

**Corrections:** There were errors in the printed version of the Currents. We apologize for any mistakes. On this page the caption under the photo was slightly changed and changes on the Neighbor Spotlight on page 10 have been made. There may be slight corrections made on the on-line version later in March if needed. Check back on March 15 if desired.

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# Riverwest Currents

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**FREE!** News You Can Use • Riverwest, Harambee and The East Side Vol 24+Issue 3- March. 2025



“Barbershop” by famed self-taught artist Laverne Ross. The silhouette of the Flint, MI Buick plant can be seen in the window behind Charles McNeely Sr., smoking his cigar as he works. Mack’s Barbershop was the first African American-owned and built barbershop in Flint, MI and became a gathering place known for political and community-minded conversation. Learn more about the McNeely family legacy in our coverage of activist Riverside High School educator and activist Tracey McNeely inside in this month’s Neighbor Spotlight See page 10.

## VOTE APRIL 1ST 2025

### ALDER DISTRICT 3. PRIMARY RESULTS

**ALEX BROWER** VOTES 1,623

will be on the ballot vs.

**DANIEL BAUMANN** VOTES 1,576

Election day is April 1st.

Eight candidates were on the ballot. Over five thousand votes were cast on February 18. 4,717 were cast for the top three candidates.

I voted for **Brower**, as I like the idea of a publicly owned utility. It’s legal and other municipalities have them in Wisconsin and the country. I am for solar power and lower rates. It could happen.

Not that **Baumann** is a bad choice, but what does he think about mixing things up a bit. How about solar power? And WE enegies is not a strong supporter of solar.

Let us talk about it!

### Wisconsin State Superintendent of Public Instruction

#### Currents Recommendation

State wide election.

Vote for the incumbent **Jill Underly**,

She beat a resonable opponent and an unreasonable one in the primary.

The other woman in the final race is conservative and haven’t we had enough of conservative thought. In schools, in legislatures, and whatever that guy in the White House thinks he is.

Vince Bushell

## WISCONSIN SUPREME COURT RACE

### Judge Crawford for Wisconsin Supreme Court

As a former prosecutor, attorney, and now as a Circuit Court Judge, Susan Crawford has dedicated her life to upholding the law, protecting our constitution, and improving public safety. She’s running for Wisconsin Supreme Court to protect the basic rights and freedoms guaranteed to Wisconsinites under our constitution.



**DON'T BE A  
FOOL  
VOTE  
APRIL 1ST.**

This is your chance to send a message that we do not want that billionaire Elon Musk interfering in Wisconsin politics. Who voted for him? Millions of dollars of outside money will be spent on our Wisconsin Supreme Court race. If you don’t stand up for democracy then who will. Next they will come for you. This is the lesson of history.

This race is supposed to be non-partisan. Wake up! This is a joke. A conservative Wisconsin supreme court resulted in gerrymanered districts with Republican majorities. Womens rights? Do we want a court that enforces a law from the 19th century regarding womens rights to make decisions on their own bodies? Vote Crawford!

Riverwest Currents  
PO Box 716  
Milwaukee, WI 53201-0716

2 March 2025

Riverwest Radio



Democracy Now!

Celebrates 29 Years of Independent Journalism

by BB Bishop & Xav Leplae

“To expose abuses of power and betrayals of the public trust by government, business, and other institutions, using the moral force of investigative journalism to spur reform through the sustained spotlighting of wrongdoing.”

Through the haze of misinformation and algorithms, the mission statement of *Democracy Now!* invokes media transparency and accountability in a desperate time of muddled messaging. Many are praying for truth and clarity. If only the gods of communication, Mercury and Iris, are listening.

As a **Pacifica Radio Affiliate**, **Riverwest Radio** has direct ties to both *Democracy Now!* and the **Pacifica Radio Network**. In fact, the very existence of Riverwest Radio can be traced back to *Democracy Now!*

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, **Xav Leplae**, Riverwest Radio's founder, was active in New York's media activist scene, working with organizations like **Paper Tiger TV** and **Deep Dish Television**, which shared studio space with *Democracy Now!* Many of the activists he worked with remain connected to *Democracy Now!* today.

Later, as an avid listener of the show, Xav became aware of the **Low Power FM Radio Act** during the Obama administration, which opened the door for independent community stations. Inspired by this opportunity, Xav and Karen Brooks launched Riverwest Radio during the Occupy movement in 2011, starting as a livestreaming station in 2012 before securing an FM license in 2016. The station has been broadcasting ever since, continuing its mission of independent, community-driven radio.



For nearly three decades, *Democracy Now!* has been a steadfast voice for independent journalism, delivering in-depth reporting on some of the world's most pressing and underreported issues. Hosted by Amy Goodman, with co-host Juan González and scores of award-winning staffers, Pacifica Radio's flagship program provides a platform for voices often ignored by mainstream media.

Notables such as Angela Davis, Ralph Nader, Robert Reich, Arundati Roy, Joseph Stiglitz and Kshama Sawant have been recurring guests.

*Democracy Now!* launched as the only daily news program on public radio dedicated to covering

Since its launch, *Democracy Now!* has grown from a small radio show covering the U.S. presidential election to an internationally renowned news program broadcast that reaches millions daily throughout the Americas and Europe on more than 1,400 television and radio stations worldwide. It is aired on Pacifica, NPR, PBS, public access TV, online, and college and community radio, including **Riverwest Radio 104.1 FM**.

Today, **Democracy Now!** remains a key part of Riverwest Radio's programming, airing **weekdays at noon and 10 PM**.

Check out [www.democracynow.org](http://www.democracynow.org) for top stories and daily shows.

PHOTOS BELOW NOT FROM RW RADIO

Center Street Style



HEATHERLY SUN FOX NEW EARTH AND CHRISTY CORSO. @CORSOARTS APPEARING IN ART CANDY OPENING MAR.28 AT ART BAR.



FEBRUARY 17, PROTEST MILWAUKEE CITY HALL, ON A COLD DAY, PHOTOS BY ANN RITCHEY



| Riverwest Radio Weekly Schedule       |                          |                                     |                                 |   |                                  |                                   |                          |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Live on 104.1 FM & RiverwestRadio.com |                          |                                     |                                 |   |                                  |                                   |                          |
|                                       | Sunday                   | Monday                              | Tuesday                         | Wednesday                                     | Thursday                         | Friday                            | Saturday                 |
| 7:30                                  |                          |                                     |                                 |   |                                  |                                   |                          |
| 9:00                                  |                          | <b>Keith G</b>                      |                                 |   |                                  |                                   |                          |
| 10:00                                 |                          | The Brümmer                         |                                 |   |                                  |                                   | DJ SCHOOL                |
| 12:00                                 |                          | Democracy Now!                      | Democracy Now!                  | Democracy Now!                                | Democracy Now!                   | Democracy Now!                    | We Buy Records Dates TBA |
| 15:30                                 |                          | The Log Monday Edition              |                                 | biNg bOnG cRuNCH!                             | When in Rome                     | The News Hole                     |                          |
| 16:00                                 |                          | Kurated by KB                       | <b>Mother's Musical Diaries</b> | <b>Study Session</b>                          | It Is What It Is with Carol Hale | Woodland Pattern                  |                          |
| 16:30                                 |                          | Food Freedom Milwaukee Radio/Entry: | w/ Andy & Wyleta                | Quantum Music: Dissecting the Modern Musician | Noise POLLUTION                  | Radio Hour                        |                          |
| 17:00                                 | <b>Ching Suru</b>        | InterstellarVision                  | Mosh Wah's Palace               | Self-Expression w/ Super Ego                  | Packerverse                      | Life Welcome to Reality           | <b>Special Events</b>    |
| 17:30                                 |                          | x IntellectualMinds                 |                                 |   | The Log - Thurs. edition         |                                   |                          |
| 18:00                                 | <b>Sunday</b>            | Living Target                       | Rive Gauche                     | Conexion w/ madxLove Xxo                      | Sorta Ridiculous                 | Nightly Nic @ Six Starts: March 7 | <b>TBA</b>               |
| 18:30                                 | <b>Scaries</b>           | Metal Revival                       | The Rowbo Show                  | <b>Act of Imani</b>                           | Mychal Graham Sports Plus        | <b>Station 414</b>                | <b>Sonic</b>             |
| 19:00                                 | Charles Bursell Presents | <b>MKE Direct</b>                   | OWL: Older,Wiser,Local          |   | <b>Jazz</b>                      |                                   | <b>Seasonings</b>        |
| 19:30                                 | <b>Conspiracy</b>        | <b>Social</b>                       | Expo Radio                      | AbilityMKE Now!                               | <b>Jive</b>                      | 15 To Tha Streets                 |                          |
| 20:00                                 | Enlightenment            | Retreat in The Arts                 | <b>The Grass is Greener</b>     | Cornucopia YRU!                               | <b>Cadence FM</b>                | <b>Non-Genre'd</b>                | <b>-DJ DRIPSweat</b>     |
| 20:30                                 |                          | w/ Ray Real-Lee                     |                                 | We Heard We're Funny                          | <b>Cinema Tonight</b>            |                                   |                          |
| 21:00                                 | <b>Storefront</b>        | <b>Kinks</b>                        | <b>Active Culture</b>           | Bait & Switch Podcast                         | <b>Movie Hustle</b>              |                                   |                          |
| 21:30                                 | <b>Music Hour</b>        | <b>After Dark</b>                   |                                 |   |                                  |                                   |                          |
| 22:00                                 | <b>Ching Suru</b>        | Democracy Now!                      | Democracy Now!                  | Democracy Now!                                | Democracy Now!                   | Democracy Now!                    |                          |
| 23:00                                 |                          |                                     |                                 |   | Mychal Graham Sports Plus        |                                   |                          |

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

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**Jules Ruled**

By Paul Merklein

Jules Feiffer would not stop talking. He stood in front of a packed audience seated on folding chairs at Schwartz Bookshop in Shorewood, answering questions, telling stories, and charming the crowd. Feiffer was a legend, an icon, a rebel with many causes. He was a cartoonist, playwright and novelist who looked and sounded like one of his cartoon characters. He was a Fifties Lefty who rubbed elbows with Jack Nicholson and Robin Williams. He was fired by The Village Voice after contributing

## GUESS WHO

**March Guess Who.**

No hints on this one. But if you are the first to get it right I'll publish your name in the next issue. And if you like buy you a beer at Black Husky.

To win - be the first to send me an email:  
vbushell@gmail.com

**Email guesses only.**

And you **MUST** put **Guess Who** in the subject line.

**February GUESS WHO**

I was looking for a possible candidate. Yes - Candidate that might make it though the primary.

And this was my choice. At the Jazz Gallery OWL program some of the folks figured it out.

**Alex Brower** - He came in first in a field of 8. He won by 47 votes. primary vote count: 1,623

Congratulations Alex

It is going to be a close race on April 1st

But this is not an April Fools joke.

Be sure you vote!

his cartoons every week for 40 years, then bounced back to write and illustrate books for children, young adults, and old adults. He was unstoppable.

He would not stop talking, just like he would not stop drawing cartoons, writing books and screenplays, complaining, kvetching and griping about men, women, sex, politics, religion, pop culture, current events, the media, America and anything else that enraged him. Almost everything enraged him. He didn't own a computer. He didn't need a cellphone. He had paper and a pen, and an ambition that would not let him rest. Not until this January, when he died at his home in upstate New York at the productive age of 95. I was seated in one of those folding chairs at Schwartz Bookshop. I could barely stay in my seat. Feiffer was one of my heroes, and here he was right in front of me, answering questions and smirking at his own stories. I had several of his books that he was going to autograph. I couldn't wait. He was going to sign my books. I was going to shake his hand. And then my head would explode.

Feiffer inspired me to draw cartoons. He opened my eyes. Before I discovered his drawings, cartoons were just snarky kids with big heads, super heroes and sexy dames. Feiffer broke all the rules. No more restricting little boxes or borders. No more speech balloons or thought bubbles. No more backgrounds! His pen knew

no boundaries. It was all words, words and more words, cascading around a cartoon face and commanding your attention.

Feiffer was the edge. He was a cranky mix of George Carlin, Bob Dylan and Picasso. His style and range of topics whiplashed from one cartoon to the next, keeping readers on their toes. He made you think. He made you pause. He made you question everything. He drew himself. He drew Presidents. HE DREW everyday people. And he gave them all a voice. His voice. His characters never stopped talking. And his audience never stopped listening. We couldn't get enough.

Many years later, I met Feiffer again at a Comic-Con in Baltimore. I was freelancing cartoons to newspapers and magazines, and teaching cartooning at a local community center. He was drawing graphic novels and writing his autobiography. He was on stage, still answering questions, telling stories, and smirking.

His advice to artists was simple. Don't be afraid to fail. Failure inspired him. Failure made him keep drawing. Failure made him keep writing. Read his cartoons. Read his books. Hear his voice. He is still talking. **Paul Merklein's Guess Who cartoon appears in Riverwest Currents.**

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4 March 2025

## REMEMBERING ANDI

by Lee Gutowski, Photos by Deb Petrusa

**Andi McKenna** (Aug 27, 1950 – Dec 30, 2024) was a force in the Riverwest community since she moved into her house on Booth Street back in 1976 or 1977 (reports vary). She died on December 30, after dealing with cancer for a few years. It was almost exactly a year after her long-time partner, Kevin (pictured here with Andi outside of the Uptowner), had passed away, also from cancer.

She left a long legacy of community activism, love of the arts (and especially local artists and musicians), mentoring kids, teens and adults alike, and just plain being fun to be around.

Andi was a long-time Milwaukee Public Schools teacher (focusing on Special Education) and a proud member of the teachers' union. Alongside other MPS folks and tens of thousands of others, in February of 2011 she marched on the State Capitol building in Madison in protest of Wisconsin's Act 10 (legislation enacted by Gov. Scott Walker removing collective bargaining rights from state and local government employees).

Andi loved music and some of her favorite artists were Patti Smith, Lucinda Williams, and Janis Joplin. She was a fan of local musicians, too, and counted quite a few among her friends. There are too many to list here (you know who you are). Andi coordinated a screening of the movie *Taking the City By Storm: The Birth of Milwaukee's Punk Scene* at the Uptowner in October of 2023.

She worked many summers at Summerfest, supplementing her teacher's income and exercising her television and event production chops. Andi was also an



early participant in the Gordon Park Co-op, the first of its kind in Riverwest. She even started a clinic way back in the early 70s, across from the house at Booth and Clarke where she would eventually raise her son, Sean.

Her Facebook page is being kept active by her sister, Michelle McKenna, and many who knew Andi are posting pictures and lovely words of tribute there.

From Michelle's post on Andi's Facebook page:

*The sun shines a little dimmer today, but the night sky will be brighter with a new star. My bad ass, fierce sister, Andi McKenna, has left us ... She was a force to be reckoned with ... It's hard to imagine life without her ... I am so grateful to have had the fiercest*

*and most bad-ass big sister on the planet. We will plan some sort of celebration this summer. Love to all of you that loved her.*

### Riverworks Development Corporation in the Community

from Ruth Weill

The Riverwest Farmers Market Pop-Ups began in early November, with a total of nine to take place through April. All will be held at Amorphic Beer (3700 N Fratney) from 11am-3pm. Shoppers can find heirloom mushrooms, microgreens, fair trade coffee, bakery, elderberry products, eggs, meats, cheese, sauces, marinades, jams and pickled things, granola, pralines, soup and more.

The rest of the season's dates are Sunday, March 9; Sunday, March 23; and Saturday, April 19. The regular season begins Sunday, June 1 and runs through Sunday, October 26. EBT and Market Match is accepted.

Save the date! 2025 53212Marketplace Mother's Day Edition -- Sunday, May 4. Unique locally made gifts for everyone you know. More information is coming soon.

The Beerline Celebration Series is on again in 2025! Please save the following dates for Music on the Beerline (all Fridays): June 20, July 18, August 15, September 19.

The Beerline Shuffle is happening on Saturday, October 4.

The warmer months will be around before we know it, which equals neighborhood clean-ups and other outdoor activities. If you are interested in getting involved in community clean-ups or The Friends of the Beerline Trail, please reach out to Ruth at [ruthw@riverworksmke.org](mailto:ruthw@riverworksmke.org) or call 414-906-9650.

The Riverworks Financial Clinic through the Financial Empowerment Center offers free financial coaching for City of Milwaukee residents. Need to increase your credit score? Get a better handle on your monthly budget. Call 414-882-7430 to set up an appointment.

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# Tintype

March 2025 5

The Finger Lakes New York State

by Vince Bushell

*A journey to the past. A journey that Amber has brought into the present.*

**A**mber Asher served me a beer, actually a number of beers over time at Black Husky Brewery. She meets people from Riverwest from behind the bar. One day, at a time unexpected, I mentioned photography, well, as I remember, I saw her at the Riverwest farmers market on Pierce St. She had set up and was taking photos using a large camera. Hmmm. I grew up in a print shop, silk screen process, that used big cameras, photography with chemicals to make stencils for printing. So when I went to Black Husky...the following happened. Yes, that's the story.

A story about a path to finding oneself in an occupation that appeals, reveals, and fulfills.

At least it does for Amber in this unusual photographic practice.

I was intrigued because photography has played a significant role in my life. At 12 years old, learning a craft that used photography.

And for the past 23 years putting ink and images on paper as an avocation. Amber is in her 30s. And was awakened to her inner self, her inner mind by a diagnosis as being on "the spectrum" as we say today. Today the term "normal" sounds strange. As we learn more about the complexity of the human condition.

Amber was encouraged as a young woman to study practical, employable skills. Pragmatic is the word. She felt like she wanted to be an artist. Her family advised otherwise. Working in an office environment was dispiriting. She went back to school and worked in the non-profit sector. That was better but not the key.

With guidance as to what was going on upstairs, as inside her head. She took a more insightful approach and studied yoga. Though qualified to teach yoga, that is not her choice. But the practice of yoga is an emotional, mental touchstone. A path to inner peace.

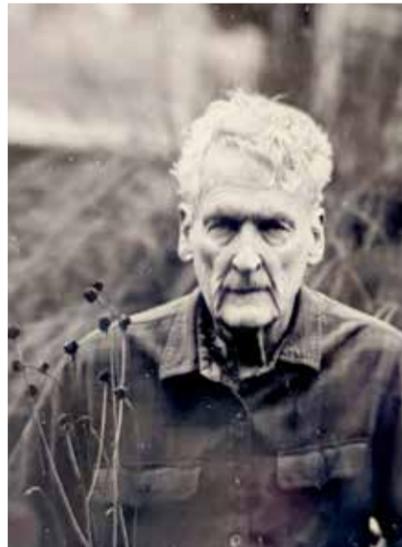
Now what to do in life? She is working behind the bar at Black Husky. She meets her neighborhood there and enough money to get by. And the time to explore that desire to fulfill her artistic dreams. Dreams that evolved to have a connection to the past. A mostly lost technology and art form. Tintype photography. The mystery of light and dark and the potions that allow the molecules to fall into place and record what the old cameras see.

Locally Margaret Musa also practices the art of Tintype in a studio set in an old church.

Amber respects the studio process but sees herself as working as an itinerant photographer working out of her car's trunk and taking portraits in peoples yards, festivals and farms across the land. This was how the form was originally practiced in the 19th Century. Many subjects from the past were civil war soldiers.



**Top Photo:** Amber holds a tintype of Tim and friend of Black Husky Brewery. **Below that** is a table display of tintypes at Ambers's home. You can see the different size of the images taken with different cameras. The photo in the top left corner of the image looks to be an 8x10 photo. Requiring a very large camera. **Below that** picture is a photo taken at tintype camp in New York state. Amber has the banjo and they all look like its 1865. **Below that** is a tintype metal plate in the finishing state where the negative image is dissolved and washed away leaving a positive image. It is the picture of me, Vince. The finished plate is to the right. Notices that my eyes are in shadow. In the developing plate, the shadows look light and face looks dark. Soon to emerge in image at right.



In summer of 2023 an inspired Amber got in her car and drove to rural New York to learn the art of Tintype Photography. Rural. As on a farm without electricity and a course taught by a man who needed not the 21st century to find meaning in life. John Coffey is his name. And the small group signed up for the summer course in Tintype.

"I like first of all the quality", of the images Amber relates.

And learning not to be an impatient person. Slow down. Slow down.

But a precise process that provides gratification in minutes rather than seconds that requires focus and learning the trade.

And outdoor exposures that require the subject to be still for 10 to 15 seconds. And the wet plates need to be developed immediately after, within 10 minutes. Result: an image on metal.

This process created images tough enough to survive time. There is only one photo of Billy The Kid known to exist and it is on a tintype.

I have taken thousands of digital images on cameras and my phone. Unplug. And all of the bits are lost.

I look at myself in Amber's Tintype of me in December in her backyard. I hold it in my hand. The image seems to stop time and put me in place. A place that exists beyond time.

**What is it and how is it done? Technical stuff that is not aided by AI.**

Tintype photos are made on an anodized metal plate that is black in color. The finished photo is this plate, so a 4x5 inch camera produces 4x5 inch prints. You need big old cameras. You set the controls, shutter speed (long), aperture as needed for the lighting conditions, as determined by the heart of the sun. (strobe flash can be used and is in studio work). Itinerant traveling photographers use the ample UV light of midday sun.,

**A little chemistry, the magic part!**

It is a wet plate process. The "film" is actually a colloidal material that is prepared immediately before the photo is taken. A colloid is several chemicals, molecules, that exist in the liquid. First the colloid that will carry the silver salt is poured on the plate. It sets up, or sticks to the plate though still wet. The plate is then put vertically in a salt bath of the silver salts. It is the silver salts that are reactive to light and darken when exposed.

This prepared plate is taken to the camera (shielded from any light) and placed in the camera to be exposed; with the camera prefocused on the subject. The lens is opened for 10 or more seconds to expose the plate to the subject. Bright light is needed to obtain a properly exposed tintype print.

Then off to the darkroom to develop the plate, a toxic salt acts as a "fixer", removing unexposed silver halide crystals from the plate. Allowing the image to become permanent and visible by essentially clearing the area not affected by light, thus creating a positive image on the black metal plate.

Some what complicated to understand but it explains why the plate is black. The cleared areas reveal the right amount of transparency to create what we call a "positive" image.

Too Complicated?

**Ok. It's magic!**



## Volunteering: Transforming Communities and Building Connections

Submitted by Lorraine Jacobs of the Riverwest Elders

The Riverwest Elders decided to review the experience of Volunteering. We wanted to look at our individual volunteer involvement. Share the memories.

By working together -- all ages, from schools, churches and Block Clubs -- we hold communities together. I'm one of the people who believe any level of volunteering creates hope for the future.

The Elders' "Second Tuesday Wisdom Gathering" takes place this month on March 11. (See details in the event calendar.) This time we will offer a presentation and update on Kinship Community Food Center, a food pantry with deep presence in Riverwest.

There are several of us who, through the years as well as right now, dedicate our volunteer time and energy to the Riverwest Neighborhood. While some helped at the food pantry, others offered their patience in working with children in the local schools. They read stories and helped with writing. They played. They listened to new, sometimes hesitant, readers.

Other volunteers helped with programs at the Jazz Gallery Art Exhibits and coordinated the summer outdoor art show. Speaking of outdoors, we helped smooth the way for the Riverwest24 bike riders, and the Locust Street Festival needed lots of outdoor commitment to succeed. Still others signed up with East Side Senior Services to provide neighbors rides to doctors and other important appointments. Finally, many outdoor gardens were planted and tended by Riverwest Elders.

Volunteers are the engine of action here in Riverwest and every neighborhood. In fact, it was volunteers who succeeded in creating and maintaining the Riverwest Elders Group. Established in 2008, a door-to-door survey was done and we learned that a high portion of Riverwest Neighbors were elders. A small group of us decided to create a group to support each other, plan time together and provide opportunities with each other, if even to just sit and listen. This group grew and continues, for the past 15 years.

There are pockets of Milwaukee and Shorewood neighborhoods which have been strengthened by volunteers. Here are some current members who have experience with volunteering.

### Why I Volunteer

I love to volunteer and have done so for many years and for many organizations. It gives me fulfillment and meaning in life, helps me to give back to others, gets me out and about and allows me to meet many caring people. Find organizations that have meaning for you. They all could use your help.

Arlene Z.

### Civic Responsibility

During the last 40 years, I spent a total of over 2500 hours in volunteer work as a treasurer of a couple of civic groups. Taking on that work was consistent with my belief that survival of our form of government is not a given. It needs the contributions that only volunteers can provide.

Michael Zeidler

**RWElders March Events:**  
**Wisdom Tuesday, March 11 (2nd Tuesday) East Library,**  
 2320 N Cramer  
 Noon-2pm. Presentation:  
 12:30-1:20pm  
 You are encouraged to Bring Your Own lunch and/or food to share if that works. Presenter: Travis Sternhagen, Volunteer Coordinator  
 Topic: Kinship Community Food Center: Serving Each Other Through the Power of Food

**RWElders Birthday Lunch,**  
 Thursday, March 27th  
 Ma Fischer's Diner,  
 1976 N. Farwell Ave. Noon-2pm.  
 Join us to celebrate our March Birthdays together. Be prepared to sing "Happy Birthday"

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## Cycling Savvy Basics

Since I began cycling, as my primary mode of transportation ~30 years ago, I've had 4 collisions with people operating motor vehicles, which put me on the ground. Fortunately, none caused serious injuries though three of the four could have been avoided if I had known what I know now. It's absolutely impossible to avoid all risks when riding and that's partially what makes it so dang fun. It's exhilarating every time we hop on the saddle and push down on the pedals. However, the risk of a crash can be dramatically diminished by taking everyday street smarts into practice every time we roll out.

Here is what I know now that I didn't know then.

More than anything, I follow the "Be visible, relevant, predictable and make your intentions known" philosophy in order to stay safe. It's very rare that a motorist wants to do any harm to a cyclist and fortunately, as cyclists, we can reduce the odds that a crash will occur. Most close calls and crashes can be eliminated by learning and continually exercising street smarts.

**Be visible & relevant:** When riding, always be mindful that motorists ARE NOT looking for people in bike lanes or on sidewalks; they are looking for other cars and trucks. If you are not inside a vehicle or in the middle of the road, it's safe to say that you will not so easily be seen. More so, if eye contact is not made when moving through an intersection, you can't assume that a motorist sees you. Bright reflective clothes and lights are never a bad idea AND positioning yourself, while biking, where you'd be when in the driver's seat of an automobile, will make you more visible than anywhere else on the roadway. Many crashes occur in bike lanes and at the edge of the roadway because of the lack of visibility, car doors being flung open and the inherent dangers that exist when we put ourselves in a somewhat hidden & inconspicuous area. The two most common car-bicycle type crashes that occur to law-abiding cyclists can be almost entirely avoided when cyclists ride between the center line and the left tire track. The "I don't want to get in their way" mentality, assumes that motorists are a superior species on the roadway. Before cars, there were bicycles, and before that, people and horses. I'm not advocating that bicyclists shouldn't ride in bike lanes or that they should. However, if you do ride in bike lanes or to the far right side of the travel lane, you are less visible to the motorist pulling out, car doors being flung open and "the left cross". The "left cross" occurs when a vehicle traveling in the opposite direction makes a left hand turn into an unseen cyclist who is usually traveling on the far right side of the roadway. Road positioning is often circumstantial and can often be best assessed based on traffic volume, road width, motor vehicle speed, number of travel lanes and other factors.

**Be predictable:** Lack of predictability can create frustration both in relationships and on the road. When we are riding, and driving, we are involving ourselves in short-term relationships with all of the pedestrians, scooters, bicyclists and motorists we encounter on the roadway. Our actions, our considerations, our neighborliness and reactions are all expressed on the streets; so try your best to be in a good mental space when traveling. We get frustrated or scared when someone doesn't put their blinker on or darts out in front of us. When biking, it causes unpredictability when we swerve in

and out of parked cars. On the other hand, Dopamine (the good feeling hormone) is released when someone waves us into their travel lane or we wave someone into ours and work together through our collective movements. As cyclists, motorists, or pedestrians, we need to realize that we are on the same mission: to safely get to where we are going. When we begin to see ourselves less as individuals who are in a hurry and more as part of an interconnected family of people who are all trying to move to their destinations, then perhaps we shall act more humanely on the roadways.

**Make your intentions known:** Cyclists have the advantage of being able to communicate with motorists in a few different ways. When biking, use of your arms, body and lane positioning can communicate to motorists where you are going and what your needs are as a cyclist. It draws extra attention when you use more aggressive flapping movements of your arms and hands to indicate when you need to merge into traffic, when you may need a motorist to stop/slow down or refrain from passing you until oncoming traffic clears. When a motorist allows you to merge, provides you with generous passing clearance or helps you out on the roadway, provide them with a friendly wave. Healthy communication and empathy are beautiful manifestations when used and can strengthen the ties between our neighbors on and off the roadway...even if we are traveling at different speeds and with different styles.

As cyclists, it's normal to get angry when motorists fail to provide us with considerable passing clearance on the roadway; fear leads to anger. More times than not, it's not intentional. In the US, many motorists are never provided the luxury of bike riding on streets and thus are unaware of "what it's like" to be on a bicycle amidst motor vehicles. The best we can do as cyclists and motorists is be more empathetic: trying to understand what others' experiences may be like. As motorists, it may be valuable to keep a note on our steering wheels reminding us of the inherent dangers of operating such a powerful and potentially dangerous vehicle. We cannot fully understand the destructive capabilities of our cars and trucks we operate daily until the event of a crash or when we find ourselves outside of our vehicles. Being inside of a car inherently separates us from our neighbors so bringing greater compassion when driving is of great importance in creating a unified neighborhood or city.

Understanding the risks of our behaviors while traveling is where conscious living and healthy transportation practices meet. Taking those understandings into account and manifesting them into actions makes traveling more pleasant and safe for everyone. Enjoy the ride however you roll! Tie into [www.cyclingsavvy.org](http://www.cyclingsavvy.org) for more safe cycling tips. IAN KLEPETAR

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# Ripples in Time

March 2025 7

by Darlene Wesenberg Rzezotarski

**W**hat lies beneath the surface? How does the past shape our lives today? The Milwaukee River ripples with rubble and relics of past generations. This is true of our buildings, our alleyways, our sidewalks, as well. In this Current Series, I invite you spend a few moments with Milwaukee tales anchored in location, person, and time. Everything has a story!

## Harry Houdini, Master of Deception: We Want to Believe

Ask anyone about the great Houdini and you might get a nod of recognition. "Oh, yes, the famous magician!" Some true-blue Wisconsinites might acknowledge his childhood days in Appleton and the History Museum at the Castle housing memorabilia. This is but a ripple on the water. Within this human is a lifetime of creative audacity, moral decency sometimes in conflict with professional chicanery, and an ability to overcome obstacles that would make most people curl up in a corner. It is the tale of a child in an immigrant family that came to Wisconsin penniless and without knowledge of English; of a boy who had big dreams. It is an immigrant success story that challenges and inspires us, making ripples again and again through time.

Born Ehrich Weisz in a Budapest ghetto on March 24, 1874, four-year-old Ehrich, together with his mother and four brothers, traveled to America in steerage on a steamship departing from Hamburg. Rabbi Mayer Weisz, his father, had come two years earlier and gained a position with the Zion Reform Congregation in Appleton, Wisconsin. He finally had gathered the funds to bring his family.

In those days, circuses and vaudeville shows passed through the state, and Ehrich—who eventually took the similar-sounding Harry name—developed a fascination for performing. With friends, he created his own versions of showmanship. He created a tightrope show calling himself "Ehrich, Prince of the Air," inspired by a traveling circus that came through Appleton. His mother knitted a pair of red tights for him to wear during his act. He developed dexterity and even learned how to dislocate his shoulders in a contortionist act. He was proud to add an accomplishment of twisting his body and picking up pins with his eye lashes.

Jack Hoeffler was an entrepreneur in Appleton and had a 5 and 10 cent circus. Thirty-four years later, he recalled how he used to pay Harry a nickel a day to do his stunts. Harry responded, "Yes, and I was much happier in those nickel-a-days than I am today."

Life in Appleton landed with a thud in 1882. The congregation fired Rabbi Weisz and the family in desperation moved to Milwaukee. Without knowledge of English, Rabbi Weisz had little opportunity for work, and the older children began working on the streets. It was a time of impoverishment with no back-up plan. The family lived in tenements and moved frequently. According to Google Maps, the 725 West Highland location is now a Blink Electric Vehicle Charging Station within view of Fiserv Forum. The house they lived in at 649 West Cherry Street is gone, replaced by the block-long Pieper Hillside Branch of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee. Ironically, there is a sign outside: "Kids Eat Free Summer Meals Here." Such a safety net did not exist for the Weisz children.

School was not an option; Harry set up a shoeshine stand, and did everything to help support his family. He became a newsboy for a fledgling newspaper, The Evening Journal. At the time it was struggling for survival in competition with the established Milwaukee Sentinel. This paper would eventually thrive as The Milwaukee Journal. Harry was there when it emerged

from its shabby hovel and became a viable alternative publication—during the period following the Newhall House fire. He claims to have been on Broadway and Michigan that night on January 10, 1883, hawking special edition papers when the hotel burned. He especially loved to share his sensationalized version of the daring rescue of vaudeville performers Tom Thumb and Lavinia. The rivaling newspapers outdid one another with harrowing and sensationalized accounts, and reams of papers sold.

Throughout the hard times of near starvation, Ehrich began to evolve into All-American Harry. He learned to swim in the Milwaukee River; practiced holding his breath for long periods. He developed athletic skills as a boxer and competitive bicyclist. With his fellow paper boy Herman Krause, he performed contortionist feats on the Grand Avenue Bridge (now called Wisconsin Avenue).

From this venue, he ventured further down Grand Avenue into the strange world of Jacob Litt's Dime Museum, the lowest rung on the entertainment ladder. Here the citizenry was lured by newspaper ads to view "all the monsters and freaks of nature," such as a human smaller than a baby, a living half-man, and a turtle person. Interspersed were magicians, sword swallows, and card tricksters. Litt understood the power of handbill and newspaper ads, and people thronged into his building. Harry and his contortionist partner Jake Hyman made body-flowers appear and disappear, dazzled the audience with card tricks, and escaped from a sealed steamer trunk.

As years went by, Harry grew in expertise. He was apprenticed to a locksmith back in Appleton and learned how to pick padlocks and free himself from handcuffs. (One night during his training, he went down a street and unlocked every door.) He eventually went into partnership with his brother Theo and they traveled the circuit. Harry was hailed in headlines as "The Master Mystifier, The Death-defying Illusionist, creator of Metamorphosis, the Greatest Novelty Mystery Act in the World."

Their Metamorphosis act confounded audiences. Harry bound and bagged Theo and placed him in a trunk. The trunk was locked and tied with more ropes. The audience could hear Theo banging inside. Harry would then clap three times behind a screen and Theo would emerge! He kept working with escape routines and became known as "The King of Handcuffs."

They began to travel around the country, the Houdini name gaining recognition. In 1894 they were playing at Coney Island when Harry was enchanted by a lovely young maiden who worked as a dancer and singing clown. Three months later they were married and she joined him in the magic act. This was a lifelong relationship, surviving years of travel and performances in dubious locations before attaining financial stability.

"The big break" came unexpectedly in 1899 when Harry was contacted by Martin Beck after a stunning handcuff performance in St. Paul, MN. He didn't hesitate when he was offered a contract for a European tour. He broke out of prison cells, took challenges from police stations, burst out of straightjackets, boxes, milk cans. His reputation grew as he was bound and immersed under water and escaped.

Every stunt had a survival challenge, an element of life and death. The audience was pulled along in the suspense of the moment. When asked about the Underwater Torture Cell Act, Houdini responded:

"Imagine yourself jammed head foremost in a cell filled with water, your hands and feet unable to move, and your shoulders tightly lodged in this imprisonment. I believe it is the climax of all my studies and labors. Never will I be able to construct anything that will be more dangerous or difficult for me to do."



*"No Prison can hold me no hand or leg irons or steel locks can shackle me. No ropes and chains can keep me from my freedom." Houdini*

Houdini acknowledged that newspapers were his lifeblood. He captured headlines worldwide. With the proceeds of fame, he bought a three-story brownstone in New York City which he filled with these newspapers and other publications that mentioned him. His townhouse was crammed with fifteen thousand books, fifty thousand prints, half a million cuttings and four tons of theatrical bills. More than twelve rooms were filled with his personal library. Books were held in high esteem for him, as they had been for his father. Of course, in his short life he managed to author five books and innumerable articles.

As society moved on and marvelous developments trended, Houdini rose to the occasion. He was intrigued by the Wright Brothers in 1909 and bought an airplane and learned to fly. He took the plane apart and traveled with it by ship to Australia in 1910; where he reassembled it and was the first pilot to make a record flight there.

By 1918, movies began to replace Vaudeville. He made films featuring himself performing all kinds of escapades, even bought a film company. Several of these movies, or sections thereof, are now available on YouTube.

The death of his mother brought him up short. Before his father died, the rabbi charged him with the task of always taking care of his mother. Harry said there were only two women in his life he ever loved: his wife Bess and his mother Cecilia. After she died in 1913, he visited her grave every night for a week and stayed in mourning for a year. This led him to an exploration of spiritualism, and he began to participate in séances, hoping to establish contact with Cecilia in the Beyond.

Houdini knew too much about deceit. Every time he felt a grain of hope, he exposed an impostor. He even alienated the wife of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, claiming in lecture and articles that she faked encounters. When a séance leader claimed

that his mother had contacted him through automatic writing of a letter. Harry immediately debunked this claim when he saw the letter. It was written in English and his mother only knew Yiddish. He pronounced, "It takes a flimflammer to know a flimflammer."

He became strident in his crusade against spiritualism. On a lecture tour in Canada on October 22, 1926, some young men posing as fans gained access to his dressing room. On a dare, he gave permission to J. Gordon Whitehead to punch him in the stomach. The young man acted so quickly that Harry didn't have time to steel his muscles against the blow, and serious damage was done.

On Halloween, October 31, Harry Houdini died. He spoke his last words to his brother: "I'm tired of fighting, Dash. I guess this thing is going to get me." He was buried in an iron casket that he had specially constructed for one of his tricks.

Bess lived on to grieve. Many of his papers were sold to collectors, but eventually a large collection found a permanent home at the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas. His book, *The Adventurous Life of a Versatile Hoarder*, is available free through Project Gutenberg.

Memorable words from Houdini: "It is through neglect and laziness that a man fails. If he will plod and suffer and, if need be, die for his ambitions, he cannot help gain the fame he dreamed of."

*Darlene Wesenberg Rzezotarski is a local writer and ceramicist. The sculpture of Houdini is the newest member in her Iconic Wisconsin Series. Her books are available at Woodland Pattern and Boswell Book Company.*

8 March 2025

# Riverwest Poet: Charles Goldman

by Ellen C Warren

***"I call this book a seedling. It should plant something in your soul."***

Charles Goldman very recently published a book. It took seven months of wrestling with "the great beast Amazon" to get it into print. But it has been more than 15 years in coming.

That book, *Empathy Road* (available on Amazon) started out in 2010, with a nine-part poem of the same name. As he explains on the book's cover, "the poem came out of a deeply felt inspiration ... an engulfing presence of love and insight from beyond myself."

"There was definitely a spiritual type of involvement," Charles shares. "I was inspired to write in the same way that Bob Dylan described the early songs he wrote. When asked in an interview how [Dylan] wrote all these songs like 'Blowin' in the Wind,' all those great songs that are cherished by the world ... he said that he didn't know how he wrote them. He said he just heard them in his head and just wrote them down ... And that's also how my poem was written."

Not all his poems have arrived in the same way, although he has been penning poetry for nearly all his life. He was writing before he even knew to call them poems. As a young teen he bussed every day from his Bronx home in New York to Manhattan to attend the High School of Art and Design. Continuing his writing on the stairs of the school after his long bus ride, fellow students took an interest in what he later learned were poems.

In a fortunate turn of events, his notebook ended up in the hands of poet Daisy Aldan, who taught at the school. She called Goldman out of a favorite class to offer him a private four-hour-a-week mentorship in writing. She loved his poems and acquainted him with the correct name for the type of poetry he was writing -- Stream of Consciousness -- which, she told him, came out of the practices of the Surrealists.

When he entered the poem that won him the position of Poet Laureate of his high school into the competition for New York High Schools' Poet Laureate it disqualified him because it was written in a modern style. "(That) was very instrumental in making me realize that modern poetry still was not accepted (in the early 60's) and there were two schools of thought about what poetry was. There were those people who were adamant about traditionalism, and there were those of us who wanted the freedom that the surrealists and the dadaists had created.

"And so I took my poetry down to the coffeehouses in the East village at the ripe of age of 16," says Charles. It was the time of the Beat Poets. He was first published at that age, in the magazine, "Mother." The poets who became part of his world included Harry Fainlight, who "took me under his wing," Ted Berrigan, and Jim Carroll, with whom he shared a friendship and collaborated on a poem, "Cosmopolitan Sense."

After sharing stories of many poets he has read or with whom he has interacted I admit that I, a fellow poet, am unfamiliar with nearly all of those he has remarked upon. "I should be teaching a poetry class because I would reintroduce young poets my favorite poets," Charles responds,

adding, "There are many talented poets in Milwaukee. We have a very talented town."

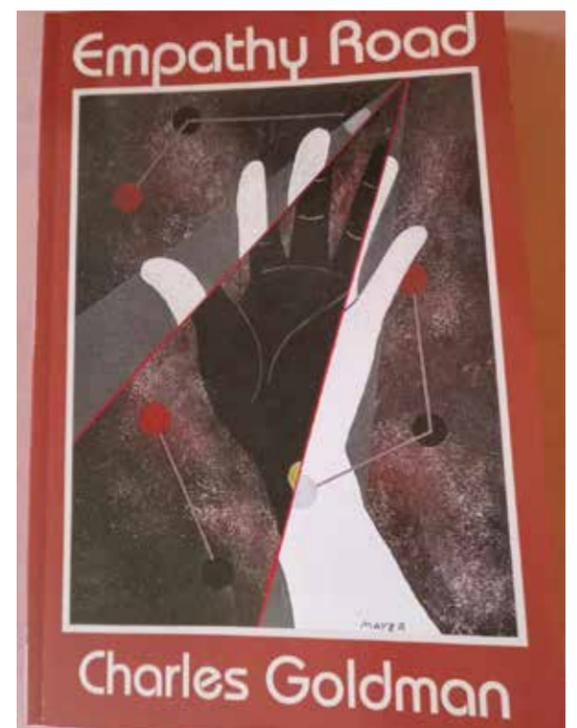
Chuck, as he is known by friends, has been a Riverwest resident for decades. Some folks may recognize his nom de plume, Doctori Sadisco, which he used for DJing as well as some of his writing. He kept his poetic life alive by working at The Simple Soyman for 35 years. On a good day, you may run into him at the Art Bar. (Bring your book. He'll sign it.)

## Excerpt from *EMPATHY ROAD*

Who crawls from the rubble beneath the war torn street?  
 Who moves mountains to build hotels?  
 Whose dynasty of eternal wealth gloats in private?  
 Whose shame passes for but a moment glimpsed in the mirror?  
 Who holds the reins of the human soul?  
 Joy over a thousand thousand millennia unfolds  
 if you would but see it! Joy to calm the tornado of  
 the heart of man! Joy to lift from one's hands  
 the end of all disease! Joy to quicken the only medicine  
 to cure poverty! Joy to give back to each child  
 the nurturing intelligence of love! Joy coming off  
 the torture rack! Joy lifting off the severing blade!  
 Joy encountering only joy!  
 Where you have failed joy rises.  
 Where you have fallen upon your prey in the darkness of  
 hatred, joy now rises!  
 Where you have looked into the mirror and saw your own  
 death, joy now rises!  
 Where you have turned upon another and taken what they  
 earned, joy must rise!  
 Where you have lied to sully others, joy must now rise!  
 Where you have caused an agony and destroyed, joy must  
 now rise!  
 Where you have been the brute, the smug undoer of another's  
 work, joy must arise!  
 Where the liar has lied, where the snake has bit, where your  
 handiwork  
 Was the turmoil for others, where you brought death and  
 despair, and smiled  
 Upon the blood dripping from your own hands, joy must now  
 rise!

Upon your words which denigrate and hate, hanging  
 Like corpses from the throat of these proclamations, joy will  
 now rise!  
 Is this the bliss made of the darkest inferno of your own hearts  
 laid out as your final gift before the infinite? What salvo  
 from our depths; ugliness, depravity, despair, doubt, booming  
 in death from which sorrow becomes a radiance full of joy?  
 That and only that is the roadmap I would share.  
 Know this. Thawt if you do not know, find out.  
 That you will find out. That you will have learned.  
 That out of your material gain in which  
 thought and deed has brought profound despair,  
 Joy will be the flower which lifts its ultimate head  
 and all futures will bathe in its fragrance.

Charles Goldman



Chuck, as he is known by friends, has been a Riverwest resident for decades. Some folks may recognize his nom de plume, Doctori Sadisco, which he used for DJing as well as some of his writing. He kept his poetic life alive by working at The Simple Soyman for 35 years. On a good day, you may run into him at the Art Bar. (Bring your book. He'll sign it.)

# Uncle Wolfie's 234 E. Vine St.

414-763-3021

Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:00 AM-2:00 PM

Friday- Saturday 8:00 AM-3:00 PM 5:00 PM-9:00 PM

Sunday 8:00 AM-3:00 PM ---- [UncleWolfies.com](http://UncleWolfies.com)

by Cari Taylor-Carlson

**A**t Uncle Wolfie's you will not see suits, ties, or pointy-toed stilettos. What you will see is a breakfast and lunch restaurant where neighbors stream in, in twos, threes, or fours, to sit at banquet-style tables, or to belly-up to the bar. It is casual, cozy, occasionally loud, and totally delightful.

The restaurant, lodged in a cream city brick building at the corner of Vine and Hubbard in Brewer's Hill, has a killer view of downtown, especially if your seat faces south or when you sit outside in warm weather. There is a sunny ambiance that flows from those south-facing windows, as well as from the customers and the waitstaff.

Everything in the room looks like it has been there for 100 years or so, even if it hasn't. Those stunning lights over the bar for example, or the pressed tin soffits made from tiles rescued from the original ceiling add vintage character to this cozy former bar.

Since it is small, 14 seats at the bar and approximately 26 seats at the tables, you could have a short wait, but no problem. The owners figured that into their plan when they added the Orange and Blue Co., a shop filled with contemporary goods for the home as well as accessories such as jewelry and handmade leather purses.

To our surprise my companions and I scored a table as soon as we arrived at about 12:30 on a weekday. On this cold February day, we immediately ordered a Ginger Turmeric Hot Toddy and a "seasonal" Sweet Potato Pie latte. Both lived up to their names and both were soul-warming and delicious.

My companion followed her toddy with Hamburger with Cheese, two smashed patties with American cheese, balsamic caramelized onions, and something curious, fancy sauce. The burgers approached perfection. The toasted bun, the onions sweet and tart from the balsamic, the fancy sauce, a mustard-based tangy addition, and the melted cheese, added up to a buttery combination of salty, tangy, and fatty.

A second companion ordered the Brunch Burger, a complicated combination of smashed patties, Manchego, bacon jam, pickled red onion, arugula, aioli, and to top it off, a sunny-side egg. Like the Hamburger with Cheese, the burgers were juicy and made with quality beef. "I can taste the grill on the burgers," said my friend.

There are two more burgers on the menu, the Big McAllister with lettuce, cheese, pickles, and onions, and Wolfie's Patty Melt with three cheeses, bacon jam, caramelized onions, and more of the fancy sauce.

The Big Wolfie Breakfast was an understated feast of more than I could possibly finish in one sitting. I want to return and order it again, all of it, the peppery scrambled eggs, the house-made sausage, the humongous tavern potatoes, and the johnnycake. It was an amazing breakfast including real maple syrup for the gigantic johnnycake.

There is more on the breakfast menu to look forward to: Stuffed French Toast; Biscuits and Gravy; Poutine; and a Benedict.

For your wake-up call you can order coffee nine ways, hot chocolate, tea, or a seasonal hot drink. There is also soda, a list of specialty cocktails, beer on tap, and six drinks with bubbles.

Uncle Wolfie's is no longer the new kid on the block, but it is clear their presence on this corner in Brewer's Hill is a fine addition to the neighborhood.

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**For your wake-up call you can order coffee nine ways, hot chocolate, tea, or a seasonal hot drink. There is also soda, a list of specialty cocktails, beer on tap, and six drinks with bubbles.**

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10 March 2025

## Neighbor Spotlight: Tracey McNeely

by BB Bishop

Tracey McNeely is tireless. She's the daughter of local legend and civil rights activist Ruth Bradley McNeely-Wells, who at 105 years old continues to actively support her church, cast her vote, and enliven public events with her presence. Keeping up with the calendar of Mother and Daughter McNeely requires an unfailing attention span and a bit of aerobics, as they bounce between gatherings at St. Matthew CME Church, MICAHA (Milwaukee Inner City Congregations Allied for Hope) committees, meetings of the League of Progressive Seniors, getting out the vote efforts and whatever else is on the agenda for the week.

### On the Move

At a January luncheon at St. Matthew's, McNeely was honored for her voter engagement work. *100 Women on the Move*, an interfaith coalition of women acting for change in Milwaukee, also honored Brenda Jackson of MICAHA (Milwaukee Inner City Congregations Allied for Hope), Rhonda Lindner of WIVEC (Wisconsin Interfaith Voter Campaign Engagement), and Anita Johnson of Souls to the Polls, who coached attendees on the key points of the upcoming Supreme Court election.

Taking time to look back on the Get Out the Vote efforts of these ladies and organizations, McNeely's pastor, Rev. Dr. Richard Shaw, spoke during the luncheon of the need now more than ever to remain engaged considering the "systematic suppression of voting and hidden agendas." Shaw, the president of MICAHA, also shared family history of freedom fighters in Alabama during the Selma-to-Montgomery march. With his direct eloquence and serene demeanor, he emanates the energy of another young Reverend Doctor.

"It was the Protasiewicz campaign that really got me involved in activism in Milwaukee. From then, it's been on," Tracey shares regarding her excitement surrounding the justice's victory in the 2023 Wisconsin Supreme Court election. Although the race made history for its campaign ad spend, McNeely predicts the upcoming April 1 election will shatter that record.

Again, the stakes are fundamental citizen voter rights; many on both sides see the voter ID laws and fate of gerrymandering at the heart of the Wisconsin justice election as a turning point for the nation.

### family history

A portrait of the McNeely family is very much a picture of Flint, Michigan, where Tracey was raised. Rather than the Flint of lead pipes and decaying infrastructure it eventually became, the city was then in its middle-American heyday.

"Growing up, Flint was a boomtown," Tracey recalls, "Detroit was the Motor City, but we were the Vehicle City," putting out Chevys, Cadillacs and other GM cars. They lived along Industrial Avenue. Mack's Barbershop, her father Charles Sr.'s enterprise, was in the shadow of the Buick plant. (cover photo)

Mom Ruth and best friend Dorothy sold baked goods to the shift workers coming and going from their shifts under the label "R&D's Cakes and Pies." (Mom's culinary skills were legendary; a master caterer and cooking instructor, she planned Tracey's 500-person wedding dinner for a year in advance. It's appropriate that Ruth's autobiography is also a cookbook, *Recipes from the Heart, Food for the Soul.*)

Both her parents had migrated north

from relatively well-off southern families. Ruth was born into a large family on a 60-acre farm in Louisiana, while Charles Sr had an uncle who became a state senator and was subsequently lynched, as well as a father who owned a mill that had been burned down. Life in the Jim Crow south meant they would never feel comfortable, so they headed north, eventually settling in Flint.

Charles, Sr., however, arrived in the North to encounter more pervasive racial prejudice. A certified teacher, he still struggled to secure a position as an African American man. Working for the auto plants meant every 90 days brought the threat of layoffs, a tactic used to prevent African American workers from becoming eligible to join the UAW.

Eventually, Dad enjoyed success by opening a family-oriented barbershop, free from gambling and other shady activity, which became a gathering place for the community-minded. "It was a political Who's-Who," Tracey recalls.

This aligned with mom's growing activism. One of Tracey's earlier memories of her mother's civil rights involvement centered around an Urban League lawyer who had been receiving death threats. The McNeelys opened their home as a meeting place.

Tracey's earliest memory of Ruth's activism sat in the back of her mind's eye for a while. "I can't remember how old I was, but I was little. My mom had dressed me up and taken us across town," Tracey recalls, "to a big building where she spoke with a white woman with a mean scowl behind a counter." Years later, McNeely would learn that her mother was attempting to enroll her in a Head Start program across town.

Equal access to education was central to the family's civil rights efforts. Beginning in middle school, Tracey was enrolled in an integrated school as well as copious extracurriculars: Spanish, knitting lessons, piano, dance, baton-twirling, Girl Scouts, and a finishing program called "Stepping Stones", which

taught girls manners and etiquette.

With both parents educators, it was nearly inevitable that Tracey would follow in their footsteps. At Flint Northern High School, McNeely's activities excelled beyond the usual realms. Her brother R.L. was eight years older and away at college, sending books back home by Huey Newton, Stokely Carmichael, and Angela Davis. "R.L. was a genius," confides his sister. Indeed, both brothers set the solidly middle-class example of hard work and education that their parents had instilled by example. Charles Jr. (later Kofi), the eldest and thirteen years Tracey's senior, was a certified AODA therapist who went to Sweden to study Gestalt therapy and was a reservist as well. R.L. McNeely initially went to college on a football scholarship at Eastern Michigan University and went on to become a noted scholar. Besides achieving tenure at UW-Milwaukee in 1975, he graduated from Marquette Law in 1994. It was R.L.'s connection to Milwaukee, and the East Side, that eventually brought Tracey McNeely here.

Although Tracey would become Cotillion Queen, and president of both the Women's Club and Junior Negro Business Club as a senior in high school, events swirling around her would distinguish what was important.

The most profoundly moving moment, she recalls, was witnessing police brutality upon teenage boys, some of them her cousins, who were beaten outside her high school during a protest. At a time when Flint Public Schools were being exposed for their inherent systematic racism, student marches kept many from school for nearly two weeks.

After a planned demonstration in the library went awry, a riot nearly erupted. White students showed up with rifles. The brutality occurred when the students who were attending Southwestern High School (Detroit Public School system) were chained inside the school with police inside, supposedly for protection. "My aunt showed up to protect the kids marching outside the school," Tracey

recalls, "with her pistol."

Tracey went off to college in 1972, earning a B.A. in Speech and Dramatic Arts with a minor in Journalism at Eastern Michigan University. She followed that by going to graduate school at Eastern, earning a master's degree in Spoken Communication and Drama.

From there, Tracey acquired multiple teaching certifications -- in American Authors, Drama, Speech and Journalism. Then, she learned of an opportunity at Riverside High School in Milwaukee for teachers who held master's degrees. She moved to the East Side, where the Harborside apartment tower was a longtime residence. McNeely became co-chair of Riverside's English Department, where she led students to produce the yearbook for most of her time at the school (from 1986 to 1991).

Eventually, her family in Michigan called her home. She worked at Detroit Public Schools until her retirement in 2008, then followed her mom back to Milwaukee a few years later to become Ruth's full-time caretaker.

Her brother R.L. founded the *R.L. McNeely Consortium* to re-establish higher education in Wisconsin prisons, and he advocated persistently for corrections reform such as at *Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake*. He also established an endowment at Marquette for law scholarships.

The *McNeely Consortium* managed to implement higher education classes at the *Racine Correctional Institute*, but R.L. passed away in 2020 before the consortium could achieve its full potential. His partner Georgette Williams carries on his work.

When complimented on her voracious schedule, Tracey remarks, "eventually Mom is going to go back to the Lord, and I'm going to need something to do." Her persistence and steady accomplishment throughout all phases of life are remarkable, but to Tracey McNeely it's just a fact of life being part of such a notable family.



At the *100 Women on the Move* luncheon January 22nd, Tracy McNeely was honored with an award for her tireless efforts getting out the vote. Shown with Ms. McNeely and mom Ruth Bradley-McNeely are Pastor Rev. Dr. Richard Shaw, at right, and from far left, Anita Johnson of *Souls to the Polls*, Brenda Jackson of *MICAHA* and Rhonda Lindner of *Tikkun Ha-Ir* and the *Interfaith Voter Engagement Campaign*.

## Currents Calendar

March 2025 11



Pastor Jeremy Henry, Ruth McNeely, Tracey McNeely, and President Clinton at the Harris-Walz rally held Nov. 1, 2024 at IPAMA - Institute for the Preservation of African American Music and Arts.



Tracey with brothers Charles Jr. and R.L. McNeely

Learn more about MICAH's commitment to interfaith racial justice at [micahmke.org](http://micahmke.org)

The story of Souls to the Polls and 100 Women on the Move is at [www.soulstothepollswi.org/100-women-on-the-move](http://www.soulstothepollswi.org/100-women-on-the-move)

Tracey has stories beyond stories. It was necessary to edit the piece for length to fit in the paper. In no way does this lessen the impact that Tracey and the McNeely family have had upon Milwaukee. Remember it is about Souls to the Polls. Vote!!!

The R.L. McNeely Prison Education Consortium (MPEC) provides access to higher education for students directly impacted by the criminal legal system through a collaborative effort involving universities, colleges, correctional facilities, re-entry programs, and community organizations across Southeastern Wisconsin. By connecting these stakeholders, MPEC offers currently and formerly incarcerated students opportunities to pursue higher education degrees and educational programs. Additionally, MPEC supports higher education institutions in effectively serving these students, contributing to the development of stronger, safer, and more economically vibrant communities throughout the region.

**1 SATURDAY**  
**ANODYNE COFFEE, 224 W Bruce** Logan Ledger with Mason Via. 6:30 doors, 7:30pm show. \$18-22

**ART\*BAR** Live Music w/ Pierce Crask, 9pm

**bar centro SOUND EXCHANGE:** Exploring the process of performance. \$15. 8-10:30pm. See website for details: [centrocaferiverwest.com](http://centrocaferiverwest.com)

**BLACK HUSKY BREWING** Celebrate Mardis Gras early with Sliphorn Jazz Band, 4-7pm. Also starring Obstinatör Doppelbock on tap if you're looking for a Lent sacrifice. A true to style traditional German doppelbock at 7.3% ABV

**BOCK FEST, Regner Park in West Bend** Squeezettes, 2-3pm

**BREMEN CAFÉ** Dean Means Green Bean Machine 8:30pm; Commonwealth 9:30pm; Brindled 10pm; Oh Well Ok 10:30pm

**FALCON NEST at Falcon Bowl** The Erly

**INSPIRATION STUDIOS, 1500 S 73rd St** Opening Reception: Nature's Playground. Exhibit by Penny Conaty. 4-7pm

**JAZZ GALLERY CENTER FOR THE ARTS** Erica Dawn Lyle, Chelsea Tadeyeske, Cornelius Sludge, and tampertamper | Experimental, Punk, Poetry | 7-10pm | \$10 Cover

**JAZZ GALLERY CENTER FOR THE ARTS** Free Improv Sessions, 10am-12noon.

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

**KINSHIP COMMUNITY FOOD CENTER, 924 E Clarke** Volunteer food distribution hours: 7:30-11:30am

**LINNEMAN'S** Sequestered Puppies. 7pm. \$10

**MAD PLANET** House Your Body w/ The Elechronic (DJs Andrew Optimist and The Milkman), and guest DJ from Chicago, John Simmons, doors 9pm

**MILWAUKEE WINTER FARMERS MARKET, 5305 W Capitol Dr,** 9am-2pm. Fondy proudly accepts SNAP benefits, WIC and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program Vouchers.

**MIRAMAR THEATRE** Vampa + Jeanie; Pumpkin Smasha. Doors 9pm; show 10pm-2am. All ages. Tix \$25 +

**PINK HOUSE STUDIO** Martial Art w/ Samuel C., 1:30-3pm

**RIVERWEST YOGASHALA** Yoga: Focus & Refine w/Sara, 9am. Mat Pilates w/ Christine, 11-11:50am

**SHANK HALL** The Bow Tides, 8pm. \$20 advance / \$22 door

**STAND FOR PEACE at Capitol & Oakland** Join with Peace Action of Wisconsin in our 21st year of standing for peace, noon until 1pm

**THE COFFEE HOUSE, 2717 E Hampshire** Smith & Binder Jazz, 7:30-9:30pm

**UPTOWNER** Eyez on the Prize  
**VIVARIUM, 1818 N Farwell** MISSIO: I Am Cinco Tour. Doors 7pm, show 8pm. \$22

### 2 SUNDAY

**BREMEN CAFÉ** Bingo 6-8:30pm.

**JAZZ GALLERY CENTER FOR THE ARTS** Manty Ellis Jam, 12-2pm. (jazz)

**PINK HOUSE STUDIO** Birds Take Flight, 1-3pm. # 2 of workshop series for making paper mache birds. Today we will be painting and adding tissue paper feather to our creations.

**RIVERWEST YOGASHALA** Yoga Movement Fundamentals w/ Tracey, 10:30am. Restorative Meditation with Shami L. 4pm

**THE GIG, 1132 E Wright (at Dousman)** Bluegrass Jam! 1-4pm

**UPTOWNER** Wilson Blues Band, 3pm

### 3 MONDAY Happy Lundi Gras!

**BREMEN CAFÉ** Comedy Open Mic, 8pm. Then Music Open Mic w/ Ouzman

**FALCON NEST at Falcon Bowl** Swing Dance lessons followed by a social hour, 7-10pm

**FRIENDS MEETINGHOUSE, 3224 N Gordon PI** Meditation for Everyone - Creating a Perfect Future, w/Modern Buddhist Monk Gen Kelsang Dorje. 6:30-8pm. All are welcome. \$10. Drop-in or sign up in advance at [meditationwi.today/mondays](http://meditationwi.today/mondays)

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

**MAXIES, 6732 W Fairview** Extra Crispy Brass Band, 6pm

**PINK HOUSE STUDIO** Super Gentle Community Yoga (10-11am); Yoga w/ Sarah (6-7:15pm)

**RIVERWEST YOGASHALA** Yoga & Our Cycles, 4:30pm. Yoga Movement Fundamentals w/ Tracey, 6-7:15pm

**SHANK HALL** Cosmic Charlie (Grateful Dead tribute), 8pm

**THE GATHERING TABLE, 2nd & Clarke** All Peoples Church's Gathering Table has fresh and free produce, organic veggies, eggs, yogurt, sandwich bread, whole grain pastas, rice, and so much more! 1-4pm

**UPTOWNER** Open Mic, 7-10pm. 10 minute sets. All performance welcome. Sign up in person at event.

### 4 TUESDAY Mardis Gras!

**bar centro** Big Style Brass Band, 8-10:30. No cover!

**BLACK HUSKY BREWING** Milwaukee's Worst Trivia, 6:30-9pm.

**BREMEN CAFÉ** Karaoke

**FALCON BOWL** Traditional Tuesdays! Live music and dancing, featuring TBA, 8-10pm. 7pm, Open Swing Dancing.

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

**KINSHIP COMMUNITY FOOD CENTER, 924 E Clarke** Volunteer food distribution hours: 2:30 or 3:30 - 6:30pm

**MAXIES, 6732 W Fairview** Extra Crispy Brass Band, 6pm

**MIRAMAR THEATRE** R&B Party DJ'd by Mr. New York. Doors 9pm. Free cover for ladies, 9-10pm.

**PINK HOUSE STUDIO** GIA Grace in Action 4 Everybody (9:15am); Keep It Simple Yoga (6pm)

**SHANK HALL** Clem Snide + Rye Valley. 8pm. \$20

**WXRW 104.1FM RIVERWEST RADIO OWL** (Older. Wiser. Local) Karen Beaumont Presents: Annual Online Piano Recital. 7pm on the radio. Stream live or listen to archive at [riverwestradio.com](http://riverwestradio.com).

### 5 WEDNESDAY

**ANODYNE COFFEE, 224 W Bruce** Satsang (Solo) with special guest Sierra Marin. Doors 6pm, show 7pm. \$20-25

**ART\*BAR** Karaoke! 9pm

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

**BREMEN CAFÉ** Trivia 6:30pm; Passion Park 9pm

**LINNEMAN'S** Acoustic Open Stage -- Doors open and sign-up starts at 7pm. Show starts at 8pm. Featured performer: Gage Dulak

**PINK HOUSE STUDIO** GIA Grace in Action 4 Everybody (9:15am); Yoga w/ Kat (11am-Noon)

**RIVERWEST YOGASHALA** Yoga: Focus & Refine w/ Sara, 6pm

**THE GATHERING TABLE, 2nd & Clarke** All Peoples Church's Gathering Table has fresh and free produce, organic veggies, eggs, yogurt, sandwich bread, whole grain pastas, rice, and so much more! 1-4pm

**THE GIG, 1132 E Wright (at Dousman)** Wednesday Night Music! 9pm-midnight

**URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER-Riverside, 1500 E Park Place** Plastic-Free MKE Winter Community Meeting, 5:30-7pm. 2025 Kick Off! Sharing Community Engagement Goals -- discover ways to support our movement, volunteer, and take action to help us achieve them. Volunteer opportunities, lake-friendly outreach tips, snacks. Register here: <https://forms.gle/Ns4LzoKqjFptXyS7A>. Registration is not



## Currents Calendar

Fundamentals w/ Tracey, 6-7:15pm

**THE GATHERING TABLE, 2nd & Clarke** All Peoples Church's Gathering Table has fresh and free produce, organic veggies, eggs, yogurt, sandwich bread, whole grain pastas, rice, and so much more! 1-4pm

**UPTOWNER** Open Mic, 7-10pm. 10 minute sets. All performance welcome. Sign up in person at event.

### 11 TUESDAY

**BLACK HUSKY BREWING** Milwaukee's Worst Trivia, 6:30-9pm.

**BREMEN CAFÉ** Pinball Tourney 6pm; later, Karaoke

**EAST LIBRARY, Cramer and North** Riverwest Elders Wisdom Tuesday, Noon-2pm. Presenter: Travis Sternhagen, Volunteer Coordinator Topic: Kinship Community Food Center-Serving Each Other Through the Power of Food. Potluck, or byo lunch.

**FALCON BOWL** Traditional Tuesdays! Live music and dancing, featuring Ole Sam & the Teardrops, 8-10pm. 7pm, Open Swing Dancing.

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

**KINSHIP COMMUNITY FOOD CENTER, 924 E Clarke** Volunteer food distribution hours: 2:30 or 3:30 - 6:30pm

**MIRAMAR THEATRE** R&B Party DJ'd by Mr. New York. Doors 9pm. Free cover for ladies, 9-10pm.

**PINK HOUSE STUDIO** GIA Grace in Action 4 Everybody (9:15am); Keep It Simple Yoga (6pm)

**WXRW 104.1FM RIVERWEST RADIO OWL** (Older. Wiser. Local) Celebrating International Women's Day. 7pm on the radio. Stream live or listen to archive at riverwestradio.com.

### 12 WEDNESDAY

**ART\*BAR** Karaoke! 9pm

**BLACK HUSKY BREWING** Traditional Irish Music jam session, 6:30-9pm. (Every second Wednesday)

**BREMEN CAFÉ** Trivia 6:30pm

**LINNEMAN'S** Acoustic Open Stage -- Doors open and sign-up starts at 7pm. Show starts at 8pm. Featured performer: Abigail Justus

**PINK HOUSE STUDIO** GIA Grace in Action 4 Everybody (9:15am); Yoga w/ Kat (11am-Noon)

**RIVERWEST YOGASHALA** Yoga: Focus & Refine w/ Sara, 6pm

**SHANK HALL** Socks in the Frying Pan, 8pm, \$25

**THE GATHERING TABLE, 2nd & Clarke** All Peoples Church's Gathering Table has fresh and free produce, organic veggies, eggs, yogurt, sandwich bread, whole grain pastas, rice, and so much more! 1-4pm

**THE GIG, 1132 E Wright (at Dousman)** Wednesday Night Music! 9pm-midnight

**VIVARIUM, 1818 N Farwell** Oliver Hazard. 8pm. \$20

### 13 THURSDAY

**ANODYNE COFFEE, 224 W Bruce** Paul Ceban Tomorrow Sound + Rami and The Reliabilities. 6pm doors, 7pm show. \$15 adv / \$20 at door

**bar centro** Garrett Waite, 8-10:30pm. \$10

**JAZZ GALLERY CENTER FOR THE ARTS** OWL (Older. Wiser. Local) Mari Lynn Young: Powerful Current Astrology. 1-4pm.

**PINK HOUSE STUDIO** Dharma Recovery Meditation group, 6:30-8pm

**RIVERWEST YOGASHALA** Yoga for Elders & Elders-to-be w/ Sara, 1:30pm. Gentle, Healing & Supportive Yoga w/ Tracey, 7:30-8:45pm

**SHANK HALL** Karan Casey, 8pm, \$25

**UPTOWNER** Flash Drive Function (hip hop open mic night)

**VIVARIUM, 1818 N Farwell** Ladies of Country: A Tribute To Dolly, Shania, Reba & Martina, 8pm. \$39.25-62.65

**WOODLAND PATTERN \*online\***

Reading: Solitary Plover Reading. The Friends of Lorine Niedecker will host a reading by the poets published in the Winter 2025 Solitary Plover. Poets will read their work from the newsletter and share a favorite poem of Niedecker's. 6:30pm. \$Give what you can.

### 14 FRIDAY

**ANODYNE COFFEE, 224 W Bruce** The Claudettes + The Stephen Hull Experience. Doors 6:30pm. Show 7:30pm. \$15 adv / \$20 at door

**ART\*BAR** Live Music w/ Matthew Haeffel, 9pm

**bar centro** Paul Silbergleit Trio -- A Night of (Mostly) Original Music, 8-10:30pm. \$15

**FALCON BOWL** Crash The System Y2K Party, hosted by Reproductive Justice Action Milwaukee. 8pm

**INSPIRATION STUDIOS, 1500 S 73rd St** Hartford Players present THE GUY WHO DIDN'T LIKE MUSICALS. 7:30pm

**JAZZ GALLERY CENTER FOR THE ARTS** OWL (Older. Wiser. Local) DIY Creative: bring your own project, or use our materials. 1-4pm.

**KINSHIP COMMUNITY FOOD CENTER, 924 E Clarke** Volunteer food sort hours: 8:30-10:30am

**LINNEMAN'S** White Dry Pages w/ 3 Springs + Little Otik. 8-11pm, \$10

**MAD PLANET** Retro Dance Party w/ Goth Barge DJs (Dance Commandr and xDominionx). 9pm

**MIRAMAR THEATRE** The SkEye Series Vol. 4 featuring DJ Icey. 9pm-2am. \$15 online / \$20 at door

**PINK HOUSE STUDIO** GIA Grace in Action 4 Everybody (9:15am); African Dance (6pm)

**RIVERWEST YOGASHALA** Yoga for Mobility & Stability w/ Tracey, 10-11:15am

**SHANK HALL** The Ike Reilly Assassination + The Revenirs. 8pm, \$20.00

**THE GATHERING TABLE, 2nd & Clarke** All Peoples Church's Gathering Table has fresh and free produce, organic veggies, eggs, yogurt, sandwich bread, whole grain pastas, rice, and so much more! 1-4pm

**UPTOWNER** Passion Park Fest **VIVARIUM, 1818 N Farwell** David Howley with special guest Cat and Hare. 8pm. \$25-35

**WOODLAND PATTERN \*hybrid\*** Poetry Reading: Kitt Healy and Jenny Benjamin. 7-8pm. \$Give what you can.

### 15 SATURDAY

**ANODYNE COFFEE, 224 W Bruce** Royal Mill + Meadowers + Addicus + BERMS. Doors 6:30pm, show 7:30pm. \$15 adv / \$18 door

**ART\*BAR** ART\*BAR TURNS 21 TOGA PARTY! \$10 cash cover. Live music w/ The SenSations, 9pm

**THE COFFEE HOUSE, 2717 E Hampshire** Green Sails with opener Jim Winston, 7:30-9:30pm

**INSPIRATION STUDIOS, 1500 S 73rd St** Open Gallery: Nature's Playground. Exhibit by Penny Conaty. 11am-1pm

**INSPIRATION STUDIOS, 1500 S 73rd St** Hartford Players present THE GUY WHO DIDN'T LIKE MUSICALS. 7:30pm

**JAZZ GALLERY CENTER FOR THE ARTS** Roy Haynes Tribute Concert | Jazz | \$10. 7-9pm.

**JAZZ GALLERY CENTER FOR THE ARTS** Free Improv Sessions, 10am-12noon.

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

**KINSHIP COMMUNITY FOOD CENTER, 924 E Clarke** Volunteer food distribution hours: 7:30-11:30am

**LINNEMAN'S** Bella Bruto + The Aimless Blades. 8pm, \$10

**MAD PLANET** Beyonce VS Rihanna w/ DJ Frank Straka. 9pm

**MILWAUKEE WINTER FARMERS MARKET, 5305 W Capitol Dr**, 9am-2pm. Fondy proudly accepts SNAP benefits, WIC and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition

Program Vouchers.

**MIRAMAR THEATRE** Corrupt UK + Thomas Xavier + Aspen. Age 18+. Doors 9pm. \$17-30

**PINK HOUSE STUDIO** Song & Chant Circle, 6:30-8:30pm

**RIVERWEST YOGASHALA** Yoga: Focus & Refine w/Sara, 9am. Mat Pilates w/ Christine, 11-11:50am. Soup[ta] Season: Restorative Poses & Soup, 12:30pm

**SHANK HALL** Ain't That America (John Mellencamp tribute). 8pm. \$20 adv / \$25 door

**STAND FOR PEACE at MLK & North** Join with Peace Action of Wisconsin in our 21st year of standing for peace, noon until 1pm

**UPTOWNER** Passion Park Fest **UWM PLANETARIUM** Solar System Expedition, 2-3pm. Special matinee program: an interactive tour of our cosmic neighborhood, the solar system. \$6 General / \$5 UWM Students. Visit uwm.edu/planetarium for tickets.

**VIVARIUM, 1818 N Farwell** Kyle Hume & The Astronomers. 8pm. \$18

### 16 SUNDAY

**ANODYNE COFFEE, 224 W Bruce** Pretendacle + Automatic Lover + Play Machine. 6:30 doors, 7:30pm show. \$12 adv / \$15 at door

**BREMEN CAFÉ** Bingo 6-8:30pm.

**FALCON BOWL** School of Rock Artist Showcase

**INSPIRATION STUDIOS, 1500 S 73rd St** Hartford Players present THE GUY WHO DIDN'T LIKE MUSICALS. 2pm

**JAZZ GALLERY CENTER FOR THE ARTS** Claudia Johnson Student Recital, 11:30am-2pm

**PINK HOUSE STUDIO** Ryan Hader & Backward Echo Band, 3-5pm

**RIVERWEST YOGASHALA** Yoga Movement Fundamentals w/ Tracey, 10:30am. Community Class: Beginners+ Yoga w/ Helena, 12:30pm.

**THE GIG, 1132 E Wright (at Dousman)** Bluegrass Jam! 1-4pm

**UPTOWNER** Passion Park Fest

**UPTOWNER** Wilson Blues Band, 3pm

### 17 MONDAY -- Saint Patrick's Day

**BREMEN CAFÉ** Comedy Open Mic, 8pm. Then Music Open Mic w/ Parker (Social Cig)

**FALCON NEST at Falcon Bowl** Swing Dance lessons followed by a social hour, 7-10pm

**FRIENDS MEETINGHOUSE, 3224 N Gordon PI** Meditation for Everyone -- Creating a Perfect Future, w/Modern Buddhist Monk Gen Kelsang Dorje. 6:30-8pm. All are welcome. \$10. Drop-in or sign up in advance at meditationwi.today/mondays

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

**PINK HOUSE STUDIO** Super Gentle Community Yoga (10-11am); Yoga w/ Sarah (6-7:15pm)

**RIVERWEST YOGASHALA** Yoga & Our Cycles, 4:30pm. Yoga Movement Fundamentals w/ Tracey, 6-7:15pm

**THE GATHERING TABLE, 2nd & Clarke** All Peoples Church's Gathering Table has fresh and free produce, organic veggies, eggs, yogurt, sandwich bread, whole grain pastas, rice, and so much more! 1-4pm

**UPTOWNER** Voot Warnings (tentative at press time), 9pm

**UPTOWNER** Open Mic, 7-10pm. 10 minute sets. All performance welcome. Sign up in person at event.

### 18 TUESDAY

**BLACK HUSKY BREWING** Milwaukee's Worst Trivia, 6:30-9pm.

**BREMEN CAFÉ** Karaoke

**FALCON BOWL** Traditional Tuesdays! Live music and dancing, featuring Sliphorn Jazz Band, 8-10pm. 7pm, Open Swing Dancing.

**KINSHIP COMMUNITY FOOD CENTER, 924 E Clarke** Food Distribution at St. Casimir's Church -- 4-6pm. Proudly

## March 2025 13

serving the 53212, 53211, 53217, 53202, and 53203 zip codes!

**KINSHIP COMMUNITY FOOD CENTER, 924 E Clarke** Volunteer food distribution hours: 2:30 or 3:30 - 6:30pm

**MIRAMAR THEATRE** R&B Party DJ'd by Mr. New York. Doors 9pm. Free cover for ladies, 9-10pm.

**PINK HOUSE STUDIO** GIA Grace in Action 4 Everybody (9:15am); Keep It Simple Yoga (6pm)

**WXRW 104.1FM RIVERWEST RADIO OWL** (Older. Wiser. Local) The A.M. Book Report: The A.M. Book Report, Media Literacy on Disinformation. 7pm on the radio. Stream live or listen to archive at riverwestradio.com.

### 19 WEDNESDAY

**ART\*BAR** Karaoke! 9pm

**BREMEN CAFÉ** Trivia 6:30pm; Passion Park 9pm

**LINNEMAN'S** Acoustic Open Stage -- Doors open and sign-up starts at 7pm. Show starts at 8pm. Featured performer: Quentin Goehrig

**PINK HOUSE STUDIO** GIA Grace in Action 4 Everybody (9:15am); Yoga w/ Kat (11am-Noon)

**RIVERWEST YOGASHALA** Yoga: Focus & Refine w/ Sara, 6pm

**SHANK HALL** Marshall Crenshaw + Rachael Sage. 8pm. \$30

**THE GATHERING TABLE, 2nd & Clarke** All Peoples Church's Gathering Table has fresh and free produce, organic veggies, eggs, yogurt, sandwich bread, whole grain pastas, rice, and so much more! 1-4pm

**THE GIG, 1132 E Wright (at Dousman)** Wednesday Night Music! 9pm-midnight

**WOODLAND PATTERN \*hybrid\*** Reading Group: Readshop. 6-7:15pm. We will be reading Gap Gardening: Selected Poems by Rosmarie Waldrop.

### 20 THURSDAY -- 1st Day of Spring!

**JAZZ GALLERY CENTER FOR THE ARTS** OWL (Older. Wiser. Local) Decade Review, Part 4b: Writing & Show-n-Tell (bring artifacts/photos from your life from 30-35 yrs old, extended). 1-4pm.

**LINNEMAN'S** Beats Workin' Bluegrass w/ Patty & Craig featuring Peter Rollero, 7-9:30pm, \$12

**PINK HOUSE STUDIO** Dharma Recovery Meditation group, 6:30-8pm

**RIVERWEST YOGASHALA** Yoga for Elders & Elders-to-be w/ Sara, 1:30pm. Gentle, Healing & Supportive Yoga w/ Tracey, 7:30-8:45pm

**SHANK HALL** Sonny Landreth with Cindy Cashdollar, 8pm, \$35

**VIVARIUM, 1818 N Farwell** honestav with special guest Damien Styles. 8pm. \$20

**WOODLAND PATTERN \*hybrid\*** Concert: Formations Series for New & Improvised Music. Set 1 - Out(sider) (Jay Mollerskov & Jim Schoenecker on modular synthesizers). Set 2 - Dead Monster Galaxy. 7-9pm. \$10

### 21 FRIDAY

**ANODYNE COFFEE, 224 W Bruce** The Moth: Beef. 7pm doors, 8pm show.

**ART\*BAR** Live Music w/ Michael Grabner, 9pm

**BREMEN CAFÉ** Little Ducks Rock; Maxwell James Band; Thick Needles

**FALCON BOWL** Social Cig

**INSPIRATION STUDIOS, 1500 S 73rd St** Hartford Players present THE GUY WHO DIDN'T LIKE MUSICALS, 7:30pm

**JAZZ GALLERY CENTER FOR THE ARTS** OWL (Older. Wiser. Local) Artist-Talk on JGCA Exhibitions: Solo Show for Kierson Ghaznavi & Small Wall Artist, Aaron Toman. 1-4pm.

**JAZZ GALLERY CENTER FOR THE ARTS** Tontine Ensemble + Bell Monks + Jeff Harriot/Tim Russell | Experimental, Free Improv! \$10 Cover. 7-10pm

**KINSHIP COMMUNITY FOOD CENTER, 924 E Clarke** Volunteer food sort hours: 8:30-10:30am

**LINNEMAN'S** Dandy Freling w/ King Courteen, & Kati Katchever. 8-11pm. \$10

**MAD PLANET** Retro Mixtape w/ DJs

14 March 2025

**Currents Calendar**

Sage "Champagne" Schwarm & Mosh Wah. 9pm

**MIRAMAR THEATRE** AHEE: Wubcraft Tour. With Mport, Koobz. All ages. Doors 9pm. Tix \$25-40

**PINK HOUSE STUDIO** GIA Grace in Action 4 Everybody (9:15am); African Dance (6pm)

**RIVERWEST YOGASHALA** Yoga for Mobility & Stability w/ Tracey, 10-11:15am. Community Art Night, 5-8pm

**SHANK HALL** Shannon McNally, 8pm, \$15

**THE GATHERING TABLE, 2nd & Clarke** All Peoples Church's Gathering Table has fresh and free produce, organic veggies, eggs, yogurt, sandwich bread, whole grain pastas, rice, and so much more! 1-4pm

**UPTOWNER** Passion Park monthly show

**VIVARIUM, 1818 N Farwell** Glass Cannon Live! Doors 7pm, show 8pm. \$40 +

**22 SATURDAY**

**ART\*BAR** Live Music w/ TBA, 9pm

**BREMEN CAFÉ** Passion Park Fest Extended (open-close)

**FALCON NEST at Falcon Bowl** Robin's Roundup Line Dancing w/ Convoy

**INSPIRATION STUDIOS, 1500 S 73rd St** Hartford Players present THE GUY WHO DIDN'T LIKE MUSICALS, 7:30pm

**INSPIRATION STUDIOS, 1500 S 73rd St** Open Gallery: Nature's Playground, 11am-1pm

**JAZZ GALLERY CENTER FOR THE ARTS** Free Improv Sessions, 10am-12noon.

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

**KINSHIP COMMUNITY FOOD CENTER, 924 E Clarke** Volunteer food distribution hours: 7:30-11:30am

**LINNEMAN'S** Fightin' Bob w/ Wampas Milk Daddies, 8pm, \$10

**MAD PLANET** David Bowie VS Talking Heads VS Devo w/ DJ Frank Straka. 9pm

**MILWAUKEE WINTER FARMERS MARKET, 5305 W Capitol Dr,** 9am-2pm. Fondy proudly accepts SNAP benefits, WIC and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program Vouchers.

**PINK HOUSE STUDIO** NVC Workshop, 10am-3pm

**RIVERWEST YOGASHALA** Yoga: Focus & Refine w/Sara, 9am. Mat Pilates w/ Christine, 11-11:50am. Heart Opener Yoga Workshop - Inner LOVE! 1-3:30pm

**SHANK HALL** Seaside Zoo (Grateful Dead Tribute), 8pm, \$12 advance / \$15 door

**STAND FOR PEACE at 68th & Bluemound** Join with Peace Action of Wisconsin in our 21st year of standing for peace, noon until 1pm

**UPTOWNER** Open mic presented by spittin barz

**UWM PLANETARIUM** Solar System Expedition, 2-3pm. Special matinee program: an interactive tour of our cosmic neighborhood, the solar system. \$6 General / \$5 UWM Students. Visit [uwm.edu/planetarium](http://uwm.edu/planetarium) for tickets.

**VIVARIUM, 1818 N Farwell** The Dead Bolts with special guests The keystones, Well + Good, 8pm, \$15

**23 SUNDAY**

**AMORPHIC BEER, 3700 N Fratney** Riverwest Market Winter Pop-up, 11am-3pm

**BREMEN CAFÉ** Bingo 6-8:30pm.

**FALCON BOWL** Falcon Flea

**MSOE KERN CENTER** WMSE 23rd Annual Rockabilly Chili Fundraiser

**PINK HOUSE STUDIO** Contact Improv Work Shop/Jam, 1-4:30pm

**RIVERWEST YOGASHALA** Yoga Movement Fundamentals w/ Tracey, 10:30am. Beginners+ Yoga w/ Helena, 12:30pm. Community Class: Family Yoga, 2pm

**SHANK HALL** Dustin Sims, 7pm, \$20 adv / \$25 door

**THE GIG, 1132 E Wright (at Dousman)** Bluegrass Jam! 1-4pm

**UPTOWNER** Wilson Blues Band, 3pm

**24 MONDAY**

**BREMEN CAFÉ** Comedy Open Mic, 8pm. Then Music Open Mic w/ Phil

**FALCON NEST at Falcon Bowl** Swing Dance lessons followed by a social hour, 7-10pm

**FRIENDS MEETINGHOUSE, 3224 N Gordon PI** Meditation for Everyone -- Creating a Perfect Future, w/Modern Buddhist Monk Gen Kelsang Dorje. 6:30-8pm. All are welcome. \$10. Drop-in or sign up in advance at [meditationwi.today/mondays](http://meditationwi.today/mondays)

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

**PINK HOUSE STUDIO** Super Gentle Community Yoga (10-11am); Yoga w/ Sarah (6-7:15pm)

**RIVERWEST YOGASHALA** Yoga & Our Cycles, 4:30pm. Yoga Movement Fundamentals w/ Tracey, 6-7:15pm

**SHANK HALL** Mike Farris, 8pm, \$20.00

**THE GATHERING TABLE, 2nd & Clarke** All Peoples Church's Gathering Table has fresh and free produce, organic veggies, eggs, yogurt, sandwich bread, whole grain pastas, rice, and so much more! 1-4pm

**UPTOWNER** Open Mic, 7-10pm. 10 minute sets. All performance welcome. Sign up in person at event.

**25 TUESDAY**

**BLACK HUSKY BREWING** Milwaukee's Worst Trivia, 6:30-9pm.

**BREMEN CAFÉ** Karaoke

**FALCON BOWL** Traditional Tuesdays! Live music and dancing, featuring TBA, 8-10pm. 7pm, Open Swing Dancing.

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

**KINSHIP COMMUNITY FOOD CENTER, 924 E Clarke** Volunteer food distribution hours: 2:30 or 3:30 - 6:30pm

**MIRAMAR THEATRE** R&B Party DJ'd by Mr. New York. Doors 9pm. Free cover for ladies, 9-10pm.

**PINK HOUSE STUDIO** GIA Grace in Action 4 Everybody (9:15am); Keep It Simple Yoga (6pm)

**SHANK HALL** New Translations, 7pm, \$15

**WXRW 104.1FM RIVERWEST RADIO** OWL (Older. Wiser. Local) Karen Beaumont Presents: Poems about Life (with music). 7pm on the radio. Stream live or listen to archive at [riverwestradio.com](http://riverwestradio.com).

**26 WEDNESDAY**

**ART\*BAR** Karaoke! 9pm

**BREMEN CAFÉ** Trivia 6:30pm

**FALCON NEST at Falcon Bowl** Frozen Charlotte

**LINNEMAN'S** Acoustic Open Stage -- Doors open and sign-up starts at 7pm. Show starts at 8pm. Featured performer: Noah Siler

**PINK HOUSE STUDIO** GIA Grace in Action 4 Everybody (9:15am); Yoga w/ Kat (11am-Noon)

**RIVERWEST YOGASHALA** Yoga: Focus & Refine w/ Sara, 6pm

**THE GATHERING TABLE, 2nd & Clarke** All Peoples Church's Gathering Table has fresh and free produce, organic veggies, eggs, yogurt, sandwich bread, whole grain pastas, rice, and so much more! 1-4pm

**THE GIG, 1132 E Wright (at Dousman)** Dead Night w/ Grateful Dead cover band. 9pm-midnight

**27 THURSDAY**

**ANODYNE COFFEE, 224 W Bruce** Jake Blount Band. Doors 6pm, show 7pm. \$15 adv / \$18 doors

**FALCON NEST at Falcon Bowl** WishWash

**JAZZ GALLERY CENTER FOR THE ARTS** OWL (Older. Wiser. Local) Field Trip: AP3 Studio, Print-Making Tour at 900 E. Keefe Avenue. 1-4pm.

**MA FISCHER'S, 1976 N. Farwell Ave.** Riverwest Elders Birthday Lunch. Noon-2pm. Credit cards only.

**PINK HOUSE STUDIO** Dharma Recovery Meditation group, 6:30-8pm

**RIVERWEST YOGASHALA** Yoga for Elders & Elders-to-be w/ Sara, 1:30pm. Gentle, Healing & Supportive Yoga w/ Tracey, 7:30-8:45pm

**UPTOWNER** The Simsons + Key of Evil + Saxophone

**UPTOWNER** Flash Drive Function (hip hop open mic night)

**28 FRIDAY**

**ART\*BAR** ART OPENING: ArtCandy! Live Music w/ Dan Maguire, 9pm

**BREMEN CAFÉ** Romina's Birthday Party! In Shining Armor 10pm; Allergen 10:45pm; Scam Likely 11:45pm

**FALCON NEST at Falcon Bowl** Broken Demeanor

**JAZZ GALLERY CENTER FOR THE ARTS** CxCx + Owen Davies + Steve Peplin | Experimental, Free Improv, Noise| \$10 Cover. 8-10pm

**JAZZ GALLERY CENTER FOR THE ARTS** OWL (Older. Wiser. Local) Field Trip for Game-Day at The Daily Bird, 818 E. Center Street. 1-4pm.

**KINSHIP COMMUNITY FOOD CENTER, 924 E Clarke** Volunteer food sort hours: 8:30-10:30am

**LINNEMAN'S** Offtide w/ Zang! + Oh Well, OK. 8pm, \$10

**MAD PLANET** Retro Dance Party w/ DJ Don Black. Doors 9pm

**PINK HOUSE STUDIO** GIA Grace in Action 4 Everybody (9:15am); African Dance (6pm)

**RIVERWEST YOGASHALA** Yoga for Mobility & Stability w/ Tracey, 10-11:15am

**SHANK HALL** Steep Canyon Rangers, 8pm, \$35

**THE GATHERING TABLE, 2nd & Clarke** All Peoples Church's Gathering Table has fresh and free produce, organic veggies, eggs, yogurt, sandwich bread, whole grain pastas, rice, and so much more! 1-4pm

**UPTOWNER** Faded Places jazz

**VIVARIUM, 1818 N Farwell** Marc Scibilia, 8pm. \$25

**WOODLAND PATTERN \*in person\*.** Open Mic: resound return, 7-8pm, \$Give what you can

**29 SATURDAY**

**ART\*BAR** Live Music w/ TBA, 9pm

**BREMEN CAFÉ** Clayton Ryan, Kaylin Kole, Sundown 47

**FALCON BOWL** Krokod

**INSPIRATION STUDIOS, 1500 S 73rd St** Open Gallery: Nature's Playground, 11am-1pm

**JAZZ GALLERY CENTER FOR THE ARTS** Free Improv Sessions, 10am-12noon.

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**KINSHIP COMMUNITY FOOD CENTER, 924 E Clarke** Volunteer food distribution hours: 7:30-11:30am

**LINNEMAN'S** MKE Music Night w/ TBA, 7:30pm, \$10

**MAD PLANET** LIVE: Modern Joey (Residency Night 3 of 4) w/ Funk Summit Bass Team, Space Monkey Mafia, and DJ Greyhound. Theme: Neon. 9pm

**MILWAUKEE WINTER FARMERS MARKET, 5305 W Capitol Dr,** 9am-2pm. Fondy proudly accepts SNAP benefits, WIC and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program Vouchers.

**RIVERWEST YOGASHALA** Yoga: Focus & Refine w/Sara, 9am. Mat Pilates w/ Christine, 11-11:50am. Heart Opener Yoga Workshop - Inner LOVE! 1-3:30pm

**SHANK HALL** Panorama: A Tribute to The Cars, 8pm, \$15

**STAND FOR PEACE at 16th & Greenfield**

**THE COFFEE HOUSE, 2717 E Hampshire** Joe DeLucia with opener John Higgins, 7:30-9:30pm

**UPTOWNER** Beard Competition!  
**UWM PLANETARIUM** Solar System Expedition, 2-3pm. Special matinee program: an interactive tour of our cosmic neighborhood, the solar system. \$6 General / \$5 UWM Students. Visit [uwm.edu/planetarium](http://uwm.edu/planetarium) for tickets.

**VIVARIUM, 1818 N Farwell** Wire & Nail with special guests Dan Lepien and Valley Fox. 8pm, \$15 adv / \$20 door

**30 SUNDAY**

**ANODYNE COFFEE, 224 W Bruce** Fox & Branch, 11am

**ANODYNE COFFEE, 224 W Bruce** Poor Ridley + So Zuppy + Eli Orion. Doors 5pm, show 6pm. \$12 adv / \$15 doors

**RIVERWEST YOGASHALA** Tracey's Birthday Yoga Class, 10:30am. Community Class: Beginners+ Yoga w/ Helena, 12:30pm.

**SHANK HALL** Roger Clyne and the Peacemakers, 8pm, \$30

**UPTOWNER** Wilson Blues Band, 3pm

**WOODLAND PATTERN \*hybrid\*** Concert: Alternating Currents Live presents Beautifulish. 7pm, \$15 / \$13 members

**31 MONDAY**

**BREMEN CAFÉ** Comedy Open Mic, 8pm.

**FALCON NEST at Falcon Bowl** Swing Dance lessons followed by a social hour, 7-10pm

**FRIENDS MEETINGHOUSE, 3224 N Gordon PI** Meditation for Everyone -- Creating a Perfect Future, w/Modern Buddhist Monk Gen Kelsang Dorje. 6:30-8pm. All are welcome. \$10. Drop-in or sign up in advance at [meditationwi.today/mondays](http://meditationwi.today/mondays)

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**THE GATHERING TABLE, 2nd & Clarke** All Peoples Church's Gathering Table has fresh and free produce, organic veggies, eggs, yogurt, sandwich bread, whole grain pastas, rice, and so much more! 1-4pm

**UPTOWNER** Open Mic, 7-10pm. 10 minute sets. All performance welcome. Sign up in person at event.



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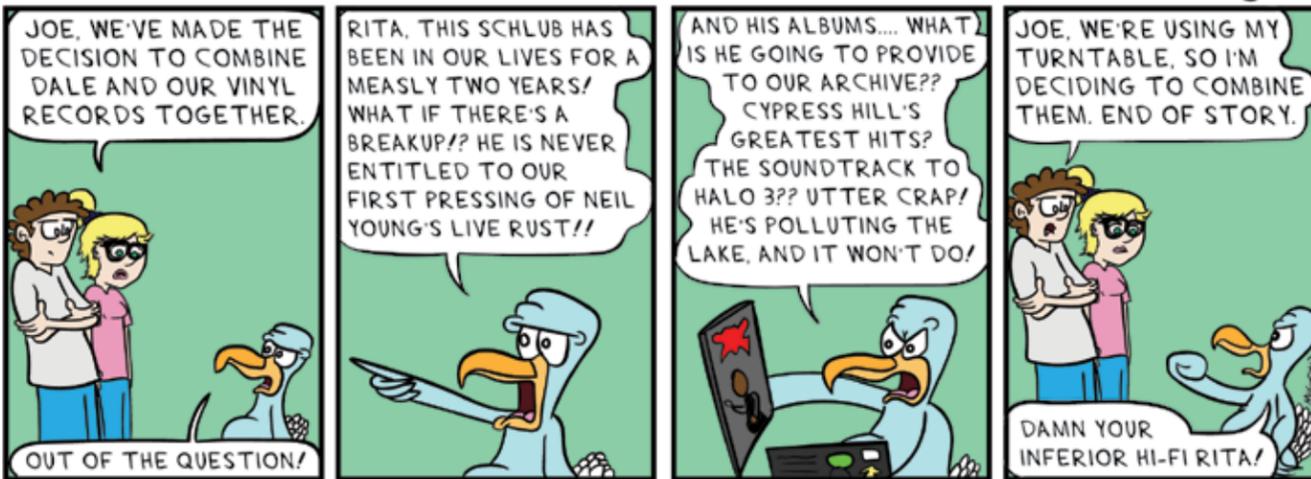


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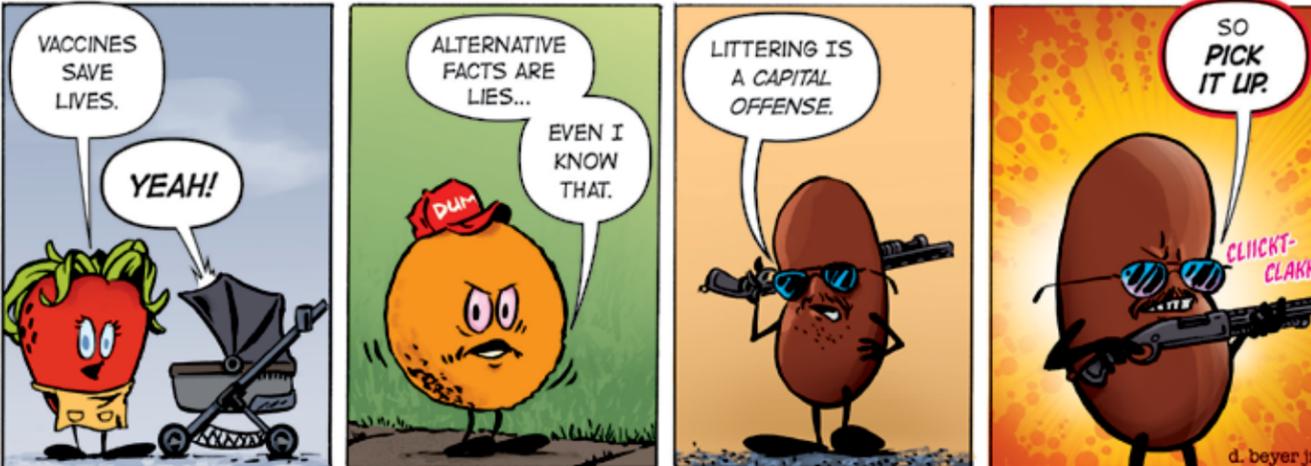
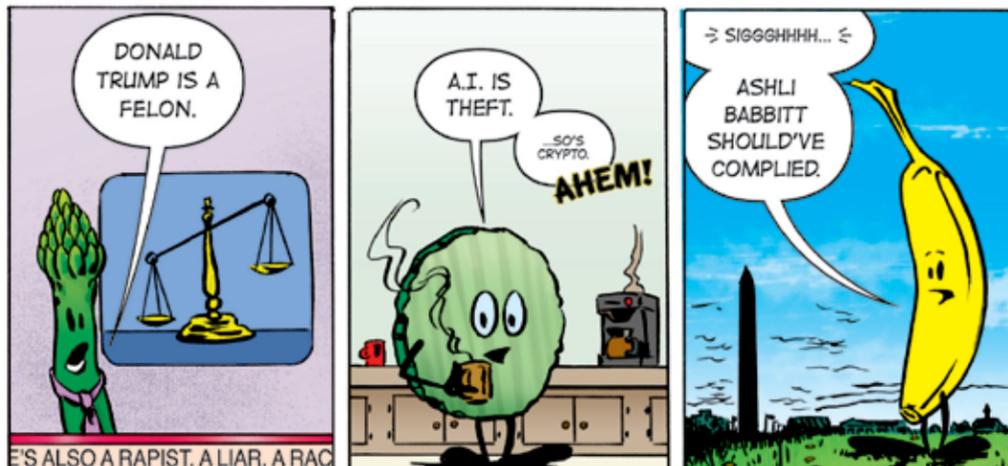
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This study is for fulfillment of a PhD at the UWM Zilber College of Public Health. For more info, contact [tortiz@uwm.edu](mailto:tortiz@uwm.edu).

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