Vote Tuesday April 6



Inside April Issue p11. Bless The Bock

p.2 Thanks p.3 Tree Moore p.4 RW Elders & OWL

p.12 Crossword p.5 Candidates p.13 Hostel/Haven p.6 Healing Spaces p14. Flashback 2002 p.14 Clinton Clay p7 NeighborSpotlight

p.8 Humboldt Paving p.15 Comics p.9 Three Bridges p.16 Spaces & Traces

p.12 Movie review

FREE!

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

Vol 20 Issue 4 APRIL 2021

Road to Immunity

by Vince Bushell, photos by Lauren Miller

e are all engaged in a great experiment on how to find a path through and beyond this pandemic. Vaccination has been touted as a rode to a future that allows coming together in the way we were not so long ago. This is hopeful and I certainly hope that it turns out to be true. I have received two doses of the Moderna vaccine with no physical reaction to the first dose and

about an eight hour spell of chills and fever after the second dose. A price I will gladly pay for immunity to a severe infection with the Corona Virus.

There are many places and more are being added every day, to get vaccinated. For this site your fist visit is online. It seem not that complicated to set up an appointment. Most complaints were that there were not times available to register. This required checking back often to get an appointment. This seems to be changing as more vaccine supply is available.

The website for City of Milwaukee residents is:

https://city.milwaukee.gov/CovidVax

There is a blue background list of who is eligible to get the vaccine on the site and at the bottom is a box to click to begin: REGISTER NOW. Follow all the steps and anwer all the questions until and if you are eligible you can SELECT IN PERSON APPOINTMENT. You will be directed to times available, scroll down to see if you can find a date and time to get your shot.

You need to answer some questions and if you are eligible you will be able to select an appointment if they are available for the shot you need. First shot and if you get it here they will try to set up an appointment for the second shot. It worked for me.

I am thankful for the City of MIlwaukee and its Health Department for offering a well equipped and professionally run vaccination site at the Wisconsin Center. This downtown building is easily accessed by car or bus. The front entrance is located on Wisconsin Avenue, but the entrance for your vaccine at this time is off of the road

that tunnels throught the center just north of Wisconsin ave. The parkling lot is also located in the tunnel and a stamp covering the cost is available after receiving you shot. A photo of the tunnel and parking entrance is attached to this article.

At the entrance your temperature is checked and you are given forms to fill out. You are then called by groups related to your appointment time. You are then assigned a table to go to in a very large room and you sit down and go over the



procedures and can have any questions you have answered. You move on to getting your shot in the arm in a draped off space. The nurse or assistants escorts you to the space. You sit down, a few more questions and your card is filled out that you have received the proper dose. You go into a large room and sit down for 15 minutes, then pick up a free mask and go to the exit. Be sure to have the guard stamp your parking ticket if you parked in the lot.

And if you do it here or somewhere else, congratulations! You are on the road to immunity.





Park here for covid vaccine



Black Husky Owner Speaks with President Biden About Small Business and Biden listens.

Story and photo by Lauren Miller

■im Eichinger co-owner of Black Husky Brewing in Riverwest had a chance to speak with President Joe Biden this past month. He submitted a question at a Milwaukee town hall meeting asking, "What will you do so that small mom-and-pop businesses like ours will survive over large corporate entities?" Much to his surprise he received a follow-up zoom call from President Biden.

Over the course of a 25-minute call Biden listened to Eichinger for a total of 18 minutes. Eichinger shared his thoughts about the current struggles present for small business

"He understands, I think, the struggles of daily life," Eichinger said. "I told him; I said the forgiveness is treating everybody as if they are trying to defraud. Instead of treating most people who, are, by and large honest and trying to do the right thing."

He also explained the process of applying for the Paycheck Protection Program, which has been simple. Although, loan forgiveness, he said, has been a "nightmare."

One response from Biden that struck Eichinger was his definition of small business.

Biden shared that the original definition of small business meant 500 or less employees but what he is talking about are "momand-pop businesses" such as Black Husky

"They hold communities together and keep people together," Biden said.

It's been a tough time for Eichinger and his wife co-founder Toni Eichinger. They originally had to lay off all of their employees and drastically reduce hours. Business is still down about 60 percent but since recently they have been able to rehire all 9 of their employees.

"It's been a struggle for everybody"

Riverwest Currents

Milwaukee, WI 53201-0716

PO Box 716

says Eichinger. "But nobody does it like Riverwest."

Regulars come in and spend twenty dollars here or five dollars there and it has made a huge difference.

Even in the face of Black Husky Brewery's struggles,

Eichenger talks about building community infrastructure. He is forward thinking and has a lot of great ideas.

"We've been here almost five years now. You become part of a community not just by moving into it but by being active in it. We've tried to do that, and I think we've done well."

He talks about bringing more structure to Garden Park which is across the street from Black Husky.

"It would help if we had electricity out there," he explains.

He also suggests bringing in a shipping container for music and events and doing a little landscaping.

"That would be perfect for Riverwest,"

He wants to follow up with other community stakeholders for their input and opinions.

"Great things are going to happen, but we've got to keep the momentum going," he explains and "we now have a president who is taking leadership."

Eichinger feels hopeful after talking to President Biden.

He says the president is in touch with regular people. His staff even have to tell him he can't share his number with people or go give them a hug because that's just the kind of guy he is.

According to Eichinger, "Biden is just a dude."

The outcome for small business owners moving forward looks promising. What we can do now is keep pulling the community together and supporting one another even in the face of adversity; because that is what Riverwest does.

It has been reported that Black Husky will give you a free beer with proof of vaccination. The guy in the green shirt top left is going to take advantage of that!



Message from the Currents, Thanks!

Te asked for some help and many of you have answered the request. It is gratifying to have the support of those who appreciate the *Riverwest Currents* and through GoFundMe we have reached the half way point of our goal of \$12,000. Thanks for all who gave whatever you could to raise over \$6000 in one month.

We also received generous donations in the mail. At this point we will keep the **GoFundMe** site active and hope to get close to our goal. We can promise that the all the money will be used to keep the *Currents* going through 2021 and hopefully beyond. Links to our GoFundMe site are on our web page and Facebook sites. riverwestcurrents.org

Some things new

We expanded the pages to 16 pages this month and we have some new contributers

A crossword puzzle is on page 12, thanks to J. Richard Owen. If you get stuck the solution can be found on our web site. Riverwestcurrents.org

Healing Spaces, a new city sponsored program for the Harambee neighborhood is featured on page 6.

Check out the repaying project for Humboldt Blvd. and share which option you would like to see happen, with the city, on page 8.

Welcome Lauren Miller who has several things in this issue. Page 10 has as story about a chicken toss up north, and a most beautiful photo of a youngster with her chicken. And she captured me getting my shot downtown. And photo and story of Tim Eichinger on the cover.

Hostel to Haven by regular writer Adam Kruger on page 13.

Flashback to 2002 when we started, one of our first Neighbor Spotlights on page 14. Where-ever Mr. Clay is today I hope he has found peace. He told me once he wanted to be buried underneath the trees across the street from what was then Onopa's tavern. It used to be a funeral home, and trees are Trees of Heaven.

Farewell to Anna Alicia Rodriguez, a cartoonist, illustrator who gave us many laughs with her strip: The Freudian Slips/Modern Witch.....MEOW!



Thanks to all our regular contributors and columns in our neighborhood paper. We are one of the few neighborhood publications still in existence that has a printed and web presence. Twenty years of stories is a treasure that I do not want to lose. We hope to expand the number of articles available online as a history of Riverwest. Presently we are being published by Vince Bushell and Lee Ann Gutowski.





*Automatic payment may be required. Minimum \$7,000 new money and current Brewery Credit Union loans not subject to refinancing. Interest will begin accumulating at the date of loan signing: the first payment will include all interest accrued from the loan origination date. Membership eligibility required. \$100 Refinance Offer: Loan must be transferred from another financial institution or finance company. The vehicle must be used as collateral. Offer valid for a limited time and subject to change. Only one transfer per vehicle. Some restrictions may apply.



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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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The Change We Wish to See...

By Tree Moore

This is a difficult time – a time when one feels awkward, confused, and uncertain. But the one constant variable we can rely on is change itself.

grounded when there are so few answers to what is coming next? Or what can one do to influence what we hope might be beneficial

I am not a knowledgeable historian. However, it seems that the present world is experiencing serious, earth-shaking, tumultuous changes on every level. Some of these changes are exciting and positive, others are frightening or even evil. The earth itself is attempting to adapt to the unpredictable climate. Whole countries are dealing with economic instability. Healthcare-givers are still reeling from the heavy dose of crisis and tragedy that the pandemic has dumped on us. There are questions as to whether we can put together the pieces of our previous way of making money. Yes, folks are receiving stimulus checks, but they may be needed to be used for "catch up," paying back rent or buying such ordinary items as shoes for your growing adolescent son.

Going "back to normal" has become a rather absurd idea. While composing this article, I am enjoying a mug of Earl Grey tea. The tea is full of the delicious flavor of burgamot. But more relevant, the mug has the famous serenity prayer printed on it. The importance message is to accept the things with serenity that we cannot change, to have the courage to change the things we can, and to have the wisdom to know the difference. I think it's wise for all of us to apply this prayer seriously.

Examining my own life, the first big change that I'm aware of is my 85-year-old body, which is obviously wearing out. I realized that over the last year that I am often asking others to repeat what they have said, and darn, I'm losing the punchlines of good jokes. The result is that I have started to wear hearing aids.

I believe the loss of hearing and inconvenience of hearing aids is something I cannot change. I must accept it, yet I can lessen the loss with these tiny appliances. I am working on my attitude, which still is far from serenity.

And then there's my skin, especially the wrinkles that creep across my face when I'm not looking. Despite doing facial massage and exercise, my face is beginning to look like an old lady's. if I had lots of money, I could get a face lift, but, with a lean budget and frugal ways, I won't do it.

"change we want to see in the world." Let's try to make ours a movement toward a truly democratic world. May we be So how does one become courageous and even outrageous in our protests.

> I'm attempting to appreciate all those lines, sags, and bags. My vanity is slowly shrinking, thank goodness.

> Regarding other physical changes in the last 15 to 20 years, the hardest is my inability to run. I can kind of hop, but don't ask me to skip. I look like a four-year-old pre-kindergartener, trying hard, but not really succeeding. Good for a laugh. I have been able to accept eventually my various losses with some grace and sadness.

> The slow subtle breakdown of the physical body is inevitable, but the process of our brain deterioration can be slowed down considerably. The cure for dementia is not a potent drug, but rather lies in the realm of lifestyle and diet. I observe so many folks choosing the lethargic life of a couch potato, being entertained by mediocre media. A good night's sleep, healthy meals, nourishing food and a daily brisk 45-minute walk can not only keep the heart ticking but the brain alive and well, even continuing to produce new cells.

> Change can be gradual or sudden, but it is always occurring. Two weeks ago I watched our big male cat stretch languorously on the warm blacktop of our driveway. Not long after that our beloved companion was hit by a car and died immediately. A burial ritual with tears song gratefulness brought some serenity closer. That change was sudden and devastating.

> Larger, cultural changes are often slower and more demanding in our reaction to them. When it comes to larger changes, sometimes the top challenge is to know not only what is actually changing, but how to approach it. Frequently we hear a traditional voice saying that's how we've always done it and for good reason. Perhaps "look before you leap" is wise in terms of being aware of what you are attempting to change. Yet how can we really know what will fix things until we try it? There are no crystal balls.

> There are many inspiring stories throughout history of folks who are determined to challenge the status quo. A few years ago I read an amazing true story about a humble, uneducated woman who made her living by fishing for shrimp in the Gulf of Mexico. She somehow discovered

that a large chemical plant was to be built just down the Louisiana coast.

It would not be the first. Chemical plants in this area had been spewing out powerful poisons, causing respiratory problems and polluting coastal waters for decades. Regardless of what appeared to be a David and Goliath situation, she decided to resist the construction. She had had enough.

She had never been involved in any sort of action before, but regardless she called a meeting to alert others. Despite her shyness and inexperience the folks who showed up already felt concern and resentment toward the chemical corporations. A slow process began.

Over the next three years she became articulate, gathered allies, discovered helpful strategies, and in the end the permit for the plant was denied. The supposedly impossible had been achieved by a courageous person who was determined, creative, intelligent, and willing to do the

As I thought more about evolution and revolution, the fast and slow changes through history, I realized that in 2020 it had been 100 years since the Suffragette movement triumphed through the passage of the 19th Amendment, gaining the right for women to vote. Between 1900 and WWI, at least 1,000 women fighting for the right to vote were treated like criminals. Their treatment was frequently brutal, such as force feeding when they were on hunger strikes. Besides the trauma of being in prison, poor women lost their jobs and members of the educated upper class lost their status. It's curious that there was no discussion of this in my American History

Today we are again witnessing protests against oppression and injustice. It's confusing as we try to discern when to push for change and when to wait for a more auspicious time, especially if you are suffering or your children are slowly starving. Exactly the emotions we are feeling today.

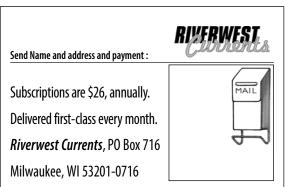
In the end, individuals take risks and decide on the actions that together become contributions toward change. As we make our decisions about what actions we take, let's try to be, as the saying goes, the "change we want to see in the world." Let's try to make ours a movement toward a truly democratic world. May we be courageous and even outrageous in our protests. Our power to make change lies in a multitude of small caring acts, and change may be slow in coming, but it is the one sure thing we can rely on.

vote april 6th

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We Walk in Hope

By Julianna Ksicinski

"People stuck in more traffic but moving"

The above line was taken from a poem, Alone Together by Alex Dimitrov which appeared in a past issue of the New York Times Sunday Magazine.

Stuck in more traffic. We are stuck in the traffic of COVID 19, health care, climate change, a divided government and other pressing issues. But we are moving. We walk in hope, into and through the congestion of this traffic.

COVID 19

We mask in public places. We wash our hands for twenty second many times a day. We keep a safe distance from others. We take the time and trouble to get immunized against COVID 19. We help and support those who have been affected by this horrible virus, people who have lost meaningful employment and businesses-many active in our community-forced to close. We volunteer at food pantries. We give donations. We listen and may cry with those who have lost a loved one.

Health Care

What to say about health care? It's a

Older. Wiser. Local

system of myriads of health plans both private and government. Amid this confusion many are driven into poverty. No one should have to choose between paying rent or pay for medications. Many out of necessity choose to stay in jobs they find unfulfilling due to the need for health care. Many have lost employment and health insurance due to COVID. Sadly some decide not to see their doctor because they cannot afford co-pays. We notice. We listen. We do what we can to help each other.

Climate Change

We are witnessing the effects of climate change, melting glaciers, swelling rivers, floods followed by droughts and severe winds. Texas is recovering from a snow storm and bitter cold temperatures. Yet we do what we can. We recycle. We plant gardens and trees. We minimize our use of plastics. Thanks to the new administration in Washington, we are back in the Paris Climate Accord. Maybe the next conference will take place on a sinking island in the Pacific Ocean. World governments can witness the suffering caused by drastic and unpredictable temperature change scan bring. We stay informed. We read the



news. We join and support groups which work to educate and reduce the causes of Climate Change.

Divided Government

We have become a country of extremes in opinions and beliefs. There is no room for compromise. Was January 6, 2021 the result of this division? A Pearl Harbor and 9/11 packed into one day. Our government was attacked by mostly white people, may white supremacists. Our responsibility as citizens is to confront this behavior whenever we witness it and demand our elected officials pass and enforce legislation that promotes the rights and safety of all. We join and support organizations which provide Voter education. We listen to candidates on forums and debates if we can. We listen to our neighbors and family who are worried, just as we are.

We are on our way to a "new" Normal. At present it remains a mystery. But we know for sure that like the "old" normal, there will be a mixture of laughter, tears and hard work.

We Walk in Hope.

A Note from Lorraine:

The Riverwest Elders continue to "Walk in Hope" throughout this most interesting, challenging time. We check on each other, we write notes on our Googlegroup, we meet in Kern Park when the weather permits, bundled in coats and blankets if need be. We find ways to be together. And we

The Jazz Gallery Center for the Arts has been a gracious host for our 2021 Riverwest Elders Shared Art Exhibit, March 13 - April 17, 2021. A beautiful exhibit featuring the work of over 14 members art work. We invite you to visit Saturdays, between noon - 5:00 pm. The Gallery is open with a "paced, small group" precaution. Masks and other COVID 19 precautions are in effect for all visitors. Offering a reminder that the Jazz Gallery Center for the Arts continues to offer programming with a robust schedule, Wed. & Thurs, at 3:00 pm, on Riverwest Radio, 104.1 Check schedules and presenters on the JGCA Website, https://jazzgallerycenterforarts.org



Windswept by Susan Leopold, original @ Jazz Gallery is in color







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 riverwestra-

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/

April 2021:

Thurs. April 1: History of Jazz Music, by Musician and Radio DJ Jason Wietlispach

Weds. April 7: "Riverwest Elders" Bonnie Bruch, Tonia Kountz and their Fearless Leader, Lorraine Jacobs: All About the Group (Including Current Art Exhibit at JGCA)

Thurs. April 8: 'Parenting in a Pandemic", with (Amaze-Moms) Hannah Marquardt and Colleen Robash

Weds. April 14: Creative Spotlight on Emerging Artist, McKinley Blackwell (Grandson of Della Wells) On-Display in the JGCA 'Small Wall" Exhibit, 4/21-

Thurs. April 15: "Kitten-Season Is Upon Us!" with Feral/Stray-Cat-Care Expert, Julie Krawczyk

Weds. April 21: "The Forgotten Ones", a Compassion Program for Lonely Older Adults, Created by Becki Lambert.

Thurs. April 22: Karen Beaumont Reads Her New Short Story, "Crazy Quilt", Accompanied by Piano and Poetry.

Weds. April 28: Professor Bob Neuman presents the Art Movement of Expressionism, as a Follow-Up to His Recent Lecture on Impressionism.

Thurs. April 29: Three Local Poets: Sarah Moore, Kavon Cortez Jones, and





Home on the range by Christian Becker

vote april 6th

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 healthcare 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.

Judge Position On the Balloit April 6

Susan Roth and Katie Kegel are defense lawyers running for the Milwaukee County Circuit Court Branch 3 bench being vacated by Clare Fiorenza, who is not seeking re-election.

Why do want to become a judge?

Katie Kagel

I want to become a judge to serve as a change agent in our system justice who will not be satisfied with the status quo and will engage with



the public to build greater trust and understanding. That starts with guaranteeing folks are treated with respect, dignity, and have the opportunity to achieve true justice back in the courtroom and guarantee every person is treated with those principles in mind.

I want to reduce harm, not create more. People come to courts in their worst moments looking for help and fair outcomes and too many leave feeling they didn't have a fair shot and they weren't respected in the process. That must change.

I also want to help address racial and economic disparities currently present in our justice system and be a leader who will push for the use of best practices in this

When we have judges on the bench with those goals in mind we as a community can both get closer to achieving justice for all and improve public safety.

Why do want to become a judge?

Susan Roth

I believe in being true advocate for justice. Milwaukee County is not only my home, but it is where I practice law.



I believe that everyone can make some form of a higher contribution toward strengthening our communities and serving the public good.

I want to become a judge because the law is my deepest passion - I have a broad range of experience in private practice from all aspects of criminal defense including juvenile law and have addressed civil and family law issues as they're related to my practice.

I have a statewide practice and practice both in state and federal court. I feel I have the best experience and am ready tobegin this public service on day one. I do not want to bring politics to the bench, but rather a passion for justice.

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 for 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 giver 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 Supertendent 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, thogh it is not clear how strongly she would support it.

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

Underly has the support of WEAC union.

vote april 6th

where flowers bloom so does hope

hedines Sødes

initiative

by Vince Bushell

any years ago I attended a presentation by Lily Yeh in Appleton. She talked of working, playing, creating a place in North Philadelphia. Place Making became a her model using art and eventually in the formation of Barefoot Artists. Her work and eventual success in community transformation was a story I have tried to emulate in my neighborhood.

We created Garden Park in Riverwest which has had many magical events occur over the years. It started with a garden, a flower garden, a native prairie garden. And with the blossoms came a gravitational attraction to do something together on a corner in Riverwest. Pulling Together, donated by sculptor Dan Leonhardt, which title is evidenced by its form. More recently Peace Posts were installed.

There are many vacant lots in Milwaukee and more in Harambee just west of Riverwest. There are some community gardens in both neighborhoods. One is adjacent to All Peoples Church in Harambee. It has sometimes been difficult to work with the city to get permission to improve these lots. And there are reasons the city may be circumspect. Often lofty dreams fall short of realization.

We are in a time when we need healing. And not just because of a virus, but also the scourge of hate and prejudice that can wreck good intentions. Black Lives Matter, Latino Lives Matter, Asian Lives Matter, and now is a time to plant the seeds of hope and healing. A simple pile of stones or a mural or a beautiful bench can be the attractor that makes a litter strewn lot a place of peace and healing. The only limitations are the energy and dreams of the neighbors to work together to create and maintain the vision. I know the skills are already there just waiting to be empowered to act.

Now for the sponsors of the Healing Spaces Initiative, quoted from the announcement shared March 23, 2021. The City of Milwaukee is

launching the Healing Spaces Initiative (HSI) in the Harambee neighborhood. Milwaukee's Neighborhood Improvement Development Corporation (NIDC) will lead the city's effort. Healing Spaces Initiative will help residents build relaxing natural environments on available city-owned vacant lots while, at the same time, eliminate blighted spaces and engage residents. Projects will include pathways, benches, flower gardens, solar lights, Free Little Libraries and more. The HSI is funded by Bader Philanthropies, Inc. Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett and Alderwoman Milele Coggs, whose district includes Harambee, support this initiative.

Residents or community-based organizations may apply to create a Healing Space in the Harambee neighborhood with no out of pocket project cost.

Contact information is below and thanks to Kacee for discussing this program with me.

Kacee Ochalek healingspacesLYB@milwaukee.gov

https://city.milwaukee.gov/DCD/ NIDC/Healing-Spaces-Initiative

Partnering organizations include: Ground Work Milwaukee, True Skool, Eras Senior Network. Safe & Sound, NIDC, Bader Philanthropies, INC.

Photos are from local green spaces. Sculptural art graces the green in the form of Peace Posts and a metal and stone sculpture by Leonhardt in the background.

The gardeners are in Kilbourn Gardens off of North Avenue. It was the brainchild of former editor of the Riverwest Currents, Jan Christensen and the work of may gardeners with the help of Ground Work Milwaukee.

Garden Park, which is the top photo and the bottom photo has had many public uses including meditation in the park pictured.







NEIGHBOR SPOTLIGHT: Jen Cintrón

Story and Photo by Lee Gutowski

It's the Vernal Equinox of 2021, and befitting the beginning of Spring, all beings are cycling into the season of renewal and beginnings - some think of it as rebirth. There is a sense of anticipation, tempered with trepidation, as all manner of living things come out of slumber, out of darkness, and for humans, out of the 2020 Pandemic. Whew! And on, to new ways of

Jen Cintrón and I chatted (on the Vernal Equinox, as it turns out) about her time living in Riverwest and her decision to move back to her childhood hometown, where her parents and two grandmothers still live -- Aibonito, Puerto Rico. For Jen, this Spring is about preparing to fledge the nest after 17 years here in Milwaukee, many of them in Riverwest. She'll head to Puerto Rico at the end of May and be a resident of Aibonito for the first time as an adult.

"Aibonito is a small town in the mountains. It's called the Town of Flowers, or Pueblo de las Flores," Cintrón smiles. "There's a flower festival there every summer, and the place is filled with garden nurseries." Her mother's retirement plan is to start a nursery and grow flowers. "My mom called me and asked what I've got lined up for the summer. She said, 'If you want to work, I've got work for you,' and after lots of deliberation, I've decided to go help her with her new business growing

"By the time I was 17, I was fed up with the expectations that were put on me about how I needed to be performing my femininity, and what being a young woman meant ... I was so sick of it, I left as soon as I could," Jen says. She graduated high school and came to the U.S. to attend Knox College in Galesburg, Illiinois.

Her closest relative in the States was an aunt – her mother's sister – who lived four hours from Galesburg in a suburb north of Chicago. "I don't think my mom would have allowed me to come up here if not for

She started studying music and creative writing at Knox College, but "I didn't have the discipline for it," Jen reflects. "And I had sort of an imposter syndrome going on because English is my second language, and I was studying writing in English and I felt like nothing that I ever did was going to be good enough or up to par ... Anyway, between the anxiety of going to school and dealing with culture shock, I ended up having my first major depressive episode." Jen dropped out of Knox ... but that led her to

"Milwaukee has become my home. And I ended up here by coincidence. When I dropped out of college, I went to live with my aunt in northern Illinois, because I didn't want to go back home defeated," Jen chuckles. She met her (now ex-) husband via Match.com when it was first starting to be a thing. He was a student at UWM, and it was at his suggestion that she check out Milwaukee and UWM since she wanted to go back to college anyway.

Science, then music

Jen was about to start school at UWM when she was involved in a car accident. Her injuries included a broken leg. "When I asked the doctors to explain to me better what was going on, I didn't understand. I never again wanted to be in the dark about my health or the health of those I care about. That's when I decided to go to med school, like my parents wanted me

She majored in biomedical science at UWM and earned her bachelor's degree. She then took the MCAT (medical school admissions test) and did well with a score

"But once again I had to write an essay for the admissions process, and I just kept stalling and stalling and stalling which was my issue with my creative writing ... I pretty much waited until the last minute before I put in my medical school application, and that was basically self-sabotage."

Though she didn't make it into medical school, she does work in the health and wellness realm - but on the spiritual side. Jen does good business now as an astrologist and psychic, under the name Jericho Rose Oracle (where you can find her on Facebook). Her tagline is, "Scientist by training, intuitive by

She was inspired in large part by her maternal grandmother ("She eased my transition into this plane. I had allergies to everything, including breastmilk"). Her grandmother, who was a "curandera" - a healer who uses folk remedies treated her sickly infant grandchild by administering medicinal herbal teas she made herself and other traditional treatments.

Music is what made her stay

When Jen's six-year marriage ended in 2010, she was yearning to sing again and play guitar. She wrote her first song at 16 and has played guitar since she was 8. "But I've been singing since I was born. My mom says when I cried, it was like having an opera singer in the house, it was like (sings a loud, vibrato-laden note) 'Waaaaaaah!"

Around then, she started getting back into music. "Because before that I was all about science. I hadn't sung or played guitar regularly for like 6 years. I missed it. I'd started going to the open mic at Bremen Café in like 2008. And that's where I met Phil Schwinn and Gareth Lippe, who were 2 of the original members of 4th Street Elevator ... They invited me to jam with them at Phil's house where they practiced and asked me whether I knew how to sing Bésame Mucho. I said well of course, I know how to sing Bésame Mucho, I grew up in a Spanish-speaking country!"

Playing with Schwinn and Lippe, she learned a ton about music and gained confidence in her ability to improvise with melodies and sing jazz.

With Cintrón on vocals, 4th Street Elevator played their brand of "hot jazz/swing" for about 10 years, from farmers markets to clubs like Caroline's and even the Pfister Hotel. Jen still sings, writes music, and accompanies herself on guitar, but of course in 2020, public appearances went away.

Still, she is hopeful about her future in music. "I really want to explore the music thing at home (in Puerto Rico). We're a very musical people. I think I could get something going there."

From her home in Riverwest to her home in Puerto Rico

"It's been an emotional time, with a



explains. "Because I do love Milwaukee. I've stayed for 17 years, you know? I never thought I would stay here this long because of how cold it is in the winter," she laughs. "But I've met a lot great, great of people."

"The pandemic has been really hard on all our mental health. With the isolation, the lack of live music, the vibrancy of the city having gone underground, not seeing people for like weeks and months on end ... It made me realize that when the world feels like it's falling

apart, I want to be close to my family."

hat said, going back to Puerto Rico as an adult, she thinks she'll be better able to stand up for herself as a woman. "Things are changing now. There's actually talk in the media about what a huge problem there is with violence against women (and the) huge problems with discrimination against LGBTQ folks and ... there are protests going on. None of that was happening when I left, 21 years ago."



Jen will never stop doing music, never stop doing her tarot business. But now is the time to go home. "I just want to go back to the mountain. Where it's quiet, and I have family, and I can help grow flowers."



HUMBOLDT BLVD. REPAVING PROJECT

Existing Typical Section (E. Center St. to E. Locust St. shown)

One vehicle travel lane and one parking lane in each direction

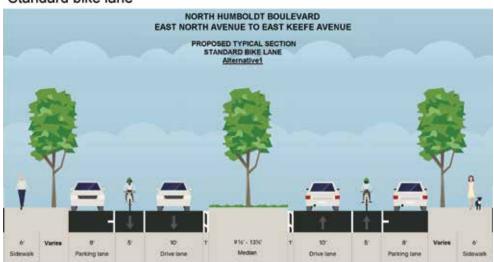
Standard bike lane



Alternative 1 Typical Section (Presented at PIM #2)

One vehicle travel lane and one parking lane in each direction

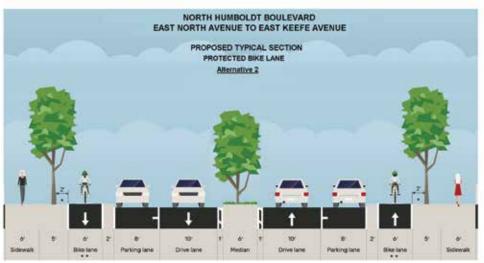
Standard bike lane



Alternative 2 Typical Section

One vehicle travel lane and one parking lane in each direction

Protected bike lane



The examples above show the project options after the study and community input was gathered.

Option One is similar to the arrangement the road has now but there is additional median installation on some sections that do not have a median now.

Option Two has the ideal bike lane placement inside of parked cars and raised a bit above the roadway. This does increase the width of the paved sections and reduces the width

You can put your name on a contact list by contacting the city regarding this project. The full **pdf** of the project from the city will be on the Riverwest Currents website.

Project Goals

Reduce motor vehicle speeds

Make the street safer for all users, with a focus on pedestrian and bicyclist safety

Maintain or enhance existing green space and landscaping

Improve operational characteristics and safety of the street by addressing the underlying pavement conditions

Bike Land Considerations

Lateral clearance (trees & signs) Buffer (parking lane) Separate from sidewalk Curb extension/bump-outs Intersection treatments Separated movements Right turn lanes

Both Alternatives:

Maintain symmetry of the boulevard

Maintain on-street parking on both sides of the street except at intersections

Minimize impacts to mature trees in the terrace

Include ADA compliant curb ramps, upgraded signals, drainage improvements, lighting upgrades, sidewalk replacement

Project Timeline at this point

- 2021 Final Plan, Specification & Estimates Submittal to WisDOT (August 1, 2021)
- Lead Service Line Replacemen
- Utility Relocations
- 2022 LET Date (Project Award Date to Contractor) (January 11, 2022)
- Roadway Construction

Final Traffic Signal & Street Lighting Installations

Landscaping

Questions, Comments

Samuel Medhin, PE City of Milwaukee Project Manager 841 N. Broadway, Room 902 Milwaukee, WI 53202 (414) 286-0474 smedhi@milwaukee.gov

This project is beyond the planning stages and comments could best be directed to the two options presented. Which do you prefer?

Three Bridges Park A living Museum

by Cari Taylor Carlson

Distance – Four miles Time – Two to three hours Attire — Fancy overalls Where to Eat – Oscar's, 1712 W. Pierce Street Parking – On the street Start — At the Urban Ecology Center, 3700 W. Pierce Street

t takes a considerable stretch of imagination to envision the railroad yard that formerly occupied this land when you enter Three Bridges Park from the paved path that leads down a slight hill to the start of this walk. Instead of a wasteland, you have entered a twenty-four-acre prairie on a paved trail that meanders up, over, and around several hills, with multiple views of downtown Milwaukee, plus, a few close encounters with the Menomonee River.

This trail is more than just a pretty stroll through a rolling landscape studded with native grasses, perennial flowers and plants, and native trees. It's an outdoor classroom for students who come to the Urban Ecology Center to learn about the Menomonee River habitat, native plants, regional history, and Wisconsin's glacial history.

A study of the topography of the park reveals kames, eskers, and drumlins, constructed alongside the trail to resemble the landforms left behind when the glacier departed Wisconsin approximately 10,000 years ago. Kames are rounded hills formed by glacial till (sediment carried and deposited by the glacier) left behind in depressions in the landscape, while eskers are ridges formed by receding meltwater sediment, and drumlins are small hills, like kames, also formed by glacial till.

In the beginning, the Menomonee Valley was a wild rice marsh where Native Americans farmed, hunted, and fished. In the late 1800s, their marsh was filled in to make room for progress when the Milwaukee Road Railroad and its railyards took over

In 2002, several organizations spearheaded a design competition, which brought the deserted railyard wasteland back to life. It took a partnership of nine organizations, including the Urban Ecology Center, more than ten years to create this park, a transformation one might call a modern miracle. It took planning, planting, and money, to turn railroad rubble into Three Bridges Park. It opened in 2013.

The seven man-made hills that represent glacial remnants are made up of eighteen inches of on-site soil, plus some additional soil that was trucked in. That soil was capped with six inches of clean topsoil for planting, then, covered with sixty species of native seed, both annuals and perennials. Since 2012, fifty thousand plants, trees, and shrubs, have been planted. In 2013, Urban Ecology Center volunteers went to work on the land, removing nonnative invasive plants.

And the work continues. As of 2020, there were approximately one hundred native plant

species growing in the park, while most of the nonnative plants have been removed.

You enter another world when you leave Pierce Street at the Urban Ecology Center and walk down the path to the Valley Passage. Take time to look at the murals at the entrance that illustrate life on both sides of the Menomonee River, past and present. The Valley Passage represents an historical link between the Menomonee Valley and Silver City. This is where workers from the city crossed the river on a pedestrian bridge to their jobs in the valley. The original bridge was torn down in the 1960s when many valley jobs disappeared. It has since been replaced by the Silver City Pedestrian Bridge you see ahead as you exit the tunnel.

To continue into Three Bridges Park, turn right on the paved trail before the bridge. Across the bridge, the Hank Aaron State Trail continues east to the Harley Davidson Museum and beyond. When you see the Three Bridges sign, you have officially entered the park. From here, it's two miles to the end of the trail and the Mitchell Park Domes, that along with the Urban Ecology Center bookend this fourmile round walk.

Along the way, many paths spin off to the left. Almost immediately, you come to a gravel path that takes you to the river, a place to linger and ponder the river's past as an important commercial shipping route in the 1800s.

After you rejoin the paved trail, watch for another gravel path that leads to a hilltop, a clear view of downtown, and a sitting log. Back on the main trail, just beyond the 35th Street overhead bridge and before the Menomonee Pedestrian Bridge at 33rd Street, look for a paved path that leads to the river. This is the canoe and kayak launch.

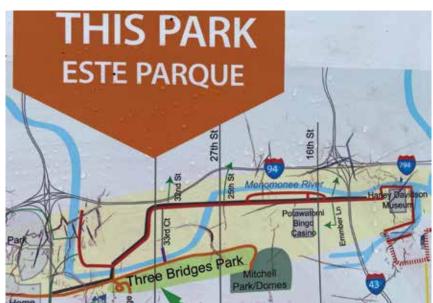
Along the way, take time to explore the side trails; they are there for a reason. One leads to a small wetland, a nod to the former wild rice marsh, another to a pond, a habitat for students to explore, and a third climbs a hill topped with fat logs, a place to rest and enjoy the view. As previously noted, these hills were not placed on the landscape solely for your viewing pleasure. If you look closely, you can see the outlines of those drumlins, kames, and eskers.

Close to the end, just beyond the 27th Street overhead bridge, you will come to Potawatomi Bridge, the third footbridge referred to in the name of this park. This pedestrian bridge crosses a railroad yard instead of the river and leads to the Domes. A dozen glacial boulders located adjacent to the trail, each two feet in diameter, resemble glacial erratics, large rocks transported by the glacier and left behind when it melted. More than a pile of rocks, it's sculptural, reminiscent of this land, then and now. They also mark the turnaround for this four-mile walk that took you through land transformed from railroads and rubble to a living museum of Wisconsin natural history.











Milwaukee Animal Rights Group Aims to End Chicken Toss Event

Photos and story by Lauren Miller

very February Ridgeland, Wisconsin throws a chicken toss event as their ■ Pioneer Days celebration. At the event chickens are tossed off a roof in the center of town while a crowd gathers, drinks and vells in excitement.

According to Dave Delegard, "many of the youngsters that catch a bird know how to grab it" he explains that "It's on its way to a farm home and the kids are glad and proud of their new possession"

But each year Milwaukee animal activists polarize the event by attending. They find language such as referring to chickens as "possessions" problematic.

According to Alyssa Kobs from Milwaukee Animal Save, "In the past years we have seen people put them in clear plastic bags and tie them up. There is no air for them to breathe and they will die of suffocation."

The humane treatment of animals in this instance is a complex issue. According to many who live in Ridgeland it is a harmless small-town tradition that they throw every year.

This is due in part to the fact that Ridgeland is a rural village with a population of only 223 people. They are a farming community and much like other midwestern villages they are less concerned with animal rights than inhabitants in urban settings.

They see their use of chickens as practical, holding material value with a central utilitarian viewpoint. As the name of the event implies it is meant to draw upon Pioneer life in the 1800's.

When pioneers settled their focus was cultivating new lands and learning to provide for themselves by using herbs to make household goods. Common tasks for children would include chasing deer and squirrels away from crops. Pioneer neighbors would help each other with barn and house raising which was the primary source of entertainment.

A common complaint from Ridgeland residents is protesters don't realize the

Oftentimes events such as chicken tossing only happen in small communities such as Ridgeland. They are relatively isolated from nearby cities limiting their understanding of the cultural and social goals of Milwaukee Animal Save. That is why they perceive animal rights activists as disruptive and barging into their community.

Animal protesters do not believe Pioneer Days resembles the life of pioneers in early American History. They believe chicken tossing is reductive and spiciest treating animals as objects for human pleasure and entertainment.

They believe animals are subjects with their own seats of consciousness and like other living beings they thrive when enjoying life. They feel the need to protect the chickens as they are unable to produce consent and express dissent by flying and running away. Often times they land in trees or the roofs of nearby businesses.

The throwing of chickens produces a fine line between the ethical and aesthetic depiction of animal suffering.

What the Milwaukee Animal Save organization aims to accomplish is to bring farmed animals to the foreground and reveal that animal suffering is not a pleasurable event. What Ridgeland wants protesters to know is that they are not part of their community and as outsiders are disruptive to their annual traditions.





33rd Annual Blessing of The Bock



Sunday, April 25, 2021 12 noon - 4pm Falcon Bowl, 801 E Clarke, Riverwest \$15 entry (\$10 with donation of 6-pack of homebrew

AKEFRONT BREWERY **Born in** Riverwest. Raised all over. ENIOY OUR PRODUCTS WITH ALL OF YOUR SENSES. ESPECIALLY YOUR COMMON SENSE ©2019 LAKEFRONT BREWERY, INC., MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN



oin local beer luminaries -- Lakefront Brewery co-founder Jim Klisch and long-time beer aficionado Jeff Platt -for the 33rd Blessing of the Bock on April 25 at the Falcon Bowl. The event started in 1988 at the Gordon Park Pub (now Nessun Dorma) in Riverwest.

Klisch was inspired by beer's holy history (remember, back in the day, medieval monks fortified themselves during the Lenten fast with strong beer) and wanted to honor the old traditions around beer. The first year, he brought a batch of freshly brewed Lakefront Bock to the Gordon Park Pub and had a priest perform the blessing of the beer.

There is an actual Catholic blessing for beer, and it goes a little like this: "Bless, oh Lord, this creature beer, which thou hast deigned to produce from the fat of grain: that it may be a salutary remedy to the human race and grant through the

invocation of thy holy name that whoever shall drink it may gain health in body and peace in soul."

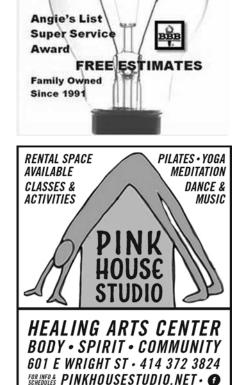
This Milwaukee tradition has been kept alive since then, taking place in different venues across the city, from church basements to bowling alleys to rock and roll clubs. It has grown to include local and regional professional brew masters as well as beer hobbyists, weighing in with their own homebrews.

This year, event coordinators "Whispering Jeff" Platt and Klisch have lined up another fun day, which will feature a reunion of the "Suds Club" (a beer sampling club started years ago by Platt); the John Harrison Memorial Homebrew Competition; and beers from local and regional breweries including Lakefront, Sprecher, Black Husky, Water Street, Stevens Point, Sahale Ale Works, Bavarian Bierhaus and Revolution Brewery.





3224 N. GORDON PLACE ON AUER MILWAUKEE, WI 53212 (414) 263-2111 WWW.MILWAUKEEQUAKERS.ORG

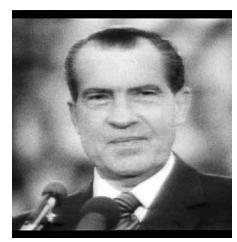


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REVIEW: Can't Get You Out Of My Head: An Emotional History of the **Modern World**

But then, something happened...

ISIS beheadings, doll factories, Nazi knights, facial tracking, the KKK. Riots, rebellions, robotic Vladimir Putin. A montage of absurdity and horror rendered across generations and continents and peoples. The latest documentary series from British filmmaker Adam Curtis covers a lot of ground.

Across its eight hour runtime, Curtis attempts to tell a story of our contemporary world, through a focus on China, Russia, Great Britain and the United States. The film shines a light on a colorful cast of characters both well-known and less so: from the wife of Chairman Mao to Tupac, these people tell the story of the global rise of post-war individualism. To Curtis, the story of our modern world is the story of individualism and its consequences. From these disparate characters, often acting in different parts of the world and at different times, Curtis weaves a narrative with which we can come to understand our lives.

The film does not construct a comprehensive history of the world, but rather a compelling narrative with which we can understand our contemporary order. In this way, Curtis constructs a story of the past himself, much like those subjects upon whom he focused that also constructed stories of the past so as to better understand their worlds, from Edward Limonov and his National Bolshevik movement to Jiang Qing and the Gang of Four. In telling their stories, so too does Curtis create a story of the past with which we might understand our current time.

I admit some difficulty in succinctly writing about this film: at eight hours total runtime, spread across six parts, it is a challenge to summarize in any certain terms. I can say definitively, though, that Curtis possesses a unique ability to find the beauty, absurdity and tragedy of human life, and this talent results in a very compelling work.

If there is one message Adam Curtis wishes a viewer to take from this story he has constructed, I believe it to be this: We, collectively, built this world, and that if we should only choose to do so, we could rebuild it.

Mitchell Horner

Can't Get You Out Of My Head: An Emotional History of the Modern World Dir. Adam Curtis Runtime: 480 minutes Available on YouTube

Across

- 1. Sudden jump
- 6. Ghoulish
- 13. Like a hatter
- 16. Mental dissenter
- 17. Winter sled
- **18.** Hominidae 19. Street names
- 21. Jazz enthusiast
- 22. LPGA winner
- 23. Motor oil standard
- 24. Stride
- 25. Julia chapter
- 29. Street names
- 32. Tallest Herbivore 34. Florid
- 35. Geom. function
- **36.** Neither companion
- 37. Through
- **38.** Scottish boy
- 41. Bony fish
- 43. School group
- 45. Shakespeare's long time
- 46. Lennon's love
- 47. Street names
- 52. Habit
- 53. Wildebeest
- **54.** Sometimes electric
- **55.** Joke
- 56. Ether
- 57. Grandma
- 58. Agent
- **60.** Indian oil
- 63. Pummel
- 64. Crustacean
- **67.** Chinese porcelain hue
- 71. Spanish doze
- **72.** Avid
- 73. Sprint
- **74.** Cable TV by passer
- **75.** Foxy
- 76. Street names
- 83. AT&T
- **84.** Pant
- 85. Isolated **86.** Once before
- **87.** British masturbators
- 88. Mob action

Riverwest

Edited by J. Richard Owan

Edited by V. Henard & V.																
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Down

- 1. Quiet
- 2. Sigma follower
- 3. Mall convenience
- **4.** CSA ally
- 5. Mason tool
- **6.** Early computer port
- 7. Sham
- 8. Purge
- **9.** With 10. Jaded
- 11. Snitch
- 12. Biblical suffix 13. Pearl city
- 14. Quickly
- 15. Stymie

26. Vitiate

- 20. Feign
- 24. Aggrandize 25. All-saints month

- 27. Outlanders
- 28. Kosher 29. Wayne friend
- **30.** Window
- 31. At hand
- **33.** Cap pistol
- 37. Eclipsed 38. Gapers
- **39.** Emmet
- **40.** Simpson codicil
- 42. Sovereign's reign
- 44. Angst
- 47. Computer flaw
- 48. USSR hockey upsetter
- 49. Klutzy
- 50. Macabre
- **51.** Two tablespoons
- 59. Bright green sauce
- 61. Munch **62.** Grad

- 63. Chide
- 64. Drinks like a lush
- 65. Hooligan
- 66. Ceremony
- 67. Indian group
- **68.** Peeping tom
- 69. CD godfather
- 70. Bronze relative **74.** Horace outputs
- **76.** Old oscilloscope
- monitor
- 77. Big sky cat **78.** Be human
- **79.** Tail
- **80.** Neanderthal 81. - Tangent
- 82. Ultimate

Puzzle Solution Online: riverwestcurrents.org

Can't Get You Out Of My Head:



















Bow down to her on Sunday
Salute her when her birthday comes
Bob Dylan

Happy Easter

Of all the stories man has baked Is this the one that baked the cake?

We say happy Easter because so it is said We're celebrating a man who rose from the dead

Now to explain this fiction or fact When my 6 year old said, "you can't do that."

Don't believe? More than you can chew? Question the religion chosen for you?

What makes a Roman Catholic? A Hebrew a Jew? A Moslem Islamic? An Indian Hindu?

They all have their stories, all handed down The miracles told, seem to abound

Walking on water, parting big seas Five fish feeding thousands, What big fish are these?

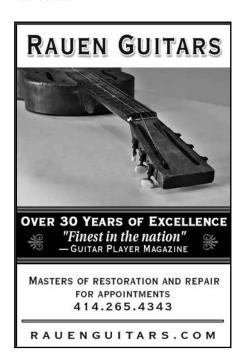
Anecdotal? Confabulations? But moving mountains and reincarnations?

This is not the Inquisition But a supposition of my position

Common to all with the Golden Rule Miracles make attractive tools

So however faiths might be fed May they relieve us from our mortal dread

chris smith





Hostel to Haven

By Adam Krueger

The Cream City Hostel on 500 E Center Street had only opened its doors in June of 2019 with nothing but potential as it brought guests from all over the world to Riverwest. Yet because of the pandemic, the original vision for the building became an impossibility. Late last year, a local ownership group of investors located between Riverwest and Harambee took control of the property intent to transform it into something more useful for the needs of the local community. Aptly named, the RiverBee LLC redevelopment project has partnered with Bader Philanthropies to create a housing cooperative for Milwaukee residents with hopes to help those hit hardest by the pandemic.

Bader Philanthropies has awarded millions of dollars in various loans going back to 1995. Through them the former hostel has obtained a \$450,000 loan offering flexible options for residents. With it they are providing a mixed-use property and affordable housing with low interest loans. RiverBee has even seen to it that debt payments become restructured to offer economic relief in the wake of Covid-19 as a socially conscious investment. The focus is on people rather than profits according to Jared Tonn, an investor with RiverBee LLC.

Tonn claims they are all determined to have one less vacant building in the neighborhood and ensure this part of the city stays vibrant and full of optimism and opportunity. These defining characteristics of the area are what makes Tonn and his colleagues convinced Riverwest is the perfect place for this project. So far it has been a success, three months into their plan, as the building houses just over half a dozen tenets. They are looking to provide a diverse living situation with those that can share spaces and reside in cooperation and camaraderie.

There are ten rooms of varying size from 150 square feet with a private bathroom to the size of a dorm room with shared amenities such as restrooms. These accommodations help provide more affordable rates for residents. Though the end goal though is far bigger than filling a few more rooms. Currently RiverBee is applying for a Fresh Food Access Grant to give access to healthy and fresh food for their residents. In time they hope to transform into a limited equity cooperative in which residents will become part owners, giving them greater control over their living situation while keeping costs low.

Jared Tonn claims it is not only an issue of providing basic humanitarian





The Big Backyard

needs for those hurting in tough times, but also about building upon our community. It is also about offering opportunity to gather again someday soon as the threat of the pandemic diminishes. Tonn expresses a desire to establish something special for all in the neighborhood with hopes of providing more concerts as well as food truck and movie nights in the backyard of the Cream City Hostel.

Beyond keeping a roof over all our heads, these are things needed for Riverwest after suffering an age of isolation, loss, and divisiveness. Because as corporations like RiverBee and Bader Philanthropies can assist, the rest of that is up to us. Personally, I can think of few things more desirable than the ability to sit with my neighbors in beautiful summer weather listening to live music and eating from one of our many amazing local food trucks in the backyard of the Cream City Hostel. Is a Thriftones show along with Pedro's South American Food Truck too much to ask? After this past year, we all deserve it.

To kill an ant

black ant crawling on the counter six legs moving pincers as hands eyes wary speedy if needed

black ant crawling on the counter

I react and and

squish squish it with my finger

what have I done? a tiny remorse a life given

a life given
pledged to unquestionable
service

to the group

little ant were you conscious? am I conscious now? a tiny remorse but remorse it is for life gone

my candle burns brighter as it gets shorter remember this if you will I was alive too a tiny man in a big big place



bear only a tiny remorse when I am gone please and thank you

νj

Neighbor Spotlight from past issue: November 2002

NEIGHBOR SPOTLIGHT

Clinton Clay

by Sonya Jongsma Knauss / photo by Peter Di Antoni

Clinton Clay was born in Mississippi and raised in the streets. He has bounced around from town to town, but somehow, after all these years, he ended up in Riverwest. It feels like home.

The 76-year-old Clay puffs on cigarettes as he talks from his "office" at a table in Onopa.

"The most beautiful women in the world are here!" he says of Riverwest, looking out the big windows. It's a topic he likes to come back to. "And they all are friendly!" he says.

There's often a mischievous look in his eye, so you're never quite sure whether what he's telling you is a tall tale or a stretch, or if he's about to launch into a bawdy innuendo. He's at home cracking little jokes or waxing philosophical about any of a number of things.

"I AM time," he proclaims with a bit of a flourish when asked whether he has time for an interview.

He's the unofficial watchdog of Fratney and Center Streets, and you're pretty unlikely to catch a piece of paper or some trash blowing in the wind there.

"I watch everything from here," he says. He does janitorial work at Onopa every morning and early afternoon. Paul Onopa hired him about a year ago.

"He hasn't missed a single day of work," Onopa says. And Clay says Onopa hasn't once told him what to do – "I know just what needs to be done." And he does it, policing both the inside and outside of the brewpub with energy.

With a past that includes "a little time in the service, a little time in the institution, and a little time in the streets," Clay came to Milwaukee after his mother's funeral in Indiana in 1985. Some people from Milwaukee were there and told him there was work to be had here.

His past also includes a stint in the Navy's Sea Bees (the Construction Battalion) during World War II.

"It wasn't difficult being black," he says of the service. "I was qualified to do the job — I had worked in the oil fields — and I knew more about what to do than a lot of them who weren't black."

Later he served for seven years in the Marines before going to Chicago to do iron working. But he's been in Milwaukee longer than anywhere else. He moved to Riverwest about three years ago.

The most important thing in the world to



Clay is his name. "It's my father's name," he says. But the things that make him happy are fast cars and pretty women. "I had to give up motorcycles," he explains. He won't go into detail but he alludes to an accident involving a woman and a train.

Clay plans to live to 125. He says this as he lights another cigarette, a habit he's had since age 8. "My grandma on my dad's side lived to 125," he explains.

His plans for the future include "taking my feet up off the ground" and investing his money "into the business." He won't say which one.

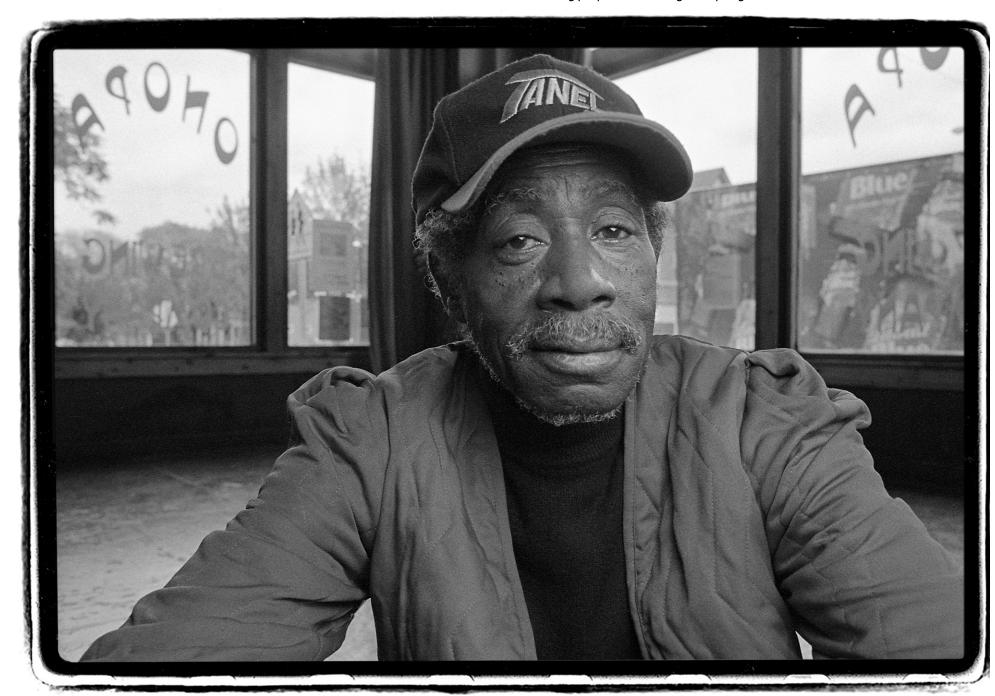
"When you're traveling down the highway, you don't know where you're going, but you can always look in the rearvie mirror and see where you've been," I says. "I can tell you anything except whe I'm going."

He figures since he lives near the funer home, when the time comes to go, it'll l easy. "If I die they don't even have to piome up, they can just roll me over there," I savs

He enjoys looking back on his life. "Yo could write a whole book about me," I says.

His advice to young people: "your girls, don't be prostitutes. Young boy don't sell crack cocaine. And don't I someone else's slave."

Do you know someone who lives in Riverwest or who has had a positive impact on our neighborhood? We want your suggestion for unsung heros, quirky characters, and interesting people for our "Neighbor Spotlight." Call 265-7278.



Currents Comix Page



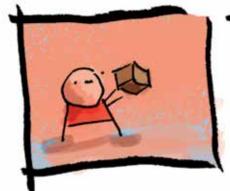


the twisted adventures of stinko













twenty pound baby | stephen tyler conrad

SIGH ALRIGHT, TIME TO SHOP....

The Dodo

WHAT IS THIS? RED OR BLUE? DO I NEED THIS? SHOULD I GET THIS? WHICH LINE IS GONNA BE QUICKER? IS THIS MY SIZE? THIS TOO EXPENSIVE? THIS LOOKS NICE. BUSINESS ATTIRE?
WHERE IS THE EXIT? SOCKS??
WHICH AISLE IS THIS?
WHICH AISLE IS THIS? WILL THIS ONLY FIT ONCE? **WOMENS SECTION?** CAN SOMEONE HELP ME? SUMMER OUTFIT: WILL I LOOK GOOD IN THIS? WHERE IS CUSTOMER SERVICES I HOPE I WILL LIKE CHICKEN OR BEEF? OWT NI SIHT WILL I BE ABLE TO RETURN THIS? I NEED TO USE THE BATHROOM





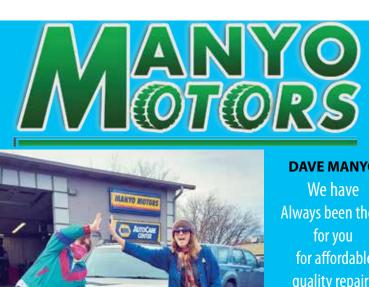












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Spaces & Traces: Virtual Neighborhood Tour featuring Harambee & Riverwest

Virtual Tour Ticket Includes:

Tour Properties: The tour will feature photo galleries and historic content for the following:

17 homes in Haramabee and Riverwest

Welford Sanders Lofts

All People's Church

Jazz Gallerv

Neighborhood Histories: The tour will also include written histories about Harambee and Riverwest, written by historian John Gurda.

Self Guided Beerline Tour: Take a virtual or in-person/self guided walk along the Beerline Trail, a historic railway corridor that has been converted to a pedestrian trail connecting Harambee and Riverwest. The trail features rich history and art installations. The tour was developed by artist Annushka Peck. The tour will also be available as a mobile app beginning May 6, through the Historic Milwaukee app.

Live Virtual Presentations

Thursday, May 6 at 6 pm: The Parlor: Restoring and Reinventing a Riverwest Funeral Home. Learn about renovation efforts of a former Riverwest funeral home into a single family residents with home owner and architect Keith Stachowiak

Monday, May 10 at 6 pm: History of Harambee and Riverwest Historian John Gurda will talk about the history of Harambee and Riverwest.

Thursday, May 13 at 6 pm: Conversations on Gentrification-Reggie Jackson and Zeidler Group Historic Milwaukee is partnering with the Zeidler Group to host small group discussions tackling the issues of gentrification and the effects on Milwaukee's communities. The program will kick off with a lecture with Reggie Jackson, Co-Founder of Nurturing Diversity Partners.

Friday, May 14 at 12 pm: Historic King Drive with Deshea Agee, Executive Director, Historic King Drive BID

Visit: Historicmilwaukee.org to book tickets