



Riverwest Currents

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

Vol 25 Issue-1 Jan. 2026



Bike Your Frost Off

by Ian Klepetar

Cringes fall onto most people's faces when they consider biking in the winter. "It's so cold and blustery!" However, those who keep their bikes moving through the winter realize that it's just a matter of bundling up and becoming more flexible in order to enjoy winter biking in Milwaukee.

Sure, it can be nasty out there, but don't we all like getting a little nasty sometimes?! This past weekend a group of 18 of us took to the streets and casually rode 20 miles in temperatures that didn't pop above 10 degrees for our annual Pie Ride. (Sunday December 14th.) The gear choice varied amongst the riders. There were goggles, facemasks, warm hats, mittens, gloves, boots, sneakers, snowmobile suits, down jackets and scarves...a colorful array of various clothing articles that kept us from freezing our butts off.

"What happens when you get cold?" Well, you stop to warm up or make a mental note to wear wool socks next time, mittens instead of gloves, boots instead of sneakers, 2 hats instead of 1 or whatever will make the miles more pleasurable next time.

"What about the ice?" Some people choose to get studded tires but staying off poorly maintained streets when riding will work just as well. Bicycles definitely eat up the salt on the roadways which is why some riders spend \$50 to a few hundred bucks on a beater bike to keep their "good bike" from rusting. I personally choose to use the same bike year round and keep things lubed and sprayed down to prevent rusting.

The thing that we often forget is that winter is the MOST important time to get outside and nurture the body and spirit that wither and wine during these short days. The "Yes I can" attitude is the #1 thing we need to make winter biking a reality. Biking for transportation or recreation is often an adventure this time of year but when we arrive at our heated indoor sanctuaries, we can enjoy creature comforts like never before and eat more pie because of it!

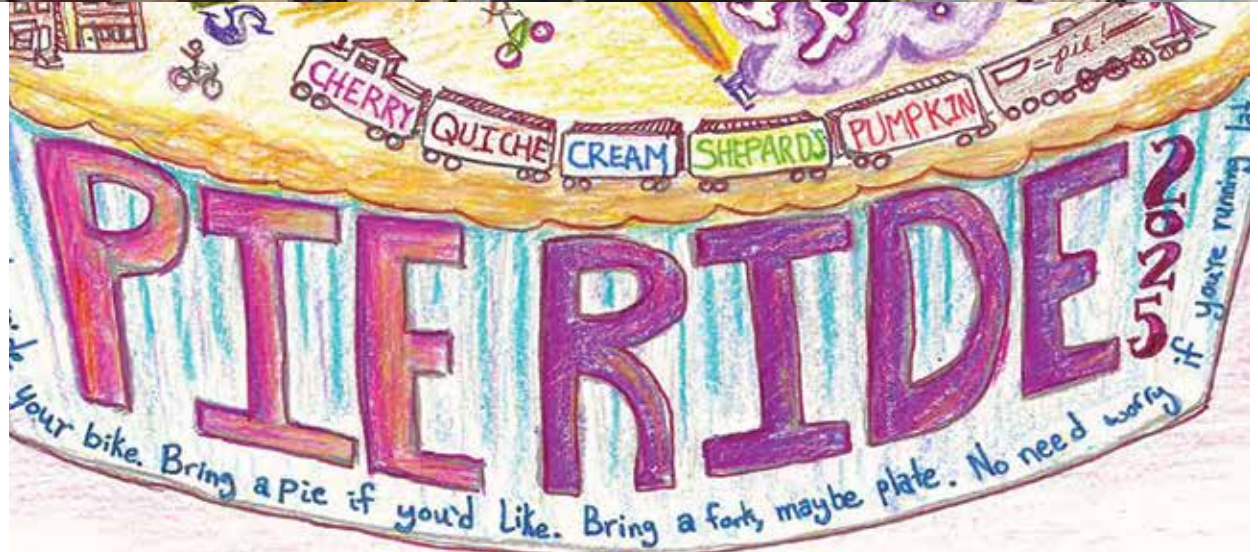


Illustration created by William Vincent Bushell in 1976.
May the New Year bring good times and peace on earth.
I only change the year. VJB



Riverwest Currents
PO Box 716
Milwaukee, WI 53201-0716

NEIGHBOR SPOTLIGHT: Max Riehemann

by Lee Gutowski

I enjoy communing amongst community at the good old Uptowner. Otherwise known as Charm School, on the corner of Humboldt and Center. I mostly go in the afternoon and try to get home by dark. Wouldn't want to turn into a pumpkin!

Back in November, right before the deadline for the December issue of the Currents, I came dangerously close to turning into a pumpkin when I ran into a posse of ladies at the Uptowner. Some friends that I hadn't seen for a while, at least not all in one place. It was magical. That afternoon, I also met a neighbor – Max Riehemann – for the first time.

Max and I started talking when he was bellying up to the bar to get a drink. It was pretty much elbow to elbow in there. Somehow, he ended up telling me that his dad used to play the song Ripple (by the Grateful Dead) to lull him to sleep as a child. "My dad was a Deadhead," he told me, which struck me, since I'm old enough to be Max's parent, and I'm a Deadhead, too. What a nice young man, I thought to myself.

When I found out that Max works for Marek Landscaping – which, coincidentally, I'd been thinking of writing about for an article – I thought, I'll do a Spotlight on Max. Before I turned into a pumpkin, I set up an interview for the next day.

At the Daily Bird – another community gathering space – the following morning, Max and I sat outside and talked over coffee. Coffee talk, if you will.

Born in Russia and adopted as a young child, Max grew up around Madison. "I had an unconventional upbringing, but my parents raised me to be a good kid. And I was one --until I wasn't."

"I put the family through a lot. I used to steal cars, I was like a 'Kia boy' of Middleton," Max told me, with a rueful chuckle. The mayhem picked up when he was 15. "I beat up a kid and hurt him real bad. I was enraged about something when I did it, and it was like no rage I've ever felt before." The boy he beat up ended up in the hospital; the boy's family filed charges against Max, and it was up to his family and him to pay restitution, including the boy's hospital bills.

Max was sent to Lincoln Hills, the notorious juvenile prison located in Irma, Wisconsin.

Attending the school of hard knocks in Lincoln Hills, Max "lived with 14 other guys for 9 months. There were guys serving time for various charges from small theft to sexual offenses. I had therapy and went to school there. It was weird, eye opening and scary at times," Max recalled. "When I got out and went back home, I wasn't readjusting to society well." He got involved with drugs, and eventually was kicked out of the house, having been stealing from his parents to support his drug habit.

Max spent the years from ages 18 to 21 bouncing around between sober houses and homelessness. "It was the craziest time of my life," Max told me. "I started hanging out with street punks and doing a lot of drugs and a lot of stupid shit." He got sucked into a heroine habit, besides drinking lots and using other drugs.

He hitchhiked down to Ft. Lauderdale and lived on the beach for a while. "I would be doing relatively okay, then would swing back to just doing awful. I decided to leave Florida; I wanted to button myself up and get straight. I hitchhiked from Florida to Tennessee. An old boss of mine bought me a Greyhound ticket and I eventually made my way back to Madison."

Max experienced a lot of kindness from people when he was travelling through hard times. He came to believe that, "Most people, when given the opportunity, will do the right thing. Feed you, shelter you, give you a ride, or just talk to you. That belief has carried me far." Each time he fell, Max eventually got back up to fight for a better life for himself. When a sober living situation in Madison "didn't work out," he secluded to the woods for a while, living in a tent in a park, "helping myself at grocery stores," just getting enough to survive.

Then came more moving around, more trying to make it work in sober houses. There were also jobs where he could be doing something with his hands, something physical, something other than sitting at a desk. "I started working on myself – going to work, paying taxes. I worked in a scrap yard in Madison, where I ran a front-end loader and sorted scrap. I loved that. And when I came to Milwaukee, I worked at a railroad pounding spikes – old school. I screwed up my back doing that, and it was kind of a terrible job, but I loved that job, too."

A weird way to quit heroin – *trigger warning* -- frank drug talk.

Max was living in Milwaukee, "in a crappy apartment at 33 rd and Wells," in 2019, when he accidentally quit using heroin. He had bought some LSD from a friend but was angry when he got it because he thought he'd been ripped off. He didn't realize that the unperforated blotter acid was "double dosed", and when he took the acid, he ingested far more of the substance than he'd ever done.

"I went on a journey," Max related. "Seriously, something happened to my brain. I'm positive the acid rewired my brain – I believe the way we're wired; we really can rewire our brains. It was amazing. The next time someone offered me heroin, it made me sick to my stomach even to think of it. It's ironic, but LSD cured my heroin addiction."

Nowadays, Max is an advocate for the use of psychedelics in recovery – at least, "for the right person at the right time." Max has been free of heroin use for about 6 years now.

The latest chapter of Max's story finds him living in Riverwest. After a stint at Three Rivers Recovery, he feels like he's gotten himself together. He's been out of Three Rivers for a year, gotten his own apartment, and even adopted a dog – a boxer/lab mix rescue named Busch. He is field operations manager in sustainable landscape construction at Marek Landscaping where they do ecological work, bluff management and forestry work. And go figure – he loves his job!



Witty Bliffert Yule Tree.

RIVERWEST Currents

PUBLISHER AND EDITOR
Vince Bushell vbushell@gmail.com

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
Lee Ann Gutowski LeeRWC@gmail.com-

PAST EDITORS
Sonya Jongsma Knauss, Janice Christensen,
Alice Waraxa

COPY EDITOR
Lee Ann Gutowski
Vince Bushell

ADVERTISING MANAGER
Lee Ann Gutowski LeeRWC@gmail.com

CONTRIBUTORS
Vince Bushell Ruth Weill
Lee Ann Gutowski
Cari Taylor-Carlson Ellen C. Warren
Darlene Wesenberg Rzezotarski
Amy Schmutte Anna Ellie
BB Bishop Cooper Warner

COMICS EDITOR
David Beyer, Jr.

COMICS CONTRIBUTORS
David Beyer, Jr. Luther Hall
Dan Hernandez Lance Orr
Emma Southard Alex Groh
Drew Baumgartner John Sammis

DESIGN AND LAYOUT
Vince Bushell

WEBMASTER
Vince Bushell

PHOTOGRAPHERS
Lee Ann Gutowski Vince Bushell
Amy Schmutte

ACCOUNTANT
Brian Dettmering, Riverwest Accounting

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER
Lee Gutowski

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CONTACT US
Snail Mail:
Riverwest Currents, PO Box 716
Milwaukee, WI 53201-0716

Please use email to contact us on editorial matters. Thanks

E-mail the Editor: Vbushell@gmail.com
and/or
LeeRWC@gmail.com
Advertising/Sales Contact:
LeeRWC@gmail.com
Sales Manager-
Lee Gutowski: 414-429-2092
Find us online at
www.riverwestcurrents.org

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In the heart of Riverwest is the Daily Bird, the motif is, well yellow. 818 E. Center Street.

Dandy Freling and Dylan Compton brewed me up a creamy Latte with an artistic touch, seen in the foreground.

It's a morning place. Closes in the early (2) PM. But always a place to see and be seen in the Riverwest Neighborhood.

coffee shops



Haraz on 2900 N Oakland Ave. Just East over the Locust St. Bridge at Oakland Avenue. Mahdi welcomes you to try Yemeni Coffee. Open late too. Till Midnight. They have a good food selection including baked goods. Worth a visit.

They are holding gift certificates. Not a bad gift idea.

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Introducing Wisconsin’s Iconic Poet Lorine Niedecker

By Darlene Wesenberg Rzezotarski

When I tell people that I just completed a sculpture of Lorine Niedecker, I usually get a blank look. “Who?” Then I launch into an explanation: “She is one of Wisconsin’s most remarkable poets. She lived most of her life in rough-hewn cabins on Blackhawk Island, unstable ground down the road from Fort Atkinson where the Rock River flows into Lake Koshkonong. This uncertain, water-based existence flooded her mind with words that became poetry.”

Lorine went about daily tasks such as cleaning woman, food service worker, library aide. All the while, she kept another aspect of her life involved with NYC poets such as Louis Zukofsky and William Carlos Williams. She developed her unique style influenced by Objectivist poetry and published her work in national poetry magazines. She never waved around a copy of a magazine saying, “Look what I’ve done! Want to read my latest poem?” She deliberately kept these aspects of her life separate, perhaps as a means of physical and psychological survival.

In this sculpture I have tried to represent these aspects of her existence. She holds a broom, showing her day-to-day life in Fort Atkinson and Blackhawk Island with floods and dusty hospital corridors. Close to her heart she grasps a poetry book, representing her literary life within the community of poets.

The Early Years

Home never was an easy place. After her father’s business in Fort Atkinson failed, they moved to marshy property on Blackhawk Island inherited by Lorine’s mother. They lived in a modest cabin with no indoor plumbing on the fringes of community. Her increasingly embittered and isolated mother was deaf; her father was a philanderer—a carp fisherman who had extramarital relationships in plain sight, just down the riverbank. Lorine found refuge in nature.

High school classmates recalled Lorine as a quiet student with thick glasses. Although her serious vision problems limited many activities, she enjoyed one year at Beloit College until her father’s financial troubles forced her to drop out, becoming a companion for her estranged mother.

Poetry Thrives on Blackhawk Island

From childhood and throughout life, she held a deep regard for her natural environment. It was not a mere stage prop for a cunning turn of phrase. It was the habitation within her. From this place she found her unique voice, expressing this affinity in her poetry:

*Along the river/ wild sunflowers
over my head/the dead
who gave me life/give me this
our relative the air/floods
our rich friend/silt*

Her style often is characterized as “Objectivist.” In February 1931 she found a copy of Poetry magazine in the Fort Atkinson library. NYC poet Louis Zukofsky noted that the Objectivist poets were “imagists rather than symbolists.” He believed the poem should be considered as an object in its entirety, not as separate images linked together. Drawn to his ideas, Lorine wrote to Zukovsky, sending him some of her poetry. This was the beginning of a lifelong

poetry mentorship and friendship of over forty years.

A steady stream of poems ensued. No matter the circumstances, she always found a place to work in solitude, even if it was a small desk in a corner. There are books available detailing a her ongoing life events. As a Milwaukeean, I’m interested years spent here.

Niedecker in Milwaukee

At sixty in 1963, there was a second marriage, this time to a Milwaukee man who worked at Ladish, Al Millen. It didn’t matter to her that he had lost one hand in a work accident. She learned to cope with his alcoholism. In return, he kept his distance from the poetry side of her existence. She moved to Milwaukee into his rented apartment in a Polish flat at 2042 South Sixth Street. “We live not in a cultured section of Milwaukee, but in the Pol(e)ish Sausage section. Old Milwaukee is here with a vengeance, shabby, grimed over brick houses—this house we have the first floor apt in, leans.... But Al pays only \$40 a month and needs this only 3 years more, so we can afford to hang on—sideways.” A Google Map search shows their Milwaukee apartment still standing, looking much as it did in a painting Lorine made at the time.

Al worked nights and slept days, so she roamed the streets of the South Side. She grew homesick for her island but found solace in Kosciuszko Park. She took the Sixth Street bus to shop at Goldman’s on Mitchell Street. She hiked along the Kinnickinnic River. She grew adventurous and took the bus to Wisconsin Avenue to visit the library and the new Milwaukee Public Museum. Venturing eastward, she visited the Northwestern Depot and the Art Museum. Weekends, to her relief, they made the drive “home.” When Al retired, they relocated to Blackhawk Island where he built a larger cabin higher off the ground.

Poetry on the Road

Before going on a road trip, Lorine researched the history and geology of location. All the while, she published poetry and wrote letters to poet friends. An excursion around Lake Superior in 1966 resulted in a longer sequential poem based on history and geology of the region. Here’s an excerpt:

*Wild pigeon
Did not man
 maimed by no
 stone-fall
mash the cobalt
 and carnelian
of that bird*

Lorine continued to grow as a poet through travels with Al. In November 1967 she wrote Wintergreen Ridge after visiting the Ridges Sanctuary on the “Quiet Side” of Lake Michigan in Door County. It begins:

*Where the arrows/of the road
signs/lead us:*

*Life is natural/in the
evolution/of matter
nothing supra-rock/about it/
 simply
butterflies/are quicker/than rock
Man/lives hard/on this stone
 perch.*

Ripples in Time

What lies beneath the surface? How does the past shape our lives today? I invite you spend a few moments with Milwaukee tales anchored in location, person, and time. Everything has a story!



The Onset of Afterlife

Lorine was making supper in her kitchen on Blackhawk Island, no doubt munching on a line of poetry. She succumbed to a stroke, passing away a month later, December 31, 1970. By this time she had published several books and was enjoying critical acclaim.

Since her death, her reputation as a major twentieth-century American poet has grown. The Friends of Lorine Niedecker (<https://lorineniedecker.org>) has supported readings, lectures, and publications. Poet Laureate Nicholas Gulig has created a film series on their intertwined lives available on the PBS Wisconsin YouTube Channel. Also it’s worth a trip to the Hoard Historical Museum in Fort Atkinson. There is a special room devoted to her life. I acknowledge local Niedecker scholars, Karl Gartung and Chuck Stebleton, for their writing and lecturing on her behalf. A wide selection of her writing and secondary critical works is available at Woodland Pattern.

Darlene Wesenberg Rzezotarski writes this monthly column for the Currents. Her books, Memorable Milwaukee: Legendary Tales Depicted in Clay, and local historical novel Tannenbaum Arms, are available at Boswell’s and Woodland Pattern. “Let’s fill the pages of 2026 with our good stories!”

*From Paeon to Place: “Fish/Fowl/
Flood/Water lily mud/ My life... And
the place/was water”*



*There’s a better shine
on the pendulum
than is on my hair
and many times*

• • •

I’ve seen it there.



Emilio Del Tore is the Executive Director of the Milwaukee Turners at Turner Hall – Prior to this he was the Director of Community Engagement for the ACLU of Wisconsin for 14 years. He hosts the Vel Phillips Forum, and was the recipient of the 2013 YWCA Eliminating Racism Award, and the 2021 Project Return Outstanding Service to Community Award, and one of the Milwaukee Business Journal's 2025 Power Players.

He has worked on confronting mass incarceration, voter rights, immigration rights, civil rights and technology issues for years. He is currently on the Board for WUWM - Milwaukee Public Radio, University of Wisconsin's Helen Bader School of Social Welfare, University of Wisconsin's Center for 21st Century Studies, and Optimist Theatre. He is devoted to his family and friends and enjoys collecting vinyl. “How do you convey this organic nature where we’re not pitting people against each other, but trying to put our collective heads together to find out why something’s happening in our community?” asks Executive Director Emilio De Torre of the Milwaukee Turners.

The answer? The Vel Phillips Forum. Vel R. Phillips was a trailblazing Milwaukee denizen renowned for her commitment to justice and work in civil rights activism. Her namesake, the Vel Phillips Forum is a modern take on a nonpartisan town hall hosted six times a year at Turner Hall. It’s a free event to attend, and it is also livestreamed to thousands of folks at their devices – available to Milwaukeeans at home and afar anytime thereafter. I sat down with Emilio De Torre and Cheston Van Huss to discuss the Turner mission of “maintaining a sound mind in a sound body,” and their process of reviving the Vel Phillips Forum at their desks in 2020 during COVID to a livestreamed event community members can show up and participate in the conversation in 2025.

An interview with Emilio and Cheston, Milwaukee Turners
E: Emilo De Torre
C: Cheston Van Huss
J: Jess Paetzke, RWCCurrents

Emilio: Emilio De Torre (Executive Director) with the Milwaukee Turners. Cheston: My name is Cheston Van Huss. I’m an independent contractor in media operations.

J: To start, tell me a little bit about how each of you maintain a sound mind in a sound body in your daily life and practice. Emilio, you can go first.
E: I like to have some things that are stable



Turner Hall
Liberty, against all oppression;
Tolerance, against all fanaticism;
Reason, against all superstition;
Justice, against all exploitation.



Emilio Del Tore

and stationary, things I can rely on. Like my morning ritual of brushing my teeth, making espresso, getting my kids, wife, dogs, and cats fed or ready for work. Without fail, I do that seven days a week. I wake up at 6AM, pretty much every day even if I don’t want to. The dogs and cats wait for no man. Then I have some ‘me time’. I like to catch up on the news, then away I go to work. I always try to make some time each day to do some fun stuff, like exercise. I’m a very social person. I just make sure I have time to communicate with people I like, like Cheston, or other cool folks at work or in the world.

J: Cheston, what do you do to maintain a sound mind in a sound body in your daily life and practice?
C: I play music. That’s the most accessible thing I do to bring balance into my practice is play my instrument. I play my acoustic guitar often. It’s like an old friend. Most of the time when I sit down, I don’t know what I’m going to play. I just let some sounds come out and usually feel better afterwards.

I also like to move my body outside on the trail and in the sun. When it’s not sunny and I get cold, I take myself to the climbing gym. Just like Emilio chimed in about maintaining conversations and community – I think creating some weird stuff with the Riverwest 24 and Riverwest Radio in media operations has been a really cool way to have a recurring social obligation.

E: I just donated to the Riverwest Radio for Steve Marsh’s birthday
C: Oh, that’s fantastic. I think more people should donate.

J: How does a community member become a Turner?
E: We’re 172 years old. There are a lot of folks that come to events here, that hang out here, that use the gym here, see shows here, come to forums here. They do the fun stuff we do out in the community to build social infrastructure.

Then there’s the card carrying members, folks that say, I am willing to pay less than three dollars a month to be a member of the Turners. It’s \$35 a year for an individual or \$50 a year for a family membership. It’s the longest continuously running gymnasium in the United States.

We have a very welcoming and inclusive place. You know it’s so when families are coming to do gymnastics, and they’re walking past the lifesaving public health machine where they can get Narcan, gun locks, or band-aids. There’s folks just talking, laughing, and putting up community posters. They’re discussing important things like abolition and mutual aid — and then figuring out how they’re going to weasel out of not jumping into the cold lake with me on New Years Day.

I’m hoping that Cheston’s going to join us this year and jump in the lake... you know, take the polar bear plunge.

C: I’ve been close.

E: We have a lot of folks. There’s probably 700 card-carrying members, but there’s thousands of folks whose lives are touched by what we do on a monthly basis and that’s a blast.

J: Question for Cheston, when did you decide to get involved with making the Vel Phillips forum available to the community via livestream?

C: Well, Emilio decided to involve me in taking it public – the Vel Phillips forum is a revival of an old program that used to be done by Milwaukee Public Television, the 4th Street Forum. Before, it was originally only a live event.

E: The forums were originally live. In the 2000’s it became the 4th Street Forum, which was its first televised iteration. So in 2020 we returned to this recipe for folks from the community to get together and talk about important issues of the day: mutual aid, COVID, root causes of youth violence... These types of questions are best served in a forum.

Cheston was already here working with the Pabst Theater Group. I recognized his skills and his ability to encapsulate and create this video recorded message, far more professionally than my little Zoom broadcasts were going.

J: You started doing the forums with your webcam?

E: We brought this back during COVID so we’d be like, here I am at my desk and here are all the folks scattered across the world at their desks and doing COVID, like yeah that’s cool – we’re all kind of stuck there. That was good for what it was, and then we began to grow a little bigger. We had the candidates for sheriff debating, mayoral candidates, then gubernatorial ones; Cheston had a really good vision for making this as serious and professional as it is now.

Folks from all walks of life can come into Turner Hall and be treated with the same dignity and parity as the next person that comes here. How do you convey this organic nature where we’re not pitting people against each other, but trying to put our collective heads together to find out why something’s happening in our community? Cheston brought a lot of key ingredients into making that happen so we could do that six times a year in a big way.

Recent Vel Phillips Forum Topics

- A Conversation with Alec Karakatsanis | October 8th, 2025 |
On how the police and media manipulate our news
- Wisconsin Healthcare in Turmoil | August 20th, 2025 |
With panelists Brandon Williford, Michelle Velasquez, Timothy Faust, and Crystal Keller

Zero Youth Corrections | July 30th, 2025 |
Insights into the work of reimagining youth justice

Immigration, Refugees, and Our Neighbors | March 20th, 2025 |
With panelists Alexandra Guevara, Atty. Cain Oulahan, Deisy España, and Vina Xiong

E: We have thousands of folks that watch this. They want to watch it on Facebook. They want to watch the Zoom version. They want to come in person, so we feed them for free. Have some tacos, have some pizza, break bread, because that’s how the social infrastructure of a community grows. The initial idea of us at our desks grew into the curated virtual and professional portion that Cheston designed. We still have the forum in person, then we have the virtual forum, and now we’ve added ASL interpreters so that everyone can understand the communication.

Cheston has also helped us create and apply for grants. We were able to get three cameras and cover things from different angles. These conversations we’re having in 2020, 2025, 2030 are now preserved so that people in the future can understand what it was we were wrestling with when people look back on us as primitive folks from 2025.

J: And they will look back.
E: I hope so. I really hope we take some steps forward.

J: All right, question for you, Emilio. How does the position you previously held as Director of Community Engagement at ACLU inform the work you do for the Turner’s today?

E: I feel that my job here at the Turners is the most fun, the most meaningful, the most rewarding, and the most difficult job I have ever had so far. When I first moved to Wisconsin in 2006, I didn’t know anything about Wisconsin. I had never lived in a segregated city, like Milwaukee, before. While I worked for the ACLU and I worked with all of these incredible folks all around the state on different issues, I got a chance to learn. While learning, and fighting, and building, and struggling, I fell in love with Milwaukee.

I jumped when the opportunity came to build something new in a way, to take up the mantle working in, at that time, a 168 year institution that is woven into early Milwaukee. We’re older than the police department. That’s wild to me. The Milwaukee Turner’s predate the Milwaukee Police. It’s a long story, people forget things. We trained six Olympians in this building. All these beautiful histories, both individually and culturally, the good and the bad are all part of this. It’s nice to have a chance to be a part of the retelling of that tale. In that way, the Turner’s and this building should be known in its more robust identity.

J: Cheston, aside from livestreaming the forum, can you tell me about some of your other responsibilities at Turner Hall?

C: Well it’s hard for me to talk about Turner Hall without talking about my work history here, which is in event production. I have been responsible for the sound and lights at



Cheston Van Huss

weddings, concerts, and corporate events since 2016. Since then, I’ve cut out doors to remove and reinstall a grease trap. I’ve wrestled with elevator doors to realign tracks. I’ve installed security cameras and network systems –

E: Advised us in the purchase of rock climbing gear

C: The Turners have drawn me in, in a way that doesn’t make me feel taken from. They’ve drawn me to them in ways that makes me feel supported. There’s as much for me to explore here in my own city as any city in the rest of the world.

J: This question is for both of you. Tell me about your vision for community impact in 2026. Was 2025 successful? Where would you like to go from your momentum this year?

C: We don’t spend a lot of energy worrying about specific numbers when it comes to the program that I’m working on here. We just want to be accessible.

I trust we’re going to continue making moves with this program to make it more accessible and more relevant to everybody who might be involved. You know, anybody from Wisconsin, anybody from Milwaukee. This is your club.

And then, I guess in my world, you know – community impact – making more cool stuff with cool people. That’s kind of my jam.

E: Oh, it’s funny that you bring that question up because we’re doing a lot of strategic planning with our board and staff. Our staff’s up to fifty, which is crazy. We have all these different programs.

Overall it’s to continue supporting our mission of promoting a sound mind in a sound body through our principles of liberty, tolerance, reason, and justice. For the Forum, we’re dreaming and planning strategically for big things. We’re going to keep going.

We’re providing free programs in seven or eight sites across this county. We’re providing free wellness and recovery programs in two counties. I have a staff of 17-20 people just doing that. The city wants and needs this.

Part of what Cheston and the Vel Phillips forum does is puts the Forum in a format that’s larger, and bigger, and lasts longer than just the temporary presence of a Turner... in a room... with some people. It allows that song to be replayed over and over.

You can see it’s true in our recent reactions,



A day outdoors at Turner Hall. Looks like Climbing to me!

as a community, to the outrage and anger over the cut of SNAP benefits and healthcare benefits with the quick response that coalitions of Milwaukeeans were able to throw together. We have longstanding relationships with one another as neighbors that we can tap into.

It’s not transactional. That’s something that’s very different about Milwaukee from other cities. Many other cities have transactional relationships between people. You come here, you pay me. I see you, you go away.

Here, folks, expect to see you. We just climbed rocks together and then you just bought me a beer at the concert upstairs. I just sat next to you and ate tacos listening to this forum. I’m going to show up for you. That kind of organic, real relationship. I think that safe spaces, neutral spaces, and old trusted spaces like Turner Hall — can do that.

J: With losses to aid like healthcare and food benefits, how can the Turners stay top of mind in a community desperately seeking support?

E: We have to ask ourselves that question weekly. There’s a different answer for each problem.

When 500 Americorp volunteers lost their jobs, we turned around and we offered 100 free solidarity memberships to the Turner’s. We provided free food for those that lost their primary breadwinners, we provided free career counseling right here. We always have free yoga, free Zumba, free older adult programs, free programs for veterans.

People can keep coming here and working on things, and they’ll have a connection when they find some new problem has just bitten them.

We just partnered with Metcalfe Park Community Bridges to raise funds and awareness of their free food distribution, and to support Hunger Task Force — both by drawing attention to their efforts and giving them thousands of dollars to buy food being distributed for free.

The Milwaukee Diaper Mission is another great resource. They got their start here. They were able to do their first events here at Turner Hall. Their first storage of tons and tons of diapers was right here in this empty restaurant space — and that’s the kind of thing we have always been. It’s like

Mr. Rogers said, “Look for the helpers.”

J: Emilio, You’ve named some key partnerships with other organizations. Are there any other folks you’d like to shout out?

E: Oh we have so many partnerships with folks: Clinton Rose Senior Center, The King Center, Fathers Making Progress, Via, Clark Square, Walker Square Park, Walker’s Point Center for the Arts, The Community, Your Move Milwaukee, True School, Planned Parenthood, Pathfinders. I could name these all day long, there’s just so many different groups.

We need to break away from the tribalism, the silos, the segregation, and the classes — all those perceived lines of difference. We need to understand that our diversities are our strength.

J: Cheston, have you ever done one of the workshops here at Turner Hall?

C: Shamefully, I don’t think so. I’ve done a belay certification

J: Emilio, what would you say to Cheston and other community members that could benefit from some of the workshops here but haven’t taken the jump to do so yet?

E: He’s attended so many forums, I think that counts for a lot. For others, watch our social media. Instagram or Facebook. We offer free events all the time. We’re going to be doing monthly teach-ins, we have one in December for immigration rights. We do monthly legal observer training. We’ve trained 250 legal observers since January.

If you don’t want to come here, have us come to you.

J: Any closing remarks?
E: I have a question for your readers. What can the Turners offer or offer better to the people of Riverwest and Harambe?

J: If I put that at the end, we’re going to get some letters to the editor. Is that okay with you?

E: Love it. I get hate mail and love letters almost every day.
J: As long as it’s balanced. Thank you so much.

2026: Year of Truth

An opinion – by Ellen C. Warren

I was heartened to hear that San Francisco is suing several of the food giants, like Coca-Cola, Pepsi,Nestle, and Kellogg, accusing them of fueling a public health crisis with addictive, ultra-processed foods linked to obesity, diabetes, and heart disease. They have proof that, like the tobacco companies, they have long known exactly what they are doing. For that matter, they’ve put tons of money into research to enhance and perpetuate these qualities in the “food.”

I looked up at my shelf as I said to myself, “It’s time for truth.” In front of me was a milk carton reading, “simple truth.” Not that I’m certain I can trust the integrity of the Kroger corporation to be offering a truly organic product, but the word is in the air.

We live in a time in which deceit, when it’s noticed, is swept under the carpet if there’s enough money involved. This reality has certainly been ramping up in the recent past as the powerholders increase their wealth geometrically while the majority of folks watch their buying power dwindle.

Now, more than ever before, influence, “facts” and even science (eg. Pharmaceutical drugs) can be bought.

I can’t imagine that I’m the only one noticing how little is believable anymore. Every day we hear or read a news blurb that forces us to question our take on reality.

Much like in the novel 1984, lies are presented as facts. And, if you’re like me, you kind of look around and go, “Are there people

who are actually believing this?” Unfortunately, the answer is yes.

So, here’s where I walk out on a limb, and with, really, no proof I offer the idea that this coming year will be opening doors, emptying closets, looking in cracks, peering behind facades and revealing Truth (yes, with a capital T) to the world.

In numerology 2026 is a 1 year. 2+0+2+6=10=1. The beginning of a new cycle. Whether you resonate with that or not, you can look back on this past year, which was a 9 and representative of the closing year of a cycle, and see endings all over the place. What comes after an ending, but a new beginning?

Starting over can feel not just ambitious but frightening. It doesn’t work, to just rerun old models in new guises. What is required is a freshness of thought, a will for discovery, a belief in the possibility of the unproven, and a questioning of absolutes that no longer serve. We ARE entering a brave new world, but with heart and the unmasking of Truths. We can move into a future that is rich in the care of the human and the earth, and not the continuation of the values, roles, beliefs and establishments that no longer serve the people.

Get your backbone ready, folks. The Truth will be very hard, but it will set us free.

There Is a Storm Brewing

There is a storm brewing
The wind through the people
The wind through your mind
There is a storm brewing
it is a storm of lightness
it is a storm of darkness
There is a storm brewing
the day becomes night
the swirling wind anoints you

There is a storm brewing
blinded by darkness
the roar is deafening
There is a storm brewing
it pushes your insides to the outside
it makes your hair magnetic

There is a storm brewing
the wind pushes you in circles
the wind will not break
There is a storm brewing
you hold tight to a tree
the wind uproots the tree

There is a storm brewing
feeling helpless you become powerfilled
you ride the wind

There is a storm brewing
lightning scorches you
you burn the earth

There is a storm brewing
it lashes through your insides
sends sparks up before your eyes

There is a storm brewing
igniting your heart
the fire breaks you free
There is a storm brewing
the tornado surrounds you
pulls you into its center

There is a storm brewing
propelling you upward
you soar above the sky

There is a storm brewing
you are helpless, nothing
you are powerful, everything
There is a storm brewing
breaking all chains
shattering all limits

There is a storm brewing
it is your life...your life... your life
it is you... it is you... it is you

1999? ecw
Ellen C. Warren



Editors note: It’s in a plastic container. It claims to have no added corn syrup (common sweetener), list of ingredients by amount: Soybean Oil, Distilled Vinegar , Sugar, & Salt is 98% of the product. The bottle proudly points out no Corn Syrup, but Sugar is the 3rd ingredient. My partner noted she could taste the sugar. The TRUTH is not always evident. Do your own research. And in my opinion, Vaccines save lives.



Rivers Edge Restaurant

**283 S. Riverside Drive,
Saukville
262-284-9918**
**Hours:Monday-Friday
4:30am-1:30pm
Saturday 4:30am-1pm
Closed Sunday
CASH ONLY**

Restaurant Review by Cari Taylor Carlson

There is a reason to travel north on I-43 to the Saukville exit. It's spelled BACON. It's the superstar at Rivers Edge Restaurant where they serve it crisp, yet fatty, thick sliced daily, and unlike most restaurant bacon, not pan or grill-fried but instead, deep-fried. It has the ideal balance of meat and fat to make it chewy, yet with enough fat to coat your palate with addictive umami. When you look around this small diner, almost every plate will have some variation of that bacon: on a breakfast plate with eggs and hash browns; alongside pancakes, waffles, or French toast; hanging out of a BLT; or on a double cheeseburger. You can buy this bacon at Bernie's Fine Meats in Port Washington, but it might be hard to duplicate this deep-fried perfection in your kitchen.

When Rivers Edge opened in 1969, they catered to truckers. With its easy off-and-on freeway access, it quickly became a popular truck stop diner on the way to somewhere that also happened to have really good food. The parking lot was always lined with big rigs. Inside, seated on stools around the U-shaped counter, there were truckers hunched over their breakfasts -- eyes down, eating but not lingering, because for them, time was money.

Things started to change in the 80s. People moved to Mequon, Cedarburg, Grafton; Saukville became another bedroom community north of Milwaukee.

Now, on most days, you won't see truckers around the counter. They have been replaced by Patagonia and L.L. Bean, and in the parking lot, BMWs and SUVs have replaced the big rigs.

Everything about breakfast at Rivers Edge is worth the 30-minute drive from downtown Milwaukee. Each meal is cooked to order and arrives at your table so quickly that it almost defies the possible. The farm fresh eggs never fail to be cooked exactly as you wish; the hash browns are crisp on the outside and soft in the center; and the unadvertised surprise, the toasted bread, is homemade daily. You can buy a loaf to take home but you need to order it a day ahead because they sell out every day.

If you want to replace the bread with a couple of biscuits, do as I did recently and order biscuits and gravy. The biscuits were not homemade, but the gravy was. It was packed with crumbled sausage, rich, creamy, and if you want something besides bacon and eggs, order this instead. It was

delicious. Despite the sausage in this dish, I added bacon because, why not!

After dozens of bacon orgies at breakfast, I mixed it up recently and came for lunch. The crowd had thinned when my friends and I walked in close to closing at 1:30. Service was prompt and cheerful despite our late arrival. Their reputation for chicken dumpling soup preceded this visit and it lived up to its kudos. The dumplings, plentiful in the bowl, could double as spaetzle on a plate with melted butter and wiener schnitzel. The broth left no doubt about the origin of its intense flavor. This soup did not begin life as a commercial base.

The tuna salad sandwich had no shortage of tuna as it was barely contained inside the lightly toasted whole wheat bread. The BLT starred three slices of that gorgeous bacon, another winner in the sandwich category. You can also order a (seasonal) chicken salad sandwich, a burger, a crispy chicken filet sandwich, or a perch sandwich. There is a lot more on the menu and it is all good. To complete your meal, you could order pie from the daily specials listed on a board by the kitchen.

What I have found and what you will find at this restaurant is a classic diner menu because that is what it is, a diner, where everything is made to order and every bite is a pleasure.



CUSTOMER FAVORITES	
**2 EGGS, HASH BROWNS, MEAT & TOAST	\$11.95
CHOICE OF HAM, BACON, OR SAUSAGE	
**2 EGGS, COUNTRY FRIED STEAK & TOAST	\$8.95
BELGIUM WAFFLE WITH BERRIES.....	\$8.95
CHOICE OF STRAWBERRY OR MIXED BERRY	
BISCUITS AND GRAVY	\$6.95
HOMEMADE COUNTRY PORK GRAVY WITH 2 BUTTERMILK BISCUITS	
**WHO DIED OMELET	\$10.95
HAM, AMERICAN CHEESE, GREEN PEPPER, ONION, TOMATO, MUSHROOMS, SERVED WITH TOAST	
**EGGS BENEDICT	\$9.50
POACHED EGGS, HAM, HOLLANDAISE SAUCE, SERVED WITH ENGLISH MUFFIN	



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Riverwest Elders January News and Event Calendar

What’s in the Mix for 2026?

Lorraine Jacobs

At the *Wisdom Tuesday Potluck*, **Jan. 13th**, we plan to enjoy a tasty potluck lunch while sharing New Year’s ideas and wishes. Each table will have a written guide. Join us in this plan to add to the “Mix for 2026”. Here are some “thought starters”..

- 1) “Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does.” William James (American Philosopher and Psychologist, 1910)
- 2) New Year, same you---just slightly more hopeful and slightly less organized”
- 3) Ideas to build a closer community and neighbors.
- 4) How can we help each other in making a revised life in the New Year

Riverwest Elders
January 2026 Event Calendar

Wisdom Tuesday Potluck, January 13, 2026, 12 Noon-2pm
East Library 2320 N Cramer Street
Bring a dish, snack or sweet to share. Coffee provided.

What’s in the Mix for 2026?
Table conversations about your plans and hopes for 2026 including topic/speaker suggestions for 2026 Wisdom Tuesday.

Birthday Lunch, Thursday, January 22, 12 noon-2pm
Beans & Barley 1901 E North Avenue
Our last lunch at the great B & B and our favorite.

Co-op Connection

I’m sure that many of us in Riverwest/Milwaukee, and beyond, in the process of coping with the closing of our beloved Riverwest Co-op Grocery & Cafe, are looking for ways in which we can contribute to carrying on the Co-op Spirit, the Co-op Connection.

For me, awareness and appreciation of CommUnity is the essence of the Co-op Spirit, and all the many ways in which we support and contribute to CommUnity helps keep the Co-op Connection thriving, as it creatively adapts to changing, challenging, circumstances.

Harvey Taylor



JAZZ GALLERY

CENTER FOR THE ARTS

For current information on our art, music, and other programming, see our calendar on the JGCA website.

926 Center St, Milwaukee WI 53212 | jazzgallerycenterforarts.org

O.W.L. (Older.Wiser.Local) is a program created to serve, enlighten & educate area seniors (50 & up). *OWL is sponsored by the Jazz Gallery Center for the Arts, and Bader Philanthropies.*

PLACE: Jazz Gallery Center for the Arts, 926 E. Center Street, MKE 53212 All people, ages 50 & up, are welcome. **Gatherings are free of charge with free refreshments.**

IN-PERSON: Thurs & Fri 1– 4PM

RADIO SHOWS: Wednesdays at 3:30pm, on Riverwest Radio, WXRW, 104.1 FM. Stream live on riverwestradio.com, if you can't get radio reception. Or listen to the archive anytime: <https://www.riverwestradio.com/show/owl-older-wiser-local>

JANUARY 2026

Thur. Jan. 1 (IN-PERSON) Closed: Happy New Year!

Fri. Jan. 2 (IN-PERSON) Closed: Happy New Year!

Wed. Jan. 7 (RADIO) Karen Beaumont Presents: Poems by Lia Purpura (with music)

Thur. Jan. 8 (IN-PERSON) Vince Bushell of Riverwest Currents: January 2026

Fri. Jan. 9 (IN-PERSON) Makin' Music: Drum Circle

Wed. Jan. 14 (RADIO) Timothy Scott: Urban Nature Connection

Thur. Jan. 15 (IN-PERSON) DIY Creative Day (bring your own project or use our materials)

Fri. Jan. 16 (IN-PERSON) Katherine Yets: Ekphrastic Poetry Workshop

Wed. Jan. 21 (RADIO) "The A.M. Book Report," media literacy for navigating disinformation

Thur. Jan. 22 (IN-PERSON) Know Your Body: CranioSacral Therapist, Emily Klik

Fri. Jan. 23 (IN-PERSON): Karen Beaumont: Seated Yoga/Tai Chi

Wed. Jan. 28 (RADIO) Karen Beaumont Presents: Poems by Milwaukee poet Rick Panizza, with music

Thur. Jan. 29 (IN-PERSON) Decade Review, Part 15: Writing Workshop & Show-n-Tell (bring artifacts/photos from your life of 80-85 yrs old)

Fri. Jan. 30 (IN-PERSON) Betty Salamun of Dance Circus

More info: Amy Schmutte, O.W.L. Program Manager, owlprogrammanager@gmail.com

O.W.L. is sponsored by the Jazz Gallery Center for the Arts, along with Bader Philanthropies.

JAZZ GALLERY
CENTER FOR THE ARTS

926 East Center St
MKE 53212



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9 FRIDAY continued

Max Volume

JAZZ GALLERY CENTER FOR THE ARTS Chaepter + TBD, 7-10pm, Experimental, \$10 cover.

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

LINNEMAN'S Brendan Demet Single Release & Birthday Bash wsg Mas Verde, 8pm, \$15

MAD PLANET Dead Stars: Future Pop and EBM (Retro Video Dance Party) w/ Goth Barge DJs. Doors 9pm.

MIRAMAR THEATRE Josh Drengler's 30th Birthday Celebration w/Wolfbiter, Chef, D-ski, more ... 9pm-2am

NASHVILLE NORTH Joe Wray, a one-man band! 8-11pm

PINK HOUSE STUDIO GIA Grace in Action 4 Everybody (9:15am)

RIVERWEST YOGASHALA Yoga for Mobility & Stability w/ Tracey, 10-11:30am. Community Class: Soulful Coloring, 4-6pm.

SHANK HALL Blue Bayou: A Linda Ronstadt Tribute. 8pm. \$15 adv / \$25 door

THE ARGO, 334 E Silver Spring An Evening with Field Report, 8-10pm. \$33.25 and up

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

10 SATURDAY

bar centro Tael Estremera Trio- The Music of Duke Ellington. 8-10pm. \$10

BREMEN CAFÉ River-Weird Variety, 9pm

JAZZ GALLERY CENTER FOR THE ARTS Free Improvisation Sessions, 10am-Noon. // The Early + Angelica + Pecking Order + Youth Energy, 7-10pm, Experimental/indie

rock, \$10 cover.

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 Tigernite w/ Mortgage Freeman, & Fight Dice. 8pm, \$10

MAD PLANET K-Pop! All New K-Pop Dance Party w/ DJ Seoul. Doors 9pm

MILWAUKEE WINTER FARMERS MARKET @ The Table, 5303 W Capitol Dr Winter farmers market, 9am-2pm, thru March 28, 2026. Proudly accepting SNAP benefits, WIC and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program Vouchers. Details at fondymke.org.

NASHVILLE NORTH Luma Knotty, original guitar-driven funk, rock, &

reggae. 8-11pm

OLD GERMAN BEER HALL (HOFBRAU HAUS), 1009 N MLK Dr The Squeezettes, 8:30-11:30pm

PINK HOUSE STUDIO Greenfolks Garden Meet & Greet, 10am-Noon // Chant and Song Circle, 7:30-9:30pm

RIVERWEST YOGASHALA Mat Pilates w/ Christine, 9-9:50am. Intermediate Iyengar Yoga w/Sara, 10:15am. Beginner Yoga Series w/ Sara, 12:15pm

SHANK HALL Mike and Friends, Wagon Roots, Chip Cruz. 8pm. \$20

STAND FOR PEACE at 92nd & North Join with Peace Action of Wisconsin in our 22nd year of standing for peace, noon until 1pm

THE ARGO, 334 E Silver Spring Gabriel Harris w/ Rob Knapp & The Soul Patrol, 8-10pm. \$24.10 and up

THE COFFEE HOUSE, 2717 E Hampshire Jerry, Jonnie, and George, 7:30-9:30pm

VIVARIUM, 1818 N Farwell G. Love & Special Sauce with special guest Makua

11 SUNDAY

AMORPHIC BEER, 3700 N Fratney Riverwest Winter Farmers Market (indoors), 11am-3pm

BREMEN CAFÉ Bremen Bazaar 12-7pm. Bingo w/Marion 6pm

FRIENDS MEETINGHOUSE, 3224 N Gordon Pl Meeting for worship, 10:15-11:45am

PINK HOUSE STUDIO Move In The Park, 11-12:30 // Milwaukee Psychedelic Society, 4-5:30pm.

RIVERWEST YOGASHALA Community Class: Family Yoga, 9-10am. Yoga Movement Fundamentals w/ Tracey, 10:30am. Community Class: Beginner + Yoga w/ Helena, 12:30pm.

THE ARGO, 334 E Silver Spring School of Rock Shorewood 2025 Season Finale, 1-5pm

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

UPTOWNER Wilson Blues, 3pm (or noon, if Packer game at 3)

12 MONDAY

AMORPHIC BEER, 3700 N Fratney Wisconsin's Hardest Trivia, 7pm

BREMEN CAFÉ Comedy Open Mic, 8pm. Then Music Open Mic w/ Max (Diet Lite)

FALCON BOWL Cream City Swing

FRIENDS MEETINGHOUSE, 3224 N Gordon Place Meditation for Everyone: Transform Your Mind, Transform Your World. Buddhist Monk Gen Kelsang Dorje. 6:30-8pm. Drop-in or sign-up in advance at meditationinmadison.org/MKE. All welcome. \$15 donation

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

PINK HOUSE STUDIO Yoga with

Sarah, Kat or Montana (6-7:15pm)

RIVERWEST YOGASHALA Hatha I w/ Luan, 7:30-9am

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, 7pm

13 TUESDAY

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

BREMEN CAFÉ Karaoke 9pm

FALCON BOWL Traditional Tuesdays -- Swing Dance lesson, 7-8pm; live music w/Old Sam & the Teardrops, 8-10pm

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)

RIVERWEST YOGASHALA Yoga for Mobility & Stability w/Tracey, 10-11:30am. // Hatha Yoga Foundations in Dream Yoga w/ Luan, 7:30-8:45pm

14 WEDNESDAY

ART*BAR Karaoke, 9pm

BREMEN CAFÉ Trivia w/Sean, 7pm

LAKEFRONT BREWERY Trivia Night, 6:30-8:30

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

RIVERWEST YOGASHALA Beginner Yoga Series w/ Sara, 9:30-10:45am

THE ARGO, 334 E Silver Spring Swing Jazz Wednesday: Old Sam & The Teardrops, 7-9pm

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

WXRW 104.1FM RIVERWEST RADIO OWL (Older. Wiser. Local) Timothy Scott: Urban Nature Connection. 3:30pm. Stream live or listen to archive at riverwestradio.com.

15 THURSDAY

ANODYNE COFFEE, 224 W Bruce An Evening with Gasoline Lollipops, \$15 adv / \$20 at the door (advance sales until 3pm day of show, then available at the door). Doors at 6pm, showtime 7pm. All ages!

bar centro Jazzy Joan Presents: Warms Sounds of Jazz from the African Group of Nations. 7-11:30pm

JAZZ GALLERY CENTER FOR THE ARTS Chuck LaPaglia Jazz Film Series, 6:30-9:00pm, \$15 suggested donation.

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

NASHVILLE NORTH Max Niemann and the Fellow Travelers. 7-10pm

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

RIVERWEST YOGASHALA Continuing Yoga w/ Sara, 9:30am. Yoga for Elders & Elders-to-be, 1:30-2:45pm. Beginner+ w/ Helena, 5:30-6:45pm.

VEGGAS PUB Karaoke, 9pm

VIVARIUM, 1818 N Farwell Real Estate: A Celebration of ATLAS – the 11 Year and 10 Month Anniversary Tour

16 FRIDAY

ANODYNE COFFEE, 224 W Bruce The Moth: New Leaf | First-Timers. Listen to true stories or share your own at our open-mic storytelling competition. Doors 7, show 8pm.

bar centro Spike & April - jazzy soulful originals. 8-10pm. \$10

BREMEN CAFÉ Griefeater; I'll Remember April; Wyvern

JAZZ GALLERY CENTER FOR THE ARTS OWL (Older. Wiser. Local) Katherine Yets: Ekphrastic Poetry Workshop. 1-4pm.

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

MAD PLANET Friday Night Retro Mixtape w/ DJs Sage "Champagne" Schwarm & Mosh Wah. 9pm

MIRAMAR THEATRE DemsFightinWords, Krooked MKE, Come Correct, Reality Control, Droogz. 5:30-11pm

NASHVILLE NORTH Gina Marie and the Golden Bucks. 8-11pm

PINK HOUSE STUDIO GIA Grace in Action 4 Everybody (9:15am)

RIVERWEST YOGASHALA Yoga for Mobility & Stability w/ Tracey, 10-11:30am.

SHANK HALL Terrapin Flyer. 8pm. \$20

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

Currents Calendar

WNER Beezy Barz Birthday Bash

WOODLAND PATTERN *in person* Gallery Night: Think Something Revolutionary, Think Change: Work by Evelyn Patricia Terry. 4-7pm

17 SATURDAY

ANODYNE COFFEE, 224 W Bruce Rachel Drew + Julien Kozak, \$12 adv / \$17 at the door. Doors at 6:30pm, showtime 7:30pm. All ages!

bar centro MJJ Milwaukee Jazz Institute Night! . 8-10:30pm live music.

JAZZ GALLERY CENTER FOR THE ARTS Free Improvisation Sessions, 10am-Noon. // Pareidolia + the 1-800s + Mulva + Tiny Vamp, 7-10pm, Indie rock, \$10 cover.

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 Circadian Rhythm w/ Dewook RMS, 9pm, \$5

MAD PLANET LCD Soundsystem vs. Daft Punk vs. Yeah Yeah Yeahs w/ DJ Frank Straka. Doors 9pm

MILWAUKEE WINTER FARMERS MARKET @ The Table, 5303 W Capitol Dr Winter farmers market, 9am-2pm, thru March 28, 2026. Proudly accepting SNAP benefits, WIC and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program Vouchers. Details at fondymke.org.

RIVERWEST YOGASHALA Mat Pilates w/ Christine, 9-9:50am. Intermediate Iyengar Yoga w/Sara, 10:15am. Beginner Yoga Series w/ Sara, 12:15pm

SHANK HALL GeminiiiDRAGON, 8pm. \$20

STAND FOR PEACE at MLK & North Av Join with Peace Action of Wisconsin in our 22nd year of standing for peace, noon until 1pm

THE ARGO, 334 E Silver Spring Violet Wilder, 8-10pm. \$24.10 and up

THE COFFEE HOUSE, 2717 E Hampshire Warning Glory with opener Mike Ewing, 7:30-9:30pm

UWM PLANETARIUM Planetarium Open House! 1-3pm. Free!

VIVARIUM, 1818 N Farwell The People Brothers Band & Sugo

18 SUNDAY

ANODYNE COFFEE, 224 W Bruce Full Cord, \$12 adv / \$17 at the door. Doors at 5pm, showtime 6pm. All ages!

BREMEN CAFÉ Bremen Bazaar 12-7pm. Bingo w/Marion 6pm

FRIENDS MEETINGHOUSE, 3224 N Gordon PI Meeting for worship, 10:15-11:45am

PINK HOUSE STUDIO Move In The

Park, 11-12:30.

RIVERWEST YOGASHALA Yoga Movement Fundamentals w/ Tracey, 10:30-11:45am. Community Class: Beginner + Yoga w/ Helena, 12:30-1:45pm.

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

UPTOWNER Wilson Blues, 3pm (or noon, if Packer game at 3)

WOODLAND PATTERN *in person* Think Something Revolutionary, Think Change: Sunday Sessions with Evelyn Patricia Terry. 2-5pm. Discussing phenomenology and how it shapes choices for artmaking and health decisions.

19 MONDAY -- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

AMORPHIC BEER, 3700 N Fratney Wisconsin's Hardest Trivia, 7pm

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

FALCON BOWL Cream City Swing

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

PINK HOUSE STUDIO Yoga with Sarah, Kat or Montana (6-7:15pm)

RIVERWEST YOGASHALA Hatha I w/ Luan, 7:30-9am

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, 7pm

20 TUESDAY

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

BREMEN CAFÉ Karaoke 9pm

FALCON BOWL Traditional Tuesdays -- Swing Dance lesson, 7-8pm; live music w/Sazerac 5 Jazz Band, 8-10pm

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)

RIVERWEST YOGASHALA Yoga for Mobility & Stability w/Tracey, 10-11:30am. // Hatha Yoga Foundations

in Dream Yoga w/ Luan, 7:30-8:45pm

21 WEDNESDAY

ART*BAR Karaoke w/ Jorge Valentine, 9pm

BREMEN CAFÉ Trivia w/Sean, 7pm; Passion Park, 9pm

INSPIRATION STUDIOS, 1500 S 73rd St Theatrical Tendencies presents a Staged Reading: ANGELS IN AMERICA. 7:30pm

LAKEFRONT BREWERY Trivia Night, 6:30-8:30

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

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

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 Mario Adrion

WXRW 104.1FM RIVERWEST RADIO OWL (Older. Wiser. Local): "The A.M. Book Report," media literacy for navigating disinformation. 3:30pm. Stream live or listen to archive at riverwestradio.com.

22 THURSDAY

bar centro John Stanford - vocalist. 8-10pm. \$15

INSPIRATION STUDIOS, 1500 S 73rd St Theatrical Tendencies presents a Staged Reading: ANGELS IN AMERICA. 7:30pm

JAZZ GALLERY CENTER FOR THE ARTS Cody Steinmann + Montauk Project, 7:30-9:30pm, Jazz/dance/ experimental, \$20 cover.

JAZZ GALLERY CENTER FOR THE ARTS OWL (Older. Wiser. Local) Know Your Body: CranioSacral Therapist, Emily Klik. 1-4pm

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

RIVERWEST YOGASHALA Continuing Yoga w/ Sara, 9:30am. Yoga for Elders & Elders-to-be, 1:30-2:45pm. Beginner+ w/ Helena, 5:30-6:45pm.

VEGGAS PUB Karaoke, 9pm

VIVARIUM, 1818 N Farwell Bad Bad Hats with special guest Smut

23 FRIDAY

ANODYNE COFFEE, 224 W Bruce Corey Medina & Brothers, \$12 adv / \$17 at the door. Doors at 6:30pm, showtime 7:30pm. All ages.

bar centro Garret Waite -

January 2026 13

Shapeshifter album release. 8-9:30pm, \$20

JAZZ GALLERY CENTER FOR THE ARTS Memory Cafe, 6-10pm, Poetry open mic. What is the New Year's Resolution you are to prioritize in 2026?

JAZZ GALLERY CENTER FOR THE ARTS OWL (Older. Wiser. Local) Karen Beaumont: Seated Yoga/Tai Chi. 1-4pm

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

LINNEMAN'S Triple Crown w/ Laurie Asch, 8-10:30pm. \$15

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

MIRAMAR THEATRE Taiki Nulight

NASHVILLE NORTH Cadence Drive. 8-11pm

PINK HOUSE STUDIO GIA Grace in Action 4 Everybody (9:15am)

RIVERWEST YOGASHALA Yoga for Mobility & Stability w/ Tracey, 10-11:30am.

SHANK HALL Spiders From Milwaukee – Music of David Bowie. 8pm. \$15 adv / \$20 door

THE ARGO, 334 E Silver Spring The Midnight Purchase w/ Ben Mulwana, 8-10pm. \$24.10 and up

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

UWM PLANETARIUM Birth of the Universe . 7-8pm. \$7 general admission, \$5 students. Explore the origins of the cosmos dating back almost 14 billion years(uwmplenarium.com for tix)

VIVARIUM, 1818 N Farwell Cate Le Bonwith special guest Frances Chang

24 SATURDAY

ANODYNE COFFEE, 224 W Bruce The Unrulies + Driveway Thrift dwellers, \$12 adv / \$17 at the door. Doors at 6:30pm, showtime 7:30pm. All ages

bar centro Heirloom – contemporary jazz. 8-10pm. \$15

JAZZ GALLERY CENTER FOR THE ARTS Free Improvisation Sessions, 10am-Noon // Milwaukee Jazz Vision: Iconoclasts of Jazz Series, 7-10pm, \$20 cover (\$10 students)

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 Social Cig, w/TBA \$15

MAD PLANET (LIVE) Flannel vs. Denim: Modern Joey, Wire & Nail, and support from Pullstring. Doors

Currents Calendar

9pm Mad Planet

MILWAUKEE WINTER FARMERS MARKET @ The Table, 5303 W Capitol Dr Winter farmers market, 9am-2pm, thru March 28, 2026. Proudly accepting SNAP benefits, WIC and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program Vouchers. Details at fondymke.org.

MIRAMAR THEATRE The Glitch Mob, 9pm-2am

RIVERWEST YOGASHALA Mat Pilates w/ Christine, 9-9:50am. Intermediate Iyengar Yoga w/Sara, 10:15am. Beginner Yoga Series w/ Sara, 12:15pm

SAINT KATE – The Arts Hotel | 139 E Kilbourn Ave 32nd Annual Poetry Marathon & Benefit for Woodland Pattern, 10am-10pm. All weekend, Saturday & Sunday, Jan. 24 and 25

SHANK HALL Austin Brown, 8pm, \$25

STAND FOR PEACE at 27th & National Join with Peace Action of Wisconsin in our 22nd year of standing for peace, noon until 1pm

THE ARGO, 334 E Silver Spring Pat McCurdy, 8-10pm. From \$17.56

THE COFFEE HOUSE, 2717 E Hampshire Memorial Show Benefit, with Scott Dunnington, JP Spencer, and Bird & Bloom. 7:30-9:30pm

UPTOWNER Heyzues Showcase

VIVARIUM, 1818 N Farwell Jonah Kagen – Sunflowers & Leather Tour with special guest Vincent Lima

25 SUNDAY

AMORPHIC BEER, 3700 N Fratney Riverwest Winter Farmers Market (indoors), 11am-3pm

BREMEN CAFÉ Bremen Bazaar 12-7pm. Bingo w/Marion 6pm

FRIENDS MEETINGHOUSE, 3224 N Gordon Pl Meeting for worship, 10:15-11:45am

PINK HOUSE STUDIO Move In The Park, 11-12:30.

RIVERWEST YOGASHALA Yoga Movement Fundamentals w/ Tracey, 10:30-11:45am. Community Class: Beginner + Yoga w/ Helena, 12:30-1:45pm.

SAINT KATE – The Arts Hotel | 139 E Kilbourn Ave 32nd Annual Poetry Marathon & Benefit for Woodland Pattern, 10am-10pm. All weekend, Saturday & Sunday, Jan. 24 and 25

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

UPTOWNER Wilson Blues, 3pm (or noon, if Packer game at 3)

VIVARIUM, 1818 N Farwell Dean Johnson w/ Special Guest Lily Seabird

WINTER ART WALK, 1414 N Prospect Av Exhibit Opening! Artist Talks & Reception, 1-1:30pm. Meet & Greet, gallery visits, 1:30-3pm. Thru April 2026.

26 MONDAY

AMORPHIC BEER, 3700 N Fratney Wisconsin's Hardest Trivia, 7pm

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

FALCON BOWL Cream City Swing

FRIENDS MEETINGHOUSE, 3224 N Gordon Place Meditation for Everyone: Transform Your Mind, Transform Your World. Buddhist Monk Gen Kelsang Dorje. 6:30-8pm. Drop-in or sign-up in advance at meditationinmadison.org/MKE. All welcome. \$15 donation

PINK HOUSE STUDIO Yoga with Sarah, Kat or Montana (6-7:15pm)

RIVERWEST YOGASHALA Hatha I w/ Luan, 7:30-9am

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, 7pm

27 TUESDAY

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

BREMEN CAFÉ Karaoke 9pm

FALCON BOWL Traditional Tuesdays -- Swing Dance lesson, 7-8pm; live music w/Professor Pinkerton & His Irrelevant Orchestra, 8-10pm

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)

RIVERWEST YOGASHALA Yoga for Mobility & Stability w/Tracey, 10-11:30am. // Community Class: Yoga Basics w/ Hart, 6-7pm.

28 WEDNESDAY

ART*BAR Karaoke, 9pm

BREMEN CAFÉ Trivia w/Sean, 7pm

LAKEFRONT BREWERY Trivia Night, 6:30-8:30

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

RIVERWEST YOGASHALA Beginner Yoga Series w/ Sara, 9:30-10:45am

THE ARGO, 334 E Silver Spring Swing Jazz Wednesday: Micro Brew Swing Band, 8-10pm. \$5.36

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

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

WXRW 104.1FM RIVERWEST RADIO OWL (Older. Wiser. Local) Karen Beaumont Presents: Poems by Milwaukee poet Rick Panizza, with music. 3:30pm. Stream live or listen to archive at riverwestradio.com.

29 THURSDAY

bar centro Dovekeeper - singer songwriter, 8=10pm. \$10

JAZZ GALLERY CENTER FOR THE ARTS OWL (Older. Wiser. Local) Decade Review, Part 15: Writing Workshop & Show-n-Tell (bring artifacts/photos from your life from 80-85 yrs old). 1-4pm.

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

RIVERWEST YOGASHALA Continuing Yoga w/ Sara, 9:30am. Yoga for Elders & Elders-to-be, 1:30-2:45pm. Beginner+ w/ Helena, 5:30-6:45pm.

VEGGAS PUB Karaoke, 9pm

30 FRIDAY

ANODYNE COFFEE, 224 W Bruce The Driftless Revelers + Kenny Hotopp, \$12 adv / \$17 at the door (advance sales until 3pm day of show, then available at the door). Doors at 6:30pm, showtime 7:30pm. All ages

bar centro Sam Catral Quartet - original modern jazz. 8-10pm. \$10

BREMEN CAFÉ Full Nude; Lavish Waste; Spidora

JAZZ GALLERY CENTER FOR THE ARTS OWL (Older. Wiser. Local) Betty Salamun of Dance Circus. 1-4pm.

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

LINNEMAN'S John Sieger Combo, \$20

MAD PLANET Friday Night Retro Dance Party w/ DJ Vic Dagger. Doors 9pm

MIRAMAR THEATRE Emorfik: King of Rage Tour

NASHVILLE NORTH Grunger, 8-11pm

PINK HOUSE STUDIO GIA Grace in Action 4 Everybody (9:15am)

RIVERWEST YOGASHALA Yoga for Mobility & Stability w/ Tracey, 10-11:30am. Community Workshop: Vision Boards, 5-8pm

SHANK HALL Wayne Hancock. 8pm. \$20

THE ARGO, 334 E Silver Spring Fool House - The Ultimate 90's Party: The Millennium Tour, 8-11pm. From \$29.33

THE GATHERING TABLE, 2nd & Clarke All Peoples Church's Gathering Table has fresh and free produce, organic veggies, eggs, 1-4 pm

UPTOWNER No Writes, 9pm

UWM PLANETARIUM Birth of the Universe . 7-8pm. \$7 general admission, \$5 students. Explore the origins of the cosmos dating back almost 14 billion years(uwmplanetarium.com for tix)

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

31 SATURDAY

ANODYNE COFFEE, 224 W Bruce Snüzfest, \$10 adv / \$15 at the door. Doors at 5pm, showtime 6pm. All ages

bar centro Ms. Kaprice: jazz- funk-soul. 8-10pm. \$25

BREMEN CAFÉ Blind Hill; Breathmint; Victim of Doug

JAZZ GALLERY CENTER FOR THE ARTS Free Improvisation Sessions, 10am-Noon // Snek Trio + TBD, 7:30-10:00pm, Experimental, \$10 cover.

JAZZ GALLERY CENTER FOR THE ARTS OPENING RECEPTION (4-6pm) Main Gallery -- The Time is Now: Milwaukee Artists and Our Political Moment. // Small Wall: Interactive Artists Responding to the Time

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 Bleecker & Beyond: Folk Roots of Americana, 7:30pm, \$10

MAD PLANET House Your Body: TJK's Birthday Celebration w/ TJK, Andrew Optimist, and Jon Davis Jr (from Peoria). Doors 9pm

MILWAUKEE WINTER FARMERS MARKET @ The Table, 5303 W Capitol Dr Winter farmers market, 9am-2pm, thru March 28, 2026. Proudly accepting SNAP benefits, WIC and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program Vouchers. Details at fondymke.org.

RIVERWEST YOGASHALA Mat Pilates w/ Christine, 9-9:50am. Intermediate Iyengar Yoga w/Sara, 10:15am. Beginner Yoga Series w/ Sara, 12:15pm

SHANK HALL EMO VS ANIME Milwaukee. 8pm. \$10

STAND FOR PEACE at St. Paul & Water Join with Peace Action of Wisconsin in our 22nd year of standing for peace, noon until 1pm

THE ARGO, 334 E Silver Spring Hot In Herre: 2000s Dance Party, 8-11pm. From \$22.79

UPTOWNER RTA - Lake - The Lavender Project. Indie-alt Rap



CURRENTS COMIX PAGE!

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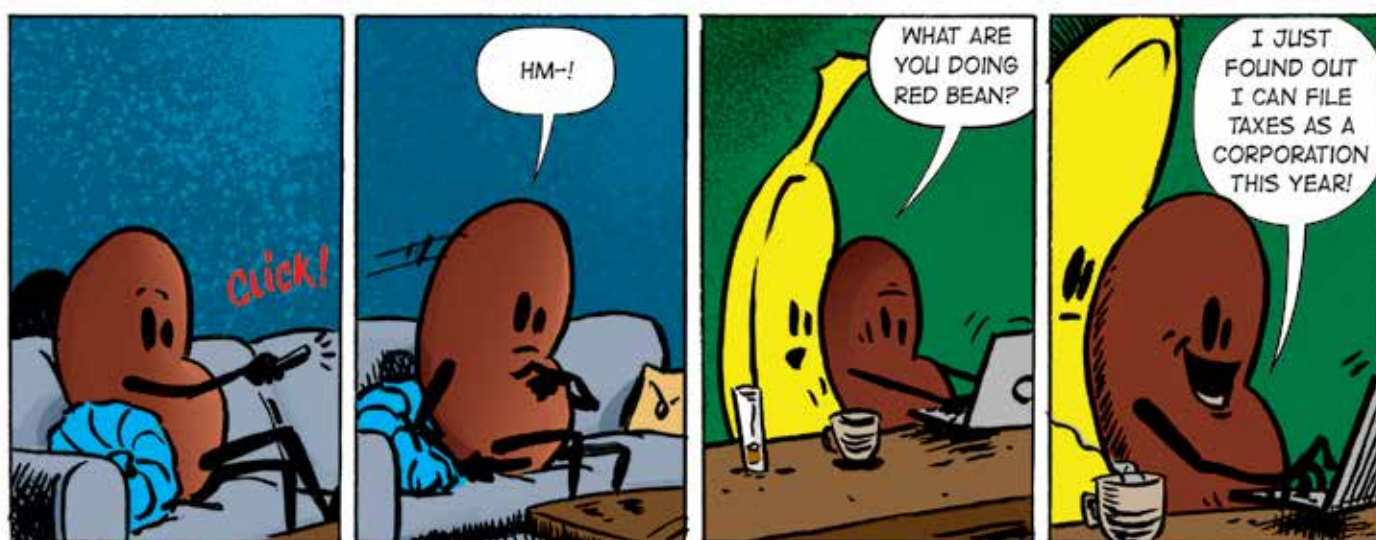


the twisted adventures of stinko

by: d. beyer jr.

Thanks David!
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16th Riverwest Follies set for Saturday,



April 4, 2026 at the fabulous Falcon Bowl!

You read that right – we're doing it again and we want YOU to join us. The Currents presents our 16th installment of the Riverwest Follies, the talent show that's a celebration of community and created by, for and right here IN our beloved neighborhood.

In 2006, the first Follies was staged at St. Mary Czestochowa, in the parish hall. An eclectic sampling of local talent, it was hosted by Frank Chandek (of Dr. Chow's Love Medicine), and featured performances by musicians, poets, dancers, actors ... there was even a fashion show.

It was so much fun that we threw the party again and again. For a few years, it was held at St. Mary's, and eventually found a new home at the Falcon Bowl. In 2013, there was a reenactment of a 1947 radio play (a staged radio show, if you will), cast with actors from the neighborhood. The play, "Bring Me To Life," was back by popular demand with a different cast in 2014.

The last time we put on the Follies was in 2021 at Linneman's. We were just emerging from the anti-social pandemic times, and it felt great to all be together and dance our cares away at the end of the night with music from both Mike Fredrickson and Voot Warnings and their bands.

While we're name-dropping, here's a short list of folks that have graced the Follies stages: Susie & Harvey's Adventures in Song; Sigmund Snopek on his alps horn; poets Kavon Cortez Jones, Peter Burzynski, CC Charmichael; the Tamarind Belly Dancers; Mahmoud on his oud; open jam with Liam O'Brien and Caley Conway; The Riverwest Elders; Astral / Subastral **But it's high time** we got the ball rolling again, so let's put on a show, gang! Want to be a part of it? Get ahold of Lee Gutowski, lee@rwc.com, for details.

SHOTS SHOTS SHOTS SHOTS SHOTS

OUTPOST
CO-OP SINCE 1970