



The Lion - A Walk in Lake Park p 5

Riverwest Currents



U.S. Presidential Election, US Congress Rep.
State Reps., Varies by district.
Tuesday, November 3, 2020

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Vol 19 Issue 11 Nov. 2020



350Madison.org, a Wisconsin non-profit working on climate change, has enlisted the help of a revered state critter to urge Badgerland residents to get out and vote!
photo Craig Wilson

A Message from the Publisher and Editor

by Vince Bushell

For what its worth, a song by Buffalo Springfield from 1966 still rings true. Different times, different threats, same message. Everybody look what is going down. The gun has become a metaphor for lies. We have corrupted the political process by allowing an autocrat to become President.

George Martin's editorial is succinct. What do we want? Martin is not a center leaning liberal. He calls himself an independent socialist.

I urge you to heed his call. Neither he nor I just got here. Biden/Harris equals hope.

*There's somethin' happenin' here
But what it is ain't exactly clear
There's a man with a gun over there
A-tellin' me I got to beware
I think it's time we stop
Children, what's that sound?
Everybody look what's going down
There's battle lines being drawn
And nobody's right if everybody's wrong
Young people speakin' their minds
A-gettin' so much resistance from behind
I think it's time we stop
Hey, what's that sound?
Everybody look what's going down*

This Is the Most Important Election in our Lifetimes

by George Martin

Tump's first term, in which he lost the popular vote, has been the absolute worst in US history. His administration has the greatest turnover in cabinet members, appointees, and staff. It has been clear from the beginning that this Trump administration has been self-centered and based upon Trump's personal point-of-view, not one of working with experienced experts.

In foreign policy, our international role has deteriorated to an all-time low with Trump's relationships with dictatorships and withdrawal from many international agreements and institutions. This places us at risk of nuclear war and the ecological destruction of our planet.

In domestic policy, Trump -- with a Republican majority US Senate and a politically based federal court system -- has suppressed democratic legislation by the US House of Representatives and bullied a racist agenda of immigration policy, voter suppression, health and economic repression for the majority of our country, both rural and urban.

Donald Trump has no interest in doing the ethical work of the presidency, but only helping himself and his friends to wealth.

Do you want to be fairly and justly treated by our federal and local government?

Do you want the COVID-19 Pandemic to be better managed, as we have lost the lives of 222,000 US citizens to-date, and the pandemic grows, threatening your life and those of your loved ones?

Do you want to maintain your current health care system as the country strives for universal coverage and affordable drug costs in this pandemic?

Do you want an economy that reduces the growing gap between the rich and the poor, beginning with fair taxation, access to family sustaining jobs, upward mobility for all?

Do you want to maintain our Social Security System that supports our retired seniors, your relatives, and will support you, today's workers, who pay into it and will benefit from your earnings in the future?

Do you want equal law enforcement protection in all our communities? Do you want our much-needed police to focus on crime while other professionals take the lead in mental health, domestic violence, school and homeless issues, etc.?

Do you believe in democracy, racial equality, nonviolence, peace, and an environment that sustains the air that we breathe, the water that we drink and the food that we grow?

Obviously, we must Dump Trump and vote for Biden/Harris in the November

3rd election. Moreover, we need a landslide to overcome the Electoral College, voter suppression including the legal challenges to the right to vote, mail-in voting including deadlines and election day difficulties in voting safely in this pandemic. Early voting has begun and continues to hit record numbers across the nation.

Be a part of this Dump Trump landslide: Make a **voting plan**: go to myvote.wi.gov to check your voter info, ballot and polling place. Decide when and how you will vote. Remember to bring your Wisconsin I.D. or Driver's License. (An outdated one will be excepted if not more than 2 years old.) If not registered by election day, same day registration at your voting site with acceptable proof of residence for at least 28 days per the Milwaukee Election Commission website.

Ask your family, friends, and co-workers if they have a voting plan. Get others to make a voting plan.

In this pandemic era, Souls to the Polls is offering free and safe Uber and Lyft rides for Early Vote (Oct. 20- Nov. 1) and Election Day (Nov.3). Call Free Rides Hotline - 414-246-1823.

To help expedite voting, be a Poll Worker: call the City Election Commission at 414-286-3491 or go to their website to see if Election Day Poll Worker positions are available at \$230 for a full day shift.

For clarification: Election Observers are volunteer positions appointed by political parties or are nonpartisan who observe the polling site or vote counting.

There are strict regulations regarding election site operation including poll workers and election observers, especially no politicizing within 100 feet of the polling site.

Beyond that 100-foot barrier, voter intimidation may occur and has been promoted by Trump. I am working with a national project called Election Defenders and if anyone is interested in working with me on that, please email George Martin at nii-adjtey@gmail.com.

No human being is perfect. No political candidate or party platform satisfies all our desires. Former President Obama recently stated, "The fact that we don't get 100% of what we want is not a good reason not to vote. We have to vote and work for what we want."

This is the Most Important Election in our Lifetime. We Must Vote Biden/Harris and Dump Trump.

George Martin, niiadjtey@gmail.com, is an activist, trainer and lecturer serving the MLK Justice Coalition, Peace Action, and 350.org MKE. He is an independent socialist.

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P.S. Nov. 4th, the day after the election, Riverwest Radio's OWL program will be hosting George Martin's live post-election analysis from 3 to 3:30 pm, on WXRW, 104.1FM. He will be available later at RiverwestRadio.com.

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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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In Between – Neither Here nor There

by Tree Moore

The seasons come and go. The colors change. The summer months greet us with open arms and abandon us far too soon. In the fall we experience the loss of a vibrant, fruitful world. My colorful garden has faded. Nature is somewhat kind in its gradual subtle ways – one falling leaf at a time.

November has the quality of an in-between time. The last of the harvest has ended. The days are shorter and colder, and there are three or four months of frequently miserable weather to look forward to. Ugh.

Loss of light is hard. Some folks even purchase special lamps that reproduce the sunny spectrum of summer light to avoid the dampening of one's spirits. Loss of warmth also creates a need to cover ourselves with layers of clothing, to cover our windows with plastic, to reduce our time outside as we move into further darkness.

The triple pandemic of COVID, climate change and economic chaos continues. Along with external challenging changes, our psychological health is threatened. Uncertainty and fear fill the air. We are neither here nor there.

Whether or not we can return to some previous condition called "normal" is highly doubtful, as well as considered undesirable by many. To find dependable work with a living wage is rare. Who knows how long unemployment compensation will continue if we are lucky enough to receive it? How does one pay the rent or the mortgage?

We miss our social life. Social distancing cannot really replace a natural relaxed gathering of friends, sharing good food and drink, easy talk and laughter and some hugs. Even more tragic are the losses of life to the pandemic, the losses of homes, and the losses of the surrounding natural world as the fires ravage large areas of the West, not to mention the hurricanes hurling their destructive energy at our southern states, or the monsoon-like rain flooding our Midwest farmlands. Without adequate savings or insurance thousands of folks are finding themselves refugees, crowding in with other families or somehow squeezing a family into a car. The plethora of losses goes on and on, and we seem to have little control over them or choice about them.

Returning once again to my wise spiritual phrase, "good news, bad news, who's to say?" I'm wondering how we begin to find the good news buried under the catastrophic rubble. Without denying our damaged lives and world, without

insisting we become cheerily positive, how do we proceed in this time of "in between – neither here nor there?"

It will not be easy to begin the process of healing. Many folks are in shock, traumatized, not wanting to get up in the morning.

Eventually, feelings begin to surface. As reality becomes an obvious part of our healing recovery, we will begin to grieve the things we thought we had that are nowhere to be found. To move through emotional suffering that many are experiencing one needs to feel the pain of loving the precious people and things that have been a part of our lives. We can attempt to ignore the pain by distracting or drugging ourselves, but there's an old saying: "The only way out is through."

Weeping, wailing, screaming, raging – such expressions of emotion may be unfamiliar, but they can be cathartic. Paradoxically, they leave some room for hope and small constructive steps in their wake.

After a while, as some of the trauma lessens, we may find this is a time to be reflective. In our thoughtfulness, questions arise.

If we could return to normal, would we want to?

We miss our social life. Social distancing cannot really replace a natural relaxed gathering of friends, sharing good food and drink, easy talk and laughter and some hugs.

What, among the things we have lost, do we want to recover or restore if possible?

What do we need to accept as gone for good, and feel the pain?

So now, what can we do with the gifts that still are present? Which of our needs must be addressed?

We each have a creative imagination. It may have shrunk, but it can be brought back to life. So what really matters? Food, shelter, friends, spiritual support, to name a few things.

An abundance of helpful ideas are popping

up on our computers. Start exploring possibilities for answering such needs. They do exist.

Perhaps you need shelter. Start sharing space with friends, if possible. Or you may need to get more creative.

One way some families are getting creative about their shelter is to refurbish old school buses. After twelve years of use, school busses are retired at the rate of some 3,000 to 5,000 a month nationwide. Rather than ending up in a junk yard, some of them are being turned into small homes. For inspiration, look up "skoolie nation."

Instead of cutting down trees that would better serve as the lungs of our planet, consider small alternative buildings built out of straw/clay or reclaimed lumber. They can be very adequate and pleasant – even affordable. I lived in a straw/bale house for over twenty years. The house's thick walls kept me warm in winter and cool in summer, and the big bad wolf couldn't blow it down.

Other necessities such as food may require serious gardening. Community gardens are everywhere in the city. My herbalist daughter grows the cures for numerous ailments in her garden, and there are lots of informative books at the library. One doesn't need a green thumb to get started, just some seeds, soil enriched by kitchen scraps, sunshine and water.

So get yourself exercising your amazing imagination.

I once went to a workshop where we had to find twenty ways to use slug slime (there are lots of slugs in the Northwest where I lived at the time). It seemed impossible, but we did it.

Then we were told to find twenty MORE.

Believe it or not, we did that, too. And some of the uses were actually practical.

There's no denying that lots of important things have been broken or lost. Hopefully, our role will become one of restoring, repairing and even rejuvenating, rather than throwing away and using up our dwindling resources. Despite hefty drawbacks, this time of "in between, neither here nor there" is filled with potential possibilities.

We can be on our way to a world with a novel, fresh and wonderful way of life. Hard to imagine. But do!

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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/>

NOVEMBER 2020:

Weds. Nov.4: Local Political Activist, George Martin, Offers Us his Post-Election Review!

Thurs. Nov.5: Welcome Back, Steve Watkins (aka DJ Avets)! Let's Talk Music from Yesteryear (Vintage Vinyl) and the DJ Scene, with this Kind and Positive Soul.

Weds. Nov.11: Local Entrepreneurial Spotlight on Teresa Balistreri Warsh, on the Amazing Modern-Sicilian, East-Side Restaurant "Sala".

Thurs. Nov.12: Musical Showcase, with Your Friendly Neighbor, the Fabulous, the Mystical "Shells Bells" (aka Michelle Schauer).

Weds. Nov.18: Part.1: Jeanie Dean is Back with Her Annual JFK Poetry Tribute. This Year's Focus: "The Forgotten Witnesses".

Thurs. Nov.19: Part.2: Jeanie Dean is Back with Her Annual JFK Poetry Tribute. This Year's Focus: "The Forgotten Witnesses".

Weds. Nov.25: Philip "Philo" Kassner Shares his Philo-sophy on "The Little Things Vs the Big Things."

Thurs. Nov. 26: The Amazing Pianist, Karen Beaumont, Gives Us a Musical Treat to be Thankful For, this Thanksgiving.

Older, Wiser, Local (OWL) - The Jazz Gallery



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RIVERWEST ELDERS

Sharing Wisdom with Community

Combatting isolation and loneliness

By Melissa Meier, executive director, Eastside Senior Services

Isolation and loneliness are hot topics since Covid times, though this issue is certainly not new. For the past few years, studies have been conducted concerning this and we are recognizing just how vital connectedness is. A recent study reported that isolation is as bad as smoking 15 cigarettes a day! Research demonstrates that it can contribute to higher blood pressure, heart disease, earlier onset to dementia, overall functional decline - and even death.

Loneliness and isolation are two separate things. Isolation means that you are without human contact for a prolonged period. Loneliness is different. People can feel lonely in a room full of crowded people. You can feel lonely living with someone. You can feel lonely if you have 50 friends who are in regular contact with you. Everyone has a different measurement of loneliness. For some, a person may feel content and happy with limited connections. The most important thing you can do is understand what you need and to ask what others need.

All of us can be susceptible to isolation with older adults especially at risk; nearly one in five adults over the age of 65 are experiencing it. Chronic health conditions, hearing loss, or incontinence may reduce the ability for outings. Many older adults live alone or have transportation limitations. Loss of loved ones, being a caregiver themselves, or lower income are also contributing factors. With Covid, older adults with compromised immunity are hesitant to go out. Some folks have been utilizing Zoom to socially connect in a virtual way, but a technology gap exists with some older adults. To add to the doom and gloom, it will be increasingly difficult for folks to gather outside and visit safely with the colder months coming.

Fortunately, there are things we can do to help. Becoming more aware of our neighbors and people in our lives who may be susceptible is an excellent way to begin. Adults who live alone may have more limited abilities to do things many take for granted - like being able to reach to change a lightbulb, or to change the time on a clock. Befriending someone and

becoming more accessible to those we love is vital. Initiate contact. Call them. Write to them. Ask them if they need anything. Bring over a dish. LOVE them. Be safe in your interactions, wear a mask, socially distance and sanitize!

If you find yourself feeling lonely or isolated, be intentional and MAKE A PLAN! You can do this! Here are a few valuable tips, courtesy of AARP:

- Talk to family and friends and develop a plan/schedule to safely stay in touch
- Take breaks from news stories and social media
- Care for a pet or plant which can provide a sense of purpose and improved health
- Take care of your body - exercise, eat healthy, sleep, and avoid alcohol and drug abuse
- Keep your mind active with music, puzzles, reading, and engaging in art projects to keep the mind occupied and improve cognitive functioning
- Use calming techniques such as deep breathing, stretching, meditation, prayer, taking a warm bath or shower
- Find ways to laugh

Lastly - consider volunteering! Volunteering helps you feel better physically and mentally. It lowers stress and deepens your connections to others. If you want to volunteer, consider Eastside Senior Services! We support adults 60 and above in our community, linking clients to volunteers who help with transportation, companionship, errands, chores, minor repairs, and various tasks. Volunteer when it's convenient for you - either occasionally or regularly. We will work with your schedule. For more information, visit www.essmilw.org or call us at 414-210-5881.

Stay safe during these times, take care of yourself, and take care of others! We desperately need each other.

Eastside Senior Services
 2618 N Hackett Avenue
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Peace Action: Nov. Stands for Peace

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

- Sat., November 7, noon-1pm: Capitol & Oakland
- Sat., November 14, noon-1pm: Howell & Howard
- Sat., November 21, noon-1pm: Sherman & North
- Sat., November 28, noon-1pm: Port Washington & Silver Spring

Please remember to wear a mask!

Lake Park Walk

By Cari Taylor-Carlson

Distance- one mile

Time- one hour to all day-many places to linger

Attire- dress for the weather-the lake breeze can be chilly

Where to eat- Pizza Man and Café Hollander are nearby on Downer Avenue.

Start-The entrance to Lake Park at the corner of Newberry Blvd. and Lake Drive.

Parking- a large parking area services the golf course and Lake Park Bistro.

Lake Park might not be the largest park in Milwaukee County, but it might be the most scenic. When you turn east off Lake Drive, take a moment to notice the elegant entrance, designed by Frederick Law Olmsted. Instead of a straight line, the road bends and swirls creating an artful doorway into this urban park.

Lake Park, 138 acres, sits on a mile-long bluff overlooking Lake Michigan. It has something for everyone young and old, tennis courts, an eighteen-hole, par-three golf course, a bike/walking trail, a playground, free concerts on Monday and Wednesday evenings during July and August, and the popular 4th of July celebration.

We can thank Gustav Lueddemann who purchased the northern section from the U.S. government in 1849 and built his home there. He kept the forest

intact as well as his promise to open the land to the public, which soon became known as "Lueddemann's on the Lake." This northern section has the oldest trees in the park, again, thanks to Lueddemann, who may have saved those trees from early settler's voracious appetite for timber in the 1800s.

By 1860, local leaders saw a need for a series of parks for citizens who couldn't afford the manicured gardens of the wealthy. These parks, or green areas, became known as "Gardens of the Poor." In 1889, the city fathers created the first Parks Commission. After they began purchasing land, they hired landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted to design Lake Park, Riverside Park and Washington Park. Olmsted, known for designing Central Park in New York City, believed natural beauty was a necessary restorative for city dwellers living in cramped spaces. To this end, he designed Lake Park with open meadows interspersed with paths that led through shrubbery, forests, and ravines, coupled with views of Lake Michigan. He wanted the park to be a place for both contemplation and activity, which explains the tennis courts and the playground, as well as rustic paths through ravines and forests.

In 1993, Lake Park was entered in the National Register of Historic Places and in 1996, Lake Park Friends was incorporated "...to raise funds for the restoration and enhancement of the park in the spirit of Frederick Law Olmsted." That would include current efforts to remove invasive plants such as garlic mustard, an endless struggle, reminiscent of Sisyphus rolling the rock.

In the summer of 2016, another species arrived, hordes of Pokemon Go players. Litter, congestion, and confrontation with neighbors followed, until all "Go" stops were removed from Milwaukee County Parks. Pokemon Go, and the controversy soon evaporated.

Before you leave the parking lot, note the lawn **bowling** area, well-tended grass surrounded by a white fence. Men in white have been rolling small white balls here for more than one hundred years. The game looks easy, until you notice each time someone rolls a ball, it starts in a straight line and ends in a wiggle as it heads towards the target, a smaller white ball called a "Jack." The closer the ball gets to the Jack, the more points awarded the player.

Across the parking lot, the Lake Park Golf Course, six holes, opened in 1903, expanded to eighteen holes in 1930. In 1911, the Milwaukee Sentinel described the game as "...a pasture pastime for a handful of wealthy eccentrics."

Also adjoining the parking lot is Lake Park Bistro at the site of the former park pavilion, where Sunday morning breakfasts were a happy tradition for many local families who enjoyed the view of Lake Michigan along with their bacon, eggs, and toast. In 1995 Milwaukee County rented the upper part of the pavilion to Joe Bartolotta who established

the Bistro with the stipulation that the first floor remain open to the public. As so it has, with a new name, the Marcia Coles Community Room. Walk around the Bistro toward Lake Michigan to see the Grand Staircase, completed in 1908, to give walkers access to the bottom of the bluff and for the intrepid, an opportunity for some intense stair climbing exercise.

Return to the parking lot and follow the bike trail at the south end. You will come to Waterfall Ravine and a plaque to remind us of the original inhabitants of this land, Native Americans from the Mid-Woodland Culture, two thousand years ago, who walked a path down the ravine to the shore of Lake Michigan. This ravine, originally cut all the way to Lake Drive, until it was partially filled in to create a meadow and the golf course.

In the 30s, a lannon stone waterfall was installed along with steps into the ravine, and in 2010, the waterfall was reconstructed. Now Lake Park boasts a thirty-foot waterfall, the highest in Southeastern Wisconsin.

Further down the paved path stands a larger-than-life statue of physician and Brigadier General Erastus B. Wolcott seated on a magnificent steed. The statue was erected at the urging of his wife, Laura Ross Wolcott, who may have been the more interesting partner, as she was only the third woman to earn a medical degree in the country. Erastus was, as noted on the concrete base, "Surgeon General of Wisconsin in the Civil War and for thirteen years afterward he lived a blameless life- eminent in his profession- a lover of humanity who delighted to serve his fellowmen- his city state and nation."

Continue to the Lion Bridges, constructed in the 1890s to span the two lighthouse ravines. The lions, first designed in plaster, were carved by Otto Lachmund, a stone-cutter, a monumental task as there are eight, yes, eight lions!

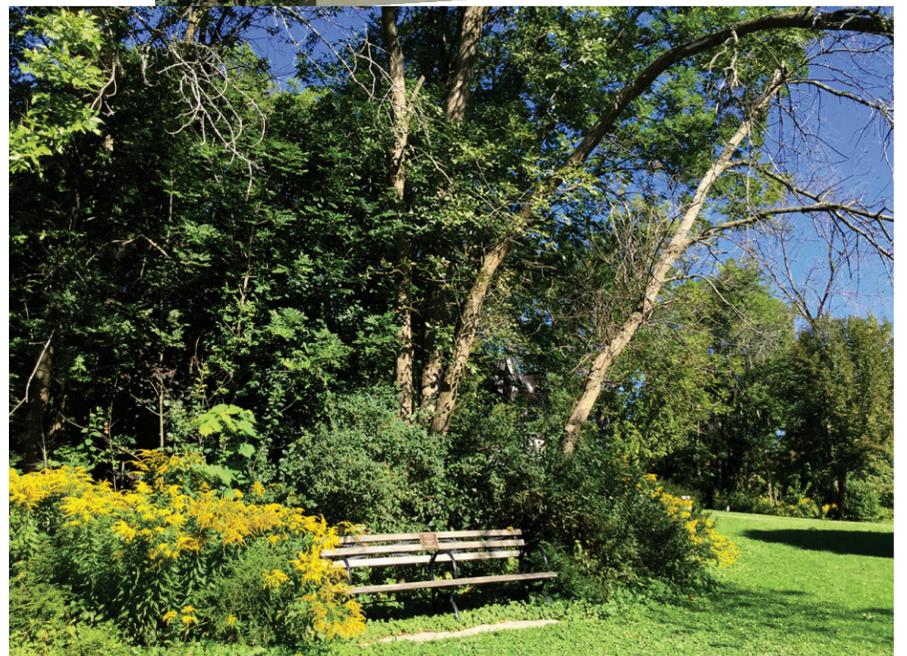
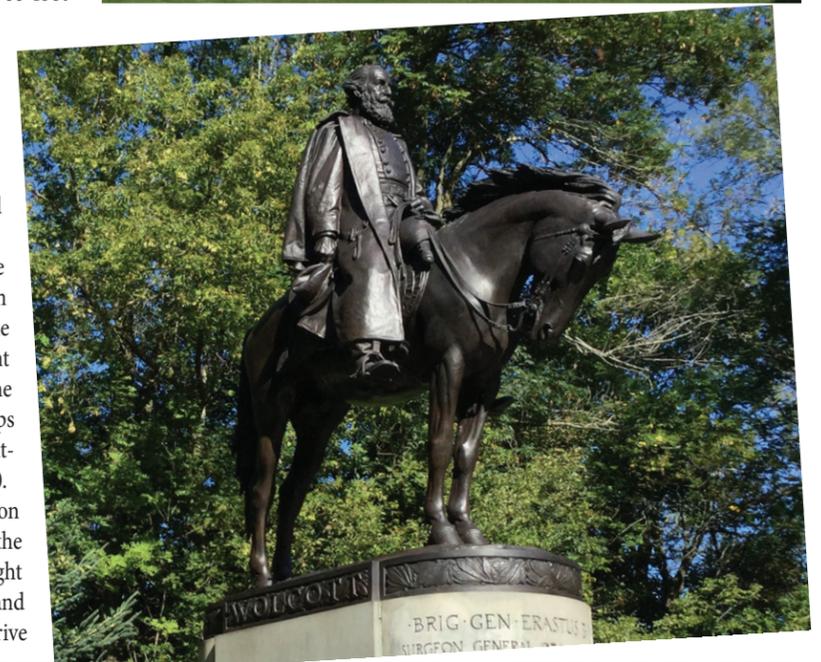
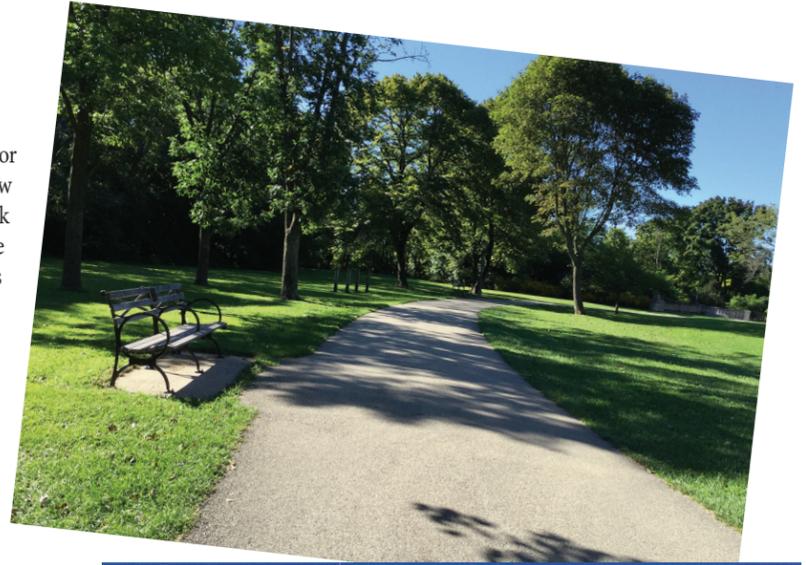
In 2014, a 32,000-pound semi with a 53-foot trailer took a wrong turn, barreled into the park, and attempted to cross the first Lion Bridge. According to news reports at the time, the driver said, "My GPS told me to go this way." The driver, who was from Indiana, was cited for reckless driving and failure to obey signs. Apparently, he neglected to notice Ordinance 47.10 which states, "No unauthorized vehicles in park."

At the second bridge, turn right on the brick path to see the North Point Lighthouse, built in 1855. In the 1870s, its front yard disappeared into the lake, thanks to erosion. Sixteen years later, the current lighthouse was constructed several feet behind the original. If you wish, you can climb eighty-four steps to see one of the best views in Milwaukee. The lighthouse is open weekends, year-round, from 1:00-4:00.

Return to the path, cross the second Lion Bridge, note the rain garden in a low area of the meadow, and continue to Wahl Avenue. Turn right on Wahl and right again where you will see north and south ravine trails leading to Lincoln Memorial Drive and the lake. Turn right again on Lake Drive and continue to the turnaround at the terminus of Locust Street, one block past the entrance to the park. If you look closely, to your right you will see a prehistoric effigy mound, perhaps used for ceremonial purposes or a burial ground. This Lake Park mound is likely a survivor from a group of mounds, perhaps part of a stone age village that occupied this site. This is the last surviving effigy mound in Milwaukee.

In *This Is Milwaukee*, Robert Wells wrote, "A picnicker could sit on the side of an Indian mound and eat a liverwurst sandwich without realizing he was in the presence of a monument to a vanished time."

Retrace your steps to the park's entrance and follow the road back to the parking lot.



Theatrical Group Accused of Being Cult of Clowns-Around-Town

by Tea Krulos

Clowns have long been seen as frightening or agents of chaos both in fiction and in real life. Who could forget the Clown Panic of 2016? (see Wikipedia entry “2016 clown sightings”). Fear of clowns is called coulrophobia, which has increased with depictions of clowns in horror movies and TV shows.

Now it looks like disgruntled individuals are trying to paint Teatro di Affetto, which produces the Night Carnival events, with these same evil clown colors. The Night Carnival is a fantasy wonderland where performance artists play characters and mingle with the audience, an interactive experience of circus fun. Characters included clockwork creatures, oracles, eccentric professors, and water whisperers. Stories of the world and its denizens have been published in a book series by Vegetarian Alcoholic Press. Proceeds from the event have been donated to political prisoners and the High School for the Arts, says Nina Maybe, a Night Carnival organizer who plays the clockwork Coyote in the Night Carnival.

But Internet whispers have gone in a stranger direction, saying that the group is a “sacred clown cult.” *J'accuse!*

“Someone started a rumor that we, Teatro, are a front or harboring a clown cult. Which is absurd for several reasons,” explains Milo, a Night Carnival organizer who plays a character called the Divine Machinist. “No one is in any kind of clown cult, we have never heard of such a thing, some have suspected the mimes of starting this rumor which, in my opinion, is extra sinister because it would be a violation of their own ethical code.”

Only one individual who participates in the Night Carnival really identifies as a clown. That’s Northwick Ludi, who plays a character that’s “technically a clown,” though a fictionalized version. Northwick studied with a retired circus clown and later went to a performance art academy in San Diego, learning arts like fire breathing and sword swallowing.

“In the books, there’s like a sacred clown but the clown is never called a sacred clown, the clown has just been alive for a long time and knows a lot of secrets and has a lot of information,” Nina says. “It’s almost as though these observers saw the theater troupe interacting as their characters for fun on the internet and decided that it was real.”

Northwick blames the clown cult rumors on jealousy.

“Nina and I have a really strong community and lots of friends who would do anything for us. These people don’t have that, and so they’re very, very jealous,” Northwick says. “On the other hand, life is rarely that simple. I’m schizophrenic. A lot of this hateful nonsense is being directed at me because of ableism. I say or do strange things sometimes, take things very seriously that others might not. Like being a clown for example, that’s something I take very seriously, that to other people is maybe kind of a joke.”

The cult accusations have led to some legit clowning, as far as the creative minds in the group weaving a fictional storyline of clown cults, rival mimes, twisted balloons, and clown shoes. It has turned into good fun and a new thread of Night Carnival mythology.

“I mean we do thank them for the joke, because we all needed something to bring us together to laugh,” Nina says.

There is no in-person Night Carnival event this year. Not because of a cult plot, but the pandemic of course. Nina says an official statement about the clown cult accusation is forthcoming and can be read on Teatro’s social media: [facebook.com/teatrodiaffetto](https://www.facebook.com/teatrodiaffetto).



14th Annual Armistice Day Program to be held online this year



Submitted by Bill Christofferson
(vfpchapter102@gmail.com)

Wednesday, November 11, 2020 is the date of the 14th annual Armistice Day event sponsored by Milwaukee Veterans for Peace. This year, it will be a virtual event -- a Zoom webinar.

Speakers will be: David Swanson, executive director of World Beyond War, on “The Pro-War Candidate Has Defeated the Pro-War Candidate: Now What?” and Fred Royal, Jr., president of Milwaukee NAACP, on “The Cost of Peace.”

Jason Moon and Jesse Freward, both veterans and singer-songwriters, will perform.

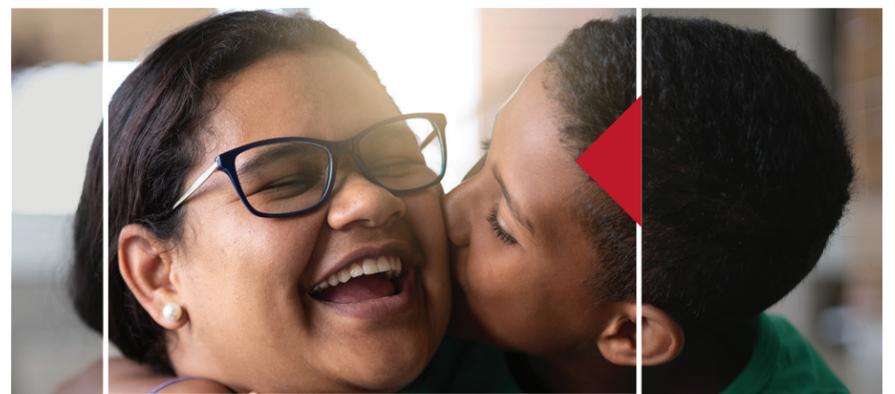
Register here:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2OnCf6lrRca737XeCpDe8w

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining

the event.

David Swanson is an author, activist, journalist, and radio host. He is cofounder and executive director of WorldBeyondWar.org and campaign coordinator for RootsAction.org. Swanson’s books include *War Is A Lie*. He blogs at DavidSwanson.org and WarIsACrime.org. He hosts Talk Nation Radio. He is a Nobel Peace Prize nominee, and was awarded the 2018 Peace Prize by the U.S. Peace Memorial Foundation.

Fred Royal, Jr. has been active in community advocacy throughout his career. Currently, President of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Milwaukee Branch, Royal has also served on a range of boards from Milwaukee Area Technical College to the Social Development Commission. In 2011, he was elected to the American Civil Liberties Union and the Social Development Commission.



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My Year in the Loop - An ARTservancy Project

by Glenda Puhek

For my year long involvement with the ARTservancy project, I explored the 'loop' around the Milwaukee River, which is adjacent to the Riverwest neighborhood in Milwaukee. It is made up of four connected parks along the river—namely, Gordon, Turtle, Caesar and Riverside.

My initial starting place was in Turtle Park, home of the River Revitalization Foundation. RRF was founded in 1994 as a conservation organization to establish a parkway for public access, walkways, recreation and education, bordering the Milwaukee, Menomonee and Kinnikinnic Rivers; to use the rivers to revitalize surrounding neighborhoods; and to improve water quality, habitat. This will increase biodiversity in the valley.

These urban parkways are situated differently than the city parks that populate Milwaukee. To reach this beautiful natural area, you have to walk down the slope on either graded or well-worn paths from the noisy city life above. Once along the river, one feels protected and encouraged to slow down and look around. It's a passive-active place because of the dog walkers, kayakers, bicyclists, fishing folk, joggers, walkers and likely many poets and artists all seeking a space to allow the rhythm of the river to change one's perspective for a while.

I visited each of these parks in a random way, avoiding the same starting point, and going there at different times of day. It was important to be as open as possible to every new thing I encountered. It seemed to me that I was attracted to things that were fleeting and had undergone change...something had happened to cause them to appear as they did.

The sounds in nature are powerful. A little bird's chirp startled me one day when I was lost in the moment of surrounding nature and I didn't expect this feathered one to land on the path right in front of me. Enormous, creaking trees reminded me that I might be careful in case a suspended widow-maker was dangling just beyond. But, it was the high river, after a big rain, that sounded as though it wanted to pull me right in—mesmerizing.

Yet, just a few days before that, a man waded into that same river and dropped his line in while it was calm and sparkling with sunlight.

Another day, I was surprised to see a young man resting in a hammock in

a particularly peaceful spot along the shoreline in Turtle Park. He also had a notebook and a bicycle with him and while relaxing there he caught up to his thoughts.

There is an unspoken etiquette that people just seem to follow when encountering another person along the trails. A nod, maybe saying hello, but mostly just acknowledging that we are here because this is a place of restoration and different from the rest of our day.

Even though dogs are tethered to their humans, their noses are always searching the air and picking up the scent of some wild or maybe familiar thing, while their human is feeling the river walk as it softens their day.

I feel a deep connection to trees and this area has many old ones. The stories of their lives is expressed in their trunks and branches. They have personalities. They bear witness. The roots may be holding



strong, but lightening, wind, and rain will sculpt these majesties over time. When two trees lean into each other, it is like they are commiserating with each other.

But the most serious sculptors along the river are the Beavers. Coming back after more than 100 years to digest the bark of trees. Cottonwood trees which have been gnawed by beavers will die from the top but often sprout from the roots. Beavers play an important role in establishing and maintaining wetlands. A different habitat than the woods, diversity in the city. Watching videos helped me to see how elusive they are.

Last winter, a member of the RRF staff took me to see a location further upstream, where these native oversized rodents are establishing a territory. Fascinating water engineers. I never walked the river at twilight or early dawn, good times to spot a beaver. This is on my bucket list.

Light is such a trickster. It often fell onto an area I had seen before, but then on another day the composition appeared entirely new. These times took my breath away and without my camera I'd have lost them. I use photography to aid my studio work, which is in clay.

This landscape is one I have lived near since 1988, but I hadn't sought it out. During that time, the River Revitalization Foundation had begun its work in the valley has made the riverside a great place to learn and explore. It is easy to move through now with all the work they've done clearing trails and opening up the view, hanging bat and bird boxes,

building a kayak launch, and clearing invasive species like buckthorn and replacing them with native species.

My thought in exploring the trails was to remain open to everything that happened there. The large and small aspects of life along the river called me to look closer. Not to look for something in particular though. If something caught my eye, I would just accept that there was something unnamable and interesting, that's all. These observations, these feelings then found their way into my ceramic work.

We find what we seek. I recently read an article about phenology: the science of noticing. It is the most natural part of my art practice. I want to share what I notice, and art is my delivery system.

ARTservancy is a partnership between Gallery 224 the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust, the River Revitalization Foundation and the Milwaukee Area Land Conservancy to promote the visionary work of both the artists and conservationists.

We are pleased to announce the ARTservancy artists for 2019-2020, and are truly excited to have such a diverse range of artists and art media represented. In addition, photographer and blogger, Eddee Daniel will once again feature participating artists on his blog, The Natural Realm and artist and graphic designer Tyra Baumler will be designing our promotional material.

Stay tuned for programming details and updates.

<https://www.gallery224.org/2020-2021>
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IN A PANDEMIC YEAR, WOODLAND PATTERN KEEPS THE POETRY FLOWING

2020 is Woodland Pattern's 40th anniversary, and as the year started out the organization had made big plans to celebrate—a four-decade art retrospective at MIAD, a gala bringing in poetry leaders from all over the country, a multi-day symposium reuniting the many artists, writers, and musicians that have made Woodland Pattern possible, and more. They were also working toward a building renovation, and in February directors Jenny Gropp and Laura Solomon were featured in *Milwaukee Magazine*. The stage was set for an amazing and packed year.

Like everyone else, little did they know that the pandemic would sweep in and shut down the city. On March 16th, Woodland Pattern closed its doors for the safer-at-home order. With the center shuttered, book sales plummeted 90 percent, and since no performances could be held, Give-What-You-Can ticket donations dropped to zero. The center was suddenly in jeopardy, and long-time community members who relied on Woodland Pattern as a gathering place found themselves without their home. The staff knew they had to act fast, and in totally unexpected ways, 2020 suddenly became busier than ever.

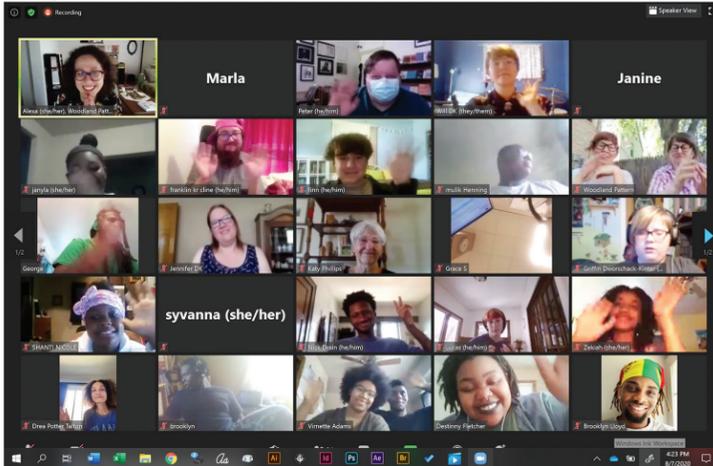
As quickly as possible and working from their separate homes, the staff built a new website and set up new platforms for holding virtual events. By April all of Woodland Pattern's poetry performances and film screenings had moved online, and their many writing and reading groups were meeting virtually, helping people keep in connection with each other in a moment when they needed it most.

At the same time, adapting Woodland Pattern's youth program was also a worry and a challenge. Education Director Alexa Nutile and her teaching artist team worked overtime to create and distribute activity packets to families whose whole routines were disrupted by school closures. And thanks to a lot of hard work and collaboration, they also managed to host online for the very first time one of their longest-running and best-known programs for youth, summer Poetry Camp, bringing in poet and artist mentors from Milwaukee and around

the country. As always, at the end of the camp, students shared their poetry with family and friends as part of a showcase that this year revealed the special bonds of friendship that can form among young artists working together in unprecedented times.

While the staff kept putting their all into virtually reuniting people in familiar spaces, they were also at work creating new ways to deal with the times at hand. To alleviate the pressures of isolation and stress, the staff started sending out weekly "Prompts Against Anxiety" over its email list, and people immediately engaged, sending back responses to share over social media. Within a month the project had gone national, and poets who had visited Woodland Pattern in the past started sending in their own prompts from Arizona, Ontario, Mississippi, New York, and elsewhere. Now sponsored by the Milwaukee Public Library, there are plans for the "Prompts Against Anxiety" series to be published as a book once the pandemic ends, featuring poets such as CAConrad, Hoa Nguyen, and Rosa Alcalá alongside Milwaukee writers and artists including Dasha Kelly Hamilton, Portia Cobb, Ck Ledesma, and Bryon Cherry.

Still, there was one more pressing matter for Woodland Pattern to address: how to once again make their small-press



Above: Summer Poetry Camp went on despite the pandemic. On line like so many things. The young poets celebrated their camp with a Zoom presentation at the end of July. Below: The Poetry and EcoJustice Panel



collection available to the public. That issue was resolved in late July when Woodland Pattern succeeded in opening its first-ever online bookstore, which is loaded with new and collectible titles that can be searched by genre, media, and a vast list of poetry movements and topics.

One other enormous concern for Woodland Pattern has been how best to respond to the pressing calls for racial justice in the wake of the tragic murders by the police of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Joel Acevedo, Alvin Cole, and so many others. Over the past months, the staff has redoubled their efforts to listen to and amplify the creative voices of BIPOC artists, writers, and educators, and has inaugurated *The First Function of Poetry: A Social Justice Series*, with the first of the programs, on poetry and ecojustice, having taken place in October. If you missed it, that program and

other recent readings featuring poets from Milwaukee and elsewhere can be watched on their website.

The First Function of Poetry: A Social Justice Series takes its name from poet, essayist, activist, and teacher June Jordan (1936–2002), who said, "The first function of poetry is to tell the truth, to learn how to do that, to find out what you really feel and what you really think." In the coming months, Woodland Pattern will be presenting other social justice events under this premise. Next in the series are events on November 18th and 19th, in partnership with The Retreat, focused on prison abolitionism and creative writing in the mass incarceration system. These programs will bring together Chicago poet and educator Roger Bonair-Agard; Ashley Lucas, Director of the Prison Creative Arts Project at the University of Michigan; Milwaukee poet and educator Kwabena Antoine Nixon; and Jamaal Smith from the Office of Violence Prevention, along with award-winning poets and abolitionists Tongo Eisen-Martin and Cecily Nicholson.

Last but certainly not least, Woodland Pattern is excited to announce that their legendary Poetry Marathon will be happening again in January 2021. This unprecedented virtual event will bring together hundreds of poets from Milwaukee and beyond, and will help the center carry its mission forward throughout the year. Registration will be held earlier this year—it opens on November 1 and closes on December 15—so don't miss your chance to sign up.

This anniversary year has definitely been a memorable one for Woodland Pattern, and the celebration is the success of making it through the year with the community feeling strong, close, and more prepared to take on what comes next.

Information about Woodland Pattern's upcoming programs and events, and a link to their online bookstore, can be found on their website at www.woodlandpattern.org.

Author Tea Krulos takes readers down the conspiracy rabbit hole with new book

Review by Lee Gutowski

Tea Krulos' new book, *American Madness - The Story of the Phantom Patriot and How Conspiracy Theories Hijacked American Consciousness*, was published at the end of this summer. The timing couldn't have been better; its subject matter is in full view in current headlines everywhere during this election season.

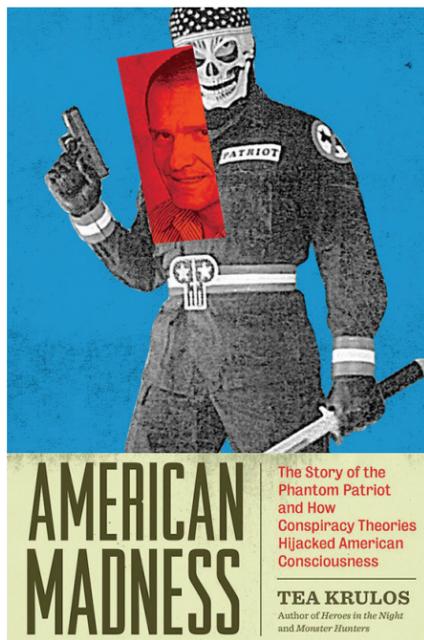
Not to sound like the current president of the U.S., but I didn't know anything about, say, QAnon until reading this book. In *American Madness*, readers will find all sorts of fascinating information about this and many other conspiracy theories, presented along with the through-story of Richard McCaslin, a self-styled "real life superhero" who paid the ultimate price for his misguided beliefs rooted in conspiracy theories.

Sounds foreboding, doesn't it? And the subject matter is pretty foreboding, yet as investigated and explained by Krulos, it makes for an even-keeled, sometimes downright funny, and always clear-eyed account of McCaslin's personal journey to destruction and the way conspiracy theories have taken hold of the American consciousness in this

internet-fueled world we live in.

Krulos was working on his debut book, *Heroes in the Night*, in 2010 when he was first contacted by Richard McCaslin, who wanted to share the story of his real-life superhero alter-ego, the Phantom Patriot. McCaslin was an acolyte of Alex Jones, the media personality and peddler of conspiracy propaganda through his radio show (The Alex Jones Show) and his far-right extremist fake news website, Infowars.

McCaslin was hooked by an Alex Jones-produced "documentary", *Dark Secrets: Inside Bohemian Grove*, in which Jones and a cameraman snuck onto the grounds of the Bohemian Grove (a storied and private "gentleman's club" in the redwood forest near San Francisco) in order to film what Jones thought were satanic rituals being performed



by the members. Eventually, dressed as the Phantom Patriot, McCaslin was to have his own adventure breaching the security of the Bohemian Grove to uncover "the truth."

A decade later, after corresponding regularly with McCaslin and even meeting with him in person and establishing a close acquaintanceship -- Krulos might even say somewhat a friendship -- with the man who was eventually sent to federal prison for his Bohemian Grove raid. Although McCaslin's theories and fractured belief system were strange and maybe laughable to some, Krulos treats his

subject with respect; the author found many of McCaslin's actions worrisome, but in the end maintained a fraught-yet-kind relationship with him.

Richard McCaslin's story alone is enough to fill a book, but Krulos takes it a few steps further by weaving in tales of the origins of some of the biggest conspiracy theories currently taking hold "out there." Among them are the aforementioned QAnon, the Clinton Body Count and Pizzagate, Birtherism, the Anti-Vaccination movement, Flat Earth 2.0, the 9/11 Truth Movement, and the existence of "Reptilians" -- aliens who are taking over the world.

American Madness is a page-turner from beginning to end. Tea Krulos deftly weaves the biography of Richard McCaslin with the history of the different conspiracy theories that are, as the title says, hijacking American consciousness.

The book is published by Feral House. It's available through the publisher (feralhouse.com) and locally owned independent bookstore Lion's Tooth (lionstoothmke.com), plus all sorts of other places. You can find more information on Tea's author page on Facebook.

A song for my mother. A tribute to Lois May Warren

by Ellen C. Warren

Ode to Lois

Sing me a song that will last the whole day long.
I'll croon you a tune that will rocket you to the moon.

I wrote that silly ditty for my mom many, many years ago. I couldn't think of her without thinking of music, especially singing. We all knew my mother could have been a professional singer. But she didn't come from the kind of family that would nurture dreams like that. So she sang when she cooked. And she sang when she cleaned, canned, washed clothes, baked, sewed. Well, maybe not all the time but certainly enough to turn her family into harmonizers. Even dad went from sounding like a frog to a crooner.

Lois May Benski Warren, my mother, died on October 4th at the age of 94. Her last several years were spent back in the Milwaukee area as Alzheimers and Dementia took a toll on her sensibilities. Yet, she continued to inspire, make happy and entertain those around her. Even after she couldn't remember what she did three minutes ago, she still did all she could to enrich

the lives of those around her. Her personality shone.

Amazingly talented, mom was always modest about it. Besides her beautiful voice she could dance like a pro. (I used to call my parents Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers.) The caregivers at the assisted living where she spent her final years loved to dance with her, their "LoLo."

In Wautoma, where she lived on her own for thirteen years after my dad passed, she was known for the lemon meringue pies she would contribute to the Senior Center events, as well as being a member of their board and an enthusiastic volunteer.

There's not much she didn't do. An avid fisher person since she was a child growing up off of Mitchell Street. Her dad would take her and the cane fishing poles on the streetcar to the lakefront. She golfed and bowled and camped and traveled. And typed my college papers for me with the nimble fingers she'd acquired from a lifetime of working as a stenographer.

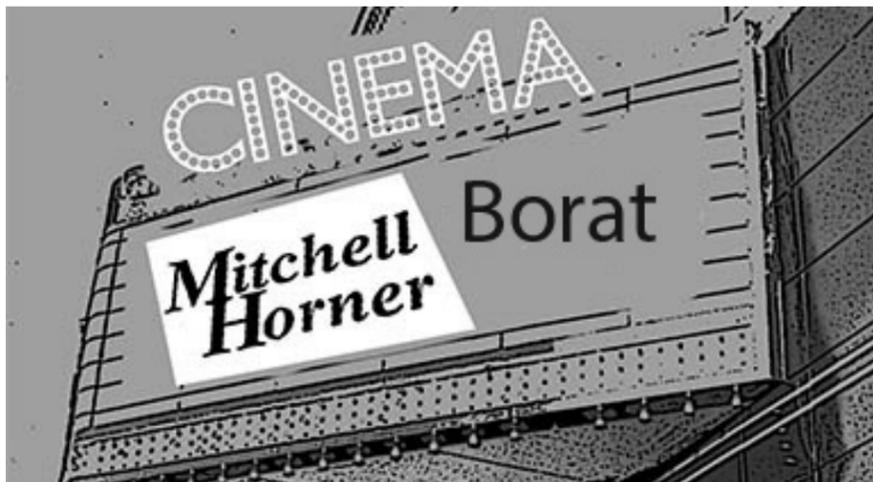
Beautiful embroidery and doily-making, sewing, crocheting gave way in her Alzheimers years to painting. As soon as my mom started painting people were awed by her ability. As a matter of fact, her



first piece is still hanging in the offices of her original independent living building. But she could never remember painting them! She was a mystery even to herself.

I have felt so grateful to have my mom for so many years. She has been a good friend to me, and to so many others. My

family of friends has gotten to know her, embraced her and enjoyed the heck out of her delightful ways. Thanksgiving isn't going to be the same, but we'll dance for you, Mom, and sing a few songs ... and listen for your voice.



Borat Subsequent Moviefilm Review

Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan is one of the great cinematic time capsules of the aughts. Few movies portray Iraq-War era America as deftly as Sacha Baron-Cohen's 2006 mockumentary, capturing the absurdity of the cultural fever pitch which swept the nation following 9/11.

Borat Subsequent Moviefilm attempts to capture this same spirit. However, where the first film masterfully lambasts American culture from the point of view of an outsider, this most recent installment is considerably less tactful.

The joke writing in *Borat Subsequent Moviefilm* is, for the most part, quite funny, at least up until the end. Immediately, Borat's son changing his name in disgrace of his father from "Huey Lewis and the News" to "Jeffrey Epstein" immediately comes to mind, as does the surprisingly touching "Jew in Disguise" bit, which subsequently got the film sued.

However, while the jokes are, for the most part, funny, the cultural critique hallmark to the first film does not work nearly as well 14 years on. Interestingly, just two

years ago Sacha Baron Cohen took the Borat concept of disguised satire and reworked it into a very funny, very prescient series called *Who is America*, wherein Baron-Cohen disguised himself as various characters, even duping a Georgia state legislator into fighting "radical Islamism" by yelling racial epithets and taking off his pants, among other such bits.

With this recent series in mind, *Borat Subsequent Moviefilm* seems unnecessary. The funny parts are funny, but the mid part of the film sags, and the conclusion of the film is not as strong as what preceded it, making for an uneven affair.

If you enjoyed the first Borat, odds are you'll like this too. But I doubt anyone has asked for a Borat sequel since 2008.

- Mitchell Horner

Borat Subsequent Moviefilm is available on Amazon Prime Video.
Runtime 96 minutes.

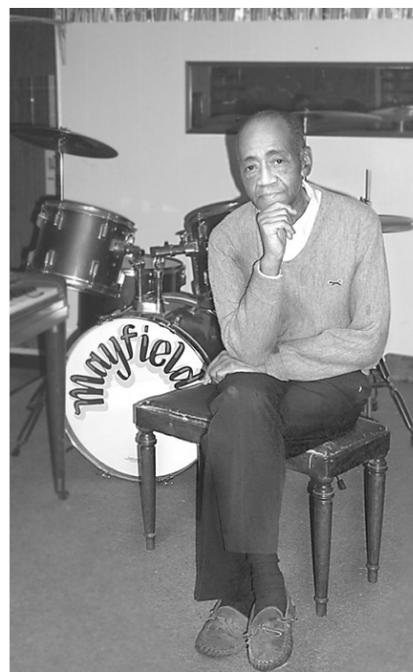


Remembering Sarah Kozar 1974 -2020

Co-founder and lead singer of the *Riverwest Accordion Club*, Photo December 2003.

Performer with *Sixty Watt Sarah*, *Western Starlanders*, *The Squeezettes*

A voice and spirit that was contagious. See Story: RiverwestCurrents.org



I first met Sarah Kozar, at Bill Jordan's place on Pierce Street called Mayfields. Bill and his "House of Peace and Love" are also a memory for our neighborhood. A cherished memory for those who ever had the luck to sit on a barstool in the former Schlitz tide house.

Bill is gone. Mayfields is no more. But Riverwest should carry on the spirit he brought to our city and our neighborhood. Truly, Peace & Love.

Bill would invite performers up to the small stage. He might join by playing the drums. Sepia Music Bill called it. Jazz with his own slant.

That is where I first heard Sarah Kozar's voice. I will never forget it.

VJ Bushell

Middle Child by Matthew Davies Album Review

by Adam Krueger

Once wrote that Matthew Davies' music rustles with an aura of mysterious familiarity—like stories, tones and melodies broadcast from a never-to-be-finished map of America. Since then as an artist that map has only expanded and deepened in its depiction of the world around him as he grows as a musician, a man, and a father. *Middle Child*, his newest release reflects a family experience of past and present as Davies himself is a middle child and finds himself raising another in his son. Davies claims the songs are a bundle of dreams, confessions, and fictions about evolving wants and needs that come with family, age, and loss.

The album starts with, "Get It While You Can," a catchy inspiring jolt of energy and emotional catharsis that provides a strong silver lining. This is a running thread throughout much of Matt's art, though never has that theme been stronger than in *Middle Child*. As he explains, the album is about "Creating a past in the holes of memory and looking forward with optimistic enthusiasm." The whole record presents some of Davies most solid, spiritual, and mature work despite never quite reaching the heights of past creations such as "Do You Have to Ask?" or "Worst Kind of Friend."

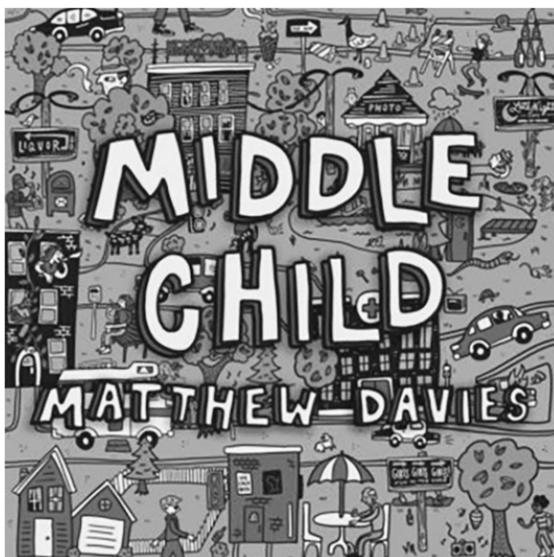
Davies' brand of folk, rock, and Americana takes on a deeper, groovier, and more melancholy approach this time around resembling more the likes of Jim James than some of his other major influences like Neil Young or Dylan. Davies, playing all instruments himself, offers ten bittersweet and haunting melodies with lines that linger long after its finish like "I had to burn it down to the ground you see, as I loved that

girl so desperately" coming in one of the many highlights in "Hero Plan." Other standout songs include "Wino" which chronicles the life of a desperate drunk and the havoc they cause in lives of family and friends. "Too Late" is about the loss of precious time and regret with shades of classic rock and Irish Folk Ballads. "Hawkeye" resembles a whimsical minstrel tune contrasted beautifully with lyrics about being caught in the crosshairs of catastrophe. "First Time" depicting the suffering of substance abuse and addiction in sympathetic resonance complimented with upbeat and catchy guitar riffs. Thematically and tonally, the glue that holds it all together comes in the title track, "Middle Child," a chilled out and eerie exploration of finding one's place in family life.

Even on the album's weaker tracks there is a lot to offer in some excellent rhythm guitar work on "All Day Long," and contemplative musings on expired desires and scapegoating on the laid back and plaintive "Wild Heart."

Musicians everywhere are suffering in ways many of us are privileged enough not to endure during these times. So it's not hyperbolic to say that supporting local art is more important than ever and for fans of Americana like The Band or the late Justin Townes Earl, *Middle Child* is a work that can offer some much needed catharsis for a quarantined Wisconsin Winter to keep those demons at bay as well as the desire to burn everything down for those beaten down and broken hearted by 2020.

You can find the album on I-tunes, Spotify, Bandcamp, and matthewdaviesmusic.com.



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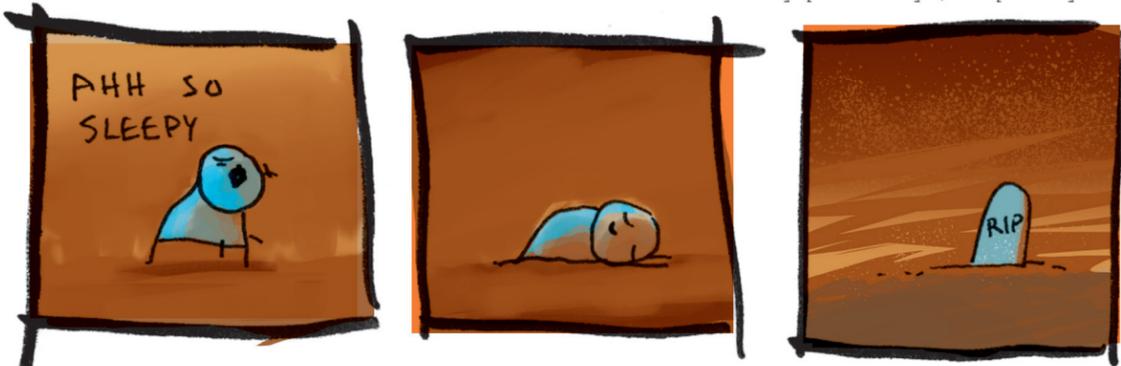
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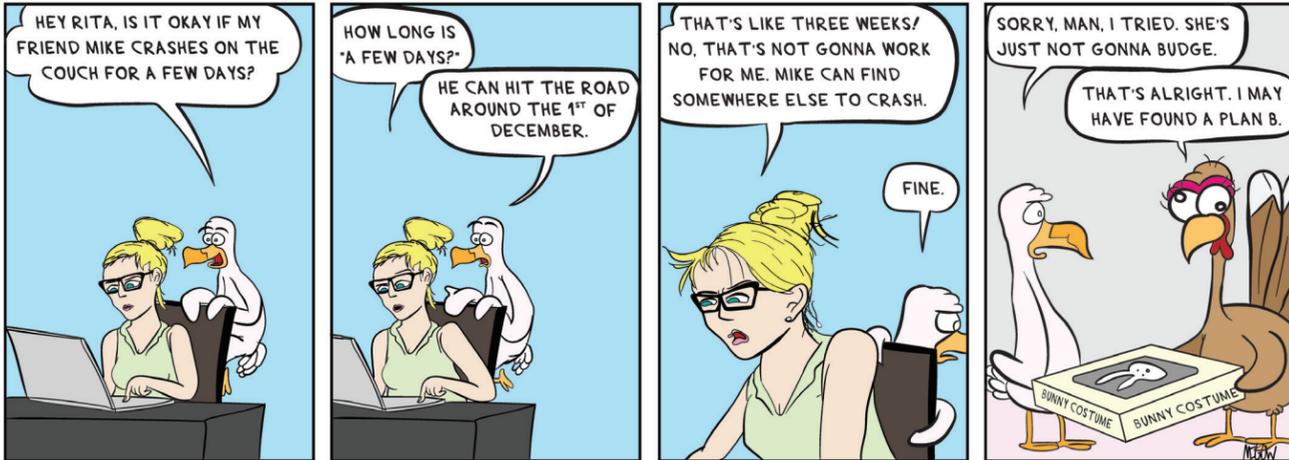


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