

\$2

MARCH 2021 | VOLUME 12 | ISSUE 3

YOUR DONATION BENEFITS THE VENDORS.
PLEASE BUY ONLY FROM BADGED VENDORS.

Kyndness Tech — Recharging
community connection. **Page 6.**

MEET YOUR
VENDOR:
KATHY LEATH,
PAGE 3



GROUNDCOVER

NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP | WASHTENAW COUNTY, MICH.

A YEAR IN PANDEMIC

Immediate
global COVID-19
response is in
our self-interest.
Page 5.

Will R-1 zoning render Prop C worthless? Single family enclaves vs. affordable housing

With a growing fund for affordable housing due to Ann Arbor's newfound affordable housing millage, "Proposal C," Ann Arbor is in a great position to opt for more progressive policies and increase housing access. At the Ann Arbor City Council meeting on February 1, two proposals for housing development were up for public comments and votes: a senior living center on east Ellsworth (154 units, 65 of which are affordable) and a mixed-use apartment complex on Packard (72 units, zero of which are affordable).

However, because of Ann Arbor's R-1-dominant zoning code, the vote was not just on approving the actual developments, but also on whether or not to upzone the land — the process of changing the zoning code to allow denser buildings.

R-1, or single-family zoning, is a zoning category where only detached single family homes can be built. Multi-family developments planned on R-1 must formally upzone the area with a PUD, or Planned Unit Development, in order to be approved. This extra step can kill initiatives for housing development.

After the passage of Proposal C in November — a clear values signal of our community — one might assume there would be overwhelming support for these new developments. Yet still, there was opposition from the NIMBYs "Not In My Backyard" who neighbor the project. Residents of southeast Ann Arbor circulated a petition against the senior citizen highrise on Ellsworth, Lockwood 2, claiming that the senior living center will "drastically change the appealing nature of the neighborhood," "increase traffic flow" and "eliminate the potential for a communal space." The debate over new housing developments epitomizes the frustrating politics of achieving

started popping up, following similar boundaries set by recently outlawed racial zoning. This zoning functioned as exclusionary zoning because it intended to keep Black, low-income individuals out. In some cities, like Minneapolis, R-1 was drawn exactly to old redlining maps. You thought the Fair Housing Act got rid of that? Guess again.

In 2019, Minneapolis eliminated single family zoning completely, and I argue that Ann Arbor should follow suit. It's no secret that Ann Arbor's housing market is unaffordable and competitive. Single family zoning stifles density. Increasing housing density makes for a more affordable city. Our low vacancy rates cause inflation — artificially raising the price of housing.

Ann Arbor has a budding chapter of the organization that led Minneapolis's campaign against R-1 called Neighbors For More Neighbors. When talking with Jean Leverich, a volunteer at N4MN, about what the local group plans to achieve, she articulated a desire to be "a coalition for people who are invested in housing for all." Right now N4MN is focused on community education, supporting advocacy efforts that increase housing in Ann Arbor, and advocating for more flexible zoning.

Some housing advocates might push against eliminating R-1 as it reduces barriers for more development. I am not an advocate for luxury high rises, but single family zoning prevents affordable non-profit housing as much as it prevents luxury housing. Multi-family zoning is not the enemy — the false notion that market forces will bring housing prices down, is. Until it is eliminated, R-1 zoning will continue to prevent our community from creating the housing that we direly need.

On February 1, both the Ellsworth

and Packard developments were approved by Ann Arbor City Council, so if all things go to plan, Ann Arbor will soon have 226 more housing units. But as Adam Jaskiewicz (@ajjaskie) tweeted during this council session, "If PUDs become routine it means our zoning is outdated." Leverich elaborated, "Our current zoning isn't working; it doesn't serve Ann Arbor anymore, but eliminating single family zoning will not be enough."

Our community still has a voice in what developments get built. Considering that 161 of the newly-approved units are market-rate, it is clear that our community and Neighbors for More Neighbors have to fight for general affordability and housing development. This could mean the implementation of inclusionary zoning, rent caps, stronger public transportation infrastructure and building housing by transit stops. Policies like this should be packaged with the abolition of R-1 zoning to both play defense, and offense, in the fight for more neighbors.

If you are interested in getting involved with Ann Arbor's Neighbors for More Neighbors, email info@nfmna2.org or connect with them on Facebook.



GROUNDCOVER

Mission

Creating opportunity and a voice for low-income people while taking action to end homelessness and poverty.

Susan Beckett — publisher

Michael Corrigan — assistant director

Catherine Nouhan — editor

Lindsay Calka — layout editor



LINDSAY CALKA
Layout editor

MEET YOUR VENDOR



Sharing space

**KEN PARKS AKA
STANDING ON THE ROCK**
Groundcover vendor No. 490

What needs to be done? This question comes to my mind constantly. Sometimes I can finish what I started. Sometimes it's hard to finish anything. Multitasking means jumping from one thing to another, sometimes so rapidly that being busy becomes a habit. Breath breaks help me so that tasks can dance at the same time.

Sharing space is the supreme multitasking challenge of life. Every space with borders is a world system with written, spoken and unspoken rules, regulations, terms and conditions and Feng Shui.

Space without borders is a universe of many world systems. At the

theme is participatory democracy. Gratitude is all I can say about Alan's work on the commons, from the Ann Arbor library lot to the People's Food Co-op.

I have had two conversations with the Co-op about a trespassing ticket. That raises questions about accusations, due process, justice and the sharing of space. My intention is that we discover enough common mind to share in open discussion about the responsibility we share in whatever space we find ourselves.



Kathy Leath, vendor No. 425

In one sentence, who are you?
I am helpful and love everyone.

Where do you usually sell GCN? State and Liberty Streets.

When and why did you start selling GCN?
It gives back to the community.

What's the most interesting thing that's happened to you while selling GCN?
I met Kobe Bryant.

If you had a warning label, what would it say?
Demand respect.

What are your hobbies?
Football, cheerleading and basketball.

What motivates you to work hard selling Groundcover News? My children.

What would be the first thing you did if you won the lottery? I would buy everyone Red Lobster.

What is the most impressive thing you know how to do?
I know how to cook.

What is the best way to start the day?
Thanking God that you're here.

What is your superpower?
Raising kids.

Joyful birds

DENISE SHEARER
Groundcover vendor No. 485

Birds are beautiful and joyful. I enjoy watching and listening to birds of all kinds from my window. I see sparrows, blue jays, chickadees and red cardinals. Sometimes I see big hawks too. I see doves by the water with ducks, geese and

swans. I like living by the lake for this reason.

These birds stand out when I see them. I think I hear their sounds throughout the day, and sometimes in the winter too. I'm especially happy to see all the birds when spring and summer come.

As a little girl, I started to watch birds. I used to wish I could catch

Boober forging new territory



KEVIN SPANGLER
Groundcover vendor No. 307

record. I have been noticing an increase in year-round bikers in town, and all of the bike shops have had their best years ever. We are starting to see a change in habits — people driving less. This is a promising observation, considering my vision for the future is to have cars off the road by 2036.

The City of Brighton contacted me recently about bringing Boober Tours there. They are starting a two-year project to better accommodate diners on their streets and they

want us to be part of it!

We are just about finished with the top lightboxes for the Treehouse 603 trailer. The best news so far is that Treehouse is paying for a year of the premium Boober advertising service.

Exciting advances are being made at Boober. We are completing the Android version of the Go Boober app, and I am investigating how to provide a cryptocurrency option as one of the forms of payment in the app.

GROUNDCOVER NEWS ADVERTISING RATES PACKAGE PRICING

Size	Black and White	Color	Approx. Size (WxH)
Business card	\$49.95	\$65.95	2.5 x 1.5
1/8	\$89.95	\$129.95	5 x 3 or 2.5 x 6.5
1/6	\$129.95	\$165.95	5 x 4
1/4	\$159.95	\$215.95	5 x 6.25
1/2	\$299.95	\$399.95	10.25 x 6.5 or 5 x 13
Full Page	\$495.95	\$669.95	10.25 x 13

Three Months/Three Issues: 15% off

Six Months/Six Issues: 25% off

Full Year/Twelve Issues: 35% off

Additional 20% off ads with coupons

Empowering women in STEM programs and careers

The University of Michigan is known for its excellent and highly ranked science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) programs. Female enrollment in college-level STEM courses at U-M is slightly over the national average according to 2016 National Science Foundation statistics. Anecdotal evidence and the University's enrollment records point to a significant improvement over the past generation.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, nearly 27% of all students enrolled in the U-M's Computer Science program were women. The U-M's academic contemporaries which include Stanford, Harvard, M.I.T. and Brown University have female enrollment in computer science at 30% or above, while the national average for such enrollment is approximately 18%. Michigan may be the first public university to reach the equity goal of 50% in enrollment of women in computer science in the coming years.

The university promotes two sets of Women in Science and Engineering programs — the Non-Resident WISE Program and the Residential WISE Program. The Residential Program states that, "every first-year is paired with a second-year who serves as their Peer Mentor by introducing them to the campus and offering support and resources throughout the year. Second-year students have similar opportunities through participation in the dinner and discussion series with faculty and alumni. Residence Advisors and Peer Mentors plan numerous social, community service, academic, cultural activities, and events each semester."

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the Residential Program ran a STEM mentoring and role model program for girls at the local libraries in Washtenaw County. Increased K-12 STEM education for girls is key to increasing STEM participation in college and across the STEM workforce. U-M off-campus female students who are STEM majors also volunteer as mentors and role models in the local communities as part of their service learning and community engagement.

The College of Literature Science and the Arts is also involved in community K-12 engagement. There is math tutoring outreach between U-M and the Ypsilanti Public School District. The College of Engineering established the Engineering Diversity Center and the Computer Science and Engineering Program for increasing the participation of women and underrepresented minorities in STEM. The Michigan Computer Science and Engineering Program has a clear statement:

- Negative stereotypes can lower girls' aspirations in pursuing science and engineering careers.
- Women in STEM fields face significant implicit bias based on their gender.



WILL SHAKESPEARE
Groundcover vendor No. 258

"The field of computing is redefining our world in real time, but it is also one in which women have historically been underrepresented. C.S.E. strives to expand opportunities for women in computing through connection to resources."

Student-run organizations that are part of the CSE have established Girls in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science to encourage middle school girls and University women to excel in science, technology and engineering.

Several months ago, technology giant, Qualcomm, signed a University-Industry partnership agreement to showcase an annual workshop in science and technology for underrepresented minority students attending the Detroit Public School System. The University of Michigan's Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives works in partnership with units on campus and several communities to improve college admissions of students from underfunded school systems. Program Gear-Up is one of the most successful multicultural initiatives in all college majors, including STEM.

What is the state of STEM participation in the nation today?

The American Association of University Women published a Report in 2010 with the title, "Why So Few Women in S.T.E.M.?" The report began with the following question: "In an era when women are increasingly prominent in medicine, law, and business, why are there so few women scientists and engineers?" A follow-up question is, "Why are only 24% of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics occupations filled by women when women make up 49% of the entire workforce in the United States?" The co-author Catherine Hill identified some barriers in 2010 which were consistent with other findings. They include:

- Negative stereotypes can lower girls' aspirations in pursuing science and engineering careers.
- Women in STEM fields face significant implicit bias based on their gender.

Success in K-12 starts to diverge a little when some young women make the transition from high school to college. Women receive about 50% of all STEM college degrees. In courses and degrees which focus on biological science, biomedical engineering, the physical sciences, the social sciences and math, female college participation is relatively high. There are fewer women pursuing degrees in computer science and engineering. It is no wonder that parity remains elusive in the STEM workforce.

Women have long been barred from academic and training programs that do not fit into the concept of a "traditional gender role." Guidance counselors in elementary and high schools would steer their female students into courses in teaching, retail marketing, hairstyling, beauty products, food preparation, and hospitality business.

No significant efforts were made to encourage more young women to expand their interests and vocation in STEM fields.

Recent NSF Science and Engineering Research Indicators have concluded that women receive nearly 50% of all STEM college Diplomas but comprise only 29% of the STEM Workforce. In the area of Computer Science and Engineering, women are approximately 14% of the workforce. Asian Minorities do better as a ratio of the population (about 22%); Hispanic Americans do much better than all non-Asian American minorities at 7%. Blacks and Native Americans in the Computer Science and Engineering workforce are stuck at an unfortunately low 4%.

Beyond the gender disparity, there is also a racial and ethnic disparity that



Recent alumna Kateryna Karpoff encourages male peers to be more supportive and more respectful.

needs to be urgently rectified. The U-M community is working to address "digital redlining" in the city of Detroit (the Detroit Public School Systems), the Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti and other local public schools. Digital redlining is the gap in technological access in underprivileged communities — specifically in underprivileged urban centers.

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The U-M WISE Program is a very promising endeavor. The barriers to the success of women and girls in STEM are gradually dwindling. More women and girls are taking STEM courses at the K-12, collegiate, and graduate school levels. We expect more investments in computer science and engineering education for women and underrepresented minorities.

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Immediate global COVID-19 response is in our self-interest



SUSAN BECKETT
Publisher

The toll COVID-19 has taken on people in the United States, particularly those who were already living close to the financial edge, has been significant. Folks are rightly concerned with addressing basic needs such as food, shelter, education and health care — including stress-related conditions. Lost in this maelstrom is the urgent necessity to also halt the pandemic globally.

The United States was absent from the 2020 global COVID-19 response, and a leadership vacuum ensued. The emergency relief package passed by Congress in December 2020 contained a record-setting \$4 billion allocation for Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance, which is a terrific step toward vaccine delivery in low-income countries, and continuation of routine childhood vaccinations.

Much more is needed to subsidize the purchase of testing materials and protective gear. To that end, President Biden called for an additional \$11 billion as part of his \$1.9 trillion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

With variants that originated in the United Kingdom, South Africa and Brazil spreading rapidly through the world, we know that these mutated viruses do not stay within their countries of origin. So it is in our own self-interest to stop the spread of COVID-19 worldwide as quickly as possible.

It is likely that there will not be enough vaccine doses and infrastructure to effectively vaccinate the world before 2024. In the meantime, we must provide the information and materials to reduce the spread. Alarmingly, most of the health workers in Africa do not have the PPE they need to avoid sickness themselves. If we don't help protect the healthcare workers, who will be there to administer the vaccines once they are available?

Doctors in Uganda went on strike in February to protest the lack of PPE and the low wages they are receiving for dangerous and stressful work. The doctors have more protective equipment and resources than the community health workers who provide most of the frontline services.

According to Peter Sands, Executive Director of The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, \$4 billion is needed for purchasing vaccines, and an additional \$4 billion is needed for diagnostic and testing equipment. In some countries, they now have the machines to analyze mass testing, but money for the swabs and other specimen collection equipment has been exhausted. As a result, low-income countries are flying blind as they

attempt to combat COVID-19, while testing in middle-income countries hovers around 15%.

Building resilient and sustainable health systems is a strategic pillar of the Global Fund and is essential for ending HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria epidemics. One-third of Global Fund expenditures go toward strengthening health systems and outbreak detection, according to a February 2021 article in *The Lancet*. The prevalence of well-regarded clinics helped prevent Ebola, Zika and yellow fever outbreaks in recent years and, along with vaccine initiatives, contributed greatly to the steady decline in child deaths in the past decade. The investments in laboratories, personnel and other public health emergency detection systems facilitated a swift initial response to COVID-19 in low and middle-income countries. But the entire \$1 billion the Global Fund mobilized from Canada, Germany and some Scandinavian countries for this response in 2020 has been used up.

As we respond to this latest crisis, we can't let our health preparedness muscle atrophy. Global health security depends on it.

Board response to Special Edition purchase policy reveals divide between mission and need



ELIZABETH "LIT" KURTZ
Groundcover vendor No. 154

In last month's issue, the Groundcover News board responded to my concerns in policy changes which required that vendors purchase four (since changed to two) additional monthly issues for each special edition we purchase to sell. I was not only disappointed in the response but felt that it reveals the disconnect between the board and the vendors it seeks to serve.

The board highlighted "three pillars" of the Groundcover News' mission. The first being to give "those experiencing economic difficulty the opportunity to earn an income by selling a community newspaper." Though written in its mission, I have come to realize that the daily practices and the structure of the organization belies this mission in that the organization fails to provide the requisite ongoing training or invest in promoting the paper to ensure that this becomes a reality.

Without a robust marketing effort from the organization, we as vendors

vendors from realizing more sales through the monthly issue. To meet the demands of living without mainstream housing, a vendor's survival depends on a high circulation and robust sales of the monthly paper.

The second pillar of giving "voice to those in our community who are often not heard" matters little if the listeners are not taking proactive action to resolve the countless impediments and barriers which keep homeless citizens stuck in the inhumane conditions in which we often live. Over its past decade in existence, the paper has done little to galvanize the community when it comes to significant changes necessary to overcome homelessness.

I've sold the paper for nearly a decade. Only one customer has engaged with me in a consistent and ongoing manner, based on an article I wrote highlighting the art and necessity of canning, by regularly supplying cans and bottles to help me supplement my income.

The ultimate goal should not be to

livelihood of the vendors that the paper also seeks to serve.

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see RESPONSE page 11 ➔

Kyndness Tech – Recharging community connection

"Kindness is the ability to know what the right thing to do is and having the courage to do it!"

— RAKtivist

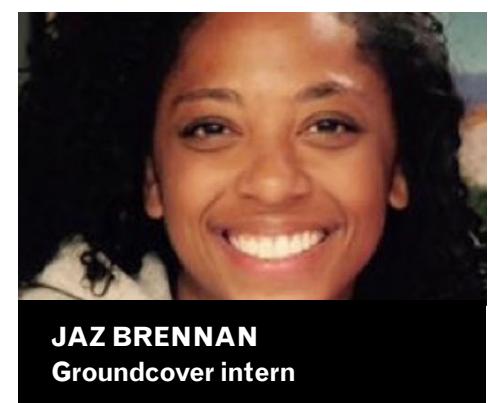
You may be searching your brain, trying to think if you know who or what RAKtivist is. To help, a RAKtivist, or Random Acts of Kindness activist, is someone who is kind to others because it is right. They are those who choose to leave an impression of love, connection and unconditional acceptance of another.

Love, connection, and unconditional acceptance is the message of a new venture of Ariah Schugat. She is providing phone charging kits for those in need in the Ann Arbor community.

Schugat began thinking about this project during her own encounter of being unsheltered in Washtenaw County throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. In March, when Governor Whitmer's shelter-in-place order went into effect, spaces for those experiencing homelessness were much harder to come by.

"It's something people don't often think of," reports Schugat, reminiscing about the difficulties she experienced. "When places like the library close, or cafes, there's nowhere to charge your [electronics]."

Phones are an essential tool for getting out of homelessness. Between calls with agencies, internet searches, personal safety and other logistical needs, having a dead battery could mean the difference between getting into an apartment or staying on the street.



JAZ BRENNAN
Groundcover intern

voicemail."

The connection to housing resources is important, but as the pandemic continues, more aspects of our society move to the virtual world. Things like online court hearings, healthcare access and mental health care are becoming more commonplace, so lack of access to the internet is extremely limiting. As such, Schugat's addition has already gained traction.

"I got one of [Ariah's] phone kits a few days ago. It has helped when in a pinch," stated community member Adam Harris. Harris provided his phone kit for the above picture and noted that he's almost ready to turn it in for a new one. "It's a cool idea."

Ariah's project is not only cool, but a shining example of true community connection.

Schugat's enterprise, Kyndness Tech, is built on one basic principle: human kindness.

"Human kindness is a gift we don't often give anymore, but it's what got me out of the shelter," Schugat said.

It was an encounter with a stranger that ultimately changed Schugat's path. While offering to assist someone with their broken bike chain, Shugat made the connection that ultimately led to her becoming housed.

After meeting her friend and now project partner, Michelle, Shugat is in a space where she can give back. Schugat and her team do not profit off of this venture, but she notes the benefit for her mental health.

Social psychologists have studied the effects of performing random acts of kindness. A study done in 2009, showed that those who completed



Phone charging kits are a lifeline to services for those without homes and electricity to charge their phones, especially during COVID-19.

The slide into homelessness and how to interrupt it

JOEL
Groundcover contributor

My name is Joel, and I was asked to write a little about my fall into homelessness. My story isn't about drug or alcohol abuse but, instead, quite the opposite. I have worked full-time most of my adult life. I was self-sufficient.

But then my health began to slowly deteriorate. For a long time I ignored it and pushed on. It eventually reached a point that it began affecting my job. I could no longer perform my duties. My employer could have moved me to a different position, for example driving a fork lift, but refused to. At this

point, I got "laid off."

I looked for other employment, but I couldn't find a job I could physically do. Soon, I found myself living in motels and surviving solely on my savings — that is, until I exhausted them. When I paid my last rent, my account was empty. Right then I knew I was in trouble. I wound up living on the streets for the first time in my life.

I was lost, scared and hopeless. I was dirty, disheveled and unkempt. I had given up.

The place I squatted in was disgusting. The toilets overflowed. The walls, if you want to call them that, had giant holes in them. I was afraid to turn on

the light because I didn't want to get caught by police. A kind local convenience store worker let me charge my phone so I could talk with my parents. I was there for about a month until, one day, I got up and fell down immediately. At that moment, I realized that if I didn't do anything, I was going to die. That is what made me reach out.

By the time I reached the shelter, I hadn't eaten in a couple of weeks and hadn't taken any of my medications — six to be exact — in a couple months. It was either get meds or pay rent. I got to the shelter. Scared. They took my temperature and said pick a mat. I was afraid to go to sleep. Delonis Center

staff saw me deteriorating. Soon I happened to meet the manager for the offsite location for the medically vulnerable. We went through the list and she immediately said come with me. She took me into the hotel room. I thought for sure someone was going to knock on the door and take me away. It felt too good to be true.

Thanks to all of the caring and dedicated staff, I am now in a rehousing program and slowly getting back on my feet. For those still struggling, I want you to know that there is help and hope if you reach out. Don't give up.

Remembering Cyntoise Smith

JOE WOODS
Groundcover vendor No. 103

(Cyntoise Smith, Groundcover vendor #498, was easily recognized whizzing through downtown in her wheelchair. She died at 62 years of age on Friday night, Jan. 22, 2021, when her wheelchair was hit by a car on Michigan Avenue in Ypsilanti. Her daughter, Lesha, attended a memorial service held for her at the Delonis Center on Feb. 1.)

When I was a kid, I grew up on Westmoreland off of 7 Mile Road. Cyntoise Smith lived directly down the street from me, in the corner house by the park. She was my second mom. Her son Charles (Tiki) and I played together nearly every day when we weren't on punishment.

She was a very very strong woman. She didn't take shit from anybody.

I had no idea she was in Ann Arbor when I got here. I hadn't seen her in over 25 years, since I started a career as a traveling salesman. When we first stared at each other for the first time in

25+ years, we didn't even recognize each other, but we had a bond. We kept that bond for another three or four years before she realized that I'm the kid who used to be at her house, and I recognized that she was the one that used to whip me and her son.

Her son was the one who brought it to our attention. And it's funny because she loved telling the story about how she used to whoop my butt when I was a child because of the mischief that her son and I were getting into. We used to just sit and talk and just laugh about that and sometimes about back on Westmoreland. You will truly be remembered, Mama. I love you.

Your second son,
Joe



Cyntoise Smith died at age 62.

Remembering Emanuel Lewis, 8/8/1959 - 1/31/21

GROUNDCOVER STAFF

Washtenaw County and Inkster. Emanuel Lewis, Sr. predeceased him, dying in a car accident when Emanuel was only 12 years old.

Born and raised in Inkster, he was known there by family and friends as "Gummie," a name he earned by constantly chewing gum and asking for more as soon as the sugary flavor disappeared. As a flashy dresser, he was often teased by his mother saying, "Why you always got to look like you're going to a ball?" Maybe because he was a good dancer with girls always chasing him!

Emanuel was a happy-go-lucky person who, according to this mom, "would give you the shirt off his back if you asked for it, even though he needed it." She regretted that he "got mixed up with the wrong people, went to Ann Arbor and never found his way home."

He maintained that sweet disposition even as he suffered from chronic

medical conditions that made it difficult for him to eat. Prior to getting housing in Ypsilanti, his long, lean frame could often be found napping in a warm location. He'd go to sleep with a smile, and be grinning again soon after being awakened. He was quick to say, "I love you," and was generous with his hugs.

While in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, Emanuel became a favorite of merchants and others who frequented downtown areas. He loved talking with people, making them laugh, and sharing his warmth. He reveled in hobnobbing with local celebrities during International Vendor Appreciation Week. He took great pride in teaching them how to sell Groundcover News and introducing them to his regular customers.

His friend and co-worker Lonnie Baker expressed what so many of us feel, "I am devastated by the loss of my friend. He will always be Remembered, Loved and Missed."

Bethlehem United Church of Christ

whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here

423 S. Fourth Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 734-665-6149

Bethlehem-ucc.org facebook.com/bethlehemuccA2

Bethlehem Church is home of the Groundcover office



MARCH 2021 EVENTS AT BETHLEHEM

Bethlehem has cancelled all in-person activities due to COVID-19. Here are ways you can experience our 10 am worship service on Sundays:

Most Simple - Tune in to our live radio broadcast on WAAM 1600AM.

You can also listen to WAAM on Tune In by following this link

: <http://www.mainstreamnetwork.com/listen/player.asp?station=waam-am&listen=Listen+Live>.

(Click the shiny "play" button on the lower left of the page, ignoring any advertisements.)

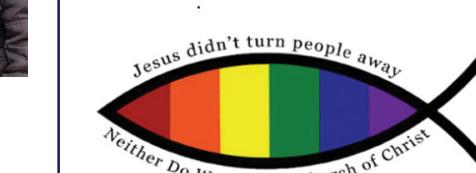
· Facebook

Beginning at 9:55 Sunday, you will find our Live Video at Bethlehem's Facebook

page: <https://www.facebook.com/bethlehemuccA2>

Following the 10 am service on Sunday, the video will be posted to the Bethlehem UCC website: www.bethlehem-ucc.org. We have begun posting the service to Bethlehem's YouTube page, it will be available there at 10 am on Sundays.

Thank you all. We look forward to worshiping together.



Sunday Worship Times
10:00 am Sanctuary
streamed on Facebook

Emanuel Lewis, Jr. (holding Groundcover News), customers and State Representatives Yousef Rabhi (right) and Adam Zemke (left) during past Vendor Weeks. Emanuel passed away at age 61.

Porch scores from the street: leftovers?

WILLY WILLIAMS
Groundcover vendor No. 521

To understand Kevin's terse response "Oh ... Porch!" (encountered in the April 2020 issue of Groundcover), you first have to understand Kevin. He suffers from a mild form of mental illness. He likes alcohol and sometimes he's been known to drift. As a matter of fact, the amount of Kevin's drift is proportional to the amount of alcohol consumed, give or take a beer or three. He's very intelligent — like most of us out here on the streets of Ann Arbor. Always remember that just because a person suffers from a mental illness, it doesn't mean they're stupid!

When I caught up to Kev that day, what struck me as odd was, to him, just a regular old day of foraging. This leads me to my next porch score story, "Leftovers."

It was a crisp March Saturday morning in an Ypsilanti neighborhood near Eastern Michigan University. Kevin and I were just starting out on our early daybreak mission for Friday night leftovers. We'd been staying in my girlfriend's apartment, holding down the fort

while she did time for trying to liberate some weed.

Kevin and I proceeded up Washington, past Eagles Market and Tom's Party Store, headed up the hill toward the big water tower and the bars and restaurants that lay before it. These were our main targets before taking the side streets deeper into the neighborhoods toward College Place and the area where serial killer John Norman Collins lived back in the early 1980s. (See the book "The Michigan Murders" for more on that.)

As anticipated, the restaurant and bar district yielded a considerable score that included: one old Visa credit card in a parking space out front which we left on the window ledge by the front door, 83 cents in loose change, a multitude of cigarette butts (luckily non-menthol), one half-full Corona beer bottle with a fork stuck in it (your guess is as good as mine as to why), a nearly-empty pizza box — pepperoni and pineapple from the looks of the last slice and the pile of frozen vomit around the corner to the back parking lot.

With scores in hand, we continued our porch score trek deeper in

the EMU neighborhood, anticipating the Saturday morning mother of all porch scores, the EMU frat house "toga, toga, toga!" Only on this particular morning, it was more like "T.P., T.P., T.P." Yes, my friends, these boys must have had quite a party because there was toilet paper EVERYWHERE — in the trees, across the porch five or six times, in the streets, the mailbox, the SUV parked in the driveway and, of course, the neighbor's house.

Closer inspection of said porch revealed the usual mecca of scores and festivity debris including, but not limited to: an overflowing ashtray with primarily lite 100s cigs, at least 25 empty ten-cent returnables and two full bottles (both on the front steps), three empty returnables in the shrubs at the base of the steps, an empty picture frame, a football, one pink tennis shoe and a ladies Hello Kitty brassiere. It must have been an interesting night, to put it mildly.

I've done the frat house thing and cleaned the ashtrays and the yard of cans so often that the fellas usually leave a few unopened cans of brew for us. What can I say but God bless America! Go Green! Go Blue!

Our Statement of Solidarity with Black Lives Matter

From its inception, **Groundcover News** has approached all its activities with belief in the following principles, as written on our website:

- All people have the right to dignity.
- Diversity has intrinsic value.
- Poverty is political — systemic change is necessary.
- Building community is essential to social change.
- Political effectiveness requires staying power.
- Solutions to poverty must involve people who are directly affected.
- Risks are necessary to create positive change.
- Meeting people where they are honors their skills and potential.
- We are committed to quality, professionalism, and accountability in everything we do.

We feel our attachment to these principles even more strongly today. If they resonate with you too, and you are looking for a way to make a difference during these life-changing times, please join us as a volunteer, supporter, friend or Board Member. To let us know, email: contact@groundcovernews.com.



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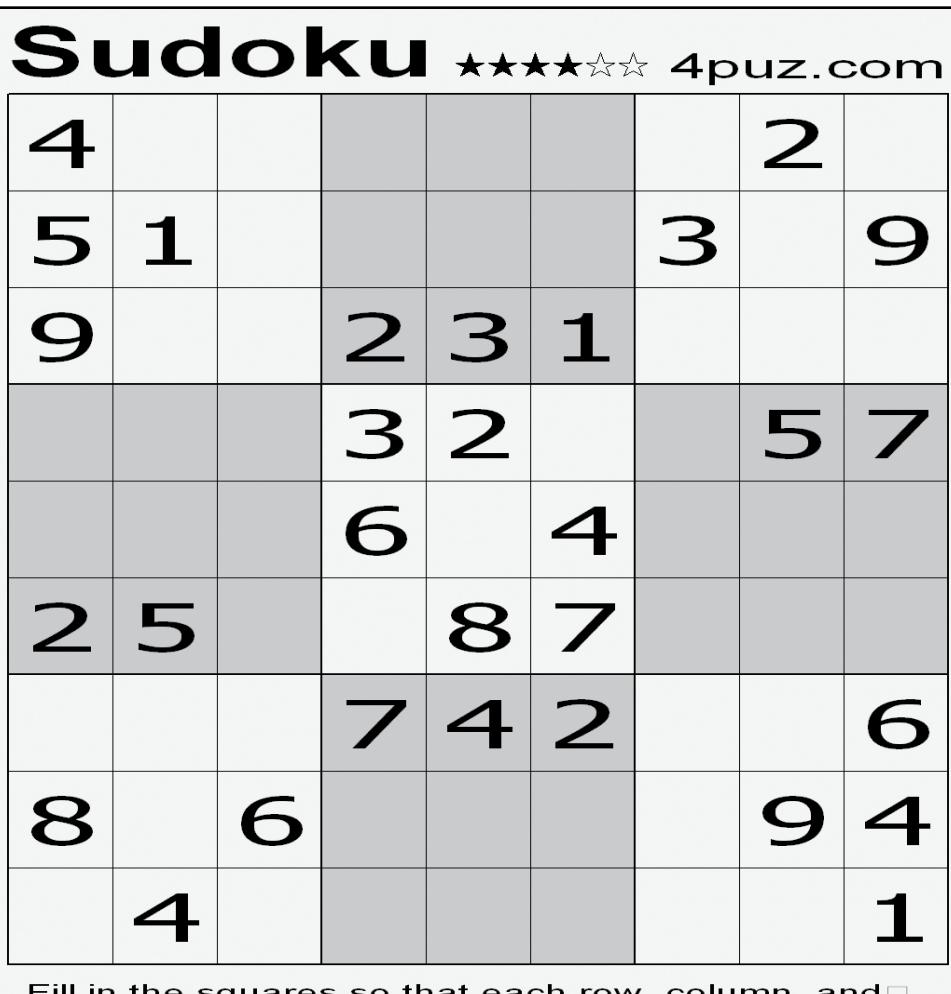
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Help your friends and family stay warm this winter by having them give our home improvement program team a call.

Our office has multiple programs* that offer free home repairs such as furnace or fridge replacement, insulation, and more!

*Eligibility is based on household income.



Fill in the squares so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 box contain the numbers 1 through 9.

Groundcover Vendor Code during COVID-19

While Groundcover is a non-profit, and paper vendors are self-employed contractors, we still have expectations of how vendors should conduct themselves while selling and representing the paper. COVID-19 specific requirements agreed to by vendors following new training.

- I will wear a mask at all times while selling Groundcover News.
- I will use gloves, hand sanitizer or wash with soap to remove germs from my hands before selling and as needed between customers.
- I will not sell Groundcover under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- I understand that I am not a legal employee of Groundcover but a contracted worker responsible for my own well-being and income.

The following is our **Vendor Code of Conduct**, which every vendor reads and signs before receiving a badge and papers. We request that if you discover a vendor violating any tenets of the Code, please contact us and provide as many details as possible. Our paper and our vendors should be positively impacting our County.

- Groundcover will be distributed for a voluntary donation. I agree not to ask for more than the cover price or solicit donations by any other means.
- When selling Groundcover, I will always have the current monthly issue of Groundcover available for customer purchase.
- I understand that Groundcover strives to be a paper that covers topics of homelessness and poverty while providing sources of income for the homeless. I will try to help in this effort and spread the word.

- I agree not to sell additional goods or products when selling the paper or to panhandle, including panhandling with only one paper or sell-

Brew Ha-Ha

By Tracy Bennett and Victor Fleming

ACROSS

- 1 Less than twice
5 Unruffled
9 "Judge, in the case _____ we contend ..." 13

- 14 Genuine
15 Actor Malik of "Bohemian Rhapsody"
16 Part of a team
17 Just about out of homebrewing supplies, but not quite?
20 Pilots
21 Noted participant in a 1969 bed-in
22 Come up against?
23 Big name in water filters
25 Penny
27 What our offer to ferment that batch of beer really is?
30 Org. for lawyers
31 Fruit in some gin
32 Howard of "Happy Days"
33 Hungry hiker's mouthful
35 Blubber
37 Pierce, as a sudden pain
41 Letters before aliases
44 Apt rhyme for "glug"
47 Messenger molecule
48 Optimistically boost the flavor of that ale?
53 Cooking style, such as Cajun or Thai
54 Queen of mystery
55 Fine glassware
57 Prefix with rival or conservative
58 Little fish that might swim near your toes
59 Atmosphere pollution meas.
61 Pile of empties near a pampered cat's food bowl

© Tracy Bennett and Victor Fleming (published via Adobe Acrobat DC)

DOWN

- 64 In a heap
65 Gem of Australia
66 "____, Brute?"
67 Wintertime sights at Vets Park
68 Crafty website
69 Legendary pro boxer Spinx
70 Poetic spheres
71 Straight, in a way
73 Furry 1980s toy with a "belly badge"
74 Queen of mystery
75 Fine glassware
76 Since
77 ___-friendly
78 Identify, online
79 "Big Little Lies" cable channel
80 Work at Huron or Skyline, perhaps
81 Listens closely
82 Superhero role for Chris Hemsworth
83 Like the Ark-La-Miss region, e.g.
84 Little rascals
85 Overseas train pass name
86 Cause to turn pink?
87 Do-over for a blacksmith
88 Maker of Spam
89 Continued, with "on"
90 Kind of flute or sax
91 "Star Trek" phaser option
92 "Grey's Anatomy" roles
93 Remote energizers, often

94 Family member with mom-like authority and gravitas
95 Rising at dawn, say

96 Elusive pleasure zone
97 Little rascals
98 Overseas train pass name

99 Cause to turn pink?

100 Do-over for a blacksmith

101 Maker of Spam

102 Continued, with "on"

103 Kind of flute or sax

104 "Star Trek" phaser option

105 "Grey's Anatomy" roles

106 Remote energizers, often

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Masks

SHERI WANDER
Community member

"I need you to put your mask on," I remind one of our warming center guests. Masks.

I have worn a lot of masks this year, and not just the ones that fit over my nose and mouth. Like everyone, I am exhausted. I am anxious and weary and I am ready for this whole COVID-19 pandemic to end.

I long ago gave up any illusion of control, I think you have to if you are going to live in the community. Still, COVID-19 seems to have a lot more control than I do right now. Over my life. Over **how** we do hospitality. Over **how** we organize against injustice. And honestly, that pisses me off.

But pissed off and exhausted are not always conducive to hospitality — so I put on a mask.

Our guests are weary too. As I have said before, the challenges of living during a pandemic are hard on all of us, but especially on those already living on the margins. With so many of the places folks go to stay warm, to feel "normal," to find a slice of respite closed, those experiencing homelessness choose between being in the cold or trapped in the same spaces with the same people day and night.

"Walk away," we say when the inevitable irritation sets in. But where are folks supposed to walk away to?

Peace House spent two weeks in quarantine when one of us tested positive. I thought I would lose my

mind. But, at least when I got to the point where the quirks, challenges and very humanness of someone else in the house were irritating, I could go hide in my room, soak in a hot bath and block it out, or go sit in my car. For those staying in shelters and congregate overflow settings at night and with the same people in the day shelter all day every day, those options are not available.

Mental health is stretched to the limit and symptoms of mental health challenges are apparent. Symptoms that sometimes make being in a community even harder. Depression, anxiety and PTSD can make being in larger groups painful and difficult. It becomes increasingly challenging to navigate around the behaviors of those responding to internal stimuli, those whose reality does not match the consensus reality, and those who use substances to escape or self-medicate.

I constantly feel tension just below the surface, and often it bubbles over making fights and problematic behaviors at the warming center more common this year. (It is no wonder that I am constantly being asked if I can fund a hotel room. Just for a night or two so someone can get a break).

The feelings and struggles of our guests often come out sideways in ways that are easy to perceive as passive-aggressive and/or personal.

*"I don't need this place."
"I am tired of being told to wear a*

mask."

"I don't feel welcome here."

"I hate this place, I hate having to be here."

"You don't care about us at all."

Sometimes I respond in ways that are not very consistent with loving.

"If you don't need this place you don't have to be here."

"Well, there are people who need this place so if you aren't one of them then get out and stop ruining it for those who do need it."

"Well, I am tired of reminding you to wear a mask."

Or I try to prove that I do care by listing all the things I'm doing to keep people safe.

In better moments I pull up a mask of sorts and respond with ways more consistent with hospitality. More consistent with loving. I wish I could say that my response was not simply a mask, but **genuinely** consistent with loving. I wish I could be the hero who always turns the anger toward the injustice that creates a reality where we need shelters.

But, sometimes the best I can do is a mask.

So, I pull up my own mask and say, *"I'm sorry. It sucks being in a mask for so many hours every day without respite. And we still need you to put it on so we are all a little safer."*

"Or, "What would care and support look like for you right now?"

I wish I had the grace to go beyond the mask. To be the hero in the story.

I find comfort, as I so often do, in the diaries of Dorothy Day. She speaks of the guest whose ill temper tries her nerves and the ways in which she wishes to escape the constant neediness. I tell myself, *"If even Dorothy Day got irritated, maybe I'm not a failure at all of this hospitality stuff."* This makes me think of something one of our warming center guests said.

I was doing some training for the staff at the Delonis Shelter and asked our Day Center guests what was the most important thing I could bring to the training. One of our guests summed it up this way. *"Remind them that we are human."* **And they are, too!**

Ok, we are all human. Together in all of our humanness we are community.

And I am reminded that Peace House, and the Day Shelter are not meant to be perfect spaces where those who have it all together give to those who are broken. They are spaces of mutual aid and building alternatives. They are spaces where brokenness meets brokenness and in that reality compassion can meet compassion.

And, perhaps, just perhaps, it is in that reality that there is a space of grace for the messiness of loving to shine, and the knowledge of the sacred connection to all things becomes real.

Lying — everyone does it



MARTIN STOLZENBERG
Groundcover contributor

Trofim be deceived by this double bluff."

Adults are said to make up about two stories a day. It has been found that despite that, most of us are honest. Research has shown that most lies are told by the same small group of liars known as "prolific liars," those who lie five or more times a day.

Nevertheless, it's not easy to tell a lie. People need more time to formulate a dishonest answer than an honest one. The brain must do more processing when lying. It has been ascertained that liars are tenser, and their stories lack vividness, leaving out the usual details that would generally be included in honest descriptions. Liars tell their stories more smoothly than honest responders. Even though they encounter liars frequently, figures such as the police, judges and psychologists can have trouble recognizing a con artist.

Maintaining privacy is another reason, as when you tell your colleague you were talking to a friend rather than a prospective employer. To avoid embarrassment is another reason when, for example, you claim you don't know how the stain on the couch got there when you know it is because you dropped a piece of candy. Some people just enjoy the thrill of lying.

There are three distinct kinds of lies:

1) Lies of commission. When something is a stated lie: "I did not take the dress."

2) Lies of influence. Told to avoid suspicion as when being accused of pilfering, the accused says, "I would never do something like that," rather than saying, "No, I did not take the dress."

3) Lies of omission. Leaving something out in the telling of the story, like saying, "I saw the woman who dropped the purse," but not admitting to having found it.

Trofim: Where are you going?

Pavel: To Pinsk.

Trofim: Liar! You say you are going to Pinsk in order to make me believe you are going to Minsk. But I know you are going to Pinsk.

It is said, "Pavel does not lie to Trofim, since his statement to Trofim is truthful, even if he intends that

4. *Charles Ponzi;* A famous 1919 swindler whose name endures for a fraudulent scheme to defraud investors.

5. *P.T. Barnum;* He exploited the public's desire to be amazed with a

series of entertainment embellishments and lies in newspapers in the 19th century.

6. *Piltdown Man;* This clever fabrication of a human ancestor created a sensation in 1912. Hailed as a missing link connecting ape to man, it was a fraud.

Except for Richard Nixon these are all about 100 years or older. So, a more contemporary group of lies might include:

1. *Medical denials;* Nicotine in tobacco does no harm. Sugar is not harmful.

2. *Football concussions* do not lead to brain damage.

3. *Climate change;* It's a hoax.

4. *Bernard Madoff;* Made Ponzi look like a piker when he swindled billions from unsuspecting investors in the early 2000s.

5. *Trickle-down effect;* Everyone benefits when wealthy people's taxes are cut.

6. *Immigrants;* They are a danger to our society.

7. *Jail time for first time offenders;* Putting people in jail for minor offenses makes us all safer.

8. *Poverty;* The primary reason people are poor is because they are lazy.

9. *Affordable Care Act;* The usually scrupulous President Obama said "If you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor. If you like your health care plan, you can keep your health care plan."

Many lies are also repeated over and over by the former occupant of the White House, Donald Trump. The former president set a one-day record for lies on November 2 — the day before the 2020 election — when he told 504 falsehoods.

"If you tell the truth you don't have to remember anything."

—Mark Twain

Jail debts of past eight years forgiven

SUSAN BECKETT

The Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office, with the support of the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners, formally announced Sheriff Clayton's decision to forgive any and all outstanding jail debt for individuals who accrued that debt while incarcerated within the Washtenaw County Jail any time from January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2020.

Sheriffs have the right to recover any and all monies that incarcerated individuals owe as a result of their incarceration. Each individual lodged for more than 24 hours receives a set of items free of charge to help meet their basic needs. Anyone needing additional supplies and services can purchase them from the Commissary or as part of the larger Incarceration Services architecture. Individuals that receive these

items and services without the financial ability to pay, incur a debt. The Sheriff's office has not aggressively pursued non-payment of this debt through creditors or other means, but the debt held over someone can add to the stress associated with their day-to-day living.

"Our decision to eliminate this debt reflects our understanding of the stress and financial burden of incarceration," said Jerry Clayton, Sheriff of Washtenaw County. "We know that as people leave our jail in hope of positioning themselves to be successful upon returning home, the burden of jail debt is an added negative factor that can undermine their attempt at reintegration and feed the cycle of incarceration. We also know that incarceration can seriously compromise a person's ability to generate income, leading to even more debt. It's this absurd cycle, along with reincarceration, that we are

focused on."

Relieving the burden of debt for individuals impacts jail operations in several ways.

1. Without the debt, individuals are better positioned to meet their basic needs beyond what the jail provides. When basic needs are met, behavior within the jail is improved. This is a key contributor to maintaining safety for staff, volunteers, and incarcerated individuals.

2. Individuals with existing debt are reluctant to seek basic services, like seeing the doctor or visiting the dentist for fear of incurring additional debt. This leads to more significant medical conditions and may result in more expensive emergency care. County taxpayers are financially obligated to cover emergency care and subsequently, the budgetary impact on jail operations is significant.

3. Currently, if a family member of an incarcerated individual deposits money into an account where debt is owed, the amount deposited is seized and allocated towards the debt. This discourages families from financially supporting their incarcerated loved ones and in some cases is a barrier to family involvement and reunification.

The Sheriff's Office has previously taken steps to reduce the cost of incarceration in several ways. In 2018, phone call connection fees were eliminated and rates were reduced to 21 cents per minute. The indigent weekly monetary allocation was raised from three dollars to five. The department is also looking into fee adjustments for services provided by barbers, nurses, dentists and doctors, and into fees for booking, making copies, medications and hygiene kits.

► RESPONSE from page 5

entertain but to bring about viable solutions for those impacted by homelessness.

While the special edition is popular among students and others, it does not garner the same support from older townspeople who are entrenched in past perceptions of the homeless population. Many are willing to spend \$2 dollars monthly but balk at the \$10 special edition.

Others tend not recognize it as a business endeavor and refuse to understand the value the special edition

brings. They still have firm convictions that handing someone a dollar will solve the homeless problem.

The reality remains that to find clean, sanitary living space inside a hotel can range from \$60-\$100 per day. This does not take into consideration decent meals, storage bills, clothing or savings.

In addition, we as vendors are expected to provide our own outerwear suitable to meet the changing weather conditions in which we sell. As such

most vendors go without proper winter clothing or piece together donated garments. The organization does not

provide raincoats or even suitable gear in which to hold or protect our papers from the rain.

I am confident that if the Groundcover board were serious about its mission, it would not only promote the paper but provide ample time for sales training and give the vendors more than the scanty 20 hours per week in office hours to conduct our business. The board would supply us with uniforms and gear to accomplish their mission.

The ultimate goal and only priority should be in helping a person emerge from homelessness, not just providing

a local paper for the townsfolk. The special edition allows this.

The entrepreneurship opportunity that the special edition provides should not only be congratulated but fully embraced by a board willing to do all in its power to support vendors in using this creative, practical solution for helping individuals emerge from a humanitarian crisis where solutions are rare in meeting the needs of those who are trying to survive it.

Lit's conservative views on homelessness can also be found on her blog by visiting her website litspage.com.

Lentil soup

TALIA YAARI
Groundcover contributor

Ingredients:

1 onion
4 tbs olive oil
4 cloves of minced garlic
2 medium-sized carrots
2 celery stalks
1 tbsp turmeric
1 tbsp chicken soup consommé
1 tbsp salt
1 tbsp pepper
10 cups vegetable stock
4 cups lentils
(Optional additions)
1 zucchini
1 bunch of kale

Directions:

Chop onion, celery, carrots and zucchini (if desired). Heat oil in a large pot. Add vegetables and sauté with garlic until they sweat enough to produce liquid. Add turmeric, consommé, salt and pepper. Stir and



cook for another 5 minutes. Add vegetable broth, water, lentils. Simmer with pot covered for 45 minutes, or until lentils are soft. Add kale (if desired) in the last 15 minutes of cooking.

Yields 6 servings.

Lentil soup pictured above with hummus, baba ganoush, pita, and Israeli salad.

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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9	7	8	2	3	1	6	4	5
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2	5	4	1	8	7	9	6	3
1	3	9	7	4	2	5	8	6
8	2	6	5	1	3	7	9	4
7	4	5	8	9	6	2	3	1

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61	M	A	K	E	M	62	Y	63	H	64	E	65	P	66	E	67	S	68	69	70	71	72	73
74	S	L	E	D	S	75	O	76	P	77	T	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89



**St. Francis invites you
to join in Mass by LiveStream:**

Spanish: stfrancisa2.com/misa
English: stfrancisa2.com/mass

See our website for details on all worship services, events, and activities!

Due to Covid precautions, only registered parishioners of St. Francis are welcome to in-person services, and all must sign-up and register to be counted so that our numbers are within the acceptable range.

**Sunday 5pm mass will begin again on
Sunday, Feb 21st.**

2021 Lenten Theme: "For I will restore your health; I will heal your wounds, says the Lord." (Jeremiah 30:17).

Cold corner

RONALD PAGERESKI
Groundcover contributor

On a cold corner he stands,
dreaming of far off Summer sands.
Impossible to achieve it seems,
but there he is in daily dreams.
The street he walks is his world today,
brutal Winter winds take his breath away.
There is no time for frivolity,
it's time to face reality.
He has no home to call his own,
so there he stands, sad and alone.
He often extends his plastic cup to you,
please, put in a buck, maybe two.
He is a human being just like us,
help him out, don't make a fuss.
People of the street, woman or man,
only ask us to understand.
Listen to them, hear their lament,
be their friend, even for a moment.
Don't let their story go untold,
give some love to those out in the cold.

Heather Feather artwork



This silver ring is one of the latest creations from Heather Feather, Groundcover vendor No. 45. Although her car needs repairs, she is established and safely wintering in a small town, enjoying her jewelery-making class.



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