



Riverwest Currents

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Primary 02/16
Election 04/6
Candidates p. 4

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Vol 20 Issue 2 FEB . 2021



Not for the faint of heart, but for those who know the ice, a pleasant winter walk with a happy dog. Don with his son's dog, named River on the river.. And me too behind the camera. Photo by Vince Bushell

We are coming up to the anniversary of the great pandemic of 2019/2020/2021. Covid -19.

Last year I remember fondly the Riverwest Co-op's annual spaghetti dinner at the Falcon Bowl. Music played, people ate, and kids had fun. Woodland Pattern's Poetry Marathon went on as planned in January of 2020. The Woolly Bear Fest happened as usual on the river in February.

The *Currents* February issue promoted the Riverwest Follies in April. It never happened. The curtain fell sometime in March of 2020 and all things together were cancelled. The quarantine was in place. Like a dark cloud all things changed.

It all seems so long ago. We all hope that this shall pass. I was in Washington DC in May of 2019. People had signs in their yards that said, "This too shall pass". Democracy barely made it.

The vaccine brings hope. Love and not hate will get us through.

vjb

The Future

by Vince Bushell

Last month I wrote about the *Riverwest Currents* and 20 years of monthly issues. I will write a more detailed history of the *Currents* and post it on our website this month.

I believe we can make it through this difficult time and continue to serve by publishing a neighborhood based paper for many more years to come.

We do need some help to make it through the next six months. We will be setting up a GoFundMe site by the middle of February. Check it out on our website and consider donating to keep the *Currents* flowing and serving Riverwest and the adjacent neighborhoods.

My goal is to expand the paper to 16 to 20 pages with some help from our readers and continue distribution to all our drop points especially when they can open again.

I want to thank all the writers,

photographers, illustrators, our printer, and distribution helpers for all the work that goes into producing every issue for all these years and in particular this past year and continuing in to the new year.

Thanks to the advertisers who have stayed with us and I hope we can get some of you back when our economy opens up again.

I especially want to thank Lee Ann Gutowski, who has worked with me to edit, compile, sell ads, and deliver the paper during these tough times.

Let us hope that when the winter ebbs and the spring blooms again that the plague will end and we can be together again.

In the mean time enjoy Woodland Patterns Poetry Marathon Online and support our advertisers and continue to read and support the *Riverwest Currents*.



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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. If your location does not pick up the radio signal, you can stream the show live on riverwestradio.com.

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/>

February 2021:

Weds. Feb.3: George Martin of Peace Action Wisconsin Talks Politics, Post-Inauguration.

Thurs. Feb.4: Karen Beaumont, Writer and Musician, Reads her New Short Story, "Seven Septembers".

Weds. Feb.10: Singing To Keep the Heart Open, with Sisters Claire and Sarah Moore.

Thurs. Feb.11: Covid-19 Vaccine Information and Advice, with Dr. Robert Fox of Shalem Healing.

Weds. Feb.17: Eric Jacobson, Music Instructor with MJJ (Milwaukee Jazz Institute), and Jazz Musician, Shares his Journey and Plays his Jazz.

Thurs. Feb.18: Prevent Blindness Wisconsin's Tami Radwill Shares Helpful Suggestions on Sight-Health.

Weds. Feb.24: Creative Spotlight on Artist and Teacher, Sharon Geisfeldt.

Thurs. Feb.25: Interview with Wendy Cheng, President of AAMHL (Association of Adult Musicians with Hearing Loss).

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To have the newspaper delivered to your home each month, follow instructions on this page. Bottom of P3

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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For the Love of Grandmothers

by Tree Moore

In considering a topic to write about, I considered that once again the cycling months have brought us to February, whose main attraction is Valentine's Day. 'Tis a time to express love that comes in a variety of forms, including a heart-shaped box filled chocolate covered cherries, or a bouquet of pink, red, and white carnations. Or even roses. Maybe extra hugs and kisses. Or a night of wild sex if you're lucky. Sensuous delights. But such pleasures can be rather superficial when it comes to feeling love.

Further musing regarding love had me focusing on families where nurturing parents are essential to the healthy development of children. And then I began thinking about how the presence of a caring grandparent can strengthen the possibility of emotionally healthy young ones, considering specifically a grandmother who might live nearby, who can be available more frequently than a yearly visit.

I'm thinking that grandmothers are underrated, and their love can be unique in a number of ways. To begin with, Grandma doesn't usually work a demanding job, so she may be available to offer treats from her cookie jar. Or better yet, she may have time to listen to a young one's woes, interests or questions about life. For a kid, it can be challenging to tell his dad how mean he was, yelling at him for not shoveling the sidewalk. He didn't mean to forget. It could be equally hard to be honest with his mom when he doesn't like her cooking.

But at the risk of idealizing our grandma, she may have a heart of gold. But she could also be making up for the fact that she was too busy when her own children were growing up to give them the attention they might have needed. So now she can spend easy time with her grandkids, possibly even spoiling them a bit.

The gifts a grandma can give might be surprising. I've had some wonderful time with my grandsons. Among my favorite memories is visiting construction sites with Giovanni when he was about five years old. He actually knew more about



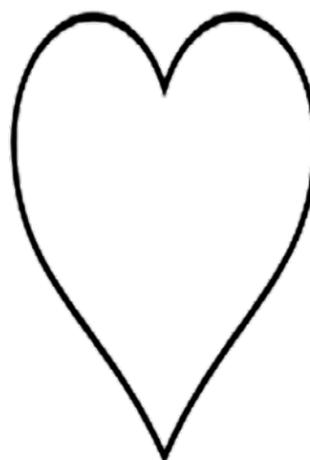
different machines than I did. I couldn't tell you the difference between a backhoe and a bulldozer, but it pleased him no end to set his grandma straight.

If Grandma lives alone, a visit from the grandkids may add some cheer to a long day of loneliness. They might not see her every day, so they might tell her stuff that is surprising news. They can even shock her by adding some elaborate extra details that might not really have happened but will definitely spice up the story. All in all, she can be a warm-hearted woman who loves them. What a gift.

I worked as a volunteer in a men's prison for twenty years. On several occasions I witnessed a tough-guy prisoner break down and cry as he shared the fact that he was not allowed to attend his grandma's funeral. In other cases, a prisoner would subject himself to embarrassment and even scorn in order to attend his grandma's funeral. He would be made to wear an orange jumpsuit, shuffling along with chains around his ankles. Not allowed to visit with family afterwards. Cruel!!

When parents are dysfunctional or simply far too busy working to make ends meet, a kind elder is precious.

The January 6 insurrection at our national capitol made me question the lives of the individual members of the angry, destructive mob. Instead of kind grandmas, how many had experienced emotional or physical abuse in their families? How many had suffered incarceration?



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How many were veterans of our ongoing wars where they were trained to be killers; to have a polarized world view of us and them, good or evil, carved into their psyches? How many of that mob were feeling not only angry, but helpless, disillusioned, and lost without a sense of purpose? These questions take me back to the prisons, where convicts were often treated like numbers with little kindness or love, a perfect incubator for hate.

Those who wreaked havoc on our sacred halls of democracy need to be held accountable for their actions, but punishment is not the answer. There is a strong need for not only recapturing the spirit of democracy, but for healing their wounds, and for healing the wounds of all our citizens. As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "The choice is not between violence and nonviolence but between nonviolence and nonexistence."

We urgently need wise people creating fresh visions that emphasize peace. We owe it to our angry mob of January 6. We owe it to all of us. May this February 14 be a time of recognizing that only kindness and cooperation can enable us as a nation to shift our goals to a culture of love. And acknowledging that we need healthy, loving families – including grandmothers – to hold us and listen to our pain and joys.

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RIVERWEST Currents

PRIMARY SCHOOL BOARD - FEBRUARY 16TH AND ELECTION TO SCHOOL BOARD APRIL 6

Alex Brower for MPS School Board

I am running for school board to bring the transformative change that MPS students, educators, staff, and our community deserve. Our public schools here in Milwaukee are under attack from privatization, systemic racism, and underfunding. As a School Board Director, I will fight for public schools against the threat of privatization, create a Green New Deal for MPS and ensure healthy school environments, stand in solidarity with Black Lives Matter at School, champion the struggle of MPS workers, and democratize education by opening up school decision making to all stakeholders -- parents, students, education workers, and community members.

As an MPS educator, past union president and active community leader, I have the vision, experience and drive to deliver this transformative change. As president of the substitute teachers' union for four years, I defied the skeptics and won health-care benefits for many substitute teachers



by engaging in a 21-day hunger strike, and defeated efforts to privatize our jobs via a temp agency. As an active community leader, I am the Executive Director of the Wisconsin Alliance for Retired Americans, which fights for retirees alongside labor unions. I am proud to be endorsed by my union, the Milwaukee Teachers Education Association and by the Milwaukee Democratic Socialists of America. For more endorsements and to learn more about our vision for radical change, go to www.Vote-forAlexBrower.org.

Jilly Gokalgandhi running for 2021 MPS School Board, 5th District

Jilly Gokalgandhi is a progressive, multilingual, millennial immigrant. She is committed to social justice and her experience in Milwaukee Public Schools to make her the right candidate for this moment in history.

Jilly's frontline work as a Community School Coordinator at Bradley Tech High School gave her daily direct experience working alongside educators, students, and parents. She worked with them toward academic achievement, to champion anti-racist and culturally relevant teaching, and to institute restorative justice practices. She has also worked in the philanthropic sector funding Girls in STEM programs in many Milwaukee Public Schools.

Her lived experience as a woman of color and career supporting public education is



why the outgoing board member, Larry Miller (retired executive director of the MTEA and current at-large board member), Bob PetersonW and Rep. Brostoff support her. You can learn more about Jilly and her platform at jillyformps.org

A Submission from Kahri Phelps Okoro, running for MPS School Board, District 5

As an MPS graduate (Tech), parent, educator and community advocate, I am a unique representation of over half of MPS's student demographic.

Three of my children attend MPS.
I have a teacher's lens.

As a Certified Reading Specialist, I decipher data and determine a student's equitable course of action.

I see the connection required for K16 education and the trades.

I am a businesswoman and I serve on MATC's District Board which makes me familiar with proposals, budgets, projections and community expectations.

I am determined to fight for an equitable education for all our students especially our black and brown children. Uniting the voices of students, parents and teachers so that everyone is heard and collaborating is my mission.

As a parent, I understand the struggles of students not being heard and looked



down upon as if they have nothing to offer. I see firsthand the struggles of my children and their friends during their school year.

I have felt what it's like to not be welcomed in a school.

I know the fear of raising black males in 53212 zip code.

I know I am not the only parent with these issues. So, I want to be your voice until you can tell your story with your own voices. I know I am not the only mother with these fears.



VOTE

ABBIE FISHMAN

for MPS School Board

District 5



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separating what happens
in our world from what
happens in our classrooms...

Reform MPS so that it serves 21st Century needs.

Ensure that students and teachers have materials and support to teach and learn successfully.

Recognize and nurture every student's gifts and talents.

Prioritize that all workers in MPS understand and celebrate the myriad cultures, ideologies, genders, and family dynamics of our community.

Embed antiracist, cultural responsiveness, and restorative practices.

Eliminate the School to Prison Pipeline.

Change discipline policies from reactive to proactive.

Increase mental health services and social workers available in schools.

Build collaboration with our students' families, community agencies, and locally owned businesses.

- Proud parent of MPS graduate
- MPS teacher for 30 years
- Resident and activist in the 5th district for 40 years
- Endorsed by the Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association

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& April 6**

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Abbie Fishman, Candidate for Milwaukee Public Schools Board of Directors District 5

In my career with MPS, technology changed from the mimeograph to photocopies, from the overhead projector to SmartBoard, from calls home to emails, and from wire baskets to Google Classroom. Unfortunately, these changes did not affect the constant, systemic pervasiveness of low test scores and graduation rates, high suspension rates, and teacher turnover.

I am running for a seat on the MPS School Board because I cannot sit idly by while the children in our community do not receive the education they deserve. As a teacher I enacted some change in the schools I taught. At Marshall High school I helped write the Black History program that evolved into We Are the Drum and lobbied the board to make the school an IB school. I spent most of my career at Riverside University high school where I insisted the principal purchase new English textbooks with diverse authors before the district decided to make the same move. As an Advanced Placement teacher, I lobbied to ensure that the composition of my classes reflected the diversity of the school. And when I was the department chairperson, I deliberately pushed to

promote teachers of color to AP teacher positions.

It is the last few years that solidified my commitment to serving on the school board. As an Advanced Academic Coach supporting programs, teachers, and students throughout MPS, I have witnessed the inequities throughout our district from school to school firsthand. And I have seen district leadership's fruitless struggles to address problems in MPS.

I will use my experiences as an MPS parent and teacher to build upon what is great about our district -- the students, the teachers, and the community. These will guide decisions in MPS that celebrate our students' gifts and talents, disconnect MPS' tap on the school to prison pipeline, embed cultural responsiveness in every district program, and let antiracist ideology direct every decision. Changes need to be implemented with urgency and I am the one to start making them happen on day one.

The Brady Street Neighborhood



by Cari Taylor Carlson

Distance-1.5 miles - Time-One hour to all day

Attire-Ditch the designer labels

Where to eat-twenty plus restaurants on Brady-a feast of choices.

A personal favorite, La Masa Empanada Bar, 1300 E. Brady

Start-Walgreens at the corner of Brady and Farwell.

Parking-metered. Bring quarters, a credit card, or download the parking app.

Start this walk at the strip mall anchored by Walgreens, a large presence at the corner, neither interesting nor historic, but necessary. Every neighborhood needs or should have, a place to grab a bottle of water, a roll of toilet paper, laundry detergent, and some emergency Aleve.

Before you begin walking, take a long view of Brady, a jumble of architectural styles, most built between 1870 and 1930. It was main street for Polish immigrants who modeled it after their villages in Poland. Note how the street is a study in diversity, a tapestry of shops, bars, restaurants, and cafes. It has also earned its reputation as a center of hippie funk. Look around, if the weather is warm you might see a busker or two with a guitar or a horn, and a bucket for your spare change, or an enthusiastic group at the corner of Farwell and Brady holding signs devoted to their cause.

There's confusion regarding the naming of the street. Some claim it was named after a prominent New York lawyer, James Topham Brady, while others insist Brady was a Chicagoan named George who may have been involved when the neighborhood was platted.

George or James, minor footnotes to the history of Brady, known as a melting pot, starting with the arrival of the Polish who came from Kaszuby in the 1860s. They transformed Brady from a swamp at the edge of the city to the residential and commercial center of their lives. They were poor working-class Poles who came for jobs as industry expanded along the Milwaukee River with tanneries and ice houses, potential employers for the newly arrived. These notoriously frugal Poles built small, usually four-room houses, sometimes two or three on a single lot, and invented what became known as "Polish flats." They raised the frames of their houses with wooden posts and built half basements underneath, more room for expanding families, or perhaps additional rental income.

Many of these Poles worked in the tanneries along the river, ugly jobs, working with hides and corrosive liquids in the midst of a constant stench. No wonder they built their own church, St. Hedwig's, a refuge from their hardscrabble lives, and a place to listen to the sermon in their own language. They built the first St. Hedwig's in 1871 at the corner of Brady and Franklin for \$11,000. In 1886 they replaced it with the church at Brady and Humboldt, known for its 162-foot steeple that towers above the neighborhood.

Thanks to their work ethic and thrifty lifestyles, the Poles pulled themselves out of poverty by the turn of the century. With their new wealth, they migrated across the river to Riverwest, or, if they could afford to go further, they settled in the northern suburbs, Shorewood or Whitefish Bay, desirable communities as early as the 1890s.

In the 1930s the Italians arrived, so many that for awhile the neighborhood was known as "Little Italy." The Brady neighborhood remains heavy with Italians as evidenced by Glorioso's, Fazio's and Sciortino's.

When the hippies came in the 60s, Brady became a center of counterculture, the place to get a fix, weed, coke, or something stronger. It became known as the Haight-Asbury of the Midwest, a well-deserved reputation.

The downfall took 20 years. By the 80s blight had set in. Heavy drinking and partying left a certain recognizable unpleasant aroma in the gutters, especially pungent on weekend mornings. In the early 90s, a renaissance, led by local resident Julilly Kohler, started the rebirth we see today. Now Brady, lined with restaurants, bars, shops, expensive apartments and high-end condos, has flipped its reputation and reinvented itself as a desirable neighborhood for people who want to live and play close to downtown.

Home values have soared. A residence purchased for \$37,000 in 1994 is valued today at more than \$200,000. Tear-downs brought apartments, duplexes, condos, and raised both property values and property taxes. Like many Milwaukee neighborhoods, Brady has come a long way from its humble roots and those thrifty Poles who settled north of the Milwaukee River hoping to find a better life.

When you leave Walgreens and head west, the first building you encounter houses a fast food franchise restaurant QDOBA, and nearby, Jimmy Johns, interlopers that popped up to the dismay of some locals who would prefer to keep Brady franchise-free.

In the five blocks from Farwell to Astor, a cornucopia of services lines the street, with storefronts as diverse as hair salons and a tattoo parlor, a display of diversity that showcases Brady's exuberant personality. Here are a few you will encounter: a liquor store; a place to cash a check and across the street classes for people who want to practice Jujutsu; shops to purchase CBD, smokes and vapes; a pet food store; and a shop for a fancy futon. You can get your shirts cleaned and pressed; imbibe at one of several bars; drop into an Escape Room; and for veterans, there's Dry Hootch.

In those same five blocks, more or less twenty restaurants vie for your attention, but don't get too attached, because they come and go. Here's a sample of the choices you will discover as you stroll the street: all varieties of hot dogs; burgers, fancy or not; Italian cuisine; tacos and burritos; ice cream; seafood; German wursts; authentic Greek food; empanadas; world cuisine; small plates; outstanding Chinese; Thai; the original Brewed Café where every bite is made from scratch; and mac and cheese, the perennial "Coming Soon" Mac Shack at the corner of Humboldt and Brady.

Pause at the southwest corner at Humboldt where Art Smart's Dart Mart has attracted shoppers looking for strange and sometimes raunchy stuff since 1985. Across the street at Sciortino's, hard rolls are the rage as well as their multiple varieties of Italian cookies. Continue down Brady past Glorioso's Appetito, a small bakery and cooking school that opened in 2019 at the site of the original grocery store, established by Joe Glorioso in 1946. Across the street, the newly expanded Glorioso's, at the site of the former Brady Street Pharmacy, offers a deli, a wine shop, and a grocery store filled with Italian staples and delicacies. It's been rumored that a request for the recipe for their popular meatballs is a lost cause. If you purchase these meatballs in the deli, or in a sandwich, you could dissect one and attempt to reconstruct that sturdy meatball

filled with secret Italian flavors.

From here, travel north on Astor, turn right on Hamilton past Pitch's known for BBQ ribs, and turn right once more on Pulaski. At the bend, note the Cream City brick building at 1729-31. It's a bland boxy building until you notice the leaded glass window on the first floor.

Retrace your steps on Pulaski down the hill past a small playground and Wolski's Tavern, known for free popcorn, a pool table, dart boards, and the "I closed Wolski's" bumper sticker. Turn right on Kane and look across the street where you'll see a contemporary box, a strange looking home covered with vertical brown louvered siding. As you ascend the hill on Kane, note the various states of upkeep and restoration on these two blocks.

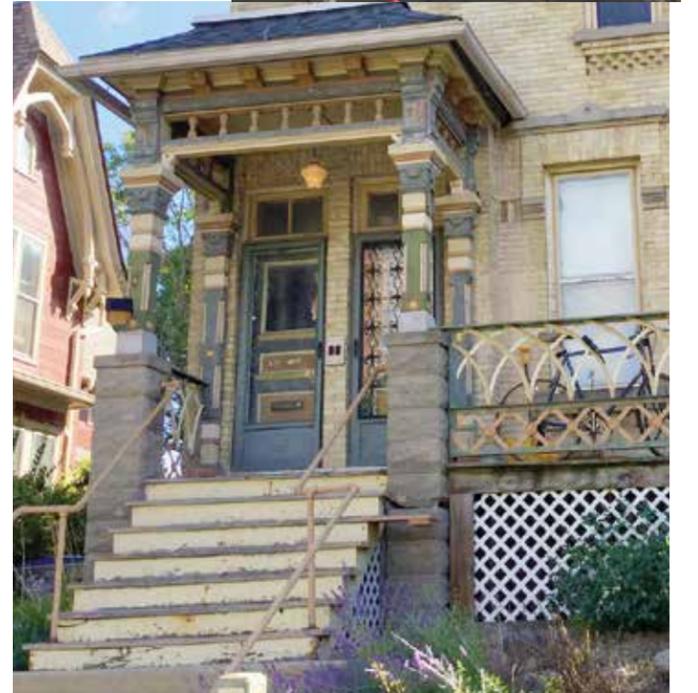
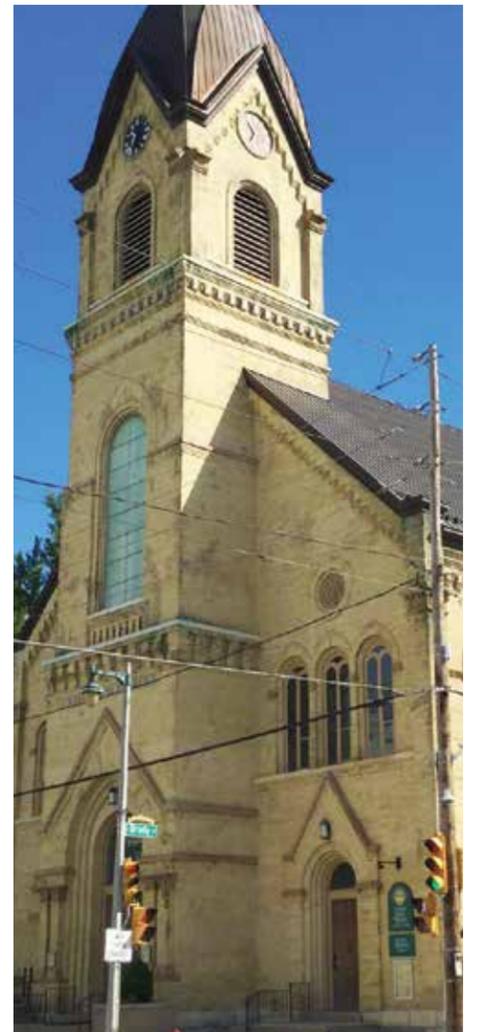
At Warren, look straight ahead to a lineup of vintage homes. The Cream City brick duplex at 1900-02, used to be the rectory of St. Hedwig's Parish. The thrifty Poles even recycled buildings; when the parish built a new rectory on Humboldt, they sold original and moved it to Warren Street.

That Polish thrift extended to a raffle they used to collect money to build the new St Hedwig's. When they outgrew their first parish school in 1879, they raffled it off for \$1.00 a ticket and raised \$400 for the new parish. Mr. Francis Miszewski, the lucky winner, sold the school to Mr. Joseph Polczynski, who moved the school to the northwest corner of Brady and Arlington, encased it in brick veneer, and opened a saloon. Since 1998, Hi-Hat Lounge and Garage, saloon/restaurant, have occupied the corner.

Turn left on Warren and follow it to Boylston Street and Caesar's Park overlooking the Milwaukee River. Below the park, the North Avenue dam built in 1840 and removed in 1997, formerly divided north and south on the river. To the south were sawmills, breweries and tanneries, while the north banks were lined with swimming schools, canoe clubs, and amusement parks.

Concrete steps lead to the river where, thanks to the River Revitalization Foundation, an urban walkway takes walkers north and a pedestrian walkway at the site of the former dam spans the river to connect the Brady neighborhood with Riverwest. If you choose to linger here, it's a fine place to watch an urban sunset reflected in a city river.

From Caesar's Park, a short walk south on Cambridge leads back to the beginning at Walgreens, the end of this walk, a sample of the gentrifying Brady neighborhood.



"Backyard Creatures"

By: Eileen Ciezki

Besides TV screens and Zoom visits, there are the windows to our much smaller world. During this colder weather when sitting on the porch or in the park brings shivers to these older bones, windows provide great entertainment.

My backyard squirrels are sumo wrestlers, acrobats, birdseed stealers, nut hunters, tree climbers and 50 yard dashers! Their belly to belly combat with roll-on-the-ground moves are amazing. Do they feel they are having fun? For me, they are lots of fun to watch. Their acrobatic talents are on full display in all their movements! The "cotoneaster" in my backyard is perfect as a swing for squirrels. It is commonly called "cranberry cotoneaster" and is a dense, broad-upright, somewhat mounding deciduous shrub with stiffly arching branches. They grab onto those stiffly arching branches and swing up and down, back and forth.

Two of my yard squirrels I have named Tarzan and Jane—which ones I don't know, because there have been four and five in my yard at once. They do indeed love the game of tag, chasing around the yard ending either in a sumo wrestling match or an escape up the trunk of the fir tree.

Squirrels must be double jointed! Their efforts to get to the seeds in birdfeeders are heroic. They do not surrender. Hanging upside down by one leg and using their two front paws they scoop up what they can. They jump to the ground and glean the leftovers falling from the feeders.

While we are warned to wash our hands often, squirrels are fastidious in licking their little paws often moving to cleaning all their body parts!

On the ground they seem to remember, "I've got to get that nut that I've buried." They rush around frenetically from spot to spot, digging through the snow into the ground. Sometime burying them and sometime harvesting them. Did you know (PBS Nature) that squirrels' brains expand in the fall/winter and they can recover 95% of the nuts they bury! I sure hope scientists somewhere are researching how they do that. Elders could certainly use a boost

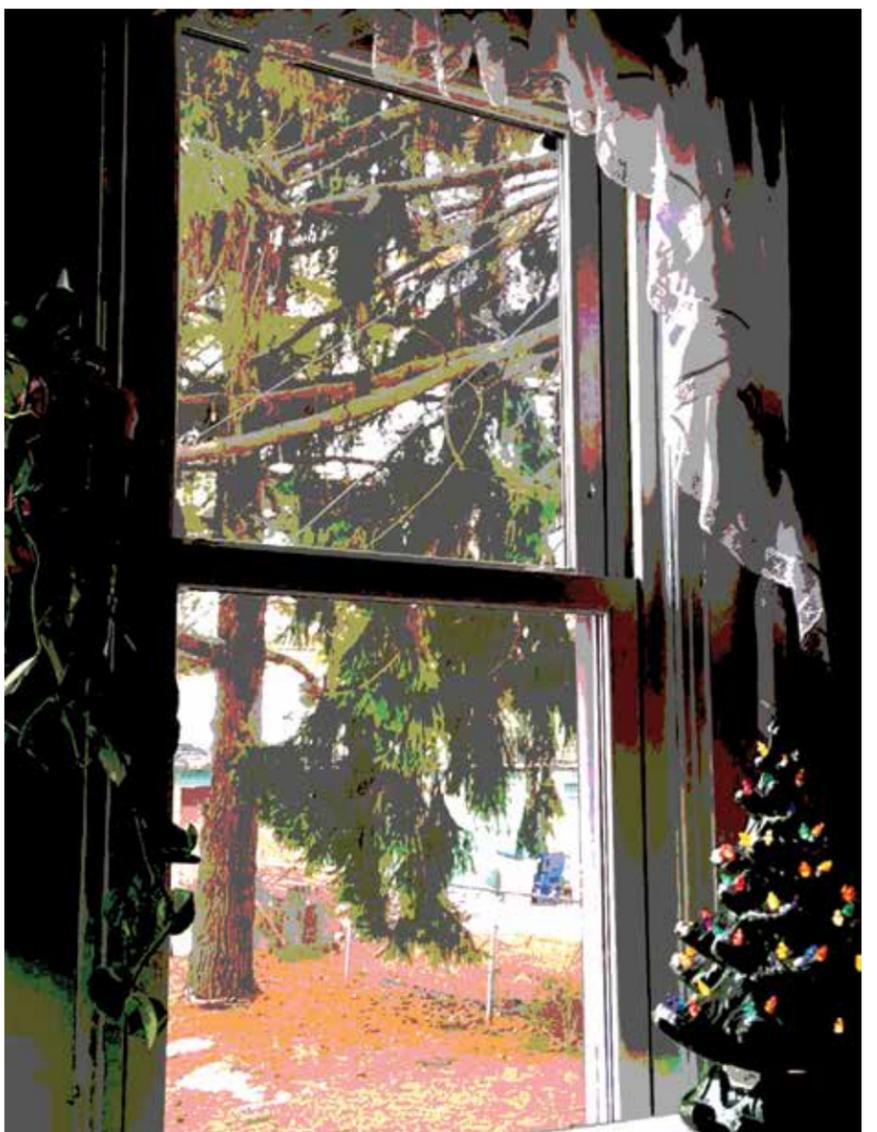
in remembering—"Where did I put my keys?" "Where's that remote? I just had it in my hand a minute ago."

In the front yard, now that all the leaves are off the maple tree, I can see that there are three nests up there. I think they are squirrel homes. Perhaps they moved in because I'm a very good neighbor. I provide peanuts in the shell for them on the porch. Or perhaps they have read my front yard sign: "Love your Neighbor: Your Black, Brown, Immigrant, Disabled, Religiously Different, LGBTQ, Fully Human Neighbor." Perhaps I can add "and your four legged squirrel fully mammal neighbor."

A Note from Lorraine Jacobs:

Thank you Eileen for sharing your special appreciation of the not so "plain ol' Wisconsin Squirrel". Your descriptions and zeal have inspired me to notice and watch for them when I pass a window in the house. I love learning about their enhanced ability to find buried treasures, having often worried how they would ever again find that little acorn!

Eileen, your reference to windows reminded me of our Riverwest, Woodland Pattern Book Center's Prompts Against Anxiety-#2 "An Exercise in Windows". The Prompts began when the Pandemic came along to change our lives. The folks at Woodland Pattern sought to offer support in the form of creative expression, encouraging the experienced as well as the "never before in my lifetime" artist or writer. Ever since I've read Prompt #2, I've wanted to give drawing windows a try, but kept putting it off. Eileen, you encouraged me. Somewhere near this article may be a photo of a drawing centered on one of Eileen's windows. If you are inspired to give this or another Prompt a try, share it with me, I'd love to learn of your expressions--jacobslm@sbcglobal.net Check the Woodland Pattern website for additional Prompts, there are now 30, all varied topics, easy to try, no special tools or pressure, just fun. <https://www.woodlandpattern.org/prompts-projects>



Wisconsin Venture Music and Allison Emm

by Adam Krueger

The harshest and often most beautiful truths tend to shine on a bit stronger in times of great turmoil and tragedy. As middle school and the Buddha both teach us, all life is suffering. The pandemic has only heightened this while illuminating other needs. Connecting with friends and family, nights out, and of course the arts. The lack of live music steals something from us that is hard to put to words. Maybe the prophet said it best that when the music hits, you feel no pain. The emotional health of a community may depend on it more than we realize.

Then there is the economic side of it for venue workers and local artists. The damage hits hardest for the latter. There is a psychological toll it takes when the ability to play for others is taken away. Coupled with rising issues of mental health, that all spells out a big problem for every community, especially ones where we have so many dedicated and talented musicians as we do right here in Riverwest.

Wisconsin Music Ventures is looking to help solve these problems. The company is the brainchild and passion project of Allison Emm, a local musician with strong ties to Riverwest. While sitting six feet apart over two steaming cups of coffee outside of her Wauwatosa office at Serendipity Labs, neither of us can help but reminisce over what we miss about live music. We share stories about shows at Linneman's, Circle A, and Art Bar. We talk about mutual friends who have played shows there and the struggles they face in an age of Covid-19.

As someone who has been playing since their childhood, Allison understands these obstacles. She's faced plenty herself in the aftermath of surgeries that have compromised her ability to play the French horn professionally. In part, it led her to become an entrepreneur. Wisconsin Music Ventures is the accumulation of her professional experiences with years as a working musician and a background in fundraising for local farmer's markets. The result is an innovative answer to the problem of live music during a pandemic and beyond. Because another stark reality we must face is that small businesses and local artists need adapt to survive.

Wisconsin Venture Music has the capacity to be a complete game changer. The company is a Patreon supported social media networking system that gives musicians the tools to succeed while connecting them with great Wisconsin venues. They provide monthly events and workshops for their partnered musicians that provide industry insights from experts, lessons on social media use, and technical support regarding streaming.

The podcast Emm hosts, The Musician's Venture, deals with similar issues and has a growing following on iTunes and Spotify. Further resources are provided with their partnership with Heist TV, a streaming platform pioneering the way for Wisconsin artists. Stationed up in Ripon, Wisconsin

The Heist provides artists a space for small shows, livestreams, and a recording studio through their cooperation with Wisconsin Music Ventures. The Heist also offers one of the best music venues in the entire state with an excellent staff behind it.

Additionally, Allison Emm sponsors pop up concerts when safety protocols allow with a strong focus on producing unique concert experiences with fair pay for musicians based on skill level. Local venues interested in partnering with Wisconsin Venture Music gain a third party to help promote events through their social media, newsletter subscribers, and fans of the podcast as well as the ability to draw from a deep pool of vetted local artists.

The local economy needs live music in 2021 as does the spirit of Riverwest. The pandemic has brought plenty of suffering and a world without much music won't help that. Wisconsin Music Ventures wants to change that for local musicians, for venue workers, and for all of us who miss experiencing music with friends and family. Allison Emm has pioneered something that may not only save local music today, but that will allow it to thrive going forward in an ever-changing industry.



Allison Emm



Cullah



Belle Weather



Juxtatonal



Nick Zoultek

Artists and venue owners interested in these services can find more information at www.wisconsinmusicventures.com and by contacting Allison Emm at allison@wisconsinmusicventures.com



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Lucky Tomaszek and Betty Nikia - Neighbor Spotlight

by Ellen C. Warren

If the timing had not been impeccable, our Valentine Couple would most likely never have met. In an amusing twist of fate they were each about to delete their online dating accounts, nearly simultaneously, and then this happened...

It was fall of 2015. Lucky still had kids at home, and she was working so much that online dating seemed the obvious choice. But, "It was not going well...a series of mistakes," she called it, "over and over again." She decided to cancel her last account. The one on Okay Cupid.

"I was in a bad mood the day we met. I was in a very bad mood. I was watching cartoons with my daughter and we were eating frozen pizza and cookie dough out of the tube, just to give you an idea of what kind of mood I was in. (Betty laughs in the background.) I went online and saw that this very interesting looking person had looked at my profile. So I read her whole profile. It was really beautifully written." A few particular words about Canonical literature spoke loudly and humorously to her. But then she realized that Betty was in Pittsburgh! "That won't work," Lucky thought. "Still, she's looking for a 'brain crush pen pal.' I could be a pen pal."

Meanwhile in Pittsburgh, Betty was "literally, going to delete my profile when I saw that (Lucky) had sent me a message. One day either way, maybe even one hour, and we never would have met."

So, pen pals they became. And after a time of staying up all night emailing and losing out on sleep, they...Um, no...Lucky had an idea.

"I never would have suggested meeting halfway, in Fort Wayne, Indiana, for coffee," says Betty. Three weeks after they met, they were in Fort Wayne drinking coffee and realizing what a good match they made.

Betty was born and raised in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, with a short stint in Minnesota. Seven years ago she had found herself in a rut. Her career path was unclear, she was not involved in any commitments, and her friends were moving away from Eau Claire. A change was desired, so when she met someone who lived in Pittsburgh she relocated there. Although the new relationship evaporated before it ever started, her time there was enjoyable, exposing her to lots of wonderful people, supplying some hope and direction.

Then she met Lucky and she soon found her way back to Eau Claire for "five minutes." A couple months later she was in Milwaukee.

Both Betty and Lucky majored in English, and Betty also in Creative Writing. These are women with a great deal of study and life experience under their belts. Lucky calls Betty's writing, "brilliant," and reminds me that she has the highest of standards. (Some of you may remember the Vital Source magazine for which she wrote a column called "Slightly Crunchy Parent." The editor of the magazine, JonAnne Willow is her sister, and another excellent writer.)

Every morning Lucky opens the curtains, exclaiming "Good Morning Riverwest!" And a small voice from the back asks, "How is Riverwest doing?"

Relocation was comfortable and possible for Betty due to her work. Her previous job was ending and she had signed on to an organization called Shipt. Now she was a sole proprietor in the business of delivering groceries. Not only did it make her move possible but also, she says, "It ended up being a great job for a person dating a midwife, because I'm really really flexible, like down to the hour. If something happens, if I need to do something to support her...it's nice to be there to help her."

Lucky, who has been a midwife for many years, with a new focus we'll be revealing shortly, describes Betty's support: "There's actually a very lovely ritual that Betty has put together for when I get home from a birth, because I'm always wiped out. Even short births are draining...in the best way...you come home feeling like you've done something really great with your time and your energy and your love, but it's also depleting. So to quickly get me back to my fighting stats Betty meets me at home, helps me get my disgusting scrubs off, puts them in the laundry while I shower, gets me something to eat, and she rubs my feet while we watch t.v. It's amazing."

"It's not a chore," chimes in Betty, "it's a privilege. I believe in the work that she does and I'm so amazed by it. A whole new world



has opened up for me, too."

About a year ago Lucky launched a practice called Transitions: Birth Services for Every Body, specifically geared toward LGBTQ+ people. Presently, she is seeing people in their homes due to COVID safety precautions.

As a sex educator (Lucky has worked at the Tool Shed for several years and travels extensively teaching and speaking) she has a working knowledge of the evolution of our society's sexual mores and expectations. Historically, anyone queer felt shut out from the possibility of having a family. In the 1970's queer folks started feeling like they didn't want to live in that box anymore and began opening up and finding ways to have families, including having children, while still staying authentic to themselves.

"We've seen in the last fifteen years or so something we lovingly refer to as a 'Gayby Boom,'" explains Lucky. "Queer folks are finding all kinds of ways to have children, including adoption and surrogacy and partnering with people who are open to having children." Not every one is comfortable in the hyper-feminized

obstetrics environment that feels safe for many women.

"So I wanted to take my work in sex education, and take my experiences as a queer woman, and take my skills in midwifery and really create a practice where all kinds of people could find care that included them and welcomed them, and made space for them to be their authentic selves without having to hide...I want to help them build their families in the way that works for them." You can reach her at transitionsbirth@gmail.com. Besides the midwife duties she also offers Inseminating support, Pre-conception care, and screening for STI's.

Betty and Lucky feel very at home here. The community suits them perfectly they say. Every morning Lucky opens the curtains, exclaiming "Good Morning Riverwest!" And a small voice from the back asks, "How is Riverwest doing?"



SATURDAY, Jan. 30th

10-11 am YOUTH HOUR, sponsored by Mary & Ned Witte, Diane Bezella, Pizza Shuttle, and Shorewood High

Finn Engelbart, Sofia Hansen Cardona, Noa Biener, Zekiah Talton, Atahlia Lopez-Johnson, Aveon Hudson, Graydin Lohre, Griffin DK, Nikki Janzen, Jocelyn Banks, Persia Wright, Henry Heyden, Alexandria Harmon, Gerardo Medina Jr., Isabella Glenn, Will DK, & Niles Janzen

11 am-12 pm COMMUNITY HOUR, sponsored by Louisa Loveridge Gallas

Analysis the Poet, Liat Mayer, Dan Knauss, Laniece McGee, Judith Harway, Renee Glembin, Reggie Finlayson, Sharon Daly, Angela Sorby, Peter Whalen, Sue Blaustein,

Jenny Benjamin, Anne Koller, Patricia Clark, & Eloisa Gómez

12-1 pm COMMUNITY HOUR, sponsored by Cornell College MFA in Creative Writing

Martha Kaplan, Kathryn Gahl, Ed Makowski, Kathrine Yets, Parker Weaver, Jayne Marek, Jim Landwehr, Barbara Wuest, Courtney Raatz, Peter Blewett, Terimarie Degree, Bailey Flannery, Ted Dargis, & Sarah Rosenblatt // from our archives: Morgan Parker—May 9, 2019

1-2 pm WEDNESDAY WRITERS, sponsored by Janine Arseneau

Suzanne Rosenblatt, Judit Gomez, Barbara Leigh, Maria Elena Scott, Daniel O'Keefe, Janine Arseneau, Darlene Rzezotarski, Virginia Small, & Susan Winecki // from our archives: Silvia Bolognesi & Russ Johnson, for Alter-

SATURDAY & SUNDAY January 30 & 31 | 10 am-10 pm

Free Online Broadcast at: Woodlandpattern.org

nating Currents Live—September 15, 2019

2-3 pm WISCONSIN FELLOWSHIP OF POETS, sponsored by Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets Lisa Vihos, Ronnie Hess, Scott Lowery, Elisabeth Harrahy, Mark Zimmermann, Sylvia Cavanaugh, Sheryl Slocum, Nathan Reid, Angela Voras-Hills, & Maryann Hurtt // from our archives: "Bike-U / Haiku," Poems from the Riverwest 24—July 27, 2019

3-4:45 pm POETS FROM SAINT JOHN'S ON THE LAKE, sponsored by Saint John's on the Lake

Kent Mayfield, Sandy Duffy, Jana Troutman-Miller, Barbara Byer, Nick Pabst, John Schmitt, Virginia Chappell, Alex Molnar, Pat Busalacchi, Bernice Popelka, & Elliot Lipchik

3:45 pm —INTERMISSION—4:00 pm

4-5 pm A TRIBUTE TO SALLY TOLAN, sponsored by Tom Tolan & family

Readings from the life's work of the late Milwaukee poet Sally Tolan, 1927-2020, by Tom Tolan, Sandy Tolan, Yam Tolan, Mary Tolan, Kathleen Tolan, Sandra Maier, Paraska Tolan-Szklunik, & John Tolan // from our archives: Urs Leimgruber & Jim Baker, for Alternating Currents Live—May, 26, 2019

5-6 pm WISCONSIN POETS LAUREATE, sponsored by Riverwest Realty

Nick Demske, Abayomi Animashaun, Jodi Vander Molen, Vida Cross, BJ Hollars, Ed Werstein, Margaret Rozga, Angela Trudell Vasquez, Esteban Colon, & Dasha Kelly Hamilton // from our archives: Ruth B8r Ginsburg, for the Woodland Pattern gala—November 16, 2019

SATURDAY, Jan. 30th cont.

6-10 pm WOODLAND PATTERN 40TH ANNIVERSARY HOURS, sponsored by LiveWriters, Greg Flegel & Rich Greene, Scott Gelzer & Sherry Goldsmith, Colectivo Coffee, and Anne Kingsbury & Karl Gartung.

Featuring poetry, film, and music from current and former Woodland Pattern staff, volunteers, curators, board members, and community members from near and far.

6-7 / Susan Firer, Portia Cobb, Rick Ollman, Janet Jennerjohn, Paul Druেকে, Bryon Cherry, Zack Pieper, Freesia McKee, Mike Michaels, Ae Hee Lee, RS Deeren, & Bob Hanson & Karen Ingvoldstad // from our archives: Anthony Deutsch, for Formations Series for New & Improvised music—October 12, 2018 / & ALASH, Tuvan Throat Singers—April 19, 2018

7-8 / Takahiro Suzuki (Studies in the Folly of Man), Karl Gartung, Jacqueline Lalley, Greg Flegel, Jen Benka, Ching-In Chen, Franklin K.R. Cline, John Koethe, Sam Pekarske, Brenda Cárdenas, & Roberto Harrison

8-9 / Peter Burzynski, Stacy Szymaszek, Chuck Stebelton, Tyrone Williams, Maureen Owen, Elizabeth Robinson, Diane Glancy, & Joe McPhee // from our archives: PaVda (Hal Rammel & Linda Binder), for Formations Series for New & Improvised Music—March 15, 2018 / & The Transatlantic Bridge #2.1 (Dan Bitney, Rob Frye, JayVe Montgomery, Olivia Scemama, & Simon Sieger), for Alternating Currents Live—May 5, 2019 / Kimberly Blaeser & Margaret Noodin—November 21, 2019

9-10 / CAConrad, Joshua Beckman, TC Tolbert, Janelle VanderKelen (Clara), Anselm Berrigan, Nikki Wallschlaeger, David Wilk, Jennifer Scapettone, Duriel E. Harris, Ed Roberson, Eileen Myles, & Kati Katchev, PoetryMarathon2018_Nick-Demske

Free Online Broadcast at: **Woodlandpattern.org**

SUNDAY, Jan. 31st

10-11 am RIVERWEST CURRENTS, sponsored by Riverwest Currents and dedicated to the poet Antler

Vince Bushell, Harvey Taylor & Susie Krause, Thomas Treder, Ellen Warren, Desmond Bone, Mooney James, & Shell Bells

11 am-12 pm UNTOLD STORIES + RACINE/KENOSHA FEATURE, sponsored by Lotus Legal Clinic

11-11:30 / Laurel Blackstone, R.C. Nicole, Deborah Estrada-Carson, Hannah Lenzo, Pita, Jamie Lovely, & Austin Reece

11:30-12 / Nick Ramsey, Rachel Wiedower, Jean Preston, Joseph Engel, Carol Lee Saffiotti-Hughes, Debra Hall, & Stephen Kalmar II

12-1 pm COMMUNITY HOUR, sponsored by

AllWriters' Workplace & Workshop Robin Lane & Paul McComas, Robb Astor, Lindsay Tighe, Jesse DeLong, Liandra Skenandore, Kathie Giorgio, Garin Cycholl, Karen Haley, Lisa Krawczyk, Tim Kloss, Stephen Anderson, Steve Pump, & Grzegorz Wróblewski

1-2 pm WHOSE LANGUAGE YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND

by Kim Kielhofner, sponsored by WE Energies Foundation
Named after a novel by the late Austrian writer Marianne Fritz (1948-2007), *Whose Language You Don't Understand* (2018) is a video cycle exploring the limits of language. Fritz spent most of her life, over 30 years, working on a cycle of dense and complex novels she called "The Fortress," consisting of over 10,000 pages—and still unfinished at the time of her death. Her project is an unusual and astonishing one that challenges the conventions of writing and reading. In Fritz's work, writing sustains

a reality. Writing becomes a movement into an alternative world, and readership offers radical possibilities.

2-3 pm GENRE: URBAN ARTS, sponsored by

Anonymous on behalf of Teens Grow Greens & Girls on the Run
Nakeysha Roberts Washington, Aysheh Manaie, Samihah Pargas, Lyn Patterson, Colleen Rowe, Anita Holloway, Marcus Emel, Shaunteri Skinner, Dana Kaleta, & Ananda Deacon

3-4 pm QUEER HOUR + IN-NA-PO (INDIGENOUS NATIONS POETS), sponsored by The Queer Curatorial Fund of the UWM Department of Film, Video, Animation, & New Genres and Scott Gelzer & Sherry Goldsmith

3-3:30 / Jennifer Morales, Siwar Massannat, Elizabeth Hoover, CJ Scruton, franciszka voeltz, Canese Jarboe, & Jenni Moody

3:30-4 / Kimberly Blaeser, Margaret Noodin, Craig Santos Perez, Jake Skeets, & LeAnne Howe

4 pm —INTERMISSION—4:15 pm

4:15-5 pm LATINX POETS FEATURE, sponsored by Erick "CK" Ledesma & Howard Leu
José Felipe Alvergue, Mauricio Kilwein-Guevara, Matthew Gutierrez, Rosa Alcalá, Daniel Borzutzky, Jose-Luis Moctezuma, alida cardós whaley, Carmen Murguía, José Manuela García Oquendo, Urayoán Noel, & Marili Pizarro

5-6 pm OSCAR PRESENTS, sponsored by Ed & Brooke Krishok

Andy Gricevich, Lauren Russell, Mike Hauser, Richard Meier, Timothy Yu, Steve Timm, Jordan Dunn, Lewis Freedman, Stacy Blint, & Abraham

Smith // Anouk Chambaz: 06:24

6-10 pm SMALL PRESS FEATURE with CHAX PRESS, CANARIUM BOOKS, UGLY DUCKLING PRESSE, BELLADONNA*, FATHOM BOOKS, PITMILK PRESS, & VEGETARIAN ALCOHOLIC PRESS, sponsored by Reuter & Associates, The New Order of Saint Agatha, Karen Campbell & Kevin Ronnie, FATHOM Books, Outpost Natural Foods, Polonez, & Mobile Car Care

6-7 (**Chax Press**) / David Weiss, Andrew Levy, Maryrose Larkin, Steven Salmoni, Michael Gottlieb, Simon Pettet, Eli Goldblatt, Saba Syed Razvi, Sarah Rosenthal, & Charles Alexander // Takahiro Suzuki: How to Draw a Line 7-7:30 (**Canarium Books**) / Ishmael Klein, Darcie Dennigan, Paul Killebrew, Suzanne Buffam, & giovanni singleton // Anouk Chambaz :A View from the Cliffs, Extract 1

7:30-8 (**Ugly Duckling Presse**) / Jean Day, Anna Gurton-Wachter, Sawako Nakayasu, Jennifer Nelson, Corina Copp, & Rachel Levitsky // Anouk Chambaz: A View from the Cliffs, Extract 2

8-8:30 (**Belladonna***) Krystal Languell, Gabrielle Civil, Maxe Crandall, Kimberly Alidio, Ashna Ali, & Becca Klaver // Anouk Chambaz: A View from the Cliffs, Extract 3

8:30-9 (**FATHOM Books**) / Joseph Spece, Stephanie Adams-Santos, Eric Westerland, Marissa Bognanno, & Youna Kwak // Anouk Chambaz: To have an existential crisis

9-9:15 (**Pitymilk Press & Bathmatics**) / Edie Roberts & Chelsea Tadeyeske

9:15-10 (**Vegetarian Alcoholic Press**) / Janelle Cordero, Al Russell, Gina Tron, Denise Jarrott, Sierra Nicole-Qualles, Lauren Turner, Kelsey Marie Harris, & Travis Tate

The Having, the getting over, and the never-ending of COVID

by Ellen C. Warren

My bout of COVID-19 was officially recorded as beginning on Saturday, October 3, 2020. My mom was living her last hours at an Assisted Living home and I could finally visit her in person, just in time to hug and kiss her for a couple days. She died October 4, I'll always wonder if it wasn't her I received the illness from, although her death certificate gives Alzheimers/Dementia as the reason for her passing.

That's all kind of beside the point, but that Saturday I had thrown up, which I blamed on the too much wine of consolation the preceding night (I rarely vomit and never the projectile that this was). But a few mornings later I rose from a night of headaches, sore throat, body aches, nausea, and chills and googled the symptoms of this CoronaVirus. There they were, plus a few more. I took myself to get tested.

For those of you who still don't believe in this illness, I can assure you that I would not wish even my relatively mild case on anyone. I experienced a whole lot of nausea everyday for a couple weeks, diarrhea as a given (food in - food out), all-over body aching, dizziness, disabling fatigue, sore throat ... but I got off lucky ... no real respiratory issues.

Still, we're in the end of January now, nearly February, and my sense of smell and taste have not completely returned. The nurse who handled my case suggested

it might take up to three months. It's been longer. I've now spoken to someone who is nine months in with no sense of taste or smell. I keep hoping.

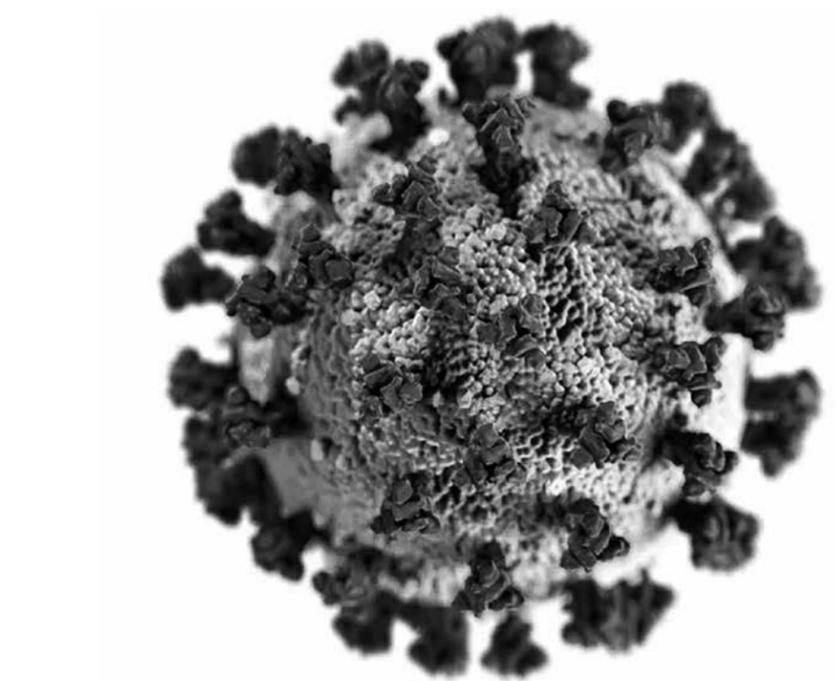
This is surely one of the most bizarre illnesses ever. Things end. Then they start again. Or, as in the case of a firefighter acquaintance, the symptoms trickle away, reassert at times with fatigue remaining constant, and exactly six months later stop entirely.

I've joined a sort of support group on Facebook now to do research for this article

How one experiences the virus is so amazingly different that it would almost be humorous if so many people didn't have horrifying and lasting symptoms, and so many people didn't die. There are people near death who took no chances other than to answer the door, or pick up a grandchild.

and to see if some of what I'm experiencing is COVID-related. So, it turns out that the phantom cigarette smoke or other smells of burning, that do not in reality exist, is very common among us, even nine months on. Other people smell baby powder or burning plastic.

My hair has seemed to be falling out more than usual, but it didn't occur to me that it might be COVID related until I saw that this is one of the most shared after-symptoms. Some people lose up to half their hair! Rashes are another result. Lots of



lasting back, hip and leg pain. Shoulder pain is common, too. I was blaming my arthritic shoulders for the recurring pain, and, apparently, COVID can exacerbate arthritis, as well.

How one experiences the virus is so amazingly different that it would almost be humorous if so many people didn't have horrifying and lasting symptoms, and so many people didn't die. There are people near death who took no chances other than to answer the door, or pick up a grandchild. There are exhausted young couples, both infected, with feverish children and suffering infants. There are even some whose

bodies will never completely recover, their systems being permanently damaged.

I, of course, am looking forward to this new year with a great deal of hope, including for the return of my favorite senses. It is most devastating that we still have the pandemic into the new year, but I pray it will be seeing its finale before too long. The vaccine is on its way, but don't drop your guard yet. Please mask up, please social distance, protect yourself and others. The life you save may be your own... or it may be someone else's.



Wonder Woman 1984

I'm an easy guy to please, in terms of movies. What can I say? I'm a sucker for the magic of the cinema. Besides, a movie, generally speaking, is a product of so many talented craftspeople, writers, directors and actors, that there is more often than not something to be appreciated.

I wish I could say that was the case for *Wonder Woman 1984*.

Warner Brothers latest DC Comics offering, and a litmus test for their HBOMax/theatrical simultaneous debut model, *Wonder Woman 1984* is a two-and-a-half hour slog. One would think a comic book movie set in the 80s could be a fun, neon-infused romp, but unfortunately one would be mistaken. Instead, *WW84* is as visually drab as any other comic book offering, not even attempting

to imbue a visual style which could differentiate it from any of the past decade's dozens of comic book pictures.

The runtime is probably the film's gravest sin. Never has two and a half hours felt so long! The film is not deserving of this runtime in any way; a good script editor could have likely trimmed at least an hour off, and the movie would be much the better for it. Instead, an uneventful narrative is stretched over a two and a half hour block. For perspective: *WW84* is longer than Marvel's *Infinity War* by two minutes, with about half as much taking place within that runtime.

The titular Wonder Woman is played by Gal Gadot, who might

well be the least talented actor to ever have a leading role in Hollywood, yet alone a tentpole comic book franchise. Utterly uncharismatic and charmless, Gadot stumbles through the film outshined by her co-stars.

There are two antagonists, one played by Pedro Pascal, who proved to be perhaps the film's only saving grace, and the other portrayed by Kristen Wiig, who transforms into a humanoid cat almost indistinguishable with those nightmare-inducing harbingers of the end times from 2019's *Cats* cinematic adaptation, characters so universally reviled upon the films release it really does make one wonder why, exactly, the design was not changed for *WW84*.

HBO Max has said that half of the platform's subscribers watched the film on Christmas Day. In this regard, the film was a success, with a third entry already greenlit and in the works. If this third film is in any way like *Wonder Woman 1984*, we can only hope that it is the final entry.

Mitchell Horner
Wonder Woman 1984
 Dir. Patty Jenkins
 Runtime: 151 minutes
 Available on HBO Max



PRETEND ITS A CITY

If *Wonder Woman* is not your cup of tea. Then try Fran Lebowitz teaming up with Martin Scorsese in open conversation. I think Scorsese did this because he needed a laugh, and he breaks up enough as evidence of that. Not that I blame him.

You might need to be a certain age to understand. Lebowitz was born in 1950. She has a way of talking that is disarming and definitely New York.

She loves books and she loves New York, despite her protestations about the insanity of it all.

One of the stories talks about the subways, more than one of the stories to be precise. She predicts the Dali Lama, known for his superb coolness in all things and at all times, would blow a gasket in five minutes on the subways of New York.

Netflix is calling this a limited series, meaning a small number of episodes, and that is what I don't like about it. I crave more.

How long do you want to live Fran? Well that depends. Several decades if she is healthy, but if there is a world catastrophe coming in five, make it less.

Just pretend its a city, and behave
 On Netflix Now
 Vince Bushell.

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