



fall
harvest
school
cooler Temps

Riverwest Currents

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FREE! News You Can Use • Riverwest, Harambee and The East Side Vol 20 Issue 9 SEPT. 2021

Sobriety Looks Like This August Riverwest



Kids having fun - Soberfest
photo by Lily Shea



Outdoor Concert in green space behind 4D residential building.
Public welcome to 4D events.



Enjoying the Show
Soberfest
Photo by Lily Shea

4th Dimension Sobriety (4D) Moves Into Former Cream City Hostel Building Their vision. Story on page 8



The Phoenix's mission is to build a sober active community that fuels resilience and harnesses the transformational power of connection so that together we rise, recover, and live.

The Phoenix is a national group with events in many cities. It is an sober event oriented group.

Soberfest was held in Garden Park on August 7, 2021

Thanks go to the organizers and attendees for this positive celebration.

Thanks to Lily Shea for providing the photos.

Variety Looks Like This August Riverwest



An early Sunday Afternoon Tribute Show to Boogie legend John Lee Hooker,
celebrating his 104 birthday.
Event held at Linneman's



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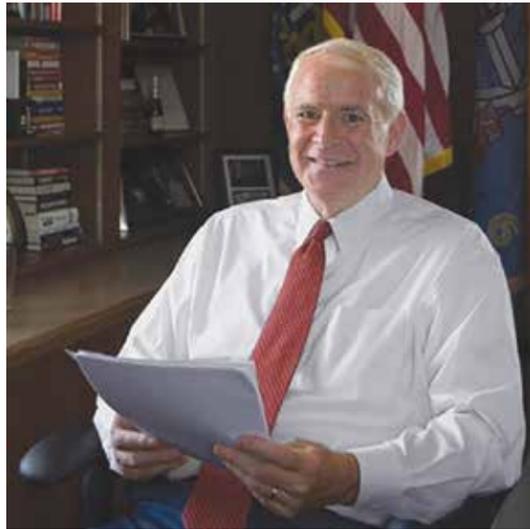
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MISSION STATEMENT

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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Tom Barrett nominated to be Ambassador to Luxemborg



Message from Tom Barrett

Being your Mayor has been an honor of a lifetime. Milwaukee is where I was born, is where I raised my family, and will always be my home. I love this city.

Now, I wanted to share some news with you...

President Biden has asked me to serve in his Administration as the United States Ambassador to Luxembourg and I have accepted his call to service. If confirmed by the Senate, I will be honored once again to serve and look forward to the important work ahead and doing my part as we continue to rebuild our nation's image and credibility abroad.

I want you to know that until my last day on the job as your Mayor I will work as hard as ever to continue to get us through these tough times. Milwaukee has shown unprecedented resilience throughout the past year and I know that, together, we will keep fighting back and building bright futures for all.

Thank you again for standing with me. I want you to know that I will always have your back, as you have had mine for so long.

Sincerely,
Tom



2nd. District Alderman Cavalier Johnson, President of Milwaukee's Common Council. Johnson is expected to become acting Mayor of Milwaukee when Tom Barrett leaves to accept President Bidens appointment after Congress approves.

State of Wisconsin Law regarding Mayoral position and succession

The Mayor - Currently Tom Barrett

As chief executive of the City, the Mayor is responsible for assuring that state laws and City ordinances are observed and enforced. He also insures that all officers of the City discharge their respective duties. The Mayor provides the executive direction for the City's operating departments, by appointing department heads or board members. He also has the power to veto Common Council actions.

The Council President -Currently Calvin Johnson, Alderman 2nd. District

Each term, Council members select an alderman or alderwoman to serve as president for the entire four-year period. He or she presides at Council meetings, and directs items to the standing committees. The president appoints the chair and vice-chair of each committee. He or she also makes appointments to the many citizen boards and commissions. The Council president stands first in the line of succession to the Mayor. He or she assumes this duty when the Mayor is unable to conduct the affairs of that office.

Cavalier Johnson Alderman, 2nd District 200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

State law

FIRST CLASS CITIES. (MILWAUKEE)

In 1st class cities, in the office of mayor the vacancy shall be filled by the **president of the common council as acting mayor until a special election can be held.** In such case, the acting mayor may continue to serve as president of the common council, in addition to exercising the powers and responsibilities of the office of mayor, until such time as a new mayor is elected and qualified, but the acting mayor may not take part in any vote of the common council during that period.

When a mayor is temporarily appointed, the common council shall order a special election for the office of mayor as promptly as possible, unless the vacancy occurs within 120 days of the expiration of the mayor's term of office.

Comment:

As promptly as possible indicates some wiggle room.

U.S. Ambassadors need to be approved by U.S. Senate. There is nothing that would seem to disqualify Tom Barrett. However the record of the Senate doing anything in the present moment seems unpredictable. Congress has a lot of issues to vote on and Ambassador appointments may be delayed.

It is hard to predict how quickly this nomination will be acted on.

photos from Milwaukee goverment web site.

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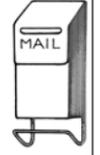
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NEIGHBOR SPOTLIGHT: Kaytee Luke, James Melchoir and the Bremen Community Garden

by Lee Gutowski

Remember the “polar vortex” of the winter of 2017/2018? Of course, Wisconsinites do, but for Kaytee Luke, who moved to Riverwest that February from California, the weather was especially disconcerting. “I thought, oh no, what have I done? I mean, Mount Shasta would get weather and storms, but nothing like the polar vortex,” Kaytee laughed as she recounted her story for this article.

Kaytee, who’s from the East Coast but has travelled so much that she considers herself from “everywhere, kind of,” came to Riverwest that winter with her husband, Darryl (who’s from here) and their kids after spending 8 years in Mount Shasta. “Darryl was homesteading for folks ... and we were raising animals and gardens ... it was cool, and I didn’t think we’d ever decide to leave.”

One August before Darryl and Kaytee moved to Riverwest, Darryl brought Kaytee here to visit. “I immediately thought this place had something special ... I used to live on the lower east side of Manhattan, which had community gardens and squat buildings and all these people together being artistic and creating community. And after a while, it all got gentrified and I thought, ‘oh well, there’s nothing like that anymore.’ But when we came here, there was the same vibe.”

James Melchior met Kaytee and Darryl not long after they moved into the neighborhood, “through mutual friends ... just people at the same bar (the Bremen) who got into a conversation. We’ve been good friends for a few years now, sharing communal meals and camping with our families and friends.”

James is involved in a developing creative collective in the Riverworks area. He’s got a workshop and rehearsal studios under construction in an old factory building on the north end of the neighborhood. His “full time gig” is running Line Drive Construction – remodeling, mainly, but also doing other creative things like building food trucks and designing and building pieces using as much reclaimed material as possible.

James also lives within a block or two of the Bremen Community Garden, and “can run there in like 30 seconds in case of emergency.”

Getting their hands in it

Katie’s first summer in Riverwest, she saw the Riverwest Community Garden at the corner of Bremen and Center, and thought, “Man, this place is so cool -- I hope I can get my hands in there sometime.” But she wasn’t ready to dive in yet, with her new job managing 22 people at Whole Foods in Wauwatosa as well as raising her kids and making a new home in a new city.

But by the next year, Jan Christensen and Dr. Dave Schemberger (the previous garden caretakers and founders of the RW Community Garden School) had relocated to Cortez, Colorado. Other folks were taking care of the garden, but they were travelers, too, and during Kaytee’s second year in Riverwest, she took over as garden caretaker.

James explained, “That’s kind of how I got involved, too. Kaytee and I were neighbors and had become friends, and Kaytee suggested that the garden really needed some help ... so I started to volunteer and just get my hands dirty.”

Pandemic panic

Kaytee and James really started working together at the beginning of the pandemic. “It was like us and a few displaced bartenders and servers that had no work ... we had a bunch of volunteers, and we would stagger our times for coming in here.”

James added, “During the pandemic, we were getting the cops called on us for gardening!” Kaytee recounted, “The cops would slow down right here and say, ‘You guys socially distancing?’ and we were like ‘Yep!’ It was total pandemic panic.”

People were seeing work being done in the garden (“and sure, maybe I’d have a beer in my hand, but I was covered in dirt and was trying to stay hydrated,” Kaytee laughed) and mistakenly thinking there was some partying and socializing going on that was inappropriate during that time of hard-line social distancing, masking and being super careful.

“When Katie and Daryl took over,” James explained, “it was about changing the culture here. There’s nothing wrong with being social – and we’re very social people – but it used to be maybe too social, with people crash-padding in the garden, general partying, etc. So that’s the reputation this place had when we first started – but we were just gardening with a beer in our hand!”

“My thought was we’re in a pandemic -- this is one of the places you should be treasuring and supporting and let’s make sure we got food just in case everything really goes to hell.”

Live music ... and a sign

Although 2020 brought a host of challenges, the folks at the garden have kept plugging away, spearheading a rebranding effort and recreating the space.

The non-profit land trust organization Groundwork Milwaukee holds the garden’s permit, and the garden is no longer associated with the apartment building located on the same city lot. (The Riverwest Garden School used to have office space in that building and the original builders of the garden used to live in one of the upstairs apartments, but now the “culture” of the garden space has changed.)

Kaytee and James, with Groundwork’s blessing, were able to use the already existing stage in the garden space to host some live music. Voot Warnings, Mike Fredrickson’s Bristlehead and Jayke Orvis played shows there (among others), and James live-streamed the events. Neighborhood folks gathered – masked and keeping distant from each other – across the street outside the Bremen Café and enjoyed the music from sidewalk tables and lawn chairs. (Check out the Bremen Community Garden Facebook page for videos of these shows.)

Unfortunately, the City got squeamish and asked that the shows not be continued.

“I almost quit this whole shebang last year,” said Kaytee, “because there were all the protests, my job was hectic, civil unrest going down everywhere, there’s a pandemic, I’m homeschooling, I’m mad.” But she came to the garden one afternoon to find someone had left a big beautiful wooden sign there, painted with colorful flowers and blue sky. It also had the message, “BLM ... they tried to bury us, they didn’t know we are seeds.” Kaytee’s spirit was renewed. James installed a post on the eastern border of the garden and put up the



sign the next day.

A new culture for urban agriculture

Bremen Community Garden is developing into its own distinct entity. They are growing food to give away to the community and hoping to do free meals in the future with a food truck they just purchased and which James will transform.

A donation box has been constructed and mounted near the corner of Bremen and Clarke. Money is needed for things like the over \$200 gas-powered water pump that they bought, and other infrastructure. Volunteers are necessary to help with weeding, toting water, and other chores -- especially since both Kaytee and James have full-time jobs and families to tend to.

In parting, Kaytee and James stressed that “This is 100% a free food garden. But here’s where we have problems: we put the food out on a specific schedule, and post about it on our Facebook page (Bremen Community Garden) when we do. We are asking that people don’t come in and forage for themselves.” Kaytee’s employer, Whole Foods, donated sealed bins to put produce in. “We bring in ice and keep everything cool and fresh,” Kaytee continues. “But often when we can get here and harvest, things have been picked over if not completely raided by folks bringing in duffel bags and taking all of the cabbages, eggplant, or what have you.”

“We want people to be able to glean stuff from outside the fence, and we’ll put



Free Food Box

other stuff out for you in the free bins, but if we’re really going to do a farm-to-fork thing (with the food truck), it completely depends on people not coming and raiding it for themselves.”

James also wanted to give a shout-out to Jordan Baumhardt and the Riverwest Street Hockey club. They put together a bonus checkpoint for the Riverwest24 at the garden, along with the Bremen Café, “because we have a very symbiotic relationship with the bar. Anyway, they raised \$240 for the garden, which was more than we made at any of the music shows ... because, go figure, we paid the musicians.”

Bay View -- A Neighborhood by the Lake

by Cari Taylor Carlson

Distance – Two miles, or three with the extension on S. Shore Drive

Time – No limits, much to see

Attire – This is an eclectic neighborhood, anything goes

Where to eat – Three Brothers, 2414 S. St. Clair St.

Di Marinis, 1211 Conway St.

Palomino, 2491 S. Superior St.

Many restaurants nearby on Kinnickinnic Ave.

Start – At the corner of Russell Ave. and Kinnickinnic Ave.

Parking – On the street

First, some history

Bay View hasn't always been the bucolic village we see today on the shore of Lake Michigan. It first developed as an industrial suburb when Elmer Brock Ward from Detroit established the Milwaukee Iron Company in 1868. Picture what is now the south end of the Hoan Bridge with iron forges belching sooty smoke and a beehive of activity for as many as 1500 iron workers.

It became known as the Bay View Rolling Mill and soon after the mill opened, surrounding farmer's fields were converted into neighborhoods with row after row of modest homes popping up to house the iron workers. Bay View was now officially a company town, incorporated in 1879, and annexed by the City of Milwaukee in 1887.

As John Gurda wrote in *Bay View Wisconsin* in 1979, "The rolling mill gave birth to the village of Bay View, and it was a major local institution for more than sixty years. Hundreds of Bay Viewites set their clocks by the mill whistle and they watched every night when the molten slag was poured into the lake and lit up the sky like the Fourth of July."

Conditions were tough for those iron workers who worked the massive blast furnaces used to produce iron rails for the railroads. Inside the mills was an inferno, especially in the summer heat, with temperatures up to 160 degrees, no air conditioning, and no electric fans because there was no electricity. The men worked six days a week, for 12 hours a day. For this horrific labor, their daily wages ranged from \$5.00 for the skilled workers, down to \$1.15 for the unskilled.

Is it any wonder these superhuman workers rioted on May 4, 1886, when 14,000 sympathizers gathered by the mill? They were met by the National Guard called in by Governor Jeremiah Rusk. After seven people died including a thirteen-year-old boy, someone suggested, "It would have been better if Rusk's militiamen had not been so quick on the trigger." It is written that Rusk replied, "I seen my duty and I done it."

When the dust cleared, the rioters returned to the mill to work their usual twelve-hour days.

On June 25, 1868, Congress had established an eight-hour workday for federal employees, but it took until 1937 and the Fair Labor Standards Act under the New Deal for the eight-hour day, forty-hour work week to be the standard.

Next, the walk

Start the walk at the corner of Russell and Kinnickinnic and travel east, but first, note the Church of the Immaculate Conception. In 1907, the new church's name represented a victory for the women. The men of the



congregation wanted to name it after Saint Patrick, while the women wanted to honor the Immaculate Conception. To settle the issue, votes were sold, with the proceeds going to the building fund, and the ladies won.

Turn left on St. Clair where you'll see Puddler's Hall at 2461. The Puddlers were the iron company's skilled workers who worked the blast furnaces. They built Puddler's Hall in 1873 for their weekly union meetings. After they sold the hall in 1892, it was repurposed as a tavern. A 1921 addition to the original still stands on St. Clair and is still a place where locals drink -- an homage to those fire-eating Puddlers.

Follow Conway around the bend, where you'll come to the old-world charm of Three Brothers Bar and Restaurant, located in a building constructed in 1897 for the Schlitz Brewing Company. Today, the Radicevich family continues to use only their traditional family recipes, and their *Burek* (savory Serbian dish with layers of filo dough with beef, cheese or spinach and cheese filling) is considered one of the finest in the city. When French Chef Julia Child visited Milwaukee in 1990, she dined at Three Brothers because her agent wanted her to "see not only the city's fancy spots, but good home-cooking restaurants as well."

Continue around the corner to DeMarinis restaurant, known for its Italian specialties and especially the pizza. Keep bearing right until Conway becomes Superior Street. At 2590, Bay View's first lending library was established in the home of Beulah Brinton, wife of a mill executive, and a social activist ahead of her time. How appropriate to see a Little Free Library in front of the house.

Around the corner on Pryor is Milwaukee's last public artesian well, the Pryor Avenue Iron Well, where people supply themselves with iron-rich waters from deep under the city. This is the only place in Milwaukee where you can get water not drawn from Lake Michigan!

Continue on Superior to Iron Street, turn left toward Lake Michigan, and left again on S. Shore Drive, where you can enjoy the lovely homes, the sparkling blue lake, and magnificent views of Milwaukee's skyline. As Milwaukee historian John Gurda wrote, "Bay View has the majesty of the lake at its door step. More than anything else, the lake gives the neighborhood a serenity, a sense of relationship with the world beyond the human. Not surprisingly, many Bay Viewites develop what amounts to a spiritual relationship with Lake Michigan."

At Russell turn left. You'll see Palomino, known for upscale bar food; Club Garibaldi, founded in 1907, known for pub grub and live entertainment; and across the street, G. Groppi Food Market.

The Groppis -- Giocondo and

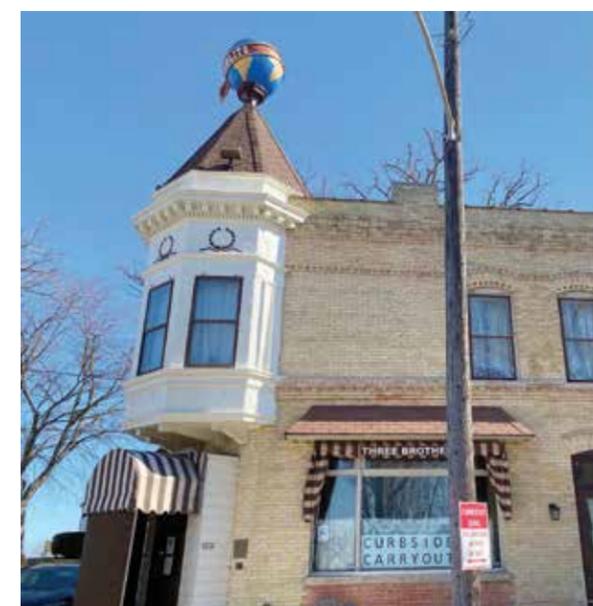
Giorgina -- came from Lucca in Tuscany and opened their small grocery store on Russell in 1913. Sons Mario, Tom, and Louis kept the store going after their parents passed, but son James, known to many as Father Groppi, chose the priesthood instead. He became a powerful figure in Milwaukee, known for his Civil Rights activism in the 1960s.

In 2003, after Mario Groppi passed, brothers Tom and Louis sold the store to John and Ann Nehring, who kept the wood floor and the narrow aisles of the original market. Step in for a walk back in time. Or, perhaps a treasure hunt, as you go further into the back to discover multiple brands of pasta, a case filled with imported cheeses, a deli, and the wine department. Some might agree that the Nehrings knew what they were doing when they located the bakery next to the check out.

On the next corner is At Random, known for fancy ice cream drinks for 62 years, and across the street, Delaware House, where fitness, dance, and yoga instructors will massage your body and your mind.

Follow Russell back to start at Kinnickinnic and the end of this micro-view of Bay View's charm, along with a bit of local lore, history, and culture. For Sale signs are seldom seen in the neighborhood. As Gurda wrote, "One of Bay View's favorite myths is that you have to know someone to buy a house there. According to popular legend, houses are treated like family jewels, and they are passed down only to relatives and close friends."

For a longer walk, add a mile by continuing south on Shore to the



turnaround, before turning north and returning to Russell. The homes between Bennett and the end of Shore have extraordinary views of both Milwaukee's skyline and Lake Michigan. The windows and front porches on these homes suggest the residents think so too.



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. Our meeting time is 1-4pm on Wednesdays, 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. Masks required.

These gatherings are free of charge, and refreshments will be provided!

Our radio shows have changed from Thursdays at 3pm to Saturdays at 9am. 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.

We will go back to In-Person both Weds and Thurs (like our old in-person schedule) when the time is right. We may have to retreat back to all-radio if the Covid variants become more of 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/>

September 2021

Wednesday, Sept. 1: Vince Bushell, Riverwest Currents: September Issue (In-Person)

Saturday Sept. 4: Karen Beaumont's Short Story, "On Being a Man", surrounded by her music performances (Radio)

Weds. Sept. 8: Mike Pederson, Rescue Hero (rescheduled from Aug. cancellation) In-Person

Saturday Sept. 11: Local Entrepreneurial Spotlight on Taco-Truck Owner Don Pastor (Radio)

Weds. Sept. 15: The Triple A's of Susan Beitila, Artist, Activist, Advocate (In-Person)

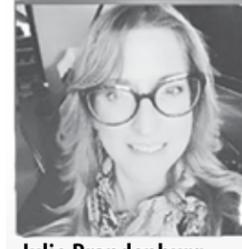
Saturday Sept. 18: Karen Beaumont's Short Story "Enclosed", surrounded by her performances of Austrian music (Radio)

Weds. Sept. 22: Wishing Kindness, All-Media Art Workshop (bring materials or share house materials) In-Person

Saturday Sept. 25: Ongoing Series: "Bob Neuman Presents..." (Radio)

Weds. Sept. 29: Review of Current Art Exhibitions at the Jazz Gallery Center for the Arts (In-Person)

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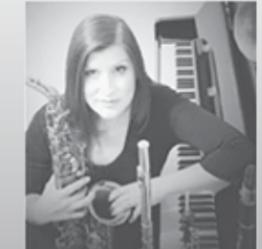
Catherine Krause
 strings



Julie Roubik
 strings



Eric Sperry
 brass



Lauren Sperry
 woodwinds



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



Lena Vinz
 guitar

be sound



Market Update!

from Ruth Weill -- Community Engagement Coordinator,
 Riverworks Development Corp.
 414.350.2107; ruthweill@gmail.com

The Riverwest Farmer's Market, happening 10-3pm Sundays through Oct 31, is located on the 2700 block of N Pierce between Center and Hadley. You'll find an awesome selection of locally grown produce, flowers, bakery, prepared foods, pickled veggies, jams, eggs, meats, teas, kombucha, sauces and dressings, body products, art and jewelry and so much more. EBT is accepted along with the Greater Milwaukee Foundation's grant funded market match which allows all EBT users up to a \$20 match each market for fresh fruits and vegetables.

Please visit <https://www.facebook.com/RiverwestMarket> for the most updated info or e-mail info@riverwestmarket.com

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OWL BY VERN GEIGER



The Red Valley-Cove High School in Red Valley, Arizona.

by Janice Christensen

“It is dawn. The sun is rising in the sky and my grandmother and I are singing prayers to the horizon. This morning, she’s teaching me the meaning of hozhó. Although there’s no direct translation from Diné Bizaad, the Navajo language, into English, every living being knows what hozhó means. For hozhó is every drop of rain. It is every leaf on every tree. It is your every eyelash. It is every feather on the blue bird’s wing. Hozhó is undeniable beauty that surrounds us. Hozhó is remembering that you are part of the Earth’s brilliance.” ~ Lyla June Johnston

When Dr Dave Schemberger announced to the world in the fall of 2017 that he couldn’t take another Wisconsin winter, the changes began. He moved to Cortez, Colorado in the hideously cold January of 2018.

Cortez is in the Four Corners area, in southwest Colorado close to the borders of New Mexico, Arizona and Utah. Dr Dave found himself traveling often to Shiprock, 40 miles south of Cortez across the New Mexico border in the Navajo Nation. He attended classes in permaculture and dryland farming techniques, beginning to learn the challenges of growing food in the high desert.

Meanwhile, his partner Jan Christensen stayed behind in Milwaukee to do a last season with the Community Garden School - Riverwest on the corner of Clarke and Bremen. She followed to Cortez in November 2018.

Soon after, the Cortez Community Garden Farm School, LLC was formed. Once again, as they had for years in Milwaukee, Dr Dave and Jan began to spread the word of “food as medicine” and the benefits of growing food locally.

The School initiated a number of projects. They were thinking big – they put in a bid on a beautiful building in Cortez, but unfortunately could not raise the necessary funding. They purchased a school bus with the intention of creating a traveling classroom to teach about food as medicine and install raised bed gardens in remote locations. That project is progressing.

They built relationships with Navajo farmers and activists and found ways to help however they could. The movement toward “Food as Medicine” is strong in the Navajo Nation, and there is an active, ongoing call for food sovereignty among the Diné (Navajo) people.

A New Friend: LaVonna George

One of the people Dr Dave met through the permaculture class he attended was LaVonna George, a farmer from Red Valley, Arizona, just over the New Mexico border. LaVonna is a fifth-generation farmer on her family’s land. Her father and grandfather were both Medicine Men of the Beauty Way Path, and her father was a Navajo Code Talker in World War II. LaVonna is the youngest of eight children. They all worked together on the farm every weekend and



An empty stretch of red desert is the site of the Fixers project. It will be transformed during a six-day build out and filming scheduled for September 16 through 21. In the distance is Red Rock, the site of many Navajo petroglyphs.



LaVonna George and Dr Dave Schemberger are the dreamers who came up with the Nizhoni Garden Greenhouse project.

summer when they were growing up, while spending weekdays in Shiprock, some forty miles away, to attend school during the school year.

LaVonna had a dream of adding greenhouses to her family farm, and Dr Dave had been talking to her about that possibility. She already had been working with two tiny greenhouses at her home in Shiprock, where she still spent most of her time when she was not at her land in the Red Valley area.

Enter The Fixers

The changes started to get serious, and the dreams bigger, when the Cortez Community Garden Farm School was contacted by a producer from The Fixers in early February 2020.

Who are The Fixers? According to their website, “The Fixers are a group of experienced contractors who travel the world in order to accomplish life-changing and sustainable projects that affect entire communities for the better.”

Their projects are filmed to be broadcast as a television show aired on Brigham Young University Television (BYUtv). The web site continues, “In this high-stakes reality series, an ‘A-Team’ of experienced builders travels around the world, working tirelessly with communities to complete life-changing projects for people in need.”

The producer for the show had seen one of the videos created for a GoFundMe to help build the garden at Community Garden School - Riverwest.

The producer’s question was, “What are you doing now?”

His first contact was with Wilhelm Fehlaber, who at the time was working with the School on the Bus project. The producer

liked the project and wanted to know more.

After watching several episodes of The Fixers online at BYUtv.org, the Cortez contingent concluded that a bigger project needed to be pitched for the show. Something that would involve a larger community.

That’s when LaVonna George and her greenhouses entered the picture. That was the idea that got pitched, and it was well received!

Then. Then. Then March 2020 happened, and everything ground to a halt. For months and months. Communication lines were kept open with the producers of the show and somehow the idea stayed alive.

Finally, a year later, in March of 2021, the Fixers picked up the project again. A new team of producers was brought on board, and the planning and discussions continued among the teams in Cortez and Shiprock, and the growing production team in Los Angeles. This thing was really going to happen!

The Project DIES! And Is Reborn!

Trouble began with the very first document that the Fixers team needed signed. It was a legal document giving them permission to do the project on the property. As mentioned before, LaVonna is the youngest of eight siblings. Plus the actual ownership of the family farm property is in probate, in the Navajo Nation. The simple truth was that there was no one who could legally sign that document.

Everyone thought the project was dead.

But the Fixers production crew had other ideas. They had a long conversation with LaVonna about alternative ideas, and a fascinating story emerged.

It seems that some ten years ago, LaVonna’s father, William George, donated one hundred acres of the family’s land for a high school. The school was built, a small but very nice high school called Red Valley-Cove High School just outside the town of Red Valley. The Media Center in the school is named for Mr. George.

LaVonna told the story of how, when the school was dedicated, she made a vow that she would be back to bring gardens and orchards to the students there.

The Fixers loved this story.

It felt to everyone as if this project had just been running into one dead end after another. But with the emergence of this story line, everything became smooth sailing.

Enter Wesley Cobb, a teacher at the school who pledged the final eight years of his career to making this project work.

Enter Dr Jacquelyn Wauneka, principal of the school and at the time Acting Superintendent of the School District. She did the careful work of getting the School Board’s approval of the project, and all the papers signed by the appropriate people. She is also in the process of creating a position for LaVonna as director of an agriculture program at the school.

Dr Wauneka said, “I feel like we just won the lottery.”

Many others joined the team who are staunch supporters of the project and believe that this is just what the tiny school needs to become a great place for students, teachers, and the community.

The Nizhoni Garden Greenhouse Project

After well over a year of planning and communicating, the big week of building and filming is coming up September 16 to 21. The premise of the show is that the production team has a \$20,000 budget to work with to buy materials and supplies. Then The Fixers, the four stars of the show, come to the site and, with the help of many volunteers from the community, build whatever needs to be built for the project.

What will they build? Well, that would be what they call a “spoiler.” You’re just going to have to watch the episode when it comes out in Season 3 of The Fixers.

What I can tell you is that the name of the project contains the Diné word, “nizhoni.” It is a form of the word “hozhò,” which means, briefly, beauty. So when LaVonna George talks about her father and grandfather as medicine men of the Beauty Way Path, that’s the word she uses.

After the first visit to the High School where the project was initially presented, LaVonna, Dr Dave and Jan were driving back toward Shiprock in silence, stunned with the overwhelmingly enthusiastic response.

Outside, the impossibly red hills and expanses of desert, dotted with the occasional herd of wild horses, stretched away to a far horizon. Sage and Navajo tea lined the roadway. The enormous bulk of the Shiprock formation loomed to the north, with its dramatic lava flow wall intersecting the blacktop reservation road at right angles. It was quiet in the car.

Somebody said, “You never know when you might be the answer to someone else’s prayers.”

Learn More:
Watch The Fixers for
free on BYUtv.org

4th Dimension Sobriety Moves Into Former Cream City Hostel Building



Jason Gonzalez, founder, and executive director of 4D



By Austin Greenberg

4th Dimension Sobriety Inc. (4D) is a sober-living nonprofit that uses several homes in Riverwest to house and help rehabilitate individuals who are recovering from addiction.

Fix Development LLC, is a real estate company whose projects include the property located at 500 E. Center St. the now-closed Cream City Hostel. The property is owned by a group of investors called RiverBee, LLC. Juli Kaufmann, founder and president of Fix Development, and an investor in and ‘managing member’ of RiverBee, announced in December 2020 that the property was switching to a co-housing model, and was looking for tenant businesses.

The pandemic forced Jason Gonzalez, founder, and executive director of 4D, to think more about how to sustain the nonprofit, but also, he was looking to grow the 4D project. Gonzalez was born and raised in Riverwest, and Kaufmann resides here, and though they were both either in or looking to enter basically the same business, the two were unaware of each other. They were unaware, that is, until spring of this year, when they were connected through another similarity of theirs – an affiliation with Pius XI Catholic High School (135 N. 76th St.).

Still, their initial connection was not about filling each other’s business needs. Gonzalez was simply looking for fundraising strategies. He is a graduate of, and former teacher and administrator at, Pius. He asked Angela Reilly, the Chief Advancement Officer at Pius, about his nonprofit, and she advised that he speak with two people: former Pius parent and current volunteer Linda Neff, and fellow Pius alum Kaufmann.

Gonzalez called them both. Neff is the Chief Philanthropy and Brand Strategy Officer at Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin, Inc. Gonzalez stated in a recent interview with Riverwest Currents that Neff agreed to help him right away, and continues to be an invaluable advisor.

When Gonzalez called Kaufmann

“It’s showcasing what sobriety actually looks like,” he said, “and being able to open up to the community with some of our hosting offerings.”

with questions about fundraising strategies, she advised him that she does fundraise, but that her main area of expertise is real estate entrepreneurial work. Gonzalez told Kaufmann that he believed that’s why they were connected – that he was fundraising so that he could buy a building, and Kaufmann asked if he would have any interest in realizing his vision in Riverwest.

“And he [replied], ‘Of course! That’s where my business is now, and that’s where I want to be.’ And he told me his whole story about why in even more detail ... and that was it, we were off to the races.”

Kaufmann said she toured Gonzalez through the former hostel either that day, or in the few days that followed. On the tour, Kaufmann said Gonzalez told her, of the building, ‘This is it.’

“It was meant to be,” said Kaufmann.

Despite the serendipities, however, there is still a bottom line. 4D needed to come up with \$25,000 by May 5th, which was approximately a month away.

“I had never raised \$500, let alone \$25,000,” said Gonzalez. Neff assured him that they could do it, and advised him to put out a video appeal. Gonzalez made a video on his phone about 4D, and his vision and goals for it, with the appeal, and posted it to social media on April 5th. Many of the people he shared the video with are former students of his at Pius, as well as Messmer High School, where he also taught. Gonzalez said the video was then shared with a wider audience, and 4D exceeded their fundraising goal, which bought them the first six months rent at 500 E. Center. 4D ‘members’ began moving into the building in early May.

500 E. Center St. is a Neoclassical two-story building that was built in 1927 as Holton Street State Bank. The building has 8,000 square feet of space. What makes the site even more valuable in a fully developed

New Music Ventures is an enterprise founded by Allison Schweitzer to offer musicians fun and engaging performance experiences. Allison M. Schweitzer (aka Allison Emm) is a local horn player, pianist and conductor. She also started a charitable arm called New Wave Wisconsin which offers sober live music events as a way to give back after finding sobriety herself. 4D is partnering with New Wave Wisconsin by hosting sober live music events throughout the year. The programming will include monthly open mic nights as well as hosted events using the backyard and lobby space. The events are free and open to the community. . . .sober or not. Juli Kaufmann

urban area is the ample tree filled green space to the north of the building.

It has had various tenants over the years, but lay vacant from 2005 or 2006 until 2019, when RiverBee purchased the building. Renovation followed. And the grand opening of the Cream City Hostel, Riverbee’s first tenant opened its doors on June 23, 2019, Riverwest Currents July 2019. By St. Patty’s Day 2020 Covid-19 shut down the city and country.

This was billed as Milwaukee’s first hostel. Despite the dreams of the Hostel owners the project failed. Opening just before the pandemic hit was the worst time to open a low-price room rental with multiple beds per room, a hostel. The hostel closed in 2020.

The vast majority of RiverBee’s, nearly 50 investors, according to Kaufmann, live in Riverwest, Harambee and the East Side. The building sits on the border of the Riverwest and Harambee neighborhoods (Holton St.), hence the name. Full disclosure, Riverwest Currents publisher and editor Vince Bushell is one of the investors of RiverBee.

The 500 E. Center building has dormitory-style rooms and communal lavatory, kitchen, dining and living-room areas. At the moment, the 4D occupants are men, but the plan is to have women on one floor and men on the other. Gonzalez said 4D’s full occupancy of the building is 28 people.

Gonzalez’s and 4D’s board of directors’ fundraising goals for 4D are to first raise \$36,000 by November 1st for maintenance and the next six months’ rent, and they have a long-term goal of raising \$1.7 million to purchase and make improvements suitable for its new use to the property.

Gonzalez stated that the financials,

however, are not his only concern. He indicated that some members of the Riverwest community expressed concern about a sober-living facility being located here. So aside from his primary concern of ensuring that 4D is a thriving community where people can come and recover, he believes it can also help dispel some misconceptions about sobriety/recovery, and reduce the stigma.

“It’s showcasing what sobriety actually looks like,” he said, “and being able to open up to the community with some of our hosting offerings.” Gonzalez said that some of 4D’s events, such as cookouts and concerts, which will be held in the new home’s backyard, will be open to the public.

Gonzalez is founder and CEO of 4th Dimension Recovery Center (1216 N. Prospect Ave.), which is a separate, for-profit counseling center with an on-staff physician and therapists who service all mental health issues. There is some coordination between the two 4Ds, for instance residents of the sober living nonprofit may undergo counseling at the Prospect Ave. location, but Gonzalez said that business rules prohibit the sharing of resources between the two companies.

As for the nonprofit 4D, the early returns of its new home appear to be positive, if the sentiments of Nick (as he preferred to be called), who said he has been staying there since May 30th, are representative of the group. He reported that he has stayed at other sober-living facilities, but that 4D is probably the nicest of them.

“I like the spiritual emphasis,” he said. “There is a focus on meditation, and more of a larger community, and it allows you space to grow on your own as well. It’s a good place to be.”

It may appear that Gonzalez stumbled across this opportunity, but the fact is that when it came, he was ready, and now his vision of a 4D that can really “shine in the community,” as he put it, may be beginning to materialize.



814 East Center Street in the Orange Building

Evan M. and Quin Derive are opening up the Shaky Hands screen printing shop. The vision is to host meetings of like minded folks and provide screen printing services.

IWW local cooperative will hold meetings there as well and having office space.

Besides the IWW there is the Rasa Cleaning Cooperative, Flora Design Coop. and Flora Construction Coop.

More on their adventure in a future issue.

Evan you may know from hearing the band November Criminals. Accordion music like you never heard before.



Evan may be dressed in black but his sandals would make Jesus jealous.
His foot with silk screen ink in the shop.

Get Ready to Run by Matthew Davies

EP review by Adam Krueger

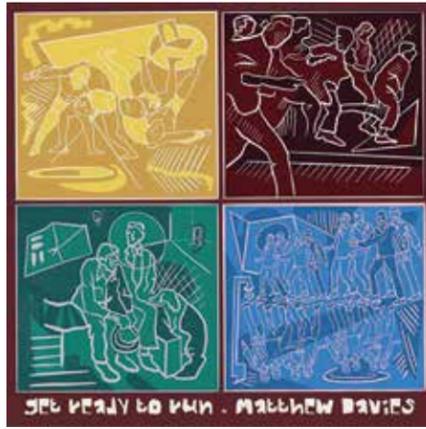
Matthew Davies continues proving himself to be one of the more talented songwriters in the Milwaukee area with his newest EP, *Get Ready to Run*. The album was recorded in Milwaukee's Clarke Square neighborhood where Davies and his wife, Stephanie Davies of the Waxwing, share a workspace.

The lead singer of Thriftones, Davies has traditionally created his own unique blend of rock, folk, and Americana complete with blues and pop overtones. But after recording and mixing for reggae artist David Robinson, Davies continues to add layers to his impressive musical repertoire. Robinson hails from Jamaica where he has been playing reggae since the seventies. Davies recently finished recording and mixing a record for Robinson along with playing drum and bass on the album. In broadening his musical talents and abilities, Davies takes some of those classic reggae grooves and incorporates them with his increasingly unique blend of musical sensibilities. The result is a further maturing of a gifted local musician and a solid four song set.



The opening track, "An Inconvenience" is a feel-good ode to the daily annoyances and irregularities that get us all down from time to time. Heavily implied here is the message that you cannot have the good without the bad and the need to take everything in stride. The playful guitar licks overlap perfectly with the deep grooves and soulful crooning about blizzards canceling tours and other bummers between the joyous beltings of the occasional la la's as though to help make light of all the little pains that spring up day to day. The tongue in cheek spoken word section offers a series of clichés as though coming from a street preacher. It plays like a colorful feather in an ironically awesome hat that catches your attention instantly as though to state in perfectly plain English that I, the artist, am here to have a good time and you should be, too.

This marks a tonal shift as well as a stylistic one that focuses more of its energies on uplifting and inspiring its audience, challenging them to have a good time despite one's troubles. Almost any time an artist tries to step outside their comfort zone there are some growing pains as can be glimpsed in some of the not wholly realized bars of occasional songs. This is most true on the EP in the closing track, "Father Gives" where small sections of the song feel like it's missing something like a hearty dish that feels just a hair undercooked. But that is hardly a knock against it as even the weakest track still offers a soulful and catchy encapsulation of a



powerful, alluring, and somewhat terrifying idea of the role a father plays in the family contemplating what men can give, take away, and control for the sake of his children. The religious overtones provide an extra depth with the use of an organ which at its best adds an exuberant and radiant gospel energy to the track in the verses. But at certain bridges of the song there is a sense of an uncontrolled cacophony of genres failing to sync perfectly together. In fairness genre bending is always difficult and even artists like Dylan have struggled to find that perfect balance between the two particularly with rock and gospel, but the fact that Davies pulls it off more than falters is promising.

The title track is a different story though as "Get Ready to Run" finds an optimal balance of such distinct sounds to create one of the best and most original songs yet written by Matthew Davies. As he explains it, the track tries to capture the anxiety and pressure of keeping up with modern life and struggling with the feeling that we all fall short at times. But like the best songs, it takes those emotions of uncertainty and exercises them through an intoxicating blend of electric guitar riffs and a smooth R&B styled rhythm that ranges from mellow to exuberant with organic and uplifting transitions between bars along just enough groovy "ooh's" and "ahh's" to keep them echoing in your mind long past the three-minute run time. The vocal mixings here really shine with much thanks to Shane Hochstetler at Howl Street Recordings as well as the talents of Davies who again played all the instruments and sang every note.

The track that is more reminiscent of Davies' earlier work is "The Grid," where instead of looking ahead and embracing the changes we all must go through, he openly questions if some of these changes are for the best. The song has more of a classical folk and Americana vibe as it laments the control the digital world has over everyone and everything. We're all too tuned into everything but our own lives sometimes and the damage done is still being assessed. Here Davies trades in reggae inspired grooves for the sound of a harmonica player trying to express the need to get away from the hyper-polarized excesses of social media and internet addiction and back to simpler times. It's a thought-provoking emotional ballad that offers no easy answers as the song fades out like the static of a device failing to connect.

Get Ready to Run is available on all digital platforms and performance dates can be found at <https://matthewdaviesmusic.com/>.

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SHOREWOOD FEAST
 SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2021 • 11AM - 9PM
 4100-4400 N. OAKLAND AVE.

There are many interesting acts at Shorewood Feast

Schedule below includes Professor Pinkerton's Orchestra and Caley Conway.

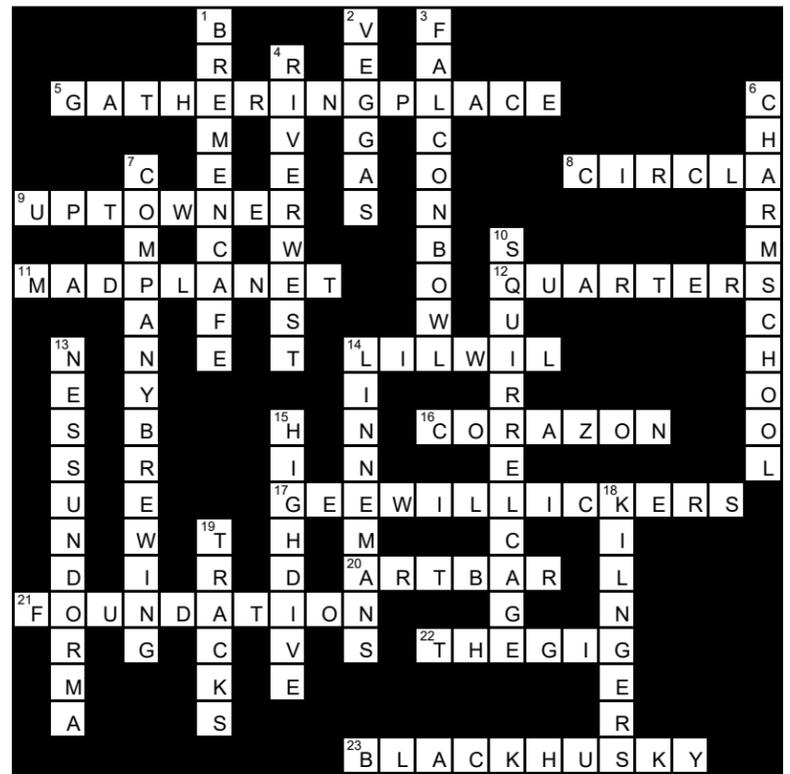
Schedule

MAIN STAGE LINEUP

- 11:30am – Professor Pinkerton's Irrelevant Orchestra
- 1:30pm – Band of Ringers
- 3:30pm – Joe Wray
- 5:30pm – Mixtape
- 7:30pm – De La Buena

LOCALS STAGE LINEUP

- 12:00pm – Milwaukee Irish Dance Studio
- 12:30pm – Shorewood Center for the Arts
- 1:30pm – DJ LaMart Young
- 3:00pm – Caravan Swing Ensemble
- 4:30pm – School of Rock
- 5:30pm – The Flood
- 7:30pm – Caley Conway



Puzzle solution for page 12 - You really need to know your local bars. I admit the clues are difficult to discern..



Garden Harvest

Happening before Sept 1.!

A Beerline Celebration Weekend End of August

Join us August 27th & 28th!

The time is finally here! We are so excited to join the community on the Beerline Trail this weekend for these two great events: Music on the Beerline & The Beerline Shuffle. Check each of the events below and cancel your weekend plans, because these are two events you won't want to miss!

Music on the Beerline

The 3rd Annual Music on the Beerline music series will be held on Friday, August 27th from 5:00 - 8:00pm. The event is FREE and will take place in-person at the Beerline Trail Plaza performance stage @ 3350 N Holton Street. This year's show is three hours of jam-packed entertainment from Anthony Deutsche, DJ DRiPSweat, Ms. Lotus Fankh, Alyssia Dominguez and Orlando Peña. For the third consecutive year, Music on the Beerline will be hosted by none other than Ray Nitti himself! Did we forget to mention there will be food trucks, face painting, and other great vendors & activities for all ages? Don't miss out!

Thanks to our sponsors and partners: Wells Fargo, Catera, and 88Nine Radio Milwaukee.

The Beerline Shuffle

Join us for the first annual Beerline Shuffle on Saturday, August 28th from 9:00 - 11:00am. Enjoy local performing artists Roxie Beane, Nei Phi Neph Marching Knights, Michael Bootzin, and Pocket Change (on the traveling FunkClub Wagon) will be entertaining the attendees while they shuffle along, complete the scavenger hunt, indulge in Scratch Ice Cream, participate in a community art piece, and more! Directly following the event will be the MKE Black Summer Marketplace event from 11:00-3:00pm on the Beerline Plaza, where you can support all kinds of local food trucks and vendors.

Thanks to our sponsors and partners: Wells Fargo, Outpost Natural Foods Co-op, Trader Joes & Colectivo Coffee.

Sorry, No Calendar this month due to health and stress issues for the Calendar Lady Hope to have it back next month. More events will be listed on line.

Fall, Mushrooms and a smiling Poplar leaf, Fall




MILWAUKEE FRIENDS MEETING (QUAKERS)

SIMPLE RADICAL AFFIRMING
CONTEMPORARY WELCOMING

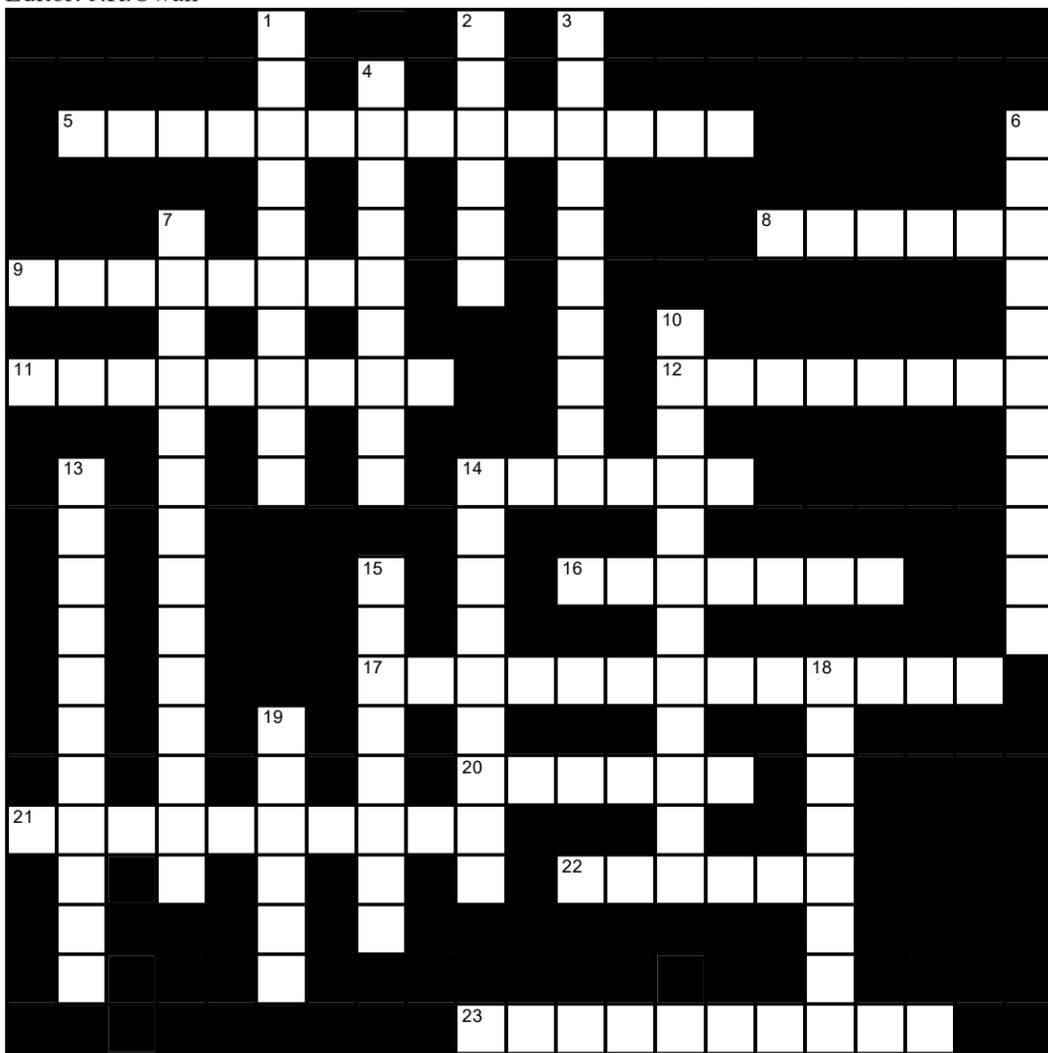
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SUNDAY WORSHIP: 10:15-11:15AM

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MILWAUKEE, WI 53212
(414) 263-2111
WWW.MILWAUKEEQUAKERS.ORG

Double Vision

Editor: J.R.Owan



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Across

- 5 Bar
- 8 Inn
- 9 Joint
- 11 Lounge
- 12 Pub
- 14 Saloon
- 16 Dive
- 17 Barroom
- 20 Drinkery

21 Gin Mill

- 22 Grog Shop
- 23 Night Spot

Down

- 1 Public House
- 2 Suds
- 3 Tap House
- 4 Tavern
- 6 Pool Hall

7 Road House

- 10 Nut House
- 13 Establishment
- 14 Honky Tonk
- 15 Watering Hole
- 18 Ale House
- 19 Speakeasy

No new puzzle this month, this is a repeat of last month, solution on page 10

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Poet's Page

A Dusting Of Snow On the Chrysanthemum

Summer to autumn season dawns

Groupings of wine red colors
Arrays of burned siennas abound

Large and small planters
Brimming full of cheery mustard yellows

You do want to extend the life of your garden, no?
Chrysanthemums are the easiest flowering annual to grow

One last hurra before the cooling breezes invite
Old Man winter to the dance

All the places with garden centers have them
Lowe's and Menard's even grocery stores

Have you cleared a spot to plant them in your garden?
Will you arrange them in containers on the front porch?

The sheer number of domed flowers in one pot
Is enough to make me swoon

Cone shaped petals smallest in the center
followed by the next size larger and so on

Faint talcum powder perfume with tones of spices
From the fabled orient permeate the air

The blooms stay fresh for days
The dusting of faerie magic freeze dry the bunch

Fully opened
Facing sun beams

Light refracts on the chrysanthemum!

Maria Elena Scott



REQUIEM AETERNAM

The sky rains sawdust.
Wooden thunderbolts
pound the earth... air rent
by shrill tearing sounds
the grinding rumble of destruction.
Surprised by the unexpected
end of days, the old tree
stands numb, paralyzed.
He should have been warned
by the dying flowers on the ground
at his feet...when he saw
old willow fall last year...
should have understood
when the zinnias were gathered,
the annabelles trimmed
or when he saw the tamaracks turn
golden
and daylight begin to disappear.

Diane Bezella

UNSEASONAL

Is there a time of no-time?
A time of beginning?
Or of ending?

Is un-season kind of like unsalted?

UNTASTY?

UNDONE?

Sometimes I have unseasonal
thoughts--

Like I'm really only 10,

Or maybe 110—

That there is no age
On which I can depend.

I'm floating in that netherworld

Or nether word
Or nether wood
Or never could, would, should

It's a free for all
A revolving ball
A tall call, short fall,

All very unseasonal

Barbara Leigh



Barbara Lee as *Confusadora*, a short play,
first performed at the Jazz Gallery during OWL
Older Wiser Local



Clarke Street Fest August 21, 2021

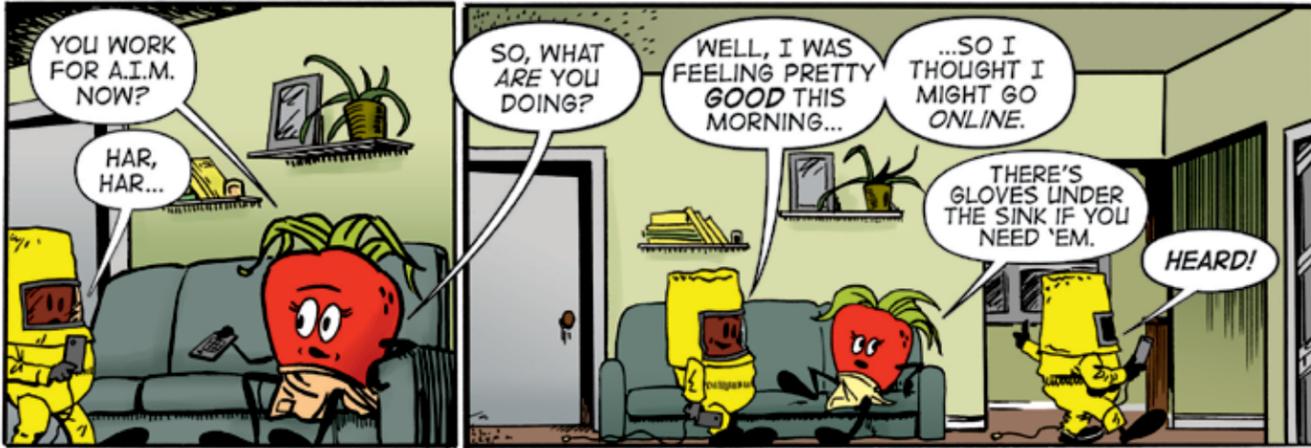


Currents Comix Page

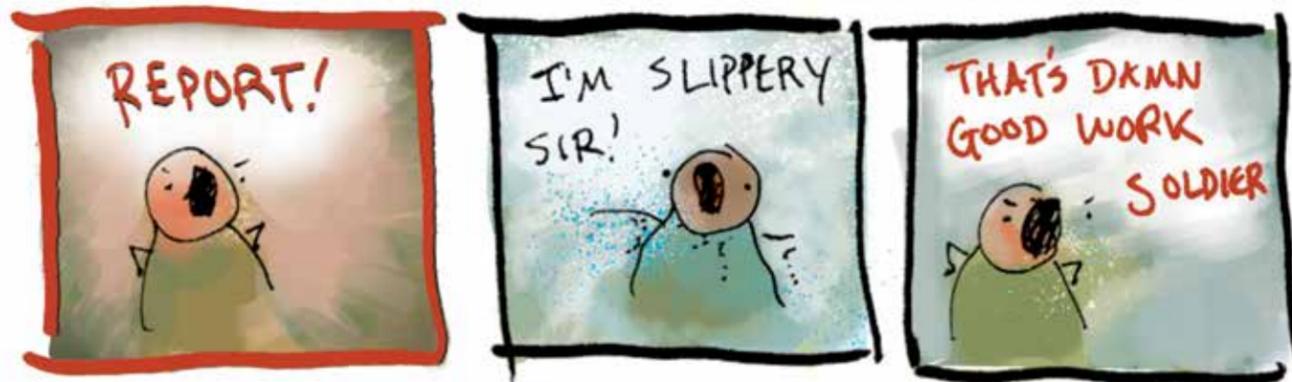
FACEBOOK .COM / CURRENTS COMICS PAGE

the twisted adventures of stinko

d. beyer jr.



twenty pound baby | stephen tyler conrad



The Dodo

Andrew Megow



ANGRY KAT: ZOMBIE PROTOCOL

by Luther Hall



SUNNY BRAINS

LANCE OAK



The Martini Girls Present:
NOT SO MUCH
a minimalist show

Show Opens
Friday
September 3
7pm

Live Music by
Andy Braun
9pm

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brunch
fri-sat-sun 9am-3pm
dinner
tue-sun 4pm-9pm

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2ND ANNUAL SAT. SEPT. 11th

SHOREWOOD FEAST

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SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2021 • 11AM - 9PM
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Café Hours - September Specials!

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Wednesday-Saturday 11am-6pm
 Tempeh Rueben (V/VG), BBQ Tofu Sandwich, Phamous Philly (V/VG), Port'O'Milly (V/VG)

Saturday Breakfast 9am-Noon

Sunday Brunch 9am-3pm
 Vegan Pancakes, Breakfast Reuben Biscuits & Gravy, Breakfast Muffin (V/VG)

Monday & Tuesday—No take out

Drinks: Smoothies, Rishi Tea, SportTea, Cold Brew w/Anodyne RW Co-op Blend

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