in Possibility –
A fairer House than Prose –
More numerous of Windows –
Superior – for Doors --*

Emily Dickenson

This lecture is offered to the Milwaukee community through a generous endowment of a devoted First Unitarian Society-Milwaukee member and Milwaukee native, Irma Morter. Do plan to attend.

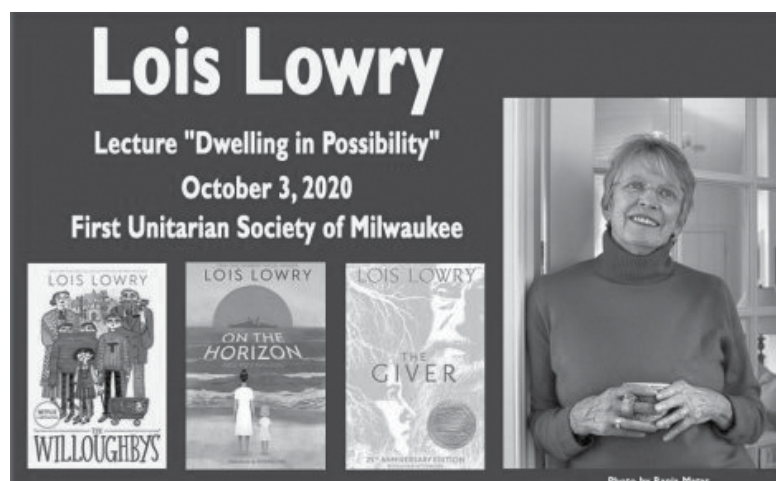
**Irma Morter Annual Lecture
(live-streamed via Zoom)**

Saturday, October 3, 2020, 7:00 pm

Please register in advance through the link at uumilwaukee.org (enter Lois Lowry in the search box to get to the live event).

There's more!

The next day, Sunday, October 4, Ms. Lowry will join our Minister, The Reverend Jennifer Nordstrom, for a Sunday Conversation during our service. No pre-registration required. Attend the service virtually through uumilwaukee.org, then click on the "YouTube live" arrow.



Neighbor Spotlight: Ralph Larsen

HISTORY HAS ITS EYES ON US... AGAIN.
WHAT CAN THE PAST TEACH US ABOUT THE PRESENT MOMENT.

by Brenna Gonderman

Long time Lower Eastside and now Riverwest resident Ralph Larsen, 79, recalls memories of activism in Milwaukee during the late 60's.

It has been a long hot summer. Thousands of protesters across the country take to the street, outraged by racism, economic inequality and police brutality. The national guard has been called. Curfews put in place. The bulk of the protests take place between State street and Burleigh, from 1st to 5th street. Nearly 2,000 people are arrested. 4 killed.

But, this isn't 2020. It's Milwaukee 53 years ago. A quick google search will reveal that 1967 saw 157 'race riots' take place across the country, which is in itself telling (were they riots or were they protests?).

And that is just the tip of the iceberg. A lot was happening in 1967.

I sat down with Ralph Larsen, an activist who saw it happen. He was a young man when he participated in one of the historic marches across the 16th Street viaduct with Father Groppi and the NAACP on August 28th during that fateful summer.

Larsen was humble from the start. Born in Milwaukee, he grew up in Bayview. He was quick to note that as a young man growing up in an all-white neighborhood, he inevitably held the same opinions of those around him. It wasn't until he reached college, as a young student at UWM in the 60's, that he awoke into social and political consciousness.

At this time, Larsen began to plug into a widening network of revolutionary thinkers. One night, he recalled, stumbling into a bar where the leading leftist thinkers of the day were all gathered and giving speeches. "There was every kind of revolutionary you can imagine," he reminisced, "the socialists were there, the socialist workers party, the socialist labor party, the Trotskyites, even the communists were there. And, the democrats." The press was there, too. It was this same day that Larsen connected with a reporter who would later be called upon by the soon to be infamous Milwaukee 14 and given a time and location to witness thousands of draft documents set a flame in broad daylight circa 1968. The Milwaukee 14 became heroes to some a traitors to others.

Something that struck me, as I listened to Larsen speak, was just how much was going on simultaneously. There were groups of people protesting against Vietnam. There were groups of people protesting against police brutality. And there were others, such as Father Groppi and the NAACP, who were protesting against redlining that prevented blacks from living in certain parts of the city. Fair housing legislation passed by Milwaukee's Common Council was the goal. It was fascinating to discover that those protesting against police brutality and those rallying in favor of fair housing were not the same groups of people. Larsen participated in them all.

Working as a social worker, he volunteered with others one Saturday to process an overflow of cases. There was one particular case that no one would touch. The

young man had been one of the Milwaukee Commandos, and all black-male group organized by Father Groppi. The group dressed in uniform and were tasked with protecting the protesters and maintaining non-violence during the freedom marches. According to Larsen, the whole group was poisoned with racist sentiments. He was criticized for taking on the case even though the entire organization might have come under scrutiny if he hadn't.

When I asked how the movement of the 60s compared to today, Larsen was quick to answer, "There was a lot more hatred going on, unlike today where there isn't. I mean they truly hated us." One image seared into the memory after all these years, is recognizing one of his family members face from within the drunken mob, hurling metal cans and slurs, during the historic march

"There was a lot more hatred going on, unlike today where there isn't. I mean they truly hated us."

across the 16th Street Bridge.

And then a surprising parallel. Larsen spoke of J. Edgar Hoover who had been delusional in his commitment that all those who were sympathetic to these movements must be communists taking money from Moscow. The same way leaders today look at the Black Lives Matter movement, and draw the conclusion they are terrorists and supporters of the Antifa protest actions. Larsen appeared genuinely perplexed by these black and white characterizations stating, "there is no connection, that these ...ordinary people who think something awful has happened to black people. They have to be terrorists."

One of the more memorable marches included a group of roughly 30 people picketing outside Judge Christ T. Seraphim's home and later Judge Robert Cannon's house. A few hundred-people participated in the crossing of the bridge. When I asked Larsen why the onlookers threw the bottles, he thought it was quite obvious, "they didn't want black people to move in."

And so here we stand once again. History is doing what it does and repeating. Progress is not linear.

Larsen's generation witnessed legislation put in place which criminalized discrimination in housing. Racism still exists in the police department, but it is not as bad as it was in 60's. The draft is gone. Change is possible. But even with these small steps, Milwaukee is one of the most segregated cities in the country. The income inequality is worse than it was in 1967. And you can witness a cop slowly murdering a man on social media. Sometimes it feels change will never be fast enough.

If I have taken anything away from Larsen's wisdom, it is that moments such as this, do not happen often. It requires a bit of chance. The energy dissipates. Many of the men and women he marched with have since given up on their ideals.

In 1967, the attitude for social justice was magnified by the Vietnam war. Today, the catalyst has been the murder of George Floyd, unparalleled levels of income inequality, and, of course, the global pandemic. This is energy that cannot be wasted. We don't want to have to wait



another half century for an opportunity to be heard. Our collective power comes from a shared vision. What other goals can we come together in this moment to fight for?

Before leaving, I asked Larsen one more question. "After all that you've witnessed, do you think the arc of history bends towards justice? With a deep belly laugh he replied after a pause. "Yeah. I guess I do."



Father Groppi's annotation, "Father Groppi arrested in front of his parish at a demonstration. It was the second straight night that he was arrested." UWM Libraries Wisconsin Historical Society 1966



Just Seeds Poster: Created by Nicolas Lampert & Paul Kjelland, Milwaukee/Riverwest Artists

The 16th Street Viaduct, now renamed Caesar Chavez Drive, was seen as a line of division between white and black neighborhoods and was nicknamed the 'longest bridge in the world', a joke that has not aged well and leave little room for nuance. It was said to separate Poland from Africa.

Father Groppi had been recorded calling it the "Mason-Dixon Line" in recordings from the times.

Things have changed. The street has been renamed in honor of a famous Latino activist, Caesar Chavez. The neighborhood has many Hispanic families and businesses now. It is true the south side neighborhoods were predominantly Polish at the time, but not just Polish, but white, and racist attitudes toward integration of housing was rampant. It was supported by judges like Chris Seraphim, and the then "tough cop", Police Chief Harold Breier.

Mayor Maier and the Common Council opposed local fair housing legislation, and only conceded after the U.S. passed the Fair Housing Law in 1968. Much praise goes to Alderwoman Vel Philips, who led the charge on the Common Council and never gave up.

Father James Groppi supported Black Power, Fair Housing, elimination of racist charters in social institutions like the Eagles Club.

Ralph Larsen said the he felt Groppi had done his best to fight racism and passed the torch to Black leaders in Milwaukee. Groppi left the Catholic priesthood and married. He became a bus driver and organizer in the bus workers union.

He was dedicated to non-violence til the end. He fell prey to brain cancer and from his hospital bed he disavowed violence. He is quoted speaking to a supporter visiting him who was frustrated and was considering violence for the cause. Groppi said, 'Woman's name' "don't ever talk that way, and don't talk that way in front of your kids. The only way were gonna make change is through nonviolence."

UWM audio archives

PEACE ACTION STAND FOR PEACE

Peace Action of Wisconsin has carefully restarted the Stand for Peace with directives advised by the Milwaukee Health Commissioner. Stand for Peace participants will obey social distancing guidelines, and we will wear masks. Shared signs and flags will be sanitized after each Stand.

Saturdays, 12 noon – 1 pm
Saturday, September 5 (12 noon – 1pm): Lincoln Memorial/Michigan
Saturday, September 12 (12 noon – 1pm): 43rd / Forest Home
Saturday, September 19 (12 noon – 1pm): 76th / North Avenue
Saturday, September 26 (12 noon – 1pm): N. Lake Drive / Silver Spring
Please remember to wear a mask!



INVIVO in-person classes starting in September 2020!

Mondays:30/30 Strength Circuits, Noon - 12:30 pm
Hatha Flow, 5:15 - 6:15 pm
Tuesdays:Yoga for Stiff Bodies: 12:30 - 1:30 pm
Hatha Flow: 6:30 - 7:30 pm
Wednesdays:
More Core, 5:30 - 6:00 pm
Thursdays:Intro to Yoga, Noon to 1:00 pm
FITT Camp, 6:00 - 6:45 pm
Fridays:Yoga for Body, Mind & Spirit, Noon - 1:00 pm
Saturdays (9/5 and 9/19 only): 10:00 - 11:00 am



Check out happenings in 53212

by Ruth Weill

Riverworks Week 2020- Sept 21-25
We’re going virtual!

Riverworks Week is a celebratory tribute to the businesses, community organizations and partners of the Riverworks BID #25, Milwaukee’s Creative District. Typically we host 6 community events over 1 week in September to highlight businesses, promote the creativity of the district and bring more people to the area. Due to COVID-19 and our commitment to ensuring the safety of our community, we have decided to cancel in-person events and move into a virtual showcase with spotlights of our BID businesses and a reinvented entrepreneur pitch contest. Please visit riverworksmke.org/week for more information

Riverwest Farmer’s Market-Sundays
10-3pm thru Oct.

N Pierce between Center and Hadley.

Heading into its 13th week of the season the bounty is plentiful. Now located on N Pierce Street between Center and Hadley Street each Sunday through Oct from 10-3pm. One can find organic and conventional produce, bakery, eggs, meat, body products and food prepared to go. EBT is accepted and masks are required. Please visit riverwestmarket.com or Facebook @ Riverwest Gardners Market

The Market



Childrens Books at the Market



Linneman’s Riverwest Inn
Friday, September 18

BRISTLEHEAD (Streaming only show.) 8-10pm. Enjoy from the comfort of your own home, and sample some of the hundreds of Mike Fredrickson songs you so enjoy. Fredrickson will be singing and playing bass, along with Jason Klagstad on guitars, Bob Jennings on keyboards and sax, and Dave Braun on drums. (Show streaming live at 8pm on Linneman’s Facebook page. Tips for artists and venue are greatly appreciated. Virtual tip jar: [paypal.me/linnemans1001](https://www.paypal.com/merchot/?x=1&source=url&url=https://www.paypal.me/linnemans1001) or venmo@linnemans)



All set to welcome you to enjoy music and have a beer safely at Linneman’s

Linneman’s Riverwest Inn

Linneman’s Keeps Music Live and Alive (in person!) during “these times”

by Lee Gutowski

Jim and Marty at Linneman’s Riverwest Inn want to keep the music coming, but really, really do not want to get COVID-19. Of course, they don’t want their patrons getting sick either, but they certainly still want to provide a place for folks to safely gather for live music.

So, they spent a lot of time and money having plexiglass shields installed along the bar; stocking up on single-use, recyclable drink cups; making sanitizing “stations” throughout the bar; and setting up an awesome multi-camera live recording system in the music room, where Linneman’s is now hosting live-streamed (and sometimes before a live in-house audience) shows.

The Linneman’s also invested in windscreens for the microphones – another safety measure for the performers and audience members. “I figure they add an extra element of safety so people can feel that much more comfortable,” Jim Linneman explains. Jim and Marty have implemented a system where after a windscreen is used by one person, it gets disinfected thoroughly before being used again. “The virus doesn’t live on surfaces for more than 72 hours, so we disinfect the screens immediately,” Jim Linneman

stressed, “but we have plenty of brand-new windscreens in the package that haven’t even been broken out yet.”

The three-camera livestream makes for a much more dynamic experience for the audience. Instead of the whole show being presented straight-on with one camera, you get to view the performance from 3 different angles; in addition, the fabulous sound system has high-tech mics set up so that you not only hear everything that’s emanating from the stage, but also the ambient sound of the room, which means you get a more immediate, full-bodied listening experience.

If you want to head out (or not even leave the house!) to have a live show experience again, you can rest assured that Linneman’s will provide a safe and robust experience whether you’re sitting on your couch or in the music room at the club. Or at the bar in the club for that matter. And if perchance you forget your mask, there will be disposable masks available behind the bar.

Social distancing will also be looked after – seating has been thinned out and rearranged to make room for the six-feet-of-separation rule both at the bar and in the music room.

Linneman’s brought back their open mic night, and there will be a few

online-only (with no live audience) shows as well as one show with an audience in the month of September. Check out the schedule below and then check out the live music that we’ve grown to count on from Linneman’s Riverwest Inn!

Wednesdays,
September 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30:
ACOUSTIC OPEN MIC. 7-11pm.
Doors open at 7; sign up list goes out at 7:30; music starts at 8.

Saturday, September 5: BILL CAMPLIN BAND
(Livestream show only). 8-10pm.
Stream here: [Facebook.com/Linnemans-Riverwest-Inn](https://www.facebook.com/Linnemans-Riverwest-Inn). Donate here: [paypal.me/linnemans1001](https://www.paypal.me/linnemans1001) or venmo@linnemans.

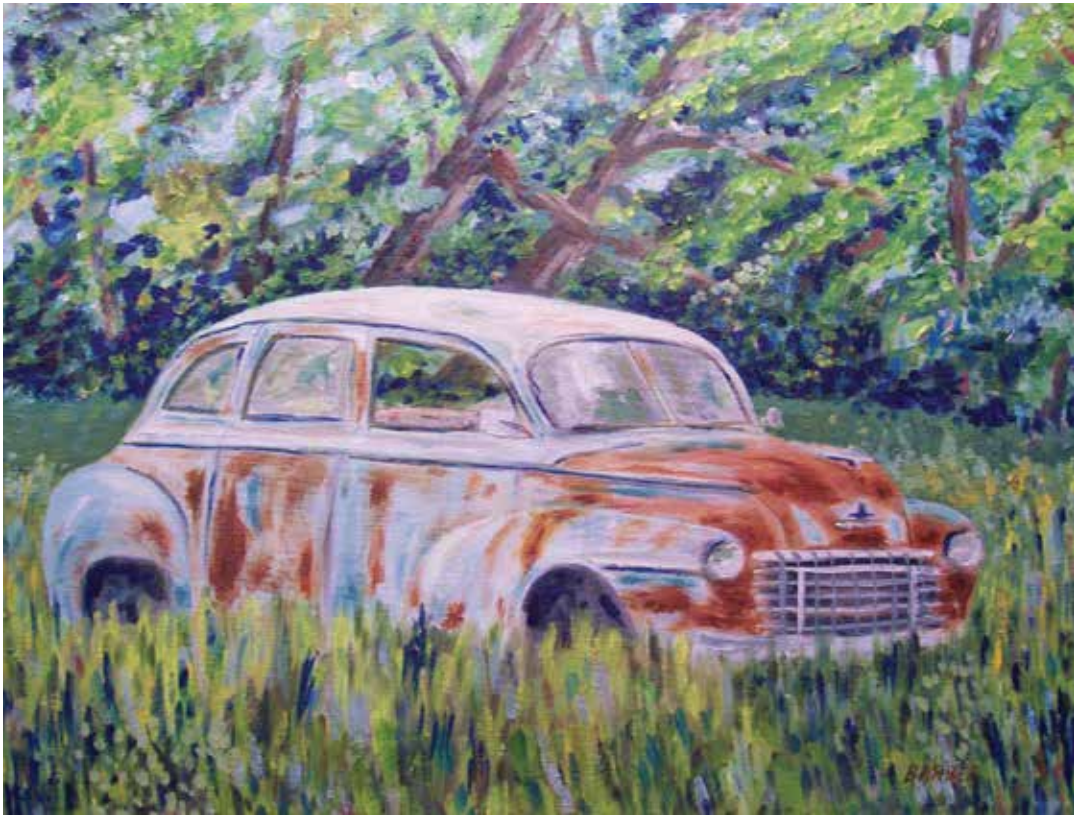
Friday, September 11: MKE MUSIC NIGHT XVII (In Person and Streaming show!). 7:30-11:30pm. \$10. For more details, see Linneman’s FB page or website.

Friday September 18:
Bristlehead see facing page



Jim and Marty all masked up to welcome you.

Saturday, September 26:
JAG’S 30th BIRTHDAY STREAM.
8-11pm. Live from Linneman’s Facebook page! Featuring original music from California Jeff (8pm), Mon J Rane (9pm) and Whiskey and the Devil (10pm). (Show streaming live at 8pm on Linneman’s Facebook page. Tips for artists and venue are greatly appreciated. Virtual tip jar: [paypal.me/linnemans1001](https://www.paypal.me/linnemans1001) or venmo@linnemans)



Keith Barber’s “Old Soil” Exhibit at West Allis’ Inspiration Studios

submitted by **Erico Ortiz, founder, Inspiration Studios**

Local artist, Keith Barber, offers his first solo exhibition -- a colorful display of landscapes of Southwestern Wisconsin entitled *Old Soil*. The Opening Reception, scheduled for Saturday, September 5, 2:30-5:30pm, is free and open to the public. Safety precautions will be adhered to, including face masks and social distancing. Refreshments will be available outdoors before entering the gallery or upon departure. The exhibit will adorn the Inspiration Studios gallery walls at 1500 S. 73rd Street from September 5 through September 26.

Barber’s art is greatly influenced by the many landscapes created by 18th century French artist Paul Cezanne, whose post-impressionistic compositions were mostly plein-air, spontaneous and colorful creations capturing the French countryside and Paris life.

“I have eagerly embraced the Driftless Area in Southwestern Wisconsin as not only my playground and source of inspiration, but as a classroom for my painting ventures. For over fifty years, my love for this area brought to life my many interpretations of the deep valleys, riverbeds, and glacial shapes throughout the region. Perhaps this is the closest I’ve come to the French countryside adored by artist Cezanne. I also like old

buildings, farm equipment and automobiles, and enjoy working them into my landscapes when appropriate.”

Barber spent time in New England years ago, painting streetscapes, harbors and the dunes of Cape Cod. Most recently, he studied under Kathleen Wheeler and Ken DeWaard, both Driftless Area landscape artists and educators located in Viroqua, Wisconsin.

After a lifelong career as a writer for a local newspaper, concentrating on architecture and the construction industry, Barber’s post-retirement artwork has become a full-time focus.

“Since retiring, I have found ways to express myself on canvas and I am pleased in

the direction I’m traveling,” says Barber. *“I tend to scrub a little piece of my heart into each painting I do, and the rewards are everlasting.”*

All original artwork will be for sale.

Old Soil will be exhibited during the Opening Reception, Saturday, September 5, 2:30-5:30pm, at Inspiration Studios, 1500 S. 73rd Street in West Allis. Additional gallery hours are Saturday afternoons, 1:00-3:00pm, on September 12, 19, and 26. Social distancing will be enforced. Disposable masks will be available upon arrival for those who may need one. For more information, please call the gallery at (414) 587-3474.

A Riverwest Beerline Walk

By Cari Taylor-Carlson

Distance-Two miles, the round trip to Gordon Park and back.
Time- An hour, or more, if you linger by the river
Where to eat-Lakefront Brewery, 1872 N. Commerce
Beerline Café, vegetarian, 2076 N. Commerce
Stubby's Gastrogrub, 2060 N. Humboldt
Start-2134 N. Riverboat Road
Parking-Along Riverboat Road

You know you are at the right place to start this Beerline Walk when you see the house with the green roof. That's green as in living plants, not green shingles. This small building is the headquarters for the River Revitalization Foundation, an organization that has rehabbed the adjacent three acres, a project which includes significant prairie restoration.

This former wasteland, known as Turtle Park, has been transformed thanks to the Foundation. Volunteers removed Melanec's Wheel House Mystery Dinner Theater along with its concrete parking lot, an area now filled with native grasses and flowers.

A canoe/kayak launch, picnic tables, benches, access points for fishing, a demonstration garden, and a never-ending project to eliminate invasive species, has been accomplished by River Revitalization Foundation staff and countless volunteers. In the past ten years, those volunteers have planted hundreds of native plants and trees, and with this habitat restoration, have created a lovely small riverside park.

The early history of the Beerline Trail dates back to the 1800s and a canal championed by Byron Kilbourn, intended to connect Milwaukee via the Rock River, and the Illinois River, to the mighty Mississippi, and on to the Gulf of Mexico. Only 1.25 miles of this fiasco were completed, from Pleasant Street to Humboldt Avenue. It soon turned into a stagnant ditch and after the city filled it in, in 1864, it became known as Commerce Street. When you see the multiple condos on Commerce, it's a stretch to picture that stagnant ditch, once headed to the Mississippi.

Kilbourn, not easily discouraged, moved on to the business of railroads. In *Cream City Chronicles* John Gurda wrote, "He (Kilbourn) founded not one but two railroad companies, including a line that paralleled the first leg of his canal. Because it served both the Schlitz and the Pabst breweries, the route was known as the Beer Line." The breweries needed the railroad and its freight cars to carry ingredients for making their beer.

The railroad continued along the west bank of the Milwaukee River through Riverwest. The river was a vital water route for sawmills, tanneries, and small breweries operating nearby, including Lake Brewery, Eagle Brewery, and Empire Brewery.

Proximity to the river in winter was also important to these, mostly German brewers, who dug cellars for their lager and filled them with blocks of ice cut from the river to cool the lager in the warm months.

To start this walk, take the gravel path from the Foundation headquarters to the end of Riverboat Road. You will pass picnic tables, canoes and kayaks, the Kiwanis boat launch, and a foot bridge across the river.

If you cross the Milwaukee River on this pedestrian bridge, you can continue north on the path on the east side of the river to the Urban Ecology Center. There you can connect with the Oak Leaf Bike Trail and continue until your legs or your shoes give out, whichever comes first.

Or, you can continue on the gravel path close to the river on the west side. If you select that route, after about a half mile, look for the log steps on your left. At the top of the steps, you can leave the dirt path and rejoin the paved Beerline Trail, or continue straight to Wright Street where you can exit the trail and check out the Gig bar, a convenient watering hole on a hot day. A second choice, Gee Willickers Saloon, is nearby on Dousman.

Those are two options. For this Riverwest Beerline Walk, take the paved Beerline Trail that veers left from the gravel path close to the North Avenue bridge and heads uphill. Don't be confused by the Oak Leaf Trail sign. This is also the Beerline Trail. From here, the paved trail continues to Gordon Park.

Enjoy this gentle forested trail with its occasional views of the city and the river. Five benches along the way offer places to sit and listen to the water, the bird songs, the sounds of the breeze in the grasses. Take it slowly. You will be rewarded with a delightful interlude on this leisurely walk.

At the park, do an about face and return to where you started, down the hill from Stubby's Gastrogrub, where, as the name suggests, you can down a cold one and some pub grub.

"If the southern states had not seceded, there would have been no Civil War. If there had been no Civil War, it would not have been necessary to impose a one-dollar tax on whiskey, doubling the price charged in Milwaukee saloons. If Milwaukee's thrifty saloon patrons had not sought to counteract this inflationary trend, they would not have switched to beer, the breweries would have continued to be small family operations, making only enough to supply the neighborhood trade. And if Milwaukee had not become famous for its breweries-but that is too humiliating to contemplate"

Robert W. Wells *This is Milwaukee*



Samuel Beckett

“You’re on earth. There’s no cure for that.”
by Bill Embly

When I think of Samuel Beckett I think of *Waiting for Godot*, published in 1952 and first performed in 1953, a play about nothing, a play in which nothing happens. I read *Waiting for Godot* in college. Crossing campus one afternoon I saw a friend sitting on a curb and asked what he was doing. Waiting for Godot, he said. He’s now a neurosurgeon in Milwaukee. The idea for *Godot* came to Beckett while walking from Paris to Rousillon in southwest France with Suzanne Dechevaux-Dumesnil, who would become his wife, walking by night, sleeping in haystacks during the day.

I read *Three Novels: Molloy, Malone Dies and The Unnamable*, in Ireland, while living in a stone cottage on Mt. Eagle, Co Kerry, helping a local stonemason, Bun Wilkerson, restore the cottage for a woman in Dublin. Beckett was born in Foxrock, a suburb of Dublin, in 1906. He died in Paris in 1989. He’s buried at Montparnasse. *Three Novels* is a trilogy about nothing. *Molloy* is the interior monologue of the bedridden Molloy. Malone lies in bed in a hospitable or asylum, until he dies. The immobile protagonist of *The Unnamable* was known as Mahood or the Worm.

I saw *Endgame* at the Stiemke Theater in Milwaukee. “You’re on earth. There’s no cure for that.”

Concerning his own work Beckett was famously reticent. “What I had to say is in the work itself” Richard N. Coe, in *Samuel Beckett*, portrayed him as a nihilist, Buddhist, Cartesian puppet master of soulless puppets, influenced by Descartes, Newton and Wittgenstein, quoting the latter, “*Wovon man nicht sprechen kann, darüber muss man schweigen.*” What we cannot speak about we must pass over in silence. Humor was Beckett’s counterbalance for life without hope. Watt, in *Watt*, had a peculiar way of walking that pre-dated “silly walking.” A dramatic turn and thrust of the leg to the north, followed by the same to the

south, to go east.” Beckett compared life to “a slave crawling east on a ship sailing west.

An early autobiographical character, Balacqua, embodied the theme of “idle by conviction,” Beckett’s leitmotif, a theme Coe referred to as a “positive reality” nothingness in the Buddhist sense. Nirvana. Nirvana or nightmare? Balacqua was followed by a host if incarnations tethered to this theme.

A linguist, Beckett was fond of word play, “Mr. Knott. Or Not. Or Knot. Or Naught. Or Néant-Nichts-Nirvana, what you will” reminds me of Hemingway’s Nada prayer in *A Clean, Well-Lighted Place*, “Our nada who art in nada, nada be thy name,” etc. Otherwise there is no comparison, Hemingway was about action, Beckett inaction.

The Milwaukee Public Library has a DVD entitled *Beckett on Film* that contains *Waiting for Godot*, several short experimental pieces, a Documentary and Addenda, demonstrating the range of Beckett’s work. Whether on paper, on stage or on film, Beckett reduced life to its most elemental form. “I can’t go on, I’ll go on.” From *The Unnamable*.

He received the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1969.

dead calm,
then
a murmur,
a name,
a murmured
name,
in doubt,
in fear,
in love,
in fear,
in doubt,
wind
of winter
in the
black boughs,
cold
calm sea

Waiting For Godot

Oh Beckett please

Oh Beckett please

Tell us what it means

Clairvoyant SoothSayer

20th century savant

Making gray

From black and white

Have we no hope?

of color?

how could you know?

that 2020 would be so

so

gray

so glumly omnipresent

Look to the east

Call out to the west

China, Italy, Germany,
England, France,

Americas, Mexico, Brazil

The infantile U.S.

India, Viet Nam, Koreas

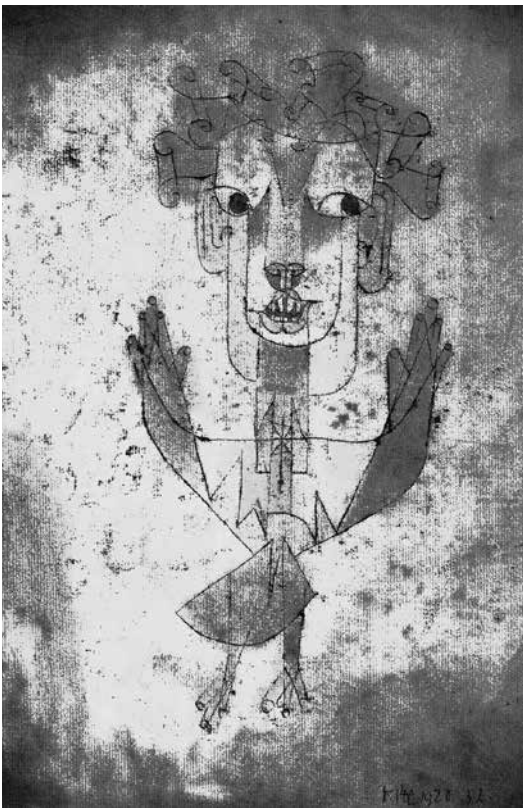
Laos, Myanmar, Russia

Greenland, Iceland,

Look at each other

And all the lands peoples

cry



Didi and Gogo

He isn’t coming today

He isn’t coming tomorrow

He isn’t coming

But maybe she will

vjBushell
image:
stylized Paul Klee Angel

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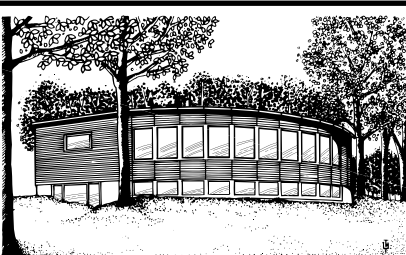
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“...there is a river whose streams
make the city glad...” -Psalm 46



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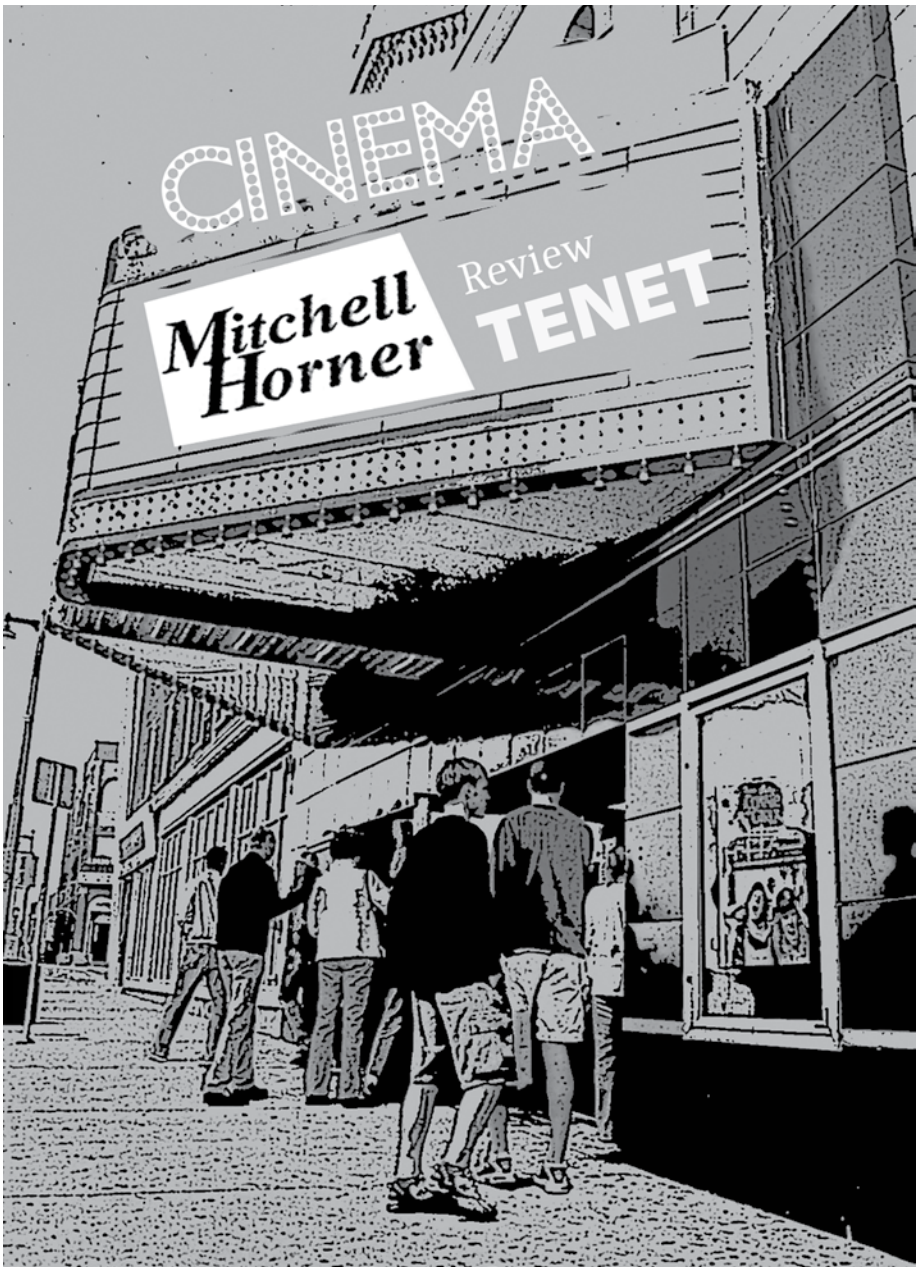


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Nolan, Spectacle, & Tenet

It is month 5 of the pandemic, which means that movie releases remain few and far between, which makes my job here all the more difficult. In these uncertain times, one can count on only one thing: Christopher Nolan's *Tenet* will continue to be delayed.

It would seem, though, that even this rule is being broken. For better or for worse, *Tenet* barrels ahead with its September 3rd release date. Despite its many delays, *Tenet* remains one of the few truly "big" movies on the horizon. After all, it comes courtesy of Christopher Nolan, perhaps the most popular active filmmaker in the world. Nolan, to be understood, must be viewed as a director of spectacle, rather than character. His films are driven by their material content, and motivated by the craft of his filmmaking, rather than the substance of the characters contained within. For proof, one need look no further than *Tenet*, or more specifically, where *Tenet* is being shown: movie theaters. Remember those? Nolan has resurrected the theatergoing experience just to give his film the spectacle of cinema he feels it requires.

Tenet, evidently, is a time travel film, much like its spiritual predecessor, *Inception*. Nolan, though, often rejects straightforward, linear storytelling in favor of disjointed timelines and intersecting narratives. This is a theme found through his recent body of work: *Inception*, *Interstellar*, even *Dunkirk* all feature time, and the warping of time, as central points of plot, to various degrees of inter-textual significance and extra-textual efficacy. To Nolan, time is a narrative device like any other, to

be molded to his needs and serve his purposes, and *Tenet* seems to maintain this thematic throughline.

Much like *Inception* before it, *Tenet* seems to wear the trappings of a spy-thriller, and while it remains unknown what the plot of *Tenet* may be, theories abound. This writer personally believes the film to center around the prevention of the 9/11 attacks, and evidence supports this. The film, it seems, takes its name from the director of the CIA at the time of the attacks, George Tenet, a man with, shall we say, "intimate" ties to the attacks. Additionally, each promotional poster seems to feature a city skyline, or individual towers. Is it tasteless to make a time-travel spy thriller about the 9/11 attacks? Maybe. Ultimately, this depends on the success of the film's narrative execution. I might well be wrong in my predictions for the narrative content of the film here, but again, there is evidence to back these claims.

As the review embargo lifts and the preliminary articles begin to trickle out, critical consensus seems to describe the film as an engaging spectacle, which, considering Nolan at the helm, is rather promising. Whether the film will do well financially is anyone's guess, although the studios seem to think they can make some money off it. Perhaps they are banking on enough people longing for the theatrical experience to be willing to go out for a movie of this scale and significance. One way or another, this film will be a litmus test for the theatrical market, which between the recently struck-down Paramount Consent Decrees and continued economic downturn could spell disaster for theaters should there prove to be little appetite at the current moment.

Mitchell Horner

Editor's Note: Mitchell Horner has been missing in action for few months. We welcome him back. He is dedicated to seeing films as they were intended, in movie theaters. *TENET* is due to be released in September in theaters, like the good old days.

It won't be in any city movie palaces soon. But I have seen it advertised at Marcus Theaters in the suburbs.





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Check out the BeerLine Trail story on P. 8 Better yet take a hike. It is grand at any time of year. These photos are taken on the trail. There are upper and lower trails. Paved and dirt trails.,



Currents Comix Page

ANGRY KAT: ZOMBIE PROTOCOL

by Luther Hall



'WILLA IS BIG MAD...'

The Dodo

SINCE WHEN DO YOU TAKE BATHS?

SINCE NOW I THINK! I FEEL SO CHILL AFTER MY BIKE RIDE.

CHILL!? HARDLY. FIRST, IT TAKES 20 MINUTES TO FILL. THEN THE WATER IS EITHER SCALDING HOT, OR LUKE WARM AT BEST. AND WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME WE CLEANED THIS TUB!? NEVER PROBABLY. SO WHEN YOUR TAKING THAT SO-CALLED "SOAK", IT'S LIKE A BACTERIA MELTING POT IN THERE.

I'M SORRY, I CAN'T HEAR YOU JOE. ENYA IS CURRENTLY CANCELING OUT YOUR BULLSHIT FOR MY ATTENTION.

"LAND OF THE FREE, HOME OF THE 'ICKY' !"

Andrew Megow

ANOTHER CAT COMIC

AH YES, TIME TO TAKE A HAPPY NAP.

THIS SEEMS LIKE A GOOD SPOT TO LAY OUT.

I...I JUST LOVE MY LIFE.

WHY ARE YOU BEING SO EMO?!

LANCE ORR

MODERN WITCH


BY ANNA ALICIA RODRIGUEZ

SEE THAT DUDE OVER THERE?

I HEAR HE'S A REAL JERK.

YEAH?

SOME PEOPLE ARE JUST SO GREEDY WITH THEIR KARMA...



twenty pound baby | stephen tyler conrad



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