



Riverwest Currents



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

Vol 23 Issue 1 January 2023



Illustrations above and on masthead by Lee Cutsforth - 2017

Above: Original illustration by WVBushell in 1976. Modified by VJBushell



Below: Photo and design J. Jason Groschopf -- 2009.



Polar Bear Plunge January 1, 2015
Temp. 25 degrees F, Wind 15 mph

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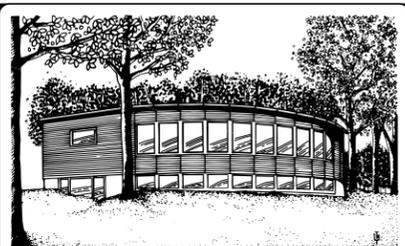
Riverwest Currents
PO Box 716
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Illustration by Anna Ellie



Mother, Daughter, and Granddaughter, at Black Husky Native American Market
Where old traditions meet new.



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Lolly, Virginia and Lisa, 3 Thespians, with tales to tell and sing too! at Jazz Gallery

Wood

**Woodland Pattern
Annual Poetry
Marathon
Watch Party
Saturday January
28th, 2023
Noon to Six PM
Black Husky
Brewery
Locust & Bremen St.**

The Woodland Pattern sponsored Poetry Marathon will be on-line like it was last year. The recorded poets will be broadcast starting on Saturday January 28th. and continuing on Sunday January 29th. Scheduled time is 10 AM to 10 PM each day.

Black Husky Brewery has agreed to host a live Watch Party on Saturday 1/28 from 12 Noon till 6 PM. All are welcome.

Woodland Pattern is expected to host a live Watch Party on Sunday 1/29 in the Gallery. For exact times please check Woodland Patterns web site closer to the date. woodlandpattern.org

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www.riverwestcurrents.org

SUBSCRIPTIONS

To have the newspaper delivered to your home each month, follow instructions on this page. Bottom of P3

MISSION STATEMENT

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

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OWL

Older. Wiser. Local.



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.

Time: **Thursdays 1pm - 4pm.**

Place: Jazz Gallery Center for the Arts, 926 E. Center St. Milwaukee 53212.

All people, ages 50 and up, welcome. Gatherings are free of charge, with refreshments! Masking and distance is encouraged at this point.

Our Radio Shows **debut on Saturdays at 9am on Riverwest Radio, WXRW, 104.1FM.** Stream the show live on riverwestradio.com, if you can't get radio reception. If you miss the radio broadcast, you can catch it anytime at:

<https://www.riverwestradio.com/show/owl-older-wiser-local/>

Scroll under SHOWS, alphabetically to OWL

January 2023

Thursday January 5, (In-Person): Joan McGovern Tandler on Part.2 of a Dietary Discussion, "Don't Feed the Beast"

Saturday January 7, (Radio): Karen Beaumont Presents a Music and Literature Compilation: "New Year Show"

Thursday January 12, (In-Person): Vince Bushell of the Riverwest Currents: Jan. '23 Issue

Saturday January 14, (Radio): Spotlight on a Creative Wonder

Thursday January 19, (In-Person): Erico Ortiz Presents: Theater Games (Interactive Dramatic "Play"-Time!)

Saturday January 21 (Radio): Mikro Naut and Amy present "The A.M. Book Report", discussing excellent books that navigate our world of DIScommunications.

Thursday January 26 (In-Person): DIY (Do It Yourself) Art-Making Workshop. Finally, we're back to it!

Saturday January 28, (Radio): Karen Beaumont Presents a Music and Literature Compilation: "Spring Fever"

Amy Schmutte
OWL and Gallery Exhibitions Manager
Jazz Gallery Center for the Arts



After the Play:
Audience discusses *O Tannenbaum* at the Jazz Gallery, December 17.2022



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2020 ISSUE DEADLINES: Noon, Third Friday of each month
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**What's Going on at Riverwest Radio:
Riverwest radio is seeking new radio producers!**

by Ericka Tucker

**New Radio Producer
Orientation
Saturday, January 21
1pm-4pm**

Do you have a radio show idea that is relevant to the community? Are you part of a group that wants to get your ideas on the air? Are you interested in learning more about community radio? Are there issues or voices you want to hear more from in Milwaukee? Join us and become a producer. Riverwest radio is having a new producer orientation on January 21. The orientation will be in person at the radio station – 824 E Center Street. Check out our website: riverwestradio.com and listen to some programs and bring your idea and yourself to the orientation. Listen to the station streaming online at riverwestradio.com or on the radio 104.1 FM.

WXRW-LP “Riverwest Radio” is a non-commercial low-power FM radio station licensed in Milwaukee. The station airs a community-oriented, mostly talk-based format. All shows are local, aside from the syndicated Democracy Now. Over the last few years, Riverwest radio has been broadcasting via a number of methods, including zoom, prerecorded shows, and some in-person live shows and pre-recorded shows.

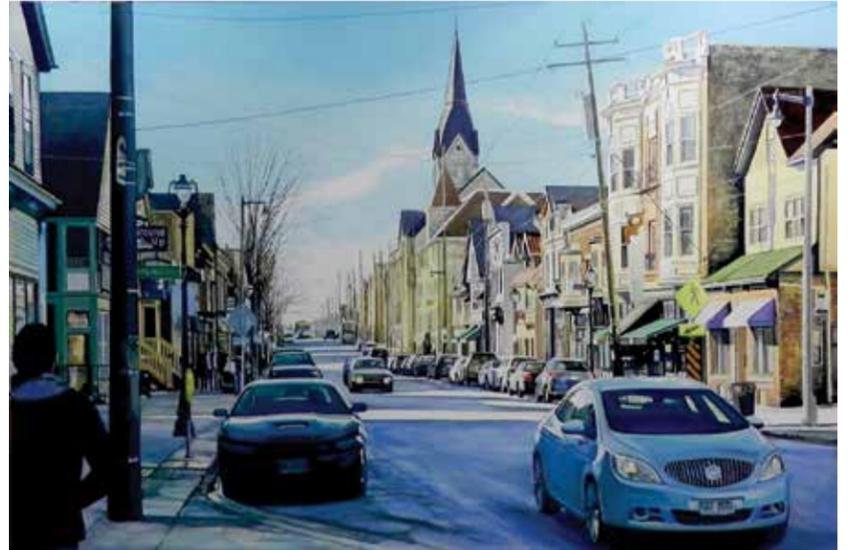
Check out the beautiful, updated storefront look by Riverwest Radio’s host Flavors (Stone Soup every Tuesday @ 6:30pm)!



Shannon Lewis, on the left, and Faith Ward, on the right, at Brewery Credit Union helped me open a CD, a certificate of deposit. Interest rates have been low for a long time on savings. They are going up now, and 3% or more is a lot better than a regular savings account. You have to keep the CD for a specified period of time to get this benefit, but if you are like me, the cash just sits there and loses value because of inflation. Now may be a good time to consider buying a CD. Brewery Credit Union is close to Riverwest and has all the features I need from a Bank or Credit Union. I do most of my banking using my cell phone or computer at BCU, but it is nice to have a smiling face to help when you need it. You can see the rates for CDs in their ad on page 16. Vince Bushell

LOCAL TALENT – -----

Mike Fredrickson



Fredrickson’s oil-on-hardboard paintings reflect his laser-focused eye for the beauty of everyday sights. Many of his latest pieces are starkly realistic renderings of neighborhood street scenes, each amplified by an almost magical light.

LOCAL TALENT – An extravaganza of art from three awesome artists

by Lee Gutowski

Local Talent – The art of Mike Fredrickson, Ann Powell, and Tom Wilson Exhibit opening on Friday, Jan. 6, 2023 at the Art*Bar (722 E Burleigh) from 7-10:30pm

Live music by: Mike Fredrickson (with Bob Jennings and Dave Braun of Mosleys and Bristlehead fame) and The Alex Wilson Band (Family) blues band!

The first exhibit of 2023 at the Art*Bar will shine the spotlight on work from three powerhouse local artists – in alphabetical order, Mike Fredrickson, Ann Powell, and Tom Wilson. Each of these artists is not only highly prolific in their pursuit, but greatly appreciated not only here in Riverwest, Milwaukee and Wisconsin in general, but throughout the region and well beyond.

The show, Local Talent, will run for the month of January at the Art*Bar and kicks off with an opening night cavalcade of artwork and live music featuring Mike Fredrickson and friends performing as Skippy & Clem (or the Ex-Mosleys, or another name TBD), and Tom Wilson playing bass in a band led by his guitar-slinging son, Alex.

The artists

Mike Fredrickson is a Riverwest staple, a painter whose work permanently adorns the walls of the Uptowner bar (i.e. Charm School) and also is exhibited at other public places, like Beans & Barley, Alverno College, and Brewed Café. Many locals have Mike's paintings in their homes; most (if not all) of his CD releases sport his work as well.

Fredrickson's oil-on-hardboard paintings reflect his laser-focused eye for the beauty of everyday sights. Many of his latest pieces are starkly realistic renderings of neighborhood street scenes, each amplified by an almost magical light. Mike also does commission portraits and has painted many large-format portraits of local folks in his orbit. Plus, he's great at painting cows (and dogs and horses) and rural landscapes, subjects that are emblazoned on his consciousness from growing up on a dairy farm outside of Madison.

He'll be playing selections from his 2 most recent releases, *Wicked Fate* (2020; produced by recently departed and much-loved musician Mike Hoffman) and *Home For Lunch* (2022). He'll also have CDs for sale!

Ann Powell is an artist with an eye for natural beauty. Her artist statement on the Woodland Studios (Stoughton, WI gallery where some of her work is exhibited) website reads: "I paint landscapes to sooth my soul. There is a spiritual world I escape to when I study the way sky, earth, water and plants interact with light and shadow. I love to play with color." Her extensive output includes photography and paintings of landscapes, cows, cars and trucks, signage, architecture, flowers ... and much more.

Powell's work has been exhibited at Art*Bar often, and most recently in the popular annual Mini Art show that takes place every year during the winter holiday shopping season. Ann found out there was a rare opening at Art*Bar for January 2023, due to a previously booked show's cancellation, and immediately jumped at

the chance to make something special happen in its wake. She recruited fellow artists Mike Fredrickson and Tom Wilson and presented the idea for this 3-artist exhibit with Art*Bar's owner, Don Krause. Since Krause usually has his shows booked solid two years ahead of time, this proved to be a golden opportunity to create this Local Talent exhibit.

Tom Wilson's decades-spanning career as an ironwork designer, master blacksmith, sculptor, illustrator and author is well known around these parts and internationally. He draws almost constantly, whether at home or hunkered down at the old wooden bar at the Uptowner; for his own amusement always, and often for the purpose of designing (or simply depicting) his ironwork. His blacksmithing shop / forge is in the Riverworks area, and he may soon be taking in an apprentice who recently arrived here from Colorado to learn from him. Wilson is recognized as a master craftsman and has taught metalwork to aspiring artisans from the U.S. to China (where he lived from 2007 until 2018). To top it all off, Michael W. Monroe, the former Director of the Smithsonian Institution's Renwick Gallery, is working to promote an exhibition of Wilson's art to tour to international museums.

Tom's positive outlook and joyous creativity are evident in his full embrace of art. Like Fredrickson, his artmaking includes the making of music; he plays bass regularly in the blues outfit called The Alex Wilson Band (or sometimes called the Wilson Family Band), with his son Alex on guitar and vocals, and his brother Marc on drums.



"I paint landscapes to sooth my soul. There is a spiritual world I escape to when I study the way sky, earth, water and plants interact with light and shadow. I love to play with color."

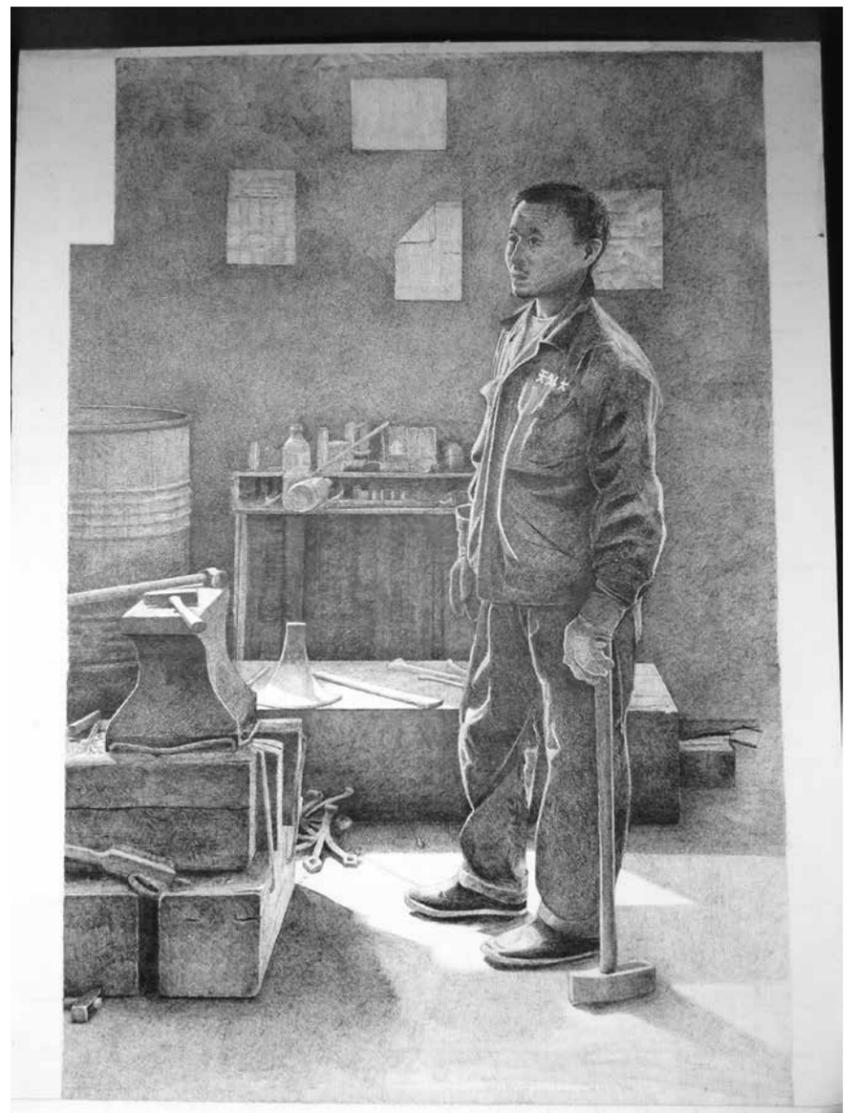
Ann Powell



Ann Powell



Tom Wilson



Peter Sciortino's Bakery

by Ellen C. Warren

Peter and Grace Sciortino opened their bakery at the corner of Brady Street and Humboldt in 1947. Can you imagine how they might feel today, looking at a store bursting at the seams with customers in 2022? Certainly they'd know they must have done something right! As it is, they did lots of things right.

Selling the business, in 1997, to their devoted employees, Maria, Joe, and Luigi Vella, who worked for them since their early teen years, was another great move. The bakery that we all refer to simply as Sciortino's (that Sc is a sh sound for you newbies) has continued in its role as a beloved institution on Milwaukee's east side.

The corner storefront, established in the original Italian neighborhood of Milwaukee, has not changed significantly in looks. Lots of gleaming tile and a gigantic clock on the wall hark back decades. And the recipe for the crusty Italian bread and rolls, unsurpassed anywhere, (IMHO) has remained intact.

I ventured into the throngs of numbered ticket holders a few days before Christmas. Via phone, Maria had informed me that until January she wouldn't have more than two minutes for an interview. There she was, with several other employees, serving the wall to wall crowd.

There were people of all ages patiently awaiting their turn to choose their holiday assortment of the Italian cookies Sciortino's is famous for. Several styles of breads and rolls, cakes, pastries, donuts, and prepared deli foods were also selling at a frantic pace.

So who were all these customers?

A shopper told me she'd been coming to Sciortino's since the '70's. Her favorites? "It's a toss-up between the cookies, and their Italian bread."

A mother and daughter shared that their family had been coming since the store opened, their Italian grandma shopping here until the end of her life. They were there for the cookies and were adamant that the Limoncello Drops were beyond compare. "The workers are so helpful

and friendly, it adds to the experience."

"It's marvelous, it couldn't get any better!" were the words of a couple who were there shopping for their father-in-law.

"My grandparents shopped here," said another lady. "I come from Mayville. My grandparents came from Italy. We brought my father here every year, even in his last year when he was ninety-seven."

My own story is of a father who, in the late '60's worked as a mail carrier on Brady St. He discovered Sciortino's and their bread became our absolute favorite. When my parents later retired to Northern Wisconsin the only thing they ever asked for me to bring was "Sciortino's bread and rolls."



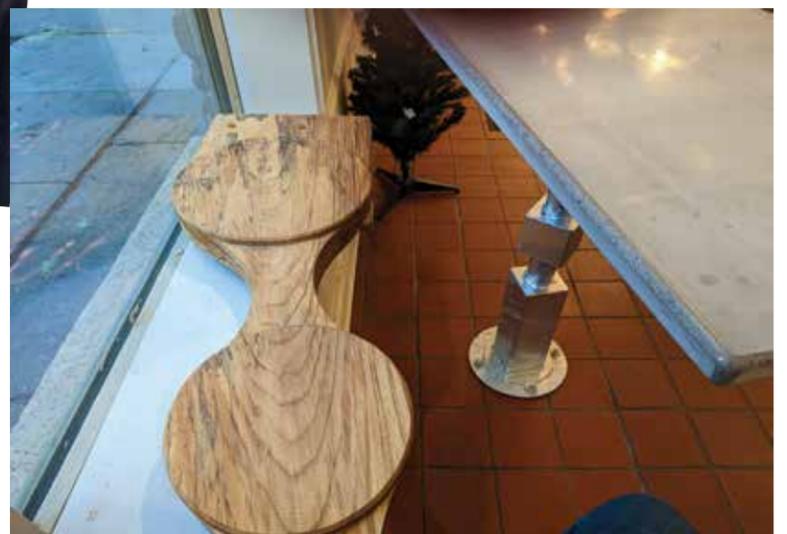
"I love it! I love the cookies! I love the bread!," says everyone!

Sciortino's Bakery is as much an experience as a store. The aromas and sights waft you to a bit of heaven. If you've never been, go get yourself a cookie! Or twelve. And don't forget to grab a loaf on the way out.



SCARDINA IS OPEN AGAIN!!!!

715 E. Locust Street, 414-395-3369



by Vince Bushell

Damien Scardina smiled a few months ago in front of the new location for Scardina Specialties. The building took longer than expected to turn it into the new Deli with some new touches as far as services offered. But the wait is over and the doors are open. Eventually you will be able to get a beer with your sandwich and eat on the premises. There are a couple of seating options including some unique carved wood stools. Production seems to be gearing up for their specialties. I purchased some bacon and some mild Italian sausages. I certainly will be back for more and look forward to hot ham on Sunday too. I loved their bake at home pizza. They have the best pizza sausage. Congratulations to the Scardina family and their staff.



A Walk --- Prospect Hill

The Age of Elegance

by Cari Taylor-Carlson

Many of the elegant residential styles favored by Milwaukee's upper middle-class residents in the late 1800s and early 1900s are displayed on this walk. Most of the homes were built between 1894 and 1909 as this neighborhood, adjacent to Lake Park, developed rapidly, thanks in part to its proximity to the park. As John Gurda noted in Milwaukee City of Neighborhoods, "Lake Park was like a green light to developers who were betting that the affluence of North Point would spill over into the open land north of Newberry Boulevard."

And so it did, some of it on land purchased by Clarence Shepard in 1892, one year after Lake Park was established. This section was named Kenwood Park, 72 acres between Hartford Avenue and Kenwood Boulevard. In 1893, the land south of Kenwood was platted, an area bounded by Lake Drive, Park Place, Downer Avenue, and Kenwood Boulevard. This property, part of a 265-acre farm, was purchased by E.P. Hackett and S. H. Hoff for \$425,000. They called it Prospect Hill and soon organized the Prospect Hill Land Company. They wasted no time laying water, sewer, gas mains, and for ease of movement in the neighborhood, asphalt streets. They spent \$50,000 on the project including curbs for the streets, something new to this era.

The Prospect Hill neighborhood began to grow when land in the North Point neighborhood south of Prospect Hill started to fill up. When they couldn't build in North Point, the wealthy took their money and headed north to construct their elegant homes east of Downer Avenue and south of Kenwood. They hired prominent architects to design their homes which may explain why there are many architectural jewels in this small area. A few of them are noted in the text for this two-mile stroll through Prospect Hill.

For this walk, park at the corner of Park Place and Shepard Avenue. At this corner, notice the homes at 2704 and 2705 Shepard, the George Packard Residence at 2704 and the James Sawyer Residence at 2705, two of the earliest homes in the neighborhood. They are both three-story frame homes and easy on the eye, especially some of the details. You can't miss the four Ionic columns at 2705 and the double Palladian-style windows at 2704, details that tell you these homes were designed and constructed for wealthy homeowners.

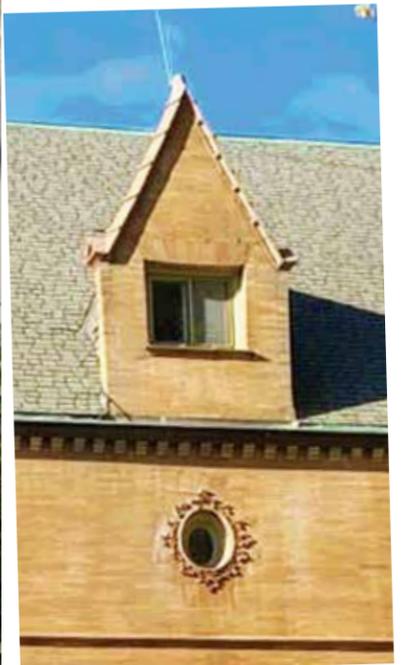
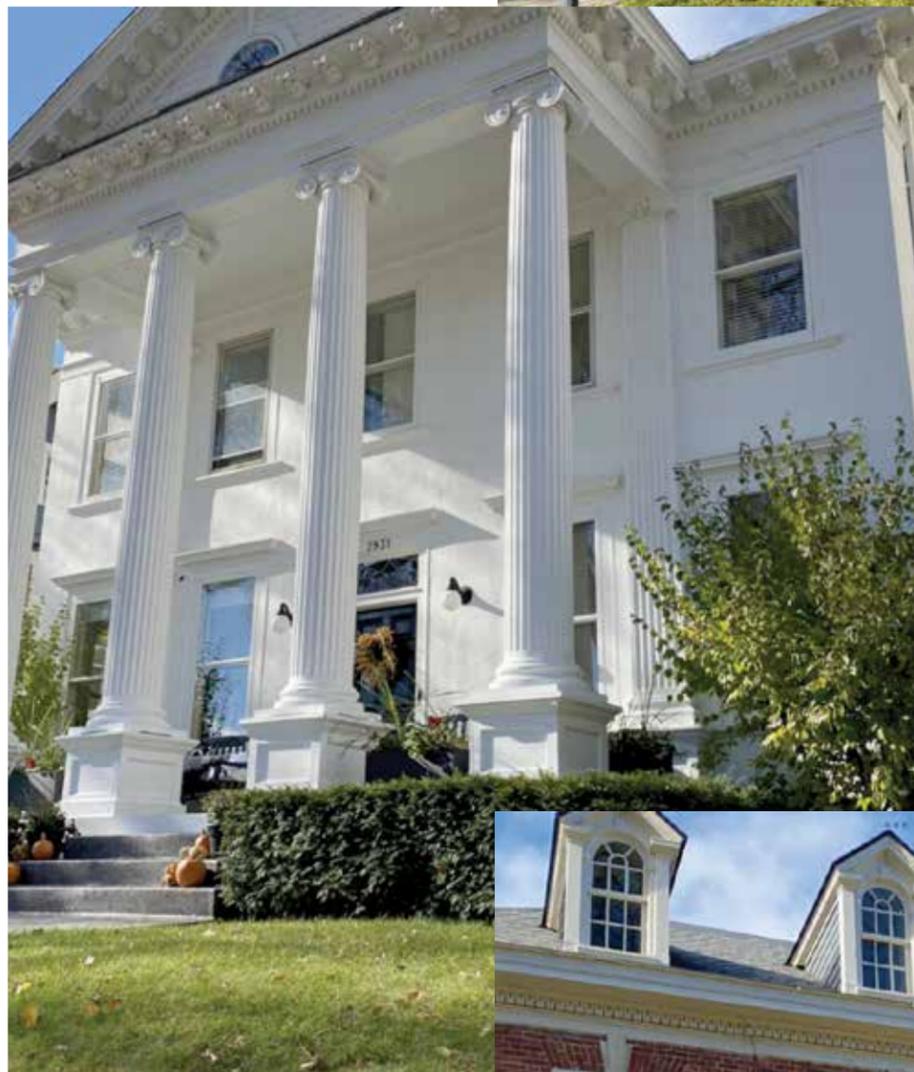
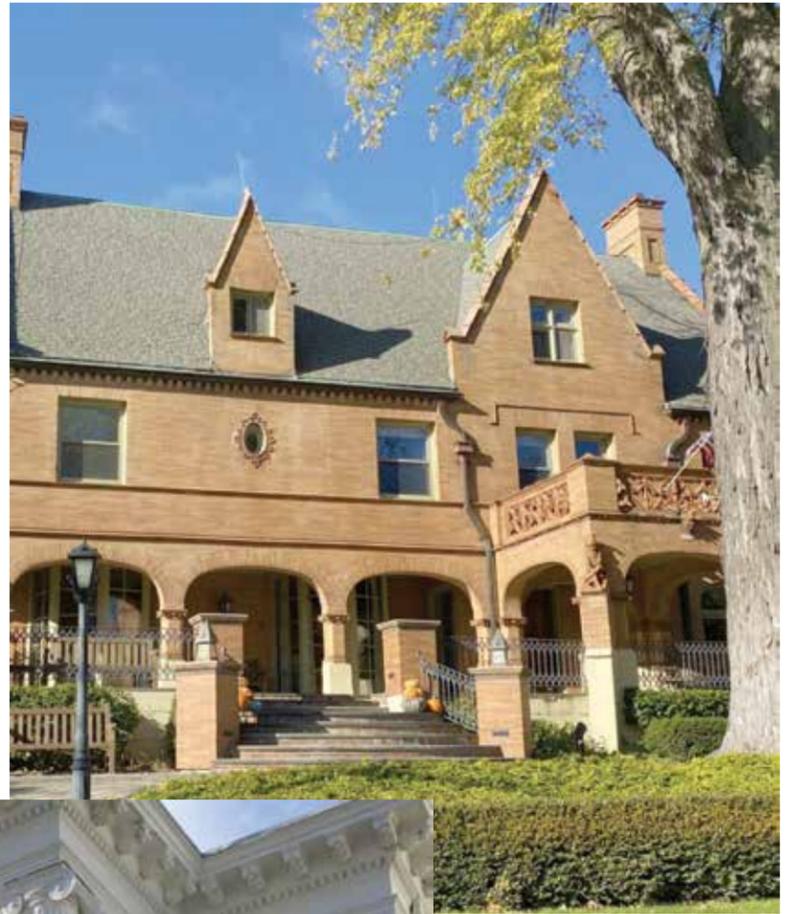
Head east to Lake Drive on Park Place, turn left on Lake Drive and walk north toward Kenwood. At 2743 Lake Drive, the Edward G. Cowdery Residence, designed by Alexander Eschweiler, is an ornate residence built for the general Manager of the Milwaukee Gas Light Company.

At Kenwood turn left, and left again on Marietta Avenue. Look for the home at 2931 with its Ionic columns similar to the home you viewed at 2705 Shepard. This is

the Otto Zielsdorf Residence built in 1899.

Now turn right on Locust Street, and right again on Summit Avenue. Pause at 3043 Summit at the William W. Akin Residence, an imposing two-and-a-half story brick house designed with perfect symmetry, and note the four Ionic columns, announcing the front entrance.

At Kenwood, turn right, and then right again on Shepard which will lead you back to Park Place and the beginning of this walk. You have seen a collection of iconic, architect-designed homes, a parade of homes that showcase the wealth of early upper middle-class Milwaukee businessmen, merchants, and entrepreneurs.



"Lake Park was like a green light to developers who were betting that the affluence of North Point would spill over into the open land north of Newberry Boulevard."
John Gurda, Milwaukee City Neighborhoods.

Balistreri's Bluemound Inn
6501 Bluemound Rd.
414-258-9881
Hours: Wed. to Mon.
11:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.
Closed Tuesday
balistreris.com



Both Balistreri's, the Inn on Bluemound and the Ristorante in Wauwatosa, are known for their pizza, but Balistreri's on Bluemound is far more than a typical pizza joint. When you step inside and see the polished wooden railing, the elegant curved bar that defines one of the dining rooms, the old-fashioned light fixtures, and tables set with white cloths, you know if there was that much attention paid to detail, there will be some tasty Italian cuisine. The decor falls somewhere in the middle of supper club, fine dining, and German Rathskeller, a combination of elegant and homey.

Our table was lovely, set with glass water goblets, a white tablecloth, and a charming Christmas decoration that added seasonal joy. As soon as we were seated our server brought a basket of house-made bread with a pitcher of olive oil and a container filled with soft butter, an improvement over the butter briquets often presented with a bread basket. The restaurant was busy, yet there was a gentle conversational buzz thanks to the noise-softening carpet.

Despite the crowded restaurant, our meals left the kitchen quickly and came to the table piping hot on warm plates. Pasta Balistreri came topped with what looked like at least half a pound of Italian sausage, along with red and yellow peppers, fresh mozzarella, fresh basil, and a tasty marinara. The penne was al dente and overall, the dish was worthy of the name Balistreri. My companion paired it with Insulata Balistreri, a salad that also lived up to its name, leaf lettuce in a mustard vinaigrette topped with prosciutto and blue cheese.

On a second visit my companion and I stayed with the Balistreri label on our entrees and ordered Balistreri's Special Pizza and Bluemound Inn Classic Whitehouse. The Whitehouse needed an explanation. The dish combined ham, turkey, and bacon, in a mushroom cream sauce, served "en casserole," and was topped with Swiss and American cheese that melted into the sauce turning it into a rich mornay filled with the aforementioned three proteins. I ate it with a spoon, every delicious cheesy bite.

Because Balistreri's is known for thin crust pizza, we anticipated a thin crust, something cracker-like. Yes, it was thin, but didn't live up to my personal gold standard for thin crust pizza at another local restaurant which will remain anonymous. We were impressed at the ability of this crust to hold all the toppings, sausage, mozzarella, mushrooms, onions, and olives.

Sauteed Chicken Livers are seldom seen on local menus so we ordered them. People who like chicken livers will appreciate this appetizer. The livers, and there were many, were sauteed with onions and mushrooms and lightly coated with bread crumbs. This was a shareable feast for four and possibly six.

Insula Caprese was a ring of sliced tomatoes that tasted of summer topped with fresh mozzarella, basil, and sweet balsamic; Lasagna Verdura was filled with grilled vegetables and oozed with melted mozzarella; Ravioli was impossibly tender; and Veal Marsala was succulent, and smothered with meaty mushrooms in a marsala glaze.

There is an old-school vibe at Balistreri's Bluemound Inn that will whisk you back to a more genteel era when lives moved at a slower pace. You can come in jeans or dress up for a fancy date night. It's that kind of place. You know you will eat well in this restaurant where contemporary and classic dishes are combined in their quintessential Italian food.

Despite the crowded restaurant, our meals left the kitchen quickly and came to the table piping hot on warm plates.



ELDERS CHRISTMAS PARTY 2022 AT QUAKER MEETING December 20, 2022 -Riverwest Elders

Re-Visit "WONDER"---Take an "AWE"WALK

Notes of Wisdom On Aging Being together with Friends

Lorraine Jacobs

I'm very proud to share the thoughts and wishes of our members. For the first time in 3 years we gathered for our Winter Party at the Friend's Meeting Center. Beautiful surroundings. Beautiful space and windows. Beautiful people. Below are the goals, wishes and views of several members. I'd like to share the goals I'm seeking to follow as my life engulfs another year of unknowns.

I've been seeking ways to enhance my individual experience. Over 70 now, the days can seem long or time skitters along like a leaf in Fall breeze. I decided to deliberately slow down by taking an "AWE WALK". They advise a daily walk, but I'm not there yet. An "AWE WALK" is an exercise to guide us in taking a new look at the ordinary. To put on a new pair of glasses through which to view how wonderful the commonplace is! You don't have to drive to an exotic State Park! Walk in your yard, the street you live on, your neighbor's yard (with their permission of course) spend 15 minutes with the night sky, or afternoon clouds. (from Soul Matters <http://www.sharing-matterssharingcircle.com>)

Steps for an "AWE WALK"

One: Get in the right state of mind. Try this quote from Mary Oliver: «One way to open your eyes is to ask yourself, «What if I had never seen this before? What if I knew I would never see it again?»»

TWO: Meditate

THREE: Write or create something to honor one of the ordinary wonders in your life. Try to just choose one...at a time. Stop to look at what you see. Spend time with the ordinary. Take a picture.

Find more guidance if you'd like to read more: [Take An "Awe Walk" for A Positive Health Impact -NowWithPurpose](#)

Notes of Wisdom for Moving into the next Year

Looking back with thanks.
Opening our hearts today.
Knowing that's the way.

Eileen C.

Sad and glad take turns.
Faith and hope always present.
With love nowever.

Eileen C.

2023

Let's celebrate joyfully.
We're here, you and me!

Eileen C.

The older I get the more I enjoy my solitude!

Ironically, I enjoy being around other people more too! I used to think I had to have a purpose to be around people...do, do, doing something. Today I realize that just BE-ING my Self around other people is Wonderful. If I'm but willing to try, to practice open-mindedness by getting out of my self-centeredness, really listen to others... I always hear a spiritual message for myself, most often from the dull or ignorant.

Margo S.

The Quaker Meeting is always a wonderful place to visit. The view into the woods and river is always a delight

Downstairs the wee ones were taking a nap. I know a teacher with a child in the daycare. I wished the teacher on duty a happy holiday and left my hello to my friend. Upstairs the party was winding down. The food was great and ample. Conversations were there to share.

Books to give and take and gifts to exchange filled two tables.

I unwrapped a natural walking stick with colorful stripes of cloth. Red and white. And just the right height for a hike.

I took my stick and bid adieu and hiked down to the river where a fisherman was casting his lure.

Once again, a December treat hosted by the Riverwest Elders.

Vince Bushell

Enjoying, all the insights and feelings in the sentiments!

As we age our essential needs, wants and dreams

are still as important as they were when we were young!

One doesn't become old and disinterested; we just become more patient and aware of the myriad choices still open to us! "Life is good". Enjoy!

Susan L.

I want to say that I see aging as the crown of our lives

composed of all that went before us of all we did and didn't do, our successes and failures, all, is good.

Julianna K.

"See everything.
Overlook a great deal
Improve a little"

Pope John XX111

I've always loved this quote..
It embodies great wisdom.

Roger Uscila

RW Elders January Activity Schedule:
Wisdom Gathering
2nd Tuesday, Jan. 10th
Noon - 2pm
Social and Potluck
(Bring a mask just in case)
Bring a game to share the time together
BirthdayLunch
4th Thursday, Jan. 26th,
Noon
Celebrate January Birthdays
Beerline Cafe Commerce St, just West of Humboldt .

Riverwest Elders Guiding Vision:
We are a diverse group of Riverwest and nearby neighbors, over 50 years old. We come together to share wisdom, live to our full potential and give back to the community."



JANUARY 2023 CALENDAR

1 SUNDAY -- HAPPY NEW YEAR!
PINK HOUSE STUDIO Dance in Kern Park, 11am-12:30pm. Meet near tennis court.

THE GIG Bluegrass Sunday, 1-4pm

2 MONDAY
BREMEN CAFÉ Comedy Open Mic, 8pm. Then Music Open Mic
PINK HOUSE STUDIO Super Gentle Yoga w/Sarah (9:30-10:30am); Mindful Flow (6-7:15pm)

RIVERWEST YOGASHALA Yoga Foundations w/Tracey 6pm

3 TUESDAY
BREMEN CAFÉ Karaoke w/ Trixy Mercury

KINSHIP COMMUNITY FOOD CENTER, 924 E Clarke Food Distribution at St. Casimir's Church INDOORS -- 4-6pm. Proudly serving the 53212, 53211, 53217, 53202, and 53203 zip codes!

NASHVILLE NORTH, 1216 E Brady Karaoke Night, 7-11pm

RIVERWEST YOGASHALA Yoga Basics w/Hart 6pm

UPTOWNER Dave Bayles Trio 7-9pm

4 WEDNESDAY
BLACK HUSKY BREWING Valley Fox String Music & Haunting Harmonies, 6:30-8:30pm

BREMEN CAFÉ Speak Ezs (9pm)

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

NASHVILLE NORTH, 1216 E Brady Open Mic, 6-8pm

PINK HOUSE STUDIO Yoga w/ Kat, 11am-Noon

THE GIG Wednesday Night Music Jam, 9-11pm

5 THURSDAY
BACK ROOM @Colectivo/ Prospect The Astronomers w/special guest Emmett Mulrooney

COMPANY BREWING Company Karaoke, 8pm. 50,000+ song list. Weekly themes, drink specials.

JAZZ GALLERY Ctr for the ARTS *in person* OWL: Older. Wiser. Local. Joan McGovern Tandler on Part 2 of a Dietary Discussion, "Don't Feed the Beast" 1-4pm

QUARTERS ROCK & ROLL PALACE Fred and Joe's Super-Cringey Karaoke Bachelor Party, hosted by the great Trixy Mercury. Starts at 8pm.

RIVERWEST YOGASHALA Gentle, Healing, Supportive w/Tracey 7:30pm

6 FRIDAY
ART*BAR Art opening: "Local Talent" featuring the art of Mike Fredrickson, Ann Powell and Tom Wilson. Live music by Mike Fredrickson's band and the Alex Wilson Band. 7pm start.

BREMEN CAFÉ BremenHain
COMPANY BREWING Soul Speed / Cosmic Endeavors / Fightin' Bob (9:30-midnight), \$7

MAD PLANET Friday Night Retro Dance Party, 9pm, \$7

PINK HOUSE STUDIO African Dance w/ Roxanna and Yaya. 6-7:15pm

RIVERWEST YOGASHALA Yoga Foundations w/Tracey 6pm

SHANK HALL Pete Correale, 8pm, \$25

7 SATURDAY
BACK ROOM @Colectivo/ Prospect MKE Music Night 40, ft. Sleepy Gaucho w/special guest Pocket Change, Soul Speed

BREMEN CAFÉ Trash Pandas, Secondhand Souls (9pm)

COMPANY BREWING Will Pfrang and the Good Land Gang / Will Scheurell / Mas Verde / Nate John Herlache (9:30pm start). \$10

JAZZ GALLERY Ctr for the ARTS OWL: Older. Wiser. Local. Riverwest Radio, 9am. Karen Beaumont Presents a Music and Literature Compilation: "New Year Show"

KINSHIP COMMUNITY FOOD CENTER, 924 E Clarke Food Distribution at St. Casimir's Church parking lot -- 8:30-10:30am. Proudly serving the 53212, 53211, 53217, 53202, and 53203 zip codes!

MAD PLANET Non-Pop

MILWAUKEEWINTERFARMERS MARKET The Table, 5305 W. Capitol Drive, 9am-2pm

PINK HOUSE STUDIO Self Awareness Through Martial arts with Sam Carrion, 3:15-4:30pm

RIVERWEST PEOPLE'S ICE RINK, 3129 N Bremen Broomball 2023 Opening Day! The People's Rink is back and so are we for another season of Saturday afternoon Broomball! Pregame starting round 1, we'll be skating around getting the ice nice and dusty. Fire blazin' to keep warm and grillin' out. BYOB! Games will begin around 3. Helmets, Knee and Elbow Pads strongly encouraged. No Skates Needed and we have the Broomsticks!

SHANK HALL Failure To Launch, 8pm, \$10

STAND FOR PEACE at 27th and Oklahoma Join Peace Action of Wisconsin for a weekly Stand For Peace, noon until 1pm

THE COFFEE HOUSE, 2717 E. Hampshire St. Bird & Bloom (7:30-9:30pm) A mother-daughter music duo from Burlington WI with an eclectic mix of styles featuring amazing cello, piano and powerful vocals

8 SUNDAY
PINK HOUSE STUDIO Dance in Kern Park, 11am-12:30pm. Meet near tennis court.

RIVERWEST YOGASHALA Yoga Foundations w/Tracey 10:30am

THE GIG Bluegrass Sunday, 1-4pm

UPTOWNER Alex Wilson Blues Band 3pm

9 MONDAY
BREMEN CAFÉ Comedy Open Mic, 8pm. Then Music Open Mic
COMPANY BREWING Wisconsin's Hardest Trivia, 7pm. Win prizes if you've got the smarts!

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

PINK HOUSE STUDIO Super Gentle Yoga w/Sarah (9:30-10:30am); Mindful Flow (6-7:15pm)

RIVERWEST YOGASHALA Yoga Foundations w/Tracey 6pm

RIVERWEST YOGASHALA Yoga Foundations w/Tracey 6pm

10 TUESDAY
BREMEN CAFÉ Karaoke w/ Trixy Mercury

KINSHIP COMMUNITY FOOD CENTER, 924 E Clarke Food Distribution at St. Casimir's Church INDOORS -- 4-6pm. Proudly serving the 53212, 53211, 53217, 53202, and 53203 zip codes!

NASHVILLE NORTH, 1216 E Brady Karaoke Night, 7-11pm

RIVERWEST YOGASHALA Yoga Basics w/Hart 6pm

UPTOWNER Dave Bayles Trio 7-9pm

11 WEDNESDAY
BLACK HUSKY BREWING Irish Music Jam Session, a gathering of musicians playing the traditional dance music of Ireland on fiddle, bodhran, flute, concertina, pipes, flute, whistle, banjo, and more! 6:30-9pm

COMPANY BREWING Deaf Trivia w/ Milwaukee Signers Club, 7-9pm

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

NASHVILLE NORTH, 1216 E Brady Open Mic, 6-8pm

PINK HOUSE STUDIO Yoga w/ Kat, 11am-Noon

RIVERWEST YOGASHALA Yoga Basics w/Haley 6pm

THE GIG Wednesday Night Music Jam, 9-11pm

12 THURSDAY
BLACK HUSKY BREWING Drafts & Crafts, 6-9pm. Bring your yarn, thread, colored pencils, or any other of your favorite art supplies down to the taproom and enjoy some craft brews while you craft!

BREMEN CAFÉ Clementine, LoBi, Rustix (9pm)

COMPANY BREWING Company Karaoke, 8pm. 50,000+ song list. Weekly themes, drink specials.

JAZZ GALLERY Ctr for the ARTS *in person* OWL: Older. Wiser. Local. Vince Bushell of the Riverwest Currents: Jan. '23 Issue (1-4pm)

RIVERWEST YOGASHALA Gentle, Healing, Supportive w/Tracey 7:30pm

13 FRIDAY
BACK ROOM @Colectivo/ Prospect Yam Haus w/special guest Landon Conrath

BLACK HOLOCAUST MUSEUM, 4th & North Av Community Day Sponsored by Network Health, 10am-5pm. Come and enjoy the museum for FREE all day!

LINNEMAN'S Hurd & Galante, 8pm, \$10

MAD PLANET Friday Night Retro Dance Party with DJ Don Black, 9pm, \$7

PINK HOUSE STUDIO African Dance w/ Roxanna and Yaya. 6-7:15pm

RIVERWEST YOGASHALA Yoga Foundations w/Tracey 6pm

SHANK HALL Night Moves, Shady Cove. 8pm, \$16-18

14 SATURDAY
BREMEN CAFÉ BremSin w/ The Brewcity Bombshells

DANDY, 5050 W Vliet Milwaukee Vintage Style Society's Snowball! An evening of cocktails and live music. Give the password at the door and step in to an evening of vintage glamour, featuring the scintillating rhythms of Professor Pinkerton's Irreverent Orchestra. Bring your dancing shoes along or just enjoy the tunes as you sip your drink. Attire is smart vintage cocktail*/black tie optional. Tix \$15 at VintageSnowball.eventbrite.com. 7pm start.

JAZZ GALLERY Ctr for the ARTS OWL: Older. Wiser. Local. Riverwest Radio, 9am: Spotlight on a Creative Wonder

KINSHIP COMMUNITY FOOD CENTER, 924 E Clarke Food Distribution at St. Casimir's Church parking lot -- 8:30-10:30am. Proudly serving the 53212, 53211, 53217, 53202, and 53203 zip codes!

LINNEMAN'S Half Moon Hideaway, Christian Jackson & Friends, Current Human Future Dragon. 8pm, \$8

MAD PLANET The Get Down
MILWAUKEEWINTERFARMERS MARKET The Table, 5305 W. Capitol Drive, 9am-2pm

PINK HOUSE STUDIO Self Awareness Through Martial arts with Sam Carrion, 3:15-4:30pm

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

THE COFFEE HOUSE, 2717 E. Hampshire St. Coffee House friends gathering & Open Jam, 7:30-9:30pm. Join in on an old Coffee House tradition. Bring an instrument, a song or your own book of poems. You can come just to listen or join in yourself. Donations for the evening will go to support The Coffee House.

UWM PLANETARIUM Open House, 1-3pm. Free! Celebrate 57 years with the UWM Planetarium at their annual open house.

15 SUNDAY
PINK HOUSE STUDIO Dance in Kern Park, 11am-12:30pm. Meet near tennis court.

RIVERWEST YOGASHALA Yoga Foundations w/Tracey 10:30am

THE GIG Bluegrass Sunday, 1-4pm

16 MONDAY -- MARTIN LUTHER KING, Jr. DAY

BREMEN CAFÉ Comedy Open Mic, 8pm. Then Music Open Mic

COMPANY BREWING Wisconsin's Hardest Trivia, 7pm. Win prizes if you've got the smarts!

LINNEMAN'S Poet's Monday! Doors 7pm, performances start 7:30pm. \$3 cover. Featured poet: Blue Lotus

PINK HOUSE STUDIO Super Gentle Yoga w/Sarah (9:30-10:30am); Mindful Flow (6-7:15pm)

RIVERWEST YOGASHALA Yoga Foundations w/Tracey 6pm

JANUARY 2023 CALENDAR

17 TUESDAY
BREMEN CAFÉ Karaoke w/ Trixy Mercury

KINSHIP COMMUNITY FOOD CENTER, 924 E Clarke Food Distribution at St. Casimir's Church
INDOORS -- 4-6pm. Proudly serving the 53212, 53211, 53217, 53202, and 53203 zip codes!

NASHVILLE NORTH, 1216 E Brady Karaoke Night, 7-11pm
RIVERWEST YOGASHALA Yoga Basics w/Hart 6pm
UPTOWNER Dave Bayles Trio 7-9pm

18 WEDNESDAY
BACK ROOM @Colectivo/Prospect King Buffalo w/special guest Lume

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

NASHVILLE NORTH, 1216 E Brady Open Mic, 6-8pm

PINK HOUSE STUDIO Yoga w/ Kat, 11am-Noon

RIVERWEST YOGASHALA Yoga Basics w/Haley 6pm

THE GIG Wednesday Night Music Jam, 9-11pm

19 THURSDAY
BREMEN CAFÉ The Passion Park Experience (9pm)

COMPANY BREWING Company Karaoke, 8pm. 50,000+ song list. Weekly themes, drink specials.

JAZZ GALLERY Ctr for the ARTS *in person* OWL: Older. Wiser. Local. Erico Ortiz Presents: Theater Games (Interactive Dramatic "Play"-Time!) 1-4pm

RIVERWEST YOGASHALA Gentle, Healing, Supportive w/Tracey 7:30pm

SHANK HALL Kofi Baker's Cream Faith: The Music of Cream and Blind Faith. 8pm, \$20

20 FRIDAY
AMORPHIC BEER, 3700 N Fratney MKE Music Night in the backyard with Tlalok and co. Artists, music, beer. 3-11pm

LINNEMAN'S The Nile Club Album Release with Barford, North Warren, Shoobie, Riotnine. 8pm, \$12

MAD PLANET Friday Night Retro Dance Party, 9pm, \$7

MIRAMAR THEATRE Qlank

NASHVILLE NORTH, 1216 E Brady Rick Monroe and the Hitmen, 7-10pm

PINK HOUSE STUDIO African Dance w/ Roxanna and Yaya. 6-7:15pm

RIVERWEST YOGASHALA Yoga Foundations w/Tracey 6pm

SHANK HALL 20 Watt Tombstone, 8pm, \$12-15

UWM PLANETARIUM Northern Lights, 7-8pm, \$6 general admission, \$5 students. Enjoy the radiance of the night sky and colorful displays of dancing lights with a behind-the-scenes tour of the science behind one of nature's most remarkable light shows. The program will include an indoor stargazing session of the night sky followed by the opportunity to ask questions.

21 SATURDAY
BACK ROOM @Colectivo/Prospect Scam Likely w/special guests Scarlet Demore and Diet Lite

JAZZ GALLERY Ctr for the ARTS OWL: Older. Wiser. Local. Riverwest Radio, 9am: Mikro Naut and Amy present "The A.M. Book Report", discussing excellent books that navigate our world of DIScommunications.

KINSHIP COMMUNITY FOOD CENTER, 924 E Clarke Food Distribution at St. Casimir's Church parking lot -- 8:30-10:30am. Proudly serving the 53212, 53211, 53217, 53202, and 53203 zip codes!

LINNEMAN'S Louie & the Flashbombs, Kitty Soft Paw, 8pm, \$10

MAD PLANET Dance Party: Taylor Swift vs Ariana Grande vs Lizzo, 9pm, \$7

MILWAUKEE WINTER FARMERS MARKET The Table, 5305 W. Capitol Drive, 9am-2pm

OLD GERMAN BEER HALL, 1009 N Old World Third Street (MLK Drive) The Squeezettes, 8:30-11:30pm

PINK HOUSE STUDIO Self Awareness Through Martial arts with Sam Carrion, 3:15-4:30pm

RIVERWEST RADIO, 824 E Center New Radio Producer Orientation, 1-4pm

SHANK HALL In The Flesh (Pink Floyd tribute), 8pm, \$15

STAND FOR PEACE at 76th Street and North Avenue. Third Anniversary of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons Join Peace Action of Wisconsin for a weekly Stand For Peace, noon until 1pm

THE COFFEE HOUSE, 2717 E. Hampshire St. John Stano, 7:30-9:30pm. A distinctive blend of acoustic and slide guitar, harmonica, expressive vocals and insightful songwriting.

22 SUNDAY -- LUNAR NEW YEAR

PINK HOUSE STUDIO Dance in Kern Park, 11am-12:30pm. Meet near tennis court.

RIVERWEST YOGASHALA Yoga Foundations w/Tracey 10:30am

THE GIG Bluegrass Sunday, 1-4pm

UPTOWNER Alex Wilson Blues Band 3pm

23 MONDAY
BREMEN CAFÉ Comedy Open Mic, 8pm. Then Music Open Mic
COMPANY BREWING Wisconsin's Hardest Trivia, 7pm. Win prizes if you've got the smarts!

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

PINK HOUSE STUDIO Super Gentle Yoga w/Sarah (9:30-10:30am); Mindful Flow (6-7:15pm)

RIVERWEST YOGASHALA Yoga Foundations w/Tracey 6pm

24 TUESDAY
BREMEN CAFÉ Karaoke w/ Trixy Mercury

KINSHIP COMMUNITY FOOD CENTER, 924 E Clarke Food Distribution at St. Casimir's Church

INDOORS -- 4-6pm. Proudly serving the 53212, 53211, 53217, 53202, and 53203 zip codes!

NASHVILLE NORTH, 1216 E Brady Karaoke Night, 7-11pm

RIVERWEST YOGASHALA Yoga Basics w/Hart 6pm

UPTOWNER Dave Bayles Trio 7-9pm

25 WEDNESDAY
BACK ROOM @Colectivo/Prospect Plastic Picnic

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

NASHVILLE NORTH, 1216 E Brady Open Mic, 6-8pm

PINK HOUSE STUDIO Yoga w/ Kat, 11am-Noon

RIVERWEST YOGASHALA Yoga Basics w/Haley 6pm

THE GIG Wednesday Night Music Jam, 9-11pm

26 THURSDAY
BREMEN CAFÉ Dead Dead Swans (10pm); Pine & Fire (11pm); Old Wolves (midnight)

COMPANY BREWING Company Karaoke, 8pm. 50,000+ song list. Weekly themes, drink specials.

JAZZ GALLERY Ctr for the ARTS *in person* OWL: Older. Wiser. Local. DIY (Do It Yourself) Art-Making Workshop. Finally, we're back to it!

RIVERWEST YOGASHALA Gentle, Healing, Supportive w/Tracey 7:30pm

SHANK HALL Victoria Victoria featuring Charlie Hunter, 8pm, \$15

27 FRIDAY
BACK ROOM @Colectivo/Prospect Rhett Miller w/special guest Courtney Jaye

LINNEMAN'S MAs In Mary, Loud Library, Meadowers, 8:30pm, \$5

MAD PLANET Friday Night Retro Dance Party, 9pm, \$7

MIRAMAR THEATRE Shiba San

PINK HOUSE STUDIO African Dance w/ Roxanna and Yaya. 6-7:15pm

RIVERWEST YOGASHALA Yoga Foundations w/Tracey 6pm

SHANK HALL Seaside Zoo (Grateful Dead Tribute), 8pm, \$10

UWM PLANETARIUM Northern Lights, 7-8pm, \$6 general admission, \$5 students. Enjoy the radiance of the night sky and colorful displays of dancing lights with a behind-the-scenes tour of the science behind one of nature's most remarkable light shows. The program will include an indoor stargazing session of the night sky followed by the opportunity to ask questions.

28 SATURDAY
JAZZ GALLERY Ctr for the ARTS OWL: Older. Wiser. Local. Riverwest Radio, 9am: Karen Beaumont Presents a Music and Literature Compilation: "Spring Fever"

KINSHIP COMMUNITY FOOD CENTER, 924 E Clarke Food Distribution at St. Casimir's Church parking lot -- 8:30-10:30am. Proudly serving the 53212, 53211, 53217, 53202, and 53203 zip codes!

LINNEMAN'S MKE Music Night. Starts 7:30pm. Details TBA. \$10

MAD PLANET Nineties by Nature! 9pm, \$7

MILWAUKEE WINTER FARMERS MARKET The Table, 5305 W. Capitol Drive, 9am-2pm

MIRAMAR THEATRE Dirt Monkey -- Jantsen

PINK HOUSE STUDIO Self Awareness Through Martial arts with Sam Carrion, 3:15-4:30pm

SHANK HALL Paul Cebal Tomorrow Sound, 8pm, \$15

STAND FOR PEACE at St. Paul and Water Street Join Peace Action of Wisconsin for a weekly Stand For Peace, noon until 1pm

UWM PLANETARIUM Rooftop Stargazing, 8-9pm. Free!

WOODLAND PATTERN *online* 29th Annual Poetry Marathon and Benefit. Woodland Pattern's most highly anticipated annual event, the Poetry Marathon is a two-day, 24-hour lyrical extravaganza with performances from more than 300 individual poets, musicians, and moving image artists. 10am-10pm (Saturday Jan. 28 and Sunday Jan. 29)

29 SUNDAY
PINK HOUSE STUDIO Dance in Kern Park, 11am-12:30pm. Meet near tennis court.

RIVERWEST YOGASHALA Yoga Foundations w/Tracey 10:30am

THE GIG Bluegrass Sunday, 1-4pm

WOODLAND PATTERN *online* 29th Annual Poetry Marathon and Benefit. Woodland Pattern's most highly anticipated annual event, the Poetry Marathon is a two-day, 24-hour lyrical extravaganza with performances from more than 300 individual poets, musicians, and moving image artists. 10am-10pm (Saturday Jan. 28 and Sunday Jan. 29)

30 MONDAY
BREMEN CAFÉ Comedy Open Mic, 8pm. Then Music Open Mic
COMPANY BREWING Wisconsin's Hardest Trivia, 7pm. Win prizes if you've got the smarts!

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

PINK HOUSE STUDIO Super Gentle Yoga w/Sarah (9:30-10:30am); Mindful Flow (6-7:15pm)

RIVERWEST YOGASHALA Yoga Foundations w/Tracey 6pm

31 TUESDAY
BREMEN CAFÉ Karaoke w/ Trixy Mercury

KINSHIP COMMUNITY FOOD CENTER, 924 E Clarke Food Distribution at St. Casimir's Church
INDOORS -- 4-6pm. Proudly serving the 53212, 53211, 53217, 53202, and 53203 zip codes!

NASHVILLE NORTH, 1216 E Brady Karaoke Night, 7-11pm

RIVERWEST YOGASHALA Yoga Basics w/Hart 6pm

UPTOWNER Dave Bayles Trio 7-9pm

TANNENBAUM ARMS May Part II

Darlene Wesenberg Rzezotarski

As they turned off Oakland Avenue, however, they noticed flashing red lights and billowing smoke. Tannenbaum Arms was burning!

“O my God!” Lily cried, as they hastened their steps.

“I hope somebody got Mrs. Davis out,” was Blue Jay’s first thought. “And Lost Lenore and Messy Bessie!”

As they approached the building, they noticed that the street was cordoned off. There were two fire trucks and an ambulance. They saw Larry and Lenny with Mrs. Davis. A fireman was trying to persuade Mrs. Davis to get into the ambulance and get checked out, but she was adamantly refusing. Mrs. Hopkinson, Moissette, and a cluster of other people were on the sidewalk across the street, helplessly, silently watching. Klara and Elmer had come and were standing somberly on the sidelines. “Every super’s worst nightmare,” he shook his head.

“Everybody’s out,” Larry said. “It seems to be confined to Apartment 6.”

“The Sixers! And where are they?” Jay looked around.

“They took off to God only knows where,” said Linda. “I’d hate to be in their shoes right now.”

“O my God!” Lily cried again. “Our dog and our bird! I’m going in for Lenore and Messy Bessie. Watch Little Jay. And Lenny, watch my camera!” She tore off and slyly crossed the street in an attempt to slip past the barricade to get to the rear of the building unnoticed.

“Wait! Watch the baby, Larry. I’m going, too!” Blue Jay said; but Lily was already making her way past the striped roadblock that had been placed in the center of the street. Little Jay started howling in his stroller. Klara saw what was happening and came over and lifted him out. “*Alles ist Gut, Kindchen,*” she crooned.

A police officer grabbed Lily by the wrist as Blue Jay reached her. “Not so fast, Sister.”

“Our dog’s in there! And our bird!” she shrieked.

“Madam, you’ll have to let the firemen handle it,” he said. “Anyway, they’re probably okay down there. Fire burns up, not down, and we’ve got this here under control.”

“I’ve got to go! They’re precious!”

The police officer hesitated, “In fact, give me your key and wait here. I’ll go check.”

Lily acquiesced and looked at Blue Jay, “This is why I could never call a police officer a pig.”

Moments later, Lost Lenore came bounding up, yelping and trying to jump up and kiss everyone on the lips at once; the officer emerged carrying a barking Messy Bessie in her cage.

“Everything’s fine down there. Not even any smell of smoke. But if this makes you feel better, here are your buddies.”

The officer noticed the parakeet for the first time. “A barking bird? Now I’ve heard it all.”

Blue Jay peered up at the third floor, “Oh, venerable Samuel Tannenbaum, what do you think of your building now? Are you rolling over in your grave?”

“On a more practical note,” Lily asserted, “What will Mr. Dreschler think?”

“Whose turn is it to call him?” Blue Jay asked.

All the tenants were allowed back into the building except for the Apartment Sixers, who managed to reappear as the fire trucks pulled away. Their apartment had suffered only minor fire damage in the living room area, but extensive smoke damage throughout the front half of the apartment. Lily and Blue Jay generously offered to let Mel, Dan, and several other of their unidentified consorts sleep in their living room, but Mel said they would rather go over to Bongo Bob’s new pad where they could smoke a few joints to calm their rattled nerves.

Before they left again, Blue Jay dealt sternly with them. “I need to know exactly what went on—how this started. Who was in the apartment. Full names and addresses. Where you can be reached. We owe that much to Mr. Dreschler.” Lily had never seen Jay this furious.

“Um, it’s a long story,” began Mel. “We were all in the other room, working out the next news release at the typewriter beside the mimeograph machine.”

“And?”

“We’re not really sure, but somebody must have left some candles

burning in the living room and they caught the room on fire,” clarified Dan.

“But nobody knows who. Or if. For sure.”

“Because there might have been a joint left in the ash tray, not really put out. But since it was in the ash tray, how could that have caused a fire?”

They were all talking at once, and Jay was having trouble keeping all the explanations straight.

“And we were all in the far back of the pad, so we didn’t even smell it til it was pretty bad and the curtains were starting to go up.”

“And then we called the fire department and took off.”

Jay had been worried and alarmed at first, but at this explanation, he became angry. “You could have burned the whole place down to the ground!”

“Next time we’ll be more careful,” Mel tried to apologize, and sounded truly devastated.

“There will be no next time for you,” Jay declared.

Lily had the honor of calling Mr. Dreschler, who came over the next morning to survey the damage, shaking his head. He chose to shun Lily and Blue Jay, except for reminding Lily that she still owed him for the dry-cleaning bill from the time the handle broke off the mug and spilled all over his suit and woolen overcoat.

His ultimate response arrived the following Monday morning in the form of a registered letter:

Mr. and Mrs. Joshua Haakens: You are hereby given notice of termination as caretakers of Tannenbaum Arms due to negligence in fulfillment of your duties. Please be informed that you must vacate the apartment within 30 days. Please be sure to leave the vacuum cleaner, all unused cleaning supplies, and a check for \$23.50 to cover the dry-cleaning expenses to my clothing caused by your carelessness. Sincerely, Mr. Oscar Drechsler

Speechless at first, Blue Jay and Lily stared at each other. Then they mutually burst out in laughter. “End of June! That’s when we wanted to go up to the UP anyway!” Blue Jay snorted.

“Why are we laughing?” Lily snickered.

“Insanity. Euphoria, Lily!”

“What about our stuff?”

“It’ll work out. There’s always Franko’s mother’s garage.”

“Oh. Yeah.”

Jay laughed. “Let’s not wait that long. I’ll call my parents. Tell ‘em to get the upstairs ready. Or maybe the cabin. I don’t need any ceremony or party. I have the diploma.”

“Don’t stick me in a cabin unless there’s a flush toilet.”

“Oops! Not the cabin, then.”

“How many days until June? Let’s get packing.”

“Three. No. Blue Jay. You’re moving too fast for me. Maybe we could still leave later--mid-June or end of June. We have to go to the Ben Franklin dumpster and start getting some boxes. And we need some time to line things up for July. We’re not staying up there, you know.” The voice of practicality triumphed over impulse; and perhaps the benevolent ghost of old Samuel Tannenbaum had a few surprises in store for them before their departure.

Jay’s parents sent a postcard that they both signed, expressing joy that their wayward son was coming home. There was always work at the restaurant or working in the truck garden.

“What do they think? That Little Jay and I are some of your little trophies of conquest?” Lily asked.

“Well, if they think that, they’ll change their minds as soon as they meet you.”

A couple days later a postcard arrived addressed to Lily. “We are looking forward to your visit. We welcome you as our own daughter. Come whenever you want and stay as long as you want. Love, Mom and Dad Haakens”

Lily felt better after reading that message. Maybe, just maybe, she would enjoy life in Mosquitoland, she opined.

June: Wherein the caretakers of Tannenbaum Arms take their farewell.

A rented U-haul trailer had been attached to Pete's old Buick and several members of the Poets for Peace helped relocate the round oak table, the carved chairs, the wicker couch, the television set, and other treasured items in Frank's mother's garage until such time as Blue Jay, Lily, and Little Jay could return to Milwaukee and find a new home. Ernie Werner who had done so much to teach them about boiler operation and building maintenance was sympathetic when he heard about their eviction notice and said he would offer them a good recommendation. He knew another building super who was moving to Arizona for his arthritis and would see if it would work out for them if they decided they wanted to stay in Milwaukee and take on another building.

Lily had found the perfect well-paying summer job beginning in early August, working with her friend Pam in a county parks program. They would be leading puppet-making groups and creating puppet shows which the children would put on in Lake Park and the East Side Library. Pam's daughter Molly and Little Jay would be able to come along, too. Blue Jay had talked to George John, owner and chief proprietor of the venerable Renaissance Book Store on Wisconsin Avenue, who agreed to hire him on a temporary basis, with promise of full employment in the fall if things worked out. Although he had notified the University of Chicago that he would not be attending, he still kept the door open for Iowa. He and Lily needed to make this decision by June 30, and Blue Jay thought that being in the UP might help him get more perspective on their situation. The UWM option kept looking more inviting and he submitted an application for a teaching assistantship. "After all, I feel really like I belong here." He paused. "Milwaukee is home."

Lily nodded her agreement. "Home."

Another postcard of a rugged stone shoreline beside a waterfall arrived addressed to Lily. It was from Blue Jay's sister: "We are waiting for you. Tell my brother I miss him. No good fights with anybody lately. Guess who. XOXOX".

Jay looked at the card. "You're getting deluged with cards. No pun intended. That's Bond Falls. There's an ice cream shop there with the best ice cream in the Upper Peninsula. We'll go there."

Messy Bessie had a new temporary home with Linda in Apartment 5, with the promise that she would be reunited with them at the end of July. Lost Lenore would come with them to Marquette, Michigan; this issue hadn't even been moot.

On the day before their departure, a mid-June morning, Lily and Blue Jay had said their good-byes, making the rounds of the apartments. Mrs. Davis had solemnly shaken hands and wished them well, then had given them a quart of her home-made garlic-seasoned dill pickles, along with a small book of the teachings of Mary Baker Eddy. "This is the key to the secret of good health and long life," she proclaimed. She picked up her cane and walked them out into the hall, seeming as reluctant to see them leave as they were to part with her.

"We will be back to visit you a lot, Mrs. Davis," Lily promised. "I still want to take a good picture of you." She added to herself, "But I will never forget you."

Larry and Lenny gave them a copy of *Gertie the Duck*, inscribed with the message, "Presented to the best caretakers ever to grace the Tannenbaum Arms with their presence. We hope you and Little Joshua will enjoy this story through the years."

The new tenants in Apartment 2 were just settling in, painting their meditation chamber and setting up their stereo system. "This place sure doesn't look the same," Lily remarked. "It's amazing, how each unit is different, taking on the personality of the dwellers."

In her thoughts, she went back to Mrs. Grant, then moved on to the Grimeses. So much had happened here in less than a year.

Moisette was off on her European juggernaut, but Linda and Lisa took Messy Bessie's cage in hand and placed it in the center of the dining room table. "We never eat in here, anyway," Linda said. "We'll take good care of this feathered squawker-bird, and you take good care of my little Jaybird." She reached for his hand and shook it.

"His red hair in the sunlight looks like a bright halo," Linda laughed. "I suppose you'll have to cut it one of these days, though."

Mr. Dreschler did not receive a check for his dry cleaning, but they

left him a terse note explaining that they would not be returning, that the boiler had been cleaned and shut down for the summer and the vacuum cleaner was awaiting the next caretakers in the cleaning supply storage bin next to the boiler room. "I never did turn that old coal bin into my meditation chamber," Lily attempted to joke.

Early the next morning, on the designated day of departure, Lily and Blue Jay paused in the middle of the sidewalk in front of the red brick building. If you glanced at them, you would never think they were anything other than rand

"Wait!" Lily said as Blue Jay strapped Little Jay into the newly purchased baby seat for their rental car. "I forgot something!"

She disappeared around the side of the building. A couple minutes later she returned, proudly carrying two framed documents. "It's our boiler operator's licenses. You never know."

Blue Jay smiled at her. "I know. 97%. Superior boiler operator. We were extraordinary caretakers. Extraordinary."

"Ha!"

Blue Jay whistled to Lost Lenore, who needed no second invitation to jump in the back seat next to Little Jay. They climbed in. The car pulled away.

Darlene Wesenberg Rzezotarski
Completed this novel on October 14, 2017
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Vince Bushell with the author, Darlene (Lolly) Wesenberg Rzezotarski, after the presentation of *O Tannenbaum* at the Jazz Gallery on December 17, 2022.

Thanks Darlene for letting the *Riverwest Currents* publish your novel. *Tannenbaum Arms* was a delight for our readers. And a delight for me, Vince, to have it in our publication

And it did not stop there, we, Vince and Lolly, worked together to create a play based on the December Chapter of the novel.

The play was challenging but somehow was a success. The audience did connect to the story, and all, cast and audience had a pleasant and informative evening.

It is my hope and that we can work together on other writing and performance creations as we move into 2023.

Thanks go to the Jazz Gallery that allowed us to put on the performance. Thanks to the cast, that carried on despite challenges and role changes.

Sincerely,
Vince Bushell

Currents Comix Page

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the twisted adventures of stinko d. beyer jr.

IT'S PROBABLY BEEN YEARS, BUT I STILL THINK A SELFIE WHERE YOU CAN SEE THE CAMERA FULLY IN FRAME IS TRASH.

OH I'VE DONE IT...

...BUT I AM NOT PROUD.

WELL, IT'S COMFORTING TO KNOW IN THE NEW YEAR, MOST OF MY DATA WILL BE BACK TO BEING SOLD BY MARK SUCKERBORG AND NOT LOST BY ELON MUSK.

DULLUDE...

A.I. BART Ben Spehert

Oh Hey! I didn't see you there! I was too busy feeling around with this crystal ball.

Y'know... If everything goes to plan, this comic will come out in the New Year!

It's foggy... Is that the Simpsons? Are they getting another season? That would be very surprising.

Open no wait, its going to be AI generated.

So lets have ourselves a lil' treat and break a present of what 2023 has to offer.

WHAT'S NEW PUSSYCAT? EMMA SOUTHARD

HOW MANY DAYS UNTIL NEXT YEAR? I NEED A DO-OVER.

HMM... WELL, THIS YEAR JUST STARTED SO YOU'VE GOT A MINUTE.

A SINGULAR MINUTE?

SUNNY BRAINS LANCE ORR

YOU'RE SO SWEET, I COULD JUST EAT YOU UP!

I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU TRY! ♥

Andrew Megow

2023

ARE YOU READY JOE?!

No!

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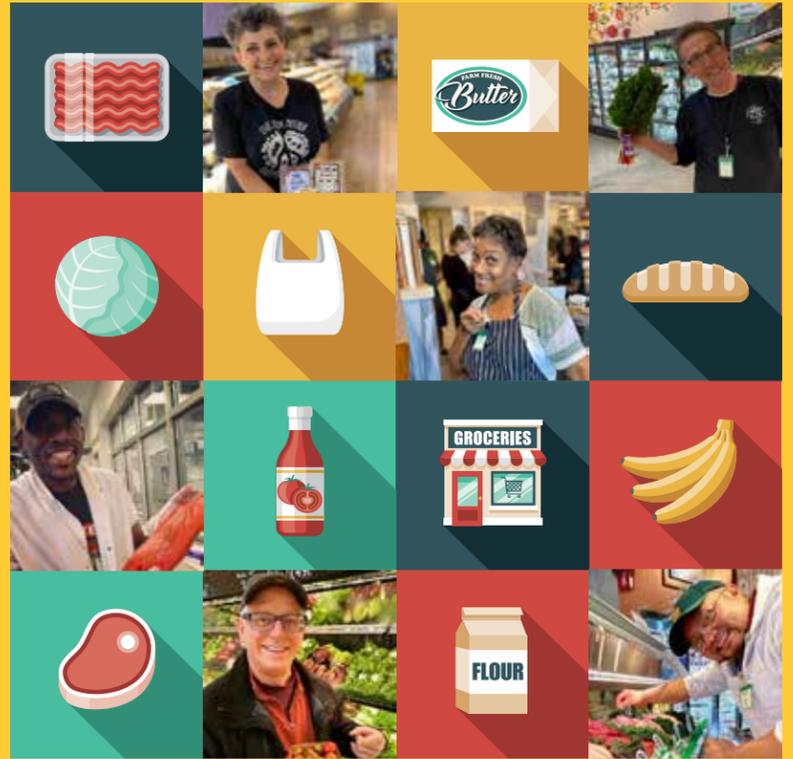
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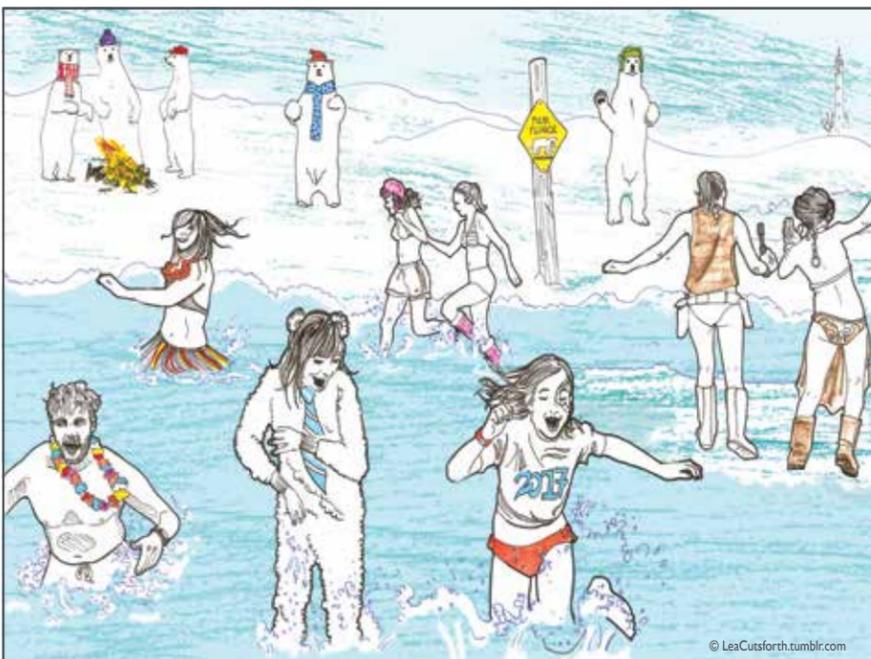
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