



# Regent Neighborhood

February 2021 Newsletter | [regentneighborhood.org](http://regentneighborhood.org)

ASSOCIATION

## Light in a Season of Darkness



*Neighbors gather in darkness and light, observing the shortest day of the year with candles. Photo: Lisa Goldman*



*Four candles lit to remember the 400,000 people who have died nationwide from COVID-19. Photo: Ronnie Hess*



*Luminarias or small paper lanterns light up the neighborhood on the evening of the winter solstice. Photos: Victor Forberger*



## Regent Neighborhood ASSOCIATION

**Regent Neighborhood Association**  
**P.O. Box 5655**  
**Madison, WI 53705**

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mary.czyszczaklyne@wisc.edu

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rlhess@wisc.edu

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sgjones2@wisc.edu

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danocallaghan@gmail.com

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jess.osiecki@gmail.com

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rosner7@charter.net

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SustainableRNA@gmail.com

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*Graphic Design by Mary Sarnowski*

## A Note from the President

One reward of serving on the RNA Board is representing the generosity of the neighborhood through our grants.

Recognizing the economic challenges of the pandemic the RNA Board has made three grants to support housing and food assistance. The RNA contributed \$5,000 to Centro Hispano for use by the Latinx Consortium for Action for rental assistance and eviction prevention. Last year the RNA supported Centro Hispano's Escalera program at West High providing academic support for Latinx students. The RNA contributed \$2,500 to The Madison West Area Collaborative's food relief program and \$1,000 to the Tenant Resource Center for rental assistance and eviction prevention.

For the past five years your contributions have funded need-based scholarships directed to West High graduating seniors who have demonstrated engagement in multicultural activities and academic success. Thanks to your contributions we've reached our \$5,000 scholarship goal and look forward to helping another two deserving students this spring. Thank you for continuing to support these scholarships acknowledging and celebrating the diversity, the energy, and the enthusiasm that the West High School students add to our neighborhood.

While these grants total nearly 20% of the RNA's fund balance, we anticipate continuing to respond to community needs with a focus on equity and keeping faith with the intent of RNA members to support good work in our neighborhood and our neighbors facing unprecedented financial challenges.

— Jon



*RNA Board President*  
*Jon Miskowski*

## RNA Board Meetings via Zoom

- **February 22, 2021**
- **March 22, 2021**
- **April 26, 2021**
- **May 17, 2021**

The RNA Board meets on the fourth Monday of each month via Zoom until further notice. Zoom meeting information will be posted on the RNA listserv the day before the meeting. These meetings are open to the general public. Agenda items are solicited through the RNA listserv or can be emailed to jonmiskowski@gmail.com.

## Join the RNA Google Group —

[groups.google.com/group/regentneighborhoodassn](https://groups.google.com/group/regentneighborhoodassn)



## Meet Our New Board Member—Stephanie Jones

Until I started to write this, I really had no clear idea why it took me so long to join the RNA Board, or in fact, why I joined at all. I have been living blissfully on Chamberlain Avenue for the last seven years.

I did it because the COVID-19 pandemic has seriously restricted my ability to meet new people, and it turns out that new people are a central part of my life-force.

Since last March, I've been signing up for committees and task forces and groups at what for me is a surprising rate. The *why* didn't dawn on me until a telephone conversation with my sister the other day. I was simultaneously listening to her go on and on while trying to write an article for the newsletter introducing myself. Noticing my distraction, she demanded to know why I wasn't riveted by her dilemma about snow tires versus all-season radials. I told her I had joined my neighborhood association,



*Communications Chair  
Stephanie Jones*

had volunteered to chair its communications committee, and had to say something about myself. Her response was, "Oh, how quaint, but who needs a neighborhood association when you have places like NextDoor.com and all that?" What a shocking thing to say? Right?

As I thought about it, I realized that it's precisely because of places like NextDoor.com that I became part of the RNA Board. Social media is fine for getting advice on a local plumber or complaining about the neighbor's barking dog, but it's no substitute for being part of a group of people devoted to building and maintaining a sense of shared community. When I was a child, my parents *participated* in our community. The town itself was too small for neighborhood groups, more like one big locality into which our family unit was tightly woven, like a safety net.

It's hard for me to imagine that NextDoor.com will ever offer that kind of comfort. Also, for the sake of my own 12-year-old son, I decided to join the RNA Board to show him that 'caring' is an action verb. My hope is that he'll see the value in civic engagement through my example. ■

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## Alder Report—District 5

Dear Neighbors,

As you know, I have decided not to run for re-election for the City of Madison Common Council District 5 seat. My term ends in April 2021. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve our city as District 5 Alder since 2009, including serving as Council President twice. I have learned so much and have done my best to represent you, and to advance racial equity and social justice.



*Alder Shiva Bidar*

Many have asked me what have been the highlights of my time on the Council. I could list many policy debates and budget decisions, but instead I am choosing to list some of the moments and people that will forever remain in my heart:

- The day I first took office with your support and the most diverse group of friends present cheering me on;
- Conversations and emails with you, my constituents;
- The poetry readings at the beginning of Council meetings every quarter;

- Having Jesse Jackson speak to us in the Council chambers;
- Arranging for all Council members to meet with the Dalai Lama at Deer Park Monastery;
- Arvina Martin being sworn in as the first Ho Chunk Alder in our history;
- Meeting and working with many incredible colleagues who have become great friends;
- City staff! They are incredible, dedicated civil servants without whom I could not have done any of my work.

Much work still needs to be done and a steadfast commitment to racial equity must remain at the center of the work ahead. Thank you for your support and confidence over the past 12 years. ■

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## Dane County Board Report—District 10

I hope this edition of the RNA Newsletter finds you and your family safe and healthy, enjoying 2021. The Dane County Board continues to meet virtually, passing our first (and hopefully only) budget entirely virtually in November.

At our first meeting of the New Year, the Board heard from Tracy Herold, Director of the Dane County Library Service (DCLS), on library access during the pandemic and resources available to the public. The DCLS is the primary public library service for many residents of Dane County. Director Herold's presentation to the Board touched on library access during the pandemic, how to get a digital library card and use the Libby app to get books. More information on the DCLS can be found at [dcls.info/](http://dcls.info/)

Food security remains a need and a priority in our communities. Because of this, the Board made an additional \$5 million allocation to Second Harvest



*Supervisor Jeremy Levin*

Foodbank to continue a program that launched in April to stock county food pantries with food from local farmers.

The Board also passed a resolution that would prohibit discrimination on the basis of protective hairstyles. The resolution was introduced by our State Representative/County Board Supervisor Shelia Stubbs, and prohibits discrimination upon traits historically associated with race, including hairstyles.

The ordinance builds on the work of the CROWN (Creating a Respectful and Open Workplace for Natural Hair) Act, which seeks to ensure protection against discrimination based on race-based hairstyles by extending statutory protection to hair texture and protective styles such as braids, locs, twists, and knots in the workplace and public schools.

Should you or your family have an interest in specific Dane County projects or initiatives, please contact me at [levin.jeremy@co.dane.wi.us](mailto:levin.jeremy@co.dane.wi.us) or call me at 608.577.9335. ■

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## A Message From Representative Shelia Stubbs

Moving to Beloit at the age of five, I grew to love the state of Wisconsin and helping my neighbors and community. I have represented my community at both the state and municipal level. As your representative, I have worked to combat racial injustice, and promote equity across the board. I have worked to address racism as a public health crisis, and to support funding for minority health grants. As a County Board supervisor, I have acted to implement crisis intervention teams, and community restorative courts in Dane County.



*Representative  
Shelia Stubbs*

As the first Black legislator to represent Dane County in the Wisconsin State Assembly, I know I cannot and will not let my district down. As your representative, I have fought to take on meaningful leadership roles. I am currently Co-Chair of the Speakers Taskforce on Racial Disparities, and the Chair of the Wisconsin Legislative Black Caucus. In these roles, I strive to create meaningful change, and further the progress of social justice. As I work

to bring progress at the state level, I am heartened to know that our federal government is on the right track as well. I believe U.S. Senators Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock will be the deciding factor in federal investment in education, support for racial justice, and our nation's plan to combat COVID-19.

However, the attacks on January 6 in Washington D.C. showed that there is much work to be done. I was heartbroken to see the seat of our democracy attacked on such a scale. If we want to create progress, we need to combat misinformation, and dedicate ourselves to creating real, meaningful change. As we move into this new year, I look forward to continuing to represent the people of the 77th Assembly District, and fighting for reforms that will make Wisconsin a better place for everyone. ■

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# From Alder Candidate, Regina Vidaver

**There is no primary in the 5th Aldermanic district on February 16, 2021, and Regina Vidaver is running unopposed in the April 6, 2021 election.**

I am pleased to have the opportunity to serve the people of District 5 on the Common Council. Alder Bidar and I will work closely together to ensure a smooth transition, and, true to the commitment she has made to the people of Madison these past 12 years, she has pledged to remain available to me as an advisor.



Regina Vidaver

Photo: Jeanine Schneider

I have lived in the district for the past 17 years, with a previous six-year stint as a graduate student at UW-Madison (PhD, Cellular & Molecular Biology). My husband and I have two children, both students at West (Go Regents!).

I am currently a member of the Madison Food Policy Council, Healthy Retail Access Program, and the Regional Agriculture and Food Sovereignty Work Group. I also serve on the Madison Metropolitan School District Advanced Learning Advisory Committee, and the Board of Directors for Beth Israel Center. Professionally, I oversee statewide chronic disease and cancer prevention programs for the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

Issues of concern for our community include our environment, the economy, and equity.

**Environment:** Madison's lakes and wildlife are some of the city's most beloved assets. But decisions made in the areas surrounding Madison affect the quality of our lakes and streams, and impact our groundwater. I will work across municipalities to reduce chemicals that impair our waterways and the flora and fauna that depend on them. Recent heavy rains have exposed the need for reconstruction of University Avenue to prevent future flooding. With this reconstruction, walkability in the area, and congestion around streets leading into the hospital complex will be improved. The plan also includes modifications that will facilitate bus rapid transit between high use areas of the city.

**Economy:** Madison's next city budgeting process will be more complex as a result of the economic

downturn from the COVID-19 pandemic. I pledge to make budgeting decisions that consider disparities between those who were doing well before the pandemic and those who weren't; we need a budgetary path forward that lifts up those most in need of help, while ensuring stalwart businesses and organizations in our community continue to thrive.

**Equity:** Many in our community have been priced out of living a reasonable distance from their jobs. Longer commutes contribute to pollution, traffic congestion, and climate change. Our elders, who often live on fixed incomes, benefit from being close to community services, including medical care. A possible apartment building on University Avenue, which may include some affordable housing, is a step in the right direction towards improving housing access in our community.


Meet Regina Vidaver  
at our RNA meeting  
Monday, March 22, 7 pm

Zoom meeting information will  
be posted on the RNA Listserv.

It is critically important to apply an equity lens to our law enforcement practices. Recently, Madison instituted a civilian oversight board and will be hiring an independent police monitor to work collaboratively with our new police chief and the force as a whole. The board and monitor need sufficient resources and time to build

relationships, identify opportunities for improvement, and collaboratively develop solutions.

The number one commitment of any Alder is to respond to the needs of their constituents. I will honor that commitment by being present in the district, responding to concerns as they arise, and actively soliciting ideas and opinions from you, my neighbors. Prior to the election on April 6, I can be reached at Regina.4.Madison@gmail.com. ■



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- Carolyn (Fox Ave.)

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## Greetings from Randall!

Perhaps you've experienced running into a celebrity of some sort whom you'd only seen through the media. It's somewhat thrilling to see such folks "in person." How our students and staff long for such encounters with one another! For now, it's Zoom Zoom Zoom.

We often start our class morning meetings with an icebreaker, an inclusion activity. At an adult training a couple of years ago, my group was asked to share something about ourselves that you wouldn't know by looking at us. One diminutive man responded, "I'm six-foot-six and weigh two-hundred and fifty pounds." Our students must wonder what their teachers really look like. A reverse parade would satisfy their curiosity, but present guidelines do not allow such an event.

We are putting the pieces together for the gradual return to in-person "face-to-face" learning. For now, we're limited to eye contact in this look, but don't touch mode. "Here's lookin' atcha!" has taken on a whole new meaning. We yearn for the hand on the shoulder, the pat on the back, the high fives, and, yes, the hugs.

While on recess duty several months ago, I noticed a teacher exploding onto the playground, running full-force after a student who was doing all he could to escape her. I couldn't see their faces from my vantage point, so I joined in the chase to ensure all was right. The teacher gained the advantage when the child looked over his shoulder and stumbled. After quickly checking the well-being of the giggling youngster, the teacher touched the lad on the head



*Randall Principal John Wallace enjoys a sanctioned "high five" with one of his Raccoons.*

and then took off—now the pursued. It was a game of tag that still warms my heart today. Such love taps serve as the glue that binds us.

Go Raccoons!

John J. Wallace, Ph.D.

Principal, Randall Elementary School ■

## West High School Report—

West High School, like the rest of the community, is looking forward to spring and getting ready for reopening West, whenever it is safe to do so. Are we ready? Yes, we are. Rooms have been de-cluttered, and plans made. That said, we continue to follow Dane County Public Health, MMDS and CDC guidelines.

That's the easy answer. The truth is, however, that we know the impact that the lack of face-to-face instruction places on our students and their families (and all of us, frankly). We know



*Karen Boran, West High School Principal*

that humans need other humans to learn, to grow, and to meet their personal and professional goals.

We're looking toward spring and planning ways to support our seniors. Details will come as our students, their families and our West graduation team meet to plan. We're looking at how we can build on what we've learned over the past ten months about what works so that we bring it forward when we return in the fall.

As far as school updates, classes for Semester 2 began on January 25.

Thanks for your continued support.

Karen M. Boran

West High School Principal ■



# Greetings from Franklin!

Happy 2021 from Franklin Elementary School! We have had a wonderful, albeit unconventional, first semester of the school year virtually, and are learning and growing and having fun. While MMSD will remain virtual for the time being, we have been busy preparing for our eventual reopening. We know that whenever we come back to brick-and-mortar school, we will need to have many systems and structures in place to support social distancing and proper hygiene. We have some new stump circles on our front lawn and have revitalized the Franklin Forest area so that students can learn outdoors as much as possible upon our return. The safety and well being of our students is our top priority.

Here are a few highlights from first semester:

- Our students participated in Project Based Learning (PBL) focused on their identities and community heroes.
- We had weekly Friday all school dance parties where we often had 150+ students and staff join in for dancing and celebrating. A highlight was a dress up dance party near Halloween.
- We held an all-school virtual election in November and voted on a Franklin mask design!
- We have had five material distribution days so far where we passed out countless packets, materials for off screen learning (whiteboards, math manipulatives), and fun items (finger flashlights, Bucky Badger masks).
- We had an exciting countdown to winter break with several all-school zooms and fun surprises for the kids each day!
- Our second graders worked with NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, and First United Methodist Church to send letters of hope and encouragement to folks experiencing homelessness in our community.
- Our PTO hosted our first virtual Glo Ball dance party on Zoom!



Principal Sylla Zarov at the school's virtual dance party. Says Zarov, "We are bananas about Franklin School."

From all of us at Franklin, we wish you a happy new year full of laughter, love, and good health.

Sylla Zarov, Principal, Franklin Elementary School ■



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# Neighborhood Architect—Alvan Small

by Michael Bridgeman, host of PBS Wisconsin's Remarkable Homes of Wisconsin; and Madison Trust for Historic Preservation volunteer docent.

The Regent Neighborhood is blessed with wonderful architecture. There is much to admire beyond the important houses by Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright that crown University Heights. Many gems are the work of Madison architects including Alvan Small, who not only designed for the neighborhood, but lived here, too.

Small was one of a handful of Madison architects who absorbed the tenets and forms of the Midwestern-born Prairie Style. Wright was the dominant figure and form-giver, but others brought their own sensibilities to the style. In 1909 Small demonstrated solid Prairie work with a house for Henry and Minnie Wolff.



Henry C. and Minnie Wolff House (1909), 6 S. Prospect St.  
Photo: Michael Bridgeman

Small uses the Prairie Style vocabulary of low-pitched roofs, wide overhanging eaves, and windows organized in bands; the second story windows are linked by a wide belt course that surrounds the house. He uses materials that mark the Prairie Style: brick at the foundation, stucco for wall surfaces, and wood trim. Ornament is minimal, principally the vertical boards on the second story.

Alvan Edmund Small (1869–1932) was born in Sun Prairie. After high school he came to Madison to work for Conover and Porter, an architectural firm with a regional practice. Small went to Chicago in 1899 to work for Louis Sullivan, a seminal figure in American architecture for whom Wright had earlier served as principal draftsman. Small returned to Madison in 1900 to partner with Lew Porter and established his own office in 1907 after Porter left the firm to become supervising architect for the state Capitol construction.



A. E. Small  
Photo: Capital Times,  
March 10, 1925

Over time Small's Prairie Style houses became more distinctive as seen in the house for Aaron and Ruth Johnson. He continued to use brick, stucco and wood, but the form is a simple box compared to the cruciform plan of the Wolff House. The eave across the front hangs low over the second-story windows, now organized into a single band. The window panes are divided only on the horizontal, echoing other horizontal lines in the design. The composition forgoes fussiness and ornament, and the front entry door is left of center, creating a subtly asymmetrical façade.



Aaron G. & Ruth Johnson House (1916),  
1713 Chadbourne Ave. Photo: Michael Bridgeman



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In the house that Small designed for himself and his wife Katherine in 1910, he combined elements of the Prairie and Craftsman styles. The roof sweeps down, bungalow-style, from the central ridge. Wood clapboards dominate the exterior and stucco is secondary.



Alvan E. & Katherine Small House (1910), 2208 Rowley Ave.  
Photo: Michael Bridgeman

After World War I, tastes changed, the Prairie Style had declined, and revival styles were in demand by high-end clients. By 1922 Small had established a partnership with John Flad and their residential work, like the house for Agnes Kelley (1924), looked to historical styles, in this case Georgian. Most of the houses built in the neighborhood in the 1920s and 1930s use revival styles, especially Tudor, Dutch, Colonial, and Mediterranean.



Agnes Kelley House (1924), 1918 Regent St.  
Photo: RNA

There is no identified work by Small after 1926 and he died in 1932. In the nearly 30 years he practiced here, the city’s population tripled (from 19,164 in 1910 to 57,899 in 1930) and Small did a range of work including houses, commercial buildings and schools (such as the neighborhood’s Randall School in 1906, designed in Tudor revival style). Much of his best residential work is found in the Regent Neighborhood where professionals and business leaders building in the area provided the ideal clientele for Small’s work, especially in the “progressive” styles. ■

## Alvan Small Buildings in the Regent Neighborhood

These are buildings in the neighborhood designed or attributed to Alvan Small. If you know of others, please contact Ronnie Hess at [rlhess@wisc.edu](mailto:rlhess@wisc.edu)

<b>Name of Building</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Built</b>
Charles E. & Genevieve Allan House	2014 Chamberlain Ave.	1909
George & Minnie Broissard House	2245 Rowley Ave.	1911
Laurence C. & Mary Burke House	1926 Rowley Ave.	1913
Clarence S. & Eve Hean House	2017 Kendall Ave.	1915
Aaron G. & Ruth Johnson House	1713 Chadbourne Ave.	1916
Chester L. & Caroline Jones House	1717 Summit Ave.	1912
Agnes Kelley House <sup>1</sup>	1918 Regent St.	1918
Genivera E. Loft House	2121 Kendall Ave.	1923
Thomas S. & Josephine Morris House	1815 Summit Ave.	1911
Vern & Louise Pfanku House	2201 Rowley Ave.	1923–24
Randall School <sup>2</sup>	1802 Regent St.	1906
Mae Robson House <sup>3</sup>	10 Vista Rd.	1913
Alvan E. & Katherine Small House	2208 Rowley Ave.	1910
Henry C. & Minnie Wolff House <sup>4</sup>	6 S. Prospect Ave.	1909

<sup>1</sup>Alvan Small for Flad & Assoc.      <sup>2</sup>Alvan Small for Lew F. Porter Assoc.      <sup>3</sup>Attributed to Small      <sup>4</sup>Madison Landmark



## Poet's Corner—Nancy Jesse

In this edition of the newsletter, we feature award-winning writer Nancy Jesse. Her fiction, nonfiction and poetry have been published in *Wisconsin People and Ideas*, *Midwest Review*, *Verse Wisconsin*, *Creative Wisconsin*, and most recently in *The Ariel Anthology: Discovery* (2020). Jesse grew up on a dairy farm in northwestern Wisconsin, taught English at West High School and lives in the Regent Neighborhood with her husband, Paul Menzel.

### All Is Memory and Translation\*

I'm trying to piece it together:  
the story of my Czech cousin Josef  
speaking to me in an outdoor café in 1993  
in Prague—our conversation about the War.

I, not born until 1950 in America,  
he, a man who'd gazed deep into depravity  
as a slave laborer in Budapest,  
before walking back home, a rare survivor  
among the dying, he'd found himself  
one lovely spring morning in 1945  
standing in front of a once-locked gate  
looking out at an eerie-quiet street.

I wanted to understand his story, to rescue it from  
vague notions and blurry images  
working through double translations—  
Josef's Czech into German, my German into English,

I think I discovered that he'd transformed  
his kind heart, gentle mind, the soul itself into  
an automaton building machines to kill people.  
Through this transformation he survived on one potato  
a day, day after day until he could return home.

At least I think that's what I heard him say that day—  
a kind and gentle old man in a sunny café in Prague.

\*From *The Ariel Anthology: Discovery* (2020), reprinted  
with permission. ■



Nancy Jesse



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## What's Cooking—Meet Patricia Mulvey

The RNA neighborhood's Patricia Mulvey founded one of the first personal chef businesses in Madison. She has been active in the local foods movement for two decades, including her work on the Fundraising Cookbooks for the Fair Share CSA Coalition, *From Asparagus to Zucchini* and *Farm, Fresh and Fast*. She now develops recipes for her website LocalThyme.com, which focuses on seasonal, vegetable-centric cooking. When the pandemic ends, she is eager to get back to teaching hands-on cooking lessons. Meanwhile, try cooking up what's below.



Patricia Mulvey

### Roasted Butternut Squash with Sage Brown Butter (serves 4)

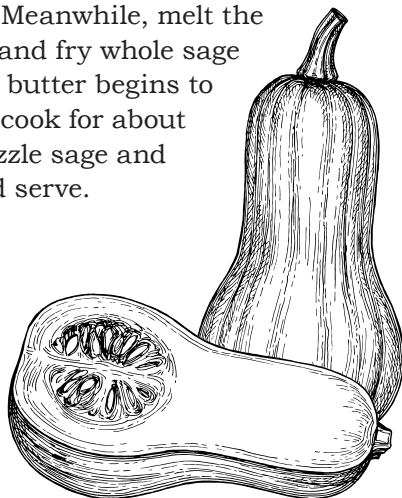
I made this simple, classic dish and simply couldn't get enough of it—it tastes SO GOOD!

#### Ingredients

1 butternut squash, or any medium-sized winter squash, or half a large butternut, peeled, seeded, and diced  
2 T. olive oil  
Salt and pepper  
2 T. butter  
2 to 4 leaves fresh sage  
2 cloves garlic, minced

#### Instructions

Preheat oven to 425°. Peel, seed and dice the squash, then toss with oil, salt and pepper. Spread in a single layer on a rimmed baking tray. Bake until tender and browned, turning once half-way through, about 30–40 minutes. Meanwhile, melt the butter in a small pan, and fry whole sage leaves until crispy and butter begins to brown. Add garlic and cook for about 30 seconds longer. Drizzle sage and butter over squash and serve.



### Beef and Butternut Chili (serves 6)

We think it is high time to make a pot of chili! We've added a little cinnamon and unsweetened chocolate to "mole-nize" this, and we hope you enjoy it this way. It gives the chili a richer, warm note. Enjoy with cornbread, rice, or tortillas to round it out, and feel free to garnish with your favorite chili toppings.

#### Ingredients

2 T. olive oil, divided use  
1 lb. beef chuck, cubed  
1 onion, peeled, chopped  
1 bell pepper, cored, seeded, chopped  
1 poblano pepper, cored, seeded, chopped  
2 cloves garlic, minced  
1 T. chipotle in adobo sauce, puréed (or to taste)  
2 T. chili powder, more or less, to taste  
1 t. cumin, ground  
1 t. coriander, ground  
½ t. cinnamon  
1 T. cider vinegar  
2 tomatoes, cored and diced, or 1 14-oz. can diced  
3 c. beef stock,  
1 oz. unsweetened chocolate, grated  
1 butternut squash, peeled, seeded, cubed  
1 14-oz. can black beans, rinsed and drained  
Salt and pepper, to taste

#### Instructions

Preheat a large, heavy pot over high heat. Add 1 T. olive oil and heat until it shimmers. Generously season beef with salt and pepper and, working in batches, brown the beef on all sides. Remove browned meat to a bowl and reserve.

Add remaining oil to same pot over moderately high heat. Add the onion and peppers. Sauté until the onion is almost tender, about 7–8 minutes, scraping up any browned bits on the bottom of the pan. Add the garlic, chipotle, chili powder, cumin, coriander, and cinnamon, and stir, scraping the bottom of the pot so the spices are gently toasted, but not scorched, for 1–2 minutes. Add the cider vinegar, tomatoes with their juice, and stock. Bring to a boil and skim off any foam that rises to the top. Stir the beef back in.

Stir in the grated chocolate. Reduce heat to medium, cover and simmer until meat begins to become tender, about 1½ hours. Stir in squash and occasionally stir gently, allowing the liquid to reduce some until squash is tender, about 15–20 minutes. Stir in the drained beans, and cook for another 5 minutes to warm. Taste, and add salt and pepper as desired. ■



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# Pasture and Plenty Plans Expansion

Christy McKenzie, Founder, Pasture and Plenty | 608.347.9300 | [christy@madlocalfood.com](mailto:christy@madlocalfood.com)

Happy New Year! The air is full of hope and I am writing with good news to share. Here at Pasture and Plenty we have an amazing opportunity to purchase the building next door and expand our work on University Avenue. We're growing our meal kit business, restaurant and deli that serves public and private (now virtual) events, classes and workshops.

At our core, we are driven by our mission to create space for the community to gather

around local food, to make eating well and eating local easier and more delicious every day. Our P&P team is putting together plans for expansion into the next door space, a space we are calling *The P&P Makeshop*. We are working closely with our small business mentors and the Food Finance Institute to draft strategic and sustainable business plans.

*The Makeshop* will house a larger production space for Pasture and Plenty and affords room to build a business incubator to support women-owned and BIPOC-owned food businesses to grow in a shared kitchen space. The three partner businesses we are working with are ones we know well; they are good people, making great food and will make wonderful neighbors. We can't wait to see what *The Makeshop* will bring to this corner, in all the best and tastiest ways. The expansion will add richness to our community and our greater local food system, with space for these businesses to flourish!

We are deeply grateful for the neighborhood support that has helped us keep our lights on this year,

and allows us the chance to create this vision for growth. And thanks to this community support, we have reached our capacity (not sure if you noticed, but we recently had to rent an exterior freezer to accommodate the work)! More space is needed.

Through this plan we will achieve a goal to make an even deeper community impact, amplifying and fostering innovation. And, while we knew we wanted to do this in the near term (on the five- to seven-year plan, not three-and-a-half-years-and-a-pandemic plan), the building is here and available!

We will not be able to do this alone. We are looking for community support as we raise funds for the project. We have launched a Kickstarter for *The P&P Makeshop* business incubator, with a goal to raise half of the working capital it will take to get the incubator on its feet. Matching funds will come from our personal investment, small business development funds, grants and the resources the partnering businesses themselves will bring. And, we are also looking for a few angel investors to provide Slow Money, low interest loans to support our expansion. If you would like to be a part of the continuing story of building a vibrant food community in the University/Highland Avenues corridor, I would love to connect with you. You have been our champions since we opened, and we can't wait to start the next chapter with you. ■

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## Change is Happening at Genin's Autocare—Rick Genin

In late August 2020, Genin's began operating solely as a 6-bay Napa Gold Autocare Center. We have discontinued operation as a Mobil Gas Station. No more gas.

I have pumped gasoline on this one mile stretch of University Avenue for the best part of the last 44 years. The past 28 years have been here at Genin's, 3505 University Avenue. I certainly have enjoyed pumping gas, especially in the spring, summer, and fall. My dad, Bill Genin, was born in the Sunset Village Neighborhood, bought his first house with his wife Lucy, and raised 8 children in their home he still owns not far from Genin's Autocare.

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### **From the Editor**

Last spring, soon after the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis at the hands of police, and the demonstrations that followed, I was struck by a series of signs in a neighbor's yard that said, besides Black Lives Matter, Do the Work. (A suggested reading list followed.)

Across America, people now more aware of systemic racism are doing that work: thinking, reading, discussing, acting to bring about change. Granted, some neighbors have been working for social justice for a long time. But for others, this may be new.

Then, a few weeks ago, just before Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, I was surprised to find myself on an email list to about 75 friends of RNA resident Samantha Crownover. She asked us how, indeed, our thinking, reading, changing were going. I wrote her back with my news, but also encouraged her to contribute something to the newsletter. Perhaps her essay will foster more discussion in the neighborhood, much as the essay submitted by Julian Edgoose did in a past edition. ■

## **Op-Ed: What I'm Reading, What I've Learned**

**by Samantha Crownover**

When we moved from downtown Madison to the Regent Neighborhood, I wasn't expecting to see more diversity. But being born and raised in the Milwaukee area, I was relieved to meet neighbors from a wide range of backgrounds!

Like many of my neighbors, over the past several years I have been endeavoring to learn more about closing the opportunity- and achievement-gap in Madison. I decided to create a kind of syllabus for myself, including the screening of a documentary about Wisconsin's first African-American Secretary of State, Vel Phillips, "Dream Big Dreams," at the First Unitarian Society, complete with eye-opening talk back. I took Justified Anger Coalition's "African American History" course, including built-in time at home to sit and reflect. I plunged in and became chairperson of EAGLE School's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. I confronted an uncomfortable truth about classical music and privilege. I also compiled an ambitious reading list that began with the popular book, *White Fragility*, by Robin DiAngelo. I was curious to learn why the author thinks that "white progressives" (this is ME) are unwilling—or unable—to acknowledge their own racism.

Not too long after I finished DiAngelo's book and several others, I attended two neighborhood meetings about consolidating Capitol High, a MMSD alternative high school, at the Hoyt School location. According to its principal, Capitol High is "a safe, inclusive, and supportive community for all our members." At one meeting, I was dismayed to hear ideas from the kind of people DiAngelo has written about. Here, I thought, was a golden opportunity for our immediate community to start to deal with the disparity between whites and people of color, and yet we were missing it. Although legitimate issues



such as concerns over park usage, bus schedules, and parking lot drainage came up during the discussion, these were minor compared to a lifetime of discrimination experienced by people of color.

Change is hard but change starts at home. The ideas voiced at the meeting indicated to me a strong resistance to working for more equitable opportunity for marginalized students. I felt sad, angry, and disappointed, but I learned I'd need to hang out with these feelings if I wanted to work toward a more inclusive neighborhood.

Other readings—I appreciated Julian Edgoose's timely RNA article "Our Neighborhood's Dirty Secrets" that described past discriminatory actions

*(continued on page 19)*



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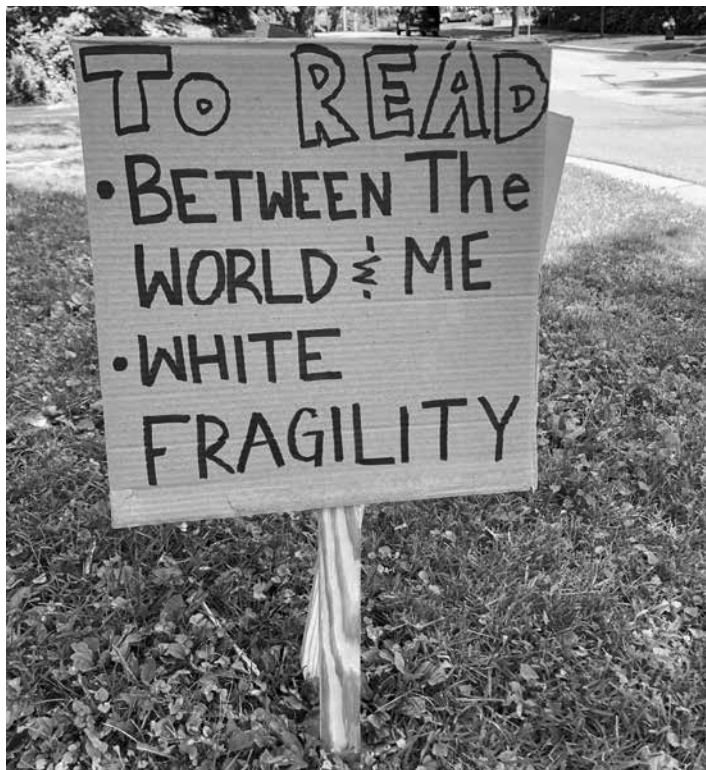
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## What I'm Reading *(continued from page 17)*

prohibiting people of color from buying homes in Madison neighborhoods, including University Heights. A lengthier read, *Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America*, by Ibram X. Kendi, taught me what I *did not* learn in U.S. history class. Each of us has to have our own “aha” moment when we consider the systemic racism we have contributed to—even unwittingly. Here was mine.

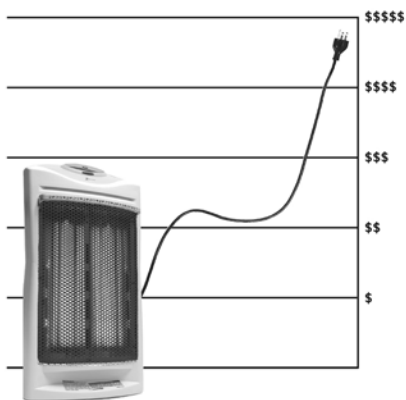
It has taken me many years to shed the layers of judgment I accumulated growing up, ideas about people in general. I fear “progressive racism” has poisoned me, too! So, during this COVID-19 pandemic, as I am distancing myself from others, a question has arisen in me. When I finally do have a chance to interact with others, will I be able to be more focused on staying present, letting go of judgment, simply to listen rather than worry that I will misspeak. It's up to me—as a white woman—to know the power and privilege I possess and to empower those who have not been afforded the same. Day in, day out, week after week, year after year, unceasing. ■



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