



Northeaster

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Omar narrowly defeats Samuels; Heights voters sort candidates

by Cynthia Sowden

Incumbent Fifth Congressional Representative Ilhan Omar narrowly defeated Don Samuels during the Aug. 9 primary, racking up 57,683 votes to Samuels' 55,217 to win DFL backing in the November election. Cicely Davis will represent Republicans in the race; she garnered almost 48% of the vote.

The race between Samuels and Omar was closer in some Northeast precincts in others; Omar had very clear majorities in precincts 4, 5, 6 and 7 in Ward 1. Samuels, who sued the city to stop the "defund the police" movement, took in a large swath of voters in the downtown precincts of Ward 3. He dominated in four of the 12 precincts in that ward.

Here's how Northeast residents voted:

Ward	Samuels	Omar
1-1	124	164
1-2	103	140
1-3	61	166
1-4	187	462
1-5	269	417
1-6	369	597
1-7	396	652
1-8	138	280
1-9	182	427
1-10	319	376
1-11	105	345
3-1	153	419
3-2	232	395
3-3	122	211
3-4	77	212
3-5	214	230
3-6	290	216
3-7	767	550
3-8	113	263
3-9	79	217
3-10	416	293
3-11	558	234
3-12	355	188

The Northeast Ward and Precinct map is posted at <https://www.mynortheaster.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/2022-NE-Minneapolis-Wards-and-Precincts.png>.

Hennepin County voters in St. Anthony decisively chose Samuels over Omar; 263 to 167 in Precinct 1 and 409 to 245 in Precinct 2.

Columbia Heights voters favored Omar over Samuels by slim majorities in each

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The stuffed animals thrown by Happy Tails Rescue were a prime catch at the St. Anthony VillageFest parade Friday, Aug. 5. (Photo by Karen Kraco) See more VillageFest photos on p. 5 and others at MyNortheaster.com.

SAV resident launches podcast

by Marla Khan-Schwartz

John Parker (JP) Der Boghossian (pronouns: he/they) perused the aisles of a Borders bookstore in Traverse City, Mich., looking for a queer-inspired book. After finding "A Home at the End of the World" by Michael Cunningham, he immediately read it and found he identified with the main characters. The story resonated with him in his twenties, eventually helping him understand his own relationship ideals.

Now 41 and living in St. Anthony, Der Boghossian launched the first season of his new podcast, "This Queer Book Saved My Life!" in March 2022 and said the books that saved his life influence the interviews with his guests. "How I responded to those books has informed the questions that I ask folks on the show," he said.

Guests representing all aspects of the LGBTQ spectrum are interviewed and share their experiences about how a certain book impacted their personal queer life. In quite a few cases, the author of the book is brought into the conversation to talk about queer life and provide their own personal context about the impact of literature.

Some of the authors who accompanied guests on the already released episodes include Carmen Maria Machado, William Burleson, Alison Bechdel and Jennifer Finney Boylan – all featured because their books greatly influenced each guest in

memorable ways.

Der Boghossian is a former broadcast journalist and journalism instructor who eventually left the industry for more hands-on work. Now a full-time chief diversity, equity and inclusion officer at Normandale Community College, he works daily to create an environment that is inclusive and equitable.

But he also wanted to work more within the queer community. "For me, I want something that gets me more connected to the community and talking while being around queer people," he said.

The number of anti-LGBTQ bills proposed in 2022 is record-setting; most bills target transgender people and youth. At least five states passed the "Don't Say Gay" bill, which cancels conversations and curriculum in schools about gender identity and sexual preferences. According to the National Coalition Against Censorship's Youth Censorship Database, at least 82 attempts were made by challengers to remove books from school libraries – mostly with LGBTQ content. All of this, topped with the overall daily gender-based discrimination the LGBTQ community often faces, helped Der Boghossian decide to use his love of books and storytelling to launch the podcast.

"We are living in an environment where we need life-giving books," said Der Bog-



JP Der Boghossian's podcasts discuss books by queer authors and how they affect lives. (Photo by Artyom Tonoyan)

hossian. "We need life-saving stories. I thought it would be neat to have folks talk about the book that saved their life and then have a conversation with the author."

Raised in an Armenian-American family, the St. Anthony resident said it was tough to be openly queer because of traditional Armenian ideals and values, and the stigmas and stereotypes associated with the rise of

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Items of Note

Adopt a tree in Columbia Heights

Columbia Heights is looking for volunteers to adopt boulevard trees planted by the City in 2022. Residents are asked to provide water for the first two years after the tree is planted. A watering bag and instructions will be provided at planting time. All other care and maintenance for the tree will be provided by and paid for by the City of Columbia Heights. https://www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/departments/public_works/adopt-a-tree.php

Musical groups restart in September

The **Northeast Chorale** will hold its first rehearsal Tuesday, Sept. 6, from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. This rehearsal, and all subsequent rehearsals, will be held at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, 1509 27th Avenue NE, every Tuesday. They will finish their fall season with two concerts on Nov. 19 in the evening and Nov. 20 during the afternoon. Participation is \$25 for adults and \$15 for high school students. See <https://www.northeastchorale.org>.



Productive Day Program participants resided the Ard Godfrey House in October 2021. (Photo courtesy MPRB)

The **Northeast Community Band** will kick off its 2022-23 season with a rehearsal at Edison High School, 700 22nd Avenue NE, on Thursday, Sept. 15. In its 24th year, the band is in particular need of French horn players and percussionists. There are no auditions; if you can read music and keep time, you're in. Dues are \$60 per season. Learn more at <https://www.northeastcommunityband.com>.

Godfrey House to get paint job

As summer turns to fall, the Ard Godfrey House, 28 University Ave. SE, will get a fresh coat of paint. The house, which sits in the middle of Chute Square, is the oldest surviving frame home in the Twin Cities, built in 1848.

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The project is a collaboration with the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board (MPRB). Participants will also work on the John Stevens House and the Longfellow House, both part of Minnehaha Park.

Edison reunion behind-the-scenes

Volunteers have been planning the Edison Centennial All-Class Reunion for about three years. It will take place in the four days from Thursday, Sept. 29 ending with a "deluxe breakfast" served by the Kiwanis at the Northeast Armory Sunday, Oct. 2. Members of this group planned Edison's 80th, 85th, and 90th reunions as well. One of the organizers commented that after the 1980s, because of privacy require-

ments of the school district, there are no class lists to work from. They hope that people from the classes from the 1990s and 2000 through 2022 try to build lists so that the classmates keep in touch enough to invite each other to future reunions.

The *Northeast* will put together a keepsake edition (special pages devoted to Edison) and are looking for business owners and staff who hail from Edison and want to advertise on those pages. For details, contact Margo Ashmore at 612-867-4874 or email margo@mynortheast.com.

Pastoral changes at local churches

Pastor Emmy Kegler held her last service at Grace Lutheran Church on Sunday, Aug. 21. She resigned to be with her new family. **Interim Pastor Eric J. Luedtke** will start with the Sept. 4 service. Our Lady of Lourdes is now led by **Rev. John M. Bauer**. St. John's Lutheran Church on the corner of Broadway and Washington is now led by **Pastor Samuel Lor**.

Dean's listers and college grads

Brooke Edberg, Columbia Heights; **Jacqui Mendoza Perez**, Minneapolis; and **Katya Jar-mulowicz**, St. Anthony, were named to the dean's list at from St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn.

Mia R. Schoenbeck, Minneapolis, received a Bachelor of Arts degree from St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn.

Podcast storytellers share more than coming-out stories

1 PODCAST

HIV/AIDS during the mid-eighties.

Storytelling and finding cultural commonalities within the Armenian queer community was a key to meaningful conversation, and the impetus to create one of his first projects, The Queer Armenian Library. The online platform showcases queer Armenian artists, writers, photographers and filmmakers while providing a vehicle for readers to connect with other LGBTQ people and their work.

Storytelling is a tradition in the LGBTQ community, said Der Boghossian. The

storytelling process has changed over the years and reflects more than just a coming-out story. Happy endings do exist, and the narrative does not always have to portray queer people in an antagonistic way, but rather as normal, everyday, and equal people.

"There's more visibility and access to queer stories," said Der Boghossian. "I think narratives in the 20th century were really focused on navigating stigma and internalized shame, violence, or navigating coming-out as the primary source of conflict. Yes, coming out is important, and this is one of the fundamental aspects. But

we've seen writers, artists, filmmakers, and TV show producers begin to look at other aspects of queer life."

"Being the host of the podcast and hearing people telling me their stories really helps me reflect on my own story and life and how I'm processing my own history, pain and joy as it relates to being a queer person in the world," said Der Boghossian.

Der Boghossian records his podcasts through the Buzzsprout tool in the closet of his St. Anthony home, joking that the space has the best acoustics in the house. Word play aside, "This Queer Book Saved My Life!" podcast has already garnered a large audience spanning most continents, placing it in the top 25% of all Buzzsprout podcasts.

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finale of "This Queer Book Saved My Life!" in front of a live audience at LUSH lounge and theater on Aug. 24. With plans for a second season beginning in October, he already has selected guests and plans to continue to help interested queer folks tell their stories through the books that saved them.

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