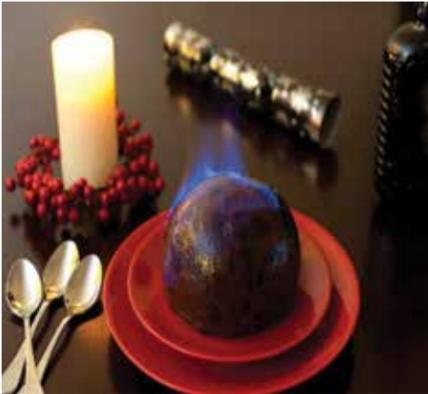


# Riverwest Currents

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Vol 20 Issue 12 December 2021



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Teo Krulov



November 24, Bob Dylan Tribute, On stage the hosts, Jim and Marthy and Friends, 23rd **Nod to Bob**, *Forever Young* and *Hurricane*, a night of great performances at **Linneman's Riverwest Inn**.



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Photos by Rikki Thompson, Austin Greenberg, Vince Bushell



**Follies** November 20, Linneman's, a potpourri of acts, 15th Riverwest Follies, Above, Left to Right, Babara Leigh, Play *Confusadora*, Susie and Harvey, Sax from the band, *Smoke N' Mirrors*, Lower left, Desmond Bone and Ellen C. Warren, more photos on Page 2.

**Riverwest Currents**  
PO Box 716  
Milwaukee, WI 53201-0716



More Follies photos: from top left, **Murder Ballad**, **Scott Summers**, Sax playing with **Bristlehead**, Poet, **Peter Burzynski**, and **Voot Warnings** and friends, lower left.



And if perchance you make it to the end get up and dance motion is hearts' mend



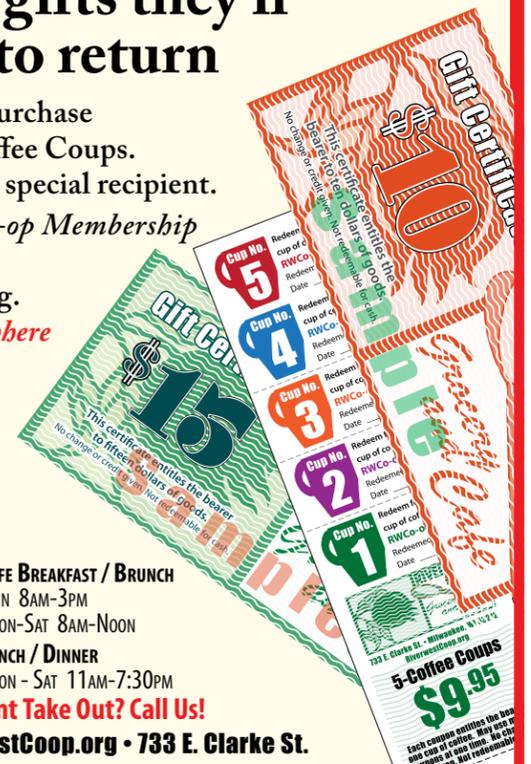
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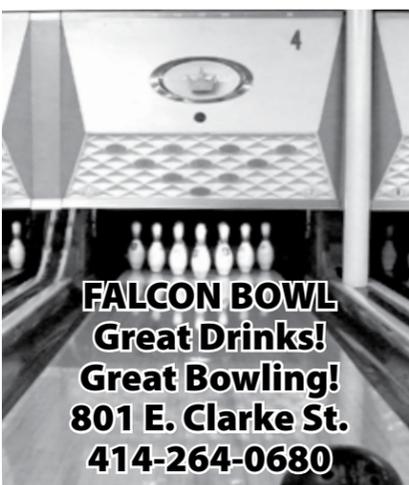
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# RIVERWEST Currents

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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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## The Moore Clan Christmas Celebrations

by Tree Moore

Sitting by the window, I feel somewhat protected from steady, relentless north wind by the shrubs along the road. A few leaves still cling to the nearly bare branches. The low clouds are heavy gray. Nearby, the strangely bare fields are shorn of corn and soybeans. Thermometer says 31 degrees. Every now and then a thin veil of snow flurries by.

Winter, with its harsh chilling temperatures, along with its scintillating sparkling beauty, is arriving. It is time to begin the holiday preparations that have been part of the Moore Clan over the years. Although gifts are part of that preparation, food plus meaningful activities top the list. So what are they? Let me tell you a Yuletide tale.

For years now on the Friday after Thanksgiving I shop for all the ingredients for our traditional plum pudding. The list of ingredients includes flour, eggs, lots of raisins, citron, molasses, and, hard to find yet essential, beef suet. The final necessary touch to the recipe is a generous amount of brandy. Saturday is for steaming this combination. All the bits of suet slowly melt into the rest, making a rich gooey batter. After just one more dollop of brandy, along with two or three hours of steaming, the pudding is wrapped tightly and stored away in the freezer to work further yummy magic until Christmas Day. Oh, I forgot to say – no plums!

Between Thanksgiving and Christmas numerous other delightful and delicious activities will take place. I make almost no Christmas cookies, since several other family members do. My additional cuisine preparations include liver pate and rutabagas (they're really good). Lastly, I prepare individual bags of dried fruit that I stick into everyone's stockings – everyone has a stocking of sorts. Included in the bags are lots of dried apples and plums from my own fruit trees, plus nuts, special candies, dates, figs, and apricots.

Probably as important as gift giving is a special night of Christmas caroling at the Pink House. I'm the pianist for this big caroling gathering. I've been getting a bit anxious these last few years that my old hands are somewhat stiff. It doesn't take long to feel like I'm out of practice. Regardless of some lack of piano facility, the need to be jolly always ensures that my fingers find the right keys. There is a strong sense of celebration in the room. It's definitely a time to make a joyful noise. And we do! Every year we have enough sopranos giving their all to reach a ridiculously high note at the end of "Oh Holy Night." The Christmas spirit exuding from all of us give us the chutzpa to go for it! And once again, we do! Amazing!

We are a musical family. Christmas time invites us not only to sing traditional carols but to listen to various special pieces of music. Our favorites include Benjamin Britten's "A Ceremony of the Carols,"



Menotti's "Amhal and the Night Visitors," and, of course, Handel's "Messiah." Regarding the "Messiah," I sang it for four years when I was in high school. Then there was a time when there were "Messiah" sing-alongs open to the public. Whenever possible I would arrange my holiday journey back to Milwaukee so that I might participate in such a glorious event. Sadly, the opportunity to join others in the robust complex music of Handel has slowly disappeared. One can still go to the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra performance to sit and listen, but it is necessary to keep your mouth shut – hard for me who is passionate about participating. C'est la vie.

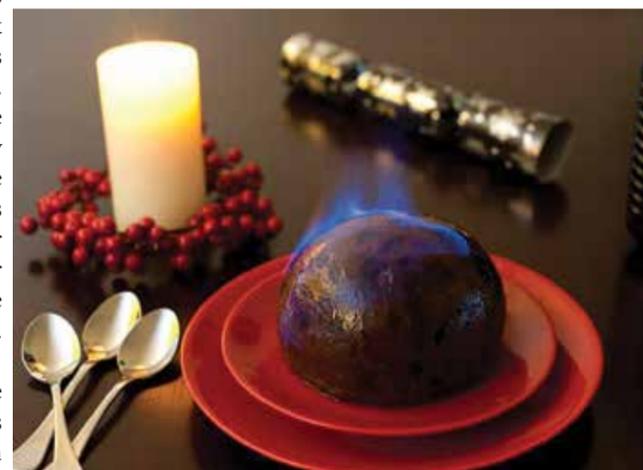
And then there is the reading of "A Christmas Memory" by Truman Capote. He may be better known as the author of the extremely chilling non-fiction novel, In Cold Blood, but he has been able, with "A Christmas Memory," to create a deeply touching love story – a relationship between a socially-awkward spinster in her sixties and Capote as a young, mostly innocent seven-year-old. The tale, beautifully told, details their precious and thoughtful preparations for Christmas. For years now, a week or two before Christmas, we invite folks to participate in a reading of this lovely story. At the end I always cry.

Then there is the choosing of a real live tree. As a child in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, tramping through the thick forest of snow-covered conifers searching for the perfectly shaped eight-footer with plenty of branches for ornaments was almost as exciting as opening gifts on Christmas Day. Later, in the city with my kids, it was an adjustment to go to a tree lot. We wanted a tree just like the ones up north. This was often hard for us, but at least we were never reduced to a plastic tree. Never!

Along with plenty of lights, strings of popcorn, and shiny balls, my artistic children created wonderful tree decorations every year. One year it was delicate mandalas made from pumpkin seeds. Another year they became rather skilled with a craft called quilling. A few fragile eggs covered with dragons, flowers and unique patterns also hang quietly and eloquently. I still have an egg made into Santa that my mother created for me. He's now about eighty years old. The cotton beard is rather sooty, but he has yet to crack.

And now with all these delightful happenings with music and story, fruitcakes, fancy cookies, and a marvelous tree, we arrive at Christmas Eve. In pre-pandemic times, when we could still gather, our Unitarian Church offered a beautiful service of song and story. At the end we would sing "Silent Night" while everyone lit a candle. The whole sanctuary would be intensely brightened with a couple hundred tiny candle flames. What an enchanting sight. I always want to let the candles burn longer – maybe forever.

The holiday climax for our family oc-



curs on Christmas night. The steaming plum pudding, exuding its strong aromas and flavors is a star waiting to shine. A lucky grandson helps me light a cup of warm brandy. There is an intensely exciting moment when the brandy bursts into flame and is poured rather quickly on the pudding. We sing, "We All Love Our Figgy Pudding," mesmerized by the red-blue-gold flames dancing their way around the sumptuous mound. Pass the hard sauce – more brandy, sugar, and butter. With full tummies – and feeling totally blessed, we waddle off to our own homes. We are sated and satisfied.

In no way do I think others need to copy our way of celebrating. My wish is these descriptions may inspire you to explore further ways to get involved and create and observe your own holiday traditions. May this be a joyous time, not only for your palate and your eyes, but for our soul.

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# JAZZ SPOTLIGHT: Milwaukee's Biggest Secret - Dave Bayles Trio

'The BEST WEEKLY JAZZ is in RIVERWEST on TUESDAYS at the UPTOWNER'

by George Martin

Back in the day, while living in the NYC area, I enjoyed the jazz clubs in Greenwich Village; Smalls, the Vanguard, the Blue Note, Birdland, the Cookery and on the way home in Rye, a little basement club where Miles Davis would hang out at times. Never in my wildest dreams would I imagine enjoying world-class jazz in Milwaukee, in Riverwest at the Uptowner.

The Dave Bayles Trio performs on Tuesday nights from 7 to about 9:20 pm. Drummer / percussionist Bayles leads the trio with trumpeter Russ Johnson and bassist Clay Schaub in their weekly gig at the Uptowner, 1032 E. Center Street.

Dave Bayles muses, "I love playing here with Russ and Clay and the support of the owner, Steve Johnson. I played here twenty years ago with the Bill Martin Trio. The Uptowner is very special because I met my wife here."

Additionally, Dave plays with the Paul Silbergleit Quartet and the Briana Greer Quartet. Dave teaches at UWM, UW-Parkside, the Milwaukee Jazz Institute, and the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music.

Trumpeter Russ Johnson states, "I absolutely love playing this gig. The Uptowner is one of the best bars in the world. The patrons here are respectful with some exceptions and that's OK too because the bar staff is here to quiet them down.

"It's a very special vibe here. It feels historic in a way (the oldest operating bar in Wisconsin), and it sounds good in here. As a trumpet player, I can really hear myself. I don't know if it's the wood floors or the high tin ceilings. Just acoustically, it's great! I really love the people who come out. It's amazing to have a weekly gig like this."

Russ Johnson, an original Wisconsinite, has returned after spending 23 years as an important member of New York City's jazz community. Russ has worked alongside many of the legendary figures in jazz and has recorded and/or performed with a long list of the most prominent musicians currently on the international jazz scene and in more than 40 countries across the globe. He currently serves as Director of Jazz Studies at the University of Wisconsin Parkside.

Clay Schaub is the trio's talented bass player whose scats we listeners enjoy and last week busted out with some deep-toned power strokes that blew audience members away. Clay says, "As a performer, I feel very grateful to play during these difficult times and the audience here is friendly and supportive. Our original music can be very adventuresome and everybody's into it which is so awesome. Getting to play with Russ and Dave is wonderful with their high caliber music."

In addition to the Dave Bayles Trio, Clay plays with the Paul Silbergleit Trio and the Eric Jacobson Trio. He worked for years in the New York City jazz scene as a skilled sideman.

## The fans weigh in

Brian Rothgery, a former student of jazz at UW and a Tuesday night regular, stated emphatically, "We are very fortunate to have such talented musicians performing in our neighborhood, live and for free. It's a real treat. These guys are great!"

Julie Enslow jumps into the conversation, "If it's Tuesday night, I will definitely



be at the Uptowner for top-of-the-line jazz. I wouldn't miss it. This music stretches my understanding of and appreciation of great jazz. It feels like I'm in a funky little jazz club in New York City. It's a treat to have this high-quality music night here in Riverwest. Much thanks to owner, Steve Johnson, for hosting this every Tuesday with no cover charge and a tip glass for the band."

Richard Hayes, another Tuesday night regular chimed in, "It's an amazing scene here with a fantastic trio, one of my favorite bands to come see."

Hindel Majumdar is a tabla player from India and founder of the Hindel Majumdar School of Music and Dance here in Milwaukee. He said, "I'm so happy to be listening to my friend and student, Russ Johnson, the trio's excellent trumpet player ... The specialty of (the trio's) music is that they play very softly, very melancholy, and very touching, not harsh. Improvisation of jazz music, I've heard a lot. But this is a soft band that touches my heart with original compositions."

Paul Silbergleit, a dean of Milwaukee-based jazz, as well as guitarist,

composer, educator, recording artist, and author, feels great about Tuesday night jazz at the Uptowner. "These guys are all friends and colleagues of mine and ... I know that they have been working on some original music which is challenging and takes time to jell. So, I'm coming in after these compositions have jelled in trio performance ... they are playing things that require more than just keeping a groove and playing the changes nicely, things that require dynamics and tempo, maybe out-of-tempo timing, pretty much all the time. For thinking of the flow of the whole piece, moment-to-moment; these guys are good for it."

Daniel Steinly and Shannon Kelsay recently moved to Riverwest and were at the Uptowner for the first time. Daniel commented, "... (it's) nice to have a shorter set of high caliber music that hits very hard, that fluctuates. It's not just a loud sound the whole time and has different tonality." Shannon joined in, "Tuesday night jazz is a great way to get together with friends and enjoy great musicians in a cozy environment, in a great bar with cheap drinks. There's nothing more that you could ask for."

## Holiday Shop at cultivate.



by Austin Greenberg

Milwaukee native Joell Poole brings her years of experience as a purchaser for Elements East to her latest venture, a pop-up shop called cultivate., located at 825 E. Center Street.

Poole told Riverwest Currents that she started cultivate. pre-pandemic out of her home. The pop-up shop, which will be open for three weekends: November 26-28; December 3-5, and December 10-12, is the business' first physical location. She stated that the pop-up will return in the spring.

Elements East, which had a location in the Third Ward, and was a home décor (primarily furniture) store that strictly sold products from Asia and Indonesia, according to Poole, closed pre-Covid. After that, she started a wholesale business, called Objects of Stone, in which she would source stone products such as vases in Asia in order to wholesale them here. "But then the world had other plans," said Poole, referring to the pandemic.

Poole stated that she then found a domestic source of stone, pottery and statuary that can be used for plants and gardens, indoors or out.

Objects such as those are available at the pop-up shop, along with an assortment of internationally-sourced items

that fit under the beauty-nature-art theme: handmade artisanal soap from upstate New York, pottery from Chicago and India, vases and art from England, herbal tea from Latvia, incense from Japan, and a range of products from the south of France, including artisanal soap, tea, olive oil, bowls made of olive wood, honey, art, scarves and more.

Poole frequently travels internationally to source her products, as she did for Elements East.

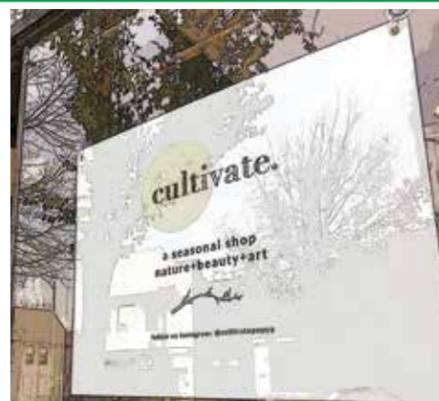
Most of the products that Poole sells at the shop will not be found in other places in Milwaukee, she stated. She added that the shop has a range of prices.

"Not all things are artisan-sourced," she said. "Some things are not but I think they're beautiful and work quite well."

There have been challenges to opening a pop-up shop this season; the main one of course being unpredictable shipping times. Poole stated that she is managing this challenge, but in the meantime has also learned some good news about her market. She stated that at least two artisans that she works with told her recently that they can't keep up with their demand.

"People, I think, are eager to get out and buy. It's good to hear stories like that, that the demand is sort of percolating."

You heard it, friends. The pop-up shop won't last forever, and neither will the inventory. Time's a wasting.



## Downer Avenue and Newberry Boulevard – Chic Shops and Historic Homes

by Cari Taylor-Carlson

**Distance – One-two miles**

**Time – Plan to linger**

**Attire – A designer label**

**Where to eat – Pizza Man, 2597 Downer Ave.**

**Start – At the corner of Downer Avenue and E. Webster Place**

**Parking – On the street**

Judge Jason Downer would be surprised at the bustle on his namesake street. After he made a generous donation to Wisconsin Female College in Fox Lake Wisconsin, the college was renamed Downer College in honor of its benefactor. When the college relocated to Glen Avenue on Milwaukee's east side, Glen Avenue became known as Downer Avenue. Today we know the former Downer College by the name of the university that absorbed it, UW-Milwaukee.

Downer Avenue from E. Webster Place to E. Newberry Boulevard is pure east side as stylish matrons, funky hipsters, and restaurant aficionados, jam the street where sidewalk seating and people watching, has become an everyday warm weather sport. This is not what Downer looked like in the early 1800s when hogs roamed Milwaukee's neighborhoods.

As Robert W. Wells reported in "This is Milwaukee" in 1970, "After the villages eastern and western halves started passing new rules, among them, one that forbade hogs to run at large. In 1840 this was considered a ridiculous example of bureaucratic interference in the natural state of urban life by many citizens. They pointed out that the hogs provided an efficient garbage disposal system and didn't charge a cent."

Downer is a fine walking street where the ghosts of Webster's Bookstore, the Chancery, Ma Jolie, Foot Gear, The Coffee Trader, and the Book Bay have been replaced by Belgian beer at Café Hollander, margaritas and tacos at BelAir Cantina, Four Cheese Ravioli and Meatball Sliders at Pizza Man, baguettes and boules at Breadsmith, and a Vanilla Latte at Starbucks. You can pick up coffee and a scone at Stone Creek Coffee, toilet paper at CVS Pharmacy, a screwdriver at Downer True Value Hardware, or a picnic from the deli at Nehring's Sendiks on Downer. If you need a manicure, stop in at Nail Bar Milwaukee; you can purchase new stylish glasses at Optics on Downer; and for overall body aches, check out Athletico Physical Therapy.

There is one remnant of the past at the corner of Downer and Webster, Boswell Book Company. Under different owners, this has long been a book store. At Boswell you can browse, choose a book, and sink into a comfy chair with your purchase.

Newberry Boulevard was named for a wealthy Chicagoan Walter Loomis Newberry. He was an affluent landowner who owned thousands of acres of land in Wisconsin and that included property in Milwaukee. He also had the unfortunate luck to expire on a ship headed to Europe in 1868. He finished the trip, nicely preserved, thanks to the captain who tucked his body into a cozy makeshift coffin, a rum barrel.

Newberry has the mark of a Frederick Law Olmsted design. It's elegant and wide, with homes set back from the boulevard, lovely trees, and a grassy median.

Maple and elm trees were planted on the median to add a leafy canopy to this park-like strip of green. Olmsted envisioned it as a promenade between Lake Park and Riverside Park, formerly River Park, both of which he designed. In 1994 Newberry was added to the National Register of Historic Places, thanks to Olmsted's design and the elegant homes along the boulevard.

Most of the approximately 100 homes were built in the early 20th century. As Shirley du Fresne McArthur in North Point Historic Districts-Milwaukee noted in 1981, "The architectural styles on Newberry followed the social patterns of the period. As people prospered, they wanted to spend their wealth on grander homes. The houses we live in reflect our personalities more than we realize. The English, French, Prairie, and Italian styles, were the primary influences on Newberry, a microcosm of the styles that were influencing most Americans of the same period."

For the walk, start at the corner of Webster and Downer, walk north on Downer, and turn right on Newberry. Between Downer and the turnaround at Lake Drive there are three houses of particular interest. At the corner of Lake and Newberry, the Gallun Residence, a Tudor mansion, is one of Milwaukee's largest homes. It's surrounded by a magnificent wrought iron fence, said to be one of the finest in Wisconsin. Across the street at 2009, the Carl Miller Residence made of Indiana limestone, has a unique two-story passage to connect the home with the garage and the servant's quarters. At 2727, the Goldberg Residence might be the most spectacular home on the boulevard. It was also the first home built on Newberry. Whether you call it Victorian or Gothic, it's a stunning example of the period. Behind its gables and turrets are 17 rooms, including seven bathrooms and eight fireplaces.

To continue the walk, turnaround at Lake Drive and walk west on Newberry. After you cross Downer, you will come to the Dr. Thomas Robinson Bours House at 2430, once attributed to Frank Lloyd Wright. There is a strong resemblance, however, it was designed by Russell Barr Williamson, a prominent local architect who worked for Wright for two years.

In summertime, take a moment to pause at the northwest corner of Newberry and Stowell to admire the spectacular gardens that surround this home where a masterful gardener created a color palate of flowers and shrubs, with surprises everywhere you look.

When you come to Farwell, turn left, and left again at Webster Place. You will pass the Epikos Church, a bible-based, non-denominational church at Farwell and Bellevue, one of four in the greater Milwaukee area. When you intersect Downer, you have completed the loop and returned to start.

To extend this parade of homes and fully appreciate the beauty and diversity on this boulevard, you could traverse the entire length of Newberry, 12 blocks from Lake Drive to Oakland, the promenade Frederick Law Olmsted envisioned from Lake Park to Riverside Park. The more elegant homes tend to be at the east end, closer to Lake Park. As you approach Oakland, you will notice a few more modest wooden framed houses.

This is a walk you can do again and again. Take your time. Newberry with its display of elegant homes shows off one of Milwaukee's most interesting, and architecturally diverse neighborhoods.





# OWL

Older. Wiser. Local.



**Amy Schmutte**  
 OWL Program Manager  
 Older, Wiser, Local (OWL)  
 The Jazz Gallery

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.

Attention: we have changed our in person meeting time to Thursdays 11am-2pm.

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

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'll go back to In-Person both Weds and Thurs. when it's clearly safe. We'll retreat 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/>



**Saturday Dec. 25** Karen Beaumont's Holiday Show! Happy Holidays to all of our OWL attendees and listeners. Wishing you safety and peace, from the Jazz Gallery and Riverwest Radio.

**Thursday Dec. 30** NYE- No Program. Happy New Year! Stay safe and have fun. (:

**December 2021**  
**Thursday Dec. 2** Vince Bushell reviews the December Issue of the Riverwest Currents

**Saturday Dec 4.** Karen Beaumont's latest story "Soup Tureen", with her musical accompaniment.

**Thursday Dec. 9.** Mark Mendelson on Care-Giving

**Saturday Dec. 11** Casey Otto, on Riverwest's Holton Street Clinic.

**Thursday Dec. 16.** Dr. Bob Neuman, On Crucial College Prep (OWL attendees: your grandchildren, grandnieces, etc, need to hear this one!)

**Saturday Dec. 18** Micro Naut "The Book Report"

**Thursday Dec. 23** Game Day, Gift-Wrapping Fun, and Holiday Prizes, with host Amy Schmutte

## Riverworks Happenings

by Ruth Weill

The holiday season is approaching, thoughts about gift giving have moved into the forefront of our brains. Supporting local entrepreneurs and businesses this season is an easy task with so many local markets happening. One such event is the 53212Marketplace, now in its 5th year, happening on Sunday December 12 from 11-3pm at West River Collective located at 3700 N Fratney Street. With over 20 vendors one can find a gift for everyone you know; art, jewelry, artisan foods, body products, candles, books, home goods, plants and more. The location is home to a soon to be open new brewery, Amorphic, along with the Urban Craftsman and other cool small businesses. Please Visit RiverworksMKE on Facebook for event updates and a list of all participating vendors.



Do you like dogs? Did you attend the Riverwest Farmers Market in 2021? If you answered yes to either question you might want to check out the first ever Dogs of the Market fundraising calendar. The community loves their dogs, and the market does too. It was decided to finally make the idea happen this year, with local photographer David Edelman at the market most weeks capturing our canine visitors. Local graphic designer Helene Feider was then tasked with creating the final product, which by the way, is awesome. For more information on how you can buy a calendar or two, they will make great presents by the way, please visit the Riverwest Market Facebook page for an order form. We hope to have the calendars ready for purchase at the 53212Marketplace event on Sunday December 12th along with

Fischberger's Variety on N Holton Street. For only \$15 each you can support the market as well as various community projects such as clean ups, and murals.

The Guiding Lens resident led group, in collaboration with Riverworks Development Corporation and the Riverworks Business Improvement District # 25, is steering the growth of the Beerline Trail from Burleigh to Capitol Drive. Always open to new members and community input, the meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of every month at 6:30pm (Zoom). For more information please email [guiding.lens@gmail.com](mailto:guiding.lens@gmail.com)



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# The Daily Bird Moving Into Former Fuel Cafe Location

By Austin Greenberg

The Daily Bird coffee shop is moving into a permanent home – the former Fuel Cafe location at 818 E. Center St.

Until recently, The Daily Bird operated a pair of local pop-up shops during daytime hours: one at centro cafe (808 E. Center St.), which opened in April, and one at the Dubbel Dutch hotel (817-817 N. Marshall St.), which opened this summer. The Daily Bird moved on from the Dubbel Dutch in October and the centro cafe pop-up closed on November 21<sup>st</sup> so that owner Dan Zwart and company can focus on their new home.

Zwart said he is unsurprised by the seemingly rapid developments of the shop, but that may be because he didn't have a grand outlook when he began.

"I don't know if I had huge expectations...there wasn't a big plan."

Zwart stated that the collaboration with centro cafe owners Peg Karpfinger and Pat Moore started because they are his landlords. When last year he was "laid off for a bit" from his plumbing job, he began working with them and stated that they developed a rapport. Still, he had not planned on opening a coffee shop.

"I told them they should open a coffee shop," he said. "Then I opened one."

"They believed that I could do it," Zwart continued. "They're just good people. They let me use their space because they just want to see stuff happen in the neighborhood."

## Somewhat nomadic

Prior to moving to Milwaukee in November 2017, Zwart lived all over. He was born in California, moved with his family to Durango, Colorado at age 11, left at age 21, and stated that he has since lived in Virginia, Charleston, SC, New York, Chicago, and all over Colorado.

Zwart stated that he has owned a business before, but that it did not, em, flourish (sorry Dan), in the way he wanted.



They will be selling Anodyne Coffee! By the way...

From left, Compton, Laurent and Zwart. "Dylan is amazing, put that in your story."

"I started a flower farm in Colorado," he said. "I could grow flowers. I kinda forgot that you have to sell 'em then. Financially, that was a disaster. But it was really nice to be in a flower field. I've tried different things, but not with much gusto or determination."

Something must have changed, in that case, because Elena Laurent, owner of Honey Bear Baked Goods (whose products have been available at the pop-up shops and who will be running the food aspect

of the new shop), stated that she and Zwart have been working nonstop since last fall putting The Daily Bird together.

"It is not possible unless we put in every single day, from wake up to night. No time off," she said. Zwart concurred.

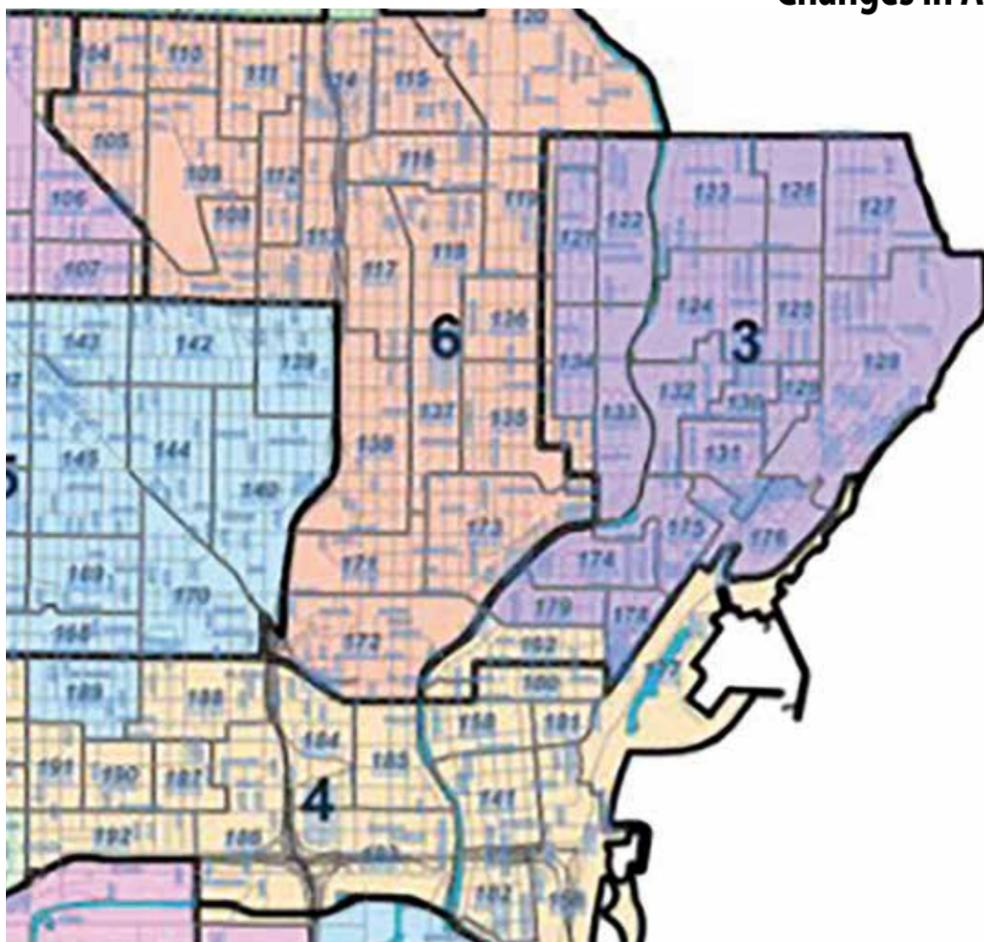
"It's exhausting, but ultimately it's fulfilling...and it's fun to see this all come to life. It's fun to sit with an idea, and now we're sitting in here [the new permanent home of TDB]."

Zwart stated that if The Daily Bird is

not open by the publication of this paper, it will be soon thereafter. Planned hours for the shop, according to manager Dylan Compton, will likely be 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on weekdays, and 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on weekends. Food offerings will be mostly breakfast and lunch fare, according to Laurent, and Scratch ice cream will be on the menu.

By the way, Zwart is the artist behind the marketing and art of TDB.

## Changes in Aldermanic Districts - District 3 and District 6. In the City of Milwaukee.



The 2020 census requires adjustment of voting districts.

In Milwaukee, City and County, population changes including density within the aldermanic districts requires adjustment of boundaries which must be near equal in population and must not separate aldermanic districts from overlying Milwaukee County Supervisor districts.

For the neighborhoods, including Harambee, Riverwest and the East Side and Lower Eastside the resulting changes recommended by the Common Council for the Aldermanic Districts result in the shrinking of the 3rd. Aldermanic District and the expansion of the 6th Aldermanic District as shown on the map.

You can see the previous boundary of the 3rd. as a dark black line and the additions to the 6th as the orange color moving one block east along the western edge of Riverwest from Pierce Street to Fratney Street north of Wright Street. In a addition a few blocks south of Wright Street and West of Humboldt Blvd. have been added to the 6th.

## A CHRISTMAS VILLAGE OF HIS OWN

Jim's favorite holiday tradition was setting up his model Christmas Village, which spread about 30 feet along the windows of the entire length of the diner. Each window had its own little scene, but they all connected into the most Christmassy community ever. It was an all-day project setting the village up. When the inspiration struck him that it was Time-to-Set-Up-the-Village-Day, Jim would have the staff help him carry the boxes full of the entire townhood down the building's rickety wooden stairs from the attic storage loft, but after that, the project of assembly was all his.

Jim's deceased wife Barb was the one who started the collection. It was part of her annual shopping—she would pick up new decorations for the Pharmacy and additions to the Christmas Village, a new little ceramic building, or some miniature carolers. But she was gone now, and Jim almost never left the building. He lived upstairs and ate all his meals from the diner, grabbing candy bars out of the aisle for a snack. Sometimes he wouldn't leave the building for months. The expansion of the village had stopped, but there was enough for a full display.

After unwrapping all the pieces from old, crumpled newspaper, he would climb in between the customers trying to eat their lunch into the big windowsills of the diner to first lay down sheets of snowy white fabric, then fussed around with buildings and miniature street signs and groups of little figures until they looked exactly right.

In the evening, after the customers left, Jim would wait until the dishwasher finished mopping the floors, then he'd stand in the empty cafe, sipping a Styrofoam cup full of lukewarm coffee. He'd stare deep into his Christmas Village, happiness flooding over him.

Look at this beautiful world! As charming as a Norman Rockwell painting—none of the graffiti and litter or aggressive panhandling drug addicts of Brady Street, not a stack of unpaid bills anywhere in sight, just people filled with holiday joy. There they were handing each other gifts wrapped in crisp, bright colors—the paint was still bright on the ceramic figures after all of these years.

Over here, in the first window, that's where these citizens began their shopping list, in the cozy nook of Speciality Shops. This town lived back in the good old days, whenever that was, before Wal-Mart and fast-food empires had bulldozed our culture. When the village supported the mom and pop shop instead of some soulless warehouse full of junk.

There was Dicken's Bookshop, a compact little red brick building with a display of little green and red hardcovers in the window, a wreath hanging on the door, a yellow light illuminating the windows, the promise of warm winter reading inside. Next to it was the Joys of Toys store, nice wooden toys on display in the window. And the Bakery! Jim could practically smell the

warm bread inside, and everyone's favorite, the Candy Shoppe with giant peppermint candy cane posts outside as decorations. Inside there were enough sweet treats to fill everyone's stockings.

Jim's eyes followed a couple walking close together, bundled up, with tiny ceramic cups in their hands. He sighed with longing. They had obviously just left Miss Kettle's Teashop & Cafe, perhaps heading into the next windowsill towards Smith's Curio Shoppe, right next door to the snow-covered offices of *The Gazette*. Notice how there is no name of a town or village in the paper's name? It's not the *Thiensville Gazette* or the *Cedarburg Gazette* because there is nowhere else outside of this village, a true microcosm. The one and only *Gazette*, between Smith's Curio Shoppe and the Slalom Home Ski shop, just down the street from the butcher, the baker, and the candlestick maker.

Jim continued his winter trek. There was the village train station, where a couple of elegant women in long coats, earmuffs, scarves, and mittens chatted next to...wait, *what the hell was this?* A yellow rubber triceratops was standing next to the ladies, as if participating in the conversation. Jim stared at it for a second, confused. Ah, must have been those dumb jokers in the kitchen. Always some goofy prank with those guys. He picked the triceratops out of his village and threw it at a nearby garbage bin, but it bounced off the side and went tumbling across the cafe floor and under the soda machine. Jim turned back to his triceratops-free village.

There, skating on a blue piece of plastic, was a group of merry ice skaters. Set up on the edge of the pond was a hot cocoa stand. A red pickup truck drove by, the driver waving at the ice skaters. A couple of the kiddos were having a snowball fight in the background. The truck bed held a snowy Christmas tree, so big it needed to be tied down. That's a good one, will look nice in the living room—that's probably his house right over there, Jim reasoned, following the path of his truck in his mind. I mean, that's the direction he's heading, to a row of nice wood and brick townhouses, lit up with Christmas lights and wreaths and boughs of holly.

And here, in the next window, the *pièce de résistance*—Town Square. Here was a charming, small town government—a little post office, with a kid dropping something in the mailbox outside—probably a letter to Santa, the lovable scamp! And the barber-shop, where the real political discussions take place. Lampposts, each with a ceramic wreath hung on them, and pine trees line the path to City Hall, and the church, a steeple with a bell tower on top, which rings out



### Brady Street Pharmacy Stories and Sketches



### Tea Krulos

noon and 6pm every day.

Look out front! Carolers! When did you see carolers anymore? Jim leaned forward, stooping down to get a closer look at them. And see, two of the carolers were black. This village was progressive. We weren't racists here in the Christmas Village, just folks that loved small town living.

*It's the most! wonderful! time of the year!* Jim hummed to himself, smiling, teary eyed, his mind a flood looking at the details of this happy place.

He soaked in every small detail and ignored the car outside the Pharmacy window that had been plowed in and was stuck in the snow, turning side to side, the wheel spinning, kicking up dirty, exhaust-colored snow and frozen litter into the air. That sort of thing wasn't a problem here in Christmas Village.

There, look who was leading the carolers in song, that little figure, the one with



Do you remember? Thank you Tea for  
this beautiful story, this land of memory.  
Eudemon

**Brady Street Pharmacy: Stories and Sketches (Vegetarian Alcoholic Press)**  
by Tea Krulos

We're launching my book *Brady Street Pharmacy: Stories and Sketches*, published by Vegetarian Alcoholic Press on

**Thursday, December 9 2021, 6PM**  
**Lion's Tooth, 2421 S Kinnickinnic.**

Pre-order at  
[www.vegetarianalcoholicpress.com](http://www.vegetarianalcoholicpress.com)

This is a collection of short stories based on my time working at the infamous east side greasy spoon/ pharmacy counter/ convenience store/ attempted theater in my youth. There's stories about my co-workers, the regulars, and myself. I'll be talking about the project and reading a couple short stories. Lion's Tooth is awesome, and they have drinks available. I'd love to see you there.



# Holiday Offerings From Fishberger's on Holton Fischberger's Variety Celebrates Its 15<sup>th</sup> Birthday

by Austin Greenberg

Fischberger's Variety shop (2445 N. Holton St.) celebrated its 15<sup>th</sup> birthday on November 24<sup>th</sup>. Owner and founder Sarah Ditzenberger told Riverwest Currents that usually they celebrate by giving a percentage of Black Friday sales to a charity (November 24, 2006 was a Black Friday). She stated that previous charity recipients including an orphanage in Bolivia, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, and a number of local causes.

Fischberger's sells, "literally a little bit of everything," said Ditzenberger, and it's tough choosing which products to promote because of the care she takes in sourcing her products. One product that has generated a lot of positive customer feedback are slippers that are handmade in Nepal. She stated that her price point for the slippers is cheaper than the company that makes them, and "definitely cheaper than online."

"We always sell everything for the retail price. We never mark anything up. In fact, we'll mark stuff down if we think it's a cool product and it costs too much."

Ditzenberger stated that they focus on the community being able to find a perfect \$20-\$30 gift, or for children, even less.

"For kids going to a Saturday birthday party, they should be able to find something for \$15 for their friend. So they can get a \$3 glitter squishy ball, an \$8 harmonica necklace, a \$4 notebook and a \$2 pen and have a cool gift. We really try to have a variety of prices so you can build your own gift and it meets the cost that you want to spend."

Ditzenberger noted that she stocks a lot of little gifts that make good stocking stuffers, and that many people may not want to shop online, or may not have their orders delivered in time if they do. The holidays don't have to be a "product panic," she stated, and added that despite the shipping challenges she and other merchants are dealing with, she is well-prepared for the holiday rush.

Reader, note that free gift-wrapping is available every day of the year at Fischberger's, except Christmas Eve, because it's too busy that day [have you people never heard of advance planning? (he types, hours past deadline)].

*Shameless plug: Go to Fischberger's now. It's loaded with great stuff. And I'm quite enjoying my gorgeous copy of Thoreau's Walden: Life in the Woods.*



## Calendar December 2021

### 1 WEDNESDAY

JAZZ ESTATE Evan Christian. 8pm start -- 2 sets.

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

WOODLAND PATTERN in person MEDITATION AND READING GROUP: DhammaMKE. Led by Milwaukee musician and composer Anthony Deutsch, 6-7pm.

### 2 THURSDAY

BACK ROOM @Colectivo Prospect Metz / Preoccupations

BREMEN CAFÉ Christian Jackson, 9pm; Lobi, 9:45pm; Jacob Slade, 10:45pm

JAZZ ESTATE Milwaukee Jazz Institute Student Recital - ft. Giant Steps (6pm)

JAZZ ESTATE Scott Hlavenka Gypsy Jazz Trio, 8pm

MIRAMAR THEATRE Rage; Billy Nasser; DJ B-Lee. Doors 9pm. Tix \$10-20

SHANK HALL Ward Davis, 8pm \$20

### 3 FRIDAY

ANGELO'S PIANO BAR Cameron Webb, 9pm-1am

ART\*BAR Darron Walker 9pm

BACK ROOM @Colectivo/Prospect Armchair Boogie, Frugal Stu & the Coupons

GATHERING PLACE BREWING CO, 811 E Vienna Gallery Night - featured artist Ryan Laessig of Milwaukee Alt. with local-themed sci-fi pop art. Starts 5pm

JAZZ ESTATE Mark Davis Trio. 8pm start -- 2 sets

LINNEMAN'S People Brothers Band, 8pm, \$10 (2 sets)

MIRAMAR THEATRE Dopapod

SHANK HALL Willy Porter, 8pm \$25

THE GRANVILLE CONNECTION, 8643 W Brown Deer Holly Jolly Market, 5-8pm

WOODLAND PATTERN online on Zoom SCREENING: aCinema presents a virtual program featuring experimental film and video works from around the world. Details TBA online

### 4 SATURDAY

ART\*BAR Jonny T-Bird 9pm

BACK ROOM @Colectivo/Prospect Charlie Parr

BAVARIAN BIERHAUS, 700 W Lexington St. Nick's Eve Party! Starts 4pm; live music at 6 (Uly Suplovec); first 50 kids get free advent calendar. Prime rib on the menu!

BLACK HUSKY BREWERY Fire, Festivities, & Fun! 10am-10pm. Santa Cycle Rampage after-party!

BREMEN CAFÉ The Fall Sound, 9pm; Family Vacation, 10pm; North Warren, 11pm

CIRCLE A Resurrectionists; Weird Storm 8-10pm

JAZZ ESTATE Milwaukee Jazz Institute Student Recital -- So What Ensemble 5:30pm // FootPrints Ensemble 6pm

JAZZ ESTATE Cigarette Break -- 9pm, 2 sets

JAZZ ESTATE The Janet Evra Quartet, 7pm

LINNEMAN'S Cliffdiver / Cleveland Avenue / Kule 7:30pm, \$15

MILWAUKEE WINTER FARMERS MARKET Deer District! 8am-11:30am

RIVERWEST FOOD PANTRY (924 E Clarke) We proudly serve the 53212, 53211, 53217, 53202, and 53203 zip codes. 8:30-10:30am

SHANK HALL Big Bang Baby (STP tribute) + A Little Bitter (tribute to Alice in Chains), 8pm, \$12

STAND FOR PEACE at 76th and Layton Join Peace Action of Wisconsin for a weekly Stand For Peace, noon until 1pm

THE COFFEE HOUSE, 2717 E Hampshire The Coffee House Songwriter Round Robin, 7:30-9:30 (check [www.the-coffee-house.com](http://www.the-coffee-house.com) before event to see whether in-person or live-streaming)

THE GRANVILLE CONNECTION, 8643 W Brown Deer Holly Jolly Market, noon-4pm

WI BIKE FED, 187 E Becher Santa Rampage 2021 - Return of the Rampage. 9:15 start -- 10 miles of slow-roll fun. Annual fundraiser for WI Bike Fed. Costumes encouraged! Ride safe, be nice! Santa knows when you are bad or good, so be good for goodness sake! See FB event for link to route map.

WOODLAND PATTERN online on Zoom READSHOP: Led by poet and Woodland Pattern co-founder Karl Gartung, Readshops are community sessions dedicated to exploring poetry texts from the 20th century that are often labeled "difficult." Participants take turns reading the poetry aloud, discussing it as questions arise—on the spot, as deeply as needed. 12:15-1:30pm

### 5 SUNDAY

BACK ROOM @Colectivo/Prospect Arlo McKinley

BAVARIAN BIERHAUS, 700 W Lexington Blvd Milwaukee Krampusnacht 2021 -- We're back! This celebration includes great music, food and drink, a Krampus Holiday Market vendor floor, and of course a Krampus Parade! Starts at 4pm

KOCHANSKI'S CONCERTINA BEER HALL The Exotics' Surf Matinee, 2pm

PRITZLAFF BUILDING Hover Craft: 12th Annual Handmade Holiday Shopping Extravaganza (starts at Noon)

### 6 MONDAY

BREMEN CAFÉ Comedy Open Mic, 8pm

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

### 7 TUESDAY

BLACK HUSKY BREWERY Trivia with Cathedral Center, 7-9pm

BREMEN CAFÉ Karaoke w/ Trixy Mercury

JAZZ ESTATE Funk Night with Jack Reed, 8pm

RIVERWEST FOOD PANTRY (924 E Clarke) We proudly serve the 53212, 53211, 53217, 53202, and 53203 zip codes. 4-6pm.

SHANK HALL Sue Foley, 8pm

UPTOWNER Dave Bayles Trio 7-9pm

### 8 WEDNESDAY

JAZZ ESTATE Evan Christian. 8pm start -- 2 sets.

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

WOODLAND PATTERN in person MEDITATION AND READING GROUP: DhammaMKE. Led by Milwaukee musician and composer Anthony Deutsch, 6-7pm.

### 9 THURSDAY

BACK ROOM @Colectivo/Prospect Disq

JAZZ ESTATE Marcya Daneille & Donna Woodall, 8pm

LION'S TOOTH, 2421 S Kinnickinnic Brady Street Pharmacy: Stories and Sketches (by Tea Krulos) book release event, 6pm.

MIRAMAR THEATRE Unleash The Archers; Aether Realm; Seven Kingdoms -- 5pm, all ages, \$25

MIRAMAR THEATRE DJay Mando's Christmas Extravaganza! \$15, 10pm

SHANK HALL Nielsen Trust featuring Rick Nielsen of Cheap Trick, 8pm.

### 10 FRIDAY

ANGELO'S PIANO BAR Cameron Webb, 9pm-1am

ART\*BAR Jake Buthman 9pm

BACK ROOM @Colectivo/Prospect Them Coulee Boys

LINNEMAN'S Loud Library, The Nile Club, Groundlings, The Fall Sound

SHANK HALL Anthony Gomes. 8pm, \$20

### 10 FRIDAY

THE COOPERAGE, 822 S Water St Creepfunk Christmas w/STEEZ, Pine Travelers, Mama Sam & The Jam, WiscoJazz. 8pm, \$10

### 11 SATURDAY

ART\*BAR Josha Fernandez 9pm

BACK ROOM @Colectivo/Prospect

The Verve Pipe (2 shows, 6 & 9pm)

BAVARIAN BIERHAUS, 700 W Lexington Brew City Big Band Christmas Party, 6:30-10:30pm

BREMEN CAFÉ BremSin w/ The Brewcity Bombshells

COMPANY BREWING 5th Annual All Synths Day w/Robot Witch, Whiskey & the Devil, Dark Psychic. 9pm. \$5 advance; \$10 door

GATHERING PLACE BREWING CO, 811 E Vienna Jigs & Swigs (Irish dance workout!), 1pm

LINNEMAN'S THE PANOPTICS W/ WEST RIVIERA The Panoptics / West Riviera 8:30, \$6

MIRAMAR THEATRE Sad Boy Saturday 39 ft. Sad Girl Power Hour

RIVERWEST FOOD PANTRY (924 E Clarke) We proudly serve the 53212, 53211, 53217, 53202, and 53203 zip codes. 8:30-10:30am

SHANK HALL The Appalachians, Bad Year, Fuzzy Surf

STAND FOR PEACE at Highway 100 and North Av Join Peace Action of Wisconsin for a weekly Stand For Peace, noon until 1pm

### 12 SUNDAY

53212 MARKETPLACE Holiday Edition! At the West River Collective, 3700 N Fratney St. Over 20 local vendors. Artisan foods, art, jewelry, body products, candles, home goods and more. Masks highly recommended. 11am-3pm

BACK ROOM @Colectivo/Prospect Lespecial

### 13 MONDAY

BREMEN CAFÉ Comedy Open Mic, 8pm

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



# Calendar December 2021

## 14 TUESDAY

BACK ROOM @Colectivo/Prospect Morgan James - A Very Magnetic Christmas

BREMEN CAFÉ Karaoke w/ Trixy Mercury

RIVERWEST FOOD PANTRY (924 E Clarke) We proudly serve the 53212, 53211, 53217, 53202, and 53203 zip codes. 4-6pm.

SHANK HALL Watkins Family Hour. 8pm. \$35.

UPTOWNER Dave Bayles Trio 7-9pm

WOODLAND PATTERN in person READING GROUP: Here Comes the Argument—NEW! Focusing on poetics, cultural studies, and critical theory led by Woodland Pattern Executive Directors Jenny Gropp and Laura Solomon. The first book to be discussed will be Maggie Nelson's *On Freedom: Four Songs of Care and Constraint*, with subsequent texts and meeting times to be determined. Participants should read *On Freedom* in advance and come with their notes, highlighted passages, reactions, questions, and counter arguments. 6-7pm

## 15 WEDNESDAY

BREMEN CAFÉ Soggy Prairie: Bluegrass (10pm)

LINNEMAN'S Acoustic Open Stage -- Doors, 7pm. Sign-up, 7:30pm. Show starts at 8pm. Featured performer: 5pm To Nowhere

WOODLAND PATTERN in person MEDITATION AND READING GROUP: DhammaMKE. Led by Milwaukee musician and composer Anthony Deutsch, 6-7pm.

## 16 THURSDAY

SHANK HALL Maggie Rose

## 17 FRIDAY

ANGELO'S PIANO BAR Cameron Webb, 9pm-1am

ART\*BAR C.C. Charles Carmichael 9pm

BACK ROOM @Colectivo/Prospect Nita Strauss - Winter Wasteland. Special guest, Conniption

LINNEMAN'S Electric Winter -- first annual! Three high energy sets with some of Wisconsin's best up and coming live musicians -- 7000apart (8pm); Hallowtribe (8:45pm); RAF & Company (9:45pm)

MIRAMAR THEATRE No Mana presents Electromag

SHANK HALL Pat McCurdy

## 17 FRIDAY

WOODLAND PATTERN online on Zoom POETRY READING Tiana Clark, author of *I Can't Talk About the Trees Without the Blood* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2018), Joshua Nguyen, author of *Come Clean* (University of Wisconsin Press, 2021), winner of the 2021 Felix Pollak Prize in Poetry, and Julian Randall, author of *Refuse* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2018). 7pm. \$Give What You Can

## 18 SATURDAY

ART\*BAR Art Bar Xmas Party! Sox 'N Sandlz 9pm

BACK ROOM @Colectivo/Prospect Josh Caterer Trio: Holiday Soiree, 8pm

BLACK HUSKY BREWERY Cookie Exchange - Bake a batch of your favorite holiday cookies and bring them in to swap with other bakers! Free ornament painting activity for kids (and kids at heart). 4pm

BLACK HUSKY BREWERY Milwaukee's Worst Brewery Tour - Christmas Caroling Edition. Our fan-favorite horrible tour, but with a holiday twist! Hear the story of Black Husky Brewing while staff members sing at you. Don't worry - there will be beer! \$15 per ticket - includes tour and beer samples. 6:30pm.

BREMEN CAFÉ Neo Soul & Funk-adelic Jazz Night

BREMEN CAFÉ Tlalok Rodriguez; Peter Behlmer Experience; Cream City Players

CIRCLE A Fox Face w/ The LOL, 8-11pm

GATHERING PLACE BREWING CO, 811 E Vienna Santasy: Milwaukee's Christmas Block Party, 4-10pm

LINNEMAN'S Lost Orange Cat / Cassini Echoes / Ali J -- 8pm, \$10

MAD PLANET Madonna vs Lady Gaga, 9pm. Dance party!

RIVERWEST FOOD PANTRY (924 E Clarke) We proudly serve the 53212, 53211, 53217, 53202, and 53203 zip codes. 8:30-10:30am

SHANK HALL Southbound presents A Tribute To The Allman Brothers, 8pm

STAND FOR PEACE at Port Washington and Silver Spring Join Peace Action of Wisconsin for a weekly Stand For Peace, noon until 1pm

THE COFFEE HOUSE, 2717 E Hampshire 5 PM to Nowhere/Oh Geeez/RAF, 7:30-9:30

WOODLAND PATTERN online on Zoom READSHOP: Led by poet and Woodland Pattern co-founder Karl Gartung, 12:15-1:30pm

## 19 SUNDAY

BACK ROOM @Colectivo/Prospect Found Footage Festival

## 20 MONDAY

BREMEN CAFÉ Comedy Open Mic, 8pm

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

## 21 TUESDAY

BREMEN CAFÉ Karaoke w/ Trixy Mercury

RIVERWEST FOOD PANTRY (924 E Clarke) We proudly serve the 53212, 53211, 53217, 53202, and 53203 zip codes. 4-6pm.

UPTOWNER Dave Bayles Trio 7-9pm

## 22 WEDNESDAY

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

WOODLAND PATTERN in person MEDITATION AND READING GROUP: DhammaMKE. Led by Milwaukee musician and composer Anthony Deutsch, 6-7pm.

## 23 THURSDAY

JAZZ ESTATE Jerry Grillo Christmas Show, 8pm, 2 sets

SHANK HALL The Lovelies, 8pm

THE COOPERAGE, 822 S Water St Here's To You Friend, An Ode to Mike Hoffmann -- performances by Semi-Twang, Yipes!, Mood Vertigo, 1913, The Delta Routine, The Carolinas and more. 6:30pm.

## 24 FRIDAY

CHRISTMAS EVE

## 25 SATURDAY

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

## 27 MONDAY

BREMEN CAFÉ Comedy Open Mic, 8pm

## 28 TUESDAY

BREMEN CAFÉ Karaoke w/ Trixy Mercury

RIVERWEST FOOD PANTRY (924 E Clarke) We proudly serve the 53212, 53211, 53217, 53202, and 53203 zip codes. 4-6pm.

UPTOWNER Dave Bayles Trio 7-9pm

## 29 WEDNESDAY

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

## 30 THURSDAY

BREMEN CAFÉ Diet Lite; Oh Well, OK; Shoobie; Tacoma Washington Weekday Club; Totally Cashed

JAZZ ESTATE Jim Paolo Trio, 8pm. 2 sets

SHANK HALL Ruby Rose Fox, Julia Mark 8pm \$10

## 31 FRIDAY

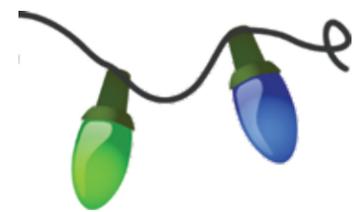
ART\*BAR Glam NYE with the Squeezettes! 10pm, \$10

CIRCLE A Aluminum Knot Eye and Florida Brothers Band NYE show! 8-10pm

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SHANK HALL Koch Marshall Trio, 10pm, \$20 adv / \$25 door



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Urban Farm (4287 N Port Washington)

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Morning Food Distribution: Saturday 7:45-11am

#### Urban Farm Volunteer Times:

Plant, Harvest, etc.:

Tuesdays & Thursdays 8:30am-noon

Wednesdays: 10:30-11:30am and 5-7:30pm

Riverwestfoodpantry.org for more information.



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# RIVERWEST ELDERS

## Sharing Wisdom with Community

### Identifying Needs for Older Adults and Yourself

As adults, we often view ourselves as younger than we actually are. I've observed folks in their 80's making comments about that "old person" over there, when in actuality that "old person" appears to be younger than the individual making that comment! My 84 year old mother in law called us a few months ago because she was stuck behind her refrigerator and couldn't get out. She thought it would be a good idea to clean the floor underneath it, and doesn't want to come to terms that she probably shouldn't be moving a refrigerator at her age anymore.

With the holidays around us, you may see relatives you have not seen in a while. Perhaps you may see some deterioration of health in your loved ones since you last saw them. Or if you've been friends with someone for a long time, you may identify some consistent lapses in memory, hear about frequent falls, or observe other concerns that cannot be ignored much longer.

Where do you turn? Are there resources out there to help? How do you have that conversation with someone who may not even recognize that need in themselves or be in complete denial?

Though I've received an education in this area, I haven't actually lived through these dilemmas until the past few years. Living it brings a whole new perspective. The most challenging part of caregiving for my in-laws has been to have them recognize they can no longer do the things they used to do and that they need to rely on others to help them. They felt like they could still handle things until those hard lessons came, such as my father in law falling outside his home on the way in, taking his wife down with him, laying there in the dark, in freezing rain until emergency personnel arrived. Since that time, they finally accepted help from others to drive them and help them in their home.

I encourage all of you to assess if you

should still be doing an activity yourself, or if you need to rely on others to help. We are such a self reliant society. It is ok to ask for help! If someone approaches you and makes a suggestion to help you improve your living situation, go beyond your pride and consider what they have said. The good thing is there are so many ways you can adapt your living space or lifestyle that you can comfortably live independently.

If you are a person who is trying to help a loved one and they reject help, continue encouraging. Offer to help. Change up the phrasing. Instead of "is there anything I can do to help?" say, "I'm headed to the store and I could use some company. Let's go grocery shopping together." OR... "I've been obsessed with watching shows that organize people's spaces. I know you've been wanting to organize your home better to make it safer for you. How about if I come over on Saturday and do some of the things I've learned?"

There are a number of resources out there to help. The Milwaukee Department on Aging (414-289-6874), an unbiased resource of all things aging, can help with transportation, lower income funding, housing, Meals on Wheels, Senior Dining, FREE Wellness Prevention classes such as Living with Chronic Conditions or Falls Prevention, Medicare guidance, Dementia Care Specialists, and much more. There are also many other resources out there that you may not be aware of, from home repair, to affordable vision/hearing adaptive tools, to home haircuts. If you have any questions about resources that can help, give us a call at Eastside Senior Services and we'd be happy to guide. We also have volunteers to help with rides, shopping assistance, minor chores, errands, and repairs. And as always, we NEED volunteers! Give us a call if you are interested in providing or receiving services. Stay safe this holiday season!

Melissa Meier,  
Eastside Senior Services Executive Director  
www.essmilw.org, essmilw@gmail.com,  
414-210-5881  
Eastside Senior Services -2618 N Hackett  
Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53211-3832 --  
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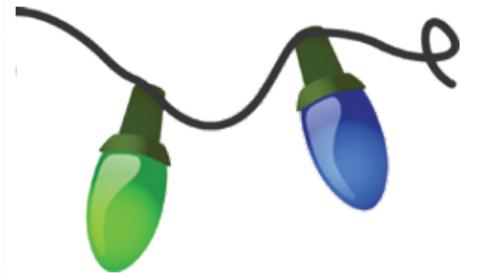
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# La Escuela Fratney Renovates School Grounds

*Green infrastructure replaces ‘impervious’ surfaces, changes learning environments*

by Austin Greenberg

La Escuela Fratney (3255 N. Fratney St.), in partnership with Milwaukee-based nonprofit Reflo and a host of other local public and private entities, has renovated its school grounds in ways that they say are more environmentally friendly and enhance student experience.

The renovation is part of a city-wide effort to green local schoolyards that began in 2016 and is spearheaded by Reflo as part of its ‘Green and Healthy Schools’ program and its Green Schools Consortium of Milwaukee.

According to the GSCM website, many Milwaukee-area schoolyards are “covered” in crumbling asphalt and offer “little if any” green space.

“Schoolyards were originally paved to reduce lawn maintenance costs,” the website notes, “but decades of inertia have left deteriorating infrastructure that is costly to repair and impairs the environmental health of our city and the social-emotional wellbeing of our children.”

The March 2020 conceptual plan for La Escuela Fratney’s renovation noted that ‘hardscapes’ such as asphalt and concrete are considered ‘impervious’ for the aforementioned reasons. It called for the replacement of nearly 15,000 square feet of asphalt with “green space and mixed-use recreation and educational areas.”

Among the implemented changes at La Escuela Fratney, according to school Principal Sara Cruz in an email to the Currents, are a natural grass soccer field and a “loose parts” area in which students can work together to move objects such as tree stumps around. The students are “highly engaged in making up their own games in that area,” Principal Cruz wrote.

“Since opening the new playground,” noted Cruz, “we have seen a decrease in injuries and an increase in students wanting to spend more time outside and more time active.”

The estimated fundraising target in the conceptual plan was \$785,000. According to Reflo officials in emails, the renovation took place over the 2021 summer vacation and cost approximately \$500,000. Principal Cruz noted that the pandemic made fundraising “slightly more challenging,” but she stated that that effort is ongoing, and that future plans include a mural on an outside wall of the school and more seating and signage on the playground.

## Similar projects throughout area

Since completing the schoolyard renovations of the two pilot schools, Bradley Tech High School and Escuela Vieau, in 2018, Reflo and its partners have renovated the schoolyards of five Milwaukee-area schools per year. Sixteen renovations have taken place, according to Reflo Green & Healthy Schools Project Manager Lisa Neeb, and 15 more are currently in various stages of development.

One of the schools that is now in the planning phase of development is Frederick J. Gaenslen School (1250 E. Burleigh St.). The planning phase typically takes approximately one year, and consists of an applicant school being awarded a conceptual planning grant. Gaenslen was awarded its planning grant at approximately this time last year. The second year is typically devoted to fundraising, followed by years three and beyond, which are devoted to detailed design, permitting, construction, and maintenance and stewardship.

The Green Schools Consortium of Milwaukee is, according to the Reflo website, a network of K-12 educators, environmental professionals and philanthropic entities that have an interest in green infrastructure projects for schools. “The GSCM list reaches over 200 members,” states the website, and there are “bimonthly meetings and an annual conference hosted by a Milwaukee Public School.”

Reflo’s funding and project partners in these efforts include Milwaukee Public Schools, MPS Foundation, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, the City of Milwaukee Department of Public Works, the Fund for Lake Michigan and Northwestern Mutual Foundation, among others.

La Escuela Fratney is a dual-language K3-Grade 5 school with over 450 students, all of whom are taught both Spanish and English.

**Lisa Neeb**  
**Reflo**  
**Green & Healthy Schools**  
**Project Manager**  
[lisa.neeb@refloh2o.com](mailto:lisa.neeb@refloh2o.com)  
[/refloh2o.com](http://refloh2o.com)

## Before



## LA ESCUELA FRATNEY

Conceptual Schoolyard Redevelopment Plan /  
 Plan Conceptual de Reurbanización del Patio Escolar

MARCH / MARZO  
 2020



After, above, New Outdoor classroom, below



In the Sensory Garden



## Chapter One

## Discovery: Riverwest, a place to live

*The sun is covered. The sun shines again.*

On February 26, 1979 there was an eclipse of the sun. Not a total eclipse but enough to darken the skies on a sunny day. I left the Milwaukee County Courthouse into an eerie gray light over the city. Telescopes were set up on the MacArthur Square Plaza adjacent to the Courthouse to observe the eclipse. A small crowd was gathered to watch the moon slowly covering the sun. I had just left the court after agreeing to my divorce from my now ex-wife.

This was hardly a day of celebration for me. Divorce does not happen quickly. The marriage had ended long before the adjudication was granted by the judge. But the day did put an indisputable end to that part of my life. But it did not offer a vision for the future. That would be for me to discover.

I had already drifted to various locations on Milwaukee's Eastside. And to new loves coming and going rather quickly. Sometime in 1980 I moved to an upper flat on N. Bremen Street in Riverwest. I chose the place because the rent was reasonable. This was an exodus that appealed to a number of former eastsiders and young folk that had taken to find shelter in this neighborhood of always changing demographics.

My friend Tim had invited me to take a trip to Manhattan to visit art galleries and museums. I agreed to join the group of like minded art lovers on this journey. I ended up sitting on the plane with a woman I had recently met as part of the trip planning process. Her name was Paula.

Paula and I got to know one another in this magical place that is New York. We sat together on the plane ride back to Milwaukee. She was already living in Riverwest. Eventually we started dating and extracting ourselves from previous relationships. You can imagine the stories. It is hardly rare, but often feels that way to those involved.

But this is a story about Riverwest. At least a story about my experiences and knowledge and feelings about the this interesting neighborhood in Milwaukee.

To be whole, Paula and I moved into together in the Bremen Street flat. We were now a couple and a new life truly began. We were both in our 30s. It was the 1980s.

The brick building on Bremen had a rear entrance to the upper. There was a dark and boarded up Polish Flat in the basement. A young couple lived beneath us. The property was owned by a Shorewood Realtor. Paula and I were comfortable enough to dream of a life together in this neighborhood. I would look at houses for sale occasionally in the Sunday Milwaukee Journal. "Hey, look, here is a building for sale and the owner will take a late model car in trade as a down-payment." I had just purchased a new car and was using it for my relatively new job and as a school children's photographer. "Hey, its this house!" The house with the bed we were sitting in.

We went for a hike that Sunday in Estabrook Park. For some reason we exited the park near Santa Monica Boulevard and there was the realtor's office. We did not plan this. I said lets try the door. Surprise, it was open on a Sunday afternoon. I remember it as a cool fall day. We went in and inquired about the house. I kept my car. We got an FHA loan. And the sale closed in 1983. A place to live now became a home. We bought our home for \$34,000. Which seemed like a serious amount at the time. In retrospect, it was a good purchase.

The first thing I remember doing was removing the ugly metal screening that had been put over the window of our entrance door. The second thing we did was to dig up land for a garden. We started planing trees with Paula's dad's help. He ran a plant nursery in Appleton, her hometown.

Our yard had nothing growing in it except an unremarkable lawn and a few Star of Bethlehem plants that bloomed in the spring. It is now overflowing with trees and shrubs and flowers and that small vegetable garden.

The immediate amenity near our home was the Pulaski Building on the corner of Locust and Bremen streets, a half block

away. The Gordon Park Coop grocery filed most of the first floor.

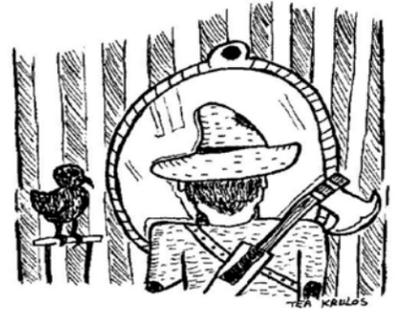
Outpost Natural Foods was on the corner, but would soon move to Holton Street, and then Capitol Drive. We were not active at the Gordon Park Coop as volunteers but did almost all of our shopping there. It was more of a European life style. You buy what you need for the day or the next day. No big shopping carts filled with a weeks worth of groceries.

That building, the Pulaski Building and the lot it sat on would become an important part of the journey.

Soon a band would march down the street and lure us into another adventure.

*Next month: Community action, the 4th of July, ESHAC and the Locust Street Festival.*

Vince Bushell



*Eudemon thought he didn't have the time to spend the time to reminisce. Turning his head around, he discovered that is what time gives us. If we have the time, we have the time to remember. What it was like to come to a place called home. To remember that home is more than the walls and doors. Walking out the door always has some risk. But to not take the risk is more dangerous for you cannot change fate. But you can try. Try is why.*

*liv is life. Go do the things you desire to do in love. Simple things*

*pause*

*write a poem  
stare at clouds  
watch the tree  
watch the tree move  
watch the tree move  
on a windy day*

*put an ice cube in your mouth*

*touch a leaf  
smell a rose  
eat a strawberry  
listen to rain*

*hold someones hand  
rub your foot  
sing  
alone  
sing alone  
dance  
dance alone  
dance dance dance*

*talk  
be quiet  
listen to a robin  
feel the sun on your face  
feel the snow on your face*

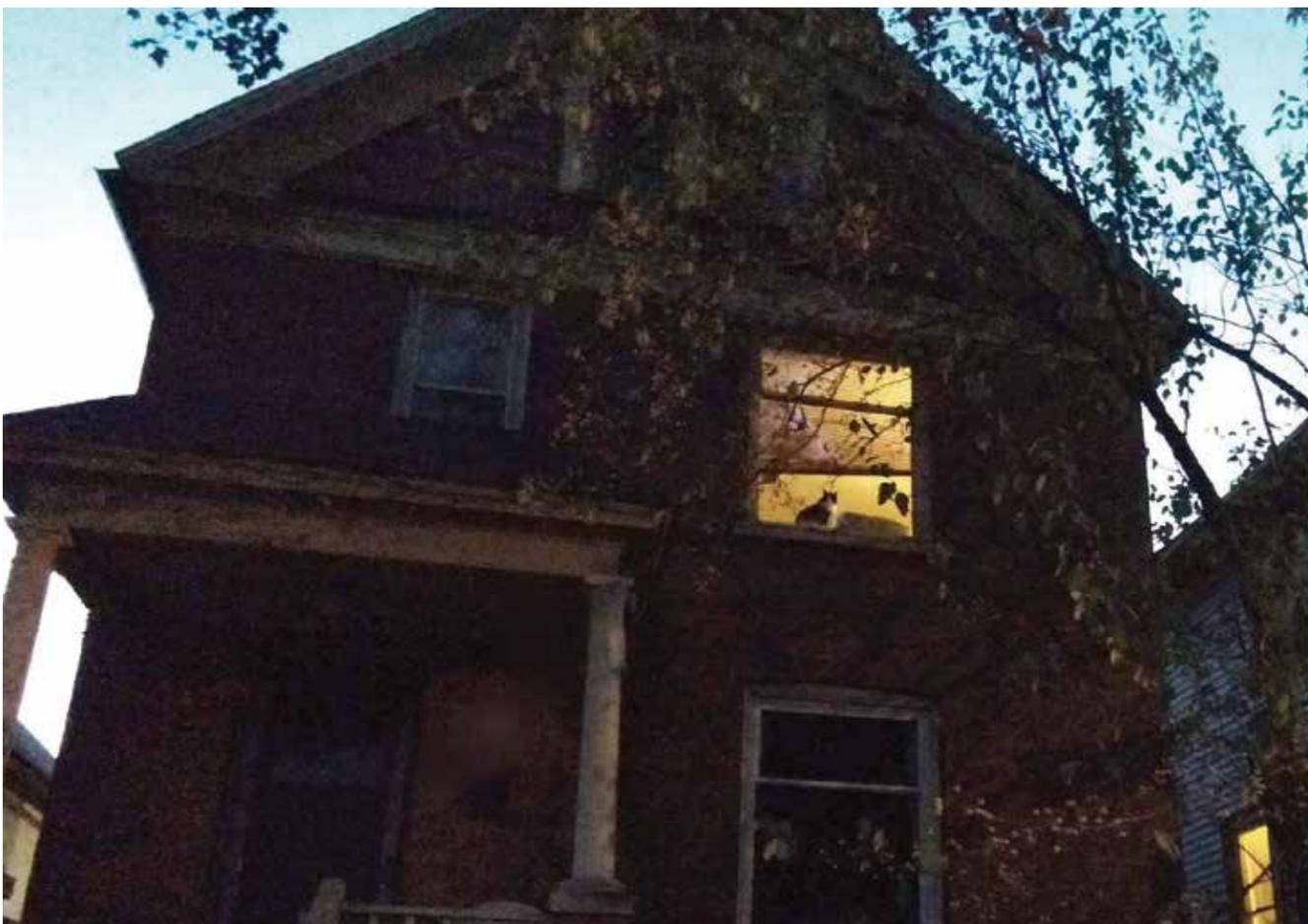
*pet your cat  
take your dog for a walk  
feed your fish  
massage your cats paws*

*pause*

*Repeat*

*vj*

Our House:  
With two cats in the yard.  
Everything is easy.  
10/2018



# Currents Comix Page

The Dodo



Andrew Megow



Art Bar Ad on Calendar Page

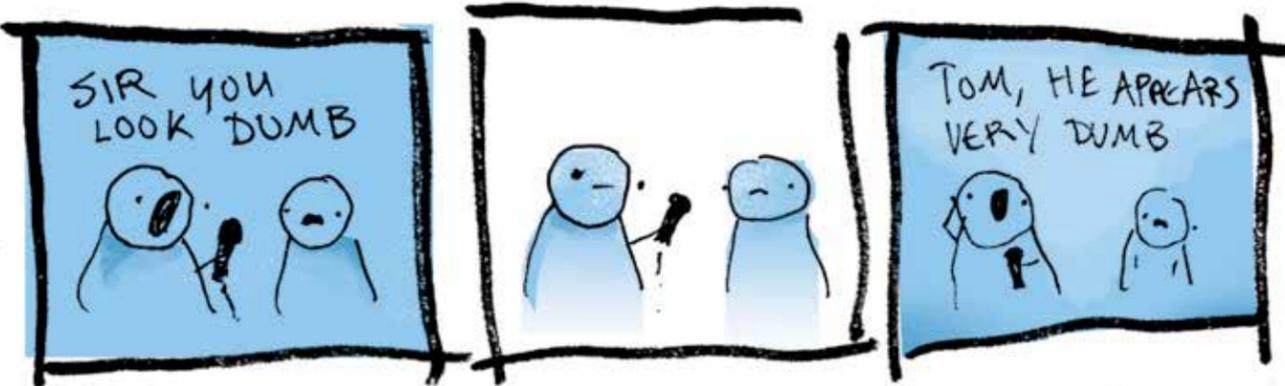
**brunch**  
fri-sat-sun 9am-3pm  
**dinner**  
tue-sun 4pm-9pm

cafe-style  
dine-in  
and  
carryout



372-7880  
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artbarwonderland.com

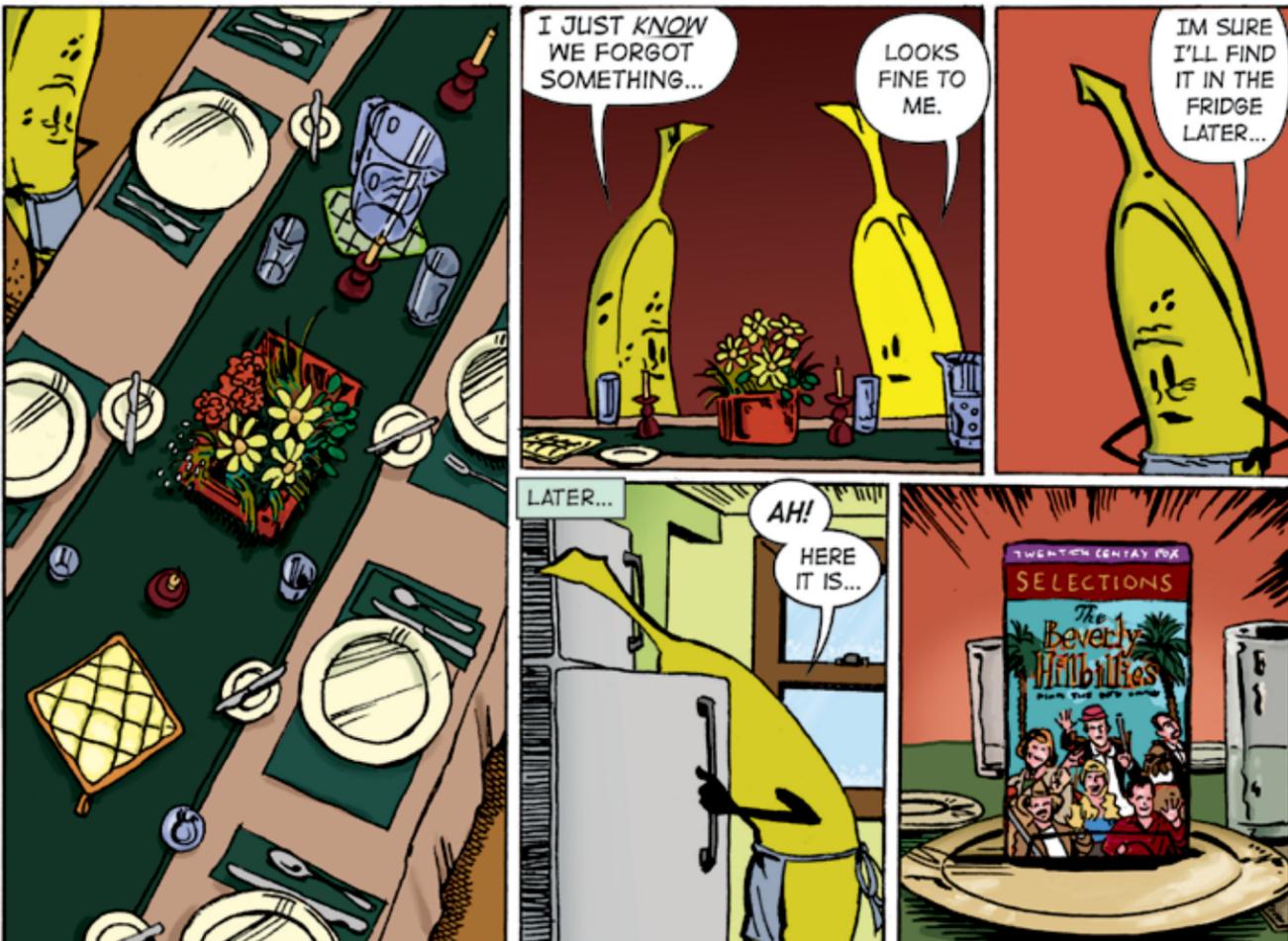
## SUNNY BRAINS



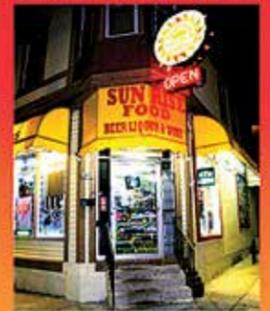
twenty pound baby | stephen tyler conrad

the twisted adventures of stinko

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