

Vote Tue. 4/6
School Board &
State Ed. Super.
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Daylight Saving
Spring ahead
Sunday March 14

Riverwest Currents



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News You Can Use • Riverwest, Harambee and The East Side

Vol 20 Issue 3 MARCH 2021

Kovac & Cogg are our Alderpersons in 2020

Follies never happened in 2020



Easter March 23

Riverwest Currents

Vote!
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FREE! THE COMMUNITY VOICE OF MILWAUKEE'S LEFT BANK Vol 7 Issue 3 March 2008



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Riverwest Follies - Sat. March 1 - Linnemans - Door 7pm - Show 8 PM



Comix 3, 5, 19



On a bright night in January, some 150 residents packed the Gordon Park Pavilion to capacity to hear the eight candidates for Third District Alderman, one of many candidate forums before the Feb. 19 primary. —Photo by Vince Bushell

You Will Decide on April 1, 2008 • Alderman 3rd and 6th Districts, County Executive, City Attorney, City Treasurer, Mayor, Wisconsin Supreme Court, Milwaukee County Circuit Court Branch 40

Third District Race Down to Two: Kovac vs. Flaherty

by Matthew Czarnik

On Tuesday February 19, voters of the Third District braved the cold to choose two Riverwest residents to vie for the opportunity to lead arguably the city's most politically active and economically important district.

The 761-vote margin between them doesn't allow either first-time candidate to claim a clear majority that will lead to easy victory this April. Kovac, who trailed Flaherty in the primary, is especially optimistic after winning the endorsement of fourth-place candidate Sura Faraj.

For Patrick Flaherty and Nik Kovac the coming months will showcase the traits it takes to be elected Third District alderman.

At first glance Flaherty and Kovac appear cut from similar cloth. They are both admitted progressives and both support more transparency in government, grassroots neighborhood-oriented organizing, and the desire to protect the Milwaukee River watershed from unsavory, high-rise luxury condos on the Lower East Side and the refurbished warehouse lofts south of downtown.

But for each candidate, this is the time when differences in are most important, as they each try to communicate what makes them the clear choice as leader of this community.

In Flaherty's eyes, his track record speaks to his experience as a proven leader and nonprofit manager who has already dealt with pushing legislation through the Common Council.

"Mostly our difference is around track records. I'm proud of the ideas I've put forward. I passed legislation through the Common Council four different times. I've worked with state legislators. I've hit the ground running as a strong progressive advocate for the East Side," Flaherty said.

Kovac's stake in this race was apparent before the incumbent dropped out. He thinks his boldness in the face of uncertainty is one major difference people need to know.

"If I could pick one thing [that separates us], it would be that I entered the race before D'Amato dropped out. I knew this district could be better represented, and I was willing to take the risk and put my faith in the democratic process and force change before change was certain," Kovac said.

Regarding his opponent's perceived advantage in leadership experience and on the job know-how, Kovac points to his journalism background in Milwaukee and

interview by Ellen C. Warren

Lena Taylor wants to be our new County Executive. In a phone interview with her on Feb. 19, we had a few questions... Here's some of what she said.

In a recent press release, the county revealed that there was not enough money to pay park staff to raise and lower the flags at sunrise and sunset, nor to light them at night. As we all learned when we were in grade school, federal law requires one of those two options. What should the county do?

It would be good to consider solar lighting. The county passed a Green Resolution. Solar lighting would be a great solution and allow us to be a leader in alternative energy use.

Parks are a very important part of our community. They contribute to diversity, public safety, quality of life, and economic growth. We need to protect the legacy that was provided to us by our forefathers. We have to begin to examine an independent funding source for

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When I talk to people, whether urban or suburban, they are especially concerned about parks and transit. In those two key areas people are very disappointed with the quality of protection of our county assets. Economic development and making sure that we can connect people to jobs, those things are challenged right now with the leadership we have.

My goal will be to come in and unify people, bring the experts together, to figure out how we can think and do things differently, to move forward and grow this region. We can't do it, if we don't think about how we're going to get people to jobs, if we don't think about energy in a different way, how we're going to use the need to move away from oil dependency as an industry to create jobs.

Those jobs from the beer or manufacturing industry, they're not coming back. We can utilize our infrastructure as a way to

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Where have you put your eggs? Elections 2020

by Vince Bushell

To avoid confusion, let me explain the metaphor in the title of this piece. The idiom, "Don't put all your eggs in one basket", in this case, refers to risking the future of government in one office, the President of the United States.

In the spring run off primary on February 18th in the city of Milwaukee only 67 thousand of 289 thousand registered voters voted. That is 23 percent voted. Those are the numbers.

Let me remind you that a former Governor of Wisconsin, Scott Walker, who gained local, state wide and eventually national prominence by running for and winning a post in the State Assembly in 1992 representing a District in western Milwaukee County, then in 2002 following a Milwaukee County pension fund scandal that resulted in the resignation of Thomas Amant as Milwaukee County Executive; Walker was elected County Executive. Walker parlayed that victory and elected office to a run for Governor of Wisconsin in 2010 and won. Once in office he championed legislation that limited collective bargaining for Wisconsin public employees. This gained Walker national attention and bitter opposition that resulted in a failed recall election in 2012. Walker thus empowered and encouraged by his victory decided to run for President of the United States in 2016. After being belittled by the Beltlter in Chief, Donald Trump, Walker dropped out and eventually bowed down and supported Trump.

Trump followed a different path of organized money and manipulated media to rise to power. But most higher-level elected officials come up through election to local and statewide offices first. Choose your placement wisely. Pay attention to local elections that can greatly affect your life in cities and states.

Candidates for election - Tuesday April 7

Presidential Primary in Wisconsin - although it is less than two months away, it is hard to determine who will be in the running for the Democrats on that date. There will be a lot of candidates on the ballot. But the nominee could be close to being determined by then. March 3rd, Super Tuesday will have a huge impact as to who the nominee will be. Almost a third of the delegates to the Democratic National Convention in Milwaukee will be decided on March 3rd. Delegates are awarded by the percentage of

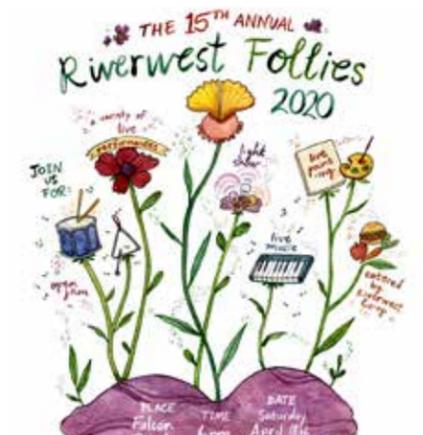
the vote the candidates receive, but a front runner will be hard to beat coming out of Super Tuesday election with a big lead. Right now, Bernie Sanders is highly favored for the Super Tuesday election, which includes big states like California and Texas. Trump will be the Republican nominee unless something highly unusual happens between now and the November election.

State Supreme Court Justice

Change at the Supreme Court level in the State of Wisconsin is slow. Judges serve for 10-year terms. That makes this election on April 7th important for the long-term effects that the person elected has on decisions rendered. Judges are nominally non-partisan. But don't kid yourself. They have reputations and support that can be classified as more liberal or conservative. The Candidates that survived the February runoff are Daniel Kelly, appointed to the Court by Scott Walker in 2016 vs. Dane County Circuit Court Judge Jill Karofsky. You need not much of a hint who is the considered more "liberal" vs. more "conservative". Walker would not appoint anyone thought to be liberal. Marquette Law Professor Ed Fallone came in third and is expected to pledge his support to Karofsky. Kelly received 50% of the vote while Karofsky had 37% and Fallone 13%. That makes it a tie in April if Fallone's vote goes to Karofsky but remember a lot more citizens will be voting in April because of the Presidential Primary.

Local and State Offices - April 7, 2020

City of Milwaukee
Mayor: Tom Barrett, the incumbent, will be on the ballot with Lena Taylor. Barrett won 50% of the vote in the February primary and Taylor won 31% of the vote with Tony Zielinski at 15% and Paul Rasky at 3%. Taylor is currently a State Senator from Wisconsin's 4th Senate District. Taylor, who is black, will bring up issues related to public safety and opportunity for all neighborhoods in Milwaukee. Barrett won election to Mayor in 2004 by defeating Marvin Pratt, who became Mayor after John Norquist resigned. Similar issues were prevalent in that election. This should be a good opportunity for Milwaukee to hear and debate the path forward for Milwaukee. Remember again, the vote totals from the February election do not give an accurate prediction for the April election where the Presidential Primary will bring out a much larger percentage of the voting population.



It all comes as waves. Waves of light. Waves of color. Waves of sound. Low vibrations to high vibrations. Given to us to enjoy, to share. To experience in a hall that has seen decades upon decades of community gatherings. Join us again and share a toast to Riverwest and all she has to offer. A place to live. A place to celebrate. For all. Young and old. For new comers and old timers. Let us sing. Let us dance. Let us talk. Of our better natures.

Milwaukee City Attorney, Grant Langley, incumbent, will be on the ballot with contender Tearman Spencer. Langley trailed Spencer in the vote tally. Candidate Vincent Bobot, who had praise for Langley's service but was concerned about Langley retiring mid-term was only 5% behind Langley. Langley was first elected in 1984 to the 4-year term of this office. Will Bobot's votes go to Langley? Will Spencer upset the long-term incumbent? April will tell.

City Comptroller is an open seat as the incumbent, Martin Matson, did not run for reelection. Jason Fields, a Wisconsin State Assemblyman 11th District, will face Aysha Sawa, the current Deputy City Comptroller. Riverwest Alex Brower ran a spirited campaign but finished third. Matson has endorsed Sawa. Fields led with 43% of the votes, Sawa received 30% and Brower had 26% in the February run off.



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St. Patrick's Day Saturday, March 17

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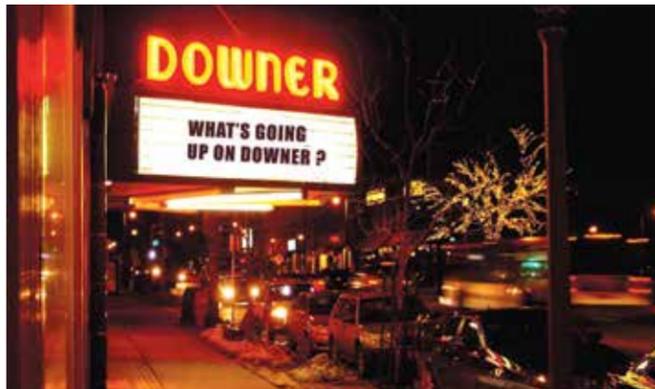


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New Urbanism on Downer: Ready Or Not, Here It Comes...

by Adam J. Lovinus

The new-urbanism aesthetic envisioned two decades ago by former Mayor John O. Norquist - a city of densely populated, self-supporting neighborhoods, diversely zoned with lots of green space and walking-distance amenities - has come to life in Milwaukee.

It shows in the new high-rise luxury condos on the Lower East Side and the refurbished warehouse lofts south of downtown. We really seem to be reversing the old trend of suburban flight by renewing the attraction of city living for affluent residents, and breathing new life into the city business community.

Milwaukee's new-urbanism revival is not without a dark side. Neighborhoods have seen

it looks like an ahead-of-its-time model for new-urbanism with a walking-distance grocery store, pharmacy, bank, restaurants, and nearby recreational green space.

When the neighborhood learned of plans to introduce a tall multi-unit residential tower to their backyard, it was met with some opposition.

"It's easy to get alarmed about change of that nature," says neighborhood resident Robert Powers. "I could see it as analogous to a Georgetown in Washington D.C., or one of Chicago's many vital neighborhoods, where historic survivors stand shoulder-to-shoulder with numerous newer buildings. Such neighborhoods can be vital, exciting places to work and live."

\$200,000 and range to \$500,000, with the 11 penthouses ranging from \$500,000 to \$800,000 according to New Land sources.

The Committee for Balanced Development, a community group of Downer Ave. residents, told city officials on January 23 that a building of this height and mass is incompatible with the character of the surrounding neighborhood, and would greatly increase, not reduce, sidewalk and street congestion.

"We are convinced that our views are shared by the vast majority of the area's residents, by most of the merchants who own their own buildings, and by many who do not, but might find it difficult to express their views publicly," states the report by Committee for Balanced Development leaders Pat Frautschi, Michael

whimsical demands of certain landlords, rather than a lack of willing tenants."

Mark Nord, owner of Downer Wine and Spirits, disagrees. He says his "business is thriving," and when asked if he supports the proposed condo, he says, "I'm all for it." Nord has no complaints about his past landlord at Katz, or his present one at New Land Enterprises.

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel's architecture critic Whitney Gould says, "...an occasional tall building in a low- to mid-rise neighborhood can actually enhance a sense of place, not hurt it." She states that the 11-story condo's design concept "shows a lively interplay of glass, stone, and reddish wood veneer; projecting bays at irregular intervals set up a jazzy counterpoint to the flatter

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Riverwest Currents has a GoFundMe page

by Vince Bushell

We need your help to keep publishing. The pandemic has closed a lot of businesses and forced others to cut back on advertising. We believe we offer a positive service to Riverwest, Harambee, the East Side and Milwaukee. And we have been doing it for over 20 years. We need a little help to get us through this rough time.

Vince Bushell, Publisher, Lee Gutowski, Editor, Distribution, and Ad sales. Use the link to make a donation. Thanks for your consideration.



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REVIEW - Judas and the Black Messiah



Daniel Kaluuya captivates in biopic about assassinated Chicago Black Panthers chairman

review by Mitchell Horner

Fred Hampton is a challenging subject to make a Hollywood feature about. Initially, he seems like the perfect protagonist, and in fact he might be: his story is a deeply tragic one, an icon in no uncertain terms, a character who any actor would be lucky to portray. His fiery charisma and rousing speeches and impressive, if tragically short, life should make for exceptional cinema. However, to make a movie about Fred Hampton presents a problem: to truly portray Fred Hampton in his full spectrum would ultimately indict those who made the picture, those millionaire financiers and Hollywood money men. The message of the film would, necessarily, be antithetical to the types of messages these financiers and producers have historically been shown to fund.

And so, Judas and the Black Messiah is the first feature film about the life and death of Fred Hampton of significant stature in the public discourse, arriving at a moment befitting of the film's subject matter.

To tell the story of Fred Hampton is to tell of his death, assassinated at age 21 by the FBI. The charismatic Socialist leader of the Chicago chapter of the Black Panthers, Fred Hampton had led an impressive career as a politician, creating the Rainbow Coalition, which sought to unite the oppressed peoples of Chicago of all colors under a single political banner.

However, the film falls short in its portrayal of Fred Hampton's political ideology. To what this should be attributed to, I do not know. Perhaps

it is simply that a detailed description of Hampton's political ideology would not make for a good film, at least in the American tradition; one could assume that contemporary American audiences are generally unreceptive to the Soviet Socialist Realist dramas of the revolutionary period. Or perhaps the money men behind the picture "disincentivized" a portrayal of the ideas. Who's to say.

Perhaps the best selling point of Judas and the Black Messiah is the cast. Daniel Kaluuya, Lakeith Stanfield, and Jesse Plemons are 3 of the finest contemporary actors, and to unify these three powerhouses in a single film, well, that's sure to be something special. In this belief, I was vindicated. All three give phenomenal performances, Kaluuya especially, in perhaps his most stirring performance of his career. These performances come despite characters which are, frankly, underwritten. Kaluuya's Fred Hampton is the most fully-fleshed of the three, followed by Stanfield's Bill O'Neal and Plemon's Roy Mitchell.

I've thus far criticized the film, but don't get me wrong: I did enjoy it, and I do recommend it. Despite the underwritten characters, the film is well-crafted. The narrative itself is engaging and well-paced, its two hour runtime befitting a biopic about a life so tragically. Ultimately, the picture deserves a watch; a cast like this should not be overlooked.

Judas and the Black Messiah is available to stream on HBO Max. Runtime 2 hr. 5 mi



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Balanced on the Edge

by Tree Moore



Barbara and Tree on their farm, photo Don Schaeffer

It's March, the month of the Spring Equinox, where for a moment we have a balance within our 24-hour day, half light and half dark. The Equinox brings the promise of growing daylight hours and more warmth.

Our farmhouse is situated on a ridge surrounded by patches of woods, but mostly gently rolling corn and soy fields. Dawn, sunrise, distant horizons, sunsets and twilights all provide amazing displays of color and light, and then, when evening falls, we welcome darkness with the piercing light of stars.

All around us, EVERY farmhouse has a powerful barnyard light, on all night. I'm ignorant as to when or why this practice started. Is there a problem with theft of tools? Seems hard to steal cows or farm machinery. And we need our dark nights, otherwise we can't see the stars, or rest and sleep. Many folks are experiencing insomnia. We turned our outside light off after living here a couple days. Radical!!

Along with the balance of light and dark, the polarity of living and dying is very evident to us in our country life. A couple weeks ago a monster car hit a slow-moving raccoon in front of our charming farmhouse. With great effort it dragged itself up our long driveway, finally finding shelter in a tree hollow. As that seemed inadequate it then found some relief sheltering behind our woodpile.

We called the Viroqua Humane Society, but they were too busy to even consider coming and getting it. The temperature was headed toward zero. When we went and looked at it, the raccoon stared at us with big curious eyes. We were faced with the awful dilemma of leaving it to slowly starve or freeze to death or having it killed (no, not "put to sleep") as humanely as possible by a friend with a gun and the knowledge of how to do it. We chose the latter, feeling terrible about taking such an action, but feeling it was necessary. Our sadness and guilt were somewhat assuaged later when we were told it had two broken legs.

Last week Barbara brought a female cardinal in to the kitchen's warm wood stove. After holding it hopefully for some minutes, and in spite of sensing its deathly stillness, she placed it carefully into a small box with a dish of water next to it just in case. It never regained consciousness and was eventually buried in the compost pile. We were curious as to what had happened since there were no obvious signs of injury.

Many small birds – sparrows, chickadees, juncos, woodpeckers, cardinals and recently a mourning dove have been visiting our various bird feeders. They seem to be surviving rather well, cheeping and chirping as they flutter around the feeder. I wish I could understand nature's clever design to keep such tiny creatures alive during formidable weather.

Yesterday our milkman, Samuel, brought news that one of his ewes prematurely birthed two lambs – both frail, uncoordinated, as well as unable to nurse.

There was an unsuccessful attempt to bottle feed them. They died this morning. Samuel laid them on a log in the nearby woods as dinner for the hungry. It has continued to be very cold – often below zero – for days. The lambs were felt to be a gift to the forest world which had provided much previously to Samuel. The death of one animal will nourish another. We all will make good compost eventually.

Along with the loss of birds and animals in our lives, we are blessed with an abundance of lively creatures keeping us company, often providing entertainment, especially the chickens. We thought we had nine hens but were surprised when two of them revealed themselves to be roosters, crowing and strutting their aggressive, domineering ways. We get four to five eggs a day from our ladies, who are often reluctant to surrender them. The latest surprise and challenge is the fact that our clever roaming chickens are not only foraging seeds around the bird feeder, but they are finding loopholes in the barn to enter the cats' domain and eating up all the cat food. Those rascals!

The four Icelandic sheep seem rather dull, staring at us intently. They do push each other around now and then. They never smile or even "Baaah." Luigi, our handsome male cat, with an immaculate black and white fur coat, has no trouble asking for attention.

Another polarity present in our daily life is the concept of "near and far." I've been thinking about "near," not as a physical measurement, rather that something "near" is closer to its original form.

An example is the dead elm tree that we cut down recently. As I put logs in the woodstove, I'm sensing the process we went through from the beginning of chopping it down, sawing the trunk into smaller sections with a two-person crosscut saw – the kind the lumberjacks used on gigantic redwoods. Then further chopping before hauling it into the house and then into the fire. The process speaks of "nearness." Things are nearer and dearer to us when we know something of their lives.

A contrasting thought is how here in the country, even our nearest neighbors can feel very "far" away.

Living where we do makes it an effort

to be neighborly. There are no sidewalks. Once in a great while I see a bicyclist, but never a walker. In our desire to create neighbors, we took Christmas cookies to the nearest ones, who were still quite a hike away.

Last week I took my desire for neighborliness a bit far. Charlie, who lives a stretch down the road, has brought us a sack of bluegills a couple of times. He ice-fishes near the Mississippi. I wanted to bring him and his other bachelor friend some pumpkin bread in return.

I was rather late in the day getting on the road. It was definitely getting dark. The wind had picked up, bringing strong gusts of snow. Not quite knowing where their driveway was, I decided to walk across their spacious front lawn, but I didn't realize how deep the accumulated snow was. Plowing my way through drifted snowbanks was arduous. I forgot I was an old lady. At one point I fell over and had quite a struggle to get upright.

After pounding on the back door, I was relieved when Charlie finally answered. He was somewhat shocked to see me, but grateful for the treat, and he wanted to drive me home. But I was prideful of my daring, and I wanted to prove that even old ladies can walk through mini blizzards, I guess. I refused and trudged back toward home, this time finding their driveway.

On the way, a sheriff pulled up next to me, wondering if I was okay. Someone had called in about a lone figure walking down the road in a snowstorm. I assured him I was all right – slightly embarrassed doing my weird errand. I could have delivered the bread in the morning.

We have some way to go before we have real neighbors, close enough to help out in an emergency or borrow a cup of flour.

My dream for a saner, healthier post-pandemic world is based on balance, economic and racial. Composed of small villages where there are no longer huge swaths of slowly eroding soil devoted to agribusiness. Sustainable farming and forestry are absolutely necessary for our survival. Rather than returning to an old "normal," may we evolve into a culture of new, healthier, creative and balanced ways.

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ELECTION TO MPS SCHOOL BOARD APRIL 6 And State of WI DPI

Alex Brower for MPS School Board, 5th District

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.VoteforAlexBrower.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

General election for Wisconsin Superintendent of Public Instruction

Deborah Kerr and Jill Underly are running in the general election for Wisconsin Superintendent of Public Instruction on April 6, 2021.

The Candidates for Superintendent of Public Instruction survived a 7 candidate primary. Deborah Kerr came in first followed closely by Jill Underly. Both candidates make a case for support for education in Wisconsin where this office has the power of a bully pulpit to bring issues to the general public. The office does not give the power of the purse to the Superintendent. That is

controlled by the State Legislature and the Governor.

Governor Tony Evers held this post for many years and his successor is not running for the office.

Kerr was Superintendent of the Brown Deer School District. Underly was Superintendent of the Pecatonica School District.



Deborah Kerr

Ensure success for every student by creating schools that prioritize character education, with rich social-emotional and mental health supports
Laser focus on literacy and numeracy skills with defined outcomes for all kids
Create strength-based pathways for all kids that provide career and college opportunities
Require rigorous and relevant learning opportunities that culturally reflect the real world and the needs of our learners, so that all kids are well prepared for success in life after high school
Kerr would not oppose School Choice, though it is not clear how strongly she would support it.

Jill Underly



Adequate and Fair Funding – regardless of where they live. All Wisconsin public schools must be able to fund schools to 21st century standards for personnel, facilities, technology, required programming and curriculum... and staunchly opposed to private school voucher expansion.

Mental Health and Emotional Wellness Support...
Top-notch, specially trained teachers in rural and urban school settings
Education equity for all students, especially students of color, LGBTQ+ students, students with disabilities, and all other students that face inequity in our public schools.

Underly has the support of WEAC union.



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. 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/>

March 2021:

Weds. March 3: Melissa Redmond Galeener Shares the Therapy Found in Writing.

Thurs. March 4: Karen Beaumont, Writer and Musician, Reads her New Short Story, "Entitled Retirement Speech".

Weds. March 10: Evan Ransome of "Golden Home Management", speaks on Elderly Home Transitioning.

Thurs. March 11: "Vision Forward Association", on Coping with the Challenges of Vision Loss.

Weds. March 17: Mari Lynn Young: Part 1 of Arrogance and "Self-Deprecation".

Turs. March 18: Mari Lynn Young: Part 2 of "Arrogance and Self-Deprecation".

Weds. March 24: OWL Review! Yee Old Days of In-Person Gathering.

Thurs. March 25: Animal-Communicator, Merry Pulvermacher Shares about Her Mysterious Gift!

Weds. March 31: Bach's Birthday Celebrated with a Musical Performance by Karen Beaumont

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by Cari Taylor Carlson

Distance – Variable; many trails to explore

Time – A leisurely stroll

Where to eat –

Multiple restaurants nearby in Bay View

Start – At the entrance to Henni Hall,
3257 S. Lake Drive

Parking – On the street

There is no hint of what's behind Henni Hall when you start up the road toward the prominent statue of St. Francis de Sales. A country road in France comes to mind as you stroll under a canopy of maple trees, 49 of them, originally planted in the 1930's by Austrian immigrant Siegfried Wegesbauer. They form an elegant cathedral-like arch that extends almost all the way to Henni Hall, one of the original Roman Catholic seminaries in the United States.

Bishop John Martin Henni founded the seminary in 1845 to meet the demand for German speaking priests in the new Wisconsin Territory. Approximately 4000 priests, 400 deacons, and many lay ministers have graduated from this seminary known as St. Francis de Sales Seminary. St. Francis de Sales (not to be confused with St. Francis of Assisi) served as the Bishop of Geneva, Switzerland in the late 1500's and was honored as a saint in the Catholic church in the early 1600's.

The seminary, the outbuildings, and the adjacent woods are located on 68 acres, originally acquired from the Potawatomi. They called their village Njoshing or "strip of land jutting out into the water." The word Njoshing means "straight tongue," hence a strip of land ending at Lake Michigan. After the seminary was built, the adjoining forest, now known as Seminary Woods, continued to be a part of its property

Seminary Woods -- A Hidden Forest

At the end of the road, continue straight up the sidewalk, past the statue of St. Francis de Sales, turn left at Henni Hall, follow the sidewalk around the corner until you see, on your left, the entrance to Seminary Woods. Continue down the path as it bends to the right and into the woods to find a hidden cemetery where dozens and dozens of gravesites fill a clearing. Sisters of St. Francis, archbishops, priests, and boys from St. Aemilian Orphanage are buried here.

The orphanage was established in 1849 by Bishop Henni to care for children/boys orphaned by a cholera epidemic in the Midwest in the 1830s and 1840s. In 1929, two young residents died under mysterious circumstances. Twelve hours after they ate something sweet, which they found in a paper bag in the cellar, they were dead. It was later determined the sweet substance in the bag was arsenic. The boys, Philip Giganti and Joseph Djeska, are buried in the cemetery in the woods in unmarked graves. When the orphanage burned to the ground the next year, any remaining evidence from the poisoning was destroyed.

Plan to spend some time among the gravestones. There are many untold stories buried here, far too many lives cut short, as evidenced by the dates on the grave markers.

Below the cemetery, look for the Grotto, constructed in 1894 by Paul Dobberstein to honor Our Lady of Lourdes, the Roman Catholic title for the Virgin Mary. When Dobberstein contacted double pneumonia while he studied at the seminary, he promised the Virgin Mary if he recovered, he would build a grotto in her honor, and so he did.

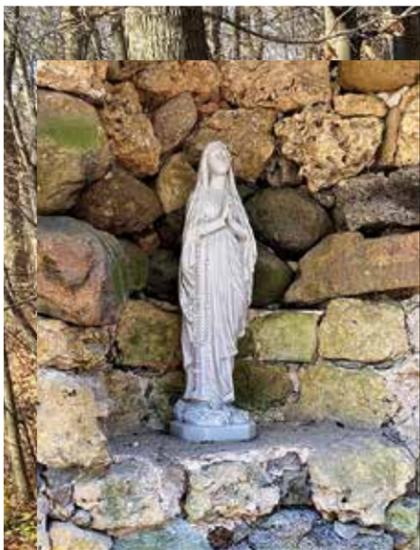


Now take some time to wander on the multiple paths in the woods.

You are standing in one of the few surviving mature maple-beech forests in Wisconsin. Thanks to many volunteers, there are few invasive species here such as garlic mustard, buckthorn, and honeysuckle, to mar the beauty of this forest. Look for the majestic beech trees, easily recognized by their smooth grey bark, and the giant maples with their familiar three-lobed leaves and branches that grow opposite each other. You will also see basswood trees with heart-shaped leaves, red oak with pointed leaf lobes, white oak with rounded lobes, and a few remaining white birches with their familiar white bark. Another lesser-known tree, also present, is the muscledwood, known by its trunk that resembles the ropy muscles of a dedicated athlete.

In the spring, these woods explode with life when the floor of the forest becomes a glorious display of spring wildflowers. Again, thanks to volunteers who removed the invasive garlic mustard, you will find a splendid parade of indigenous wildflowers, including wild leek, spring beauty, trout lily, bloodroot, may apple, and trillium, to name just few of these ephemeral delights. Spring is also a time to listen for bird songs, and to look for brilliant flashes of color as warblers pass through on their way north. The rest of the year you can hear crows, geese, the occasional woodpecker, and if you are lucky, the far away, primordial call of a sandhill crane. As you will never be far from Henni Hall, finding the trail that leads out of the forest is easily accomplished.

Seminary Woods is a special place. Any time is the right time for a walk in these woods.



NEIGHBOR SPOTLIGHT: TW Hansen



by Lee Gutowski

"I do this and I stay at it because I solve problems for people, and I find that deeply rewarding." – TW Hansen

TW Hansen came to my rescue when my 2005 PT Cruiser, the primary distribution vehicle for the Riverwest Currents, got "accordioned" by a hit-and-run driver when it was parked on Humboldt Avenue on a fateful winter night as the Packers played their final game of the 2020-21 season.

Like many readers of this newspaper, along with a good percentage of the folks in Riverwest and beyond, Manyo Motors is my go-to car place. TW (short for Timothy Warren) runs the car dealership there and was at the ready to get me back into a vehicle that would meet my newspaper delivery needs and then some. He and the folks at Manyo set the Currents up with a fabulous Toyota RAV4, which is a peppy thing with plenty of room, removable seats, a new transmission and clutch and even 5 speeds – my preferred way to drive.

"I say this as a landlord and a car salesman. My life is about not living down to expectations." – TW Hansen

In the process of selling me the car, TW found out that I was looking for a new apartment to move into at the end of March. Turns out, he'd recently bought a house that he was prepping to be ready for new tenants at exactly the time I'd need to move. The house is a big, beautiful Victorian right next to its "twin", where he lives.

I knew TW mainly through Manyo Motors, and decided I had to write a Neighbor Spotlight on him so I could interview him and find out more about this decidedly driven (excuse the car pun), enthusiastic, multifaceted person that was successfully spinning many plates at once.

During an almost-2-hour-long, wide-ranging interview, TW had me guffawing many times at his lucid quips that reflect another of his interests (besides cars and obtaining houses): writing. It would have made for a great article to have TW write his own Spotlight, but what fun would that have been for me?

"My earliest career interest was to be a car designer. I would draw cars, with the dream of having them manufactured and becoming real cars." – TW Hansen

TW was born in 1980 and raised in Delavan, Wisconsin. His dad is a civil and structural engineer who runs his own firm, and TW came up amidst "a proud legacy of bridges that stay up and sewers that run in the right direction." His mom met his dad when she was a secretary at "one of the firms where he got his legs under him." She quit working when she started having kids and turned her eye to being a professional housewife and mother. "She never did anything halfway," TW says.

A curious and intelligent kid, TW was interested in many things as a child. "They didn't know what to do with me," he laughs. "They bumped me up a grade. Every hi-falutin' modality of parenting they heard about on NPR, they threw at me." The family had strong ties to the Lutheran schools he attended. In 2002, he graduated with his B.A. in English from Wisconsin Lutheran College in Wauwatosa. In speaking about coming to Riverwest for the first time, he recalls, "Venturing to this side of town was rare and exotic to a student (at Wisconsin Lutheran) ... The mindset at the Lutheran schools I found to be pretty separate and insular. It's in the world, but not of the world."

American Movie, Mark Borchardt and moving to Riverwest

"I'll tell you what exactly put the bug in me: it was (the documentary film) American Movie, which I got to see at a Q&A at the Rosebud back in 2001." In the middle of the Q&A, someone in the crowd tossed a bottle of vodka at the film's subject, Milwaukee filmmaker Mark Borchardt, who skillfully caught the bottle with one hand, deftly spun the top off the bottle, and took a pull from it. "That's when Mark was still drinking, mind you."

(He and Borchardt have since become friends and co-workers; the filmmaker often drives vehicles to and from auctions for TW.)

Thoroughly impressed and inspired by Borchardt and the movie, "the 21-year-old me thought movie-making was probably pretty easy. I decided that all you have to do is find a weird enough guy and get a camera on him, and a movie will happen!"

In 2003, he enrolled in the film school at UWM, "which has a wonderful program,"

TW enthuses. "Very eclectic, and anti-commercial -- possibly to their own self-detriment." Xav LaPlae of Riverwest Film and Video provided TW's entree to the neighborhood, since "I had to go to RW Film and Video to buy 16mm black-and-white reversible film. At that time, it was still on Locust Street, where Rockhaus is now. It's still the only place you can acquire that film." He attended film school from 2003-2012 off and on. "As off as on, really."

Cars and movies

"These are twin passions of mine that go all the way back to the tiny logic that only makes sense to a four-year-old: I like cars because they're in movies, and I like movies because they have cars in them. And it's still true." – TW Hansen

One of TW's numerous side-gigs is doing picture car work. Which is to say, if somebody wants a specific car for their film or television production, TV commercial or what-have-you, "I'm the guy that finds it. In Los Angeles, it's an industry. In Milwaukee, it's me, and whoever I can get on the phone."

Writing and music

One of the things that TW feels the pandemic has taken from him is his ability to sit down in a bar or coffee shop, spend a couple of hours and churn out a good couple of pages of writing – be it poems, lyrics, screenplays, or concepts for music videos.

He also misses live music and being able to go out and perform at the bars. He's performed music under the name Economy Superstar. It is his email address and the name of his production company as well. "I believe in branding. The cut and thrust of American culture is marketing. Our great cultural hallmarks all come out of attempts to sell us coffee and steel-belted radials. Did you know Jim Henson used to be an ad man? That's why Sesame Street sounds like a commercial a lot of times ... 'Brought to you by the letter A' and all that."

Music videos

It makes sense that with his love of writing, music, movies and cars, TW has had a hand in making music videos for some iconic Milwaukee bands. In 2015, Hansen directed, shot and edited the video for the song "Downtown" by Platinum Boys. "I've

got Joey Turbo in there playing against type as a cop; in a bit of magical realism, Joey the cop looks into a video camera and sees himself as a rock and roller." There are scantily clad cute girls, a fun car chase and awesome Milwaukee locations – like Sunrise Foods right here in Riverwest. "It's just over-the-top, deliberately dumb rock and roll."

For the Indonesian Junk tune "Shake it With You" Hansen and friends built a soundstage in a garage to film the video in 2016. "That reminds me, I have to talk to Daniel James (lead singer/song writer of IJ) about comic books." Turns out he'd acquired quite a few of them in lieu of rent money, and he knows James has a deep interest.

TW's spinning those plates, keeping those projects that drive him up and running. (Sorry.) He's busy as hell and enjoys what he does. And he makes it sound easy, just like the 21-year-old him thought it would be.

"I've pretty much blundered into everything I've done. That's how I get a lot of jobs. I'm exceptionally good at blundering into things." – TW Hansen

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The Answer to Improving Yourself

by Melissa Meier, Executive Director, Eastside Senior Services

I have a challenge for you. But before I tell you what it is, let me ask you a question. If you were to change one thing about yourself or your situation, what would it be? Got it in your mind?

Okay. I am about to share a way to improve your situation with that thing you identified. Are you ready for it? Prepare yourself ...

Exercise. That's right. I challenge you to exercise. Incorporate it in your life in some way. Make a plan and execute it. Put away the excuses, the procrastination, and get moving more than you already are.

How will this improve your situation you may ask? You may already be aware of these ways, so consider this a reminder or a kick in the pants. When I was on the journey of obtaining my Masters in Gerontology, one thing that resonated with me is the importance of exercise. Want to reduce stress? Get better sleep? Have more energy? Reduce fall risk? Reduce cancer risk? Improve your brain health? Reduce your chances of, or improve, chronic conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, arthritis?

Improve your mental health? Lose weight? Feel better in general? Get moving! Class after class I took, the answer was exercise.

When you exercise, your blood flows. Oxygen moves throughout your body. Hormones and brain chemicals like dopamine and endorphins (happy hormones!) are released. Muscle mass increases, making you stronger. Heart efficiency increases. The list goes on, books have been written.

No grandiose plan is needed. No need to dig out those dusty Jane Fonda VHS tapes (unless you really want to). Be realistic -- start small and work your way up. Do something you enjoy. Even if you have physical limitations, you can do something. There are everyday things you can expand upon that you may not consider exercise, such as doing some extra chores in your home. Or perhaps while watching TV, move around in your recliner. For folks who are more ambitious, think through some activities you may enjoy and then execute. Consider an accountability partner. As always, if you have not exercised in a while, consult with your physician. The important thing is be realistic and enjoy what you're doing. Stick with it -- make it a habit!

While exercise may not improve your situation entirely, it can help you cope with it better by helping your mood, demeanor,



I can't go to the gym because of Covid. I find exercising at home difficult. Home is my place of rest. I have a friend, who has always challenged me to push my limits and go. Go outside. Go do something in nature. His name is Don and he took this photo. We are on the river with River the dog. River wants to run, and run, loves the snow and never gets cold or tired. Or so it seems. My friend and his son's dog makes sure I get a workout despite my arthritic hip. Sometimes it hurts a bit and that is ok. I will be exercising again in the gym soon and I can count on my friend to do what he does best and gets us all out for a walk. VJ

stress level, and sleep patterns. It may not take away your diabetes, but it may help you move from insulin shots to just medication. It may not fix your permanent back injury, but it will make other parts of you stronger, making it easier for you to move around.

Take this challenge! Improve the quality of your life. Take good care of yourself -- it's the only body you have. Your future self will thank you.

PS: One more way to get moving is to get out there and volunteer! We are always seeking volunteers at Eastside Senior Services. We help those 60 and older who live in our community to remain independent. Our volunteers provide assistance with rides, shopping, errands, chores, repairs,

and companionship. All these services are FREE, and volunteering hours are flexible. Many of our volunteers feel very rewarded in helping our neighbors, AND it gets you out of the house and moving. It's a win-win.

Lastly, if you need medical equipment to help you move around more safely such as a walker, cane or wheelchair, we have a loan closet. These items are available for free, and we also accept gently used equipment donations as well.

Let's get moving!
(Find out more at the website essmilw.org, or call 414.210.5881)

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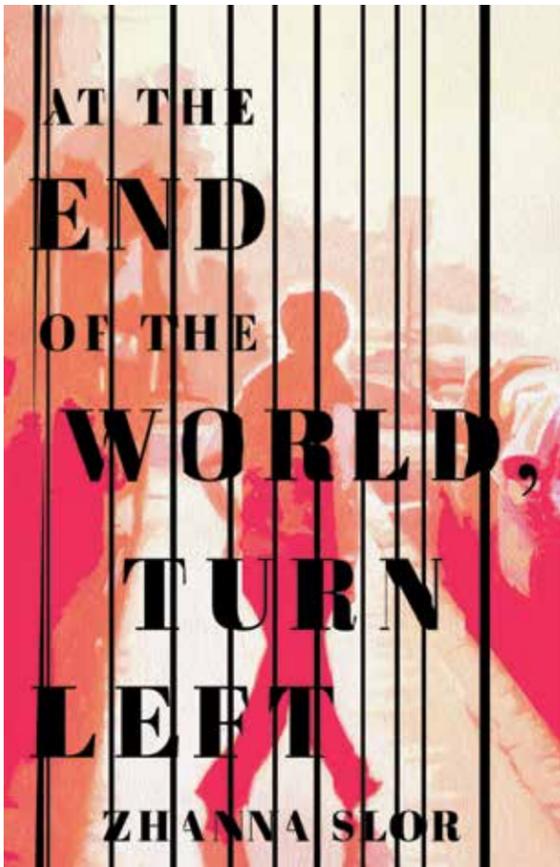
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Heidegger

Heidegger, a three year old Leonberger, is a neighborhood favorite. If you're lucky you might see him walking with his human



Said to be a Hebrew idiom translates In The Middle Of NoWhere



Thought you might like these pictures—that's Lenin's head at my dad's school. That guy really got around in the USSR! Zhanna This photo was modified to show Lenin in the online version of the Currents.

review by Vince Bushell

Zhanna Slor, yes it is a catchy name, contacted me and asked if the *Currents* would be interested in writing a review of her new book. She sent me an excerpt and noted that the story is set in Riverwest. I do not read a lot of fiction but this was interesting. I asked for and got a digital version of the book. It is a bit of a page turner, but since I was reading on a screen I needed to note my spot to find it again.

I will buy a copy so I can have the pleasure of feeling the pages and putting it down with a book-marker to help find my spot.

I found the book enjoyable in a number of ways. First of all I know of the places where the action takes place and that made it most engaging. Yes, I know of that public computer in Bremen Cafe. Yes I have been in that bar many times and even been inebriated in that bar. Well of course I know of that street vendor. Even though the story is a fiction, these “real” spots all near where I live made in more believable.

I zoom interviewed Zhanna, never done that before, and we talked for maybe an hour. She now lives in Bayview and has a 2 year old daughter. Her husband is from Israel and plays in a Jewish Jazz band. She went to UWM and then graduate school in Chicago. She was born, as she says in Russia, or the USSR, but in that part we now call Ukraine.

She came to the US and Milwaukee when she was kindergarten age. She has a sister. She worked at Bremen Cafe during the time the book takes place, around 2008.

The book centers on two sisters. I asked if this was biographical story. Zhanna said many of the things that are in the book are from her memory but it is fiction.”

“My life has not been that exciting”, I remember her

People can pre-order Zhanna’s book here:

https://www.lionstoothmke.com/end_of_the_world.html#/

They also pre-order it by phone: (414) 455.3498.



2421 South Kinnickinnic Ave,

MASHA

CHAPTER ONE - Excerpt courtesy of Polisbooks

The second I land in Milwaukee, I’m a different person. My whole body tenses, from my leather-booted feet to my long brown hair, crimped into stifled curls during the fourteen-hour flight from Israel. If my dad notices any of this, he doesn’t mention it. He’s smoking again, staring out the window. I haven’t seen him with a cigarette in years, and for a second I can’t help but wonder if I got in the right car. But there is no mistaking his dusty, maroon clunker in which I spent much of the nineties dreaming of other continents. Nor is my unsmiling Russian father difficult to distinguish from the other middle-aged men idling at the arrivals terminal.

“Hey,” I say, sinking into the old sun-bleached passenger seat. I decide not to ask about the Marlboro Lights on the dash next to a Nirvana sticker I’d once pasted there, nor why the right mirror is still duct-taped on at a strange angle, like a misplaced limb. When it comes to my dad, it’s better to wait until he offers information. Normally this drives me crazy, but I’m too tired to feel much of anything. I attempt a smile anyhow. “I appreciate your efforts to save

money for my inheritance, but you might want to consider getting a car that’s not held together by superglue?”

Papa starts driving onto the highway, Mitchell Airport a giant brown slab in the rearview mirror, along with my regular life; schwarma, Nescafé, sirens and underground bunkers. David’s faded Golani t-shirt coiled around his tanned biceps, his gun never too far from his body, or mine. I suddenly miss it in a way I hadn’t noticed throughout my hastily planned flight. Gone is my semi-upbeat disposition, buoyed by three mini-bottles of wine and an endless stream of movies I’d watched on the plane. In its place a familiar, unsettling discomfort takes root.

Papa, more at home in this discomfort than not, is still mulling over my failed attempt at levity.

“If it ain’t broke...” he finally replies, in a thick Russian accent that makes me momentarily homesick before finding its way into the humorous part of my brain.

I find myself stifling a laugh. “Papa, I don’t think you understand that saying.”

“Right. I just stupid old man.”

saying.

The story is told through the eyes of the two sisters, who are estranged as one has moved to Israel but came to visit in Milwaukee. It bounces back and forth between the two.

There is a mystery and some danger. Riverwest is portrayed as a rough edged and youth oriented culture. The book is also set in winter, so no fun festivals but a lot of bar and party action. The characters seem real and the story progresses as one might imagine how young folks might behave in a free and open culture with love interests and all the joy and pathos that might bring.

Family and Jewish culture is a prominent focus. Mom and dad can be difficult and the grandparents are there as well. The scenes are engaging and real.

I was a bit nervous about where this was all going when the wheels fell of the metaphorical truck.

It is a story about young men and women dealing with the challenges of life and making decisions, not always the best decisions and dealing with family and sometimes the ache of lost culture associations.

If you can imagine the real life Zhanna coming to Milwaukee and going to school at age 5 or so and not knowing any English, you can get a feeling of some of the core issues in the story. The plight of Jews in Ukraine during the war and during Russian occupation is felt in this book.

Family, friends, lovers, and growing up in a strange land.

Zhanna did give a shout out to Riverwest when she praised the spirit of independent and energetic youth riding bikes down the snow strewn streets.

That’s Riverwest.

Bars and parties and cigarettes and drugs are there too.

Thanks Zhanna Slor for a view of my neighborhood through your eyes and memories.



at it again, I put the tiny machine into the cupholder with two fingers, as if touching it will spread some disease I don’t want.

“People crash from doing this every second of the day,” I explain. It’s the first iPhone I’ve seen in real life, and something about it gives me the chills. Or maybe I’ve been spending too much time among the Israeli Orthodox.

“Maria Pavlova.” My dad rolls his eyes, his use of my full name and patronymic inducing a slight cringe. No one ever calls me anything but Masha. “Forty years I driving.”

“That was before Steve Jobs,” I explain. I cover his phone with my hand so he can’t retrieve it. No way I’m going to die on Highway 43 surrounded by dried-out empty fields and fireworks warehouses. “These things are dangerous. Trust me, in twenty years they’ll call it a plague.”

“Plague,” my dad laughs. “Bozhe moy, you sound like your sister. It’s 2008, Maria. Soon cars drive themselves. If you don’t use all tools at disposal—”

“Then you’re always going to be at a disadvantage, I know,” I finish. “The thing you always forget is that tools can also be

MASHA - CONTINUED

weapons.”
 “Oh, I don’t forget.” He shakes his head and lights another cigarette, his expression dark again. Watching him chain-smoke like that, I feel myself get worried for the first time since he called. Or maybe it’s the familiarity of the drab Wisconsin roads, all that flat, dry land, punctuated only by strip malls and convenience stores. The sight of it produces an agitated feeling in my gut. Only then does it occur to me I could have said no to coming back. But my dad had been so riled up—it was Yom Kippur so, like most of Israel, our phones had been turned off for almost two days by the time he got through to me—that I’d automatically agreed to everything he said. There’s a German adjective for this, *fisselig*, which means flustered to the point of incompetence as a result of another person’s direction. If our phone call—admittedly, our entire relationship—could be summed up by one word, it would probably be that one.

That isn’t entirely why I said yes—I said yes because my dad has never directly asked me to come home, not once. He is not the kind of person to request favors. It was a sign, him asking me to do this on Yom Kippur, the day of atonement. Even I couldn’t ignore a sign so obvious. I’d done the unthinkable, in a Russian immigrant family: not only did I avoid becoming a doctor, lawyer, or engineer, I’d dropped out of college. And left the country on top of it. The country they had chosen. I can’t explain exactly why, but once my eyes saw the landscape of Israel—its ancient, dazzling architecture sprinkled across endless hills, the overly friendly young parents and bustling cafés sprouting up on pieces of land so old it’s impossible to fathom—it was inevitable. I was, to put it simply, meant to live in Israel. As immigrants themselves, you’d think my parents would understand this, but it had proved to be the opposite, if anything.

I turn to face Papa. “So. What’s the plan?” I ask. Downtown flies past us, a measly constellation of skyscrapers split down the middle by the snake of the Milwaukee River.

“Huh?” he asks, his forehead lined with confusion.

“What do you mean, huh?” I ask, louder, equally confused. Papa blows out a cloud of smoke through the crack of the window, the rush of air making it suddenly loud. I can’t get over how weird it is to see him smoke again. Like I’ve jumped through a time portal and I’m suddenly twelve, not twenty-five. Any minute now, I’ll sprout acne and gain ten pounds of water weight. “You made me come all the way out here, and you have no plan?”

My dad inhales again before he speaks,

his words coming out smoky. “What are you saying? Is that Hebrew?”

“Oh! Sorry. I didn’t even notice,” I sputter, switching back to English. I could probably go with Russian, but I am too jetlagged to attempt untangling the wild mess of grammar that my native language calls for. If we’d come from the Soviet Union a little later, say when I was thirteen as opposed to nine, I would probably have a native’s perfect grasp of Russian. But my parents were really into the whole American Dream thing when I was growing up, and our Russian skills suffered as a result. They didn’t know that by the time we could attain it, the American Dream had morphed into something else entirely, and no one could pinpoint what it was anymore. Maybe that was the whole point. In America, the dream is whatever you think it is.

“Papachka,” I start, trying to get to the heart of the matter quickly, the reason he’d asked—no, begged—me to return. Seeing him so frazzled over what is probably nothing is making this whole trip seem less like a friendly visit home and more like an intervention. “Have you considered that, uh... maybe Anastasia is just... mad at you? That she’s not really... missing?”

“Maria, please. I may be old but I no idiot. I not heard from her in weeks,” he roars, in English. “She started hanging around in that stupid Riverwest.” Here he frowns at me like this is my fault. Which it probably is. I’d been the one to first show Anna Riverwest, an eclectic but semi-dangerous neighborhood of Milwaukee full of artists and musicians and, most importantly to my dad: a lot of crime. “I think she shacked up with guy.”

“Her roommate? They’re just friends. Get with the times already.”

“No, not Anarchist.”

I stifle a laugh. “I don’t think he’s an anarchist. He fixes bikes.”

“Not him. A boyfriend,” my dad explains.

“Oh. Well. It isn’t a crime to have a boyfriend. She’s an adult. She’s allowed to do whatever she wants.”

“This is what cops said, too.” He shakes his head again, frustrated. “Gospodi, I wish I’d had boys.”

“Papa!”

“When you last talk to her?”

“I think a few weeks ago, online,” I say. “I gave up calling her a long time ago. You know how much she likes to answer the phone.”

“Her phone is dead. I called AT&T and guy couldn’t tell me something except phone is dead, which I already know,” he says. “Durak.”

“That doesn’t prove much, except that

she’s nineteen,” I explain. “Right now, the most rebellious thing a person can do is get off the grid.”

“It just like what happened before,” my dad responds, pointedly. “This why I ask you to come. You think it was easy for me?”

I sit on this for a moment, that old familiar uneasiness bubbling up inside me. Guilt. It coursed through every interaction I’d ever had in my family, even before I’d had reason to feel it; the unfortunate outcome of surviving when so many didn’t, I’d supposed—pogroms, Hitler, Stalin, mass poverty, my family had escaped it all. How would I ever live up to that? All I’d managed to do was escape them.

“I don’t want you to get your hopes up. I’m not sure I’m going to be able to find her,” I tell my dad, quietly. “You should talk to the cops again if you’re worried.”

“You think I did not talk to cops again? They have better things to do than look for girl who no longer posts on Bookface account.”

“It’s called Facebook, Papa. And she wasn’t on Facebook, she was on MySpace.”

“Okay. My space,” he parrots, as if speaking in an alien tongue. He exits the highway via Locust Ave., instead of continuing north to the suburbs, where he still chooses to live for some reason I will never understand. “I ask you to try. You used to live down here. You familiar with area. You know...young people.”

“Not really. I’ve been gone a while. And I’m not so young anymore.” I turn my head to the side, confused. A sign directing traffic towards UW-Milwaukee appears on the left. On the right, the standard string of rundown houses, baggy-clothed youth with paper-sack forties and cigarettes lingering in groups. My dad goes left. “Where are we going?” I ask. “I need to sleep, Papa. And I stink. People will think I’m homeless.”

“This is better. You blend in,” my dad says, with a hint of a smirk. It’s the first relatively positive emotion he’s expressed since I got in the car. Not that my father is a man of many positive emotions in general; Dostoevsky was right when he said, “The Russian soul is a dark place.” Still, for a moment the knot in my stomach loosens, until I realize he’s serious. I turn to the back seat.

“What about my stuff? What about Mom? I haven’t seen her since...I can’t even remember. When was it that you came to Jerusalem for Totya Lana’s funeral?”

“So you wait few more hours, big deal.” He pauses for a moment, then exhales another long plume of smoke out the window, where the familiar landscape of Riverwest begins to pass us by. Center Street, Uptowner, Foundation’s bamboo door and candlelit windows. A line of parked,

multicolored road bikes. They shimmer in the bright, hot sun all the way down to Fuel Café, patios filled with aging hippies and crust punks in black-and-beige thrift store fare, all smoking cigarettes above some scraggly dogs. It’s like seeing an old lover again; half adoration, half punch in the gut.

“Seriously, Papa? This really can’t wait?” I ask, in Russian now.

“I’ve been waiting, Masha,” my dad sighs. “You know this not good for me,” he adds, tapping his chest. “With my condition.”

“And you know this place isn’t good for me,” I say, looking back down at my hands, which are clenched. I unfold them onto my lap. I feel angry, then immediately after, like I could cry. I can’t explain why exactly. What am I so scared of? This used to be my favorite place in the world. And Center Street is abuzz with activity—a leather-clad couple walking two spotted pit bulls in bandanas. A dreadlocked mom with a baby attached to her chest, a face-tattooed cyclist splashing past on a bright yellow tall bike.

It’s exactly like I left it.

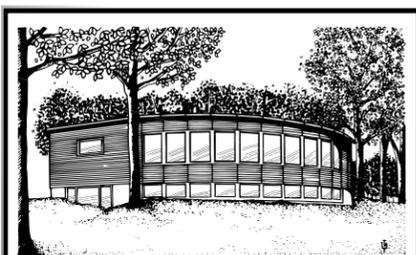
My dad, noticing all this too, shakes his head in confusion. This type of rebellion, more aesthetic than political, is inexplicable to a Soviet immigrant, where going against the grain could mean gulags or death.

“I told you not to move here, didn’t I? You could have lived at home. Anastasia too. Nothing would be happening if you girls listened to me.”

“We don’t even know if anything is happening,” I say, not taking the bait. “All I was saying is that...” I start. I swallow the lump in my throat. “It’s, I don’t know. It’s really weird. For me to be here.”

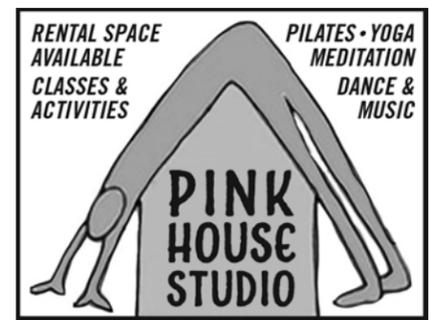
Papa drops his cigarette out the window and double-parks in front of the alley right past Fuel Café, where a purple-haired barista is throwing out a large bag of garbage. She turns and looks in our direction, squints, then drops the bag inside the dumpster.

“I could care less about weird. Your sister is gone,” he says. He reaches across me to open the door, essentially kicking me out of the car. “You still young. You manage.”



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What's Happening at Riverworks

by Ruth Weill

It's beginning to look and feel like spring, and it cannot come soon enough. We miss seeing our neighbors, walking our dogs for more than five minutes, and getting a dose of Vitamin D.

Riverworks Cleans furniture disposal service:

As it gets warmer, many look to doing some deep cleaning, removing old furniture, cleaning their attics, etc. Riverworks Cleans, a workforce development arm of Riverworks Development Corporation, is offering a new service. If you need help disposing of old furniture and other chunky items, please call John at 414-882-7424 or email him at johnc@riverworksmke.org.

Have questions about your finances?

The pandemic has had a major impact on residents' finances, and the Financial Navigator program is here to help. Riverworks, in partnership with the City of Milwaukee, has a free, confidential, over-the-phone program to help residents. To sign up, please visit Milwaukee.gov/FN or call 414-882-7440.

The Harambee Neighborhood Improvement District

WHAT IS A NID? Neighborhood Improvement Districts (NIDs) are quasi-governmental entities authorized by Wisconsin State Statute. NIDs assess a property tax to a limited geographical area to support development and restoration within its boundaries. In the Harambee NID, this assessment is \$50/residential unit per year. The Harambee NID provides home repair resources to homeowners within the boundaries.

WHAT ARE THE BOUNDARIES?

The Harambee NID includes residential properties between Center Street & Capitol Drive and between Holton Street & I-43, EXCLUDING properties included in either the Riverworks BID or the Historic King Drive BID.

NID funds are overseen and dispersed by a Board of Directors. These directors are neighborhood residents and property owners who are elected at an annual meeting.

The Harambee Neighborhood Improvement District (HNID) Annual Meeting is Saturday March 13th beginning at 10am. It will stream on Facebook LIVE on Riverworks MKE page.

For more information about the Harambee Neighborhood Improvement District please visit <https://www.riverworksmke.org/harambee-nid> or contact Clarissa Morales at 414-882-7434 clarissam@riverworksmke.org

Clean up the neighborhood.

Look for pop-up clean ups as the weather allows. If you want help coordinating one, feel free to reach out ruthw@riverworksmke.org or 414-882-7421.

The Riverwest Farmer's Market

Planning has already begun for the 2021 season. Looks for produce, flowers, body products, bakery, eggs and meat, prepared food to go and so much more as farmers and other vendors are getting ready. The market will be held at the same location as last year, the 2700 block of N. Pierce. It begins Sunday June 6th and runs through Sunday October 31. The hours are 10-3pm. If you have questions, please email info@riverwestmarket.com. As the season gets closer, both the website riverwestmarket.com and the Facebook page will have updates: facebook.com/RiverwestMarket



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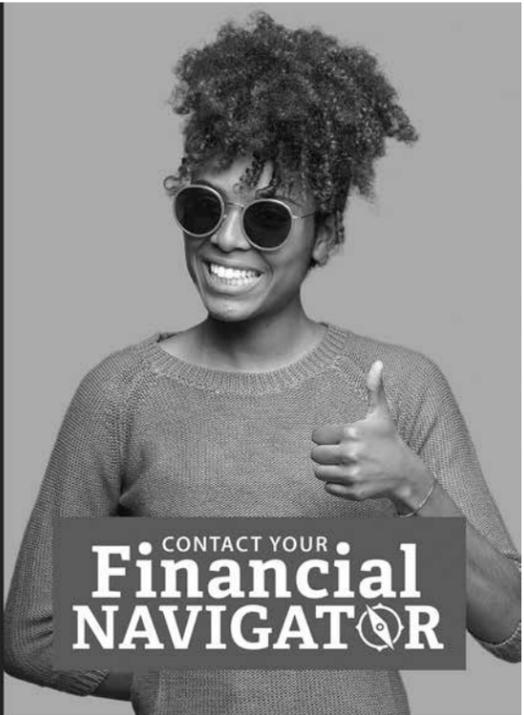
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Need help managing your money because of COVID-19?

The City of Milwaukee, in partnership with Riverworks, is providing free help over the phone!

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a major impact on Milwaukee residents' finances and the Financial Navigators program is here to help.

Sign up and talk with a Financial Navigator at:
milwaukee.gov/FN
(414) 882-7440



CONTACT YOUR

Financial NAVIGATOR

Free, confidential help is here for you

A Financial Navigator will ask you a series of questions. Together you will prioritize concerns, expenses and identify next steps. The free session will last between 30 minutes and an hour. Navigators can help you address concerns including:

- Meeting daily living expenses, like housing, food and insurance
- Maximizing income, through accessing benefits, emergency cash assistance and emergency loans
- Managing debt, from credit cards to student loans to child support
- Avoiding predatory scams
- Budgeting for future loss of income
- Accessing other social services

NOTE: Financial Navigators provide personalized information and cannot provide direct financial assistance like cash or loans.






DDA 10/27/20



Photo taken August 24, 2005 in front of the Riverwest Co-op, by Peter DiAntoni

Currents Comix Page

ANGRY KAT: ZOMBIE PROTOCOL

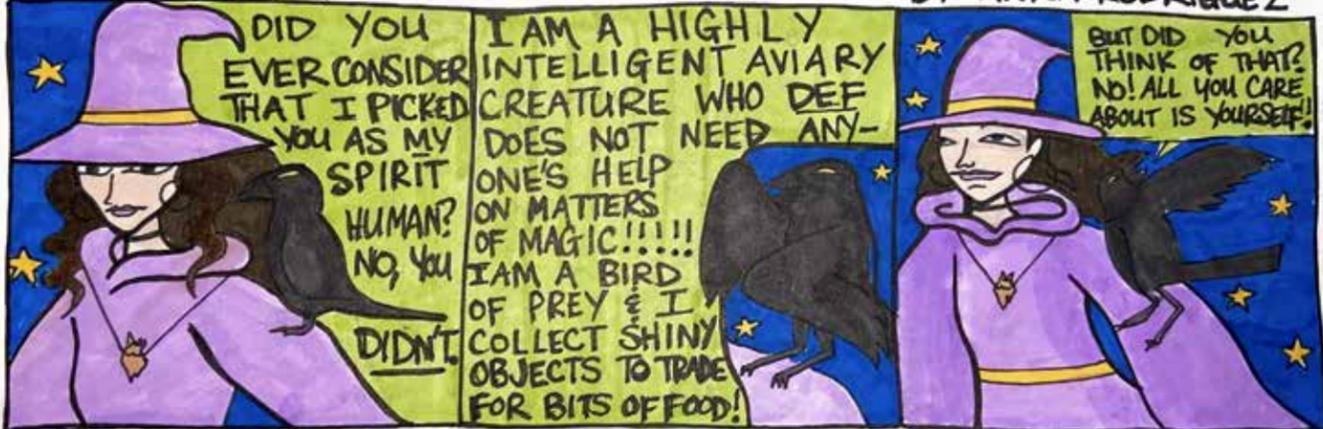
by Luther Hall



twenty pound baby | stephen tyler conrad

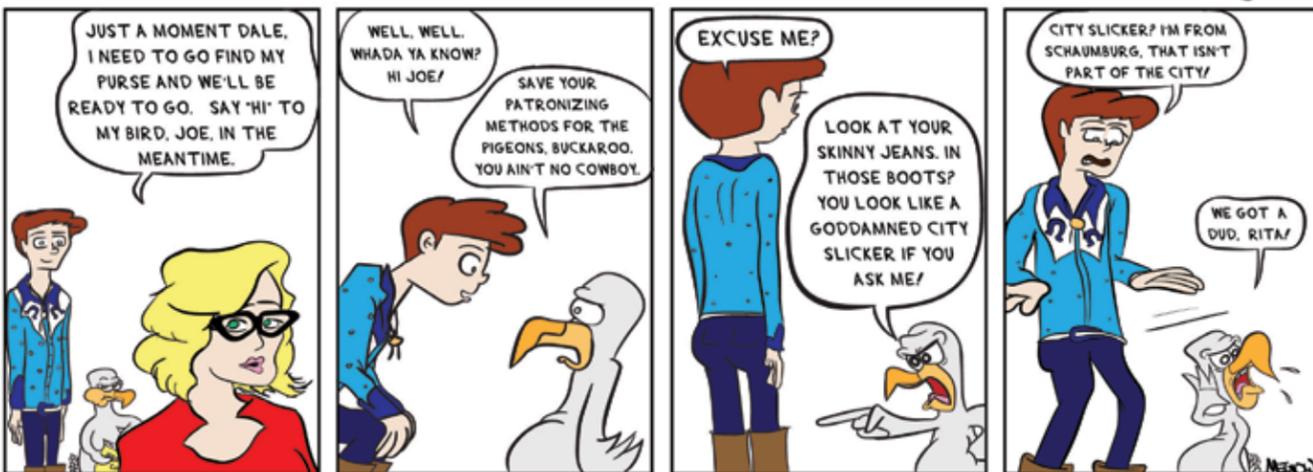
MODERN WITCH

BY ANNA RODRIGUEZ



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RIVERWEST Currents

FREE! THE COMMUNITY VOICE OF MILWAUKEE'S LEFT BANK Vol 1 Issue 3 August 2008

Reservoir No Longer Needed?

By Steve Jorgensen and Steve Baskin

It's a good question that has been asked many times over the years. The answer is a resounding "No!" The Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors has just voted to keep the reservoir. The board's decision is a victory for the many who have fought to keep the reservoir. The reservoir is a vital part of our water supply and a beautiful natural resource. It is also a source of recreation and a place where we can enjoy the outdoors. The board's decision is a testament to the power of the community and the importance of protecting our natural resources.

It's Unanimous: Develop a Riverwest Bike Trail

By Steve Jorgensen

The Riverwest community is excited to announce that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors has unanimously approved a plan to develop a bike trail in the Riverwest neighborhood. The trail will be a 1.7-mile-long path that will connect the Riverwest neighborhood to the rest of the city. The trail will be a great place for people to exercise and enjoy the outdoors. It will also be a great place for people to connect with their neighbors and the community. The trail is a testament to the power of the community and the importance of investing in our infrastructure.

Jewel Osco Liquor License Decision Postponed

The decision on whether to issue a liquor license to Jewel Osco in the Riverwest neighborhood has been postponed. The Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors has decided to delay the decision until a later date. This decision is a result of the community's concerns about the potential impact of the liquor store on the neighborhood. The board's decision is a testament to the power of the community and the importance of listening to the voices of the people who live in the neighborhood.

Help Us Keep Riverwest Currents Flowing

From the first tabloid issue in 2002, let me recognize: Sonja Jongsma Knauss, our first editor, Vince Bushell, still here, Tess Reiss, advertising sales and an all around contributor, Jan Christensen, from the beginning and our second editor, Kevin Flaherty, Ivan Gordon, Carl Hedman, Jay Kirk, Ken Leinbach, Erik Petersen, Jim Pokiak, Petre Reese, Tom Schneider, Tanya Cromartie-Twaddle, Patrick Weishampel, Maureen Kane, our first layout and design person, Dan Knauss, web design and still contributing from Canada. Early advertisers included Brewery Credit Union, and still with us, Riverwest Co-op the same, Terapak Realty, Lakefront Brewery, still with us, County Parks Department, Uptowner, MPS, Klingers East, Acme Art Gallery, all supporters in our first issue.

Linneman's, Sunrise Foods, Manyo Motors, Pink House, Rauen Guitars, Invivo, Fishbergers. Outpost Natural Foods, Pueblo Foods and we hope to get them back someday, Falcon Bowl. Thanks also to Art Bar, Wonder Land, Corazon and Sunrise Foods. Great thanks to all the writers past and present, all the illustrators, comic artists. I must mention Tea Krulos who helped so much in the beginning and all of the *Currents* current comics led by David Beyer. Past Editors Sonja, Jan, and Alice Waraxa. Thanks to Kate Hawley for laying out so many issues these last few years. Thanks to contributor and writer of a host of a favorite feature, Neighbor Spotlight, Ellen C. Warren. There are alot more to thank, but this is no goodbye, this is hello to a new beginning

The covers shown here are just 6 from the first two years. There are 236 more. A great history of Riverwest and an archive I hope to expand online from my files. Some longtime advertisers I would like to thank: Eagle Movers, Milwaukee Friends Meeting, Our Lady of Divine Providence, Downtown Autobody, KWK Electric,

We plan on being around another twenty years but we need some help to get through this year. Thanks for the help if you can!

Vince Bushell and Lee Gutowski Lee and I will give it our best!

Check out our GoFundMe site. Visit RiverwestCurrents.org or our Facebook site. Just click on the link button to get to GoFundMe on the Currents Website.

RIVERWEST Currents

FREE! THE COMMUNITY VOICE OF MILWAUKEE'S LEFT BANK Vol 1 Issue 3 August 2008

El Rincón Latino

Residents Show Up In Force to Oppose City Plan to Use Neighborhood Block Grant Money to Balance Its Budget

The Riverwest community is excited to announce that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors has unanimously approved a plan to develop a bike trail in the Riverwest neighborhood. The trail will be a 1.7-mile-long path that will connect the Riverwest neighborhood to the rest of the city. The trail will be a great place for people to exercise and enjoy the outdoors. It will also be a great place for people to connect with their neighbors and the community. The trail is a testament to the power of the community and the importance of investing in our infrastructure.

RIVERWEST Currents

FREE! THE COMMUNITY VOICE OF MILWAUKEE'S LEFT BANK Vol 1 Issue 3 October 2008

Riverwest Parishes Vote to Merge to a Neighborhood Presence

Part 2 of the Currents' Series on Garden Park

Cream City Mentors

RIVERWEST Currents

FREE! THE COMMUNITY VOICE OF MILWAUKEE'S LEFT BANK Vol 1 Issue 3 February 2009

Transfiguration: St. Casimir and St. Mary of Czestochowa Become Our Lady of Divine Providence

David Riemer to Challenge County Executive Incentive Scott Walker

Neighbor Spotlight: Ellen C. Warren

RIVERWEST Currents

FREE! THE COMMUNITY VOICE OF MILWAUKEE'S LEFT BANK Vol 1 Issue 3 September 2008

Rebirth and New Use Follow Failure and Abuse

Part 1 of this two-part series focuses on the history of Garden Park, next month's installment will address the park's future.

RIVERWEST Currents

FREE! THE COMMUNITY VOICE OF MILWAUKEE'S LEFT BANK Vol 1 Issue 3 August 2008

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