Dying

BY TONY BOUZA

One of my closest friends, Joe Selvaggio, (who is probably well known to you) has done more for poor people than anyone but Mary Jo Copeland. Joe is an ex-priest and has strayed. Today he wrestles with death and asked me to include this and respond:

"The wise man dies when he ought, not when he must." — Seneca

Good advice, but not always that helpful in real life. Joe Selvaggio says he ought to die now (or soon) because he is almost at the point where he cannot take care of himself, and he cannot volunteer much for “good causes” in the community. However, his wife and one of his sons want him to “soldier on” a bit longer.

How much should the loved ones of a person have to say about when one “ought” to die? Shouldn’t they have enough respect for the rights of their loved one to let him make his own decision? My response: “I never thought this would happen to me.”

— See Bouza, page 4

Cam Gordon convenes Housing Forum

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

The Ward 2 Housing Forum presented by City Council Member Cameron Gordon on Feb. 21 was attended by over 70 people. A lot of the attendees were landlords, mostly small scale. The Zoom meeting was hosted by Gordon’s policy aide, Robin Garwood.

Co-presenters for the forum were Gretchen Nicholls from LISC (Local Initiatives Support Corporation, a national community development grantor) and Cottrell Doss and Jen Arnold, board member and director respectively of Inquilinxs Unidxs por Justicia/United Renters for Justice.

Council Member Gordon opened the meeting with a very good land acknowledgement, giving honor to Indigenous people as past, present and future caretakers of the (stolen) land on which Minneapolis as we know it today is located.

The crux of his opening remarks and slides was to delineate the seriousness of the housing crisis looming in the Twin Cities, as elsewhere; to list steps the city has already taken to ameliorate its effects; and to highlight four very important “next steps” coming up in 2021-22.

The accomplishments to date include incentives and zoning changes to increase stock of rental housing, which have resulted already in thousands of new units of affordable housing; an energy disclosure policy; and a Renters First policy. The four next steps, which comprised the major points discussed in the forum, are:

• SRO (single room occupancy) development.
• Eviction protections.
• Rent control / rent stabilization.
• TOPA - Tenant Opportunity to Purchase.

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By Debra Keefer Ramage

See Housing, page 10

Kids’ hockey is alive and well at Hiawatha School Park

BY ERIC SKOGLUND

In years past, maybe last century, I drove past Hiawatha School Park after dark in the dead of winter and saw the lights shining on an empty hockey rink—or maybe there was a solitary figure moving across the ice, skating, I presumed. It looked so cold, inhospitable and cruel.

Last Friday, in the year 2021, a couple of 13 and Under (13U) hockey teams got together for a game. With a wind chill below zero and snow blowing across the rink, the Hiawatha Eagles beat the Hiawatha Hawks, bringing the record of both teams to 1-and-1 in head-to-head competition. The Hawks in black and the Eagles in white had full hockey gear, and referees; dozens of fans stood in snow piles and on ice circling the rink to see who would win the second meeting of the two teams this season.

Yes! Outdoor Minneapolis Park and Rec Hockey still exists. When people ask where my son plays hockey, I say, “Did you know there is still park-based hockey?” Lots of people don’t know this. They do know that hockey is an expensive sport, they know that almost all of the public schools in Minneapolis once had hockey teams, but now, well, now people know hockey is more of a suburban sport. So yeah, a few parks around Minneapolis still offer hockey as a winter rec sport to young players.

Not so many years ago there was no hockey offered at Hiawatha School Park in South Minneapolis (42nd Street and 43rd Avenue). Then Aaron Flanders, rec supervisor of the park, decided to bring it back. I’ve been told that the first year
“Unceasing Militant: The Life of Mary Church Terrell” is the newly published biography by Dr. Alison M. Parker, department chair of American history at the University of Delaware. Dr. Parker has highlighted the historical record of this definitive work about one of the most important, but long neglected, suffragists and civil rights fighters of the 20th century. Not only does Dr. Parker explore the details of Mary Church Terrell’s life, but she includes a contextual history of the actions, ideas and players of the civil rights struggle in each of Mary Church Terrell’s many organizing projects. Known by her friends as Mollie, she was a major star of the human rights fight from 1904 through 1954.

Born in 1863, as the Union Army occupied Memphis, and before slaves were freed there, Mary Church Terrell became one of the major fighters for U.S. and international human rights. Tall and elegant, with an outstanding voice and great wit, she became a great and much in demand speaker. Besides speaking, she helped to organize for educational rights, voting rights, striking cafeteria workers’ rights, African American women’s reproductive health needs and international peace.

Born to enslaved parents, Robert Church and Louisa Ayers, both of whom became outstanding entrepreneurs after emancipation, Mollie was given the best educational opportunities of the time. Robert Church owned bars, pool halls and housing in the section of Memphis that was the birthplace of the Memphis Blues on Beale Street. Louisa Ayers was an on-demand, artistic hairdresser in the upscale shopping section of the city. Her parents’ financial success made it possible for Mollie to have access to the best education of the time. She attended Horace Mann’s Model School affiliated with Antioch College in Yellow Spring, Ohio, and graduated from Oberlin College with a BA (the gentlemen’s curriculum) in 1884 and an MA in 1887. After college she studied in Europe to polish her already fluent languages: German, French, Italian, Greek, and Latin.

While she is noted for being one of the founders of the NAACP, she is rarely given credit for the Committee of Forty on Permanent Organization that created the NAACP. The same is true for the formation of the National Association of Colored Women (NACW). She was the first president of a coordinated national effort to unite the African American Women’s clubs across the U.S. and create a strong lobbying group for their agendas: anti-lynching, enforcement of the 14th and 15th amendments, sexual stereotyping, housing and sanitation issues, workers’ rights, poorly equipped schools, securing the vote and ending the convict lease system. By invitation from Susan B. Anthony, Mollie began her civil rights lecture career with her first public speech before a mixed Black and white audience in Rochester, N.Y., at the Political Equality Club. She was a guest in Anthony’s home and began a friendship that lasted until Anthony’s death in 1906. Although later there was tension in their professional relationship, they often shared a stage at organizing meetings. The Rochester speech began Mollie’s lifelong reputation as an outstanding speaker with great talent to effectively articulate Black women’s political agenda to white and mixed audiences. Another early supporter of Mollie’s speaking talent was Fredrick Douglass. The two often collaborated on political presentations. They worked together organizing Ida B. Wells’ anti-lynching speaking tour in D.C. They also went to speak to President Benjamin Harrison in 1880 to request a powerful, public anti-lynching stand. MCT was such an outstanding speaker that she even earned a living being a major speaker on the Chautauqua circuit. She often shared a stage with Douglass. Imagine being in the audience when Terrell, Douglass and Anthony shared the stage—thrilling!

She moved into the national forum as a much-desired speaker when she was invited in 1904 to speak at the International Congress of Women in Berlin. She delivered her speech in German and in French.

Using her reputation as an advocate for African American women’s voting rights, Mollie was one of the only Black members of the National Women’s Party (NWP). As a lifelong member, Mollie led the group’s lobbying activities. She and her daughter, Phyllis, were part of the difficult demonstration before Wilson’s White House. They were part of the “silent sentinels” risking arrest and violence to demand the vote for all women. Mollie was arrested but not...
The legacy of Lisa Bender

BY ED FELLEN

Lisa Bender changed the world.
There probably has never been anyone in Minneapolis politics to match the exception of Hubert Humphrey who has had such a profound impact on the city, the state and the nation.
She had a vision for the City of Minneapolis that she fiercely believed in, and she saw that vision through to its conclusion.
Armed with a master’s degree in city and regional planning from the University of California at Berkeley, she became the communications director for a lobbying group in Manhattan advocating mass transit, bicycling and walking as an alternative to cars. After a stint as a city planner in San Francisco, she returned to Minneapolis, ran against Meg Tuthill for the seat on the City Council in 2013 and won.

She is the grand architect of Southside Pride, a left-wing organization of Minneapolis that seems to be forcing cars off the streets. She has lowered the speed limit on city streets near Hiawatha School Park, and I can see them working their way through the neighborhoods.

This year, there are five issues: (ages 6 to 9), 11(2) (two teams) and 12(1). While COVID-19 has kept some out of hockey this year, many parents and guardians have let their players play. And the players want to be in spite of masks and social distancing requirements, which is a little more difficult in their handful of indoor games and practices.

Hockey, from page 1

several kids signed up join a team, and composed of varying ages, Hiawatha School Park had older kids, and some younger kids, according to who is one of the current 13U Hawks team coaches. Now, these are the teams today. This year, there are five teams: Squirts (ages 6 to 9), 11(U) (two teams) and 12(U).

Southside Pride has argued that the city needs to do more to keep cars off the roads. But the city paid out more than a million dollars to keep cars off Park and Portland Avenues—modest 6-foot lanes—but the traffic engineer told me I had wiped out six handicapped parking places, so I retreated and eliminated them. I was busy with other objectives: municipal ownership of the electric company, rent control and down-zoning neighborhoods, and I had associations started off the objections of city staff so I backed down. As a former city planner chair of the Zoning and Planning Committee and then president of the council, Bender knew enough to simplify the way they hire a team, and when I was on the council, the city had three city planning today they have more than 200.

The great planning document to come out of the current City Council is the 2040 Plan. This document argues that in order to have racial equity we need to create more housing opportunities in the city, so the plan calls for up-zoning the areas from Broadway in the north to 42nd Street in the south to allow construction of apartment buildings. This means that naturally occurring affordable housing in the inner city, small single-family homes rented by communities of color, or be sold to developers to build expensive apartment buildings for young urban professionals. The areas of the city south of 42nd Street that had stood empty for a long time have been purchased. Bender knew enough to simplify the process. The city then sold the homes to the housing cooperatives.

The legacy of Lisa Bender

Lisa Bender
didn’t pick up easy Senate seats in North Carolina and Ohio. And the City Council’s Public Safety Committee is preparing a Charter Amendment to be voted on this fall to weaken the power of the City Council and strengthen the power of the mayor—making city government even less democratic.

Yes, bicyclists need to be kept safe, but that doesn’t mean that cars need to be kept off the road. Maybe the solution is to keep bicycles off busy arterial streets and give them exclusiv e right of way on some side streets. Rather than have them compete for space on Park and Portland, maybe they should have Oakland Avenue with cars only able to drive one block without being diverted to Park or Portland.

Yes, we need more apartment buildings but not at the expense of single-family homes that are threatened or lost at the hands of community color.

Yes, we need to change the nature of policing, but maybe we don’t have to abolish the police department. If the police chief won’t hold officers accountable, and the mayor doesn’t act, then maybe the City Council should act to hold hearings to hold MPD officers accountable for their actions.

It is understandable but regrettable that, in the absence of decisive action by the City Council, the Charter Commission would decide to try to move the city toward a strong-mayor form of government. We have the power of the mayor—we don’t have to abolish it.

But I think we do want a City Council that cares about the general welfare of all forms of transportation, that cares about affordable housing in every corner of the city, and that cares enough about justice to hold our police department accountable.

February 2021

WWW.SOUTHSIDEPRIDE.COM

3
Notes from the desk of peace activist Polly Mann (b. Nov. 19, 1919)

BY ED FELLEN

A concerned reader wrote, “Please urge more equitable distribution. Please cover this issue right away. White arms are being injected at a much higher rate than their percent of population.”

Native Americans are 1.8 times more likely to get COVID-19 than white people. They are four times as likely to require hospitalization and 2.6 times as likely to die. Blacks are 1.4 times as likely to get COVID. 3.7 times as likely to require hospitalization and 2.8 times as likely to die. Hispanics are 1.7 times as likely to get COVID, 4.1 times as likely to require hospitalization and 2.8 times as likely to die.

The CDC says the principal causes of the spread of COVID are “crowded situations; close/physical contact; enclosed space; and duration of exposure.”

Who gets the vaccine?

I asked friends who are health care professionals why whites are getting the vaccine ahead of non-whites. They agreed: “White people are more likely to live to old age and more white people tend to hold health care worker positions, and those are the two groups of people targeted to receive the vaccine first.”

We need to eliminate pov-

erty and increase the vaccine supply. I assume the reason minorities are not getting the vaccine? Probably not. But racism is the reason minorities have a higher index of poverty, and poverty is a major factor in making someone suscepti-

ble to COVID-19.

Bouza, from page 1

—William Saroyan on his
dearthed.

“Dying is easy. Humor is
difficult.” —The actor John
drew (think Drew Barry-

more) on his deathbed.

The issue is autonomy. We
control our lives—mostly—but not our deaths. Abortion is a battle for con-
trol. So is euthanasia.

Why should the state de-
cide our fate? Pharmacology
has provided safe (an oxymo-
ron to be sure) and effective (and even comforting) ways of ending one’s life. Why and how can the state intrude to forbid it?

Our attitude is informing. We reflect it in our language. In the world I occupy no one ever dies—but a whole lot of folks appear to have passed away (water?).

The ironies are endless. Rightists are law-and-
order nuts yet oppose the most effective tool for crime control ever devised in America—Roe v. Wade in 1973. What does it take from six murders a day to less than one a generation later. Emblematic of the across-
the-board experience in the U.S. in street crime. We live in a peace bubble delivered by Harry Blackmun, a great Minnesota. Men might well aspire to the blissful exits of Nelson Rockefeller and John
good field—flagrante delicto—but that is a far-fetched hope.

We terminate a lot of folks in the name of God who shouldn’t we be free to termi-
nate ourselves?
Who’s running for mayor of Minneapolis?

BY DAVE TILSEN

Last June, in response to all that was happening, I posted on Facebook that if Jacob Frey would not step up and help the people, I was going to have to run against him. He didn’t, I did.

On Jan. 21, 2021, he announced that he thought the city should throw him. In his announcement he complained that the last year presented “unprecedented challenges.” The only way we can evaluate on how he performed. We needed a leader who could rise to those challenges, show a vision, a public problem-solving and action-based solutions. The police shooting, the economic collapse, the incursion and burning of our commercial streets, and the need for city attention to rebuilding threw this city into chaos. The pandemic, the homelessness and hunger of four out of every 10 people, a race movement, a stirrung with both unsheltered and sheltered people. County Commissioner Londell French saw examples of elected officials that were. Rep. Aisha Gomez especially took securi- ty shifts at the Powderhorn homeless encampment and protected people from police when they were evicted. Park Commissioner Londell French was all over the parks, volun- teering, listening to the people, dialogu- ing with both unsheltered and sheltered people. County Com- missioner Angela Conley was everywhere, constantly, from George Floyd Square to peace- ful demonstrations. This is where good ideas come from.

Jacob Frey

Sheila Nezhad

The truth is, that although the mayor showed caring, emotional reactions that I don’t doubt were honest, he was not willing to get out into his city and find solutions. We needed a leader who could rise to those challenges, show a vision, a public problem-solving and action-based solutions. The police shooting, the economic collapse, the incursion and burning of our commercial streets, and the need for city attention to rebuilding threw this city into chaos. The pandemic, the homelessness and hunger of four out of every 10 people, a race movement, a stirrung with both unsheltered and sheltered people. County Com- missioner Londell French saw examples of elected officials that were. Rep. Aisha Gomez especially took securi- ty shifts at the Powderhorn homeless encampment and protected people from police when they were evicted. Park Commissioner Londell French was all over the parks, volun- teering, listening to the people, dialogu- ing with both unsheltered and sheltered people. County Com- missioner Angela Conley was everywhere, constantly, from George Floyd Square to peace- ful demonstrations. This is where good ideas come from.

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2021 Collegeville Connections Virtual events
Join us for Collegeville Connections – a one-hour, weekly virtual event that features the work of Collegeville Institute alumni. Grab a cup of coffee or a bagged lunch and Zoom into our events on Wednesdays from 12-1 p.m., CST. Consider it your mid-week respite to connect, learn, and engage with the Collegeville Institute. For more info and to register, go to https://collegevilleinstitute.org/event.

Heidi Neumark for this Collegeville Institute event, ‘All Ashes Are Not the Same.’ Online breaking, blessing, building: A call for the common good March 5-7
Online COVID-19, a pandemic of racism in the United States, economic distress. Our neighbors and our communities need things that change for the good of us all. Let all clergy from various backgrounds and traditions be invited to gather together in such a way that inspires action to change the Church and the world. Read more about NEXT Church at https://nextchurch.net/gathering/2021-national-gathering/.

It’s Cold Out! Welcome Refugees to Warmth
This month, MCC Refugee Services had the privilege of welcoming 5 people with refugee status from Somalia, including 4 children who were finally able to reunite with their father. As we help them settle into life in Minnesota and look forward to more arrivals, we are in need of new bed pillows, large fanying pads and cooking pots, and winter clothing (size small and girls’ size small). To arrange a drop-off or for more information, please contact volunteers@mcnurche.org. Thank you!

The Dignity Center
The Dignity Center, a non-profit offshoot of Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church, works with people to achieve and maintain stability in housing and employment. Participants engage with one volunteer advocate, working together on skills such as problem solving, decision making, organization and budgeting. The Dignity Center works with many congregations, across denominations, as part of their network of congregations. The Dignity Center remains open under COVID-19 to serve its program participants. To learn more about the work of the Dignity Center, and ways to participate, volunteer, and donate, go to their website at https://dignitycenter.org.

Eccumenical Advocacy Days April 18-21
Online Save the date for Eccumenical Advocacy Days 2021, and join us as we gather online to “imagine God’s Earth and People Restored.” Together, we will passionately advocate and reimagine a world that lives out the values of justice, equity, and the beloved community. For more information, go to https://advocacydays.org/

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church
3430 E. 51st St., Mpls.
www.faithlutheranmpls.org
Sunday Worship (with safety measures in place) at 10 a.m. Those who are over 65, have pre-existing conditions, or live in proximity to at-risk demographics are encouraged to remain home. We will continue to post videos online for Sunday morning for those who can’t join us yet on YouTube and Facebook www.facebook.com/felcmlp/. Bible classes on Sundays at 10 a.m. and Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Masks and social spacing required for worship and Bible classes. NA groups Wednesdays 7:30 p.m. (Fridays temporarily suspended).

First Free Church
5150 Chicago Ave. S., Mpls.
Sunday service 10 a.m. (in person and online).
A website at www.firstfreechurch.org for more information.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, ICMS
1720 E. Minnehaha Pkwy., Mpls.
In-person worship services suspended; online services continue via our website. Service recordings, bulletins and news are available at https://holycrossmpls.org.

Living Spirit United Methodist Church
4501 Bloomingdale Ave., Mpls.
Worship with us from home! Worship by video streamed on Facebook Live at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings at facebook.com/LivingSpiritMN. The weekly bulletin, children’s faith formation packet, and more will be posted to our website; that’s also where you can find resources and worship readings from previous weeks. www.livingspiritumc.org online.

Messiah Lutheran Church
2400 Park Ave., Mpls.
All services now online at www.messiahlutheranmpls.org. Each week we video services, viewable anytime, please join us! Visit our website for online devotions and bulletins.

Minnehaha Community Lutheran Church
4101 37th Ave. S., Mpls.
Sunday Worship online at 9:45 a.m. All devotions, or live in person and online frequently. Please check the church website for any changes: https://minnehahacommunity.org.

Minnehaha United Methodist Church
3701 E. 30th St., Mpls.
www.minnehahacommunity.org/
New Creation Baptist Church
1414 E. 48th St., Mpls.
Sunday Devotion online 10:45 a.m. on Facebook and YouTube www.facebook.com/NewCreationBaptistChurch. “https://newcreationbaptistchurch.org/”

Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church
5300 10th Ave. S., Mpls.
www.nokomisheights.org
Physically distant but faithfully together. Connect with our online community on Facebook and YouTube. A new weekly worship service is online every Sunday at 10 a.m., and all archived, so you can view the ones you missed: www.facebook.com/NokomisHeights/

St. Joan of Arc Catholic Parish
4537 3rd Ave. S.
For video masses, musical performances, church bulletins, and other news, please see our website www.stjoanofarc.org or Facebook page www.facebook.com/StJoanofArcMpls/

Trinity Lutheran Congregation
3701 E. 50th St., Mpls.
www.trinitympls.org
In-person worship services suspended; online services continue via our website. Service recordings, bulletins and news are available at https://www.trinitympls.org.

Walker Community United Methodist Church
1104 16th Ave. S.
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Until further notice, Walker Church will be closed for all non-essential operations. Services will continue online via our YouTube channel: Trinity Lutheran Congregation.

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KAY A. SCHROVEN  

In the late 1980s Erick Everson was hanging out in the Whittier neighborhood of Minneapolis and was a frequent and friendly face at the Simpson Shelter. He battled mental illness. When Erick was doing well, he did odd jobs in the area such as helping out at a video store, delivering newspapers, etc. During the summer of 1990 the shelter closed for a while. The Simpson staff and advocates heard that no one had seen Erick lately and became concerned about him. In late August, two weeks after his 39th birthday, Erick’s body was found behind the Lake Street Kmart. He had been murdered by a fellow homeless man who was in a drunken rage. It seems there was a dispute over Erick’s cigarettes. The family was, and continues to be, devastated by the tragic loss of this outgoing, bright, creative son, brother and friend. Some months later the Minneapolis police informed the family that the perpetrator confessed to the crime while in detention on another charge. Despite the violent nature of the crime, the Star Tribune dedicated just one paragraph to Erick’s death—a newspaper Erick once delivered.

On Jan. 21, 2021, Twin City headlines reported the death of a homeless person, and another injured. This occurred in a St. Paul encampment where in an effort to stay alive the unhoused individuals lit fires. Firewood and propane heaters were found at the site. This was St. Paul’s third death of an unhoused person in the 2020-21 winter. The first week of January 2021, Minneapolis police reported a suspicious death at the Minnehaha Park Drive encampment. The deceased man found in a tent showed signs of trauma and was discovered by volunteers who were assisting the campers in finding shelter. The police had posted notices of eviction on Dec. 31, with a 72-hour window to vacate due to unsafe weather conditions. The death is under investigation.

John Petroskas, a longtime volunteer in the effort to end homelessness, points out that the Minneapolis incident is much more common than the St. Paul one. “People often ask if exposure to the elements is a common cause of death. It is not. More often the cause is homicide (including domestic), suicide, overdose, and accidents. We have a lot of alcohol and drug addiction in the homeless community which compounds existing conditions.”

People who have lost a loved one often report a concern, a fear that their loved one will be forgotten—dust in the wind. Hence, propelled by the Simpson Shelter and the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless, each year in December, advocates, family and friends of those who have died while homeless or unhoused participate in a ceremony to remember and honor the lives of those lost. It is known as the Homeless Memorial and draws statewide participation. Loved ones may have died in a tent, bus stop, under a bridge or in a homeless shelter. Advocates collect names during the year and submit them to Simpson Housing Services. Some bodies are not identified, their names missing, yet they are honored. John Petroskas keeps and manages the list.

The ceremony typically begins at the Hennepin County Government Center and the advocates, family and friends walk two miles (often carrying signs with the name of their lost loved one) to the Plymouth Congregational Church where the ceremony is hosted and continues. As the name of each deceased individual is read, a candle is lit: Beni To, Laura Max, Elton, Danette, Bohdan, Sister Margarette, and so on. One hundred and ninety-seven names were read for 2020. Losses included Baby Boy, Unidentified Man, Unidentified Girl and George Perry Floyd. Typically, a meal is shared afterward, as are memories and stories about the deceased. It is a community, strong and determined to recognize those often marginalized and viewed as a group, rather than as the unique individuals that they were.

2020 marked the 36th annual Homeless Memorial honoring the deceased. It was a virtual event due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan stated that she looks forward to the day this event will not be needed. A total of 197 individuals were honored; 84 died unhoused, 89 were formerly homeless but sheltered (often in homeless shelters) at the time of death and 24 were advocates who worked with the homeless. In 2019, 103 were honored. The average age of those who died unhoused was 42-43 years. The average age amongst those who were homeless but sheltered, 50. Mortality rates for those unsheltered is 4 to 9 times higher than those who are sheltered (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).

What are the causes of death? Often it is a combination of things: disease, illness, drug and alcohol related, mental health issues, suicide, homicide (often at the hands of an acquaintance), accidents and lack of proper medical care. There are incidents of drowning and being struck by a vehicle. The opioid epidemic, declared a public health emergency in 2017 (by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) along with an international pandemic, has created a new kind of vulnerability, especially for those without shelter.

This year videographers were invited and submitted for the event. During the presentations, voices were picked to be loved ones recalled their beloved and shelter and social workers recalled their clients. It is the little, unique things and gestures that family, friends and advocates remember and will miss. Some of the people remembered were:

• The young father who loved his kids and liked to bring them to the shelter. Those around felt the joy he had for them, and they for him.
• The Ojibwa man who was intelligent and had boundless energy to engage anyone who had time to discuss sports, politics, music, etc.
• Sam, who loved the thrift stores and picked up items, repairing their needs, sizes and favored styles.
• The woman who visited to pick up supplies but would not stay in a shelter because she did not want to leave her kitten “Boots” who had his own baby stroller.
• The tough guy with scars to prove it, who loved his dog and treated it like a baby.
• The collector who kid his finds in the nooks and crannies of the shelter and told off-color jokes—even in church!
• “Coffee Man,” known for making the best strong coffee and trained newcomers to do the same. One newcomer says he will honor his lost elder by always making the strong coffee he taught him to make, and laughing while he drinks it.
• The man who often surprised others with hidden talents such as furniture building and writing poetry in Gaelic!
• The two Native women who stuck together for years, no matter...
Our beloved companions – animals

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

“Our beloved companions – animals” are part of our families.” This is the introduction to a wonderful fact-filled section of a valuable website I recently found called Faunalytics. They gather and process all kinds of scientific data for the use of animal rights and animal welfare activists. This comes from their section on “companion animals,” which you might simply call “pets.” (Faunalytics.org/fundamentals-companion-animals/)

Shivers, Southside Pride misses you.

The numbers

The news magazine The Week recently highlighted pets in their “By the Numbers” section: short, punchy number-crunching about a current topic. There I learned that in 2019, American households spent $60 billion on pets, $13.5 billion more than on alcohol, and that that sum was more than twice what was spent on major appliances, fresh fruit or tobacco products.

And in at least three articles in other sources, including this one (tinyurl.com/crypglad), I see that people are spending more than usual on their pets during the pandemic, so when 2020 numbers come out, they’ll be even higher. And it makes sense. It’s part of the pivot we’re doing to cope with the isolation of living through a plague.

More people have acquired a pet, due to the pandemic, than would normally do so in a year. Sometimes this was a new or first-time pet, and sometimes it was a sooner-than-usual replacement for a pet that passed away. The Washington Post, for instance, reported back in August that “Dog adoptions and sales soar during the pandemic.” And other sources confirm similar trends with cats, reptiles, fish and other aquatic dwellers, small-to-medium other mammals, and birds.

The Faunalytics website breaks down who keeps these pets and which pets are kept in what numbers. Statistics from 2018 (from a different source) showed over 84 million households in the U.S. had at least one pet. (This is approaching 70 percent of households, so it may be there by now.)

Looking at the North American and European households that have pets, the following percentages are the ones that keep that kind of animal (adds up to more than 100 percent):

- Cats - 38 percent
- Freshwater fish - 10 percent
- Birds - 6 percent
- Small mammals and “other” - 5 percent
- Reptiles - 4 percent
- Horses - 2 percent
- Saltwater fish - 2 percent

Mental and physical health (ours)

In a PR Newswire article sourced from Mars Petcare (a corporation producing pet food and care products which includes a pet health research subsidiary), the following was cited:

- Among all pet owners, three quarters or more said that their pets provide important benefits in the form of companionship, reduced stress or anxiety, reduced boredom and monotony and reduced depression during COVID-19.

And the Faunalytics site found the following benefits of living with a companion animal:

- For elders, it helps maintain or improve Activities of Daily Living (ADL) measures.
- For those in a cohabiting relationship, they report their pet is a better listener than their spouse.
- Raising a baby with a dog or cat apparently provides extra immune protection in the first year of life.
- A pet as the primary benefit of working from home—even ahead of increased flexibility, cost savings from lack of commute and more time with family.

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But while these loving beasts give us mental health benefits, we must not neglect theirs. There is growing fear among animal health experts about dogs especially, and how they will react to being left alone more after a year or more of intensified companionship. A Washington Post Lifestyle piece headline says “Our dogs have been there for us. Will we be there for them when the pandemic ends?” When life returns to normal,
we mustn't abandon our pets to loneliness.”

There are numerous anecdotes in the news about dogs, and occasionally other animals, “miraculously” di-

Best friends

Mental and physical health (theirs) A large amount of that 900+ billion is spent on high quality food, over the counter medicines and veterinary services. If you’re thinking of getting a pet, be sure and make certain you can afford the neces-
sities to keep it healthy. We are lucky to have many good animal clinics in Minneapolis, including Minnehaha Animal Hospital, Nokomis Pet Clinic, Pet Doctors (on East Franklin) and East Lake Animal Hospital in our southside neighborhoods. There are also limited amounts of free assistance with animal care. For spaying/neutering only, there is MN/ SNAP (Spay Neuter Assistance Pro-

The University of Minnesota Veterinary School offers a monthly free clinic at Hennepin Avenue Methodist Church (see vetnuch.umn. edu/our-clinic). And the Animal Hu-
mane Society also offers low-cost to free emergency vet care. People and Pets Together, Anti-meals (Meals on Wheels for animals), and some community food banks and “free store” mutual aid sites offer free high-quality pet food and essential supplies.

If bathing and grooming your pet and keep your apartment safe from flooding and other attendant chaos. Pet lovers and owners tend to be animal welfare supporters. So, if you care about animals, follow the “Adopt, Don’t Shop” slogan. The Twin Cities also has a plethora of animal rights and animal welfare activists and organizations of every stripe. One rock star of the move-

ment is Nancy Minion, who was in-

strumental in getting a Pet Breeder Bill passed in Minnesota. She is also the founder of one of the biggest and best rescue organizations in town, Second Chance Animal Rescue. Check out their website for their no-shelter method and philosophy of rescuing animals. (secondchancerescue.org)

Because of the massive increase in demand for pets, many rescue groups and shelters are actually running out of adoptable pets. If you are forced to shop, here is an article helping you discern law-compliant and car-

ings from the unscrupulous ones: medium.com/creatures/the-

10-most-telltale-signs-of-a-back-

yard breeder-480fa4e9f7aa.

Some other notable rescue groups in Minnesota include the only Glob-

al Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS)-certified farm sanctuary in the state, Farmaste, and Midwest Avian Adoption & Rescue Services (MAARS), a specialist bird sanctuary. Also check out Chicken Run Rescue for some hard facts about the lives of “poultry” (who make excellent pets, in fact) and the nationwide network for placement of adoptable animals, Rescueme (MN listings at animal. rescueme.org/Minnesota).

www.peopleandpetstogether.org

February 2021
Hiawatha, from page 5

The golf course is unsuspected. The Park Board will restore the creek will lower the lake level even. An opinion, since it will lower the lake level which will reduce flooding. The future is unpredictable. They have provided insufficient engineering data to back this up. The Park Board will restore the property to what it was before. The revised plan will be held Feb. 24. See the city website for more information.

Council Member Gordon is co-authoring with Council Members Ellison and Bender a pair of eviction protection initiatives. “The Justice Rule would mean that a landlord needs to provide a selection of allowable causes for eviction, and is based on a recent rule passed in St. Paul. The Notice Requirement rule, based on a St. Louis Park ordinance, would give tenants time to respond and prevent eviction, and reduce the destabilizing, harmful effect of UDAs (Unlawful Detainers) on tenants. The plan will be posted on Feb. 12, with presentation to the full Board in March for approval or rejection.

More than Wirth ever did.

the property to what it was being frittered away by the Park Board that the Park Board wanted. The Park Board will restore the property. The golf course is unsustainably. A statement with little definition or meaning. The new plan will protect the homes from flooding. The future of the golf course is uncertain. They have provided insufficient engineering data to back this up.

The Park Board will pay for the new golf course with profits from the Minneapolis golf courses. Likely a lie, since the Park Board’s mismanagement of the golf courses has produced a profit only twice in the past 10 years.

A partner (the Loppet?) will rules restricting future affordability. * Same rights, but for organizations only, not assignable, with the * program restricting future affordability. **

Note * This option would mean that the unit after purchase could be owner-occupied or rented by an organization or the tenant’s assignee.

Note ** The 4d is a state program that reduces landlords’ taxes by 40 percent if they follow strict affordability/stabilization rules.

Jen and Cottrell presented the tenants’ view of both TOPA and rent control and how they would help tenants stay in their homes, and be a defense against homelessness and gentrification displacement. Inquillinx has had four separate campaigns to protect tenant rights against landlords, and she said, “It always starts with a struggle over repairs.”

They have also done studies, one of which showed that in the great majority of cases where a landlord is forced by the city to make repairs, they respond immediately in one of two ways. One, they put the building up for sale, which can mean abrogation of leases and eviction of all tenants under the current laws. A TOPA rule would prevent that. Or two, they respond with a predatory rise in the rents, a move which would not be allowed under rent control rule.

The presenters from Inquillinx also addressed the eviction protection piece of the next steps solutions. Jen used their high-profile case with the notorious (now convicted) slumlord Frenz, as an example. In the two years Inquillinx was fighting to buy the landlord’s buildings and form a cooperative (which has now happened—Corconan neighborhood’s Sky Without Limits Co-op), they were simultaneously forced to fight individual evictions that occurred monthly. Needless to say, this took a lot of energy and money they could have used in building the cooperative.

Rent control will require an amendment to the City Charter, so it’s at least a two-step process. A hearing on the proposed charter changes will be held Feb. 24. See the city website for more information.

More than, say, Uptown. So it’s easy to see that exemptions in future policies based on the size of the building would be very counterproductive. LISC also conducted a series of studies, including researching TOPA in other jurisdictions (Washington D.C., New York City, San Francisco, Berkeley, Chicago, and manufactured home park TOPAs in New Hampshire and Minnesota) and holding numerous focus groups with landlords, tenants, lenders and others.

LISC proposed that Minneapolis choose one of the following options, of which their highest recommendation was for the second option: Right of first offer and refusal to tenant only, assignable, no affordability restrictions.

Same rights, but for tenants or organizations, assignable, with rent stabilization based on the number of units for which they have provided documentation but must continue to create incentives and regulations to ensure quality affordable housing for all.

* Would you support transfer- ring block clubs to the Minneapolis Health Department from the MPRD?

Yes. I called for this investiga- tion at the time Terrance Franklin was killed by police (http://secondward.blogspot.com/2013/06/the-death-of-ter- rance-franklin) and I renew that call. A credible review that could offer insights into how to make sure the horrific and tragic inci- dents of that day are never re- peated could be very valuable.

* Do you support the 2040 Plan that up-zones the inner city?

After making extensive amendments, I voted for the 2040 plan, and believe it offers a path towards racial equity and fighting climate change. We can- not rely on the housing market to capture the effective imple- mentation but must continue to create incentives and regula- tions to ensure quality affordable housing for all.

* Would you support transfer- ring block clubs to the Minneapolis Health Department from the MPRD?

Yes. I coauthored the Safety for All budget that moved Crime Prevention Specialists out of MPRD, and have long advocated for a change in how the City organizes block clubs, I believe that a collaborative effort from the Health Department and Neighborhood Community Rela- tions Department could yield the best results.

WWW.SOUTHSIDEPRI.com February 2021
Minneapolis needs rent control – panel discussion hosted by Robin for Minneapolis

BY ALEXANDRA CARTER

Minneapolis needs rent control. It will solve a lot of looming problems but it won’t solve all of our problems. And the more it’s watered down by the city government, the less it will help. Those were the messages in a Zoom webinar attended by over 70 people on Tuesday, Jan. 26.

The rent control panel discussion event was hosted by Robin for Minneapolis. Who is Robin and what is she for in Minneapolis? Robin Wonsley Worlobah is running to be Minneapolis’ first Black socialist City Council member. She is opposing current City Council member and Green Party member Cameron Gordon in the 2nd Ward. Robin was very active in the Fight for 15 and later was a community leader in the George Floyd uprising.

The basis and priorities of her campaign are stated thus on the Robin for Minneapolis Facebook page: “We can win rent control and public safety beyond policing by bringing mass movements into City Hall.” Robin is a member of Twin Cities Democratic Socialists of America (TCDSA). (Note that TCDSA says they have not opened up their endorsement process yet.)

Three days before the panel discussion, she was walking the picket line with other TCDSA members in St. Paul Park in support of Teamsters striking at Marathon Refinery. So she doesn’t just talk the talk.

The panel discussion was lively, informative and inspiring. Robin moderated, and the three panelists were Ginger Jentzen (member of Socialist Alternative and former director of 15Now), the organization that won a $15 minimum wage in Minneapolis; Nichole Buehler (executive director of Harisson Neighborhood Association); and Vanessa del Campo Cachon (member of Renters United for Justice and Sky Without Limits).

See Rent Control, page 14

Laura

BY DAVID TILSEN

To be interviewed by Laura Waterman Wittstock was like being listened to by a wise friend. Then, afterward, you listen and think, why did I say that? I didn’t plan to open up that much. Somehow Laura was able to do that with people.

Without ever compromising her strong beliefs, she really knew how to listen and call on the openness in others. This skill, along with hard work, cutting intelligence and impeccable integrity, made her a leader, a power broker and an influencer for over 50 years.

I hope people remember her. She deserves some kind of permanent memorial. We have lost so many of the warriors of my generation, people who have made history, that I can’t help but remember my mother’s grief when this was happening to her. She would rage against my generation who thought that we had invented feminism, socialism, antiwar activism, counter culture and commitment.

She wanted us to remember her generation and her parents’ generation and what they had given us. Laura’s death gives me the same rage.

Certainly, the students of Migizi will carry on. Those of us addicted to her radio show, First Person Radio, will keep the memories, and her book with Dick Bancroft about the history of AIM will live on. The City of Minneapolis, it seems to me, owes her a debt. She served on the Minneapolis Library Board and on so many different foundations and advisory committees that I don’t believe a complete list can ever be made. There are some people who just transcend the rest of us, whose smile, grit, determination and articulation have changed the world for the better.

I can’t help but quote from the great Minnesota poet Irene Paul, who was writing about another woman who changed the world:

If you walk with an air of easy grace And hold your head up high. Cherish her as you cherish the sea And the Mountains that climb the sky.
Local businesses: open, closed, restricted ...

with restrictions. Online and phone orders. Delivery by Bite Squad & Grubhub.
Maria's Café. Open for takeout/only. No online ordering. No delivery. 4 pm - 9 pm. Saturdays. Delivery by Bite Squad. Usual hours.

Merlin's Root. Open for takeout/delivery only. Delivery by Bite Squad. Usual hours. Restricted hours except for takeout.

Modern Times Cafe. Open for takeout/only. Phone and online orders. Delivery by the restaurant. Usual hours.

Northbound Smokehouse Brisket. Open for takeout/only. Call for pickup. Usual hours.

Parkway Pizza. Open for takeout/only. Online and phone orders. Delivery by Bite Squad. Usual hours.

Quang*. Open for takeout/only. Phone and online orders. Delivery by Bite Squad & DoorDash. Usual hours.

Reverie. Open for takeout/only. Online and phone orders. Restricted hours. Beer and wine available.


Smoke in the Pit*. Open for takeout/only. Online and phone orders. Delivery by Bite Squad. No curbside pickup. Pre-order grab and go.

SoberFish*. Open for takeout/delivery only. Online and phone orders. Delivery by Bite Squad & DoorDash. Call for carryout pickup. Restricted hours. Pre-order grab and go.

The Howe. Open for takeout/only. Delivery by Bite Squad & Uber Eats. Usual hours.

Triio Plant-based*. Open for takeout/only. Delivery only. Full menu. Usual hours.

Bakery/Coffee/Deli


Geek Love Café (in Moon Palace). Ordering window and pickup north side of building. Restricted hours.


Lake Minnetonka. Free curbside pickup. Usual hours.

Wedge & Linden Hills Co-op. Open with restrictions. Both produce and pantry items. See website for more.

Mother Earth Gardens. Open with restrictions. Both produce and pantry items. See website for more.

Target (Lake & Minnehaha). Open with restrictions. See website for online ordering with curbside pickup. New – delivery offered – see website. Slightly restricted hours.

Trader Joe's (downtown Mpls). Open to public. Free sheltered park- ing. Usual hours.


West Bank Bakehouse. Open to public. See website for details. Restricted hours.

Thrive Market. Market boxes, mostly non-perishables, no produce. Own brand very good value, mostly organic. Lots of selection. thrillmarket.com

Pharmacy
CVS (Target - Minneapolis). Open to public. Usual hours.

Currents. Open to public. Usual hours.

Alabarda*. Open to public. No online or phone orders. No delivery. No curbside pickup. Restricted hours.

Produce Exchange (at MGM). Open with restrictions. Online and phone orders. Delivery by Mercato, Tom Thumb (38th Street). Open to public. Usual hours.


Delivery Services for Groceries and Staples
Instacart. Aldi, Bed Bath & Beyond, Costco, Cub Foods, CVS, Fresh Thyme, Lakeview Co-op, Lunds & Byerlys, Pesto, United, Staples, Winkels Noddy Co.

Mercato. Coastal Seafoods, Eastside Food Co-op, Produce Exchange @ MGM
Shipt. CVS, Kowalski’s, Office Max, Pego, Target

Delivery Services for Market Boxes, Meals or Meal Kits
Delivery by Bite Squad. Usual hours. 7 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Hello Fresh. Meal kits and extras. Slightly lower prices. www.hellofresh.com

Hungry Root. Grocery deliveries centered around meals using prepared foods. All vegan. Add-ons. www.hungryroot.com

Imperfect Foods. Market boxes, organic produce, meat and fish, pantry items. www.imperfectfoods.com

Local Crate. Twin Cities exclusive meal kits by chefs like Gavin Keyesyn, Ann Kim. localcrate.com Can be picked up in stores or delivered.

Misfits Market. Market boxes, all produce organic, extras at discounts. www.misfitsmarket.com

Origin Meals. Local company. No-prep meals. Very good for keto or paleo, no very few veg options. www.originmeals.com

Purple Carrot. Meal kits and extras. All plant-based. www.purplecarrot.com


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Rain Tai February Event
John Jennings and David Braine
February 16, 4:30 p.m.
Online
Rain Tai is proud to present a virtual conversation with John Jennings and David Braine, the adapter and illustrator, respectively, of the debut title from MIFF Press, Who We Found, the first of the new "America First" series. "Who We Found" is a graphic novel adaptation of Hugo, Nebula, and World Science-Fiction win- ner Nnedi Okorafor’s short story "On The Road." The presenters will discuss the new book, new imprint, and the importance of increasing access to great speculative writing by people of color. Free to attend. Registration re- quired at https://www.crowdcast.io/e/jennings-braine-register. Books can be purchased at event, or in ad- vance, from Magers & Quinn Booksell- ers in Minneapolis. More information about the authors and this event can be found here: https://www.raintai.com/john-jennings-and-david-braine/

**Zealous Hollows** Series Presents: Natakki Garrett
February 18, 7 p.m.
Online
Mixed Blood Theatre hosts Oregon Shakespeare Festival (OSF) Artistic Director Natakki Garrett in its newest virtual "Zealous Hollows" event on Feb. 18 at 7 p.m. Garrett reflects on the history of the American theater, race and the American theater, and the damages of systemic racism and white supremacy. "Zealous Hollows" is a project of Mixed Blood Theatre to provide the com- munity with real-time conversations between artists, cultural leaders, politicians, and thought leaders in an in- timate setting. The program allows au- diences to zoom into a different facet of a known personal identity and opportunity for deeper community dialogue. Natakki Garrett has developed this event, or an ad- vance, from Magers & Quinn Booksell- ers in Minneapolis. More information about the authors and this event can be found here: https://www.facebook.com/john.jennings-and-david.braine/
Rent Control, page 11

Housing Co-op Community.

All three women are also leaders in the Minneapolis United for Rent Control (MURC). Although they all four (including Robin) work very closely together, the panelists explained the clear they were speaking as advo- cates of that, and as an en- dorsement of Robin’s campaign.

Jentzen kicked off the discus- sion with an answer to the first question: What makes for suc- cessful rent control policy and what are the most important details to pay attention to? She added back to how bad the response to the COVID pandemic was, and insure us to imagine how much better it would have been had it been developed by health care professionals. Similarly, it’s evident the city has a housing crisis, which was here well before COVID but is now more pronounced. This needs a community-informed response. Rent control is a good idea, but it needs to be managed properly. The important detail is to be- long to a community that is develop- er-friendly loopholes.

Nichole expanded on those themes. Landlords of car- eouts in rent control include set- ting the allowable increases at CPI-plus (Consumer Price In- dex) plus some percentage. This limits guaranteed profit to landlords and developers. Another carve-out is for owners who rent directly to tenants.

In later rounds, Ginger drew a picture of what the future, if we want it, would look like. Homelessness impacts all of us, and it’s not just an issue for Individu- als. It impacts the availability of health care resources, crime and safety, and the use of tax dollars. A 2017 study presented by the National Alli- ance to End Homelessness re- veals that by properly sheltering people it is estimated that health care costs would be reduced by 59 percent, emergency services by 61 percent and hospitaliza- tions by 77 percent. The study estimates an overall savings of $4,800 per year of sheltered people. This is an ethical issue. It involves economic and racial disparities and inequities. Na- tive Americans made up more than 40% of the homeless community and have been homeless or unsheltered in 2020 while they represent just 1.1 per- cent of the U.S. population. But put simply, without the right thing to do.

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The Grease Pit Bike Shop. Open winter hours – Sat & Sun only.

Health Care

CUHCC & CUHC Dental. By ap- pointment. Information-based sliding scale fees. Online hours.

East Lake Animal Clinic. By ap- pointment. Usual hours.


Minnehaha Animal Hospital. By ap- pointment. Usual hours.

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The Biden health care plan doesn’t go far enough

BY JOHN KOLSTAD

Is President Biden’s proposal regarding health care the improvement we need? How does it compare to Universal Single Payer (Improved Medicare for All)?

Biden’s plan reads like a campaign promo piece. He speaks in glowing terms about how great the Obama Affordable Care Act (ACA) is and how he’ll make it better. The ACA did some good things, but it has not solved our health care disaster, and it has left many millions with no coverage.

Health care policy is very complex and can be intimidating. The cost and complication is primarily caused by the insurance industry. Insurance companies often get between us and our doctors.

The rest of the industrialized world has solved this problem with universal health care through a Single Payer. They do it to make their nation more economically competitive and provide a healthy, happy, productive workforce. Single Payer is all in, no one out. You have your choice of doctor, hospital or clinic. It costs half as much as the U.S. model using insurance, and the cost to you is determined by your ability to pay. It has better health outcomes and there is no annual enrollment.

Biden’s proposal is filled with good-sounding phrases, some misleading at best. For example, the piece on the public option uses “... Medicare like ...”. It is not Medicare, it is publicly subsidized private insurance. It states, “... reduce the cost of health insurance ...” and “… more affordable option ...”, again achieved with subsidies. Biden plans to use our public money to reduce costs. Money from one pocket to the next to subsidize insurance companies and call it savings.

Biden is lifting the income cap, allowing those with much higher incomes to benefit from the subsidies and tax credits compared to the ACA. He still has deductibles and out of pocket costs. He claims this will end surprise billing for out of network care and end market concentration.

Biden will repeal the existing law explicitly barring Medicare from negotiating lower prices with drug companies, but Medicare for All would negotiate drug prices for all Americans, giving them the leverage of the biggest market in the world to reduce the price. Biden also plans to limit price increases on generics and other drugs, allow U.S. citizens to buy drugs from other countries, end tax breaks for drug advertisement and improve the supplies of generics. Maternal and infant mortality rates in the U.S. are at the levels of non-industrialized countries. Biden wants to work on this issue. A Single Payer System would alleviate this problem.

Biden’s plan makes many promises. It is complicated and expensive. It will not stabilize this nation or reduce the anxiety across the country. Biden said it himself: “Nothing is going to change.” His proposal will only be a marginal improvement.

A universal Single Payer system would be simpler, less expensive and everyone would be covered. This would help all people and would help the small and medium businesses crushed by COVID-19, increase jobs, wages and the economy. The entire industrialized world is already doing it.

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