



# Riverwest Currents

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FREE!

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

Vol 20 Issue 8 AUGUST 2021



## Riverwest is on a roll!

by Vince Bushell

July 2021 began with a limited 4th of July Celebration. There was no parade to Gordon Park, only fireworks in the evening. Fireworks in the park and seemingly throughout the neighborhood.

On July 10th. Woodland Pattern sponsored a poetry Open Open Mic. One open was the Bookstore and gallery on Locust and the other open was the Mic in Garden Park. A premier event opening up this beloved green space.

The return of the Secret Garden Tour on July 18th. brought the citizens out for a walk of front yard gardens and many back yards as well. If you missed it you can take a walk anytime and enjoy all the plantings and blooms. I suggest the 2900 Block of Fratney Street. And remember to walk it again near Christmas. The displays on this block have been amazing in both seasons.

The BIGGEE is always RW24, July 23-24th. This event has become so popular that its been dubbed *The Peoples Holiday*. It touches my heart as no other event can. I spent my time Friday night in Garden Park, where a new sign has been erected,

with petals of yellow for all the fellows that pass by. Man, woman and child, resident and visitor filled the night and next day with activity. I heard one participant did over 90 Bonus points

**RW24.** The race that is not a race. An event that is not commercial. A statement that this is our place. We are proud of our place. We welcome all to our place.

**Bonus Edition.** Not wanting to miss another year, but to find a way to engage without formal registration and enable the people to celebrate and do cool things and silly things throughout the neighborhood. Like tight rope walking in the middle of the night on Riverboat Road. Blacksmith fire making bottle openers in Garden Park. Dance Party at Black Husky, (by the way can you find Tim in the photo on this page?)

And dear to my heart: *Lend A Hand* at the Riverwest Co-op. Always resourceful, the RW24 hosts and volunteers made it happen despite the challenges semi-post Covid.

### The Great Fence!

The School now shares our name. Riverwest Elementary. Pierce Street on the west side of the playground features the Sunday Gardener's Market and now the colorful banner welcomes you and ask you to slow down as you pass on Center Street.

### Happening with Riverworks

by Ruth Weill

#### Center Street Calm

A group of residents, community stakeholders and representatives of the Riverwest Business Association began meeting in 2018 regarding the high speeds of traffic witnessed on Center Street. The group, now called Center Street Realized, was concerned about the safety of the students along with the residents and business customers walking and biking on the corridor.

The group researched possible ideas that may help slow cars down. One idea rose to the top of the list: murals. Big art projects such as murals have been shown to passively slow drivers down as they experience the beauty of the mural.

Fast forward to 2021. The City of Milwaukee Department of Public Works (DPW) announced a grant program geared toward non-profit and community-based organizations to execute projects aimed at reducing reckless driving. **Center Street Realized**, collaborating with Riverworks Development Corporation was awarded a grant in April 2021.

Riverwest Elementary's fence aligns Center, and the group decided on a large fence cup mural. To begin the process several students were tasked with coming up with ideas for the mural, then local muralist Aisha Valentin created a master design from the student's artwork. Aisha, Riverworks, along with Center Street Realized, then worked on installation which was completed during a bonus checkpoint during the Riverwest24 community bike event.

There will also be light pole banners throughout the corridor with slogans collected from the community during two farmer's markets. Please visit <https://www.riverworksmke.org/center-st> for updates.

**More from Riverworks and Ruth Weill on page 5**



Nikki Janzen at Woodland Pattern's Open Mic in Garden Park



Where's Tim? Dance Party



Blacksmithing a memory, bottle openers through fire in Garden Park

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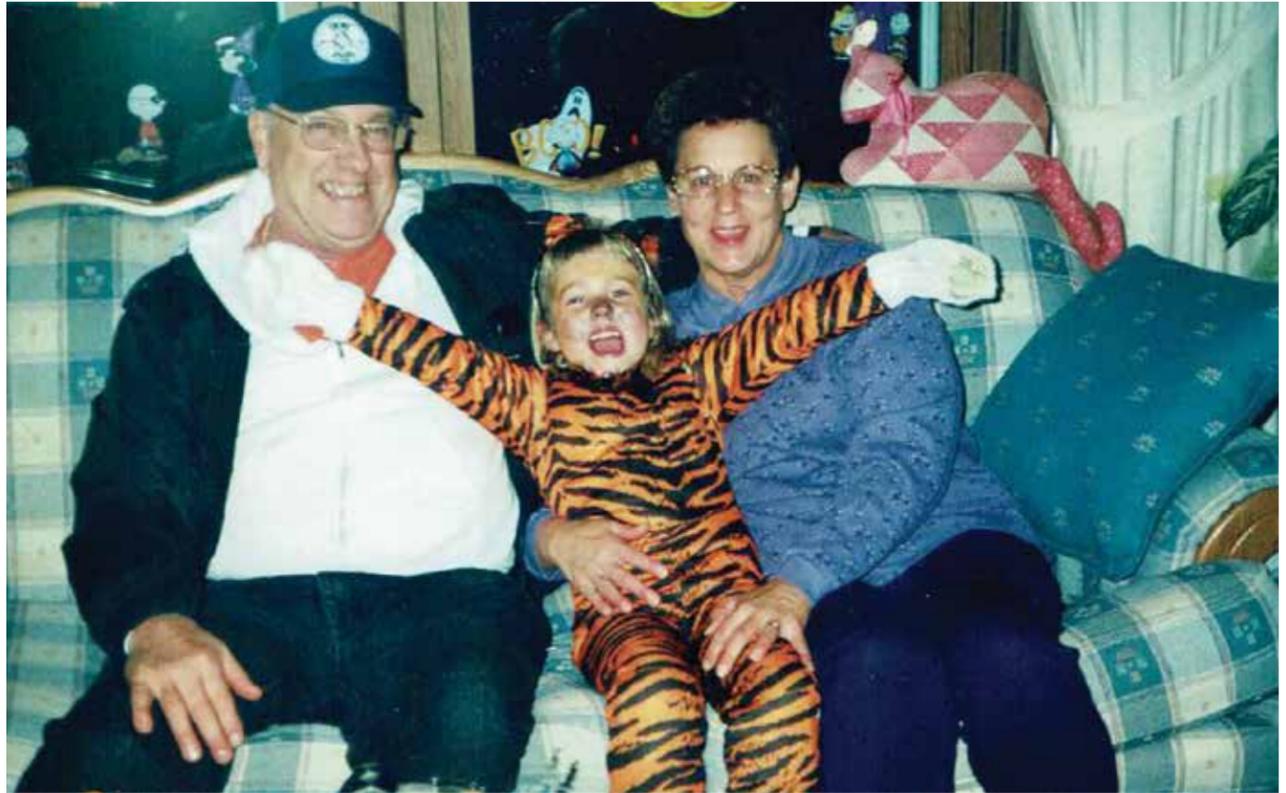
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Riverwest Currents is dedicated to keeping readers informed about issues and events important to those who live, work, and play in and around our neighborhood. We believe Riverwest and Milwaukee are good places to make a home or set up a shop. We want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

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## A Celebrated Life

Thomas J. Kocinski 12-1938 to 7-2021

Tom sits with his grand daughter Rachel and his wife Janice a number of years back at Halloween time.

Tom celebrated all the holy days and holidays by decorating his house and yard.

Did not matter if it was St. Patty's day, Easter, or Christmas, all you had to do was look at his house and you knew.

His favorites were Halloween and Christmas.

Grand daughter Rachel grew up to be the one who would represent his family at his funeral at St. Hedwig's Church near Brady Street. A brave tiger indeed, she spoke well and clear.

At the restaurant after the funeral, the conversation focused on the neighborhood.

Riverwest, now, I am not sure what they called it before WWII. Tom lived on Bremen St. The East side of the street. Janice lived on Bremen Street. The West side of the street.

Janice tells me they used to kid Tom. Called him lazy. For he did not look for a wife beyond his block.

Janice has lived her life in the house she grew up in. It is a beautiful home.

She tells me she is not leaving. His passing was a shock. It happened so fast.

We wish her well. Her spirits seem high.

The kids will help decorate for Halloween. Same as it ever was.

vj



Welcome to Garden park. Again!

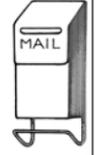
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# NEIGHBOR SPOTLIGHT: Emily Sutrick

by Ellen C. Warren

Nineteen years earlier, she had lost her job and found her way into a bartending gig at the newly established Nessun Dorma, where she learned all about whiskey, the mixing of a cocktail, and the front of the house.

In the meantime, she had married her husband, had kids, was in the second of two insurance industry jobs which she liked but didn't love, and through it all, she kept working some hours at the restaurant, for fun.

"I felt the clock ticking. I really had to sit and wonder...what do I want to be doing with my life? And what did I do in the past that I really, really enjoyed? And this place came up! I was still working shifts here. And then I was sitting at Cempazuchi with a friend of mine, and I actually sent Dean (Cannestra, the previous owner) a text message that just asked him "Will you sell me Nessun Dorma?" He replied within minutes and said 'Yes!'"

This is the quick version of how, in 2018, Emily Sutrick came to be the owner of the renowned Riverwest establishment at the corner of Weil and Hadley Streets, Nessun Dorma.

Her roots were in Hartland, where she lived her first seventeen years followed by several years of in and out of Madison, Albuquerque, Milwaukee, Madison...you get the picture. Her schools included UW Madison and UW Milwaukee, but her pull was more toward party than study. Later

she would attend MATC heading toward a nursing degree. Her husband-to-be was a nursing student as well. Pregnancy got in the way of schooling for her, but to this day she's married to a nurse.

The story of how she met her husband is a piece of Riverwest lore. Take yourself back to 2005. As Emily tells it, "I was walking down my street one day, with a guy that I was dating at the time. We were going to go play kickball. (Anybody remember the kickball teams of the early 2000's?) He wanted to invite one of his friends who was at Onopa... So we met him. I had a big, 200lb. English Mastiff at the time...we were walking down the sidewalk and somebody opened a door and then slammed it. It spooked my dog and when he turned, I turned (and stepped/fell off the curb), and ended up dislocating my hip. The guy we had just met, who I didn't know, took my dog back to my house.

"Long story short, he (Onopa's brewer, Jacob) kept checking on me to make sure I was okay. And through that I met his brother, Derrick, who is now my husband. So if I hadn't dislocated my hip I would not know my husband. Even though it is the most painful thing that ever happened to me...it was a special moment."

Derrick and Emily have two kids, the one who was christened "the Riverwest Baby," Simon, now 15, and daughter Lottie, 11. One of Emily's two sisters, as well as her mother have followed her to Riverwest.

Emily's past, present and future all revolve around Riverwest and the restaurant



she loves, along with her family and the family of staff she keeps busy.

To continue the story, after Emily got the go ahead to purchase the business she was faced with learning how to make that happen as well as coming up with the money. Dean was patient throughout the process and helped her with a loan. As she struggled to find more, her friends suggested she do a Go Fund Me. "I'm not going to ask people for money," I told them." Emily explains, "You can ask anybody around here, I'm not very good at asking for help, especially monetarily.

"Finally, one of my good friends said to me, 'If something happened and I was in your position, trying to do something that I've been dreaming about doing, and I started a Go Fund Me, would you give me money?' And I said, 'Well of course I would.' So she said, 'Okay, then just do it. Either people will or they won't.'"

The result was an overwhelming success. "Once I purchased the place I threw a party and all the people who gave me money were here, and Dean...and I just cried the whole time," she says with a remembering laugh.

Lasting through the Covid times was tough. Emily had to give up most of her beloved staff which was like losing family. She managed to retain her excellent Chef

Kassie Wolf, who is a long-time veteran with the restaurant. Now, on the other side, her difficulty in finding new staff brought about an unexpected change. She has some teenagers in her kitchen. Including her son, there are four young people learning bus- ing, dish washing and line cooking. And it's going well.

As you'd expect, the hours of operation have gone through changes during these times. Although, according to its name "No one shall sleep!" on Mondays Nessun Dorma will, indeed, sleep.

Otherwise, they will offer their standard menu plus daily special and two home made soups Tuesday through Saturday from 5pm to 10pm and Sunday 5 to 9. "Those hours will change as I start getting more staffed up..we'll go back to our old ways of keeping the kitchen open late and staying open till bar time." Right now the bar is open while the kitchen is, but the bartender has choice over when to close the bar.

Brunch, with a weekly special waffle offering, goes from 10:00am to 2:00pm on Saturdays and Sundays.

Emily would like her neighbors to know that they are welcome to start their weekend mornings with a to go cup of the exceptional coffee they offer from local coffee roaster, Valentine Coffee Co. I haven't tasted a better cup of coffee in Riverwest!

 A colorful poster for the 40th Annual Backyard BBQ. At the top left is a circular logo for "WMSE 91.7 FM 1981-2021 40 YEARS ANTI-ESTABLISHED". To the right is a logo for "LAKEFRONT BREWERY". The main text reads "11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL 91.7 FM WMSE BACKYARD BBQ SAT. 8-28 NOON - 8PM". Below that, it says "FREE LIVE MUSIC!" and lists the performers: "ABBY JEANNE VINCENT VANGREAT \* REXXX STEPHEN HULL \* DE LA BUENA". At the bottom, it says "HUMBOLDT PARK IN BAY VIEW" and "100% Locally Sourced". There are logos for "MAXIES", "MILWAUKEE COUNTY PARKS", "TicketKing", "BRADY STREET FUTONS", "BAY VIEW", and "MSOE UNIVERSITY". A QR code is in the bottom left corner.

Continued from Page 1, Ruth Weill, Riverworks



## Weekend on the Beerline Trail    Need Financial Help?    Riverwest Farmers Market

**R**iverworks is gearing up for a weekend of activities on the Beerline Trail in late August. The 3rd annual Music on the Beerline is happening on Friday August 27th from 5:30-8pm. Look for performances from some awesome local artists such as DJ Drip Sweat and Ms. Lotus Fankh with more artists still to be confirmed. There will be food trucks and local vendors selling their wares. Located at the Beerline Plaza 3350 N Holton Street.

On Saturday August 28th from 9-11am Riverworks presents the 1st annual Beerline Shuffle. A community walk on the Beerline

Trail in both Harambee and Riverwest showcasing the various community art installations along with the awesome green space transformation. 3 miles of ART, MUSIC and UNITY. We want residents to GET ACTIVE, GET CREATIVE and GET ENGAGED. Participation is free, for only \$15 one will receive the swag package which includes a t-shirt, among other goodies. Please go to <https://www.riverworksmke.org/beerline-shuffle> for complete information about how to register and/or volunteer. If a phone call is more your thing call 414-906-9650 and ask for Ruth.

### Need financial help?

Do you need help with your credit? Monthly budget? Haven't received your stimulus yet? The Riverworks Financial Clinic can probably help. Please call 414-882-7440 or visit <https://www.riverworksmke.org/financialclinic> for more information or to make an appointment.

### Riverwest Farmers Market

The Riverwest Farmer's Market happens each Sunday from 10-3pm on the 2700 block of N. Pierce Street between Center and Hadley. Over 30 vendors selling locally grown produce, flowers, bakery, eggs, meats, prepared food, jams, picked veggies, kombucha, tea/coffee, body products, art, jewelry and more. There is

something for everyone. EBT Accepted. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/RiverwestMarket> for the most up to date information.

The Riverworks Development Corporation mission: Riverworks Development Corporation (RDC) drives social and economic development by aligning residents and businesses with specialized resources that strengthen Harambee, Riverwest and surrounding communities.

## Inspiring Solstice Stories

By Tree Moore

As we live on this earth, our time is filled with a variety of stories, all expressing various qualities. Some are full of laughter and surprise, some full of pain that we hope to forget, some deeply touching and heartfelt, and of course, some filled with fear, boredom, and confusion. I particularly treasure stories of unexpected kindness.

Here's one of my favorites. My second partner, Matthew, wasn't the sharpest dresser, according to my standards. He had an athletic, muscular body, with a fine, firm butt, and I enjoyed looking at him. However, he chose to wear the baggiest pants, and clothes that generally did not compliment his physique.

His choice of shirts included a synthetic striped one with strange orange, maroon, and black patterns. Awful. My good taste was definitely offended. I guess I was a bit of a snob. He totally resisted my suggestion that he might give that shirt to Goodwill, inflicting it on some other unsuspecting fashion illiterate.

As luck would have it, this cheap item began to wear out. His poor attempt at mending it didn't last, and I wasn't going to help. Somehow, though, I managed to make a shift in my highfalutin attitude. I decided I could not only be more tolerant of this tasteless item, but I could be kind and even go one step further.

Matthew's birthday was coming. A couple of days before, I took the beloved shirt and gave it to a friend with a sewing machine, to give it a rejuvenating repair job.

The next day Matthew noticed that his shirt had disappeared. In an intense, angry voice, he accused me of getting rid of it. I did my best to deny such a nasty deed, saying something vague about simply not knowing what could have happened to it. He stomped off.

My friend did a quality mending job. I wrapped the repaired shirt up in elegant paper and, along with a sumptuous cake (his favorite), presented him with his birthday surprise. He was tickled to have his shirt back in such fine shape and was a little bit embarrassed regarding the distress inflicted on his dear partner. He put it on immediately for the occasion. Turned out to be a memorable birthday.

A second special story captures qualities of pleasure and generosity. My mother, in her early 80s, was slowly fading. She had moved out of our family home into an elder care facility.

At the time, I was enrolled in a year-long massage training in Seattle, WA. I received a call that my mother had taken a turn for the worse, and the prognosis was that her days are numbered.

I needed to be with her. But by the time I made arrangements and hopped on a plane, she had become comatose. Except for whispering back my name when I first sat down by her hospital bed she had receded into absolute stillness.

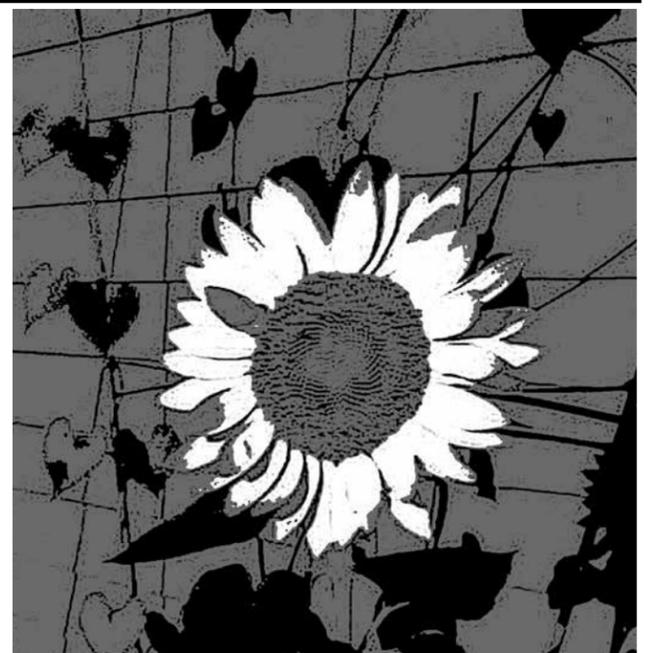
She remained in a coma for the next two days while I stroked her arms, held her hands, sang old familiar songs – we had shared many a song over the years while doing dishes – and reminisced about some

of our favorite times.

My mother was a quality cook and eating the food she prepared was frequently such a pleasure, especially the desserts. With great gusto I had exclaimed to her quiet form about the strawberry shortcake covered with oodles of whipped cream that had once graced our table.

Then, out of the blue, and to my amazement, my mother sat up, opened her eyes, and expressed with a big smile and clear voice, "Remember the banana cream pie and the lemon meringue? Weren't those just the best?" Before I could respond she had laid back down and closed her eyes, once again retreating into unresponsiveness. Those were her last words, capturing her enjoyment of providing much pleasure to her family and many others.

My mother was not only an excellent cook, but she was frequently sharing her cuisine with, for example, the lady down the street who had just come home from the hospital, or the down-and-out fellow at the front door hoping for some sustenance. During the Depression in the early 1930s there were a lot of hungry folks needing a



handout.

It's high summer right now – this article is being written on Summer Solstice. It's an easy time. It's warm, there's lots of food available – it's a good time for humans to lie in a hammock and dream. Linger in the long warm evenings, sip a cool drink, and tell stories of what you would like the new world to look like.

What are the qualities you hope to see in the world? I want to especially honor kindness, generosity and pleasure accompanied by laughter. May each one of us not only dream of a healthy, more joyous world, but begin the exciting, important, and necessary process of creating dynamic, real possibilities that help it happen. Let's tell our stories and live out new ones. I believe we can do it.



# 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.

**NEW... starting in August!!!... we'll be doing a hybrid-plan of half In-Person and half Radio. Per the survey results, we will be gathering In-Person on Wednesdays and Radio on Thursdays.**

Our meeting time is 1-4pm and we are located at the Jazz Gallery Center for the Arts, 926 E. Center St. Milwaukee 53212. All people, roughly 50 and up, are welcome, and these gatherings are free of charge, with refreshments provided!

Our Radio shows on Thursdays will continue to be from 3-3:30pm, every week. Please tune in! Riverwest Radio, WXRW, 104.1FM. If your location does not pick up the radio signal, you can stream the show live on riverwestradio.com. This radio time will change in September. Stay tuned for updates! We will go back to fully In-Person when the time is right. We may have to retreat back to all-radio if the Covid variants become a threat. Science will be respected.

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

**August 2021:**

- Weds. Aug. 4:** Bob Neuman's take on "We are All Made of Stardust" (In-Person!)
- Thurs. Aug. 5:** Vince Bushell, Riverwest Currents August Issue (Radio)
- Weds. Aug. 11:** Gender Identity with Ash, and the Transgender Journey with Freddy (In-Person gathering, listening to prerecorded interviews)
- Thurs. Aug 12:** Karen Beaumont's Short Story, "All the Way" (Radio)
- Weds. Aug. 18:** Mike Pederson, Rescue Hero! (In-Person) ... pssst! It's his birthday too!
- Thurs. Aug. 19:** Karen Beaumont's Short Story "The Dedication" (Radio)
- Weds. Aug. 25:** Barbara Leigh, Older-Adult Story Telling (In-Person)
- Thurs. Aug. 26:** "Cordial Access: an Existential Mock-Interview" with Tyler Rex Reiske (Radio)

Amy Schmutte - OWL Program Manager The Jazz Gallery



Carmen Murgia, Poet's Monday feature artist as Poet's Monday returns at Linnemans

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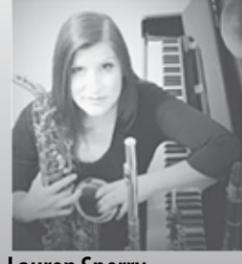
**Catherine Krause**  
strings



**Julie Roubik**  
strings



**Eric Sperry**  
brass



**Lauren Sperry**  
woodwinds



**Paul Terrien**  
guitar, bass, ukulele, lap steel guitar, composition



**Lena Vinz**  
guitar

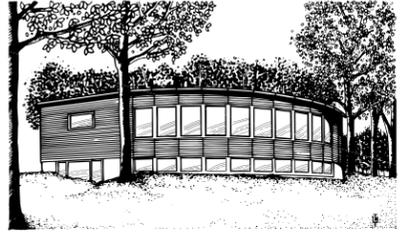
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**MILWAUKEE FRIENDS MEETING (QUAKERS)**

SIMPLE RADICAL AFFIRMING  
 CONTEMPORARY WELCOMING

EMAIL: ZOOM@MILWAUKEEQUAKERS.ORG  
 TO JOIN VIRTUAL MEETINGS  
 SUNDAY WORSHIP: 10:15-11:15AM

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

# “Action and Reaction: Anatomy of the Carceral State,”

Note by Vince Bushell

Carceral refers to a prison system. It refers to the philosophy of prison systems. It is something most of us do not have much acquaintance with in our lives. I was jailed for unpaid parking tickets twice. I had a total of 4 unpaid tickets. Hardly hard time but I found it to be most disagreeable for even a few hours.

It is obvious that a person incarcerated for years or decades faces a much more serious threat to their

mental and physical health.

How we treat people in prison should tell us more about our culture and form of governance. I do not believe their can be perfect justice, but that is not an excuse for sometimes inhumane treatment. Even if we see the issue of punishment as just rewards for bad behaviour, most of the individuals that are in Wisconsin's prison system eventually are released.

This alone should drive us to require that individuals who have been locked up should be given the opportunity and training to re-enter society as persons who are more respectful of others and be given assistance to have a second chance at life.

This book tells their stories in their own words. Many of the letters are handwritten on paper. The art is interpretation of their stories as well and provides a deeper insight to their minds and souls.

You may view a more in-depth view of the book as well as purchase a copy from the publisher at this site:

<https://looknyc.co/shop/p/anatomy-of-the-carceral-state>

John Giesa  
Hasbrook Galleries

Often reform and abolition work reduces individual experience to statistics. "Action and Reaction: Anatomy of the Carceral State," is a book of stories and art, focusing on experience, reaction, and resistance to mass incarceration. 13 artists from across the United States were paired with 13 different prisoner's stories drawn from Wisconsin detention facilities. Each letter, collected by our incarcerated colleague, highlights a specific aspect of life incarcerated. When compiled they tell a larger story of the human rights violations and devastation perpetrated by mass incarceration. Each artist created a reactionary piece to the letter they were paired with. The letters and their response pieces are paired together and showcased in this book, providing the reader with a visual and visceral guide to these evocative personal stories. The book, organized by Hasbrook Galleries, aims to highlight individual experience with mass incarceration and how it relates to the larger prison population. Using art as a form of reaction and resistance, we hope to generate outside support for our incarcerated colleagues, aid in amplifying their voices, and shine a light on the atrocities individuals face in the United States of America's 'justice' system."

Dominic Clayd

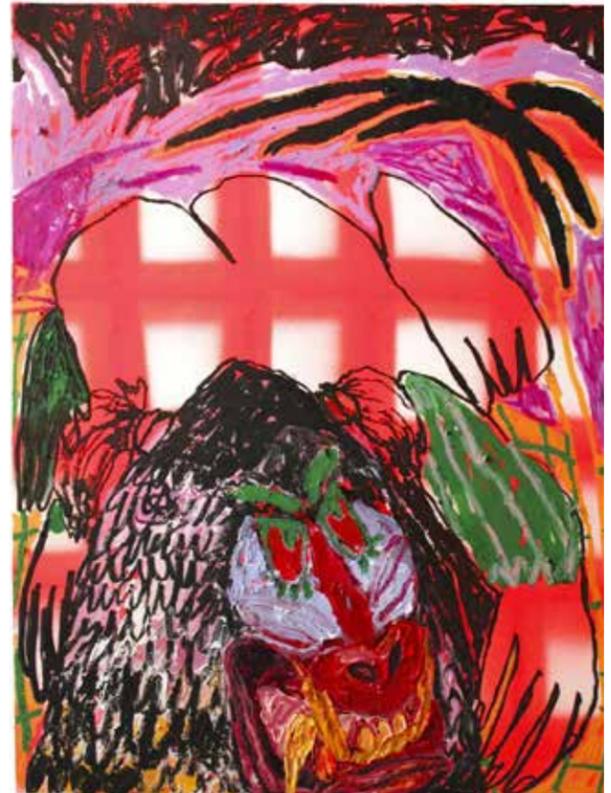
Being in prison is one of the worst experiences I ever encountered. Maybe the worst. There have been a number of negatives I came across while in prison. First the lost of my freedom. Being told what I can and cannot do, when to do it, what and when to eat, and when I can see and talk to my family. I have lost uncles, cousins, and friends since I been incarcerated. It hurts because I can't be there to lay them to rest. Time, seeing my boys grow. Teaching them how not to make the same mistakes I have. Everything, I feel like I lost everything.

I was taken into custody and sentenced to prison because I was in need of some cash and decided to take something from someone. They charged me with Robbery. Biggest mistake of my life. I don't regret nothing I ever did, I just learned from it. And that lesson is you don't have to always do things the wrong way to get money. Hard work and dedication can make you successful.

The things I plan to do to rehabilitate myself is cut out all the negativity and surround myself around people that is willing to help me evolve into a better man. Get another job and stay active so I won't have time for trouble. Thinking positive, doing positive things.

Dominic Clayd

Four Corners (2020)  
Bianca Fields  
20" x 26"  
Acrylic, oil & spray paint on yupo paper





## Eastside Senior Services (ESS)

**"We help older adults live independently and stay connected to their community on the Eastside."**

By: Lorraine Jacobs  
(jacobs1m2sbcglobal.net)

Perhaps you have heard about Eastside Senior Services from a friend or family member but wondered how they provided help, at no cost, to Older Adults. Here is an introduction to the organization, after which, please read stories from Riverwest Elders members who have experience with Eastside Senior Services. I hope you will feel comfortable calling the office for assistance or become a volunteer. August is special because of the opportunity to attend their "Yoga in the Park" fundraiser.

Established in 1974, ESS was the first neighborhood outreach site for seniors in Milwaukee County. They expanded by adding Riverwest in 1994. In 2020 the Village of Shorewood had been included. "How do they do it?" Eastside Senior Services staff coordinates services with caring volunteers who provide the free community contacts such as transportation, friendly visits, seasonal chores, shopping, resource information. A medical equipment loan closet is also available. Call if you are concerned about your own welfare, or someone who cares about you suggests it, or if you are concerned about an elder in your life. A personal visit will be arranged for staff to speak directly with the elder, in their home or by phone. (210-5881, [essmilw@gmail.com](mailto:essmilw@gmail.com))

The Riverwest Elders, as an organization, have received valuable assistance from Eastside Senior Services. Using our Googlegroups email, the Director Melissa Meier, sends updates, upcoming events

Adults. In 2019, the Director has attended our monthly lunch, "Wisdom Gathering", to update us on services.

### ESS Note from Eileen Ciezki

Friends of mine who live in the Cambridge Woods neighborhood are planning a 5 week road trip to the East Coast to visit family and friends. They asked if I knew anyone they could hire to cut their grass and water bushes and flowers. I suggested that they call East Side Senior Services, maybe ESS could find a volunteer. They talked to Kelly who called them back in a few days. YES! A mother and son are interested. My friends called and set up a time to meet so the volunteers could see their yard. All's Well! The son is getting volunteer hours for high school; the yard will be taken care of; and ESS will get a donation! ESS was so prompt in replying and finding the volunteers. And that makes 6 people really happy, including me.

### ESS Note from Lorraine Jacobs

Personally, I have benefitted from their outreach service. First, I count on the seasonal college student "Clean Up" day when I know an energetic group of young people will arrive, asking "What do you need us to do?" We chat, laugh together and part as true friends. Recently I had 10 heavy boxes to move to the garage. A volunteer called, we arranged a time and my boxes were out of my kitchen within an hour! Eastside senior services is like a friend you can call. They help me feel less "alone".

### ESS Note from Max Jitney

It was 8 years ago I read a poster on the bulletin board at the old East library seeking volunteers for East Side Senior Services. Thinking I had nothing to lose, I gave them a call and found out how much I had to



## Yoga in the Park

A Fundraiser for Eastside Senior Services

Saturday, August 21, 2021, 9:00 - 10:30 AM  
Hubbard Park, Shorewood

Bring a mat/towel and join us for a 45 minute yoga session

Enjoy light refreshments and try your luck at winning door prizes



Instructed by Marquita Edwards

RSVP by August 18, call 414-210-5881 or email at [essmilw@gmail.com](mailto:essmilw@gmail.com)  
To learn more about us, visit [www.essmilw.org](http://www.essmilw.org). Event will occur Rain or Shine

\$20 Suggested Donation which can be paid online at <https://essmilw.org/ess-donations/> or cash on the day of the event.

Refreshments Donated by: The Art of Health, Inc; Wisconsin African American Women's Center; Bader Philanthropies, and Juiced!

Sponsored by: Cornerstone CAREGIVING

gain. I've been driving for them ever since then. It's been super gratifying to be able to help folks with such a small investment of time. And to hear clients express their appreciation. And I've reaped the added benefit of meeting some really marvelous people - including two of my closest friends. And learned tolerance for some not so marvelous people! ESS provides a lot more services than just transportation and the current leaders - Melissa and Kelly (and Joan!) - are a joy to work with.

### ESS Note from Riverwest Elder members

Last year we had the unfortunate challenge of moving our household, several times. We needed essential items and called ESS who loaned us a table, stool, canes and other items. They also provided help in moving, such as packing boxes into storage. Last Fall, and then in Spring again, assistance came with a group of students who raked our lawn and completed major yard cleanup. Birthday cards arrived, cheering us up! ESS has offered us friendship, encouragement, and wonderful support. "Thanks, ESS, for all your help!"

### ESS Note from Erin Ede

I first learned of Eastside Senior Services from my mother years ago. At 88 years old when she could no longer drive her car, she was devastated. She was very independent and didn't like to ask for help but Eastside Senior Services made her feel welcomed

and treated her with respect. She'd called them from time to time to take her to doctors' appointments or help her with other tasks. She would always comment about how the volunteers were so nice.

While taking care of my mother's house and being an Elder myself, I needed help with lawn care. Unable to do it because of an injury, I thought of Eastside Senior Services and gave them a call. This was during Covid which made it particularly challenging. They found volunteers throughout the summer to mow the lawn and cut back vines that were threatening to overtake my mother's yard. Each year in the Spring and Fall, they coordinate with UWM to have college students come out and do yard work. One Autumn Cleanup, so many college students showed up, they accomplished in 2 hours what I wouldn't have been able to do in a week, if at all. I was in the midst of getting my mother's house ready for her to come back to live in and under a lot of stress. Those volunteers were a godsend! I was so grateful for all of the students' help and kindness. This was the autumn before Covid so I was able to hug each and every one of them. I told them I hadn't smiled and laughed so much in a year! I will never forget that day!

**Eastside Senior Services continue to help me. Like my mother, I've found them to be a wonderful service.**



Poet's Monday is back at Linnemans. Mario addresses the folks with a commanding voice and his own style.



Sue Blaustein with her portrait by Tim Kloss. Painted during her featured Poet's Monday session

## Woodland Pattern Bookstore and Gallery are Open



Inheritance: the space between breathes. Recitation #7. 2021 is the 7th attempt to recite Juliana Spahr's poem untitled from thisconnectionofeveryonewithlungs. Through mimicking Lois's mom's daily practice of memorization Lois repeatedly attempts to understand through memorization and inscription of a text on the self.

SIARA BERRY  
HANDLE WITH CARE

The Gallery is open at Woodland Pattern Bookstore too!  
As we slowly come out of our hives and test the world again.  
We may have to mask again, but we are on the way out of this trial.  
The show is of local folks who have had worked with Woodland Pattern before.  
A variety of styles and focus. A couple shown here.  
It will be up for several months.  
Title? TBD  
Seem like Handle With Care is apt. With touch, and breath, and soul.  
One piece, a video, really rocked my consciousness.  
Lois Bielefeld - a video, a recitation, a litany  
Seems long at first, but it drifts in.  
You, me, a frog, a cat,  
All have lungs  
and  
breathe  
In and out  
vj





## Raising *Danaus plexipus*: My Life with Monarch Butterflies

by Cheyenne Gonzalez

**A**t the age of three years old I went up to my mom and told her I wanted to be an entomologist -- a person who studies insects. I have always had a love for animals and nature. I grew up "Up North" and from a young age I spent my time out in the woods among nature, barefoot and refusing to come inside when the sun set.

In third grade, at the age of eight, I learned how to raise monarch butterflies from caterpillars. In the large field behind the school, we would trek through the tall grass and browse the tall, sweet smelling milkweed plants for caterpillars, feasting on the bitter latex filled leaves, their only source of food as larvae. We brought them back inside and placed them in a hanging hatchery and watched them eat and molt then J-hang, turn into a chrysalis and transform into beautiful black, orange, and white monarch butterflies.

Every year for the last 20 years now, I have been searching for monarch eggs and caterpillars to raise, caring for and feeding them until they turn into adults, then releasing them back into the wild. Every year is a unique experience, with something new and different presenting itself with every batch I raise.

I look for the milkweed plants throughout the neighborhood and begin by looking underneath the leaves for small pencil tip sized off-white eggs laid individually by the female. I then pick off the leaf and make sure there are no other insects, spiders, or parasites on the leaves that I could potentially bring home with me that could harm the eggs. If I find a caterpillar, I do the same. More often than not, I will find about 15 to 20 eggs or caterpillars on a good day. At home, I keep them in a nicely shaded spot in a terrarium for them to grow safely with plenty of fresh leaves.

Monarch caterpillars have 5 instar stages; in each stage, they grow noticeably different features. The caterpillars are marked with a combination of white, black, and yellow stripes. They have two long antennae above their eyes, and two shorter "false" antennae on their rear to trick predators. Their flashy colors are a warning to predators that they are toxic and taste awful, so this usually keeps birds and other hungry animals away.

The caterpillars will eat and molt until they reach about one thousand times their original size. They will then slow down,

climb to a steady horizontal surface and "J-hang" where they will then make their beautiful bright green chrysalis, adorned with gold colored flecks. They will stay in their pupal stage for about 8 to 12 days before they turn dark and transparent. They slowly emerge from their chrysalis with crumpled, folded wings waiting for the fluids stored in their abdomen to flow downwards and fill the veins in their wings. After their wings have hardened and they gather enough energy, they fly off in search of a food source. Once they are adults, they have a wider range of food options, anywhere from their familiar milkweed flowers to zinnias, verbena, butterfly bush, coneflowers, cosmos, hyssop, and Mexican sunflower, to name a few. You can help these butterflies by planting these kinds of flowers in your garden as well as planting milkweed plants in safe locations where they won't be pulled up, sprayed with chemicals or cut down.

The key is: no milkweed means no monarchs. It's only half the battle saving the species when we simply just raise the monarchs themselves. We must also do our part and protect the milkweed as well. You can do this by harvesting the pods in the fall when they split open and disperse the seeds over winter where you feel they will be safe. The following summer or two should reveal the milkweed plants you have planted, providing food for further monarch generations.

Monarch butterflies have become a continuous part of my life. Although with every year that passes, they don't all make it, I try to remind myself that I am still making a difference for the ones that do. We have the choice to do good in the world, even if it seems small or insignificant, I guarantee you, it's truly important. These butterflies need our help just like so many other living things do.

I was made fun of for saving bugs from getting crushed and laughed at for gathering earthworms out of rain puddles in the middle school parking lot because I didn't want them to drown, but the people's harsh words did not matter to me because my focus was making sure the animals were safe. You all can do your part in saving these beautiful insects that are declining rapidly. Plant some milkweed, raise a caterpillar, tell your friends and family, spread the word. It'll mean the world to them, I promise.



Monarch caterpillars have 5 instar stages; in each stage, they grow noticeably different features.

I look for the milkweed plants throughout the neighborhood and begin by looking underneath the leaves for small pencil tip sized off-white eggs laid individually by the female.



# Riverwest Currents August 2021 Calendar

## 2 MONDAY

BREMEN CAFÉ Open Mic w/Sunken Suns, 10pm

LINNEMAN'S Poet's Monday is back! Doors 7pm, performances start 7:30pm. \$3 cover. Featured poet: Emily Liefke

NORTHCOTT NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE 2460 N 6th St, Food/Clothing Pantry (NorthcottHouse.org) for 53212 zipcode only 11am-2pm

SHANK HALL Adam Ezra Group, 8pm, \$15

## 3 TUESDAY

ALL PEOPLES CHURCH PRODUCE STAND 2nd & Clarke Streets Food Pantry, Produce Stand 12 noon - 5pm

BREMEN CAFÉ Karaoke w Trixie Mercury

NORTHCOTT NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE 2460 N 6th St, Food/Clothing Pantry (NorthcottHouse.org) for 53212 zipcode only 11am-2pm

RIVERWEST FOOD PANTRY (St. Casimir site) 924 E Clarke, For residents of 53202, 53203, 53211, 53212 and 53217 zip codes, 4-6pm

## 4 WEDNESDAY

ALL PEOPLES CHURCH PRODUCE STAND 2nd & Clarke Streets Food Pantry, Produce Stand 12 noon - 5pm

BREMEN CAFÉ Trivia 8pm

LINNEMAN'S Acoustic Open Stage -- Doors, 7pm. Sign-up, 7:30pm. Show starts at 8pm. Featured performer: Jon Blair

NORTHCOTT NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE 2460 N 6th St, Food/Clothing Pantry (NorthcottHouse.org) for 53212 zipcode only 11am-2pm

RIVERWESTRADIO.COM OWL programming: Bob Neuman's take on "We are All Made of Stardust" (In-Person!) Live 3-3:30pm

SHANK HALL Arcadian Wild, 8pm, \$15

## 5 THURSDAY

BREMEN CAFÉ Pulse.mke 9pm

MIRAMAR THEATRE Boogie T: Milwaukee Out Of The Woods Tour // 9pm

RIVERWESTRADIO.COM OWL programming: Vince Bushell, Riverwest Currents August Issue (Radio) Live ON AIR 3-3:30pm or listen later at <https://www.riverwestradio.com/show/owl-older-wiser-local/>

SHANK HALL Jackie Venson, Alanna Royale. 8pm, \$15

VEGGAS RW's Hottest Karaoke Show! 8pm

## 6 FRIDAY

BREMEN CAFÉ Emissary, Lunar Moth, Cannabinol Synapse. 10pm

LINNEMAN'S Mary & the Menagerie (Mary Rodgers), with opener Anna Brinck. 8pm, \$8.

MAD PLANET Friday Night Retro Dance Party, 9pm, \$5

SHANK HALL Diver Down (Van Halen tribute), NightSnake (Whitesnake tribute). 8pm, \$10

UWM PLANETARIUM, 1900 E Kenwood Blvd Shooting Stars and Meteor Showers; 7pm; register online [uwm.edu/planetarium](http://uwm.edu/planetarium)

VISTA KING, 1124 N Old World Third Vista King Party Cruise w/Undercover Organism. Tix [mkeboat.com](http://mkeboat.com)

## 7 SATURDAY

BREMEN CAFÉ Boogie at Bremen with Hunter Williams, John Stuart. 9pm

LANTERNS FOR PEACE, Lincoln Memorial Drive Candlelight vigil for Peace and Global Disarmament, 7-9pm. Along Lincoln Memorial Drive near Bradford Beach pedestrian bridge. Free parking and Lantern/Sign/Banner distribution in parking lot across from Bradford Beach

LINNEMAN'S Watermelon Slim, Richard Travis, Jason Moon. 8pm, \$5

MAD PLANET Y2K! - All 2000s Dance Party! 9pm, \$5

RIVERWEST FOOD PANTRY (St. Casimir site) 924 E Clarke, For residents of 53202, 53203, 53211, 53212 and 53217 zip codes, 8:30-10:30am

SHANK HALL Benjamin Trick, Saint Tragedy. 8pm, \$10

VISTA KING, 1124 N Old World Third Vista King Party Cruise w/Devil's Teeth. Tix [mkeboat.com](http://mkeboat.com)

## 8 SUNDAY

LINNEMAN'S Sarah Jean Kozar Memorial show. Join the family for a celebration of Sarah's life. Noon until 2:30pm.

SHANK HALL The Bobby Lees. 8pm, \$15

## 9 MONDAY

LINNEMAN'S Poet's Monday is back! Doors 7pm, performances start 7:30pm. \$3 cover. Featured poet: Tom Erickson

NORTHCOTT NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE 2460 N 6th St, Food/Clothing Pantry (NorthcottHouse.org) for 53212 zipcode only 11am-2pm

## 10 TUESDAY

ALL PEOPLES CHURCH PRODUCE STAND 2nd & Clarke Streets Food Pantry, Produce Stand 12 noon - 5pm

BREMEN CAFÉ Karaoke w Trixie Mercury

JUNEAU PARK, 900 N Prospect Av, Woodland Pattern presents Poetry in the Park, back for long-awaited 6th season. Bring blankets, chairs, snacks and drinks. Featuring Stacy Blint, Reggie Finlayson, Karl Gartung and Thulani Davis. Starts 6:30pm. \$Give what you can.

NORTHCOTT NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE 2460 N 6th St, Food/Clothing Pantry (NorthcottHouse.org) for 53212 zipcode only 11am-2pm

RIVERWEST FOOD PANTRY (St. Casimir site) 924 E Clarke, For residents of 53202, 53203, 53211, 53212 and 53217 zip codes, 4-6pm

## 11 WEDNESDAY

ALL PEOPLES CHURCH PRODUCE STAND 2nd & Clarke Streets Food Pantry, Produce Stand 12 noon - 5pm

BREMEN CAFÉ Trivia 8pm

LINNEMAN'S Acoustic Open Stage -- Doors, 7pm. Sign-up, 7:30pm. Show starts at 8pm. Featured performer: Next Paperback Hero

NORTHCOTT NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE 2460 N 6th St, Food/Clothing Pantry (NorthcottHouse.org) for 53212 zipcode only 11am-2pm

RIVERWESTRADIO.COM OWL programming: Gender Identity with Ash, and the Transgender Journey with Freddy (In-Person gathering, listening to prerecorded interviews) Live 3-3:30pm

SHANK HALL Chuck Prophet & The Mission Express; The Mike Benign Compulsion. 8pm, \$20

## 12 THURSDAY

MIRAMAR THEATRE Luttrell 'Music For My Memories' Tour , 9pm

RIVERWESTRADIO.COM OWL programming: Karen Beaumont's New Short Story, "Outside Her" (Radio) 3-3:30pm or listen later at <https://www.riverwestradio.com/show/owl-older-wiser-local/>

SHANK HALL Bette Smith, Meaghan Farrell. 8pm, \$10

VEGGAS RW's Hottest Karaoke Show! 8pm

## 13 FRIDAY

LINNEMAN'S Sulestial "We Have Liftoff" tour with Sayuh. Support: deLeo, Loko. 7pm. \$10

MAD PLANET Friday Night Retro Dance Party, 9pm, \$5

MIRAMAR THEATRE The Widdler, 9pm

SHANK HALL Zoltan Kaszas, 8pm, \$10

## 14 SATURDAY

BREMEN CAFÉ Atheists and Airplanes, Crashing Matter. 9pm

LINNEMAN'S Indigo Dog. 7:30pm, \$5.

RIVERWEST FOOD PANTRY (St. Casimir site) 924 E Clarke, For residents of 53202, 53203, 53211, 53212 and 53217 zip codes, 8:30-10:30am

SHANK HALL Church of Cash (Johnny Cash Tribute), 8pm, \$15

STAND FOR PEACE at Howell and Howard Join Peace Action of Wisconsin for a weekly Stand For Peace, noon until 1pm

VISTA KING, 1124 N Old World Third Vista King Party Cruise w/Master of Puppets. Tix [mkeboat.com](http://mkeboat.com)

WOODLAND PATTERN - ONLINE Sound & the Poetic Spirit: A Workshop with giovanni singleton — Presented in partnership with Milwaukee Public Library, this workshop will extend our ongoing Prompts Against Anxiety project. A prompt from giovanni singleton will be made available for all ahead of the workshop. More information on our website: [www.woodlandpattern.org](http://www.woodlandpattern.org). 2-5pm online.

## 15 SUNDAY

SHANK HALL Lillie Mae. 8pm. \$15

## 16 MONDAY

LINNEMAN'S Poet's Monday is back! Doors 7pm, performances start 7:30pm. \$3 cover. Featured poet: Stephen Kalmar II

NORTHCOTT NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE 2460 N 6th St, Food/Clothing Pantry (NorthcottHouse.org) for 53212 zipcode only 11am-2pm

## 17 TUESDAY

ALL PEOPLES CHURCH PRODUCE STAND 2nd & Clarke Streets Food Pantry, Produce Stand 12 noon - 5pm

BREMEN CAFÉ Karaoke w Trixie Mercury

NORTHCOTT NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE 2460 N 6th St, Food/Clothing Pantry (NorthcottHouse.org) for 53212 zipcode only 11am-2pm

RIVERWEST FOOD PANTRY (St. Casimir site) 924 E Clarke, For residents of 53202, 53203, 53211, 53212 and 53217 zip codes, 4-6pm

## 18 WEDNESDAY

ALL PEOPLES CHURCH PRODUCE STAND 2nd & Clarke Streets Food Pantry, Produce Stand 12 noon - 5pm

BREMEN CAFÉ Trivia 8pm

LINNEMAN'S Acoustic Open Stage -- Doors, 7pm. Sign-up, 7:30pm. Show starts at 8pm. Featured performer: Acuff & Company

NORTHCOTT NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE 2460 N 6th St, Food/Clothing Pantry (NorthcottHouse.org) for 53212 zipcode only 11am-2pm

RIVERWESTRADIO.COM OWL programming: Mike Pederson, Rescue Hero! (In-Person) ... pssst! It's his birthday too! Live 3-3:30pm

SHANK HALL Peter Bradley Adams, 8pm, \$18-20

## 19 THURSDAY

RIVERWESTRADIO.COM OWL programming: Karen Beaumont Performs Corrette Trio & More (Radio) Live 3-3:30pm or listen later at <https://www.riverwestradio.com/show/owl-older-wiser-local/>

VEGGAS RW's Hottest Karaoke Show! 8pm

WOODLAND PATTERN in person One Book, Many Communities: Discussion of Minor Detail by Adania Shibli — Discussion of Minor Detail by Adania Shibli (New Directions, 2020). Led by Bob Hanson as part of Librarians and Archivists with Palestine's One Book, Many Communities. (Copies of Minor Detail are available at our book center.) Virtual attendance is possible, please see our website: [www.woodlandpattern.org](http://www.woodlandpattern.org) for more info. Starts 6pm.

## 20 FRIDAY

BACK ROOM @Colectivo/Prospect The Verve Pipe. 7pm. \$29.50 for one night; \$50 two show package.

BREMEN CAFÉ Grocer (Philly); Brat Sounds; Bug Moment. 8pm

MAD PLANET Friday Night Retro Dance Party, 9pm, \$5

SHANK HALL Spiders From Milwaukee: Best of David Bowie Songs, 8pm, \$12-15

VISTA KING, 1124 N Old World Third Party Cruise w/Tangled Lines. Tix [mkeboat.com](http://mkeboat.com)

## 21 SATURDAY

BACK ROOM @Colectivo/Prospect The Verve Pipe. 7pm. \$29.50 for one night; \$50 two show package.

BREMEN CAFÉ Stone Deaf, Messiahvore, and The Motherthing! Midwest Tour 2021. 5pm.

INSPIRATION STUDIOS, 1500 S 73rd St, Opening Reception (6-8pm) for Un\*Mute, a collaborative exhibit featuring works by Heather Eiden, Amy Marks, Billy Judge Baldus, Erico Ortiz, Lynnea Schliesleder, Anna Stone. Exhibit runs through September 16.

RIVERWEST FOOD PANTRY (St. Casimir site) 924 E Clarke, For residents of 53202, 53203, 53211, 53212 and 53217 zip codes, 8:30-10:30am

STAND FOR PEACE at Lincoln Memorial and Michigan Join Peace Action of Wisconsin for a weekly Stand For Peace, noon until 1pm

## 22 SUNDAY

BACK ROOM @Colectivo/Prospect Cloud Nothings. 8pm. \$17-20.

LINNEMAN'S John Lee Hooker 104th Birthday Tribute show! With Big Al Dorn & the Blues Howlers, and featuring Chicago Blues Hall of Fame singer/guitar player Paul Filipowicz. 4-7pm. \$10.

SHANK HALL Thelma and The Sleaze, 8pm, \$15

## 23 MONDAY

LINNEMAN'S Poet's Monday is back! Doors 7pm, performances start 7:30pm. \$3 cover. Featured poet: Darlin' Nikki

NORTHCOTT NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE 2460 N 6th St, Food/Clothing Pantry (NorthcottHouse.org) for 53212 zipcode only 11am-2pm

SHANK HALL John Mayall, Alex Smith. 8pm, \$40

## 24 TUESDAY

ALL PEOPLES CHURCH PRODUCE STAND 2nd & Clarke Streets Food Pantry, Produce Stand 12 noon - 5pm

BREMEN CAFÉ Karaoke w Trixie Mercury

NORTHCOTT NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE 2460 N 6th St, Food/Clothing Pantry (NorthcottHouse.org) for 53212 zipcode only 11am-2pm

RIVERWEST FOOD PANTRY (St. Casimir site) 924 E Clarke, For residents of 53202, 53203, 53211, 53212 and 53217 zip codes, 4-6pm

## 25 WEDNESDAY

ALL PEOPLES CHURCH PRODUCE STAND 2nd & Clarke Streets Food Pantry, Produce Stand 12 noon - 5pm

BREMEN CAFÉ Trivia 8pm

LINNEMAN'S Acoustic Open Stage -- Doors, 7pm. Sign-up, 7:30pm. Show starts at 8pm. Featured performer: Jacob Slade

NORTHCOTT NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE 2460 N 6th St, Food/Clothing Pantry (NorthcottHouse.org) for 53212 zipcode only 11am-2pm

RIVERWESTRADIO.COM OWL programming: Barbara Leigh, Older-Adult Story Telling (In-Person) 3-3:30pm

## 26 THURSDAY

BACK ROOM @Colectivo/Prospect Valley Maker, w/special guest Tenci. 8pm. \$17

LINNEMAN'S Bill Camplin Band (last Thursday night residency). 7:30pm, \$10.

RIVERWESTRADIO.COM OWL programming: "Cordial Access: an Existential Mock-Interview" with Tyler Rex Reiske (Radio) Live 3-3:30pm or listen later at <https://www.riverwestradio.com/show/owl-older-wiser-local/>

SHANK HALL Mike and the Moonpies, Liar's Trial. 8pm, \$20.

VEGGAS RW's Hottest Karaoke Show! 8pm

## 27 FRIDAY

BREMEN CAFÉ Present Company; The Laughing Hearts. 9:30pm

LINNEMAN'S MKE Music Night XXII -- Carl Erikstrup & Friends; Solar Plexus; Lucky Goat; Jordan Taylor Ayana. 7:30pm, \$10.

MAD PLANET Friday Night Retro Dance Party, 9pm, \$5

SHANK HALL Katie Toupin, 8pm, \$10

VISTA KING, 1124 N Old World Third Party Cruise w/Tritonics. Tix [mkeboat.com](http://mkeboat.com)

## 28 SATURDAY

BREMEN CAFÉ Sketchballs, Magnetic Minds, 20 Minute Mission, Magic Arrows. 9:30pm.

LINNEMAN'S The Bands of Dave Bolyard: A Memorial Event. 7pm. \$Donation\$

RIVERWEST FOOD PANTRY (St. Casimir site) 924 E Clarke, For residents of 53202, 53203, 53211, 53212 and 53217 zip codes, 8:30-10:30am

SHANK HALL Signify, Big Time. 8pm, \$12

STAND FOR PEACE at King and Locust Join Peace Action of Wisconsin for a weekly Stand For Peace, noon until 1pm

VISTA KING, 1124 N Old World Third Party Cruise w/Brewtown Beats. Tix [mkeboat.com](http://mkeboat.com)

## 30 MONDAY

BACK ROOM @Colectivo/Prospect Bully, w/special guest Pom Pom Squad. 8pm.

LINNEMAN'S Poet's Monday is back! Doors 7pm, performances start 7:30pm. \$3 cover. Featured poet: Mario the Poet

NORTHCOTT NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE 2460 N 6th St, Food/Clothing Pantry (NorthcottHouse.org) for 53212 zipcode only 11am-2pm

## 31 TUESDAY

ALL PEOPLES CHURCH PRODUCE STAND 2nd & Clarke Streets Food Pantry, Produce Stand 12 noon - 5pm

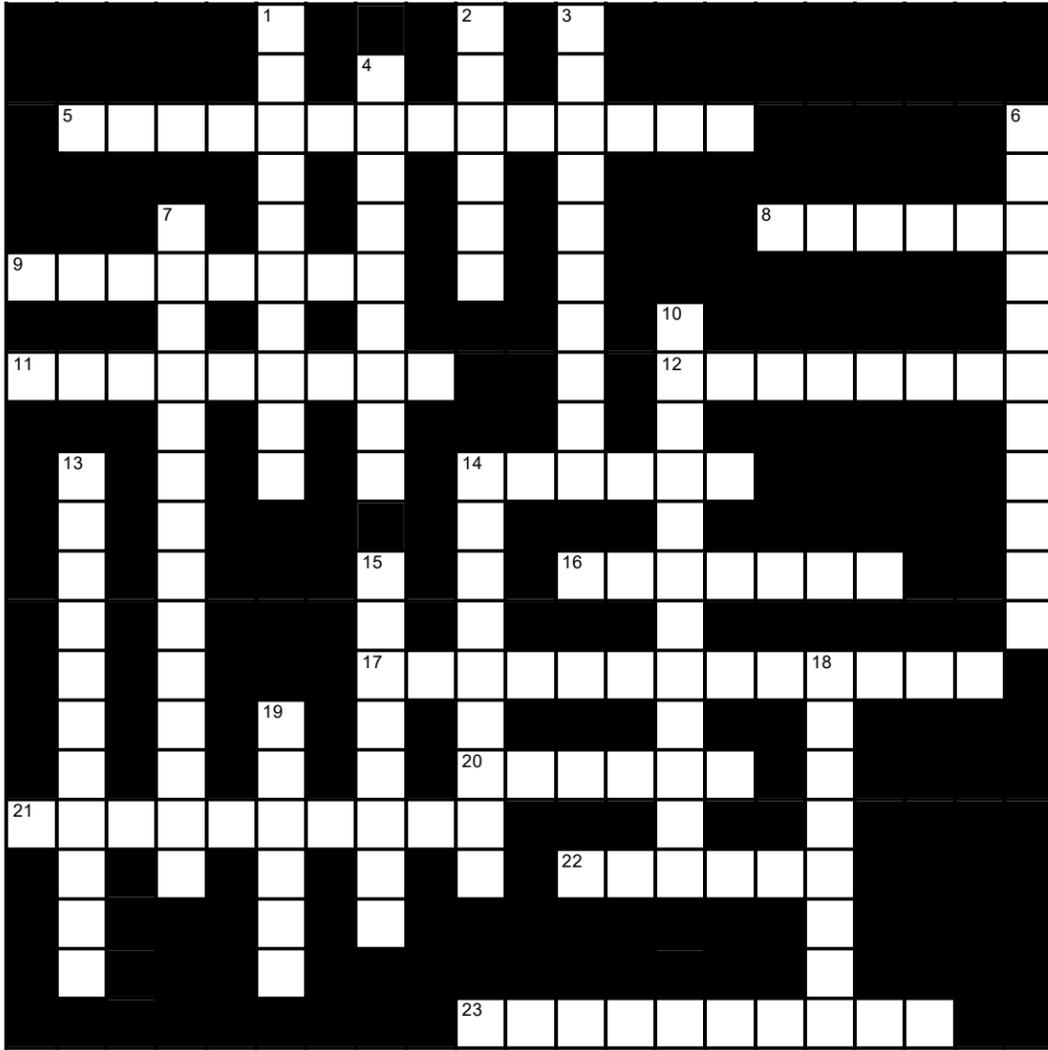
BREMEN CAFÉ Karaoke w Trixie Mercury

NORTHCOTT NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE 2460 N 6th St, Food/Clothing Pantry (NorthcottHouse.org) for 53212 zipcode only 11am-2pm

RIVERWEST FOOD PANTRY (St. Casimir site) For residents of 53202, 53203, 53211, 53212 and 53217 zip codes, 4-6pm

Double Vision

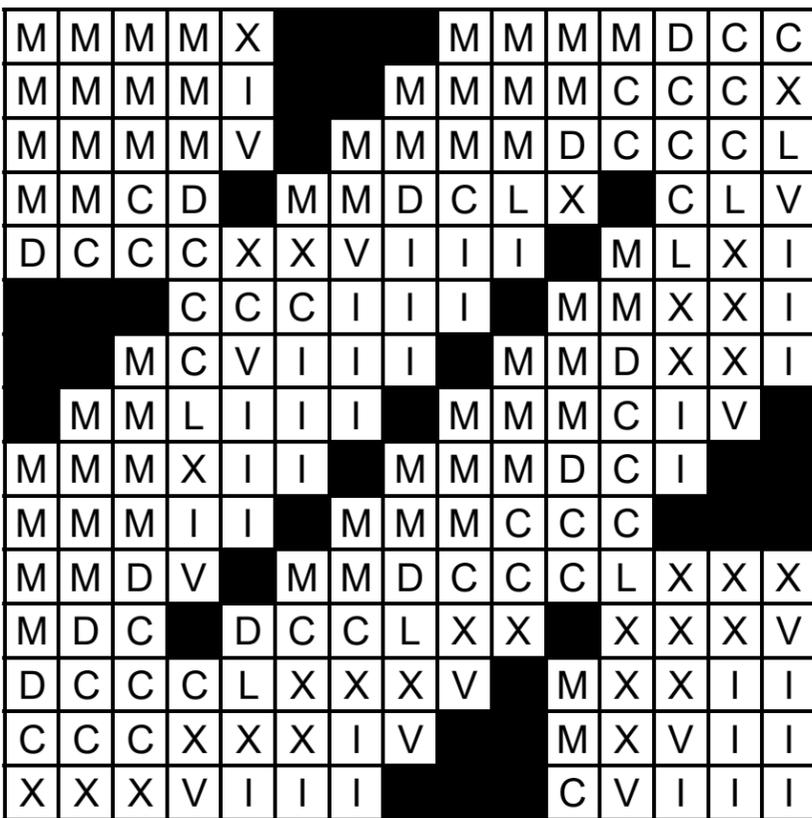
Editor: J.R.Owan



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|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
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| <b>5</b> Bar       | <b>22</b> Grog Shop   | <b>10</b> Nut House     |
| <b>8</b> Inn       | <b>23</b> Night Spot  | <b>13</b> Establishment |
| <b>9</b> Joint     |                       | <b>14</b> Honky Tonk    |
| <b>11</b> Lounge   | <b>Down</b>           | <b>15</b> Watering Hole |
| <b>12</b> Pub      | <b>1</b> Public House | <b>18</b> Ale House     |
| <b>14</b> Saloon   | <b>2</b> Suds         | <b>19</b> Speakeasy     |
| <b>16</b> Dive     | <b>3</b> Tap House    |                         |
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Solution to June's Puzzle, Count Like Caligula



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## Poet's Monday Resumes, Deepens its Local Roots at Linneman's

By Austin Greenberg

After the 16 month Covid hiatus, Poet's Monday resumes with a still-cautious protocol. You are given a disposable mic cover on your way up to the stage, you crack a prophylactic joke and the audience nervously waits as you get that thing on there, and you're set!

So continues the story of Poet's Monday, Milwaukee's longest (let's challenge anyone to come up with another) running poetry open-mic.

Begun in 1990 by Sheila Spargur (now Sheila Neumann), Poet's Monday is in its third (technically fourth) venue, has featured several hosts, hundreds of guest-hosts, thousands of artists, and it may be just getting started.

"I think it's pretty incredible," said Neumann, of the longevity, from her home in San Clemente, California. "But I think that's the beauty of Timothy Kloss..[among others]."

Kloss, the host/emcee of Poet's Monday for the last 21 years, has been involved with the event since nearly the beginning, but his story picks up in a bit.

Neumann, a lifelong fan and writer of poetry, had been reading her work at the Y-Not II's (706 E. Lyon St.) open mic poetry night, and was inspired to start her own. She stated that her intention was not necessarily to provide an alternative to the slam poetry / competitive aspects of the Y-Not II's open mic, simply that she loved poetry and wanted to pursue it further. She had been to Cafe Mélange, a cabaret-style restaurant and lounge located in the street level of Hotel Wisconsin (720 N. Old World Third St.), to see the house band, the John Schneider Orchestra, and felt that it would be a good fit.

"It was just this passion, and that's where I wanted to do it," she said.

So one day in 1990, Spargur went down to Cafe Mélange and proposed a poetry open mic to its owner, Larry Krueger. Krueger, who spoke with Riverwest Currents from his adopted hometown of Reedsville, WI, stated that despite the fact that Spargur was a complete

stranger with no experience hosting an open mic, he didn't really have any reservations. He recalls only asking her if it would be similar to karaoke, which he was not interested in for that venue. Spargur assured him it was not, and recalls probably listing some of the poets she knew - artists who already had some name recognition in Milwaukee and were likely to perform there - and he agreed to let her try it once.

"That first night was packed," stated Neumann. "I had a lot of support from the community from the get-go."

That night, Krueger told Spargur that she could do the poetry open-mic any time, and Poet's Monday was born.

"The early days were filled with excitement and enthusiasm," stated Neumann.

Back then, the evenings usually featured a guest-host, a featured artist, and themes - "anything we could do to get people downtown on a Monday night!", she added. To Neumann's recollection, on the second night, which was the first official Poet's Monday, the theme was First Poem of the Hair, and ideally, all the poems had to do something with hair. Neumann stated that the guest-host that evening was the (now) legendary Milwaukee drag performer, activist, (and now Riverwest resident), Miss B.J. Daniels (aka Bjorn Nasett).

When reached for comment online, Miss Daniels stated that she had fun being the first guest-host of Poet's Monday, and is glad it's still going.

Neumann stated that when she started Poet's Monday, the venue was important.

"I don't know if I would have continued to pursue it [if it hadn't worked out at Cafe Mélange]. It was a very special, very unique place."

Krueger had only positive memories of Poet's Monday.

"It was such an eclectic evening," he said. "There was passion and love professed. There was music with people doing original songs, there were skits performed, there was the mundane and the special...there was a lot of good humor, and it was extraordinarily creative."

The size of the crowds varied greatly at Cafe Mélange, Neumann stated, with occasionally only three to four people, especially during the summer, to a packed-house with standing room only (Krueger said capacity was 150 people).

Cafe Mélange closed in 1997, and after a week or two (per Neumann) stay at Hooligan's (Super Bar, 2017 E. North Ave.) on their manager's invitation (it was not the right fit), Poet's Monday landed at Thai Joe's (2239 N. Prospect Ave.).

Around this time, Neumann's run as the host of Poet's Monday came to an end, and she has since moved out west with her husband. According to Tim Kloss, the host from 1997-1999 was Jennifer Wolters (now Jennifer Wolters Gilmour), in 1999 it was Laurel Bastian's turn, and since early in 2000, it has been Kloss ("Kloss big time," as he said). Poets, all.

Thai Joe's closed in 2004, but again, Poet's Monday had a suitor. Marty (as she prefers to be called), manager of Linneman's Riverwest Inn (1001 E. Locust St.), and owner Jim Linneman's partner ('better half,' as he says), called Kloss when she heard about Thai Joe's closing, and invited him to move Poet's Monday to their establishment. Kloss said he loved Linneman's but showed up to give Marty a polite 'no thank you' because he was dubious of their stage setup. He hadn't, however, seen the new addition to the building, completed in 2003: \$180,000, 26 feet, two inches square (see Riverwest Currents, May 2006) that included a new performance space.

"I was totally bamboozled [by the upgrade], said Kloss. "It was like walking into Oz."

Poet's Monday has been at Linneman's ever since, and appears secure. "It [Poet's Monday] will always be welcome here, as long as Jim and I are still doing this [running Linneman's]" said Marty, in a sentiment echoed by Linneman.

And some things have not changed much: the \$3 cover charge goes mostly to the featured performer, with the rest going to various admin costs.

So, friends: Poet's Monday, in its fourth decade, appears to be strong as ever, and it's

About the painting:

**Beats, Bohemians and Chanteuse**

Artist: Colleen Kassner

34" x 40" - oil on canvas - 2018

A depiction of Poet's Monday circa 1995 at Cafe Mélange - with Sheila Spargur on the left, Timothy Kloss center, gesturing.

Image courtesy of Colleen and Phil Kassner



Stalwarts of art, poetry included, Tim Kloss and Sheila (Spargur) Neumann

within shouting distance of Woodland Pattern. July featured a Poetry Open Mic in Garden Park. May I be inclined to start referring to that section of E. Locust as Poet's Alley, and I promise you it'll catch on.

One note from the early days at Cafe Mélange from a co-host, Jennifer Koppa, appearing in an art mag called Spaceball Ricochet in 1991, "Shiela walked into a bar and opened up a space—a creative pathway, and even if we are not here, other artists can carry on."

Marty, Jim, and Tim Kloss have made sure of that.

**Note to readers: Watch for monthly poetry page in the Currents - Covering in September, interviews with PM featured artists: MyPoetry Speaks, Darlin Nikki and Mario the Poet, among others.**

# Sticky Rice

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[stickyricemke.com](http://stickyricemke.com)



by Cari Taylor-Carlson

If you are in a hurry, you might want to call in your takeout order ahead of time at Sticky Rice. They get busy. While I wanted for my Pad See Ew, one of four noodle choices on the menu, I watched a stream of customers arrive to pick up orders and leave with paper bags that left a delicious aroma in the small waiting room. If you don't mind a 15-minute wait, do what I did, show up, peruse the menu, and enjoy the happy sounds coming from the kitchen, laughter, and the thump of a knife chopping vegetables.

When the thump of the knife ceased, it was followed by a crackling sizzle as those freshly cut veggies hit the grill, my veggies, which would soon appear in my vegetarian Pad See Ew. In this environmentally correct cardboard container, fat rice noodles and broccoli were mixed with onions, peppers, and giant slabs of carrots (hence the vigorous chopping). This Pad See Ew left no doubt that like everything on the menu at Sticky Rice, it was fresh and made to order.

The employee who took my order asked if I wanted it mild, medium, hot, or very hot. She recommended medium, steered me away from hot, a fine suggestion as medium had ample heat, good heat, the kind that lingers.

The second time I came for takeout, the employee did not ask about heat and I forgot. My companion and I found the Pad Thai and Drunken Noodles almost bland without the heat common in Thai food and necessary to

accentuate the flavors.

On the plus side, the thinly sliced steak in the Drunken Noodles was consistently tender. And like the chicken in the Pad Thai, there was a lot of it. The fourth noodle dish on the menu, Lad Nah, is a popular street food in Laos, and on my list for a return visit -- which, based on the entrees I sampled, will happen soon.

Appetizers on the extensive menu included Chicken Satay, Chicken Pot Stickers, Lao Sausages, Fried Chicken Skin, and Egg Rolls. Our egg rolls were stuffed with more chopped pork than veggies and they needed the sweet and sour sauce, more than the tiny container that came with the egg rolls.

Also on the menu, Red or Green Curry, Thai Basil Fried Rice, Curry Fried Rice, several stir fried dishes served with a side of jasmine rice, and Specials that included Volcano Chicken and Volcano Shrimp. For those entrées, the deep-fried chicken breast or pan-seared jumbo shrimp are served over cabbage and carrots.

I'm glad Sticky Rice with its tasty Thai and Laotian dishes came to Riverwest in 2020, not the best year to open a restaurant, but they are still around and doing well. Other restaurants have tried and failed on the corner of Locust and N. Weil. Let's hope Sticky Rice can break the curse.



## Nineteenth Tour de Towner set to roll! TOUR de TOWNER XIX Sunday, September 5, 2021

Meet at 9:30am at the Uptowner, corner of Center and Humboldt (1032 E. Center St.)

Ride starts at 10am, usually lasts about 2 hours and covers 18-20 miles.

Everyone meets back at the Uptowner for food and good cheer!

"The ride started with family and friends," says organizer Steve Wroblewski, "and is still a very informal thing -- all you have to do is have fun!"

Held twice a year (on the Sundays before Memorial Day and Labor Day), the ride marks the beginning and the ending of summer.

"If there's a Brewers game, we usually ride north on the Oakleaf Trail and end up at the Thirsty Fox (7586 N. Teutonia Ave.) -- but folks stop wherever they want to along the way, or go back to the Uptowner or whatever," Wroblewski says. "If there's no baseball game, we usually ride along the lake and pick up the Hank Aaron Trail to Miller Park," and then head back to the Uptowner for food, drinks, and fun.



# Currents Comix Page

FACEBOOK . COM / CURRENTS COMICS PAGE



twenty pound baby | stephen tyler conrad

The Dodo

Andrew Megow



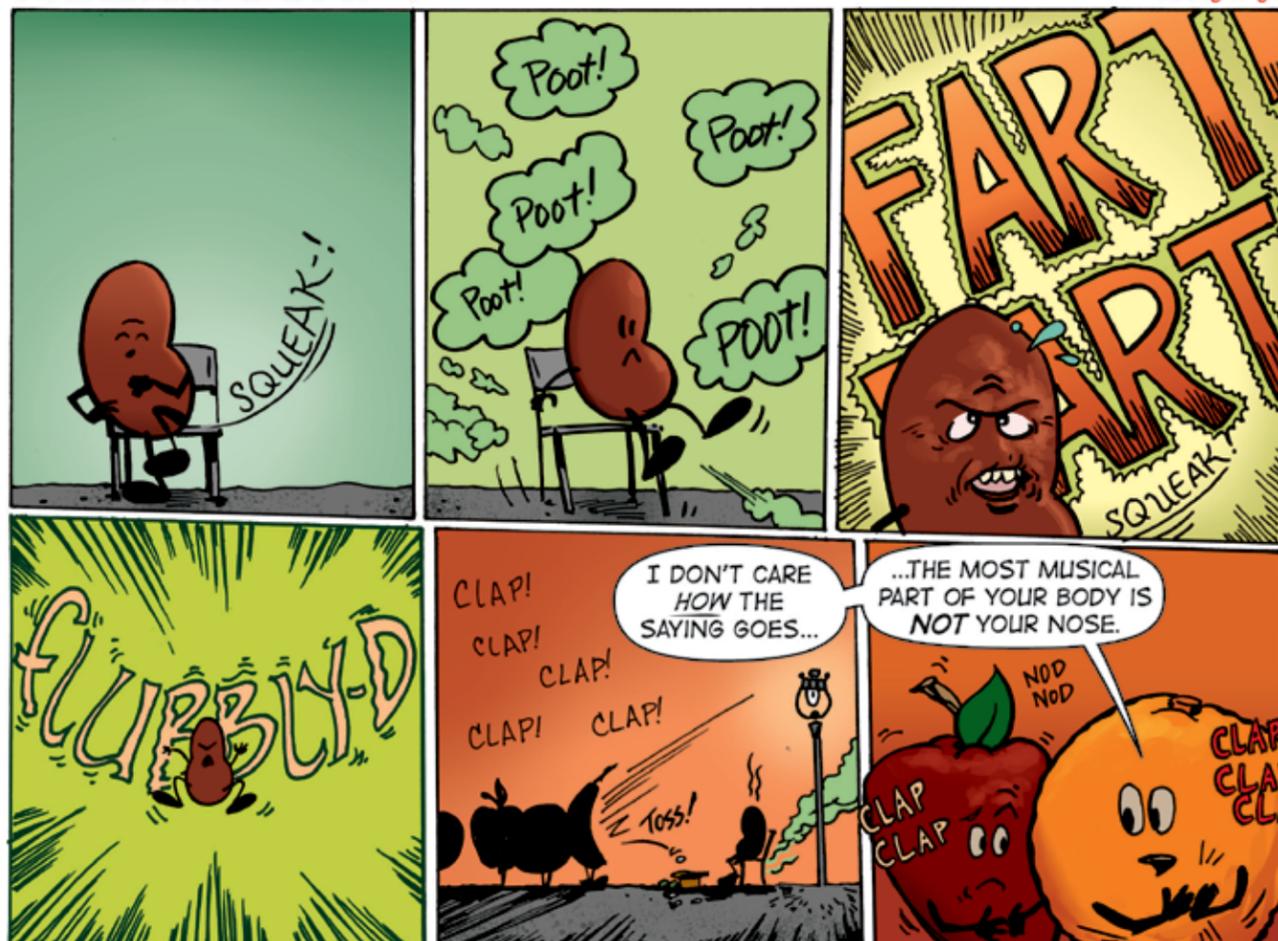
ANGRY KAT: ZOMBIE PROTOCOL

by Luther Hall



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