

- HOST COMMITTEE PLANS FOR MINNEAPOLIS -

Minneapolis in June promises to be a splendid choice of time and place for our annual meeting. Average temperatures in the 70s during June prompted your Arrangements Committee to plan some outdoor activity as part of the program and for our free time. Our hotel, the Hyatt Regency, is located on the Nicolett Mall, a pedestrian and transit mall running through downtown Minneapolis with upscale shopping and dining as well as many iconic buildings such as Orchestra Hall and a great new public library. For “lowscale” shopping and dining, Nicolett Mall hosts a popular farmers market on Thursdays in the summer. If you feel the need for even more shopping opportunity, the largest indoor mall in the U.S., the Mall of America, is a 25 minute ride by light rail to nearby Bloomington. As an added inducement for shoppers, there is no sales tax on clothing in Minnesota.

Minneapolis is an excellent walking and cycling city, sharing (with Portland, Oregon) the title for best biking town in the U.S. We can use the bikes that are stationed all over the city and have fun while exercising and saving money on taxis. With, for example, Loring Park and the Mississippi River only blocks from our hotel, we will have no problem finding beautiful vistas and opportunities for cycling and walking. The modern art museum, the Walker, is also within a short walk of the hotel, is free to the public Thursday evenings, and features a stunning outdoor sculpture garden that is always free to the public.

Other opportunities for exploring include the Frank Gehry-designed Weisman Gallery at the University of Minnesota, a short bus ride away offering free admission. Also with free admission is the large Minneapolis Institute of Art featuring art from multiple historic and contemporary periods with an especially fine impressionist collection. Two miles from our hotel is a local bookstore, Birchbark Books & Native Arts, owned by award-winning, bestselling author, Louise Erdrich, and highly recommended by the Chair of your Arrangements Committee.

Adjacent to downtown is the only waterfall on the Mississippi, St. Anthony, which once powered the flour mills and gave Minneapolis the nickname of Mill City. The Mill City Museum is constructed in the ruins of a historical mill and provides beautiful views and further educational opportunity.

The arts are represented everywhere in Minneapolis, including culinary ones. Chino Latino is a good example, featuring street foods eaten in equatorial regions. A taste for the unusual is also more than satisfied at the Mall of Somalia, about one and one-half miles from the hotel or with a short trip to Hmong Village in nearby St. Paul. Our only real dilemma will be trying to fit in all the exciting things to see, do, and eat in Minneapolis.

The following plans have been made to provide us with a variety of ways to mix business and pleasure and mingle with old friends and new.

Wednesday (no program)

GOLF – hosted by Jules Bloch. Contact Jules at 416-436-2430 or julesbloch@gmail.com to help him decide the time and place.

Recommendations for the best courses include Wirth Golf Club, four miles from the Hyatt, one of the oldest public courses in the state and described as “gorgeous” by one of the Host Committee, Jim Lundberg. The front nine is beautifully set around Bassett Creek with a few man-made lagoons to heighten the challenge. It also offers several scenic views of the Minneapolis downtown skyline. The back nine offers completely different challenges with its rolling hills and mature trees. Also recommended: Meadowbrook, about 7 miles from the hotel, has many interesting characteristics that provide beauty and challenges, such as rolling hills, ponds, natural areas with wildflowers, and beautiful Minnehaha Creek running through the golf course.

Thursday (after program)

DINE-AROUND, organized by Jan Frankman, offers the opportunity to mix informally with old and new friends and colleagues on Thursday evening, June 7th. There will be sign-up sheets at registration for your selection. Recommended restaurants include **Crave, Cooper and Sopranos in West End in St. Louis Park**, in an area that includes a movie theater and plenty of shopping and is a 5-10 minute cab ride from the hotel. The **D’Amico Kitchen** recommended as having a “terrific Italian menu and a very strong wine list” and includes jazz every Friday and Saturday night.

For those interested in planning ahead, the following opportunities are provided:

DINNER AND AN EVENING AT THE GUTHRIE THEATER, THURSDAY, JUNE 7, (11 blocks from Hyatt, \$5 by taxi) PRE-REGISTER BY April 25th with Host Katy Durham, katydurham@comcast.net

About the Play: The play is an American classic written by a great American writer. *THE AMEN CORNER* is about a self-anointed Harlem store front preacher. Margaret Alexander is the leader of her flock and about to see her world crumble. Son David, her church organist, is set on following in the footsteps of his father, jazz musician Luke. When the errant husband and father comes home to die, Sister Margaret finds herself losing everything but coming to terms with her own true sense of faith. "The characters are honestly observed, and the lines have wings and humor." (*The New York Daily News*) "Truth, vividness and rich humanity." (*The New York Post*) The play is based on a book by James Baldwin and is directed by Lou Ballamy. It starts at 7:30 p.m. and is 2.0 - 2.5 hours in length. See: http://www.guthrietheater.org/whats_happening/shows/2011/amen_corner

About the Guthrie: Called "a 21st century dream factory" by *Time* Magazine, the new Guthrie boasts three stages, a full-service restaurant, pre-show dining, numerous bars and some of the best views of Minneapolis to be found in the city. The design of the building was influenced by the size, scale and history of the historic mills adjacent to the site. Finally, the site overlooking the Mississippi River offers incredible dramatic views of St. Anthony Falls and the Stone Arch Bridge.

PLAY Tickets can be purchased in advance as part of our NAA group if reply received by April 25, 2012 with check for \$49 per ticket payable to Katy Durham and mailed to 1074 Reeder Circle, NE, Atlanta, GA 30306

Dinner at 5:45 p.m. at the Guthrie’s upscale restaurant: Sea Change. 2009 James Beard award winner Chef Tim McKee designed the core menu for Sea Change which focuses on sustainable seafood,

highlighting fisheries that use environmentally responsible methods of gathering and farming seafood. The menu also includes a number of items under the heading "Not Fish" as well as late night offerings of small plates and raw bar selections.

Please contact Katy with questions about the arrangements for the play and/or to sign up in advance for the dinner: katydurham@comcast.net

THE DAKOTA JAZZ CLUB AND RESTAURANT – 1010 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55403-2403 (1/2 mile from Hyatt). Contact Jim Lundberg (jimlundberg@comcast.net) who will host a table Thursday evening.

The Dakota gained a national reputation as a jazz presenter, and many of the jazz greats have played there. The list of musicians who have played the Dakota includes Ray Brown, McCoy Tyner, Toots Thielemans, Joey DeFrancesco, Ahmad Jamal, Chucho Valdés, Benny Green, Joe Williams, Bobby Hutcherson, Roy Haynes, Arturo Sandoval, Wallace Roney, Charles Lloyd, Roy Hargrove, Nicholas Payton, Larry Coryell, Pat Martino, Jack McDuff, Jimmy McGriff, Sonny Fortune, Frank Morgan, Zakir Hussain, Kurt Elling, Joshua Redman, James Carter, Madeleine Peyroux, Regina Carter, Patricia Barber, Von Freeman, Billy Higgins and Charles Brown.

ANNUAL TENNIS TOURNAMENT – Thursday, June 7 from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m., REGISTRATIONS MUST BE MADE AHEAD, Reed-Sweatt Family Tennis Center, 4005 Nicollet Avenue. Contact Dan Leinweber dan@leinweber.com for information.

Saturday (after program)

SYMPHONY – Saturday, June 9. Tickets have been reserved for the June 9 performance by the Minnesota Symphony Orchestra. Anyone interested in attending should contact Fred Dichter at fdichter@naarb.org or 414-289-0984. The orchestra, conducted Osmo Vänskä will include opera star Deborah Voigt. The STRAUSS Dance of the Seven Veils and Final Scene, from Salome 25' MAHLER/Cooke Symphony No. 10 67 are featured.

Recommended restaurants for Saturday evening dining include:

The **D'Amico Kitchen** (2/3 miles from Hyatt - 612- 767-6978) recommended as having a "terrific Italian menu and a very strong wine list" includes jazz every Saturday night. Other highly recommended restaurants include: **Vincent** (1/3 of mile from Hyatt – 612-630-1189) has dinner and tasting menu with some outdoor dining if the weather is good. **Masa** (also a few blocks from hotel- 612-338-6272) has contemporary, upscale Mexican cuisine and was voted best new restaurant and best Mexican restaurant in 2011 by "Minneapolis – St. Paul Magazine" 2011.

Sunday (no program)

TWINS VERSUS THE CUBS AT TARGET FIELD (short cab ride away - \$7.68 or take free bus service that runs along Nicollet Mall), Sunday, June 10, 2012, 1:10 p.m. Contact Host Christine Ver Ploeg, christine.verploeg@wmitchell.edu

MITCH ALBOM, AUTHOR OF TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE, will be giving a free public lecture at 2:00 p.m. at the House of Hope Presbyterian Church, 797 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, MN., less than ten miles from the hotel.

Sign up for the NAA Tennis Tournament!

WHEN: Thursday, June 7, 2012 from 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

WHERE: Reed-Sweatt Family Tennis Center, 4005 Nicollet Avenue South, Minneapolis

FEE: \$20 per player (Fee covers court fees, water, balls and trophies.)

NOTE: You **MUST** sign-up when you register for the conference. We have to guarantee the number of players to the tennis center in advance, so there will be NO sign-ups during the conference. Space is limited, first-come, first-served.

Please meet in the lobby at 4:30 p.m. and we will all take taxis to the Reed-Sweatt Family Tennis Center which is a few miles away. If you have any additional questions please contact Linda Byars at lindabyars@naarb.org.

Sign me up for _____ players @ \$20 per person.

Please mail or fax this form with your payment to: NAA Operations Center, 1 N Main St, Ste 412, Cortland, NY 13045. Fax: 888-317-1729.

Form of Payment: Check Visa* MasterCard* Discover*

Name on Card: _____

Card Number: _____ Expires: _____

Billing Address: _____

Authorized Signature: _____

*The NAA accepts Visa, MasterCard and Discover **ONLY**.

Restaurant Recommendations – Our “favs” and humble opinions

Respectfully submitted by Jan Frankman and Phil Bradley

The Twin Cities has a really amazing dining scene, with restaurants of almost every kind and price. Quite a few local chefs, restaurants, and restaurateurs have been winners or nominees of the Midwest Region James Beard “Best” awards. In fact, providing a list of reasonable size for NAA members was a challenge! We focused on four areas: downtown Minneapolis, where most are within walking distance or a short cab ride from the Hyatt; Uptown and “Eat St.”, nearby neighborhoods with some great places to eat; and for the adventuresome (and with wheels or looking to share a taxi ride), a select few in St. Paul and environs. A separate list provides a few breakfast recommendations close to the hotel.

All directions are from the Hyatt Regency; distances and driving times are from Google Maps. We rate restaurants on a scale from a high of 5 stars down to one (none of which are on this list); and from very expensive (more than \$75 per person), or 5 dollar signs, down to very moderately-priced (\$30 per person), or 2 dollar signs. Price includes salad or appetizer, entrée, a glass of wine, and coffee. We highly recommend that you make reservations. As most know, there are easy-access websites for every category you could fathom. Please ask us if you have something in particular in mind. We may be able to help.




These restaurants are dine-around choices for Thursday evening. See postings at registration desk.


MINNEAPOLIS

Although downtown Minneapolis is on a grid, it runs 45 degrees off the N-S axis due to the river. The downtown area is full of good restaurants; many of these are within walking distance, and none are more than a 8-minute cab ride away. The “Eat St.” Nicollet Avenue area is about a mile south; and the Uptown area is about 2½ miles southwest, near Lake Calhoun and Lake of the Isles, no more than a 10-minute drive.

Close-by and definitely walkable




Café and Bar Lurcat, 1624 Harmon Place, 612-486-5500, .5 mi. W, a 10-minute walk via Loring Park. Mostly American fare with Italian influence, creative and nicely presented, and run by the D’Amico family (nominated for the James Beard best Midwest restaurateur). Also a great bar scene. Historic building, nice views of the park, large, fairly lively space. ***1/2 \$\$\$\$




Dakota Bar & Grill, 1010 Nicollet Mall, 612-332-1010, .2 mi. NE, a 4-minute walk. The most famous jazz venue in the Twin Cities, as well as an excellent restaurant specializing in American and regional dishes. The usual show hours are 7 and 9. Go for jazz and drinks, jazz and dinner or jazz and dessert. Or go for dinner only—there is a seating area well away from the stage. ***1/2 \$\$\$\$

D’Amico Kitchen, 901 Hennepin Ave., 612-767-6960, .5 mi. N, a 10-minute walk. The D’Amico family runs quite a restaurant business, and D’Amico’s Kitchen is the flagship. It is

located on the first floor of the Chambers Hotel, an elegant, contemporary space. There is also an open courtyard through the building, and if the weather is nice, ask for it—it's one of the nicest *al fresco* spaces in the city. Good Italian and American food, sophisticated, good service. ***1/2 \$\$\$\$



King and I Thai, 1346 LaSalle Ave., 612-332-6928, .2 mi. W, a 4-minute walk. One of the best Thai restaurants in the Twin Cities, a little more expensive than most but the interior is very attractive with a very pleasant ambience. Also a nice bar area, and outdoor seating. *** \$\$\$



Manny's Steakhouse, 825 Marquette Ave. S, 612-339-9900, .4 mi. NE, an 8-minute walk. Probably the best steakhouse in town. Classy, expensive, large portions. Nominated as having Outstanding Service in 2012 by the James Beard Foundation. **** \$\$\$\$\$

Masa, 1070 Nicollet Mall, 612-338-6272, .3 mi. NE, a 4-minute walk. A D'Amico restaurant. Good Mexican food; a contemporary, attractive and lively space, *** \$\$\$

Mission American Kitchen, 88 S. 6th St., 612-339-1000, .6 mi. NE, a 12-minute walk. Hidden in the Crystal Court of the IDS Center (remember the Mary Tyler Moore show?), a well-kept secret, creative American cooking, good service. *** \$\$\$\$

Oceanaire, 50 S. 6th St., 612-333-2277, .6 mi., a 12-minute walk. Probably the best seafood in the city. We haven't been to the new location—it's said to be contemporary, classy, but somewhat noisy. **** \$\$\$\$


Vincent A Restaurant, 1100 Nicollet Mall, 612-630-1189, .2 mi. NE, a 3-minute walk. Our favorite. Vincent Francoual brings the best of French cooking to Minneapolis. Both classic and fusion dishes, an extensive wine list with pricing from the reasonable to the extravagant, terrific service, right across from Orchestra Hall. The dining room is open, high-ceilinged and elegant, little in the way of decoration, just big windows with great cityscape views. Also a limited but moderately-priced menu in the smaller bar area, a fun happy hour scene. **** \$\$\$\$

Downtown (some walkable but times listed for cab or driving)


The Bachelor Farmer, 50 N. 2nd Ave., 612-206-3920, 1.3 mi N, 8 min. Warehouse district. Nominated by the James Beard Foundation as Best New Restaurant, The Bachelor Farmer has opened to rave reviews. The focus is on contemporary Nordic cooking, which emphasizes simplicity and fresh ingredients. Produce is grown on their own roof garden. Owned and operated by Governor Mark Dayton's sons.

La Belle Vie, 510 Groveland Ave., 612-874-6440, 1.0 mi. SW, 3 minutes. The *ne plus ultra* of Twin Cities dining. Absolutely the best food and service anywhere around. Chef Tim McKee has been nominated as 2012's Outstanding Chef by the James Beard Foundation. This is truly a wonderful dining experience, worthy of the major splurge it requires. A grand old building with a high-ceilinged, elegant dining room; outstanding food, wine, and service. Also a separate bar area that gets raves. ***** \$\$\$\$\$

Restaurant Alma, 528 University Ave., 612-379-4909, SE, 2.2 mi. NE, 9 minutes. Across the river from downtown but worth the short trip. Nominated by the James Beard Foundation as Best Restaurant; Owner-Chef Alex Roberts was named Best Chef in 2011. A focus on local and natural food. Small, great service, excellent American cuisine. **** \$\$\$.



Saffron, 123 N 3rd St., 612-746-5533, 1.2 mi. N, 6 minutes. Warehouse district near Target Field. North African/Mediterranean, inventive and delicious cuisine; Chef Sameh Wadi has appeared on the Iron Chef and has been nominated this year for Rising Star Chef of the Year by the James Beard Foundation. **** \$\$\$



Sea Change, 806 S. 2nd St. (in the Guthrie Theater building), 612-225-6499, 1.6 mi. NE, 8 minutes. Dynamic, contemporary space in the new Guthrie Theater building designed by Jean Nouvel; nice view of the river, Stone Arch Bridge, etc. Specializing in sustainably-raised seafood but the menu has other options. Food, presentation, service, ambience are all excellent. **** \$\$\$

Spoonriver, 750 S. 2nd St., 612-436-2236, 1.6 mi. NE, 8 minutes. Next to the Guthrie and in the same block as the Mill City Museum. Brenda Langton is a noted Twin Cities chef and natural foods guru; she founded the Mill City Farmers Market located outside and behind her restaurant and open on Saturdays in the summer. Her cooking focuses on local organic food; she offers both meat and vegetarian dishes, her menu is varied and imaginative, the space is attractive. *** \$\$\$1/2

Thom Pham's Wondrous Azian Kitchen, 533 Hennepin Ave., 612-338-1479, .8 mi. N, 5 minutes. Inventive, well-prepared Asian food, big portions, a large and lively space. *** \$\$\$1/2



Uptown/Eat Street

Christo's, 2632 Nicollet Ave., 612-871-2111, 1.2 mi. SW, 5 min. In the "Eat St." area just south of the city center. The best Greek food in town. Large, open, light, very pleasant space and very good Greek food as well as other menu items added for those who get nervous when a waiter shouts "Opa!" while approaching with a platter of flaming Saganaki. Good service, too. *** \$\$

Fuji-Ya, 600 W Lake St., 612-871-4055, 2.0 mi. S, 8 minutes. In the Lyn-Lake area, near Uptown. The best Japanese food in the Twin Cities. Handsome dining room with screened tables around the perimeter. Great sushi, tempura, etc. *** \$\$\$

Heidi's Minneapolis. 2903 S Lyndale Ave., 612-354-3512, 2.0 mi. S, 7 minutes. In the Lyn-Lake area near Uptown. Neighborhood/bistro restaurant, great reputation for good food and reasonable prices. Owner-chef Stewart Woodman has been nominated for 2012 Best Chef in the Midwest by the James Beard Foundation. *** \$\$\$.

Lucia's, 1432 W 31st St., 612-825-1572, 2.5 mi. SW, 9 minutes. In Uptown. Lucia Watson was one of the natural foods pioneers in this area. Fresh and local organic food, creative cuisine. *** \$\$\$

Rainbow Chinese, 2739 Nicollet Ave., 612-870-7084, 1.2 mi. SW, 5 minutes. Good Chinese food, pleasant interior. ** \$\$

Stella's Fish Café, 1400 W. Lake St., 612-824-8862, 2.4 mi. SW, 9 minutes. Uptown. Large, bustling, very informal, also a rooftop *al fresco* opportunity; a huge (mostly) seafood menu, delicious food. *** \$\$\$

St. Paul and Environs. If you have a car, you should make the trip (or share a cab). Where else in the U.S. do you find two cities with completely different characters right next to each other? The city centers are 10 miles apart and about a 15-minute drive via I-94 (careful during rush hour, though)

Heartland, 289 E 5th St., 651-699-3536, 10.8 mi. E, 16 minutes. In the downtown Lowertown area, in an historic building, next to the farmer's market. Chef Lenny Russo (another James Beard nominee) moved his highly-regarded restaurant to this location a year ago from a St. Paul neighborhood and the result was outstanding! Great space, topnotch dining with an emphasis on local and organic food. **** \$\$\$

i Nonni, 981 Sibley Memorial Hwy, Lilydale, 651-905-1081, 14.3 mi. SE, 20 minutes. This is a wild card, out in the burbs, located in a condo development, in a building with the Buon Giorno wine store and Italian deli (owned by the family whose original deli is in downtown St. Paul). The dining room is attractive if a bit overdone. However, if you like Italian food, i Nonni has absolutely the best in the Twin Cities! Outstanding food and service. **** \$\$\$

Meritage, 410 St. Peter St., 651-222-5670, 10.2 mi. E, 16 minutes. Downtown St. Paul near Rice Park, surrounded by beautiful public buildings and considered one of the most beautiful urban spaces in the U.S. An upscale French bistro with terrific food. **** \$\$\$

Ristorante Luci, 470 Cleveland Ave., 651-699-8258, 7.5 mi. SE, 16 minutes. In the Mac-Groveland neighborhood in St. Paul, near St. Cate's and St. Thomas Universities, an archetypal Italian neighborhood restaurant, family-owned, intimate, comfortable, excellent food that is reasonably priced. A favorite. *** \$\$

St. Paul Grill, 350 Market St., 651-224-7455, 10.2 mi. E, 15 minutes. Downtown St. Paul, in the historic St. Paul Hotel, with a lovely dining room looking out over Rice Park and the Ordway Theater, traditional American fare, good food and service. *** \$\$\$

W.A. Frost, 374 Selby Ave., 651-224-5715, 9.4 mi. E, 14 minutes. In the Selby-Dale neighborhood, close to the St. Paul Cathedral and down the street from Garrison Keillor's bookstore. The building is historic (W.A. Frost was the name of the drugstore in this building decades ago) with a lovely terrace behind for *al fresco* dining. *** \$\$\$1/2

Breakfast Recommendations

Dave's Downtown - 900 2nd Avenue South, Suite 230; north and east of the Nicollet Mall (a Skyway favorite)

Dunn Bros. Coffee – 900 Nicollet Mall, .2 mi northeast, 5 minute walk north **or** 1301 2nd Avenue South, .3 mi east, 5 minute walk

Hell's Kitchen – 80 South 9th Street, .4 mi northeast, 8 minute walk

Keys Restaurant – 114 South 9th Street, .4 mi northeast, 9 minute walk

La Belle Crepe – 825 Nicollet Mall, .3 mi, 6 minute walk

Starbuck's Coffee – 80 South 8th Street, .4 mi northeast, 9 minute walk; **or** 1000 Nicollet Mall, .2 mi, 4 minute walk; **or** 1101 LaSalle Avenue, .2 mi northwest, 5 minute walk

The Local – 931 Nicollet Mall, .2 mi, 5 minute walk